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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY
OF THE CITY OF GARFIELD
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Monday, February 25, 2019
Commencing at 6:15 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

- NOEL QUILES, CHAIRMAN
- MARIE BARCKETT
- EDWARD J. DABAL
- EDWARD PUZIO
- ROSEMARIE RIBAUDO

ALSO PRESENT:

- MICHAEL P. DE MARCO, ESQ.
HOUSING AUTHORITY ATTORNEY
- MARGARET A. FIORE
OFFICE MANAGER

MARY MC KAY
 Certified Court Reporter
 Certified Realtime Court Reporter
 Registered Professional Reporter
 13-10 Fairclough Place
 Fair Lawn, New Jersey 07410
 (201) 796-4701

1 Notice of the time, date and place of this
2 meeting has been provided at least 48 hours in advance
3 by publication in The Record and by posting a notice of
4 this meeting on the community bulletin board at the
5 Garfield Housing Authority and Garfield City Hall.

6 (All rise for the recitation of the Pledge of
7 Allegiance.)

8 MS. FIORE: And we can just have a moment of
9 silence for Tony DeMarco.

10 (Moment of Silence.)

11 MS. FIORE: Okay. Roll call for the regular
12 meeting held on February 25, 2019.

13 MR. DABAL: Here.

14 MS. RIBAUDO: Here.

15 MS. SUSINO: Absent.

16 MR. GIACOMARRO: Absent.

17 MS. BARCKETT: Here.

18 MR. PUZIO: Here.

19 CHAIRMAN QUILES: Here.

20 MS. FIORE: Approval of the minutes from
21 transcript of the caucus and regular meeting held on
22 January 28, 2019. Somebody make a motion?

23 MR. DABAL: Motion.

24 MR. PUZIO: I'll second it.

25 MR. DABAL: Yes.

1 MR. PUZIO: I got a comment to make. On the
2 minutes, I think I found an error on page five. I
3 might be wrong.

4 MS. FIORE: The caucus one or --

5 MR. PUZIO: Oh, no, on the regular minutes.
6 I wanted to bring it up in caucus. I was distracted.

7 MR. DE MARCO: You said page five, Mr. Puzio?

8 MR. PUZIO: On the regular minutes I spotted
9 that you voted for and it was Eddie who voted. Let me
10 see if I can find it.

11 MS. FIORE: Where it says "abstain"?

12 MR. PUZIO: This is on the minutes, not on
13 the caucus.

14 MS. FIORE: No, this is the regular.

15 MR. PUZIO: Let me put my glasses on.

16 MS. FIORE: I think we were discussing it.
17 So I would say, "Are you abstaining?" Like asking a
18 question; "Are you abstaining?"

19 MR. PUZIO: I corrected it. I put Eddie
20 Dabal's name there, but I don't know the legal opinion
21 on that.

22 MR. DE MARCO: No, no. That was Margaret
23 inquiring as to Chairman Quiles as to whether he was
24 abstaining on that particular vote. So the transcript
25 is correct.

1 MR. PUZIO: But it doesn't have anything in
2 there that Eddie voted.

3 MS. RIBAUDO: It was him who abstained.

4 MS. FIORE: Oh, but it didn't --

5 MR. DABAL: But I voted yes. He's saying it
6 doesn't say that.

7 MR. DE MARCO: It doesn't reflect your vote.

8 MR. PUZIO: It's not there, because that's on
9 the resolution.

10 MR. DE MARCO: Right. So the question mark
11 would be "Abstain?" should remain, because that was
12 discussed. And the record should reflect and the
13 transcript should reflect that Mr. Dabal voted in the
14 affirmative.

15 So with that correction, does -- Mr. Dabal,
16 you made a motion to approve the transcripts. Do you
17 amend your motion to reflect that correction?

18 MR. DABAL: Do I amend my motion?

19 MR. DE MARCO: Yes.

20 MR. DABAL: Okay.

21 MR. DE MARCO: And, Mr. Puzio, you second the
22 motion as amended, correct?

23 MR. PUZIO: Yes.

24 MR. DE MARCO: Now we can make a roll call.

25 MR. DABAL: Yes. Here.

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1 MS. RIBAUDO: Here. Yes.

