



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Leon presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:24 P.M.

ROLL CALL

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

Chairwoman Leon called for a motion to approve the Communications. On a motion made by Commissioner Kowalski and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Mirabella absent.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

1. January 6, 2025 - 2025 Installation Ceremony and Re-Organizational Meeting
2. January 13, 2025 - Special Meeting
3. January 23, 2025 - Agenda Setting Session
4. January 23, 2025 - Regular Meeting

Chairwoman Leon called for a motion to approve the January Minutes. On a motion made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice-Chairman Bodek, roll call showed six members of the Board voted in the affirmative for the January 6th Reorganizational Meeting Minutes, with Commissioner Delisfort abstaining and Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Mirabella absent; five votes in the affirmative

for the January 13, 2024 Special Meeting, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Kowalski abstaining, and Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Mirabella absent; five votes in the affirmative for the January 23, 2025 Agenda Setting Meeting Minutes, with Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Kowalski abstaining, and Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Mirabella absent; and six votes in the affirmative for the January 23, 2025 Regular Meeting, with Commissioner Delisfort abstaining and Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Mirabella absent.

ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION

855-2025 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 XVII- DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND ARTICLE XXIV- DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting was opened to the public for comments on Ordinance 855-2025 only.

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, asked about the prospective changes under Ordinance No. 855-2025. He also asked about new positions being created under the ordinance.

Counsel Bergen advised that the function of Ordinance 855-2025 allowed for the functions of the County’s Telephone Room to be reassigned under the Bureau of Information Technologies.

FINAL READING STATEMENT

Vice Chairman Joseph C. Bodek, Policy Subcommittee Chairman, moved Ordinance Number 855-2025 for Final Reading and authorized the Clerk of the Board to advertise same in accordance with the law.

On a motion made by Vice-Chairman Bodek and seconded by Commissioner Williams, roll call showed seven votes in the affirmative, with Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Mirabella absent.

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, made comments relative to Resolution No. 2025-178 & Resolution No. 2025-193. He also made comments relative to Commissioner Kowalski’s retirement as well as Commissioner Granados candidacy for NJ State Assembly in the 20th legislative district; citing him as a DEI hire.

Commissioner Williams responded to Mr. Paterson’s remarks.

Nancy Twaskas, of Clark, noted her recent attendance of the Commissioners meetings and insinuated that the rules of decorum were not being applied equally across the Board. She also noted efforts on the federal level to cut wasteful spending and increase government efficiency, adding that NJ lawmakers had proposed a similar resource to manage State spending.

Delia Collins, of Clark, inquired about the bids for the Clark Reservoir Project.

Counsel Bergen advised that the upcoming bid request would be the third and would encompass the full project. He noted that the responses received for the initial bid were rejected and the 2nd bid was rescinded prior to any responses being received to comply with a request from the DEP.

Larry Cohen, of Fanwood, spoke relative to NJ's Pet Purchase Protection Act and the introduction of Assembly Bill 4051-S2511 which would prohibit the sale of cats, dogs, or rabbits by pet shops. He also made comments relative to animal breeding. He encouraged the Board to adopt a resolution in support of the aforementioned bill as a stand against enabling such cruelty against animals in NJ.

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

The following resolutions were being offered for adoption:

2025-176 COMMISSIONER JAMES BAKER JR: Authorizing the County Manager to accept and expend grant funds from the NJ Department of Public Safety, under the FY 2024 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant (HMEP), for the grant period of October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025 in the amount of \$12,000.00.

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

2025-177 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE S. DELISFORT: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Opengov Inc., San Francisco, CA, to provide licensing, upgrade and maintenance to the web-based Operations Management System with Enterprise Licensing for a one-year period commencing January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, in an amount not to exceed \$123,585.00.

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

2025-178 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE S. DELISFORT: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Capitol Museum Services (CMS), a division of Capitol Exhibit Services Inc. (CESi), Manassas, VA to design, fabricate, and install a Recycling and Litter Abatement Exhibit at the Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside, NJ, for the period of March 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, in an amount not to exceed \$128,000.00 (Grant Funding; no cost to the County).

