

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

REGULAR MEETING : TRANSCRIPT OF
: :
: :
-----: PROCEEDINGS

BELLA VISTA APARTMENTS
522 22nd Street
Union City, New Jersey

Tuesday, January 23, 2024
Commencing at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

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

MARYURY A. MARTINETTI, COMMISSIONER

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

SCARINCI HOLLENBECK
BY: ANGELO AUTERI, ESQ.
Corporation Counsel

HILDA ROSARIO, City Clerk

SUSAN BISCHOFF, CCR, RPR
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1 MAYOR STACK: We're ready to go.

2 MS. ROSARIO: Can we please stand for
3 the Pledge of Allegiance.

4
5 (Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was
6 recited.)

7
8 MS. ROSARIO: This is a regular public
9 meeting of the Union City Board of Commissioners
10 being held on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 7:00
11 p.m. at the Bella Vista Apartments, 522 22nd
12 Street in Union City. This meeting has been
13 called in accordance with the Open Public Meetings
14 Act. Adequate notice of this meeting have been
15 provided as follows: Was forwarded to The Jersey
16 Journal, The Record, has been posted on the
17 bulletin board in the City Hall and has been made
18 available to the public in the office of the
19 Municipal Clerk.

20
21 **ROLL CALL:**

22
23 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Fernandez.

24 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Here.

25 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

1 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Here.

2 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

3 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Here.

4 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

5 MAYOR STACK: Here.

6 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti
7 will not be attending.

8 MAYOR STACK: She's not feeling well.

9 MS. ROSARIO: Thank you, Mayor.

10

11 **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

12

13 MS. ROSARIO: The first item on the
14 agenda is approving the meeting minutes of the
15 January 9, 2024, Board of Commissioners meeting.
16 May I have a motion to approve.

17 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Motion.

18 MAYOR STACK: Second.

19 MS. ROSARIO: Motion by Commissioner
20 Valdivia, second by Mayor Stack.

21 Commissioner Fernandez.

22 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

23 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

24 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

25 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

1 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

2 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

3 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

4

5 (Whereupon, the Board discussed and took
6 action on the following items in total:

7 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

8 (1) Resolution Approving the Payment of Claims.

9 (2) Resolution Approving the Payment of
10 Concurring Claims.

11 (3) Resolution Approving the Escrow Refunds.

12 (4) Resolution Approving the City Payroll From
13 12/23/23 Through 1/5/24.

14 (5) Resolution Approving the Library Payroll
15 From 12/23/23 Through 1/5/24.

16 (6) Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Tax
17 Appeal Issued By the Hudson County Board of
18 Taxation.

19 (7) Resolution Authorizing Tax Refund in Tax
20 Appeal Decision By the Tax Court of New Jersey.

21 (8) Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Premium
22 Monies Collected At the Tax Sale.

23 (9) Resolution Authorizing Refund of Redemption
24 Monies to Outside Lienholders.

25 (10) Resolution Authorizing Shared Service

1 Agreement Between the City of Union City and the
2 Union City Housing Authority For Maintenance and
3 Security Services At 707 Summit Avenue.

4 (11) Resolution Authorizing Contract For Arborist
5 Services For the City of Union City For 2024.

6 (12) Resolution Authorizing the Placement of a
7 Lien on the Property Known As 523 48th Street,
8 Union City, New Jersey 07087, Block 266, Lot 37 in
9 the City of Union City For Emergency Repair Costs.

10 (13) Resolution Reappointing Members of the Union
11 City Zoning Board of Adjustment.

12 (14) Resolution to Reappoint Margarita Gutierrez
13 to the Zoning Board of Adjustment For the City of
14 Union City.

15 (15) Resolution to Reappoint Class II Member of
16 the City of Union City Planning Board.

17 (16) Resolution to Reappoint Class IV Member of
18 the Union City Planning Board.

19 (17) Resolution to Reappoint Lucio Fernandez At
20 Chairman of the Union City Redevelopment Agency.

21 (18) Resolution to Reappoint Carlos Vallejo to
22 the Redevelopment Agency.

23 (19) Resolution Reappointing Member of the Union
24 City Redevelopment Agency.

25 (20) Resolution Reappointing Member to the Union

1 City Parking Authority.

2 (21) Resolution Reappointing Members to the Union
3 City Library Board of Trustees.

4 (22) Resolution Reappointing Members to the Union
5 City Rent Stabilization Board.

6 (23) Resolution Reappointing Kennedy Ng and
7 Alejandro Velazquez Members of the Board of
8 Education.

9 (24) Resolution Reappointing Alternate Member of
10 the Union City Rent Stabilization Board.

11 (25) Resolution Authorizing Newspaper
12 Publications Utilized By the City of Union City
13 For 2024.)

14

15 MS. ROSARIO: There are 25 items on the
16 consent agenda.

17 One, resolution approving the payment of
18 claims.

19 Two, resolution approving the payment of
20 concurring claims.

21 Three, resolution approving the escrow
22 refunds.

23 Four, resolution approving the city
24 payroll from 12/23/23 through 1/5/24.

25 Five, resolution approving the library

1 payroll from 12/23/23 through 1/5/24.

2 Six, resolution authorizing the refund
3 of tax appeal issued by the Hudson County Board of
4 Taxation.

5 Seven, resolution authorizing tax refund
6 in tax appeal decision by the tax court of New
7 Jersey.

8 Eight, resolution authorizing the refund
9 of premium monies collected at the tax sale.

10 Nine, resolution authorizing refund of
11 redemption monies to outside lienholders.

12 Ten, resolution authorizing shared
13 service agreement between the City of Union City
14 and the Union City Housing Authority for
15 maintenance and security services at 707 Summit
16 Avenue.

17 Eleven, resolution authorizing contract
18 for arborist services for the City of Union City
19 for 2024.

20 Twelve, resolution authorizing the
21 placement of a lien on the property known as 523
22 48th Street, Union City, New Jersey 07087, Block
23 266, Lot 37 in the City of Union City for
24 emergency repair costs.

25 Thirteen, resolution reappointing

1 members of the Union City Zoning Board of
2 Adjustment.

3 Fourteen, resolution to reappoint
4 Margarita Gutierrez to the Zoning Board of
5 Adjustment for the City of Union City.

6 Fifteen, resolution to reappoint class
7 II member of the City of Union City Planning
8 Board.

9 Sixteen, resolution to reappoint Class
10 IV member of the Union City planning board.

11 Seventeen, resolution to reappoint Lucio
12 Fernandez at Chairman of the Union City
13 Redevelopment Agency.

14 Eighteen, resolution to reappoint Carlos
15 Vallejo to the Redevelopment Agency.

16 Nineteen, resolution reappointing member
17 of the Union City Redevelopment Agency.

18 Twenty, resolution reappointing member
19 to the Union City parking authority.

20 Twenty-one, resolution reappointing
21 members to the Union City library board of
22 trustees.

23 Twenty-two, resolution reappointing
24 members to the Union City Rent Stabilization
25 Board.

1 Twenty-three, resolution reappointing
2 Kennedy Ng and Alejandro Velazquez members of the
3 Board of Education.

4 Twenty-four, resolution reappointing
5 alternate member of the Union City Rent
6 Stabilization Board.

7 Twenty-five, resolution authorizing
8 newspaper publications utilized by the City of
9 Union City for 2024.

10 Mayor, at this time, would you like to
11 take public comment on the consent agenda?

12 MAYOR STACK: Sure, thank you, Hilda.

13 Just before we do, just on the
14 agreement, number 10, with the City of Union City
15 and the Union City Housing Authority. This would
16 be an agreement to basically maintain and take
17 care of the building. This building is a building
18 recently purchased by the City of Union City for
19 the purpose of affordable housing. Hopefully,
20 we'll have 25 units in this building and the
21 Housing Authority will be managing it in the
22 meantime.

