



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Granados presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:49 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed Chairman Sergio Granados, Vice-Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, Commissioner James E. Baker, Jr., 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.

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 Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION

Clerk Pellettiere read Ordinance No. 834-2023 by title.

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.

FIRST READING STATEMENT

Commissioner Alexander Mirabella, Policy Subcommittee Chairman, moved Ordinance Number 843-2023 for First Reading and authorized the Clerk of the Board to advertise same in accordance with the law. The Public Hearing and Final Reading will be held on February 23, 2023.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

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 relative to several Resolutions. Relative to Reso No. 2023-157, he asked if the County taxpayers would be incurring any costs relative to this Share Services Agreement and whether or not Elizabeth would be reimbursing the County for this service. Relative to Reso No. 2023-163, he asked for additional information relative to the work being conducted and asked about curbing. Relative to Reso No. 2023-164, Mr. Paterson asked about the cited change order. Relative to Reso Nos. 2023-171 through 2023-173, he asked what the net revenue of these items would be. Mr. Paterson also made comments relative to Reso Nos. 2023-160, 2023-175, 2023-176, & 2023-197.

Relative to Reso No. 2023-197, Chairman Granados advised that Mr. Gary Taffet was a tremendous asset to the Union County Baseball Association and thanked him for his efforts in ensuring that Union County youth have the resources needed to continue participating in the sport. He noted his appreciation for Gary Taffet and all the other individuals involved with the U.C. Baseball Association.

Relative to Reso No. 2023-157, County Manager Oatman advised that this item would provide the County with a Certified Health Officer and related services through the City of Elizabeth. He noted that the County's Health Officer had secured alternate employment and this item would allow the County to continue providing said services.

Relative to Reso No. 2023-175, County Manager Oatman advised that this item would allow the County to correct various structural deficiencies at the Ashbrook Golf Course Clubhouse. He added that the County was reviewing the matter.

Relative to Reso No. 2023-163, Director Graziano advised that the cited vendor was responsible for the providing design, construction administration, and inspection services for the County's 2024 Road Resurfacing Project. He noted that the project would include guardrails and handicap ramps, adding that curbing was the responsibility of property owners along County roads.

Chairman Granados asked Director Graziano to confirm that multiple roads would be addressed under the 2024 Road Resurfacing Project.

Director Graziano confirmed that 18 miles of road would be addressed, affecting 15 different communities within Union County.

Relative to Reso No. 2023-164, Director Graziano advised that local public contracts law allowed for change orders, adding that this change order would be advertised as prescribed by law. He further advised that due to departmental staffing shortages, the Department had to utilize the contracted plumber more than originally anticipated. He added that he expected this increase to cover costs for the remainder of the year.

County Manager Oatman asked Director Graziano to confirm that even with the contract increase, the County would still be saving money as salaries were no longer being paid to now retired personnel.

Director Graziano noted that he anticipated the cost to fare about even or with less monies being spent overall in light of the noted retirements.

Chairman Granados confirmed that the County of Union consistently followed proper protocol when securing outside vendors as well as adhered to local public contracts law.

Director Graziano echoed Chairman Granados' comments, noting that all contracts were reviewed by County Counsel and the County consistently adhered to the laws regarding said.

Fran Wilson, of Roselle Park, and President of the Ashbrook Men's Association spoke relative to his concerns relative to the issues and disrepair plaguing Ashbrook Golf Course and Clubhouse. He referenced several County ordinances that aimed to renovate Ashbrook Golf Course and the Clubhouse, noting the shortcomings of the improvements and repairs.

Dennis Allocco (town inaudible) also expressed his concerns relative to Ashbrook Golf Course. He also made comments relative to recently-appointed Parks Director Victoria Durbin-Drake and questioned her ability to rectify the issues at Ashbrook Golf Course. Mr. Allocco proceeded to offer suggestions that would, in his opinion, remedy many of the issues currently affecting the site without the need for an engineering study.

Chairman Granados expressed his confidence in Parks Director Durbin-Drake leadership and her ability to run the department successful and address the concerns at Ashbrook.

County Manager Oatman apologized on behalf of the Board and shared in the frustrations expressed by Mr. Wilson and Mr. Allocco relative to Ashbrook Golf Course. He reaffirmed the County's commitment to investigate and remedy the situation on site. Relative to the engineering study, he advised that the County was obligated to adhere to certain regulations as dictated by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Director Durbin-Drake echoed the frustration of both County Manager Oatman and the members of the public. She noted the importance of identifying the core issues plaguing Ashbrook Golf Course in order to address them appropriately. She advised that the Department's priority was to use capital monies to determine and address the major issues on-site before conducting some of the minor issues mentioned by Mr. Wilson and Mr. Allocco.

