STATE OF NEW JERSEY 1 2 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS 3 -----x 4 IN RE: : 5 Local Finance Board : 6 -----x 7 8 9 10 Location: Department of Community Affairs 11 101 South Broad Street 12 Trenton, New Jersey 08625 13 Wednesday, July 13, 2022 Date: Commencing At: 10:49 a.m. 14 15 (Taken Remotely Via Teams.) 16 17 18 19 20 RENZI LEGAL RESOURCES 21 Court Reporting, Videography & Legal Services 22 2277 STATE HIGHWAY #33, SUITE 410 23 HAMILTON SQUARE, NEW JERSEY 08690 TEL: (609) 989-9199 TOLL FREE: (800) 368-7652 24 25 www.RLResources.com No. 415213

HELD BEFORE: (ALL MEMBERS APPEARING VIA VTC) 3 JACQUELYN SUAREZ, Chairwoman 4 WILLIAM CLOSE 5 IDIDA RODRIGUEZ 6 NICK DIROCCO 7 ALAN AVERY 9 A L S O P R E S E N T: 11 NICK BENNETT, Executive Secretary

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MS. SUAREZ: The first matter before 1 2 the board for applications today is going to be 3 Atlantic City. Before we move on to that, I'm just going to remind everybody, if you are not 4 5 speaking, to please keep yourself muted. Ιf you're appearing by phone, you can do that by 6 7 star 6, both to mute and unmute yourself. 8 And then as each applicant appears 9 to testify, we ask that you please turn your 10 camera on, speak up when your application is 11 called so your image appears and you can be 12 properly sworn in. So we can move on to Atlantic 13 City, which is going to require me to step down 14 as chair and recuse myself from voting on the 15 matter. 16 That way I can actually present the 17 budget to the board for consideration. So I'm going to turn my chairmanship over to Miss 18 Rodriguez. And Miss Rodriguez, would you please 19 20 introduce the application for us. 21 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, we are going to 22 hear the City of Atlantic City and make a 23 recommendation on the approval of CY2022 24 municipal's budget. 25 MS. SUAREZ: Thank you. So I'm

appearing on behalf of the City of Atlantic City 1 2 and the State of New Jersey under the Municipal 3 Stabilization Recovery Act. And we are seeking approval of the calendar year 2022 municipal 4 5 budget. And as you're all aware, under the 6 Supervision Act and under the Stabilization and 7 Recovery Act, the Local Finance Board vested in the Division of Local Government Service's 8 oversight over the City of Atlantic City's 9 10 municipal budget for each year during the period 11 of the recovery and revitalization. Atlantic 12 City's team has joined us virtually today. And 13 I'm going to ask that each of you speak up at 14 this time and introduce yourself for the record 15 so we can swear you in and we can begin 16 testifying. 17 MR. COSTELLO: Leon Costello. 18 MR. SMALL: Mayor Marty Small, 19 Senior. 20 MR. SWAN: Anthony Swan, business 21 administrator. 22 MS. ABODERIN: Toro Aboderin, chief 23 finance officer. 24 MR. BODINE: Paul Bodine, 25 comptroller.

(At which time those wishing to 1 2 testify were sworn in.) 3 MS. SUAREZ: So I'm going to walk through some of the preliminaries and then I'm 4 5 going to turn it over to the AC team for additional highlights and comments. The City of 6 7 Atlantic City has proposed its calendar year 2022 budget through consultation with the city's 8 financial staff, the administration and working 9 10 together with the state assigned fiscal monitors 11 and other financial professionals. 12 The budget itself has been presented 13 to the lieutenant governor for her consideration 14 as well. The 2022 budget, despite all the 15 challenges facing New Jersey and the city today, 16 actually results in a tax decrease from last 17 year. 18 This marks the fifth year in a row 19 that the city has achieved either a tax rate 20 reduction or a zero increase and reflects the 21 tremendous amount of effort by all participants 22 in this process. The city, in collaboration with 23 the state, in its oversight capacity, has focused 24 on stabilizing the budget and increasing fiscal 25 responsibility.

The city's largest tax appeals have 1 2 been settled for a few years now, and additional 3 emergency appropriation reserves have been included to address any future appeals reducing 4 5 the risk for liability to the city that's anticipated in the future. 6 7 As in prior years, the city's finance staff and administration, municipal 8 technical advisors and finance professionals will 9 10 continue to focus on cost reduction programs and 11 maximizing revenues to further stabilize the

12 city's financial position.

The proposed introduced budget reflects a conservative approach to anticipating the city's 2022 revenues. Many of the revenue line items were reduced in the 2021 budget to reflect the adverse impact of the COVID-19 and emic on revenues actually realized in 2020 and the continued uncertainty of the pandemic's impact on 2021.

Despite those revenues exceeding expectations last year, we kept the anticipated revenues in check once again this year. Although most of the revenues anticipated in the 2021 municipal budget are recurring revenues, the city

continues to look for new revenue sources as we 1 2 did last year. 3 The city was able to utilize American Rescue Plan funds awarded to the city by 4 5 the U.S. Treasury to accomplish projects without negatively impacting the budget. A negative 6 7 credit consequences of the uncertainty with the 8 sometimes volatile casino industry are fairly 9 offset by the improved management of city 10 operations and the more predictable PILOT payment structure for the casinos. 11 12 In addition, the city's current 13 expectation is that any possible negative 14 financial impact on the city due to any potential 15 weakness with the brick and mortar casino 16 industry will be limited. Particularly given the 17 meaningful revenue from on-line gambling 18 operations that we've seen over the last couple 19 of years. 20 Despite the impact of the COVID-19 21 pandemic on Atlantic City's economy, if you look 22 at page 39 of Atlantic City's budget, there's a 23 surplus of over 57 million dollars. And that's 24 an increase of 33 million from the prior year. 25 While the city's budget will utilize 15 million

dollars in surplus, we expect that the city will 1 2 fully replenish that figure and then some. 3 The collaborative effort by the city's financial staff and administration, our 4 5 advisors as well as the professionals who service the city produced a fiscally responsible 6 7 municipal budget that we recommend that the Local Finance Board approve. 8 9 In looking towards the future, the city will remain focused on continuing to keep 10 11 the budget and tax rate stabilized, the extension 12 of the state's oversight under the Municipal 13 Stabilization and Recovery Act for another three 14 years from now will help ensure that the city's 15 continued financial stability maintains. 16 We have a great deal of comfort in this budget. Our finance team at the city and at 17 18 the department have been incredible. And with 19 that said, I open it up to the team to add some 20 context, any highlights that they would like to 21 reiterate on items within this proposed budget 22 are very welcome. 23 MR. SMALL: Good morning, everyone. 24 It's a great day here in the City of Atlantic 25 City. Can we say great day?

TEAM: Great day.

1 2 MR. SMALL: I'm Mayor Marty Small, 3 It is my honor that we are at this point Senior. of, I don't know how many of you were on the 4 Local Finance Board back in November 9th 2016 5 when we became official. 6 7 The city's finances then were 8 teetering on the edge of bankruptcy which we 9 needed the state approval to do so and that wasn't going to happen, so this has been a long 10 11 journey to get here, as Jacquelyn eloquently 12 stated, that the last five years there's either 13 been a tax decrease or a flat tax rate and that 14 just goes to hard work, improved relationships with the state, and as Jacquelyn said, fiscal 15 16 responsibility. 17 My challenge from the get-go, you 18 know, and as I was calling Leon talked me off the 19 cliff, but that just goes to show the direction 20 that the city is going in and the tax decreases, 21 positive outlooks from the rating agencies and 22 the Atlantic City story is a complete turn 23 around. 24 We've been able to do things such as 25 lower spending, while increasing services which

1 is improving the quality of life of everyone in 2 the city from the youth to senior citizens, so I 3 would urge this board to please approve this 4 budget.

5 As I often say, we're just getting 6 started and you're going to continue to see 7 moments like this every time we come in front of 8 the Local Finance Board. The dark days are over 9 and we're looking forward to greater days here in 10 the City of Atlantic City.

MR. COSTELLO: Just a couple highlights. Is my screen showing for everybody? If you just follow along, Jacquelyn mentioned we have a 4.836 tax decrease this year. Very little peals, only 19 million dollars, which is the lowest its been in a long time.

17 She highlighted the fund balances up 18 to 57 billion, up from 24 million, almost a 33 19 million dollar and change. We're using 15 20 million of that to fund this budget which is no 21 problem at all. A percentage of collection is 22 still increasing, was 97.6 last year. It's 97.7 23 this year, up from around 93, 94 a couple years 24 ago.

25

We are miles underneath both the

1 spending CAP and the levy CAP, so there's no 2 issues whatsoever with that. That reflects what 3 the mayor has been saying, that we've been 4 trimming, lowering the tax levy. We have tons 5 and tons of room.

Also, we don't just do one budget. We're doing five. We have 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 projected with what the cost may be. One big highlight is our debt service is 41 million this year, drops to 40 to 38 to 37 to 36 and then 23. We can finally pay off a lot of those casino tax appeals.

13 Our deferred charges, which was a 10 14 year problem back in the beginning, was the major 15 shortfalls, that goes away in 2023. The fund 16 balance, as we stated, 57 million, we're using 15 17 million. We'll replace the 15 million for sure, 18 and to show that we keep things in balance, these are all extremely conservative, no additional 19 20 revenues which we know are coming and still maintains a slight tax decrease in each of those 21 22 years. 23 So all and all, the city has a very

24 strong financial position. It's as good as it's 25 been in who knows how long, and I don't think

1 there's any issues with this budget whatsoever.
2 If you have any questions, I'll be more than
3 happy to answer them.

MR. SWAN: I just wanted to say a couple things. Since the team on the ground that really worked through the details of this budget, I guess with every municipality, spends an extraordinary amount of time going over the budget.

