

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Leon presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:10P.M.

ROLL CALL

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

Chairwoman Leon called for a motion to approve the Communications. On a motion made by Commissioner Mirabella and seconded by Commissioner Kowalski, 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.

Salaam Ishmael, of Elizabeth, wished everyone a Happy Women's Month. He spoke relative to his mother, Carrie Lee Thomas Ishmael, and her anti-poverty, civil rights, political and human rights advocacy over the course of several decades. He noted a list of names, claiming that these women in the Corrections system had endured physical abuse, harassment, intimidation, discrimination and retaliation on the job. He asked the County to open up an inquiry and investigate the alleged claims, adding that he would give the County ten days to furnish the report.

County Manager Oatman advised that by law, any investigation of law enforcement personnel was done by the County Prosecutor. He added that the Board was not authorized to conduct such an investigation.

Counsel Bergen confirmed that any such investigation would be carried out by the County Prosecutor's Office and reported to the County, adding that findings could not be made public. As a result, he advised that the Board could not honor Mr. Ishmael's request for a report.

Counsel Bergen addressed Mr. Bruce Paterson, of Garwood prior to his public comments:

During the last several Board meetings, you have once again made comments that are in violation of this Board's policies concerning public comment. In particular, you have made inflammatory, personal comments in referring to members of this Board. As I did on the record, more than a year ago, you are hereby place on notice that should you violate the above or any other Board rules, the Chair has the authority to enforce them by terminating your right to speak or by having you removed from this meeting room as appropriate. Failure to abide by the Board's rules will result in appropriate action by the Chair. Thank you. Clerk of the Board, you can begin the speaker's five minutes at this time.

Bruce Paterson, of Garwood, made comments relative to the County's Government Complex as well as Finance Director and UCIA Director Bibi Taylor. He responded to comments made about him during the prior meeting. He also made comments relative to Commissioner Granados and Commissioner Williams.

Hassanah Smith – Thomas, of Elizabeth, noted the need to reform the County's Sheriff Office and Department of Corrections. She added that she was respectful of law enforcement and the daily challenges they faced on the job, but she also expected people to be held accountable for their actions. Like Salaam Ishmael, she requested an impartial inquiry and investigation be conducted into these allegations of discrimination, abuse and retaliation.

Waylan Stellis, of Linden, spoke relative to the jail closure and the subsequent layoffs of Correction Officers. She noted that she was disheartened to see the County hiring Sheriff Officers despite claims of budgetary issues. She encouraged the County Board and Administration to take a more active interest in County operations and investigate alleged claims of wrongdoing.

There were no additional questions or comments.

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

The following resolutions are being offered for adoption:

- 2025-235 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE S. DELISFORT:** Authorizing a contract with CME Associates Inc. of Parlin, NJ to provide Professional Engineering Services for the 2026 Paving Project, County of Union, New Jersey for a contract amount not to exceed \$294,149.00.

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

2025-236 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE S. DELISFORT: Amending Resolution 2023-552, 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 Smith-Sondy Asphalt Construction Company of Wallington, New Jersey for the 2023 Road Resurfacing Project, Various Municipalities, County of Union, New Jersey for a Final Change Order 1 increasing the contract by \$440,023.54, for a new final contract amount not to exceed \$6,063,682.97 and a reallocation of account numbers.

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

2025-237 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE S. DELISFORT: Authorizing the County Manager to amend Resolution 2020-807, authorizing the Replacement of Caldwell Place Minor Bridge, Township of Springfield, to reflect an extension in the project completion date as per NJDOT requirements.

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

2025-238 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE S. DELISFORT: Authorizing the County Manager to add the Guiderail Replacement Project, which is currently in the 2022 New Jersey Department of Transportation County Aid Program, to the 2023 New Jersey Department of Transportation County Aid Program (Union County Engineering Project Number #2019-022).

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

2025-239 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE S. DELISFORT: Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract to DIGroup Architecture, LLC of New Brunswick, to provide Preliminary Planning Services for the Caldwell Courthouse Concept Development, County of Union, in an amount not to exceed \$140,000.00. (State Grant Funding at no cost to the County.

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

2025-240 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE S. DELISFORT: Authorizing the County Manager to award a contract obtained through advertised public bidding (BA 12-2025) in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq., Engineering, Public Works and Facilities Management, Division of Facilities Management: Paul Otto Building Company, Clark, New Jersey for Renovations to the County-owned property at 921 Elizabeth Avenue in Elizabeth, NJ in an amount not to exceed \$4,283,000.00 (UC Engineering Project 2022-020).