Chairman Granados reiterated the Board's and County Manager's commitment to addressing the issues at Ashbrook Golf Course and other County-run operations as a means to enhance services and facilitate resources.

Chairman Granados invited Mr. Allocco to join him in a meeting following the Commissioners' Regular Meeting to discuss his concerns relative to Ashbrook Golf Course.

There were no additional questions or comments from the public.

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

The following Resolutions were offered for adoption:

2023-154 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR: Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to AristaTek, Laramie, Wyoming, for the purpose of upgrading existing software and databases in an amount not to exceed \$28,230.00 from the 2021 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant program.

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

2023-155 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR: Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Spec Rescue International, Virginia Beach, Virginia, to provide exercise support and training to members of the Metro Urban Search and Rescue (MUSAR) Task Force from the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Region, through the 2021 and 2022 UASI grants, in an amount not to exceed \$134,895.00.

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

2023-156 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR: Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Safeware, Inc., Lanham, MD, for the purchase of a Stanley Power Rescue Tools for the UASI MUSAR Team in an amount not to exceed \$30,411.52 utilizing the 2021 Urban Area Security Initiative Grant Funds.

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

2023-157 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a Shared Services Agreement with the City of Elizabeth for Certified Health Officer

and consulting services for the period February 7, 2023 through December 31, 2023 at the monthly cost of \$4,000.00, for the total amount not to exceed \$44,000.00.

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

2023-158 COMMISSIONER ANGELA R. GARRETSON: Re-appointing Andrew Wallen to the Union County Planning Board for a term beginning on January 1, 2021 and ending on December 31, 2023.

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

2023-159 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Cartegraph Systems LLC, Dubuque, Iowa, to provide the licensing, upgrade and maintenance to the web-based Operations Management System with Enterprise Licensing for a one-year period commencing January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 in an amount not to exceed \$110,000.00.

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

2023-160 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to CME Associates, Parlin, New Jersey to provide On-Call Hydraulic Engineering Services commencing January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00.

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

2023-161 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Amending Resolution 2022-754, a contract awarded through advertised public bidding (BA# 1-2021) in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.; Railroad Construction Company, Inc., Paterson, New Jersey, approving Change Order Number 2 for the Gordon Street Bridge over "Out of Service" Conrail structure 2050150, Boroughs of Roselle and Roselle Park, County of Union, New Jersey. This change order will increase the original contract amount by \$38,212.00 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$7,671,685.77 subject to the approval of the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

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

2023-162 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to ESRI Environmental Systems Research Inc., Redlands, CA for a Maintenance Agreement ArcGIS Desktop License for GIS Databases and technical support as needed for the period of March 20, 2023 through March 19, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$20,600.00.

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

2023-163 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Neglia Engineering Associates, Lyndhurst, NJ to provide design, construction administration and inspection services for the 2024 Road Resurfacing Project in an amount not to exceed \$239,944.00.

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

2023-164 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Amending Resolution 2022-212, a contract awarded through advertised public bidding (B.A. 9-2022) in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJ.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.; Magic Touch Construction Co., Keyport, New Jersey, approving Change Order Number 1 for Plumbing Services. This change order will increase the original contract amount by \$100,000.00 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$226,297.50.

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

2023-165 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to purchase two (2) Office Trailers from Williams Scotsman, Inc., Cherry Hill, NJ, to be used by the Divisions of Motor Vehicles and Park Maintenance at Houdaille Quarry, Springfield NJ, in an amount not to exceed \$44,000.00.

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

2023-166 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to award an open ended contract obtained through advertised public bidding (B.A. # 9-2023) in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq; Pennetta Industrial Automation, Little Ferry, NJ, for the purpose of providing Computerized Monitoring & Controlling of Automation Systems Equipment for twenty-four (24) consecutive months with the provision for one (1) twenty-four (24) month optional extension, not to commence before February 20, 2023, in an amount not to exceed \$255,900.00.

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

2023-167 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed open ended contract obtained through advertised public bidding (BA# UCCP #8-2023) in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq; Department of Engineering, Public Works & Facilities Management: Deer Carcass Removal Services (DCRS), Cream Ridge, NJ, for the purpose of providing Road Sweepings Removal Service for the period from February 2023 to February 2024, with one option to extend for a one year period in an amount of not to exceed \$195,000.00.

