

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

REGULAR MEETING

TRANSCRIPT OF
PROCEEDINGS

ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL
700 Central Avenue
Union City, New Jersey

Tuesday, January 20, 2026
Commencing at 7:15 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 I. ROSARIO, City Clerk

SUSAN BISCHOFF CCR CO.
201-390-0583 SBischoffccr@yahoo.com

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

SCOTT D. FINCKENAUER, ESQUIRE
Attorney for Centro Bar

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1 MS. ROSARIO: This is a regular public
2 meeting of the Union City Board of Commissioners
3 being held on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at
4 7:00 p.m. at the St. Anthony School at 700 Central
5 Avenue in Union City.

6 This meeting has been called in
7 accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.
8 Adequate notice of this meeting was forwarded to
9 The Bergen Record and The Star Ledger, has been
10 posted on the bulletin board in City Hall and has
11 been made available to the public in the office of
12 the Municipal Clerk.

13
14 **ROLL CALL:**

15
16 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Fernandez.

17 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Here.

18 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

19 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Here.

20 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

21 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Here.

22 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti.

23 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Here.

24 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

25 MAYOR STACK: Here.

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

4 **APPROVING PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES)**

5
6 MS. ROSARIO: First item on the agenda
7 is approving the previous meeting minutes for the
8 January 6, 2026, Board of Commissioners meeting.
9 May I have a motion?

10 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Motion.

11 MS. ROSARIO: Motion made by
12 Commissioner Martinetti.

13 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Second.

14 MS. ROSARIO: Second, Commissioner
15 Valdivia.

16 Commissioner Fernandez.

17 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

18 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

19 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

20 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

21 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

22 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti.

23 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

24 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

25 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 12/20/2025-01/02/2026

(4) Resolution Approving the Library Payroll 12/20/25-01/02/2026

(5) Resolution Cancelling Taxes on City-Owned Property

(6) Resolution Authorizing Refund of Redemption Monies to Outside Lienholders

(7) Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Premium Monies Collected At the Tax Sale

(8) Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Payment

(9) Resolution Awarding Contracts For Architectural Services For the City of Union City For 2026

(10) Resolution Awarding Contract For Architectural Services - CDA For the City of Union City For 2026

(11) Resolution Authorizing Contract For Auditing

1 Services For 2026

2 (12) Resolution Authorizing Contracts For

3 Bond-Special Counsel Services For 2026

4 (13) Resolution Authorizing Contracts For Tenant

5 Advocacy Attorney Services For 2026

6 (14) Resolution Authorizing Contract For

7 Alcoholic Beverage Control Prosecutor Services For

8 the City of Union City For 2026

9 (15) Resolution Authorizing Contract For Chief

10 Municipal Court Prosecutor Services to the Legg

11 Law Firm LLC For 2026

12 (16) Resolution Authorizing Contract For Labor

13 Counsel Services For the City of Union City For

14 2026

15 (17) Resolution Authorizing Contract For

16 Corporation Counsel Services For the City of Union

17 City For 2026

18 (18) Resolution Authorizing Contract For Planning

19 Board Counsel Services For the City of Union City

20 For 2026

21 (19) Resolution Authorizing Contract For General

22 Engineering Services For the City of Union City

23 For 2026

24 (20) Resolution Authorizing Contract For General

25 Counsel For the City of Union City Community

- 1 Development Agency For 2026
- 2 (21) Resolution Authorizing Contract For Rent
- 3 Stabilization Board Counsel For 2026
- 4 (22) Resolution Awarding Contract For Interpreter
- 5 Services For 2026
- 6 (23) Resolution Awarding Contract For Library
- 7 Board Counsel For the City of Union City For 2026
- 8 (24) Resolution Authorizing Contracts For Special
- 9 Tax Appeal Counsel Services For the City of Union
- 10 City For 2026
- 11 (25) Resolution Authorizing Contract For Green
- 12 Acres Open Space Grant Consultation Services 2026
- 13 (26) Resolution Authorizing Contract For Special
- 14 Hearing Officer Services For the City of Union
- 15 City For 2026
- 16 (27) Resolution Authorizing Contract For Zoning
- 17 Board of Adjustment Counsel Services For the City
- 18 of Union City For 2026
- 19 (28) Resolution Authorizing Contracts For
- 20 Substitute Municipal Court Prosecutor Services For
- 21 2026
- 22 (29) Resolution Reappointing Member to the Union
- 23 City Library Board Trustees For 2026-2028
- 24 (30) Resolution Authorizing Submission of Grant
- 25 Application For the NJDOT 2026 Local Freight

