



## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2017  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Bruce Bergen presided and called the meeting to order at 7:17 pm.

### ROLL CALL

Roll call showed Chairman Bruce H. Bergen, Vice Chairman Sergio Granados, Freeholder Linda Carter, Freeholder Angel G. Estrada, Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski, Freeholder Alexander Mirabella and Freeholder Vernell Wright, Freeholder Mohamed S. Jalloh 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.

### PRAYER AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

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

Freeholder Hudak joined the meeting.

### APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS

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Note and File

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 nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

### 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.

The Clerk of the Board noted that on Resolution 2017-813, the contract period is January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018.

Brandon Bernier of Roselle asked about Resolution Number 2017-812. He inquired if it authorizes the replacement of the current Bond counsel for Roselle Mind & Body Complex. He inquired as to the reason for the change in counsel.

County Counsel Barry stated that this resolution is specifically replacing the existing bond counsel.

John Bury of Kenilworth had questions relative to Resolution Number 2017-812. He asked if Rogut McCarthy was no longer serving as bond counsel for this project, or for all future projects. He asked if Parker McKay the new bond counsel and why was Rogut McCarthy replaced. He inquired if there was public bidding.

County Counsel Barry stated that Rogut McCarthy was the original counsel on this project and that Parker McKay was the bond counsel on these 2 projects only and that they were a responsive party to the 2016 RFP.

Denise Wilkerson of Roselle thanked for the clarification on the bond counsel and asked what was the reason for the change in counsel.

Counsel Barry stated that after discussions with Mr. Rogot, he volunteered to withdraw as bond counsel if the County consented.

Bruce Paterson of Garwood made comments or inquiries relative a number of resolutions. Relative to Resolution Number 2017-781, and inquired if there was a unit price per services. Relative to Resolution Number 2017-797, he inquired what was designing and construction administering. Relative to Resolution Number 2017-808, he stated that they are getting \$1.5 million for 6 months for inmate substance abuse program, and noted that it was a 60% increase and inquired as to why it was such a large increase. Relative to Resolution Number 2017-813, Mr. Patterson inquired as to the details of the health benefits of the collective bargaining agreement.

Relative to Resolution Number 2017-781, Director Moran stated that this resolution is for laboratory services for the Medical Examiner's office. The last two-year contract was for \$90,000, which the County needed to increase to \$100,000 because of the increased caseload in the medical examiner's office. He noted the increase in cases may be tied to the opioid epidemic.

County Manager Faella also stated that the County has had more cases this year than last year.

Relative to Resolution Number 2017-797, Director Zuber stated the project consists of bunker repairs on hole #6, tee improvements on hole 13 and grading and drainage improvements on hole holes 36 and 14.

Relative to Resolution Number 2017-808, Director Charles stated the County receives a grant each year from the state for treatment of drug and alcohol among the inmates. He noted the County pays a sliding scale depending on number of inmates. He added that it was originally taken out of the governor's budget, but it was put back in.

Chairman Bergen asked Director Charles if the County pays per inmate.

Director Charles replied that was the case.

Relative to Resolution Number 2017-813, Chairman Bergen said that the County has been asked a number of times, and have answered that question many times. He advised that that the information is available to the public through the OPRA process.

## RESOLUTIONS

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The following Resolutions are being offered for adoption:

**2017-780 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** 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 \$314,524 to support CEHA activities for the contract period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 and match in the amount of \$232,864 through in-kind funds.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

**2017-781 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with NMS Laboratories, Willow Grove, PA, for post-mortem toxicology lab services, per the contract term of September 1, 2017 through September 30, 2019, not to exceed 100,000.00, for basic and expanded testing services.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

**2017-782 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER:** Amending previously adopted Resolution #2016-0753 to reflect a change in fees to accurately reflect the amount of the Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of Fanwood to provide 911, Police, Fire and EMS Dispatch services.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

**2017-783 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution Number 2016-542 to extend the contract period on the 2017 Social Services for the Homeless (SSH) Spending Plan subcontract with Homefirst, Inc. an additional six (6) months through December 31, 2017 to permit the expenditure of 2017 SSH funds only with no change in allocation amount and no other change to the overall spending plan.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