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

2023-168 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Granting permission to the Borough of Roselle Park to close streets for various events on various dates and times, from May 29 to December 3, 2023, and to hang various banners on various dates, from April 24 to December 4, 2023.

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

2023-169 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager through the Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, to reallocate funds received from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts to the following 41 Union County agencies and organizations as recommended and approved by the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board in the amount not to exceed \$270,000.00.

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

2023-170 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager through the Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, to reallocate funds received from the New Jersey Historical Commission to the following 19 Union County agencies and organizations as recommended and approved by the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board in the amount not to exceed \$55,000.00.

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

2023-171 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a revenue generating agreement with SAGE Eldercare Inc., Summit, New Jersey, for the provision of transportation services through the Union County Paratransit System for Adult Day Care clients attending their programs based upon scheduled trips provided by the County on Monday through Friday for the period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. (Revenue generating)

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

2023-172 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a revenue generating agreement with Inroads to Opportunities, Roselle, New Jersey for the provision of transportation services through the Union County Paratransit System for Partial Care clients attending their programs based upon pre-scheduled trips provided by the County on Monday through Friday for the period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. (Revenue generating)

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

- 2023-173 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a revenue generating agreement with Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services, Inc., Elizabeth, New Jersey for the provision of transportation services through the Union County Paratransit System for Partial Care clients attending their programs based upon pre-scheduled trips provided by the County on Monday through Friday for the period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. (Revenue generating)

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

- 2023-174 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON:** Authorizing the County Manager to approve the 2023 Coordinated Community Care Contract Spending Plan and enter into agreements with various agencies to deliver services to Union County residents 60 years of age or older and/or their caregivers under the 2022-2024 Coordinated Community Care contract for the period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, representing contract year two of a three year cycle with the option to renew contracts for one (1) additional year in a total not to exceed amount of \$100,000; further authorizing the transfer of funds among the agencies during the contract period should service needs change and/or if any should fail to meet its contractual obligation.

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

- 2023-175 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with USA Architects, Somerville, New Jersey to provide design, construction administration and inspection services to the Ashbrook Golf Course Clubhouse in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.00.

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

- 2023-176 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED:** Re-appointing Jonathan R. Boguchwal to the Union County Improvement Authority (UCIA) for a term starting on February 1, 2023 and ending January 31, 2028.

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

- 2023-177 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED:** Appointing Jennifer Sorensen to Union County's Local Advisory Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (LACADA) for a term starting on January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2025.

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

*Resolution Sponsor will be changed to Commissioner Baker, Jr as per the direction of Chairman Granados during the Agenda Meeting.

- 2023-178 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Approving the 2023 Union County Clerk Five Year Spending Plan pursuant to New Jersey Laws of 2001, Chapter 371, for the use of the Document Trust Fund monies collected into the Union County Clerk's Trust Account.

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

- 2023-179 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Amending Resolution Number 2022-976, a contract with B & B Press Inc., Lebanon, New Jersey, to reflect the provision of folding and banding services for provisional ballots for the 2023 Primary and General elections in an additional amount of \$6,100.00 for a new total contract amount not to exceed \$681,969.11.

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

- 2023-180 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Amending Resolution 2022-486, approving the 2022-2023 (Year 48) Consolidated Action Plan to increase CDBG funding utilizing contingency funds to finish the project for the Toddler Learning Center Facility Plainfield with an increase in the amount of \$15,000.00 for a new total contract amount not to exceed \$60,000.00.

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

- 2023-181 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Amending Resolution 2021-928, a contract with Everbridge Inc., Pasadena, CA to provide software and support services, for a change in account numbers only.

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

- 2023-182 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with National Flag & Display Co., Inc., d/b/a Metro Flag Co., Wharton, NJ for the purchase of American Flags to place on the graves of veterans buried in Union County cemeteries during the 2023 Memorial Day weekend in an amount not to exceed \$25,683.84.

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

- 2023-183 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Amending Resolution 2021-763, a contract with Community Access Unlimited, Elizabeth, New Jersey, for the purpose of serving as operator of the state mandated Shelter Home for Union County for the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, to increase the contract award in the amount of \$1,002.00 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$517,902.00, with no other changes to the terms or conditions of the contract.

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

2023-184 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending Resolution 2022-1008, a lease agreement between the County of Union and Immaculate Conception Church, Elizabeth, NJ, for the rental of 85 parking spaces, to increase the rate by \$1.00 per parking space, effective February 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, for an additional amount of \$935.00 for a new total annual amount not to exceed \$87,635.00.

