

# UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2017  
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

## CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bruce Bergen presided and called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

## ROLL CALL

Roll call showed Chairman Bruce H. Bergen, Vice Chairman Sergio Granados, Freeholder Linda Carter, Freeholder Angel G. Estrada, Freeholder Mohamed S. Jalloh, 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 Deputy Clerk of the Board Annie Croom.

## PRAYER AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

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

## STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

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

## APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS

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Note and File

Oath of Office: Fire Services Advisory Board: Steven Ruhl; Union County Advisory Board on the Disabled: Leslie Fanelli-Pavone; Union County Senior Citizen Disabled Resident Transportation Advisory Board: Kevin Illing, Patricia Rufolo and Ellen Steinberg; Union County Transportation Advisory Board: Robert Ehrenbeck and Walter Tucker; Voter Accessibility Advisory Board: Helen Alvarado and Leslie Gutierrez.

Chairman Bergen called for a motion to approve the Communications. On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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1. Sunday, January 8, 2017 - Reorganization Meeting
2. Thursday, January 19, 2017 - Agenda Setting Session
3. Thursday, January 26, 2017 - Regular Meeting
4. Thursday, February 9, 2017 - Agenda Setting Session
5. Thursday, February 9, 2017 - Regular Meeting
6. Thursday, February 23, 2017 - Agenda Setting Session

## 7. Thursday, February 23, 2017 - Regular Meeting

Chairman Bergen called for a motion to approve the Minutes. On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative for the Meeting Minutes, with the exception of the meeting minutes of: Thursday, February 23, 2017 Agenda Setting Session and the Regular Meeting minutes, where there were seven members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Carter abstaining and Freeholder Hudak absent.

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### **PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION**

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

Bruce Patterson, of Garwood, made comments relative to a number of resolutions. Relative to Resolution number 2017-296, he made comments relative to political contributions. Relative to 2017-297, he made comments relative to political contributions. Relative to Resolution Number 2017-302, he asked why it is a not to exceed amount. Relative to Resolution Number 2017-307, he inquired as to why Center Management not paying for the security services and why wasn't the Sheriff's office providing the service. Relative to Resolution Number 2017-309, he asked for further clarification. Relative to Resolution Number 2017-313, he thanked the Board for offering history grants. Relative to Resolution Number 2017-315, he asked if the vendor was paying the County for the service. Relative to Resolution Number 2017-325, he inquired as to what services will be provided in the Plan. Relative to Resolution Number 2017-326, he inquired as to the health benefits and if health benefits for life were included in the agreement.

Relative to Resolution Number 2017-326, Chairman Bergen advised that the health benefits are the same as all other negotiated contracts. He advised that the agreement is available via OPRA, and did not want to delay the meeting in listing the details of said agreement.

Relative to Resolution Number 2017-325, Director Guzzo provided an overview of the purpose of the Senior Focus Plan, noting that the program was part of the Chairman's initiative which provides \$25,000 to municipal Senior Centers. He added that every town is participating in the program.

Relative to Resolution Number 2017-309, Director Guzzo advised that it is a joint effort between the Department of Human Services and the Office of the Prosecutor. He advised that the resolution would allow the Department to utilize a competitive contracting process to obtain a vendor to provide ancillary services for the Family Justice Center's Domestic Violence Center. He added that he believes they are slated to receive their Temporary Certificate of Occupancy by April 28, 2017.

Relative to Resolution Number 2017-307, Director Guzzo advised that the State provided additional regulations relative to suicide prevention and noted that the 44 bed unit of Cornerstone needed to be upgraded. He advised that the new legislation was passed prior to the sale of Runnells Specialized Hospital, noting that the County was therefore responsible for the enhancements. He advised that the security is there while the upgrades are being done.

Relative to Resolution Number 2017-315, Chairman Bergen advised that payment is being made by the vendor to the County of Union.

Relative to Resolution Number 2017-313, Director Zuber advised that Garwood was one of the fifteen recipients: the Garwood Historical Committee in the amount of \$250.

