



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

**THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2018
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sergio Granados presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:37pm.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed Chairman Sergio Granados, Vice Chairman Bette Jane Kowalski, Freeholder Bruce H. Bergen, Freeholder Linda Carter, Freeholder Angel G. Estrada, Freeholder Angela Garretson, Freeholder Christopher Hudak, Freeholder Mohamed S. Jalloh and Freeholder Alexander Mirabella were present.

Also present were County Manager Edward Oatman, County Counsel Robert E. Barry, Esq., and Clerk of the Board James E. Pellettiere.

PRAYER AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The prayer and salute to the flag were led by Clerk of the Board Pellettiere.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

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

APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS

Note and File

Oath of Office: Advisory Board on Aging: Joseph Bruno, Joe Fox and Phyllis Monguso; Local Advisory Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse: Carol Berger and Karen Yushak; Union County Air Traffic and Noise Advisory Board: Joseph Gallegos, Richard McCormack, John B. Nicholas, and Jeffrey Robinson; Union County Transportation Advisory Board: Marvin Gersten, David Judd and Roger Stryeski.

Chairman Granados 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.

ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION

Chairman Granados asked Clerk of the Board Pellettiere to read the Ordinance by title.

Clerk of the Board Pellettiere read the Ordinance by title.

793-2018 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND “THE LAWS OF UNION COUNTY: ADMINISTRATIVE CODE AND POLICIES AND GENERAL LEGISLATION” BY ADOPTING THE 2018 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION, FEES FOR RECREATION FACILITIES.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

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

Bruce Paterson of Garwood, made comments or inquiries regarding Ordinance Number 793-2018, he asked are the fees being decreased or are they all going up.

Director Zuber advised the Board that the fees for the Warinanco Sports Center are new fees and they are for turf which we never had in the past. The fees for the golf are for the veteran program and are going down.

FINAL READING STATEMENT

On a motion made by Freeholder Bergen, Fiscal Subcommittee Chairman, and seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, Ordinance Number 793-2018 was moved for Final Reading and authorize the Clerk of the Board to advertise same in accordance with the law. Roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Estrada voted in the negative.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

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

Bruce Paterson of Garwood, made comments or inquiries regarding the following resolutions: Resolution 2018-278 – is the money coming out of the New Jersey Transit and where is the \$300,000 coming from; Resolution 2018-286, what about food how do you feed them; Resolution 2018-287 – SPEX upgrade is this device able to read background print when its printed; Resolution 2018-289 – \$300,00 over a period of 24 months, does anybody get punish; Resolution 2018-295 – asked for an example what maybe over and above this \$298,000 made comments relative to political donations; Resolution 2018-296 – he made comments relative to political donations. Resolution 2018-307 asked for an explanation of equal pay day.

Relative to Resolution 2018-278 Chairman Granados advised the funding does come from NJ Transit federal grant monies they provide vouchers for individuals who attend their facility code blue.

Relative to Resolution 2018-284 Under Sheriff Colon advised he doesn't have all the information on the LED light fixture, the technology they're coming out with in reference to CSI the people that's making them are scientist. I honestly can detect a finger print over another finger print it can probably decipher the two it depends if you were logged in and if you have ever been finger printed it will detect it.

Relative to Resolution 2018-307 Vice Chairman Kowalski advised women on the average earns .79 that every men make and for women of color less than that. This is giving our support that everyone perform their equal task should get equal pay.

Nancy Piowar of Plainfield, made comments or inquiries in reference to Resolution 2018-311, Trinitas being designated as a Trauma II Level Center. Ms. Piowar asked will there necessitate a hearing before a State Health Planning Board. She stated she has been very much involved with the closure of Muhlenberg Hospital and attended numerous others to show cause between Hackensack and JFK, she wants to know what the public can do if it's going before the State Health Planning Board so that the public will be notified and go down to support it.