- 1 Infrastructure Fund Program For the 30th Street
- 2 and 31st Street Improvements Project
- 3 (31) Resolutions Awarding Contract For Special
- 4 Projects Planner Services For the City of Union
- 5 City For 2026
- 6 (32) Resolution Authorizing the Award of Contract
- 7 For Public Defender Services For 2026
- 8 (33) Resolution Authorizing Contract For Special
- 9 Counsel Services For 2026
- 10 (34) Resolution Reappointing Member to Union City
- 11 Redevelopment Agency (2026-2031)
- 12 (35) Resolution Acknowledging the Public Notice
- 13 Publication Reform Pursuant to Senate Bill No:4654
- 14 (36) Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a
- 15 Shared Services Agreement Between the City of
- 16 Union City and the North Hudson Sewerage Authority
- 17 For the Maintenance of Catch Basins Along the
- 18 Stairway Located Between Palisade Avenue and
- 19 Manhattan Avenue
- 20 (37) Resolution Enabling Electronic Procurement
- 21 Agent and Contracting For Energy Supply
- 22 (38) Resolution Authorizing a Green Acres Grant
- 23 From the NJDEP
- 24 (39) Resolution of the Board of Commissioner of
- 25 the City of Union City, in the County of Hudson,

1 New Jersey Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of
2 Tax Anticipation Notes of the City of Union City
3 in the Principal Amount of Up to \$27,000,000;
4 Making Certain Covenants to Effect and Maintain
5 the Exemption in Interest on Said Notes From
6 Federal Income Taxation; and Such Determinations
7 As May Be Necessary Or Appropriate to Effectuate
8 the Issuance and Sale of the Notes

9 (40) Resolution of the Board of Commissioner of
10 the City of Union City, County of Hudson, New
11 Jersey, Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of Up to
12 \$4,952,000 of General Obligation Bonds, Series
13 2026, of the City of Union City, County of Hudson,
14 New Jersey; Authorizing Such Further Actions and
15 Making Such Determinations As May Be Necessary Or
16 Appropriate to Effectuate the Issuance and Sale of
17 the Bonds

18 (41) Resolution Authorizing Contract to Marotta &
19 Garvey LLP For Special Tax Appeal Counsel Services
20 For the City of Union City For 2026

21 (42) Resolution Awarding Contract For Real Estate
22 & Tax Appraisal Services to Hallmark Real Estate
23 Services, Inc. For 2026

24 (43) Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of
25 Elevator Installation, Maintenance, Repair,

1 Testing and Inspection Services Pursuant to New
2 Jersey State Contract #20-GNSV2-01119)

3

4 MS. ROSARIO: The second items are the
5 consent agenda. There are 43 items on the consent
6 agenda. Can you please review, if anyone has an
7 objection, we can remove it and add it into the
8 regular agenda.

9 On Item 34, Commissioner Fernandez will
10 recuse; on Item 36, Commissioner Martinetti will
11 recuse.

12 MAYOR STACK: If there's anyone wishing
13 to comment on the consent agenda, please step
14 forward, state your name and address for the
15 record? Seeing none.

16 MS. ROSARIO: May I have a motion?

17 MAYOR STACK: Motion to close.

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

20 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Second.

21 MS. ROSARIO: Second, Commissioner
22 Valdivia.

23 Commissioner Fernandez.

24 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

25 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

1 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

2 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

3 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

4 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti.

5 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

6 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

7 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

8 MS. ROSARIO: May I have a motion to
9 approve all items?

10 MAYOR STACK: Motion.

11 MS. ROSARIO: Motion made by Mayor
12 Stack.

13 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Second.

14 MS. ROSARIO: Second, Commissioner
15 Fernandez.

16 Commissioner Fernandez.

17 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes, with the
18 exception of 34.

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, with the
25 exception of 36.

1 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

2 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

3

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

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

7 **1. AN ORDINANCE STAYING ENFORCEMENT OF**
8 **PROHIBITION ON THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS BY RETAIL**
9 **PET STORES UNTIL MAY 1, 2025.)**

10

11 MS. ROSARIO: There are two ordinances
12 for hearing and adoption consideration. The first
13 ordinance is an ordinance staying enforcement of
14 prohibition of the sale of dogs and cats by retail
15 pet stores until May 1, 2026.