Relative to Resolution Number 2017-302, Director Graziano advised that the County had exceeded the bid threshold (\$17,500) and is required as per the Pay-to-Play regulations must award a contract via resolution. He noted that the County will be purchasing equipment but is currently unaware of the exact cost.

John Bury, of Kenilworth, made comments relative to Resolution Numbers 2017-296 and 2017-297. He made comments relative to former State Senator Mr. William E. Schluter's book "Soft Corruption."

Chairman Bergen advised that the County of Union strictly complies with all Pay to Play laws in relation to all its contracts. He noted that he could not speak to Mr. Schluter's book.

Seeing no other speakers, Chairman Bergen closed that public comment portion of the meeting.

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## RESOLUTIONS

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The following Resolutions are being offered for adoption:

- 2017-295 FREEHOLDER MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Appointing John Waters as a member to the Advisory Board on the Disabled for a term beginning January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2019.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-296 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution Number 2016-798, a Professional Engineering Service Contract with T&M Associates, of Middletown, New Jersey, to provide additional professional engineering services associated with the Groundwater Remediation and Monitoring at the Venneri Complex, Westfield, New Jersey, in an amount not to exceed \$2,100.00 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$182,660.00. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2011-031)

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-297 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution Number 2015-131, a Professional Engineering Service Contract with Maser Consulting, PA, of Red Bank, New Jersey, to provide additional professional engineering services associated with the Replacement of Mountain Avenue Minor Bridge, Be26, Township of Berkeley

Heights, in an amount not to exceed \$19,700.00 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$226,700.00. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2013-024)

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-298 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Rolta International, Inc., of Alpharetta, Georgia to maintain, manage, and implement the County secured GIS websites for an amount not to exceed \$25,300.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-299 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: Engineering, Public Works and Facilities Management, Division of Engineering: Manor II Electric, of Holmdel, New Jersey, for the purpose of Installation of an Emergency Generator at the Union County John H. Stamler Police Academy, Scotch Plains, New Jersey, for the amount not to exceed \$355,000.00.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-300 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract extension originally obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: Department of Engineering, Public Work & Facilities, Division of Facilities Management, Division of Park Maintenance: Waste Management of NJ, Inc., Ewing, NJ, for the purpose of providing Construction Debris Disposal Services, Type 13, 13C and 27, twenty-four (24) consecutive months, commencing May 11, 2017 through May 10, 2019, in an amount not exceed \$65,700.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-301 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution Number 2016-193, (BA#84-2013) a contract awarded through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq., to Maffey's Security Group., Elizabeth, New Jersey approving Change Order Number One (1) increasing the original contract amount by \$125,000 for a new total contract amount not to exceed \$465,500.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-302 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Resolution authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with Vermeer North Atlantic Sales & Service, Lumberton, New Jersey, for the purchasing of various Vermeer Parts for the Vermeer Compost Turner in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-303 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Resolution concurring with the Township of Berkeley Heights granting permission to the Mt. Carmel Society to close Springfield Avenue from the intersection of Snyder Avenue to the Berkeley Heights/Long Hill Township Bridge from 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 15, 2017 to 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, July 16, 2017 for the annual festival and fireworks display.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-304 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Resolution granting permission to the Township of Berkeley Heights for the Suburban Chamber of Commerce to close Springfield Avenue from Snyder Avenue to Plainfield Avenue on Sunday, June 25, 2017 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for the Annual Berkeley Heights Street Fair. Also, granting permission to hang a banner on Springfield Avenue from May 29, 2017 to June 26, 2017 for advertising the Annual Berkeley Heights Street Fair.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-305 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Resolution concurring with the Township of Berkeley Heights granting permission to the Berkeley Heights Rescue Squad to hang a banner across Springfield Avenue from April 15, 2017 through May 28, 2017 to advertise the Squad's Annual Membership Drive.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-306 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Resolution concurring with the Borough of Kenilworth to close the Boulevard from 14th Street to 24th Street on Sunday, May 21, 2017, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for the 2017 Annual Street Fair.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-307 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Approving Change Order Number One to Bid Agreement 15-2015, a contract with Motivated Security Services for Cornerstone