2 MS. BARCKETT: I don't think I can vote. I
3 wasn't here last month.

4 MR. DE MARCO: Right. You have to abstain.

5 MS. BARCKETT: I abstain.

6 MR. PUZIO: Yes.

7 CHAIRMAN QUILES: Yes.

8 MS. FIORE: Bills presented for payment
9 February 25, 2019. Operating account expense in the
10 amount of \$107,833.01. Capital fund 501-17 in the
11 amount of \$18,657.43. Capital fund 201-18 expenses in
12 the amount of \$32,337.35. And Ross Grant 17 expenses
13 in the amount of \$5,383.15. For the total amount of
14 \$164,210.94.

15 Is there a motion?

16 MR. DABAL: I'll make it.

17 MR. PUZIO: I second it.

18 MR. DABAL: I abstain on check number 1004.

19 Yes on the rest.

20 MS. RIBAUDO: Yes.

21 MS. SUSINO: Absent.

22 MS. FIORE: I know. I can't. I think you're
23 making me -- you're right. All night. Susino absent.

24 MR. DE MARCO: At least you're consistent.

25 MR. GIACOMARRO: Absent.

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1 MS. BARCKETT: Yes.

2 MR. PUZIO: I abstain on check number 19484
3 and 19485. Aye on the rest.

4 CHAIRMAN QUILES: Yes.

5 MS. FIORE: Any public comment?

6 MR. A.J. MONTONE: On that?

7 MS. FIORE: In general.

8 MR. A.J. MONTONE: Yes, yes. My name is A.J.
9 Montone. My girlfriend and my three daughters live
10 over by -- on 229 Midland Ave. On December 30th, we
11 had an argument at 10:30 in the morning. Okay. The
12 police officer that lives on the third floor came
13 downstairs. Nothing physical happened. There was no
14 issue. I ended up leaving. That was the end of it.

15 A week later my girlfriend gets a knock at
16 the door apparently from someone coming from Marty
17 saying that -- with the piece of paper -- I have a
18 history with Marty, but that's besides the point. With
19 a piece of paper saying, basically, if I'm on the
20 property again, my girlfriend and my three daughters
21 will be kicked out and evicted from the Housing.

22 Okay. I called Margaret here to try to ask,
23 well, I don't understand why, you know, this would spur
24 that with no arrest. I mean, nothing happened. There
25 was no restraining order. There was no issue. And she

1 basically just said, have your lawyers contact my
2 lawyer or our lawyers and --

3 MS. GAIL MONTONE: She hung up on him.

4 MR. A.J. MONTONE: And hung up me. So, I
5 mean, I don't feel I need to go get a lawyer really for
6 something like this. I don't understand why I would be
7 barred from the Garfield Housing and be arrested if I
8 step foot on the property. I don't understand. This
9 is causing me not to see my children, my girlfriend.

10 MS. GAIL MONTONE: He can't pick them up.

11 MR. DE MARCO: Ma'am, you can't speak until
12 it's your turn.

13 MS. GAIL MONTONE: Okay.

14 MR. DE MARCO: You stand up and you identify
15 yourself for the record.

16 MR. A.J. MONTONE: Yeah, this is affecting me
17 picking my kids up, helping my girlfriend bring
18 groceries in the house even. Help with the laundry.
19 Anything. I can't even go on the property. She's
20 scared to death that she's going to get evicted and not
21 have a place to live. She needs help. She has a
22 full-time job. We have three kids.

23 I'm going to school right now. I'm going to
24 trade school right now, so I'm not really bringing in
25 much money. She needs my help. I don't live there. I

1 have another address. I understand I'm not on the
2 lease. I'm not there that much. But like for
3 something so small to blow it up into something this
4 big is ridiculous. And I don't feel it's fair that I
5 shouldn't be allowed on the property at all to pick my
6 kids up, to drop them off or to help my girlfriend do
7 anything at all.

8 She's lived there her entire life. I've been
9 going there since -- we've been dating since 2006. I
10 have been going there since 2006. She's lived there in
11 that building. Okay.

