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# AMBOY GUARDIAN

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## Legal Bills & Lawsuits of Topics for Discussion 5/13/20 Caucus & Council Meetings via Teleconference

By: Carolyn Maxwell  
PERTH AMBOY – Councilman Joel Pabon was the first person to speak at the caucus meeting. He asked the council to table Ordinance No. 1 – First Reading – No Public Discussion – To amend an ordinance fixing and establishing a schedule of salaries and salary ranges and increments for officers and employees for the City of Perth Amboy RE: Non-union and Management.

Pabon wasn't comfortable. "There were many administrative changes (titles and raises).

A motion to table was moved by Councilman Helmin Caba and seconded by Councilman Irizarry.

Councilman Fernando Irizarry then spoke up to than the administration and Business Administrator Frederick Carr for providing the personnel report for the month of April 2020. "I would like to know if the names can be done alphabetically by department."

Carr stated it would be hard to do, and the salary ranges were advertised. "Positions and salary ranges were provided but not the names associated with the positions."

Joel Pabon then spoke about Ordinance No. 2 entitled, "Wreckers". "I want to thank all involved in putting this together, especially Deputy Police Chief Cattano. This is the best contract that the wreckers had in a long time. I just hope it sticks."

Law Director Peter King called in to answer Councilman Fernando Irizarry's questions regarding Ordinance No. 3 entitled "Disasters and Emergencies RE: Authority of Emergency Management Coordinator."

Irizarry thought that the mayor was being given a lot of authority.

King said, "This was passed prior to the last ordinance change. Some OEM members were not properly trained. The Governor declares the emergencies. OEM Director Larry Cattano along with the Mayor's Office will issue the emergency directives from the Governor."

Councilman Irizarry then questioned an item regarding R-158-5/20 – Authorizing emergency temporary appropriations to extend the CY: 2020 temporary budget in the amount of \$770,699.50. "What is the Office of Public Information? And who has that title?"

B.A. Carr responded, "It's the two people behind the camera

taping the meeting: George Bonilla and JohnLuke (Chaparro). If you look at the printout, there is a salary and line title (other expenses). There is also a line item that says: "Operation Expenses". Above that, you will see all the information related to public information title."

Irizarry then asked about the line item under grants corresponding to the municipal complex.

Carr explained, "These are litigation funds and there was a grant for it – (for the spill on the property near the municipal complex). An investigation and cleanup are continuing. This was added into our budget. The grant was on the April 22, 2020 Agenda. There was another grant for the police department which will be used for juvenile counseling."

Irizarry questioned R-160-5/20 – The refund of a FIS Chargeback to FIS, Accounting Department on water/sewer account 213-6 in the amount of \$578.46.

B.A. Carr explained that FIS is the name of the company we had to refund money back to (that we will eventually recover).

Council President William Petrick had a question regarding R-162-5/20 – Agreement between the City of Perth Amboy and the Perth Amboy Board of Education for the State of New Jersey 2020 Summer Food Service Program (breakfast and lunch) in an amount not to exceed \$607,386.83.

He stated, "This seems much higher than last year."

Carr explained, "It's for 43 days of breakfasts and 44 days of lunches."

Irizarry then questioned, "We never teamed up with the Board of Education before with this program."

Petrick spoke up and said, "We did at other times."

Human Resources Director Ken Ortiz spoke up on the teleconference, "There are also waivers for emergency meals. So far, we've had no guidance from the state. We used the Board of Education last year, and we will get reimbursements. We are giving out more food per day. We don't know what's going to happen if school doesn't start on time. Today (5/13/20) we gave out 660 meals at Olive Street. We distribute and prepare. We can give out anywhere from 3,000-6,000 meals a week (throughout the various locations in the city). This is funded through the Board of Education.

We can expand the days and the meals."

Irizarry asked, "Were the workers wearing the proper PPE equipment?"

Carr answered, "Yes."

Irizarry then questioned R-163-5/20 – Purchasing a Channel Monster (Grinder) to replace the existing broken grinder at the Front Street Pump Station in an amount not to exceed \$41,374.02. He inquired if they could redesign the pit of the grinders (so that parts could be bought from more than one vendor).

Petrick responded, "When you buy a particular type of pump, you can't interchange parts."

Luis Perez Jimenez, Director of Operations at the USA-PA (Utility Service Associates (Perth Amboy) Middlesex Water Company) spoke on the teleconference to clarify this resolution. "We can't redesign the channel for another grinder over and over again. It would be too costly."

Council President Petrick then questioned R-164-5/20 – Authorizing a contract with Atlantic Tomorrows Office for the purchase of 4 copiers to go into the police department in total of \$32,218.

Petrick commented, "This is replacing a lot of copiers at one time."

Carr responded, "The replacement parts are no longer available for the old copiers. This is for 4 different offices in the police department. These are different models than what is there now."

Irizarry then questioned the different departments the copiers will be used in (Office of Special Services, Director's Office, 911 Communications, Wrecker Department).

Deputy Police Chief Cattano responded, "The Special Services are: Traffic and Community services."

Petrick then had a question regarding R-167-5/20 – An agreement with Sayrebrook Veterinarian Hospital for Veterinary Services for 2020 in an amount not to exceed \$31,850.

"When will the next clinic be?" Petrick asked

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch answered, "September 13<sup>th</sup>."

Irizarry asked about R-168-5/20 – Authorizing an agreement with Animal Hospital of Perth Amboy for Veterinary Services for 2020 in an amount not to exceed \$11,196.

Irizarry asked why there were two different veterinarians.

City Clerk Kupsch answered, "He (Perth Amboy) is cross trained."

Petrick remarked, "Sometimes one veterinarian has better prices on the same items or services."

Councilman Joel Pabon questioned R-169-5/20 – Agreement between the NJDOT and the City of Perth Amboy for acceptance of a grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the replacement of the Fayette Street Bridge over the NJ Transit North Jersey Coast Line Railroad. "Where exactly are we at regarding this?"

Carr responded, "This is money that we received in January 2019. It's showing that we accepted the money and it's not additional money. We will have to apply for more money."

Councilman Irizarry then asked about the Rte. 35 Bridge Project. "There has been no movement in 2 years."

Carr responded, "We've had no additional updates (from the NJDOT). I can ask City Engineer Jeffrey Rauch (if he has any more information regarding this)."

Irizarry had a question regarding R-170-5/20 – Qualifying public defenders who submitted responses to request the qualifications for CY: 2020."

He asked, "Are they bilingual?"

Petrick answered, "The courts have a translator."

Carr added, "This resolution only shows if they are qualified (for what was on the requisition)."

Petrick asked about R-171-5/20 – Authorizing a contract with Hanan A. Boulas, Esq. to represent the City of Perth Amboy as a public defender for the period beginning May 18, 2020 and ending May 17, 2021 in the amount not to exceed \$23,500.

Petrick asked, "Is this temporary? Because there was another attorney who withdrew their name because there was a conflict of interest."

Petrick wanted to know regarding R-172-5/20 – A payment to Peter J. King, Esq. and the law firm of King Moench Hirniak and Mehta, LLP for legal services rendered in 2019 beyond the regular duties of the Director of Law in an amount not to exceed \$24,480.35.

Petrick asked, "How much is this per hour?" He asked Carr to get a breakdown of what a full-time Law Director's duties are.

Joel Pabon then questioned



**Deputy Police Chief & OEM Coordinator  
Larry Cattano**

R-173-5/20 – Amending R-452-10/19 - A contract with PRAHD – Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program in the amount of \$65,000. A Home Investment Partnership Program from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to include an additional \$198,901 totaling \$263,901 in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Pabon asked, "Is there anybody from PRAHD on the conference line? I want to know what they are getting. We have held people accountable who requested less money than this."

Assistant Housing Manager Tahsi Vazquez spoke up, "This resolution is to modify the Rental Assistance Program. \$2,500 can be given to Perth Amboy residents only. It is to pay back rent or money for displaced residents. We have been audited by HUD in past years. Funds are reallocated for housing for city residents only and funds can only be expended in the city. Those receiving the money have to qualify for certain requirements set by HUD."

The meeting was then open to the public for comments. The only person to speak was Resident and Businessman Jeremy Baratta who questioned the 4 copiers being purchased by the police department (R-164). "Is this purchase necessary? Especially having a copier machine for the Director of Police which is Wilda. People can't share copier machines? And why are we paying for the Veterinarian bills now? (R-167 & R-168). Is it necessary to purchase a grinder right now? (R-163) Regarding the Rental Assistance Program

*\*Continued on Page 2*



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## Legal Bills & Lawsuits of Topics for Discussion 5/13/20 Caucus & Council Meetings via Teleconference

*\*Continued from Page 1*

– What are the qualifications? And why is a representative from PRAHD not here to answer questions? (R-173) Will some of this money go to paying for counselors' salaries, etc.? I'm looking at the Public Defender qualifications. (R-171) Did you (the council) look at their qualifications? Check out her (the public defender's) website. It says she's a realtor. This is ridiculous." Baratta then spoke about R-172. This is outside of his scope of practice (Law Director Peter King). These bills are outrageous if they had to hire an outside counselor."

Law Director King responded, "The tax collector was sued. There were also employment matters involved. Elaine Flynn, the County Clerk was sued because of a technical issue regarding the paper ballots. The decision is up for appeal."

Council President Bill Petrick asked, "Is the city paying for the appeal?"

King continued, "The question (regarding the election rule of 50%+1 votes (requirement to win a seat)) was never put on the absentee ballot. I don't think the appellate division will throw the appeal out. Everything on all the ballots has to be the same information in English and Spanish. The absentee ballots and mail-in ballots were a mess."

Irizarry then spoke up, "There was no reference at all given to us regarding the lawsuit the Mayor filed about the vote-by-mail ballots or the lawsuit involving employee Eddie Perez (City of Perth Amboy vs. Elaine Flynn and Perez vs. The City of Perth Amboy and employee and disciplinary matters)."

Petrick addressed Peter King, "This should be part of your normal duties (lawsuits above)."

King responded, "We have outside lawyers who handle employment issues. There are some lawsuits I can't handle, and others would be a conflict of interest. I took on some of the less costly lawsuits. There is also a grand jury subpoena involving professional services with some contractors."

Next was a question involving the Citizen's Campaign who came to talk to the council regarding tracking COVID-19 cases. Harry Pozycki (Founder of the Citizen's Campaign) requested this be placed on the agenda.

Council President Petrick asked, "Does this resolution have to come from the council? BID Chair Barry Rosengarten, OEM Director Larry Cattano, Housing Director Doug Dzema, and the RBMC CEO Thomas Shanahan are supposed to be working with Pozycki and the Citizen's campaign on this project."

Councilman Helmin Caba spoke up, "I'm in favor of putting this on the agenda for the next council meeting."

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch stated, "It could be done."