16 MAYOR STACK: Anyone wishes to comment
17 on this ordinance at this time, please step
18 forward, state your name and address for the
19 record? Seeing none, I'll make the motion.

20 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Second.

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

23 Commissioner Fernandez.

24 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

25 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

1 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

2 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

3 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

4 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti.

5 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

6 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

7 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

8 MS. ROSARIO: May I have a motion to
9 adopt?

10 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Motion.

11 MAYOR STACK: Second.

12 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti,
13 second by Mayor Stack.

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

25 (Whereupon, the Board discussed and took

1 action on the following item:

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

3 2. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF UNION
4 CITY, IN THE COUNTY OF HUDSON, NEW JERSEY,
5 GUARANTYING A PORTION OF BONDS AND/OR NOTES OF THE
6 HUDSON COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY AND
7 AUTHORIZING A GUARANTY AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION
8 WITH THE FINANCING BY THE AUTHORITY OF COSTS
9 RELATING TO CERTAIN FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES
10 PROVIDED BY THE NORTH HUDSON REGIONAL FIRE AND
11 RESCUE.)

12

13 MS. ROSARIO: The second ordinance is an
14 ordinance of the City of Union City, in the County
15 of Hudson, New Jersey, guarantying a portion of
16 bonds and/or notes of the Hudson County
17 Improvement Authority and authorizing a guaranty
18 agreement in connection with the financing by the
19 Authority of costs relating to certain fire and
20 rescue services provided by the North Hudson
21 Regional Fire and Rescue.

22 Commissioner Martinetti will recuse from
23 this ordinance. Mayor, at this time --

24 MAYOR STACK: Anyone wishing to comment
25 on this ordinance at this time, please step

1 forward, state your name and address for the
2 record. Seeing none, motion to close.

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

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Second.

6 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Fernandez.
7 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 MS. ROSARIO: May I have a motion to
16 adopt?

17 MAYOR STACK: Motion.

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

20 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Second.

21 MS. ROSARIO: Second, Commissioner
22 Valdivia.

23 Commissioner Fernandez.

24 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

25 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

1 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.
2 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.
3 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.
4 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.
5 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

6 * * * *

LIQUOR LICENSE HEARINGS

1. 2216 Bergenline Avenue, LLC
T/a Centro Bar
2216 Bergenline Avenue
0910-33-166-007
Scott D. Finckenauer, Esq.
2. El Chapin Corp.
T/a El Cuscatleco Bar & Restaurant
2118 Bergenline Avenue
0910-33-075-010
Christopher Campos, Esq.
3. El Paso Restaurante Corp.
T/a Taqueria El Paso
3715-17 Bergenline Avenue
0910-33-210-006
4. Pramukh Varni, LLC
T/a Los Laureles Liquors
4625 Broadway
0910-44-026-014

- 1 1. 2216 Bergenline Avenue, LLC
2 T/a Centro Bar
3 2216 Bergenline Avenue
4 Scott D. Finckenaaur, Esq.

5 MS. ROSARIO: We now have the liquor
6 license hearings.

7 MAYOR STACK: Mr. Gonzalez.

8 MR. GONZALEZ: Thank you. Good evening.
9 For the record, Ramon Gonzalez G-O-N-Z-A-L-E-Z, on
10 behalf of the Union City ABC Commission.

11 On the calendar today, we have four
12 matters. I'd like to go a little out of order.
13 The first matter is Centro Bar, they're
14 represented by Mr. Finckenaaur, we have a
15 potential resolution, we just need a little more
16 time on that. The second matter --

17 MAYOR STACK: Just on Centro, you're
18 going to have a resolution this evening?

19 MR. GONZALEZ: This evening, we might be
20 able to resolve it.

21 MAYOR STACK: Sure, you got it.
22
23
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1 2. El Chapin Corp.
2 T/a El Cuscatleco Bar & Restaurant
3 2118 Bergenline Avenue
4 0910-33-075-010
5 Christopher Campos, Esq.

6 MR. GONZALEZ: I want to go the second
7 matter El Cuscatleco Bar and Restaurant, they're
8 located at 2118 Bergenline Avenue. They have just
9 retained Christopher Campos, he sent a letter of
10 representation to my office. I forwarded to him
11 the discovery, we'll be having a plea meeting next
12 week, where he said he will be present to see if
13 we can resolve that matter. So I will --

14 MAYOR STACK: I'll make a motion to
15 adjourn that matter.

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

18 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Second.