Relative to Resolution 2018-311 Freeholder Estrada advised the State of New Jersey Department of Health requested a proposal of individuals who lives in Union County to operate the Trauma Center. Trinitas applied previously and over the last four years making changes in their operations including extension of the emergency room to insure that they qualify for this process. The state came out with a request for proposal and they're meeting that request and getting people with all kind of letters of support we feel we are one of those bodies that we should have it closer to home.

Chairman Granados advised Ms. Piowar that he can get her some information regarding the Trinitas Hospital contact individual if you would like to write letters.

RESOLUTIONS

The following Resolutions are being offered for adoption:

2018-276 FREEHOLDER BRUCE H. BERGEN: Authorizing the County Manager to award CY2018 Union County History Grants to fifteen (15) recipients in the total amount of \$24,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-277 FREEHOLDER BRUCE H. BERGEN: Re-appointing the following members to the Union County Cultural and Heritage Advisory Board: Nancy Piowar and Clara Fernandez for a term ending December 31, 2018 and Nora Mislán for a term ending December 31, 2019.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-278 FREEHOLDER ANGEL G. ESTRADA: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with NJ Transit to secure grant funding in the amount of \$300,000

with a 100% County Match of \$300,000 for a total of \$600,000 for the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 for inclusion in NJ Transit's Consolidated NJ Job Access and Reverse Commute (NJ-JARC5) Grant Agreement for SFY19.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-279 FREEHOLDER ANGELA R. GARRETSON:** Appointing the following members to the Homeless Trust Advisory Board: Stanley Neron, Stelio Papadpoulo and Mary Ellen Tango for a 2-year term beginning January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019; Joanne Rajoppi and Cory Storch for a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2020.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-280 FREEHOLDER MOHAMED S. JALLOH:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Spec. Rescue International, Virginia Beach, Virginia, to coordinate, conduct, evaluate and review the annual Metro UASI Strike Team Training Exercise through the 2017 UASI Grant, in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-281 VICE CHAIRMAN BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution Number 2017-1038, to increase the contract amount awarded to the list of Practitioners/Psychiatrists by an additional amount not to exceed \$59,000, to provide Psychiatric services to the patients of Cornerstone Behavioral Health Hospital of Union County during additional weekday hours and weekends/vacations/holidays/emergencies for the period of April 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 in the total amount not to exceed \$75,000 for all Practitioners/Psychiatrists.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-282 VICE CHAIRMAN BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with pre-qualified list of practitioners to provide professional medical services for the Cornerstone Behavioral Health Hospital patients for the contract period of April 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 in an amount not to exceed \$45,000.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-283 VICE CHAIRMAN BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Authorizing the County Manager to award professional services contracts in an amount not to exceed \$11,250.00 for the period of April 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 for Specialty Medical

Consultants to provide services to patients of Cornerstone Behavioral Health Hospital.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-284 VICE CHAIRMAN BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution 2017-1053, contracting with MPC Bus Corporation for the continued provision of Paratransit Service, to reflect an adjustment to the appropriation accounts with no change in the total amount of the award.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-285 VICE CHAIRMAN BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** The County of Union recognizes a need to employ a Chief Psychiatrist / Medical Director to assume the necessary medical functions and responsibilities in Cornerstone Behavioral Health Hospital, as prescribed by law. This classification is to be set for the year 2018 at an annual flat rate of \$239,200.00, and any merit increases shall be treated in the same manner as other non-contractual employees.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-286 VICE CHAIRMAN BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Amending Resolution Number 2018-159 to reflect an additional appropriation in the amount of \$50,000, for a new total amount not to exceed \$265,000, for the Countywide Code Blue Emergency Shelter Initiative for the Winter of 2017-2018 to address the needs of the homeless due to increased demand for shelter nights during extreme weather conditions; no further changes.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed eight members of the Board voting in the affirmative with Freeholder Bergen abstaining.

