

ORIGINAL

CITY OF UNION CITY
HUDSON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING :
: TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED
: PROCEEDINGS
:

Bruce Walter Recreation Center
507 West Street
Union City, New Jersey

Tuesday, June 23, 2020
Commencing at 7:04 p.m.

M E M B E R S P R E S E N T:

LUCIO P. FERNANDEZ, COMMISSIONER
MARYURY A. MARTINETTI, COMMISSIONER
CELIN J. VALDIVIA, COMMISSIONER
WENDY A. GRULLON, COMMISSIONER
BRIAN P. STACK, MAYOR

M E M B E R S A B S E N T:

A L S O P R E S E N T:

ERIN M. KNOEDLER, CITY CLERK

SCARINCI HOLLENBECK
BY: ANGELO AUTERI, ESQ.
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1 CITY CLERK: All right.

2 We're going to start the meeting.

3 This is a Regular Public Meeting of the
4 Union City Board of Commissioners being held on
5 Tuesday, June 23rd, 2020, at seven p.m., at the
6 Bruce D. Walter Recreation Center, 507 West
7 Street, Union City, New Jersey.

8 Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

9
10 (Whereupon the Pledge of Allegiance was
11 said by all.)

12
13 CITY CLERK: This meeting has been called
14 in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

15 Notice of -- adequate notice of the -- of
16 the meeting has been sent to The Jersey Journal,
17 The Record, The Hudson Reporter, and has been
18 posted on the bulletin board at City Hall, made
19 available to the public in the Office of the
20 Municipal Clerk.

21

22 **ROLL CALL:**

23

24 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Fernandez?

25 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Here.

1 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?

2 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Here.

3 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?

4 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Here.

5 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti?

6 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Here.

7 CITY CLERK: Mayor Stack?

8 MAYOR STACK: Here.

9

10 (Whereupon, the Board discussed and took
11 action on the following item:

12 **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES - REGULAR**
13 **MEETING - JUNE 9, 2020.)**

14

15 CITY CLERK: The first item is the approval
16 of the meeting minutes from the meeting of June
17 9th, 2020.

18 May I have a motion to approve?

19 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Motion.

20 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Second.

21 CITY CLERK: Motion by Commissioner
22 Valdivia.

23 Second by Commissioner Martinetti.

24 Commissioner Fernandez?

25 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

1 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?
2 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.
3 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?
4 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.
5 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti?
6 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.
7 CITY CLERK: Mayor Stack?
8 MAYOR STACK: Yes.
9 CITY CLERK: Thank you.

10

11 (Whereupon, the Board discussed and took
12 action on the following item:

13 **ORDINANCE(S) FOR INTRODUCTION**

14 1. ORDINANCE TO RESCIND ORDINANCE NO. 2020-10
15 AND REMOVE PROHIBITION ON EVICTION PROCEEDINGS
16 FOR NON-PAYMENT OF RENT RESULTING FROM THE
17 CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY)

18

19 CITY CLERK: There's one Ordinance for
20 Introduction this evening.

21 Adoption on first reading will authorize
22 the Municipal Clerk to advertise the Ordinance
23 and the -- the public hearing, which will be on
24 July 14th at seven p.m. at the Jose Marti STEM
25 Academy, 1812 Summit Avenue.

1 It's an Ordinance to Rescind Ordinance
2 Number 2020-10 and Remove Prohibition on Eviction
3 Proceedings for Non-Payment of Rent Resulting
4 from the Coronavirus Emergency.

5 May I have a motion to introduce?

6 MAYOR STACK: Motion.

7 CITY CLERK: Motion by Mayor Stack.

8 Second?

9 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Second.

10 CITY CLERK: Second by Commissioner
11 Martinetti.

12 Commissioner Fernandez?

13 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

14 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?

15 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

16 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?

17 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

18 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti?