19 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.
20 Commissioner Fernandez.

21 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

22 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

23 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

24 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

25 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti.

1 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

2 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

3 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

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1 3. El Paso Restaurante Corp.
2 T/a Taqueria El Paso
3 3715-17 Bergenline Avenue
4 0910-33-210-006

5 MR. GONZALEZ: The third matter is
6 Taqueria El Paso, located at 3715 Bergenline
7 Avenue, they're here. If I can just have the
8 interpreter come up and be sworn because I believe
9 they need the interpreter.

10 G U I L L E R M O M A R T I N E Z, an
11 interpreter of the SPANISH language, after having
12 been duly sworn or affirmed, did interpret the
13 following testimony:

14
15 MR. GONZALEZ: Just place your name on
16 the record, please.

17 MR. TEPETITLA (without interpretation):
18 Arturo Tepetitla.

19 MR. GONZALEZ: What is your position at
20 the --

21 MR. TEPETITLA: Owner.

22 MR. GONZALEZ: You're the owner, okay.
23 You understand what you're charged with has to do
24 with camera violations?

25 MR. TEPETITLA: Yes.

1 MR. GONZALEZ: And you actually have
2 come to see us at a plea meeting and provided
3 certain information; is that correct?

4 MR. TEPETITLA: Yes.

5 MR. GONZALEZ: What we'd like to do is
6 to confirm that the matter has been corrected.
7 Lieutenant Dunlay is here. What we're going to do
8 is send a representative from the police
9 department out to check to make sure that that's
10 been corrected because it's really the best thing
11 is we want them working, and they're aware of
12 that. So if we could just adjourn this to the
13 next hearing, I would respectfully request that,
14 we'll have a better grasp. If it's been fixed,
15 we'll resolve the matter.

16 MAYOR STACK: Okay. That would be fine.
17 So we'll adjourn it?

18 MR. GONZALEZ: Yes.

19 MAYOR STACK: Motion to adjourn.

20 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Second.

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

23 Commissioner Fernandez.

24 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

25 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

1 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

2 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

3 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

4 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti.

5 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

6 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

7 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

8 MR. GONZALEZ: Thank you.

9 MR. TEPETITLA: Thank you.

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1 4. Pramukh Varni, LLC
2 T/a Los Laureles Liquors
3 4625 Broadway
4 0910-44-026-014

5 MR. GONZALEZ: The next matter we have
6 is Los Laureles Liquors, they're located at 4625
7 Broadway. The owner is present, just please state
8 your name for the record?

9 MR. AMIN: Varun Amin.

10 MR. GONZALEZ: You understand the
11 charges that have been presented against you; is
12 that correct?

13 MR. AMIN: Yes.

14 MR. GONZALEZ: And you've been served
15 with them?

16 MR. AMIN: Yes.

17 MR. GONZALEZ: And you understand that
18 there's over 40 charges for violations of selling
19 after hours. Do you understand that?

20 MR. AMIN: Yes.

21 MR. GONZALEZ: And you've explained to
22 me that you wish to retain an attorney?

23 MR. AMIN: Yes.

24 MR. GONZALEZ: I think under the
25 circumstances, since we served them with over 40
 violations, and would be seeking a suspension,

1 most likely about 180 days minimum, he's asked
2 that if he could get an attorney, I think it would
3 be appropriate because it's going to be a
4 substantial impact. We have a lot of proofs, we
5 have videos. We have investigations from the
6 police department. So I think it's probably
7 appropriate for them to get an attorney, so it
8 should be adjourned. And hopefully he knows that
9 we'll be having a plea meeting some time next week
10 that he should attend with an attorney by that
11 time.

12 If, the next hearing, you're not present
13 with an attorney, we will proceed without --

14 MR. AMIN: Okay.

15 MR. GONZALEZ: Okay.

16 MAYOR STACK: Okay. I'll make a motion
17 to adjourn to the next date that Mr. Gonzalez
18 advises.

19 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Second.

20 MS. ROSARIO: Motion made by Mayor
21 Stack. Second by Commissioner Fernandez.

22 Commissioner Fernandez.

23 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

24 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

25 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

1 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

2 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

3 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti.

4 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

5 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

6 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

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1 1. 2216 Bergenline Avenue, LLC
2 T/a Centro Bar
3 2216 Bergenline Avenue
4 0910-33-166-007
5 Scott D. Finckenauer, Esq.