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

2025-241 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE S. DELISFORT: Authorizing the Borough of Roselle Park to close Chestnut Street on May 26, 2025 (8:00am – 1:00pm) for the 2025 Memorial Day Parade; on September 20, 2025 (1:00pm – 10:00pm) – Rain date: September 21, 2025 – for the 2025 Oktoberfest; and December 5, 2025 and December 6, 2025 (1:00pm – 10:00pm) for the 2025 Christmas Tree Lighting and Winter Market. Further, to hang a banner across Chestnut Street from May 1, 2025 to June 2, 2025, advertising the 2025 Memorial Day Parade; June 2, 2025 to July 7, 2025, advertising the 2025 Independence Day Celebration; from August 1, 2025 to September 8, 2025, advertising the 2025 Fiesta Hispana y Latina; from September 8, 2025 to September 22, 2025, advertising the 2025 Oktoberfest; from September 22, 2025 to October 20, 2025, advertising the 2025 Italian Heritage Festival; and from November 3, 2025 to December 8, 2025, advertising the 2025 Christmas Tree Lighting and Winter Market.

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

2025-242 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE S. DELISFORT: Amending Resolution 2024-461, authorizing 2024-2025 Deer Management Program for Union County, to reflect the inclusion of an additional grant account, awarded under New Jersey State Grant 2025 FG24-056, in the amount of \$9,000.00.

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

2025-243 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE S. DELISFORT: Authorizing the Township of Springfield's First Aid Squad to hang a banner across Meisel Avenue at the intersection of Evergreen Avenue, from May 12, 2025 to June 16, 2025.

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

2025-244 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE S. DELISFORT: Authorizing the Township of Springfield's First Aid Squad to hang a banner across Mountain Avenue at the intersection of North Trivett Avenue from March 3, 2025 through May 19, 2025, to promote the Rotary Club of Springfield's Annual Food Truck Event on Sunday, May 18, 2025.

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

2025-245 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE S. DELISFORT: Granting permission to the Township of Springfield to close a portion of Mountain Avenue from the intersection of Shunpike Road to North Trivett Avenue and Shunpike Road from the intersection of South Springfield Avenue to the intersection of Mountain Avenue, to all but emergency vehicles, on Monday May 26, 2025, between the hours of 9:00am and 12:00pm for the purpose of holding a Memorial Day Parade.

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

2025-246 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE S. DELISFORT: Authorizing the Township of Springfield to close Meisel Avenue for their annual 4th of July fireworks from the intersection of Linden Avenue to the intersection of Milltown Road, to all but emergency vehicles, on July 4, 2025 from 3:00pm to 11:00pm, as well as to hang a banner across Mountain Avenue at the intersection of North Trivett Avenue from June 3, 2025 through July 8, 2025.

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

2025-247 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE S. DELISFORT: Authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with Radiac Research Corp., d/b/a Radiac Environmental Services, Brooklyn, NY, for the purpose of providing four (4) Union County household hazardous waste program events from April 26, 2025 through October 26, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00.

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

2025-248 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS: Appointing Kathryn Lynch and Daniel C. McGuire to the Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) to fill an unexpired term ending on December 31, 2025; and appointing Dennise Lebron, Husam E. Abdallah, Russ Shulkes, and Nancy Rodriguez to a three-year term starting January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027.

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

2025-249 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to both qualify, pursuant to a Request for Qualifications procurement process, and enter into a contract with Dr. Tasharofi, Union County Healthcare Associates, Rahway, NJ to serve as Medical Director of the Union County Family Clinic located at 40 Parker Road, Elizabeth for the period of March 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$30,126.68.

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

2025-250 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS: Authorizing the County Manager to apply for and execute a grant application from the NJDEP/Green Acres Program to carry out a park development improvement project at the Wheeler Spray Park in the City of Linden, NJ in the amount of \$2,100,000.00

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

2025-251 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Amending Resolution 2019-1134, a contract with Kemper Sports Management, Inc., Northbrook IL, for Qualified Management and Concessionaire services, to extend the contract period from

January 1, 2025 through April 30, 2025; and furthermore to increase the amount by \$83,888.00 for a new total amount not to exceed \$1,102,328.

