

CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

January 18, 2024

520 Market Street

6th Floor Conference Room

Camden, New Jersey

The meeting was called to order by Director Cappelli at 12:00 p.m.

The Clerk called the roll and the following Commissioners answered:

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

The Director stated that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

The Director asked everyone to rise for a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Director said good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners.

MINUTES

The Director asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the previous Commissioners Meeting as presented. Commissioner Betteridge made a motion with a second by Commissioner Kane and all roll call:

AYE: ALL PRESENT

ABSTAIN: JONATHAN YOUNG, SR.
EDWARD MCDONNELL

COMPTROLLER'S REPORT

The Director asked for a motion to adopt the Comptroller's Report. Deputy Director McDonnell made a motion with a second by Commissioner Dyer and on roll call all Commissioners present voted aye.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Director asked the Clerk if there was any correspondence. The Clerk responded no, Director, we have no correspondence this month.

The Director said the next portion of the meeting is open to the public for discussion of resolutions to be acted upon this afternoon. There will be another public hearing later in the

meeting at which members of the public can ask any questions they want regarding the business of the County of Camden. The Director opened the public hearing.

Hearing no members of the public wishing to comment, the Director asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Betteridge made the motion with a second by Commissioner Dyer and all Commissioners present voted aye.

The Director closed the public hearing.

Director Cappelli said at Caucus on Tuesday afternoon, the Board of Commissioners reviewed and discussed all resolutions to be acted upon today. We will now be voting on the Resolutions in blocks based on the unanimous consent of the Commissioners.

RESOLUTIONS 1 THROUGH 51

The Director asked for a motion to adopt Resolutions 1 through 51. Commissioner Young made a motion with a second by Commissioner Dyer and on roll call:

AYE: ALL PRESENT

ABSTENTIONS: JEFFREY NASH – Resolution 22
MELINDA KANE – Resolution 36

1. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (Bid B-13/2023), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Works) and Arawak Paving Co., Inc., for Jackson Road (CR 534) Roadway Improvements from White Horse Pike (US Route 30) to NJSH 73, in the Borough of Berlin and Township of Berlin, in the amount of \$1,593,000.00 - CAF#9900239483.

2. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (Bid B-14/2023), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Works) and Asphalt Paving Systems, Inc., for Roadway Improvements along Lafayette Avenue (CR 693), Haddonfield-Berlin Road (CR 561) to NJ Route 73, in the Township of Voorhees, in the amount of \$2,174,400.00 - CAF#9900239512.

3. Resolution authorizing Change Order No. 2 and Final (Bid B-8/2021), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Works) and Lexa Concrete, LLC, for Roadway Improvements to Evesham Road (CR 544) from vicinity of US Route 30 to Burnt Mill Road, in the Boroughs of Magnolia, Lawnside, and Somerdale and Townships of Cherry Hill and Voorhees, for a decrease in the amount of \$349,995.13.

4. Resolution authorizing Change Order No. 2 and Final (Bid B-21/2022), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Works) and Asphalt Paving Systems, Inc., for 2022 Station Avenue (CR 656) and Haddon Lake Park Roadway Improvements - Phase 1, from the White Horse Pike (NJSH 30) to Kings Highway (CR 551S), in the Borough of Haddon Heights, for a decrease in the amount of \$256,668.28.

5. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (State Contract 23-FLEET-34922), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Works) and Nielson Ford of

Morristown, Inc., for purchase of one (1) 2023 F-250 truck, in the amount of \$63,104.00 - P.O. #231484.

6. Resolution of Support for the Preferred Preliminary Alternative selected as a result of the Local Concept Development Study for the intersection of Burnt Mill Road (CR 670) and White Horse Road (CR 673), in the Township of Voorhees.

7. Resolution authorizing acquisition of property for the purpose of constructing and maintaining a roundabout at the intersection of Erial Road and Sicklerville Road in the Township of Winslow.

