

HUDSON COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

RE:

REGULAR MEETING : TRANSCRIPT OF
OF THE :
HUDSON COUNTY BOARD OF : PROCEEDINGS
CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS :
:

O P E N S E S S I O N

Hudson County
Administration Building,
Freeholders Chambers
567 Pavonia Avenue
Jersey City, New Jersey
Thursday, September 24, 2020
6:00 p.m.

B E F O R E:

ANTHONY VAINIERI, Chairman
FANNY CEDEÑO, Freeholder
ALBERT CIFELLI, Freeholder
KENNETH KOPACZ, Freeholder
WILLIAM O'DEA, Freeholder
CARIDAD RODRIGUEZ, Freeholder
ANTHONY ROMANO, Freeholder
JOEL TORRES, Freeholder
JERRY WALKER, Freeholder

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

EDWARD J. FLORIO, ESQ., Board Counsel
DONATO J. BATTISTA, Hudson County Counsel
ABRAHAM ANTUN, County Administrator
ALBERTO G. SANTOS, Freeholder Clerk
Reported by: Shari Cathey, CCR, RPR

Page 2 1 THE CLERK: Freeholder Cedeño. 2 FREEHOLDER CEDEÑO: Here. 3 THE CLERK: Present on Zoom. 4 Freeholder Cifelli. 5 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Present on Zoom. 6 THE CLERK: Freeholder Kopacz. 7 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: He's here. 8 THE CLERK: Freeholder O'Dea. 9 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Present. 10 THE CLERK: Freeholder Rodriguez. 11 FREEHOLDER RODRIGUEZ: Here. 12 THE CLERK: Via Zoom. Freeholder 13 Romano. 14 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Here. 15 THE CLERK: Freeholder Torres. 16 FREEHOLDER TORRES: Present on Zoom. 17 THE CLERK: Freeholder Walker. 18 FREEHOLDER WALKER: Here. 19 THE CLERK: Via Zoom. Chairman 20 Vainieri. 21 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Here. 22 THE CLERK: Present in the chamber. 23 Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance 24 (Flag Salute. Moment of Silence) 25 THE CLERK: Adequate notice of this	Page 4 1 of the Hudson County Board of Freeholders scheduled 2 for Thursday, September 24, 2020 at six p.m. will 3 take place in person and via the Zoom virtual 4 meeting service at the scheduled date and time. The 5 Freeholders' Chamber will be limited to 25 persons 6 for the meeting. The Zoom Meeting ID number is 915 7 5392 5879. Members of the public can also join the 8 meeting by dialing 929-436-2866, and using the same 9 Zoom Meeting ID. 10 If you wish to participate during the 11 public portions of this meeting, you must do so via 12 Zoom audio, and use the Raise Your Hand icon during 13 those portions of the meeting. 14 Mr. Chairman, at this point, may I have a 15 motion to approve the minutes of the Departmental 16 Budget Session that was held June 17, 2020. 17 Torres and Romano. 18 Freeholder Cedeño. 19 FREEHOLDER CEDEÑO: Yes. 20 THE CLERK: Cifelli. 21 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Yes. 22 THE CLERK: Kopacz. 23 FREEHOLDER KOPACZ: Yes. 24 THE CLERK: O'Dea. 25 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes.
Page 3 1 Regular Meeting has been provided as follows: 2 1. Posting notice of Resolution -- 3 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Before we start, 4 Mr. Chairman, before we get to this portion of 5 meeting, in addition to the passing of Justice 6 Ginsberg, I've also read in the paper last week that 7 former Hudson County Register, Ken Chmielewski also 8 died, so perhaps we could add him to our moment of 9 silence. 10 (Moment of silence.) 11 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Yes, sir. 12 THE CLERK: Adequate notice of this 13 Regular Meeting has been provided as follows: 14 1. Posting notice of Resolution No. 15 8-1-2020 on the Freeholder's Bulletin Board, First 16 Floor, Administration Building Annex, Jersey City, 17 New Jersey. 18 2. Copies of the above mentioned 19 resolution have been sent to the County Clerk and 20 the editors of the Jersey Journal and the Star 21 Ledger. 22 That notice has been amended with the 23 following which has been published in accordance 24 with the Open Public Meetings Act: Due to the State 25 of Emergency regarding COVID-19, the regular meeting	Page 5 1 THE CLERK: Rodriguez. 2 FREEHOLDER RODRIGUEZ: Yes. 3 THE CLERK: Romano. 4 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Yes. 5 THE CLERK: Torres. 6 FREEHOLDER TORRES: Yes. 7 THE CLERK: Walker. 8 FREEHOLDER WALKER: Yes. 9 THE CLERK: Chairman Vainieri. 10 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Yes. 11 THE CLERK: The next order of 12 business is Laudatory 1. I want to see if he's 13 present as an attendee if you want him to talk, and 14 then Mr. Chair, with your permission, I will read 15 the laudatory into the record? 16 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Yes. Go ahead. 17 Proceed. 18 THE CLERK: To honor and commend 19 Peter A. Busacca Jr., for his many years of 20 dedicated service to the Hudson County Jersey City 21 Workforce Development Board and his extraordinary 22 leadership as President of the Hudson County Central 23 Labor Council. 24 Whereas, Peter A. Busacca Jr., was 25 appointed to the Hudson County Jersey City Workforce

Page 6 1 Development Board in 2012, by the Honorable Thomas 2 A. DeGise. 3 Whereas, Peter A Busacca Jr., has served 4 honorably as a Workforce Development Board Member in 5 a voluntary capacity, helping to provide oversight, 6 guidance, governance and transparency as an active 7 member of that board. 8 Whereas, Peter A Busacca Jr., also served 9 with distinction as president of the Hudson County 10 Central Labor Council from 1985, until his 11 retirement in 2018. He successfully managed the 12 State Technician Apprenticeship Recruiters Program, 13 a company that works with the New Jersey Department 14 of Labor and Workforce Development in administering 15 the Youth Transitions to Work Stage Technician 16 Apprenticeship Program. Under his leadership, the 17 company has managed a Union Apprenticeship Outreach 18 Program for full-time positions with the 19 International Alliance of Stage Theatrical 20 Employees. 21 Whereas, Peter A Busacca Jr., was an 22 active and involved member of the Hudson County 23 community, serving on numerous organizations 24 including the following: Past Chairperson of the 25 Jersey City Family Health Center operated by Liberty	Page 8 1 the Board does hereby extend its highest 2 commendations to Peter A. Busacca Jr., for his 3 service on the Workforce Development Board, and his 4 leadership of the Hudson County Central Labor 5 Council, and the Board does hereby extends its 6 appreciation to Peter A. Busacca Jr., for his 7 tireless dedication to the citizens of Hudson County 8 and wishes him much health, happiness and enjoyment 9 in the years to come. 10 On I-1, Freeholder Cedeño. 11 THE CLERK: Freeholder Cedeño. 12 FREEHOLDER CEDEÑO: Yes. 13 THE CLERK: Freeholder Cifelli 14 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Before I cast my 15 vote, I've been on the Board for in excess of 20 16 years, and Peter has come before us on numerous 17 occasions, and each time he came before us, he's 18 always exhibited a passionate advocacy for the 19 members of the labor unions. He's always been very 20 informational and helpful in the way we determine 21 contracts and evaluate contracts, and when I hear 22 the social postscripts of his peers, especially his 23 marriage to Doreen for 51 years, I wants to thank 24 Doreen first and foremost that Doreen had Peter, 25 Fifty-one years being married to anybody is a labor,
Page 7 1 Health Care, Past Vice President of the City-Wide 2 Parents Council of Jersey City; Past President of 3 the Dickinson High School Parents Council; Past Post 4 427 American Legion Service Officer, Treasurer, 5 Commander, Vice Commander; President Hudson County 6 Resource Center; Member Heights Neighborhood Block 7 Association; Vice Chair, Jersey City Democratic 8 Organization; and Hudson County Democratic Committee 9 Person for District 24 in Jersey City. 10 Whereas, Peter A. Busacca Jr. was a proud 11 member of Local 827 International Brotherhood of 12 Electrical Workers of Jersey City, serving as Union 13 Chairperson from 2004 to 2008, a two-term Unit 14 Chairman of Local 827 IBEW for Hudson, Bergen and 15 Passaic Counties and a member of Local 827 IBEW's 16 COPE Committee; and 17 Whereas, Peter A. Busacca Jr. is a Vietnam 18 War Era Veteran who served our country in the United 19 States Air Force from 1967 to 1971; and 20 Whereas, Peter Busacca Jr. is married to 21 Doreen for 51 years, and they are the proud parents 22 of three daughters and seven grandchildren. 23 Now, therefore, be it resolved by the 24 Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders that in 25 conjunction with County Executive Thomas A DeGise,	Page 9 1 and she performed it as well as Peter performed his 2 labor. And I want to thank Peter and express my 3 appreciation for all he's done, and I certainly vote 4 aye. 5 THE CLERK: Freeholder Kopacz. 6 FREEHOLDER KOPACZ: Yeah, Pete. 7 Thanks for being a good friend and for all of the 8 wonderful community service you have given to Hudson 9 County. God bless you. Yes. 10 THE CLERK: Freeholder O'Dea. 11 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So I had the honor 12 of knowing Pete even before I served on the 13 Freeholder Board for many, many years. We have 14 left -- we probably have two together relations. 15 One is his former partner and mentor Eddie Poland 16 (ph.), who I had to update the Council about it, and 17 he was a giant in the labor world, and I'm sure 18 every day that he watched Pete while he was alive 19 and after he passed on from a better place, you 20 continued to be proud of how Peter carried that 21 legacy on and kept labor together, and continues to 22 keep labor together. 23 And the other thing that needed to be 24 noted is that before we had a progressive movement 25 in this country, Peter was -- and you can see the

Page 10 1 plaque in the back of the chambers, under Ann 2 O'Malley's picture, in getting -- and I'm always 3 happy to be on the Board as is Freeholder Cifelli 4 and to sponsor it, we, this County enacted the 5 Second Living Wage Law in the United States of 6 America. I believe a place in Wisconsin was first 7 and the impetus for adopting. That was the movement 8 that Peter and Eddie and the Central Labor Council 9 had in bringing it to our attention. 10 So it's I guess it's too late to amend the 11 resolution, but I think that every day that we sit 12 here at a meeting, and we look at the right back 13 corner, our plaque, it reminds that we were very 14 progressive before the movement even started, and 15 we've amended that ordinance several times to make 16 it stronger, and I think that that's a testimony to 17 Pete as well as besides all of the great Jersey City 18 organizations that he's been involved in in his 19 life. 20 And even after that, Pete, I don't know 21 where you're going to retire to, but personally I 22 don't believe you can actually retire. So wherever 23 you go, I think they're going to have a new advocate 24 for their organization that they have there. So God 25 bless you. I'm happy to call you a friend. And I'm	Page 12 1 County of Hudson and its residents, and if you're 2 retiring, stay out politics. Good luck to your 3 family. Thank you very much. 4 MR. BUSACCA: I appreciate all of 5 kind words you've said. And I've been in Jersey 6 City 65 years and it's humbling. And in any life, 7 things change and it's time to actually head to 8 Florida. Unfortunately, I don't think we will be 9 there in time to register, although my wife keeps 10 saying we should vote here and vote in Florida. I 11 don't know if we're going to get caught in that, but 12 I know she's up for it. 13 Again, Bill and Freeholder Romano and to 14 Kenny Kopacz, and Freeholder Cifelli, I appreciate 15 all of the camaraderie that we've had over the years 16 and as the attorney has told me on more than one 17 occasion, when I resigned from the Hudson County 18 Central Labor Council and they made me president 19 emeritus, they said that only means that I'm old, so 20 you should know. Thank for your attention. 21 everybody. And thank you all for this great honor. 22 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Good luck to you, 23 sir. 24 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Good luck, Pete. 25 There's four more year to register in Florida so
Page 11 1 proud to vote aye. 2 THE CLERK: Freeholder Rodriguez. 3 FREEHOLDER RODRIGUEZ: Yes. 4 Congratulations, and I vote aye. 5 THE CLERK: Freeholder Romano. 6 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: First, Pete thank 7 you for your labor service during a tough time, 8 also thank you for your guidance, support of labor, 9 from the minute I became a Freeholder, for your 10 friendship and always being there for me, especially 11 during this last year. God bless you and your wife. 12 I wish you the best in the future. And wherever you 13 retire to, I'm sure you'll be a committee person 14 there too and start all over. So keep up the good 15 work. We'll never forget you. You will always be 16 in our hearts, and you're a part of labor. 17 THE CLERK: Freeholder Romano votes 18 aye. Freeholder Torres. 19 FREEHOLDER TORRES: Yes. 20 THE CLERK: Freeholder Walker. 21 FREEHOLDER WALKER: Yes. 22 Congratulations. 23 THE CLERK: Chairman Vainieri. 24 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Yes. Absolutely. 25 Thank you for your time and your service to the	Page 13 1 you've got a shot. 2 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Go ahead. 3 Mr. Clerk. 4 THE CLERK: The next order of 5 business is additional discussion on today's agenda. 6 Mr. Administrator. 7 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Before we start, 8 Mr. Administrator. 9 MR. ANTUN: I have one additional -- 10 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: We have one item I 11 think first. 12 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: 19A. 13 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes, 19A. I 14 second the motion. 15 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Hold on one 16 second. I'm sorry. If you remove that, I'm okay. 17 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Motion by 18 Freeholder Romano, second by Freeholder O'Dea to 19 pull this off agenda. 20 Please poll the Board, Mr. Clerk. 21 THE CLERK: Freeholder Cedeño. 22 FREEHOLDER CEDEÑO: Yes. 23 THE CLERK: Cifelli. 24 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Yes. 25 THE CLERK: Kopacz.

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Page 14 1 FREEHOLDER KOPACZ: Yes. 2 THE CLERK: O'Dea. 3 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes. 4 THE CLERK: Rodriguez. 5 FREEHOLDER RODRIGUEZ: Yes. 6 THE CLERK: Romano. 7 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Yes. 8 THE CLERK: Torres. 9 FREEHOLDER TORRES: Yes. 10 THE CLERK: Walker. 11 FREEHOLDER WALKER: Yes. 12 THE CLERK: Chairman Vainieri. 13 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Yes, sir. Thank 14 very much. Mr. Administrator. 15 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Thank you, 16 Mr. Chairman. Chairman, we would like the Board to 17 consider amending Resolution No. 21 to include 18 awarding janitorial supplies contract to nine 19 vendors in the amount of 332,000, pursuant to a 20 publicly held bid. 21 THE CLERK: The amendment to 21, we 22 need a sponsor. 23 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: You want to 24 replace? What do you want to do, sir? 25 MR. ANTUN: We would be replacing 21,	Page 16 1 the agenda. 2 THE CLERK: We need a roll call to 3 amend No. 21, Mr. Chair. Proceed with the roll 4 call? 5 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Go ahead. Roll 6 call. 7 THE CLERK: Freeholder Cedeño. 8 FREEHOLDER CEDENO: Yes. 9 THE CLERK: Cifelli. 10 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Abstain. 11 THE CLERK: Kopacz. 12 FREEHOLDER KOPACZ: Yes. 13 THE CLERK: O'Dea. 14 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Abstain. 15 THE CLERK: Rodriguez. 16 FREEHOLDER RODRIGUEZ: Yes. 17 THE CLERK: Romano. 18 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Yes. 19 THE CLERK: Torres. 20 FREEHOLDER TORRES: Abstain. 21 THE CLERK: Walker. 22 FREEHOLDER WALKER: Yes. 23 THE CLERK: Chairman Vainieri. 24 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Yes. 25 THE CLERK: 21 is replaced.
Page 15 1 by making an additional award. We will make it 2 Letter F. It's awarding a contract for janitorial 3 supplies for the correctional center. The amount is 4 332,000. 5 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Who is it going 6 to? 7 MR. ANTUN: It's nine vendors. 8 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I never heard of 9 that group before. 10 MR. ANTUN: Because when we went out 11 to bid, there are multiple items on the bid sheet, 12 so some vendors were low on certain items and as 13 opposed to others. 14 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: It's a mix. 15 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: How many are from 16 Hudson County? 17 MR. ANTUN: Of the nine, there are 18 three from Hudson County. 19 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: I have a motion 20 on the floor. Do I have a second? Second by 21 Freeholder Romano. 22 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: I'm going to 23 abstain. I don't know too much about this. All 24 right. 25 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Okay. It's on	Page 17 1 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you. 2 Mr. Administrator. 3 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, I don't 4 have additional items, but we did provide some 5 replacement items. No. 11 was replaced. The 6 resolution had to be changed because we had the 7 incorrect date in the body of the resolution, and we 8 had to change the title. 9 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I make a motion to 10 amend or replace -- amend 11 to correct the title 11 and date in the body of the resolution. 12 THE CLERK: Seconded by Romano? 13 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Yes. 14 THE CLERK: Roll call on No. 11. 15 Freeholder Cedeño -- 16 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: What is the -- 17 that was -- do you mind if I sponsor it? 18 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yeah, that's fine. 19 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Freeholder 20 Cifelli can sponsor. 21 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Al sponsored it 22 and I seconded it. 23 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: And now 24 Freeholder O'Dea seconded it. 25 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: And so I'll