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

2025-252 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI: Amending Resolution 2023-1052, authorizing KemperSports Management, Inc.'s operational budget for the Shady Rest Golf Course in an amount not to exceed \$136,881.10; the Warinanco Sports Center Facility in an amount not to exceed \$234,939.60; and the Union County Golf Courses in an amount not to exceed \$1,489,847.60, for a total amount not to exceed \$1,861,668.30 for the period of January 1, 2025 through April 30, 2025.

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

2025-253 COMMISSIONER KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: Authorizing the County Manager to apply for and accept funding from the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General under the SFY2025 ARRIVE Together Critical Incident Model for the period of March 1, 2025 through February 28, 2026 in the amount of \$127,800.00.

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

2025-254 COMMISSIONER KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: Authorizing the County Manager to award FY2026 Alliance Program subcontracts from the Governor's Council on Substance Use Disorder (GCSUD) grant for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in an amount not to exceed \$170,862.00.

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

2025-255 COMMISSIONER KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED: Authorizing the County Manager to award subcontracts to various agencies in accordance with the Union County Youth Services Commission Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative Spending Plan for the contract period of March 15, 2025 through December 31, 2025 in the total amount not to exceed \$114,000.00.

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

2025-256 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON: Authorizing the County Manager to sign any and all documents necessary to enter into a Collective Bargaining Agreement with IBEW Local 1158, effective January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027.

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

2025-257 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON: Amending Resolution 2025-136, concurring with the Union County Workforce Development Board Resolution 2025-09, to amend the contract with United Way of Greater Union County, increasing the maximum funding from \$600,000 to \$660,000 for services rendered during the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

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

2025-258 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON: Amending Resolution 2024-875, a contract with Kingston Coventry, LLC, Sea Girt, NJ for General Counsel services to the County of Union, to increase the appropriation by an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$190,000.00, and to reflect an updated address.

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

LAUDATORY RESOLUTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF CONDOLENCES

2025-259 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Recognizing Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporated, Eta Omicron Zeta (HOZ) Chapter, upon hosting their Annual Marie B. Hubbard Scholarship Event on Saturday, March 8, 2025.

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

2025-260 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Recognizing Pastor Jeffrey Bryan on his 9th Pastor Anniversary of the Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church in Roselle on Sunday, March 16, 2025.

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

2025-261 COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Recognizing Inroads to Opportunities for their invaluable contributions to raising awareness and supporting individuals with developmental disabilities, as they celebrate the month of March 2025 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month throughout the County of Union.

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

2025-262 COMMISSIONER BETTE JANE KOWALSKI, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Ethan Buchanan, a freshman from Union County Vocational-Technical School Academy for the Performing Arts in Scotch Plains, on earning the title of State Runner-Up at the 2025 New Jersey Poetry Out Loud State Finals of the "National Poetry Out Loud" recitation program held on March 12th at Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank, NJ.

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

2025-263 COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Extending the Board's deepest condolences during this time of sorrow to the family of Carlos Gonzalez Jr., who peacefully departed from this earthly life on March 5, 2025.

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

2025-264 COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER MIRABELLA, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Extending the Board's deepest condolences during this time of sorrow to the family of Alexander T. Williams, who departed this earthly life on Wednesday, February 26, 2025.

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

2025-265 COMMISSIONER KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating the Westfield High School Boys Ice Hockey Team upon winning the NJSIAA Boys Public Ice Hockey State Finals on Monday, March 10, 2025.

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

2025-266 COMMISSIONER KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating the Westfield High School Boys Swimming Team upon winning their third NJSIAA Group A Boys Swimming Championship on February 23, 2025.

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

2025-267 COMMISSIONER KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Recognizing the Westfield High School Mock Trial Team upon competing as Union County Champions in the New Jersey State Bar Foundation's Central Regional Competition on February 25, 2025.

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

2025-268 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Extending the Board's deepest condolences during this time of sorrow to the family of Dante G. Bonardi, who departed this earthly life on Wednesday, February 26, 2025.

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

2025-269 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Extending the Board's deepest condolences during this time of sorrow to the family of Carol Anderson Lewis, who departed this earthly life on Monday, March 3, 2025.

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

2025-270 COMMISSIONER REBECCA LYNNE WILLIAMS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Extending the Board's deepest condolences during this time of sorrow to the family of Gail Stephanie Carty, who departed this earthly life on Tuesday, March 11, 2025.