23 Also I'd just like to thank those
24 members who have taken a reappointment going back
25 on the boards, whether it be the board of

1 adjustment, the planning board, the library board,
2 the rent board, whatever board they serve on,
3 thank you for volunteering to serve on the board.
4 It's one thing we've tried to do in allowing
5 residents to come forward and serve on various
6 boards in the community. We appreciate them
7 coming forward to do so and also encourage other
8 members of the community who would like to serve
9 on a board to just get us a letter of intent. And
10 we'll appoint anyone who would like to serve on
11 any municipal board in the City of Union City.

12 Having said that, anyone who would like
13 to comment on the consent agenda, that is the
14 agenda that was just read into the record by the
15 clerk, please step forward. Just state your name
16 and address and you may make any comments on the
17 consent agenda.

18 MR. PORTIS: I don't know if it is out
19 of order, first time that I've attended one of
20 these meetings. Fernando Portis from Troy Towers,
21 Union City. I'd like the opportunity to address
22 the board whenever the board deem it appropriate.

23 MAYOR STACK: This is just on the
24 consent agenda, Fernando, you can do so in the
25 regular part. I'll advise you once we get to the

1 second part on any matter concerning municipal
2 government.

3 MR. PORTIS: Okay, I'll be quiet.

4 MAYOR STACK: No problem. Anyone
5 wishing to comment on the consent agenda once
6 again? No. I'd also like to thank the
7 Commissioners for moving 100 percent of our
8 meetings throughout the community in the evening
9 hours, we try to hold them in different locations
10 to make it convenient for members of the public to
11 come out to any of the meetings that they'd like
12 to come out to.

13 Anyone wishing to comment on the consent
14 agenda? One last call. Seeing none, I'll make a
15 motion to close the public comment period.

16 MS. ROSARIO: Motion made by Mayor
17 Stack.

18 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Second.

19 MS. ROSARIO: Second by Commissioner
20 Valdivia.

21 Commissioner Fernandez.

22 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

23 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

24 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

25 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

1 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

2 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

3 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

4 MS. ROSARIO: May I have a motion to
5 approve all items on the consent agenda?

6 MAYOR STACK: Motion.

7 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Motion.

8 MS. ROSARIO: Motion made by Mayor
9 Stack, second by Commissioner Valdivia.

10 Commissioner Fernandez.

11 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I abstain on
12 number 17, number 18, number 19 and number 23.
13 Otherwise yes.

14 MS. ROSARIO: Thank you, Commissioner
15 Fernandez.

16 Commissioner Grullon.

17 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

18 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

19 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

20 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

21 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

22

23 (Whereupon, the Board discussed and took
24 action on the following item:

25 **ORDINANCE FOR HEARING AND ADOPTION CONSIDERATION:**

1 1. ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTING AND AMENDING THE
2 REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF UNION
3 CITY, AMENDING THE RESTRICTED RESIDENTIAL PERMIT
4 PARKING PROGRAM.)

5
6 MS. ROSARIO: Next item is two
7 ordinances to be adopted today. The first
8 ordinance is ordinances supplementing and amending
9 the revised general ordinance of the City of Union
10 City amending the restricted residential permit
11 parking program.

12 MAYOR STACK: Anyone wishing to comment
13 on this ordinance at this time, please step
14 forward, state your name and address for the
15 record? This is on the residential permit parking
16 program. Seeing none, motion to close.

17 MS. ROSARIO: Motion made by Mayor
18 Stack.

19 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Second.

20 MS. ROSARIO: Second by Commissioner
21 Fernandez.

22 Commissioner Fernandez.

23 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

24 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

25 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

1 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

2 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

3 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

4 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

5 MS. ROSARIO: May I have a motion to
6 adopt?

7 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Motion.

8 MAYOR STACK: Second.

9 MS. ROSARIO: Motion made by
10 Commissioner Grullon, second by Mayor Stack.

11 Commissioner Fernandez.

12 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

13 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

14 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

15 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

16 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

17 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

18 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

19

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

22 **ORDINANCE FOR HEARING AND ADOPTION CONSIDERATION:**

23 2. ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTING AND AMENDING THE
24 REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF UNION
25 CITY, AMENDING THE PARKING METER ORDINANCE.)

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MS. ROSARIO: The second ordinance is the ordinance supplementing and amending the revised general ordinance of the City of Union City amending the parking meter ordinance.

Mayor, would you like to take public comment on this ordinance?

MAYOR STACK: Yes, absolutely. Anyone wishing to comment on this ordinance on amending the parking meter ordinance, please step forward, state your name and address for the record. Seeing none, I make a motion.

MS. ROSARIO: Motion made by Mayor Stack.

COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Second.

MS. ROSARIO: Second by Commissioner Valdivia.

Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

MAYOR STACK: Yes.

1 MS. ROSARIO: May I have a motion to
2 adopt?

3 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Motion.

4 MS. ROSARIO: Motion made by
5 Commissioner Valdivia. Second?

6 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Second.

7 MS. ROSARIO: By Commissioner Grullon.
8 Commissioner Fernandez.

9 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

10 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

11 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

12 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

13 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

14 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

15 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

16

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

18

19 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor, would you like to
20 take public comment on any --

21 MAYOR STACK: Sure. Anyone wishing to
22 any matter in the City of Union City, please step
23 forward. State your name and address for the
24 record. Fernando?

25 MR. PORTIS: Fernando Portis.

1 MAYOR STACK: Could you just stand
2 there, move a little closer, so we're able to get
3 it over here. Perfect, right there.

4 MR. PORTIS: May I address the board
5 now?

6 MAYOR STACK: Sure.

7 MR. PORTIS: Thank you, friends.
8 Fernando Portis from Troy Towers, 23 years living
9 in Union City. I only deal with one issue, I only
10 care about one issue in Union City, cats. I
11 couldn't care less about anything else. If you
12 don't mind since I haven't made or work with any
13 of you, let me run 30 seconds summary of my
14 experience with the cats in Union City. When I
15 started, The New York Times, the most prestigious
16 newspaper in the world, indicated that Hudson
17 County is the most corrupt place in the United
18 States. If anyone wants the article, I have it.
19 Please text me and I text it. So we have that
20 distinction. I don't mean to scare you or rub you
21 the wrong way, but if The New York Times says
22 something, they put their own lead say elected
23 official through Hudson County or dating back 100
24 years and they gave us this distinction.