19 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

20 CITY CLERK: Mayor Stack?

21 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

22 CITY CLERK: Thank you.

23

24 (Whereupon, the Board discussed and took
25 action on the following items in total:

1 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

2 (1) Resolution Approving the Payment of Claims

3 (2) Resolution Approving the Payment of
4 Concurring Claims

5 (3) Resolution Approving the Payment of Escrow
6 Refunds

7 (4) Resolution Approving the City Payroll for
8 June 6th through June 19, 2020

9 (5) Resolution Approving the Library Payroll
10 for June 6th through June 19, 2020

11 (6) Resolution Authorizing the Small Business
12 Grant Program to Reimburse Eligible For-Profits
13 Businesses that have Suffered Business
14 Interruption due to COVID-19

15 (7) Resolution Authorizing a Special Emergency
16 Appropriation for Contractually Required
17 Severance Liabilities Resulting from Retirement

18 (8) Resolution Authorizing an Emergency
19 Appropriation for Health Insurance and Solid
20 Waste due to COVID-19

21 (9) Resolution Authorizing the Placement of a
22 Lien on the Property known as 518-24th Street,
23 Block 137, Lot 29 for Emergency Repair Costs

24 (10) Resolution Designating the Depositories for
25 the City of Union City

- 1 (11) Resolution Authorizing the Refund of
- 2 Premium Monies Collected at the Tax Sale
- 3 (12) Resolution Authorizing the Refund of an
- 4 Overpayment
- 5 (13) Resolution Lowering the Interest Rate on
- 6 the 3rd Quarter
- 7 (14) Resolution Authorizing Refund of Redemption
- 8 Monies to Outside Lienholders
- 9 (15) Resolution Cancelling Taxes on the Master
- 10 Lot & Transferring Land Taxes to Individual
- 11 Condominiums
- 12 (16) Resolution Authorizing the Refund of a
- 13 Duplicate Payment
- 14 (17) Resolution Authorizing the Refund of
- 15 Payment
- 16 (18) Resolution Authorizing the Tax Collector to
- 17 Prepare, Complete and Mail as soon as possible
- 18 Estimated Tax Bills in Accordance with NJSA 54:4-
- 19 66.2 and Authorizing an Estimated Annual Tax Levy
- 20 Pursuant to NJSA 54:4-66.2
- 21 (19) Resolution Crediting Convenience Fees on E-
- 22 Checks to the 3rd Quarter.)
- 23

24 CITY CLERK: There are 19 items on the

25 Consent Agenda.

1 The first is a Resolution Approving the
2 Payment of Claims.

3 Second is a Resolution Approving the
4 Payment of Concurring Claims.

5 The third is a Resolution Approving the
6 Payment of Escrow Refunds.

7 The fourth is a Resolution Approving the
8 City Payroll for the Period of June 6th through
9 June 19, 2020.

10 The fifth is a Resolution Approving the
11 Library Payroll for June 6th through June 19,
12 2020.

13 The sixth is a Resolution Authorizing Small
14 Business Grant Program to Reimburse Eligible
15 For-Profit Businesses that have Suffered Business
16 Interruption due to COVID-19.

17 Seventh is a Resolution Authorizing a
18 Special Emergency Appropriation for Contractually
19 Required Severance Liabilities Resulting from
20 Retirement.

21 The eighth is a Resolution Authorizing an
22 Emergency Appropriation for Health Insurance and
23 Solid Waste due to COVID-19.

24 The ninth is a Resolution Authorizing the
25 Placement of a Lien on a Property known -- known

1 as 518 24th Street, Block 137, Lot 29 for
2 Emergency Repair Costs.

3 The tenth is a Resolution Designating
4 Depositories for the City of Union City.

5 The eleventh is a Resolution Authorizing
6 the Refund of Premium Monies Collected at the Tax
7 Sale.

8 The twelfth is a Resolution Authorizing the
9 Refund of an Overpayment.

10 The thirteen is a Resolution Lower --
11 Lowering the Interest Rate on the Third Quarter.

12 The fourteenth is a Resolution Authorizing
13 Refund of Redemption Monies to Outside
14 Lienholders.

15 The fifteenth is a Resolution Cancelling
16 Taxes on the Master Lot and Transferring Land
17 Taxes to Individual Condominiums.

18 The sixteenth is a Resolution Authorizing
19 the Refund of a Duplicate Payment.

20 The seventeenth is a Resolution Authorizing
21 a Refund of a Payment.

22 The eighteenth is a Resolution Authorizing
23 the Tax Collector to Prepare, Complete and Mail
24 As Soon As Possible Estimated Tax Bills in
25 Accordance with NJSA 54:4-66.2 and Authorizing a

1 Possible Estimated Tax -- Authorizing an
2 Estimated Annual Levy Pursuant to NJSA 54:4-66.2.

3 The nineteenth is a Resolution Crediting
4 Convenience Fees on E-Checks for the Third
5 Quarter.

6 Mayor, at this time, would you like to take
7 public comment on the Consent?

8 MAYOR STACK: Sure.

9 Anyone wishing to comment on the Consent
10 Agenda, please step forward. State your name and
11 address for the record.