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

2025-179 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE S. DELISFORT: Authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A11-1 et seq. to DCRS, Deer Carcass Removal Service LLC, Cream Ridge, New Jersey for the purpose of road sweeping removal services for the Department of Engineering, Public Works & Facilities Management, Division of Public Works, for a period of twelve (12) months in an amount not to exceed \$198,000.00 with one additional twelve (12) month extension.

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

2025-180 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE S. DELISFORT: Granting permission to the Township of Berkeley Heights to hang a banner across Springfield Avenue and Plainfield Avenue from May 9, 2025 to June 9, 2025 to promote the Berkeley Heights downtown block party.

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

2025-181 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE S. DELISFORT: Authorizing an agreement with the Town of Westfield, to transfer ownership of street name signs along Union County roads in the Town of Westfield, with all expenses and maintenance responsibility assumed by the Town of Westfield.

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

2025-182 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE S. DELISFORT: Granting permission to the Township of Berkeley Heights to hang a banner across Springfield Avenue and Plainfield Avenue from March 15, 2025 to April 30, 2025 to promote the Berkeley Heights Volunteer Rescue Squad membership drive.

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

2025-183 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE S. DELISFORT: Amending Resolution 2024-640, a contract awarded through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., to Faigon Electrical Contractors of Piscataway, New Jersey for the Intersection Improvements to West Seventh Street (CR601) Corridor Project, City of Plainfield, New Jersey. This Change Order

Number 1 will decrease the contract amount by \$2,686.28 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$1,544,188.64, and reflect a reallocation in account numbers.

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

2025-184 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE S. DELISFORT: Authorizing a contract to CME Associates Inc., Parlin, NJ to provide Professional Environmental Engineering and LSRP Services for the Union County Parking Deck, City of Elizabeth, New Jersey for a contract amount not to exceed \$44,500.00.

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

2025-185 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE S. DELISFORT: Amending Resolution 2024-567, a contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., to J. Fletcher Creamer & Son of Hackensack, New Jersey for the Guiderail Replacement Project, County of Union, New Jersey for an amount not to exceed \$3,451,950.00, to reallocate account numbers only.

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

2025-186 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending Resolution 2025-64, a contract with Voyce, Inc., Sunrise, FL, to provide remote video translation services for the Department of Human Services to assist consumers in accessing services for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, to reflect a change in appropriation account number only.

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

2025-187 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending Resolution 2023-594, a contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq. with Legacy Health US LLC, Hackensack, NJ, for the purpose of providing Immunization Clinic Equipment and Supplies for twenty-four (24) consecutive months commencing on July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2025, to reflect a change in appropriation account number only.

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

2025-188 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS: Amending Resolution 2024-946, a contract with The Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless, Elizabeth, NJ for the 2025

Homeless Outreach and Short-Term Shelter Program for the period of January 1, 2025 to March 31, 2025, to reflect a change in appropriation account only.

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

2025-189 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Remington & Vernick Engineers, Secaucus, NJ to provide professional engineering services related to the main ring at Watchung Stables in the County of Union in an amount not to exceed \$34,100.00.

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

2025-190 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager, through the Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, to apply for the 2026-2028 cycle of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts LAP grant, which supports arts-related programs and services.

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

2025-191 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq; Parks & Recreation, to TR Weniger, Piscataway, NJ, for the purpose of Briant Park Hydro-Raking, in an amount not to exceed \$471,000.00.

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

2025-192 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to reallocate funds received from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts to the 44 Union County agencies and organizations as recommended and approved by the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board, in an amount not exceed \$300,000.00.

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

2025-193 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with the Union County Performing Arts Center, Rahway, NJ, for the purpose of talent acquisition, booking and day-of facilitation for the 2025 Union County Summer Concert Series, 2025 Rhythm and Blues by the Brook

Concert, and the 2025 Fall Concert, for a contract period ending December 31, 2025, in an amount not to exceed \$310,600.00.

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

2025-194 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Authorizing the County Manager to withdraw the bid request for the Clark Reservoir Improvement Project and to authorize an immediate second re-bid for the project.

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

2025-195 COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Rutgers University, Miller Center on Policing and Community Resilience, New Brunswick, NJ to provide First Responder Resiliency Training to Resiliency Peer Officers and other first responders in the UASI Region through the 2022 Urban Area Security Initiative in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.

