

**178<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REORGANIZATION BUSINESS MEETING  
CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JANUARY 3, 2022 – 12:00 P.M.  
520 MARKET STREET  
6<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR MEETING ROOM  
CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY 08102**

The meeting was called to order by the Clerk of the Board of Commissioners, Karyn Gilmore, at 12:00 p.m. The Clerk then called the roll.

PRESENT: AL DYER, MELINDA KANE, JEFFREY NASH, CARMEN RODRIGUEZ, JONATHAN YOUNG, SR., EDWARD MCDONNELL, LOUIS CAPPELLI, JR.

The Clerk stated that the meeting was advertised in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Ms. Gilmore then asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Gilmore welcomed everyone to the 178<sup>th</sup> Annual Reorganization Business Meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners. Ms. Gilmore said the first order of business is the swearing-in of our newly elected Commissioners and Sheriff. It is noted for the record that all oaths were administered virtually, except Commissioner Dyer's.

**OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED  
TO AL DYER**

Ms. Gilmore said it is her honor and privilege to call upon Mayor Victor Carstarphen to administer the oath of office to Al Dyer for the Office of Commissioner. Mayor Victor Carstarphen administered the oath of office for Commissioner to Al Dyer.

**OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED  
TO MELINDA KANE**

Ms. Gilmore called upon Senator Nilsa Cruz-Perez to administer the oath of office for the office of Commissioner to Melinda Kane virtually. Senator Nilsa Cruz-Perez administered the oath of office for Commissioner to Melinda Kane.

**OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED  
TO JEFFREY NASH**

Ms. Gilmore called upon Senator James Beach to administer the oath of office for the office of Commissioner to Jeffrey Nash virtually. Senator Beach administered the oath of office for Commissioner to Jeffrey Nash.

**OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED  
TO GILBERT “WHIP” WILSON**

Ms. Gilmore called upon Congressman Donald Norcross to administer the oath of office for the office of Sheriff to Gilbert “Whip” Wilson virtually. Congressman Norcross administered the oath of office for Sheriff to Gilbert “Whip” Wilson.

**NOMINATION FOR COMMISSIONER DIRECTOR**

Ms. Gilmore opened the floor for nominations for the office of Director of the Board of Commissioners for the year 2022.

Commissioner Jeffrey Nash said it is my honor to nominate Louis Cappelli to serve as Commissioner Director of this Board. I have worked with Lou since he was first elected as a Freeholder, now Commissioner, and I will say that he is one of the most outstanding and courageous public servants that I have had the honor of working with in all my years of government. Three items that prove that fact are his work on the Camden Metro Police Department which has in turn reduced crime in the city by more than 50%; his fight against opiate addiction and awareness of opiate addiction is second to none in the State of New Jersey and has saved countless lives because of his efforts; and last but certainly not least, his directing the Board with our colleagues and the Department of Heath to fight COVID and to ensure that every resident of Camden County has had an opportunity for vaccination, an enormously successful program that has also saved countless number of lives. It is my distinct honor to nominate Lou Cappelli to serve as Director once again.

Commissioner Cappelli thanked Commissioner Nash for his kind words.

The Clerk asked for a second to Commissioner Nash’s nomination. Commissioner McDonnell said I proudly second the nomination of Louis Cappelli as Director of the Board of Commissioners for 2022.

The Clerk said we have a motion and a second and called the roll:

Dyer	-	Aye to Louis Cappelli, Jr. as Director
Kane	-	Aye to Louis Cappelli, Jr. as Director
Nash	-	Aye to Louis Cappelli, Jr. as Director
Rodriguez	-	Aye to Louis Cappelli, Jr. as Director
Young	-	Aye to Louis Cappelli, Jr. as Director
McDonnell	-	Aye to Louis Cappelli, Jr. as Director

Ms. Gilmore congratulated Director Cappelli.

**OATH OF OFFICE  
ADMINISTERED TO COMMISSIONER DIRECTOR**

Congressman Norcross administered the oath of office for Commissioner to Louis Cappelli, Jr. virtually.

Commissioner Cappelli thanked his colleagues and said it is an honor and privilege to serve as Director once again of this outstanding Board which leads our County in so many different fashions. Thank you. Once again it is my honor and privilege to serve as Director.

