

**179th ANNUAL REORGANIZATION BUSINESS MEETING
CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 5, 2022 – 12:00 P.M.
520 MARKET STREET
6TH 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, VIRGINIA BETTERIDGE, 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 179th 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.

**OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED
TO VIRGINIA BETTERIDGE**

Ms. Gilmore said it is her honor and privilege to call upon Senator Cruz Perez to administer the oath of office to Virginia Betteridge for the Office of Commissioner. Senator Cruz Perez administered the oath of office for Commissioner to Virginia Betteridge

**OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED
TO EDWARD McDONNELL**

Ms. Gilmore called upon Senator Cruz-Perez to administer the oath of office for the office of Commissioner to Edward McDonnell. Senator Nilsa Cruz-Perez administered the oath of office for Commissioner to Edward McDonnell.

NOMINATION FOR COMMISSIONER DIRECTOR

Ms. Gilmore opened the floor for nominations for the office of Director of the Board of Commissioners for the year 2023.

Commissioner Jeffrey Nash said I think we would all agree that good government starts with great leadership. In my view, Camden County has had no better leader over the past several years than the leader of this Board since 2004, Lou Cappelli, which happens to be the longest

tenure of Commissioner Freeholder Director in this County's history. You don't have to look any further than the economic development that this County has experienced. Look no further than the revitalization of Camden City which now has the lowest crime rate and highest employment rate in the past 50 years. The guidance during the very difficult pandemic which provided immunizations for almost 200,000 of our residents. Doing it all while holding the line on taxes, recognizing that property taxes are the most complicated and difficult issue that all counties face in the State of New Jersey and he has done it understanding that the residents need to hold the line on taxes. For those reasons it is my honor to nominate Lou Cappelli to serve as Commissioner 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 in recognition of his spectacularly successful performance it is my honor to second the nomination of Louis Cappelli as Director of the Camden County Board of Commissioners and with that I offer him the thanks of every resident of Camden County for his wonderful work on behalf of this Board and on behalf of every person who lives and works in Camden County.

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
Betteridge	-	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

Senator Cruz Perez administered the oath of office for Commissioner Director to Louis Cappelli, Jr.

Commissioner Director 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. Being the Director of this Board is pretty easy because we have such talent sitting up here and such a talented workforce. I appreciate all the kind words and the credit but the credit is shared with everyone sitting up here and everyone who works for this County.

NOMINATION FOR COMMISSIONER DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Commissioner Director Cappelli asked for nominations from the floor for the office of Commissioner Deputy Director of the Board of Commissioners for the year 2023.

Commissioner Kane said it is my honor to nominate Edward McDonnell to the position Deputy Director of the Camden County Board of Commissioners. The Deputy Director has been, what was Freeholder since 1995, which says a lot about the work he has done and his contributions to Camden County for almost three decades now. We all, as a team, are so honored to serve with you and recognize your leadership, your intelligence, your dedication and the fact that we all do work so well together as a team. So much of it is due to your hard work and your patience with us, your personality, and your humor.

The Commissioner Director asked for a second to Commissioner Kane's nomination. Commissioner Jonathan Young said it would be my honor to second the nomination of Commissioner Edward McDonnell for the office of Commissioner Deputy Director. I want to thank Commissioner McDonnell. I have been on the Board since 2015 and I can remember the first time having a sit-down conversation with Ed. I want to thank you for all the guidance you have given me over the years. You have been a true colleague and you truly are a good soldier for this County and this Board.

Commissioner 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
Betteridge	-	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

Senator Cruz Perez administered the oath of office for Commissioner Deputy Director of the Board of Commissioners to Edward T. McDonnell. Commissioner Deputy Director McDonnell thanked everyone for their vote of confidence and support.

Commissioner Director Cappelli said congratulations Ed. I too want to echo the comments of Melinda and Jon. Your work with the administration in keeping this government together administratively and financially allows us to do a lot of the things we do. Without your leadership and guidance we would not have been able to accomplish what we have accomplished. Congratulations. Well earned.

Commissioner Director Cappelli asked Senator Cruz Perez if she would like to say a few words. The Senator said I am happy to be blessed to work with this County and appreciate all

that you have done for Camden County. Thank you and I want to wish everyone a happy, healthy and a peaceful new year.

Commissioner Director Cappelli asked Senator Spearman to say a few words. The Senator said congratulations. It is always good to work with the County. It is one of the best counties in the State. I am always singing your praises, especially as to the police department and I look forward to continuing to work with you this year and in years to come. The Commissioner Director said thank you. We could not accomplish what we do without our legislative team being such a strong partner over the years. What you have done for us, everything from policing to COVID to economic development, you have been there every step of the way for the residents of Camden County. Thank you for your hard work.

