

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

REGULAR MEETING

TRANSCRIPT OF
PROCEEDINGS

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
4800 John F. Kennedy Blvd.
Union City, New Jersey

Tuesday, August 26, 2025
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
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: SAMANTHA BLAKE, ESQ.
Corporation Counsel

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

HILDA ROSARIO, City Clerk

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I N D E XPAGE

CALL TO ORDER	3
SALUTE TO FLAG	3
ROLL CALL	3
MINUTES	4
ORDINANCE(S) FOR INTRODUCTION	5
CONSENT AGENDA	6
REGULAR AGENDA	13/14
CITIZENS ADDRESS THE BOARD	15
LIQUOR LICENSE PUBLIC HEARINGS	52
ADJOURNMENT	54

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, August 26, 2025, at 7:00 PM
10 at the Hudson County Community College, 4800 John
11 F. Kennedy Boulevard in Union City.

12 This meeting has been called in
13 accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.
14 Adequate notice of this meeting has been forwarded
15 to The Bergen Record and The Star Ledger, has been
16 posted on the bulletin board in City Hall and has
17 been made available to the public in the office of
18 the Municipal Clerk.

19
20 **ROLL CALL:**
21

22 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Fernandez.

23 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Here.

24 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

25 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Here.

1 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

2 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Here.

3 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti.

4 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Here.

5 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

6 MAYOR STACK: Here.

7

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

10 **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES FOR AUGUST 6,**
11 **2025)**

12

13 MS. ROSARIO: The first item on the
14 agenda is approving the previous meeting minutes
15 for the August 6, 2025, Board of Commissioners
16 meeting. May I have a motion?

17 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Motion.

18 MS. ROSARIO: Motion by Commissioner
19 Valdivia. Second?

20 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Second.

21 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.
22 Commissioner Fernandez.

23 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Abstain.

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

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

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

9 1. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 244 OF
10 THE CODE OF THE CITY OF UNION CITY TO REVISE THE
11 REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR VACANT LOTS.)

12

13 MS. ROSARIO: The next item on the
14 agenda an ordinance for introduction. Adoption on
15 first reading authorizes the Municipal Clerk to
16 advertise the ordinance with a notice of the
17 introduction, together with a notice of the time
18 and place when the ordinance will be considered
19 for the final passage. The ordinance will be
20 further considered at a meeting of the Board of
21 Commissioners to be held on Tuesday, September 9,
22 2025 at the Roosevelt School, 4507 Hudson Avenue
23 in Union City at 7:00 PM.

24 It's an ordinance amending chapter 244
25 of the Code of the City of Union City to revise

1 the registration requirements for vacant lots.

2 May I have a motion to introduce?

3 MAYOR STACK: Motion.

4 MS. ROSARIO: Motion made by Mayor
5 Stack. Second?

6 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Second.

7 MS. ROSARIO: By Commissioner Valdivia.
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 items in total:

21 **CONSENT AGENDA)**

22 (1) Resolution Approving the Payment of Claims

23 (2) Resolution Approving the Payment of
24 Concurring Claims

25 (3) Resolution Approving the Escrow Refunds

- 1 (4) Resolution Approving the City Payroll
- 2 08/02/2025 - 08/15/2025
- 3 (5) Resolution Approving the Library Payroll
- 4 08/02/2025 - 08/15/2025
- 5 (6) Resolution Authorizing Refund of Redemption
- 6 Monies to Outside Lienholders
- 7 (7) Resolution Authorizing Tax Refund in Tax
- 8 Appeal Decisions By the Tax Court of New Jersey
- 9 (8) Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Premium
- 10 Monies Collected At the Tax Sale
- 11 (9) Resolution Authorizing Tax Sale Fees
- 12 (10) Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Payment
- 13 (11) Resolution Authorizing the Tax Collector to
- 14 Hold an Accelerated Tax Sale
- 15 (12) Resolution Authorizing the Refund of
- 16 Duplicate Payment
- 17 (13) Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Late
- 18 Fees Associated With 2025 Third Quarter Property
- 19 Taxes Post-Marked By the Due Date But Improperly
- 20 Returned to Sender As Undeliverable By the
- 21 Postmaster
- 22 (14) Resolution Authorizing a Contract With
- 23 RealAuction.Com, LLC For Electronic Tax Lien
- 24 Certificate Sale Services
- 25 (15) Resolution Authorizing the Placement of a

1 Lien on the Property Known As 309 4th Street,
2 Union City, New Jersey 07087, Block 13, Lot 9, in
3 the City of Union City For Tenant Relocation Costs
4 (16) Resolution Authorizing the Placement of a
5 Lien on the Property Known As 649 38th Street,
6 Union City, New Jersey 07087, Block 260, Lot 30.01
7 in the City of Union City For Emergency Police
8 Detail Costs

9 (17) Resolution Approving the Notice of Proposed
10 FY 2025 Action Plan, Public Comment Period &
11 Public Meeting Announcement

12 (18) Resolution Approving the FY 2025 Budget For
13 the Community Development Block Grant Program

14 (19) Resolution Authorizing the City of Union
15 City to Apply For and Obtain a Grant From the New
16 Jersey Department of Community Affairs For
17 Approximately \$3,000,000 to Reimburse Costs
18 Incurred By Union City (Health Insurance Claims
19 Costs, Municipal Electricity For Street Lights,
20 Signage and Municipal Facilities)

21 (20) Resolution Authorizing the City of Union
22 City to Apply For an Obtain a Grant From the New
23 Jersey Department of Community Affairs For
24 Approximately \$5,000,000 to Support the City's
25 Homeless Prevention Programs

1 (21) Resolution of the City of Union City
2 Declaring Support For the New Jersey Climate
3 Superfund Act

4 (22) Resolution Authorizing Contract With
5 Windsor Mechanical, LLC For Boiler Repairs At
6 Union City Hall

7 (23) Resolution Authorizing Contract With Windsor
8 Mechanical, LLC For Plumbing Repairs At Union City
9 Hall

10 (24) Resolution Authorizing Contract With
11 Envirocon LLC For HVAC Repairs At Union City Hall

