

**177<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REORGANIZATION BUSINESS MEETING  
CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JANUARY 5, 2021 – 12:00 P.M.  
520 MARKET STREET  
16<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE 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.

*It is noted for the record that due to the Coronavirus pandemic all Commissioners participated virtually, except Commissioner Nash and Director Cappelli.*

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 177<sup>th</sup> Annual Reorganization Business Meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners. Ms. Gilmore said the first order of business is to swear-in our newly elected Commissioners. It is noted for the record that all oaths were administered virtually.

**OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED  
TO JONATHAN YOUNG, SR.**

Ms. Gilmore said it is her honor and privilege to call upon Senator Troy Singleton to administer the oath of office to Jonathan Young, Sr. for the Office of Commissioner. Senator Singleton administered the oath of office for Commissioner to Jonathan Young, Sr.

**OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED  
TO LOUIS CAPPELLI, JR.**

Ms. Gilmore called upon Congressman Donald Norcross to administer the oath of office to Louis Cappelli, Jr. for the office of Commissioner. Congressman Norcross administered the oath of office for Commissioner to Louis Cappelli, Jr.

**NOMINATION FOR COMMISSIONER DIRECTOR**

Ms. Gilmore opened the floor for nominations for the office of Director of the Board of Commissioners for the year 2021.

Commissioner Jeffrey Nash said it is my honor to nominate Louis Cappelli as the first Director of the Board of Commissioners. The Clerk asked for a second to Commissioner Nash's nomination.

Commissioner McDonnell said in recognition of Lou's superb performance as Director and in gratitude for his years of service to the residents of Camden County I proudly second the nomination of Louis Cappelli as Director of the Board of Commissioners for 2021.

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.

Commissioner Cappelli thanked his colleagues and said it is an honor and privilege to serve as Director on this Board. The Director said it is a privilege to serve with each one of you because individually you have each been an outstanding leader getting us through these difficult times. Thank you, once again and I look forward to another great year.

**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 2021.

Commissioner Rodriguez said I would like to nominate someone I have grown to consider a friend who has always had the best interests of the residents in mind in everything that he does. He has a kind heart and has always maintained a balance of the needs of the residents and the need to hold the bottom line on the County budget. He has been an inspirational leader and a guide who always motivates and encourages us to work a little harder and do a little better

for the residents of this County. 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.

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 55 by each Commissioner, the Resolutions are being presented by the consent of the entire Board of Commissioners. Seeing no one wishing to speak, the Director asked for a motion to close the public portion. Commissioner Nash made a motion to close the public portion with a second by Commissioner Young and on roll call, all Commissioners present voted aye.

The Director then proceeded with the agenda. The Director said with the unanimous consent of the Commissioners, they would be voting on Resolutions 1 through 55.

### **MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTIONS 1 THROUGH 55**

Director Cappelli asked for a motion to adopt Resolutions 1 through 55. Commissioner Nash made a motion to adopt with a second by Commissioner Young and on roll call, all Commissioners voted aye.

Congressman Norcross congratulated Lou Cappelli as the first Director of the Commissioners of Camden County as well as Ed McDonnell, Jonathan Young and Al Dyer. Congressman Norcross said I love all 37 of my communities in Camden County but Pennsauken will always have a soft spot in my heart. It is great to see Melinda and Carmen. Jeff Nash who was the longest serving Freeholder in the State of New Jersey is now equal with all his Commissioners. He holds that record and always will. Congressman Norcross said thank you for having me. I would like to thank all of the essential workers whether you wear a badge as a policeman, fireman or EMS or scrubs as so many of the doctors and nurses who are helping us literally stay alive wear. To the grocery store clerks and those wearing work boots down on the dock, they are the people who are really helping us in this incredibly difficult time. We have been on Zoom calls much more than any of us would have dreamt. I've been on funerals, birthdays, holidays and now reorganizations on Zoom. I don't think our founding fathers when they thought of democracy really thought of Zoom, but it shows the innovation. In particular for those who are serving, I want to thank you as well as your families who sacrifice so much when you are not there. This pandemic is tough. The one thing we do know is together we can make it better. We can do it. As I remind everybody, even though the vaccine is here it is going to take quite a bit of time. We can see the light at the end of the tunnel, but only if we do it together. So remember, wash your hands, wear a face mask and stay 6 feet apart and together we will defeat this pandemic, bring our economy back stronger than ever and then we will continue to be as we always have been the greatest country in the world. Thank you. God Bless you and good-bye 2020.