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Page 18 1 sponsor the ending resolution. 2 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Okay. Second by 3 Freeholder O'Dea. Roll call, please. 4 THE CLERK: Freeholder Cedeño. 5 FREEHOLDER CEDEÑO: Yes. 6 THE CLERK: Cifelli. 7 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Yes. 8 THE CLERK: Kopacz. 9 FREEHOLDER KOPACZ: Yes. 10 THE CLERK: O'Dea. 11 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes. 12 THE CLERK: Rodriguez. 13 FREEHOLDER RODRIGUEZ: Yes. 14 THE CLERK: Romano. 15 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Yes. 16 THE CLERK: Torres. 17 FREEHOLDER TORRES: Yes. 18 THE CLERK: Walker. 19 FREEHOLDER WALKER: Yes. 20 THE CLERK: Chairman Vainieri. 21 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Yes. 22 THE CLERK: It is replaced. 23 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you. 24 MR. ANTUN: We're also replacing item 25 No. 26. No. 26 was the architects, and it made	Page 20 1 THE CLERK: So on a motion to replace 2 26. 3 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Go ahead. Keep 4 it the same, Vainieri-Romano. 5 THE CLERK: Roll call, Mr. Chair? 6 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Yes, please. 7 THE CLERK: Freeholder Cedeño. 8 FREEHOLDER CEDEÑO: Yes. 9 THE CLERK: Cifelli. 10 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Yes. 11 THE CLERK: Kopacz. 12 FREEHOLDER KOPACZ: Yes. 13 THE CLERK: O'Dea. 14 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Add it to the 15 embarrassing moment category. Yes. 16 THE CLERK: Rodriguez. 17 FREEHOLDER RODRIGUEZ: Yes. 18 THE CLERK: Romano. 19 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Yes. 20 THE CLERK: Torres. 21 FREEHOLDER TORRES: Yes. 22 THE CLERK: Walker. 23 FREEHOLDER WALKER: Yes. 24 THE CLERK: Chairman Vainieri. 25 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Yes.
Page 19 1 reference -- these are not historic architects. 2 These are regular on-call architects. That's the 3 change. Freeholder O'Dea, you're the one that 4 focused. These are not the historic architects. 5 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I've got to tell 6 you, I literally -- I pointed out at the meeting and 7 pointed out in committee, and nobody said anything 8 about that. I find that very troublesome that 9 somebody whose job it is to do this didn't recognize 10 that. Like I say that you don't know if they have a 11 historic architect that was involved with them or 12 whatever so if we get a transcript of the Public 13 Resources Committee. 14 MR. ANTUN: Freeholder, I'm not 15 disputing that. That's why what you said in public. 16 I followed up and said it looked wrong. I agree. 17 Bill. And they told me that's wrong. I can't 18 address what you're saying. 19 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you. Do we 20 have a sponsor? 21 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Who sponsored it 22 originally? 23 THE CLERK: It was originally 24 Vainieri-Romano. 25 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Keep it the same.	Page 21 1 THE CLERK: 26 is replaced. 2 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Mr. 3 Administrator. 4 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, the last 5 item that I have, this relates to the concern that 6 was raised by Freeholder Romano. It relates to 7 Ordinance No. 1. That has been replaced because it 8 made reference to that -- I believe the hours. It's 9 going to be during off hours. 10 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Nine a.m. to 11 seven p.m. 12 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: That's it. 13 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Just for the 14 record make sure that that's -- 15 MR. ANTUN: The engineer told me 16 there is no need to change the wording because it 17 makes reference to the map, and the map has been 18 corrected. 19 THE CLERK: So this is 1-2, and the 20 sponsor on 1-2 are Romano-Vainieri. This is a 21 separate role call on introduction so we don't need 22 to have a vote now. Do those sponsors wish to 23 remain on this one ordinance, Romano and Vainieri? 24 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Yes, yes. 25 MR. ANTUN: That's all I have.

Page 22 1 Mr. Chairman. 2 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you very 3 much, Mr. Clerk. 4 THE CLERK: According to the policy 5 set by the Board of Freeholders -- 6 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I'm sorry. Al, Al 7 Santos. Before -- before we open up to the public, 8 can we please ask Director Edwards to give a brief 9 overview to the item related to the Wi-Fi at the 10 correctional center, the reason and purpose for it, 11 the benefit from an inmate perspective. How will 12 they benefit from it? 13 THE CLERK: Mr. Edwards. 14 DIRECTOR EDWARDS: Freeholders, the 15 Wi-Fi is necessary right now under the conditions of 16 the pandemic. The benefit will be that we will be 17 able to provide telemedicine along with the 18 psychiatric telemedicine. We can restart our 19 programs with AA meetings, the Integrity House, 20 substance abuse programs, as well as higher 21 education and English as a Second Language. The 22 list of the programs are endless possibilities. We 23 can enhance and enable the inmate population to 24 reenter society better than when we got them. 25 The reason for the high cost is because of	Page 24 1 review before the meetings and to be clear about 2 what is on the agenda. So this has happened several 3 times and multiple times personally for me a couple 4 years ago when there was a item on the agenda that I 5 only had one page on it, and I asked for more 6 information and that led to terrible things. 7 However, it seems like every time we have 8 an agenda, there is not all but a few items that we 9 do not have full information on. And so times we 10 ask questions and we're seeing -- it's seen as if 11 we're being bothersome or we should know what's 12 going on. 13 I just want to make it clear for the 14 record that not all Freeholders get all information 15 like that because I think that department heads and 16 the department staffs do their due diligence. They 17 submit whatever, all of the evidence, all of the 18 information for whatever items are on our agenda to 19 be presented and rightfully so. They're under the 20 assumption that the Freeholders have all of this 21 information and maybe they're thinking in their 22 heads, why are the Freeholders asking these 23 questions we submitted everything? 24 When in reality not all Freeholders have 25 everything within their packet so not every
Page 23 1 the jail structure is made out of rebar and 2 concrete. We have to put for lack of a better word 3 a beacon in every single cell. There are over 768 4 cells which requires an intensive project. 5 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Thank you. 6 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you, 7 Mr. Edwards. Freeholder Torres. 8 FREEHOLDER TORRES: Yes. Real quick. 9 This is questions on the agenda before the public, 10 right? 11 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Yes, sir. 12 FREEHOLDER TORRES: So for the record 13 I just had a question as far as is there any 14 specific reason why there is not a universal agenda 15 for all of the Freeholders? 16 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Who is the 17 question for? 18 FREEHOLDER TORRES: It could be to 19 the Administration or whoever handles the actual 20 package for or whatever goes into the package for 21 the Freeholders. I just want to be clear for the 22 record. The issue that I have is that, and this has 23 come up a lot of times; we run around as 24 Freeholders, ask questions. Not every Freeholder 25 has all of the information and all of the backups to	Page 25 1 Freeholder is informed what's going to the public 2 and just to be very clear on the record with some 3 examples if you look at sometimes when we're voting 4 on things from Health and Human Services, Director 5 Toon will give us a memo and give us a breakdown of 6 some things that are within that item. And 7 sometimes we have questions are just general 8 questions that are not in the memo that the 9 Freeholders have backup information that we can read 10 and review. 11 There is cases where departments are 12 applying for grants. We get a huge packet of 13 information on the full grant application, entailing 14 what they're applying for, what it is for, what the 15 money is for, et cetera, but then for some items 16 especially when it comes to purchasing items, we 17 don't get any backup, and we don't get any 18 information. I think that's just a disservice to 19 the department head and department staff who 20 provides all of this information. 21 And it also makes us sometimes look bad 22 because we're asking valid questions at these 23 meetings because we just don't have information, and 24 sometimes the public asks us questions that we 25 really don't have answers to because we don't have

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1 the information, and I think it's just better if we
 2 have more play here and make sure that all
 3 Freeholders have all the information given in their
 4 packet to make clear decisions, ask questions and be
 5 able to move forward smoothly with meetings and with
 6 any information that they have to inform their
 7 constituency or the public.

8 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Do you want to
 9 e-mail the Administration after?

10 FREEHOLDER TORRES: Excuse me?

11 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Have you e-mailed
 12 the Administration your concerns?

13 FREEHOLDER TORRES: I asked that back
 14 several years ago as far as why don't we get the
 15 full details, and that caused a whole fiasco because
 16 I was simply asking for us to hold up on an item for
 17 a month so we can get the full contract and full
 18 information. So last time I asked for anything,
 19 it's always gone as if I am a horrible individual
 20 who is just trying to bust chops when I'm actually
 21 use trying to do my job that I would like to do.

22 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: We don't believe
 23 that, Freeholder.

24 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I'm not going to
 25 let you take that title away.

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1 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: We can discuss it
 2 at the Chairman's meeting next week. Thank you,
 3 sir.

4 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, to let you
 5 know, I provide all of the backup information. It's
 6 copied by the law department. We bring it down to
 7 the Clerk's office, and then the Clerk has been
 8 scanning all of the documents and sending them to
 9 the Freeholders. Are there times when maybe
 10 something got missed? Yeah, it does happen. But if
 11 it's brought to my attention, I provide it.

12 Whatever anyone has asked for information, we
 13 provide it. And we agree, Freeholder, that is your
 14 job. We're not offended with the questions and any
 15 requests that you make to us.

16 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I think the point,
 17 Abe, is that there are too frequent instances for
 18 whatever reason that backup information isn't
 19 included and that's often frustrating. And I think
 20 there is times I've call the director, and they're
 21 like that's in bah, bah, bah.

22 I'm like, Hold on, I don't have it.
 23 sometimes whether it's a question and actually in
 24 there. But there have been too many occasions where
 25 for whatever reason, it just isn't there. So we

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1 just forgot to put it, it got lost in translation.
 2 I don't know. So we have to be as conscious as you
 3 can.

4 MR. ANTUN: Because when it leaves my
 5 office, I don't know what happens. I'm not one that
 6 handles that. It leaves my office and it goes
 7 there. Now again, could that happen where somehow
 8 when it got to the Law Department, and then it got
 9 down to Al Santos, could -- something could have
 10 been not copied? It could happen, yes. But you
 11 know when it's brought to my attention, I provide
 12 the information.

13 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I don't disagree.
 14 Anytime I've ever requested for more information
 15 from you, there isn't a meeting that goes by that I
 16 don't, right?

17 MR. ANTUN: That's true.

18 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: You have always
 19 provided and provided it in a timely manner. I have
 20 no explanation from that perspective. I agree with
 21 that, Freeholder.

22 FREEHOLDER TORRES: What I'm asking
 23 is for example, we have items within Purchasing, No.
 24 15. And I remember one of my first meetings, and I
 25 had asked a question regarding office supplies, it

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1 was a considerable amount, and I just didn't
 2 understand what it's all about because we didn't
 3 have any backup information related to what
 4 specifically were the office supplies. If it was a
 5 dollars amount that we had some backup related to
 6 it, I would had have more of an understanding, okay.
 7 we're spending such-and-such dollar amount.

8 So in those cases typically we don't get
 9 full backup and full information. That's kind of
 10 where I'm trying to get a clear picture, if it is
 11 something that we can moving forward, possibly all
 12 of Freeholders, to get full details on all of those
 13 items.

14 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: And sometimes
 15 vehicle are purchased, and they don't necessarily
 16 tell us who the vehicles are assigned for. We
 17 literally kind of, you know, squeeze that
 18 information so. So there are instances, Abe, where
 19 we don't get all the information.

20 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: So we're all
 21 understood. Thank you very much. I appreciate it.
 22 Mr. Clerk.

23 THE CLERK: According to the policy
 24 set by the Board of Freeholders, members of the
 25 public are asked to limit their comments to five

Page 30 1 minutes when discussing agenda items and five 2 minutes at the conclusion of the meeting when 3 discussing matters of public interest. 4 This meeting is both in-person and video 5 zoom we will begin with if there are persons in the 6 chamber who wish speak one at a time, please 7 remember to limit your comments to five minutes on 8 agenda items only. 9 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Seeing none in 10 the chambers. I will now proceed with the virtual 11 attendees. Please use the raise your hand icon. 12 And we'll begin with Mr. Patrick Toussaint. 13 MR. TOUSSAINT: Can you hear me? 14 THE CLERK: Yes. 15 MR. TOUSSAINT: Thank you very much, 16 everybody, for your time, Freeholders. Really 17 appreciate the opportunity to be heard on the agenda 18 items. I have a couple of comments to make. First, 19 I just wanted to thank Freeholder Cifelli and 20 Freeholder O'Dea for the line of questioning that 21 you had earlier this week. I really appreciate your 22 intent to really get at what was going with each of 23 the agenda items. There's a couple of things that I 24 still have questions about and would love to 25 understand a little bit more about what they are.	Page 32 1 making more investments in our communities and our 2 schools. We could be using that \$219,000 for other 3 purposes. 4 And the last item here is the tear gas, 5 the \$34,000 for tear gas, I do know that this is 6 something that's been rejected twice before. I come 7 on during the middle of the session with you guys on 8 the second time that this was on where this was also 9 rejected, and I would just hope that you guys will 10 continue reinforce the will of the public here and 11 continue to reject this item. Just in short, we 12 would love to continue to see that idea of Hudson 13 County as a progressive community. 14 Freeholder O'Dea, to your point about the 15 fact that this County was second in the nation to 16 introduce a living wage ordinance, I think this 17 County has the opportunity to be the first in the 18 nation to pursue many other progressive policies 19 that would improve the quality of life of residents 20 here without having to continue to throw additional 21 money towards law enforcement, which is also getting 22 the lion's share of the budget. 23 I know that was a lot. Really would 24 appreciate additional information on the Wi-Fi I 25 would hope that both the Sheriffs vehicles and on
Page 31 1 So the first thing is the Wi-Fi. First I 2 really appreciate the explanation with the 3 administrator on the purpose of the Wi-Fi. I think 4 that is an incredible use for it, and really just 5 good thing to have. My other than question is 6 whether that cost still seems right. After speaking 7 with individuals who are familiar with this type of 8 work, it still seems like a relatively excessive 9 contract. And I would just hope that you guys are 10 continuing to do your due diligence in making sure 11 we're getting the best deal for that. 12 The other thing that I want to understand 13 is how much of the cost these services are going to 14 be to the folks who are in detention. My 15 understanding is that there is a cost to them for 16 being able to use it, and I would hope it would be 17 made available free of charge to them. That's my 18 questioning on the Wi-Fi. I'll take all of my 19 answers at the end of my statements. 20 On the vehicles for the Sheriffs, I was 21 wondering whether or not those are actually 22 necessary at this time. I just think there is an 23 environment that we're in right now where we're 24 asking lots of folks to make cuts, there are folks 25 who are, you know, on unemployment where we could be	Page 33 1 the tear gas that these Freeholders will vote no on 2 them. 3 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you for 4 your comments and concerns. 5 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Mr. Chair, can I 6 ask a question? 7 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: You're going to 8 take up the gentleman's five minutes. 9 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Can you answer the 10 questions specifically I guess on programs, but even 11 more critical, the issues raised whether or not the 12 individuals, the detainees and the inmates will have 13 to pay for any use for that. Can you clarify that? 14 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: That was my 15 question. 16 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Okay. Thank you, 17 Freeholder. Mr. Edwards. 18 DIRECTOR EDWARDS: Chairman, there is 19 no cost to the inmate population whatsoever for the 20 programs that I have identified. 21 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: That doesn't fully 22 answer the question. What if they wanted to use it 23 for some other reason? Is there a cost to it? 24 DIRECTOR EDWARDS: Freeholder, we're 25 exploring the possibility of having movies and that