Behavioral Health Hospital, for an additional \$8,980 for additional security coverage not to exceed a total of \$91,264.36 through May 10, 2017.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-308 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a Lease Agreement with Sharma Realty Investments LLC, Elizabeth, New Jersey, for the rental of 30 parking spaces located at 432 Westminster Avenue, Elizabeth, for Division of Social Services' employee parking in the amount of \$75 per space or \$2,250 per month, total amount not to exceed \$18,000 for the period of May 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-309 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the use of Competitive Contracting, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4.1 et seq., to administer services for the Family Justice Center.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-310 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution 2017-182 to reflect a 2017 Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) award increase in the amount of \$191,039, for a new grand total of \$424,354, to be allocated as specified in the 2nd amended 2017 CSBG Spending Plan and to reflect a three month grant extension through June 30, 2017, with no other changes to terms of agreements.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed seven members voting in the affirmative, with Chairman Bergen abstaining and Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-311 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Approving a pre-qualified list of professional medical services for the patients of Cornerstone Behavioral Health Hospital of Union County for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-312 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager, through the Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, to reallocate funds received from the NJSCA to 34 Union County agencies and organizations as recommended by the Arts Grant Committee of the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board and subsequently approved by the entire Advisory Board in the amount of \$64,000.00.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed seven members voting in the affirmative, with Chairman Bergen abstaining and Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-313 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to award CY2017 Union County History Grants to fifteen (15) recipients in the total amount of \$22,000.00.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-314 VICE CHAIRMAN 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 and Recreation: Dellano's Food, Long Valley, NJ, for the purpose of providing concessions, for the period of two (2) seasons with an option to extend for two (2) seasons subject to resolution, in the amount of \$22,304.00.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-315 VICE CHAIRMAN 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 and Recreation: Ray's Food & Ice Cream Concessions, Inc., Woodland Park, NJ, for the purpose of providing concessions, for the contract period of two (2) seasons with the option to extend for two (2) seasons subject to resolution, in the amount of \$10,200.00.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-316 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manger to apply for and execute, if awarded, the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Community Engagement Grant at Phil Rizzuto Park: Building Resilient Communities through Green Infrastructure in Parks. The grant application deadline is April 21, 2017.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-317 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Amending Resolution Number 2017-115, a contract with Groundwork Elizabeth, Elizabeth, New Jersey for the administration and implementation of the Union County Means Green Community Garden Grants for 2017, to add Union County Kids Dig In!: A School Garden Grant for the provision of funds for Union County schools to begin and/or expand educational

gardens in schools throughout Union County, in the amount of \$40,000.00, for a total contract not to exceed \$90,000.00.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-318 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to award the sum of \$30,000.00 to the Union County Baseball Association for the purposes of providing assistance with the operation of the 2017 youth baseball programs. The funding is provided through and from the Kids Recreation Trust Fund in the amount of \$30,000.00.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-319 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager, through the Union County Prosecutor's Office, to purchase equipment from Rescue Phone, Inc., Crofton, Maryland in an amount not to exceed \$26,490.00.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-320 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to apply for and accept grant funding from the NJ Department of Law and Public Safety, Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program for the period of January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 in the amount of \$30,430.02.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-321 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with Travelers Casualty & Surety Co., Hartford, CT for a Public Official Bond for Bibi Taylor, for the period of April 15, 2017 through April 14, 2018 in the amount of \$952.00.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-322 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** 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. for the Department of Human Services, Division on Aging to Bayshore Ford, New Castle, DE, for the purpose of providing one (1) Food Transport Vehicle in the amount of \$48,128.56.