12 (25) Resolution Authorizing Contract For 2025
13 Sidewalk Opening Permit Restoration Program (Phase
14 1) For the City of Union City

15 (26) Resolution Amending Contract For Substitute
16 Municipal Public Defender Services With Yacker
17 Glatt, LLC For 2025

18 (27) Resolution Authorizing Contract For Parking
19 Lot Improvements Project At 2700 Bergenline Avenue

20 (28) Resolution Authorizing Contract With All NJ
21 Power-Washing & Shrink Wrapping For Annual
22 Shrink-Wrapping Services At Juan Pablo Duarte Park
23 For 2025-2026

24 (29) Resolution Authorizing Contract For Speed
25 Hump Installation Services At 5th Street, 10th

- 1 Street & 18th Street in the City of Union City
2 (30) Resolution Authorizing Receipt of Bids For
3 Snow Removal and Post-Storm Services For the
4 2025-2026 Winter Season
5 (31) Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of
6 the City of Union City Approving the Application
7 For Extension of License to Executor For Las Canas
8 Cafe Inc. (Pocket License) Liquor License No.
9 0910-33-129-012
10 (32) Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of
11 the City of Union City Approving the Application
12 For Extension of License to Executor For Don Luis
13 Restaurant Corp. (T/a La Churreria) Liquor License
14 No. 0910-33-114-006)

15

16 MS. ROSARIO: There are 32 items on the
17 consent agenda. Can you please take a moment to
18 review all items. If someone has an item that
19 they'd like to consider, we can remove it from the
20 consent agenda and put it in the regular?

21 If no one has an objection, we will
22 continue. Can I have a motion?

23 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Motion.

24 MS. ROSARIO: Motion made by
25 Commissioner Grullon.

1 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Second.

2 MS. ROSARIO: Second by Commissioner
3 Valdivia.

4 Commissioner Fernandez.

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

6 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

7 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

8 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

9 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

10 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti.

11 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

12 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

13 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

14 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor, would you like to
15 take any public comment on the consent agenda?

16 MAYOR STACK: Sure. Anyone wishing to
17 comment on the consent agenda, please step
18 forward, state your name and address for the
19 record? Seeing none on the consent agenda. This
20 is just items on the consent agenda. There's 32
21 items on the consent and this comment period is
22 just on the consent agenda.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Where do we see the
24 agenda?

25 MAYOR STACK: There's copies of the

1 agenda on the podium, ma'am.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you so much.

3 MAYOR STACK: That's just the 32 items
4 on the consent agenda.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.

6 MAYOR STACK: Seeing no one wishing to
7 comment on the consent agenda at this time,
8 motion.

9 MS. ROSARIO: Motion made by Mayor
10 Stack.

11 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Second.

12 MS. ROSARIO: Second by Commissioner
13 Martinetti.

14 Commissioner Fernandez.

15 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

16 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

17 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

18 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

19 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

20 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti.

21 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

22 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

23 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

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

1 MAYOR STACK: Motion.

2 MS. ROSARIO: Motion made by Mayor

3 Stack. Second?

4 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Second.

5 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

6 Commissioner Fernandez.

7 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes, except

8 number 18, I abstain from number 18.

9 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

10 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

11 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

12 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

13 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti.

14 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

15 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

16 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

17

18 (Whereupon, the Board discussed and took

19 action on the following item:

20 **REGULAR AGENDA:**

21 1. Resolution approving payment of HCIA
22 claims - dart charges.)

23

24 MS. ROSARIO: There are two items on the

25 regular agenda. One, resolution approving payment

1 to the HCIA claims. Commissioner Martinetti will
2 recuse. May I have a motion?

3 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Motion.

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

6 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Second.

7 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Fernandez.

8 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

9 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

10 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

11 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

12 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: 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 **REGULAR AGENDA:**

19 2. Resolution approving payment to
20 Union City Day Care program.)

21

22 MS. ROSARIO: Second item on the regular
23 agenda is resolution approving payment to the
24 Union City Day Care program.

25 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Motion.

1 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor recuses from this
2 resolution. Motion made by Commissioner
3 Martinetti. Second?

4 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Second.

5 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.
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

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

16

17 MS. ROSARIO: Thank you. Now, we have
18 our liquor license hearings.

19 MAYOR STACK: Just before we go to
20 liquor license hearings, I'll open to any member
21 of the public who would like to comment on any
22 matter concerning municipal government in the City
23 of Union City, please step forward, state your
24 name and address for the record.

25 Again, you could comment on any matter

1 concerning municipal government in the City of
2 Union City, please step forward, any member of the
3 public. When you step forward, if you could just
4 employees state your name and address for the
5 record.

6 MS. WEISS: My name is Elizabeth Weiss,
7 1807 Palisade Avenue, Union City. And I didn't
8 prepare anything, but as a resident of Union City,
9 a few months ago, we all received this, you know,
10 list of bills you had sponsored. And I put
11 asterisks next to these two currently pending,
12 S-261, the compassion for community law, and
13 S-2511 prohibit the sales of cats and dogs and
14 rabbits at pet shops, which I was especially happy
15 to hear. And I had thought that it was all a done
16 deal by now, but then I learned that it's not.
17 And I know how much you care for animals --

18 MAYOR STACK: I do. Liz, I wish the
19 legislature worked that quick, but they don't.
20 But it's definitely in the process. We're
21 definitely moving those bills through. And I'm
22 hoping we can get it done now in this session,
23 once we return in September, back to the senate
24 and the assembly. Obviously, it has to pass
25 committees in both houses, then it goes to the

1 full assembly and the full senate and then it goes
2 to the governor for his signatures. I should have
3 an update probably by the end of September when
4 those bills will be coming up. Both Alex and
5 myself, work on that, Alex in my office. We'll
6 work on that with you together, absolutely. I'll
7 be able to give you a better idea once we return
8 in September.

9 MS. WEISS: Okay because when I looked
10 it up, it said it was introduced back in February
11 of '24.

12 MAYOR STACK: Sometimes bills are
13 reintroduced each session, they just never get --
14 they'll get voted at a committee, sometimes they
15 get voted at the assembly or vote at the senate,
16 or vice versa, they don't go through both houses.
17 But we're pushing this hard and we have good
18 support in the assembly, very, very good support
19 in the senate. I believe it will be unanimous,
20 once it moves through committee.