Page 34 1 might be a cost associated. Telemedicine, their 2 programs: Integrity House, religious programming, 3 none of that would be charged. 4 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: You know, I would 5 hope that we don't charge them at all. An argument, 6 Ron, is that you answer a question, and I can tell 7 from your answer that you're not telling me the 8 whole truth, and I've got to ask you another 9 question. 10 DIRECTOR EDWARDS: Freeholder, if 11 that's the way it was perceived by you, that's not 12 correct and that's not my intent. All the programs 13 are free, and we're exploring the possibility of 14 movies. If it's the Freeholder's -- if it's the 15 decision not to charge them for movies, it's a 16 nonissue. 17 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Well, if you show 18 a movie in a room, before COVID if the inmates on 19 the interior, did you charge it to the room when 20 they went for that movie? 21 DIRECTOR EDWARDS: No. 22 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Or the T.V. room 23 while they were watching television in the T.V. 24 room, would you charge them? 25 DIRECTOR EDWARDS: No, Freeholder.	Page 36 1 other programs or benefits such as movies or like 2 Freeholder O'Dea was saying, like separate 3 television like streaming, then we'll explore that. 4 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Getting to the 5 resolution that's before us tonight, the 6 \$1.7 million to install Wi-Fi, that's just the 7 hardware, that has nothing to do with the movies or 8 anything else, right? 9 DIRECTOR EDWARDS: Not the movies. 10 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: But that's just 11 the Wi-Fi hardware and the basic talk to my 12 families, talk to my attorney, talk to my doctor, 13 right? 14 DIRECTOR EDWARDS: Yes. 15 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: So there's no 16 significant -- there is no cost whatsoever to the 17 detainees or inmates on any of that service? 18 DIRECTOR EDWARDS: Correct. 19 Freeholder. 20 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: All right. 21 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you very 22 much. Who is that walker? Go ahead, Freeholder 23 Walker. 24 FREEHOLDER WALKER: Ron, I just want 25 to ask you something. The capability of Wi-Fi, one
Page 35 1 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Can I ask a 2 stupid -- I shouldn't say stupid. There is no such 3 thing as a stupid question. I have a question about 4 that. So as I understand it all of the basic use, 5 whether it's telemedicine and speaking to attorneys 6 or speaking with their family members, that's no 7 charge whatsoever, right? That's right, correct? 8 DIRECTOR EDWARDS: Right, Freeholder. 9 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: So the question 10 is movies, okay, so because of COVID I'm located in, 11 and I'm in my individual I'll use the word cell. I 12 don't know if it's politically correct to use that 13 word, but if I'm in my cell and I want to watch a 14 movie, and the next cell want to watch the same 15 movie, do we charge like four times for the same 16 movies? Is there a communal theater or rec center 17 where we can watch a movie in common? This is a 18 silly question. I'm not an IT guy so I don't know. 19 DIRECTOR EDWARDS: Freeholder, right 20 now the programming is in place and that was the 21 last thing we wanted. The first thing we wanted it 22 for that they have the programs for Integrity, 23 substance abuse, AA, religious programs and 24 telemedicine up and running. Once that's 25 established and we can get that going, then the	Page 37 1 of the things that I'm an advocate for is education. 2 Could we use it for remote learning or getting the 3 GED or getting an associates degree or anything of 4 that nature? I know that if they come out with a 5 better education, we're supposed to rehab too, so if 6 they come out of that place a better a person, I 7 have been an advocate for different things like 8 that. 9 DIRECTOR EDWARDS: Yes, Freeholder. 10 That's the first programs that we're going to 11 establish. Right before COVID had hit, Corrections 12 was in talks with Hudson County Community College 13 and other organizations to bring this to the 14 facility itself. This is the way that we have to 15 continue, online, trying to prepare those 16 individuals to receive their high school diploma, 17 GED and other courses that are necessary for them. 18 FREEHOLDER WALKER: Okay. Thank you. 19 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Let's go with the 20 next speaker. 21 THE CLERK: The next speaker is Katia 22 Oltmann. 23 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Mr. Chair, before 24 that one second. Mayor Santos. 25 THE CLERK: I'm here.

Page 38 1 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Chief Ferrante 2 from Hoboken is trying to get on. 3 THE CLERK: I have Chief Ferrante, 4 Chief Geisler, so if you want them first? 5 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: No, no. Santos, 6 call the next speaker. 7 THE CLERK: Katia Oltmann. 8 MS. OLTSMANN: Can you hear me? 9 THE CLERK: Yes. 10 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Go ahead, ma'am. 11 MS. OLTSMANN: Hello. I live in 12 Jersey City, Journal Square, and I've come here 13 today to urge the Commissioners to vote no on the 14 Agenda Items 15G, 15A and 20A. Last night the 15 Jersey City Council accepted a \$1.7 million grant 16 from the Homeland Security department, for CCTV, 17 geospatial infrastructure, maintenance and lot of 18 other technology. The grant also includes \$550,000 19 for active shooter training and equipment, and I 20 think it's a sign that Hudson County is already 21 spending enough money. 22 The shooting of Officer Scals being 23 mentioned, the tragic shooting in December, 24 authorities say no application money is ever enough. 25 But as ABC news reported in December 2019, there was	Page 40 1 to the purchases of vehicle for the Sheriff's Office 2 which is 16A, as well as 15G. The Sheriff's office 3 was asked by Freeholder Cifelli to make to the 4 lowest bar of accountability and transparency and 5 just promise not to use chemical weapons against 6 protestors, and they couldn't even do that. They 7 don't seem to recognize the oversight, and they're 8 less transparent than other law enforcement agencies 9 in Hudson County and as we just heard, there is 10 actually a number of things because just about every 11 municipality in the County polices their own police 12 force. 13 The State of New Jersey releases use of 14 force statistics for all of the municipal police 15 forces, but there are no public use of force records 16 for the County Sheriff's office, and we've heard in 17 from the caucus meeting, the Sheriff's office has 18 their own SWAT team, so clearly have the ability to 19 use force, but we don't get to hear about it. And 20 they're one of four SWAT teams in the County, 21 including another County-wide SWAT team. So there 22 is plenty of redundancy. 23 So right now unless the Sheriff's Office 24 takes major steps to demonstrate its transparently 25 and accountability to the people of the County, I
Page 39 1 six other police departments aside from three county 2 Sheriff's departments that responded to the 3 shooting, the JCPD, the New Jersey State Police, the 4 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the FBI and 5 the Port Authority Police Department. The County 6 government is spending way too much money on police. 7 With incidents like Breonna Taylor's murder, if we 8 leave police to police themselves, they're often the 9 ones who are dangerous. That is why I really urge 10 the Commissioners to vote no on the new vehicles for 11 the Sheriff's Office and no on tear gas for the SWAT 12 team. 13 On Agenda Item 20A, interact for everyone 14 held in Hudson County seems good, the price just 15 seems outrageously high. So I urge the 16 Commissioners to vote no on all of these items. I 17 yield the remainder of my time. 18 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you very 19 much. Mr. Clerk, next speaker. 20 THE CLERK: The next speaker is 21 Jonathan Kominsky. 22 MR. KOMINSKY: Hi. Can you hear me? 23 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Yes, I can. 24 You're on. 25 MR. KOMINSKY: I am strongly opposed	Page 41 1 wouldn't trust the Sheriff's office with a pair of 2 tweezers, nevermind something as deadly as an SUV 3 and certainly not chemical weapons. I don't trust 4 the Sheriff's office, and I won't until they give me 5 a reason to do so because right now what's 6 happening, they're effectively no different than 7 holding a gun to the head of the people of Hudson 8 County and saying you can trust us because we 9 haven't pulled the trigger yet. 10 And that's something that changes with a 11 gesture of good faith and willingness to show 12 transparency and accountability. I will 13 wholeheartedly oppose every single spending request 14 made by the Sheriff's office on today's agenda and 15 on every agenda going forward. 16 Also just to a quick note on the purchase 17 of Wi-Fi for the County jail, the number that I 18 wanted to share with all of you because I did this 19 math, if this is just for installation, that is 20 really a lot, and we heard there is something like 21 700 different cells in the County jail; \$1.7 million 22 would be enough to buy 23,000 Linksys routers from 23 Best Buy. That seems like it would provide pretty 24 adequate coverage. So I think it's definitely worth 25 asking what the rest of that money is actually going

Page 42 1 to. I can yield the remainder of my time. 2 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you very 3 much sir. Mr. Clerk. 4 THE CLERK: Next speak is Amy Torres. 5 Where is Ms. Torres? I lost her. Oh, there she is. 6 Ms. Torres, can you hear us? 7 MS. TORRES: Can you hear me? Before 8 I began it seems like there was some questions from 9 the previous speaker that were unaddressed. 10 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Do you have a 11 comment on agenda items, ma'am? 12 MS. TORRES: I do, but it seems like 13 there were questions from the previous speakers that 14 were unaddressed. 15 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: I don't think 16 there were. I don't think they were questions. Go 17 ahead for your time. 18 MS. TORRES: I also want to speak to 19 the Wi-Fi purchases. I appreciate some of the 20 clarity that was offered about the intent of what 21 programs would be available once Wi-Fi is provided 22 throughout the facility I did want to ask a few 23 questions. One is there was a mention that all of 24 the potential services would be provided for free 25 when you're talking about movies, telehealth,	Page 44 1 of other purchases to bolster various law 2 enforcement agencies across the County. I want to 3 question who all of this is going to service, 4 because how it appears to me is that Hudson County 5 is sort of vying for this prized seat for the State 6 contract and Federal contract for detention and 7 incarceration, that Hudson County sees itself as 8 being very kindly placed for federal dollars 9 especially if ICE tries to remove people from places 10 in New York City and across New York state and house 11 them here, and I worry about all of these purchases 12 are making the facility seem more attractive for 13 those regional state dollars or those regional 14 federal dollars and then no services actually that 15 are disclosed. 16 And you know I love the idea bringing ESL 17 classes. I love the idea of telehealth services but 18 those all come at a premium too. They come at a 19 cost and without the state -- without the County 20 really thinking through how you're going to provide 21 for them, I don't think that you should be voting in 22 this purchase at all because it's just going to burn 23 a hole in the budget. In past meetings you voted 24 for storage for rent and surveillance on purchases 25 that you've made in the past and you're not using.
Page 43 1 medicine, counseling services, connections with 2 family. How is the County planning to provide for 3 those costs because as I understand the agenda item, 4 is it just for installation and hardware purchases, 5 so how does the county plan to provide for those 6 costs? 7 Two, I think that if people who are 8 detained need to pay for it themselves out of 9 pocket, what is the current rate of pay that the 10 County is giving to people who are detained? And 11 then my final question on that, if there is some 12 sort of pay per content or pay per minute or pay per 13 hour mechanism that the County intends to use going 14 forward because again, I understand this agenda item 15 is just for hardware an installation, where is that 16 revenue going to go toward, how and how will you 17 identify pay for the increase cost for streaming and 18 more people who are in detention start using that 19 service. Those are my questions really to the Wi-Fi 20 purchases. 21 There was some mention earlier that there 22 is no such things as stupid question, but there is 23 such a thing as a vague agenda item and vague 24 answers to the public's questions. So I do see that 25 the tear gas purchases are on again. There is lot	Page 45 1 There is such a surplus that you need to store them. 2 I urge to sell those off before you even consider 3 these purchases. If you have so much that you need 4 to keep this in storage and under surveillance, get 5 rid of them, or just get rid of the jail entirely. 6 There is no reason that our County should 7 be spending this amount of money on these purchases, 8 you have more than you can possibly use already. 9 That's really the remainder of my comments. The 10 rest will be addressed in the public comment 11 portion. Thank you. 12 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you very 13 much, ma'am. 14 MS. TORRES: But I do have some 15 questions, and I do want those addressed before the 16 next people answer. 17 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: What question do 18 you want answered right now? 19 MS. TORRES: What is the current rate 20 that people who are in detention are being paid? 21 What is their eligibility for work? What the cost 22 going to be if this is for hardware and installation 23 if there are increased costs related to you know 24 content or the rate of downloads or whatever it 25 might be from the internet service provider? How

Page 46 1 was the County going to make up those costs? 2 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Mr. 3 Administrator. 4 MS. TORRES: And the cost for things 5 like telemedicine and programming. Where is all the 6 money going to come from? Why it is not on the 7 agenda item? 8 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Let us start 9 answering your questions. 10 MS. TORRES: You asked me to go over 11 the questions. 12 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Let us start 13 answering your questions before you five minutes is 14 up. Mr. Administrator. 15 MR. ANTUN: Mr. Chairman, program 16 content is already there. It's not adding anything. 17 We have those services there now. What this will 18 allow them to do is the inmate can remain in the 19 cell without moving around so we can manage any 20 outbreaks, and this is provided over the Wi-Fi into 21 the cell with the tablets that they have. So the 22 program already exists. The services already 23 exists. It's just a matter of providing the 24 information to the inmates through the tablet. 25 MS. TORRES: Sir, does that mean that	Page 48 1 with Hudson County Community College to provide 2 teachers online teaching. The County Administrator 3 was correct. All these programs exist now, and all 4 they're going to use is the tablets as a mechanism 5 to get the information and from the detainee or 6 inmate. 7 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: If we use your 8 example, if we contracted with the college to 9 provide us two, three, four teachers for different 10 items, that would just be the cost for the teacher. 11 We're not going to have a cost per tablet or cost 12 per individual that's going to tie into that. We're 13 going to have to pay whatever the cost is we 14 negotiate for the professor? 15 DIRECTOR EDWARDS: Correct, 16 Freeholder. We have a list of other programs that 17 we wanted to look into into the future -- 18 MS. TORRES: Is that included on the 19 agenda item? 20 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: What is the 21 question to Mr. Edwards? 22 DIRECTOR EDWARDS: Is that a separate 23 cost from what's included in this agenda item? 24 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes, the 25 professors in the college, of course, we have to do
Page 47 1 folks that are detained will no longer have access 2 to congregate or time out of their cell, and 3 everybody will be offered within the cell? 4 MR. ANTUN: Ma'am, it's an option 5 because there were instances where the jail had to 6 be locked down, and we couldn't provide the 7 services. But yes, if there is no more pandemic, 8 then they can come out of the cell, and they can 9 still provide. You can go to the different areas as 10 you deem appropriate. 11 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I assume they 12 could additionally access classes, evening classes 13 with the college, other programs and other -- 14 Mr. Administrator, I just want to ask Director 15 Edwards. Director Edwards, if you don't have the 16 answer now, then just get us the answer. Online, 17 what items outside of movies or Netflix that would 18 have to be a positive purchase for X tablets; what, 19 if any, other items that we're talking about are 20 going to require additional monthly costs in order 21 to be able to offer them to the individuals at the 22 facility? 23 DIRECTOR EDWARDS: Freeholder, as it 24 stands now, the only additional one would be if we 25 pursue higher education, then we will have to work	Page 49 1 a separate contract for it. I don't need Director 2 Edwards to answer that question. It's an easy 3 enough question. 4 The other questions that were there 5 concerning the compensation that individuals get for 6 work performed at the facility, that is another 7 question that wasn't answered. 8 DIRECTOR EDWARDS: Inmate workers get 9 two dollars a day. 10 (Unintelligible simultaneous 11 speaking.) 12 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Hold on. 13 Mr. Santos, how much time? 14 THE CLERK: The time has lapsed for 15 the speaker. Okay. 16 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: How about 17 answering her questions? 18 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: We did already. 19 We extended her time. 20 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: No, no. She had 21 a question about the compensation to inmates. 22 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Yes. We answered 23 it. 24 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: No, that wasn't 25 a complete answer. Whoever wants to flesh out that

