



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Granados presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:24 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed Chairman Sergio Granados, Vice-Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, Commissioner Joseph C. Bodek, Commissioner Angela R. Garretson, Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski, Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon, Commissioner Alexander Mirabella, and Commissioner Rebecca Williams were present, with Commissioner James E. Baker, Jr. absent.

Also present were County Manager Edward T. Oatman, County Counsel Bruce H. Bergen, 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

Chairman Granados called for a motion to approve the Communications. On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Garretson, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION

843-2023 **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND "THE LAWS OF UNION COUNTY: ADMINISTRATIVE CODE AND POLICIES AND GENERAL LEGISLATION" BY AMENDING: PART 1-THE UNION COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, ARTICLE IV-FEES FOR RECREATION FACILITIES, § 107-6 PARK FEES.**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Union as follows:

1. That the schedule of fees attached hereto, hereby amends the official fees for the Department of Parks and Recreation Facilities, for golf, effective hereafter. All fees not included herein will remain as previously adopted.
2. That this Ordinance shall take effect at the time and manner provided by law.
3. That the Clerk of the Board be and is hereby authorized and directed to publish the required notice in the appropriate newspaper of such introduction and of a public hearing on February 23, 2023 and shall forward one certified copy, upon final passage, to each Clerk of all Municipalities located within the County of Union.
4. That the fee schedule pertinent to this Ordinance is on file in the Clerk of the Board's Office.

Counsel Bergen advised that Ordinance No. 843-2023 had been properly introduced on February 9th to the Board with the appropriate fees cited. He further advised that when Ordinance No. 843-2023 was published, a typographical error had been made in the fee schedule, improperly citing two 7-Day Card membership fees as \$350 & \$450, noting the correct fees at \$35 & \$45 respectively. He added that since the Board had been presented with the correct figures prior to their vote on the Introduction of Ordinance No. 843-2023 at their February 9th meeting, the typographical error in the publication did not require an amendment and the public hearing on the Adoption of said Ordinance could proceed as scheduled.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

The meeting was opened for the purpose of commenting on Ordinance Number 843-2023 only.

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, asked why the fees were being changed.

County Manager Oatman advised that the green fees were increasing by \$1 dollar per round, adding that the rise was also due in part to the increase in minimum wage. He added that price increase in chemicals and fertilizer were also driving up costs.

FINAL READING STATEMENT

Commissioner Alexander Mirabella, Policy Subcommittee Chairman, moved Ordinance Number 843-2023 for Final Reading and authorized the Clerk of the Board to advertise same in accordance with the law.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

In response to Commissioner Leon's earlier inquiry on the expiration date cited under Resolution No. 2023-205, Counsel Bergen confirmed that the December 31, 2032 date was indeed correct.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

The meeting was opened for the purpose of commenting on resolutions being offered for adoption and 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, asked questions and made comments relative to several resolutions. Relative to Reso No. 2023-206, he inquired about Kevin Illing's qualifications relative to his appointment to the UCIA. Relative to Reso No. 2023-207, he asked about the work being conducted. Relative to Reso No. 2023-209, Mr. Paterson commented on the UC Print Shop and asked about the cost for materials. Relative to Reso No. 2023-215 & 2023-216, he asked for additional information about the tenants and how much they were paying in rent as well as who was responsible for the utilities and upkeep at the cited properties. Relative to Reso No. 2023-221, he asked if this item was always a five-year plan and inquired about how these monies affected the budget; he also inquired about how these funds would be used. Relative to Reso No. 2023-223, Mr. Paterson asked about the salary increments and other changes to the contract. Relative to Reso No. 2023-233, he noted the many difficulties faced by many County residents during the COVID-19 pandemic, and thanked the Board for allocating \$10 million earlier that week to help residents deal with ongoing financial hardships. He also thanked Director Anderson and her Department for their efforts in helping those in need.