8. Resolution amending Resolution No. 10, adopted December 14, 2023, authorizing the Ceremonial Renaming of CR 561 within the limits of Evesham Road to Walt Whitman Boulevard along Haddonfield-Berlin Road, in the Township of Cherry Hill to "Mayor Bernie Platt Boulevard" to revise the limits to Morris Drive.

9. Resolution authorizing a Grant Easement, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Works) and Viza N. King, LLC, for an easement of part of Lot 9, Block 39 in the City of Gloucester.

10. Resolution amending Resolution No. 4, adopted November 9, 2023, authorizing negotiations for the purchase of property located at 1424 Broadway in the City of Camden and further authorizing the signing of an Agreement of Sale and the recording of a Deed.

11. Resolution approving personnel actions requested by or on behalf of Commissioner Dyer.

12. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (Bid A-54/2023), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Veterans Affairs) and Fyre Marketing, LLC, for the purchase of cemetery flags, on an "as needed" basis.

13. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (State Contract T-0295), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Buildings and Operations) and Tri-County Termite & Pest Control, Inc., for the provision of extermination services for various Camden County facilities, on an "as-needed" basis.

14. Resolution authorizing the appointment of a member to the Camden County Cultural and Heritage Commission.

15. Resolution approving personnel actions requested by or on behalf of Commissioner Kane.

16. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request for Proposals, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Parks) and Environmental Resolutions, Inc., for Wiggins Park Marina - Phase I Construction Management and Inspection Services, in the amount of \$289,891.82 - CAF#900239593.

17. Resolution rejecting Bid A-51/2023, Cooper River Skate Board Park, as the bids received substantially exceeded the budget for this purpose.

18. Resolution authorizing the submission of a Grant Application, by the County of Camden (Department of Parks) to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program, for the Cooper River Park Playground Grant, Urban Parks Initiative, in the amount of \$1,671,872.48.

19. Resolution authorizing the submission of a Grant Application, by the County of Camden (Department of Parks) to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program, for the Cooper River Park Playground Grant, in the amount of \$1,671,872.48.

20. Resolution authorizing the submission of a Grant Application, by the County of Camden (Department of Parks) to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program, for the Cooper River Park Playground Grant, Urban Parks Initiative, in the amount of \$2,733,500.00.

21. Resolution authorizing the submission of a Grant Application, by the County of Camden (Department of Parks) to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program, for the Cooper River Park Playground Grant, in the amount of \$2,733,500.00.

22. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request for Proposals, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Health and Human Services) and various agencies, for the provision of Professional Mental Health Services, in the amount of \$286,925.00. - Various CAF#s.

ABSTAIN: JEFFREY NASH (Oaks Integrated)

23. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Health and Human Services, Community Health Services) and the University of Pittsburgh, to provide students with field and clinical experience in Public Health, at no cost to the County.

24. Resolution amending Resolution No. 22, adopted November 9, 2023 to correct term expiration date and authorizing appointment of a member to the Camden County Mental Health Board.

25. Resolution approving personnel actions requested by or on behalf of Commissioner Betteridge.

26. Resolution authorizing Agreements, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request for Proposals, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Corrections) and various agencies, for the provision of Positive Youth Development Services, in the amount of \$819,398.00. Funding available in the amount of \$120,000.00 - Various CAF#s. Balance of funding contingent upon passage of the 2024 Temporary and/or Permanent Budgets.

27. Resolution authorizing an Agreement pursuant to a publicly advertised Request for Proposals, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Corrections) and STV Incorporated, for Conceptual Design Engineering Services for a new Regional Rehabilitation and Correction Center, in an amount not to exceed \$310,000.00 - CAF#9900239434.

28. Resolution ratifying an Agreement, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Corrections) and the State of New Jersey Judiciary, Administrative Office of the Courts -Superior Court, Camden Vicinage, for the provision of Video Court Services, in an amount not to exceed \$188,695.68. Funding available in the amount of \$50,000.00 - CAF#9900239418. Balance of funding contingent upon passage of the 2024 Temporary and/or Permanent Budgets.