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

2025-196 COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA: Authorizing the County Manger to apply, accept, and expend the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety Drug Recognition Expert Callout Grant Program to assist Law Enforcement Agencies in reducing drug-related crashes, injuries, and fatalities, for the grant period of October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$38,500.00.

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

2025-197 COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA: Authorizing the County of Union to accept and expend the New Jersey Office of Emergency Telecommunications within the Office of Information Technology FY-2025 PSAP Grant Program award in the amount of \$194,781.93, for the grant period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

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

2025-198 COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA: Authorizing the County of Union to accept and expend the New Jersey Office of Emergency Telecommunications within the Office of Information Technology FY-2025 PSAP Grant Program award in the amount of \$439,718.00, for the grant period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

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

2025-199 COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA: Authorizing the County of Union to accept and expend the New Jersey Office of Emergency Telecommunications within the Office of Information Technology FY-2025 PSAP Grant Program award in the amount of \$128,777.00, for the grant period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

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

2025-200 COMMISSIONER KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUDED: Authorizing the County Manager to apply for, accept funding and execute a contract with the State of New Jersey, Governor's Council on Substance Use Disorder (GCSUD), FY26 Alliance Grant to Prevent Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Program award for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$244,862.00.

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

2025-201 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON: Amending Resolution 2024-984, a contract with We Are One New Jersey, Trenton, NJ, to provide social and human services that educate, empower, and uplift working families under the We Are One New Jersey Project, changing the budget account number only.

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

2025-202 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON: Concurring with the Union County Workforce Development Board Resolution 2025-2 authorizing the payment of Program Year 2023 indirect costs associated with the administration of Federal and State grants, specifically allocating \$130,120.32 from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Program.

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

2025-203 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON: Concurring with the Union County Workforce Development Board's Resolution 2025-3 authorizing the payment of Program Year 2024 indirect costs associated with the administration of the Work First New Jersey General Assistance / Supplemental Nutrition Assistance grant, specifically allocating \$73,314.08.

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

2025-204 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON: Concurring with the Union County Workforce Development Board Awarding Adult Literacy Innovations Program funding for the period of December 1, 2024 through September 30, 2026 to UCNJ Union College of Union County in an amount not to exceed \$133,334; to Workforce Advantage in an amount not to exceed \$183,333; and to Plainfield Public Library in an amount not to exceed \$133,333.

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

2025-205 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON: Amending Resolutions 2025-15 and 2025-17 to reflect a change effective February 1, 2025, from Shain Schaffer PC to Rainone Coughlin Minchello, LLC for various defense and labor personnel matters on behalf of the County of Union.

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

2025-206 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON: Authorizing the County Manager to award HOME Investment Partnerships Program - American Rescue Plan (ARP) grant funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to Visions & Pathways for the purpose of providing case management, behavioral health services, crisis intervention, safe shelter, counseling, and mental health services for at-risk minority youth ages 13-24 for a contract period beginning June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026 in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00, with the potential option for a (12) twelve-month extension.

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

2025-207 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON: Authorizing the County Manager to award HOME Investment Partnerships Program - American Rescue Plan (ARP) grant funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to Community Health Law Project for the purpose of providing legal services for individuals at-risk of homelessness for a contract period anticipated to beginning June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026 in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00, with the potential option for a (12) twelve-month extension.

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

- 2025-208 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON:** Authorizing the County Manager to award HOME Investment Partnerships Program - American Rescue Plan (ARP) grant funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to Urban League of Union County, Inc. to provide housing counseling, financial/educational workshops, rapid re-housing, case management and wrap around services for individuals who are at risk-of-homelessness for a contract period beginning June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026 in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00, with the potential option for a (12) twelve-month extension.

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

- 2025-209 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON:** Authorizing the County Manager to award HOME Investment Partnerships Program - American Rescue Plan (ARP) grant funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to Westfield NJ Veteran's Organization for the purpose of providing newly constructed rental housing for homeless Veterans, beginning March 1, 2025 through December 31, 2028, in an amount not to exceed \$2,487,882.20.

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

LAUDATORY RESOLUTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF CONDOLENCES

- 2025-210 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Congratulating High School student, Peter Nyangweso on winning first place in the Annual American Legion Oratorical Contest.