Councilman Joel Pabon said, "I thought it would be a late-starter for this council meeting today based on an email I received earlier today."

Caba made a motion to add this as a late-starter resolution for tonight's council meeting. It was seconded by Councilman Joel Pabon.

The caucus ended at 5:47 p.m. The regular council meeting started at 6:00 p.m.

Ordinance No.1 - Amending an ordinance entitled Designating Restricted Parking Spaces for use by handicapped persons re: renewal documentations was opened up for the public to comment on.

Resident and Business Owner Jeremy Baratta questioned what was changed.

Council President William Petrick replied, "Applicants will longer be required to provide some documents that were requested in the past."

Later in the meeting, Baratta questioned some items on the bill list. "Some of the legal bills are strangely detailed, for instance, Larry Cattano's lawsuit has a very brief explanation and the mayor's lawsuit (Question on ballot requiring 50% +1) has no legal standing. It was the council's resolution. The council votes on every settlement. They never voted on this lawsuit. Did they ever get the paperwork? A full-time attorney should not take on work that is out of their scope."

After Baratta spoke, Law Director Peter King clarified some items listed by the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) which presented by the Citizen's Campaign. King cautioned that this resolution regarding the Community Emergency Response Team are out of the council's scope.

Councilman Joel Pabon said, "I think OEM Director Cattano looked at their plan, but it can't supersede what the state says." King continued, "We are guided by the state as events unfold. Resolutions are just the intent of the governing body."

OEM Director and Deputy Police Chief Larry Cattano joined the discussion, "The contact tracing comes from the governor. I don't know if the plan (CERT) is the same as the new executive state order. The state, county, and health department are all involved. There are training updates and the plans that Pozycki's group made at a previous meeting may need tweaking."

Councilman Fernando Irizarry said, "The Law Director needs to review the resolution presented by the Citizen's Campaign group regarding the CERT and this needs to be tabled."

Petrick asked Irizarry, "Do you want it reviewed by the OEM and the Law Director?"

Irizarry answered, "Yes. Let's table this."

Councilman Pabon asked Mr. King, "Did you get a chance to look over it (CERT resolution)?"

King responded, "I need to look over it with OEM."

Pabon then said, "I'll second the motion to table it."

Petrick said, "We can do a letter of support."

When it came to vote, all voted "yes" except for Helmin Caba who voted "no". Councilwoman Milady Tejeda was not present. Motion passes.

Council President made a final comment regarding this issue, "We can't have a conflict with the state's order."

Vote on agenda items: Ordinance No. 1 – Moved by Joel Pabon; seconded by Helmin Caba. Ordinance No. 1 First Reading – Salary and Salary Ranges for Nonunion and Management Em-

ployees was tabled. Ordinance No. 2 – "Wreckers" was moved by Fernando Irizarry; seconded by Helmin Caba. Ordinance No. 3 – Disasters and Emergencies regarding authority of Emergency Management Coordinator was moved by Irizarry; seconded by Pabon. For the consent agenda, resolutions R-158 thru R-171 and R-173 was moved by Irizarry and seconded by Pabon. Councilman Helmin Caba asked that R-172 (Payment to Peter J. King, Esq. and his Partners) be pulled to be voted on separately.

R-172 was moved by Irizarry and seconded by Pabon. Caba then went on to explain why he wanted this resolution pulled. "One reason is the handling of the County Clerk Elaine Flynn lawsuit. Are there any more lawsuits connected with this? If the court ruled against the mayor, will the mayor have to reimburse funds to the city? The lawsuit was filed prior to the election results."

Law Director Peter King responded, "The ballots violated the law and there is an order to show cause. People were marking ballots with the question not on it."

Caba then asked, "How many people complained?"

King stated, "I don't know. Maybe people called the mayor. Copies of all the ballots were looked at."

Caba was concerned, "This will encourage more lawsuits. When is enough enough? We can't separate all the expenses (connected to this)."

Council President Petrick suggested, "We as a council can vote "no" and have a separation of the lawsuits."

King then stated, "We can take out the money connected to this lawsuit or table this resolution to just do this bill alone. You have to vote "no" on this resolution."

Resolution R-172 – Councilman Caba, Council President Petrick voted, "No". Councilman Pabon and Councilman Irizarry voted "Yes". R-172 does not pass.

Last Public Portion:

Jeremy Baratta spoke again, "R-172 went the right way. I recommend maximum public participation. The District Attorney got this case because he could do it at a discount to the city. Money doesn't get spent without the council's vote. There should be a limit to what is spent for attorney's fees."

No one else spoke. The Public Portion was closed.

Council Comments:

Councilman Helmin Caba stated, "My condolences and prayers to all who put their lives at risk."

Councilman Fernando Irizarry had no comments.

Councilman Joel Pabon said, "We need to take a look at the contract (Ordinance No. 1) we tabled."

Council President Petrick said, "I agree with Pabon regarding this Ordinance. I sent an email to all about the budget." He ended his comments by saying, "Stay safe. Stay healthy. Wash your hands and practice social distancing."

The meeting ended at 6:49 p.m. Councilwoman Milady Tejeda was not present at either meeting.



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## Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez Partners with FeedNJ to Deliver Meals to Perth Amboy Residents

### Press Release

PERTH AMBOY – Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez has partnered with FeedNJ to provide hundreds of meals to Perth Amboy residents during COVID-19 outbreak.

FeedNJ, a campaign being run by local non-profit Soup Kitchen 411, kicked-off in mid-April in response to the increased demand at local soup kitchens around the



**Asw. Yvonne Lopez**

state. The goal of the campaign is not only to provide food to local soup kitchens in a time of increased need, but also to help give back to local restaurants, many of whom are facing long-term economic uncertainty due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Assemblywoman Lopez's running mate, Speaker Craig Coughlin, serves as a Co-Chair for the FeedNJ Campaign.

"The unique design of FeedNJ allows the organization to not only help distribute food to residents in need but also provides crucial business to restaurants that are experiencing hardship due to COVID19," said Assemblywoman Lopez. "It was important to me to identify restaurants in my hometown that could help in this endeavor to support nonprofits that are acting as safety nets throughout the pandemic."

"I want to thank Assemblywoman Lopez for being such an instrumental partner in this campaign," said Speaker Coughlin. "When we look around the state, we know Perth Amboy is one of the communities that has been the hardest hit by the COVID-19 outbreak."

Assemblywoman Lopez and FeedNJ identified Torres Café, Mena International and Hatch 44 to provide meals, while the Salvation Army, Hogar Crea and Renovation House have been the nonprofits who have partnered with FeedNJ thus far.

Since the start of this partnership, over 520 meals have been provided and another 1,210 meals are scheduled.

Harry Pozyski, a long-time Perth Amboy resident and founder/current chairman of the Citizens Campaign has stepped in to help fund the program's operations in Perth Amboy.

"I and my family are thankful for the Feed NJ program," said Harry Pozyski, Esq. "This program is helping not only our residents but also supporting our local restaurants. We are honored to play a small part of this effort."

"We need to find creative ways to support vulnerable residents and our small business community and FeedNJ does both," said Assemblywoman Lopez.

Building on the success of FeedNJ in Perth Amboy, Assemblywoman Lopez hopes to continue seeking donations to ensure no Perth Amboy resident goes hungry.

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## Grievance Involving Police Department One of Many Topics of Discussion 5/6/20 Business Meeting via Teleconference

By: Katherine Massopust

**SOUTH AMBOY** – For the first portion of the Business Meeting, there was an intense discussion between the Council, Business Administrator Glenn Skarzynski, Police Chief Darren Lavigne, and Police Officer Brian Noble. Officer Noble had filed a grievance with Business Administrator Glenn Skarzynski. After an hour-long discussion, it was decided that the matter be postponed for two weeks to review any contracts and documents involved, etc.

It was noted that Lavigne, Noble, and Skarzynski had the best interest of the City of South Amboy at heart.

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski stated the CFO can take the steps necessary and that he was happy to see the city get two new fire trucks and one new first aid vehicle.

**Council Comments:**

Councilwoman Zusette Dato said that the bill list had some

expenses and asked what the possibility are they being reimbursed by the state.

B.A. Skarzynski answered, "The CFO and Purchasing Officer have been working shoulder to shoulder to move forward."

Dato stated, "75 Cents on a dollar." She then added, "I want to give a shout out to our emergency personnel and the Friends of South Amboy who raised thousands of dollars for food pantries. They are consistently helping others, distributing food, masks or anyone who helps people. These are tough times right now."

Councilman Thomas Reilly also praised the Friends of South Amboy. "The First Aid, Fire Department, Police Department are doing a great job." Reilly then changed the subject, "Where do we stand on the vaping ordinance?"

Law Director Francis Womack answered, "I've drafted one. I want to make sure what

it's what you are looking for."

Reilly then asked, "The garage on lower First Street – Someone purchased it – I am getting complaints."

B.A. Skarzynski answered, "J. Elliot called me with the property owner."

Council President Mickey Gross added, "The owner had medical issues. We ran into someone who knew him, and we are working on that."

Reilly then asked, "Are we taking precautions with taking temperatures?"

B.A. Skarzynski answered, "We just got thermometers a few days ago. We're looking to getting 100 respirators."

Reilly asked, "What about senior parking behind city hall?"

Skarzynski answered he would look into it.

Law Director Francis Womack said, "We are in litigation with Venetian. That can be covered in a closed session."

Reilly said, "The ownership of

Woodmont is changing hands. Did we do our due diligence?"

Skarzynski said, "The PILOT goes with the property. We have to go through this."

Reilly added, "I think they need to be properly vetted." Reilly then added, "Thank our Ex-Mayor Jack O'Leary – and the first responders in our own town."

Council President Mickey Gross said, "I would like to mention First Presbyterian Church, the Friends of South Amboy, the OEM, JRMC. We postponed the fireworks. It is not in the best interest to do it this year."

Mayor Fred Henry reminded everyone to complete their 2020 Census forms. "I want to thank Middlesex Water Company for donating to the food banks." He thanked all the nurses for National Nurses Appreciation Day." Henry then was annoyed at the Jewish Renaissance Medical Center who gave COV-

ID-19 testing in South Amboy. "The JRMC should have gone through the Mayor's Office and the Superintendent of Schools who were not consulted. It is a good idea, but it should have been approved by my office."

No one spoke during the public portion. Both doors in city hall were checked and no one spoke via phone conference. The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

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Voice Heard!**



LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

A Lasting Remembrance  
For All To See



(Upper Left) Certificate given to the family of Niel J. Lucey. It is one of many memorabilia on display in Woodbridge City Hall (Upper R) Sign in Sayreville honoring a fallen serviceman who was killed in action in WWII. (Above) Niel J. Lucey Display in Woodbridge City Hall. (Below Right) Photo on monument of Sgt. Benjamin Sebban.