On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-323 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Remedy Analytics, Milwaukee, WI, to provide Prescription Monitoring Services at a contract commission of 20% of all demonstrated and attested savings that ensue over the length of the contract April 15, 2017 to April 14, 2020.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-324 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement to provide liability coverage for the operation of the ambulances owned and operated by the County Emergency Services in the amount of \$10,495.00 with Western World Insurance Company, Franklin Lakes, New Jersey, for the period of April 26, 2017 to April 25, 2018.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-325 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to execute agreements with municipalities for the 2017 Senior Focus Initiative in an amount not to exceed \$430,655 in accordance with the 2017 Senior Focus Spending Plan.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-326 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to sign any and all documents necessary to enter into a Collective Bargaining Agreement with PBA Local 203-Weights & Measures effective January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-327 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN & FREEHOLDER MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Resolution appointing Veronica Blalock (Disability) and Joanne Oppelt (Agency) to the Advisory Board on the Disabled for a term of January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2019.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-328 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN & VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Resolution updating the terms of and/or re-appointing various members of the

Workforce Investment Board; and further reflecting the change in name from the Workforce Investment Board to Workforce Development Board, for all members, as per State guidelines

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

#### **FREEHOLDER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS**

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- 2017-329 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Congratulating Pastor Tami Elaine Christian, and her congregation, on a successful first year of the New Beginnings Ministry.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-330 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER, FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI & FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT:** Resolution congratulating Dawn Clarke on receiving the "Making Democracy Work" award by the League of Women Voters of New Jersey for her efforts to engage, educate, and protect New Jersey voters.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-331 FREEHOLDER ANGEL G. ESTRADA:** Laudatory resolution recognizing the week of April 17, 2017 through April 22, 2017 as National Community Development Week, and further celebrating "Community Development Week" throughout the County of Union by recognizing the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Programs' many contributions to the viability of the housing stock, infrastructure, public services, and economic vitality of the Union County community.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-332 FREEHOLDER MOHAMED S. JALLOH & FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT:** Laudatory resolution commending the Honorees of the Union Township Chamber of Commerce to be recognized at their 62nd Annual Dinner Ball & Installation on April 7, 2017.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-333 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Resolution congratulating Edward J. Chrystal Jr., on his promotion to Brigadier General in the New Jersey National Guard.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-334 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Proclaiming the month of April, 2017 as "Donate Life Month" and further encouraging Union County residents join NJ Sharing Network in its life-saving mission in promoting organ and tissue donor education.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-335 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Laudatory resolution congratulating Community Access Unlimited and the honorees of their Annual Awards Night Celebration to be held on April 6, 2017.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-336 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Congratulating Rabbi Nudell on his retirement as the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Israel since August, 1982.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-337 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Extending the Board's gratitude to Union County College President Dr. Margaret M. McMenemy, Chair of the College's Board of Trustees Mr. Victor M. Richel and Biology Professor Dr. Thomas Ombrello for the gift of the White Oak Tree to the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church and the residents of Bernards Township.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

- 2017-338 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Congratulating Kurt Steiner upon his 105th birthday celebration on April 25, 2017.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Granados and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Christopher Hudak absent.

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#### **PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION**

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This meeting is open to the public comment on any governmental issue that a member of the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the county.

Jamie Mieselman, of Westfield, commended the Board for removing from the agenda the resolution to eliminate bikes from the Trails Master Plan. He made comments relative to his concerns pertaining to the introduction of the resolution in the first place. He noted he had a petition containing a thousand signatures in support of Bike Trails at the Watchung Reservation. He made comments in favor of biking in the Watchung Reservation, and provided a new proposed trail.

Tom Manna, of Mountainside, made comments in opposition of mountain biking in the Watchung Reservation. He stated that mountain biking is a dangerous sport and shared his concerns relative to the misrepresentation of facts made by its proponents surrounding the issue.

Troy Dahl, of Mountainside, made comments in support of mountain biking in the Watchung Reservation. He noted he would like to have a local place to take his children to go mountain biking.

Brian Metula, of Berkeley Heights, made comments in support of mountain biking in the Watchung Reservation; noting that most prohibited behavior is wrought out by misunderstanding or unfamiliarity. He questioned how "riding bikes" became a governmental issue in the first place.

Charles Weltner, of Plainfield, made comments in opposition of mountain biking in the Watchung Reservation; noting that a compromise will not work, stating that restricted mountain biking is hard to police. He referenced his correspondence with Mr. Russ Nee, Trails Supervisor of Morris County. He warned of bike rouge trails and potential liability. He stated that no engineer can tell you whether or not to build a bike trail; stating that as stewards of the reservation that responsibility fell to the Freeholder Board.