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

2025-271 VICE-CHAIRMAN JOSEPH C BODEK, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Linda Spano, Terri Todd and Courtney Villani upon being honored at the Annual Women's High Tea Women's History Month Celebration on Sunday, March 23, 2025.

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

2025-272 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON, COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating the Portuguese Instructive Social Club, Inc. on their 103rd Anniversary on Saturday, March 15, 2025.

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

2025-273 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON, COMMISSIONER SERGIO GRANADOS, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Recognizing the Latin District Association for their outstanding contributions and enduring commitment to the betterment of the Latinx community of Union County.

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

2025-274 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON, COMMISSIONER KIMBERLY PALMIERI-MOUEDED, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Recognizing the Union County School Board Association (UCSBA) upon hosting their annual Union County Unsung Heroes Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, March 12, 2025.

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

2025-275 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Marc Dowling, upon being named the Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal.

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

2025-276 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating James Holmes, upon being named the Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade Adjutant.

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

2025-277 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Gabby Sully, upon being named the Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade General Chairwoman.

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

2025-278 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating the New Beginnings Kingdom organization upon being honored at the Circle of Hope Gala.

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

2025-279 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Assemblywoman Linda S. Carter upon being honored at the Circle of Hope Gala.

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

2025-280 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating the Moms Helping Moms organization upon being honored at the Circle of Hope Gala.

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

2025-281 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Rahway Mayor Raymond A. Giacobbe upon being honored at the Circle of Hope Gala.

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

2025-282 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Stanley J. Neron upon being honored at the Circle of Hope Gala.

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

2025-283 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Wells Fargo & Company upon being honored at the Circle of Hope Gala.

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

2025-284 CHAIRWOMAN LOURDES M. LEON, & THE ENTIRE BOARD: Congratulating Union County Commissioner Sergio Granados upon being honored at the Circle of Hope Gala.

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

COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

In honor of Women's History Month, Commissioner Kowalski invited residents to attend a live, speaking engagement entitled 'Learning to Speak Up,' featuring educator, activists and storyteller Annie Tan on March 20th at Union College of Union County's Cranford Campus. She advised that while the event was free, registration was required, and encouraged interested residents to visit the County's website for more information. On another note, she spoke relative to her attendance of the Teen Arts Festival earlier that day, joined by Chairwoman Leon and Commissioner Delisfort, adding that it was wonderful to see all the great and inspiring work of young artists throughout Union County. She thanked the County's Office of Cultural & Heritage and the Parks and Recreation Department for their efforts in facilitating the event.

Commissioner Mirabella recognized County Sheriff Peter Corvelli as a good, honest public servant who would not condone any allegations of wrongdoing. He noted that he had great confidence in the County Prosecutor to ensure that all said allegations were properly investigated and addressed. He added that he did not approve of disparaging comments related to Sheriff Corvelli and the Sheriffs' Department without due cause and would rely on the County Prosecutor to conduct investigations as appropriate.

Commissioner Delisfort advised that nominations were now open for the County's 2025 SHERO Awards, an initiative that sought to honor exceptional women in Union County who have demonstrated strength, leadership and a commitment to uplifting their communities. She further advised that this year, nomination criteria was open-ended, allowing for submissions for women of all backgrounds that have made a meaningful impact in their communities. She noted that submissions had to include a photograph of the nominee along with a brief paragraph highlighting their contributions, adding that the deadline for nominations would be April 30th. She encouraged interested residents to visit the County's website for additional information. To close, she wished everyone a Happy Women's Month and congratulated Director Anderson for her election to NACo's Executive Board, adding that her appointment was a testament to her outstanding leadership, depth of knowledge, and unwavering commitment to Human Services.

Commissioner Baker reminded residents that the County's Immunization Clinic continued to offer free and low-cost vaccinations, including the MMR vaccine, a simple and effective way to protect against the highly contagious measles, mumps

and rubella. He encouraged residents to visit the County's website to learn more about getting themselves protected.