25 So let me tell you a summary of the cat

1 program in Union City. When I started working and
2 I only remember -- I don't remember working with
3 anyone of you, but Mayor Stack, 2012, I just
4 decided to work with the cat issue. And at that
5 time, the Union City contract was held by Jeff
6 Santini and his shelter used to be, believe it or
7 not, but that's true, the shelter of Jeff Santini
8 used to be the basement of the 32nd Street clinic,
9 okay. As soon as I learned that, I said how could
10 anyone possibly allow this guy to have the
11 contract of Union City, plus four other town in
12 the basement of the 32nd Street clinic. The
13 state -- there was a local newspaper that
14 indicated that the state closed the bogus shelter
15 that he had there, that's strike number one.

16 Strike number two, when the state closed
17 the bogus shelter, he move to Cliffside Park.
18 Most of the citizens in Union City doesn't have
19 car to go to the Cliffside Park. And then when we
20 started putting pressure on that, he now has in
21 West New York. And then we started putting
22 pressure that whatever Union City gives to the
23 cat, he shouldn't be to a for-profit organization
24 from Jeff Santini. And when we starting putting
25 pressure on that, then he created a nonprofit,

1 okay.

2 Things were quiet for a while and we
3 prepare a report, we used the freedom of
4 information request. We know the contract with
5 Santini with Union City and the four towns, we
6 have a report showing he's likely corrupt
7 practices. Yeah, he already sued me for that
8 report. And thank God I have some protection
9 because my mortgage cover me for the lawyer and he
10 had to drop the lawsuit. So there is a report,
11 the documenting the likely corrupt practices of
12 this guy.

13 So that brings to the covering contract
14 that Union City has with the same -- who else --
15 Jeff Santini, that now has a new name called the
16 New Jersey Humane Society. All he has to do is
17 provide a fixing appointment to the hundreds of
18 Union City resident that needs to fix an
19 appointment. And I'm here to tell you that the
20 same way that this guy has been involved in
21 possibly corrupt activities -- and don't take my
22 word. If you have trouble falling sleep, our
23 report has 231 pages showing his contract. You
24 can read it and maybe that will knock you out and
25 put you to sleep.

1 So I'm here to tell you that I called
2 the New Jersey Humane Society to get fixing
3 appointment, they told me no, you have to wait
4 until May. Mr. Mendez from 16th Street, Mayor
5 Stack is the only one that know all this. She
6 called to get fixing appointment, they told him no
7 you have to wait until May. Mr. Lehr from 7th
8 Street called to get fixing appointment, they told
9 him no. Holly from 43rd Street called for
10 four months, four months took her to call to get
11 one fixing appointment and she finally got one
12 this week.

13 Juki from 43rd Street called -- he send
14 you an email, Mayor Stack. And bottom line, we
15 have seven humble Union City residents trying to
16 do very simple thing, could you give us a fixing
17 appointment to fix homeless feral cat that we have
18 in the street and we haven't gotten it. So I only
19 asking you to think and then I'm going to sit
20 down. I ask that Mayor Stack if you could please
21 use your good will and your power to give us -- I
22 don't know how many appointment the city has with
23 this guy, but we just need -- we place more cats
24 in home than any other cats rescue group. We feed
25 more than 70 colonies every night. And most of

1 them for Union City, we just need 10 to 15
2 appointments every month.

3 MAYOR STACK: Absolutely. Just if you
4 could just shoot me an email on it, Fernando, and
5 I'll work with you to make sure you get the
6 appointments.

7 MR. PORTIS: I'm going to tell you, it's
8 not for me, I'm going to tell you it's seven or
9 eight Union City residents that are --

10 MAYOR STACK: Whoever they are, as long
11 as they're cats that are being TNRed in Union
12 City, no problem.

13 MR. PORTIS: The only, the second --

14 MAYOR STACK: I respect what you're
15 trying to do for the animals, I love animals
16 myself. I agree with you.

17 MR. PORTIS: Perfect, thank you very
18 much. The last part, I just beg you to look at
19 this because I'm sure that you think on your own
20 two feet, you couldn't care less about what anyone
21 tell you. You have your own opinion. Look at the
22 history of this guy that we documented with the
23 report in our websites. Plus -- that's not the
24 same, NBC news reported that the FBI was
25 investigating him because in addition to receiving

1 \$310,000 from the four North Hudson towns and
2 having a bogus shelter in the basement of 32nd
3 Street clinic, at the same time, unknown to us NBC
4 news reported it, he had a no-show job, according
5 to NBC news as a director of security of the North
6 Bergen Housing Authority.

7 So he was getting \$310,000 from the four
8 town, we prove, plus maybe 70 or \$80,000 as a
9 no-show job according to NBC news as the director
10 of security of the North Hudson Housing Authority.
11 More than \$400,000 for what? For a basement in
12 the --

13 MR. AUTERI: Mr. Portis, you exceeded
14 the five minute time period.

15 MR. PORTIS: Thank you.

16 MAYOR STACK: Shoot me an email on it.
17 And I'll work together with you. So you can get
18 those appointments on a monthly basis.

19 MR. PORTIS: But the most important
20 part, I beg the five commissioners in the city to
21 call --

22 MAYOR STACK: I understand.

23 MR. PORTIS: -- the same problem he had
24 before. He's trying to make as much money as he
25 could.

1 MAYOR STACK: Thank you for taking time
2 out to come to the meeting. Anyone else wishing
3 to comment at this time on any matter concerning
4 municipal government in the City of Union City.

5 MR. ANONYMOUS: How about on a
6 resolution?

7 MAYOR STACK: You want to comment, sure.

8 MR. ANONYMOUS: How you doing? I'm not
9 a resident --

10 MAYOR STACK: Just if you can state your
11 name and address, that's all.

12 MR. ANONYMOUS: I'm here anonymously,
13 just a member of the public --

14 MAYOR STACK: Okay.

15 MR. ANONYMOUS: -- with some concerns.

16 MR. AUTERI: Go ahead, make your
17 comment. You can proceed, the floor is yours.

18 MR. ANONYMOUS: Thank you. My
19 question's for Commissioner Grullon. So over the
20 last several weeks, Truth Leroy has received
21 dozens of calls, emails and text messages from DPW
22 workers. He has personally interviewed employees
23 of DPW all stating the same complaints, unsanitary
24 work areas, unhealthy work environments, unsafe
25 equipment, and never received Covid pay.

1 My question -- so June 8th, 2023, a DPW
2 employee while working was struck by a car and
3 killed. December 25, 2023, a DPW worker was found
4 dead inside a DPW trailer, which had no heat.
5 July 3, 2019, a DPW truck loses control and slides
6 down an embankment causing traffic jams in the
7 tristate area. October 5, 2017, a teenager was
8 killed Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. when his bicycle
9 collided with a Union City garbage truck. He was
10 identified by school official Thursday as Sean
11 Lemus.

12 Commissioner Grullon, what steps have
13 you taken to improve work conditions for DPW
14 workers to ensure their safety and ensure the
15 safety of the general public?

16 MAYOR STACK: Sir, all questions come
17 through the chair. The City of Union City treats
18 our employees very well. We work very closely
19 with our employees.

20 MR. ANONYMOUS: Mayor Stack, my
21 apologies. My question --

22 MAYOR STACK: I'm answering as the
23 chair, I have that right.

24 MR. ANONYMOUS: Okay.

25 CHAIRMAN CONTE: Just like you have a

1 right here to -- if I didn't interrupt you, I
2 don't expect you to interrupt me, okay.