29. Resolution ratifying Agreements, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Corrections) and various Judges for Judicial Services for Video Court, Municipal Division for Camden County Arraignments and Inmate Court, at the rate of \$300 per weekday and \$450 per Saturday, on an "as-needed" basis.

30. Resolution authorizing the appointment of a member to the Camden County Workforce Development Board.

31. Resolution authorizing the appointment of Rebecca J. Franceschini as Acting Warden of the Camden County Correctional Facility.

32. Resolution ratifying the reappointment of the Camden County Fire Marshal.

33. Resolution ratifying the appointment and reappointment of members to the Camden County Fire Coordinator Board.

34. Resolution authorizing execution of a Memorandum of Understanding, by and between the Camden County Workforce Development Board and the Camden County One-Stop Partners as required by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

35. Resolution approving personnel actions requested by or on behalf of Commissioner Young.

36. Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Camden, New Jersey, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:37A-56 and Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, authorizing, approving and consenting to the issuance by the Camden County Improvement Authority of not more than \$3,250,000 aggregate principal amount of County-Guaranteed Revenue Bonds (Home Port Alliance Project), Series 2024, as financing for a project undertaken on behalf of Home Port Alliance for the USS New Jersey, Inc.; and authorizing and approving certain other actions in connection therewith.

ABSTAIN: MELINDA KANE

37. Resolution authorizing budgetary transfers in the 2024 Reserve Fund.

38. Resolution amending Resolution No. 34, adopted November 9, 2023, establishing program and funding categories relating to Camden County's allocation of American Rescue Plan funds.

39. Resolution authorizing the approval of various State Contracts with various State vendors.

40. Resolution authorizing the establishment of a pool of vendors, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request for Proposals, for the provision of Photography Services for the Camden County Department of Events and Community Outreach.

41. Resolution authorizing a substitution of funds in the amount of \$43,400 to provide financing for the purchase of a new ice machine for the Camden County restaurant on Cooper River.

42. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (Bid 22-24), by and between the County of Camden (Office of the Prosecutor) and SHI International Corp., for purchase and installation of an audio-visual multi-media control room at the Governor James J. Florio Center for Public Service, under the New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Alliance System ID #CK04, in the amount of \$74,812.95. Funding available in the Camden County Prosecutor's Office Federal Equitable Forfeiture Account.

43. Resolution ratifying the submission of a Grant Application, by the County of Camden (Office of the Prosecutor) to the State of New Jersey, Office of the Attorney General, Department of Law and Public Safety, for the Camden County Prosecutor's Insurance Fraud Reimbursement Program - Cycle 2024, in the amount of \$289,021.00.

44. Resolution further amending Resolution No. 71, adopted July 20, 2023, ratifying the submission of a Grant Application by the County of Camden (Office of the Prosecutor) to the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General, for the FFY 2021 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant, to correct the name of the Grantor.

45. Resolution ratifying a Side Letter Agreement, by and between the County of Camden (Office of the Prosecutor) and PBA Local 316A.

46. Resolution rejecting Bid A-59/2023 Extradition Services for the Camden County Office of the Sheriff as the one bid received was non-compliant with the bid specifications.

47. Resolution authorizing an award of Contracts, pursuant to a Competitive Contracting Request for Proposals #23-43, by and between the County of Camden (Division of Community Development) and various agencies, for the provision of 2023 Federal Home Funds to create Affordable Housing for the County of Camden, in the amount of \$1,157,000.00 - Various CAFs.

48. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract, pursuant to a Competitive Contracting Request for Proposals #23-32, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Police Services) and Center for Family Services, Inc., for Social Worker Services, in the amount

of \$1,827,465.00. Funding available in the amount of \$200,000.00 - CAF#9900239581. Balance of funding contingent upon passage of the 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027 Temporary and/or Permanent Budgets.