We argued with each other, but at the end of the day, we produce something that I think is one of the best budgets in the state. We have one dial we can really turn and that's He property taxes. We don't have the other dollars available to us that other municipalities, but we have a lot of large moving parts.

But in the face of that, we still But in the face of that, we still were able to stick with our five year plan and actually do better because one of the great things with our team is that we're all very conservative. So I'm very happy with the budget that we put together.

And I told Jacquelyn I was going to And I told Jacquelyn I was going to a say a couple words, but I do want to say this. This budget doesn't happen unless we have good

leadership, from the mayor, the City of Atlantic 1 City but also Director Suarez. She's not afraid 2 3 to make tough decisions and she's done so and demonstrated that. 4 5 She understands the budget inside and out, so when we have discussions on the 6 7 budget, they're very detailed oriented 8 discussions showing that she understands the 9 current budget and also the projected budget for 10 years out. 11 And when you have that type of 12 synergy and you have that type of team, only good 13 things happen, so I wanted to make a quick 14 comment on that. 15 MS. SUAREZ: Thank you very much. 16 Anyone else have any comments they would like to 17 add before I turn it over to the board for 18 I'll yield the rest of my time to the questions? 19 board if there are any questions. 20 MR. DIROCCO: Just a quick comment 21 just congratulating everybody for the continued 22 work. I was involved with the Atlantic City 23 municipal budget years ago, and it is true that 24 great strides have been made and I wanted to 25 congratulate everybody on good work and good luck 1 for continued success.

MS. RODRIGUEZ: I have a comment, and I apologize for not being on screen. Mayor Mayor Small, I want to commend you. I definitely want to commend the director for leading and guiding this process.

7 I've been on the Local Finance Board 8 since 2009, so I too was there in 2015 and it's 9 wonderful to see the progress that has been made, 10 especially the fiscal progress. I was there at 11 the time when the casinos came in and they all 12 had their tax appeals and no one knew what was 13 going to happen and how it was going to be 14 addressed.

But obviously, when the state and municipalities collaborate because this is a real collaborative effort. And I have to commend the lieutenant governor who empowers and gives the director the leeway to help with this. And of course, yourself, Mayor, you've been there. You are Atlantic City through and through.

So that also helps when you're at the helm and you care so much as much as you do and I see you've assembled a fine team and I just want to commend all of you. Great presentation

and I wish you the best. I wish you continued 1 2 prosperity in your city and all the best. 3 Thanks. I couldn't do MR. SMALL: 4 it without the people in this room, Leon and all 5 the people that work hard for the City of Atlantic City daily as well as Jacquelyn Suarez 6 7 and lieutenant governor and their team who was always willing to lend us a helping hand. And as 8 I stated, we're just getting started. 9 10 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Great. So can we 11 get a motion to approve the budget? 12 MR. DIROCCO: I'll make a motion to 13 approve. 14 MR. AVERY: I'll second. 15 MR. BENNETT: Miss Suarez is Mr. Mapp is absent. Mr. DiRocco? 16 recused. 17 MR. DIROCCO: Yes. 18 MR. BENNETT: Mr. Close? 19 MR. CLOSE: Yes. 20 MR. BENNETT: Mr. Avery? 21 MR. AVERY: Yes. 22 MR. BENNETT: Miss Rodriguez? 23 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. 24 MR. BENNETT: With four votes, the 25 motion passes.

1 MS. SUAREZ: Thank you very much. 2 Atlantic City, thank you. Mayor, thank you and 3 Very much appreciate all the effort your team. that was put into this again. So I know that we 4 5 have a few more items left on our agenda. Before we jump to the next 6 7 application, I just wanted to take a moment to 8 acknowledge the passing of Jack Craft. He's 9 pretty much the man that paved the way for all of the bond professionals with us today. 10 11 And while I myself did not have the 12 pleasure of knowing Jack, the attorneys who 13 appear before the board made it abundantly clear 14 that he was larger than live and paved the way 15 for the practice of public finance in New Jersey. 16 So on behalf of the board, I wanted to extend my 17 condolences to everyone Jack touched and pay 18 homage to the man that certainly earned it. 19 I know there has been a lot of back and forth with various members of the bond world 20 21 in expressing their heartfelt condolences while 22 their experiences that they've all shared with 23 Jack. 24 So in everybody's own creative way, I wanted to make sure that the board expressed 25

our sincere condolences to everybody that he's 1 2 touched. 3 And while it seems trite, I will move on to the rest of our applications for the 4 5 day. I believe next up is Haddon Township Fire District Number 1 and I do see Miss Edwards. 6 7 MR. WINITSKY: Jeff Winitsky is on 8 from Parker McCay and I believe Hank Voigtsberger is on as well from the fire district. 9 10 (At which time those wishing to 11 testify were sworn in.) 12 MR. WINITSKY: Thank you and good 13 morning. We're here seeking positive findings 14 pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5A-6 for the fire 15 district to issue its general obligation bonds in 16 an amount not to exceed \$2,090,000 to finance the 17 cost of the acquisition of two new vehicles for 18 the fire district including a ladder tower truck 19 and an ambulance. 20 I want to take a pause right there 21 to say that when the fire district initially 22 applied to the Local Finance Board, and in fact 23 what was approved by the voters included also the 24 acquisition of a utility truck and a command 25 vehicle.

Due to the ever skyrocketing costs 1 2 of fire apparatus in the country, not just in the 3 state, the fire district has determined not to include the command truck and utility truck as 4 part of the vehicles to be acquired. Nor, will 5 the fire district be including any of the 6 7 equipment that we had referenced in our 8 application and in the referendum.

9 The equipment is going to be 10 acquired through regular budget in their capital 11 budget. And the utility truck and the command 12 vehicle will be acquired when we can. Both 13 pieces of apparatus are in good working order. 14 We are just hopeful that we could replace them 15 now as part of a larger bond issuance.

But as I'm sure the director and rest of the board is aware, cost of fire apparatus have gone up astronomically over the last couple of years, and in particular, through COVID. I wanted to put that on the record so you understood what specifically we were going to do with bond proceeds.

The issuance of the bonds was approved by the voters of the fire district on February 19th 2022 by a vote of 476 in favor to 1 237 opposed. There is approximately 9,100 2 registered voters in the township. The apparatus 3 to be acquired will replace a 1998 Kami ladder 4 truck and a 2010 Horton ambulance, both of which 5 are beyond their service lives and in need of 6 replacement.

7 The new apparatus, as I mentioned at 8 the outset, is a Pierce 100 foot ladder tower 9 truck which costs, approximately, 1.8 million 10 dollars. And a new Horton ambulance, a 2022 11 ambulance which costs, approximately, \$270,000. 12 The apparatus that is being retired, we are 13 hopeful to sell to the extent that we can.

14 We had a premeeting with the board 15 and talked about some of our expectations and 16 Hank can speak to that if there are any questions 17 but we'll see if there is a market for both of 18 The bonds will be issued the retired apparatus. 19 with a 10 year amortization schedule with level 20 annual debt service, approximately, \$253,000 per 21 year.

Assuming current market conditions, which as everybody knows, are fluctuating daily. Assuming we're in and around where we hoped, the tax impact would be, approximately, \$45 per

household. That equates to about \$20 per 1 \$100,000 of assessed home. 2 3 And in the township it's about \$229,000 per home, so it's about \$45,000. 4 The 5 fire district, their only other debt is a vehicle 6 lease with the remaining balance of around 7 \$225,000 which comes off the books in a couple of 8 years so the impact will be lessened when that sort of rolls off. 9 10 We anticipate selling the bonds via 11 a private sale or private placement for which 12 we'll do an RFP to select banks. We think given 13 the size of the bond issuance, it makes a lot 14 more sense to do it via private placement to keep 15 cost of issuance as low as we can. 16 You know, the non disclosure 17 document and a lot of the other things that we 18 normally do would be eliminated by doing a 19 private placement. We expect similar results by 20 way of doing a modified private placement as 21 opposed to a full public offering. But of course 22 if we see that what comes back in will shift over 23 to a public sale if we need to. 24 As I mentioned, Hank is on from the 25 fire district, Jen Edwards, the financial advisor

is on as well to answer any questions that you 1 2 might have. 3 MS. SUAREZ: Thank you very much for 4 that. I appreciate you addressing the tax 5 impact, also addressing the -- I know four 6 vehicles and apparatus were originally 7 contemplated here, so it seems like the other two will have to take in stride. 8 9 MR. WINITSKY: Yeah. 10 MS. SUAREZ: As far as, I don't 11 believe I saw a down payment on the application. 12 Will you walk us through that decision not to 13 include a down payment? 14 MR. WINITSKY: Yeah, I mean we 15 talked a little bit about this at our premeeting, 16 but for the benefit of the board, the thought to 17 not to do a down payment was a function of two 18 things. One to try to keep your budget as low as 19 you can. 20 And two, at the time of the 21 consideration of this apparatus, interest rates 22 were extraordinarily low. So the idea was to 23 sort of maximize borrowing amount versus budget 24 The market kind of shifted on amount if you can. 25 us.