3 MR. ANONYMOUS: So under the --

4 MAYOR STACK: I was --

5 MR. ANONYMOUS: -- was directing --

6 MAYOR STACK: I understand but the
7 question comes through the chair. I know what
8 game is being played here and --

9 MR. ANONYMOUS: The commissioner of the
10 DPW.

11 MAYOR STACK: The question comes through
12 the chair. We work very closely with our
13 employees and we treat them well. That's our
14 response.

15 MR. ANONYMOUS: Okay.

16 MAYOR STACK: You could tell it to the
17 person that wrote those questions for you.

18 MR. ANONYMOUS: Commissioner Grullon,
19 when is the last time you spoke to any DPW
20 workers?

21 MAYOR STACK: Again, it's coming through
22 the chair.

23 MR. ANONYMOUS: So you're speaking --

24 MAYOR STACK: You can put all your
25 questions on the record.

1 MR. ANONYMOUS: Okay. You speak for
2 her?

3 MAYOR STACK: No. You can put all your
4 questions on the record --

5 MR. ANONYMOUS: Okay.

6 MAYOR STACK: -- Mr. Anonymous.

7 MR. ANONYMOUS: -- DPW workers are paid
8 \$14, \$15 per hour, why can't you pay them more?

9 MAYOR STACK: Thank you for your
10 question, sir.

11 MR. ANONYMOUS: No comment?

12 MAYOR STACK: Thank you for your
13 question.

14 MR. ANONYMOUS: Okay, all right. Thank
15 you.

16 MAYOR STACK: Thank you very much.
17 Thank you, Mr. Anonymous. Any other questions or
18 comments at this time?

19 MR. TRUTH: I am. Right, hello,
20 everybody. My name is Leroy Truth and I am an
21 investigative journalist and YouTube channel Leroy
22 Truth Investigations.

23 Mayor Stack -- I'm right here, Mayor
24 Stack, give some respect.

25 MAYOR STACK: Sir, don't tell me where

1 to look in this room.

2 MR. TRUTH: I'm going to tell you.

3 MR. AUTERI: Please have some decorum.

4 MAYOR STACK: You're not going to tell
5 me. Make the comments you want --

6 MR. TRUTH: I am talking and I am
7 talking directly to you now.

8 MAYOR STACK: I can look anywhere I want
9 in this room.

10 MR. TRUTH: You answered for Growan
11 (sic), so now I'm talking to you.

12 MAYOR STACK: I can look anywhere I want
13 in this room.

14 MR. TRUTH: Give respect.

15 MAYOR STACK: Okay. Sir, where do you
16 live?

17 MR. TRUTH: Mayor Stack, I'm talking to
18 you.

19 MAYOR STACK: Where do you live?

20 MR. TRUTH: Based on research --

21 MAYOR STACK: You live on Long Island.
22 Where do you live, sir?

23 MR. TRUTH: I don't have to my surrender
24 my Fourth Amendment right to speak at this public
25 meeting.

1 MAYOR STACK: You're welcome to speak.

2 MR. TRUTH: Stop interrupting me.

3 MAYOR STACK: I'm not interrupting you,
4 you're lecturing me --

5 MR. TRUTH: Mayor Stack, I'm --

6 MAYOR STACK: -- the record will reflect
7 that.

8 MR. TRUTH: I'm going to proceed with my
9 question now.

10 MAYOR STACK: You can, please.

11 MR. TRUTH: Mayor Stack, based on
12 research I conducted, 20 percent of Union City
13 residents live under the poverty level. The
14 median household income is in the area of \$40,000.
15 Clearly, a majority of Union City residents are
16 not wealthy and struggle to pay their bills and
17 place food on the table. Yet, you recently raised
18 your salary from \$16,500 to \$90,000. You stated
19 you work 24/7 and deserve the pay raise. When so
20 many people in Union City struggle, how do you
21 justify raising your salary -- and you're
22 laughing -- \$74,000? Union City DPW workers work
23 hard, don't they deserve a pay raise? My first
24 question.

25 MAYOR STACK: They get them every year.

1 MR. TRUTH: How much of a pay raise did
2 they receive?

3 MAYOR STACK: I don't remember.

4 MR. TRUTH: Who on the commission knows?

5 MAYOR STACK: We don't know.

6 MR. TRUTH: You're not in charge of
7 everything here, although I know you like to think
8 you are.

9 MR. AUTERI: Sir, have some decorum,
10 please.

11 MAYOR STACK: It's okay. The record
12 will reflect.

13 MR. TRUTH: Don't tell me how to speak
14 here.

15 MAYOR STACK: He's not telling you --

16 MR. TRUTH: Mayor Stack, can you explain
17 to the residents of Union City how you and your
18 Board of Commissioners and family members can hold
19 28 government jobs and positions totalling \$1.7
20 million in pay? And I will -- for the record,
21 I'll read each position and salary as well.

22 Now, Martinelli (sic) is not here. But,
23 Mayor Stack, you and Commissioner Martinelli are
24 both government employees and elected officials
25 governing a poor community. You stated you are

1 not a wealthy man, I've seen that at numerous
2 interviews. Since you have stated you are not a
3 wealthy man, can you explain to the taxpayers and
4 my viewers and subscribers how you own a home
5 under construction which is estimated to be worth
6 one million dollars. Commissioner Martinetti also
7 lives in a home estimated to be worth a million
8 dollars.

9 And to read in the record the salaries.
10 Brian Stack, of course, you know what you make as
11 mayor, now \$95,000, as senator \$45,000 --

12 MAYOR STACK: 49.

13 MR. TRUTH: Thank you for the new raise
14 apparently you gave yourself. And Mercedes
15 Joaquin, your girlfriend, she works for the Board
16 of Education -- you're shaking your head here --
17 she makes \$156,708 on the BOE, and as the Hudson
18 County aide to county commissioner, another
19 \$11,000. Oh, but wait, there's more, ladies and
20 gentlemen, Viviana Joaquin, she is the sister of
21 your girlfriend Mercedes Joaquin, she is on the
22 Board of Education make \$77,539. And she's also
23 on the Hudson County Board of Elections, making
24 45,000. So you, Mayor Stack, along with your
25 girlfriend and her sister total \$449,000.

1 Nepotism works really well here apparently. And
2 when you add the benefits, Stack and your
3 girlfriend, Martinetti, you all cost one million
4 dollars to taxpayers. How do you justify that?

5 MAYOR STACK: Thank you for your math,
6 sir.

7 MR. TRUTH: For my what?

8 MAYOR STACK: For your math.

9 MR. TRUTH: And you're being
10 condescending --

11 MAYOR STACK: Oh, no, I'm not.

12 MR. TRUTH: -- which is extremely
13 beneath --

14 MAYOR STACK: I'm not, sir.

15 MR. TRUTH: One last question is --

16 MAYOR STACK: Sir, I worry about the
17 residents from Union City think, not --

18 MR. TRUTH: One last question.

19 MAYOR STACK: -- a guy from Long Island
20 that's got a political agenda.

21 MR. TRUTH: Why did you retaliate
22 against Detective Haber, when he was so incredibly
23 respectful of my constitutional rights when I
24 first came to Union City?