With a lot of events being cancelled this year, Memorial Day is usually the first parade to unofficially start the summer season. Because of the current situation most parades have been cancelled.

Whenever I deliver the paper, it always catches my eye when I see street signs honoring those military personnel killed in the line of duty.

Personally, I think if at all possible, that all municipalities should follow suit.

Perth Amboy has Sadowski Parkway named after Sgt. Joseph Sadowski who received the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously. He died trying to save the life of crewman in Europe during World War II. Because of his bravery, the rest of his crew pressed on and defeated the enemy without losing any more of their servicemen.

At the South Amboy Waterfront,



there is a memorial to Army Sgt. Benjamin Sebban. Sebban was a former South Amboy resident who was a medic and killed in Iraq in 2007 while taking care of the wounded.

Many towns have honored their fallen servicemen and women. Let's hope more do the same.

It would be the right thing to do to add the additional signage named after those fallen heroes to let people know of their heroic deeds. *C.M. & K.M.*

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**New ID Card!**  
Ok folks already the W.H.O. (World Health Organization) and this COVID-19 Health Commission by the UN wants to push an international policy. Everyone gets vaccinated from the virus. COVID stands

for (Certificate of Vaccine ID) YES! You might need a COVID-19 ID card to get around. The UK and other countries will do this. Will America go for this policy? And what political party will push this agenda? Yes! They will charge a fee for this

COVID ID card. COVID-19 is becoming a money-making business. Some restaurants are charging a COVID fee. What next for us New Jerseyans? A COVID-19 TAX?  
  
Orlando “Wildman” Perez

**FEAR!**  
Fear! What a concept. If you keep people in fear, you can do almost anything. If it were not for the fear generated by the terrorist attacks on 9-11, the Patriot Act would have never been able to pass, no Homeland Security, no nothing. The American people would not have stood for it. Now we have this COVID-19 thing.

Let's face it, fear sells. Many people want to be afraid, and even seek it out. If this were not true the people in the roller coaster industry would go out of business, as would many of the people in the fun-house, movie industry, and of course the news media.

Yes, the news media! Now if any one industry knows about selling fear, they do. One good thing about this COVID-19 virus pandemic though, (if there

can be anything good at all), is that nothing else is happening around the country, that is if you watch the news. No rapes, murders, fires, shootings, stabbings, or corruption scandals. Just this Corona thing and all things related to it.

Now don't get me wrong, this virus is a serious thing. They closed down Las Vegas and cancelled the Olympics. Just two of the things that were done that would not been done on a whim. These things wouldn't have been done if it weren't serious.

However, I compare this current pandemic to fire. Many, many people are afraid of fire. Yet fire is not to be feared, but it is to be respected. Fire can and will kill you if you do not respect it. It is the same with this virus. You should not fear it, but you had damn well better respect it.

Wear your mask, practice social distancing, and carry hand sanitizer when you go out. Oh, and don't go out unnecessarily. Other than that, there's not much else you can do.

Some people want to hide under their bed during the pandemic I don't, but that's just me.

As a side note, I would like to salute all the first responders, doctors, nurses, and the rest of the people on the front line. The jobs you are doing are above and beyond.

However, you must enjoy the limelight while you can because this too will pass as the pandemic subsides. Remember after 911, how everybody was flying the American flag afterwards. Funny how public opinion changes.

Joe Bayona

City of Perth Amboy Approves Reallocation of \$200,000 in Home Funds to Eligible Residents  
*PRAHD will Administer Funds and Begin Accepting Rental Assistance Applications*

Press Release 5/18/20  
PERTH AMBOY – On Thursday, May 14, 2020, the City of Perth Amboy approved the reallocation of U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development HOME Funds, totaling more than \$200,000 to assist eligible residents with rental support. The Puerto Rican Association for Human Development (PRAHD) will be administering the funds and are now accepting rental assistance applications.

Eligible residents need to comply with the following criteria to receive assistance:

- Individual must be a current Perth Amboy resident
- Proof of citizenship is required
- Individual must be able to document a COVID related hardship (unemployment or letter from employer stating that they were laid off or had a reduction in hours due to COVID).
- Landlord verification of back rent due is required

“During these unprecedented times and uncharted territories, we must all work together to get through this difficult time so we can come out stronger,” said Mayor Wilda Diaz. “I understand that many of our residents have been laid off because their companies were required to close. That is why I have been working alongside my administrative staff to provide critical short-term support since the beginning of March, and most recently, by redirecting grant funds to offer additional tenant-based rental assistance.”

PRAHD is a comprehensive

human services agency that serves thousands of New Jersey residents throughout Middlesex, Union and Hudson counties. The non-profit agency has successfully operated the program for the past eight years, providing rental assistance to eligible Perth Amboy residents.

“PRAHD is honored to partner with the city to administer the rental assistance funds. It is our privilege to serve the community and we are looking forward to continuing our work to make sure the residents of Perth Amboy receive the assistance they need,” said Executive Director, Kim Ruiz.

For the safety of the community and in order to comply with the Governor's stay at home order, PRAHD's offices remain closed to the public. Services continue to be provided remotely. For rental assistance, please call 732-638-2870.

In addition to providing rental assistance to residents, the City of Perth Amboy acknowledges that many landlords and homeowners are also struggling financially, and they should know that there is help being offered to them as well.

On March 19, 2020, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy issued Executive Order 106, which immediately suspended evictions throughout the state. This executive order protects all New Jersey residents from being evicted by their landlords. The Governor also went a step further to provide more protection to tenants struggling financially by signing Exec-

utive Order 128, which will now allow tenants to use their security deposit to pay back rent.

Tenants will not be required to repay their security deposit until the Public Health Emergency Order is lifted or six months after they renew their lease, whichever comes later.

“There is assistance available to landlords and homeowners who are struggling to cover their mortgages, said Tashi Vazquez, assistant director of Perth Amboy's Office of Economic & Community Development.” “New Jersey homeowners with mortgages are currently being offered a forbearance period due to the pandemic. As homeowners and landlords seek aid by mortgage forbearance, I ask that they offer that same assistance to their tenants in a way that follows the Governor's recommendations.”

The City of Perth Amboy will continue to look for ways to assist and support the community with any hardships due to COVID-19, but it is strongly recommended that residents pay their rent this upcoming month if they can. If tenants cannot pay their rent, they must speak to their landlord and ask to use their security deposit for this month. If their financial situation does not improve, they should reach out to PRAHD to apply for tenant-based rental assistance for the upcoming months.

For additional information or to apply for rental assistance, residents are asked to contact PRAHD at (732) 638-2870.

Keep those Letters Coming! We Love to Hear From You! E-mail letters to the editor to amboyguardian@gmail.com or write to the paper at Letters to the Editor, The Amboy Guardian, P.O. Box 0127, Perth Amboy, NJ 08862-0127. Letters must include your full name, address and daytime telephone number or cell phone number for verification. First time letter-writers must be called for verification or your letter will not be published. If you are a public official, please include your title. All letters are subject to editing or rejection. All submissions may be published or distributed by us in print, electronic or other forms. Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the writers and do not represent or reflect the views of the Amboy Guardian.





Where to Find Us . . .

<b>IN FORDS:</b>	
COLONIAL RESTAURANT.....	366 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
LIBERTY BAGEL CAFE.....	326 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
PUBLIC LIBRARY.....	211 FORD AVE.
ROOSEVELT’S DELI .....	684 KING GEORGE’S RD.
SUPER DUPER DELI III .....	650 KING GEORGE’S RD.
<b>IN HOPELAWN:</b>	
KRAUSZER’S.....	683 FLORIDA GROVE RD.
<b>IN LAURENCE HARBOR:</b>	
HOFFMAN’S DELI .....	5 LAURENCE PKWY.
<b>IN MORGAN:</b>	
SOUTHPINE LIQUORS .....	467 S. PINE AVE.
<b>IN PARLIN:</b>	
DAD’S ROYAL BAKERY.....	3290 WASHINGTON RD.
<b>IN PERTH AMBOY:</b>	
1 <sup>ST</sup> CONSTITUTION BANK .....	145 FAYETTE ST.
ADULT CONTINUING EDUCATION CENTER .....	178 BARRACKS ST.
ALAMEDA CENTER .....	303 ELM ST.
AMBOY CHECK X-CHANGE .....	321 MAPLE ST.
ANDERL & OAKLEY PC .....	309 MAPLE ST.
THE BARGE .....	201 FRONT ST.
BAY CITY LAUNDRYMAT.....	738 STATE ST.
C-TOWN .....	272 MAPLE ST.
CEDENO’S PHARMACY .....	400 STATE ST.
CITY HALL .....	260 HIGH ST.
COPA DE ORO .....	306 SMITH ST.
DUNKIN DONUTS .....	587 FAYETTE ST.
EASTSIDE DRY CLEANERS .....	87 SMITH ST.
ELIZABETH CORNER .....	175 HALL AVE.
FAMILY FOOT CARE .....	252 SMITH ST.
FU LIN .....	79 SMITH ST.
HY TAVERN .....	386 HIGH ST.
INVESTOR’S BANK .....	598 STATE ST.
JANKOWSKI COMMUNITY CENTER .....	1 OLIVE ST.
JEWISH RENAISSANCE MEDICAL CENTER .....	272A HOBART ST.
KIM’S DRY CLEANERS .....	73 SMITH ST.
LAW OFFICES .....	708 CARSON AVE.
LEE’S MARKET .....	77 SMITH ST.
LUDWIG’S PHARMACY .....	75 BRACE AVE.
MITRUSKA CHIROPRACTIC .....	788 CONVERY BLVD.
PETRA BEST REALTY.....	329 SMITH ST.
PETRICK’S FLOWERS .....	710 PFEIFFER BLVD.
POLICE HEADQUARTERS .....	365 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
PORTUGUESE MANOR .....	310 ELM ST.
PROVIDENT BANK .....	339 STATE ST.
PUBLIC LIBRARY .....	196 JEFFERSON ST.
PUERTO RICAN ASSOCIATION .....	100 FIRST ST.
QUICK CHEK .....	853 CONVERY BLVD.
QUICK STOP DELI .....	814 AMBOY AVE.
QUISQUEYA MARKET .....	249 MADISON AVE.
QUISQUEYA LUNCHEONETTE .....	259 MADISON AVE.
RARITAN BAY AREA Y.M.C.A. ....	365 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
RARITAN BAY MEDICAL CENTER .....	530 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
SANTANDER BANK .....	365 CONVERY BLVD.
SANTIBANA TRAVEL .....	362 STATE ST.
SCIORTINO’S RESTAURANT .....	473 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
SHOP-RITE .....	365 CONVERY BLVD.
SIPOS BAKERY .....	365 SMITH ST.
SUPERIOR DINER.....	464 SMITH ST.
SUPREMO SUPERMARKET .....	270 KING ST.
TORRES MINI MARKET .....	403 BRUCK AVE.
TOWN DRUGS & SURGICAL .....	238 SMITH ST.
WELLS FARGO .....	214 SMITH ST.
ZPA .....	281 GRACE ST.
<b>IN SAYREVILLE:</b>	
BOROUGH HALL .....	167 MAIN ST.
SENIOR CENTER .....	423 MAIN ST.
SUNNYSIDE RESTAURANT .....	111 MAIN ST.
<b>IN SEWAREN:</b>	
PUBLIC LIBRARY .....	546 WEST AVE.
SEWAREN CORNER DELI .....	514 WEST AVE.
<b>IN SOUTH AMBOY:</b>	
AMBOY NATIONAL BANK .....	100 N. BROADWAY
BROADWAY BAGELS .....	105 S. BROADWAY
BROADWAY DINER .....	126 N. BROADWAY
CITY HALL .....	140 N. BROADWAY
COMMUNITY CENTER .....	200 O’LEARY BLVD.
KRAUSZER’S .....	200 N. BROADWAY
KRAUSZER’S .....	717 BORDENTOWN AVE.
PUBLIC LIBRARY .....	100 HOFFMAN PLAZA
SCIORTINO’S HARBOR LIGHTS .....	132 S. BROADWAY
SOUTH AMBOY MEDICAL CENTER.....	540 BORDENTOWN AVE.
WELLS FARGO BANK.....	116 N. BROADWAY
<b>IN WOODBRIDGE:</b>	
CITY HALL .....	1 MAIN ST.
MAIN ST. FARM .....	107 MAIN ST.
NEWS & TREATS .....	99 MAIN ST.
ST. JOSEPH’S SENIORS RESIDENCE .....	1 ST. JOSEPH’S TERR.

