



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 07, 2023
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Granados presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:08 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 Kowalski, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Thursday, October 12, 2023 - Agenda Setting Session
2. Thursday, October 12, 2023 - Regular Meeting
3. Thursday, October 26, 2023 - Agenda Setting Session
4. Thursday, October 26, 2023 - Regular Meeting

Chairman Granados called for a motion to approve the October Minutes. On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Bodek, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative for the October 12th Agenda

Setting and Regular Meeting Minutes, with Commissioner Baker absent; seven votes in the affirmative for the October 26th Agenda Setting and Regular Meeting Minutes, with Commissioner Garretson abstaining and Commissioner Baker absent.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION

- 846-2023 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND “THE LAWS OF UNION COUNTY: ADMINISTRATIVE CODE AND POLICIES AND GENERAL LEGISLATION” BY AMENDING, PART I -ADMINISTRATIVE CODE: CHAPTER 1, UNION COUNTY GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE: ARTICLE III- BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S AND ARTICLE XXI-DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; AND PART II-POLICIES AND GENERAL LEGISLATION: CHAPTER 50 (NEW) FILMING PERMITS, RESTRICTIONS AND FEES.**

FIRST READING STATEMENT

Commissioner Alexander Mirabella, Policy and Administrative Code Chair, moved Ordinance Number 846-2023 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 December 21, 2023.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Leon, roll call showed eight votes in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker absent.

- 847-2023 ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, THE COUNTY MANAGER, COUNTY COUNSEL AND DEPARTMENT HEADS FOR 2024.**

FIRST READING STATEMENT

Commissioner Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, Fiscal Chair, moved Ordinance Number 847-2023 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 December 21, 2023.

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

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 Resolution No. 2023-989, Mr. Paterson asked if this vendor was secured through a public bid process and if so, had there been other bidders. Relative to Reso Nos. 998 & 999, he made comments relative to the Biosolids Processing Facility in

Linden. Relative to Reso No. 2023-1013, he made comments regarding former Acting Prosecutor Lyndsay V. Ruotolo. Mr. Paterson also made comments relative to Reso No. 2023-1014.

Relative to Reso No. 2023-989, County Manager Oatman confirmed that this vendor was secured through a public bid and the contract was ultimately awarded to the lowest bidder.

Relative to Reso Nos. 2023-998 & 999, County Manager Oatman confirmed that the County had no obligation to repay the respective bonds, adding that this item represented the third round of anticipated funding.

Relative to Reso No. 2023-1014, Counsel Bergen confirmed that the bid specs for the project had been properly written and relayed by the County. He added that the project was awarded to the lowest bidder, who was subsequently unable to complete the job due to electric wires on-site, which had been noted in the bid specifications. He advised that the County had been working to address this issue since 2021, adding that settling the matter was the best option in terms of time and money. He further advised that the bond company on the project would furnish \$3 million to ensure the completion of the project, with Morris County and Union County furnishing an additional \$99,945.25 each.

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

The following resolutions are being offered for adoption:

- 2023-979 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR:** Authorizing the County Manager to apply for, accept funding and execute a contract with the State of New Jersey, Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA), FY25 Alliance Grant to Prevent Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Program award for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$244,862.00.

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

- 2023-980 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR:** Authorize the County Manager to award FY25 Alliance Program subcontracts of the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA) grant for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of not to exceed \$244,862.00; and to further authorize the County Manager to transfer funds among the municipalities listed during the contract period should service needs change.

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

- 2023-981 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR:** Authorizing the County Manager to award renewal subcontracts under the 2024 Alcohol/Drug Abuse (A/DA) Grant for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 in the amount not to exceed

\$792,379.00; and further authorizing the transfer of funds among the agencies listed during the contract period should service needs change.

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

2023-982 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a five (5) year agreement with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, Rahway, NJ, to utilize rental space for forensic examinations and autopsies for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2028, with an initial amount of \$66,244.84 for the first year and an annual 2% increase for the remaining four (4) year contract terms for a total amount not to exceed \$344,740.83.

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

2023-983 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement to authorize approval for participation in the Defense Logistics Agency, Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO), 1033 Program to enable the Union County Police Department to request and acquire excess Department of Defense Equipment from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

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

2023-984 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to re-allocate funds from FY 2020 LBFN NJDOT Grant for Dill Avenue Bridge, City of Linden, to Hamilton Street Bridge, City of Rahway, Central Avenue Bridge, City of Rahway, Randolph Avenue, City of Plainfield, and Caldwell Place Bridge, Township of Springfield.

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

2023-985 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with LiRo Engineers, Inc. of Edison, New Jersey to provide design, construction administration and inspection services for the Union County Dam Maintenance Inspections 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$99,212.00.00.

