

Committee Meeting

of

ASSEMBLY HOMELAND SECURITY AND STATE PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

*“The year 2014 marks the 350th anniversary of the City of Elizabeth, New Jersey.
In commemoration, the committee will hear testimony from invited guests”*

*“September is designated as National Preparedness Month.
In recognition, the committee will hear testimony from invited guests”*

LOCATION: Elizabeth City Hall
Elizabeth, New Jersey

DATE: September 10, 2014
2:00 p.m.

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Annette Quijano, Chair
Assemblyman Joseph Cryan
Assemblywoman Nancy J. Pinkin
Assemblyman David C. Russo
Assemblywoman Holly T. Schepisi



ALSO PRESENT:

Amanda D. Holland
*Office of Legislative Services
Committee Aide*

Gary R. Williams
*Assembly Majority
Committee Aide*

Kevin Nedza
*Assembly Republican
Committee Aide*

***Meeting Recorded and Transcribed by
The Office of Legislative Services, Public Information Office,
Hearing Unit, State House Annex, PO 068, Trenton, New Jersey***



ANNETTE QUIJANO
Chairwoman

UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA
Vice-Chair

NANCY J. PINKIN
DAVID C. RUSSO
HOLLY SCHEPISI

AMANDA D. HOLLAND
KRISTIN BRUNNER SANTOS
Office of Legislative Services
Committee Aides
(609) 847-3870
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New Jersey State Legislature
ASSEMBLY HOMELAND SECURITY AND STATE
PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE
STATE HOUSE ANNEX
PO BOX 068
TRENTON NJ 08625-0068

REVISED
COMMITTEE NOTICE

**TO: MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY HOMELAND SECURITY AND STATE
PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE**

FROM: ASSEMBLYWOMAN ANNETTE QUIJANO, CHAIRWOMAN

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE MEETING - SEPTEMBER 10, 2014

The public may address comments and questions to Amanda D. Holland or Kristin Brunner Santos, Committee Aides, or make bill status and scheduling inquiries to Michelle McArthur, Secretary, at (609)847-3870, fax (609)777-2715, or e-mail: OLSAideAHS@njleg.org. Written and electronic comments, questions and testimony submitted to the committee by the public, as well as recordings and transcripts, if any, of oral testimony, are government records and will be available to the public upon request.

The Assembly Homeland Security and State Preparedness Committee will meet on Wednesday, September 10, 2014 at 2:00 PM in City Council Chambers in Elizabeth City Hall, 50 Winfield Scott Plaza, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

The year 2014 marks the 350th anniversary of the City of Elizabeth, New Jersey. In commemoration, the committee will hear testimony from invited guests.

September is designated as National Preparedness Month. In recognition, the committee will hear testimony from invited guests.

The following bills will also be considered:

A-276
Simon/Ciattarelli

Establishes pilot program to provide zero-interest loans to certain emergency shelters and food banks for purchase and installation of generator.

A-1338
Quijano/Cryan/Caputo

Establishes pilot program within Office of Emergency Management to provide zero-interest loans to certain gas stations that install appropriate wiring for generators.

(OVER)

Assembly Homeland Security and State Preparedness Committee

Page 2

September 10, 2014

A-2306 Andrzejczak/Quijano	Directs Office of Emergency Management to develop and undertake annual public awareness campaign concerning State's emergency coastal evacuation plan.
A-2384 Coughlin/Wisniewski/ Quijano	Authorizes municipal governing body to create and maintain list of municipal residents in need of special assistance in case of emergency for public safety purposes.
A-2773 Gove/Rumpf	Allows municipality to petition county for removal of abandoned vessel; provides that vessel shall not be deemed abandoned for period of not more than six months following declared state of emergency.
*ACR-39 Jimenez/Prieto/Mainor	Urges FAA to prohibit tourist helicopters from flying over Hudson River in NJ.

Those individuals presenting written testimony are asked to provide 15 copies to the committee aide at the meeting.

Issued 9/4/14

*Revised 9/8/14 – ACR-39 Added.

For reasonable accommodation of a disability call the telephone number or fax number above, or TTY for persons with hearing loss 609-777-2744 (toll free in NJ) 800-257-7490. The provision of assistive listening devices requires 24 hours' notice. Real time reporter or sign language interpretation requires 5 days' notice.

For changes in schedule due to snow or other emergencies, call 800-792-8630 (toll-free in NJ) or 609-292-4840.