**Important!**

Always call ahead of time to make sure any event you intend to attend will take place.

The Amboy Guardian will only put a cancellation notice in if we receive notice from the organizer of the event.

**2020**

**Amboy Guardian**

**Publication Dates**

January 15

February 5

February 19

March 4

March 18

April 1

April 15

May 6

**May 20**

June 3

June 17

July 1

July 15

August 5

August 19

September 2

September 16

October 7

October 21

November 4

November 18

December 2

December 16

**Community Calendar**

**Perth Amboy**

WED. May 27      City Council, Caucus, 4:15 p.m.  
City Hall, High St.

•      City Council, Regular, (after Caucus)  
City Hall, High St.

**South Amboy**

WED. May 20      City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.  
City Hall, N. Broadway

WED. Jun. 3      City Council, Business, 6 p.m.  
City Hall, N. Broadway

*All meetings are subject to change. Check the City Website to see if the meeting will take place via phone conference and for details how to participate*

*\*Check our website [www.amboyguardian.com](http://www.amboyguardian.com) for updates on meeting times and places*

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**5/21 - HUD Annual Action Plan Public Hearing**

Below please find the Zoom Information and documents for the HUD Annual Action Plan Public Hearing on Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 5:30PM.

**Join Zoom Meeting**  
**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86819184193>**

**Meeting ID: 868 1918 4193**  
**One tap mobile**  
**+16465588656,,86819184193# US (New York)**

**Dial by your location**  
**+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)**

**Please Submit Your Events**  
**to [AmboyGuardian@gmail.com](mailto:AmboyGuardian@gmail.com)**

**Executive Order 130**

*Property Taxes Grace Period Extension - June 1, 2020*

NEW JERSEY - On April 28, 2020, Governor Phil Murphy issued Executive Order 130 authorizing local units to extend the second property tax payment installment grace period through June 1, 2020.

For some taxpayers, the ongoing COVID-19 related economic disruption is making it difficult to meet the May 1, 2020 due date for timely payment of real property taxes. Under N.J.S.A. 54:4-67(a), local governments may fix the rate of interest to be charged for the nonpayment of taxes, assessments, or other municipal liens or charges, on or before the date when they would become delinquent, and may provide that no interest shall be charged if payment of any installment is made within the tenth calendar day following the date upon which the same became delinquent, thereby establishing a grace period running through May 11, 2020 for second-quarter property taxes in the case of municipalities on a calendar year budget cycle, or, in the case of municipalities on a State Fiscal Year budget cycle, a grace period running through May 11, 2020 for fourth-quarter property taxes.

Executive Order 130 grants municipalities the authority to extend the ten-day grace period for property tax payments due May 1st through June 1st. This will allow property owners in towns that opt to take advantage of the Order to pay their May 1st property tax installments by no later than June 1st without incurring penalty or interest. Extension of the grace period must be effectuated prior to the expiration of the existing grace period, meaning on or before May 11, 2020. Public notice must be provided, but individual taxpayer notice is not required.

Please be aware that no extension of the deadline for levy payments to the county or school districts has been authorized, and any State Fiscal Year municipality would be unable to hold an accelerated tax sale for the fourth quarter due to the extended grace period expiring after the date upon which initial notice of the accelerated tax sale must be provided, so cash position should be a relevant factor in any local unit’s decision whether to authorize a grace period extension for this quarter.

Any municipality that ultimately determines to authorize a grace period extension under Executive Order 130 shall notify the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs by providing a copy of the establishing resolution not later than the third business day next following the municipal governing body's adoption of the resolution.

Prior to the enactment of Executive Order 130, some municipalities have unilaterally undertaken a variety of actions absent statutory authorization to do so, including extending the statutory property tax payment installment date and grace period, as well as attempting to establish an effective grace period extension through temporary alteration of the interest rate. However well-intentioned, these extraordinary measures by municipalities create inconsistency throughout the State, which may generate individual confusion regarding property tax payment obligations and may also create or exacerbate local fiscal challenges, including but not limited to, threatening the ability to fulfill obligations. Therefore, in accordance with Executive Order 130, no municipality, county, or any agency or political subdivision of this State shall enact or enforce any order, rule, regulation, ordinance, or resolution which will or might in any way conflict with any of the provisions of Executive Order 130.

**Deadline for Print Ads:**

**7 p.m. Thursday**

**Office Hours:**

**Mon. - Wed. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

**Thurs. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.**

**Fri. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**The Barge**

**Restaurant**

wishes everyone to stay healthy.

We look forward to serving you in the future.

**Safety Announcement From Mayor Wilda Diaz**

**Regarding the Recent Incidents in NYC and NJ**

We are taking safety precautions in the City of Perth Amboy, emphasize that it is important:

**IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!!**

Report Suspicious Activity - Be Vigilant - **STAY ALERT!**

Do not think that any call or report is too small

Don’t allow the actions of a few dictate your quality of life

**FOR ALL EMERGENCIES, DIAL: 9-1-1**

**FOR ALL NON-EMERGENCIES, DIAL: 732-442-4400**



# Public Meeting on Special Resolution 5/7/20 Special Council Meeting via Phone Conference

By: Carolyn Maxwell  
PERTH AMBOY – R-157-5/20  
– Authorizing extending the grace period for second quarter 2020 taxes.

Just before the meeting started Tax Accessor Nancy Martin said, “Over 6,000 accounts were paid of the 9,017 on the tax records.”

The public was allowed to speak first. The only person to speak was Resident Jeremy Baratta. He was concerned because this special meeting was not publicized. “If it was posted on the bulletin board in city hall, there is no access to the building. These meetings need to be posted on the city website with a link.”

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch responded, “The meeting was posted on the city website with a link to the zoom App.”

Councilman Fernando Irizarry also reminded the public, “This resolution is according to what the Governor requested that the municipalities do.”

Business Administrator Frederick Carr then read the entire resolution presented to the municipalities from the Governor's Office.

Councilman Fernando Irizarry moved the resolution. Councilman Helmin Caba seconded it. Everyone voted “yes”. Resolution passes.

Public Portion:

Resident Jeremy Baratta spoke again. “The Governor gave the extension for the second quarter of paying 2020 to June 16<sup>th</sup>.”

Carr responded, “For the (property) taxes, the grace period is 20 days. The 30-day grace period was for wearing masks.”

The public portion was closed. Council Comments:

Councilman Helmin Caba sent his condolences to all who lost a loved one to COVID-19. He then had a question about the location of the COVID-19 testing centers.

Council President Petrick responded, “They originally were supposed to be located on outer State Street and near the Buckeye properties.”

B.A. Carr responded, “These two areas were supposed to be the original sites, but they are private property. The marina property which the test location was moved to, is owned by the city, and we have insurance there.”

Caba continued, “We need to start sanitizing all the testing areas since other cities and counties do that. Our numbers are out of control. I know we do more testing, but we need to do a lot more sanitizing of our test sites. Could it be maybe we have a money issue? We should look into having hazardous pay for some of our city employees such as the police, EMTs, firefighters.”

Petrick wanted to know, “How much do you suggest?”

Caba said, “They are putting their lives at risk.”

Petrick responded, “They do that all the time as part of their jobs.”

Law Director Peter King who was listening to the meeting said, “This can be put as a part of the next agenda.”

Petrick responded, “This meeting taking place now is not a regular meeting.”

Councilman Irizarry also expressed his condolences to all who lost a loved one, “We are praying for you. I want to thank everyone who does any type of service to the city.”

Councilman Joel Pabon wanted to thank the police department who installed an essential camera at the waterfront to make sure people were doing social distancing. He thanked the Department of Public Works for keeping the city clean and the garden club who is still out there working on the city gardens. “It is important to use social media to spread the word of the importance of social distancing. Keep praying and stay safe.”

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda thanked all who prayed for her family (on the recent passing of her father). “It was a difficult for me, but I know it was worse for others, and I pray for them. I want to thank the nurses for their compassion for my father and my family. (It was National Nurses Week). I want to thank all the city employees for a job well done.”

Council President William Petrick commented, “People have called me with concerns about the bodegas and how to keep our citizens safe. We need to use the health department to reach out to the bodega owners in a better timeframe.”

B.A. Carr responded, “The police have reached out to the bodegas. Two beauty salons were open and not paying attention to the laws about essential services. The waterfront is open, but not the playgrounds. The fishing pier is open with signage stating: “Stay 6 feet apart.”

Petrick spoke again, "The Health Department has more contact with the stores. We (the council) want to be put on the front page of the website. Also on that page, put up the meeting information, the agenda with the backup material and all the content, instead of people having to navigate to the third page. We should defund the website if we can't be identified quicker. I am not in favor of another public relations company being hired. Everyone: stay safe.”

The meeting was over at 5:28 p.m. All council members were present.

See Governor Phil Murphy Executive Order#130 on page 5.

Attend Public  
Meetings  
Have Your  
Voice Heard!