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

2023-185 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Communities in Cooperation (CIC) Linden, NJ for out-of-school youth (OSY) supportive service needs, work experience, and comprehensive career services for the period of February 1, 2023, through March 31, 2023, for an amount not to exceed \$4,000.00.

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

2023-186 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Urban League of Union County, Elizabeth, NJ to provide for the operation of a Financial Opportunity Center for eligible clients of the American Job Center who need assistance in enhancing their financial literacy and completing their training or job seeking services for the period of January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023, in an amount not to exceed \$44,000.00.

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

2023-187 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to Voyce, Inc., Sunrise, FL to provide remote video translation services for the Department of Human Services for residents in need accessing services, for the period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, in an amount not to exceed \$17,500.

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

2023-188 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending resolution 2021-768, a contract with The Mount Olive Baptist Church, Plainfield, NJ for the provision of warming center services for homeless individuals during Code Blue Nights, to reflect an account number change only; all other terms and conditions of the resolution and contract remain the same.

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

- 2023-189 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Amending resolution 2021-769, a contract with The Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless, Elizabeth, NJ for the provision of emergency shelter for homeless individuals, to reflect an account number change only; all other terms and conditions of the resolution and contract remain the same.

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

- 2023-190 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Amending resolution 2022-735, a contract with The Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless, Elizabeth, NJ for Homeless Outreach and Short-Term Shelter to reflect an account number change only; all other terms and conditions of the resolution and contract remain the same.

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

- 2023-191 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Amending resolution 2022-825, a contract with The Mount Olive Baptist Church, Plainfield, NJ for the 2022 Code Blue Warming Center Program, to reflect an account number change only; all other terms remain the same.

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

- 2023-192 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS:** Authorizing a 2023 County Initiative to Support Long-Term Housing Security to Eligible Seniors and Veterans Adversely Impacted by COVID-19 within the County of Union by Providing Filing Assistance and Payment of Tax Appeal Application Fees by Utilizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) funds in an amount not to exceed \$75,000 through April 3, 2023.

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

COMMISSIONER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

- 2023-193 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of Ella May White, of Plainfield, during their time of sorrow.

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

- 2023-194 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Congratulating Anthony Foti, Robert "Red" Migliore, Dan Mondelli and the Simo Brothers upon induction into the Union County Baseball Hall of Fame at the 86th Annual Union County Baseball Association Hot Stove Dinner on January 29th, 2023.

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

2023-195 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Gordon Graceffo upon receiving the Chris Zusi Outstanding Athlete Award at the 86th Annual Union County Baseball Association Hot Stove Dinner on January 29th, 2023.

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

2023-196 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Carmine Meola-Dreissig upon receiving the Union County Baseball Association Scholarship Award at the 86th Annual Union County Baseball Association Hot Stove Dinner on January 29th, 2023.

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

2023-197 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Gary Taffet upon receiving the Union County Baseball Association Service Award at the 86th Annual Union County Baseball Association Hot Stove Dinner on January 29th, 2023.

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

2023-198 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Recognizing Todd "The Toddfather" Frazier who served as the honored guest speaker at the 86th Annual Union County Baseball Association Hot Stove Dinner, on Sunday, January 29th 2023. (Chairman Sergio Granados, Commissioner Alexander Mirabella, & The Entire Board)

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

2023-199 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Resolution recognizing the month of February, 2023, as "National Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month," as designated by the National Association for Career and Technical Education, throughout County of Union.

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

2023-200 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Proclaiming the week of February 18, 2023 - February 25, 2023 as "National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Week" throughout the County of Union.

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

2023-201 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Proclaiming the month of February as Black History Month throughout the County of Union; and further

recognizing the prominence and importance of this county's African American community and aims to honor the culture by hosting events such as the Union College Black Excellence Kickoff event and the Union County 4th Annual Black History Month Flag Raising event, both held on February 1, 2023.

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

2023-202 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Congratulating Joe Alves on his tremendous accomplishment in becoming the first Union County Indoor Pole Vault Champion in Elizabeth history.

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

COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Garretson thanked various students including, Brian Chi, Isabella Torres, and Clara Owens among others, for presenting her with personalized letters. She noted the importance of 1965—the year Union County Vo-Tech was founded—as it related to other historical events taking place that year including: Malcom X's assassination, the Watts Riots, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Commissioner Bodek encouraged job seekers to attend the County's upcoming Diversity and Inclusion Job Fair on February 22nd in partnership with the Plainfield Public Library and Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce. He noted that Union County's American Job Center, through the Department of Human Services, provided in-person career services and counseling to link active job seekers with employment opportunities that match their skills.