Commissioner Williams addressed the comments made by Mr. Bruce Paterson. Relative to the Pledge of Allegiance, she noted that while she did respectfully stand, her religious beliefs precluded her from pledging to the flag. She also responded to Mr. Paterson's comments about Commissioner Granados, likening his rhetoric to that of President Donald J. Trump. She added that while she was unaffected by Mr. Paterson's comments, she felt compelled to speak out against his claims. On another note, Commissioner Williams invited residents to participate in the County's upcoming LGBTQ+ Empowerment Hour via Zoom on March 18th, cohosted by herself and Micayla Mirabella, adding that this special edition would focus on the contributions of LGBTQ+ women in history and ongoing efforts to uplift and support them. To close, she wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded noted that she was proud to serve on the Board alongside her Commissioner colleagues. She recognized the Board's commitment to public service and ensuring an inclusive, accessible space for all the residents of Union County. She mentioned several Resolutions on the agenda and congratulated the Boys Ice Hockey Team and Swimming Team from Westfield High School on their recent victories. She also congratulated Westfield High School's Mock Trial Team on competing in the NJ State Bar Foundation's Central Regional Competition. On another note, she noted her recent attendance of the Parks Volunteer Recognition Dinner and Unsung Heroes Program as well as the Teen Arts Festival earlier that day. She added that she was proud to be able to showcase the incredible talent and achievements of Union County youth. To close, she advised that registration was now open for the 2025 Union County Senior Art Exhibit. She added that this showcase would be on display from April 21st to June 4th at Union College of Union County's Scotch Plains campus. She encouraged artists age 60 and up, both professional and non-professional, to participate, adding that the deadline to register was April 13th.

Commissioner Granados announced the launch of the County's 2025 Plant a Seed Program grant opportunity, noting the County's commitment to sustainability and education. He advised that in addition to the Kids Dig In & Union County Means Green Community Grant, the County would be introducing a Fruitful Futures Tree Grant to provide fruit trees to eligible schools, non-profit organizations, and municipal entities. He noted that this grant, administered through the County's Open Space, Recreation & Historic Preservation Trust Fund, provided funding to schools and community partners to create or expand upon existing gardens and provide hands-on learning in agriculture, sustainability, and nutrition, as well as access to fresh produce. He added that since its inception, the Plant a Seed Program had furnished 159 school and community gardens throughout Union County, reaffirming the County's commitment to sustainability and community food resources. To close, he recognized Commissioner Williams, adding that he admired her for standing up to bullying.

Vice-Chairman Bodek announced that County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi would be hosting a Notary Public Training Seminar featuring 1st Deputy County Counsel Moshood Muftau, on April 11th at the John H. Stamler Police in Scotch Plains. He

advised that space was limited to the first 50 registrants, adding that a \$10 registration fee was required. He added that the registration deadline was April 1st. He advised that the seminar would address the application process, new legal requirements, and proper notarization steps. He encouraged interested residents to visit the County website to register. On another note, he congratulated Director Anderson on being selected by NACo to serve as President of NACo's Executive Committee. To close, he invited residents to attend the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Union on Saturday, sponsored in part, by the County of Union.

Counsel Bergen noted the irony in Mr. Paterson's comments which sought to limit Commissioner Williams' first amendment right.

On behalf of the Board, County Manager Oatman congratulated Director Anderson on her appointment as President to NACO's Executive Committee.

Chairwoman Leon congratulated Director Anderson on her recent appointment to NACo's Executive Committee. She spoke about her recent attendance of the Pathways to Employment Career and Job Fair, hosted by the County's American Job Center. Joined by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded, she noted that it was great to support career growth by providing resident jobseekers with an opportunity to meet with over 30 employers. On another note, she thanked Carlos Ciprian and the Kimberly Ann Wilson Foundation for their recent partnership relative to the recent Stepping Up to Mental Health Assembly at Roselle Park. To close, she noted the Commissioners' participation in Read Across America Week, adding that as a former educator, she was happy to be able to read to classrooms throughout Union County. She wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairwoman Leon asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion made by Commissioner Palmieri-Mouded and seconded by Commissioner Delisfort, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 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

AGENDA SETTING SESSION

Thursday, 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, 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

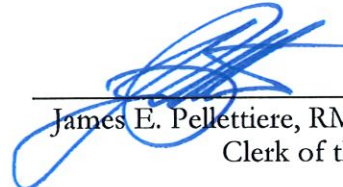
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Thursday, September 4, 2025
Thursday, September 18, 2025
Thursday, October 16, 2025
Thursday, November 13, 2025
Thursday, December 4, 2025
Thursday, December 18, 2025

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 6:00pm 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.

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