

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

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

JOSE MARTI STEM ACADEMY
1800 Summit Avenue
Union City, New Jersey

Tuesday, July 16, 2024
Commencing at 7:01 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:

SCARINCI HOLLENBECK
BY: ANGELO AUTERI, ESQ.
Corporation Counsel

RAMON GONZALEZ, ESQ.
Attorney for the Union City
Alcohol Beverage Control Commission

HILDA ROSARIO, City Clerk

SUSAN BISCHOFF CCR CO.
449 Columbia Blvd., Wood-Ridge, NJ 07075
201-390-0583 SBischoffccr@yahoo.com

A P P E A R A N C E S:

SAMUEL "SKIP" REALE, JR., ESQ.
Attorney for Crave 43, LLC

IVAN PANEQUE, ESQ.
Attorney for Ceviche Time, LLC

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

3
4 (Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was
5 recited.)

6
7 MS. ROSARIO: This is a regular public
8 meeting of the Union City Board of Commissioners
9 being held on Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.
10 at the Jose Marti STEM Academy School, 1800 Summit
11 Avenue in Union City.

12 This meeting has been called in
13 accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act.
14 Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided
15 as follows: Was forwarded to The Jersey Journal
16 and The Record, has been posted on the bulletin
17 board in City Hall, and has been made available to
18 the public in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

19

20 **ROLL CALL:**

21 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Fernandez.

22 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Here.

23 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

24 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Here.

25 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

1 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Here.

2 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti.

3 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Here.

4 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

5 MAYOR STACK: Here.

6

7 **PRESENTATION:**

8 1. Union City High School Unified Club
9 State Champion Unified Track Team

10

11 MS. ROSARIO: The first item on the
12 agenda, we have one presentation. Commissioner
13 Fernandez.

14 (Presentation to the Unified Team by
15 Commissioner Fernandez.)

16

17 (Whereupon, the Board discussed and took
18 action on the following item:

19 **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES)**

20

21 MS. ROSARIO: So the next item on the
22 agenda is approving the meeting minutes for the
23 June 28, 2024, Board of Commissioners meeting.

24 May I have a motion to approve?

25 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Motion.

1 MS. ROSARIO: Motion by Commissioner
2 Valdivia.

3 MAYOR STACK: Second.

4 MS. ROSARIO: Second by Mayor Stack.
5 Commissioner Fernandez.

6 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

7 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

8 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

9 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

10 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

11 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti.

12 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

13 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

14 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

15

16 (Whereupon, the Board discussed and took
17 action on the following item:

18 **ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION:**

19 1. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF UNION
20 CITY, COUNTY OF HUDSON, NEW JERSEY, AMENDING BOND
21 ORDINANCE 2018-36 OF THE CITY OF UNION CITY.)

22

23 MS. ROSARIO: There are four ordinances
24 for introduction. Adoption on first reading
25 authorizes the Municipal Clerk to advertise the

1 ordinance with a notice of the introduction,
2 together with a notice of the time and place when
3 the ordinance will be considered for the final
4 passage. The ordinance will be further considered
5 at a meeting of the Board of Commissioners to be
6 held on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, at the Robert
7 Waters School, 2800 Summit Avenue, Union City, at
8 7:00 p.m.

9 The first ordinance is an ordinance of
10 the City of Union City, County of Hudson, New
11 Jersey, amending bond ordinance 2018-36 of the
12 City of Union City.

13 May I have a motion to introduce?

14 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Motion.

15 MS. ROSARIO: Motion made by
16 Commissioner Martinetti.

17 MAYOR STACK: Second.

18 MS. ROSARIO: Second by Mayor Stack.
19 Commissioner Fernandez.

20 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

21 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

22 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

23 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

24 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

25 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti.

1 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

2 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

3 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

4

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

7 **ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION:**

8 2. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF UNION
9 CITY, COUNTY OF HUDSON, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING
10 THE SUM OF \$135,000 IN FUNDING FROM THE CAPITAL
11 IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE COMPLETION OF VARIOUS
12 IMPROVEMENTS TO CITY PARKING LOTS.)

13

14 MS. ROSARIO: The second ordinance is an
15 ordinance of the City of Union City, County of
16 Hudson, New Jersey, appropriating the sum of
17 \$135,000 in funding from the capital improvement
18 fund for the completion of various improvements to
19 city parking lots.

20 May I have a motion to introduce?

21 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Motion.

22 MS. ROSARIO: Motion made by
23 Commissioner Valdivia.

24 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Second.

25 MS. ROSARIO: Second by Commissioner

1 Fernandez.

2 Commissioner Fernandez.

3 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

4 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

5 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

6 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

7 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

8 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti.

9 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

10 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

11 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

12

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

15 **ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION:**

16 3. ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 359
17 ENTITLED "SOLID WASTE" TO ESTABLISH VENDOR
18 COLLECTION HOURS FOR THE REMOVAL OF GARBAGE AND
19 RECYCLABLE MATERIALS THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF UNION
20 CITY.)

21

22 MS. ROSARIO: The third ordinance is an
23 ordinance amending Chapter 359 entitled "Solid
24 Waste" to establish vendor collection hours for
25 the removal of garbage and recyclable materials

1 throughout the City of Union City.

2 May I have a motion to introduce?

3 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Motion.

4 MS. ROSARIO: Motion made by
5 Commissioner Grullon.

6 MAYOR STACK: Second.

7 MS. ROSARIO: Second by Mayor Stack.
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: Commissioner Martinetti.

15 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

16 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

17 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

18

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

21 **ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION:**

22 4. ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 4,
23 ARTICLE XIII, SECTION 65, TO UPDATE THE TABLE OF
24 ORGANIZATION FOR THE UNION CITY POLICE
25 DEPARTMENT.)

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MS. ROSARIO: The fourth ordinance is ordinance amending Chapter 4, Article XIII, Section 65, to update the table of organization for the Union City Police Department.

May I have a motion to introduce?

MAYOR STACK: Motion.

MS. ROSARIO: Motion made by Mayor Stack.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Second.

MS. ROSARIO: Second by Commissioner Fernandez.

Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti.

COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

MAYOR STACK: Yes.

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

(1) Resolution Approving the Payment of Claims.

(2) Resolution Approving the Payment of
Concurring Claims.

(3) Resolution Approving the City Payroll From
June 1, 2024, Through June 14, 2024.

(4) Resolution Approving the Library Payroll
June 1, 2024, Through June 14, 2024.

(5) Resolution Cancelling Overbills on Third
Quarter Taxes.

(6) Resolution Cancelling Taxes on New
Condominium Buildings.

(7) Resolution Cancelling Taxes on Property
Deemed Exempt.

(8) Refund of Premium Monies Collected At the
Tax Sale.

(9) Resolution Cancelling the Cell Tower Bill.

(10) Resolution Authorizing the Refund of
Duplicate Payment.

(11) Resolution Authorizing Refund of Redemption
Monies to Outside Lienholders.

(12) Resolution Cancelling Taxes on Property
Deemed Exempt For 100 Percent Disabled Veteran.

(13) Resolution Authorizing the Tax Collector to
Hold an Accelerated Tax Sale.

1 (14) Resolution Approving the Board of
2 Commissioners Schedule.

3 (15) Resolution Amending the FY2024 Budget For
4 the Community Development Block Grant Program.

5 (16) Resolution Authorizing the City of Union
6 City Annual Audit Report For the Transitional Year
7 Ending December 31, 2023.

8 (17) Resolution Approving and Accepting
9 Transitional Year 2023 Corrective Action Plan.

10 (18) Resolution Approving the Affidavit and
11 Certification of Audit.

12 (19) Resolution Authorizing Contracts With
13 Certain Approved State Contractor Vendors For
14 Contracting Units Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12A.

15 (20) Resolution Authorizing Contract For Safety
16 Surface Improvements At Recreational Parks Project
17 2024.

18 (21) Resolution Authorizing Contract For the City
19 of Union City 2024 Tree Trimming Program At
20 Various Locations.

21 (22) Resolution Authorizing the Use of
22 Competitive Contracting For Police Consultant
23 Services For 2024.

24 (23) Resolution Authorizing the Agreement Between
25 the City and ImageTrend, Inc., For EMS Software

1 and Services.