**2017-784 FREEHOLDER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution Number 2016-999, to add \$1000 to provide translation services for the non-English speaking patients of Cornerstone Behavioral Health Hospital of Union County for the period of January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

**2017-785 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Cancellation of unexpended balances in the listed Grant Accounts.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

**2017-786 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Resolution Modifying the 2017 Union County Adopted Budget in the amount of \$2,500,000 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Corrections for a Program Entitled: Department of Corrections State Aid.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

**2017-787 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Resolution Modifying the 2017 Union County Adopted Budget in the amount of \$7,593 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Children and Families for a Program Entitled: Sexual Assault and Rape Care (SAARC) Grant.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

**2017-788 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Resolution Modifying the 2017 Union County Adopted Budget in the amount of \$20,840 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety for a Program Entitled: Law Enforcement Officers Training Fund (LEOTF).

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

**2017-789 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA:** Resolution Modifying the 2017 Union County Adopted Budget in the amount of \$314,524 as a result of notification received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection for a Program Entitled: County Environmental Health Act (CEHA) Grant.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

**2017-790 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution retroactively ratifying the sponsorship of the Golden Rule Lodge #24 Community Day on September 2, 2017 in the amount of \$1,000.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

**2017-791 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution retroactively ratifying the sponsorship of the Elizabeth African American Heritage Day Parade Committee in the amount of \$4,000 for their event to be held on September 10, 2017.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

- 2017-792 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution sponsoring the Township of Union's Hispanic Heritage Celebration on September 30, 2017 in the amount of \$2,500.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

- 2017-793 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Amending the contract with Professional Farrier Services, Inc. of Elizabeth, NJ (RCCP #5-2015) to accept the option to renew for an additional 24 months for farrier services at Watchung Stables from December 1, 2017 through November 30, 2019 in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

- 2017-794 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a Professional Engineering Service Contract, through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process, to Neglia Engineering Associates of Clark, New Jersey for design and construction administration services for the Ponderosa Park Multi-Purpose Turf Fields, Township of Scotch Plains, County of Union, New Jersey for an amount not to exceed \$116,092.00. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2017-008)

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

- 2017-795 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., to Abraham General Construction LLC, of West Orange, New Jersey for the Cedar Brook Park Improvements, City of Plainfield, County of Union, New Jersey for an amount not to exceed \$1,752,986.00. (BA#59-2017; UC Engineering Project #2014-020)

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

- 2017-796 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., to Grade Construction of Paterson, New Jersey, for the Meisel Park Field Improvements, Township of Springfield, County of Union, New Jersey for an amount not to exceed \$1,466,703.00. (BA#58-2017; UC Engineering Project #2016-004)

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

- 2017-797 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a Professional Architectural and Engineering Service Contract, through a Request for

Proposal (RFP) process, to Rees Jones, Inc., of Montclair, New Jersey for design and construction administration services for the Galloping Hill Golf Course Improvements, Borough of Kenilworth, County of Union, New Jersey for an amount not to exceed \$80,832.00. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2016-031)

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

- 2017-798 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into agreements, through the use of the Educational Services Commission Contract #ESCNJ 16/17-16, with Campbell Freightliner, LLC of South Brunswick, NJ; Truis, Inc. of Farmingdale, NJ; and Sanitation Equipment Corporation of Paramus, NJ for the acquisition of a Sanitation Truck and accessories for the Division of Park Maintenance in a total amount not to exceed \$200,000.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

- 2017-799 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to submit a grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Union County Parks Frederick Law Olmstead (FLO) Greenway Extension.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

- 2017-800 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to award Discover Our Parks grants to (2) two municipalities in the County of Union, in accordance with the Kids Recreation Trust Fund Grant criteria, through and for the Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund in an amount not to exceed \$1,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

- 2017-801 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with Barton Nurseries, Edison, New Jersey, for the purchase of pin oak trees and gator bags. These trees will replace missing trees in Memorial Grove, Rahway River Park, which was first established in 1947 to honor World War II veterans. This will be funded through the Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund, in an amount not to exceed \$4,623.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