12 MS. BARCKETT: Can I ask you a question?

13 MR. A.J. MONTONE: Yes. Absolutely.

14 MS. BARCKETT: Has this happened before? An
15 argument? Has it happened before?

16 MR. A.J. MONTONE: An argument between us,
17 no.

18 MS. BARCKETT: One argument they're going to
19 tell you you can't come over here?

20 MR. A.J. MONTONE: No. An argument never
21 happened. Back in 2007, 2007, mind you, I had just
22 gotten out of prison. I haven't been in trouble since.
23 I had just gotten out of prison. I had a distribution
24 charge in 2003. I was in court. You know, went to
25 prison, did my time, maxed out, came home.

1 A month later, October 30th, I remember the
2 exact date, I was standing out front having a
3 cigarette. Officer Heath Hicks, who used to be the
4 DARE officer over there, who I grew up with -- because
5 I grew up in Garfield. I grew up in this town. Born
6 and raised. Went to all schools here, high school,
7 everything. Came over and said, hey, how you doing?
8 We know you just got out of prison and everything.
9 Well, because you have a distribution, I'm sure you
10 guys know, you're not allowed to get housing. Like I'm
11 not allowed to be on the lease. I'm not allowed to
12 live there.

13 Well, at the time, they were under the
14 impression --

15 MS. GAIL MONTONE: No. You can rape
16 somebody --

17 MR. DE MARCO: Ma'am, ma'am.

18 MR. A.J. MONTONE: At the time they were
19 under the impression that I'm not even allowed to be on
20 the property. So I was arrested. We went to Garfield
21 Municipal Court. The charges were dropped. Okay.

22 Her mother, Linda, who also lives in the
23 building, I would say the last time was 2009, she
24 called the police on me and her daughter, Lauren, at
25 the time. We were just in her bedroom. And she wanted

1 both of us out of the house. She didn't tell us. We
2 were just in Lauren's room and she called the police.
3 And they came and brought me out and said, hey, you're
4 not allowed to be here. Arrested me for being on the
5 property. Nothing else. Went to court again. Charges
6 were dropped, because that wasn't the case. I'm just
7 not allowed to live there. I'm allowed to visit
8 whoever I want. And that was it. That is the extent
9 of everything that's happened with the police in my
10 entire life there.

11 Now, Marty's aware of all this. Curt Geisler
12 was my public defender in Garfield, actually, for
13 these. So they know about the previous two that were
14 dropped in court. But still, I mean, you know, I feel
15 they kind of hold a personal grudge against me. They
16 don't really like me. I mean, at the time, I wasn't
17 really too happy with his legal counsel, you know, but
18 whatever. That's beside the point. It's irrelevant at
19 this point.

20 I just don't feel it's fair. I don't want to
21 have to go through a lawyer or anything like that. I'm
22 not asking for anything crazy. Nothing like this will
23 ever happen again. We were arguing verbally, it was
24 just a verbal argument, over disciplining our three
25 children. Our oldest, our seven-year-old. We have a

1 seven-year-old, a three-year-old and 18-month-old.
2 That's what me and my girlfriend were arguing over at
3 the time. So --

4 CHAIRMAN QUILES: You said you called here
5 and somebody hung up?

6 MR. A.J. MONTONE: Margaret. I called to try
7 to work this out, you know, without having to come
8 here. And she basically said, I don't want to hear it.
9 Straight out, I don't want to hear it. Have your
10 lawyers call our lawyer. And hung the phone up on me.

11 So, I mean, I don't feel -- if I have to, I
12 will. I mean, I will do anything. My kids are my
13 world. That's why I'm going to school, trade school
14 now, so I can get a great job and take care of them.
15 Get them out of the Housing, hopefully. But, for the
16 meantime, I have to be able to see my kids. This is
17 barring me from seeing my children.

18 MR. PUZIO: Do you have a restraining order
19 against you?

20 MR. A.J. MONTONE: No. I have no
21 restraining -- Lauren and I have never had a
22 restraining -- we've been together 13 years. We've
23 never had a restraining order against one another. We
24 never had a charge pressed against one another.

25 MR. PUZIO: Will she open the door for you

1 when you come there?

2 MR. A.J. MONTONE: I haven't been there since
3 December 30th. Because I won't put her in a position
4 where if I step on that property she'll get in trouble
5 and not have a place for my kids to say.