The Director thanked the Congressman and said congratulations to you on behalf of the Board for being reelected and sworn in again. Your CARES Act last year was an immense help to Camden County businesses, residents and government. We cannot thank you enough for that legislation and for the work that you have done as well as the new legislation that will help us in the new year. Thank you also for your stability in Washington. There is a lot of instability in D.C., but you have been a strong force and you continue to have more influence on Congress and I think you were joined by a second union member in Congress, is that correct? The Congressman said, yes, we actually have two more. We have a brand new labor caucus that we put together so we can hear firsthand those issues that regular working families have. Something that you have done better than everybody – keeping people informed. You will have your fights and you will have your disputes, but you can do it in a civil way. Science matters. Truth matters. That is why I am so proud to represent all of you in this district. The CARES package is only a down payment. We are looking to building back better when our new President comes into office in a couple of weeks. God Bless you and God Bless the United States of America.

The Director opened the meeting to the public for discussion on any County issues. Seeing no one wishing to speak, Commissioner Nash made a motion to close the public portion with a second by Commissioner Young and on roll call, all Commissioners present voted aye.

The Director called upon the Commissioners for their comments.

**Commissioner Dyer** said good afternoon and Happy New Year. As I mentioned several weeks ago when I was sworn in, I am humbled and honored to be elected a Camden County Commissioner. I am glad the name has been changed. I did some research and I think this is something that was well overdue. I want to thank my colleagues for making this transition smooth and painless. Coming from Pennsauken and getting the chance to get into the political process gave me some insight into how things are done. It was a good step for me as a Committeeman in Pennsauken for that one year. I thank the residents of Pennsauken. Also, I want to thank Camden County in general for everyone trying their best to do what they can during this pandemic. This is a terrible situation. Director Cappelli and the Commissioners have done a great job at keeping Camden County safe. I also truly want to thank everyone and ask everyone to continue practicing social distancing, washing your hands and wearing your mask. For all those families that were impacted, my thoughts and prayers go out to you. I have some family members that were impacted so everyone at some point has been touched by this pandemic. Happy New Year everyone.

**Commissioner Kane** congratulated Director Cappelli and Deputy Director McDonnell. I am very proud to serve with you and everyone on the Board. It is a Board comprised of intelligent, dedicated, compassionate leaders and I continue to learn from all of you. Commissioner Kane thanked Congressman Norcross for his remarks and his hard work and dedication in D.C. We look forward to his continued assistance to South Jersey. I also want to make note that this is our first video meeting and I would like to thank those behind the scenes who made this possible. Happy New Year. Stay safe, stay healthy and continue to do good work.

**Commissioner Nash** congratulated Director Cappelli and Deputy Director McDonnell and thanked them for the leadership upon taking the reigns as Commissioner Director and Deputy Director. As the Congressman said, I have been a County representative for a very long time. It is hard to believe this is going to be my 30<sup>th</sup> year as a Freeholder/Commissioner but I have to say that I am no less enthusiastic about this position today than I was when I got out of elementary school when I started. I never take for granted this opportunity we have been blessed to have by the voters of our community and I am sure my colleagues feel the same way, both Commissioners and ROW Officers. It is greatly appreciated. I am very proud to be part of this government. I am very proud of what this government has accomplished, especially over the past year during the pandemic and I am very proud of our employees who have been frontline workers to help the residents of our community during the most difficult of circumstances. Commissioner Nash said I want to wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year.

**Commissioner Rodriguez** said I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Director Lou Cappelli and Jon Young on your reelections and Al Dyer, welcome aboard. I am so excited to be working with you again. As anybody would know, I have had the opportunity to work with Al in an educational capacity. He is an excellent educator who has done so much for our community in that educational capacity. I would also like to thank our Director, Lou Cappelli and our Deputy Director. They are excellent leaders. This has been an extremely

difficult year with the pandemic and all of the other things that have happened in the community but you have been strong and you have led and you have made a huge impact and have helped keep Camden County first. I am proud to be a member of this Board of Commissioners. 2020 was an extreme year with unprecedented difficulties. Moving forward, 2021 needs to be a year of rebuilding and of addressing all of the issues on the table including the distribution of the vaccine as quickly and efficiently as possible to as many people as possible. The fallout that we have because of this includes all the mental health issues which we are beginning to see in our community. We hope that 2021 will be great. 2020 was tough but it taught us lessons.