Hindsight being 20/20, we probably 1 2 would have tried to down size it in prior years, 3 but at the time, I don't think the better part of 10 years and interest rates were extraordinarily 4 5 low, so I think that was part of the planning 6 process. Given where we are today, we probably 7 would have done it a little bit differently. 8 But Hank, please feel free to 9 correct me if anything I'm saying is wrong, but I 10 believe that was the thought process at the time. 11 MR. VOIGTSBERGER: Yeah, that was 12 the main thought process. In addition to that, 13 there was a couple of years where we had to take 14 a short term loan in order to make it through the 15 first quarter expenses. We eliminated that. We 16 have gotten to the point where we did not have to 17 take any loans, and we're working on anticipation 18 of not wanting to take a loan for that first 19 quarter to finance anything. 20 If we had made the down payment on 21 it at this time, that would have affected our 22 capability to have the finances due for that 23 first quarter, so that was one of the other 24 things that came into play with us. 25 MS. SUAREZ: As far as, I just

wanted to confirm I guess, you're going to be 1 2 issuing bonds for these. So confirming, at 3 least, three bids are going to be solicited; is 4 that correct? 5 MR. WINITSKY: Yes. 6 MS. EDWARDS: The plan is to submit 7 to a long list of bidders. Well in excess of three. The hope is we'd like to receive at least 8 9 three for comparison purposes. That sometimes 10 doesn't always happen but we will definitely have 11 a longer list that it gets sent to in hopes as we 12 get as many bids as possible. 13 MS. SUAREZ: Thank you. I will open 14 it up to the public and board members to see if anybody has additional questions. Hearing none, 15 do we have a motion? 16 17 MS. RODRIGUEZ: I'll make a motion. 18 MR. DIROCCO: I'll second it. 19 MR. BENNETT: Miss Suarez? 20 MS. SUAREZ: Yes. 21 MR. BENNETT: Mr. DiRocco? 22 MR. DIROCCO: Yes. 23 MR. BENNETT: Mr. Close? 24 MR. CLOSE: Yes. 25 MR. BENNETT: Mr. Avery?

1 MR. AVERY: Yes. 2 MR. BENNETT: And Miss Rodriguez? 3 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. 4 MR. BENNETT: Motion approved. 5 MR. WINITSKY: Thank you very much. 6 MR. AVERY: Director, I apologize, 7 but at this point, I am going to have to leave 8 the meeting. 9 MS. SUAREZ: Understood. Thank you, 10 Mr. Avery. 11 (At which time Mr. Avery leaves the 12 hearing.) 13 MR. BENNETT: Director, with four 14 members, we do still have a quorum with the 15 majority of the six remaining members. 16 MS. SUAREZ: Thank you, Nick. Ι 17 think we can move on to Harrison. 18 MR. WINITSKY: Yes. Thank you, 19 Director. I believe we have on the line, Ken 20 Powell, chairman of the fire district and Jenn 21 Edwards again. Jenn has already been sworn in, 22 so I believe we just to need to swear in Mr. 23 Powell. 24 (At which time those wishing to 25 testify were sworn in.)

MR. WINITSKY: We are here this 1 2 morning seeking positive findings pursuant to 3 N.J.S.A. 40A:5A-6 for Harrison Township Fire District Number 1 to issue its general obligation 4 5 bonds in an amount not to exceed \$870,000 for the purpose of financing the cost of the acquisition 6 7 of a fire pumper truck with a 2,000 gallon per 8 minute pump and water tank. The new truck is 9 being acquired to replace two front line 10 apparatus which will allow the fire district to 11 reduce its fleet with more efficient vehicles at 12 the end of the day. The retiring vehicles we 13 expect to be sold upon delivery of the new truck, 14 which truck by the way, is being procured in 15 accordance with applicable law. And notably, Ken 16 can speak to this, I don't know if you're using 17 HGAC or what specific procurement method, but 18 we'll let him speak to that in a minute. The 19 issuance of the bonds was approved by voters of 20 the fire district on February 19th 2022 by a vote 21 of 234 in favor versus 124 opposed. There are 22 about 10,000 registered voters in the township. 23 The tax impact of the proposed bond under current market conditions, again, they're fluctuating a 24 25 bit, but based on what we're seeing as a

baseline, it's approximately \$23 per household 1 2 assuming around \$7 per \$100,000 of assessed 3 value, with an average assessed value of a home in the township of around \$345,000. The fire 4 5 district is looking to sell the bonds with a 10 year amortization schedule with level annual debt 6 7 service of about \$104,000 per year. We expect 8 because of the small size, this is obviously a 9 pretty small bond issuance to issue the bonds or 10 sell the bonds via private placement. We expect 11 a better group of bidders, rather than doing a 12 full public offering for a bond of this size. 13 And again, that drives down cost of issuance, et 14 cetera and we will send that list of prospective 15 bidders, the list that the financial advisor 16 maintains which is if you get to the question, 17 much like our last application, we'll be well in 18 excess of three and we'll see how many we get If we find that the bids received our 19 back. 20 insufficient, we'll of course look to do a full 21 public sale, but we don't expect to have to do 22 so. So we've got Chairman Powell on the line and 23 Jenn Edwards, financial advisor to the fire 24 district to answer any questions that you may 25 have.

MS. SUAREZ: Thank you for that. 1 Ι 2 may have missed it, and apologize if I did. Plans for the retired apparatus? 3 4 MR. WINITSKY: Oh, to be sold is the 5 expectation. 6 MS. SUAREZ: And then similar 7 situation, to the no down payment as the last 8 application? 9 MR. WINITSKY: Precisely. And 10 ultimately, it's a very small amount so it didn't 11 make a whole lot of sense to do much of a down 12 payment and, you know, we're hopeful that the 13 market cooperates as much as we can. 14 MS. SUAREZ: Okay. Great. I don't 15 have any additional questions. Do any board 16 members or members of the public? Hearing none, 17 do we have a motion for positive findings? 18 MR. DIROCCO: So moved. 19 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Second. 20 MR. BENNETT: Miss Suarez? 21 MS. SUAREZ: Yes. 22 MR. BENNETT: Mr. DiRocco? 23 MR. DIROCCO: Yes. 24 MR. BENNETT: Mr. Close? 25 MR. CLOSE: Yes.

MR. BENNETT: Miss Rodriguez? 1 2 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. 3 MR. BENNETT: Motion approved. 4 MR. WINITSKY: Thank you very much. 5 We appreciate it. 6 MS. SUAREZ: Best of luck. And then 7 I believe next up on the agenda, we have Brick Township Fire District Number 2. 8 9 MS. SENDZIK HAINES: Good morning. Kate Sendzik Haines on behalf of Brick Township 10 Fire District Number 2. 11 12 MS. SUAREZ: Good morning. 13 I don't have MS. SENDZIK HAINES: 14 anyone with me. Just me today. 15 MS. SUAREZ: Then we can proceed. 16 MS. SENDZIK HAINES: We're seeking 17 approval to finance apparatus. This will be a 18 Pierce Enforcer pumper and equipment to be used by the volunteer firefighters to be used in the 19 20 district. 21 The cost of the apparatus and 22 equipment shall not exceed \$737,399.96 with the 23 financing not to exceed \$537,399.96. The 24 apparatus shall be purchased through the National 25 Cooperative Sourcewell for a purchase price of

1 737,399.96.

The financing lease with the option to purchase has been obtained through competitive bid. There were five bid proposals went out for five, seven and 10 years and we received one bid proposal back.

7 After review, the board chose a 8 seven year option with Community Leasing Partners 9 with an annual interest rate of 4.22 percent, 10 which results in an annual interest payment of 11 90,280.07. The board intends to make a payment 12 of \$200,000 towards the ultimate purchase price 13 which has been derived from restricted capital. 14 The apparatus to be retired upon the 15 arrival is a 1997 Spartan rescue pumper with 16 14,848 miles, 3,667 hours which is obsolete and cost prohibited. The value of that piece of 17 18 apparatus is \$15,000 and hopefully will still be 19 that when we sell it when the new apparatus comes

20 in.

There are, approximately, 18,200 registered voters within the fire district number 23 2, and the vote count for the purchase of the 24 apparatus was 417 yes, and 59 no. Thank you very 25 much.

MS. SUAREZ: 1 I saw on the 2 application, there is only a \$8.50 tax impact. 3 MS. SENDZIK HAINES: Yep, \$8.38 per 4 home increase. 5 MS. SUAREZ: So you answered all of my questions as usual. The one thing I wanted to 6 7 highlight and I guess give a little bit of kudos for is the substantial down payment. 8 9 We don't always see it, give a lot 10 of credence to the fire district for making sure 11 that they've saved and squirreled away those 12 funds to utilize for those types of purposes. 13 Just wanted to take a moment to acknowledge that. 14 I will open it up to see if are 15 there are any board members or members of the 16 public have any comments or questions. Hearing 17 none, do we have a motion for positive findings? 18 MR. CLOSE: So moved. 19 MR. DIROCCO: Second. 20 MR. BENNETT: Miss Suarez? 21 MS. SUAREZ: Yes. 22 MR. BENNETT: Mr. DiRocco? 23 MR. DIROCCO: Yes. 24 MR. BENNETT: Mr. Close? MR. CLOSE: Yes. 25 I echo the

director's comments. 1 2 MR. BENNETT: And Miss Rodriguez? 3 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. 4 MR. BENNETT: Motion approved. 5 Thank you. MS. SENDZIK HAINES: 6 MS. SUAREZ: Best of luck. And then 7 we have Bridgewater Township Fire District Number 8 2. 9 MR. JESSUP: Good morning, Director. Matt Jessup from McManimon. How are you? 10 11 How are you. MS. SUAREZ: I'm well. 12 MR. JESSUP: I see Commissioner Joe 13 Langon on. I don't see, but I'm going to guess 14 that general counsel Rich Braslow is on 15 somewhere? 16 MR. BRASLOW: I am. Thank you. 17 MR. JESSUP: And I wasn't sure if 18 Chair Brown was joining or not. Commissioner 19 Langon, do you know whether the chair is on as 20 well or no? 21 Who is that? Chris? MR. LANGON: 22 MR. JESSUP: No, no. Debra Brown. 23 MR. LANGON: I don't think she is 24 on. 25 MR. JESSUP: Okay. I wasn't sure if

she was making it or not. So Director, we have 1 2 fire district commissioner and treasurer Joe 3 Langon and Rich Braslow and myself. 4 (At which time those wishing to 5 testify were sworn in.) 6 Mr. Jessup, the floor MS. SUAREZ: 7 is yours. 8 MR. JESSUP: So this is an 9 application by the Bridgewater Township Fire District Number 2 pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5A-6 10 11 in connection with the lease purchase financing 12 of a Typhoon pumper truck. The application is 13 seeking approval for not to exceed \$825,000. 14 But as I will explain in a minute, 15 on account of funds on hand, the lease financing 16 will actually be in the approximate amount of 17 \$365,855. So a substantially lesser amount than 18 the amount originally authorized and put out to 19 referendum. 20 The acquisition of the pumper truck 21 and the lease purchase financing were approved by 22 the voters at an election held on February 19th 23 2022 with a vote of 102 in favor and 42 against 24 for a total of 144 votes. 25 There are, approximately, 3,734

1 registered voters in the fire district which 2 means and this was the benefit of Mayor Mapp, who 3 I guess isn't here, but there are approximately 4 0.386 percent of eligible voters voted in the 5 election.