### **NOMINATION FOR COMMISSIONER DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

Director Cappelli asked for nominations from the floor for the office of Deputy Director of the Board of Commissioners for the year 2022.

Commissioner Rodriguez said it is my honor to nominate Dr. Edward T. McDonnell to the position Deputy Director Commissioner for Camden County. Over the many years I have worked side by side with the Deputy Director he has always proven to be a very wise and informed individual who gives good counsel in order to move our County in the right direction. He is very much aware of all our fiduciary responsibility to the community to make sure we have served them well and to make sure that our services are of the highest quality. Together with the Director, both of you have done an outstanding job, especially during COVID which has been extremely challenging. I am very honored to nominate Edward T. McDonnell for the position of Commissioner Deputy Director.

Commissioner Jonathan Young said it would be my honor to second the nomination of Commissioner Edward T. McDonnell for the office of Commissioner Deputy Director.

Director Louis Cappelli, Jr. asked for the Clerk to call the roll. On roll call, the Commissioners voted as follows:

Dyer	-	Aye to Edward T. McDonnell as Deputy Director
Kane	-	Aye to Edward T. McDonnell as Deputy Director
Nash	-	Aye to Edward T. McDonnell as Deputy Director
Rodriguez	-	Aye to Edward T. McDonnell as Deputy Director
Young	-	Aye to Edward T. McDonnell as Deputy Director
Cappelli	-	Aye to Edward T. McDonnell as Deputy Director

### **OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO COMMISSIONER DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

Congressman Norcross administered the oath of office for Deputy Director of the Board of Commissioners to Edward T. McDonnell. It is noted for the record that due to technical difficulties which caused a break in the administration of the oath, Congressman Norcross administered the Oath a second time to Edward T. McDonnell. Commissioner McDonnell thanked everyone for their vote of confidence and support.

Director Cappelli opened the meeting to the public for discussion of the resolutions to be acted upon. Seeing no one wishing to speak, Commissioner Nash made a motion to close the public portion with a second by Commissioner Rodriguez and on roll call, all Commissioners present voted aye.

Director Cappelli said after review of Resolutions 1 through 56 by each Commissioner, the Resolutions are being presented by the consent of the entire Board of Commissioners.

### **MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTIONS 1 THROUGH 56**

Director Cappelli asked for a motion to adopt Resolutions 1 through 56. Commissioner Young made a motion to adopt with a second by Commissioner Kane and on roll call, all Commissioners voted aye.

Director Cappelli asked Sheriff Whip Wilson if he would like to say a few words. The Sheriff responded, good afternoon everyone. I would like to thank the voters of Camden County for reelecting me as your Sheriff, the Commissioners for their support of this organization and Congressman Norcross for taking the time out to swear me in. God Bless all and thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Director Cappelli asked Congressman Norcross to say a few words. The Congressman said, I look at this Board and Camden County government as something that was made famous by Senator McCain. Nothing in life is more liberating than to fight for a cause larger than yourself. That is what I think of when I think of each of you, how well you work together. There are disagreements but you are not disagreeable, which is in such stark contrast for some of the happenings in Washington as we come up on the first anniversary of the insurrection. Congratulations to the Director, Deputy Director, and to Al, Jeff and Melinda. You have the trust and the confidence of the people. That really says it right there. It has been an incredibly tough two years. Frustration is real. Going through this pandemic you just mentioned earlier all the people, those essential workers as we call them, who literally kept this country going. With all the disinformation that goes on from time to time, what the county has done in terms of your COVID updates, is that you fight that disinformation by being open and public. We passed the American Rescue Plan almost 18 months ago. It was about getting shots in the arms, money in the pocket, children back to school and certainly people back to work. That is almost \$200 million dollars direct from the federal government to Camden County government and education because you needed it. We just passed the Infrastructure Bill. \$13.5 billion for New Jersey replacing lead lines and creating good paying jobs. That is historic. Working together doesn't happen by accident. From your local governments and counties to the state and yes, federal, that relationship is really something I am proud of. I am here just to reaffirm my commitment to the people of the 1<sup>st</sup> District and to say thank you. I am so proud of what each of you do each and every day. We are just a group of folks that somehow got together, and it works. When we see cities around the country and then we look at our own Camden and see a stark difference. How much community policing works. It wasn't easy, Lou and all of you. You took very bold positions. Have a happy and a healthy 2022.