**Commissioner Young** said I would like to start by thanking my wife and kids for all their support over the years and Camden County residents for electing me to a 3<sup>rd</sup> term in unprecedented fashion. I would like to thank my confidential aide, Imani Fussell, who really helps me steer the ship and make sure we stay on course. To my very good friend, Senator Singleton, who over the past 14 years has been a true friend, confident and mentor to me. I really appreciate him for that. To all the first responders throughout our County thank you for what you do every day to get us through this pandemic. You are our frontline workers. To my DCAs, Holly Cass and Jim Rhodes, thank you for putting up with all my crazy ideas. Your support is duly noted. Warden Taylor and Director Owens at the Department of Corrections, thank you. Commissioner Young thanked Rob Blaker and Sam Spino at OEM, Chris Waldron at Sustainability, Frank Cirii and Nidia Sinclair at the One Stop. My departments have been really great, and they are a pleasure to work with. I can't wait to see what 2021 brings. 2020 has been a really trying year as we all know. The pandemic and the way it is hitting small business and causing food insecurity has been a huge problem, but we are coming out on the other side of it and it is because of the leadership that comes out of this County that we are able to do the things that we do. Last year we highlighted the racial unrest that has been in America, but as an African American there has been racial unrest my entire life in America. Sometimes it is not as blatant as it is now. We talk about the name change from Freeholder to Commissioner. Melinda and Carmen, if we were going by the old days, we would not be serving as Commissioners, or Freeholders at this time on this Board. For people to think it is a snowflake thing and that we should just watch our feelings, words matter. Whether you think they cut the surface or cut really deep, words matter. We must start taking an opportunity to change our thought process. When we start thinking about policies and how to change this racial unrest, we can write all the policies we want to, but it is just black ink on white paper. As we move through 2021 and beyond, let's not just write a bunch of policies that are going to make us look good. Let's write some meaningful policies and put some feelings behind them and change the mindsets. Policy is when a young black or brown person gets shot for no apparent reason and nothing gets done; that is policy without meaning. That is why I am very proud to serve on this Board because I know what we say we mean, and we have feelings behind it. It has never been about us and I have been saying this for the last 6 years. It is always about the residents of Camden County. You have always come first, and you will always come first. Director and Deputy Director, residents of Camden County, thank you for allowing me to serve.

**Deputy Director McDonnell** thanked Congressman Norcross for participating today and administering the Oaths of Office. I would like to give a special welcome to Al Dyer. I have gotten to know Al over this short period of time and I think he is going to be a superb addition to the Board of Commissioners. Lou, congratulations to you on being reelected as Director. It is

very much deserved. Congratulations to Jon Young on your reelection. Thank you, Ross Angilella, Jim Rhodes, Holly Cass and Dominic Vesper, for the amazing work you have done in 2020, especially. I would also like to thank all the great employees of Camden County who over the past year have really elevated the meaning of confidence. I think Camden County stands out among all counties in New Jersey as having achieved more for our citizens during this difficult pandemic and I think the people appreciate it and I know the Board of Commissioners appreciate all our employees. Deputy Director McDonnell said I would like to finish with a special thank you to David McPeak who I work most closely with among the leadership for the fabulous work he, working with Ross, has done with the budget and with the finances of this County. To all the Commissioners, thank you for reelecting me as Deputy Director. I wish everyone a very Happy New Year.

**Director Cappelli** congratulated Deputy Director McDonnell on being reelected as Deputy Director. You do such an outstanding job overseeing the administration of government. Without that focus and leadership, we would not have the capabilities that we have to do the things we are doing right now. Congratulations to Jon Young on your reelection. You have been an outstanding public servant. Much like the Congressman, you have been a man of the people thinking day in and day out about the working class here in Camden County. Al, congratulations to you once again. Welcome aboard. Thank you to all my colleagues on the Board. It is always very special, and it is an honor and a privilege to serve as Director. It is particularly special this year to be Commissioner Director. As Jon Young stated, it is such an important change in terms and definition of government. It is a real special honor to serve as the first Commissioner Director here in Camden County. To the residents in Camden County, thank you for reelecting me and Jon, as well as our Surrogate. Congratulations to Michelle Gentek-Mayer on your reelection as Surrogate. I hear so many great things being done by your office.

Last year when this pandemic hit, every one of my colleagues on the Board went to their department heads and provided the leadership necessary to mobilize this government to address COVID-19 in the ways we did throughout the year. Without the leadership of all the Commissioners that simply would not have happened. That leadership continues into this year as we get ready, not to just continue our testing, but to ramp up to do something very complicated which is to give vaccinations to the residents of Camden County. Each Commissioner is providing the leadership necessary to the departments so that all departments are a part of that process. This is not just the Health Department, who has been led so ably by Carmen Rodriguez. Every department in Camden County mobilized to fight the pandemic. The leadership has been outstanding, the work of our employees, the leadership of our Administrator, Ross Angilella, our Deputy County Administrators, Dom, Holly and Jim, Dan Keashen with messaging and all the work he has done. All the employees of Camden County. I can't start naming them because so many have done so many special things. Our County Counsel has done a great job. Chris Orlando has guided us through this very difficult time with outstanding legal advice and we certainly appreciate that.

Thank you to all the employees of Camden County. We have another very challenging year ahead. You showed the County last year that you are able to meet these challenges and will continue to do so in the future. Stay safe everyone. Happy 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 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karyn Gilmore  
Clerk of the Board