2 (24) Resolution Amending Contract For Special
3 Counsel Services With Chasan, Lamparello, Mallon
4 and Cappuzzo, PC For 2024.

5 (25) Resolution Authorizing One-Year Extension to
6 Contract For Solid Waste and Recyclable Material
7 Collection and Disposal For 2024 and 2025.

8 (26) Resolution Authorizing One-Year Extension to
9 the Shared Services Agreement Between the City of
10 Union City and the Union City Board of Education
11 For the Provision of Solid Waste Collection and
12 Disposal Services For 2024 Through 2025.

13 (27) Resolution Authorizing Contract With Lopez
14 Noris, LLC, For Substitute Public Defender
15 Services For 2024.

16 (28) Resolution Authorizing Payment to Gotthold
17 Contractors, LLC, For Emergency Sinkhole Repairs
18 At 4105 Palisade Avenue.

19 (29) Resolution Authorizing Contract With Micro
20 Pave Systems, Inc., For 2024 Pothole Repair
21 Sealing Project.

22 (30) Resolution of the Board of Commissioners For
23 the City of Union City Approving the 2024-2025
24 Renewal of Liquor License No. 0910-43-203-005
25 Issued to Shriji 11, LLC, (T/a La Esperanza

1 Grocery Store).

2 (31) Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of
3 the City of Union City Approving the 2024-2025
4 Renewal of Liquor License No. 0910-33-030-015
5 Issued to Maria Mentiras Bar & Grill, LLC, (T/a
6 Maria Mentiras Bar & Grill).

7 (32) Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of
8 the City of Union City Approving the 2024-2025
9 Renewal of Liquor License No. 0910-33-050-006
10 Issued to Israel Rodriguez.

11 (33) Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of
12 the City of Union City Approving the 2024-2025
13 Renewal of Liquor License No. 0910-33-063-008
14 Issued to El Conuco Restaurant, Inc., (T/a El
15 Conuco Restaurant).

16 (34) Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of
17 the City of Union City Approving the 2024-2025
18 Renewal of Liquor License No. 0910-33-075-010
19 Issued to El Chapin Corp., (T/a El Cuscatleco Bar
20 & Restaurant).

21 (35) Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of
22 the City of Union City Approving the 2024-2025
23 Renewal of Liquor License No. 0910-33-114-006
24 Issued to Don Luis Restaurant Corp., (T/a La
25 Churreria).

1 (36) Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of
2 the City of Union City Approving the 2024-2025
3 Renewal of Liquor License No. 0910-33-188-005
4 Issued to Manhattan Bar & Grill Restaurant, Inc.,
5 (T/a Manhattan Bar & Grill Restaurant).

6 (37) Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of
7 the City of Union City Approving the 2024-2025
8 Renewal of Liquor License No. 0910-33-208-011
9 Issued to El Cobre Lounge, LLC.

10 (38) Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of
11 the City of Union City Approving the 2024-2025
12 Renewal of Liquor License No. 0910-44-070-005
13 Issued to Jay Mataji, Inc., (T/a Powers Liquors).

14 (39) Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of
15 the City of Union City Approving the 2024-2025
16 Renewal of Liquor License No. 0910-44-121-011
17 Issued to Pramukh Swami Krupa, Inc., (T/a Payano
18 Wines & Spirits)

19 (40) Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of
20 the City of Union City Approving the 2024-2025
21 Renewal of Liquor License No. 0910-44-132-009
22 Issued to Ganesh Swami, Inc., (T/a Union Liquors).

23 (41) Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of
24 the City of Union City Approving the 2024-2025
25 Renewal of Liquor License No. 0910-33-050-006

1 Issued to Israel Rodriguez.)

2

3 MS. ROSARIO: There are 41 items on the
4 consent agenda.

5 One, Resolution Approving the Payment of
6 Claims.

7 Two, Resolution Approving the Payment of
8 Concurring Claims.

9 Three, Resolution Approving the City
10 Payroll From June 1, 2024, Through June 14, 2024.

11 Four, Resolution Approving the Library
12 Payroll June 1, 2024, Through June 14, 2024.

13 Five, Resolution Cancelling Overbills on
14 Third Quarter Taxes.

15 Six, Resolution Cancelling Taxes on New
16 Condominium Buildings.

17 Seven, Resolution Cancelling Taxes on
18 Property Deemed Exempt.

19 Eight, Refund of Premium Monies
20 Collected At the Tax Sale.

21 Nine, Resolution Cancelling the Cell
22 Tower Bill.

23 Ten, Resolution Authorizing the Refund
24 of Duplicate Payment.

25 Eleven, Resolution Authorizing Refund of

1 Redemption Monies to Outside Lienholders.

2 Twelve, Resolution Cancelling Taxes on
3 Property Deemed Exempt For 100 Percent Disabled
4 Veteran.

5 Thirteen, Resolution Authorizing the Tax
6 Collector to Hold an Accelerated Tax Sale.

7 Fourteen, Resolution Approving the Board
8 of Commissioners Schedule.

9 Fifteen, Resolution Amending the FY2024
10 Budget For the Community Development Block Grant
11 Program.

12 Sixteen, Resolution Authorizing the City
13 of Union City Annual Audit Report For the
14 Transitional Year Ending December 31, 2023.

15 Seventeen, Resolution Approving and
16 Accepting Transitional Year 2023 Corrective Action
17 Plan.

18 Eighteen, Resolution Approving the
19 Affidavit and Certification of Audit.

20 Nineteen, Resolution Authorizing
21 Contracts With Certain Approved State Contractor
22 Vendors For Contracting Units Pursuant to N.J.S.A.
23 40A:11-12A.

24 Twenty, Resolution Authorizing Contract
25 For Safety Surface Improvements At Recreational

1 Parks Project 2024.

2 Twenty-One, Resolution Authorizing
3 Contract For the City of Union City 2024 Tree
4 Trimming Program At Various Locations.

5 Twenty-Two, Resolution Authorizing the
6 Use of Competitive Contracting For Police
7 Consultant Services For 2024.

8 Twenty-Three, Resolution Authorizing the
9 Agreement Between the City and ImageTrend, Inc.,
10 For EMS Software and Services.

11 Twenty-Four, Resolution Amending
12 Contract For Special Counsel Services With Chasan,
13 Lamparello, Mallon and Cappuzzo, PC For 2024.

14 Twenty-Five, Resolution Authorizing
15 One-Year Extension to Contract For Solid Waste and
16 Recyclable Material Collection and Disposal For
17 2024 and 2025.

18 Twenty-Six, Resolution Authorizing
19 One-Year Extension to the Shared Services
20 Agreement Between the City of Union City and the
21 Union City Board of Education For the Provision of
22 Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services For
23 2024 Through 2025.

24 Twenty-Seven, Resolution Authorizing
25 Contract With Lopez Noris, LLC, For Substitute

1 Public Defender Services For 2024.

2 Twenty-Eight, Resolution Authorizing
3 Payment to Gotthold Contractors, LLC, For
4 Emergency Sinkhole Repairs At 4105 Palisade
5 Avenue.

6 Twenty-Nine, Resolution Authorizing
7 Contract With Micro Pave Systems, Inc., For 2024
8 Pothole Repair Sealing Project.

9 Thirty, Resolution of the Board of
10 Commissioners For the City of Union City Approving
11 the 2024-2025 Renewal of Liquor License No.
12 0910-43-203-005 Issued to Shriji 11, LLC, (T/a La
13 Esperanza Grocery Store).

14 Thirty-One, Resolution of the Board of
15 Commissioners of the City of Union City Approving
16 the 2024-2025 Renewal of Liquor License No.
17 0910-33-030-015 Issued to Maria Mentiras Bar &
18 Grill, LLC, (T/a Maria Mentiras Bar & Grill).

19 Thirty-Two, Resolution of the Board of
20 Commissioners of the City of Union City Approving
21 the 2024-2025 Renewal of Liquor License No.
22 0910-33-050-006 Issued to Israel Rodriguez.

23 Thirty-Three, Resolution of the Board of
24 Commissioners of the City of Union City Approving
25 the 2024-2025 Renewal of Liquor License No.

1 0910-33-063-008 Issued to El Conuco Restaurant,
2 Inc., (T/a El Conuco Restaurant).