- 2018-287 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with SPEX Forensics, Edison, New Jersey, for the purchase of LED ultra-portable forensic light source and laboratory unit light source for the upgrade of the Union County Sheriff's Office Crime Scene Unit, in the amount not to exceed \$27,480.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-288 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to award a proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding to A&K Equipment of Rahway, NJ for the purchase of a truck utility body in the amount of \$38,500.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-289 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to exercise the option to extend and award a contract obtained through advertised public bidding for the Department of Administrative Services, Division of Motor Vehicles, to Union County Collision, Roselle Park, NJ, for the purpose of providing the County with automobile and light truck collision repair, painting and refinishing services for a period of 24 months not to exceed estimate of \$300,000.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-290 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with The Hartford Insurance Company, Dallas, TX for Volunteer Accident Insurance policy, from April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019 in an amount not to exceed \$360.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-291 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with Travelers Casualty and Surety Company, Hartford, CT for a Public Official Bond for B. Taylor for the period of April 15, 2018 through April 14, 2019 in an amount not to exceed \$952.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-292 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Union County College under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to provide Adult, Dislocated Worker and Business Services as the Workforce Innovation Business Center Operator, for the fifteen (15) month period, December 15, 2017- March 15, 2019, in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-293 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending Resolution Number 2017-280, adopted on March 23, 2017, to extend the contract period for Group I&I Consultancy, to provide the Union County Workforce Development Board with professional research, writing, strategic policy, planning and program development services so as to assist the board to meet the new requirements of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act from March 31, 2018 to June 30, 2018. This resolution would extend the contract period to June 30, 2018 at no additional cost.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-294 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending Resolution Number 2016-933, adopted on November 22, 2016, to extend the contract period for the United Way of Greater Union County Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Out-of-School Youth Employment & Training Consortium Program from March 31, 2018 to June 30, 2018. This resolution would extend the contract period to June 30, 2018 at no additional cost.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-295 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to award a Professional Architectural & Engineering Service Contract, through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process, to Netta Architects of Mountainside, New Jersey to provide Design Services, Construction Administration and Inspection Services for the Rahway Pool Building Improvements, City of Rahway, County of Union, New Jersey for an amount not to exceed \$298,600.00. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2017-002)

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-296 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending Resolution Number 2014-1080 adopted on February 23, 2015, a Professional Engineering Service Contract with Neglia Engineering Associates of Clark, New Jersey for additional engineering services associated with the Rahway River Park Project in an amount not to exceed \$12,750.00 for a new total contract amount not to exceed \$292,752.00. (Union County Engineering Project Number 2011-019)

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-297 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: A resolution declaring the real property known as 502-506 Amboy Avenue (Block 4 Lot 38 B), in Elizabeth as real property not needed for public use in accordance with the law.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-298 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: A resolution authorizing the sale of real property known as 502-506 Amboy Avenue (Block 4 Lot 38 B) in Elizabeth, to the City of Elizabeth for an amount not to exceed \$400,000.00.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

FREEHOLDER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

2018-299 FREEHOLDER BRUCE H. BERGEN: Congratulating and commending Chief Carlo Palumbo and Captain Michael Mastroeni of the Springfield Fire Department for successfully delivering a baby girl on Interstate West I-78.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-300 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER: Extending the Board's deepest condolences to the family of Thomas E. Culp, Sr., upon his passing.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-301 FREEHOLDER LINDA CARTER: Congratulating the Black History Month award recipients upon being honored by the Plainfield Housing Authority on March 23, 2018.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-302 FREEHOLDER ANGELA GARRETSON & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's assassination and the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the King Center's founding; and further encouraging residents of Union County to embrace the teachings and message of a just, humane and peaceful world using a nonviolent philosophy and methodology.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-303 FREEHOLDER CHRISTOPHER HUDAK & FREEHOLDER ANGEL G. ESTRADA: Congratulating Linden Public Library upon its 90th anniversary celebration on April 7, 2018.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-304 FREEHOLDER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Union County Deputy Surrogate JoAnn Schwab upon her retirement after more than 18 years of dedicated service to the County of Union.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