49. Resolution amending Resolution No. 70, adopted August 17, 2023, inserting Chapter 159 funds into the Budget from the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety for the American Rescue Plan Act - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund, FY 2021, Automated License Plate Reader Initiative in the amount of \$220,087.00, to include subaward number and other required elements.

50. Resolution amending Resolution No. 102, adopted December 14, 2023, ratifying the submission of a Grant Application by the County of Camden (Department of Police Services) to the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General for the Gunshot Detection Technology Initiative Grant, in the amount of \$164,000, to include subaward number and other required elements.

51. Resolution approving personnel actions requested by or on behalf of Commissioner Director Cappelli.

RESOLUTION 52

The Director called for a motion on Resolution No. 52 acknowledging personnel actions requested by or on behalf of Constitutional or Statutory Row Offices.

NO MOTION MADE – FAILED

Director Cappelli opened the meeting to any member of the public who wished to address the Board of Commissioners and asked that those wishing to speak limit their comments to three minutes to allow as many people to speak as possible.

Kathy Maguire, 25 Edgewood Road, Sicklerville. Ms. Maguire said Happy New Year everybody, we have great news for you. My organization and a couple of others over the weekend trapped 91 ferals cat in the City of Camden. We fixed them all and a lot of them are being returned to their grateful caregivers. We cleaned up Petty Island and it was a really wonderful weekend, but we paid for all of it ourselves. This would have cost the City of Camden \$27,000. When the shelter is adopting out animals, we need to talk to them about bonding pairs. A lady went down to adopt an English Bulldog and she was told she had to take a Siberian Husky at the same time because they are bonded. Let's get these animals out of the shelter. Yes, they can be bonded and in a perfect world you would adopt them out together. That was a perfect opportunity to get a dog out of the shelter. The next thing I want to talk about are the numbers and transparency at the shelter. Ms. Maguire held up the 2022 numbers released by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, Department of Zoonotic Diseases. The shelter, Homeward Bound, is the only one in the entire State of New Jersey who is not on here with their figures. We talked about transparency. We need those figures. The figures they put on their own home page are shelter counts which is something no one else uses in the whole State. They should be transparent and submit their figures to the State so everyone can see them. The last thing I want to talk about, and

I think the lady is coming on here, is they adopted out a cat at Christmas time, December 28th. This poor kitty cat had a huge hematoma on her ear which is very painful. It was infected and had puss in there. They adopted her. I have all the adoption papers here. The shelter said yes she has a hematoma, yes here is some medicine. The cat needed surgery and she was going to return the cat. The lady drove all the way from Delaware to get this cat because she thought they were overflowing. I paid for the cat that she took to Pennsauken Animal Hospital to get surgery. My little all-volunteer group that doesn't get any government funding spent almost \$300 to get the cat done. She drove all the way from Delaware to the Pennsauken Animal Hospital to get the cat its surgery and I paid for it. Why is that happening? The shelter gets all these donations, and they could have helped the cat. When she called and said I need help they said we don't have any more medicine for your cat. She got the cat on the 27th or 28th and on the 2nd it was already in that bad of shape, so I paid for the surgery. I am happy to help a cat so it didn't have to be returned but the shelter never should have adopted it out that way. They should have helped this citizen.

