

**MINUTES OF THE INSTALLATION AND REORGANIZATION MEETING  
OF THE 2019 UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS  
COURTROOM OF THE HONORABLE KAREN M. CASSIDY, ASSIGNMENT JUDGE  
SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COUNTY OF UNION, 2 BROAD STREET, ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2019 AT TWELVE O’CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON**

The Honorable Karen M. Cassidy, Assignment Judge, Superior Court of the County of Union, called the Installation Ceremony and Re-Organizational meeting to order at 12:00pm. She congratulated upcoming Chair Kowalski, and all the newly elected Freeholders. Judge Cassidy stated that she works primarily together on projects relative to the court complexes and thanked them for being supportive of the judiciary system. She wished everyone a Happy New Year then turned the meeting over to the Master of Ceremonies, the Honorable Nicholas P. Scutari, New Jersey State Senator, 22<sup>nd</sup> District and Chairman of the Union County Democratic Committee.

Honorable Nicholas P. Scutari welcomed everyone to the Ceremony. He asked for a Moment of Silence for the passing of committee members and his dear friend and predecessor Assemblyman Jerry Green, former Chairman of the Democratic Committee.

Senator Scutari thanked the Honorable Judge Cassidy for the use of the courtroom for the swearing-in ceremony.

Senator Scutari stated that he takes great pride in his position as Chairman of the Democratic Committee and for all the achievements the democratic team has accomplished in the past 22 years since he was a Freeholder. He also stated that he was proud of Union County, being the first County to be led by a majority of female Freeholders. He made mention of the former Chairwoman of the Democratic Committee Charlotte DeFilippo and can now really appreciate all her hard work over the many years as Chair.

Bishop Manuel K. Donelson, Expect A Miracle Ministries, Linden, New Jersey offered the day’s invocation.

The Presentation of the Colors was performed by the Union County Sheriff’s Honor Guard which was led by the Honorable Joseph P. Cryan to call to present the colors. The Honorable Nicholas Scutari, New Jersey Senator, 22<sup>nd</sup> District, called upon Honorable Joseph P. Cryan, New Jersey Senator, 20<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

The Honorable Senator Joseph Cryan, 20<sup>th</sup> Legislative District to led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Marie Oakie sang our National Anthem, the Star Spangled Banner.

The Honorable Peter Corvelli, Union County Sheriff asked the Honor Guards to Post the Colors.

**CERTIFICATIONS OF ELECTION**

Honorable Joanne Rajoppi,  
Union County Clerk

**Alexander Mirabella, Union County Freeholder  
Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, Union County Freeholder  
Andrea Staten, Union County Freeholder  
Rebecca Williams, Union County Freeholder**

County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi wished everyone a Happy New Year. She said this year marks the 99th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment which gave women the right to vote. She added that it seems appropriate that three women (and one supportive man) were elected this past General Election.

The Certification of Election of Freeholders Alexander Mirabella, Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded and Andrea Staten to the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders was Certified by Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi. She stated that she hereby certified that Freeholder Alexander Mirabella, Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded and Andrea Staten received the highest number of votes and were duly elected to a term of three years as a member of the Board of Chosen Freeholders at the General Election on November 6, 2018. She congratulated the Freeholders.

The Certification of Election of Freeholder Rebecca Williams also received the highest number of votes and was duly elected to a one year unexpired term as a member of the Board of Chosen Freeholders at the General Election on November 6, 2018. She congratulated Freeholder Williams.

Senator Scutari stated that Union County performed magnificently, adding that Senator Menendez was at the top of the ticket, and Union County won from east to west, also giving credit to the running Freeholders. He said Senator Menendez has done a wonderful job for the State of New Jersey and Union County. He stated that although Union County is not the largest county, it still had the 3rd highest plurality this year for Democrats for Senator Menendez. He thanked Senator Robert Menendez for taking the time out of his busy schedule to attend the County's Re-organization and Installation Ceremony.

Senator Menendez spoke to all the elected officials and their families. He wished everyone a Happy New Year, stating that he was happy that 2018 was over, and happy to be back in Union County. He mentioned he had the privilege to have been on the ballot with Freeholder Mirabella and was also fortunate to run with three women. He congratulated Union County for having the first Freeholder Board to consist of a majority of women.

Senator Menendez stated that Freeholder Williams has been a tremendous advocate for public education and thanked her for her tireless work. He also spoke about Freeholders Palmieri-Mouded and Staten, stating that they have given their time to their communities in many ways. Senator Menendez stated that he has worked with Union County in many capacities from the Rahway River Basin, Tremley Point Connector and with Mayor Bollwage on the new transit station, public housing and policing. He said Union County makes dreams come true; adding a quote from Senator Robert Kennedy.