Relative to Reso No. 2023-207, Director Graziano advised that mold and lead paint as well as asbestos in the pipe chase had been detected in the Courthouse Tower on floors 12-15 and required remediation. He noted that those floors were currently unoccupied and closed off, with the exclusion of the Credit Union on the 15th floor, adding that the cited issues did not affect that Office and the areas of concern on that floor were locked and sealed off.

Relative to Reso No. 2023-209, Director Graziano advised that this item related to specialty paper for shared services agreement with neighboring municipalities, noting a reduction of \$2,000 in comparison to last year.

Relative to Reso Nos. 2023-215 & 2023-216, County Manager Oatman advised that the Watchung Stables property was rented for \$650 monthly to the custodian of the stables who was also responsible for overseeing the 100 horses on-site and the Feltville Village property was rented to Daniel Bernier, Director of Park Planning and Environmental Services, for \$800 monthly. He further advised that the County was responsible for structural issues on the property since it was County owned, with the tenant were responsible for general upkeep.

Relative to Reso No. 2023-221, Surrogate Hudak advised that per statutory requirement, Constitutional Officers maintained a trust fund that allowed the offices to reserve a percentage of monies collected from office transactions and repurpose these monies to fund office modernization and improve upon services offered. As an example, he noted that the E-File Probate Module cited in Reso No. 2023-222 would allow his Office to enhance services in the future by allowing residents to electronically file probate, administration, and guardianship

documentation. He added that forthcoming modernization efforts would also include online appointment-bookings and a satellite office to better serve residents. Surrogate Hudak confirmed that this Trust Fund had no bearing on the CAP and or the overall County Budget, adding that he anticipated his Office to be under CAP this year.

Relative to Reso No. 2023-223, Director Scutari advised that the collective bargaining agreement include a 2% increase across the Board for years, 2021, 2022, & 2023.

Relative to Reso No. 2023-206, Commissioner Kowalski advised that Cranford resident Mr. Kevin Illing had over fifteen years of experience on Cranford's Zoning Board of Adjustments, adding that he also assisted in the creation of Cranford's Master Plan. She noted that he was well-versed in land-use policy and practice.

Chairman Granados confirmed that the Board had allocated \$10 million through the County's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) to provide rent and utility assistance for tenants that experienced financial hardships as a result of COVID-19. He advised that applications could be completed online, adding that in-person appointments would also be available. He further advised that the County had also received \$2.2 in CDBG funding from the US Department of Housing and Urban development to assist organizations in preparing, responding, and preventing COVID-19.

Relative to Reso No. 2023-233, Chairman Granados advised that this 2023 County Initiative would provide financial assistance to Veterans and eligible Seniors that were adversely and disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted the Board's commitment to assisting residents in need and thanked Finance Director Taylor for her efforts to this end.

There were no additional questions or comments from the public.

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

The following Resolutions were offered for adoption:

- 2023-203 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR:** Amending Resolution Number 2022-322, authorizing the 2023 DMHAS-Youth Leadership Grant Spending Plan, to reflect an extension for a new grant and contract period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 with no other changes to the spending plan or terms of the agreements.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

- 2023-204 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR:** Amending Resolution 2022-323, authorizing the 2023 DMHAS-Youth Leadership Grant application, to reflect a three and a half (3

1/2) month extension for a new contract period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023; all other terms remain the same.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

2023-205 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an Intercounty Mutual Aid Assistance Agreement with the State of New Jersey Office of Emergency Management to collaborate efforts in preventing, preparing for, responding to and recovering from domestic incidents for the term expiring December 31, 2032.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

2023-206 COMMISSIONER ANGELA R. GARRETSON: Appointing Kevin Illing to the Union County Planning Board as Alternate #2 to an unexpired term beginning on January 1, 2022 and ending on December 31, 2024.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

2023-207 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., to Shade Environmental, LLC, of Maple Shade, New Jersey for the Union County Courthouse Tower Environmental Remediation, City of Elizabeth, County of Union, New Jersey for an amount not to exceed \$64,200.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