- 2017-802 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Amending Resolution Number 2017-16, entering into a contract with Practice Associates Medical Group (Atlantic Health Systems) Clark, New Jersey for the provision of providing pre-employment medical

examinations and other related medical services, for an additional \$5,000.00 for a new amount to not to exceed \$113,500.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

- 2017-803 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an Agreement with National Sheriffs' Association for the purpose of providing security training and assessment services for an amount not to exceed \$21,263.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

- 2017-804 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** 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, 2017 through September 30, 2018 in the amount of \$28,120.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

- 2017-805 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with PowerDMS, Inc., Orlando, Florida, to renew subscription and licensing of Document Management Software, November 2017 through November 2018 in the amount of \$5,092.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

- 2017-806 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Amending Resolution Number 2016-1020, a contract awarded through advertised public bidding process in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., to Elizabeth Truck Center, Elizabeth, New Jersey, for Collision Repair Services for Trucks, Buses and Specialty Equipment to the Department of Administrative Services, Division of Motor Vehicle, approving Change Order No. 1 to increase the amount by \$45,000.00 for a total amount not to exceed \$282,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

- 2017-807 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Amending Resolution Number 2016-331, extending the agreement with County of Essex Department of Corrections Newark, NJ through April 30, 2018 for an additional amount of \$314,944.01 for the purpose of relocating Union County adult inmates to Essex County Correctional Facility during construction phase for contract period April 18, 2016 through April 30, 2018 for a new total amount not to exceed \$2,284,212.20.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

- 2017-808 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Amending Resolution Number 2016-1029, extending the agreement with CEC, Inc. West Caldwell, NJ through June 30, 2018 for an additional (6) six months and for an additional amount of \$1,513,695.27 for the purpose of providing comprehensive Inmate Substance Abuse Treatment and Residential Correctional Facility Services for Union County Jail inmates for the contract period of January 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 for a new total amount not to exceed \$4,013,695.27. This contract is funded through the State of New Jersey.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

- 2017-809 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Amending Resolution Number 2016-428, approving the 2016-2017 (Year 42) Consolidated Action Plan to increase CDBG funding to the Plainfield Emergency Housing Assistance Program in the amount of \$8,000 from \$9,000 to \$17,000 utilizing City of Plainfield Program Income funds (7-12-286-56-000-709).

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

- 2017-810 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to the United Way of Greater Union County for the period: September 1, 2017 - June 30, 2019 under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Youth Program. Funding will be utilized to provide a comprehensive In-School and Out-of-School Youth Employment & Training Consortium offering year-round youth programs that may include a paid work experience component. Total funding for the contract period will not exceed \$480,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

- 2017-811 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Resolution adopting the PY 2017 Fiscal Year budget as approved by the Union County Workforce Development Board of Directors on September 15, 2017, in accordance with Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Final Rules; the WorkFirst New Jersey TANF and GA programs; and Workforce Learning Link Programs.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

- 2017-812 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** A Resolution appointing Parker McCay to serve as Bond Counsel and provide bond counsel services in connection with the Borough of Roselle Community Center and Library Project and Roselle Board of Education Early Childhood Learning Center Project.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed eight members voting in the affirmative, with Freeholder Jalloh abstaining.

- 2017-813 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN:** Authorizing the County Manager to sign any and all documents necessary to enter into a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Parks Maintenance Association, with a contract period of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

#### **FREEHOLDER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS**

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- 2017-814 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER & FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Congratulating Boy Scout Troop 5, United Presbyterian Church of Plainfield as it Celebrates its 105th Anniversary on September 30, 2017.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

- 2017-815 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Supporting the City of Linden's proposal for the Amazon HQ2 RFP through the State of New Jersey.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

- 2017-816 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS & FREEHOLDER ANGEL G. ESTRADA:** Welcoming Ambassador Julissa Reynoso to Union County to speak on Union County Hispanic Heritage Month "Challenges for a New Leadership" on September 27, 2017.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