The Director thanked the Congressman for his kind words and for all his great work in Washington. We truly appreciate our partnership with you. You have been fully supportive of all our initiatives from Veterans Affairs to opioids to COVID and we cannot thank you enough.

The Director invited Senator Beach to say a few words. Senator Beach said congratulations to the entire Board. You all are very important cogs in the wheel of success in Camden County. A special shout-out to the leadership, Lou and Ross, you steer the boat. We have been going in a wonderful direction in this County due to your leadership. Happy New Year and God Bless and stay safe. Director Cappelli thanked the Senator for his kind words and great work in Trenton on our behalf. Just like the Congressman, whenever we need something passed or don't like something that is being passed in Trenton you have our back, and we truly appreciate all of your hard work.

The Director invited Senator Cruz-Perez to say a few words. Senator Cruz-Perez said Happy New Year everyone. She congratulated Commissioners Dyer, Kane and Nash. Director Cappelli, Deputy Director McDonnell and all the Commissioners thank you for all you do for keeping us safe and the way you have addressed the pandemic and all the programs you offer to the residents of Camden County. Director Cappelli said thank you Senator for your kind words and all the great work you do on our behalf in Trenton, most recently the legislation regarding ATVs in Camden.

The Director called upon the Commissioners for their comments.

**Commissioner Nash** congratulated Director Cappelli, Deputy Director McDonnell and his running mates for their swearing in, Al Dyer and Melinda Kane. I have been a County Commissioner for half my life. Every day that I serve in this office I view as an honor and I have the same passion for the position of public service today as I did over thirty years ago when I first started. I am enormously proud to be a part of this Board of Commissioners especially of late when the pandemic consumed the world and focused on our community. It was this Board of Commissioners, with the administration, headed by Ross Angilella and all employees and front line responders who responded to a worldwide pandemic and did an enormously successful job of offering vaccinations to our residents. I have never been prouder of Camden County government than I was this past year in dealing with what was truly a terrible crisis and I am very proud to be a part of this organization for that and many other reasons. I know each of the Commissioners on this Board and I know the commitment and dedication that you have given to the County residents and I am impressed and very proud of the work that has been done individually and collectively. Thank you to the residents of Camden County for giving me this great honor of public service.

**Commissioner Kane** said I would like comment on Jeff's service for decades in Cherry Hill and the County. Soon he will be our Betty White. Your passion and dedication is obvious. It is a milestone that yesterday was ten years that I was first sworn into Cherry Hill Council. Ten years ago, it was a very large ceremony with media, senators and mayors and now it has shrunk down ten years later. What remains the same is my passion for serving and for all

residents of Camden County. This has been a trying time for everyone, and I am so honored to be working with such a dedicated Board of Commissioners and employees of Camden County who work tirelessly and often behind the scenes with very little recognition. They continue to do their work to the best of their talents. Thank you to the residents of Camden County for reelecting me. I look forward to better years ahead and to continue to provide great services for everyone.

**Commissioner Dyer** said thank you Director and my Commissioner colleagues for your help and support during my first year as Commissioner. I want to thank you for making this process so easy. I would be remiss if I did not mention the fact that we are a great team, and everyone does what they do very well in a County that has supported us. We do a great job for our County residents and they are very appreciative of the fact that we do what we do. This position is very impactful, and you are allowed to directly support and help people in need. I thank the residents of Camden County for electing me to my next three-year term. I want to again thank my colleagues. For me being a rookie, you made this so much easier. I am still learning on the fly and I truly appreciate your help and support.

**Commissioner Rodriguez** said I would like to say congratulations to all the Commissioners who were sworn in. It is a great pleasure to serve on this Board. As Commissioner Kane said, one of the beautiful things about being a Commissioner is that you get to help people. Every Commissioner on this Board is very active and very engaged in making sure that people get the help that they need. I want to congratulate everyone again who was reelected to their position. It is a pleasure to work with all of you because all of you care, you are kind, compassionate and giving individuals and very conscience of what is important in our community and always exercising your knowledge to make sure that we do what is right for everyone. I would also like to say the same thing for our Director and Deputy Director who have for the many years that I have been on this Board given us an incredible leadership that has helped us, particularly now, during this COVID era.

