

ORIGINAL

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

REGULAR MEETING

:
:
TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED
:
PROCEEDINGS

2601 Central Avenue
Union City, New Jersey

Wednesday, June 9, 2021
Commencing at 7:02 p.m.

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

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

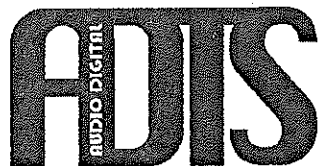
M E M B E R S A B S E N T:

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

ERIN M. KNOEDLER, CITY CLERK

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1 CITY CLERK: This is a Regular Public
2 Meeting of the Union City Board of Commissioners
3 being held on Wednesday, June 9th, 2021 at seven
4 p.m., at 2601 Central Avenue, Union City, New
5 Jersey.

6
7 (Whereupon the Pledge of Allegiance was
8 said by all.)

9
10 CITY CLERK: This meeting has been called
11 in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

12 Adequate notice of the meeting has been
13 provided to The Jersey Journal, The Record, The
14 Hudson Reporter, and been posted on the bulletin
15 board in City Hall and made available to the
16 public in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

17

18 **ROLL CALL:**

19

20 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Fernandez?

21 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Here.

22 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?

23 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Here.

24 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?

25 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Here.

1 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti?

2 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Here.

3 CITY CLERK: Mayor Stack?

4 MAYOR STACK: Here.

5

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

8 **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES -**

9 **REGULAR MEETING - APRIL 20, 2021.)**

10

11 CITY CLERK: The first item is the Approval
12 of the Previous Meeting Minutes for the meeting
13 of April 20th, 2021.

14 May I have a motion to approve?

15 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Motion.

16 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Motion.

17 CITY CLERK: Motion by Commissioner
18 Martinetti.

19 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Second.

20 CITY CLERK: Second by Commissioner
21 Valdivia.

22 Commissioner Fernandez?

23 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

24 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?

25 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

1 THE 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

8 (Whereupon, the Board discussed and took
9 action on the following item:

10 **ORDINANCE(S) FOR INTRODUCTION:**

11 1. ORDINANCE INCREASING THE SALARY OF SPECIAL
12 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS CLASS II.)

13

14 CITY CLERK: There is one Ordinance on for
15 Introduction.

16 Adoption on first reading will authorize
17 the Municipal Clerk to advertise it with the
18 notice of the public hearing, which will be on
19 June 22nd, 2021, at the Early Childhood Education
20 Center, 2200 Kennedy Boulevard.

21 It's an Ordinance Increasing the Salary for
22 Special Law Enforcement Officers Class II.

23 May I have a motion to introduce?

24 MAYOR STACK: Motion.

25 CITY CLERK: Motion by Mayor Stack.

1 Second?

2 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Second.

3 CITY CLERK: Second by Commissioner
4 Fernandez.

5 Commissioner Fernandez?

6 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

7 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?

8 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

9 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?

10 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

11 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti?

12 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

13 CITY CLERK: Mayor Stack?

14 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

15 CITY CLERK: Thank you.

16

17 (Whereupon, the Board discussed and took
18 action on the following items in total:

19 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

20 (1) Resolution Approving the Payment of Claims

21 (2) Resolution Approving the Payment of
22 Concurring Claims

23 (3) Resolution Approving the Escrow Refunds

24 (4) Resolution Approving the City Payroll for
25 May 10th through May 21, 2021

- 1 (5) Resolution Approving the Library Payroll
- 2 for May 10th through May 21, 2021
- 3 (6) Resolution Authorizing Payment Plan for
- 4 Delinquent Taxes for Block 285, Lot 1
- 5 (7) Resolution Authorizing Payment Plan for
- 6 Delinquent Taxes for Block 117, Lot 23
- 7 (8) Resolution Authorizing Payment Plan for
- 8 Delinquent Taxes for Block 204.01, Lot 4
- 9 (9) Resolution Authorizing Payment Plan for
- 10 Delinquent Taxes for Block 209, Lot 7
- 11 (10) Resolution Authorizing Refund of Redemption
- 12 Monies to Outside Lienholders
- 13 (11) Resolution Authorizing Refund of Redemption
- 14 Monies Collected at the Tax Sale
- 15 (12) Resolution Authorizing the Placement of a
- 16 Lien on the Property Known as 419 7th Street,
- 17 Union City, New Jersey 07087, Block 27, Lot 13,
- 18 in the City of Union City for Emergency Repair
- 19 Costs
- 20 (13) Resolution Supporting the Click It or
- 21 Ticket Mobilization
- 22 (14) Resolution Enabling the City of Union City
- 23 to enter into Green Acres Grant Agreement with
- 24 the New Jersey Department of Environmental
- 25 Protection

1 (15) Resolution Authorizing the Award of a
2 Raffle License to St. Augustine Church

3 (16) Resolution Authorizing the Award of a
4 Contract for NJDOT FY 2021 Various Streets to S.
5 Battata Construction, Inc.