12 Seeing none.

13 CITY CLERK: May I have a motion to close
14 public comment?

15 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Motion.

16 CITY CLERK: Motion by Commissioner
17 Martinetti.

18 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Second.

19 CITY CLERK: Second?

20 Second by Commissioner Valdivia?

21 Thank you.

22 Commissioner Fernandez?

23 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

24 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?

25 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

1 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?

2 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

3 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti?

4 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

5 CITY CLERK: Mayor Stack?

6 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

7 CITY CLERK: Thank you.

8 May I have a motion to approve all items on
9 Consent?

10 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Motion.

11 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Motion.

12 CITY CLERK: Motion by Commissioner
13 Valdivia.

14 Second by Commissioner Martinetti.

15 Commissioner Fernandez?

16 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

17 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?

18 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

19 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?

20 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

21 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti?

22 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

23 CITY CLERK: Mayor Stack?

24 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

25

1 (Whereupon, the Board discussed and took
2 action on the following item:

3 **REGULAR AGENDA:**

4 1. RESOLUTION APPROVING A PAYMENT OF CLAIM TO
5 THE HUDSON COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY.)

6

7 CITY CLERK: There are two items on the
8 Regular Agenda.

9 The first is a Resolution Approving a
10 Payment of Claim for the Hudson County
11 Improvement Authority.

12 May I have a motion to approve item 1?

13 MAYOR STACK: Motion.

14 CITY CLERK: Motion by Mayor Stack.
15 Second?

16 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Second.

17 CITY CLERK: Second by Commissioner
18 Grullon.

19 Commissioner Fernandez?

20 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

21 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?

22 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

23 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?

24 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

25 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti is

1 recusing.

2 Mayor Stack?

3 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

4

5 (Whereupon, the Board discussed and took
6 action on the following item:

7 **REGULAR AGENDA**

8 2. RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SFY2020-2021 DEBT
9 SERVICE.)

10

11 CITY CLERK: The second is a Resolution
12 Approving the SFY2020 through 2021 Debt Service.

13 May I have a motion to approve item 2?

14 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Motion.

15 CITY CLERK: Motion by Commissioner
16 Valdivia.

17 Second?

18 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Second.

19 CITY CLERK: Second by Commissioner
20 Grullon.

21 Commissioner Fernandez?

22 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

23 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?

24 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

25 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?

1 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

2 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti?

3 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

4 CITY CLERK: Mayor Stack?

5 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

6 CITY CLERK: Thank you.

7

8 **OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:**

9

10 CITY CLERK: Mayor, at this time, at this
11 time would you like to take public comment on any
12 item concerning -- in government in Union City?

13 MAYOR STACK: Sure.

14 Thank you, Clerk.

15 Anyone wishing to comment at this time?

16 Please step forward. State your name and address
17 for the record.

18 Seeing none.

19 CITY CLERK: May I have a motion to close
20 public comment?

21 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Motion.

22 MAYOR STACK: Motion.

23 CITY CLERK: Motion by Mayor Stack.

24 Second by Commissioner Fernandez.

25 Commissioner Fernandez?

1 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

2 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?

3 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

4 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?

5 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

6 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti?

7 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

8 CITY CLERK: Mayor Stack?

9 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

10 CITY CLERK: Thank you.

11

12 **ADJOURNMENT:**

13

14 CITY CLERK: There are no other items on
15 the agenda, may I have a motion to adjourn?

16 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Motion.

17 MAYOR STACK: Motion.

18 CITY CLERK: Motion by Mayor Stack.

19 Second by Commissioner Martinetti.

20 MS. LaMORTE: Oh.

21 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Fernandez?

22

23 **OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:**

24

25 MAYOR STACK: Would you like to say

1 something?

2 MS. LaMORTE: Yes.

3 MAYOR STACK: Sure.

4 Just step forward.

5 MR. DILLON: You got to step to a mic.

6 Can you please step to the microphone,

7 identify yourself for the record?