Robert Ivone, 605 North Atlantic Avenue, Collingswood. Yes, we keep coming back but we keep coming back because we want to work together, and we keep seeing these reoccurring themes of transparency and working together to alleviate some of the pains that the shelter feels and the problems with animal welfare in the city. A formality but an important formality from last time; we had a Ms. Boyle speak last time about a dog she had adopted. There was an argument, or disagreement I should say, with the Director (Ken) who was on Zoom who said she could have had the animal fixed herself. The paperwork says otherwise: "The foster parent agrees and understands that all medical care must be provided by the Shelter." When we were talking about transparency the last time, I discussed all these animals without bios. As you may remember, I am a teacher. I do a lot of hand deliveries of food, dog food, cat food and supplies to students in need and families in need. We talked about the problem of when there is food available via the pet pantry at Homeward Bound, transportation is an issue. How do poor families or those without transportation in the City get there? Now the problem arises that when they get there, they will encounter a sign that says "No pet food until further notice. Please check Facebook for updates." One of the main problems that I have encountered in my career of 20 years is the lack of knowledge and information being dispersed. When families are unable to provide for their pets, they give them up. It is really that simple. They either put them on the street or if they go through the proper channels, they pay to surrender the animal. We need to do everything in our power to make sure that the free donations that are available from Amazon, and again I volunteered at the shelter for more than three years mostly through pet pantries which is how it started, meaning giving out free food and supplies, usually once per month, sometimes twice. Once this stops happening and if you go on Homeward Bound's website and their social media they are full, again. We understand and we agree that this is not all their fault. Coming out of COVID and the myriad of problems that occurred. However, if we don't want the problem to get worse, we have to have the pet pantry open and the \$5,000, \$6,000 per week that Amazon is willing to give the shelter, we need to take advantage of. How that occurs? If one pallet has a can of cat food that is open, a \$5,000 pallet, Amazon would give us the entire pallet and then we would have all this food available. A bag of dog food opens, tape it up and give it out to the public. We can't have these resources not being used because again, we know that when families can't feed their animals, of course they are going to feed themselves first, they give up their animals. We can't have that because it exacerbates an already existing condition that we need to work together to fix.

Jeff Miller-McGrail, 111 Lawnside Avenue, Collingswood. Mr. Miller-McGrail said last month I came and spoke about a harrowing experience that my family had regarding Homeward Bound Animal Shelter. Thank you for hearing me. However, unfortunately I am back again due to the issues being unresolved. To summarize because I know time is short, my family fostered to adopt a cat that we were assured was healthy. Once home he started exhibiting concerning symptoms however, we could not get in touch with anyone at the shelter regarding what to do. Eventually we brought him back to the shelter where he died. After our other cats started getting sick, we finally got a hold of someone at the shelter who begrudgingly admitted that a deadly cat virus called panleuk was the culprit behind the cat's death. This then led to us having to euthanize one of our other cats and get extensive veterinary care for the others despite having quarantined the shelter cat as instructed. Due to the shelter's lack of communication, unwillingness to answer emails or phone calls in a timely manner, shady deletion of shelter reviews and posts and being over a week late in notifying us of the cause of death of the shelter cat, our other cats suffered, and one ultimately died. The shelter did not make any other adopters or fosters aware that this virus was present in the shelter. The Executive Director, Ken, assured me that he would look into compensation for the vet bills incurred but then affirmed that the shelter did no wrong. I emailed the Board of Directors of the shelter three times but no response. At the last Commissioners meeting the Executive Director, Ken, was told, by yourselves, the Commissioners, to follow up with me but he has not. I have also not heard anything from the Commissioners in regard to this issue despite contacting Commissioner Young's office and his aide letting me know that someone would be in touch. I am looking for the shelter to be held accountable for this negligence in the form of an apology and compensation for the vet bills incurred due to their documented negligence. The number of citizens with issues directly related to the shelter at last month's meeting and this month's meeting show the true problem that affects many members of our county. This should be a top priority for the Commissioners, and I thank you in advance for your work in this matter.

Kathi Liszewski, 10 Vale Road, Sicklerville. Ms. Liszewski said I am also going to be talking about the transparency of numbers. I work very closely with Gloucester Township, and they have been asking for intake numbers from the shelter and they have been reluctant to provide them, but they finally received them. They also received the contract for 2024 where they are being asked to pay for 925 animals at \$300 each when they in fact in 2023 only took in 652 animals. I wonder, where is this number being calculated and what are other municipalities who don't know to ask these questions being overcharged? If they pay, they don't get that money back but if they go over by one animal they get that money back. This would result in over an \$80,000 overpayment by the Township of Gloucester. What other municipalities are being charged for animals that they actually are not taking in? These number should be evaluated on an annual basis. We shouldn't be just going through the motions and issuing out contracts to all the municipalities for numbers that are not accurate. These numbers have to be reevaluated every year and I think every municipality should have the right to have access to their intake records.