3 Thirty-Four, Resolution of the Board of
4 Commissioners of the City of Union City Approving
5 the 2024-2025 Renewal of Liquor License No.

6 0910-33-075-010 Issued to El Chapin Corp., (T/a El
7 Cuscatleco Bar & Restaurant).

8 Thirty-Five, Resolution of the Board of
9 Commissioners of the City of Union City Approving
10 the 2024-2025 Renewal of Liquor License No.

11 0910-33-114-006 Issued to Don Luis Restaurant
12 Corp., (T/a La Churreria).

13 Thirty-Six, Resolution of the Board of
14 Commissioners of the City of Union City Approving
15 the 2024-2025 Renewal of Liquor License No.

16 0910-33-188-005 Issued to Manhattan Bar & Grill
17 Restaurant, Inc., (T/a Manhattan Bar & Grill
18 Restaurant).

19 Thirty-Seven, Resolution of the Board of
20 Commissioners of the City of Union City Approving
21 the 2024-2025 Renewal of Liquor License No.

22 0910-33-208-011 Issued to El Cobre Lounge, LLC.

23 Thirty-Eight, Resolution of the Board of
24 Commissioners of the City of Union City Approving
25 the 2024-2025 Renewal of Liquor License No.

1 0910-44-070-005 Issued to Jay Mataji, Inc., (T/a
2 Powers Liquors).

3 Thirty-Nine, Resolution of the Board of
4 Commissioners of the City of Union City Approving
5 the 2024-2025 Renewal of Liquor License No.

6 0910-44-121-011 Issued to Pramukh Swami Krupa,
7 Inc., (T/a Payano Wines & Spirits)

8 Forty, Resolution of the Board of
9 Commissioners of the City of Union City Approving
10 the 2024-2025 Renewal of Liquor License No.

11 0910-44-132-009 Issued to Ganesh Swami, Inc., (T/a
12 Union Liquors).

13 Forty-One, Resolution of the Board of
14 Commissioners of the City of Union City Approving
15 the 2024-2025 Renewal of Liquor License No.

16 0910-33-050-006 Issued to Israel Rodriguez.

17 Mayor recuses from line item number 24,
18 Mayor abstains from payments to Chasan,
19 Lamparello, Mallon. And Commissioner Martinetti
20 will recuse from items 26 and 27.

21 Mayor, at this time, would you like to
22 take public comment?

23 MAYOR STACK: Anyone wishing to comment
24 on the consent agenda, please step forward, state
25 your name and address. This is for the consent

1 agenda, the items read into the record by the city
2 clerk. Seeing none, I make a motion to close.

3 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Second.

4 MS. ROSARIO: Motion made by Mayor
5 Stack, second by Commissioner Martinetti.

6 Commissioner Fernandez.

7 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

8 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

9 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

10 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

11 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

12 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti.

13 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

14 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

15 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

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

18 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Motion.

19 MS. ROSARIO: Motion made by
20 Commissioner Valdivia.

21 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Second.

22 MS. ROSARIO: Second by Commissioner
23 Grullon.

24 Commissioner Fernandez.

25 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I abstain on

1 CDA, also number 15 and number 26, otherwise yes.

2 MS. ROSARIO: So you're abstaining to
3 number one?

4 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: As it pertains
5 to CDA.

6 MS. ROSARIO: Okay.

7 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Also 15 and 26.

8 MS. ROSARIO: 15 and 26, okay.

9 Commissioner Grullon.

10 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

11 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

12 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

13 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti.

14 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Abstaining on
15 26 and 27, aye on the rest.

16 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

17 MAYOR STACK: Yes, just on the ones that
18 you had mentioned.

19 MS. ROSARIO: Thank you.

20

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

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

24 1. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF UNION
25 CITY, COUNTY OF HUDSON, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING

1 THE SUM OF \$75,000 IN FUNDING FROM THE CAPITAL
2 IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE COMPLETION OF VARIOUS
3 IMPROVEMENTS TO CITY PARKING LOTS.)

4
5 MS. ROSARIO: We have one ordinance for
6 hearing and adoption consideration. An ordinance
7 of the City of Union City, County of Hudson, New
8 Jersey appropriating the sum of \$75,000 in funding
9 from the capital improvement fund for the
10 completion of various improvements to city parking
11 lots.

12 Mayor, would you like to take public
13 comment?

14 MAYOR STACK: Sure. Anyone wishing to
15 comment on the capital improvement ordinance,
16 please step forward, state your name and address.
17 Seeing none, I'll make a motion to close public
18 comment.

19 MS. ROSARIO: Motion made by Mayor
20 Stack.

21 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Second.

22 MS. ROSARIO: Second by Commissioner
23 Valdivia.

24 Commissioner Fernandez.

25 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

1 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.
2 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.
3 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.
4 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.
5 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti.
6 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.
7 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.
8 MAYOR STACK: Yes.
9 MS. ROSARIO: May I have a motion to
10 adopt?
11 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Motion.
12 MS. ROSARIO: Motion made by
13 Commissioner Valdivia.
14 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Second.
15 MS. ROSARIO: Second by Commissioner
16 Fernandez.
17 Commissioner Fernandez.
18 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.
19 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.
20 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.
21 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.
22 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.
23 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti.
24 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.
25 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

1 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

2

3 (Whereupon, the Board discussed and took
4 action on the following item:

5 **REGULAR AGENDA:**

6 1. Resolution approving payments to
7 HCIA.)

8

9 MS. ROSARIO: There are two items on the
10 regular agenda.

11 One, resolution approving payments to
12 Hudson County Improvement Authority. Commissioner
13 Martinetti will recuse from item one.

14 MR. AUTERI: The Board of Commissioners
15 will invoke the doctrine of necessity.

16 MS. ROSARIO: May I have a motion on
17 item one?

18 MAYOR STACK: Motion.

19 MS. ROSARIO: Motion made by Mayor
20 Stack.

21 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Second.

22 MS. ROSARIO: Second by Commissioner
23 Valdivia.

24 Commissioner Fernandez.

25 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

1 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

2 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

3 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

4 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

5 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

6 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

7

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

10 **REGULAR AGENDA:**

11 2. Resolution approving payments to
12 Union City Board of Education.)

13

14 MS. ROSARIO: The second item is a
15 resolution approving payment to the Union City
16 Board of Education. Commissioner Martinetti and
17 Commissioner Fernandez will recuse.

18 MAYOR STACK: I'll make a motion.

19 MS. ROSARIO: Motion made by Mayor
20 Stack.

21 MR. AUTERI: The Board will invoke the
22 doctrine of necessity.

23 MS. ROSARIO: Second?

24 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Second.

25 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

1 Commissioner Grullon.

2 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

3 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

4 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

5 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

6 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

7

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

9

10 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor, at this time, would
11 you like to take public comment on any portion of
12 this meeting?

13 MAYOR STACK: Anyone wishing to comment
14 at this time, please step forward, state your name
15 and address for the record.

16 MR. MITCHELL: Raymond Mitchell, 9
17 Lincoln Place, East Rutherford. This document is
18 for Miss Martinetti, this is coming out of your
19 clerk's revenue and finance. Can you tell me
20 about this, please?

21 MAYOR STACK: Angelo, you want to take
22 that?

23 MR. MITCHELL: It's only a thank you
24 there. It's only a thank you, it doesn't have
25 your clerk's information. I'll show you a --

1 what's it called from Secaucus the proper way.

2 MR. AUTERI: Is this a question about
3 OPRA?

4 MR. MITCHELL: It's letters from Brian
5 Stack, sending them from his senator office. You
6 see how it's supposed to be open --

7 MAYOR STACK: Angelo, you can have a
8 sidebar conference on this.

9 MR. AUTERI: Yeah, we're not --

10 MR. MITCHELL: No, I want to talk in
11 front of the public. It's about my father's
12 mystery death over here.

13 MAYOR STACK: Do it from over here.

14 MR. MITCHELL: So can you answer this
15 for me, please, what happened here?

16 MR. AUTERI: They're not going to
17 answer.

18 MR. MITCHELL: She has to because this
19 is revenue and finance.

20 MAYOR STACK: We're going to --

21 MR. AUTERI: This is off topic. You're
22 disrupting the meeting.

23 MR. MITCHELL: I'm not disrupting, I'm
24 asking.

25 MR. AUTERI: It's off topic.

1 MAYOR STACK: Do it from here.

2 MR. MITCHELL: So, Brian Stack, you said
3 that these two letters that you sent to Katelyn
4 and Sarah about my father coming out of North
5 Bergen Harborage, I OPRA'd it for the
6 correspondence out of your office.