2023-208 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Amending Resolution 2016-387, a contract to Dewberry Engineers, Bloomfield, New Jersey to provide additional services for Replacement of East Hazelwood Avenue Bridge, City of Rahway, New Jersey for an additional amount of \$9,520.00 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$265,216.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

2023-209 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Lindenmeyr Munroe, King of Prussia, PA, for the provision of materials for the Union County Print Shop, in an amount not to exceed \$36,999.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

2023-210 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to exercise a twenty-four (24) month option to extend the contract pursuant to Resolution 2021-133 and originally obtained through advertised public bidding (BA # 10-2021) with KONE, Inc., Warren, NJ, for the purpose of Elevator Maintenance & Repair Services at various locations from February 26, 2023 through February 25, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$515,600.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

2023-211 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Granting permission to the Township of Clark to hang a banner on Raritan Road and Walter Drive from April 1, 2023 to April 30, 2023 advertising the 'Rock the Block' event on April 30, 2023.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

2023-212 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Granting permission to the Township of Scotch Plains to close a portion of Park Avenue from Westfield Avenue/East 2nd Street to Front Street including Bartle Avenue and Forest Road on Saturday, October 14, 2023 for a Columbus Day Event.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

2023-213 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Granting permission to the Township of Springfield to hang a banner across Mountain Avenue and North Trivett Avenue from March 1, 2023 to March 15, 2023 to remind the public to vote on March 14th on the School Bond Referendum Question.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

2023-214 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Granting permission to the Town of Westfield (Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce) to close E. Broad Street to North Avenue on May 7, 2023 and September 10, 2023 from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm for the Spring Fling Street Fair and the FestiFall Street Fair.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

- 2023-215 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS:** Authorizing the County Manager to renew the one (1) year residential lease for the caretaker of the County's Watchung Stables.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

- 2023-216 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS:** Resolution authorizing the County Manager to renew the one (1) year residential lease for caretaker of the County's Feltville Village.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

- 2023-217 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED:** Amending Resolution 2023-11, a resolution authorizing departmental signatories for Calendar Year 2023.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

- 2023-218 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Sponsoring the Union County Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee in an amount not to exceed \$4,000.00 in support of their St. Patrick's Day Parade to be held on March 11, 2023.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

- 2023-219 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Sponsoring the Cuban Club of Elizabeth in the amount not to exceed \$4,000.00 in support of their Cuban Parade to be held on May 21, 2023.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

- 2023-220 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Supporting the City of Rahway's following events in the total amount not to exceed \$10,000.00: Munch Madness (March 25th), Independence Day Fireworks (July 3rd), ArtsFest (September 23rd), Halloween Spooktacular (Oct 28th), & Holiday Tree Lighting and Santa Parade (November 24th).

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

- 2023-221 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Approving the 2023 Union County Surrogate Five Year Spending Plan pursuant to New Jersey Laws of P.L. 2001, Chapter 370, for the use of the Document Trust Fund monies collected into the Union County Surrogate's Trust Account.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

- 2023-222 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with County Business Systems Inc., Newton, PA, for additional software services and maintenance for the Bluestone E-File Probate Module in the amount not to exceed \$19,500.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

- 2023-223 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to sign any and all documents necessary to enter into a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Assistant Prosecutor's Association effective January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

- 2023-224 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to apply for and accept funding from the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services for the Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP) County Coordinator Fellowship Grant in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.00 to support the County hiring a Shared Services County Coordinator Fellow for a one-year period.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

- 2023-225 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Amending Resolution 2022-608, approving the 2022-2023 HEARTH Emergency Solutions (HES) Grant Program Spending Plan, to provide a one-time advance payment (one month of award) in the total amount of \$30,737.00 to assist the authorized organizations to carry out program activities, with no other changes to the spending plan or terms of the agreements.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

- 2023-226 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Amending Resolution 2022-1061, a contract with Community Access Unlimited, Elizabeth, NJ, for Supportive Services for clients of

the American Job Center, to reflect account number changes only; all other terms and conditions of the prior resolutions and contract remain the same.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