25 MAYOR STACK: I have the utmost respect

1 for Detective Haber.

2 MR. TRUTH: So why did you remove him
3 from the records room in retaliation --

4 MAYOR STACK: Sir, you obviously don't
5 understand --

6 MR. TRUTH: -- and put him in a garbage
7 shift from four in midnight? Why did you do that?

8 MAYOR STACK: First of all, I don't
9 assign assignments in the police department --

10 MR. TRUTH: So who does, the chief?

11 MAYOR STACK: The chief of police.

12 MR. TRUTH: Did you investigate why --
13 which by the way, I do not believe. He is your
14 butt boy, from what I understand.

15 But from what I understand if that is
16 the case, you can laugh all you want, why have you
17 not investigated into that because Detective Haber
18 did exactly the right thing, he respected my
19 constitutional rights --

20 MAYOR STACK: Sir, he makes dozens of
21 transfers a year. I don't investigate -- the
22 chief is there to run the department. I do
23 policy, he runs day-to-day.

24 MR. TRUTH: That's not what I hear. By
25 the way, how much did Chief Facchini give you in

1 campaign contributions? Can you tell me that as
2 well?

3 MAYOR STACK: Thank you, sir.

4 MR. TRUTH: Can you tell me that? I
5 asked you a question, sir.

6 MS. ROSARIO: Sir, you've exceeded your
7 five minutes.

8 MR. TRUTH: But before I go, can you
9 answer --

10 MAYOR STACK: Anyone else wishing to
11 comment at this time?

12 MR. AUTERI: The board is not required
13 to respond.

14 MAYOR STACK: Anyone else.

15 MR. TRUTH: Are you afraid?

16 MAYOR STACK: Please step forward, step
17 right over there.

18 MR. TRUTH: See, he's afraid to answer
19 the question.

20 MAYOR STACK: Thank you, Mr. Long
21 Island. What about what they do in Long Island?
22 Go back to the municipality that's paying you,
23 maybe you can investigate them.

24 MR. TRUTH: I'm investigating you.

25 MR. AUTERI: Please state your name and

1 address for the record.

2 MAYOR STACK: You're disrupting them
3 meeting. Please.

4 MR. ABDELJABER: Thank you for allowing
5 me to speak, Commissioner and Mayor. There was a
6 resolution that was passed on December 28th that
7 involves the resolution of the Palestinian and
8 Israeli conflict calling for a humanitarian
9 ceasefire and immediate release of all hostages.
10 I know it -- I find this out last week because I
11 heard about it, so I came to the board meeting to
12 say most of the resolution, even though it's good
13 will, most of the information in there isn't
14 accurate and I think a little biased. I'm not
15 sure how it came about or who passed the
16 resolution or why, but I have a few points just to
17 say, just to be clear.

18 I've been in Union City. My name is
19 Basil Abdeljaber, 4500 Bergenline Avenue for over
20 30 years. We pay a lot of taxes and most of the
21 taxes go overseas. You know that, but I don't
22 want to get in that currently.

23 But in terms of the resolution itself,
24 there's resolution calls for a humane ceasefire,
25 it should call for a permanent ceasefire, okay.

1 That, I think, hope gets adjusted and changes in
2 the resolution. There's another resolution that
3 calls for the release of hostages, but it doesn't
4 call for the release of the Palestinian prisoners.
5 There's currently 10,000 Palestinian prisoners and
6 half of them haven't been convicted, it's just
7 detention under fear.

8 There's a resolution that calls to bring
9 justice for perpetrator that attack or the
10 massacre of October 7, but it doesn't bring to
11 justice about the 25,000, at that point, now it's
12 32,000 Palestinians, 70 percent of them are women
13 and children that were murdered or killed at that
14 point. So it just say about the 1,200 Israelis,
15 but no mention about the 32,000 -- thousand, not
16 hundreds, thousands of Palestinians that were
17 already murdered and it's still ongoing, still
18 ongoing. The statistics is every minute there's
19 two mothers that get killed, currently, every
20 minute, there's two mothers killed.

21 There's a resolution is a resolution
22 that call to condemn all terroristic acts, chapter
23 7, but it doesn't condemn the acts that Israeli is
24 doing, which is mass killing, genocide, the
25 Palestinian's population and the current genocide

1 going on. So I think the resolution has to be
2 amended or just changed. And I would like follow
3 back on who's actually going to work on it or get
4 back to me in terms of what actually to be changed
5 and if not, why not.

6 MAYOR STACK: I'm more than happy to
7 work with you, I spoke to Hamadi this morning at
8 7:00 this morning.

9 MR. ABDELJABER: I know, you're working
10 too much. And I appreciate everything you do.

11 MAYOR STACK: Thank you very much, we
12 spoke about it this morning and we'll work on
13 doing some amendments for our next meeting.

14 MR. ABDELJABER: Thank you, I appreciate
15 it.

16 MAYOR STACK: No problem at all.

17 Anyone else wishing to comment at this
18 time? Yes, ma'am.

19 MS. SAI: Thank you very much for
20 allowing me to speak. My name is Sai, I live in
21 Fort Lee, New Jersey. I'm here today -- first of
22 all, I want to thank you. I have emailed you
23 before, it's been the last year and a half that
24 I've -- you've done the greatest job as mayor in
25 fixing the sidewalks, compared to any other mayor

1 that I know of around the area. I believe there
2 was a Sunday afternoon and there was another time
3 that it was another Sunday afternoon, that I was
4 complaining about how Union City is not as clean
5 as it can be, how the garbages are all over the
6 roads, how the sidewalks aren't as good. And I
7 was surprised, you were the only mayor who called
8 sometime on Sundays and say, hey, I'm on it.
9 We're going to get it cleaned. And I go to
10 mosque, and I see that after a few months, really
11 truly, you had gotten the sidewalks fixed and I
12 was seeing the people getting more clean, there
13 were more DPW workers cleaning the area. So I
14 thank you for that.

15 Now tonight, I'm here because of the
16 Palestine conflict that we're having. I'm a
17 medical doctor in my country, I work as a
18 healthcare professional in United States. I'm an
19 American citizen, I have never been more ashamed
20 or embarrassed to be an American citizen as I am
21 right now with the politics and what's going on.
22 Our president is screwing Palestine. I mean he
23 can't even get to talk about a ceasefire. Please
24 intervene, we've heard that you guys are getting
25 invitations to go to Israeli to be groomed and get

1 propaganda, and how to standby the Israelians.

2 Now, we here are stripped of our human
3 rights, as you see, our roads are full of
4 potholes, our sidewalks are broken, our garbages
5 are fermenting because we have to -- we can't get
6 to pay enough the DPW workers, we can't get enough
7 money to, you know, fix the free libraries. In
8 our schools, we need five kids and one teacher.
9 Other rights that we need, we need law libraries,
10 we need paralegals to help us file for the court
11 papers and stuff like that. I have a page with
12 26 pages, I'll be honored if you take it with you
13 tonight.