7 MAYOR STACK: That's in reference to my
8 senate duties, you can write me a letter and I'll
9 answer back in writing.

10 MR. MITCHELL: Senate?

11 MAYOR STACK: You got it.

12 MR. MITCHELL: It came out of Union
13 City.

14 MAYOR STACK: You can send it to me and
15 I'll answer it.

16 MR. MITCHELL: Can you tell me about
17 this emergency drill? September 19, 2019? This
18 is where my father was --

19 MAYOR STACK: That's in reference to my
20 senate duties. You can mail it to my senate
21 office.

22 MR. MITCHELL: Send it also? Did you
23 hear anything back from Katelyn, Matthew Platkin
24 or Sarah about this?

25 MAYOR STACK: It's in reference to my

1 senate duties. Reach out to me and I'll get you
2 back whatever I received.

3 MR. MITCHELL: This is April 3rd, when
4 did you send it to them?

5 MAYOR STACK: You can get that to me at
6 my senate office and I'll be more than happy to
7 get back to you.

8 MR. MITCHELL: And this is also for Ms.
9 Martinetti, the thank you and what happened here.

10 MAYOR STACK: Same answer.

11 MR. MITCHELL: When would you get back
12 to me on this?

13 MAYOR STACK: Are you talking to me?

14 MR. MITCHELL: Ms. Martinetti.

15 MAYOR STACK: Ms. Martinetti is being
16 represented by the corporation counsel. Refer it
17 to the corporation counsel and he'll get back to
18 you.

19 MR. MITCHELL: Okay.

20 MAYOR STACK: Thank you.

21 MR. AUTERI: All right.

22 MR. MITCHELL: This is one -- these guys
23 right here from Union County?

24 MAYOR STACK: I have no idea what the
25 article is.

1 MR. MITCHELL: About my brother's
2 incident --

3 MAYOR STACK: I have no idea.

4 MR. MITCHELL: -- in Rahway.

5 MAYOR STACK: You can put it all
6 together in a letter and I'll follow-up with you.

7 MR. MITCHELL: Okay. Letter or email?

8 MAYOR STACK: Thank you. A letter or
9 email, either way.

10 MR. MITCHELL: I will. Thank you, Mr.
11 Stack.

12 MAYOR STACK: Thank you.

13 Anyone else wishing to comment at this
14 time, please state your name and address for the
15 record?

16 MR. PRATT: Excuse me?

17 MAYOR STACK: State your name and
18 address for the record.

19 MR. PRATT: How you doing? I'm here on
20 behalf of -- I need to ask you some questions, I'm
21 not here to set a scene.

22 MAYOR STACK: If you could stand at the
23 podium, Charles, I would appreciate it.

24 MR. PRATT: I'd like to know, Brian
25 Stack, is it possible, can I get some clearly

1 understanding on what's really going on with my
2 life, not only where I live, but this whole town
3 of Hudson County, because I don't understand you
4 say move on after I don't bring that up. But I
5 just honestly know that my life has continued to
6 be attacked, attempt, and people making serious
7 attempts on my life. The last one when I called
8 you on 23rd of October, 2003, I'm telling you
9 about the report that the Union City fabricate --
10 that they have firsthand that Mr. Charles have a
11 mental disability, a mental disability. But for
12 the record, I have a physical disability that I
13 suffer with my lung from 1988, that's my physical,
14 not mental.

15 But then they took that and they using
16 that and I keep getting abuse, I'm getting a rap
17 and everything. And I called you on the 23rd, two
18 days later, I'm not still understanding up to this
19 day, why Work First people, not saying they came
20 from your Work First of Union City, they came from
21 Work First, but I did my homework, as my own
22 personal investigator. I know who these people
23 are, I know the contact that you personally have
24 with them. Also one of the people that they sent
25 out came out as well live right across the street

1 from you. I want to know why these people keep on
2 making attempt on my life, they want to kill me to
3 hush me up. There's only one person that I
4 strongly can think can do that, that's God.

5 So I've never had nothing against you,
6 Brian Stack, you always try to guide me and
7 everything, but there's attempts on my life, I
8 want this place these people to know I had to
9 leave the state of Hudson County because the abuse
10 got so serious, the last attempt they made on my
11 life was April 25th, two days after I talked to
12 you. They came to where I was located at and
13 broke a cast iron stove on the third floor and
14 throw it out the window, right. I go to Bayonne
15 Police Department and try to make a report and I
16 was obstructed. Why I was obstructed, I talked to
17 the mayor here, he told me, oh, I just got off the
18 phone with Brian Stack. And I know there's the
19 freedom of speech, anybody can talk to anybody,
20 whether it's communication or whatever, you know
21 what I mean? But I just find something wrong
22 here, something serious wrong. So not on your
23 behalf, not on my behalf, I'm just going to do
24 what's right. And not take no one in my hand, I
25 was never born like that, I was raised by the pop,

1 I'm going to put it that way. But I learned to do
2 things in the lawful way and I'm going to put -- I
3 have to put this now into a federal court. If the
4 federal court don't work, I have to take it to a
5 higher court. If that higher level don't work, I
6 will keep going up the chain. You say I got to go
7 up the chain, right? So I went up all the chain
8 and I coming back down to you. I'm not
9 understanding that why?

10 MAYOR STACK: Charles, I'm not exactly
11 sure what the issue or the problem is. I've
12 always had a good relationship with you --

13 MR. PRATT: Yeah, we've got a --

14 MAYOR STACK: I've always shown you
15 respect.

16 MR. PRATT: -- good relationship, me and
17 you have been, people are still making attempts on
18 my life. What's the point of having a good
19 relationship with somebody and somebody still
20 trying to kill me? And I don't understand it.
21 When attempt of murder is going to stop on my
22 life? I had to leave the state here, I've been
23 here for 20, 30 years almost in Hudson County,
24 now, I had to leave for my life and my safety, my
25 wellbeing. When's the next attempt they're going

1 to do on me.

2 This is not federal court here, I'm
3 making the statement true to you. But the officer
4 is present, I'm not making this up. Internal
5 affairs, I went to internal affairs, everything
6 they do to me, they come by everybody. Something
7 is wrong here, something is dangerously wrong in
8 the state --

9 MAYOR STACK: I'm going to have Captain
10 Hernandez meet with you --

11 MR. PRATT: I talked to him ad we
12 addressed some things we talked about and I'll
13 follow-up with him.

14 MAYOR STACK: Please follow-up.

15 MR. PRATT: I'm asking you as the mayor
16 of this town, I want to know what do you have to
17 offer me on your plate?

18 MAYOR STACK: What I can do is I'm going
19 to have -- it's a police matter, so we will have
20 the captain do a report, maybe you can do a
21 report, Captain, refer it to internal affairs.

22 MR. PRATT: We did that already.

23 MAYOR STACK: He's going to follow-up,
24 Charles, that's the best I can do.

25 MR. PRATT: Can you do me one favor,

1 Brian Stack, at least give me an effort? I think
2 I deserve an effort as a human being, as a
3 citizen. I'm 65 years old now, I'm a disabled
4 person, and disabled person, which is me, I'm
5 getting attacked and my life is serious deadly.
6 The last time I did a video that threaten me --
7 the disrupt the meeting, I didn't come here for
8 that. I didn't come to make a -- I didn't come to
9 talk about --

10 MR. AUTERI: Sir, that's your five
11 minute time limit.

12 MR. PRATT: I didn't come here to make
13 you look bad --

14 MAYOR STACK: What I'll do --

15 MR. PRATT: I appreciate what you're
16 doing for the neighborhood.

17 MAYOR STACK: Charles --

18 MR. PRATT: What you're doing to --

19 MAYOR STACK: Charles, your five minutes
20 came up. What I will do is I'll follow up with
21 the captain.

22 MR. PRATT: How we can address this?

23 MAYOR STACK: I'll refer it to --

24 MR. PRATT: Do you have any control over
25 Bayonne?

1 MAYOR STACK: No, I don't.

2 MR. PRATT: You don't have any control
3 over Bayonne. Do you have any control over the
4 radio calls?

5 MAYOR STACK: Of the what?

6 MR. PRATT: The radio calls of the
7 police department?

8 MAYOR STACK: In Bayonne?

9 MR. PRATT: Here.

10 MAYOR STACK: In Union City, I oversee
11 the department as director.

12 MR. PRATT: You --

13 MAYOR STACK: When the meeting is over,
14 I'll speak to you and the captain off to the side.

15 MR. PRATT: I ask --

16 MR. AUTERI: Sir, your time is up.

17 MAYOR STACK: Charles, I answered --

18 MR. PRATT: Do you have any control over
19 the radio calls of the law --

20 MAYOR STACK: And I answered yes as the
21 director of public safety.

22 MR. AUTERI: Sir, you have to sit down.

23 MAYOR STACK: Anyone else wishing to
24 comment at this time, please step forward, state
25 your name and address for the record.