ASSEMBLY, No. 1338

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

216th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2014 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Assemblyman JOSEPH CRYAN

District 20 (Union)

Assemblyman RALPH R. CAPUTO

District 28 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

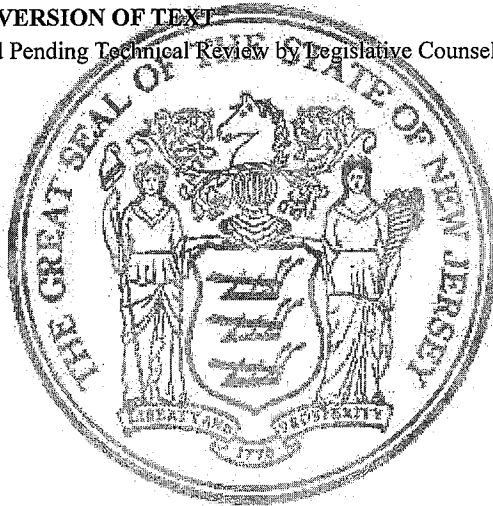
Assemblywoman Pinkin

SYNOPSIS

Establishes pilot program within Office of Emergency Management to provide zero-interest loans to certain gas stations that install appropriate wiring for generators.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/12/2014)

A1338 QUIJANO, CRYAN

2

1 AN ACT establishing a pilot program within the Office of
2 Emergency Management to provide zero-interest loans to certain
3 motor fuel retail dealers.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7

8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

9 a. On October 29, 2012, Superstorm Sandy made landfall in
10 New Jersey, causing historic flooding, widespread power outages
11 and wind damage, becoming one of the worst weather-related
12 disasters in the history of the State of New Jersey.

13 b. The devastation caused by Superstorm Sandy has drawn
14 attention to the importance of emergency response preparedness and
15 its role in effectively evacuating citizens during a natural disaster.

16 c. Interstate highway as well as municipal and county roads
17 designated by the State Office of Emergency Management as
18 potential evacuation routes for coastal emergencies are critical to
19 the safe and orderly evacuation of New Jersey's residents from
20 areas of the State that are adversely impacted or may be adversely
21 impacted by floods, high winds, storm surges and other severe
22 weather conditions.

23 d. The maintenance of electrical power at motor fuel retail
24 outlets on or within one-half mile of evacuation routes is essential
25 for the safe and orderly evacuation of residents in advance of, or
26 immediately after, severe weather conditions.
27

28 2. For the purposes of this act:

29 "Alternative power generation device" means a device capable of
30 providing electrical power for the primary purpose of dispensing
31 motor fuel, payment acceptance equipment, pump shutoff switches,
32 and other safety equipment.

33 "Evacuation route" means the Atlantic City Expressway, the
34 Garden State Parkway, the New Jersey Turnpike, and any interstate
35 highway, or municipal or county road that has been designated by
36 the State Office of Emergency Management as a potential
37 evacuation route for coastal emergencies, including but not limited
38 to, approaching tropical storms or hurricanes.

39 "Motor fuel" means any combustible liquid or gaseous substance
40 used, or suitable, for the generation of power to propel motor
41 vehicles.

42 "Pilot program" means the "Motor Fuel Retail Dealer Generator
43 Installation Pilot Program" established pursuant to section 3 of
44 P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

45 "Power outage" means any failure in the supply of electricity
46 causing a temporary cessation in the supply of power.

A1338 QUIJANO, CRYAN

3

1 “Qualified installation project” means the installation of transfer
2 switches and other equipment necessary to operate all fuel pumps,
3 dispensing equipment, lifesafety systems, and payment-acceptance
4 equipment using an alternative power generation device.

5 “Retail dealer” means a person that engages in the business of
6 selling or dispensing motor fuel to consumers within this State.
7

8 3. a. There is established a two-year “Motor Fuel Retail Dealer
9 Generator Installation Pilot Program” in the State Office of
10 Emergency Management. The purpose of the program shall be to
11 provide zero-interest loans for the amount paid by a retail dealer for a
12 qualified installation project.

13 b. Under the pilot program, any retail dealer located on or within
14 one-half mile of an evacuation route may be eligible to participate
15 in the pilot program for the purpose of receiving a low-interest loan
16 established under subsection d. of this section.

17 c. The Office of Emergency Management shall develop
18 specifications concerning the installation, use, and safety of a qualified
19 installation project which shall support the use of an alternative
20 power generation device during the course of a power outage. The
21 specifications developed by the office shall include, but not be
22 limited to, a requirement that the retail dealer shall be located on or
23 within one-half mile of an evacuation route approved by the office.