14 MAYOR STACK: Sure.

15 MS. SAI: I'll leave it with you now. I
16 wanted to start a little bit with what's hurting
17 us and with my purpose being here is because I
18 want you, as our representative, TO talk to
19 protect Palestine because the truth of the matter
20 is that they're getting hurt so much. And we are
21 having a president that even though we go to
22 Washington, DC, we ask for so many things, we
23 message him, he doesn't care. I work in
24 healthcare, I can put diagnosis on him. He's a
25 schizomaniac. He has his -- his hands full of

1 blood, Palestinians and the other innocent people
2 around the world. I'm European, and in Europe,
3 we're kicking him out and we don't want him or
4 Netanyahu.

5 I make a big call to all the Jewish
6 population to stand up and empower the movement,
7 not in our name, you know, because this has
8 gone -- they're going too far. Now, please, stand
9 up for us. This is the truth on. Daily basis,
10 based upon what's going on in South Africa, the
11 courts are open and they're having this data.
12 Only Palestine, we're not talking about Yemen and
13 other countries in Sudan and all of that, 40
14 mothers a day are killed, 107 children per day are
15 killed. The UN calls it a war on children. Ten
16 children per day will have one or both legs
17 amputated, creating a generation of amputees. One
18 thousand children have had amputations with no
19 anesthesia. We have something in our finger, a
20 wound, and without anesthesia to have a complete
21 leg amputated, you know, that is -- you know, this
22 is beyond what you can think of.

23 Three medics are killed per day, they
24 are my friends because I work in healthcare. Two
25 teachers will be killed every hour, one UN worker,

1 one journalist are killed every day, 629 will be
2 wounded moving place to place. More than 7,000
3 are trapped under the rubble, dying in
4 excruciating pain. Nearly 30,000 deaths have been
5 recorded from verifiable sources. Israel is being
6 exposed in a way that has never been, whatever is
7 there, we have to join South Africa and, you know,
8 not only support them, but we also have to have
9 through our authorities, let alone, you will get
10 an invitation and go to Israel to get the
11 propaganda and support them.

12 Now there are like a lot of other things
13 here --

14 MAYOR STACK: If you want to leave me a
15 copy of that today?

16 MS. SAI: I will. This is your copy.

17 MAYOR STACK: And just leave your phone
18 number with it and I'll definitely --

19 MS. SAI: I'll write my name, my phone
20 number --

21 MAYOR STACK: I'll reach out for you
22 tomorrow.

23 MS. SAI: We need as human beings, and
24 I'm an advocate of human beings. As human beings,
25 we're nowhere near our rights. We need --

1 MAYOR STACK: I just want to explain, I
2 a mayor and I'm also obviously a state Senator.

3 MS. SAI: Just do the best you can.

4 MAYOR STACK: As a state senator --

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We need help from the
6 authorities.

7 MAYOR STACK: -- I'm on the state level,
8 I'm nota United States Senator, that would be
9 Senator Menendez and Senator Booker and
10 Congressmen, they would be more in the realm of
11 handling those international issues. We'll do
12 whatever we can to adopt a resolution, like we did
13 here, we're going to amend that resolution --

14 MS. SAI: Please.

15 MAYOR STACK: But on those issues more,
16 they need -- the federal representatives need --

17 MS. SAI: I can't believe in United
18 States, we have all the courts and everything and
19 we're asking -- are we discussing ceasefire? Yes,
20 it's going -- it must be a ceasefire. And on top
21 of it, free Palestine and the borders should be
22 the original borders, not the borders that they
23 want to scoop all over. Thank you. Please, do
24 the best you can.

25 MAYOR STACK: Please don't forget --

1 MS. SAI: I'll write my name and number.

2 MAYOR STACK: Exactly, thank you.

3 MS. SAI: This is yours.

4 MAYOR STACK: Anyone else wishing to
5 comment at this time? Ma'am, would you like to
6 comment? If you could state your name and address
7 for the record.

8 MS. HASSAN: Layla Hassan, I live at 109
9 19th Street, Union City, you know that. You know
10 we support you 100 percent.

11 MAYOR STACK: Thank you very much.

12 MS. HASSAN: There's not one complaint I
13 have about Union City. But we need you to --

14 MAYOR STACK: Thank you.

15 MS. HASSAN: -- our voice and please ask
16 for a ceasefire, a forever ceasefire.

17 MAYOR STACK: Absolutely.

18 MS. HASSAN: I know you know Robert
19 Menendez. As a matter of fact, he was asking
20 about me last week, asking about my health and how
21 I feel about what's going on. The audacity is
22 they fill their pockets with Israeli money. And
23 before they get to you, we need you to stand up
24 and wake them up, okay. We have a right to live
25 in our own home, I was taken off the airplane in

1 Newark, what could I possibly do to hurt Israel?
2 I was taken off the airplane, not allowed to go to
3 my homeland where my father is buried, where my
4 great, great, great ancestors came from there. We
5 need you to wake up. We need you to educate
6 yourself and educate others. I'll be following
7 the resolution.

8 MAYOR STACK: Absolutely.

9 MS. HASSAN: You know I have a lot of
10 followers.

11 MAYOR STACK: Absolutely.

12 MS. HASSAN: You know when it come to
13 voting time, we do make a difference.

14 MAYOR STACK: Absolutely.

15 MS. HASSAN: Thank you is very much.

16 MAYOR STACK: No problem. Anyone else
17 wishing to comment? Yes, ma'am.

18 MS. SANCHEZ: I hope I have at least
19 five minutes.

20 MAYOR STACK: If you could state your
21 name and address for the record?

22 MS. SANCHEZ: Rochelle Sanchez, 120 32nd
23 Street. Before we talk about the particulars of
24 the resolution --

25 MAYOR STACK: Just if you could just

1 keep your voice up, there's an air condition and
2 heating unit that's loud.

3 MS. SANCHEZ: I'd like to talk about --
4 I'd like to talk about the fact that Israel is
5 under indictment for the crime of genocide in the
6 highest court in the United Nations. All the
7 wording of any resolution should emanate from that
8 perspective. As lawyers of the ICG trial
9 mentioned, genocide is the highest crime of all
10 and no mention of other factors has anything to do
11 with the trial of that crime. Genocide may not be
12 used as revenge or as means of dominating an area
13 or obtaining land or for any other reason. It is
14 simply the biggest violation of international law.
15 Laws that were created to prevent another World
16 War 2 holocaust, to which Israeli is a signatory.

17 There are two parts to genocide.
18 There's a mental element and a physical element.
19 As for the mental element, it's usually hard to
20 prove, but in Israel's case, they have proudly
21 publicized their genocidal intentions. And here
22 are just a few samples. "There will be no
23 electricity, food or fuel, we're fighting human
24 animals and we'll act accordingly", Yoav Gallant,
25 Israeli minister of defense.

1 "The only thing that needs to enter Gaza
2 are hundreds of tons of explosives from the Air
3 Force, not an ounce of humanitarian aid", and
4 that's Itamar Ben-Gvir, Netanyahu's sidekick and
5 the head of national security.

6 "Emphasis is on damage, not accuracy",
7 Daniel Hagari, IDF spokesperson.

8 "The children of Gaza have brought this
9 on themselves", Meirav Ben-Ari, who is minister of
10 energy.

11 "Today it's clear that all Gaza must be
12 destroyed", and that --

13 MR. AUTERI: Excuse me, Miss, sorry to
14 interrupt. I just -- we have a stenographer here
15 tonight, can you just slow down?