Commissioner Leon noted that she was incredibly impressed with the educational achievements of the many students from UCVTS. She recognized Superintendent Gwen Ryan and all the staff and educators for their efforts contributing to the students' successes. On another note, she reminded residents that the State was still accepting applications for The Affordable NJ Communities of Homeowners and Renters (ANCHOR) program, adding that the deadline for application submissions was February 28th. She advised that this program would provide property tax relief to qualifying NJ homeowners and renters. To close, she noted her excitement as a Cuban-American relative to Celia Cruz being featured on the United States quarter beginning in 2024.

Commissioner Kowalski recognized and thanked the students and staff from UCVTS for their earlier presentation. She also congratulated the volunteers of the 2023 Annual Point-In-Time Count of the Homeless for being honored for their selfless effort. She thanked the Department of Human Services, including Human Services Director Anderson and Division Director Topolosky as well as all the other employees participated. On another note, she spoke relative to a performance of "Langston & Beethoven: Black & Proud" that took place on January 31st in honor of Black History Month, adding that she and her colleagues had enjoyed the evening's performance very much. She also congratulated Kean President, Dr. Lamont O. Repollet, for being honored that evening with the Chester Holmes Humanitarian Award. Commissioner Kowalski also noted her recent attendance of a performance by the Plainfield Symphony. She

added that she was incredibly impressed with the opening performance by Plainfield's Academy for the Arts & Advanced Studies Magnet School. To close, she advised that the Division of Youth Services would now be known as the Division of Children and Youth Services. She noted that depression and anxiety among children ages 3-17 had risen exponentially during the pandemic and the Division of Children and Youth Services, in partnership with other local agencies, was committed to providing the necessary resources to promote mental health among the youth.

Commissioner Baker recognized all the students from UCVTS and congratulated them on their impressive educational achievements. He also recognized the efforts of Superintendent Ryan and all the other staff members of UCVTS for their efforts. On another note, Commissioner Baker reminded Springfield residents that the voter registration deadline for the School Board Special Election taking place on March 14th was February, 21st, 2023. He encouraged voters to contact the Board of Elections in Elizabeth for additional information.

Commissioner Mirabella noted his recent attendance of the Fire Academy Graduation Ceremony, alongside Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded and Commissioner Leon, noting that it was a pleasure to be able to celebrate the success of these 25 new firefighters. He thanked them for their service and for their willingness to pursue such a dangerous, yet vital role in public safety. He recognized Rahway Fire Chief Roberts for the inspiring words he offered to the new graduates. On another note, he encouraged residents to check out UCPAC's upcoming performances, noting a performance by Mandy Patinkin on Saturday, February 18th. He recognized the leadership and staff at UCPAC and thanked them for their efforts in making UCPAC a success. To close, Commissioner Mirabella recognized Joe Policay and Ray Szpond for their tireless efforts relative to deer management.

Commissioner Williams spoke relative to the many upcoming events in Union County in celebration of Black History Month. She also invited residents to visit Union County's special exhibit entitled, Black History Month-Notable People of Union County, featuring portraits of distinguished County residents and highlighting their success as inventors, artists, and athletes among other accomplishments. She advised that the gallery was located in the hallway outside the Commissioner Meeting Room. Commissioner Williams thanked the Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs for their efforts to this end. She wished everyone a Happy Black History Month.

Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded echoed the sentiments of her colleagues in recognizing and applauding the academic achievements of the students from UCVTS, noting that she was inspired by their success. On another note, she advised that earlier that week she, alongside Commissioner Williams and Scotch Plains Mayor Joshua Losardo as well as Union County Public Safety staff and naturalists from Trailside Nature and Science Center, had participated in Nettingham Middle School's Career Day Event. She noted that she enjoyed being able to interact and inspire the students, adding that it gave her great hope for the future.

Chairman Granados advised that earlier that week, the Union County Board of County Commissioners had announced \$10 million in Emergency Rental Assistance Funding, through the Department of Economic Development, to provide significant economic relief for low and moderate income households at risk of homelessness or housing instability. He further advised that this funding was available to all qualifying Union County residents, regardless of their immigration status. He added that the County had secured a new vendor to facilitate in-person appointments and assist with the processing of applications.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Granados asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 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 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
September 21, 2023
October 12, 2023
October 26, 2023
November 9, 2023
December 7, 2023
December 21, 2023

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


James E. Pellettiere, 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.