24 d. In implementing the “Motor Fuel Retail Dealer Installation
25 Generator Pilot Program,” the office shall establish and administer a
26 program to provide zero-interest loans to an eligible retail dealer for
27 the cost of a qualified installation project. The loans issued under the
28 pilot program shall bear zero interest and shall be for a term of not
29 more than 10 years. The maximum amount for any single loan shall
30 be \$10,000. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 3 of
31 P.L.2004, c.48 (C.52:17C-19), the source of funding for the loans
32 shall be from the “9-1-1 System and Emergency Response Trust
33 Fund Account.”

34 e. The Director of the State Office of Emergency Management
35 in the Division of State Police in the Department of Law and Public
36 Safety, in accordance with the “Administrative Procedure Act,”
37 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), may adopt and promulgate
38 such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the
39 implementation of this act.
40

41 4. At the conclusion of the “Motor Fuel Retail Dealer Generator
42 Installation Pilot Program,” the Director of the Office of Emergency
43 Management shall submit a written report to the Governor and the
44 Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1).
45 The report shall include information on the effectiveness of P.L. , c.
46 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the number of retail
47 dealers that are participating in the program, the loan amount granted

A1338 QUIJANO, CRYAN

4

1 for each individual project, and a recommendation on the feasibility of
2 implementing the initiative on a Statewide basis.

3

4 5. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh month
5 following enactment and shall expire on the first day of the 25th month
6 following the effective date of this act, but the Director of the State
7 Office of Emergency Management may take such anticipatory
8 administrative action in advance thereof as shall be necessary for the
9 implementation of this act.

10

11

12

STATEMENT

13

14 This bill requires the Office of Emergency Management to
15 establish a two-year "Motor Fuel Retail Dealer Generator Pilot
16 Program." Under the pilot program, the Office of Emergency
17 Management is required to provide zero-interest loans to retail
18 dealers of motor fuel that are located on or within one-half mile of
19 an evacuation route approved by the office. The bill establishes that
20 these loans would be made available to assist retail dealers in
21 assuming the cost of a qualified installation project. The bill defines
22 "qualified installation project" as the installation of appropriate wiring,
23 including a transfer switch, capable of providing electrical power to
24 enable the retail dealer's fuel pumps, dispensing equipment, life-safety
25 systems, and payment acceptance equipment when connected to an
26 alternative power generator.

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The loans issued under the pilot program are to bear zero interest
and have a term that does not exceed 10 years. The bill limits the
maximum amount for any single loan to \$10,000.

At the conclusion of the "Motor Fuel Retail Dealer Generator
Installation Pilot Program," the Director of the Office of Emergency
Management is required to submit a written report to the Governor
and the Legislature. The report is to include information on the
compliance with the program, the number of retail dealers that are
participating in the program, the average cost of each individual
project, and a recommendation on the feasibility of implementing
the initiative on a Statewide basis.

ASSEMBLY, No. 2773

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 27, 2014

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman DIANNE C. GOVE

District 9 (Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean)

Assemblyman BRIAN E. RUMPF

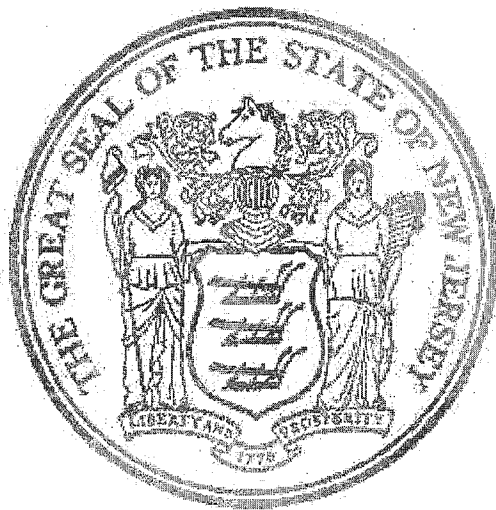
District 9 (Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Allows municipality to petition county for removal of abandoned vessel; provides that vessel shall not be deemed abandoned for period of not more than six months following declared state of emergency.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



A2773 GOVE, RUMPF

2

1 AN ACT concerning abandoned vessels and amending P.L.1975,
2 c.369.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. Section 2 of P.L.1975, c.369 (C.12:7C-8) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 2. The following terms whenever used or referred to in this act
10 shall have the following meanings unless a different meaning
11 clearly appears from the context:

12 a. "Vessel" means a boat, ship, or any other watercraft,
13 regardless of whether it is, or was, used for recreational,
14 commercial, or industrial purposes, or any other purpose, other than
15 a seaplane on the water, used or capable of being used as a means of
16 transportation on the water, except a boat or watercraft which is
17 subject to the provisions of P.L.1969, c.264 (C.12:7C-1 et seq.), and
18 includes any trailer used to transport or store it.