Page 50 1 answer, it's two dollars a day is the last thing I 2 heard. My question is, does that go to them, or 3 does that go through the commissary privileges? How 4 does that work? I don't know. 5 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Do you want to 6 answer that? 7 DIRECTOR EDWARDS: That goes into the 8 commissary account. 9 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Freeholder 10 Torres, do you have a question? 11 FREEHOLDER TORRES: Just to be clear 12 I know the other question was regarding the services 13 within the -- that are within the contracts with the 14 proprietors that we already have within the 15 facility. Due to the pandemic, they were required 16 to do telemedicine services so that would not be an 17 additional cost, per se. That was on an add-on 18 service that was required of them because of the 19 pandemic and the restrictions. 20 The biggest issue that I know, I've been 21 talking to you since April, was the fact that a lot 22 of folks within the facility have not be available 23 to receive the services because of the providers not 24 allowing their staff to come in, or us trying to 25 prevent someone coming into the facility and	Page 52 1 question, ma'am. 2 MS. LITTLE: 16A, my understanding 3 watching caucus meeting on Tuesday the defensive 4 technology, the tear gas grenades that was voted 5 down last month as well as previously, I'm confused 6 and disturbed to see these purchases continue to pop 7 right back up on the meeting agendas. As I'm sure 8 your aware, tear gas is banned in warfare as of the 9 Geneva protocol. It targets the lungs and makes 10 people more vulnerable to respiratory diseases. 11 This past summer watching police 12 departments across the country use tear gas against 13 protesters exercising their First Amendment right, 14 as well as Donald trump ordering to tear gas use to 15 clear protesters for a photo op, I believe as do 16 many others including fellow human rights activists 17 that we should be moving away from using chemical 18 weapons such as tear gas on civilians. 19 (Unintelligible simultaneous 20 speaking) 21 THE CLERK: Please mute yourself. 22 MS. LITTLE: I am glad you all are 23 enjoying doughnuts and apple cider. Anyway, I urge 24 the Freeholders vote no again this month on the tear 25 gas purchase, and I'm frustrated that continues to
Page 51 1 spreading to the providers, to the inmates and other 2 individuals, staffing, et cetera. Just to clarify 3 there is not an additional cost to provide the 4 telehealth or telemedicine services. That would 5 just be an alternative program provided by providers 6 that we already pay. 7 DIRECTOR EDWARDS: That's correct, 8 Freeholder. 9 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you very 10 much. Mr. Clerk. 11 THE CLERK: The next speaker is 12 Elcana Little. 13 MS. LITTLE: Hi, can you hear me? 14 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: We hear you. Go 15 ahead. 16 MS. LITTLE: Thank you so much. My 17 name is Elcana Little, and I'm a resident of Jersey 18 City. And I'll speaking on agenda items. First 19 16A. (Inaudible.) 20 THE CLERK: Your audio is not good 21 Ms. Little, can you adjust your audio or get closer 22 to your device? 23 MS. LITTLE: Can you hear me right 24 now? 25 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Repeat your	Page 53 1 show up on the agenda. 2 I also appreciate the discussion by 3 several Freeholders during the caucus meeting with 4 Freeholder Citelli leading the line the questioning. 5 I wonder if it's really necessary to have four 6 overlapping SWAT teams, several of which have 7 overlapping membership and jurisdiction, or whether 8 it would be a smarter and more efficient use of 9 public resources to eliminate either the 10 Prosecutor's Office SWAT team or the Sheriff's 11 Office SWAT team and consolidate. Like Freeholder 12 Walker said, it's a little convoluted. 13 I would also like to speak on 20A, the 14 jail Wi-Fi, and I would just urge the County to 15 double check this amount. I am not specifically 16 familiar with this field, but people who are 17 familiar with this field are saying this amount is 18 grossly inflated. You know, if this is truly the 19 best way for people in the facility to reach their 20 loved ones, legal counsel, and telehealth programs, 21 but with the population of the jails decreasing, I 22 encourage the County to investigate whether a beacon 23 in every single cell is necessary when many of the 24 cells are empty and to investigate whether this 25 \$1.7 million contract is an inflated value and

Page 54 1 whether it is the best use of our CARES act funding. 2 MS. LITTLE: Thank you so much, and I 3 yield the rest of my time. 4 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you very 5 much, ma'am. I appreciate it. 6 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, the next 7 speakers are Chief Ken Ferrante and Chief Geisler. 8 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Chief Ferrante 9 you there? Try to get him on, Freeholder Romano. 10 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: He's trying to get 11 on the line. He appears on the Zoom. 12 THE CLERK: Chief Geisler? 13 CHIEF GEISLER: Chief Geisler from 14 Bayonne. President of the Hudson County Chiefs 15 Association. First off, thank you for allowing me 16 to speak tonight. Thank you for your continued 17 support of law enforcement throughout Hudson County. 18 I would like to give you some of my thoughts on the 19 less lethal force options. I can speak personally 20 for Bayonne. 21 Bayonne, they don't have their own SWAT 22 units, and we rely on the Hudson County Regional 23 SWAT team for their assistance when we have those 24 instances that require them. The officers who are 25 assigned to that SWAT unit are the most highly	Page 56 1 officer and placing the officer in range of the 2 subject's weapon. So that's where these less lethal 3 force options come into play because the last thing 4 we ever want to do and the last thing any officer 5 ever wants to do is have to use deadly force. 6 Deadly force has many negative connotations and 7 negative -- far-reaching negative effects so it will 8 effect the subject upon whom the force is used, 9 along with their family members. It will negatively 10 affect the officer who uses force, and obviously, 11 it's going to negatively affect the community once 12 the deadly force is used. 13 So it's imperative that we give officers 14 every possible option to affect a remedy of the 15 situation prior to having to use deadly force. So 16 if you think about it logically, why would you take 17 away a less lethal force option from the officer and 18 require him to use deadly force in an instance where 19 he may not need to? So just again, keep other 20 levels of force that an officer may use on the 21 use-of-force continuum, those officers are governed 22 by laws as well as policies and procedures to ensure 23 that these option are used properly. 24 I would hate to see a situation in which a 25 officer authorized to use deadly force and does so
Page 55 1 trained officers when it comes to weapons and 2 tactics. So many times these officers are called 3 upon to resolve some of the most dangerous 4 situations in law enforcement, such as armed 5 barricaded suspects, hostage situations, and armed 6 suicidal individuals who refuse to put down their 7 weapons. In these situations less lethal force 8 options along with those specialized tactics and 9 training to help resolve the problems while reducing 10 the potential for death or serious injury to all 11 involved, meaning both the subject as well as the 12 officers on the scene. 13 So without these less lethal force 14 options, we're limited to how an officer can respond 15 in those situations. So the officer, the first 16 thing he has in those instances is his voice, right? 17 But many times when we're dealing with mentally 18 unstable individuals, verbal commands are 19 ineffective. So the next step up the use of force 20 continuum after verbal commands is physical force, 21 meaning the officer uses his hands or chemical or 22 mechanical force, pepper spray or the use of a 23 baton. 24 Many times, these subjects are armed and 25 are capable of closing the distance between the	Page 57 1 and takes a life, and this life could have been 2 preserved had the officer had the ability to use a 3 less lethal force option. That would be a horrible 4 situation. For the families, for the officer, and 5 for the community. So I just ask that you please 6 take this into consideration when making your 7 decision, and I encourage you to vote yes on the 8 less lethal force options. I thank you all for your 9 time, and have a good evening. 10 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you, Chief. 11 appreciate your service. 12 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, Keith 13 Ferrante is calling from a different number so -- 14 CHIEF FERRANTE: Can you hear me? 15 THE CLERK: Yes. 16 CHIEF FERRANTE: Thank you. I'm 17 sorry for that. Okay. Good evening, ladies and 18 gentlemen of the Freeholder Board. Thank you for 19 the time tonight. My name is Jim Ferrante. I've 20 been the Chief of the City of Hoboken since 2014. I 21 was a vice president of the Hudson County Chiefs 22 Association since its inception in 2017, and then 23 become president in their second year. 24 Tonight I'm calling to support the 25 purchase of the less lethal ammunition for the

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Page 58 1 Hudson County Regional SWAT. In the past few 2 months, we have seen many comments about how police 3 disburse protests, what type of ammunition is used, 4 what type of tactics, and I will get to that in a 5 couple minutes. I first want to talk about my 6 experience firsthand on June 5th. June 5th in the 7 City of Hoboken, we had the largest protest debate 8 in the state of New Jersey. We had over 10,000 9 protestors, with many threats that we received in 10 the 48 hours prior. We had a total of 750 officers 11 in total ready to keep the City as safe as possible. 12 And we went through three phases. Phase 13 one was with many crisis intervention officers 14 community policing officers. We had a 150 boots on 15 the ground to start that. What we were ready to go 16 to and fortunately did not have to go to, we had a 17 phase two, with SU teams with 15 to 20 agencies from 18 the state. And then we had a phase three with SWAT 19 teams were ready for that worst case scenario. Why 20 did we have a worst-case scenario plan? Because 21 what you saw in that weekend of protests were police 22 precincts being burned down around the country, 23 officer being shot at, Molotov cocktails being 24 thrown at officers, nothing that resembled a 25 peaceful protest, and we had to be ready for that.	Page 60 1 Two weeks ago on early Friday morning, we 2 had a shooting suspect that was a Hoboken resident 3 that shot someone up in Union City. The Hudson 4 County Regional SWAT team, the Union City Police 5 Department, the Hoboken Police Department worked 6 together, and the SWAT team went in and safely took 7 that person into custody, once again, no injury to 8 that defendant, which has been the hundred percent 9 result since we've utilized SWAT since 2017. I 10 called Prosecutor Suarez that day, and that's 11 probably the third time I've told her because we use 12 it in Hoboken, that's her best initiative to date 13 was that creation of that Hudson County Regional 14 SWAT team. 15 Going back to protests, we've been very 16 fortunate in New Jersey, except for a couple 17 incidents in Asbury Park, Trenton and Atlantic City, 18 almost all of them have been peaceful, but when you 19 look around the country, not all the protests and 20 protestors are law-abiding citizens. There have 21 been terrible situations maybe created by 22 professionals and that go to create the riot. When 23 those Molotov cocktails are thrown at officers, when 24 officers are shot like the two that were shot in 25 Lexington, Kentucky last night, when there is police
Page 59 1 The less than lethal ammunition was ready 2 to be used if it was needed. Less than lethal ammo 3 is about saving lives. It is not deadly force. It 4 is to be used in place of deadly force, and when 5 this is used, when this type of power or ammunition 6 is used, there is oversight. There is oversight by 7 our County Prosecutor. There is oversight by our 8 chiefs of police. It was my responsibility on June 9 5th, that everything went smoothly. When it is used 10 and someone is usually hurt, we have the oversight 11 of the Attorney General's office who comes in 12 whenever someone is injured at the hands the police. 13 Since SWAT's inception three years ago, it 14 has resulted in multiple examples of safe 15 apprehensions. And who was it safe for? Yes, it is 16 safe for the officers, it was safe for the civilians 17 and most importantly, it was safe for the suspects 18 and the defendants. Our SWAT teams comes out when 19 there are people that are murder suspects, 20 carjacking suspects, some of the worst rapists. 21 That is what SWAT is utilized for, for worst-case 22 scenarios, and that is why they need all of the 23 ammunition and all of the tactics and all of the 24 weaponry available to have options, including this 25 less than lethal option.	Page 61 1 precincts being attempted to be burned down, some of 2 which unfortunately have been successful, and what 3 continues to be happening at times a mile east of 4 where I'm sitting in my office right now in the City 5 of New York, we need to be ready to take it on every 6 way possible. 7 Officers in those situations have the 8 legal authority in the state of New Jersey to use 9 deadly force when they are being faced with deadly 10 force on them or other citizens. What this does 11 tonight if you approve this, it creates something 12 that's more peaceful. It's something that's less 13 than lethal. Please, tonight think about all the 14 options. Think about the trust that you have in 15 police executives and the County Prosecutor. And 16 please go forward and past getting this non-deadly 17 force, this less than lethal force weaponry of the 18 Hudson County Regional SWAT team. Thank you for 19 your time. 20 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you, Chief. 21 I appreciate your time. Thank you for your service 22 Mr. Clerk. 23 THE CLERK: The next speaker is 24 identified as Jeff L. Please provide your full name 25 for the court reporter.

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1 MR. LUKOWITZ: This is Jeff Lukowitz
 2 from West New York. Much like speakers on the
 3 agenda items today, I'm actually happy to follow
 4 some of the white shirts that just spoke. You know,
 5 everyone since the COVID crisis, folks in this
 6 community have enough going on in their lives. Most
 7 of them are struggling day to day to feed their
 8 children, figure out how to school them, figure out
 9 childcare costs. People who lost their jobs are
 10 thinking how they're going to pay for medical bills,
 11 even if they're lucky enough to have insurance.
 12 I work with other organizers in the County
 13 on the ground taking the food and the critical
 14 resources to people's homes throughout the County.
 15 And that's without State help. I understand that
 16 you might be disconnected from our community.
 17 They're hurting worse while you're away, and you
 18 have fundraisers or whatever. But just listen to
 19 us, right? I look to 22 -- 220,000 for vehicles or
 20 34K for tear gas, pouring \$2 million into a prison
 21 that could be closed, right? I think the Wi-Fi
 22 program is great and intentions, you know, seem pure
 23 and very beneficial, but you could also just close
 24 the prison and still provide those individuals with
 25 those same things to not like leave the room, right?

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1 How many times do you have to hear that
 2 budgets are law documents, right? You have
 3 socialists on this call telling you to cut back on
 4 big government spending, redirecting to things that
 5 have degenerative waste, right? This spending is an
 6 example of what Wilson Duhorn (?) refers to as the
 7 politician by the benefit of the communities, right?
 8 The whole country is watching as police forces
 9 continue to militarize, collaborate with white power
 10 militias, exonerate themselves from accountability,
 11 curse civil review boards, attack protestors on the
 12 street for being attacked in their homes.
 13 I've seen elected officials focus more on
 14 incarceration than meeting the community's needs.
 15 These uprising you're seeing occurring around
 16 everywhere in the country are directly caused by the
 17 increasing austerity the people of these communities
 18 are facing while police budgets balloon. We're
 19 abandoning the people of Hudson County for weapons,
 20 shields, gun vests, surveillance, grenade launchers,
 21 tear gas, drones and vehicles. These expenditures
 22 are provocations. They're inviting this.
 23 The guy that just spoke was talking about
 24 needing something to resolve situations before
 25 deadly force is used, provide the community with

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1 resources. Provide them with housing, rather than
 2 give someone a choice of bullets over another. I
 3 remember listening to Cifelli on Trump before the
 4 last Freeholder call. I remember speaking out
 5 against the ICE contracts two years, and Freeholder
 6 Walker asked people why we're not fighting enough
 7 for the black community that's disproportionately
 8 incarcerated in Hudson County.
 9 And we are going to get to the ICE
 10 contract specifically. I remember when I read an
 11 article about how you would rather take on prisoners
 12 from another county in order to maintain the revenue
 13 instead of ending the ICE contract and closing the
 14 prison. The prison has never been more empty.
 15 You've never had more reasons to not spend more on
 16 these overlapping police departments. Reject all of
 17 the expenditures. Close the prisons. It's pretty
 18 simple. I yield the rest of my time.
 19 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you, sir.
 20 I appreciate it.
 21 THE CLERK: Next speaker is Chief
 22 Peter Fasilis.
 23 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Chief, you're on,
 24 sir.
 25 CHIEF FASILIS: Can you hear me?