6 (17) Resolution Authorizing the Award of a
7 Contract for 2021 Capital Streets Improvements
8 Project to S. Battata Construction, Inc.

9 (18) Resolution Approving a Chapter 159 Special
10 Item of General Revenue for the Clean Communities
11 Grant

12 (19) Resolution Naming 12th Street between
13 Bergenline Avenue and Morris Street as "Vicente
14 G. Giacomani Way"

15 (20) Resolution Naming 24th Street between
16 Bergenline Avenue and West Street as "Hugo W.
17 Morales Way"

18 (21) Resolution Naming 38th Street between
19 Hudson Avenue and Park Avenue as "Lt. Frank
20 Korker Way".)

21

22 CITY CLERK: There are 21 items on Consent.

23 The first is a Resolution Approving the
24 Payment of Claims.

25 Second is a Resolution Approving the

1 Payment of Concurring Claims.

2 Third is a Resolution Approving the Escrow
3 Refunds.

4 Fourth is a Resolution Approving the City
5 Payroll for the Period of May 10th through May
6 21st, 2021.

7 Fifth is a Resolution Approving the Library
8 Payroll for the Period of May 10th through May
9 21st, 2021.

10 Six is a Resolution Authorizing Payment
11 Plan for Delinquent Taxes on Block 285, Lot 1.

12 Seventh is a Resolution Authorizing a
13 Payment for Delinquent Taxes, Block 117, 23.

14 Eighth is a Resolution Authorizing a
15 Payment Plan for Delinquent Taxes for Block 204.1
16 -- .01, Lot 4.

17 The ninth is a Resolution Authorizing a
18 Payment Plan for Delinquent Taxes for Block 209,
19 Lot 7.

20 Tenth is a Resolution Authorizing a Refund
21 of Redemption Monies to Outside Lienholders.

22 Eleventh is a Resolution Authorizing Refund
23 of Redemption Monies Collected at the Tax Sale.

24 Twelfth is a Resolution Authorizing the
25 Placement of the Lien on the Property Known as

1 419 7th Street, Union City, New Jersey 080 -- 087
2 (sic), Block 27, Lot 13, in the City of Union
3 City for Emergency Repair Costs.

4 Thirteenth is a Resolution Supporting the
5 Click It or Ticket Mobilization.

6 Fourteenth is a Resolution Enabling the
7 City of Union City to Enter into Green Acres
8 Grant Agreement with the New Jersey Department of
9 Environmental Protection.

10 Fifth (sic) is a Resolution Authorizing the
11 Award of a Raffle License to Saint Augustine
12 Church.

13 Sixteenth is -- sixteenth is a Resolution
14 Authorizing the Award of a Contract for NJDOT FY
15 2021 Various Streets to S. Battata Construction,
16 Incorporated.

17 Seventeenth is a Resolution Authorizing the
18 Award of a Contract for 2021 Capital Street
19 Improvements Project to S. Battata Construction,
20 Incorporated.

21 Eighteenth is a Resolution Approving a
22 Chapter 159 Special Item of Revenue for Clean
23 Communities Grant.

24 Nineteenth is a Resolution Naming 12th
25 Street between Bergenline Avenue and Morris

1 Street as Vincent G. Giacomani Way.

2 The twentieth is a Resolution Naming 24th
3 Street between Bergenline Avenue and West Street
4 as Hugo Morales Way.

5 Twenty-first is a Resolution Naming 38th
6 Street between Hudson Avenue and Park Avenue as
7 Lieutenant Frank Korker Way.

8 Mayor, at this time would you like to take
9 public comment on Consent?

10 MAYOR STACK: Sure.

11 Just before we do, I -- I would just like
12 to --

13 Just on number 14, that's the Green Acres
14 Grant involving 4100 Palisade Avenue.

15 Correct?

16 CITY CLERK: Correct.

17 MAYOR STACK: So this piece of property --
18 originally, we were seeking a Green Acres Grant
19 for 45th and Hudson but the property is heavily
20 contaminated. So we're looking to switch that
21 grant over to 4100 Palisade, which would be a
22 building that the Board of Education rented for a
23 long time. We'd like to acquire the property,
24 through our Corporation Counsel use Green Acres
25 money, to put a soccer field on that property for

1 | children in the uptown area of the commun-- of
2 | the City.

3 | In addition to that I'm very happy that
4 | we're awarding various streets that we're paving.

5 | We're not only paving but putting in new
6 | sidewalks.

7 | We're putting in the ramping that's needed
8 | on the sidewalks.

9 | In addition to that, tree planting. Some
10 | of them with additional street lighting.