Suzanne Streeter, of Mountainside, made comments in opposition of mountain biking in Watchung Reservation. She noted that those against mountain bike trails are not against mountain bikers, but rather are concerned with interrupting the wildlife and environment of the reservation. She inquired when the engineering report (environmental impact study) would be completed.

Margaret Southwell, of Fanwood, made comments in opposition of mountain biking in the Watchung Reservation. She stated that she joined the New Jersey Invasive Strike Team seven years ago, and has been trained by the Strike Team and has earned a license by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to eradicate invasive plants. She noted her experiences and made comments relative to her environmental concerns surrounding the mountain biking issue.

Eric Moberg, of Summit, made comments in support of mountain biking in the Watchung Reservation. He stated that confrontations between bikers and hikers do not happen.

Nancy Piowar, of Plainfield, made comments in opposition of mountain biking in the Watchung Reservation. She stated her concern over pictures she had seen of what looks to be the tagging of trees to form trails in the Watchung Reservation.

Mario Pacieoni, of Fanwood, made comments in support of mountain biking in the Watchung Reservation.

Barbara Krause, of Cranford, made comments in opposition of mountain biking in Watchung Reservation. She stated her concerns relative the irreversible environmental impact mountain biking would have on the reservation, and lack of an environmental study. She suggested the Board find a new location.

Bruce Patterson, of Garwood, noted that Freeholder Kowalski has been an advocate of the County's Bio-Blitz, and suggested that she take on the task of ensuring an environmental study is completed.

He made comments relative to the language of the second Executive Session topic, and asked if County Counsel could provide some additional background information as to what potential litigations may occur. He made comments relative to the re-assessment of property taxes, and suggested the County should help offset those costs by using the proceeds of the sale of Runnells Specialized Hospital. He made comments relative to the County Manger's budget, questioning that the UCUA is sending only \$1 million (instead of the previous \$2 million).

John Burry, of Kenilworth, continued his comments relative to former State Senator Mr. William E. Schluter's book "Soft Corruption."

Kevin McGowie, of Summit, made comments in support of mountain biking in the Watchung Reservation. He spoke to the difficulties in traveling 35-40 minutes to Morris County Lewis biking trails, and noted the dangers of road biking.

Seeing no other speakers, Chairman Bergen closed public comment on any matter.

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## **FREEHOLDER REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

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Freeholder Wright made comments relative to the County's Arbor Day Program, in cooperation with the Union County Shade Tree Advisory Board; noting that the program provides 100 trees to schools throughout the County. She spoke to the details of the tree-planting program.

Freeholder Kowalski made comments relative to a number of upcoming Earth Day cleanup events throughout Union County. She advised and invited the public of the County's upcoming Wild Earth Fest at the Trailside Nature and Science Center and the Master Gardener's Garden Fair and Plant Sale. She advised of the upcoming Recycling Event and Recycling volunteer opportunities available to the public. She noted that she was in fact an advocate of the County's Bio Blitz. She thanked all speakers for taking the time to offer their concerns, and noted that the Board is listening to them.

Freeholder Carter made comments relative to the upcoming Union County Bio-Blitz. She thanked those who have participated in the UC STEP program; noting that the service project is Cans for Kids. She spoke on the goals of Cans for Kids; providing canned goods to the Community Food Bank in Hillside. She encouraged the public to support the students' efforts.

Freeholder Carter made comments relative to the upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Union County Women Means Business networking event; noting the special guest speaker as Janice Huff,

Chief Meteorologist for NBC4. She thanked the speakers for offering their concerns and opinions on the mountain biking matter.

Freeholder Mirabella made comments relative to how the public can report potholes on County roads. He commended the County DPW workers on their efforts in fixing potholes around the County. He thanked Deputy Clerk Croom for filling in for the Clerk for the night's meeting.