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1 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: We hear you, sir.
 2 Good evening, Freeholder.
 3 CHIEF FASILIS: This is the Chief of
 4 North Bergen. Thank you for allowing me some time
 5 to speak. Let me just give you a brief background
 6 of my career. I'm a 22-year veteran of law
 7 enforcement; graduate of Rutgers School of
 8 Management, hold a criminal justice degree from
 9 NJCU; certified public manager, accredited command
 10 executive through NJSACOP, federal police academy
 11 instructor for about ten years now, certified
 12 instructing on many front, and I have an extensive
 13 background in SWAT as well.
 14 I served as a member of the North Bergen
 15 Police Department's Emergency Services Unit, and I
 16 worked through the ranks to become its Chief
 17 Commander. I was also the co-chair of the Hudson
 18 County Regional SWAT committee, and I work with
 19 commanders from almost every municipality in Hudson
 20 as well as SWAT teams throughout the state, and our
 21 team I believe has become one of the finest SWAT
 22 teams in the state.
 23 So the reason why I'm providing you with
 24 this brief background, and I don't mean to bore you,
 25 but I want to show you that I have a good head on my

17 (Pages 62 - 65)

Page 66 1 shoulders and good background in SWAT. I don't know 2 everything, but I can tell you that the law 3 enforcement officials and elected officials have 4 picked my brain throughout my career for things 5 related to SWAT. And as a chief, you have two 6 separate sets of obligations. You have things from 7 the local SWAT, and they also want somebody who 8 understands liability and crisis management. Let me 9 go back a few years. And before I became chief, I 10 convinced my former chief, Billy Galvin to expand 11 our SWAT team. 12 And why I asked is because quietly, I 13 didn't feel they were adequately trained. They 14 didn't have enough resources to deploy our team, you 15 know, to incidents, and I feared for the safety of 16 our officers and general public, and you know, I 17 convinced him to expand the team. So fast forward 18 to Sunday, February 5th, 2017, at two a.m., officers 19 in my department were involved in a shootout with a 20 lone individual. We were in the course of a police 21 investigation. It turned into an armed barricaded 22 suspect in a very densely populated residential area 23 in West New York, and some people saw him with a 24 handgun, an assault rifle, equipped with a huge 25 hundred round magazine.	Page 68 1 created-- we did research and digitalization was the 2 way to go. As the two chiefs said, law enforcement 3 officers, they bear immense responsibility to 4 determine whether or not force is necessary in a 5 particular situation, and if it's necessary, force 6 should be respected. And the cost of making 7 mistakes is very high. So in order to avoid the 8 need to resort to lethal force where it's 9 unnecessary, we have to give officers effective less 10 lethal means. More than importantly, we also have 11 to train them in their use. 12 So we're not taking away the fact that 13 there have been some unfortunate cases where they 14 used weapons improperly, and sometimes it leads to 15 serious injury and even death, but we know it's the 16 exception and it's not the norm. So I hope we can 17 at least all agree here that less lethal weapons can 18 prevent and minimize death and injuries. 19 What we have here is a SWAT team that it 20 was an incredibly difficult selection process, and 21 we made it hard because we didn't want just anybody 22 to be a member. We needed somebody who can get 23 physical, that they had their physical fitness, but 24 there were mental requirements because they have to 25 make decisions, not good decisions, but they have to
Page 67 1 The responding officers including myself 2 had handguns so you can imagine our initial 3 responding personnel were ill-equipped. We called 4 up and nobody in the County was available. So we 5 had to go outside the County, and we contacted 6 Bergen County Regional SWAT, and they deployed 7 within minutes of calling them. Fast forward, after 8 a 12-hour standoff, the incident was resolved, and I 9 wanted to assure everybody that nationally 10 99 percent of all incidents involving SWAT, they're 11 resolved without a shot being fired. 12 In SWAT teams they don't do crowd control. 13 They have a very specific purpose. We conducted a 14 debriefing of the incident and there was a perfect 15 storm that night, one of them being it was Super 16 Bowl Sunday. And as everybody knows, phones don't 17 work Super Bowl Sunday, Thanksgiving, Christmas. 18 There's really bad cell phone service around these 19 times, and that was one of the random convergences 20 that put the officers and the public at risk that 21 night. So as a County we lacked the resources to 22 safely and effectively respond to this incident. 23 At the behest of Prosecutor Suarez, we 24 founded this committee and we explored the 25 feasibility of a regional SWAT team, and we	Page 69 1 make great decisions. Are they able to grasp 2 concepts? Are they a team player? I want to see 3 their disciplinary records. You know, we made it 4 very difficult, and our threshold was quite high. 5 We wanted to make sure that we had the best officers 6 possible. 7 So your Honors, I just want to implore you 8 that we should afford these officers with the 9 equipment necessary to do their jobs, and by no 10 means we're not trying to militarize the police. 11 It's exact opposite of what we want to do. We want 12 to give these officers options. We want to give 13 them less than military options. We have to give 14 them enough to do their jobs because not every jobs 15 requires a hammer, and I personally, I feel safer 16 knowing that we have this team, and it's something 17 to fall back on. Thank you, your Honors. I hope 18 you have a good night. Be safe, stay well, and 19 please consider my thoughts. 20 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you, sir. 21 I appreciate it. Thank you. 22 THE CLERK: Next speaker is Andrea 23 Ducas. 24 MS. DUCAS: Hi. Can you hear me? 25 THE CLERK: Yes.

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1 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Yes. We hear
2 you.
3 MS. DUCAS: Great. I have a comment
4 and a question. Well, first my comment. Although I
5 think it was interesting to hear from the various
6 chiefs and police that called in and heard how they
7 were describing the need for what they call less
8 deadly force. That was the comment or a phrase from
9 a perspective belief. We were preparing for this
10 purchase. We wanted to make sure the police were
11 protected. We go into the situations we want to
12 make sure the police are protected. As a reminder,
13 the purpose of the police is not to protect the
14 police. It's to protect the public.
15 So I think the most important question we
16 should be asking ourselves every time we're having a
17 conversation about what we're arming the police with
18 is how does it help protect the public, not
19 necessarily how does it help resource them as
20 entities. But my question is, I'm little unclear
21 about who this -- which entity this tear gas or any
22 of this less than lethal force would go to. I
23 understand that there is multiple SWAT teams. There
24 is a Prosecutor's SWAT. There is a County SWAT.
25 There is overlapping, multiple SWAT teams, and it

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1 seems like there's membership that shares, so who --
2 which entities would these resources even go to, and
3 why do we have multiple SWAT teams with overlapping
4 membership? It seems like inefficient use of
5 resources.
6 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: So what is your
7 question?
8 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Gene Rubino, do
9 these go to the Prosecutor's Office, the regional
10 SWAT team?
11 MR. RUBINO: What's on the agenda
12 for -- strike that.
13 It's going to the Prosecutor's regional.
14 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: That's what I was
15 about to say. The regional SWAT team is under the
16 jurisdiction of the Prosecutor. That's what I
17 meant.
18 MR. ANTUN: Yes. And that amount is
19 \$7,895.51. The speakers before stated that was
20 34,000. It's not. It's \$7,895.51 for the regional
21 SWAT team under the Prosecutor's Office. And it's
22 3,098.22 for the Sheriff rapid response team. So
23 the total for both is 10,993.73.
24 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you,
25 Mr. Administrator.

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1 MS. DUCAS: That's 20,000, amount of
2 money -- then again, I wonder what's the difference
3 between those two entities. If there is an
4 overlapping membership, why not just have one
5 entity?
6 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Their position is
7 that there is not.
8 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Freeholder
9 O'Dea, I would like somebody from the Administration
10 to better explain that to Ms. Ducas. Because I'm
11 confused myself.
12 MS. DUCAS: Thank you.
13 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I didn't say I
14 necessarily agree with it, I just said that their
15 position is that there is not.
16 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: No, I know. But
17 I want to hear it from them.
18 MR. ANTUN: Freeholder Cifelli, I
19 don't know if I can address that.
20 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Well, the
21 Sheriff or the Prosecutor can.
22 MR. ANTUN: You mentioned the
23 Administration.
24 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Oh, my
25 phraseology.

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1 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: We're going to
2 bring up Mr. Rubino from the Prosecutor's Office.
3 MR. RUBINO: I'm going to address
4 just the Hudson County Regional SWAT's aspect. In
5 terms --
6 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Is the mic on,
7 Al? The microphone? Go ahead, sir.
8 MR. RUBINO: That is a County-wide
9 service. It's made up of personnel from virtually
10 every municipality with the exception of one so that
11 is a County-wide dispatch of service for major
12 incidents, barricaded suspects, hostage situations
13 and so forth. That's the design of the Hudson
14 County Regional SWAT team, okay? That's essentially
15 the question was, what's its purpose? That's the
16 purpose.
17 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Mr. Rubino,
18 before you leave, may I have a Sheriff's
19 representative stand next to you and explain the
20 correlation and coordination between the Sheriff's
21 Office SWAT and your SWAT team.
22 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes, the Sheriff
23 is here.
24 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Stand next to
25 Mr. Rubino and explain that to us. That's the

Page 74 1 question. 2 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: We understand. 3 Go ahead. We understand the question. Go ahead, 4 Sheriff. 5 UNDERSHERIFF CONTI: Okay. The 6 Sheriff's SWAT team was mandated by the State. The 7 Sheriff's office has the responsibility to protect 8 the courts, the judicial, the public, the State 9 employees and the County employees, and all of the 10 public that come into the courthouses. We are 11 mandated to maintain this SWAT team to protect and 12 respond to any incident in the courthouse. 13 You see what's going on around the 14 country. Courthouses, people have gone in there 15 with active shooters, so we have to be prepared and 16 train just like the regional SWAT team, and we are 17 not part of the regional SWAT team. We don't work 18 together. We're not the rapid deployment. That's 19 the Prosecutor's office. 20 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So Abe Antun was 21 in error when he said you were the rapid respond 22 team? 23 UNDERSHERIFF CONTI: That's right. 24 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Your SWAT, okny. 25 UNDERSHERIFF CONTI: We have a	Page 76 1 never. 2 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Ma'am, are you 3 still on the line? Al Santos. 4 MS. DUCAS: Yes, I'm still on the 5 line. I guess what do you need the money for if 6 it's been 17 years, we've never needed to use. Why 7 would we need to have the gear? Why not send it to 8 another unit and save resources? Why would we need 9 to deploy more resources to a unit that's never 10 needed to use it in the past 17 years? 11 UNDERSHERIFF CONTI: Because the 12 expiration of the gas -- tear gas, less lethal 13 ammunition, it expires. We have to keep replacing 14 it. And with train with other agencies. 15 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Freeholder 16 Cifelli, we're talking to the Sheriff. I'm trying 17 to get the meeting in order, please. Sheriff, we 18 hear you. 19 UNDERSHERIFF CONTI: Okay. The 20 equipment expires. It has an expiration on it. And 21 we have to replace it, and also, we use that when 22 we're trying to be prepared to protect the public. 23 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you, sir. 24 Freeholder Cifelli. 25 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: I don't know if
Page 75 1 30-member team, highly trained. We train with the 2 State Police, the FBI. We have to be prepared not 3 only to protect the courts and the public, but any 4 County facility, and also any municipality, same as 5 the Prosecutor's office. The Prosecutor's office 6 response, they call us out, we help them. We help 7 every municipality. We get called to Jersey City, 8 everywhere. So we have to be ready to and have the 9 same equipment. If we can't have the equipment to 10 protect the officers, we cannot protect the public 11 and property. 12 We've been there 17 years, we've had this 13 SWAT. There's been no incidents in Hudson County, 14 and the Hudson County the Sheriff's Office prides 15 itself as being the Sheriff's office for everyone in 16 the County and anywhere else that needs our help 17 throughout the state. So that's my explanation of 18 our operation. 19 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you, 20 Sheriff. 21 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Hold on. One 22 question. In the 17 years as long as we've been, 23 Sheriff, how many times outside of this training 24 have you used -- has that SWAT team used tear gas? 25 UNDERSHERIFF CONTI: To my knowledge,	Page 77 1 we got and answer to the last question. 2 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: I think the 3 answer was that everything expires. That's why. 4 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: No. That wasn't 5 the question. Here's my comment about the SWAT 6 teams, which we raised at the caucus. The whole 7 subject matter of SWAT is going to have to be more 8 thoroughly discussed in a Public Safety Committee, 9 and a subsequent Freeholder meeting, but tonight 10 there is certain specific resolutions on the agenda. 11 Let's move onto those and let the speaker speak to 12 those if she has any issues. 13 THE CLERK: The speaker's time is up. 14 We're ready for our next speaker. The next speaker 15 is Mark Devens. 16 MR. DEVENS: Can you hear me? 17 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: We can hear you, 18 yes. Go ahead. 19 MR. EVANS: Yeah. I would like to 20 address some of the mixed messages that we heard 21 from the various chiefs. I believe the chiefs of 22 Hudson County talked to you again about the some of 23 the different operations of the SWATs. The SWAT 24 doesn't do crowd control. The Chief Ferrante called 25 them citing the use for protest. So it's one or the

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Page 78 1 other. And I'm really getting mixed messages about 2 whether the tear gas is for crowd control or not 3 because one said they didn't do crowd control, and 4 another said they need it in case things go wrong. 5 Another thing is, you know, we were going to use the 6 tear gas for deescalation training is a topic of our 7 discussions yesterday in Jersey City. There was a 8 contract for deescalation training for the JCPD, but 9 the form of deescalation is not showing up to 10 unarmed peaceful protestors with tear gas. That's 11 not peaceful. I don't think we talk about less than 12 lethal force, but it's still force. These are 13 unarmed protestors. So to deescalate that situation 14 is not show up with an Army to perform the 15 deescalation. 16 And again, we keep referring to less than 17 lethal force, and we know the distinction, but tear 18 gas is literally banned from the Geneva Convention. 19 I know military does not use tear gas. And we are 20 letting tonight our Sheriff's department and the 21 regional SWAT team to purchase tear gas. And we 22 have to keep replacing it, that's not a 23 justification that the expiration of that tear gas 24 does not justify continuing to purchase it. It's 25 fine to let it expire, okay?	Page 80 1 in the streets and telling you to maybe please stop 2 doing that, you know, stop spending so much money on 3 our different law enforcement agencies with all 4 their new cars and their drones and their tear gas. 5 We're all tightening our budgets right now. 6 Personally today was my last day at my job. So you 7 know that you should be spending these funds on 8 things like that helping, health, employment. You 9 know that's really all I have. Thank you. 10 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you very 11 much. I appreciate it. 12 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, there are 13 no further hands up, so we can proceed with the 14 consent agenda. 15 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Yes, please. 16 THE CLERK: So the consent agenda has 17 been changed as follows: 11 was replaced; 21 was 18 replaced; 26 was replaced, and 19 was removed. May 19 I have a motion to approve all items on the consent 20 agenda. 21 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Motion. 22 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Second. 23 THE CLERK: Seconded by the Chairman. 24 On the consent agenda. 25 Freeholder Cedeño.
Page 79 1 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you, sir. 2 I appreciate. 3 MR. EVANS: That's what I have to say 4 for my five minutes. 5 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you. 6 Appreciate it. Mr. Clerk. 7 THE CLERK: Our next speaker is 8 Caitin Sherman. 9 MS. SHERMAN: Hi. Can you hear me? 10 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: We can hear you. 11 Go ahead. Okay. So I was wondering first of all, 12 who is actually responsible for putting the tear gas 13 back on the agenda? Because when the last meetings 14 that I had tuned into and spoke at, you all had 15 voted against it. And I was wondering why it popped 16 back up. The representative of the Prosecutor would 17 not testify, would not say for sure whether or not 18 it would be used on the protestors. Now we're 19 hearing that it actually will be used on protestors. 20 You know, these protests are in reaction 21 to all of these constantly on this budget, and the 22 answer is not to spend more money on police in 23 response to these protests. That's just feeding 24 into the beat back moment. The more money you spend 25 on police, the more people are going to be angry and	Page 81 1 FREEHOLDER CEDEÑO: Okay. So before 2 I vote, I just want to address Item No. 16. Based 3 on the prior meeting that we had with both the 4 Prosecutor and the Sheriff's department, I am 5 satisfied with the purchases, and I know that they 6 are necessary to replace outdated equipment to 7 ensure all of the officers are outfitted with 8 necessary equipment needed to do their work. In the 9 current climate, I am comfortable with my decision. 10 and I would not approve such purchases if I thought 11 otherwise. 12 THE CLERK: Freeholder Cifelli. 13 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: I'm sorry. This 14 is for me to vote now? 15 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: You're voting. 16 Mr. Cifelli. 17 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Aye on all 18 except no on 16A, 16A-2, abstain on No. 20. Could I 19 make a comment now, or is that comment reserved for 20 the end? 21 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: It's reserved for 22 the end. We're in a roll call. 23 THE CLERK: So for clarity 24 Freeholder, you're voting no on 16A-2? 25 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: 16, let me just