11 | We should have about 19 side streets done
12 | this summer in the community, along with the
13 | capital streets throughout the City.

14 | So that's our commitment to try and make
15 | the sidewalks and the streets passable. Not only
16 | for motorists but, most importantly, for
17 | pedestrians.

18 | In addition to that, the naming of the
19 | various streets in the community, Morris Street,
20 | West Street, and Park Avenue, have all been for
21 | residents in the community that have contributed
22 | in one way or another.

23 | I've known Mr. Giacomani for quite some
24 | time. And I knew, also, Mr. Morales for some
25 | time.

1 I know Lucio -- Commissioner Fernandez
2 could speak on Hugo Morales.

3 A large family in the community.

4 Also, Commissioner Valdivia.

5 A large family in the community. We're
6 happy to honorary recognize these residents with
7 having streets named after them.

8 These three -- these three residents have
9 passed away and it's nice to keep their memory
10 alive, especially in a neighborhood where they
11 contributed so much.

12 Having said that, I'll --

13 Any Commissioner who would like to comment
14 at this time?

15 Lucio or Celin, would you like to
16 comment --

17 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

18 MAYOR STACK: -- on -- on Hugo?

19 Or Wendy?

20 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Hugo --

21 MAYOR STACK: Margie?

22 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Hugo -- Hugo
23 Morales was a longtime resident of Union City.
24 He was well known. He went to Emerson High
25 School and -- and attended NJCU.

1 He was a really well known and respected
2 artist from our community. He helped us put a
3 lot of art shows together. He's really beloved
4 by a lot of people, especially the artist
5 community.

6 His mom still lives here. His brother's
7 still -- is in the area. So, we -- we're more
8 than happy that the Mayor allowed us to name a
9 street for Hugo.

10 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: I would like to
11 talk about Hugo Morales.

12 I -- I met Hugo Morales when I was 11 years
13 old. I'm going to turn 60, July 6. He would
14 have been 60 years old today -- I mean his
15 birthday, I believe, was a -- a month and a half
16 ago. So I grew up with him as a child at -- at
17 11 years old.

18 And his mother still lives in the same
19 building that they grew up, off Bergenline Avenue
20 on 24th Street.

21 MAYOR STACK: That's right. Right.

22 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: So, I've known for
23 many -- you know, a long, long time. And a good
24 man.

25 MAYOR STACK: And Giacoman -- Vincent was

1 somebody who lived on 12th Street in Union City.
2 His family members still, in fact, live there. A
3 good hardworking family I've known for many, many
4 years.

5 And I just thank the family for allowing us
6 this honor and coming forward to ask us to do
7 this.

8 Anyone else wishing to comment at this time
9 on the Consent Agenda?

10 Any member of the public, please step
11 forward, state your name and address for the
12 record.

13 Seeing none.

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

16 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Motion.

17 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Motion.

18 CITY CLERK: Motion by Commissioner
19 Martinetti.

20 Second by Commissioner Fernandez.

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 May I have a motion to approve all items on
8 Consent?
9 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Motion.
10 CITY CLERK: Motion by Commissioner
11 Valdivia.
12 Second?
13 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Second.
14 CITY CLERK: Second by Commissioner
15 Grullon.
16 Commissioner Fernandez?
17 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.
18 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?
19 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.
20 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?
21 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.
22 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti?
23 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.
24 CITY CLERK: You're going to recuse on
25 Adolfo Lopez.

1 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: I'm sorry.

2 I'm recusing any payments to Adolfo Lopez.

3 Aye on the rest.

4 CITY CLERK: And Mayor Stack?

5 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

6 And I'm recusing on any -- any matters
7 concerning the Chasan Lamparello Mallon and
8 Cappuzzo.

9 CITY CLERK: Thank you.

10

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

13 **REGULAR AGENDA:**

14 1. Resolution Approving a Payment of Claim for
15 the Union City Board of Education.)

16

17 CITY CLERK: There's one item on the
18 Regular Agenda.

19 It's a Resolution Approving a Payment of
20 Claim to the Union City Board of Education.

21 MAYOR STACK: Motion.

22 MR. AUTERI: Ordinarily, -- ordinarily,
23 Commissioner Valdivia and Grullon would not vote
24 on Board of matters.

25 However, tonight the Board is invoking the

1 doctrine of necessity.

2 CITY CLERK: Thank you.

3 There is a motion by Mayor Stack.

4 Second?

5 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Second.

6 CITY CLERK: Second by Commissioner
7 Grullon.

8 Commissioner Fernandez is recusing.

9 Commissioner Grullon?

10 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

11 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?

12 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

13 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti's
14 recusing.