**Commissioner Young** said congratulations to my colleagues. It is always a pleasure to work on this Board. It is hard to believe I am going into my 8<sup>th</sup> year. There has been nothing but support and love. If you could see the actual outpouring that this Board does for our community it is second to none. It is a real pleasure to serve with a group of individuals who I always say are not politicians, but who are residents who care a lot about their community and want to give back. It will be an honor to work with you all again this year.

**Deputy Director McDonnell** said I would like to thank my colleagues for your support and nomination as Deputy Director. Director, you have done a spectacular job. We are all so very proud of you. You represent us and the County with an enormous ability and leadership and you have done so very much for county government. I along with all my colleagues, thank you.

As we endure this latest terribly contagious invasion of COVID-19 and having experienced with all our residents, two full years now of this pandemic, it is impossible not to be completely awed by the quality of people who work in our county government. You are all truly amazing. All our county employees. I know for sure there cannot possibly be a more competent and dedicated group of public employees anywhere in this country and I and the entire Board of

Commissioners thank each and everyone of you for your steadfast and irreplaceable service. There is another thing I know for sure, and I think sometimes we neglect this, no organization can possibly operate as effectively as this one does or have employees that perform as amazingly well in times of crisis as ours do without superb leadership at the top. On behalf of the residents and taxpayers of this County and our Board of Commissioners, I thank Ross Angilella for his amazing and unparalleled performance over all these years and especially these past two years. No one could do it better. Thank you, Ross.

I would like to finish by thanking our remarkable Deputy County Administrators, Holly Cass, Jim Rhodes, David Owens and Dominic Vesper. About them I will say this. The four of you have heard today and so often so many words of praise directed at our county employees and well-deserved words of praise for all that has been done to rescue our county and as you hear those words as Deputy County Administrators, I hope you will take great pride in knowing that it is because of your skills your inspiring confidence and competence and your tireless 24 hours a day, 7 days a week devotion to duty that all of this was achieved. You are the heart and soul of all of this, and the Board of Commissioners thanks and admires all four of you.

I would like to conclude with special thanks for all the years that AnnaMarie Wright has worked with me and helped me to do all the things that go with this job. I appreciate her very much. Thank you.

**Director Cappelli** congratulated Al, Melinda and Jeff on their elections. Jeff has been reelected so many times we have lost count. He gets reelected because of the great work he does. It is really amazing for the public to put their trust in someone for so many years. Unusual these days, but they have done it with you, Jeff because you have earned their trust. You have done such a fantastic job as Commissioner and we look forward to the next three years with you. Melinda, you have done great work since you have joined the Board, especially with veterans and giving up so much of your time. When you talk to a veteran in Camden County, they have everything great to say about you because of your sensitivity to their needs and what they hope for. Thank you for being such a great Commissioner. Al, your first election as a Commissioner. You were overwhelmingly elected. You put out a great message and the public has full trust in you. Your short time on this Board has been amazing and we look forward to working with you in the future. You bring a great perspective to this Board.

Director Cappelli said, I like others would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues for placing their trust in me to serve as Director but more importantly the leadership and work they have done over the past year. The past two years have been unprecedented times. Nobody could have prepared us or anybody for what has been happening over the past couple of years. It has been extraordinary, unprecedented times, but thanks to the leadership of my colleagues and the leadership of Ross and the Deputy County Administrators, it has been an amazing response for our residents. I don't know of any other county that has responded the way we have in New Jersey to what has transpired over the past two years. I think the public has no idea as to what goes on behind the scenes and what we do in order to prepare our employees to work on your behalf, the hours and hours on the telephone, just this past New Year's Eve, talking about COVID, how do we react moving forward, and what do we do next. Just a great example of everyone selflessly giving up their time to work on behalf of our residents. To the residents of

Camden County, I cannot tell you how lucky you are to have the leadership you have both as elected officials, and also within the county itself, the county structure, the county government, all of our agencies and our county employees. Just take a ride out to the Blackwood Campus of Camden County College to see the work being done there day in and day out to try to protect you from COVID. It is simply amazing, nothing short of amazing. I want to thank our employees. To our residents, if you have not been vaccinated, please do so. If you have not received your booster, please do so. Have a happy and healthy New Year.

There being no further business, the Director asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Nash made a motion to adjourn with a second by Commissioner Young at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karyn Gilmore  
Clerk of the Board