Page 82 1 double check. 16A-1 and 16A-2, I'm voting no on. 2 16A-3, I vote yuy or yes on. I abstain on No. 20. 3 The rest I vote aye. 4 THE CLERK: There is no A-3, 5 Freeholder. I only see A-1 and A-2. 6 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: On the 7 resolution it says, I'm looking at it, maybe it 8 changed but I'm looking at it. 9 THE CLERK: It was replaced. 10 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: We got you, 11 Freeholder. We've got it. 12 THE CLERK: So it's no on 16, and 13 abstain on 20? 14 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Yes. 15 THE CLERK: Freeholder Kopacz. 16 FREEHOLDER KOPACZ: Yes. 17 THE CLERK: Freeholder O'Dea. 18 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I'm going to 19 abstain on 15G, no on 16, aye on the rest. 20 THE CLERK: Freeholder Rodriguez. 21 FREEHOLDER RODRIGUEZ: Yes on all. 22 THE CLERK: Freeholder Romano. 23 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Yes on all. 24 Except on No. 20, I would ask my colleagues if we 25 could just review that because of the couple	Page 84 1 FREEHOLDER WALKER: Yes. 2 THE CLERK: Chairman Vainieri. 3 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Yes on all. 4 THE CLERK: All items are approved. 5 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Next order of 6 business, please. 7 THE CLERK: We have two ordinances 8 for introduction. The first is entitled Ordinance 9 amending Chapter 200, Article 8.11 of the 10 Administrative Code to establish a Reserved Handicap 11 Parking Space on John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Bayonne 12 for Karim A. Hermas. 13 Freeholder Cedeño. On introduction, 14 Freeholder Cedeño. 15 FREEHOLDER CEDEÑO: Yes. 16 THE CLERK: Cifelli. 17 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Yes. 18 THE CLERK: Kopacz. 19 FREEHOLDER KOPACZ: Yes. 20 THE CLERK: O'Dea. 21 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes. 22 THE CLERK: Rodriguez. 23 FREEHOLDER RODRIGUEZ: Yes. 24 THE CLERK: Romano. 25 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Yes.
Page 83 1 comments made about do we need all of it in the 2 areas that are not being used right now. I'm in 3 support of the Wi-Fi, but maybe we can modify it, 4 maybe get some advice. 5 THE CLERK: Do you vote aye on No. 6 20, Freeholder? 7 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: I vote no. 8 THE CLERK: No on 20, and aye on all 9 of the other items; is that correct? 10 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Yes. 11 THE CLERK: Freeholder Torres. 12 FREEHOLDER TORRES: I vote yes on 1 13 through 14. I'm going to vote no on 15 and 16; vote 14 yes on 17; vote no on 18; yes on 20. I already gave 15 my feedback during the public portion. And no on 16 21, and I'll take the feedback from the 17 Administrator and my colleagues. I'll ask for full 18 details on all of the Purchasing items before my 19 next vote. 20 THE CLERK: Freeholder, for the 21 record the nos are 15, 16, 18 and 21; is that 22 correct? 23 FREEHOLDER TORRES: Yes, that's 24 correct. 25 THE CLERK: Freeholder Walker.	Page 85 1 THE CLERK: Torres. 2 FREEHOLDER TORRES: Yes. 3 THE CLERK: Walker. 4 FREEHOLDER WALKER: Yes. 5 THE CLERK: Chairman Vainieri. 6 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Yes. 7 THE CLERK: The second ordinance for 8 introduction is entitled Resolution amending Chapter 9 200, Article 24 of the Administrative Code to 10 provide for the Installation and Operation of 11 Traffic Signal Controls in the City of Hoboken on a 12 portion of Willow Avenue a County-owned Roadway. 13 Freeholder Cedeño. 14 FREEHOLDER CEDEÑO: Yes. 15 THE CLERK: Cifelli. 16 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Yes. 17 THE CLERK: Kopacz. 18 FREEHOLDER KOPACZ: Yes. 19 THE CLERK: O'Dea. 20 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes. 21 THE CLERK: Rodriguez. 22 FREEHOLDER RODRIGUEZ: Yes. 23 THE CLERK: Romano. 24 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Yes. 25 THE CLERK: Torres.

Page 86 1 FREEHOLDER TORRES: Yes. 2 THE CLERK: Walker. 3 FREEHOLDER WALKER: Yes. 4 THE CLERK: Chairman Vainieri. 5 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Yes. 6 THE CLERK: There are two ordinances 7 for second reading. The first is entitled Ordinance 8 rescinding Ordinance No. 21-1-2016 and Amending 9 Chapter 200, Article 8.11 of the Administrative Code 10 to eliminate a Reserved Handicap Parking Space at 11 2672 John F. Kennedy Boulevard in the City of Jersey 12 City for Frank Urspruch. 13 This is the time fixed for public hearing 14 on this Ordinance, which was introduced at the 15 meeting of September 10th, 2020, advertised as 16 required by law together with the notice of Hearing 17 for this time. It has been posted on the 18 Freeholder's Bulletin Board and made available to 19 the general public. 20 Are there any speakers on this ordinance? 21 Please raise your hands if you wish to speak on this 22 ordinance only. 23 FREEHOLDER TORRES: Motion to close. 24 THE CLERK: Torres to close and 25 O'Dea. All in favor?	Page 88 1 Intersection Markings, Bergen Turnpike in the 2 Township of North Bergen a County-owned Roadway. 3 This is the time fixed for public hearing 4 on this Ordinance, which was introduced at the 5 meeting of September 10th, 2020, advertised as 6 required by law together with the notice of Hearing 7 for this time. It has been posted on the 8 Freeholder's Bulletin Board and made available to 9 the general public. 10 Are there any speakers on this ordinance? 11 Use the raise your hand icon. Torres and Cedeño 12 All in favor? 13 (The Board votes unanimously to close 14 the Hearing.) 15 The Hearing is closed. On final adoption, 16 Freeholder Cedeño. 17 FREEHOLDER CEDEÑO: Yes. 18 THE CLERK: Cifelli. 19 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Yes. 20 THE CLERK: Kopacz. 21 FREEHOLDER KOPACZ: Yes. 22 THE CLERK: O'Dea. 23 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes. 24 THE CLERK: Rodriguez. 25 FREEHOLDER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
Page 87 1 (The Board votes unanimously to close 2 the Hearing.) 3 The Hearing is closed. On final adoption, 4 Freeholder Cedeño. 5 FREEHOLDER CEDEÑO: Yes. 6 THE CLERK: Cifelli. 7 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Yes. 8 THE CLERK: Kopacz. 9 FREEHOLDER KOPACZ: Yes. 10 THE CLERK: O'Dea. 11 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Yes. 12 THE CLERK: Rodriguez. 13 FREEHOLDER RODRIGUEZ: Yes. 14 THE CLERK: Romano. 15 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Yes. 16 THE CLERK: Torres. 17 FREEHOLDER TORRES: Yes. 18 THE CLERK: Walker. 19 FREEHOLDER WALKER: Yes. 20 THE CLERK: Chairman Vainieri. 21 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Yes. 22 THE CLERK: The second ordinance for 23 second reading is entitled Ordinance amending 24 Chapter 200, Article 27 of the Administrative Code 25 to establish Traffic Calming Devices, Do Not Block	Page 89 1 THE CLERK: Romano. 2 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Yes. 3 THE CLERK: Torres. 4 FREEHOLDER TORRES: Yes. 5 THE CLERK: Walker. 6 FREEHOLDER WALKER: Yes. 7 THE CLERK: Chairman Vainieri. 8 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Yes. 9 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, that 10 concludes the items of business on today's agenda. 11 Are there any comments from the Freeholders on the 12 business of the Board? 13 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Freeholder 14 Romano. Freeholder, go ahead. 15 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: I just -- just a 16 couple quick comments. I think just for the benefit 17 of the public, with regard to the vehicles, the 18 vehicles are part of our rotation to replace that 19 have phased out and cost too much to continue to 20 operate. I think that needs to be explained to the 21 public. It's not that they're buying vehicles for 22 special circumstances. They're all for patrol to 23 replace the older vehicles. 24 The second thing is with regard to the 25 Wi-Fi. I supported for those areas that have the

Page 90 1 inmates in it, but it's interesting it's going to be 2 done throughout the whole facility where we're not 3 using it. So I would ask that just that be 4 revisited to see may be if we can save a little cost 5 in that area if possible. Thank you. 6 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Mr. Chairman. 7 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Freeholder 8 Cifelli, go ahead sir. 9 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Yeah. A couple 10 of comments on the Wi-Fi. My abstention should not 11 be considered as a negative on the concept. I think 12 there are significant questions that have to be 13 answered by the Administration with respect to the 14 utilization of the Wi-Fi, and I think it could be 15 very easily answered so you can put it on at the 16 next meeting. That's fine. I'm totally in favor of 17 every inmate to have access, whether it be for their 18 family, their attorneys or their doctors. That's 19 fine. I just want to -- it's a lot, a lot of money. 20 And it's a building where the census is dropping 21 drastically. But that doesn't mean that we don't 22 have fixed costs that we have to pay. But I just 23 would like a little more information. 24 With respect to my negative vote on Item 25 16, I want to believe it. I don't want to get into	Page 92 1 at the community level. It starts with us at the 2 city level and the town level; and that high level, 3 I will not. If there is a civil protest and law 4 enforcement cannot guarantee they will not use it, 5 that's what I want to know. I have every confidence 6 in our local law enforcement agencies, the 7 Prosecutor, the Sheriff, the police departments to 8 have train their personnel to deal with civil 9 protests. But when they don't guarantee that they 10 will not use it despite their competence and their 11 training on civil protestors, I cannot abide that. 12 So that's my vote, and I'm sorry that 13 people get offended by that. I'm sorry if our law 14 enforcement agencies get offended by my vote, but 15 again, I will not be forced into a binary decision. 16 It's not yes in favor of the police, and no is 17 against the police. That's not the truth. We have 18 been abused in the media by forcing us into these 19 binary choices. In a democracy, we don't make 20 binary choices. We make good judgments. And I hope 21 that my vote today will be deemed as the use of my 22 best personal judgment. Thank you. 23 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you, sir. 24 THE CLERK: Freeholder O'Dea. 25 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Thank you,
Page 91 1 a political ponying. However, I don't have -- this 2 is a binary choice. My vote should not be seen as 3 a -- I'm not going to be forced into situation where 4 I vote yes for law enforcement and no for everybody 5 else. That's not the choice. We are the good. We 6 are dealing with the obligation to make choices 7 based upon our judgment. We live in a very 8 dangerous times, very dangerous times. All I asked 9 was that this equipment be not used in a civil 10 protest scenario. I was told by law enforcement 11 they could not give that to me. And that is the 12 reason I voted against this resolution. 13 We were told by the chiefs tonight that 14 there were times when there are hostage situations, 15 there was crisis situations. I'm not voting against 16 the use of that equipment in those contexts. There 17 is a time and place for everything. My problem is 18 we step back, and we look at the political landscape 19 of this country today, we are all at risk. Our 20 democracy is a risk. And for those giving carte 21 blanche to me is abdication of our responsibility as 22 elected officials, and I will not abdicate that. 23 There are others in this country that have abdicated 24 that responsibility, I will not be a party to that. 25 So it starts with us. It starts with us	Page 93 1 Mr. Chairman. On 15G, had I gotten the information 2 that Freeholder Romano gave me, then I probably 3 would have voted for it. Not having that 4 information and reading the backup on the 5 resolution, there was no information on that. So 6 that reflects my vote on that. 7 On 16, I want to share a lot of what 8 Freeholder Cifelli said. I have been and continue 9 to be throughout my career a strong supporter of law 10 enforcement. My vote today is not reflective of 11 that. However, that being said, we had three chiefs 12 or four chiefs speak. We had our Sheriff speak. I 13 listened to when it could be used. I didn't hear 14 one of the chiefs tell me of an incident where it 15 actually was used. I asked the Sheriff had it ever 16 been used in 17 years. They answered no. 17 I think one of the primary uses of tear 18 gas is crowd control and what are peaceful 19 demonstrations that law enforcement targets out of 20 control. I think that's reality. Any of us who say 21 anything else are fooling ourselves that at this 22 time when I turn on television one day as the 23 President of the United States had tear gas 24 disbursed by those same well-trained individuals in 25 Washington D.C., as we have in Hudson County that

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1 followed the orders of their commander, and utilized
2 tear gas to clear a pathway for the President of the
3 United States to take a picture in front of a
4 church, Listen. My God, what are we coming to here?
5 And I think that we must understand that
6 perception is reality, and right now our perception
7 in our community and those out there peacefully
8 protesting is that we were conscious of this and
9 respond to what has happened in other places in the
10 country. And I'll be honest with you. We could
11 pull out a couple of memos I want to from where that
12 kind of indicates there was some thinking about
13 doing certain things in reaction to what's happened
14 in other parts of the country. So the timing is
15 wrong on this.
16 The other thing about it that really,
17 really bothered me, about two weeks ago we scheduled
18 a closed session to discuss this. And end of the
19 closed session, I asked frankly was anything said in
20 this closed session really needed to be said in
21 closed session? And I was told no. That bothered
22 me because when we're not willing to shine as much
23 light on it as possible, allow the public as much
24 information as possible, and we prefer to go into a
25 closed session, where we admitted at the end of the

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1 day there was one or two items that couldn't have
2 been discussed in public session, we could have then
3 went to closed session later and that was bothering
4 to me and troublesome also. And the reality is, I'm
5 not sure there ever would have been a question in
6 closed session because most of these questions were
7 simply told by law enforcement, we can't reveal that
8 information to you.
9 Now, I respect the fact that they came
10 So we have kind of not done our job when it relates
11 to the public on this issue in the manner and
12 approach that we dealt with it. The timing of the
13 issue is wrong and continues to be wrong. I watch
14 information, and I watch the President's approach to
15 winning an election. If the numbers don't come out
16 exactly as he wants them to, what court he'll go and
17 what he'll challenge, where it will end up in the
18 legislature to a point other individuals, be it the
19 electoral college for that state, they allow someone
20 who is given the most votes, this might just be the
21 beginning of the level of peaceful demonstrations
22 and civil unrest that may be occurring in this
23 country over the next several months, and we have to
24 be very, very careful and very, very caution about
25 that as we move forward.

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1 So we continue to be a strong support of
2 law enforcement from staffing and funding and our
3 constituents be properly compensated. I asked in
4 the committee meeting earlier to make sure that it
5 should be all employees in the County but certainly
6 law enforcement get hazard pay for their time during
7 the early months of COVID. But in this particular
8 case, I share Frecholder Cifelli's passion about the
9 need to send a message of what our conscious tells
10 us from what perception we want to send to the
11 public.
12 Lastly as it relates to Item 20, I think
13 Mr. Administrator, it's important to throw it to our
14 process. Maybe it's the Public Safety Committee.
15 Maybe it's just through the administrative process
16 that we look at the issues that were raised by
17 several speakers today to ascertain that we're not
18 overpaying for the work that needs to be. I
19 understand that some individuals are thinking we
20 shouldn't have the Wi-Fi in all of the cells. But
21 let's be realistic. It's a 600 and something cells
22 and there are 600 and something inmates and
23 detainees. We have a COVID crisis. We may have to
24 get to one person a cell. So I think that we can
25 part of it.