15 Mayor Stack?

16 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

17 CITY CLERK: Thank you.

18

19 (Whereupon, the Board discussed and took
20 action on the following item:

21 **ORDINANCES FOR HEARING AND ADOPTION**

22 **CONSIDERATION:**

23 1. ORDINANCE IN FURTHERANCE OF THE PREVENTION
24 OF DISTURBANCES AND DANGERS RESULTING FROM THE
25 USE OF PYROTECHNICS WITHIN THE CITY OF UNION

1 CITY.)

2

3 CITY CLERK: There are two ordinances on
4 for Public Hearing and Adoption this evening.

5 The first Ordinance is an Ordinance in
6 Furtherance of the Prevention of Disturbances and
7 Dangers Resulting from the Use of Pyrotechnics
8 within the City of Union City.

9 Mayor, at this time would you like to take
10 public comment on this Ordinance?

11 MAYOR STACK: Sure.

12 Anyone wishing to comment on this Ordinance
13 at this time, please step forward.

14 Seeing none.

15 CITY CLERK: May I have a motion to close
16 public comment?

17 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Motion.

18 CITY CLERK: Motion by Commissioner
19 Fernandez.

20 Second?

21 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Second.

22 CITY CLERK: Second by Commissioner
23 Grullon.

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 And this -- this was done just for the
10 purpose of the City being so densely populated
11 and being so close together with construction.

12 When we have a fire, it's never just one
13 building, it always spreads to another building.
14 And this was just something that the Police
15 Department and Fire Department came forward with.

16 So I thank them for their contributions for
17 that.

18 CITY CLERK: Thank you, Mayor.

19 May I have a motion to adopt the Ordinance?

20 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Motion.

21 CITY CLERK: Motion by Commissioner
22 Fernandez.

23 Second?

24 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Second.

25 CITY CLERK: Second by Commissioner

1 Grullon.

2 Commissioner Fernandez?

3 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

4 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?

5 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

6 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?

7 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

8 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti?

9 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

10 CITY CLERK: And Mayor Stack?

11 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

12 CITY CLERK: Thank you.

13

14 (Whereupon, the Board discussed and took
15 action on the following item:

16 **ORDINANCES FOR HEARING AND ADOPTION**

17 **CONSIDERATION:**

18 2. ORDINANCE SETTING FORTH REQUIREMENTS FOR
19 EXTERIOR MAINTENANCE.)

20

21 CITY CLERK: The second Ordinance is an
22 Ordinance Setting Forth Requirements for Exterior
23 Maintenance.

24 Mayor, would you like to take public
25 comment on this Ordinance?

1 MAYOR STACK: Sure.

2 This, again, ties in with structures and --
3 and --

4 And I'll let Angelo explain a little bit
5 more in detail but where we check the brick face
6 on the building, just to make sure everything is
7 safe and secure -- by our Building Department.

8 Angelo?

9 MR. AUTERI: That's exactly right, Mayor.

10 More, specifically, to adhere to the
11 general aesthetic of the neighborhood. It's now
12 prohibited to cover those beautiful brick fronts
13 with just cement. They will have to be
14 maintained in a way that's called brick
15 repointing, which requires the brick façade to
16 stay visible. And that's in keeping with the
17 overall aesthetic with the neighborhood.

18 MAYOR STACK: We've -- we've had a number
19 of buildings that had brick up and then what they
20 would do is, if the brick needed to be pointed as
21 the Corporation Counsel just pointed out, what
22 they would do is just go over the brick with
23 cement. And it would ruin the entire exterior of
24 the building.

25 We're just trying to preserve the community

1 the best we possibly can.

2 Anyone wishing to comment at this time on
3 this Ordinance, please step forward, state your
4 name and address for the record.

5 Seeing none.

6 CITY CLERK: May I have a motion to close
7 -- close public comment?

8 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Motion.

9 CITY CLERK: Motion by Commissioner
10 Fernandez.

11 Second?

12 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Second.

13 CITY CLERK: Second by Commissioner
14 Grullon.

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 To close public comment.

23 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Oh.

24 CITY CLERK: Yes.

25 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

1 CITY CLERK: And Mayor Stack?
2 MAYOR STACK: Yes.
3 CITY CLERK: Thank --
4 MAYOR STACK: Thank you for your work on
5 that, Angelo.
6 CITY CLERK: May I have a motion to --
7 MR. AUTERI: You got it, Mayor.
8 CITY CLERK: -- adopt?
9 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Motion.
10 CITY CLERK: Motion by Commissioner
11 Valdivia.
12 Second?
13 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Second.
14 CITY CLERK: Second by Commissioner
15 Fernandez.
16 Commissioner Fernandez?
17 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.
18 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?
19 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.
20 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?
21 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.
22 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti's
23 recusing.
24 Mayor Stack?
25 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

1 CITY CLERK: Thank you.

2

3 OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

4

5 CITY CLERK: Mayor, at this time would you
6 like to take public comment on any item
7 concerning government in the City of Union City?