1 MS. LOPEZ: Good evening, hello,
2 Commissioner, Mayor Brian Stack, my name Sheeran
3 Lopez, I live at 2514 New York Avenue, proud
4 resident of Union City.

5 I just want to acknowledge that I did
6 speak to you regarding -- I represent the Union
7 City Community Garden, we did speak over the
8 concerns of the trees on 18th Street. So this is
9 just a follow-up, a proposal that we wanted to
10 present to you all in person, and with the
11 community present as it is something that we care
12 about. But also we will email this to you, so
13 that you can review it further.

14 MAYOR STACK: Absolutely.

15 MS. LOPEZ: Okay. The few mature trees
16 that are still standing are a vital part of Union
17 City's urban landscape, providing numerous
18 environmental, economic, and social benefits. The
19 recent decision to remove natural trees on --
20 remove mature trees on 16th and 17th Street due to
21 sidewalk repaving raises concern about our urban
22 environment's sustainability and wellbeing of our
23 community. This proposal outlines the importance
24 of a mature trees, the adverse impacts of
25 replacing them with invasive saplings and

1 actionable steps for Union City to protect and
2 enhance its green space. The importance of mature
3 trees is that they provide shading and cooling,
4 they provide significant shade helping to reduce
5 energy costs and combat urban heat island effect.
6 The air quality, they absorb more carbon dioxide
7 and release more oxygen, improving air quality.
8 Water management, they're extensive root systems
9 effectively manage stormwater, reduce runoff, and
10 prevent soil erosion. Wildlife habitat, they
11 offer essential habitats for various species,
12 contributing to wildlife diversity. Community
13 wellbeing, they enhance neighborhood aesthetics,
14 increase property values, and foster a sense of
15 community.

16 Replacing mature trees with young
17 saplings is detrimental for several reasons.
18 Saplings take decades to mature, leaving a
19 significant gap in our ecosystem. Initially, they
20 provide minimal shade and have an impact and
21 create an issue for urban heat.

22 They have younger -- the young trees
23 lack strong root systems needed for effective
24 water management and soil stabilization. Their
25 smaller size and limited foliage contribute to

1 less air quality management improvement. And the
2 trees planted in our town are invasive ornamental
3 species that attract invasive pests, such as the
4 lantern fly, further harming our local ecosystem.

5 Union City's municipal code, under
6 Article 3, preservation of trees acknowledged the
7 critical role of trees and maintaining
8 environmental quality and community health. The
9 code emphasizes the adverse impacts of
10 uncontrolled tree removal, including increased
11 drainage costs, soil erosion, degraded water
12 resources, reduced groundwater recharge, elevated
13 atmospheric carbon dioxide, heat island effects,
14 and increased dust and pollution. Such impacts
15 can degrade Union City's character, lower property
16 values, and negatively affect residents' health
17 and safety. The code also outlines the
18 interrelationship between the City's water
19 resources, tree removal, soil disturbance,
20 stormwater management and land use.

21 To align with Union City's legislative
22 framework and address the concerns outlined, we
23 propose the following: We would like to work with
24 the City's arborists to explore alternatives that
25 prioritize preserving mature trees. We want to

1 help develop and enforce policies that protect
2 mature trees and ensure justified and mitigated
3 removals.

4 We asked that the City involve the
5 community in decisions affecting our urban
6 environment, ensuring transparency and public
7 input. We would like for the City to provide an
8 update as well on the establishing of the green
9 team as proposed in the 2024 community energy
10 plan. And, lastly, we ask that the City create a
11 committee dedicated to overseeing tree related
12 initiatives and policies.

13 The removal of mature trees is an
14 environmental and community concern. We must
15 advocate for sustainable that practices that
16 protect our natural assets, and promote a
17 healthier, more resilient environment. By working
18 together, we ensure Union City remains a green and
19 vibrant place for future generations. Thank you
20 so much.

21 MAYOR STACK: Thank you so much. If you
22 can leave us a copy of that, if you could write
23 your phone number? I know we had spoken on the
24 phone. I'm looking to work together, even to get
25 recommendations on what type of trees you would

1 like.

2 MS. LOPEZ: Yes.

3 MAYOR STACK: I love trees, I think you
4 can see by what we're doing in the community. But
5 I would like ideas on other types of species that
6 we can plant. So I would like to work with you --

7 MS. LOPEZ: Thank you, Mayor.

8 MAYOR STACK: -- form a committee going
9 forward, you could help us. It would be a
10 tremendous help to me.

11 MS. LOPEZ: Wonderful, that's exactly
12 what we want to hear.

13 MAYOR STACK: If you could leave that,
14 just write your phone number on it. Any other
15 members? I'll be more than happy to set it up,
16 give me two weeks.

17 MS. LOPEZ: Thank you so much.

18 MAYOR STACK: Thank you very much.

19 Anyone else wishing to comment at this
20 time?

21 FELIX: Hi. I'm also with the Union
22 City Community Garden. My name is Felix, and I
23 would like to emphasize a few things that my
24 colleague or volunteer member because we're all
25 volunteers with the Union City Community Garden.

1 I would like to emphasize how our proposal looked
2 into implementing better policies, I think this is
3 something that beforehand the tree committee, that
4 we're able to place all the trees in Union City on
5 New York Avenue and every other street that has
6 cover, almost all of Union City has protected
7 those trees. And in the same way, it should align
8 to apply those protections to mature trees in
9 private and public development.

10 I also want to emphasize reaching out to
11 the community. You have an enormous amount of
12 advertisement whenever it come to elections or
13 whenever it comes to other public work that is
14 done in the same way, I think informing the
15 residents of Union City can elevate more awareness
16 of how important having trees in our community is.
17 So instead of showering us with advertisements of
18 political campaigns, I think you should focus more
19 on environmental initiatives. Because with the
20 rising of climate change and as today is one of
21 the highest heat increase, especially in urban
22 communities, we need to emphasize and make sure
23 that the City trees are protected so that we could
24 continue to live a good quality life.

25 In addition to that, I would like to

1 also emphasize the street tree committee, this way
2 we have someone to directly go to in order to
3 address a lot of these issues. When I was working
4 on my city and regional planning thesis, I was
5 focusing on sites of Union City that didn't have
6 trees and I couldn't find data, I couldn't find
7 information. I went to OPRA to ask for
8 information and no one had anything for me in
9 relation to where the trees came from, where --
10 who planted the trees, who waters the trees.
11 There was no information or maybe there was no
12 care in order to look for the information.

13 MAYOR STACK: I wish that you would have
14 reached out to me because you would have easily
15 gotten that. The City of Union City waters the
16 trees twice a week. We might be the only
17 municipality in the State of New Jersey that
18 waters their trees twice a week.