- 2017-817 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS & FREEHOLDER ANGEL G. ESTRADA:** Congratulating the Elmora Youth Little League Troopers 10 and Under baseball team for their successful season and for participating in the Eastern Regional Championship games representing New Jersey.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

- 2017-818 VICE CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS & FREEHOLDER ANGEL G. ESTRADA:** Congratulating the Elizabeth Development Company upon their 40th anniversary celebration and further congratulating the award recipients on September 27, 2017.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

- 2017-819 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN & FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK:** Congratulating Benjamin Connor Hasenkopf of Boy Scout Troop 1, New Providence upon attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

- 2017-820 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Supporting the New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act and urging a "yes" vote on the ballot question.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

- 2017-821 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Congratulating Principal Probation Officer/Supervising Probation Officer Wendi Cabell upon her retirement after more than 19 years of dedicated service to the County of Union, and further wishing her a happy and healthy retirement.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

- 2017-822 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Congratulating Gary W. Whyte upon being the recipient of the New Jersey Governor's Jefferson Award for "Good Neighbor."

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

- 2017-823 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Congratulating Daphne Lee of Rahway upon being the first in the State of New Jersey to win the Miss Black USA title.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

- 2017-824 CHAIRMAN BRUCE H. BERGEN & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Resolution opposing the proposed Congressional tax code overhaul, as supported by the President and the Republican Congressional leadership; as it promulgates a devastating effect upon NJ tax payers as a result of the inability of taxpayers to deduct the income and property taxes paid to state and local governments.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, roll call showed nine members voting in the affirmative.

#### **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.

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, commented on the Roselle Mind & Body Complex where we guarantee the bonding of the project and noted Freeholder Estrada's concerns with the financials. He wanted to know if anyone else looked at the financials.

Brandon Bernier, of Roselle, asked for a status on Roselle Mind and Body and why the bond counsel was changed. He said we have to look at every aspect of the project and question where it comes from. He also mentions a letter he received from Freeholder Mirabella when he was 11 years old regarding the Junior Leadership conference.

Freeholder Bergen stated that the change in bond counsel means nothing to the project. It is just a change in representation that won't affect the project going forward. The status is that there is litigations pending and that is the only thing happening right now. It is in a holding pattern. He also has not heard from anyone on the board has said that those opposed to the project are doing it for political purposes. We are listening to the facts and voting accordingly.

Denise Wilkerson, of Roselle, thanked the Board for listening to the public. These people come out for the good of the town and believe in what we are doing. She mentioned the passion of Mr. Bernier in coming out for the people of Roselle. She stated that you are acting on what was requested by the leadership of Roselle.

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#### **FREEHOLDER REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

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Freeholder Kowalski spoke about the Women of Excellence Awards. The Women of Excellence program was created as a way to recognize and celebrate the many contributions of women to life in Union County.

Freeholder Carter thanked Ms. Wilkerson and Mr. Bernier for letting their voices be heard and let them know that they are listening and also offered her condolences to Mr. Bernier on the loss of his grandfather.

She also mentioned that the Department of Public Safety has partnered with the Dairy Queen of Plainfield to host a free Bicycle and Helmet Give-Away event outdoor activities. She thanked Plainfield Dairy Queen Owners Rich and Donna Albanese will assist children to find a "good-as-new" refurbished bike that is the right fit. They have refurbished over 900 bikes.

Freeholder Estrada thanked colleagues Mirabella, Kowalski, Hudak and Wright for attending the Hispanic Heritage month at Union County College and thanked Jamie Siegel for her outstanding work. He also noted that Freeholder Granados and himself will be congratulating the Elmora Youth League on their making the Eastern Regional championships.

Freeholder Estrada also spoke about the hurricanes that are affecting so many. He also noted that there is a climate change with all the hurricanes and seismic events all over the country, especially in Puerto Rico where there is no electricity and communication and that the whole country has come to a standstill a week after Hurricane Maria.