Senator Menendez also made mention of the extraordinary public servant and friend, Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, and said together they will continue to make things happen. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

## RECOGNITION OF HONORED GUESTS

The Honorable New Jersey State Senator and UCDC Chairman Nicholas P. Scutari acknowledged the many Honored Dignitaries that were present for the 2019 Installation Ceremonies.

Senator Scutari stated that he had the pleasure to serve on the Board of Freeholders with Freeholders Mirabella and Freeholder Estrada. He stated that no one works harder than Freeholder Mirabella. He said he campaigns as hard as ever before and his message is to take care of Union County residents. He said he is the best asset on the campaign trail, he does a great job and everyone adores him. He thanked him for his friendship and tireless hard work.

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| HONORED GUESTS |
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The Honorable Karen M. Cassidy, Assignment Judge, Superior Court of the County of Union

The Honorable United States Senator Robert Menendez, New Jersey

The Honorable United States Representative Bonnie Watson-Coleman, 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District

The Honorable Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver, New Jersey

The Honorable New Jersey Senator Nicholas P. Scutari, 22<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District

The Honorable New Jersey Assemblyman James Kennedy, 22<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District

The Honorable New Jersey Assemblywoman Linda Carter, 22<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District

The Honorable New Jersey Senator Joseph P. Cryan, 20<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

The Honorable Assemblywoman Annette Quijano, 20<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

The Honorable New Jersey Assemblyman Jamel Holley, 20<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

The Honorable Union County Sheriff Peter Corvelli

The Honorable Union County Surrogate James S. LaCorte

The Honorable Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi

The Honorable Mayor J. Christian Bollwage, City of Elizabeth

The Honorable Mayor Adrian Mapp, City of Plainfield

Bishop Manuel K. Donelson, Expect a Miracle Ministries, Linden, New Jersey

Reverend Reginald Atkins, Zion Family Worship Center, Roselle, New Jersey

Former New Jersey Senator Raymond J. Lesniak, 20<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Former Freeholder Bruce H. Bergen

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE TO FREEHOLDER KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUCED

The Honorable New Jersey State Senator and UCDC Chairman Nicholas P. Scutari called upon the Honorable Mayor J. Christian Bollwage who introduced Freeholder Kimberly Palmieri-Mouced who then called upon the Honorable Senator Nicholas P. Scutari to administer the Oath of Office to Freeholder Kimberly Palmieri-Mouced.

Mayor Bollwage spoke highly of Freeholder Palmieri-Mouced. He said he has known her for many years, and she has been interested in politics since she was a young girl. He went on to speak her impressive schooling and her career. He said she made the decision to put her career on hold after the birth of her twin boys. He also stated that she selflessly volunteered in New Orleans and Rome following the aftermath of their tragedies. She also volunteers in her local senior center and spoke about the clubs and organizations she serves. Mayor Bollwage mentioned her father being a former Freeholder, and congratulated Freeholder Palmieri-Mouced upon her election to the Freeholder Board.

Holding the Bible for Freeholder Kimberly Palmieri-Mouced was her husband, George Mouced, joined by her parents, Edmund and Pamela Palmieri, and four children Matthew, Christopher, Nicholas and Ryan Mouced.

Freeholder Kimberly Palmieri-Mouced thanked her family and dearest friends for attending the Swearing-In Ceremony. She said her father, being a former Freeholder laid the foundation for her. She said she helped with Mayor Bollwage's campaign many years ago and that sparked her interest. She said her grandparents inspired her, as well. Freeholder Palmieri-Mouced thanked her running mates and the rest of the Freeholder Board for welcoming her. She also thanked Senator Scutari for having the confidence in her, along with the voters of Union County. She said she will advocate for the youth and seniors and everyone in-between.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE TO FREEHOLDER ANDREA STATEN

The Honorable New Jersey State Senator and UCDC Chairman Nicholas P. Scutari called upon the Honorable Assemblyman Jamel Holley introduced Freeholder Andrea Staten; who then called upon the Honorable New Jersey Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver to administer the Oath of Office to Freeholder Andrea Staten.

Holding the Bible for Freeholder Andrea Staten was her daughter, Alexis Staten, father, Aubrey Fleming, sister Cheryl Fleming, and niece Bria Marshall.

Assemblyman Holley made complimentary remarks about Senator Scutari's leadership and how well he has put the party together. He also thanked Senator Menezes for his many years of leadership and thanked him for his support. He also acknowledged Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman. He also stated that he proud is very proud of Freeholder Staten and all that she has accomplished.