6 The fire district will procure the 7 pumper truck through the Houston Galveston Area 8 Council. The purchase price is \$748,986. The 9 fire district is making a pay down in cash of 10 \$383,137 which is how we get to a balance for 11 financing of \$365,855.

12 The fire district estimates between 13 a five and seven percent savings by going through 14 the HGAC. This is based on a separate 15 procurement price of \$798,800 which is, 16 approximately, \$50,000 higher than the price 17 being paid through the HGAC.

Plus, you have the time and expense of a separate procurement that is obviously equated. The new pumper truck is replacing a 32 year old truck that was acquired in 1989 that hopefully, needless to say, has more than served its time. The truck has over 20,000 miles on it and 958 service hours.

25

While a truck like that should

1 probably be put in some sort of hall of fame, I 2 think the plan is to sell it. I don't know that 3 we have an expectation of a meaningful amount of 4 money in return, but it will be sold.

5 The fire district took bids on June 6 2, 2022 and received one bid for the financing 7 from Community Leasing Partners at a rate of 3.73 8 percent. The financing will be for seven years 9 which results in an annual debt service of 10 \$60,358 per year.

This new lease payment fits within the budget without need for a tax increase. And with that, I will pause and see what questions you have.

MS. SUAREZ: Thank you. Appreciate that. You preempted many of my questions. The only one that I do have remaining, as far as only receiving, I guess the one bid, how are the bids solicited? Any rational for that, or just kind of the marketplace?

21 MR. JESSUP: It's what we see. I 22 mean, Rich can speak to the process, but it is 23 published the way it's supposed to be published. 24 It's sent directly to multiple, 10 or 15 banks. 25 And what we're generally seeing

1 across the board is one to three bids, right. 2 It's Community Leasing. It's maybe U.S. Bank and 3 there's maybe one other, and that's about it 4 unfortunately at this point.

5 MR. BRASLOW: Director, I will tell you the market has become extremely difficult. 6 7 Everything that Matt said is true. This is an 8 advertised bid. We have a list of parties that 9 have typically provided bids to us. A lot of 10 those parties are not bidding anymore, and I will 11 share with you, we had an application we were looking forward to bringing in the next month. 12 13 It's been delayed because we went out for a bid 14 last month, we got zero bids on a lease purchase financing, so it is a really bad market for us at 15 16 the moment.

17 MS. SUAREZ: Understood. Thank you Mr. Jessup, I know you mentioned there 18 for that. 19 wouldn't be an actual tax impact because, I guess 20 debt service is going to fall off. Do you happen 21 to know what the \$60,000 represents in taxes paid 22 on the average assessed home. I know they won't 23 feel it, but I was curious what the actual figure 24 was.

25

MR. JESSUP: I don't. I know they

pay, approximately, \$328 dollars a year in total 1 tax on the budget. So Joe, do you happen to know 2 3 what your full budget size is? 4 MR. LANGON: I think that's roughly 5 300 something dollars per household. 320, 325, something like that. 6 7 MR. JESSUP: Right, so that's the 8 total tax average. 9 MR. LANGON: Right. 10 MR. JESSUP: And the total size of 11 the budget, Joe, is approximately? 12 500 and -- I think it's MR. LANGON: 13 this year -- I don't know exact numbers. I think 14 it's 520,000. I'm not positive. I don't have 15 the information in front of you. 16 MR. JESSUP: Director, caught a little more than 10 percent, right of the \$328? 17 18 MR. LANGON: Right, right. 19 MS. SUAREZ: Okay. Fair enough. 20 And then the last comment I want to make is also 21 giving you guys kudos for ensuring that you came 22 under the amount allotted with the referendum, so 23 always a pleasure to see that as opposed to 24 getting super close or needing to go back for 25 excess funding.

And I know in this marketplace, it's 1 2 not always easy as to what we're seeing, so I 3 wanted to take a moment to recognize that as well. I will yield and see if there are any 4 5 questions or comments from the public or the rest of the board. Hearing none, do we have a motion 6 7 to issue positive findings? 8 MR. DIROCCO: I'll make a motion to 9 approve. 10 MS. SUAREZ: Do we have a second? 11 MS. RODRIGUEZ: I second. 12 MR. BENNETT: Miss Suarez? 13 MS. SUAREZ: Yes. 14 MR. BENNETT: Mr. DiRocco? 15 MR. DIROCCO: Yes. Mr. Close? 16 MR. BENNETT: 17 MR. CLOSE: Yes. 18 MR. BENNETT: And Miss Rodriguez? 19 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. 20 MR. BENNETT: Motion approved. 21 MR. BRASLOW: Thank you very much. 22 MR. JESSUP: Thank you, everyone. 23 Appreciate it. 24 MS. SUAREZ: Best of luck. Then I 25 believe the next on the agenda is Parsippany-Troy

Hills Fire District Number 5. I do see Miss 1 2 Tracey. 3 MS. TRACEY: Hi, good morning. 4 MS. SUAREZ: Good morning. So do we 5 have anybody that needs to be sworn in on your application? 6 7 MS. TRACEY: So I'll need to be sworn in, Man Lee is here from Nisivoccia. 8 Man is the fire district's auditor and Kenneth 9 10 Lambert is on as well who will need to be sworn 11 in, commissioner of the fire district. 12 (At which time those wishing to 13 testify were sworn in.) 14 MS. TRACEY: Good morning. The 15 Parsippany-Troy Hills Fire District Number 5 is 16 here today seeking positive findings pursuant to 17 N.J.S.A. 40A:5A-6 for the construction of a new fire station at 180 Old Bloomfield Avenue in 18 Parsippany. The fire district is proposing to 19 20 demolish the existing structure and to do the 21 necessary site work and then to build 22 constructing new fire station on the same lot in 23 an amount, and to issue bonds not to exceed 24 6,500,000. Back in 2005, it was discovered that 25 there were some structural settlement issues

within the fire station. At the time, the 1 2 settlement issues were mostly to the interior 3 walls beginning to pull a bit from the exterior. It was deemed that there was no critical danger 4 5 as far as the exterior walls or the roof structure. And so it's been something the fire 6 7 district has been continuing to monitor since 2005. And in addition to some of the -- and as 8 they waited for other bonds to come off from what 9 10 they had been paying, looking for a chance to be 11 able to address these issues, they recently had 12 their architects come in and do another 13 evaluation of the building. It was determined 14 there were several operational deficiencies as 15 well as the structural settlement issues that 16 continue. So it was determined at this point to 17 demolish the building and then to construct a new 18 building on the same site. The fire district 19 plans to sell bonds via a competitive sale for 20 the 6,500,000. As I mentioned, they do have debt 21 that has just matured, so with the overall tax 22 impact of the 6.5 million is about 5.7 cents on 23 the tax rate which equates to roughly \$176 on the 24 average home. However, because of the debt 25 that's retiring, the real net impact to residents

will be about 2.5 cents or about \$72.91. The 1 fire district did conduct an election on July 2 3 31st of 2021. The question passed by a vote of 116 to 56. The fire station, the fire district 4 does serve about 15,000 total residents in the 5 Parsippany-Troy Hills area covering about seven 6 7 square miles and there are a total of 4,326 registered voters within the fire district. 8 At 9 this time, I'd like to open it up for any questions from you, Director. 10 11 MS. SUAREZ: Thank you very much, 12 Miss Tracey. I know in our premeeting we had 13 some robust conversations about this. I verv 14 much appreciate everybody's time and walking us 15 through this application. One of the things that 16 I would like to ask about so that way the entire 17 board has some, I guess, understanding about it 18 is the rational and decision for that 19 incorporating a down payment. If you could walk 20 us through that logic again, I think that would 21 be helpful or Mr. Rogut, either one. 22 MR. ROGUT: I'll yield to you, 23 Sherry. 24 MS. TRACEY: Sure. So the fire 25 district, like many of the fire districts and I

1 think we heard in some of the other applications 2 as well, the budgets are extremely tight and so 3 the district did not want to, again, because they 4 had some other debt outstanding on one of their 5 other fire stations, they do have two fire 6 stations within the district.

7 Didn't want to add to the budget by 8 putting some extra funds into what was already a 9 pretty tight budget. Wanted to wait until that 10 debt came off and then to be able to apply the 11 full debt for the benefit of the residents that 12 would be benefitting from the new fire station. 13 Again, it kind of came to just

14 really the tight budgets not being able to add 15 that additional money and then also being able to 16 spread the cost of the building over the life of 17 the residents that would live there for the 18 useful life of the building.

I think I did forget to mention. The district is looking to bond for a period of 21 20 years for this building. And Steve, if you 22 have anything to add to that, go for it.

MR. ROGUT: No.

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24 MS. SUAREZ: Thank you. I will ask 25 if there are any questions or comments from the

1 board or public.