Freeholder Mirabella noted that there is time for Union County business owners and managers to register for the Lunch & Learn event scheduled for Wednesday, October 4. The event is sponsored by the Freeholder Board's Union County Means Business Initiative that he launched as chairman. He thanked his colleagues on the Board for continuing the program in support of local businesses.

He also spoke about the Columbus Day flag raising events and the contributions made by Italian Americans. He stated that next weekend would be the Clark Unico feast.

Freeholder Mirabella offered his condolences to Mr. Bernier.

Freeholder Hudak commented that the Rahway Family Success Center will be hosting a free community Career Fair on Wednesday, October 4.

He also spoke about the Puerto Rico and the Caribbean devastation. He senses a lack of urgency from the federal government and hopes it will rise up to the challenge.

He also commented that the Amtrak Bridge in Linden is a magnet for 18 wheelers getting stuck under the bridge. He wanted to express his thanks to the County workers who measured bridge to make sure it was correctly marked and the new signage to let truck drivers know.

Freeholder Jalloh greeted Mr. Bernier as a Roselle Catholic Graduate. He commented on Linden and he is happy about the bridge being properly measured.

He commented that he was at the ribbon cutting ceremony and thanked all involved in the Family Justice Center, especially Frank Guzzo for helping to get this accomplished, and Chairman Bergen for championing this.

He said that his heart goes out to Puerto Rico, and that NJ remembers Storm Sandy. He suggested a resolution urging the Federal Government to help the US citizens in Puerto.

Freeholder Wright made comments about visiting the Clark Senior Fitness Center, which received a grant of \$25,000 through Chairman Bergen's "Senior Focus" initiative. She commented that the grant was used to purchase new equipment including elliptical, rowing, and treadmill machines and noted that through the "Senior Focus" special initiative, 18 municipalities were awarded grants this year.

Vice Chairman Granados made an announcement mentioning that the Freeholder Board is partnering with a number of organizations in providing disaster relief to victims of recent natural catastrophes, with a strong emphasis on Puerto Rico, which has suffered incredible devastation. The drive is at Hanratty Field

He also mentioned the Union County Workforce Innovation Business Center, which is supported by this board, is once again working to find new employment opportunities for County residents and that over the past two years, more than 2,000 jobs have been identified for county residents.

The Vice Chair also commented that on Sunday, October 22, UNICO will be honoring someone who has dedicated his life to improving the lives of others through public service, County Manager Al Faella.

County Counsel had no comments.

County Manager Faella commented on the Elmora Youth League, especially for their sportsmanship and their parents for teaching them well. He also asked Director Moran to speak about a request involving Puerto Rico relief.

Director Moran stated that requests for assistance will be going through federal government then through the State Police then to local counties and municipalities. We will have law enforcement and rescue equipment on standby.

Mr. Faella said that with the Board's approval we would like to assist any way we can with Puerto Rico relief efforts. Chairman Bergen said he was sure Board was behind that effort.

Chairman Bergen commented that the on Sunday the New Jersey Veterans Network is hosting its first "Salute to the Troops" 5k and fun run. He stated that the County is a proud co-sponsor of this event as part of our UC-HERO initiative honoring Veterans. He said that immediately after, at the Union County Performing Arts Center in Rahway, there will be a Hurricane Relief Benefit Concert and that all proceeds from the show will be used to benefit hurricane victims.

He commented that Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi has just released a fully updated, re-designed version of the Union County Votes app.

The Chairman also stated that this is a solemn time in the Jewish calendar and wished a Happy New Year to all Jewish residents.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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Chairman Bergen called for a motion to adjourn.

On a motion made by Freeholder Granados and seconded by Freeholder Hudak, a voice voted showed 9 members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

## 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.

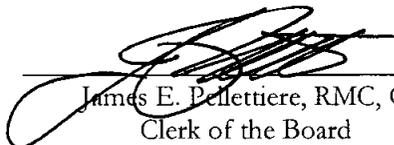
### REORGANIZATION MEETING - SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2017 AT 12:00 NOON ASSIGNMENT JUDGE KAREN M. CASSIDY'S COURTROOM, 2 BROAD STREET, ELIZABETH, NJ

#### AGENDA SETTING SESSIONS

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

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