Freeholder Staten stated that she admires Senator Menendez and thanked him for his many years of leadership. She thanked her father and daughter and the rest of her family for their support, along with her Roselle Family who were in attendance. She said she began as a campaign volunteer when Assemblyman Holley was running for mayor in Roselle. She thanked Senator Scutari for his leadership and thanked the Union County employees for welcoming her. She said she is looking forward to working with all the directors and employees. She also thanked former Freeholders Bergen and Jalloh for their service to the residents of Union County.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE TO FREEHOLDER REBECCA WILLIAMS

The Honorable New Jersey State Senator and UCDC Chairman Nicholas P. Scutari called upon the Honorable Mayor Adrian Mapp to introduce Freeholder Rebecca Williams; who then called upon the Honorable Assemblywoman Linda Carter to administer the Oath of Office.

Joining Freeholder Rebecca Williams for her affirmation is Veronica Taylor, Paul Phillips, Shep Brown, and her Godson, Liam Phillips Brown, and his brother, Finley Phillips Brown.

Mayor Mapp stated that Freeholder Williams is a hard worker, dedicated and a Professor at Essex County College.

Freeholder Williams thanked Assemblywoman Linda Carter for swearing her in, adding that she has been a long-time friend. She thanked the people of Plainfield, stating that she was a two-term Councilwoman. She thanked her Freeholder colleagues and former Freeholders Bergen and Jalloh for their advice and to the County staff. Freeholder Williams thanked her mom, whom at the age of 80 still protests, her brothers, sisters, family, friends and political family. She said it has been a pleasure to work with Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, and be on the ballot together. She also thanked Senator Scutari for having the confidence in her.

Senator Scutari stated that he looks forward to working with the elected officials for the residents of Union County.

ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE 2019 BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

The Honorable New Jersey State Senator and UCDC Chairman Nicholas P. Scutari turned the Installation Ceremony and Reorganizational Meeting of the 2019 Board of Chosen Freeholders to the Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, James E. Pellettiere.

The Clerk of the Board called the reorganizational meeting to order.

The Clerk of the Board called the roll. Chairman Bette Jane Kowalski, Vice Chairman Alexander Mirabella, Freeholders Angel G. Estrada, Angela Garretson, Sergio Granados, Christopher Hudak, Kimberly Palmieri-MouDED, Andrea Staten and Rebecca Williams were present.

The Clerk of the Board will lead the Prayer and Salute to the Flag.

The Clerk Statement of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act was read by the Clerk of the Board.

ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN OF THE 2019 BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

The first order of business was the election of a Chairman.

James E. Pelletiere, Clerk of the Board, called for nominations for the election of a Chairman Pro-Tem of the Board of Chosen Freeholders for the year 2019. Freeholder Palmieri-Mouded nominated 2018 Freeholder Chairman Granados as 2019 Chairman Pro-Tem. Freeholder Garretson seconded the motion. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

Chairman Pro-Tem Granados stated that 2018 was a successful year and he is looking forward to the new leadership which will continue to serve the residents of Union County in 2019. He said he is also looking forward to a progressive agenda.

Chairman Pro-Tem Granados called for nominations for the election of a Chairman of the Board of Chosen Freeholders for the year 2019. Freeholder Williams nominated Freeholder Kowalski as 2019 Chair. Freeholder Staten seconded the motion. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.



The Honorable Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman administered the Oath of Office to Chair Bette Jane Kowalski. She wished everyone a Happy and Healthy, Prosperous New Year and stated it was a pleasure to swear-in Chair Bette Jane Kowalski.

Holding the Bible for Chairman Bette Jane Kowalski was her husband, Andrew Lanset.

ELECTION OF A VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE 2019 BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

The next order of business was the election of a Vice Chairman for the Board of Chosen Freeholders for the year 2019.

Chairman Bette Jane Kowalski called for nominations for the election of a Vice Chairman of the Board of Chosen Freeholders for the year 2019. Freeholder Estrada nominated Freeholder Mirabella as Vice Chairman. Freeholder Estrada stated that it has been a pleasure serving with Freeholder Mirabella for the past 20 years. He also said it has been a pleasure to serve with him on the Board. The motion was seconded by Freeholder Hudak. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative. He also expressed his gratitude to Vice Chairman Mirabella and his leadership over the last 9 years. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

## ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE TO ALEXANDER MIRABELLA

The Honorable New Jersey State Senator and UCDC Chairman Nicholas P. Scutari introduced Freeholder Alexander Mirabella and called upon former New Jersey State Senator Raymond J. Lesniak to administer the Oath of Office to Freeholder Alexander Mirabella.