2018-305 VICE CHAIRMAN BETTE JANE KOWALSKI, CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating the Union County Human Services Department, Division of Social Services, Child Support Unit upon being named the Child Support Agency of the Year for 2017.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-306 VICE CHAIRMAN BETTE JANE KOWALSKI:** Proclaiming April 20th - April 28th as National Dance Week and further commending Carolyn Dorfman Dance for offering opportunities to the youth of Union County.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-307 VICE CHAIRMAN BETTE JANE KOWALSKI & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Proclaiming April 10, 2018 as Equal Pay Day throughout the County of Union.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-308 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS & FREEHOLDER ANGEL G. ESTRADA:** Congratulating the Portuguese Instructive Social Club, Inc. upon celebrating its 96th Anniversary.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-309 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Congratulating the Summit High School Boys Varsity Hockey Team upon winning the NJSIAA Public C State Title.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-310 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Congratulating the New Jersey Veterans Network and Union High School JROTC for "Project 21" Puerto Rico disaster relief efforts.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-311 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS & FREEHOLDER ANGEL G. ESTRADA:** Supporting Trinitas Regional Medical Center, Elizabeth, to be designated as a Trauma II Level Center.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

- 2018-312 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Congratulating the 2018 award recipients of Community Access Unlimited on April 12, 2018 upon being recognized for making a valuable impact on the lives of teens and adults with special needs.

On a motion made by Freeholder Carter seconded by Vice Chairman Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voting in the affirmative.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

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.

Nancy Piowar of Plainfield made comments or inquiries regarding the Nor'easter hurricane. She stated she lives near Green Brook Park and the hurricane was devastating trees hanging over Myrtle Avenue, one of the trees was taken down because she made a phone call. The park is heavily used and is a public safety hazard during Nor'easter Quinn a lot of wire came down one came down on her property these wires are from Cable Companies when you cancel they don't remove the wires. Ms. Piowar stated she's glad to hear there's an RFP there's only three levels I Trauma Center in the state and seven Level II, the closest one is Morristown she stated she's glad to hear that Trinitas is stepping up.

Chairman Granados advised in reference to Green Brook Park Freeholder Carter, County Manager Ed Oatman and Ron Zuber, Director of Parks is working on a plan to clean up the park as soon as possible.

Bruce Paterson of Garwood made comments or inquiries regarding Resolution 2018-295, Netta Architects getting \$300,000 asked for an explanation; thanked the Board giving the Borough of Garwood a grant for \$25,000; Mr. Paterson made remarks in regards to the 2018 Union County budget he said the new budget was higher than 201, money is being buried into the budget looking at an increase of five, ten expenditures he went to two out of three Mr. Paterson questioned why Freeholder Mohamed Jalloh is not being given the Democratic organization line on the June Primary Election ballots.

Chairman Granados advised Mr. Paterson to address his comments to governmental and not political issues. He stated in reference to the budget those budgets presentations

Freeholder Bergen made comments in regards to the issue of the Gateway Project, which includes two new rail tunnels from New Jersey to New York under the Hudson River and a new portal bridge. Freeholder Bruce Bergen noted that legislation approved by the House and U.S. Senate last week includes \$541 million for the project. Freeholder Bergen said this is not a New Jersey issue, it's not a New York issue, and it's a regional and even a national economic issue.

FREEHOLDER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Freeholder Garretson made comments relative to recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., assassination and the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the King Center's founding. She made comments to Earth Day, with each passing year, scientists grow more concerned about our ability to stop, or even to reduce, the impacts of global climate change. Nevertheless, here in Union County I see signs of hope for the future. Union County residents are deeply engaged in

environmental action, and they respond enthusiastically when they see a chance to pitch in. With that in mind, I'd like to alert our residents to a new online discount program offered through our Bureau of Recycling. It provides for 50% off the retail price of rain barrels and compost bins – equipment that helps our gardening community conserve water, and convert kitchen scraps into healthy soil. The discount is being offered now through Earth Day, which falls on Sunday, April 22, and it will continue until 5:00 p.m. on April 23. The Freeholder Board is also providing free trees for schools to plant for Arbor Day and Earth Day projects, to help students learn about the importance of trees in our environment. And of course, in April we launch a full schedule of recycling events for electronics, personal papers, household hazardous waste and more. These free recycling events are among our most popular County services. They attract thousands of participants throughout the spring, summer and fall.