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1 I understand some individuals would like
2 to shut the jail down. I think that there will be a
3 consolidation of correctional facilities. I think
4 there is changes in the correctional facility
5 concept, but I don't believe all of the jails are
6 going to be closed. So I would ask that,
7 Mr. Administrator, before we do that, we go through
8 a process of answering and getting the transcript,
9 finding out what the legitimate issues were and
10 ensure this process compared to something else
11 because it is under a State contract, and I would
12 assume under a State contract, it is cost and
13 material plus cost and labor and plus what the State
14 contract mark up on the labor and the materials is
15 permitted. So we just want to make sure that we
16 don't overspend on that item.
17 And I certainly think there is a lot of
18 positives. If individuals on their tablets are
19 taking OSHA 30 training and stay in touch with
20 family members, get telemed services, get mental
21 health services, desperately needed, in many places
22 including facilities like that, that's a positive.
23 So thank you, Mr. Chairman.
24 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you.
25 Frecholder. Any other Frecholders? Frecholder

Page 98 1 Torres, go ahead. 2 FREEHOLDER TORRES: Yes. I'm not 3 going to belabor the point. I would like to echo 4 what Freeholder Cifelli previously stated. We 5 should not be put into a box. If we vote for an 6 item or against a certain item, it doesn't mean 7 we're anti-anything per se, just because our vote. 8 There is more to it than being just pro one thing 9 other anti-another thing. We have got ourselves out 10 of those boxes. We have to have conversations. I 11 work in the County. I have a lot of relationships 12 with law enforcement through trainings on mental 13 health, active strategies. These are things that 14 are needed to help our society move forward and 15 progress. 16 I just want to add and echo what 17 Freeholder Cifelli was saying, that just because we 18 vote on an item, does mean that you are pro or anti 19 any one particular group. 20 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you, sir. 21 Freeholder Walker. 22 FREEHOLDER WALKER: Yes, yes. I 23 thought long and hard about, you know, first of all, 24 going back to what Freeholder O'Dea said, our 25 President sets the tone as he did, this is	Page 100 1 THE CLERK: This is the time for 2 anyone present to address the Board on any matter of 3 public interest. Please remember to limit your 4 comments to five minutes. Please raise your hand. 5 We'll begin with Amy Torres. 6 MS. TORRES: Hi. Thank you for the 7 opportunity to comment again. I want to address the 8 Board with a series of questions. I also just want 9 to start by acknowledging it took about two hours 10 and seven minutes before Breonna Taylor's name was 11 mentioned tonight. And I know there's been a lot of 12 chat tonight about lethal and nonlethal forces, but 13 I just want to reminded this Board that Eric 14 Gardener did not die by you know quote-unquote 15 lethal force, nor did George Floyd. 16 So when we talk about what you're doing 17 within your leadership, within your opportunity to 18 really steer the conversation about public safety 19 and the accountability of law enforcement agencies, 20 you don't need a gun to kill someone. You can use a 21 elbow, you can use a knee. You can use force less 22 than that. And all of us are paying attention to 23 this conversation at the national level. It's for 24 many of us to pay as much to the conversation at the 25 local level and the County level.
Page 99 1 ridiculous to me. Also, more about the terminology, 2 nonlethal. As I see the protests going on 3 throughout the country, Breonna Taylor, George 4 Floyd, they're going to find out what they are. And 5 I would much rather put officers that have nonlethal 6 than have lethal because it's my community that's 7 being slaughtered. So there was a conflict with me 8 and I thought about this. 9 I'm a strong supporter of law enforcement. 10 I know we need it, but the nonlethal thing really 11 stuck with me because of what's out there. So if we 12 can get them to have nonlethal anything, I'm just 13 all for that and that's all I wanted to say about 14 that. 15 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you, 16 Freeholder. Mr. Clerk. 17 THE CLERK: Are there any comments 18 from the Deputy Chief of Staff to the County 19 Executive? 20 MR. MCCARTHY: I just want to thank 21 everybody for their participation here tonight. 22 There was a lot said on both sides. And everybody 23 get home safe. Thank you very much. 24 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you, 25 Mr. McCarthy.	Page 101 1 And we're -- you know, we're here. None 2 of us want to be here this late at night talking to 3 all of you all, but here we are. So I want to 4 address a few questions that came up in public 5 comments but were either unaddressed so I'll bring 6 them up here even though it hadn't happened. There 7 were a few comments by law enforcement officers and 8 Freeholders slash Commissioners that talks about a 9 State ordinance that requires a Sheriff's SWAT team. 10 I would love to hear an answer about what that State 11 ordinance is. That's very unfamiliar to me, but if 12 that is the case, I would love to hear what it is. 13 My second question there were a few 14 examples where Commissioner talked about active 15 shooter situations at courthouses at the national 16 level, which further compels the reasons for the 17 County to maintain a SWAT team. I'm not aware of 18 any examples of active shooters at courthouses. I'm 19 aware of examples of nice armed militias at 20 statehouses, but I've never heard of hostage 21 situations at courthouses, so I would like 22 verification on that comment. 23 My next question regarding prior tear 24 gas -- of course, I know that's already, you know, 25 been removed from the agenda. What prevents the law

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1 enforcement from using expired tear gas in training
 2 exercises? It really shouldn't matter whether it's
 3 expired or not if it's just a training exercise. My
 4 other questions I did notice that there were a few
 5 chiefs the police or law enforcement officers on the
 6 line. What are restrictions for lobbying for
 7 publicly salaried employees? Are we certain that
 8 everyone who is a public-salaried employee who
 9 commented tonight is not billing overtime hours or
 10 on-call hours for tonight?

11 And then to the comment that I made at the
 12 start, what is the County's definition of use of
 13 force, use of lethal force? Is that always an
 14 ammunition-based definition, or does it also include
 15 types of lethal force that includes things like
 16 chokeholds or knee restraints and again, I cite the
 17 murders of Eric Gardener and George Floyd to ask for
 18 clarity on the definition.

19 Then finally ask the Board on the upcoming
 20 end of the ICE contract and it will be do so before
 21 the November election? Will you commit to not
 22 renewing that contract? There was a recent e-mail
 23 that was sent explaining to the Chair of the Board
 24 saying that there would be hundreds of people, but
 25 that they just ignore them. So if it's not

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1 happening in this public comment, and if it's not
 2 happening by e-mail, I would love to hear how we can
 3 get in touch because it seems like our calls and our
 4 e-mails go unanswered. So if not now, please let us
 5 know when because we know that that the expiration
 6 is coming up so soon. Thank you. And to I want an
 7 answer to all of those questions before the next
 8 speaker.

9 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: What were all of
 10 the questions? Did you write them down, Mr. Clerk?
 11 (Unintelligible, simultaneous
 12 speaking.)

13 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Anybody care to
 14 answer her questions?

15 MS. TORRES: So I'm happy to repeat
 16 them but shouldn't count towards my minutes because
 17 I did lay them out. The Clerk is more than welcome
 18 use whatever mechanism clerks are supposed to use to
 19 look back at those questions and take notes and
 20 repeat them back to you.

21 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: So I just know the
 22 first question related what is the statutory
 23 citation related to a Sheriff's office having a SWAT
 24 team. So I guess, Sheriff, that's a simple question
 25 you can answer.

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1 MS. TORRES: And also wanted examples
 2 of active shooters in courthouses. The next was why
 3 expired tear gas can't be used in training
 4 exercises. The next was what is lobbying
 5 restrictions for publicly-salaried employees and
 6 whether or not publicly-salaried employees as part
 7 of this call are using their publicly-salaried
 8 hours. What are the definitions of lethal force
 9 versus use of force that as defined by the County?
 10 And how is the ordinance on the ICE contracts and
 11 how can we get in touch if, e-mail or phone is not a
 12 viable option?

13 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: I'll answer the
 14 ICE contract. The ICE contract is not before the
 15 Freeholder Board yet. We don't know if it is going
 16 to come before the Freeholder Board. And when it
 17 comes on the agenda, the Freeholders will make that
 18 decision. Go ahead, sir.

19 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: I just want to say
 20 one thing. I stated at the last agenda my position
 21 on it.

22 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: You've got 30
 23 seconds left.

24 UNDERSHERIFF CONTI: I want to answer
 25 the questions on the mandated SWAT team for the

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1 Sheriff's office. That's done by the State of New
 2 Jersey Court Security Plan. They make the rules,
 3 and they make the laws down in Trenton, and we
 4 follow it. For the existence of the last 17 years,
 5 we had to maintain a SWAT team to protect the
 6 judges, the jurors and everyone else who uses the
 7 courthouses, employees, and State and County
 8 employees and mostly and the public and every one
 9 that uses the building that's mandated by the State.

10 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Can you provide
 11 the Administrator just a copy of what that plan is?

12 UNDERSHERIFF CONTI: I believe the
 13 Administrator might have the copy of the mandate.

14 MR. ANTUN: I've never seen it
 15 because it's a document which it comes from the
 16 Administrative Office of the Courts, and I've never
 17 seen the court security model.

18 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: If we requested
 19 it, could you make it available?

20 MR. ANTUN: And I don't even know if
 21 it's available to the public.

22 UNDERSHERIFF CONTI: It's not
 23 available to the public.

24 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Very good. Very
 25 good. Hold on. Freeholder Romano, go ahead, sir.

27 (Pages 102 - 105)

Page 106 1 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: A quick couple 2 answers with regard to the use of force, whether 3 deadly or nonlethal, that's governed by the Attorney 4 General guidelines. That's public. You can see by 5 just pulling it up. With regards to overtime, 6 police chiefs don't get overtime. With regards to 7 communication, I know myself, I've been in contact 8 both e-mail and by phone with a couple of the 9 activists so we all have a governmental e-mail. We 10 do not have a government issued phones, but some of 11 us do give out our phones. Thank you. 12 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you, sir. 13 Next speaker, please. 14 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, the next 15 speaker is Whitney Straub. Mr. Straub. 16 MR. STRAUB: Hi, Freeholders. My 17 name is Whitney Straub. I'm with North Jersey DSA, 18 the Democratic Socialists of America, and I want to 19 echo some of what Amy Torres just said and build on 20 it a little because there is a lot of anxiety about 21 what is going to happen when your ICE contract 22 expires, and you continue to be very evasive and 23 frame yourself as passive and powerless, the defense 24 that there's nothing you can do unless the Executive 25 hands you something to vote on.	Page 108 1 which would be a good thing, that you will replace 2 with a contract with Mercer County to import people 3 who are held in their jail, and then that would be 4 like a real tragedy. Really that would be kind of 5 cruel the way bail reform in New Jersey ends, and 6 then immediately all of you began cashing in on ICE 7 detention in Essex, Hudson and Bergen Counties. 8 rethink the incarceration state, rather than 9 rethinking this reliance on incarceration as a 10 source of revenue, which is a deeply and wrong way 11 to run a County or a society. 12 So that's another question I'm posing to 13 you is to commit to ensuring the downsizing and 14 eventually ideal closure of the jail which is not 15 something which serves the public good and really 16 representing a lot emotional violence inflicting on 17 most of our most marginalized neighbors and 18 community members. 19 And the third and final point I wanted to 20 make, I continue to find it deeply inappropriate 21 that as public officials you don't have phones you 22 know, you're spending thousands of dollars on tear 23 gas that nobody needs. Maybe you could budget some 24 phones so you can be a little more democratically 25 accountable to things like phone taps when organized
Page 107 1 But that's not true, of course. So you 2 can also send a message to the Executive, which is 3 that you are committed to not renewing, and I don't 4 understand why you're unwilling to do that, and it's 5 causing a great deal of concern. I came on this 6 call straight from an abolish ICE activist call with 7 members from groups like Freedom for Immigrants, 8 First Friends, the FSC. And there's a lot of 9 concern within this community. We're actually 10 committed to ending this contract, and there nothing 11 stopping you from committing to that position, which 12 is what I emphasized, that I posed to as a question. 13 I know once you are on the record, and I 14 just want to quote Chairman Vainieri in 2018 when 15 you were quoted, it was always the plan in 2018, and 16 I could put that in the chat if anybody is 17 interested. And so yes, there are three things that 18 I wanted to say with my time. One is that a 19 question again, will you commit collectively at 20 least with some kind of consensus from you to making 21 sure that contract is not renewed through any 22 mechanism or any last second maneuvering. 23 And the second of the three points I 24 wanted to make is just that I think there is also a 25 lot of concern if you do exit the ICE contract,	Page 109 1 groups want to contact our elected officials. So 2 those are the three things that I wanted to pose to 3 you. I really would like you to commit to making 4 sure the ICE contract expires. So thank you. Thank 5 you. 6 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: I appreciate it. 7 Thank you. 8 THE CLERK: Next speaker is Jonathan 9 Kominsky. 10 MR. KOMINSKY: Can you hear me? 11 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Good evening. Go 12 ahead, sir. 13 MR. KOMINSKY: Thank you very much. 14 So well, all the police chiefs who talked earlier on 15 the regional SWAT team as a necessary service to the 16 County, and I see that value in having a 17 consolidated response force for something like that. 18 But the problem is that there's all other SWAT teams 19 as Freeholder Cifelli, we spoke about this the other 20 day, it's a little hard to keep track of why there 21 are so many in the first place, especially because 22 two of those three are on the County level as the 23 Sheriff said. 24 You know, this SWAT team, the Sheriff's 25 SWAT is also a rapid response team. They respond to

Page 110 1 requests from municipalities which is what the 2 regional SWAT team does. If there is a security 3 plan that requires Sheriff's office to have a SWAT 4 team, then why aren't they just the regional SWAT 5 team? Why do we need to have all of this redundant 6 equipment for two completely separate organizations 7 that do the exact same thing in the exact same 8 coverage area. 9 Separately when it comes to the tear gas, 10 the comments that Freeholder Cifelli and O'Dea made 11 get right to the point of it which is that as I said 12 earlier, I don't really trust the Sheriff's office 13 at this time because I don't feel that I have a 14 reason to. And I mean to give you personal 15 perspective of this, you know, I'm a fifth 16 generation American Jew. And my family was very 17 aware of what the German police did when the Nazis 18 attacked the homes and shops of Jewish people in 19 Germany. Where do you think the police were? 20 So if some Neo-Nazi militia like the Proud 21 Boys, came to my house, at the moment, I'm not sure 22 I would want the SWAT team to be there because I 23 don't have confidence about which side they will be 24 on. So I think there is a real problem right now 25 with law enforcement saying that you have just	Page 112 1 I'm butchering this quotation, correct me. The 2 quotation in, When they came for you, I was silent 3 and then they came for me. Thank you. 4 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Mr. Clerk, next 5 speaker. 6 THE CLERK: Next speaker is Caitlin 7 Sherman. 8 MS. SHERMAN: Hi, can you hear me? 9 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: We hear you. Go 10 ahead. 11 MS. SHERMAN: Okay. Great. I wanted 12 to bring to the attention of Freeholder -- is 13 Freeholder Rodriguez still here? She's my 14 Freeholder. 15 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: She's on the 16 Zoom. Go ahead, ma'am. 17 MS. SHERMAN: I just want to bring to 18 your attention that in the last couple days, the 19 municipalities of Weehawken, West New York and Union 20 City all passed resolutions opposing the 21 construction of a proposed power plant that NJ 22 Transit wants to build in Kearny that would burn 23 fracked gas that would be brought in via trains, 24 which is incredibly dangerous. They tend to explode 25 occasionally, and the power plants increase both our
Page 111 1 approve everything they want, every toy, every 2 thing, and we should just trust that they wouldn't 3 be used against us, and I'll tell you I don't. And 4 I don't see why you do. And until we have some kind 5 of safeguard or guarantee or at least them making 6 the most bare effort to be helpful or like I'm going 7 to be honest here, I think that the program 8 Freeholder Cifelli was asking for is lowest possible 9 bottom, right? He's asking them not to violate the 10 civil rights of peaceful protesters, and they can't 11 even commit to that. 12 So I just don't seem to make -- I have 13 trouble trying to convey here how little I feel that 14 the County law enforcement has my wellbeing at heart 15 or actually intends to protect me. And they're not 16 helping their case. Nothing that any of those 17 speakers said helped their case in any way. 18 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Mr. Chairman, 19 just one brief comment. 20 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: If the speaker is 21 finished. Is the speaker finished? 22 MR. KOMINSKY: I'm finished. 23 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you, sir. 24 Go ahead, Freeholder Cifelli. 25 FREEHOLDER CIFELLI: Mr. Kominsky, if	Page 113 1 local air pollution, causing asthma, potentially 2 increasing people's risk for COVID as well as 3 increasing global warming, climate change, causing 4 sea level rising, all sorts of issues that we have 5 here in Hudson County. The power plant is intended 6 to provide power NJ transit in the event of another 7 sandy like incident where they lose power for an 8 extended period of time. However it is planned to 9 be built in a flood zone, itself does not seem very 10 smart. NJ transit also did not look into any 11 alternative renewable options instead of just 12 burning this nasty fracked gas. 13 I urge you all to join I believe half of 14 the municipalities in Hudson County have officially 15 said they oppose it, so I urge you all to join them. 16 If you would like, I could send you text of a 17 resolution. If you would like to work with me on 18 that to get something passed, I would appreciate it. 19 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you very 20 much. I appreciate it. Mr. Clerk. 21 THE CLERK: The next speaker is Arden 22 D. Please state your full name. 23 MS. DONNELLY: Okay. Hi, thank you. 24 Sorry about that. My name is Arden Donnelly. I am 25 a resident of Jersey City. Can you hear me all