Holding the Bible for Alexander Mirabella was his wife Phyllis, son, Alexander and daughter, Micayla.

Freeholder Alexander Mirabella thanked his family, friends, and all who attended the Ceremony. He said he was very happy to run with his running mates, Freeholder Williams, Staten and Palmieri-Mouded. He also thanked former Senator Lesniak for swearing him in and thanked Senator Scutari for his leadership, stating that he is the right leader for the Democratic Party at the right time. He said he appreciates his partnership and friendship.

Freeholder Mirabella also thanked former Chairman Granados for a terrific 2018 and thanked him for welcoming the idea of the new office of the LBGTQ. He said it has been a successful office, thus far and believes it will continue.

Freeholder Mirabella also thanked County Manager Oatman, Deputy County Manager Wagner, all the directors, the Freeholder aides and all the employees, adding that he is very proud of all the employees. He especially thanked his wife, Phyllis for all her continued loving support and his adoring children, Alex and Micayla.



## CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL MESSAGE

Chair Bette Jane Kowalski delivered the Chair's Annual Message as stated:

“Honored Clergy, fellow Freeholders, elected officials, family, friends, and people of Union County: Happy New Year! Thank you, Judge Cassidy, for graciously lending us your courtroom for today's ceremonies. I would like to express my thanks to my family members and friends who always support me: My brother John, who has attended every annual ceremony for me. My brother-in-law Steve Lanset, my husband, Andy Lanset.

I'd like to thank our Chairman, Senator Nick Scutari, for his leadership of our party and his guidance, and special thanks to U.S. Rep. Bonnie Watson-Coleman, the bravest woman I know! Thank you, Congresswoman, for being here and doing the honors for me.

To Freeholder Rebecca Williams of Plainfield, and our two newest Freeholders, Andrea Staten of Roselle (also known as “Sunshine”) and Kim Palmieri-Mouded, of Westfield, I say, “Welcome, my women colleagues, to the Freeholder Board!”

Together with FH Angela Garretson, we make history today as the first Union County Freeholder Board consisting of a majority of women.

I am honored that my colleagues have chosen me to chair the Board this year. Together with Vice Chairman Al Mirabella, we look forward to serving our residents.

What an exciting time this is – for all of us – as we celebrate the more than 100 women now serving in the U.S. Congress. They include Mikie Sherrill of New Jersey and Florida’s Donna Shalala, who nurtured a generation of women leaders as President of Hunter College while I was a student there.

Our theme for 2019 is to “empower our residents, and to empower Union County.” Most of these initiatives will be at little or no cost, or use existing resources.

My first announcement is the Union County Mobility Initiative.

One of the Union County’s greatest strengths is its transportation network. We are a commuter county. But our trains and roads face an unprecedented challenge as we continue to grow and more people commute.

As the first part of this initiative, the County will launch a Ride Share Grant pilot program with one of our municipal partners.

This program will provide assistance to town residents who commute to work, and hopefully spur the creation of new ride share programs for commuters.

Ride sharing reduces traffic, frees up parking, and gets people directly to their jobs, and mass transit.

But getting to the train on time doesn’t always mean the trains are going to run on time.

This year, the State must make serious financial decisions to improve service. The stakes are high for our residents: Union County is a rail hub and train service is crucial to our economic well-being.

As elected officials, it is urgent that we make our voices heard for both long term and short term improvements in service.

Union County currently leads the Raritan Valley Rail Coalition—a rail advocacy group that represents five counties and its municipalities. This year, we will strengthen that organization.

We also seek the restoration of the One-Seat Train Ride, during off peak hours to start, as we had previously, for County residents who live along the Raritan Valley line.

And with our state and national representatives, we will continue to push for the Gateway Tunnel between New York and New Jersey, which is imperative for our region.

Our second initiative involves business—the creation of the Office of Business Development.

In recent years, the County has taken a hands-on approach in developing private sector partnerships.

We’ve developed programs that have connected thousands of county residents to jobs in the private sector.

This year, we’re starting the Office of Business Development, which will work to attract and retain businesses throughout Union County.

As we look ahead into the New Year, we expect to deliver another fiscally responsible budget for 2019. We will continue to explore efficiencies, with emphasis on shared services.



This year, the County will hold a Shared Services Summit, with municipal and state agencies. We hope to have as keynote speaker Summit's former Mayor, Jordan Glatt, who is now the state's Shared Services czar.

The County already shares dozens of services with our municipal partners, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars. We will build on this.

Speaking of shared services, my third initiative is just that—a shared service from our Department of Public Safety. We will establish a First Responder's Training Fund.