8 MS. LaMORTE: To the mic?

9 MR. DILLON: Um hum.

10 MS. LaMORTE: Hi.

11 My name is Gloria LaMorte.

12 I live at --

13 MR. DILLON: Could you spell the -- can you

14 spell the last name?

15 MS. LaMORTE: Yes.

16 Gloria, G-L-O-R-I-A, LaMorte, L-A capital

17 M-O-R-T-E. I live at 414 3rd Street.

18 MR. DILLON: Thank you.

19 MS. LaMORTE: So, I came here for one main

20 thing, but it's going to be two things.

21 And the main thing that I right now want to

22 say is I would like to thank the Mayor and the

23 Commissioners during this time of COVID. We've

24 expressed it to Ms. Abbato regarding the Board of

25 Education. Kids were in school one day, they

1 went home and didn't go back. And we have felt
2 that the -- the transition was seamless. Our son
3 felt supported throughout. Your regular notices,
4 we felt informed at all times. We felt very,
5 very fortunate to be part of this community.

6 And I -- you know, we're here and I'm --
7 and I'm sure I speak for a lot of the residents.
8 I'm here because I -- the -- the -- my neighbors
9 are getting old in years. And they have felt
10 also informed and -- and secure.

11 So, on behalf of my husband and my family,
12 we really want to thank you from the bottom of
13 our hearts.

14 We're very proud to be living in Union
15 City. And -- and just thank you for all the work
16 that you've done, especially during this time.

17 MAYOR STACK: Thank you very much.

18 Thank you.

19 MS. LaMORTE: So, on that note, we've been
20 living here for close to 15 years. Our son is
21 14. We moved a little bit -- you know, before
22 that. We have always felt -- he -- he runs,
23 literally, freely, he rides his skateboard -- you
24 know, around the block and his bicycle. He goes
25 to the park by himself. We feel absolutely

1 secure in the city that we live in. And this may
2 not come a surprise to you, but I would have to
3 say in the last two, three weeks, there has been
4 such a change in terms of the fireworks. I don't
5 know if -- you know, you have -- you've gotten
6 complaints regarding the fireworks.

7 MAYOR STACK: We have.

8 MS. LaMORTE: There have been several times
9 that I've had to call the police at 12:30 in the
10 morning, two o'clock in the morning. Absolute --
11 and it's not a Friday night or a Saturday night,
12 it is -- you know, a Sunday night, a Wednesday
13 night.

14 You know, our -- our elderly neighbor, I
15 say you know, late 80s, was -- you know, walking
16 around the block and this was about 6:30, seven
17 o'clock, I was talking to his wife, and you know,
18 I'm seeing Alfredo run up the block -- walk up
19 the block, and I saw the boys; I know exactly
20 where they live. They live right next to our
21 house, 422 3rd Street, running inside. And I'm
22 like, oh, my God, Alfredo -- you know, down the
23 block, and sure enough, he gets to the corner and
24 boom, that thing goes off. He's an elderly man,
25 eighty-something years old. He's walking around

1 | because right now, that's -- you know, his only
2 | exercise that he gets.

3 | So, you know -- so, Sunday, the 14th, I
4 | called the police. Three nights consecutively --
5 | you know, sleepness nights. Wednesday, the
6 | police came, I didn't call them that time, at
7 | 9:30 at night. Went into Thursday morning at
8 | 12:30, five police cars arrive. And I'm sure
9 | that the police have a lot more important things
10 | to do than come -- you know, for -- for this
11 | reason. And then, the next day, 9:15, boom.
12 | They start up again.

13 | And just from -- you know, being our
14 | neighborhood, there's the neighborhood -- the
15 | Nextdoor, it's like that neighborhood -- you
16 | know, somebody posted fireworks. So, I just --
17 | you know, just printed out -- you know, different
18 | people who are also -- I know that I wasn't the
19 | only one, but you know, we don't always know --
20 | you know, the -- so you know, people are quoting
21 | at one a.m. in the morning.

22 | Saw what looked like teens randomly
23 | lighting fireworks and throwing them around cars
24 | and fences around 4th Street. So, it's clearly
25 | around my house and I -- I've seen the young men

1 throw the bombs and then run. It will happen on
2 the corner. And you know, I step out of my house
3 because I want to -- I don't know if I want them
4 to see me or I just -- I just want to see what's
5 going on, and boom, they're coming here. And the
6 smoke is coming this way and right into four --
7 you know, 422.