2 MR. CLOSE: Is it the same building, 3 same size, same structure, same set up? 4 MS. TRACEY: Ken, I'll turn this 5 over to you to give a little bit more detail. Ι 6 know they are addressing some of the, you know, 7 as I mentioned, some operational deficiencies. 8 The bays are extremely tight and so 9 as the firemen and women are trying to put on 10 their gear and to be able to get onto the fire 11 trucks quickly to go out for a call, they have 12 very limited space. 13 I know one of the things that is 14 being addressed is the bays are being -- and the 15 area for them to be able to put on their 16 necessary equipment is going to be expanded a 17 little bit. They're addressing some other items, 18 such as, adding some additional showers which 19 they currently don't have, a women's bathroom 20 which they currently don't have as well. 21 And Ken, as far as the sizing and I 22 know it's moving up a little bit on the property, 23 as well as where the existing fire station is 24 just back a little bit, where some of the soil is actually what's sinking, the building is sinking 25

1 a little bit into that soil, so I believe on the 2 front of the property, it's a little firmer 3 ground which will be more structurally sound for 4 the new building. Ken, I think you may be on 5 mute.

MR. CLOSE: Director, Sherry 6 7 answered my question. Being familiar with the 8 structure, I think those were good points that 9 she brought out, just that it is the facility, I 10 know is in need of certain structural 11 improvements and the things that she identified, 12 plus, it addressed the question of future 13 stability by moving the building up, so I 14 appreciate you sharing that information for 15 everyone. Thank you.

16 Thank you. MS. TRACEY: Absolutely. 17 MS. SUAREZ: Mr. Lambert, I will 18 I do appreciate very much all of the spare you. 19 insight you gave us when we did our premeeting 20 and I will acknowledge the fact that I thought 21 you were extremely engaged and attempted very 22 much to ensure that all the other commissioners 23 who were in compliance with everything and that 24 everything was very well thought out in getting 25 this application accomplished. It looks like you

did fix that problem. If there's anything you 1 2 wanted to add. 3 MR. LAMBERT: I'm sorry. 4 MS. SUAREZ: That's okay. 5 MR. LAMBERT: I apologize. Yeah, I'm getting a lot of training on these Zoom and 6 7 Teams lately. I apologize, and I thank you for 8 everybody's help and consideration. We're 9 basically trying to move forward out of a 10 building that will reflect what the taxpayers are 11 going to need in the future. 12 There's a thousand units being built 13 in Parsippany. The current facility doesn't 14 allow the firefighters to shower. We have no 15 shower here. We have no generator for emergencies, so the new building kind of 16 17 incorporates that. 18 It is somewhat bigger than the one story structure that's here. It's going to be a 19 20 two story structure, but it does have large 21 conference rooms. From time to time and we've 22 had large emergencies on the highway, we've had 23 people come back here, we've had triage at our 24 building, different things. 25 So moving forward, just trying to

incorporate some safety aspects into the building 1 2 for the firefighters so they can clean up after 3 actual fires and things like that. We have a rescue and hazmat's, so just trying to get a 4 5 little more space for those items also. 6 We try to balance our needs and our 7 wants and hopefully we get what we need and maybe 8 a few of the things we want, but we tried to put together a project that's going to hopefully last 9 well into the future for the district. 10 11 MS. SUAREZ: Thank you very much. 12 If there are no other questions or comments, I 13 will ask that we have a motion for positive 14 findings. MR. CLOSE: 15 So moved. 16 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Second. 17 MR. BENNETT: Miss Suarez? 18 MS. SUAREZ: Yes. 19 MR. BENNETT: Mr. DiRocco? 20 MR. DIROCCO: Yes. 21 MR. BENNETT: Mr. Close? 22 MR. CLOSE: Yes. 23 MR. BENNETT: And Miss Rodriguez? 24 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. 25 MR. BENNETT: Motion approved.

1 MS. TRACEY: Thank you very much. 2 MS. SUAREZ: You're welcome. Best 3 of luck with the construction. I think next up we have Caldwell Borough. 4 5 MR. JESSUP: Matt Jessup, still We should have with us, I see business 6 here. 7 administrator Tom Banker. I see chief financial 8 officer, Chris Battaglia. I believe Mayor John 9 Kelley is joining us as well, although I don't 10 see him. Is the mayor on? 11 MR. KELLEY: This is the mayor. I'm 12 on. Can you hear me? 13 MR. JESSUP: Yes, Mayor, we can. 14 And I believe that's our group. 15 (At which time those wishing to 16 testify were sworn in.) 17 MS. SUAREZ: Mr. Jessup, the floor 18 is yours. 19 MR. JESSUP: Thank you. So this is 20 an application by the Borough of Caldwell 21 pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:2-7(d) seeking an 22 extension of credit in connection with a bond 23 ordinance that appropriates \$2,998,000 and 24 authorizes \$1,948,500 in bonds and notes to fund 25 various capital improvements, including the 2021

1 and 2022 roadway improvement programs for which 2 sizable NJDOT grants have been awarded, \$505,000 3 and \$535,000 respectively and critical police and 4 fire radio upgrades.

5 That is the extent of the 6 improvements in this bond ordinance. The borough 7 is before the board today really for one reason 8 and that's because the borough's sewer utility is 9 somewhat unexpectedly and suddenly no longer 10 self-liquidating, which we'll get into in a 11 minute.

And as a result of the utility no longer being self-liquidating, the borough is now required to include the sewer utility's 8.915 million dollars of outstanding debt into the borough's net debt computation which pushes it over the three and-a-half percent net debt limit before we even consider the bond ordinance that we're discussing today.

If the events that cause the utility It on longer be self-liquidating didn't happen, the borough would be moving forward without needing to take application with the Local Finance Board and without need for approvals from the board.

So let's spend a couple minutes 1 2 talking about what happened with the sewer 3 utility. The borough operates a sewer utility and a treatment plant for itself and five outside 4 5 municipalities, including the boroughs of Roseland and West Caldwell. West Caldwell is the 6 7 largest user of the system based on billing at 8 about 44 percent.

9 Roseland is the second largest user 10 of the system. Caldwell is only 16 percent of 11 In 2019, when Mayor Kelley came into the system. 12 office, Mott MacDonald, who is the utility's 13 operator advised the borough of several concerns 14 with respect to the utility; broken equipment, 15 lack of capacity to serve development needs of 16 the municipalities who are undergoing 17 redevelopment, NJDEP violation notices, expired 18 contracts between Caldwell and the five outside 19 municipalities. 20 Caldwell caught employee cost being

21 allocated to the utility without proper 22 documentation to support those allocations, 23 outdated equivalent dwelling unit counts which of 24 course formed the basis of allocation of costs 25 amongst the municipalities and Roseland billing 1 based on a sewer meter read while all the others 2 were based on domestic water consumption, which 3 raises a concern about uniformity of rates and 4 fairness.

5 So in response to that, the borough 6 implemented immediately the following actions. 7 They made all necessary repairs and remediated 8 all the NJDEP violations. They were advised the 9 utility budget to allocate Caldwell employee 10 costs based on verifiable data.

11 Mott MacDonald reports on the system 12 were made available to the five municipalities 13 and on Caldwell's website so everybody in the 14 public could see the status of the system and 15 what has been done. Caldwell hired Maraziti 16 Falcon to act as special counsel to the utility. 17 That special counsel drafted new contracts for 18 the five outside municipalities.

19 The EDU computation was updated with 20 information shared with all customers. Mott 21 MacDonald verified that the Roseland meter did 22 not produce a measure of sewer use consistent 23 with domestic water consumption, which is the 24 methodology used by all the other municipalities. 25 And Maraziti advised that Roseland should be

billed like all of the other outside 1 2 municipalities to ensure that rates are uniform 3 and equitable as required by law. 4 So beginning in 2020, all customer 5 municipalities were billed with correct EDU counts and were all billed based on domestic 6 7 water consumption. The utility's 2020 and 2021 8 budgets were prepared and adopted at public 9 meetings in accordance with applicable law, no one challenged the budgets. They were in effect. 10 11 However, in 2020 and again in 2021, 12 and I believe, to date, 2022, Roseland has not 13 paid its full utility bill to Caldwell. And 14 Roseland's claim is that it not should have to 15 pay on domestic water consumption like the other 16 municipalities, but rather to continue to be paid 17 based on its meter. 18 So as a result of that nonpayment, 19 among other things, West Caldwell did not make a 20 full payment in 2021 or I believe 2022 so far 21 alleging, essentially, that if Roseland was being 22 under billed based on prior sewer meter measures 23 and not domestic water consumptions, then West 24 Caldwell and perhaps others must have been 25 overbilled.

So in sum, as a result of all of 1 2 that, it's the borough's position that the utility is owed nearly \$990,000 in revenues from 3 Roseland and West Caldwell. The borough filed a 4 5 lawsuit against Roseland seeking collection. West Caldwell filed suit against Caldwell and 6 7 these matters have been consolidated with 8 litigation ongoing to this day. 9 With respect to the litigation, we'd 10 like to suggest there's really two important take 11 aways for the board. The first is this isn't 12 about whether or not the Borough of Caldwell is 13 going to collect the money in dispute. It's 14 really about the proper allocation of that amount 15 across all of the member of municipalities, so we 16 don't really envision a scenario where the 17 borough never receives the money. 18 The issue really is which town, or 19 towns, are supposed to or should have properly 20 paid that money which feeds into the second take 21 away, which is, this isn't a scenario like the 22 tax appeal where Caldwell itself is the only town 23 having to take on the burden of repaying or 24 paying in the \$990,000. 25 Again, Caldwell is one of the

smaller users, so any reallocation of the 1 2 \$990,000 based on a court order will only impact 3 Caldwell specifically a proportionate and small share, so there's no real financial ticking time 4 5 bomb here for the Borough of Caldwell to absorb. On account of the borough not 6 7 receiving that utility revenue, the utility is no 8 longer self-liquidating, and that 8.915 million 9 of existing utility debt went from being deducted 10 from net debt to being added in. This resulted 11 in the borough's net debt going from about 3.29 12 percent, which is where it was before the utility 13 issue arose, up to about 4.03 percent. 14 So that increase of about seven 15 10ths of a percent happens automatically and 16 without any additional debt or any additional 17 action taken by Caldwell. So as a result, any bond ordinance, in any amount, will cause the 18 19 borough to further exceed its net debt limit. 20 And so understanding that, the 21 borough has focused its capital improvement plan 22 on three critical items only mentioned earlier, 23 the 2021 roadway program, which is about a 24 million 525 for which there is a \$505,000 NJDOT 25 grant which of course the borough does not want

1 to lose.