2023-227 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending Resolution 2022-1060, a contract with Plainfield Action Services-Mayor's Task Force, Plainfield, NJ, for Supportive Services for clients of the American Job Center, to reflect account number changes only.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

2023-228 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending resolution 2022-734, a contract with The Mount Olive Baptist Church, Plainfield, NJ for the 2023 Code Blue Warming Center Program, to reflect an account number change and to increase funds for the period of January 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023, in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 for a new total amount not to exceed \$53,000.00; all other terms and conditions of the prior resolutions and contract remain the same.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

2023-229 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending Resolution Number 2023-18 to confirm a name change from the Law Firm of Renaud & DeAppolonio, LLC to Renaud Colicchio, LLC, Cranford, NJ.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

2023-230 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending Resolution Number 2023-138, entering into contracts with West Publishing Corporation d/b/a West, a Thomson Reuters business, Eagan, MN for the purchase of law books, internet services and materials as is necessary for various departments, constitutional offices and agencies within the County of Union, to increase the total contract amount by \$1,500.00 for expenses and/or purchases by the Union County Surrogate's Office for a new total amount not to exceed \$43,575.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

2023-231 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending Resolution Number 2023-139, a contract with Gann Law Books, Newark, NJ for the purchase of law books and materials as is necessary for various departments, constitutional offices and agencies

within the County of Union, to increase the total contract amount by \$400.00 for expenses and/or purchases by the Union County Surrogate's Office for a new total amount not to exceed \$56,675.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

2023-232 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending Resolution Number 2023-141, contracts with various vendors for the purchase of law books, legal internet services and materials as is necessary for various departments, constitutional offices and agencies within the County of Union, to increase the total contract amount by \$400.00 for expenses and/or purchases by the Union County Surrogate's Office for a new total amount not to exceed \$18,475.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

2023-233 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing a 2023 County Initiative to help offset the costs of housing maintenance, utilities and basic needs for eligible Seniors and Veterans adversely impacted by COVID-19 within the County of Union by providing direct financial assistance utilizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in a total amount not to exceed \$812,500.00.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

2023-234 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Resolution re-appointing the following members to the Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC): Debbie-Ann Anderson (County Designee), Tanisha Hansford-Colon (Legal Aide), Catherine Hart (Housing Authority - Elizabeth), Linda Flores-Tober (Consumer Advocate), Juanita Vargas (Volunteer Sector) for three-year terms beginning on January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2025; and appointing the following new members: Priscilla Garces (Advisory Bd on the Disabled), Karen Geer (Domestic Violence), Bernadette Murphy (Consumer Advocate), Geleen Donovan (Family & Children Services) and Robert Croom (Labor) for three-year terms beginning on January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2025; and appointing Peter Jacob (Comm at Large) to fill an unexpired term ending on December 31, 2024.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

2023-235 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Re-appointing Edward Jackus, (Commissioner) to the Union County Utilities Authority for a term beginning February 1, 2023 and ending January 31, 2028.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

COMMISSIONER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

2023-236 COMMISSIONER JOSEPH C BODEK, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Extending the Board's deepest condolences to Linden Councilman Carlos Rivas and Linden Board of Education Member Dayanara Rosado Quezada on the tragic passing of their 10-year old son, Ariel Rivas Rosado.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

2023-237 COMMISSIONER JOSEPH C BODEK, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Recognizing the Friends of St. Patrick of Union County for all of their efforts in supporting local worthy charitable organizations as they promote Irish heritage throughout Union County, and further congratulating the following honorees of their Annual Irish Heritage Tribute Dinner held on March 9, 2023: Patrick Giblin, 2023 Irishman of the Year/William A. Boyle, Sr. Award; Jimmy Russo, Military Service Award; Ben Bolger, Education Award; Brian Costello, Union County Business Award; Tony "TV Tony" Brennan, Public Service Award.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

2023-238 COMMISSIONER ANGELA R. GARRETSON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Extending the Board's deepest condolences to the family of Raymond Salters during their time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