8 So, we're here to say, what can we do?

9 What can be done?

10 I know that it became legal in New Jersey.
11 I know that it wasn't legal before, fireworks,
12 and maybe that's why we didn't have a problem.
13 But now, it's legal, so I don't know what
14 recourse that we have.

15 MAYOR STACK: And Gloria, what -- what you
16 said -- what you said, you made a very good
17 point, no doubt that we have an issue, because
18 especially now, me being home the last week or
19 so, with my broken ribs, I hear them all hours of
20 the day and night. I even said to Mercedes the
21 other day, I've never heard them this early in
22 all my years living in Union City.

23 MS. LaMORTE: Yeah, ever.

24 MAYOR STACK: I mean, years ago, as a kid,
25 they usually started around the first of July and

1 it would go to the 4th of July. Not to the extent
2 where we're at now, though.

3 MS. LaMORTE: Yeah.

4 MAYOR STACK: We've gotten -- when I tell
5 you, hundreds of complaints, hundreds. The Chief
6 also formed a special task force now that's out
7 there, from I think four in the afternoon till
8 two o'clock in the morning. So, we're out there.
9 We have undercover units that are out there also.

10 But you said something I think that's very
11 true. So, when you go to like the different
12 stores, like Home Depot, right before I got
13 injured I -- I was in Home Depot and I don't get
14 a chance much to go to those stores because I'm
15 always so busy, but I noticed that you can buy
16 all these different --

17 MS. LaMORTE: Yeah.

18 MAYOR STACK: -- fireworks. That you can
19 buy now, right? They got stuff that light up and
20 snakes and all that.

21 MS. LaMORTE: Costco, everything.

22 MAYOR STACK: I believe that fed into the
23 -- the amount of fireworks.

24 I don't know if you watched last night,
25 channel 2 news had a special last night on

1 fireworks.

2 And it seems that New York City is facing
3 the same problems we're facing now. In fact, the
4 reporter on channel 2, I forgot her name, she
5 said last night that New York and New Jersey are
6 inundated with fireworks complaints.

7 MS. LaMORTE: Yes.

8 MAYOR STACK: But it's not just stuff that
9 goes up in the sky and it blows up, you hear a
10 lot of M-80s, you hear a lot of pineapples, you
11 see stuff that -- stuff that somebody can get
12 their hand blown off, too.

13 MS. LaMORTE: Yeah.

14 MAYOR STACK: You know, that thing winds up
15 on your hand or -- in New York last night they
16 showed on channel 2 news, I don't know if anybody
17 saw this, they actually threw an M-80 on a
18 homeless man.

19 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah, I saw.

20 MAYOR STACK: The man was sleeping.

21 CITY CLERK: Oh, my God.

22 MAYOR STACK: Right?

23 The man was sleeping and it landed on him.
24 He's still in the hospital. He's in satisfactory
25 condition, but he's still in the hospital. That

1 | happened in -- where, Lucio, Manhattan or the
2 | Bronx.

3 | Right?

4 | COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I don't
5 | remember.

6 | MAYOR STACK: I forget where, but it was
7 | Manhattan or the Bronx.

8 | MS. LaMORTE: Yeah.

9 | MAYOR STACK: So, no doubt, Gloria.

10 | But it is being addressed, a hundred
11 | percent by the police because the Chief went over
12 | it with me yesterday again, that we're out there.
13 | We have multiple units that we've broke down --
14 | besides regular patrol, these are just
15 | specialized for fireworks, to handle them. And I
16 | told them, issue a summons immediately. Issue a
17 | summons. Go to the parents and issue a summons
18 | immediately to them.

19 | MS. LaMORTE: Yeah. So -- so, then how do
20 | we --

21 | MAYOR STACK: And late at night you hear
22 | them.

23 | Right?

24 | MS. LaMORTE: Yeah. No. Absolutely.

25 | MAYOR STACK: I hear it until like 12:30,

1 one o'clock in the morning some nights.

2 MS. LaMORTE: At one o'clock in the morning
3 -- you know, like I said, on the -- on the
4 Thursday, the 6th, it started Wednesday night at
5 9:30, and then, Thursday at two -- at two a.m., I
6 looked outside my window, and I counted five
7 police cars.