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

- 2025-211 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Congratulating Dr. Angela Bracey upon being honored at the Black History Month program at Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church on February 23, 2025.

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

- 2025-212 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD:** Congratulating the Elizabeth Portuguese Lions Club as they celebrate their 46th Anniversary on Saturday, February 22, 2025, and further congratulating Christine Grova on her selection as the 2025 Lion of the Year.

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

2025-213 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Elizabeth PBA Local #4 for hosting their 3rd Annual Leprechaun 5k Run/Walk at Warinanco Park, taking place on Sunday, March 2, 2025.

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

2025-214 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE S. DELISFORT, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Recognizing Reverend Dr. Theodore J. Jenkins as the 2025 Eulace Peacock Unsung Hero Award recipient for his extraordinary contributions to faith, education, and community service.

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

2025-215 COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Extending the Board's deepest condolences during this time of sorrow to the family of John Del Sordi of Toms River, who departed this earthly life on Wednesday, February 12, 2025.

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

2025-216 COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating The Junior League of Summit for celebrating its 95th anniversary as a women's volunteer organization dedicated to serving the communities of Berkeley Heights, Chatham, New Providence and Summit.

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

2025-217 COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Cranford Wrestling upon winning a 2nd consecutive sectional championship and their 10th consecutive Union County championship.

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

2025-218 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Extending the Board's deepest condolences during this time of sorrow to the family of Albert Raynaldo Mills, Sr. who departed this earthly life on Wednesday, February 12, 2025.

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

2025-219 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Extending the Board's deepest condolences during this time of sorrow to the family of Carol Teufel, who departed this earthly life on Saturday, February 22, 2025.

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

2025-220 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Extending the Board's deepest condolences during this time of sorrow to the family of Allena E. Ross, who departed this earthly life on Saturday, February 22, 2025.

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

2025-221 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating the Boys Basketball Plainfield Cardinals upon winning the Union County Final on Sunday, February 23, 2025.

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

2025-222 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Selket Damon, John Reed, Randell Pearson, Johnathon Callands, Collin Gadiare, and Kareem Schenk upon their promotions within the Plainfield Fire Department.

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

2025-223 VICE-CHAIRMAN JOSEPH C BODEK, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Extending the Board's deepest condolences during this time of sorrow to the family of Linda R. Ewert, who departed this earthly life on Sunday, February 9, 2025.

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

2025-224 VICE-CHAIRMAN JOSEPH C BODEK, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating the Borough of Roselle as they are celebrating their 130th Anniversary of Incorporation with a 2025 State of the Borough on Thursday, February 27, 2025.

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

2025-225 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Commissioner Rebecca Williams, John Harmon, and Lawrence Harris as they are being honored at The Hillside Black History Month Program on Sunday, February 23, 2025.

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

2025-226 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON, COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Director Earl Graves, Chief John Sacca, and the Elizabeth Police Department upon receiving a Certificate of Reaccreditation.

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

2025-227 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON, COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating the Union Soccer Club upon celebrating their 2nd Annual Union Soccer Club Travel Banquet on Friday, February 21, 2025.

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

2025-228 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON, COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Adam Zaidel, Charles Canedo, Dylan Macnab, Ethan Santos, Ethan Stubler, and Jake Ulicki upon earning the Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout Badge.

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

2025-229 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON, COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Recognizing Angel Magill, Dr. Margaret McMenamin, Dr. Manmohan Patel, Roshan "Roc" White, Albert Mauti, and James Carey as they were honored at the Elizabeth Development Company 9th Annual Leadership Award Reception on Wednesday, February 19, 2025.

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

2025-230 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON, COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating The Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless

upon their Grand Opening Ceremony and Ribbon Cutting of three new affordable housing units on Jacques Street in the City of Elizabeth on Friday, March 7, 2025.

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

2025-231 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Recognizing the month of February 2025 as "National Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month," as designated by the National Association for Career and Technical Education, throughout the County of Union.

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

2025-232 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Proclaiming the week of February 15, 2025 - February 22, 2025 as "National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Week" throughout the County of Union.

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

2025-233 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Roshan "Roc" White upon receiving the 2025 Chester Holmes Humanitarian Award at the Union County Anthony E. Nelson Jazz Trio Concert held on Thursday, February 13, 2025.