Vice Chairman Granados made comments relative to the Union County Kids Dig In Grant. He noted as Chairman of the Trust Fund, he was thankful for the Board's support and congratulated Vikki Durbin-Drake and the Trust Fund staff on their efforts with the Grant Program. He advised that the grant would provide 32 schools (in 12 municipalities) with funding to create community gardens, garden boxes, and tools. He advised that the grant program is aimed at educating students about gardening and fostering the growth and creation of community gardens at schools. He spoke on the program's goals in teaching students about how food is grown and to educate them on nutrition. He added that a percentage of the produce is required to be donated to local food pantries.

Chairman Bergen made comments relative to the Senior Focus grants, noting that 18 municipalities will use the grants to improve the well-being and safety of the County's senior population.

Chairman Bergen made comments relative to the Basking Ridge White Oak Tree in Bernards Township; noting that the tree is over 600 years old. He advised that the tree was declared dead, however, advised that a 16 year old tree from an acorn of the Great White Oak in Cranford was transplanted and replaced the 600 year old tree. He thanked Professor Umbrello, of Union County College, for collecting acorns (nationally) of important trees for the past 15 years.

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## EXECUTIVE SESSION

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To the extent known, the following items will be discussed in Executive Session:

- 1) Attorney-Client privileged communications and discussion relative to on-going contract negotiations with CWA.
  
- 2) Attorney-Client privileged communications and discussions relative to potential litigation, possible violations of law and potential contract negotiations with CME relative to issues relating to the Trail Master Plan.

County Counsel Barry stated that pursuant to provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, a public body may enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing certain enumerated subjects.

He stated that this Board wished to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Attorney-Client privileged communications and discussion relative to on-going contract negotiations with CWA, and Attorney-Client privileged communications and discussions relative to potential litigation, possible violations of law and potential contract negotiations with CME relative to issues relating to the Trail Master Plan.

He stated that the minutes of the Executive Session shall be separated from the minutes of the Open Public Session and that the minutes of the Executive Session, redacted as appropriate and necessary, shall be available in approximately 30 days. He stated that the Clerk of the Board shall retain the original minutes until such time as the confidential limitations have been removed, at which time they shall be made available.

He stated that upon affirmative vote of the majority of the members present, the Board may retire Executive Session and upon the Board's return, it will not take formal action on the matters discussed.

Chairman Bergen asked for a motion to enter Executive Session. On a motion made by Freeholder Carter and seconded by Freeholder Jalloh, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Freeholder Hudak absent.

Chairman Bergen asked for a motion to return from the Executive Session. On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Carter, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

Freeholder Bergen advised that Freeholder Hudak joined the meeting during the Executive Session.

County Counsel advised that there was nothing to announce as a result of discussions in Executive Session.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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Chairman Bergen asked for a motion to adjourn. On a motion made by Freeholder Carter and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, a voice vote showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35pm.

## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS 2017 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, 6<sup>th</sup> 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 7:00 pm 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.

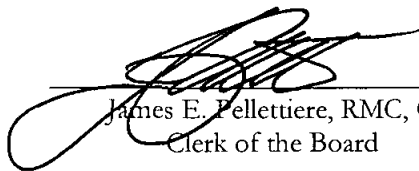
### REORGANIZATION MEETING - SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2017 at 12:00 pm Assignment Judge Karen M. Cassidy's Courtroom, 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ

#### AGENDA SETTING SESSION

January 19, 2017  
February 2, 2017  
February 23, 2017  
March 2, 2017  
March 16, 2017  
April 6, 2017  
April 20, 2017  
May 4, 2017  
May 25, 2017  
June 1, 2017  
June 15, 2017  
July 13, 2017  
August 10, 2017  
September 7, 2017  
September 28, 2017  
October 5, 2017  
October 19, 2017  
November 9, 2017  
November 30, 2017  
December 14, 2017

#### REGULAR MEETINGS

January 26, 2017  
February 9, 2017  
February 23, 2017  
March 9, 2017  
March 23, 2017  
April 13, 2017  
April 27, 2017  
May 18, 2017  
May 25, 2017  
June 8, 2017  
June 22, 2017  
July 20, 2017  
August 17, 2017  
September 14, 2017  
September 28, 2017  
October 12, 2017  
October 26, 2017  
November 21, 2017  
December 7, 2017  
December 21, 2017



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