Seeing no other members of the public wishing to comment, Director Cappelli asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Kane made a motion with a second by Commissioner Young and all Commissioners voted aye.

The Director opened the floor to the members of the Board of Commissioners for their comments.

Commissioner Nash said I would like to start by wishing everyone a Happy New Year. Today is the last meeting that Anna Wawrzyniak will be an employee of Camden County. I don't know if Anna is in the room. I am not there myself because I am a little under the weather. Director Cappelli confirmed that Anna was in the room. Commissioner Nash said I would like to make a few comments about what Anna has meant to Camden County and make sure it is on the public record. Anna came to the County over 30 years ago. In addition to all her administrative responsibilities during those 30 years one of her great assets to the County is that she was the primary recipient of constituent calls. Everyone on this dais knows how important constituent calls are. People call for many, many reasons, some of which are life changing and threatening while others are more simple. Anna has a unique ability of working with whoever is calling the County and finding a solution to that person's problem. I have heard stories of Anna getting upset on occasion, but she never demonstrates that feeling to the constituent. Dealing with constituent calls is complicated but Anna deals with it as I describe it, with a sophisticated finesse that is really unmatched in the County. She has been an enormous asset. One of the reasons that we have been successful in elections is because of Anna Wawrzyniak.

Commissioner Nash continued, for me Anna has been more than a friend and a colleague; she has been more of a second mom, and I love her dearly. She has also been the mother hen so to speak to many of the people who have come in and out of the Commissioners, before that Freeholder, offices. People look to her and admire her and she has always set the standard for what a good public servant should be. We are going to miss Anna terribly. I am not sure who is going to handle those calls moving forward. I wanted to simply say on the public record to Anna, thank you.

Anna said Jeff it has been a pleasure working with you for 30 years and I will miss you dearly.

Commissioner Young said I would also like to congratulate Anna. Jeff talked about the welcoming atmosphere. When I became a Freeholder, I was on the 8th floor. There were two soldiers on that floor, Anna and JoAnn. They both took me under their wings and secured me and let me know that it was ok. I will never forget that, and we have become friends over the last 8+ years. Anna, it has been a great career for you. We are going to miss you and we love you. Good luck in all that you do from this moment on.

We made some history a couple of years ago by promoting our first Latino woman to Warden here in Camden County. At the end of the month Karen Taylor will be retiring as Warden. Before she goes off into the sunset we want to say thank you for all that you have done. She is a

young lady who worked her way up through the ranks to become Warden. It is a commendable career for her and we would like to say congratulations to her as well.

Commissioner Young said I have one more retirement to mention. We lost one to the feds. Rosy Arroyo is going to be sorely missed around here. She took a job with the federal government. For those who do not know Rosy she is a huge advocate for our youth and our incarcerated. The programs she has been involved in and the things she has done over the years for the youth in our County is second to none. We will definitely miss her. Rosy, if you are listening, good luck.

Thank you to all our dedicated employees here in Camden County.

Commissioner Kane said Anna, you will be missed. For Jeff to say you are like a second mother to him speaks volumes to the person that you are. By Resolution No. 8 on this month's Agenda the County ceremoniously changed the name of County Road 561 to "Mayor Bernie Platt Boulevard". I wanted to thank Bob Harris for making sure that happened and Jeff for taking the lead on that. I was able to attend and present former Mayor and former Freeholder Bernie Platt with a Proclamation and to thank him for his many years of service to South Jersey and to Camden County.