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

2025-234 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON, COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Recognizing the Dominican American Association of Union County, and the entire Union County Dominican community, for their contributions to our county at the Dominican Flag Raising Ceremony at Elizabeth City Hall on Thursday, February 27, 2025.

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

2025 EXECUTIVE BUDGET STATEMENT

County Manager Edward T. Oatman presents the 2025 Executive Budget to the Board of County Commissioners.

County Manager Oatman addressed the public:

As County Manager, I present the 2025 Executive Budget. Union County has proudly maintained a strong record of fiscal responsibility, earning and preserving a AAA credit rating—the highest a county government can achieve. This reflects our strategic planning, conservative budgeting practices and the dedication of our financial management team. After four consecutive years of a zero-percent tax increase, a modest 1.75% increase was necessary in 2024 to account for inflation rising operating costs, and labor market pressures.

For 2025, despite continued economic challenges, we are holding the line on taxes, keeping the tax rate stable while maintain the essential services and programs our residents rely on. Union County continues to focus on shared services, leveraging partnerships to optimize resources, reduce costs, and improve efficiencies of our municipalities. We remain committed to long-term financial stability, ensuring that our budgeting decisions support both current needs and future growth.

At the same time, we must acknowledge the potential financial uncertainty under a second administration of Donald J. Trump. If federal funding cuts are enacted, they could directly impact key programs and services across Union County. We are closely monitoring these developments and will take necessary steps to protect our financial health and ensure continued access to essential services. While this budget reflects current projections, we recognize adjustments may be necessary to safeguard the County's financial health and ensure continuity of services.

Every effort had been made to minimize the impact on taxpayers while upholding Union County's high quality of life. We recognize the financial pressures residents face and continue to make prudent decisions that reflect our community's needs.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to the Union County Board of County Commissioners for their leadership and guidance and to the Department Heads who have worked diligently to craft this budget. A special thank you to the Department of Finance, including Bibi Taylor, John Dziedzic, and Ally Henriques, whose expertise and tireless work have been invaluable in this process.

Together we continue to move Union County forward with a clear focus on fiscal responsibility, community engagement, and long-term progress.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

In response to the public speaker, Commissioner Williams confirmed that it was indeed the government's responsibility to provide critical information to its citizens relative to their health and welfare. She noted her disapproval of such critical information being removed from the official NIH/CDC website, adding that the purge of such information was unconscionable. On another note, she invited County residents to attend the upcoming *Union County Means Business – Brand Builders Networking Breakfast* on March 25th at Kean University's STEM Building, featuring renowned celebrity makeup artist and beauty entrepreneur Kim Baker, as the keynote speaker. She added that this event would provide attendees with invaluable expert insights on brand building and growth, in addition to providing networking opportunities with local entrepreneurs and business leaders. To close, she wished everyone a happy Black History Month.

Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded announced an upcoming, free self-defense class for women, in partnership with the County's Sheriff's Office, on March 11th at the John H. Stamler Police Academy. She noted that this program would provide

hands-on instruction of self-defense moves, safety precautions, and strategies from experienced and certified officers. She encouraged interested residents to visit the County's website to learn more and or register for the event.

Commissioner Granados advised that the County was seeking residents to volunteer with the Union County Rape Crisis Center. He noted that volunteers were responsible for providing guidance and support to victims of sexual abuse, in addition to accompanying victims to hospitals, police departments, courtrooms and other locations related to the aftermath of sexual violence. He noted a need for bilingual volunteers, encouraging interested residents to apply. He advised that all volunteers would have to complete a 40+ hour state-mandated training in addition to receiving mentoring and support by professional staff from Union County. He further advised that the Rape Crisis Center had been serving Union County, through the Department of Human Services, since 1984.

Commissioner Kowalski congratulated all the students and staff of UCTVS, adding that it was always wonderful to hear about the educational feats of Union County students. She also congratulated Commissioner Williams on being recognized at Hillside's Black History Month Program. She also highlighted Commissioner Williams discussion 'African American Impact on Education and Literature of the Harlem Renaissance' at Westfield Memorial Library. To close, Commissioner Kowalski invited residents to attend the upcoming Woodcock Talk & Walk events on March 11th and March 20th, at the Deserted Village and Lenape Park respectively. Led by experienced, nature enthusiast Peter Axelrod, she noted that this event would include a special presentation and guided indoor/outdoor experience. She encouraged interested residents to visit the County website for additional information and or to register for the event.