8 MAYOR STACK: Yeah. Yeah.

9 MS. LaMORTE: And you know, the -- the
10 police officers were speaking to at four -- you
11 know, to the -- to the young men at 422.

12 And you know, then I guess, they went
13 inside. The -- the police left. And you know, I
14 saw the young -- one of the young men who -- you
15 know --

16 MAYOR STACK: Right.

17 MS. LaMORTE: -- who throws the bomb, he
18 left in some car. And then, the next day -- you
19 know --

20 MAYOR STACK: And I'm not saying it's
21 because you're here, but when I spoke to the
22 Chief and I asked her where are we getting the
23 most complaints, it seems 25th, 26th, 27th Street,
24 West to Summit, 3rd --

25 MS. LaMORTE: Yup.

1 MAYOR STACK: -- 4th, 5th --

2 MS. LaMORTE: Yup.

3 MAYOR STACK: -- and 6th, Palisade to West.

4 MS. LaMORTE: Yes.

5 MAYOR STACK: So, maybe what we'll do is
6 I'll mention this to the Chief. I'll call her
7 when I leave tonight, and see if we can put maybe
8 one or two walking officers down here that are in
9 the area right here, as a deterrent to keep the
10 kids from doing this.

11 MS. LaMORTE: Yeah.

12 Because and -- and so, I know that -- so,
13 if -- if they're going to get summonses for it --
14 you know, they -- they throw the thing and they
15 run.

16 MAYOR STACK: Yeah.

17 MS. LaMORTE: So you know, then that's it.
18 We're all kind of left like, what happened? And
19 then, it's like -- okay, it's gone, then there's
20 smoke, and then of course, they'll come back --
21 you know, an hour later. I did tell --

22 MAYOR STACK: But the thing that they throw
23 -- I mean, Joe, you know this, the thing that
24 they throw is an M-80. If that thing lands on
25 your hand or lands on your -- it'll blow a hole.

1 MS. LaMORTE: Yeah.

2 MAYOR STACK: There's no doubt about it.

3 MS. LaMORTE: All right.

4 MAYOR STACK: I think four -- I think -- I
5 think, I could be wrong, I -- I forget now, going
6 back, but I think -- on M-80s, I think six make a
7 stick. No, eight make a stick of dynamite.

8 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Or the
9 pineapples.

10 MS. LaMORTE: Yeah.

11 MAYOR STACK: I think four pineapples or
12 eight M-80s make a stick of dynamite.

13 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yup.

14 MS. LaMORTE: I -- I had a feeling --

15 MAYOR STACK: It's how serious it is.

16 MS. LaMORTE: I had a feeling that you guys
17 already knew and that --

18 MAYOR STACK: We are.

19 We are.

20 MS. LaMORTE: -- that things were -- you
21 know, because I remember, after I called then the
22 next day -- you know, there was more patrol just
23 running around.

24 MAYOR STACK: And you'll see -- you'll see

25 --

1 MS. LaMORTE: But they were missing them.
2 You know, there's --

3 MAYOR STACK: Some you'll see, some you
4 won't.

5 I just saw an undercover unit on 5th and
6 Bergenline, undercover. It was a plainclothes
7 unit, just driving up and down the block to see
8 if we can catch them, because we feel, in this
9 area here, it's one or two people that are
10 involved in this --

11 MS. LaMORTE: Yeah.

12 MAYOR STACK: -- that are selling them to
13 everybody else.

14 MS. LaMORTE: Yeah. Yeah. I don't know
15 about who's selling --

16 MAYOR STACK: You know what it is, you can
17 go to Pennsylvania and buy the heavy duty stuff.
18 You can buy your M-80s, you can buy your Roman
19 candles, all that. Buy it there by the gross, by
20 -- by 144, and come back and sell it here and
21 probably make ten times the profit.

22 MS. LaMORTE: Yeah.

23 MAYOR STACK: That's what's happening right
24 now.

25 MS. LaMORTE: Yeah.

1 And you know, we have the -- the house that
2 I'm talking about, 422, you know, the family that
3 moved in there -- you know, from the beginning of
4 -- of the summer, there's always police cars,
5 there's always problems. I mean, people have to
6 figure things out.