Commissioner Director Cappelli asked Sheriff Wilson to say a few words. The Sheriff said Happy New Year and God Bless.

Commissioner Director Cappelli opened the meeting to the public for discussion of the resolutions to be acted upon.

I am Dylan Hackney here on behalf of the office of Congressman Donald Norcross. We want to personally congratulate both Commissioner Betteridge and McDonnell, Deputy Director McDonnell and Director Cappelli. We look forward to working with you all. As a Camden County resident thank you all for everything you do. To all residents, if you do have any issues with a federal agency and you need help, please do not hesitate to reach out to our office.

Seeing no one further wishing to speak, Commissioner Nash made a motion to close the public portion with a second by Commissioner Betteridge and on roll call, all Commissioners present voted aye.

Commissioner Director Cappelli said after review of Resolutions 1 through 54 by each Commissioner, the Resolutions are being presented by the consent of the entire Board of Commissioners.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTIONS 1 THROUGH 54

Commissioner Director Cappelli asked for a motion to adopt Resolutions 1 through 54. Commissioner Nash made a motion to adopt with a second by Commissioner Betteridge and on roll call, all Commissioners voted aye.

Commissioner Director Cappelli opened the meeting to any member of the public who wished to address the Board of Commissioners.

Seeing no one wishing to speak, Commissioner Young made a motion to close the public portion with a second by Commissioner Deputy Director McDonnell and all Commissioners present voted aye.

The Commissioner Director called upon the Commissioners for their comments.

Commissioner Nash said I want to congratulate Lou Cappelli for being reappointed as our Director and also Ed McDonnell for being reappointed once again as Deputy Director. You do such a great job in the leadership of this County. Ginny, congratulations. It is nice to see your family come out to see you be sworn in for your first official term. Congratulations to my colleague Jim Peeler who is in the audience today and whom I have worked with for many years in Cherry Hill. He has done a fabulous job with human relations not only in that community but for Camden County. Thank you for being here. Last but not least to Jon Young, congratulations to you on being named as the new President of the New Jersey Association of Counties. I want to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

Commissioner Dyer said Happy New Year to everyone. Congratulations to Commissioner Betteridge, Ed McDonnell and Lou Cappelli. Everyone here does an outstanding job. Congratulations to Jon Young.

Commissioner Kane said it is so nice to be at a meeting where we have so much to celebrate as we do today. Not only the New Year but to congratulate and celebrate Ginny and Ed for being sworn in today as Commissioners but also Lou and Ed as Director and Deputy Director. Congratulations to Jon Young for the tremendous work you do with NJAC. I look forward to serving with you on that Board. Welcome Back Commissioner Dyer. Congratulations to all the elected officials in Camden County and thank you for all the hard work that you do. If it wasn't for you we would not all be able to work together as a team to make Camden County as strong as it is.

Commissioner Young said I too would like to congratulate my colleagues. Ginny, you have gotten your feet wet for 6 months now. You hit the ground running and grabbed control of your departments and what you needed to do. Congratulations. Deputy Director McDonnell, thank you and congratulations. Thank you to all my departments. We are expecting a really good year. In 2022 we planted a lot of really good seeds. We have big things planned for re-entry, workforce development, and some preventive measures to make sure Camden County always remains in that first light in everyone's mind. As we travel throughout the State we kind of get tired of hearing people tell us how good we are but we are going to keep letting them tell us how good we are because we are going to continue being good because we do right by the people. Happy 2023.

Commissioner Betteridge said it has been a terrific, wonderful and blessed six months. To all of you in the audience and the constituents that put me at this table, my expression of gratitude is always there at the forefront. My family has grown over the years and today I am blessed to have a few of them here. Directly in front of me is the person who has supported me in 16 years of public life in my community, my husband Tom. Next to him, the person who molded me into the person I am and continues to mold me, my dear mother Andrea. Next to her is my son Sean, my daughter Megan with one of her little ones, Raya, who is 9 months old. Next to her is my dear friend Robin. Robin and I go back to when we were 9 years old. We grew up in Gloucester City together and have been through good times and difficult times and she has always been by my side. Directly behind Sean is my other dear friend, some of you know, for

those who don't the cat is out of the bag, Joan is another dear friend of ours since we were 9 years old. Fate has it and God has a plan for us. I absorbed Joan as my confidential aide. Her friendship of so many years has been a blessing because she knows what makes me tick and what doesn't. I expect wonderful things from all of us but particularly from my office because I have a very seasoned person by my side that has been a true friend for decades. The person that swore me in, our Senator, what can I say about her? She has been an advocate for the constituents of Camden County, but most importantly she is my friend and it is not easy in life to go through decades and still be able to call people your friends. Thank you for swearing me in today. Assemblyman Spearman, I am getting to know him. He is just a delight. Every place that I go he is always a welcoming ray of sunshine. Thank you for being here today. To all the ROW officers and the Directors who are here, particularly, I would like to highlight the folks from the Health and Human Services, with Dominic at the helm, I thank him for his support. We have Caryelle Lasher here today and Sr. Donna. This is the team that has been in place. I am a voice for them. Thank you very much for allowing me to serve. Have a blessed and happy New Year.