6 MR. GONZALEZ: Okay. If we could just
7 go back to El Centro, Mr. Finckenauer is here. We
8 have a potential resolution, but his client has
9 been tied up and is running late. I don't want to
10 delay this anymore and have everybody have to sit
11 here. If we have a resolution, we can put it
12 through at the next hearing. So I think it would
13 be appropriate to adjourn this matter. Is that
14 fair to say, Mr. Finckenauer?

15 MR. FINCKENAUER: That's fine.

16 MAYOR STACK: That's fine, we'll put it
17 on for the next hearing.

18 MR. FINCKENAUER: I apologize.

19 MAYOR STACK: No problem. I make a
20 motion to adjourn that hearing.

21 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Second.

22 MS. ROSARIO: Motion made by Mayor
23 Stack, second by Commissioner Fernandez.

24 Commissioner Fernandez.

25 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Grullon.

1 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

2 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Valdivia.

3 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

4 MS. ROSARIO: Commissioner Martinetti.

5 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

6 MS. ROSARIO: Mayor Stack.

7 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

8 MR. GONZALEZ: That concludes all the
9 ABC matters.

10 MAYOR STACK: Thank you very much.

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

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

6 MR. TORRES good evening, Commissioners
7 and Mayor.

8 Mr. Mayor Stack, I wanted to ask you a
9 question. I don't know if you know who I am, my
10 name is Mike Torres, I used to be a resident in
11 Union City, I'm no longer a resident here in Union
12 City.

13 MAYOR STACK: I didn't hear your name,
14 I'm sorry, sir.

15 MR. TORRES: My name is Michael Torres,
16 I used to be a resident here in Union City, I'm no
17 longer a resident in Union City. I went to the
18 public schools here. I don't know if you remember
19 who I am, but I am the gentleman that got sexually
20 exploited by Ed Marinez. I wanted to know what's
21 going on with that outcome of Ed Marinez of him
22 being working with the Board of Education due to
23 the outcome of all the stuff that's been going on.
24 You see my face, I'm here now, okay.

25 My question also is since the fact that

1 Ed Martinez did what he did to me in Emerson, at
2 Roosevelt Stadium, there's no outcome. I went to
3 the D.A., I went to everybody, they told me
4 statute of limitations. So for me to know from
5 you, what is the outcome for Ed Martinez, Mayor
6 Stack?

7 MAYOR STACK: Sir, if --

8 MR. TORRES: Please look at me because
9 at your last meeting, you looked down. I just
10 want you to look at me like the professional that
11 you are.

12 MAYOR STACK: I don't know what you're
13 talking about looking down, I'm looking directly
14 at you. Do you have litigation pending, sir?

15 MR. TORRES: Yes, I do.

16 MAYOR STACK: Okay. Have your attorney
17 handle that with the attorneys for the Board of
18 Education.

19 MR. TORRES: You want me to handle it
20 with my attorneys, but I'm asking you
21 personally --

22 MAYOR STACK: Sir, you have litigation
23 pending right now against the City and the Board
24 of Education. Your attorney should be instructing
25 you.

1 MR. TORRES: Okay. Is anybody going to
2 handle it? Is he still going to be in the
3 schools? That's what I want to know, with kids?
4 That's all --

5 MAYOR STACK: Sir, have your attorney
6 contact the Board of Education.

7 MR. TORRES: So you're dismissing me?

8 MAYOR STACK: I'm not dismissing you,
9 sir. Have your attorney contact the Board of
10 Education. You should be advised by your counsel.

11 MR. TORRES: All right.

12 MAYOR STACK: Thank you very much, sir.

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

16 MR. SNOW: I'm David Snow with the
17 Exposure Report. I'm here tonight because what's
18 happening in Union City is not governance, it's
19 not leadership, it's a cover up. And children are
20 at the center of it. I, along with Leroy Truth,
21 an investigative journalist interviewed Jonathan
22 Almeida, a Union City High School class of 2002
23 graduate who came forward as an alleged survivor
24 of Edwin Martinez, a Union City assistant principal
25 and teacher.

1 Since that interview aired, something
2 very revealing happened. Not one person in power
3 has denied the allegations. Not the mayor, not
4 the Board of Education, not the Superintendent
5 Sylvia Abbato. Not one statement declaring
6 innocence, not one explanation to the public.
7 Instead what followed was retaliation against the
8 people exposing the allegations.