Commissioner Delisfort recognized County Manager Oatman and Finance Director Taylor for their efforts relative to the 2025 Executive Budget. She noted that the County's dedication to fiscal responsibility and strategic planning laid the groundwork for meeting County needs while simultaneously preserving a strong financial foundation. On another note, she invited senior residents and their caregivers to visit the County's upcoming Aging Services Kiosk (ASK) events. She added that these events would give attendees an opportunity to learn more about available services and resources for aging residents and their caregivers, including home-delivered meals and respite care, among other support services. She advised that events were scheduled for March 6th at the Elizabeth Public Library; March 13th at the Garwood Public Library; March 18th at the Clark Public Library; and March 25th at the Hillside Public Library. To close, she congratulated Commissioner Williams on being honored by the Township of Hillside during their Black History Month Program.

Vice-Chairman Bodek announced the County's partnership with Helpsy, a recognized leader in sustainable clothing recycling. He advised that this initiative would aim to reduce waste and promote sustainability by providing free drop-off bins for clothing, accessories, and other similar textiles. He added that collected items would be repurposed, reused and recycled. He noted that textiles could be dropped off at the following locations: Plainfield Transfer Station, Summit

Transfer Station, and Scotch Plains' DPW Yard. To close, he noted his attendance of the Artrageous 2025 show at UCPAC, alongside Chairwoman Leon and Commissioner Granados, part of the County's Sensory Friendly Theater Program.

County Manager Oatman recognized Commissioner Kowalski and thanked her for her service to the residents of Union County over the last twenty years, wishing her well on her retirement at the end of the year. He also wished Commissioner Granados luck on his candidacy for State Assembly in the 20th legislative district.

Chairwoman Leon spoke relative to her attendance of Union County's OPA Preliminary State Development and Redevelopment Plan at Cranford Community Center, alongside Commissioner Delisfort and Commissioner Kowalski. She also noted her attendance of the Artrageous 2025 show at UCPAC, where she was joined by Vice-Chairman Bodek and Commissioner Granados, adding that it was a wonderful performance. She advised that she had also had an opportunity to present a resolution to the Union Soccer Club during their Travel Banquet at the Portuguese Instructive Social Club. She also noted her participation in the Elizabeth Development Company's 9th annual Leadership Award Reception, adding that she had an opportunity to deliver opening remarks and recognize EDC's efforts in driving economic growth, workforce development, and neighborhood improvement. To close, she highlighted the importance of such programs and events in nurturing strength, inclusivity and diversity in Union County.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE

REORGANIZATION MEETING - MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2025 at 6:00 PM
Union County Courthouse - 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07207

AGENDA SETTING SESSION

Thursday, January 23, 2025
Thursday, February 6, 2025
Thursday, February 27, 2025
Thursday, March 13, 2025
Thursday, March 27, 2025
Thursday, April 17, 2025
Thursday, May 15, 2025
Thursday, June 12, 2025
Thursday, July 24, 2025
Thursday, August 21, 2025
Thursday, September 4, 2025
Thursday, September 18, 2025
Thursday, October 16, 2025
Thursday, November 13, 2025
Thursday, December 4, 2025
Thursday, December 18, 2025

REGULAR MEETINGS

Monday, January 13, 2025*
Thursday, January 23, 2025
Thursday, February 6, 2025
Thursday, February 27, 2025
Thursday, March 13, 2025
Thursday, March 27, 2025
Thursday, April 17, 2025
Thursday, May 15, 2025
Thursday, June 12, 2025
Thursday, July 24, 2025
Thursday, August 21, 2025
Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025
Thursday, Sept. 18, 2025
Thursday, October 16, 2025
Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025
Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025
Thursday, Dec. 18, 2025

*Special Meeting

Please note that the County Commissioners' meetings are to be regularly held on Thursday evenings. These meetings are scheduled to be held on the same evening, with the Agenda Setting Session to commence at 6:00 PM 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.

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


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