# Middlesex County Students Recognized in PDFNJ Statewide Fourth Grade Folder Contest

Press Release 5/13/20  
MILLBURN, NJ — More than 3,400 fourth grade students from across New Jersey showed off their artistic skill as part of the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey's Design a Fourth Grade Folder contest this year, but only 28 earned recognition at the program award ceremony held virtually on Tuesday, May 12th. To view the presentation please visit: <http://www.drug-free-nj.org/2020online/>

Four of this year's finalists are from Middlesex County. Madison Santiago of James McDivitt Elementary School in Old Bridge, Mia Joo of Perth Amboy Catholic School in Perth Amboy, and Lisa Tooley and Kaylin Milius of Alan B. Shepard Elementary School in Old Bridge were selected as finalists in the competition. All 28 fourth grade student finalists will receive medals for their creative peer-to-peer substance use prevention artwork following the theme “Fun Things to Do Instead of Drugs.”

“These young students should be commended not only for their hard work and artistic ability, but also for their strong drug-free and healthy-lifestyle messages they have delivered to their peers,” said Angelo Valente, Executive Director of the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey. “We are so glad that we were able to host this virtual ceremony to recognize their achievements.”

“The Fourth Grade Folder contest is an effective way to engage students and educate them to make healthy lifestyle choices for their future,” said



Kaylin Milius



Madison Santiago



Lisa Tooley



Mia Joo

Valente. “Early prevention efforts are vital to instilling the importance of substance abuse prevention and leading a drug-free healthy lifestyle.”

Best known for its statewide substance use prevention advertising campaign, the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey is a private not-for-profit coalition of professionals from the communications, corporate and government communities whose collective mission is to reduce demand for illicit drugs

in New Jersey through media communication. To date, more than \$100 million in broadcast time and print space has been donated to the Partnership's New Jersey campaign, making it the largest public service advertising campaign in New Jersey's history. Since its inception the Partnership has garnered 174 advertising and public relations awards from national, regional and statewide media organizations.



# Raising \$100,000 to Purchase Food for Perth Amboy's Families in Need Donations Needed Today, Cupboards are Empty in Too Many Households

Press Release 5/12/20  
PERTH AMBOY – Many families in Perth Amboy are facing shortages of food and basic necessities. Each day, the city's residents are gathering on ever-longer lines as they seek supplies at local food pantries, houses of worship and feeding programs. The daily demand is far greater than the supply of donated food.

A private and public alliance has emerged in Perth Amboy, and its mission to rapidly raise \$100,000 to purchase and contribute food and essential items to households. CPA COVID-19-HELP for Perth Amboy was formed immediately after the City of Perth Amboy and the Celebrate Our Stars & Stripes committee canceled the annual fireworks event that marks America's Independence Day.

Perth Amboy Mayor Wilda Diaz and Barry Rosengarten, chairman of Celebrate our Stars & Stripes, are asking companies that helped sponsor the

fireworks display to donate those sponsorship funds to the not-for-profit CPA COVID-19-HELP for Perth Amboy organization, which is accepting contributions from all donors. In introducing the CPA COVID-19-HELP for Perth Amboy, Mayor Diaz said, “We are raising funds to aid families who are running out of food and are without resources to feed their households. Food scarcity is a reality for too many in our community. Our mission is to continue to support our neighbors during this healthcare and economic crisis, which has placed the biggest burden on our city's most vulnerable families.”

Families that need food deliveries may contact Mayor Diaz's office at 732-826-7121 or by sending an email to [mayorsoffice@perthamboynj.org](mailto:mayorsoffice@perthamboynj.org).

Caring companies, individuals, and organizations are asked to make their contributions today. Donors may contribute online by going to CPA COV-

ID-19-HELP for Perth Amboy website.

Contributions may also be mailed to CPA COVID-19-HELP, 211 Front Street, P.O. Box 999, Perth Amboy, N.J. 08862. Please make checks payable to CPA COVID-19 HELP.

Mr. Rosengarten said, “People are in dire straits, and they need our help, now! We are counting on your generous contributions. Your rapid response will make a difference for families that are going hungry, getting by on just one or two meals a day.”

All donated funds will be used to purchase food. CPA COVID-19-HELP for Perth Amboy is also receiving donations from food companies, supermarkets and local markets. The city's Department of Social Services is storing cartons and cases of food, and the staff is delivering the supplies to needy households. Director of Human Services Kenny Ortiz and the department's team are organizing the logistics and deliveries.



# CELEBRATING MEMORIAL DAY



## MEMORIAL DAY

On this Memorial Day, let us not forget the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedom. May we always remember them with gratitude and honor them as heroes.



Thank you to all servicemen and women, both past and present for your service.

Honorable Wilda Diaz, Mayor

Council President William A. Petrick

Council Members

Helmin J. Caba

Fernando Irizarry

Joel Pabon, Sr.

Milady Tejeda



CELEBRATING MEMORIAL DAY



Ana Maria Zevallos/Skrocki  
**HOME for FUNERALS**  
732-826-1321  
469 State Street-Perth Amboy



Ana M. Zevallos  
Senior Director  
N.J. License # 4192

During Your Time of Need.....

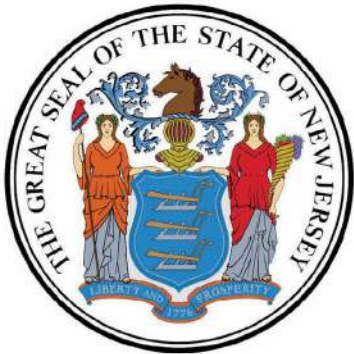
- Traditional Funerals
- Cremation Services
- Pre-Planned Funeral Services
- Shipment to Foreign Locations
- Public Assistance Accepted

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*On This Memorial Day Remember  
Our Fallen Herors*



On Memorial Day and everyday,  
a grateful nation remembers.



Senator Joseph F. Vitale  
Speaker Craig J. Coughlin  
Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez

Jointly paid for and authorized by the Election Funds of  
Joseph F. Vitale, Craig J. Coughlin and Yvonne Lopez.

LET US NOT FORGET  
OUR FALLEN HEROES  
ON THIS  
MEMORIAL DAY



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& Associates, LLC**  
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- FUNGUS NAILS

- HAMMERTOES
- HEEL PAIN
- INGROWN TOENAILS
- ULCERS/FOOT WOUNDS
- WARTS

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**COME RELAX IN OUR WHIRLPOOL !**

Se Habla Espanol  
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**- 2020 -**

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We want to express our gratitude to every member of the armed forces who have fought for our country and those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, as we mark Memorial Day 2020 in the historic City of Perth Amboy. Together, we remember those who courageously gave their lives.

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*World War II - 75 Years Ago*

*By Phil Kohn. Dedicated to the memory of his father, GM3 Walter Kohn, U.S. Navy Armed Guard, USNR, and all men and women who have answered the country's call in time of need. Phil can be contacted at ww2remembered@yahoo.com.*

On Okinawa, the U.S. 6th Marine Division, part of the U.S. Tenth Army (a joint Army-Marine command), on May 18, 1945, captures most of Sugar Loaf Hill, on the south of the island, after days of bitter fighting. In China, Chinese troops reoccupy Foochow, in Fukien Province. In Germany, Grand Adm. Karl Dönitz, president of the Third Reich, striving to distance the military from Nazi atrocities, issues an "Order of the Day" to German troops expressing horror at revelations concerning Nazi concentration camps.

French troops arrive in Syria on May 19. Arab nationalists launch protest demonstrations against the landings there and in Lebanon. In Flensburg, Germany, about 4 miles from the Danish border, Alfred Rosenberg, formulator of ideological policies for the Nazi Party — including its racial theory, persecution of Jews and others, and abrogation of the Treaty of Versailles — is arrested. The Australian 26th Brigade Group ends the Japanese occupation of the Tarakan oil fields in the Dutch East Indies.

On May 20, on Okinawa, American troops — using flamethrowers and hollow-charge weapons — battle Japanese defenders in caves, hollows and interlocking tunnels between positions.

The Japanese on Okinawa on May 21 begin the evacuation of Shuri, the center of their defenses. Their losses so far are estimated at 48,000 killed out of a garrison of 85,000. Former *Reichsführer*-SS Heinrich Himmler (in disguise as a *Wehrmacht* sergeant) is arrested at a British Second Army checkpoint at Bremervörde, in northwestern Germany. Hermann Göring, former *Reichsmarschall* of the *Luftwaffe*, is transferred from a prisoner-of-war camp in Augsburg, Germany, to the Palace Hotel in Mondorf-les-Bains, Luxembourg, where he joins other senior Nazi officials awaiting Allied interrogation. (Göring, under a death warrant issued by Hitler's deputy, Martin Bormann, had surrendered on May 6 to elements of the U.S. Army's 36th Infantry Division at Radstadt, Austria, about 43 miles southeast of Salzburg.) A unit of the *Armia Krajowa* (Polish Home Army) raids the Soviet NKVD (secret police) prison camp at Rembertów, in the eastern suburbs of Warsaw and frees over 500 Polish political prisoners being held there. In London, the Labour Party decides to withdraw its support from Winston Churchill's coalition government, forcing a national election.

Units of the U.S. 6th Marine Division reach the outer suburbs of Naha, the capital of Okinawa, on May 22. The British government announces that domestic rations of bacon, cooking fats and soap are to be cut further — British supplies will be shared with liberated European countries. In Washington, D.C., President Truman reports to Congress on the Lend-Lease Program: Up to March 1945, the United Kingdom has received supplies worth almost \$12.8 billion, and the Soviet Union almost \$8.5 billion. Reverse Lend-Lease to the U.S., mostly from the U.K., has been worth \$5 billion.

In the heaviest air raid so far on the Japanese homeland, USAAF bombers on May 23 drop 4,500 tons of incendiaries on Tokyo. Almost 21% of the capital city is now burned out, but the firebombing continues for four more days. American planes also heavily bomb Yokohama, a major port and naval base. In Europe, the Allies arrest all members of the Dönitz government and the remnants of the German High Command at Flensburg, in far northern Germany near the Danish border. Heinrich Himmler commits suicide while being interrogated at British Second Army headquarters at Lüneburg Heath by biting down on a cyanide capsule hidden in his mouth. At the request of King George VI, Winston Churchill resigns as the United Kingdom's prime minister and forms a "caretaker government" until national elections take place on July 5. Strikes and rioting continue in Lebanon and Syria; both governments — already recognized as independent by the U.S., the U.K., and the U.S.S.R. — pledge to resist the presence of French troops within their borders.

On Okinawa, on the night of May 24, 12 Japanese commandos survive the crash landing of their transport plane on American-held Yontan airfield. (Four other transport planes carrying 56 more commandos are shot down either by U.S. fighter planes or anti-aircraft fire.) Being merely harassed by wild gunfire from panicked pilots and ground crewmen not used to being in a firefight, the dozen Japanese succeed in igniting a fuel depot containing 70,000 gallons of aviation gasoline, destroying nine aircraft and severely damaging 26 others before being wiped out by a U.S. Marine infantry unit that arrives at dawn the next morning. In New Guinea, Australian troops surround Wewak. Among the Allies, an exchange of Soviet prisoners of war for U.S. and British POWs begins at pre-arranged points in Germany. Over Japan, 550 U.S. bombers drop 4,500 tons of incendiary bombs on Tokyo. German Field Marshal Robert Ritter von Greim, the last commandant of the *Luftwaffe*, commits suicide in a Salzburg, Austria, prison.