21 MS. WEISS: Okay.

22 MAYOR STACK: But I will definitely keep
23 you updated.

24 MS. WEISS: Thank you.

25 MAYOR STACK: Thank you for bringing it

1 up, Liz.

2 MS. WEISS: Thank you.

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

6 MS. GREENHOUSE: Hi, sorry, I just
7 arrived. My name is Heather Greenhouse, my
8 address you said, is 100 Manhattan Avenue.

9 So I am here today as a long time
10 resident of Union City, I am concerned about the
11 three pet stores that are here in our community.
12 I visited two of them, Carmona and Red Canary,
13 multiple times and filed complaints with the New
14 Jersey Department of Consumer Affairs, which
15 resulted in investigations and massive fines for
16 both of them. They also both frequently violate
17 health codes.

18 Since my complaints, another pet store
19 has opened in Union City, which is just as bad,
20 making a total of three in our town. So that's
21 three out of a total of 18 in the whole state. As
22 you know, Mayor Stack, and as a state senator as
23 the prime sponsor of the senate bill 2511, selling
24 animals in pet stores is egregiously cruel. And
25 as you're aware these animals are from horrible

1 puppy mills with deplorable conditions.

2 MAYOR STACK: Terrible.

3 MS. GREENHOUSE: Yeah, I know you know.
4 So I appreciate your support, of course. So, of
5 course, we all have high hopes for the bill to
6 move forward at the state level, yet we are
7 disappointed that it seems to be not moving. So
8 in the meantime, as someone passionate about the
9 issue, and the mayor of Union City, we urge to
10 pass a city ordinance to at least ban the pet
11 store sales here in Union City at a local level.

12 The longer this stalls the more time for
13 New York stores to come to New Jersey and set up
14 shops since New York will already ban the pet
15 store sales of animals. I urge you, Mayor Stack,
16 to pass a city ordinance to protect more animals
17 and do everything you can to move the state bill
18 as well.

19 I know you must pass by the stores
20 yourself and see the animals suffering in there.
21 They are bad places and you have the power to make
22 a huge difference for these animals. Thank you
23 for your support and attention to this issue. And
24 I really appreciate your hard work for animals.

25 MAYOR STACK: Absolutely. And I agree

1 with you. I'm passionate about the issue, I mean
2 I own two dogs myself and I went through an AKC
3 breeder to get them. And I see the same thing out
4 there. In fact, I called out two of those places
5 multiple times and I'm working closely with Janice
6 Fisher right now, and with others, and with the
7 state Department of Health. I was on the phone
8 with them this morning in fact about two of those
9 locations. So we'll see progress and you have my
10 commitment.

11 If you can send me an email tonight or
12 tomorrow when you get home, I'll introduce the
13 ordinance on the municipal level, until we can do
14 it at the state law, I'll do it at the next
15 commission meeting.

16 MS. GREENHOUSE: Okay.

17 MAYOR STACK: Absolutely.

18 MS. GREENHOUSE: That would be
19 absolutely amazing. I'll send you an email later
20 today.

21 MAYOR STACK: Absolutely.

22 MS. GREENHOUSE: All right, thank you.

23 MAYOR STACK: And believe me, you never
24 need a community meeting or come to a commissioner
25 meeting. You ever have any problem, seven days a

1 week, call my cell, email me, any time. If you
2 could email me that though, we'll make sure,
3 Samantha, at the next meeting, we introduce the
4 ordinance.

5 MS. GREENHOUSE: That's amazing, thank
6 you so much.

7 MAYOR STACK: Thank you.

8 MS. GREENHOUSE: All right.

9 MAYOR STACK: Anyone else? Please step
10 forward.

11 MS. O'CONNOR: Hello, Julie O'Connor, 12
12 Windsor Road in Tenaflly, New Jersey. I'm actually
13 a councilwoman in Tenaflly and I first just wanted
14 to thank all of the council members here, Mayor
15 and Senator Stack, because I know personally that
16 it's not easy to do public service, you know, at
17 night. So I appreciate your work. And, Senator,
18 it's been great to hear your reaction to everyone
19 today.

20 I just wanted to give you a little
21 perspective as a councilperson in Tenaflly. We
22 were able to pass the local ordinance about a year
23 and a half ago and we have had a lot of efficacies
24 in the state, we have over 140 different
25 municipalities, as I'm sure the senator knows, but

1 I'm just letting the council members know.
2 There's over 140 different communities that have
3 passed these restrictions in order -- I don't want
4 to go to the process of calling it restrictions,
5 it's actually a humane pet store model, just to
6 make sure people can make money, but while working
7 with rescues, so they can offer the animals there.
8 And then you get to sell all of the different
9 things that go with pets, which you can make a lot
10 of money on, for those of us who have pets know.

11 So we were able to pass it in Tenaflly,
12 but it just shows that we really are at that stage
13 that we need the statewide bill.

14 MAYOR STACK: I agree.

15 MS. O'CONNOR: Because, you know, it's
16 just going to be so hard to chase this if we don't
17 have some more uniformity. And I just wanted to
18 speak from the perspective of a mother, I want to
19 bring a little bit of humanity to this discussion
20 because I'm a mom of twins. And I always think
21 about the mother breeding dogs that are in these
22 puppy mills and they're just bred over and over
23 and they live on the --

24 MAYOR STACK: The abuse.

25 MS. O'CONNOR: The wire and the mesh and

1 exposed to all the elements. Then when they can't
2 breed anymore, they just kill them.

3 MAYOR STACK: I agree with you.

4 MS. O'CONNOR: So I'd like to again
5 applaud you for your work to the community. Thank
6 you so much. And just hope you're able to use
7 some of the power you have to help the animals.

8 MAYOR STACK: Councilwoman, if you can,
9 if you could send a copy of your ordinance? If
10 you could email it to me when you get a chance?
11 Alex will give you my email, if you could email it
12 to me, I'd appreciate that.