16 MS. SANCHEZ: Oh, it's -- I can send you
17 a copy.

18 So anyway, the Likud party, which is the
19 liberal party.

20 "We'll turn them into rubble. I'm
21 telling the people of Gaza, get out now because
22 we're about to act everywhere, all of our boards,
23 we will turn Gaza into a desert island", that's
24 Benjamin Netanyahu. There are posters around
25 Israel stating victory is zero residents in Gaza.

1 There was a headline posted in December
2 from The Times of Israel, hip hop war anthem
3 reaches number one in reaches. The lyrics call
4 for genocide of Palestinians, calling them rats --

5 MR. AUTERI: You've reached --

6 MS. SANCHEZ: -- also there are calls to
7 kill Bella Hadid, Dua Lipa, and Mia Khalifa who
8 all live in the United States.

9 The physical element, first, killing
10 members of the group, almost 30,000 killed, the
11 majority of them men and women. Those are what is
12 known. There are thousands more under the rubble
13 who will probably never be dug out.

14 Causing serious bodily or mental harm to
15 members, where do we begin with that? Here's some
16 description, brief description of a recent
17 massacre and there are many more. This is
18 testimony from Indonesian Hospital. I'm quoting a
19 survivor who is a volunteer medical worker there.
20 At least 700 patients and thousands of displaced
21 people were in Indonesia Hospital and its
22 environs. They used all kinds of torture. Two
23 wounded patients were hung in front of the other
24 patients and displaced people. They beat the
25 doctors, male and female. And when people died,

1 they were not allowed to remove the bodies. Two
2 people were shot trying to get the bodies outside
3 of the hospital. There was constant bombardment
4 day and night for four days. They had three days
5 to evacuate, all the while they were shooting at
6 them. And some were not able to evacuate because
7 of the heavy fire and the conditions were too
8 severe to be able to move. The number of snipers
9 were incredible. Many of the patients -- many of
10 them were children, over a dozen healthcare
11 workers are still missing. And a similar massacre
12 is happening as we speak at Nassar Hospital in
13 northern Gaza. The statistic was reported a few
14 weeks ago about kidnapped health workers,
15 kidnapped one internist at Indonesian hospital,
16 they kidnapped the head of Ganunas paramedic unit,
17 one dentist, one emergency care resident, head of
18 emergency medicine at Al Shiva, director general
19 of Al Shiva, head of surgery at Indonesian
20 Hospital, head of the orthopedic unit at
21 Indonesian Hospital, consulting vascular surgeon
22 at Indonesian Hospital, and two GPs from
23 Indonesian Hospital.

24 Israel has targeted over 150 healthcare
25 facilities. By targeting healthcare facilities

1 and the people that run them, Israel is ensuring
2 that the critical aspect of life under assault is
3 destroyed. Also --

4 MR. AUTERI: Miss, unfortunately, you've
5 exceeded your five minute time.

6 MAYOR STACK: If you want to send me
7 maybe a copy of that, you can send it to my email.

8 MS. SANCHEZ: Can I have two more
9 minutes?

10 MR. AUTERI: Unfortunately, in order to
11 be fair to everyone, we have to cut it off.

12 MAYOR STACK: If you can, if you could
13 email that to me? IF you can email it to me, I'll
14 give you my email.

15 MS. SANCHEZ: Thank you, I'm sorry.

16 MAYOR STACK: Anyone else wishing to
17 comment at this time? Yes, ma'am. Please state
18 your name and address for the record.

19 MS. ARRUDA: Maya Arruda, 39 Columbia
20 Terrace, so I'm right on the line.

21 MAYOR STACK: If you possibly can, just
22 move closer? It's just a heating unit that's
23 going --

24 MS. ARRUDA: Can you hear me if I talk
25 louder? Is this okay?

1 MAYOR STACK: Sure.

2 MS. ARRUDA: So I recently moved in with
3 a relative here, so my first time here, so I'm a
4 little nervous. I just wanted to add my support
5 to the folks who were suggesting amendments to the
6 ceasefire resolution. Just to frame what I'm
7 going to say, I think it's really great that
8 you're considering a ceasefire resolution or maybe
9 have already passed some language. I think most
10 important is the state officials and our federal
11 officials see how many towns across the United
12 States support a ceasefire, to put that political
13 pressure. So I think local governments do have
14 that role to play.

15 But I would suggest some amendments and
16 I will also follow-up with an email. So I think
17 first, like the gentleman earlier was saying,
18 making clear it's a ceasefire, not a humanitarian
19 pause is very key. Also for context what I'm
20 saying, I'm Jewish, my family is Israeli, that's
21 why I'm here, you know, speaking on this.

22 One of the quotes in the resolution sort
23 of confuses humanitarian pause and ceasefire.
24 Really we're looking for a ceasefire, an
25 indefinite ceasefire, from which a more permanent

1 political solution can be brought. And pauses,
2 like the last one, are really not sufficient
3 because there should never be a pause on the
4 atrocities then we go back to them.

5 The second thing is I agree also with
6 the need for proportionate remarks. So of course,
7 I appreciate the empathy about October 7th, but at
8 this point, at least 25,000 Palestinians have been
9 killed in Gaza. We know that the majority of
10 them, vast majority of them, are civilians. And
11 we are seeing just a series of war crimes and
12 massacres on a daily basis, from the cutting off
13 of food and water, to electricity, to massive
14 health crises. And, you know, I think you guys
15 know from your constituents what people are
16 experiencing. And I think the resolution could
17 more reflect that balance. You know, going into
18 detail about that a bit more as, you know, detail
19 is gone into about October 7th.

20 I agree again with the gentleman's
21 pointing out of support for an everyone hostage
22 exchange. I appreciate the spotlight on the
23 hostages and also the Palestinian prisoners need
24 to be a part of that. Everyone for everyone is a
25 slogan coming out of the Israeli hostage families,

1 where we really need to have freedom for everyone
2 to move to the next stage. And like someone said,
3 the majority of Palestinians, thousands and
4 thousands of whom have been arrested since
5 October 7th, are not held with charge or trial.
6 It's arbitrary detention. We're seeing some
7 pretty horrific testimonies coming out of what
8 that detention looks like for the hostages and
9 those prisoners.

10 I think fair fame to mention the ICJ
11 case, I understand not wanting to determine before
12 they determine, but you can say, while the ICJ is
13 considering this case, this accusation of genocide
14 has been levied, and you see that as you're
15 quoting other organizations.

16 Finally, last two points. I really
17 think that there can be some bold pressure in
18 terms of those lasting solutions, mentioning that
19 there needs to be a ceasefire, building towards
20 political solutions that end occupation. Because
21 while we're focused on a ceasefire in Gaza,
22 there's been a massive crackdown on Palestinian
23 communities in West Bank. And what I really see
24 as an excuse for an authoritarian government,
25 Israeli government, to take advantage of this

1 tragedy in order to expand settlements in the West
2 Bank to ethnically cleanse Palestinians there and
3 to increase repression there. And the U.S. has
4 basically been writing a blank check. And we are
5 their greatest ally. We have a lot of leverage
6 over them in a unique way. And so we do have a
7 responsibility there to speak out against this
8 authoritarianism. And for that reason, I don't
9 think we should give the flowers to Biden and our
10 federal officials before there actually is a
11 ceasefire. I think we need to be putting as much
12 pressure as possible on them, not just to talk the
13 talk about humanitarian crises, but to really walk
14 the walk and exert our influence as much as
15 possible. As I know we are in other allies --
16 Qatar, for example. We need to exert that on
17 Israel with our tax dollars. And I think the
18 local government has a big role to play.