8 MAYOR STACK: Sure.

9 Just before we do, I'd just like to thank
10 the Commissioners for moving a hundred percent of
11 our meetings throughout the community. As we
12 started, we made that commitment and we continue
13 to do so.

14 So, thank you.

15 And thank you for the members of the public
16 that are here this evening.

17 Having said that, anyone wishing to comment
18 at this time, please step forward, state your
19 name and address for the record.

20 Sure.

21 MR. GRIMES: El Rampidor (phonetic).

22 No? Never mind.

23 I'm actually Lefty Grimes.

24 I'm with Sativa Cross. We're a 501(c)(3)
25 here in New Jersey. We advocate for disabled

1 | rights.

2 | MR. DILLON: Excuse me?

3 | MAYOR STACK: Mr. Grimes, let me just make
4 | sure -- let me just make sure --

5 | CITY CLERK: If you could please come up to
6 | the --

7 | MAYOR STACK: Maybe if you could just move,
8 | just a little bit closer --

9 | MR. GRIMES: Oh.

10 | MAYOR STACK: -- to this right here.

11 | MR. DILLON: (Indiscernible) -- mic to help
12 | me out.

13 | MAYOR STACK: Yes.

14 | MR. GRIMES: Sure.

15 | MR. DILLON: Appreciate it.

16 | Thank you.

17 | MAYOR STACK: Just a couple feet up, that's
18 | all.

19 | Thank you very much.

20 | MR. GRIMES: Okay. This is good.

21 | My name is Edward Lefty Grimes.

22 | I'm Sativacross.org. We're a 501(c)(3)
23 | here in New Jersey, advocating for disabled
24 | rights and for cannabis patients' rights.

25 | I'm here because -- you helped us once

1 before. You -- you helped the disabled community
2 once before a few years ago. I don't know if you
3 remember.

4 But we talked about the Police Station --

5 MAYOR STACK: I remember.

6 MR. GRIMES: -- downtown --

7 MAYOR STACK: I remember.

8 MR. GRIMES: -- with the steps and the
9 issue with the access there.

10 MAYOR STACK: Seventh and Bergenline,
11 right. Right.

12 MR. GRIMES: Yes.

13 And within like two or three weeks there
14 was a sign up. And it was a -- it was a great
15 stopgap measure, I must say, at the time.

16 MAYOR STACK: Sure.

17 MR. GRIMES: We need more attention to this
18 and I'm going to tell you why.

19 I went there today and I had to ring the
20 bell and the woman came --

21 And -- and it's not their fault. They just
22 didn't know the procedure. There was no protocol
23 in place. And the -- the woman was a civilian.
24 She didn't know really what to do because it was
25 a secure area.

1 So I'm like if it's a secure area, then
2 it's not wheelchair accessible. So it -- it took
3 a few minutes.

4 I was ringing the bell. Finally an officer
5 had to show up to open the door. Officer
6 Alvarado. And I wanted to explain to him -- he
7 was really nice. I wanted to explain to him
8 about the fire hazard of this situation.

9 You know the reason there's a fire hazard,
10 -- and you can ask your fire marshal this, is
11 once you're in that building and I go through the
12 secure area and I'm in -- using the bathroom or
13 whatever I have to do or -- or talking to the
14 officer, where I'm -- where I'm sitting, I'm a
15 fire hazard, because if there's an issue, who's
16 going to take me out the front steps?

17 Am I going to jump out the front steps --
18 being pushed. And now I'm -- I could probably
19 jump because I'm -- I can walk. Some people
20 can't walk. Some people are -- are going to be
21 totally immobile.

22 There's no way Officer Alvarado, as -- as
23 strong as he was, not lifting this 200 pound
24 wheelchair and this 250 pound frame.

25 I think that more attention needs to be

1 made to that issue. It's a public building and
2 we need your help, as Mayor.

3 As maybe a Senator, there's also another
4 thing I want to speak about. This is a big
5 issue --

6 MAYOR STACK: On --

7 MR. GRIMES: -- and I want you all to --

8 MAYOR STACK: -- on the first issue, I will
9 address that. I mean that shouldn't have
10 happened. I definitely will address that.
11 And --

12 MR. GRIMES: It's -- it's a fixable
13 problem.

14 MAYOR STACK: The Corporation Counsel will
15 also -- we'll speak to the Chief tomorrow morning
16 to make sure we remedy that.

17 MR. GRIMES: I mean --

18 MAYOR STACK: Absolutely.

19 MR. GRIMES: -- a bag of cement --

20 MAYOR STACK: Lefty, could I have your cell
21 phone number or phone number? I know I had it --

22 MR. GRIMES: Sure.

23 MAYOR STACK: -- before.

24 Could I have it again?

25 MR. GRIMES: 908- --

1 MAYOR STACK: Okay.

2 MR. GRIMES: -- 616-0682.

3 There is some kind of a plate on the ground
4 there that may be an issue. But you can probably
5 just put something to the left.