On May 25, the U.S. Joint Chiefs complete the plan for "Operation Olympic," which sets the date to invade the Japanese mainland as no later than November 1, 1945. American B-29 bombers drop 3,000 tons of incendiaries on Tokyo, starting a firestorm that engulfs almost 17 square miles of the city, killing over 1,000 people. Flames reach the Imperial Palace, the residence of the emperor.

In Europe, Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces is transferred from Reims, France, to Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany, on May 26. Over Japan, 500 U.S. bombers drop yet another 4,000 tons of incendiaries on Tokyo.

Chinese troops on May 27 occupy Nanning, the capital of Kwanghsi Province in south China, cutting the main Japanese supply route from French Indochina, Thailand, Malaya and Burma, leaving some 200,000 troops of the Imperial Japanese Army stranded.

Widespread fighting breaks out between French troops and locals in Syria on May 28. The headquarters of the British Twelfth Army is set up in Rangoon, Burma. In Flensburg, Germany, near the Danish border, William Joyce ("Lord Haw-Haw") is captured. The American-born, British fascist is later charged with high treason in London for his English-language wartime propaganda broadcasts for the Nazis on German radio.

Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces reports on May 29 that there are an estimated 4.25 million displaced persons in the Anglo-American area of occupation. In the Middle East, fighting between Syrians and the French escalates, and French forces bombard Damascus. Negotiations between the sides begin at the urging of the British. The result of the talks is that French troops will depart Syria by April 1, 1946. Over 450 B-29 bombers of the U.S. 20th Air Force drop 2,570 tons of bombs on Yokohama, Japan, destroying 85% of the city.

On Okinawa, American forces are south of the former Japanese positions at Shuri on May 30. Two battalions of U.S. Marines reach the edge of Naha, the island's capital. The government of Iran demands that, since the war in Europe is over, all American, British and Soviet troops leave the country. French troops take over the Syrian parliament building in Damascus. In Lebanon, the government asks for volunteers to fight the French.

U.S. military intelligence determines on May 31 that Osaka, Japan, has been mostly burned out by incendiary bombs. Organized Japanese resistance ends on Negros Island, the Philippines. In China, Chiang Kai-shek resigns as the nation's premier but retains the offices of president and generalissimo of the Chinese military. Winston Churchill warns French president Charles de Gaulle that British troops have been ordered to actively intervene in the Levant (Syria, Lebanon and Iraq) to end bloodshed and to protect Allied supply lines to the Pacific. A general cease-fire for the region is arranged, and French troops are ordered into their barracks. As fighting in Damascus between the French and Syrians quiets, the death toll stands at over 2,000 civilians. The Norwegian government arrives in Oslo after five years of exile in London. In the British capital, the United Nations War Crimes Commission meets. Sixteen nations are represented; over 4,000 individuals are charged with committing war crimes.



# N.J.S.A. Science Test Scores, 2020-2021 School Budget Passed, Dianne Roman Appointed to Board 5/7/20 Board of Education Meeting

By: Katherine Massopust  
PERTH AMBOY – The 5/7/20 Board of Education Meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m. via Zoom conferencing.

A presentation on the N.J. State Assessment Science Test Results for the 2018-2019 School Year was given by Dr. Vivian C. Rodriguez, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction.

Dr. Rodriguez stated, “At the lowest level, our children are not meeting the expectations they should be meeting. We have a lot of work to do in the area.” She stated for the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade to 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, the students did a little better.” Rodriguez explained that the exam is a new test and the district is changing a lot of things.

Rodriguez cited the recommendations for the district: “We have a lot of work to do if we are to meet the standards of the N.J.S.A. in Science. Our benchmarks are too different. We require a new school referendum of this exam.” She then added that it is necessary to increase development. “We need to amplify our new online system. We have it at Middle School and at Elementary levels. We need to bridge the gap between 8th Grade and 9<sup>th</sup> Grade and are working on scheduling. We need to implement a model learning system. We are in unchartered waters on how we are moving forward in lieu of the pandemic. I find it is for us. We will look at every single fact that we are now facing in education along with making the final state assessment.”

Rodriguez then added, “We have been designated as a Light-house District on improvement in this district.”

Board Vice President Junior Iglesia asked, “Looking at the data, most children in the district are below meeting grade level standards. How early do we start preparing students for specializing the curriculum and content? How are we doing with current curriculum we have in place in the classroom?”

Dr. Vivian Rodriguez answered, “Our benchmark curriculum has new standards in it. In the elementary schools, there are 180 days of school and 6 hours where there comes a million things. When you look at time for instruction, there is not so much. There is a double block of literacy, math, social science, art... We do our best to include science, but it does not have prime time. Science/social science does not have the amount of time required. It is more challenging based on schedule. We should be doing much better. That’s our challenge.”

Superintendent Dr. David Roman added, “In addition, our children have to deal with a language barrier. How do we supplement texts? It’s a little more difficult - The ultimate goal, we will. We were progressing upward. We will again. Addressing issues not just in science. I’ve had this conversation with the state.”

The next presentation was given by Dr. David Roman and Board Secretary Derek Jess who gave a Public Hearing for the proposed 2020-2021 Budget. Jess began, “The school

year goes from July 1, 2020 thru June 31, 2021. The Budget Reserve for next year requires no increase in local property taxes. The payment of bonds and debts were completed this year. During the current fiscal year, we paid off all our debt. For the first time in 40 years, we are debt free. There are no taxes under out debt services. There is no increase in taxes in the BOE side in the next school year. State aid – what we receive from the Department of Education and the State of New Jersey there is an increase of \$7.6 million in state aid which stems from being a former Abbott District and below adequacy, our state aid has increased. There are no debt services and there is a decrease of \$672,000. For Federal Aid – Title 1 IDBA is slight increase up \$2,000. There is in \$2,040,000 federal purposes. The Capital Reserve money is utilized for the district to do projects including renovation. We can withdraw that money for projects, being a former Abbott District funding of schools. For capital projects, we can replace HVAC for a better atmosphere for our schools.”

Dr. Roman added, “We are entering the second year of the Health Science Academy with a zero-dropout rate. Scores do not define our children.”

Dr. Vivian Rodriguez said, “I’m proud of this expansion for health sciences for the next year.”

Dr. David Roman stated, “Kean University helped us put this tough curriculum together and got it fast-tracked. These students are the next doctor or veterinarian or in the health field.”

Dr. Vivian Rodriguez added, “We are going to produce the next generation of scientists. I am now proud of two academies we decided to embark on: Communications and Health. If we had a magic wand, we could not have done any better.”

Board Secretary Derek Jess continued, “Curriculum drives the budget. With new HVAC, students have an environmental condition conducive to learning.” Jess commented that the state has not increased funding since the 2008-2009 school year for PreK. “There is a slight cost. They have to fund Pre-K from local reserve money. Perth Amboy does not.”

The total budget for the 2020-2021 school year is \$291,352,612.

Board President Tashi Vazquez thanked the finance committee. “To bring the debt down to zero.”

Board Vice President Junior Iglesia stated, “If you look at our budget, at the end of the school year, we end up with a surplus. The increase of added funding is due to a few factors. We served 14,356 students. This year will be 10,917 students. We are serving less students and providing more money. We should provide the quality of education we deserve. Thank you for keeping our district strong.”

Dr. David Roman added, “We’ve had these conversations. We are learning this process and have allocated funding. We have given out 154,000 meals as of yet to students. We’re looking at that. We’re diligent not

to exceed our budget for our emergency services in any way, shape, or form.”

Board Secretary Jess stated, “Because of the pandemic, we’re in a state of emergency. Because FEMA is now involved, we will make sure what amount of funding is expected to be refunded by FEMA.”

Board President Vazquez stated, “It’s between 70%-75%.”

The third portion of the meeting was the interview of two candidates to replace Board Member Anton Massopust who recently passed away. The two candidates were Dianne Roman and R.L. Anderson. First, each candidate gave an opening statement, then 5 questions were asked by Board Members and then each candidate was to give a closing statement.

**Dianne Roman:**

**Dianne Roman Opening Statement:** Before being considered to fill the seat of Mr. Massopust, I sat next to Mr. Mass when I was on the Board. I come before you to seek your appointment. My years on the board were between 2011-2014. As a former Board Member, I understand the responsibility of Board Members. I was the Chair of the Curriculum Committee. I’ve devoted my professional career to the young and the young at heart. I never lost sight of my responsibility. I value education and the power it has. I believe my previous experience on the Board will help us during this crisis.

**Lisette Lebron:** Where do you think your strengths and weaknesses will fit in this current Board?

**Dianne Roman:** I am a team player and am about the bigger picture. I am committed. I am very invested. Things don’t always happen as fast as you want them to and I understand the process.

**Maria Rodriguez:** Recently there has been approval to incorporate LGBTQ into the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade thru High School 2020-2021 curriculum. What are your views on the LGBTQ curriculum?

**Dianne Roman:** This is an ever-changing world. There will always be new curriculum. There is a learning opportunity and we are creating every day to empower our young people.

**Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe:** In your opinion what is the best thing the district has done with in the past year, one thing you would improve and one thing you would eliminate or completely change?

**Dianne Roman:** Best - The Health and Science Academy – It’s exciting to see 16-year-olds take blood pressure and become EMT’s. It looks good in the college application. Improve - changes in our elementary level – really evaluate certain roles of the Board and certain roles in administration. Be part of the team that moves to make progress. I do not see anything to change without analyzing the current program.

**Ken Puccio:** Based on the current pandemic, and what is going on in the city, how would you lend your talents to help the situation?

**Dianne Roman:** I would help coordinate food distribution. Currently I am helping food banks in Middlesex County So-

cial Services.

**Dr. Danielle Brown:** The Perth Amboy Board of Education is comprised of 9 members who work collectively to serve people and the schools of this district. Could you share one professional or personal experience where you had work as a team to reach a goal where you may have differed in opinion from the group, and what was the outcome?

**Dianne Roman:** As a former Board of Education Member, there were plenty of times we had differences of opinions. I always tried to maintain my true beliefs and lead by example. Many issues are different. We may have differences of opinion. At the end of the day there were many times my opinions weren’t accepted and we have to move on.

**Dianne Roman Closing Statement:** Thank you. I continue to serve young people in the city. I could not – not be involved. I believe in public school education. Our scholars breathe life into the building. In recent months there are challenges due to the pandemic. Together we will get through this.