19 The last thing I will say is thank you
20 for considering the ceasefire. And I just wanted
21 to share that sort of on a daily basis since
22 October 7th, for those of us who have family
23 there, I'm sure the woman who was speaking before,
24 it's a very personal horror every day. And every
25 day, you see something just that's horrific in a

1 way you never could have even imagined.

2 So I know it may seem like this is
3 happening in another part of the world, but I
4 actually think that we should be paying more
5 attention always to American foreign policy
6 because it is local. Like a lot of us are
7 immigrants, our families come from other places
8 and U.S. policy influences those places, not just
9 our family members who are still there, but maybe
10 why our families came here in the first place. So
11 the policies are very intertwined. And I'm
12 speaking on this issue because of that personal
13 connection to my ancestral cousins, the
14 Palestinian people, in the hope of an equal, just
15 future. But we can do that with more places too,
16 in the future, as your constituents come out and
17 call attention to foreign policy decisions made in
18 those federal --

19 MAYOR STACK: Thank you very much.
20 Thank you for your comments, I appreciate it.
21 Anyone else wishing to comment at this time?
22 Sure. Please step forward, please state your name
23 and address.

24 MS. HASSAN: Hi, my name is Jamana
25 Hassan, I live on 109 19th Street. I don't do

1 this, I don't public speak, so I'm a little
2 nervous. I just want to remind the Americans of
3 our First Amendment and -- I'm sorry -- the right
4 to, you know, speak your mind, you know.

5 MAYOR STACK: Sure.

6 MS. HASSAN: Free speech. But we are --
7 so we are stripped of that right because if you
8 state your opinion on social media or anything,
9 you get fired. What happens when you get fired?
10 You could become homeless, you know, it's
11 horrible. But us, as Americans, we have to
12 remember our rights as Americans. You know, I was
13 born and raised here. But like if I had a job in
14 corporate America, I would get immediately fired
15 and that's not right, it's not right at all that
16 we can't speak our mind.

17 So I mean I know you don't have a lot of
18 power to do ceasefires and stuff or anything like
19 that, but I think you have the power to remind
20 everyone that we have the right to freedom of
21 speech.

22 MAYOR STACK: Absolutely. And I believe
23 in that. When I read in the newspaper about --
24 and I don't remember the woman's name, forgive
25 me -- about the woman being fired that she worked

1 at an office. And it came out on NJ.com sometime
2 ago. I immediately reached out for people at the
3 mosque and I asked them to please get me that
4 woman's name, I would help her with a job.
5 Because nobody should be stymied from their right
6 to free speech. And believe me when I tell you --
7 and I've had conversations, I won't say who it was
8 directly at the mosque -- but I've spoken to the
9 mosque on many occasions. I've had a wonderful
10 relationship with them, long before I became the
11 mayor of Union City. The mosque was one of the
12 few places in the City when there was a fire or a
13 tragedy in the City and we were helping the fire
14 victims that opened the mosque to the fire
15 victims.

16 Having said that, I sympathize a million
17 percent what's going on. I mean I think it's
18 terrible to see innocent civilians and women and
19 children and men being killed, it's horrible. I
20 just feel it's a sad day, it really is. What I
21 would like to say is anyway we could be of
22 assistance -- we'll work together on the
23 resolution and we'll do our best to find common
24 ground on the resolution.

25 Anyone else wishing to comment at this

1 time?

2 MR. JABBAR: You want me to go over
3 there?

4 MAYOR STACK: If you could please, it
5 would be easier.

6 MR. JABBAR: Yeah.

7 MAYOR STACK: Come right on the side.
8 If you could keep your voice up.

9 MR. JABBAR: My name is Al Jabbar, I'm a
10 congregant of NHIEC, born and raised here in the
11 United States. We like to be Americans first.
12 Foreign policy is obviously very important. First
13 and foremost, I want to thank the council for
14 creating and putting a resolution forward. I
15 think it is important that we're able to impact
16 our national politics on a local level, that
17 starts with us getting together, like we got
18 together tonight, speaking our mind, talking about
19 what our community's talking about, what they're
20 worried about.

21 And as I was reviewing the resolution, I
22 did find that although it did speak to a lot of
23 powerful statements and bullet points, it does
24 miss on a couple of key points, right. Our
25 community right now, you know, not to take away

1 from any other communities' pains, but we do like
2 to differentiate the level of pain that we go
3 through versus some other groups. And when I say
4 that, again it's not to take away from other
5 communities' and groups' pain, but it is to
6 highlight a little bit about, you know, what the
7 previous citizens said earlier. When we speak up
8 there's an enormous amount of backlash. When we
9 bring attention to something, we're minimized,
10 we're dehumanized. It's not fair to try to equate
11 and be politically correct in a time where we need
12 real leadership to stand up and stand for the
13 rights that, you know, great Americans in the past
14 fought for. It's not a time to be afraid. It's a
15 time to say we're going to hold onto our
16 democratic values to make sure that when we see
17 something as atrocious as, you know, civilians
18 being killed, you know, over 10,000 children being
19 killed -- I mean that's not -- that's not
20 something anybody in their lifetime should ever
21 have to witness, especially in the modern era. It
22 averages to about 100 kids a day.

23 So, you know, although everybody wants
24 to tout the typical rhetoric of self-defense,
25 self-defense should have a limit. And I think the

1 limit should be taking utmost care to civilians.

2 MAYOR STACK: I agree.

3 MR. JABBAR: And not demonizing one
4 specific group to wash away the other group's
5 atrocities as well. Thank you.

6 MAYOR STACK: Thank you very much. Well
7 said. Thank you very much. Anyone else wishing
8 to comment at this time? And just -- I know that
9 you came to the meeting tonight, if there's a time
10 ever that anyone ever needs me, everybody's got my
11 cell phone number, I give it out. Call me on my
12 cell, I'll call you back. I get a lot of calls
13 every day myself, just give me a day or two to get
14 back to you. Or if you need to meet with me any
15 time whatsoever.

16 Anyone else wishing to comment?

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can I have your
18 information? I know -- I believe I have your
19 email, but can I have --

20 MAYOR STACK: I'll make sure it's given
21 to you before we leave.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.

23 MS. ROSARIO: May I have a motion to
24 adjourn this meeting?

25 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Motion.

1 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Second.

2 MS. ROSARIO: All in favor?

3

4 (All Board Members indicate in the
5 affirmative.)

6

7 MAYOR STACK: Thank you for attending
8 the meeting this evening.

9

10 (Whereupon the meeting was adjourned at
11 7:51 p.m.)

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Brian P. Stack

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Lucio P. Fernandez

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Celin J. Valdivia

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Wendy A. Grullon

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Board of Commissioners

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Attest:

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Angelo Auteri, Esq.,

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Corporation Counsel

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the testimony and proceedings as taken stenographically by me at the time, place, and on the date hereinbefore set forth.

SUSAN BISCHOFF, CCR, RPR
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