2023-239 COMMISSIONER ANGELA R. GARRETSON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Extending the Board's deepest condolences to the family of Evelyn Gillon during their time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

2023-240 COMMISSIONER ANGELA R. GARRETSON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Extending the Board's deepest condolences to the family of Rev. Dr. Lloyd Preston Terrell during their time of sorrow.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

2023-241 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating the following Boys & Girls Club 2023 Youth of the Year award recipients being honored on March 2, 2023: Toni Young-Lewis, Lucas Pina, Christopher Silva (Buddie fo the Year Plaque); Aiden Francis, Deizytra Roberts, Serenity Maldonado (Junior of the Year Plaque), Ariyan Wing, Liyah Philippe-Francis Shawn'Yae Myers, Coby Smith (Youth of the Year Merit Award).

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

2023-242 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Elizabeth High School student athlete Vivian Luna upon winning her second consecutive Union County Girls Bowling Individual Championship.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

2023-243 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating the Union County St. Patrick's Day Committee upon its 26th Annual Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade taking place on March, 11, 2023; and further congratulating New Jersey State Senator Joseph P. Cryan (Grand Marshal); Gabrielle N. Sullivan (Adjutant) and Michael Capko (General Chairman).

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

2023-244 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating the following honorees of the 2023 Italian American Police Society of New Jersey Annual Gala Benefit Dinner Dance at the Fiesta Banquets on Saturday March 25th, 2023: Dr. James V. Guarrera, Brandee Fetherman, Sheriff Peter Corvelli and the Landy Family.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

Commissioner Garretson left the meeting.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Kowalski advised that the Board, in partnership with the Shade Tree Advisory Board, was once again sponsoring the annual Arbor Day Poetry Contest for

Union County students grades 4-8. She further advised that March 10th was the last day for submissions, noting that entries would be judged and a 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winner would be selected from each grade respectively. She added that these students would be honored at an awards ceremony during the Commissioners' meeting on April 27, 2023.

Commissioner Mirabella reminded residents about upcoming summer camp opportunities for children ages 6-12 at the Watchung Nature Preserve at the County's Trailside Nature & Science Center in Mountainside. He noted that half-day and full-day sessions were available, adding that registration would begin on Monday, March 4th at 9AM. He advised that additional information about the program, including fees, was available on the County's website. He noted Trailside Nature & Science Center as a wonderful resource and encouraged residents to visit the interactive center. On another note, he congratulated UC Sheriff, Peter Corvelli, for being recognized as Law Enforcement Officer of the Year by the Italian-American Police Association of NJ in an upcoming event. Commissioner Mirabella also noted his recent attendance to Mandy Patinkin in Concert at the Union County Performing Arts Center in Rahway. He closed by reminding residents about the upcoming St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 11th, noting that NJ Senator Joseph P. Cryan would serve as the parade's Grand Marshal.

Commissioner Williams reminded residents that the deadline to submit an application for the Affordable New Jersey Communities for Homeowners and Renters (ANCHOR) program was Tuesday, February 8th. She noted that this program would provide property tax relief to qualifying New Jersey residents. She advised that a public event was scheduled for Saturday, March 25th at the John T. Gregorio Recreation Center in Linden to assist residents with the application process. Commissioner Williams noted the benefit of said program and encouraged all qualifying residents to apply.

Commissioner Bodek advised that the Union County Prosecutor's Office, in partnership with Kean University, would be hosting a Law Enforcement Recruitment Fair on March 8th at Kean's STEM Building in Union. He further advised that more than 50 federal, state, county and municipal law enforcement agencies would be in attendance. He recognized NJ Senate President Nicholas P. Scutari and NJ Senator Joseph Cryan as well as the NAACP of Elizabeth and NOBLE NJ for supporting these efforts.