2 The 2022 roadway program in the 3 amount of \$1,275,000 with a \$535,000 NJDOT grant which of course the borough does not want to lose 4 5 and 195,000 in police and fire radio upgrades, which became a critical item because the 6 7 surrounding municipalities switched essentially 8 communication technology, so these radio upgrades were critical to allow Caldwell to communicate 9 10 directly with its surrounding municipalities in 11 the event of sort of a multi municipality 12 emergency. 13 Those are the only improvements. 14 There are no other improvements at this time. 15 Only these items that the borough views as 16 mission critical. So with the new debt from the 17 bond ordinance in the amount 1,948,500, when 18 that's added to the existing net debt, it goes 19 from 4.032 up to 4.192. 20 If not for the utility dispute, the 21 net debt, after adoption of this bond ordinance, would be 3.458 which is under the three 22 23 and-a-half debt limit, and as a result, no 24 extension of credit would be requested. But we also recognize that 3.458 awfully close to 3.5. 25

So if we can, we'll take a minute to 1 2 talk about how and when and why the borough gets 3 meaningfully below its three and-a-half percent net debt limit. So the reason the borough's net 4 5 debt limit is pre utility issue was in that 3.4 6 percent range was a result of the deliberate, 7 planned and strategic decision to undertake 8 redevelopment efforts in downtown Caldwell which 9 would -- that is the lion share of why we are, you know, close to the net debt limit absent the 10 11 utility issue. 12 Pursuant to the borough's 13 redevelopment plan, 15.3 million dollars of that 14 debt is effectively temporary, and as the

15 redevelopment progresses, that amount results in 16 a net debt reduction of about 1.26 percent using 17 today's numbers.

18 So instead of being a 3.26 percent, 19 the borough gets down to a healthy two percent or 20 less as the redevelopment process unfolds. And 21 here's, briefly, sort of how that happens. The 22 four million dollars of the redevelopment project 23 cost is for parking improvements throughout the 24 downtown, land acquisition, paving, meter 25 controlled devices and other improvements.

Upon completion of these
improvements, which will happen in 2023, the
borough will create a self-liquidating parking
utility which will be self-liquidating for
calendar year 2024. As a result, there's a debt
reduction of about .23 percent from that measure
alone.

8 The borough is also undertaking 9 construction of a community center at a total 10 cost of 10 million dollars. Contracts are being 11 awarded later this month for demolition and 12 construction contracts are expected to be put out 13 to bid in September.

Upon completion of the community center in June of 2023, opening in July of 2023, the borough intends to create, again, a self-liquidating recreation utility which will be self-liquidating for calendar year 2024. This results in a debt reduction of, approximately .8 percent from this measure alone.

The borough also has applications pending with its insurance carrier and FEMA for reimbursement of about a million and-a-half dollars in library improvements. Assuming just 1.3 million in reimbursements, understanding FEMA 1 doesn't reimburse 100 percent which the borough
2 expects to receive by the year end 2023, this
3 results in additional debt reduction of about .11
4 percent.

5 There are, of course, other revenue generating activities anticipated, including a 6 7 couple million dollars of sale of borough property that we're not including in this math or 8 9 in this discussion at this time. Nor, are we 10 talking about any of the rateables, the increase 11 in the rateable base that impacts net debt that result from the redevelopment either, so a more 12 13 conservative approach.

So in total, and based on the borough's existing maturity schedules, excluding the utility debt, the borough's net debt goes from 3.4 plus percent today to 1.88 percent by the end of 2024 which really is just 18 months from now.

So even if the utility that remains in, that debt goes from 4.1 percent down to 2.39 percent by the end of 2024. We would sort of contend that the resulting debt amounts of 1.88 percent, even the 2.39 percent are normal, manageable and really does not impact the

1 financial health of the borough.

And to that end, after the redevelopment debt was included, after the borough's net debt went up to 3.29 percent, S&P still rated the borough AA minus, which is just two notches below AAA in connection with its most recent bond sale.

8 You have one of the two major rating 9 agencies who have weighed in post undertaking of 10 the redevelopment debt and provided positive 11 comment. So again, in short, which I suspect I 12 flew by about 10 minutes ago, we do believe this 13 is a unique situation. We believe the litigation 14 will be resolved and the borough will collect the 15 revenue.

16 It's really just a matter of who or 17 whom will pay. And if the borough does have to 18 pay its share, as a 16 percent user, that's a 19 manageable number for the borough. If this were 20 adjudicated like a tax appeal where you have to pay in and then seek a refund, we really wouldn't 21 22 be before you because the utility would have 23 received the money on time and then it would just 24 credit and debit the appropriate municipalities 25 based on the outcome of the litigation.

Even absent the litigation and the 1 2 utility shortfall, the borough recognizes that 3 its near three and-a-half percent net debt limit, again, this being a conscious, deliberate as a 4 5 short term measure to spur redevelopment of the borough's critical Bloomfield Avenue downtown 6 7 corridor which of course will result in tax and PILOT revenue which is not accounted for in any 8 9 of the numbers we gave you.

And again, the net debt, absent the 11 utility issue is down below two percent by the 12 end of 2024. With all of that said, I guess the 13 mayor hasn't been sworn in. I don't know if can 14 he provide at least a comment or how that works 15 given he's not sworn in.

16 I wouldn't mind him having the 17 opportunity to say a few words, but otherwise, 18 Director we would turn it back to you and the 19 team for any questions also acknowledging we had 20 a great and very productive and helpful 21 premeeting with the director, with Nick, with 22 Tina, the team which, as always, helps shape, you 23 know, this discussion and we found very 24 beneficial and helpful to moving forward with 25 this application.

1 MS. SUAREZ: Thank you, Mr. Jessup. 2 I think the feelings are mutual as far as the 3 premeeting goes. To be honest, I'm not entirely sure how it works if the mayor could not be sworn 4 5 in. Nick, I don't know what the rules are regarding that. 6 7 MR. BENNETT: I believe as long as 8 he does not provide factual testimony, he can 9 make comments, persuasive type comments. 10 MR. KELLEY: I'm off mute. If I'm 11 allowed to speak, I'll be happy to chime in. Ιt 12 will just be brief. 13 MS. SUAREZ: By all means, Mayor. 14 MR. KELLEY: Thank you very much. 15 Matt, I think, captured it all. The one thing I 16 would want to add is that he's right, without the 17 litigation related to our sewer utility, I don't 18 believe we'd be here. We're pretty positive with 19 our representation by Maraziti that the 20 litigation fee (inaudible). 21 And that the allocation of those 22 revenues, those fees will be born by the 23 municipalities that are responsible for. So Matt 24 did a great job. Thank you very much, Matt. 25 That's all.

1 MS. SUAREZ: Thank you, Mayor. 2 Anything else that the borough would like to add 3 before I ask a couple questions? 4 MR. JESSUP: I think I took up all 5 of the borough's time, Director. 6 MS. SUAREZ: I'll neither confirm 7 So just a couple of quick things nor deny. 8 because I think Mr. Jessup's recitation was very 9 thorough. So it eliminated almost all of my 10 questions. I want to make sure I have a couple 11 things correct. 12 One, as far as the plan to ensure 13 the sewer utility goes back into self-liquidating 14 status, it seems kind of that it hinges upon the 15 court case. If it drags on for a long period of 16 time, then perhaps it's a redevelopment and 17 timeline that's going to help move the debt back 18 down below the three and-a-half percent line. 19 Should the court not find favorably 20 on behalf of Caldwell's behalf, then they would 21 just reassess the fees and spread them out over 22 the rate payers to readjust to bring back the 23 deficit that currently exists. Is that accurate? 24 Those are kind of like the two directions of the 25 plan.