6 MS. GAIL MONTONE: But they were over this
7 weekend.

8 MR. A.J. MONTONE: My kids, she brings them
9 over to the house. We live in Kearny. My kids were
10 over over the weekend. Like, you know, she's five
11 three, you know, 105 pounds. Carrying groceries in by
12 herself.

13 MR. PUZIO: We got a problem. There's two
14 sides to a story.

15 MR. A.J. MONTONE: There is two sides to a
16 story.

17 MR. PUZIO: We're only hearing one side.

18 MR. A.J. MONTONE: You are hearing one side.

19 MR. PUZIO: Well, we don't know maybe she
20 don't want you there anymore.

21 MR. A.J. MONTONE: Well, in that case --

22 MR. PUZIO: Apparently that's what's been
23 happening.

24 MR. A.J. MONTONE: No, that's not what's been
25 happening. I haven't been there.

1 MS. GAIL MONTONE: Call her.

2 MR. A.J. MONTONE: No. I haven't been there
3 since the 30th, because I don't want her to get in any
4 trouble. Because she -- like I said, a week or two
5 later, someone came and made her sign something saying
6 that if she allows me on the property or I'm there for
7 her, even step foot on the property, that she and my
8 children will be evicted and thrown out. So I haven't
9 went there. Out of my own -- my own, just by myself, I
10 haven't went there, because I wanted to do it the right
11 way and come here.

12 I haven't been in trouble with the law. I
13 have no open cases. I'm not on probation or parole or
14 anything like that. I work. I'm going to school. I'm
15 not a bad person. I'm not a violent person. Like I
16 said, we've been together 13 years, there's never been
17 an issue between us. Never been a charge pressed
18 against us, never been a restraining order, never.
19 Never had a DYFS case with my children. Nothing.

20 MR. DE MARCO: Are you finished?

21 MR. A.J. MONTONE: I'm finished. Thank you
22 guys very much for listening.

23 MR. DE MARCO: Ma'am, do you wish to speak?

24 MS. GAIL MONTONE: Oh, absolutely, hon. Gail
25 Montone. I'm his mom.

1 I have a couple of questions about the
2 Housing. How you -- it has nothing to do with them. I
3 want to know why there was a police officer two years
4 ago living there with his girlfriend in a two-bedroom
5 housing. How do they get that? Because when I moved
6 to Garfield over 15 years ago, it was a four-year
7 waiting period, supposedly, to get to Garfield Housing.
8 But over two years ago, there was a police officer and
9 his girlfriend living and they got a two-bedroom
10 apartment.

11 Currently, there's a police officer living
12 there. I don't understand how. What are the
13 requirements for living in the Housing Authority?
14 Because I know it's not that it's going to be, oh, we
15 need police presence. No, you don't need police
16 presence on the -- so I'm just asking on my own.

17 CHAIRMAN QUILES: I'm sure we have the proper
18 documentation for that that we can supply for you.

19 MS. GAIL MONTONE: I'm sorry? What's that?

20 MS. FIORE: We have proper documentation of
21 that. If you want to leave your name and address, and
22 I can send that to you.

23 MS. GAIL MONTONE: What is that going to tell
24 me?

25 MS. FIORE: You just asked about why there's

1 police officers in the building.

2 MS. GAIL MONTONE: Why do they get free
3 housing? When there's --

4 MS. FIORE: I think you're misinformed. So
5 if you would like to leave your name and address, I can
6 mail you the documentation that you're looking for.

7 MS. GAIL MONTONE: Then I'll have to come
8 back here and confront you after I read it all.

9 MS. FIORE: That's fine.

10 MS. GAIL MONTONE: Okay. Because that
11 doesn't seem -- when I first moved here back in 1993,
12 it was a four-year waiting period. To get -- it seems
13 like it's who you know. If Marty runs the Housing
14 Authority place, then it's, hmm, who he knows. And
15 that needs to be exposed to the public, to the news,
16 whoever. That's where I'm coming from right now.

17 I'm just not -- I don't feel this is very
18 fair. And what he's had to go through -- I know he's
19 old. He's a grown man, but he's still my son. I see
20 my grandchildren. They were over this weekend. They
21 slept over, the two of them. And it just doesn't seem
22 like everything's upfront. And I don't like it. And
23 I'm not comfortable with it. Everything needs to be
24 exposed. And if there's corruption or if there's
25 certain people that get priorities, that needs to be

1 exposed as well. Okay?