13 MS. O'CONNOR: I appreciate that.

14 MAYOR STACK: Believe me when I tell you
15 this, and I'm a firm believer in this. If you'll
16 hurt an animal, you'll hurt a baby. There's no
17 doubt about that. And I'm a firm believer of
18 that. I was in Bergen County on Sunday, I
19 actually went to eat something. And I passed a
20 place and I contacted Bergen County Humane Society
21 yesterday because there was a place I passed that
22 was a doggie daycare and it was a Sunday, and they
23 had two puppies in the front window, just fenced
24 in, like a little area. It was in Englewood.

25 MS. O'CONNOR: I was going to say that

1 was Englewood.

2 MAYOR STACK: Yeah, it was fenced in.
3 And they just had a little bit of water and a
4 little bit of food, but no bed to lay down. And I
5 actually reached out because wherever you are,
6 whether it's in Bergen County, Hudson County, New
7 York, another state, no animal should be abused or
8 used that way.

9 MS. O'CONNOR: I'm so glad you reported
10 that.

11 MAYOR STACK: Absolutely, I'm a firm
12 believer in that.

13 MS. O'CONNOR: Thank you.

14 MAYOR STACK: Thank you very much.
15 Thanks for coming to the meeting.

16 MS. O'CONNOR: Thank you.

17 MS. NDOYE: So I hope -- can you hear
18 me?

19 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

20 MS. NDOYE: Good. I hope this the
21 appropriate time to speak on this issue, but I
22 think it is. My name is Liz Ndoeye, I'm a resident
23 of Hoboken and I'm a concerned neighbor and I'm a
24 committed environmentalist. I'm an elected member
25 of the Hoboken Democratic committee, and a member

1 of food and water watch, and Empower New Jersey.

2 I'm here this evening to urge you to
3 vote yes on a resolution and, Mayor Stack, I did
4 email it to you and all of the members, all of the
5 commissioners here tonight. It is a resolution to
6 support the climate superfund act, which is senate
7 bill 3545 and assembly bill 4696 that is before
8 our state legislature. And, in essence, this act,
9 if passed, will require polluters to pay for the
10 damage they caused as a result of climate crisis
11 disasters. As our planet heats due to the burning
12 of fossil fuels, the oil and gas industry should
13 be made to pay for the destruction caused by super
14 storms, wild fires, droughts, sea level rise, et
15 cetera.

16 Our neighboring states, New York and
17 Vermont have passed such an act. Estimates state
18 that this act could raise up to 3 million dollars
19 per year and this would be a major help in
20 coverage the billions of dollars spent each year
21 on rebuilding and recovering from climate change
22 disasters in this state.

23 At this time, these costs fall on the
24 shoulders of the residents of Union City and the
25 rest of New Jersey. If they, like me, were

1 drastically affected by storms like Hurricane
2 Sandy and Ida, I'm sure they would be very much in
3 favor of you supporting this bill. My home and
4 many in Hudson County were damaged almost beyond
5 repair. And for weeks, it felt as if we were
6 living in a war zone, without enough food,
7 electricity, and heat after Hurricane Sandy.

8 And we have just seen this past month
9 that the effects of climate change are becoming
10 more and more deadly in our state. Two women just
11 tragically died of drowning during the flooding in
12 Plainfield. This is a win-win for all the
13 residents and taxpayers of New Jersey. Let's make
14 the very corporations who are responsible for
15 climate change pay for the suffering they've
16 caused. Some are concerned that if we force the
17 fossil fuel industry to pay for this damage, then
18 they will raise gas and oil prices in retaliation.
19 I believe this is a false premise. This would be
20 truly a bad business practice on their part and
21 potentially force their customers away.

22 It is now fact that the industry knew
23 that the burning of fossil fuels and they knew 50
24 years ago that the burning of fossil fuels would
25 hasten climate change and did little to nothing to

1 warn or prevent the bad effects of their products.

2 I won't talk any longer on how this act
3 will be administered because I also sent you a
4 fact sheet about how costs and payments will be
5 fairly apportioned. But I will end by strongly
6 urging you to do the right thing and say yes to
7 this resolution. And please join the 45 other
8 municipalities across the state who are in favor,
9 including Hoboken, which I'm proud to say was the
10 first city to pass this resolution. And help
11 those who have been adversely affected by the bad
12 actors in the fossil fuel industry and protect
13 your family, your friends, and neighbors from the
14 financial horrors, the health injustice that
15 threaten us all in the future of our warming
16 planet.

17 By saying yes to this resolution tonight
18 and not delaying, you send to our speaker of the
19 New Jersey assembly, Craig Coughlin, the urgency
20 of bringing this act to a vote on the floor.
21 Let's get this done now, please. Thank you for
22 allowing me to speak tonight and to present this.

23 MAYOR STACK: Thank you for coming to
24 the meeting tonight, I know you were at the last
25 meeting, we appreciate that. We're adopting -- it

1 was number 21 on the consent agenda and Hilda is
2 going to give you a copy of that resolution right
3 now. It received unanimous support. It will be
4 unanimous with the five commissioners.

5 MS. NDOYE: Somehow I missed that.

6 MAYOR STACK: No problem at all.

7 MS. NDOYE: I would have shortened my
8 speech.

9 MAYOR STACK: Thank you for your work on
10 the issue, we appreciate it. Thank you. Anyone
11 else wishing to speak?

12 MR. HACKETT: Good evening, Mayor Stack
13 and commissioners, my name is Brian Hackett, I'm
14 the director of advocacy with the Associated
15 Humane Society in Newark, 124 Evergreen Ave., in
16 Newark, New Jersey. We're the largest animal
17 protection organization in the state. We have
18 quite a few Union City residents who are donors
19 and supporters and adopters from us. And on
20 behalf of all of them, especially Mayor Stack, I
21 want to thank you for your leadership and your
22 support on so many animal issues over the years.

23 The reason that we're here tonight, just
24 to be very clear, is our members have asked to us
25 embark again on a statewide local ordinance

1 strategy to augment the support on the retail pet
2 store issue. Over the last ten years, we've
3 worked on this extensively around the state. And
4 as one of the former speaker said, we have about
5 150 municipalities with ordinances all around the
6 state and that work kind of stopped for awhile
7 because we had high hopes for the legislation.
8 And also our members are very disappointed with
9 legislative leadership for not moving the bill --
10 despite your hard work, Mayor Stack, on the
11 bill -- because what we warned would happen has
12 happened. New York state passed their
13 legislation, Governor Hochul signed it into law
14 last year. And as we warned legislative
15 leadership, these New York pet stores are now
16 moving to New Jersey.