Commissioner Leon invited children 12 years of age and under and their parents to participate in the Board's Read Across America Sensory-Friendly Story Time series in partnership with the Elizabeth, Hillside, and Plainfield libraries. She noted that the County's Office for Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs created this program to provide a worry-free environment for children and their parents and or caregivers to enjoy story-time. Commissioner Leon advised that she would be reading to the children, as would some of her Commissioner colleagues during the event, noting the potential for surprise guests.

Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded advised that in celebration of Women's History Month, the Board was proud to welcome Emmy-award winning report and anchor for NBC New York, Jen Maxfield, to Union College on Tuesday, March 7th to discuss her book, *More After the Break: A Reporter Returns to Ten Unforgettable News Stories*. She noted that Ms. Maxfield exemplified the theme of 2023 Women's History Month in

celebrating women who tell their story. She advised that while the event was free, registration was required.

Chairman Granados thanked Commissioner Baker, Commissioner Garretson, and Commissioner Williams for their efforts during the month of February in celebration of Black History Month. On another note, he advised that the County would be holding four informational sessions for qualifying seniors and veterans as part of his 2023 Chairman Initiative to promote housing security. He further advised that these sessions would be conducted by County Counsel staff and would include helpful information and other resources, including filing assistance for a tax appeal. He noted that sessions would be held in Elizabeth on February 28th and March 4th at the Elizabeth Community Center and Elizabeth Public Library respectively. He also noted a session on March 9th at Warinanco Sports Center in Roselle and March 14th in Plainfield. He added that the workshops were free, but registration was required. He recognized the Board and County Administration for their efforts in providing the residents of Union County with financial resources to assist with housing-insecurity.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

To the extent known, the following item is scheduled to be discussed in Executive Session:

- 1) Attorney client privileged discussion concerning election procedures and budgeting for same.

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

He stated that the Board wished to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Attorney client privileged discussion concerning election procedures and budgeting for same.

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

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

Chairman Granados called for a motion to enter into Executive Session. On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed seven members of the Board

voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Garretson absent.

Chairman Granados called for a motion to return from Executive Session. On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Garretson absent.

County Counsel Bergen advised that he had nothing to report following Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Granados asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Garretson absent

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 P.M.

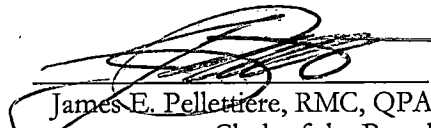
UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
2023 MEETING SCHEDULE
REORGANIZATION MEETING - THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2023 at 6:00 pm
Union County Courthouse- 2 Broad Street. Elizabeth

AGENDA SETTING SESSION

January 26, 2023
February 9, 2023
February 23, 2023
March 16, 2023
March 30, 2023
April 13, 2023
April 27, 2023
May 11, 2023
May 25, 2023
June 8, 2023
June 22, 2023
July 13, 2023
August 17, 2023
September 7, 2023
September 21, 2023
October 12, 2023
October 26, 2023
November 9, 2023
December 7, 2023
December 21, 2023

REGULAR MEETINGS

January 26, 2023
February 9, 2023
February 23, 2023
March 16, 2023
March 30, 2023
April 13, 2023
April 27, 2023
May 11, 2023
May 25, 2023
June 8, 2023
June 22, 2023
July 13, 2023
August 17, 2023
September 7, 2023
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October 26, 2023
November 9, 2023
December 7, 2023
December 21, 2023


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

Please note that the County Commissioners' meetings are to be regularly held on Thursday evenings and are scheduled to be held on the same evening, with the Agenda Setting Session to commence at 6:00pm and the Regular Meeting to commence as soon as possible after the Agenda Setting Session, unless otherwise noted.

All meetings are to be held in the Commissioner Meeting Room within the Administration Building, 6th floor located at 10 Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabeth New Jersey, 07207.

Due to the Covid-19 coronavirus concerns, County Commissioner meetings may be held remotely via Zoom webinar under the procedures conducted, as published, in 2021. If said procedures are deemed necessary, the Clerk of the Board will revise this Public Notice according to law.

Persons requiring a sign language interpreter should contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at 908-527-4140.