19 When I became the mayor, we planted
20 probably about 14,000 trees in the last 15 years
21 or so. I grew up in Union City also, there wasn't
22 a lot of trees growing up in the community, that's
23 why I made the commitment. I would like to add
24 other types of species of trees. I just need to
25 find -- make sure they're durable trees that can

1 last. Some of the sycamores and oak trees -- I
2 know a little bit about this that were planted in
3 the community over the years, they're beautiful
4 trees, but they're made for parks, they're not
5 made for sidewalks. So what they do is they pop
6 the sidewalks and break waters lines and gas
7 lines. And while they're beautiful, you could see
8 over time if you go around, you'll see some of the
9 sidewalks have popped up -- not that we replaced,
10 they might be older sidewalks in the community.
11 That's why I'm looking for recommendations. You
12 come up with good trees that we can plant, I'm all
13 for it. I like to see a lot of color trees, have
14 a lot of color in them and the leaves, at
15 different times of year, whether it be the fall or
16 spring.

17 I look forward to working together with
18 the committee. I'm willing put you on the
19 committee and help. It would be a great help to
20 myself to the commissioners and all of us. But we
21 do water the trees twice a week, at least for the
22 two years. I try to do three years, but sometimes
23 it's hard because the number of trees that we
24 planted like on Palisade Avenue. But we'll work
25 together with you, we're more than happy to do so.

1 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I was going to
2 echo what the mayor said. I've lived in Union
3 City my whole life, I'm a lot older than you guys.
4 There was a time in Union City that there were no
5 trees, completely deforested. And the mayor, as
6 he said, 15,000 trees, you see them all over, the
7 different avenues. There was a time there were no
8 trees. And there was a time that other people
9 wanted to deforest it, knock down the older trees
10 in Ellsworth Park, the trees in Washington Park
11 and the mayor fought to keep the trees up.

12 So behind the scenes, if you look now
13 what the City has in terms of the number of trees,
14 the number of trees that he saved years ago, it's
15 astronomical. Like he said, all you have to do is
16 reach out, he'll tell you about the water -- if
17 you go to Ellsworth Park, how they maintain that,
18 Washington Park, they water the plants, they go
19 throughout the City watering the different areas.
20 It's just a matter of you contacting the right
21 person. The right person right now is the mayor
22 and if you can you guys can form a committee that
23 can be a conduit with the mayor, that would ease a
24 lot of his work to get the information out for the
25 betterment of our community.

1 But I wish you guys had been around 40,
2 50 years ago, when there were no trees, it was
3 outstanding. The only place we can't place trees
4 is Bergenline because obviously the commercial.
5 But for years, I mean when I first met the mayor
6 years ago, I'm not going to say how many years
7 ago, the first thing he talked to me about was
8 putting trees up on all over the city and started
9 with Park Avenue, and everywhere. Not only to
10 beautify, but to create the shade that you guys
11 are talking about, and the clean air that you guys
12 are discussing.

13 Even, you know, when people -- I
14 remember there were times people contacted the
15 mayor's office to remove a tree in the backyard.
16 And they mayor said, please, don't remove the
17 tree. I've heard those conversations with people,
18 please, it's so important to keep the trees,
19 please don't do remove it.

20 So just so you guys know, our point of
21 view, like the mayor said, it's great that you
22 you're coming forward, he's going to work with you
23 guys and form a committee. It's wonderful because
24 it's a win-win situation for everyone involved.

25 FELIX: Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: In 2013, when
2 they renovated Washington Park, one of the
3 criticisms that the mayor got in the meetings was
4 that they were going to knock down all the trees,
5 there was going to be sports. And it's true our
6 recreation football teams play there, the Little
7 League plays there. But if you walk around that
8 park, you'll see the numbers of trees that have
9 been planted and how beautiful the park is.

10 FELIX: I know it doesn't seem --

11 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: And I'm the
12 oldest one here. I was born in Union City and I'm
13 the oldest one here.

14 MAYOR STACK: Not by far.

15 FELIX: I know it might seem
16 unbelievable --

17 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: What
18 Commissioner Fernandez just mentioned is true.

19 FELIX: -- I was around during the time
20 where there was no trees at all. And I would
21 actually avoid going out because it was too hot,
22 that my vitamin D lowered, so I have to take pills
23 in order to increase that, so just to be a --

24 MAYOR STACK: I look forward to working
25 together with you.

1 FELIX: Thank you.

2 MAYOR STACK: Thank you for your
3 comments. Anyone else wishing to comment at this
4 time?

5 MR. SCALZO: Nick Scalzo, my contact
6 information is at scalzophoto.com, S-C-A-L-Z-O. I
7 just want to read two of these political comedy
8 pieces here, one of them authored by Police Chief
9 Anthony Facchini, the other authored by Brian
10 Stack. The first comedy piece is basically a
11 criminal charges towards Leroy here -- and thank
12 you for joining us today, appreciate it. Let's
13 read --

14 MR. AUTERI: Sir, if this is in
15 reference to a pending litigation matter, it's
16 inappropriate for --

17 MR. SCALZO: I don't care, I'm going to
18 read it anyway.

19 MR. AUTERI: You're disrupting the
20 meeting.

21 MR. SCALZO: I'm not allowed to speak
22 about it?

23 MR. AUTERI: You're not allowed to speak
24 about it, no.

25 MR. SCALZO: Well, I'm going to read it

1 anyway.

2 MR. AUTERI: Sir, you're disrupting the
3 meeting, please sit down.

4 MR. SCALZO: With purpose --

5 MR. AUTERI: Sir, please, take a seat.
6 We're going to have you removed if you don't take
7 a seat.

8 MR. SCALZO: -- this is a --

9 MR. AUTERI: Please show this gentleman
10 to his seat, please.

11 MR. SCALZO: -- annoyance or alarms
12 specifically -- this is my time.

13 (Inaudible comments made.)

14 MR. SCALZO: So I can't talk about his
15 public charges? Then we'll talk about something
16 else. I mean look at his body language right
17 there, how awkward that is. So how could I
18 rephrase this? So you're basically proving my
19 point right now, how sad is that?

20 So, basically, Brian Stack is
21 exaggerating and lying in order to file false
22 charges and exaggerate charges against Leroy,
23 against his free speech, and his criticism of the
24 mayor, as you just saw. What is that about? I
25 can't speak about it -- I'm going to be, what,

1 arrested if I continue to read it? They're
2 basically your words by the way, I was reading
3 your words. Okay. This is -- that's wild.

4 So basically they're saying that if
5 Leroy continues to go to the mayor's office --

6 MR. AUTERI: Sir, this isn't appropriate
7 for discussion, you're talking about a pending
8 litigation matter.

9 MR. SCALZO: So --

10 MR. AUTERI: It's pending litigation.
11 You have to comment on something on the agenda or
12 a matter concerning municipal government.

13 MR. SCALZO: So let me keep it more
14 general then. I invite Leroy, please continue to
15 join me in the City Hall as often as you want to
16 come, every two weeks, every week. And if they
17 arrest you for harassment that's un-American and
18 that's wrong. And if they decide to file more
19 charges against you, that is wrong. And if they
20 decide to file charges against you for what
21 criticizing the mayor, if -- I mean, Anthony --
22 the pretend Police Chief Anthony Facchini got his
23 feelings hurt, so he decided to filed charges
24 against you and that, I think, is wrong. The
25 pretend Police Chief Anthony Facchini made someone

1 call an ambulance because he got upset that you're
2 posting cartoons.

3 Just imagine this picture where you have
4 high -- two high quality police officers having a
5 conversation. One guy says, oh, remember that
6 time we caught the armed robber, we got him to the
7 ground and we saved the people's life from the
8 bank robbery. And the other officer says,
9 remember the time we stopped the stabbing and we
10 protected those victims. Those are two high
11 quality officers. Now the pretend chief Anthony
12 Facchini comes in and, oh, I was in a dangerous
13 situation, too, remember that time Leroy posted
14 cartoons about me. That was terrifying and I'm
15 going to file charges against those mean and
16 political satire commentators.

17 So I don't think someone should be
18 charged with a crime for criticizing -- can I use
19 the word pathetic? Thank you, appreciate it --
20 the low quality pretend police chief because he
21 has his feelings hurt and he's un-American and he
22 wants to file charges against a free person here.

23 Anyway, I encourage you, Leroy, to
24 continue to criticize the police chief and
25 continue to criticize -- by the way, I'm not

1 allowed to --

2 But I'm going to leave Leroy.

3 What if I don't stop talking?

4 Let me see if I can do it by memory.

5 This is so pathetic. I mean basically proving my
6 point, that's basically some communist
7 dictatorship, where Mayor Brian Stack dictates --
8 first of all, that's another issue. The lawyer
9 over here misuses tax dollars and basically is
10 working as the mayor's political advisor, which is
11 not in your role. We shouldn't be stopping people
12 from criticizing the mayor. Your role is to stop
13 lawsuits and to advise them on the law, not to be
14 his personal political advisor, which you do all
15 time.