Freeholder Bergen stated as the fiscal chairman he would like to address Mr. Paterson's question why we're increasing the budget. He said it has nothing to do with hiding money it's about prudence fiscal planning and many of the parts of our budget cannot be accurately predicted today eight or nine months until the end of the year. It may be buying salt to put on our roads 2017 was a relative mild year and we wouldn't have spent as much on salt as we had budgeted, nonetheless in 2018 we have to be prepared for a number of storms late winter and early spring. Again, November and December there could be more storms and the need for salt we can't say we didn't spend it last year look carefully at those numbers one year an item wasn't spent it doesn't mean that's a bottom line for the following year. Thank you for that question. I am deeply honored – and happy – to report that next Tuesday, March 27, I will be presenting a resolution from the Freeholder Board recognizing members of the Springfield Fire Department for their role in bringing a new life into this world. On Tuesday morning, just two days ago, the Springfield Fire Department was dispatched to Route 78 to answer a report of a woman in labor on the side of the busy Interstate. When Captain Mastroeni and Chief Palumbo arrived on the scene, they quickly realized that she would never make it to a hospital on time. Hundreds of morning commuters rushed past them, unaware of the dramatic scene taking place as the delivery commenced. With the mother reclining in the passenger seat, Captain Mastroeni coached her through the delivery, during which he had to free the baby's neck which had become entangled in the umbilical cord. Thankfully, with mother and coach working together the baby girl arrived safely. Mother and baby were both bundled into blankets and transported to Morristown Memorial where they earned a very warm and comfortable rest. Congratulations to the new mother, and many thanks to our first responders, for their training, their kindness and their dedication to public service. Freeholder Bergen spoke in reference of the Gateway Project, which includes two new rail tunnels from New Jersey to New York under the Hudson River and a new portable bridge. The legislation approved by the House and the US Senate last week includes \$541 million for the project. Freeholder Bergen stated this is not a New Jersey issue; it's a New York issue, a regional and even a national economic issue. The Gateway project includes eight different projects one of which is the portable bridge over the Hackensack River, the bridge is over a hundred years old, and part of the bridge is to replace that bridge which includes building two rail tunnels between New Jersey and the Hudson River and New York City. Vice Chairman Kowalski, Freeholder Estrada and I are all focusing on this issue and this entire Board will continue to press our federal legislators to

find the funding for this absolutely critical project and I have no doubt that this is the right thing to do. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Freeholder Carter made comments regarding the 2018 Women of Excellence Awards last Friday evening. The Women of Excellence Award recognizes women throughout Union County who have distinguished themselves with outstanding achievements in the fields of arts and humanities, business, community service, education, government, law, health care, and women's advocacy. This is a noteworthy event in Women's History Month and I would like to acknowledge the recipients of this award: Malathi Narayan Ananthakrishnan from New Providence Dr. Ludovina Archeval from Elizabeth, Brooke Campbell from Cranford, Maria Carvalho from Elizabeth, Councilwoman Rose Checchio from Scotch Plains, Candyce Mayers from Linden, Marguerite Modero from Roselle Park, Donna Puzella from Summit, Patricia Roman from Clark and Margaret Salisbury from Union. Once again, I would like to congratulate these women for their leadership and their success, and for the inspiration they provide to all Union County residents. The whole community is uplifted when we recognize the skills and talents among women who strengthen the fabric of our lives. UCC kickoff with representative from the high schools to get material for them to go out to do a county wide service project which is branches against bullying.