6 I -- I've seen the -- you know, I -- I've
7 -- I've seen this problem all over Hudson County.
8 And that's another reason I want to talk to you.

9 I mean Union City is no -- no different.
10 It's -- the wheelchair access is bad. Maybe
11 there's an ordinance you can make for one step.

12 They just put a Mrs. Fields in Bayonne.
13 Brand new Mrs. Fields. They closed the street
14 and it's got a beautiful step. Beautiful step.

15 And, I don't know, it's grandfathered in
16 but wheelchairs are grandfathered out. That's
17 how I look at it.

18 MAYOR STACK: Right.

19 MR. GRIMES: But -- but the reason I want
20 to speak to you, maybe as a Senator on your
21 committee this important.

22 MAYOR STACK: Sure.

23 MR. GRIMES: For the last -- I called today
24 to get access because I'm in pain. I didn't want
25 to come to the meeting tonight. I wanted to do a

1 Zoom meeting.

2 When I called for access for disability
3 accommodations for that, as you would for hearing
4 impaired or visually impaired, they said they
5 don't do that anymore.

6 And I've had this issue with a few towns,
7 where they don't -- they're not doing that
8 anymore.

9 MAYOR STACK: You -- you called here and
10 they said that?

11 MR. GRIMES: Yeah.

12 They're not doing Zoom anymore. No -- a
13 lot of towns are not doing it.

14 MAYOR STACK: Right.

15 MR. GRIMES: What the problem is, for the
16 past 14 months we did this for healthy people.
17 The things that disabled people have been asking
18 for for years, online school and online church,
19 online work, online council meetings, they got to
20 take part.

21 My friend Jeff, who died, he took part from
22 his deathbed. Literally -- literally from his
23 deathbed.

24 And I think that's important that disabled
25 people get to take part in these meetings; if

1 | they can give 24 hours' notice, sure. We can't
2 | pick and choose what disabilities we support.
3 | You know, we have to support --

4 | I have a physical ailment and I couldn't
5 | get around to a lot of meetings. I want to be
6 | able to take part.

7 | But, you know, we did all these things for
8 | healthy people for 14 months and a lot of towns
9 | are saying that we can't do it now. I'm like,
10 | no, you -- you just won't do it.

11 | MAYOR STACK: You -- you know, Lefty, I
12 | agree with you a thousand percent, Mr. Grimes, I
13 | do.

14 | And about three weeks ago I spoke with the
15 | Clerk. The Clerk and I spoke about making sure
16 | that we do put all our meetings on. Because,
17 | look, if I can move them around the City --

18 | And I think you attended one other meeting.

19 | Right?

20 | It was in a different spot.

21 | MR. GRIMES: You're all over, yes.

22 | MAYOR STACK: We're all over the place.

23 | MR. GRIMES: You're amazing.

24 | MAYOR STACK: You know what? It's a
25 | failure on our part not to have the meeting

1 | online and where people can view the meeting.
2 | Because the more people that view the meeting,
3 | the more people also on our part, get to see
4 | municipal government at work.

5 | Right?

6 | MR. GRIMES: Um-hum.

7 | MAYOR STACK: And we have to do that.

8 | And I'll commit to you in the Senate I'll
9 | do more on that also.

10 | MR. GRIMES: We want to take part.

11 | MAYOR STACK: Absolutely.

12 | MR. GRIMES: I want to be able to speak to
13 | the council --

14 | MAYOR STACK: Sure. Sure.

15 | MR. GRIMES: -- from my home.

16 | MAYOR STACK: Sure.

17 | MR. GRIMES: Another problem is that a lot
18 | of towns have different formats.

19 | I have -- I've been to hundreds of council
20 | meetings in the past couple years. I have -- my
21 | phone is full of about six apps -- different
22 | apps. Webex, Cisco, Zoom. There's about six of
23 | them.

24 | And a lot of towns have different rules.

25 | They take the chat away; they put the chat

1 back. They allow you to speak; they don't allow
2 you to speak. Oh, they -- they don't allow you
3 to be seen.

4 Union Township, you can't even be seen or
5 heard. You have to write a letter to the Clerk
6 and hope the Clerk reads the letter to the -- the
7 council with the same emotion that you have.
8 But, yeah, Union Township does not let you speak
9 or -- or be heard, which is shocking to me.