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

2023-986 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an Agreement between the County of Union and the City of Summit to permit the installation of a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) Pedestrian

Crosswalk System on the corner of Ashland Road (C.R. 622) and Colt Road.
(System will be purchased, installed and maintained by the City of Summit.)

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

2023-987 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to award the contract obtained through advertised public bidding to Northeast Roof Maintenance, Inc. of Perth Amboy, New Jersey for the Annex Courthouse Roof Replacement Project in an amount not to exceed \$1,110,000.00.

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

2023-988 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to submit a grant application and enter into an Agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) for Fiscal Year 2024 County Aid Fund Program in the amount of \$7,187,822.00.

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

2023-989 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to award the contract obtained through advertised public bidding to Terminal Construction Corporation of Wood-Ridge, New Jersey for the Union County Courthouse Parking Deck Demolition, City of Elizabeth, County of Union, New Jersey in an amount not to exceed \$6,600,000.00.

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

2023-990 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to award the contract obtained through advertised public bidding to Weldon Materials, 141 Central Avenue, Westfield, NJ for the purpose of providing Road Materials for a twelve (12) month period in the amount not to exceed \$953,278.75.

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

2023-991 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Granting permission to the Township of Scotch Plains to close a portion of Park Avenue on Sunday, December 3, 2023 from 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM for a Holiday Celebration Event and to close a portion of Park Avenue on Thursday, December 7, 2023 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM for a Menorah Lighting Event.

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

2023-992 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Amending Resolution 2023-955, permission granted to the City of Linden for the Annual Holiday Tree Lighting, to change the date from December 1, 2023 to December 8, 2023 and closing Wood Avenue from Elizabeth Avenue to Elm Street from 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

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

2023-993 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Electronic Manufacturers Recycling Management, LLC (MRM), Minneapolis, MN, to provide collection and recycling of computer and electronic equipment collected at e-waste recycling events and municipal collection sites for the thirty-six month period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2027 with options to extend for two (2) additional 12-month periods at the County's sole discretion, inclusive of rebates for recycled material.

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

2023-994 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON: Authorizing the County Manager to approve the 2024 Statewide Respite Care 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 Statewide Respite Care Program for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, (Year Three) in the total amount not to exceed \$264,000.00; further authorizing the transfer of funds among the agencies during the contract period should service needs change.

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

2023-995 COMMISSIONER LOURDES M. LEON: Authorizing the County Manager to approve the 2024 Area Plan 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 Area Plan contract for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 (Year Three) in the total amount not to exceed \$5,633,958.00; further authorizing the transfer of funds among the agencies during the contract period should service needs change.

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

2023-996 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS: Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding to Country Feed & Grain, Haskell, NJ, for the purpose of providing horse feed, for a contract period of twenty-four (24) months in the amount of not to exceed \$200,000.00.

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

2023-997 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into an Agreement with the New Jersey Department of Corrections (DOC) for FY2024 in the amount of \$100,000.00 to support the County Reentry Coordinator Program. (Utilizing Grant Funds. No cost to the County.)

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

2023-998 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: Providing Consent for the Union County Improvement Authority to Undertake and Implement the Completion of Construction of a Biosolids Processing Facility to be Located in the City of Linden, New Jersey.

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

2023-999 VICE CHAIRWOMAN KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: Approving the Issuance of Solid Waste Disposal Subordinated Revenue Bonds, (Aries Linden, LLC Project) Series 2023 Pursuant to Section 147(F) of the Internal Revenue Code Of 1986.

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

2023-1000 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to exercise the option to extend the contract with B & B Press Inc., Lebanon, New Jersey, to provide printing services for the 2024 and 2025 Primary and General Elections for the contract period of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025 in the amount of \$721,830.85, and a total amount not to exceed \$1,397,699.96.

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

2023-1001 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to exercise the option to extend the contract with Full Service Mailers, Hackensack, NJ, to provide mailing services for the 2024 and 2025 Primary and General Elections for the contract period of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025 in the amount of \$214,708.30 for a total amount not to exceed \$430,340.30.

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

2023-1002 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to exercise the option to extend the contract with Royal Printing Services, West New York, NJ, to provide additional printing services for the 2024 and 2025 Primary, General, and Special Elections for the contract period of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025, in the amount of \$2,764,213.00 for a total not to exceed \$5,317,545.00.

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

2023-1003 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq: Ditto Copy Systems Inc., Linden, NJ, to provide coin operated copy machines for public use for a contract period of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025 with one (1) 24-month extension option. (No cost to the County.)

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

2023-1004 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending Resolution 2023-899, a contract with Haworth Inc, Holland, MI, through New Jersey State Contract #81619 for the purpose of purchasing furniture for phase 5B of the renovation of the Union County Clerk's Office, in the amount of \$45,287.34 for a total not to exceed \$192,890.97.