17 MAYOR STACK: Yep.

18 MR. HACKETT: And one has already moved
19 into Freehold in Monmouth County, one has tried to
20 illegally set up shop in Roselle, we got that shut
21 down. We know others are looking at other areas
22 in Northern New Jersey. And it's very unfortunate
23 from a consumer protection perspective, the stores
24 here in Union City have been fined thousands of
25 dollars for consumer protection violations from

1 the state. There's pet stores all around the
2 state that have been fined and complaints,
3 probably dozens, if not hundreds, pending. So,
4 unfortunately, our members have asked us to now go
5 around the state again. And we're looking at
6 municipalities around the state where we're
7 particularly concerned about various individual
8 stores or where there's a chance that some of
9 these New York stores could go.

10 So in the meantime, while we're waiting
11 on the state legislation, I would just also
12 support and appreciate consideration for a local
13 ordinance, just given the circumstances and the
14 dynamic that we're in. And I think we've seen
15 from numerous other examples that these ordinances
16 and these laws, these bills, are very
17 pro-business. The pet industry is worth 150
18 billion dollars a year. And most of those profits
19 come from non-live pet sales, products, services,
20 grooming, boarding, all sorts of things. So we
21 know there's numerous pet stores actually in New
22 Jersey, there's I believe 56 that endorse Senate
23 Bill 2511 that are humane pet shops, they're small
24 mom-and-pop shops, they don't sell animals, they
25 do other things. So it's been proven to be

1 successful.

2 So I appreciate the time to speak and
3 again on behalf of our members, thank you, Senator
4 Mayor Stack for your leadership, your support. We
5 appreciate your consideration on this. We will be
6 working with other municipalities hopefully around
7 the state in the near future around similar
8 requests. So I thank you for considering and have
9 a good evening.

10 MAYOR STACK: Even beyond this
11 legislation, if you want to work together, I'm
12 more than happy to. Even at the boarding
13 facilities, at the grooming facilities, at the pet
14 shops, even beyond that, there should be cameras
15 set up, there should be recording going on.
16 Because when I drop off my dogs to get groomed --
17 I go to a great groomer, but there's always -- you
18 know, they're my children. I look at my little
19 puppies as my children. When you drop them off, I
20 worry about them being there for three hours,
21 what's going on. Even beyond that, we've talked
22 about it quite a bit. But even getting together
23 on stuff like that, having cameras in these
24 places. If you have nothing to hide, you have no
25 problem with the camera. We do --

1 MR. HACKETT: Absolutely.

2 MAYOR STACK: -- we do it with liquor
3 establishments in the City, why wouldn't we do it?
4 And changing the legislation where it's not
5 considered property, an animal.

6 MR. HACKETT: You're absolutely right.

7 MAYOR STACK: Part of your family.

8 MR. HACKETT: Animals should not be
9 considered property, but that's the reality in the
10 country right now. But we agree, so thank you.

11 MAYOR STACK: Thank you for coming to
12 the meeting. Anyone else wishing to comment at
13 this time, please step forward?

14 MR. COHEN: Good evening, my name is
15 Larry Cohen, I live down in Fanwood, small town in
16 Union County. I'm here with Brian and several of
17 the other animal advocates. And my role basically
18 is to help towns pass these ordinances. I've been
19 involved in about 30 of them. And I want to give
20 you just a little perspective as you state your
21 intention to consider one here, which is just
22 wonderful news. I want give you a little
23 perspective on the behavior of the stores and the
24 reason that we're so passionate about these
25 ordinances. Heather mentioned that two of the

1 stores here have been fined recently within the
2 past year by consumer affairs. One of them, it's
3 the second time in six years that they've been
4 fined. And their fines are for what should be
5 considered the easiest part of their requirements
6 under the Pet Purchase Protection Act, which is
7 the law that governs pet stores in New Jersey.
8 And that is simply to provide in their stores
9 adequate information for consumers, for shoppers,
10 about breeders, about their rights, about remedies
11 that they have if something goes wrong with a pet.
12 These stores cannot even do that, the most basic
13 requirement of the Pet Purchase Protection Act.
14 Within the last couple years, we've gotten
15 consumer affairs kicking and dragging because they
16 don't want to do any of this stuff, we've got hem
17 to fine seven stores within the state, and we're
18 working on more.

19 What's scary is the other provision in
20 the Pet Purchase Protection Act, which is that the
21 stores are supposed to, every May, provide a list
22 of every breeder that they have bought a dog from
23 in the previous year. Now, this works on an honor
24 system. The stores can basically put down any
25 breeder that they want and there's very little way

1 to check that. Although, I will say that the
2 Humane Society last year spent a considerable
3 amount of time and money doing kind of a reverse
4 check looking for what's called CVIs from the
5 states where these puppies come from. And they
6 found an enormous number of breeders that have
7 been deliberately left off stores' lists because
8 they didn't want people to know they were using
9 them.

10 It's important that you know that the
11 stores in Union City, until this week, had not
12 provided those lists for years. I OPRA them every
13 year and I'm in touch with your clerk's office
14 every year. And last year, I got into it with
15 them a little bit because I got no response from
16 them. And I said aren't you concerned that these
17 stores are supposed to be submitting these lists
18 by law and they're not doing it? Now just this
19 past --

20 MAYOR STACK: If it ever happens again,
21 please call me directly.

22 MR. COHEN: Well, just this past week,
23 as a result of inquiries from Humane World For
24 Animals on a national level, the clerk's office
25 did go out and solicit these lists, which by the

1 way, were due in May, and they hadn't provided
2 them yet. We're going to go through these lists
3 and see what kind of breeders they're using that
4 they've admitted on their list. But we can tell
5 you, just from a cursory glance, at least two of
6 the breeders they list are part of what the Humane
7 World For Animals does every year called a
8 horrible hundred list. They do painstaking
9 research and put together a list of a hundred
10 breeders that are representative of the worst of
11 the worst, that you would never want, you know,
12 your animal to come from.