2 I'll leave you my name and number though.

3 MS. FIORE: Your address, please.

4 MS. GAIL MONTONE: Absolutely.

5 MS. BARCKETT: Do you live in the Housing
6 also?

7 MS. GAIL MONTONE: What's that?

8 MS. BARCKETT: Do you live in the Housing
9 also? Where do you live?

10 MS. GAIL MONTONE: No. I live -- I rent an
11 apartment.

12 MS. BARCKETT: In Garfield?

13 MS. GAIL MONTONE: Right. I sold my house.
14 My sister and I sold our house in Fairfield. I lived
15 in Garfield for a number of years. Went back to
16 Fairfield. We sold my house that my parents had. And
17 I'm now living in Kearny. But my granddaughters live
18 in Garfield.

19 And I just don't like the way it seems
20 like -- something's not right. That's it. And, like I
21 said, it needs to be exposed or -- I will delve into it
22 more. And that's it.

23 MS. BARCKETT: Hopefully, when she sends you
24 the information about why the officers are there, maybe
25 you'll understand it --

1 MS. GAIL MONTONE: Yeah. I'd really like to
2 know. Because, you know what, they say they have that
3 police thing, but there's no reason for a police
4 officer and his girlfriend to have a two-bedroom
5 apartment. There's no reason for it. Obviously, if
6 they're girlfriend and boyfriend, they're sleeping in
7 the same bedroom. So why do they need a two-bedroom?
8 It doesn't make sense. Common sense.

9 Let's get back to basics, everybody, okay?
10 That's it. I'll leave you my name and number, address.

11 MR. DE MARCO: Any other public comment?

12 Is there a motion to close the floor to the
13 public?

14 MS. BARCKETT: I'll make it.

15 MS. GAIL MONTONE: Is this -- is this taped
16 or just minutes?

17 MS. BARCKETT: No, it's not taped.

18 MS. GAIL MONTONE: Just minutes written up?
19 Okay.

20 MS. FIORE: Motion to close.

21 MS. BARCKETT: I did.

22 MR. DE MARCO: Ms. Barckett made the motion
23 to close. Second?

24 MS. RIBAUDO: I'll second.

25 MS. GAIL MONTONE: And you meet every month?

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1 MS. BARCKETT: Yes.

2 MS. GAIL MONTONE: So next month. Okay.

3 I'll be back.

4 MR. DABAL: Yes.

5 MS. RIBAUDO: Yes.

6 MS. BARCKETT: Yes.

7 MR. PUZIO: Yes.

8 CHAIRMAN QUILES: Yes.

9 MS. FIORE: Adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

10 MR. DE MARCO: You have to open it for
11 commissioner comment.

12 MS. FIORE: I'm sorry. Any commissioner
13 comment?

14 MS. RIBAUDO: Same old, same old. They did a
15 great job with the snow and ice. Very cold in the
16 winter. But other than that, no. But our men did a
17 great job again, and thank you all.

18 MR. PUZIO: How's the heat been with all
19 this --

20 MS. RIBAUDO: Cold. When it was very cold,
21 it was very, very cold.

22 MR. PUZIO: That's what I mean.

23 MS. RIBAUDO: Some children had to sleep with
24 jackets on and -- I called. I called many times.

25 MR. PUZIO: That's cold.

1 MS. RIBAUDO: Yeah, it was cold.

2 MR. DE MARCO: Do we have commissioner
3 comment?

4 Motion to close?

5 MS. RIBAUDO: I'll make a motion.

6 MS. BARCKETT: I'll second.

7 MS. RIBAUDO: Ribaudo and Barckett.

8 MR. DABAL: Yes.

9 MS. RIBAUDO: Yes.

10 MS. BARCKETT: Yes.

11 MR. PUZIO: Yes.

12 CHAIRMAN QUILES: Yes.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, MARY MC KAY, License Number XIO1302, a
Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of New
Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be prepared
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for the Judicial Proceedings and is a true and accurate
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and ability.

Mary McKay, C.R.C.R.
Certified Court Reporter

Date: -----