16 MR. AUTERI: That's your five minutes,
17 please take a seat.

18 MAYOR STACK: Thank you very much.
19 Next? Anyone else wishing to speak at this time,
20 please step forward and state your name and
21 address for the record, ma'am. I recognize you,
22 ma'am.

23 MS. BENSON: Hi. Do I have to state my
24 name and address for the record?

25 MAYOR STACK: Please.

1 MS. BENSON: I would love it if the
2 cameras could stop recording, if possible for
3 that.

4 MAYOR STACK: I can't order them to stop
5 recording.

6 MS. BENSON: I just feel uncomfortable
7 with my name and address being recorded and shared
8 online. My name is Hailey Benson, I'm at 1315
9 51st Street in North Bergen, New Jersey. And I
10 would like to start off by mentioning that it
11 would be important during these meetings to have
12 clear timed portions, I would, you know, with our
13 friend, Felix, he was kind of interrupted. As
14 well as just, you know, making it clear exactly
15 how much time we have to speak, but if it's five
16 minutes, that's awesome.

17 I wanted to share something that we've
18 been working on in Jersey City. We've been
19 working with the shade tree committee there to
20 help them protect their mature trees and enhance
21 the ordinance on tree maintenance and tree
22 protections. And I was just curious if there was
23 an actual ordinance. And this is questions you
24 can answer at the end, when I'm finished speaking.
25 Is there an ordinance for the way that trees are

1 maintained in Union City at this time? And if
2 not, we would like to, of course, help to offer
3 our resources and skills to be able to provide
4 guidance on what kind of amendments could be added
5 to existing ordinances, if they already are in
6 place.

7 Our main concerns being there's not --
8 there's no notice at all when trees are being
9 proposed for cutting down. And especially as
10 Sheeran mentioned, all the extreme benefits of our
11 mature tree canopy, we can't be like -- not to use
12 it, for lack of a better term, willy-nilly about
13 what we're cutting down because a street needs to
14 be quote/unquote widened. We need to
15 understand -- I guess there has to be a connection
16 with the community and explaining why certain
17 trees are being cut down, which is why we would
18 also like to ask for the City's arborist to have
19 an explanation, like a session with the community
20 explaining what would a hurt tree look like or a
21 sick tree, what are they looking for when they are
22 removing these trees.

23 We would really like to see more of a
24 space for public input when trees are being
25 proposed for removal, even if a resident or a

1 business is requesting them. We would like to
2 request that a public meeting or like it be shared
3 similar to how these council meetings are part of
4 the agenda, so that the public may know what
5 mature trees are being cut down.

6 Besides that, we would really like to be
7 able to, you know, offer our resources and, you
8 know, be part of a shade tree committee, if you
9 need us to be there. But these are things that we
10 would like to be able to be -- how do I explain
11 this? Our insights are very important and I think
12 that we should be paid for our time as well. And
13 I would like to request if possible to have a
14 future conversation about this. If we can request
15 a one-on-one meeting date and time to explain a
16 little bit more, especially about the native trees
17 that are suited for the street and that are salt
18 tolerant as well as don't have roots that spread
19 out and bulge the sidewalks. We would really like
20 to offer that support.

21 So, yeah, we would just like to offer
22 our support in however we can, but understanding
23 that we really need to be protecting the private
24 and public property trees and giving public notice
25 to what is happening to the trees. It's very

1 upsetting to walk out on your street and a tree is
2 completely gone and you have no shade tree.

3 MAYOR STACK: Absolutely.

4 MS. BENSON: Awesome.

5 MAYOR STACK: I'll work with you on
6 this. The answer on each of what you asked is yes
7 and I'll work together with you. As long as your
8 name is part of the committee, when I call them,
9 I'm more than happy to meet with you one-on-one
10 any time.

11 MS. BENSON: Of course.

12 MAYOR STACK: We can even do something
13 on a monthly basis, if you like.

14 MS. BENSON: That's great, we appreciate
15 it. We just want to make sure we're protecting
16 these trees because they're -- you know, it takes
17 a very long time for a tree to become useful.

18 MAYOR STACK: Absolutely.

19 MS. BENSON: Thank you so much.

20 MAYOR STACK: Thank you for your
21 comments. Thank you for the time you took to come
22 to the meeting.

23 Anyone else wishing to comment at this
24 time, please step forward and state your name and
25 address for the record.

1 MR. TRUTH: Yes. So hello, everyone,
2 hello, Mayor Stack. Now, I have a surprise for
3 you. And you probably don't expect this from
4 Leroy Truth, but because this is a night of awards
5 and presentations, I have a special award for you,
6 Mayor.

7 Now, this award has never been given out
8 in the history of the United States of America.
9 And, Mayor Stack, as you know, and you're going to
10 do your same old song and dance, ignore the public
11 again? It's a shame, you should resign. But I'm
12 going to give you this award anyway because you've
13 earned this.

14 Now, I first came here, Brian,
15 December 1st, 2024, and it's a day that will live
16 in infamy for your life because since then, I've
17 been now investigating over 2,137 allegations of
18 corruption. Now, it reminds me a lot of your very
19 good friend and mentor, Senator Bob Menendez, who
20 was found guilty on all counts. Do you know what
21 that means for you, Mayor Stack? You thought you
22 were untouchable. Well, he was a hell of a lot
23 more powerful than you. So you may be the next
24 indicted, who knows.

25 Now, this award is a very, very special

1 award, which I know you and the commissioners will
2 be so proud of. Now, I have received so many
3 women, so many women have contacted me asking me
4 to give you this award. And, Mayor Stack, and
5 Senator Stack, do you know what this award is?
6 Well, I will tell you since you have become mute
7 again apparently, your mother would not be proud.
8 And this --

9 MR. AUTERI: Sir, don't harass the
10 board.

11 MR. TRUTH: I have a first amendment
12 right --

13 MR. AUTERI: You're disrupting the
14 meeting.

15 MR. TRUTH: You're disrupting me.

16 MR. AUTERI: Continue your comments.

17 MR. TRUTH: You're hurting my first
18 amendment rights.

19 CAPTAIN HERNANDEZ: Sir, do not disrupt
20 the commissioners. Please, step back.

21 MAYOR STACK: He --

22 MR. TRUTH: Excuse me.

23 CAPTAIN HERNANDEZ: Do not disrespect
24 the commissioners.

25 MR. TRUTH: I don't have to respect

1 anybody.

2 MAYOR STACK: Captain, we have a podium.
3 And the podium is there for a reason.

4 CAPTAIN HERNANDEZ: Please step back.

5 MAYOR STACK: This harassment has to
6 end.

7 MR. TRUTH: This is not harassment.

8 MAYOR STACK: Step back to the podium.

9 MR. TRUTH: There is no statute or law
10 that says --

11 MAYOR STACK: Go back to North Bergen,
12 who sent you here --

13 (Inaudible comments made.)

14 MR. TRUTH: I don't have to respect --

15 MR. AUTERI: You have to keep
16 appropriate decorum.

17 MR. TRUTH: I can disrespect them if I
18 want as well, it's called first amendment. Now, I
19 need to give him this award.