Last night we had the 2024 Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Medal Ceremony. Two of the recipients are individuals who work very hard for our veteran's community. One of them is 99-year-old young May Brill. We look forward to celebrating her 100th birthday and thank her for her hard work with women veterans within the County and the State of New Jersey. The second is Bernie Kofot who is Commander of the Camden County Veteran Advisory Committee and we thank him for his hard work and dedication. I would also like to thank all the County employees who made last night's ceremony just beautiful. It was really heartwarming to see so many individuals who do great work within the County and ask for very little in return and just do it because of their large hearts. It was a great event last night.

Commissioner Dyer said Happy New Year. The Department of Public Works did a great job with our first snowfall of the year. I have been on meetings with Dominic and Bob and Julia and other staff getting prepared for the event. Sometimes that type of work goes unnoticed because they do a good job. We have 1,200 square miles of roadway to cover, and these guys do a great job. Sometimes it can be a 20-hour job for these guys. They are eating in diners and getting little sleep at times when they can. Mechanics are involved. The drivers are great. Its good to see that we have these hardworking people who are making sure our roads are clear so everyone can get to where they have to go. I am looking at Mr. Harris right now and he is saying that 27th Street may be done by March. We are keeping our fingers crossed for that. If anyone knows the history of 27th Street, it has been horrible since I was in the 7th grade. If anyone in East Camden is listening, they are probably clapping.

Last night the MLK event was great as usual. That is one of our events that I find very touching. It is nice to see individuals get rewarded and recognized for what they do in their community. I want to thank the 12 honorees. Everyone was deserving of what they received. I also want to thank the Master of Ceremonies, Jon Young. He did a great job once again.

Lastly, Anna, I don't know you that well, but I want to say congratulations and I can tell

you that retirement is ok. Congratulations and thank you for all you have done during your 30 years here. We appreciate you I know one thing, you always spoke to me every day.

Commissioner Betteridge said Anna I want to take a minute to thank you for everything you have done. I will miss you as my next-door neighbor and always know that my door is always open to greet you anytime. Thank you for everything you did for me personally as I began this new journey. The Health Department started 2024 very busy. We had some outbreaks in Philadelphia and here in Camden County and I want to congratulate and commend the staff for the work they are doing to make sure everyone is safe. Contact tracing is happening the way it should be and their diligence working the local hospitals and also the State Department of Health. The team at the DiPiero Building is second to none and that is the reason we are the only accredited Health Department in the State of New Jersey. I commend Dr. Nwako, Caryelle Lasher and everyone who puts in a day's work down there to make sure our residents in Camden County are safe.

I would also be remiss if I didn't mention Nimit Kaur who also participated in last night's MLK ceremonies. Nimit works for the Health Department. She is blind and has her canine companion, Chardonnay, and has miraculously overcome so many challenges in her life with her disability. It was a wonderful event. Thank you to my colleagues for everything you do to make sure that the program was second to none. To the staff that put in extra hours yesterday and the days ahead of it. Thank you for your commitment to showcasing the best of Camden County. I look forward to many more of these MLK celebrations.

Commissioner Deputy Director McDonnell said I would like to add my congratulations and best wishes to both Anna and Rosy. I wish you both well and thank you very much for your service to the people of Camden County. I would also like to thank all our employees who work so hard for the citizens every day and do such a great job.

Commissioner Director Cappelli I too would like to echo what has been said about Anna. I have known Anna for many years and it will be hard to imagine Camden County without you. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication. Jeff said it best, you will be missed. When we talk about Rosy going to the federal government, I think that is good for her and good for us. In our efforts to combat gun violence in Camden County she can be of great assistance to us at the federal level. Best of luck to you Rosy. To Warden Taylor, thank you for your hard work. Congratulations. Thank you in advance to all those employees who will be plowing tonight and tomorrow. Keep up the good work and stay safe out there.

The Director asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Young made a motion with a second by Commissioner Dyer and all Commissioners voted aye. The meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karyn Gilmore
Clerk of the Board