I think that's correct, 1 MR. JESSUP: 2 yes, Director. 3 MS. SUAREZ: Then I don't think I have any other questions at this juncture. 4 Ι 5 will open it up for comments or questions from the board members or the public. 6 7 MR. CLOSE: Director, you got your 8 questions really addressed my concerns relative 9 to the application and the plan for addressing 10 the town's municipal debt moving forward, so I Thank you. 11 appreciate Matt's comments. 12 MS. SUAREZ: So I think I can speak 13 for the board in saying that nobody here wants to 14 see the borough lose any of its grant funding 15 received for one of the projects here. And your need to really come before the board to seek a 16 17 waiver was not a result of mismanagement on 18 behalf of the borough's part. 19 I do want to reiterate, we also 20 discussed this during the premeeting, the board 21 is not in the habit of permitting municipalities 22 to exceed the debt limit. Here, I think we have 23 extenuating circumstances, but it's something we 24 certainly don't want to see become a recurring 25 theme, so we very much appreciate it if the

borough can keep us in the loop, what is going 1 2 on, what's transpiring. 3 And I think, as of the last few weeks, we have been looped in to what's going on 4 5 with the court case, what's going on with the 6 other municipalities, who are users of the sewer 7 utility, but would just appreciate keeping that 8 line of communication open so that we can be 9 apprised of whatever needs to happen on behalf of the borough. With that being said, I will ask if 10 we have a motion. 11 12 MS. RODRIGUEZ: I make a motion. 13 MR. DIROCCO: I'll second it. 14 MR. BENNETT: Miss Suarez? 15 MS. SUAREZ: Yes. MR. BENNETT: Mr. DiRocco? 16 17 MR. DIROCCO: Yes. 18 MR. BENNETT: Mr. Close? 19 MR. CLOSE: Yes. 20 MR. BENNETT: And Miss Rodriguez? 21 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. 22 MR. BENNETT: Motion approved. 23 MR. JESSUP: Thank you all very 24 much. Appreciate it. 25 MS. SUAREZ: Best of luck. And then

the final applicant before us is Newark City 1 2 Parking Authority. 3 MR. JOHNSON: Good afternoon, 4 Director. 5 MS. SUAREZ: Good afternoon, Mr. 6 Everett. 7 MR. JOHNSON: I think we have Mr. 8 Mack on the line who is the executive director of 9 the Newark Parking Authority. We have Mr. Larry 10 Crump on the line who is the general counsel to 11 the Newark Parking Authority. We have Eric 12 Torain who is the financial advisor to the 13 Parking Authority. And I, Everett Johnson, am 14 the bound counsel to the Newark Parking Authority on behalf of Wilentz, Goldman and Spitzer. 15 16 (At which time those wishing to 17 testify were sworn in.) 18 MR. JOHNSON: Good morning, Director 19 and commissioners of the board. The Parking 20 Authority is proposing to borrow not exceeding 21 \$39,500,000 for a bank to refinance \$37,386,400 22 of parking revenue bonds that were issued in 2018 23 and a \$1,300,000 subordinate loan undertaken in 24 2021, all purchased and held by TD Bank. 25 The authority entered the loans for

1 the purpose of financing the construction of a 2 parking facility in the City of Newark containing 3 a 510 parking space garage, office space for the 4 finance department of the city, approximately 5 13,000 feet, storage and office space for the 6 municipal courts of the city, approximately, 7 14,000 feet.

8 Offices for the authority itself of 9 approximately 16,000 square feet and retail slash 10 cafe space of, approximately, 2300 square feet. 11 The authority started the construction of the 12 garage in 2019. And it was anticipated that it 13 would be completed, you know, I think in the 14 fall, in March of 2020.

But as you all know, there was 15 16 something called COVID-19 that inserted itself 17 and so the impact of COVID-19 adversely affected 18 the authority's finances and delayed the 19 completion of the parking facility by almost a 20 The authority had to temporarily shut down year. 21 its metered parking and ticket operations. 22 The delay also negatively impacted 23 revenues for 2020 and 2021. The Prudential 24 Center, which is located two blocks from the

25 arena, it was a source of major revenue for the

projected parking garage. Also shut down all of 1 2 its live performance shows at the end of 2020. 3 And so, that major revenue source was non existent until the fall of 2021. 4 5 Additionally, the city itself, you know, shut down its offices in City Hall to the 6 7 And so, a large portion of its day to public. 8 day expected revenues from the garage were also 9 negatively impacted. And then there was an increase in construction costs and materials. 10 11 And so pursuant to that, the 12 authority entered into a subordinate loan in 2021 13 on top of the 2018 bonds, there was additional 14 capital to complete the parking facility. With 15 that being said, the good thing is the Parking 16 Authority has completed the facility and it's up 17 over a year. 18 The CO was issued back in February 19 of 2021. But due to those outstanding delays and 20 costs and revenues, shortfalls, the authority had 21 an outstanding balance of the general contractor even giving those bond issues of, approximately, 22 23 1.8 million dollars in excess of both the TD Bank 24 loans. 25 However, the authority and the

1 general contractor have verbally negotiated that 2 liability down to about \$850,000. As part of the 3 original 2018 bond financing, the authority 4 entered into, which was a variable rate deal, 5 they entered into a swap. And the swap provided 6 the authority the opportunity to make fixed 7 payments on a loan that was a variable rate loan.

8 Due to the current interest rate 9 environment, the swap has gained, at the time 10 submission of this application, about 3.6 million 11 dollars of value. It is anticipated the swap 12 will move into the money for the benefit of the 13 authority in the next month or so.

And the authority will have for opportunity, if the market moves in the direction, to turn in the swap and receive a termination fee which the authority can use to pay off amounts owed to the general contractor without incurring additional debt.

As part of the swap, the authority 21 will then enter into a new loan with TD Bank, or 22 some other bank, in an amount not to exceed 23 \$39,500,000. The debt service on the new loan 24 will be in excess of the current debt service on 25 the TD Bank loans to once again enter into this 1 new loan will have the authority to pay off
2 existing liabilities without changing the debt
3 they're paying.

4 I think it's important to note that, 5 at this juncture, the authority, revenues are back at prepandemic levels. That is in part due 6 7 to a rate increase that was approved by the city. 8 In terms of security for the new loan, the 9 authority operates a system wide basis so it's 10 pledging all of its revenues from the operations 11 of, not only the garage, but all of the 12 facilities including metered parking.

13 It's pledging lease revenues being 14 received from the city from the use of the 15 structure of its office space. It's also pledging revenue from an agreement they had with 16 17 Harry Blitz Walsh and Entertainment which owns 18 the Devils. They have an agreement whereby the 19 Devils will utilizes the garage on arena event 20 night and that's a source of significant 21 revenues, and there will also be a mortgage on 22 the proper utility.

Also, important to note, the loan, the current loan and the proposed loan will not be secured by any guarantee or pledge of revenue

1 of the taxes of credit by the city. The 2 taxpayers will have no liability for the payment 3 of the loan.

The city will continue to receive its parking taxes of 15 percent of parking fees generated by the facility itself, an additional reven percent of parking tax during the arena events. They will also continue to receive 11 percent of salaries of employees working the facility.

With that being said, the main Objective is, like I said, to realize the termination fee in the swap which means the market has to move in a certain direction. This is not one of those deals where we're coming to for you and saying we want to move forward with this loan for sure.

18 This is giving us conditional 19 approval to move forward if the market moves in 20 our direction. Two things would have to happen 21 obviously. The market has to move in a way the 22 swap produces enough revenue to pay off our 23 current liability and the interest rates will 24 have to, you know, hold to a point where we're not paying more than we're currently on our 2018 25

1 TD Bank loans going forward.

2	And we just want to basically
3	preserve our right to move forward expeditiously
4	if the market avails itself to us. Hence, that's
5	what we're here to do to get your approval to
6	move forward to adopt a resolution authorizing
7	the issuance of bonds or a loan by a bank to move
8	forward if the market moves in our direction.
9	Hence, I will conclude my
10	presentation with saying that we request the
11	board's issue of positive findings for the
12	proposed loan, the adoption of the proposed
13	resolution authorized the refinancing of the TD
14	Bank.
15	Before I turn it over to questions,
16	I'd like Mr. Torain to kind of speak a little bit
17	about the swap and what that really means and the
18	mechanics of that. And also thereafter, Mr.
19	Mack, if you can talk a little bit about the
20	revenues and the Parking Authority in terms of
21	where they stand now and the rate increase that's
22	approved by the city earlier this year or last
23	year, I think that would be helpful to the board.
24	I'm going to turn it over first to Mr. Torain.
25	MR. TORAIN: Good afternoon. Thank

1 you very much for providing this forum and I'll 2 be brief in my comments. As Everett just said, I 3 want to talk a little bit about sort of the swap, 4 the mechanics and what created the situation.

5 So going back to 2018, we entered 6 into a fixed payer swap, fixed rate, 4.06 percent 7 to fund this project and we did that really for 8 two reasons. One, we discounted probably 50 to 9 60 basis points on our actual borrowing rate from 10 the bank at the time so that was the benefit to 11 borrow at a lower cost.

Two, the swap acts as an interest 12 13 rate pledge against a rising interest 14 environment. Now, clearly, no one sort of saw 15 this type of rapid environment occurring at such 16 a compressed period, but the thought really was we have quantitative -- since probably 2008, so 17 18 at some point it would have to be active walking 19 up interest rates and we thought that may create 20 an opportunity for the authority, which it 21 actually has done. 22 So if you look at the 50 week range 23 of the relevant treasury which is, for us, the

24 stemming year treasury which our swap tracks 25 nicely, it's going from 80 basis points, at a

1 low, to a 3.6 percent at a high. As those
2 interest rates rise, that brings the swap more to
3 the money.

So for example, when the rate was below one percent, we were negative 3.6 million dollars on the swap. The swap by the documents r still could have been terminated, but out of the money, that would have been money the authority would have had to raise. Now that interest rates have come up, where now we were ahead earlier this month.

We're now basically even, but the We're now basically even, but the wap should really move into the money over the next 90 day period. So what we really have is an option if the swap moves into the money to execute and grab the termination fee. But if it does not move sufficiently into the money, there is no transaction.

MR. JOHNSON: We continue to pay, continue to paying loans as currently structured. MR. TORAIN: Right, as currently exists. And if we want to go into some of the anthematics of the swap, I'm happy to do that now or do it during Q and A.

25

MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Mack, can you

1 speak a little bit about the currents revenues of 2 the authority?