13 MAYOR STACK: Sure.

14 MR. COHEN: Two of those breeders that
15 the stores in Union City have admitted to using
16 have been on one or more of those lists within the
17 past five years. So as you consider this
18 ordinance, and I understand that it's not an easy
19 list when you have businesses in town doing
20 something, but as Brian said, they can certainly
21 make tons of money on supplies and services.

22 MAYOR STACK: I agree. And somebody
23 doing the wrong thing on animals, they don't
24 belong being open. There's no doubt about it.

25 MR. COHEN: They have not been good

1 faith actors in terms of adhering to this law and
2 its most basic requirements is basically the point
3 I want to make.

4 MAYOR STACK: Let me just ask you a
5 question, so you can better educate me on this.
6 So when they list on the cage for the lack of --
7 the cage that the animal's in, when they list on
8 the cage the breeders, there's no backup that is
9 needed for that list?

10 MR. COHEN: Yes. They're also supposed
11 to have inspection reports from the past two years
12 in the store.

13 MAYOR STACK: Okay.

14 MR. COHEN: And your stores just have
15 not been doing that. One was fined \$6,000 last
16 year, the other was fined \$8,000. As I said, one
17 of them, it's the second fine in six years.

18 MAYOR STACK: Okay.

19 MR. COHEN: And that is a big fault of
20 consumer affairs --

21 MAYOR STACK: I'm sorry to interrupt.
22 If you're ever not getting information from Union
23 City, I'll make sure before you leave you have my
24 direct cell, call me directly on my cell. Janis
25 reaches out to me quite a bit and I work with her.

1 As soon as that came in, I gave it to the clerk
2 and said get this immediately. Not only that, the
3 health officer, animal control, and the
4 inspectors, went out to each of the three stores
5 as soon as we were told. I'll work with you and
6 if you need to meet with me, I'm more than happy
7 to meet with you on this.

8 MR. COHEN: Awesome.

9 MAYOR STACK: Any time. It's important
10 to me and I'm passionate about that. I don't want
11 that going on.

12 MR. COHEN: Thank you very much. I hope
13 your Commissioners are as passionate as you are.

14 MAYOR STACK: Absolutely.

15 MR. COHEN: Thank you so much.

16 MAYOR STACK: Anyone else wishing to
17 comment at this time?

18 MR. GRANT: Thank you, Mayor and
19 Commissioners. My name is David Grant, I am the
20 New Jersey director for the Humane World for
21 Animals, formerly known as the Humane Society of
22 the United States. Also, Mayor, I want you to
23 know I used to work for Assemblyman Eustace, I
24 understand the complications and delays that
25 happen with the legislature. I also can say from

1 a point of personal reference you have been an
2 advocate for us, for animals rights, for humane
3 rights, and I appreciate that.

4 MAYOR STACK: Thank you.

5 MR. GRANT: But also this is something
6 that years ago, too many years than I would like
7 to admit, we've been working on and it just --
8 nothing has happened because there have been so
9 many misrepresentations. There have been lies
10 from the stores. Years ago, we passed a law that
11 was a compromise to give these stores a chance to
12 do something that was truthful, that was humane,
13 but the honesty is that they haven't done it.

14 Again, working for the Humane World For
15 Animals, we have plenty of research that has shown
16 they have disregarded every single law and
17 regulation. And like one of our very good friends
18 and supporters who's done so much just alluded to,
19 one of the stores in your city has had \$6,000
20 worth of fines.

21 There's very little oversight,
22 especially with -- we all know what's happening on
23 Washington with the cuts to the USDA. There's
24 very little oversight and enforcement of what's
25 happening. And the fact is even when there are

1 laws, these stores still remain committed to an
2 inhumane business model, they do not report what
3 they're supposed to, they don't admit what they're
4 supposed to, they don't follow any law or
5 regulation. And we, as humane advocates, have
6 spent years trying to work with everybody to make
7 sure that animals don't suffer, that consumers
8 have the truth, and if they go to a pet shop and
9 adopt a new family member, that they are healthy,
10 that they have vaccines. The fact is these stores
11 lie about all of that. And I don't say lie --
12 like I said, I've worked on both sides of the
13 table -- I don't use the word lie lightly. But
14 they have lied to legislators, I've seen it in
15 hearings and we have the proof.

16 So I just wanted to reenforce that this
17 is not something -- we don't want to shut down
18 businesses, we don't want to hurt anybody, we
19 don't want to do any of that. What we want is for
20 businesses to pass a -- to have a humane business
21 model, that they provide healthy pets, but the
22 fact is they will not do that. And it is a danger
23 to New Jersey consumers because if someone goes
24 into a pet store thinking they're adopting a
25 healthy puppy, the fact is they don't know where

1 it came from. The fact is most of the -- most of
2 those, if not all of those, animals come from
3 inbred mothers who sit in cages and are just used
4 strictly as they just pump out puppies or pump out
5 kittens or pump out rabbits. There's no oversight
6 and the little oversight that there is, these
7 stores do not comply.

8 And also there's -- the other fact is
9 there are less than 20 stores in the whole State
10 of New Jersey, which we all can go down any main
11 street or any street in New Jersey and pass by
12 tons of pet stores that sell goods and food and
13 services for pets that are successful without
14 relying on sick pets and animals. So this is
15 something that -- especially after New York has
16 recently passed a law that bans puppies --
17 something that we've warned people about, is that
18 all these pet stores are going to do is they're
19 going to move across the river. And now we have
20 proof that that is what they're doing. They're
21 using New Jersey to perpetuate the puppy mill
22 pipeline.

23 And New Jersey is -- we are the garden
24 state. We are a state that values compassion,
25 community, and if we allow these few stores to

1 make a quick buck on the back of not only innocent
2 animals, but on the back of consumers who think
3 they're buying -- spending thousands of dollars
4 buying pets that I mean -- I hope you're all lucky
5 enough to afford to walk into a pet store and buy
6 a \$6,000 puppy, I'm not. But if you spent all
7 that money on a puppy that's sick, that you love,
8 you take home, and then what happens? You get --
9 you bring that puppy home, you fall in love with
10 it, it becomes a member of your family and then it
11 becomes sick because it's inbred, because its
12 mother sat in a cage its whole life and just
13 pumped out puppies after puppies after puppies.
14 You don't want that for your member of your
15 family, you don't want that for your cat's mother,
16 your dog's mother, you don't want that.