**R.L. Anderson:**

**R.L. Anderson Opening Statement:** I see this as the next evolution, the next change of my 47 years of my career serving the school system. I believe I have something to offer. I’ve graduated from PAHS. I have spent 47 years teaching math, 19 ½ years as an Administrator Vice-Principal on every level K-12. I think I am at the point I want to continue what I’ve done and serve on the current Board of Education.

**Lisette Lebron:** Where do you think your strengths and weaknesses fit in with the current Board?

**R.L. Anderson:** I think experience in all (is a strength). Weakness – I’m not too familiar with all the operations of the Board. If I am appointed, I will work to be up on those areas.

**Maria Rodriguez:** Recently there has been approval to incorporate LGBTQ into the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade thru High School 2020-2021 curriculum. What are your views on the LGBTQ curriculum?

**R.L. Anderson:** I haven’t seen the curriculum. We included Amistad and the Holocaust into the curriculum. It’s part of national and state curriculum. I think it is a good idea.

**Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe:** In your opinion what is the best thing the district has done with in the past year, one thing you would improve and one thing you would eliminate or completely change?

**R.L. Anderson:** My biggest strength is writing a program for our children. One area of weakness – the students used to do well with math. We now have a strength in language. Now, stress on math. We have to bolster our math scores. Nationally – our students are extremely competitive. We need to strengthen our math program. We need to improve math.

**Ken Puccio:** Based on the current pandemic situation, how will you lend your talents to help the community?

**R.L. Anderson:** It’s difficult to learn when you don’t have ma-

terials at home. I operate with the Perth Amboy Fire Department and try to get the word out to the community. I work with the city as part of the OEM. It’s important to test not only who has the virus and but also antibody testing.

**Dr. Danielle Brown:** The Perth Amboy Board of Education is comprised of 9 members who work collectively to serve people and the schools of this district. Could you share one professional or personal experience where you had work as a team to reach a goal where you may have differed in opinion from the group, and what was the outcome?

**R.L. Anderson:** I was at Columbia University where there was an effective writing program. At first, I was hesitant, after a week of collaboration, I became very vested in the program. It worked.

**R.L. Anderson Closing Statement:** My goal is to support the objectives and goals of the Board and the Superintendent of Schools and serve the children, parents, staff, and citizens. When the kids do better, the community does better. I bring my unique experience and knowledge to the Board and eagerly await your decision.

The Board went into executive session at 7:40 p.m. They reconvened at 9:55 p.m.

Upon returning from executive session, Board Vice President Junior Iglesia nominated Dianne Roman. “I feel both candidates exhibit exemplary experience and would make a great addition to fill the vacancy which will be no more than 4 meetings. I feel Ms. Roman has Board of Education experience that Mr. Anderson does not have. Mr. Anderson was exceptional I wish to thank him.”

Board Member Lisette Lebron seconded the nomination.

The voting went as follows: Ken Puccio, Jesus Martinez, Lisette Lebron, Dr. Danielle Brown, Junior Iglesia, Tashi Vazquez voted “yes”; Maria Rodriguez, Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe voted “no”. 6 yes – 2 no – motion passes. Dianne Roman was appointed to the Board.

Board Member Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe disagreed with the appointment, “I don’t believe the reasons expressed were legitimate enough. I look beyond the resume. Honestly, I’m not confident with her (Dianne Roman’s) track record. I’m not confident she (Dianne Roman) was the best person. I am confident Mr. Anderson knows what is right and wrong. I believe Ms. Roman was on the Board in 2014 – 6 years ago. I feel Mr. Anderson would have been the best person. He’s someone who sees Perth Amboy from the inside out.”

Board Attorney Isabel Machado swore Dianne Roman in.

After the swearing in, the public was allowed to speak for 3 minutes per speaker. The technical administrator Keith Caba asked each person by the last 4 digits of the phone they called in on if they wished to speak.

Perth Amboy Federation President Pat Paradiso was first. “I want to give a shout out to all

*\*Continued on Page 14*



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## OTHER



Novena to St. Rita

O holy protectress of those who art in greatest need, thou who shineth as a star of hope in the midst of darkness, blessed Saint Rita, bright mirror of God's grace, in patience and fortitude thou art a model of all the states in life. I unite my will with the will of God through the merits of my Savior Jesus Christ, and in particular through his patient wearing of the crown of thorns, which with tender devotion thou didst daily contemplate. Through the merits of the holy Virgin Mary and thine own graces and virtues, I ask thee to obtain my earnest petition, provided it be for the greater glory of God and my own sanctification. Guide and purify my intention, O holy protectress and advocate, so that I may obtain the pardon of all my sins and the grace to persevere daily, as thou didst in walking with courage, generosity, and fidelity down the path of life. *(Mention your request.)*  
Saint Rita, advocate of the impossible, pray for us.  
Saint Rita, advocate of the helpless, pray for us.  
*Recite the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be three times each. K.M. & C.M.*

Remember to Say Your Novenas!

Answers From Puzzle On Page 15

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REVIEW: 30 FOR 30: THE LAST DANCE

By: Anton Massopust III  
Hungry for sports? I know what everybody has been watching the last couple of weekends: ESPN's 30 for 30 series in an unprecedented 10-part event: The Last Dance.  
In Episode I, we learn about Michael Jordan's early college years, his days in the NBA, his rookie year with the Bulls and his trip to Paris, and his relationship with the General Manager of the Bulls, Jerry Krause.  
In Episode II, we learn about Jordan's relationship with Scottie Pippen, an injury of Michael Jordan, and Pippen's dealings with the management.  
In Episode III, we learn about Dennis Rodman. There is a little background of Rodman who played first for The Detroit Pistons and the notorious walk-off and Dennis Rodman's mini-vacation in Las Vegas.  
In Episode IV, we learn about Phil Jackson, who was first a player, then a coach and his dynamic relationship with Pippen, Jordan, and Rodman and how he led them to be the Team of Teams.

In Episode V, we learn about Air Jordan sneakers, the first designer basketball sneakers that everybody wanted and the commercial success of "Be Like Mike". Then we learn about the famous "Olympic Dream Team" and quest for the gold medal.  
In Episode VI, the book that came out called "Jordan Rules"; we talk about the darker side of Michael Jordan's gambling.  
In Episode VII, the murder of Jordan's father is discussed, how depressed Jordan became and eventually his retirement from basketball and Jordan pursuing a baseball career for the Chicago White Sox, his re-training, and the movie "Space Jam".  
In Episode VIII, Michael Jordan returns to the NBA, play-offs and how he tried to push his teams to work harder and how he pushed the Bulls harder to get them to win.  
In Episode IX, the struggle the Bulls had against the Indiana Pacers and how they played the Utah Jazz when Michael Jordan was sick with food poisoning



and how they struggled all odds to win that game.  
In Episode X, they win their sixth time championship the struggle of Scottie Pippen and his back. The end of the Bulls dynasty and the eventual retirement of Michael Jordan.  
Is this worth watching? Heck, Yeah! Even if you do not like sports, but you like documentaries and you like to learn about the greatest basketball player who ever lived, it shows all sides of Jordan. It shows how kind and generous he was, and his darker side showing that he was not perfect. It also shows how close Jordan was with his teammates and his dad.  
If you missed all this, you can catch up on demand. 30 for 30 is always worth watching. Watch this one. There are tons more that you'll want to watch as well. Give it a watch!

Pallone Statement on Passage of the Bipartisan Heroes Act

Press Release 5/15/20  
WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) today released the following statement after House passage of The Heroes Act:  
"The House today passed The Heroes Act that delivers vital funding to our state and local governments, provides another round of direct stimulus checks, and ensures that coronavirus treatment is free for

all Americans," Pallone said. "During a public health crisis, it is irresponsible to even suggest that state and local governments consider bankruptcy as they continue to provide critical services and employ essential workers."  
"The Heroes Act that I helped craft requires the Administration to develop a comprehensive testing strategy with contact tracing that has clear benchmarks and timelines. It also requires that medical supplies, testing equipment and drugs and ultimately vaccines are available to all Americans," Pallone concluded. "This bill is a bold next step that will ensure we can protect the health of all Americans as we work to safely reopen our economy. It's time for the Senate to take up this legislation and get it to the President's desk for a signature."

LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY – Memorial Day Parade circa 1965.  
\*Photo Courtesy of the Perth Amboy Public Library  
This photo was restored under a grant from the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission to the Kearny Cottage Historical Association.

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Historical Reflections of Anguillian Offspring in Perth Amboy, NJ

By Eric Hughes. I am the proud offspring of Anguillian immigrants who migrated to Perth Amboy, NJ and I am sharing our story for posterity. Eric Hughes can be reached at richughes3741@gmail.com

And now I proudly present the outstanding and historical stories, careers and talent of these pioneering young men, spear-headed by their dedicated Anguillian immigrant parents.

Cedric Richardson – President, Senior Class of 1955

Cedric Richardson’s parents, Joseph Nathaniel Richardson and Maude Victorine Hodge migrated from Stoney Ground and East End, Anguilla to Perth Amboy, where they met and married.

Cedric was born in Perth Amboy, the youngest of three (3) siblings, who as child went to live in Anguilla for seven (7) years with his parent’s family. During my 2006 interview with Cedric for another project, he said, “My background definitely played a very important part in both my personal and professional development. I gained a great deal of knowledge about my cultural roots, the tremendous work ethic and the spirit of cooperation among the people of that generation and the resiliency of Anguillians to

overcome hardships and perseverance through the good and bad times back in the day.”

It was quite clear that Cedric’s international background strengthened him as a person, placed him ahead of his peers and propelled his election to President of his class. In addition, Cedric was known for his versatility, including music, sports, and leadership ability. He had the personality and energy to bring people together for worthy causes. He was well liked and would take that next step to achieve class goals and objectives.

When Cedric decided to run for Senior Class President, he was in competition with another outstanding white female and popular student who had served as president of the junior class. Interestingly enough, when a white class advisor discovered that Cedric was in competition with the white student, the advisor called him into her office and tried to discourage him from running. The advisor indicated that the white female’s natural progression was to go from President of the junior class to President of the senior class. While Cedric showed no indifference towards the female candidate, he had some ideas of his own to implement as class president. In addition, he was somewhat taken aback by the advisor’s attempt to openly discourage him, so he became more determined than ever to run for class president and he was elected.

Cedric’s class selected him as:

- best all-around male student
- most popular male student
- done most for the class of “55”

Cedric continued his education at Seton Hall University where he majored in Social Science. He made the Dean’s List three semesters and earned a B.A. in Secondary Education, then went on to get an M.A. from Montclair State University in Personal Guidance/Psychology.