20 MAYOR STACK: Step back.

21 CAPTAIN HERNANDEZ: Step back.

22 MR. TRUTH: No, I need to give him his
23 award now.

24 CAPTAIN HERNANDEZ: Step back.

25 MR. TRUTH: I do not need to step back,

1 first amendment -- I can be anywhere. There is no
2 statute -- you name the statute --

3 MR. AUTERI: Sir, you're disrupting the
4 meeting, step behind the podium or you'll have to
5 sit down.

6 MR. TRUTH: They're disrupting my time.

7 MR. AUTERI: Step behind --

8 MR. TRUTH: I want my time back.

9 MR. AUTERI: Step behind the podium.

10 MR. TRUTH: I do not have --

11 CAPTAIN HERNANDEZ: Step back.

12 MR. TRUTH: I am talking.

13 MR. AUTERI: We're going to ask you to
14 sit down if you don't step behind the podium.

15 MR. TRUTH: No, I do not have to step
16 back. There's no statute or law, I am -- am I in
17 a public area or not?

18 CAPTAIN HERNANDEZ: You are, but you're
19 disrupting the meeting.

20 MR. TRUTH: I am speaking, I can't be
21 disrupting the meeting while I'm speaking.

22 CAPTAIN HERNANDEZ: You're yelling at me
23 right now.

24 MR. TRUTH: You're disrupting my time
25 right now.

1 MR. AUTERI: Sir, just step behind the
2 podium or we're going to ask you to sit down if
3 you don't.

4 MR. TRUTH: I do not have to --

5 CAPTAIN HERNANDEZ: Do you want to get
6 arrested?

7 MR. TRUTH: No, I do not I want to get
8 arrested, but I --

9 (Inaudible comments made.)

10 MAYOR STACK: Anyone else wishing to
11 speak at this time, please step forward, state
12 your name and address for the record.

13 Let the record reflect this person lives
14 in Fishkill, New York, and is sent here by Mayor
15 Sacco from North Bergen.

16 Anyone else wishing to comment? Angelo,
17 seeing no other -- anyone else wishing to comment?

18 Motion to close.

19 MS. ROSARIO: Motion made by Mayor
20 Stack.

21 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Second.

22 MS. ROSARIO: Second by Commissioner
23 Fernandez.

24 Commissioner Fernandez.

25 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

1 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

2 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

3 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

4 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

5 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti.

6 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

7 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

8 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

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LIQUOR LICENSE HEARINGS:

1. Crave 43, LLC
T/a Crave 43
120 43rd Street
0910-33-029-010
Samuel "Skip" Reale, Jr., Esq.
2. Ceviche Time, LLC
T/a Ceviche Time by Marcelo
4538 Bergenline Avenue
0910-33-047-005
Ivan Paneque, Esq.

1 **1. Crave 43, LLC**
2 **T/a Crave 43**
3 **120 43rd Street**
4 **0910-33-029-010**
5 **Samuel "Skip" Reale, Jr., Esq.**

6 MS. ROSARIO: We have two liquor license
7 hearings.

8 MR. AUTERI: Mr. Gonzalez, please step
9 forward.

10 MAYOR STACK: Mr. Gonzalez, please step
11 forward.

12 MR. GONZALEZ: Ramon Gonzalez --

13 MR. AUTERI: One second, Mr. Gonzalez.

14 MAYOR STACK: Please, sir, you're out of
15 line.

16 Mr. Gonzalez, you may begin.

17 MR. GONZALEZ: Thank you. For the
18 record, Ramon Gonzalez.

19 MAYOR STACK: Maybe he can go to a North
20 Bergen commission meeting now who sent him here.

21 MR. GONZALEZ: We have two matters on
22 before the board today. First matter is Crave 43.
23 They are represented by Mr. Samuel Reale, Jr.,
24 he's standing to my left.

25 This is a paper violation where we did a
regular inspection, there was some shortcomings on

1 the papers. And we asked them to produce the
2 paperwork within seven days. It was produced, it
3 was still somewhat lacking. But after having the
4 opportunity to speak to counsel, he's explained to
5 me the reason why -- and based on that
6 recommendation -- based on that reasoning, we've
7 recommended a five-day suspension. It's my
8 understanding that they've agreed to that, it
9 would be a suspension from August 26th to
10 August 30th. And I would just let Mr. Reale in
11 fact confirm that or deny that.

12 MR. REALE: Good evening, Mayor,
13 Commissioners, for the record, Samuel Reale, Jr.,
14 Helmer, Conley and Kasselmann on behalf of Crave
15 43, LLC, which I believe you know trades as Crave
16 43. The representations by the board's counsel is
17 accurate. There was a paper violation. What was
18 missing was some invoices by way of deliveries.
19 But there were, as he pointed out, some
20 extenuating circumstances, and that extenuating
21 circumstance is outside crying a little bit. The
22 managing member and sole shareholder of the LLC
23 experienced a high risk pregnancy and was out at
24 doctors' order. And during that time, there was
25 some lapses in the recordkeeping. It's been

1 cleaned up. And as late as this evening, I double
2 checked all the invoices and materials that are
3 required to be on the premises are in fact on the
4 premises. Five days is appropriate and I ask you
5 to accept the plea from the licensee and impose
6 that suspension.

7 MAYOR STACK: Absolutely. Thank you for
8 your appearance and just let me apologize to you
9 and your client and others here this evening for
10 the nonsense that just took place, I apologize.
11 We try to run a good meeting and be accessible.
12 And I apologize for the nonsense that takes place.

13 MR. REALE: Mayor, if it's any value, I
14 served as the president of a school board for a
15 decade, and one guy showed and somebody was
16 throwing apples at me. So anything is possible in
17 New Jersey.

18 MAYOR STACK: Thank you very much. I'll
19 make a motion to accept.

20 MS. ROSARIO: Motion made by Mayor
21 Stack.

22 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Second.

23 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Second.

24 MS. ROSARIO: Second by Commissioner
25 Fernandez.

1 Commissioner Fernandez.

2 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

3 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

4 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

5 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

6 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

7 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti.

8 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

9 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

10 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

11 MR. REALE: Mayor and Commissioners, I
12 would be remiss if I didn't say for the record, I
13 want to extend to you so you're aware of what I
14 characterize as the courtesies extended by counsel
15 in the office.

16 MAYOR STACK: Thank you very much. Have
17 a good evening.

18 MR. REALE: Keep cool, everyone.

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1 **2. Ceviche Time, LLC**
2 **T/a Ceviche Time by Marcelo**
3 **4538 Bergenline Avenue**
4 **0910-33-047-005**
5 **Ivan Paneque, Esq.**

6 MR. GONZALEZ: Next is Ceviche Time,
7 they're represented by Mr. Ivan Paneque.

8 J O S E G O N Z A L E Z, an interpreter of the
9 SPANISH language, after having been duly sworn,
10 did interpret the following testimony:

11
12 MR. GONZALEZ: This matter is also what
13 I would term a paper violation. We did our
14 general and regular inspection of Ceviche Time at
15 4538 Bergenline. When the inspection was done,
16 all the paperwork was in fact ready and present
17 and satisfactory, but there was one employee that
18 was not properly licensed. Mr. Paneque has
19 advised me that that individual has now been
20 corrected and has their license. Based on that
21 and that it's a paper violation, I likewise
22 extended an offer of a five-day suspension, which
23 they have accepted and, if it's approved, would be
24 from August 26th to August 30th.

25 MAYOR STACK: Sir, if you could just

1 enter your appearance?

2 MR. PANEQUE: Yes, good evening. Ivan
3 Paneque on behalf of Ceviche Time.

4 MAYOR STACK: And you're in agreement
5 with --

6 MR. PANEQUE: Yes, we are. This was
7 fairly new business for my client -- it's been
8 around for many years and although they have very
9 good intentions, at times, the challenges are
10 somewhat difficult. But I do believe they're
11 trying to correct everything and doing it the
12 correct way.

13 MAYOR STACK: Thank you very much. I'll
14 make a motion to approve.

15 MS. ROSARIO: Motion by Mayor Stack.

16 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Second.

17 MS. ROSARIO: Second by Commissioner
18 Martinetti.

19 Commissioner Fernandez.

20 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

21 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

22 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

23 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

24 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

25 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti.

1 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

2 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

3 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

4 MR. GONZALEZ: That concludes all the
5 ABC hearings.

6 MR. PANEQUE: Thank you. Have a good
7 evening.

8 MAYOR STACK: Thank you very much.

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ADJOURNMENT :

MS. ROSARIO: May I have a motion to adjourn?

COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Motion.

MAYOR STACK: Motion.

MS. ROSARIO: Motion by Mayor Stack, second by Commissioner Martinetti.

All in favor?

(All Board Members indicate in the affirmative.)

MS. ROSARIO: Thank you. Have a good night.

(Whereupon the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.)

1

Brian P. Stack

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Lucio P. Fernandez

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Maryury A. Martinetti

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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
LICENSE NO. 30XI00233700