Page 114 1 right? 2 THE CLERK: Yes. 3 MS. DONNELLY: All right. I was 4 going to say this earlier. I heard tonight you had 5 discussed the need for the police to protect the 6 public and that might be using tear gas, and I want 7 to make the case for phasing it out entirely. I 8 want to echo John Kominsky's mistrust of law 9 enforcement with militarized weaponry, especially 10 chemical agents, and I have a number of reasons for 11 that. Aside from respiratory effects, which should 12 disqualify it already during a respiratory pandemic. 13 tear gas is also a hormone disrupter. It's toxic to 14 fish and plants and can act as a photophthalmiant. 15 and is also known to be carcinogenic long term. 16 But not a lot of work has been done 17 researching these effects. They're short term and 18 long term for both inhalation and skin absorption, 19 and the reason we don't know so much about them is 20 because the active ingredients have been deemed 21 unethical to test on animals. Protestors in 22 Portland and Philadelphia, have experienced severe 23 and lasting effects from tear gas exposure from 24 respiratory effects to hair loss to menstrual 25 irregularities and possible miscarriage.	Page 116 1 irritant, carcinogen or have any long term health 2 effects. And I believe law enforcement should be 3 held to the same standard, but within the industry, 4 within the supplying and production of this, it's 5 usually neglected. I urge you to make sure to 6 ensure there is appropriate transparency on anything 7 that is thought to be deployed, whether or not there 8 is ever an intent to deploy it in a residential 9 area. It needs to be taken into consideration. 10 So all the more reason to phase it out and 11 deal with the reasons people are in the streets to 12 begin with, including lack of resources, 13 unemployment, and law enforcement that treats them 14 as subhuman. Thank you. 15 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you, ma'am 16 I appreciate it. 17 THE CLERK: Next speaker is Mark 18 Devens. Mr. Devens. 19 MR. DEVENS: Yes. Hi. Can you hear 20 me? 21 THE CLERK: Yes. 22 MR. DEVENS: Great. So I would like 23 to start by thanking the Commissioners, O'Dea, 24 Cifelli and Torres for their impassioned 25 explanations this evening. While every other
Page 115 1 And also when tear gas is deployed, it's 2 impacting more than just protestors or our targets 3 of law enforcement. In Philadelphia this summer, a 4 whole city block was gassed so severely that 5 families couldn't see from it even inside their own 6 home. And with the neighborhoods of color that are 7 disproportionately close to industrial areas, thank 8 you red lining, it becomes another layer of 9 environmental racism and jeopardizes long term 10 health. 11 One of the commenters invoked the need to 12 protest the courthouse, and it doesn't make this 13 less disturbing because the courthouse is heavily in 14 residential areas including the one I live in. And 15 a lot of the areas in which people exercise their 16 right to free speech are also heavily residential. 17 So I urge the Board to pay attention to the 18 environmental problems in these decisions. I know 19 an environmental scientist in Portland who's been 20 studying them, and is taking the fight to the state 21 legislature. 22 One of the more disturbing parts is how 23 the manufacturers and suppliers buy active 24 ingredients. In other fields, everybody is expected 25 to give us real safety data that could be possible	Page 117 1 Commissioner -- every other Commissioner with the 2 exception of Cedeño and Walker, the remaining 3 Commissioners entered their yays into the record 4 without any further explanation. So Commissioner 5 Walker spoke to nonlethal ammunition in regards to 6 tear gas, so I would like to remind all of the 7 Commissioners that tear gas is a banned substance 8 internationally. We don't use it in our own 9 military. 10 So Arden, who spoke just before me, they 11 spoke out on the effects on the use of tear gas. As 12 Commissioner Cifelli has pointed out, if we can't 13 meet the bare minimum commitment to not deploy that 14 on unarmed protestors, and the rest of the 15 Commissioners to vote in this favor of this purchase 16 should ashamed of themselves. We couldn't even get 17 their bare minimum commitment. From the last 18 meeting of the Commissioners was September 10th, 19 this is the first meeting since two items of 20 interest were talked about. 21 I believe it was September 11th, 22 Chairperson Vainieri sent an e-mail where they sent 23 the same e-mail for the past six months word for 24 word exactly I've gotten hundreds. I don't even 25 open them. It's so stupid, but let them e-mail me.

Page 118 1 doesn't change my mind on anything. That was in 2 response other impassioned requests to end the ICE 3 contract, to close down that facility. On 4 September 16th, we learned about the Irwin County 5 detention center and forced hysterectomies that are 6 being performed there. 7 So this is the question pointed 8 specifically to Chairperson Vainieri, you have 9 demonstrated that you don't care about what your 10 constituents think. You don't care about what your 11 constituents think. The ICE contract expires at the 12 end of this year. Do you care about the new 13 revelation that ICE is the genocidal institution? 14 Does this change your attitude towards renewing the 15 Hudson County's contract with ICE when it expires at 16 the end of this year? Thank you. 17 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you very 18 much. First of all let me just say something. 19 We're not Commissioners yet until January 1st. I 20 appreciate notifying everybody of that. We'll be 21 Commissioners January 1st. Second of all, I just 22 won my last election with over 80 percent of the 23 vote when my opponent trashed me for the support of 24 the ICE contract. So my district speaks for itself 25 that they supported me again in my reelection.	Page 120 1 This is genocide. The Geneva Convention 2 on the definition of genocide very specifically 3 states Part B imposing measures intended to prevent 4 births within the group or by the group and E, 5 forcibly transferring children of the group to 6 another group and due to child separation. We've 7 been arguing this point and belaboring it for years 8 now. There is no two ways about it. You can't 9 wring hands about the Trump Administration. You 10 can't brag about your fucking voting records, right? 11 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Watch your 12 language. Watch your language. 13 MR. LUKOWITZ: You're maintaining 14 genocide, right? 15 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: It's not 16 genocide. 17 MR. LUKOWITZ: I'm sorry? 18 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: It's not genocide 19 and control your language. We respect you. You 20 respect us. 21 MR. LUKOWITZ: I provided evidence 22 that it counts toward genocide so when you say it 23 does not, can you argue that it doesn't? 24 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Mr. Clerk, one 25 other obscenity from this gentleman, shut him down
Page 119 1 I never said I do not care about anything. 2 And when the ICE contract comes up again, we're 3 going to make up our minds what we're going to do. 4 We don't need to be asked right now, okay? So if 5 Frecholders want to say they are going to vote no, 6 that's up to them. Good for them. I will not say 7 what I'm doing yet until it's in front of me on my 8 desk. 9 Mr. Clerk, next speaker, please. 10 Mr. Clerk, next speaker. 11 THE CLERK: Jeff L. Please state 12 your full name. 13 MR. LUKOWITZ: Two points I live in 14 West New York I'm happy to ask Frecholder Vainieri 15 again, if you intend to maintain the ICE contract. 16 You know, I came here to speak about a different 17 topic, but given that response I'm little bit more 18 motivated to save energy. My family -- my father 19 was born in '49, in a displaced person's camp in 20 Bavaria, Germany. My grandmother stayed there for 21 four years. She then survived Bergen Belsen where 22 Ann Frank died at around the same time and a series 23 of other camps before being liberated, my 24 grandfather spend two years in Auschwitz and Bergen 25 Belsen.	Page 121 1 please. 2 MR. LUKOWITZ: I only did one 3 obscenity. The obscenity -- 4 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: One more and shut 5 him down. 6 MR. LUKOWITZ: So I've doing thorough 7 reading about, you know, the history before and 8 after World War II, and if you read about Eichmann, 9 it doesn't take every Nazi to be this mustache 10 twirling villan who is ready to murder everyone. 11 What's remarkable about Eichmann is that he is 12 unremarkable. He supposedly wrung his hands and was 13 you know, very regrettably doing all of this stuff, 14 but it was just his job. He was mandated. He was 15 told to do it. He felt like, you know, the people 16 wanted him to do it, right? And that's like what's 17 happening here. 18 FREEHOLDER C'IFELLI: He was only 19 following orders. 20 MR. LUKOWITZ: Right? I mean exactly 21 right? You're only trying to balance the budget. 22 It's the same thing, right? 23 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Mr. Clerk. Time? 24 THE CLERK: No, he has an additional 25 minute.

31 (Pages 118 - 121)

Page 122 1 MR. L: Thank you. Before I was 2 rudely interrupted again, the problem here is we 3 judge ourselves where just regular things happen, 4 right? You're arguing about budget, you argue about 5 how you complete this small little task and you 6 really don't understand how it contributes to the 7 whole. But you're doing business with an 8 organization that is in my opinion and the opinion 9 of many people is genocide. So I cannot fathom that 10 you're refusing to make a statement right now at 11 this particular moment after all of the conversation 12 that we heard personal opinions about, the critical 13 moment that we're in right now, the danger and the 14 fear and the you know -- 15 THE CLERK: The time is up. Should I 16 proceed with the next speaker? 17 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Yes, please. 18 Let's get on with the meeting. Next speaker. 19 THE CLERK: Patrick Toussaint. 20 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Mr. Chairman, one 21 thing. If we're going to cut people off at five 22 minutes, then the Clerk, you need to notify when 23 there is two minutes left, and one minute left. 24 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: He said he had 25 one minute left when he started cursing at us. Go	Page 124 1 disappointed in my own Freeholder, Freeholder Walker 2 for his communication of Breonna Taylor and George 3 Floyd and for continuing to purchase tear gas. As 4 many folks recall, there are many, many, many ways 5 to kill a person and just because we use nonlethal 6 doesn't mean that there is a justification for us to 7 continue to purchase all of this weaponry. You 8 should be focused on deescalation. You should be 9 focusing on putting less money into our police 10 departments. 11 And when you look at this budget, we've 12 done a lot of work on this, and the law enforcement 13 all told together already gets 30 percent. That's 14 the largest part of the budget. I on behalf of the 15 Hudson County Progressive Alliance earlier posted a 16 letter in the Hudson County View making this very 17 point, understanding that Chairman Vainieri found it 18 necessary to place me in a particular box for what 19 my position was on that. What we're trying to do 20 here is ask you guys to think about additional 21 dollars that you are deciding to spend on law 22 enforcement. Is it really justified? 23 There are so many other things that are 24 much more deserving of our public dollars would be 25 more beneficial of investments. Again, I think some
Page 123 1 ahead, Mr. Clerk. 2 THE CLERK: Patrick Toussaint. The 3 time is 8:39 on my watch. Mr. Toussaint, can you 4 speak? 5 MR. TOUSSAINT: Yes. Can you hear 6 me? 7 THE CLERK: Yes. 8 MR. TOUSSAINT: Okay. Perfect. So I 9 just wanted to reiterate a lot of the comments that 10 have been made previously. First let me start by 11 thanking Freeholder Cifelli, Freeholder O'Dea, 12 Freeholder Torres for their votes they took today 13 and for the justification of their votes. It's 14 really an important issue in a democracy. I agree 15 not to be put into different boxes based on the 16 buzzwords of the day. 17 But it's really important for us make sure 18 that we're getting a full accounting because you 19 guys represent us, and you're working on the basis 20 of tax dollars where I'm paying, whether homeowners 21 or renters, we're paying for the services and we 22 rely on you to make sure that you are -- that's 23 service are being well run. So Cifelli, O'Dea and 24 Torres, again, thank you for your votes and your 25 justifications. I do want to make a comment. I'm	Page 125 1 of the Freeholders on the call have decided that 2 there are more worthwhile things to invest their 3 money and others to think about different ways of 4 tear gassing our communities so I just want to put 5 my comments on the record. 6 I also wanted to reiterate what other 7 folks have said as it relates to the ICE contract. 8 And know that when that does come back up for a 9 vote, you all will continue to -- Freeholder O'Dea, 10 if we can count on the County Executive not to 11 present it that would be great, but if he does 12 present it, then I would hope that this Board does 13 vote it down. 14 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Freeholder 15 Romano. 16 FREEHOLDER ROMANO: Just a quick 17 statement. It's nice that the majority of the 18 speakers are commenting on three Freeholders. But I 19 would like to comment to also say Freeholders 20 Walker, Kopacz, Vainieri, Rodriguez and Cedeño, I 21 think you all deserve some credit also. Freeholder 22 Cedeño spoke very eloquently, I think that we 23 respect all that have come up hear with their 24 opinions. I think sometimes all the information is 25 not known, everybody keeps saying tear gas people.

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1 First of all, it's really a pepper spray.
 2 The second thing I think the chiefs were
 3 trying to emphasize that this is not about trying to
 4 tear gas or pepper spray protestors. But it's a
 5 preparation in case that chaos and anarchy attempt
 6 to be reined in one of our cities. I want to stress
 7 that no one, and as a fellow police officer, no one
 8 wants to gas or hurt peaceful protestors. We
 9 respect that as human beings, and we take
 10 psychologicals to try to weed out those who don't
 11 respect it.
 12 And I just feel that, your passion
 13 respected, I think there needs to be more dialogue
 14 between people. As I said I spoke to a couple
 15 activists today and some information is wrong. The
 16 one activist today said to me, I didn't realize that
 17 about the Wi-Fi. And I said yes, it's to benefit
 18 the inmates. And the jail when he wrote the letter,
 19 he had a error in his letter I read today. For
 20 example, we didn't call a special meeting. Long
 21 before, I have been here from Freeholder Cifelli or
 22 O'Dea, and the senior Members can attest to the fact
 23 that during the summer months that's the regular
 24 times of the meeting. We did not change times.
 25 With regard to the strenuous word on the

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1 genocide, for the cardinal of the Archdioceses of
 2 Newark to come out and say that our correctional
 3 institution is in the forefront of a model in the
 4 whole United States in the way we treat detainees.
 5 And to the gentleman that says we close prison,
 6 taking aside detainees, what do you do with those
 7 who that committed serious crimes, such as murder,
 8 rape, or other heinous crimes? I'm just wondering
 9 where he thinks that those people should go?
 10 And we've gone to Mercer County. It's not
 11 to take in detainees. I think that's another
 12 mistake to the best of my knowledge, correct
 13 Mr. Administrator? That is not to take in
 14 detainees. So please feel free to contact, ask
 15 questions. Let's have dialogue. But just praising
 16 some of the Commissioners here and not understanding
 17 all of the them just isn't right. And again, I
 18 commend and compliment those Freeholders that had an
 19 understanding and that did support those law
 20 enforcement items.
 21 And I'll tell you what? I'm a retired
 22 police captain, and I couldn't have been prouder of
 23 the one profession that I was associated with and
 24 the one profession is to help and serve people, and
 25 I just want to say we appreciate all that are here.

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1 and I appreciate all of my colleagues. Thank you.
 2 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you,
 3 Freeholder Romano. Thank you very much for the
 4 compliment. Mr. Clerk, go ahead.
 5 THE CLERK: Mr. Rafael Wakefield had
 6 his hand up previously. Does he wish to speak?
 7 Please raise your hand if you do.
 8 Yes, he does. Mr. Wakefield.
 9 MR. WAKEFIELD: Okay. Thank you.
 10 THE CLERK: It's 8:46 p.m.
 11 MR. WAKEFIELD: Okay. I live in
 12 Downtown Jersey City, Mr. Walker's district. Really
 13 quick I wanted to echo what Ms. Sherman said about
 14 the New Jersey Transit gas power plant. I don't
 15 think it's commonly understood that although New
 16 Jersey Transit's rationale is powering the trains in
 17 an emergency, this plant is it a combined backup
 18 plant meaning it's intended to run, and it does run
 19 at all times on natural gas powers, which take it or
 20 leave it, but the idea that it's necessary for
 21 emergency backup power for New Jersey Transit's
 22 trains is a misleading way of putting. So I would
 23 agree with Ms. Sherman. I call on the Freeholders
 24 to express their disapproval on that.
 25 The other thing, I think this was already

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1 covered more explicitly with regard to Freeholder
 2 Walker's comment on less lethal, I mean it's very --
 3 less lethal force is more preferable to lethal force
 4 obviously, but I struggle to really envision a
 5 scenario where tear gas -- I understand that you can
 6 say Oh, it's not tear gas, it's pepper spray.
 7 Whatever. There are potentially very serious side
 8 effects, and I don't think that really plays a role
 9 in what we think of as special weapon tactics. As
 10 opposed to say it's for a straightforward purpose,
 11 using it instead of a gun.
 12 Tear gas, let's get real. What is the
 13 principal purpose other than spraying people? I
 14 think the Sheriff's office, and I don't think any
 15 police office has disavowed the use on protests, so
 16 I appreciate your candor. We should be honest about
 17 it. That's what we're going to use it for, so I
 18 have a problem with that. Thank you. I yield my
 19 time.
 20 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you
 21 Mr. Clerk. Next speaker.
 22 THE CLERK: I think the next speaker
 23 has already spoken in the public portion. So I
 24 think that has completed all of the raised hands.
 25 CHAIRMAN VAINIERI: Thank you very

1 much. I see no one in the chambers. Motion to
 2 close. Motion, Romano and Kopacz. All in favor?
 3 Good night.

4 THE CLERK: The meeting is adjourned.
 5 (Whereupon the proceeding is then
 6 concluded at 8:49 p.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATION

2
 3 I, SHARI CATHEY, CCR, RPR, License No.
 4 30XI00234700, and Notary Public of the State of New
 5 Jersey, hereby certify that the proceedings herein
 6 are from the notes taken by me of a Regular Meeting
 7 of the Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders,
 8 held on Thursday, September 24, 2020; and that this
 9 is a correct transcript of the same.

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13 *Shari Cathey*
 SHARI CATHEY, CCR, RPR
 A NOTARY PUBLIC of the
 14 State of New Jersey
 I.D. No. 2283786
 15 Commission Expires 2/4/22
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Veritext Legal Solutions

800-227-8440

HUDSON COUNTY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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