17 This is a chance for New Jersey to
18 finally say, hey, we are standing up for New
19 Jersey values and saying enough is enough. If you
20 want a member of your family, there are humane
21 ways to do that. And these pet stores do not
22 value that. And I do not say that -- I say that
23 after multiple research --

24 MS. BLAKE: Sir, your five minutes is
25 up.

1 MR. GRANT: Sorry.

2 MAYOR STACK: That's fine.

3 MR. GRANT: I would just like to say
4 again thank you for your advocacy on this. And as
5 a representative for the Humane World for Animals,
6 formally Humane Society, we are happy to have any
7 meetings, we are happy to provide anymore
8 information, to show you that this all real, we're
9 not exaggerating. This is not hyperbole, this is
10 the truth. We do not come to this conclusion
11 idly. This is a sad fact of a business community
12 and it's time to end it.

13 MAYOR STACK: If you can, either
14 tomorrow, if you could just shoot me an email or
15 shoot me a text and give me your information so I
16 can reach out to you. Because I'll work together
17 with you offline for those -- not so much with the
18 assembly, but with the senate. Let me know where
19 you need help among certain senators. Because I'm
20 not getting a lot of push back in the senate, but
21 if you know of others, I'll work with you to win
22 them on our side.

23 MR. GRANT: We appreciate your advocacy
24 on this and we --

25 MAYOR STACK: Thank you very much.

1 MR. GRANT: -- look forward to working
2 with you.

3 MAYOR STACK: Thank you. Anyone else
4 wishing to speak?

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Mayor, forgive
6 my ignorance, I do not own a pet. However, with
7 that said, we would have to also educate our
8 community as to what is the best place for them to
9 get themselves a family member or pet that is not
10 a pet shop, a local pet shop.

11 MR. GRANT: So obviously we very much
12 advocate for adopting because people have this
13 misrepresentation of if you get a purebred,
14 they're going to be healthier. If you know like
15 genetics, it is -- that's typically not the case
16 because most of these purebred dogs are inbred,
17 most purebred dogs have been in existence for less
18 than 100 years. But also we -- New Jersey has --
19 we have a list of breeders, it's an easy Google
20 search and you have breeders, purebred breeders
21 who do not sell to pet stores because they want to
22 make sure that they care about their pets. And
23 they want to make sure that their puppies, kittens
24 go to good families. So they don't sell to pet
25 stores. And it's very easy to Google, like

1 reputable breeders in New Jersey. And you can
2 source -- it's very easy to find breeders in New
3 Jersey itself or across state lines without having
4 to go to a pet store.

5 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: My dog --

6 MR. GRANT: Obviously, we want you to
7 adopt.

8 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: My dog was
9 adopted from the shelter in Secaucus. It was a
10 litter that came from Louisiana. It came state by
11 state, volunteers would go one state to the other.
12 And they arrived with -- I think there were like
13 nine puppies.

14 MR. GRANT: I mean my dog, she was -- I
15 adopted her, we -- luckily, the shelter we found
16 her from, she was in a kill shelter because she
17 looked like a pit bull -- even though pit bull is
18 not a breed -- from Kentucky. The fact is,
19 purebred dogs still have health problems, still
20 have behavior problems. And if you just find a
21 dog -- like going to a pet store and thinking
22 you're getting a purebred healthy dog is probably
23 not the case because it's probably been inbred
24 multiple times. And it comes from a mother that
25 has sat in a cage her entire life and just pumped

1 out puppy after puppy. We certainly do not -- we,
2 of course, encourage adopting. But there are so
3 many reputable breeders in New Jersey that it's a
4 very easy Google search. And you can find a whole
5 list and you can go to their house, you can see
6 the mother, you can meet the mother, you can meet
7 the family. And they want -- because they do
8 that, they don't sell to pet stores. And this is
9 what a lot of pet stores misrepresent. They say
10 we buy from local breeders because local breeders
11 care about their dogs. So they want to make sure
12 they meet the family. They want to make sure that
13 their dogs' children go to a good family. And it
14 is very easy and you can find a whole list. And
15 it's -- between Pet Finder and the breeder
16 website, it is a -- like you can say I want this
17 dog --

18 MS. BLAKE: Sir, we have to move on.

19 MAYOR STACK: I don't --

20 MR. GRANT: It's very easy.

21 MAYOR STACK: Very true. Thank you very
22 much. Thank you for all your information.

23 MS. BLAKE: Sorry.

24 MAYOR STACK: Thank you. Anyone else
25 wishing to comment at this time?

1 MR. DURETSKI: Good evening, Richard
2 Duretski from Clifton, I represent the League of
3 Humane Voters. I obviously support the state
4 bill, but I want to say something too. I've been
5 getting involved with local ordinances the last
6 couple years, mostly in Bergen County. And
7 probably it's half -- over half just one week ago,
8 Garfield passed an ordinance. What I would like
9 to request, if you do an ordinance -- I hope you
10 do -- please make it that the pet stores that are
11 selling the dogs and maybe cats here, too, that
12 they have to eventually go out of business, give
13 them a year or two tops and they have to not
14 sell-- not go out of business, but stop selling
15 dogs.

16 MAYOR STACK: Exactly.

17 MR. DURETSKI: Like I said, Petco, Pet
18 Smart, they're thriving --

19 MAYOR STACK: I'm sorry to interrupt
20 you. Did the Clifton ordinance have that where
21 they gave a time frame, that they would --

22 MR. DURETSKI: We have none in the city,
23 so it's proactive to keep them out. That was
24 three years ago.

25 MAYOR STACK: You or anybody that's here

1 tonight that has any of that information, if they
2 could email it to me so we can get it to Samantha
3 and to Angelo, we'll put it on the next
4 Commissioner meeting.