10 MAYOR STACK: Wow.

11 MR. GRIMES: So there needs to be some
12 consistency across the board around the State.
13 Because I've been to literally hundreds of
14 council meetings and they're -- they're all
15 different. They're all --

16 Sometimes they'll give you a password an
17 hour before the meeting. And then you're
18 scrambling to try to find the password. And if
19 it's wrong, you got --

20 It's like -- they should make it easier for
21 us to attend. These are public meetings that --
22 that we want to attend. So, --

23 MAYOR STACK: And it should be -- it should
24 be addressed statewide. It shouldn't be town by
25 town does what they want to do. It should be a

1 statewide --

2 Same thing, like OPRA.

3 MR. GRIMES: Yeah.

4 MAYOR STACK: The same think like OPRA that
5 applies to everyone.

6 MR. GRIMES: Yeah.

7 MAYOR STACK: We --

8 MR. GRIMES: Consistency.

9 MAYOR STACK: -- we have to do better. And
10 I'll work together with you on this. If you --

11 MR. GRIMES: Thank you. Yeah.

12 MAYOR STACK: -- could work with me on it,
13 I would --

14 MR. GRIMES: Yeah.

15 MAYOR STACK: -- appreciate that.

16 If you could just get me -- even if you get
17 something to me tomorrow or this week, get me an
18 email, just tell me what you believe what you
19 would like and I'll get legislation introduced.

20 And I promise you, I'll make sure the
21 change is made here also. It should have been
22 done a long time ago and that's on me.

23 MR. GRIMES: Thank you, Mayor, --

24 MAYOR STACK: Absolutely.

25 MR. GRIMES: -- Senator.

1 I appreciate it.

2 MAYOR STACK: No problem.

3 MR. GRIMES: Disabled community thanks you.

4 We --

5 MAYOR STACK: Absolutely.

6 MR. GRIMES: -- really do. You've been
7 very helpful.

8 MAYOR STACK: Absolutely.

9 MR. GRIMES: So, --

10 MAYOR STACK: My dad was in a wheelchair
11 before he passed away.

12 MR. GRIMES: I know.

13 MAYOR STACK: And I -- I should have did it
14 a long time ago. You have my word it will be
15 done.

16 MR. GRIMES: Thank you, sir.

17 MAYOR STACK: Absolutely.

18 MR. GRIMES: There's a -- there's a lot of
19 work to be done. There really is.

20 MAYOR STACK: There is.

21 MR. GRIMES: And I --

22 MAYOR STACK: There is.

23 MR. GRIMES: -- I mean it's -- it's an old
24 town. Everything's grandfathered in.

25 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

1 MR. GRIMES: But if you look at it as us
2 being grandfathered out, then it's a whole
3 different narrative. Because --

4 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

5 MR. GRIMES: -- it's like one step can be
6 fixed. I think one step could be an ordinance
7 that could be done.

8 MAYOR STACK: Right.

9 MR. GRIMES: You can partner --

10 Do you have a medical cannabis tax here in
11 -- in Union City?

12 MAYOR STACK: I don't believe we -- no, we
13 don't. No.

14 MR. GRIMES: You're not tak--

15 MAYOR STACK: No.

16 MR. GRIMES: Are -- are you accepting --

17 MAYOR STACK: We --

18 MR. GRIMES: -- medical dispensaries or --

19 MAYOR STACK: We allow --

20 CITY CLERK: Yes.

21 MAYOR STACK: Yes, we do.

22 CITY CLERK: Yes.

23 MR. GRIMES: But you're not taking the tax.

24 MAYOR STACK: No.

25 CITY CLERK: No.

1 MR. GRIMES: Well, that's actually good
2 but --

3 MAYOR STACK: Yeah. Yeah.

4 MR. GRIMES: That tax could be used for --

5 MAYOR STACK: Right.

6 MR. GRIMES: -- wheelchair accessibility.
7 Taxa-- representation for that taxation is what I
8 call it.

9 MAYOR STACK: Right.

10 MR. GRIMES: But, yeah, a lot of towns --
11 like Bayonne is taking the tax.

12 MAYOR STACK: Okay.

13 MR. GRIMES: And I'm asking for that
14 taxation -- representation --

15 MAYOR STACK: Yeah, to be --

16 MR. GRIMES: -- for that taxation --

17 MAYOR STACK: -- dedicated. Exactly.

18 MR. GRIMES: Yeah.

19 MAYOR STACK: Exactly.

20 MR. GRIMES: I mean Mrs. Fields? Really?

21 I mean that's --

22 MAYOR STACK: Yeah.

23 MR. GRIMES: -- I was --

24 MAYOR STACK: Everything should be
25 accessible.

1 I remember going with --

2 MR. GRIMES: Yeah.

3 MAYOR STACK: -- my father even to
4 restaurants and stuff and some people would
5 actually --

6 And we went to -- I won't name the place
7 but it was in Jersey City. And the place
8 actually looked down upon my father. I got so
9 angry. They said, oh, you're in a wheelchair
10 when we arrived after making reservations. And
11 it's hurtful. Big time hurtful.