7 MAYOR STACK: Sure.

8 MS. LaMORTE: However, you know, I see the
9 young man from there --

10 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

11 MS. LaMORTE: -- from there, they --
12 because you know, they -- that's the last house
13 after there's a garage, so they're in front of
14 the garage just -- you know, blowing -- blowing
15 these things.

16 And then, you know, they go inside the
17 house and it's -- you know, and it's done. So
18 you know, I -- and I -- when I called, I said
19 exactly the house that it was.

20 But you know, at that point, I don't know
21 how they can go in -- they can't go in or
22 whatever.

23 Anyway, I've made the complaint. I don't
24 want to call the police a lot because I know that
25 there's a lot of --

1 MAYOR STACK: No. But if you --

2 MS. LaMORTE: -- stuff happening.

3 MAYOR STACK: -- hear it or see it, please
4 call though, just so we can keep it -- like why
5 we put down the units in this area is by the
6 number of calls we receive. So, it's good if you
7 still hear it and you still call.

8 MS. LaMORTE: Yeah. And I was surprised
9 when I saw --

10 MAYOR STACK: Definitely.

11 MS. LaMORTE: -- Nextdoor, it's like 4th
12 Street --

13 MAYOR STACK: No doubt.

14 MS. LaMORTE: -- 3rd Street, they are --
15 they are on 3rd Street, too. It took a minute to
16 realize that they --

17 MAYOR STACK: Sure.

18 MS. LaMORTE: -- that they weren't
19 gunshots. So, it's -- it's --

20 MAYOR STACK: Third -- 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th.

21 MS. LaMORTE: Yeah.

22 MAYOR STACK: From Palisade --

23 MS. LaMORTE: I'm on 3rd.

24 MAYOR STACK: -- to West.

25 MS. LaMORTE: And I'm two yards --

1 MAYOR STACK: That's where we have the most
2 problems.

3 MS. LaMORTE: -- away from the house, a
4 bunch of them spend all day throwing them at two
5 a.m. and playing loud music. Several neighbors,
6 blah, blah, blah.

7 All right.

8 Well, I just -- I thank you. We wanted to
9 --

10 MAYOR STACK: No problem.

11 We'll stay on top and if you hear it,
12 please, call, though.

13 I appreciate that.

14 MS. LaMORTE: Absolutely.

15 MAYOR STACK: Thank you very much, Gloria.

16 MS. LaMORTE: All right.

17 Thank you so much.

18 MAYOR STACK: Any time.

19 Thank you, Joe.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. LaMORTE: Okay.

22 MAYOR STACK: And thank you, again, for the
23 suggestion. I appreciate the clap out.

24 MR. LaMORTE: Thank you for making it
25 happen.

1 MAYOR STACK: Thank you very much.

2 Thank you again.

3 CITY CLERK: So just to recap --

4 MAYOR STACK: Anyone further?

5 No?

6 Okay.

7 CITY CLERK: Okay.

8 Sorry, Mayor.

9

10 **ADJOURNMENT:**

11

12 CITY CLERK: There was a motion made by

13 Mayor Stack to adjourn.

14 A second by Commissioner Martinetti.

15 Commissioner Fernandez?

16 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

17 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?

18 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

19 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?

20 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

21 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti?

22 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

23 CITY CLERK: Mayor Stack?

24 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

25 CITY CLERK: Thank you.

1 MAYOR STACK: Thank you.

2 Have a good evening, everyone.

3

4 (Whereupon, the proceedings were concluded
5 at 7:21 p.m.)

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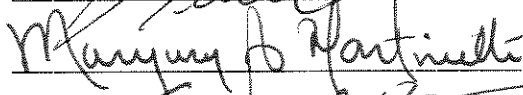
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Brian P. Stack


Lucio P. Fernandez


Maryury A. Martinetti


Celin J. Valdivia


Wendy A. Grullon

Board of Commissioners

Attest: 

Erin M. Knoedler,

City Clerk

1 STATE OF NEW JERSEY:

2 :

3 COUNTY OF ESSEX :

4

5 I, DEBRA A. KASZNIAK, assigned transcriber,
6 do hereby affirm that the foregoing is a true and
7 accurate transcript in the matter of the REGULAR
8 MEETING of the UNION CITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS,
9 heard on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 and digitally
10 recorded.

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Debra A. Kaszniak
Certification No. 324

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24 Monitored by: Kevin Dillon, Jr.

25 Proofread by: Deborah Dillon