5 MR. DURETSKI: I don't know for sure
6 that any have -- I don't know -- okay, they know.

7 MAYOR STACK: Okay.

8 MR. DURETSKI: The other thing I just
9 want to say, Senator Stack, was thank you for your
10 compassion. And when you get back to Trenton,
11 please let your colleagues know that this has at
12 least -- that bill, the colleagues pet store, has
13 at least 90 percent approval, that people want it
14 in the state. Everybody has a dog a cat or has
15 had one that they love and they want this.

16 MAYOR STACK: I couldn't understand
17 anybody opposing this. There's -- it's common
18 sense.

19 MR. DURETSKI: Absolutely. Well, the
20 people making money off the animals, exploiting
21 them. And AKC, if you ever hear from them,
22 everybody says it's a great organization, they're
23 terrible. They support actually no pro-animal
24 legislation because they see it as a threat to
25 their --

1 MAYOR STACK: The AKC does?

2 MR. DURETSKI: Yes. Everybody thinks
3 they're wonderful organization with the dog show
4 every year, but they're not. They rubber stamp a
5 purebred -- all the dogs are purebred because
6 their parents were dogs, makes them purebred dogs,
7 right? It's supposed to be a joke. And I think
8 there was one other thing.

9 It has 90 percent approval. I'm sure
10 and this is the thing I wanted to wrap up with.
11 We have a saying on this issue, it's adopt, don't
12 shop. Go to the shelter, even better is the
13 little rescues. You got a great cat rescue called
14 the Union City Feral Cat Committee.

15 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

16 MR. DURETSKI: I think that's it. If
17 you're looking for a cat, go to the rescues.
18 That's the best. I have had 11 dogs, all rescues,
19 mostly from the Bergen County Animal Shelter, all
20 had really long lives. My cat just passed away
21 two months ago, I got her when she was seven, she
22 lived fifteen more years, she died at 22.

23 MAYOR STACK: We have to train people
24 and educate them on just that kind of compassion.
25 You get a cat when it's a kitten, then when it

1 gets older, people release the cat into the street
2 and that's a major, major issue. I don't know how
3 you can have something -- have an animal, have a
4 cat, a dog, whatever it may be, and then just
5 release them and then just say I'm going to give
6 them up.

7 I had a woman call me the other day, she
8 had a dog for nine years, she said I need to give
9 the dog up. I said you should think about it. I
10 mean I was trying to negotiate with her not to do
11 this. And she said no, I just need to give him
12 up, I'm moving. I said, I know, but are they
13 stopping you where you're going, where you're
14 moving to? She was moving out of the state. She
15 said no, I can take it, I just want to give it up.
16 I said you understand most of these shelters take
17 the dog at that age, the dog is not going to make
18 it. I tried to talk her out of it.

19 I had a woman with a cat today. She
20 said the cat scratched her and she wanted to get
21 rid of the cat. I'm negotiating with her on the
22 phone today. It's just -- it's tough. I don't
23 know how somebody could do that, the attachment
24 and the love you have for the animal, I don't know
25 how you can just do it.

1 MR. DURETSKI: My latest adoption, he
2 was 7, turned in ever since he was a puppy. I
3 asked why they were turning him in, he barks too
4 much. It took seven years to figure --

5 MAYOR STACK: The unconditional love you
6 get from them, you probably don't get from any
7 humans. They're always happy to see me when I get
8 home. My office is not even happy to see me in
9 the morning.

10 MR. DURETSKI: Thank you very much,
11 Senator.

12 MAYOR STACK: Thank you. Any other
13 comments? Any other questions at this time?
14 Thank you to all the speakers that came tonight.
15 Thank you for taking the time from a lot of
16 different places that you came from to be here
17 tonight. Thank you very much. Alex will make
18 sure and Andre, they're going to give you my cell
19 phone number and my email. If you can reach out
20 to me just to compare notes on before we do our
21 ordinance to make sure we're doing the right
22 thing, I appreciate that.

23 Everyone is welcome to stay, we're now
24 going to the liquor license hearings. If you want
25 to stay, you're more than welcome to, sometimes,

1 they're a little longer. I thank everybody for
2 taking the time out of their night to be here.
3 Thank you very much. On behalf of the
4 Commissioners and myself, thank you. Mr.
5 Gonzalez, liquor hearings.

6 * * * *

LIQUOR LICENSE HEARINGS:

- 1. El Paso Restaurante Corp.**
- 2. Hamilton Fork & Knife, LLC**
- 3. Shriji II, LLC**
- 4. Manhattan Bar & Grill Restaurant, LLC**
- 5. Bambinas Bar & Restaurant, LLC**

MR. GONZALEZ: Good evening, Mayor, Commissioners. For the record, Ramon Gonzalez, G-O-N-Z-A-L-E-Z, ABC prosecutor for the City of Union City.

We have five matters that are listed on the agenda for today. In speaking with each individuals, what I'm respectfully requesting is that each one be adjourned, do it all at one time, because they would like to do a plea hearing meeting with me so we would be ready to proceed for the next hearing.

So I would just simply request these matters be adjourned.

MAYOR STACK: And which matters were these, Mr. Gonzalez?

MR. GONZALEZ: All five. Four of them are here. One did not show up, which surprises me, I didn't receive a call from them. So I'd

1 like to follow up, that would be number two, I
2 believe. And the other ones are here and they
3 would like to meet with me for a potential plea
4 hearing so we can not have a trial.

5 MAYOR STACK: Great.

6 MR. GONZALEZ: Just carry to the next
7 meeting.

8 MAYOR STACK: I'll make a motion to
9 adjourn.

10 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Second.

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

13 Commissioner Fernandez.

14 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

15 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

16 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

17 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

18 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

19 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti.

20 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

21 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

22 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

23 MR. GONZALEZ: Thank you.

24 * * * *

25

ADJOURNMENT :

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

MAYOR STACK: Motion.

MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Second.

MS. ROSARIO: All in favor?

(All Board Members indicate in the affirmative.)

(Whereupon the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.)

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Brian P. Stack
Lucio P. Fernandez
Maryury A. Martinetti
Celin J. Valdivia
Wendy A. Gullon

Board of Commissioners

Attest:
Samantha Blake, Esq.,
Corporation Counsel

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