Deputy Director McDonnell said Ginny, congratulations to you and thank you for those beautiful words you just spoke. It is wonderful to hear and wonderful to meet your family and friends. I have known Ginny for years and I have to say, you are just a wonderful human being. Lou, I said a little bit in my seconding of your nomination and Jeff made some very good and accurate remarks about you, and I hope the citizens appreciate the great work you have done. You really are a treasure for this County. Who would have believed that in 2004 that you would still be the Director? Lou, you have done a fabulous job and all of us thank you very much.

I also want to be sure and not miss Ross Angilella who is our County Administrator. Day-to-day wheels on the ground, that is Ross Angilella. He is the one that makes this operation go. Day-to-day with all our employees and all our various activities, he is the one that makes it succeed. I have the honor of working with him almost every single day and it is truly a great honor. Thank you, Ross, for your great work. I think we owe Ross a nice round of applause. Jeff, congratulations on your new grandson. Congratulations to Jon Young for being named President of NJAC. Jon did not just get that job because it was his turn the way some other organizations work. Jon has been a fierce advocate for NJAC and all of its work on behalf of the counties almost from the day he came on this Board. His becoming President of NJAC is so appropriate. He is being sworn in in Trenton in the Senate Chambers on January 27th. Sheriff, thank you for coming. Warden, thank you for being here. Assemblyman Bill Spearman it has been a pleasure working with you. In the short time you have been in the legislature you have done great things. What I really love is that you consult with us with what you are thinking about doing and the legislation you are contemplating. It is very helpful to us when you consult with me and Lou and others on this Board to make sure that what you are doing is most helpful for Camden County. Of course, long, long time friend, Senator Nilsa Cruz Pere. I love you so much. I have known you for so long. I don't think there is anyone in this room who knows you and does not love you. You are an amazing public servant and I consider you a dear dear friend. Thank you. Thank you for swearing us in. Happy New Year to everyone. To all our employees I hope you all have a great year.

Director Cappelli said I would like to congratulate Ed and Ginny on being elected this

year. It was a landslide victory which is really reflective of the quality of service that this government provides to the residents of this County. It is quite clear that they are aware of the quality of service provided by this leadership and by the employees of this County. As they say, good government is good politics. The numbers that you received in your election this year are indicative of that phrase. Ed, you do such a great job as Deputy Director. People don't realize that we are "part-time", supposedly, but nobody up here works part-time at this position. Ed in particular, puts hours and hours and hours into some of the minute details working with Ross and other members of the Administration on running this government. It is not a small task. Our budget is \$370,000,000. It sounds like a lot of money but when you go to provide the services we need to provide, it's really not. Ed and the Administration figure out ways to best deliver the services with the resources they have. Nobody does a better job than Ed and our Administration. Ginny, as everyone has mentioned, in 6 months you have made such a tremendous impact, not only on everyone up here but I know everyone at the Health Department talks about your interest and your knowledge of the issues at the Health Department and the leadership you are providing. We really look forward to working with you for at least the next 3 years.

I would like to thank my colleagues for placing their trust in me to serve as Director. It truly is an honor and a privilege to represent them. I could not serve with any better, higher quality, and dedicated members.

We have made tremendous progress over the past year on so many different fronts thanks to my colleagues' leadership and the hard work. Whether it be infrastructure, public safety, economic development, social services, veterans, parks, trails. In every category the progress over the past year has just been tremendous. We provided \$31,000,000 in rental assistance with the assistance of Congressman Norcross. Four thousand people this year were able to stay in their apartments or homes because of the assistance that was provided. Ed came up with a very good new program which gave out \$5,000,000 in grants and relief to those employed in the direct personal care of the elderly, children or adults with special needs or disabilities during the pandemic. What a creative way to help those who were kind of forgotten about through the whole COVID relief process. It is reflective of Ed's dedication to those in need and I just want to commend him for that program. We look forward to another great year. Speaking with each of the Commissioners over the past week, there are a lot of great things to come.

I want to thank our employees for all the hard work they do day in and day out on behalf of our residents. Happy New Year everybody. Have a happy and prosperous new year.

There being no further business, the Director asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Young made a motion to adjourn with a second by Commissioner Deputy Director McDonnell at 12:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karyn Gilmore
Clerk of the Board