12 MR. GRIMES: Yeah. Yeah.

13 Let me end it with this.

14 MAYOR STACK: Sure.

15 MR. GRIMES: This is my -- my friend Jeff
16 (phonetic).

17 MAYOR STACK: But please if you can, -- if
18 you can, --

19 And I don't mean to interrupt you.

20 MR. GRIMES: Um-hum.

21 MAYOR STACK: -- if you can get me an
22 email and just detail me what you would like.

23 And then I'm going to have Lady -- Lady
24 Torres from my office, she handles my
25 legislation, to work with you on crafting a bill.

1 And we'll do --

2 MR. GRIMES: Okay.

3 MAYOR STACK: -- we'll do an ordinance here

4 also.

5 MR. GRIMES: Awesome.

6 MAYOR STACK: Angelo, make sure we get that

7 done, please, --

8 MR. AUTERI: Okay, Mayor.

9 MAYOR STACK: -- for the next meeting.

10 Okay?

11 MR. AUTERI: Okay.

12 MR. GRIMES: Thanks, guys.

13 You're the best.

14 Thank you.

15 MAYOR STACK: Absolutely.

16 MR. GRIMES: They went with songs to the

17 battle, they were young, straight of limb, true

18 of eye, steady and aglow.

19 They were staunch to the end against odds

20 uncounted; they fell with their faces to the foe.

21 They shall grow not old, as we that are

22 left grow old.

23 Age shall not weary them, nor the years

24 condemn.

25 At the going down of the sun and in the

1 morning, we will remember them.

2 Thank you very much.

3 MAYOR STACK: Thank you very much.

4 Thanks again, Mr. Grimes, for coming to the
5 meeting.

6 Anyone else wishing to comment at this
7 time, please step forward, state your name and
8 address for the record.

9 Seeing no other.

10 CITY CLERK: May I have a motion to close
11 public comment?

12 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Motion.

13 CITY CLERK: Motion by Commissioner
14 Fernandez.

15 Second?

16 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Second.

17 CITY CLERK: Second by Commissioner
18 Martinetti.

19 Commissioner Fernandez?

20 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

21 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?

22 Commissioner Grullon?

23 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

24 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?

25 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

1 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti?

2 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

3 CITY CLERK: And Mayor Stack?

4 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

5

6 **ADJOURNMENT:**

7

8 CITY CLERK: There are no other items on
9 the agenda.

10 May I have a motion to adjourn?

11 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Motion.

12 CITY CLERK: Motion by Commissioner
13 Martinetti.

14 Second?

15 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Second.

16 CITY CLERK: Second by Commissioner
17 Valdivia.

18 Commissioner Fernandez?

19 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

20 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?

21 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

22 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?

23 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

24 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti?

25 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

1 CITY CLERK: Mayor Stack?

2 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

3 CITY CLERK: Thank you.

4 MAYOR STACK: Thank you, Celin.

5 Thanks, Margie.

6

7 (Whereupon, the proceedings were concluded
8 at 7:22 p.m.)

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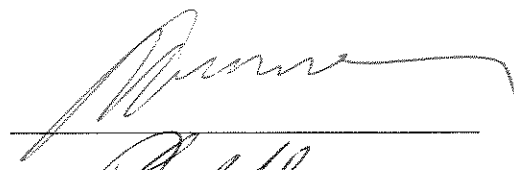
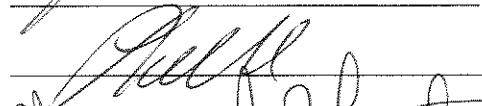
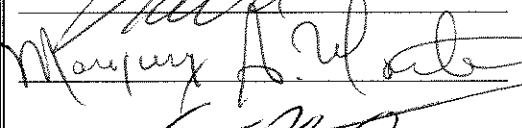
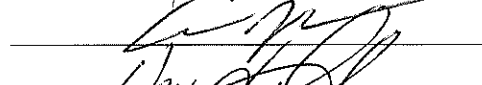
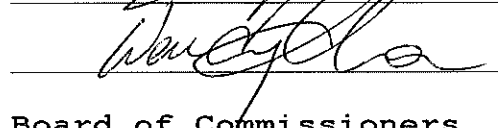
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1  Brian P. Stack
2  Lucio P. Fernandez
3  Maryury A. Martinetti
4  Celin J. Valdivia
5  Wendy A. Grullon
6 Board of Commissioners

7
8 Attest:

9 Erin M. Knoedler,

10 City Clerk
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1 STATE OF NEW JERSEY:

2 :

3 COUNTY OF ESSEX :

4

5 I, KAREN A. MARINO, 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 Wednesday, June 9, 2021 and digitally
10 recorded.

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Karen A. Marino

AOC 493

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24 Monitored by: Kevin Dillon, Jr.

25 Proofread by: Deborah Dillon