Our Police, Firefighters, Emergency Medical Personnel and 911 Dispatchers keep our communities safe. In the past, our first responders haven't always had the financial support for the continuing Ed and training they need.

This fund will pay for that training. Special consideration will be given to programs that promote or enhance mutual aid systems and a coordinated response of police, fire and EMS resources.

As our fourth initiative, I am pleased to announce a new set of recycling programs entitled "Recycling for Life," which advances the environmental legacy of this board:

- Trailside Recycling Education — We will design a new interactive and educational recycling display at the Trailside Nature and Science Center.
- A Recycling Initiative for Seniors – We will work to develop a broad-based recycling program aimed at senior centers to enhance recycling education and convenience.

In our parks system, we're unveiling several new improvements for 2019, most notably:

- A Spray Park at Wheeler Park in Linden;
- A new Clubhouse at the Ashbrook Golf Course in Scotch Plains;
- Two turf fields at Ponderosa Park.
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You can read about more about other new 2019 announcements for recycling and our parks system online at [www.ucnj.org](http://www.ucnj.org)

Our fifth and final initiative is all about our most important resource—our people—and how we can empower them directly.

Here is a quick rundown:

\*The Human Services Department will set up a new action line that the public can call for any inquiries about services available.

\*The Department of Human Services will begin and complete a Union County Community Needs Assessment report in 2019. This is a survey of our residents and families on their social service needs and priorities, so we can better serve them.

\*The Office on Women will hold a series of health-fairs with local hospitals on issues such as cervical cancer, and programs focusing on the needs of women of color.

\*We will host a women’s history month event – soon to be announced — and partner with the Prosecutor and Sheriff’s Office on Domestic Violence programs.

\*We will partner throughout the year with the Senior Citizens Council of Union County, to share information about senior services, and sponsor events on wellness, financial planning and workforce issues.

\*We will continue to serve our Veterans by add a part-time employee in the Office of Veteran Services. And we will work through the Union County Economic Development Corporation aimed at helping Veterans who want to start a business.

\*We will expand funding to two of our most effective and popular grant programs—the library grant program and the HEART grants, which fund artists, historians and local non-profits.

Investing in libraries and the arts yields solid economic benefits and empowers our residents to do more.

It’s time to begin our work toward new goals and achievements.

We have much to accomplish and I look forward to working with you—my colleagues, our Union County family of employees and the public that we serve—in getting it all done.

We have the example of our Congressional representatives, and of the young women of a new generation. We can look to our Pakistani sister, Malala Yousafzai, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, who was shot at age 15 because she spoke out for the right of all children, including girls, to an education. Malala said: “I raise up my voice – not so I can shout but so that those without a voice can be heard.”

Each one of us, she said, can have an impact: “One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world.”

Here in Union County, with your help, we are taking action for a better future.

I wish you—and all the residents of Union County—a very Happy New Year and the best of health and happiness.”

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Senator Scutari thanked everyone for attending the Ceremony and he looks forward to 2019.

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| PRESENTATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC |
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Chair Kowalski called upon the members of the public for the presentations:

- The Honorable New Jersey State Senator and UCDC Chairman Nicholas P. Scutari, on behalf of the Union County Democratic Committee, made gift presentations to Freeholder Alexander Mirabella, Freeholder Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, Freeholder Andrea Staten and Freeholder Rebecca Williams.

- The Honorable Westfield Democratic Committee Chairman, Janice Siegel, made a gift presentation to Freeholder Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded.
- The Honorable Roselle Democratic Committee Chairman, Rev. Reginald Atkins, made a gift presentation to Freeholder Andrea Staten.
- The Honorable Plainfield Democratic Committee Chairman, Adrian Mapp, made a gift presentation to Freeholder Rebecca Williams.
- The Honorable Cranford Democratic Committee Chairman, John Salerno, made a gift presentation to Freeholder Chairman Bette Jane Kowalski.
- Lenore Scurry, President of the Union County Women’s Political Caucus; Michel Bitritto, Immediate Past President of the New Jersey Women’s Political Caucus; and the Honorable Joanne Rajoppi, County Clerk and Past President of the New Jersey Women’s Political Caucus and Past President of the Union County Women’s Political Caucus made gift presentations to Freeholder Chairman Bette Jane Kowalski, Freeholder Angela Garretson, Freeholder Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, Freeholder Andrea Staten and Freeholder Rebecca Will

**BENEDICTION:**

Reverend Reginald Atkins,  
Zion Family Worship Center, Roselle, New Jersey

Reverend Reginald Atkins gave the Benediction.

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| RECESS |
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Chair Bette Jane Kowalski called for a motion to recess at 1:44 pm.

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