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

2023-1005 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with We Are One New Jersey Inc., Trenton, NJ, to provide social and human services that educate, empower, and uplift working families under the We Are One New Jersey Project, for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$245,000.00.

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

2023-1006 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to the Union County Economic Development Corporation, Cranford, NJ, for the purpose of providing general economic development services to private businesses for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00.

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

2023-1007 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with the Union County Economic Development Corporation, Cranford, NJ, for the purpose of providing procurement training/technical assistance to private businesses for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$125,000.00.

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

2023-1008 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Development Directions, Rahway, NJ for the Administration of the Union County Housing Voucher Program (HAPP) (Section 8) for a contract period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025, with two (2) twelve (12) month extension options, in an amount not to exceed \$620,000.00.

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

2023-1009 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Prevention Links, Inc., Roselle, NJ for the 2024 Union County Helping Hands 365 Program for the period of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$110,000.00.

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

2023-1010 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to exercise the County's option to extend the contract with Community Access Unlimited, Elizabeth, NJ, through a competitive contracting process, for the operation of the Union County Children's Shelter for the contract period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 (Year Three) in the total contract amount not to exceed \$709,629.00.

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

2023-1011 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into agreements with various community-based organizations for the purpose of providing shelter night stays and crisis intervention services for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), General Assistance (GA) and/or Emergency Assistance (EA) recipients for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 with a County Match appropriation in the amount not to exceed \$250,013.00.

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

2023-1012 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending Resolution 2023-398, a lease agreement with Ronlee Realty, Inc., for commercial space at 40 Parker Road, Elizabeth, NJ, to reflect an increase in the amount of \$632,127.00, for a new contract total amount not to exceed \$4,087,159.40.

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

2023-1013 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending Resolution 2023-143 to increase the appropriation to Hatfield Schwartz, LLC to represent the County of Union, Union County Prosecutor's Office and former Acting Prosecutor Lyndsay V. Ruotolo in the matter entitled Susan J. Gleason v. New Jersey Office of the Attorney General et al, in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00 for a new total contract amount not to exceed \$100,000.00.

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

2023-1014 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to execute a Settlement Agreement in the matter entitled Jersey Precast v. County of Union, et al., in the amount not to exceed \$99,945.25.

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

2023-1015 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending Resolution Number 2023-531, a contract with Cleary Giacobbe Alfieri & Jacobs LLC, in the matter entitled Beverley Figueroa v. UC, et al, to reflect an increase in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$40,000.00.

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

2023-1016 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Appointing Hatfield Swartz Law Group LLC, Cedar Knolls, NJ, to represent the County of Union in the matter entitled Andrea Simmons v. County of Union et als, in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00.

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

2023-1017 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Appointing Hatfield Swartz Law Group LLC, Cedar Knolls, NJ, to represent the County of Union in the matter entitled Jennifer Philippe v. County of Union et als, in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00.

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

2023-1018 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS: Appointing Weiner Law Group LLP, Parsippany, NJ, to represent the County of Union in the matter entitled County of Union v. various parties, regarding Park encroachments in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00.

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

COMMISSIONER SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS

2023-1019 COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Diego Antonio Otero, Brian Patrick Christman, and Oliver James Agar of Boy Scout Troop 203 upon earning the rank of Eagle Scout at the Eagle Scout Court of Honor on November 24, 2023.

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

2023-1020 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Recognizing Daniel Bernier, Director of Park Planning and Environmental Services, on the honor of his receiving the Sarah P. Fiske Lifetime Achievement Award by Preservation New Jersey at their 2023 NJ Historical Preservation Awards Ceremony at the Masker's Barn on November 30, 2023.

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

2023-1021 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Offering this Board's deepest sympathies to the family of President Elizabeth A. Urquhart during their time of sorrow.

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

2023-1022 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Extending this Board's deepest condolences to the family of William Crosby III, who passed away on November 21, 2023.

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

2023-1023 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Recognizing the County's designation of November 2023 as National Adoption Month and further its designation of Friday, November 17, 2023 as Adoption Day throughout the County of Union.

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

2023-1024 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Recognizing the month of December as Universal Human Rights Month promoting the importance of basic rights and fundamental freedoms through education and advocacy, volunteer recruitment, and fundraising activities; and further recognizing December 10, 2023 as Human Rights Day, marking the 75th anniversary of one of the world's most groundbreaking global pledges: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

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

2023-1025 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Acknowledging the County's recognition of Diwali, the "Festival of Lights," symbolizing new beginnings and the triumph of light over darkness; and further acknowledging the County of Union's inaugural celebration of Diwali, which was held at Trailside Nature and Science Center on November 18th, 2023.