3 MR. MACK: Surely. Good afternoon. As Mr. Johnson indicated, the authority took a 4 5 serious hit during COVID, but we have, you know, recovered through the completion of the garage 6 7 and the office space with additional streams of 8 revenue, not only from rents from the 9 municipality, the City of Newark, but as well as parking revenues, event, full events are back at 10 11 the arena, so our garage is full on event nights. 12 We also had a successful meter rate 13 increase in the City of Newark that was long 14 overdue for over a decade pushing our meter rates 15 up by 50 cents an hour and actually today we have 16 a proposed ordinance amendment to increase some 17 rates, as well as, expand the footprint of our 18 parking adding hundreds of more parking spaces 19 throughout the city, so our revenues are 20 definitely significantly up as well as well if 21 not better than prepandemic level. 22 MS. SUAREZ: Thank you for that. Ι 23 have one question and perhaps this is geared

25 make sure I heard correctly, so in doing the

towards Mr. Torain. As far as, I just want to

24

swap, I know that you're coming before the board 1 2 to ask for positive findings to do this should 3 the right circumstances materialize, so that you can take advantage of the marketplace, totally 4 5 get that. The alternative is going to remain as is, paying it currently; is that correct 6 7 MR. TORAIN: That is correct. 8 MS. SUAREZ: And then should you go 9 ahead and move forward with the swap because it's advantageous for the city, what would happen with 10 any of the funds that don't go to the contractor? 11 12 Where would they be going? 13 MR. TORAIN: They would go to 14 replenish the operating fund of the authority. 15 As Mr. Mack mentioned, COVID, on an entity like 16 this, was particularly bad, but the shutdown 17 obviously stopped the flow of traffic. And 18 during that time period, the authority lost 2.9 million dollars. 19 20 A lot of what we want to do is 21 restore the authority to its prepandemic. And so 22 while now revenues are backtracking in a positive 23 way, that operating fund that was 2.9 million is now about 800,000. So things are getting better 24 to fill that hole and we very much want to fill 25

1 as much as that hole as possible.

2 MS. SUAREZ: Thank you for that. Ι 3 think Mr. Johnson's overview answered a lot of the questions that we had both in our premeeting 4 5 and preempted any additional questions that I would add. But I would like to open it up for 6 7 members of the public and the board to see if 8 there are any questions or comments they would 9 like to ask about this application. 10 MR. CLOSE: I wanted to say I really 11 appreciate the presentation by Mr. Everett and 12 Mr. Mack and Mr. Torain. I had some concerns 13 about the proposed action with the swap. Not 14 having seen that come before us very often or 15 extensively at all, quite frankly, and he 16 answered, the presentation, about the three, he 17 answered the questions I had on this particular 18 request application, so thank you to all three of 19 you. Nice job. 20 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. 21 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Rod. Director, I 22 have a comment too. For me, I'm very happy to 23 see the Parking Authority, the Newark Parking Authority, to say, moving forward in the way that 24

25 you are. Having lived in Newark and gone to

school in Newark many, many years ago and seeing 1 2 the McKinley's and the Central's and all the 3 other parking businesses in Newark. 4 I always wondered why Newark didn't 5 have their own Parking Authority. And I saw it coming to fruition and I see it growing, and 6 7 Eric, that was a great explanation and Everett, a 8 great presentation. So I commend you guys. 9 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. 10 MS. SUAREZ: One last question I do 11 have in thinking through this. Because I 12 understand the alternative is to keep it status 13 quo. How would that allow you to finish paying 14 off the contractor? 15 MR. TORAIN: So as Mr. Johnson 16 mentioned, we have a 17 year agreement with HSB 17 relative to parking cars from Prudential Center 18 It's a less appetizing or less appealing events. 19 solution, but what we would most likely do is 20 that agreement has a \$300,000 annual guarantee. 21 We could most likely rework the 22 agreement so we would accelerate some of that 23 guarantee at a discount to three years worth, 24 take an up front payment, satisfy obligation with 25 the contractor.

But obviously, going back to my 1 2 point about losing the 2.9 million, we're sort of 3 cannibalizing the immediate future that will be done at a discount, so if pressed, we could do 4 5 that, but it's not the preferable route but we 6 have prepared for it. 7 MS. SUAREZ: Understood. Thank you 8 for that. And one other item, so Mr. Johnson you know I know you very well. I don't know why I 9 keep calling you Mr. Everett. Wanted to say 10 11 apologies for that up front. So with that, I 12 will ask if, since there are no other questions or comments, if we have a motion to issue 13 14 positive findings. 15 MS. RODRIGUEZ: I make a motion. MR. CLOSE: Second. 16 17 MR. BENNETT: Miss Suarez? MS. SUAREZ: Yes. 18 19 MR. BENNETT: Mr. DiRocco? 20 MR. DIROCCO: Yes. 21 MR. BENNETT: Mr. Close? 22 MR. CLOSE: Yes. 23 And Miss Rodriguez? MR. BENNETT: 24 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. 25 MR. BENNETT: Motion approved.

1	MS. SUAREZ: So I guess we are going
2	to jump back to the ethics portion quickly.
3	MR. BENNETT: First item would be
4	the June 8th 2022 ethics meeting minutes.
5	MS. SUAREZ: Motion to approve
6	those? Any questions?
7	MS. RODRIGUEZ: I'll make a motion.
8	MR. CLOSE: Second.
9	MR. BENNETT: Miss Suarez?
10	MS. SUAREZ: Yes.
11	MR. BENNETT: Mr. DiRocco?
12	MR. DIROCCO: Yes.
13	MR. BENNETT: Mr. Close?
14	MR. CLOSE: Yes.
15	MR. BENNETT: And Miss Rodriguez?
16	MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
17	MR. BENNETT: Motion approved. Next
18	up are the consideration of C18028. These are
19	notices of termination for local government
20	officers. I'm sorry. One notice of
21	investigation into one local government officer.
22	MS. SUAREZ: Any questions on that
23	one?
24	MR. BENNETT: This was discussed at
25	last month's meeting.

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MR. DIROCCO: That's Voorhees, 1 2 correct? 3 MR. BENNETT: Yes. 4 MS. SUAREZ: Any other questions? 5 Hearing none, do we have a motion? I make a motion. 6 MS. RODRIGUEZ: 7 MR. DIROCCO: I'll second it. 8 MR. BENNETT: Miss Suarez? 9 MS. SUAREZ: Yes. 10 MR. BENNETT: Mr. DiRocco? 11 MR. DIROCCO: Yes. MR. BENNETT: Mr. Close? 12 13 MR. CLOSE: Yes. 14 MR. BENNETT: And Miss Rodriguez? 15 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. 16 MR. BENNETT: Motion approved. Next 17 up is 20021. That's the notice of termination for four local government officers and that is 18 19 dismissing the matter. 20 MR. DIROCCO: I'm recused on this 21 matter, just for the record. 22 MR. BENNETT: With the three 23 remaining members of the four that are present, 24 we can move forward, Director. 25 MS. SUAREZ: Do we have any

If not, do we have a motion? 1 questions? 2 MS. RODRIGUEZ: I make a motion. MS. SUAREZ: I'm happy to second. 3 4 MR. BENNETT: Miss Suarez? 5 MS. SUAREZ: Yes. MR. BENNETT: Mr. Close? 6 7 MR. CLOSE: Yes. 8 MR. BENNETT: And Miss Rodriguez? 9 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. 10 MR. BENNETT: And again, noting that 11 Mr. DiRocco was recused on the matter. Next we 12 have 2114. That's a notice of termination for 13 one local government officer. Dismissing for no 14 reasonable factual basis. MR. DIROCCO: I'll make the motion 15 16 to approve. 17 I'll second it. MS. RODRIGUEZ: 18 MR. BENNETT: Miss Suarez? 19 MS. SUAREZ: Yes. 20 MR. BENNETT: Mr. DiRocco? 21 MR. DIROCCO: Yes. 22 MR. BENNETT: Mr. Close? 23 MR. CLOSE: Yes. 24 MR. BENNETT: And Miss Rodriguez? 25 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

MR. BENNETT: Motion approved. 1 Next 2 up is 2205. And that is the termination of one 3 local governing officer. 4 MS. SUAREZ: What was the 5 termination, Nick? 6 MS. DANA: Director, it's to dismiss 7 for no reasonable factual basis. 8 MS. SUAREZ: Thanks, Dana. Any 9 questions? If not, do we have a motion? 10 MR. DIROCCO: I'll make the motion 11 to approve. 12 MS. RODRIGUEZ: I'll second it. 13 MR. BENNETT: Miss Suarez? 14 MS. SUAREZ: Yes. MR. BENNETT: Mr. DiRocco? 15 16 MR. DIROCCO: Yes. 17 MR. BENNETT: Mr. Close? 18 MR. CLOSE: Yes. 19 MR. BENNETT: Miss Rodriguez? 20 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. 21 MR. BENNETT: I believe that 22 concludes the letters so all that is left would 23 be a motion to adjourn. 24 MS. SUAREZ: Do we have a motion? 25 MR. DIROCCO: I'll make the motion

to adjourn. MR. CLOSE: Second. MR. BENNETT: Miss Suarez? MS. SUAREZ: Yes. MR. BENNETT: Mr. DiRocco? MR. DIROCCO: Yes. MR. BENNETT: Mr. Close? MR. CLOSE: Yes. MR. BENNETT: And Miss Rodriguez? MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. MR. BENNETT: Motion approved. (Hearing Concluded at 12:34 p.m.)

1	CERTIFICATE
2	
3	I, LAUREN ETIER, a Certified Court
4	Reporter, License No. XI 02211, and Notary Public
5	of the State of New Jersey, that the foregoing is
6	a true and accurate transcript of the testimony
7	as taken stenographically by and before me at the
8	time, place and on the date hereinbefore set
9	forth.
10	I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither a
11	relative nor employee nor attorney nor council of
12	any of the parties to this action, and that I am
13	neither a relative nor employee of such attorney
14	or council, and that I am not financially
15	interested in the action.
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	UDTCA
21	Lauren M. Etier (0)
22	Multine M. LUDE
23	Notary Public of the State of New Jersey
24	My Commission Expires June 30, 2024
25	Dated: July 28, 2022

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