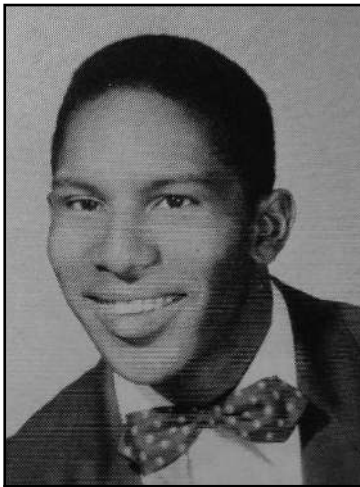
Cedric was the first African American in the Edison, NJ School System, appointed to the following positions:

- Varsity athletic coach (cross country, indoor track)
- Guidance Counselor (head counselor middle school)
- Vice Principal (high school)
- Principal (middle school)
- Principal (high school)

Cedric was the recipient of several other awards including:

- Edison Township, Young Educator of the Year (1968)
- Perth Amboy NAACP Education award (1991)
- NJ State Assembly Recognition award (1991); and
- NJ Principals/Supervisors Gold Lamp Award for outstanding Secondary Principal (1993)

During the year 2000, Cedric was inducted into the Perth Amboy High School Hall of Fame (NJ) as one of its distinguished graduates.



Cedric Richardson

Pet of the Week



ADOPT Tigger

PERTH AMBOY - I seriously can’t believe there is not ONE application for Tigger! Just look at his adorable face, his mackerel tabby markings and cuteness, yet there’s no interest in him. He has patiently waited for a forever home of his own while his world was turned upset down 4 1/2 years ago when his mommy died and then when his caretaker died Oct. 2019 and when her fiancé no longer wanted Tigger and his cat family. It took weeks to adjust to his new temporary home because he was so scared and confused. He wouldn’t eat because he lost the only home he ever knew. Now Tigger is ready for someone to open their heart and home to him. He needs a patient, loving adopter. Tigger loves to love and be loved and give headbutts. He’s a long, lean boy that enjoys wet food. He is UTD on his vaccines, neutered, dewormed, flea treated, and FIV/FELV negative. He is fully vetted, and just needs a home of his own now! Could it be you? Please.

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N.J.S.A. Science Test Scores, 2020-2021 School Budget Passed,  
Dianne Roman Appointed to Board  
5/7/20 Board of Education Meeting

\*Continued from Page 11

food service workers and those who work remotely. It would be a big help that they (food service workers) have better quality masks and better-quality gloves.”

Justin Ross was the next person to speak, “I appreciate you, the tech guy (Caba) – The fact that we hear from the public at 10:30 p.m. – we know we’re going to be online. This is reality. Thank everyone who came back at 10 p.m. We have to think forward in September. We have to be more respectful to the public. There is a lot going on. The public portion needs to be moved to an earlier portion of the meeting.”

Donna Tartza District Union Representative was next and asked, “When can the staff expect to receive pay stubs?”

Another resident wanted to know why the Superintendent achieved his merit goal pay, “How much did you receive and what did you do to receive it?”

Board Certified Teacher Lynn Audet spoke next, “I hope everyone on the Board is doing well. The past 8 weeks we have been teaching remotely. Multiple parents have been speaking out. With the volume of work

sent to them, 5 and 6 years old have to go into Google Classroom. There is a tremendous amount of work to put on the students and parents. Not all our teachers were prepared for Google Classroom. They have to learn it over Easter Break. We also have to contact parents and instruct them how to get logged on. Many staff are at a breaking point. Many parents are still working, one parent messaged me at 12:15 a.m. Most often parents contact me after 3 p.m. and on the weekend. I am suggesting a catchup day or fun Fridays – where teachers can spend the time creating lessons. Please bear in mind everyone who is feeling overwhelmed. When children are overwhelmed, they break down.”

The public portion ended at 10:37 p.m.

Board President Tashi Vazquez read a statement in support of the students.

Superintendent Dr. David Roman spoke about masks and gloves. “We follow CDC guidelines (about masks). We spent thousands of dollars for equipment. We moved the last day of school to June 19<sup>th</sup> to get some duly needed rest.” Dr. Roman then answered the question about his merit goal pay. “My salary – I don’t speak about it.

It stands for itself.” He then added, “Pay stubs – I’ll see what we can do about this.”

Board President Tashi Vazquez then explained merit goal pay, “Merit goals are instituted when composing the Superintendent’s contract. We set 5 additional merit goals for our Superintendent to meet (reasonable goals) by non-conflicted Board Members. They were sent to the County Superintendent at the end of the year and are sent to non-conflicting Board Members. It is 14.99% of his salary. His accomplishments and as stated, he has exceeded the measures of the goals.”

Each Committee motions were done by section and by pulled voting.

When it came to vote to approve the contract between the Board and the PA-AFT which would cover July 2008 – June 2021, Board Member Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe made the following statement: “I want to make a note how it’s been asking for a contract. The first time today, the district has been waiting for two years to get their contract. I am voting yes for the contract and we will pull apart any additions for any changes needed. It must be fair and equitable for all.”

Dr. David Roman stated, “I’m

very happy the contract is going forward. It is my pleasure.”

Board President Tashi Vazquez stated, “Thank you to everyone who participated. I’m thankful we got to this point today. We will be negotiating in the near future. We rely on our committee to represent a complete Board.”

The vote went as follows: Maria Rodriguez, Ken Puccio, Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe, Jesus Martinez, Dr. Danielle Brown, Tashi Vazquez voted, “yes”. Dianne Roman, Lisette Lebron, Junior Iglesia abstained. 6 votes “yes” 3 abstentions – motion passes.

Concerning the 2020-2021 Budget, Dr. David Roman commented, “We met every two weeks with the SDA to take the initiative to get proper approval.”

Board Member Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe stated, “I have questions about a previous event at a school facility. I want to know what events are preapproved. Are the organizations knowing what is going on? How do we communicate with all of the organizers of these events? Have we reached out to everyone?”

Board Secretary Derek Jess answered, “The business office had made numerous phone

calls. The governor has closed down buildings.”

Board Vice President Junior Iglesia reminded everyone it is Teacher Appreciation Week. He read a statement thanking the teachers for their hard work. He also reminded everyone to fill out their Census 2020 forms. “It’s important to the community so we can get funding.”

Board Member Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe asked, “Can we get a number for positive COVID-19 by area?” She then added, “Have a Happy Teacher Appreciation Week, especially to the teachers who had to re-vamp the way they teach. I always had a respect for teachers. I would not be here if it weren’t for my teachers. Also, it is Nurse’s Week. They do so much for children, caring loving, school nurses who go unnoticed. Happy Mother’s Day! – Anybody who fills the role of a mother – your compassion does not go unnoticed.”

The Board Meeting adjourned at 11:47 p.m. Time of meeting: 6 hours; 11 minutes (including 2 hours; 15 minutes executive session). All Board Members were present. Board Member Jesus Martinez was late. (Time: 8:28 p.m.)



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## ACROSS

- 1 18th-century card game
- 4 Fa follower
- 7 Reference
- 11 French islands
- 13 Memorable years
- 14 \_\_\_\_ about (approximately, 2 wds.)
- 15 Less than one
- 16 Walking like a duck
- 18 Vase
- 20 Written reminder
- 21 Neighbor of Phoenix
- 24 Dueler's memento
- 26 Wish undone
- 27 Eager beaver
- 29 Sound repetition
- 33 Mine products
- 35 "\_\_\_\_ Loser" (2 wds.)
- 36 College post
- 37 "Oz" dog
- 38 Bird beaks
- 40 Adam's madam
- 41 Hardwood trees
- 43 Desert stops
- 45 Animal lairs
- 47 Opposite of SSE
- 48 Tedious
- 51 "Pequod" captain
- 55 Bald man's lack
- 56 Letters on some tow

## trucks

- 57 Workout spot (abbr.)
- 58 Caribous' kin
- 59 Highest point
- 60 Baseball great Mel

## DOWN

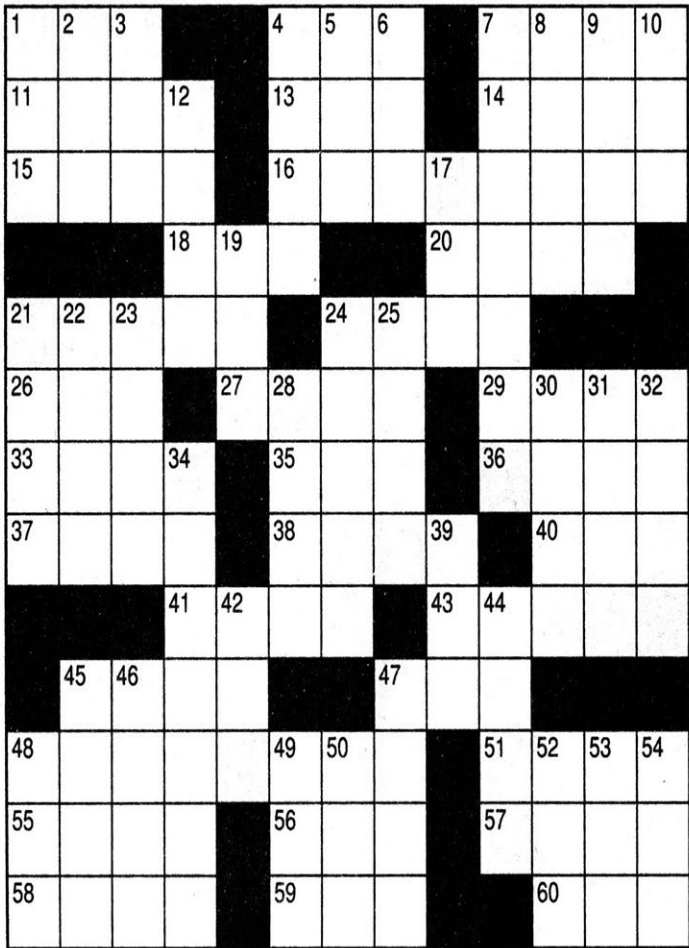
- 1 Actress Taylor's nickname
- 2 Barcelona "rah"
- 3 "\_\_\_\_ the ramparts..."
- 4 Stitched
- 5 "...man \_\_\_\_ mouse?" (2 wds.)

## 6 Scottish boy

- 7 Used crayons
- 8 Name's first letter (abbr.)
- 9 Color quality
- 10 Unit of energy
- 12 "Duck \_\_\_\_"
- 17 Heredity inits.
- 19 Primary color
- 21 Turkey \_\_\_\_
- 22 Currency unit in Italy
- 23 Get together
- 24 Big rigs
- 25 Grouchy person
- 28 Sty sound
- 30 Fair grades
- 31 "\_\_\_\_ fun!"
- 32 Smallest bills

## 34 Oklahoma natives

- 39 Junior
- 42 Brayer on the farm
- 44 Gone
- 45 Clock face
- 46 Estrada of "CHiPs"
- 47 Lowest tide
- 48 Common title start
- 49 Granola grain
- 50 \_\_\_\_ Tse-tung
- 52 "Managed care" inits.
- 53 Perform onstage
- 54 Flutter



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