Freeholder Estrada made comments regarding his vote on Ordinance Number 793-2018 adopting of the Park fees. He said over the last few years he has been advocating on behalf of doing something in reference to the regular fees of golfing. The reason for this is often we speak about golf operations and how much money does it generated but we don't take into account the cost of financing the bonds for the improvements that we have made in terms of the club house at galloping hill but the other one we're building in Scotch Plains. I have been advocating on behalf that but to a certain degree many of my colleagues or some of my colleagues agree with the issue whatever reason it wasn't addressed. The issue that I was given why it wasn't addressed because we might find ourselves by increasing the fees we may market ourselves out of the business and I don't totally agree with that statement but the reality is that we have the Premier Golf Course in Union County and I truly believe that speaking to many people who play golf I am talking about the general fee that we utilize there and we still need to look at it and find ways that we could actually not consider and this is my opinion subsidizing playing golf. He made comments in regards to attending the Portuguese Instructive Social Club on celebrating its 96th Anniversary and was joined by Chairman Granados. He recognized the Department of Public Works and the Emergency Management regarding the storms, the Department of Parks and Recreation who has the cleanup; on the 14th along with Chairman Granados with the Elizabeth Board of Education walkout in support of the students in Florida the students didn't walk out they went to a main auditorium they had interesting questions regarding guns. I had an opportunity on Saturday to attend an event with Freeholder Garretson recognizing the afro women's contributions in this area; the Bollewage Academy in regards to making an issue in terms of gun violence New Jersey has one of the most stringent laws in terms of gun control; code blue Union County was one of the first County to offer code blue over two years we had two deaths.

Freeholder Hudak thanked the Department of Parks and Recreation, Emergency Management in regards to the recent storm. Last week I was invited to join 9th grade students at Alexander Hamilton Academy in Elizabeth, in a conversation regarding school safety. It has been just over one month since the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Though the shooting happen more than 1,000 miles away, it hit close to home – here in Elizabeth, throughout Union County and across our nation. The students I spoke to were anxious and engaged. I appreciated the opportunity to answer their thoughtful and diligent questions. I hear and share their concerns, as do we all. Most of all, I am encouraged that the class of 9th graders will not let their age stop them from getting involved and making a difference. My visit was just part of a coordinated effort. Throughout the Elizabeth schools, thousands of students joined in this conversation with other members of the Freeholder Board and elected officials. They demand accountability, and they want to be a part of the change that is needed to secure a safer community. I'm inspired to work for them, and with them, to make sure that happens.

Freeholder Jalloh commended the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Department of Emergency on the cleanup regarding the fourth northeastern storm. He said he attended a suicide awareness program today it was done in a form of a play at UC Pac and it was absolutely fantastic and it was performed for middle school students.

Freeholder Mirabella made comments in regards to County's Division on Aging and Disability Resource Connection, and the Office of LGBTQ Services, in a partnership with the organization Garden State Equality to offer a free training session for organizations serving older adults. The session is called, "Introduction to the Health Care Needs of the LGBT Community." It will be held on Tuesday, April 3 at the Warinanco Sports Center in Roselle. For the convenience of participants, the course will be offered in the morning from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and again in the afternoon from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. We are eager to bring this informative session to Union County, to help our local organizations gain a more thorough understanding of the needs of our older LGBTQ residents. He said he was happy last week to join Freeholder Carter and Chairman Granados at the Women's of Excellence dinner and it was a great dinner one of the Commissioner in the audience Jen Erdos I was happy to attend that event it was a wonderful event. This Saturday in conjunction with a lot of the walkouts in support of gun safety one in Union at the Burnett School and Westfield. He wished everyone a Happy Passover and Happy Easter.

Vice Chairman Kowalski made comments in regards to this Saturday, children and families all across America will be marching in Washington, DC as well as in our local communities, demanding that their lives and safety become a priority, and that we end gun violence and mass shootings in our schools. Here in Union County, two March for Lives events is planned. One will take place in Westfield. It will start at 10:00 a.m. at the South Side train station and end at Mindowaskin, where it will be followed by a rally at 11:00 a.m., until 12:30 p.m. It is completely run and organized by Westfield High School students. Anyone wishing to participate can just show up or can visit the Facebook page at March for Our Lives Westfield, or email westfieldmarchforourlives@gmail.com. The other march, also organized by students, will be held in Union. It will start 10:00 a.m. at the Burnet Middle School, at 1000 Caldwell Avenue, and will end at the Union Township City Hall, at 1976 Morris Avenue. This is an open event as well. Those wishing to march can show up or visit the Facebook page at UnionCountyMarchForOurLives. Or, contact the organizers