9 Let me be precise. After the interview,
10 Leroy Truth attempted to conduct routine business
11 at the Board of Education building. He was locked
12 out of the public building during business hours
13 twice, twice Union City Police had to force
14 security to let him in. One officer did advise
15 him correctly that if he had information involving
16 student safety, he should raise it during public
17 comment. So he did the very next day and what
18 happened? He was locked out again. Police again
19 had to intervene.

20 All the speakers signed up and while he
21 was speaking, trying to warn the board and
22 superintendent about all the allegations that
23 Edwin Martinez engaged in sexual misconduct with
24 students over decades, including exposing himself
25 to children as young as seven, he was constantly

1 interrupted. Then he was told he could not
2 continue because the topic was not on the agenda.
3 Let me say that again, child safety was ruled out
4 of order.

5 And then without committing any crime,
6 Union City police forcibly removed him mid public
7 comment, no arrest, no charges, just shoved out
8 like garbage. A man trying to protect children
9 from an alleged sexual predator, and this is how
10 your administration treated him.

11 Then when there were only 67 seconds
12 left in his public comment time at the next
13 meeting, here in this building, Mayor Stack shut
14 the entire meeting down.

15 So let me ask you directly, what are you
16 so afraid of hearing? If these allegations are
17 false, why silence the speaker? Why have him
18 thrown out today? Why cancel meetings? Why never
19 defend Edwin Martinez publicly? Why never say this
20 is not true? Silence is not neutrality, silence
21 is protection.

22 And it didn't stop there. After
23 Superintendent Abbato refused to return calls to
24 schedule a meeting, Leroy Truth returned
25 peacefully to the Board of Education during

1 business hours to file a request and again request
2 a meeting. Once again locked out, once again
3 police had to intervene.

4 Then without cause, Officer Glenn Gaston
5 laid hands on him, no crime, no threat. Video
6 shows Officer Gaston releasing his own grip,
7 intentionally falling backward and yelling
8 aggravated assault. A complete set up. Leroy
9 Truth was arrested, taken to county jail,
10 incarcerated for 36 hours, falsely charged with
11 aggravated assault on a police officer, despite
12 the evidence proving it never happened.

13 By the way, the officer who falsely
14 accused Leroy Truth of aggravated assault, whose
15 name is Lieutenant Glenn Gaston, happens to be on
16 the Brady/Giglio list and is also the same officer
17 found responsible for the death of an innocent man
18 in custody, which resulted in a 2.5 million dollar
19 payout that Union City did to defend him.

20 And here's the most disturbing part:
21 When Leroy Truth was forcibly removed from a Board
22 of Education meeting earlier, he was not arrested
23 at all. Yet, days later, he was criminally
24 charged anyway, trespassing, resisting police, and
25 disrupting a public meeting for speaking during

1 his public comment time. That's not law
2 enforcement, that's retaliation through
3 prosecution.

4 So let's be clear tonight. An alleged
5 predator remains protected, a superintendent
6 refuses to meet, meetings are shut down,
7 journalists are silenced, arrested, jailed, and
8 charged.

9 Mayor Stack, if these allegations are
10 false, say it. If Edwin Martinez is innocent,
11 defend him publicly. If you believe children are
12 safe, explain why you refuse to suspend him
13 pending an investigation. Because history teaches
14 us this: Scandals don't destroy institutions, the
15 coverups do. And once the truth is spoken in
16 public, it does not go back. Thank you.

17 MAYOR STACK: Anyone else wishing to
18 comment at this time? Seeing no other, motion.

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

21 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Second.

22 MAYOR STACK: To close the public
23 portion of the meeting.

24 MS. ROSARIO: Second, Commissioner
25 Martinetti.

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

12 **ADJOURNMENT:**

13

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

16 MAYOR STACK: Just before we adjourn,
17 I'd just like to apologize. It's not often that
18 I'm late to a commission meeting. I'd like to
19 apologize to the public and to the Commissioners.
20 Thank you very much.

21 MS. ROSARIO: May I have a motion to
22 adjourn.

23 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Motion.

24 MS. ROSARIO: Motion by --

25 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Second.

1 MS. ROSARIO: -- Commissioner
2 Martinetti. Second by Commissioner Fernandez.

3 All in favor?

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

7
8 MS. ROSARIO: Thank you.

9
10 (Whereupon the meeting was adjourned at
11 7:32 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