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

2023-1026 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Proclaiming December 7, 2023 - April 7, 2024 as "122 Days of Education" and recognizing the organization, Bris Avrohom, for their continued educational and humanitarian efforts in the State of NJ as we prepare to observe Chanukah, the Festival of Lights.

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

2023-1027 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Dr. Margaret McMenamin, President of Union College of Union County, on being named a 2023 Honoree at Urban League of Union County's 47th Equal Opportunity Day Dinner & Gala.

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

2023-1028 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Dr. Darcella Patterson Sessomes, Chief of Programming and Reintegration Services at NJ's Department of Corrections, on being named a 2023 Honoree at Urban League of Union County's 47th Equal Opportunity Day Dinner & Gala.

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

2023-1029 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Kyle Briggsmin, Owner of 2 Much Sauce in Scotch Plains, on being named a 2023 Honoree at Urban League of Union County's 47th Equal Opportunity Day Dinner & Gala.

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

2023-1030 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Union County Savings Bank on being named a 2023 Honoree at Urban League of Union County's 47th Equal Opportunity Day Dinner & Gala.

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

2023-1031 CHAIRMAN SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Blessed Ministries Inc. on being named a 2023 Honoree at Urban League of Union County's 47th Equal Opportunity Day Dinner & Gala.

On a motion made by Commissioner Garretson and seconded by Commissioner Mirabella, 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 noted a recent educational health and wellness fair organized through the County's Office of LGBTQ Affairs in partnership with Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in recognition of the 35th anniversary of World AIDS Day. Among the many services and resources provided, including HIV/Hepatitis C testing as well as counseling services, she noted the importance of continuing the fight against HIV/AIDS. She recognized keynote speaker Yolanda Frazier for her continued advocacy and efforts relative to the cause. On another note, Commissioner Kowalski implored Union County

drivers and pedestrians to travel with caution and care, noting a recent close-call she witnessed. To close, Commissioner Kowalski vocalized her support of a ceasefire in the Middle East and the prioritization of humanitarian aid to the innocent civilians affected by the conflict.

Commissioner Mirabella invited residents to participate in the County's Holiday Children's Drive, noting that the County would be collecting new toys and coats to distribute to children in need throughout the County of Union. He advised that the Holiday Drive would run from November 27th – December 18th, with collection bins conveniently located in various County buildings. He encouraged interested residents to visit the County website for a list of toys. To close, he wished everyone a Happy Hanukkah.

Commissioner Williams noted her recent attendance of an Arts For All Abilities event, organized through the County's Office for Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs, at Plainfield's Youth Center. She noted that children and their parents/caregivers had an opportunity to paint holiday scenes, encouraging residents to attend another Arts For All Abilities event in Hillside. On another note, she reminded residents that the County would be holding its second Emergency Food Distribution Drive on December 17th at Kean University; she noted that proof of NJ residency would be required. To close, she wished everyone a Happy Hanukkah.

Commissioner Bodek invited residents to attend an upcoming Drive-Up Movie event with a screening of Elf at Union County Vocational Technical School on December 9th. He noted that attendees would receive a free cookie and beverage to enjoy as well as have an opportunity to take a photo in a snow globe against a winter backdrop. He encouraged residents to pre-register, adding that a rain date was scheduled for December 10th. To close, he wished everyone a Happy Hanukkah.

Commissioner Leon advised that the Board was proud to partner with NJ Reentry Corporation (NJRC) to provide reentry residents with training, through the CDL Driving Academy in Linden, to secure their commercial drive license. She noted the County's commitment to supporting returning citizens and providing them with the necessary tools and resources needed to secure sustainable employment. She noted that this pilot-program, organized by the County's American Job Center in partnership with NJRC, was made possible with federal funding and would be available for a year. She closed by wishing everyone a Happy Hanukkah.

Counsel Bergen wished everyone a Happy Hanukkah.

Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded invited residents to attend a Skate with Santa event on December 9th at Warinanco Sports Center, organized through the Office of Person's with Disabilities and Special Needs. She noted that the event would include small craft activities with light refreshments provided, adding that children under 12 would also receive a holiday gift, donated by Moving NJ Forward Foundation. Vice-Chairwoman Palmieri-Mouded advised that adaptive tools were available to ensure that all children of all abilities could enjoy skating with Santa. She advised that while the event was free, pre-registration was required. She closed by wishing everyone a Happy Hanukkah.

Chairman Granados spoke relative to his new Chairman initiative, #UCLovesSmallBiz, encouraging residents to patronize local businesses from November 24 – December 24. He added that this campaign would help highlight some of the very distinctive business within Union County. He thanked the Department of Economic Development and the Office of Public Information for their efforts to this end. To close, he wished everyone a Happy Hanukkah.

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 seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Garretson absent.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 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

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
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.