by emailing march4livesunion@gmail.com. Vice Chairman Kowalski echoed Freeholder Bergen comments' regarding advocating for the Gateway Project it's so vital for our region and we all signed letters she thanked all of her colleagues for their support, Senator Booker, Senator Menendez and Congressman Sires for their constant advocacy for this project they have been working towards it every day. She thanked Parks Director Zuber who oversees Cultural and Heritage Office and Kathy Kakaletis, the director and all of the many staff and volunteers who participated what I call a joyful couple of days with the teen arts many of my colleagues attended as well as the County Manager, Deputy County Manager and there was more than 5,000 students at Union County College.

Chairman Granados made comments in regards to the Elizabeth assembly and Freeholder Garretson spoke highly of the students at the Jefferson Arts Academy and they were receptive in receiving the information. I attended Edison Vocational and I spoke about the 2014 nj.com reported 80% of crime guns was recovered in New Jersey and traced to other states our state is. There's other states like Pennsylvania bring guns into New Jersey and that's where our gun violence comes from. Chairman also made additional comments on "Level the Playing Field," a new grant program that will help our municipalities improve access to playgrounds for all children and their families, focusing on those with special needs. Every child should be able to enjoy a playground in or near their neighborhood, regardless of their abilities. Inclusive, accessible playgrounds benefit everyone. They offer children the opportunity to play alongside one another and help to create a sense of community. And, the ripple effect means that more families have a chance to enjoy the outdoors, meet people in the community, and spend time with their neighbors in an open public environment. The Union County park system includes accessible playgrounds and accessible playground elements. However, not every neighborhood has a county park nearby. Helping to bring the benefits of accessible playgrounds to every municipality in Union County will propel our county forward as a model for others throughout the State of New Jersey. When we launched Level the Playing Field last fall, we anticipated an enthusiastic response. I am very happy to report that each one of our 21 municipalities applied for, and received, a Level the Playing Field grant. Notices of the awards were sent out last week, with a total of \$500,000 in Level the Playing Field grants through the Union County Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund. Once all of the projects are completed, Union County will be the first county in New Jersey to have an inclusive playground for every municipality within its borders. Based on our research, we may also be the first county in the U.S. with inclusive playgrounds for every municipality. With this Level the Playing Field, the Freeholder Board continues to deliver on the Trust Fund's promise of expanding and improving recreational opportunities for all County residents, and I would like to thank my colleagues on the Board for their support.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Freeholder Jalloh and seconded by Freeholder Carter, a voice vote showed roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS 2018 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 7, 2018 at 12:00 pm **Assignment Judge Karen M. Cassidy's Courtroom, 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ**

AGENDA SETTING SESSION

January 18, 2018

February 1, 2018

February 15, 2018

March 1, 2018*

March 22, 2018

April 12, 2018

April 26, 2018

May 10, 2018

May 24, 2018

June 7, 2018

June 21, 2018

July 12, 2018

August 9, 2018

September 6, 2018

September 27, 2018

October 4, 2018

October 25, 2018

November 8, 2018

December 13, 2018

December 20, 2018

REGULAR MEETINGS

January 25, 2018

February 8, 2018

February 15, 2018

March 8, 2018

March 22, 2018

April 19, 2018

April 26, 2018

May 17, 2018

May 24, 2018

June 14, 2018

June 21, 2018

July 19, 2018

August 16, 2018

September 13, 2018

September 27, 2018

October 11, 2018

October 25, 2018

November 29, 2018

December 13, 2018

December 20, 2018

*March 1, 2018 Agenda Setting Session was cancelled and rescheduled for March 8, 2018 at 7pm. The originally scheduled Regular Meeting for March 8, 2018 at 7:00pm was rescheduled to immediately start following the completion of the Agenda Setting Session.