19 b. "Owner" means a person or any other legal entity, other than
20 a lienholder, having a property interest in or title to a vessel. The
21 term includes a person entitled to the use or possession of a vessel
22 subject to an interest of another person, reserved or created by
23 agreement and securing payment or performance of an obligation,
24 but the term excludes a lessee under a lease not intended as
25 security.

26 c. "Lienholder" means any person or any other legal entity
27 holding a security interest in or to a vessel.

28 d. "Security interest" means an interest which is reserved or
29 created by an agreement which secures payment or performance of
30 an obligation and is valid against third parties generally.

31 e. "Commission" means the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
32 Commission.

33 f. "Waters of this State" means all waters within the
34 jurisdiction of this State, both tidal and nontidal, and the marginal
35 sea adjacent to this State to a distance of three nautical miles from
36 the shoreline.

37 g. "Removal costs" means any or all costs associated with the
38 removal, raising, towing, transporting, cleaning, storage, or
39 destruction of any vessel from land or water and shall include the
40 reimbursement of any or all costs incurred by the applicant in the
41 course of acquiring title to an abandoned vessel, including acquiring
42 title to any trailer abandoned with the vessel.

43 h. "Municipal waterway" means any portion of a body of water
44 located within a municipality or any portion of a body of water over

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

A2773 GOVE, RUMPF

3

1 which a municipality or harbor commission legally exercises
2 jurisdiction.

3 i. "Disaster" means any natural, technological, or civil
4 emergency that causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude
5 to result in a declared state of emergency.

6 j. "Declared state of emergency" means any state of emergency
7 within this State declared by the Governor or by the President of the
8 United States.

9 (cf: P.L.2008, c.52, s.5)

10

11 2. Section 3 of P.L.1975, c.369 (C.12:7C-9) is amended to read
12 as follows:

13 3. a. It shall be unlawful for any owner to abandon any vessel
14 to or upon public land or waters of this State, including any
15 municipal waterway, to or upon any municipally-owned land, or to
16 or upon any private property or the water immediately adjacent
17 thereto without the consent of the official designated by law to have
18 jurisdiction over such public land or waterway, or the owner or
19 other person in charge of the private property except when an
20 emergency exists.

21 b. (1) A vessel which has remained moored, grounded,
22 docked, or otherwise attached or fastened to or upon any public
23 land or waterway or any private property without such consent for a
24 period of more than 30 days, or which is submerged partially or
25 completely into the water for any period of time shall be deemed
26 abandoned and may be impounded if an official authorized by
27 statute or ordinance to enforce regulations related to municipal
28 waterways or a law enforcement officer having enforcement
29 authority has reason to believe the vessel has been abandoned. A
30 vessel shall not be deemed abandoned pursuant to this paragraph
31 during the six months immediately following a declared state of
32 emergency.

33 (2) The vessel may be removed from a municipal waterway by,
34 or at the direction of, the municipality or harbor commission and
35 may be impounded under the provisions of paragraph (1) of this
36 subsection and removed to a storage space, and its registration
37 certificate and registration plates seized. In the event that a
38 municipality or harbor commission is not able to remove an
39 abandoned vessel due to the effects of a disaster, that municipality
40 or harbor commission may request the county where the abandoned
41 vessel is located to remove and impound the abandoned vessel.

42 (3) The owner shall be responsible for the cost of the removal,
43 transportation, storage or disposal, and any other incidental costs
44 associated with the impounded vessel.

45 (4) Whenever a vessel is removed pursuant to this subsection,
46 the official designated by law to have jurisdiction over the
47 municipal waterway shall file an incident report with the New
48 Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission.

A2773 GOVE, RUMPF

4

1 c. (1) An owner who violates the provisions of subsection a. of
2 this section shall be liable to a civil penalty of not more than
3 \$1,000. Each day upon which the violation continues shall
4 constitute a separate offense.

5 (2) The civil penalty imposed pursuant to this subsection shall
6 be collected pursuant to the "Penalty Enforcement Law of 1999,"
7 P.L.1999, c.274 (C.2A:58-10 et seq.), in a summary proceeding.
8 An official authorized by statute or ordinance to enforce regulations
9 related to municipal waterways or a law enforcement officer having
10 enforcement authority in that municipality may issue a summons for
11 a violation of the provisions of this section and may serve and
12 execute all process with respect to the enforcement of this section
13 consistent with the Rules of Court. A penalty recovered under the
14 provisions of this section shall be recovered by and in the name of
15 the State by the local municipality. The penalty shall be paid into
16 the treasury of the municipality in which the violation occurred for
17 the general uses of the municipality.

18 (cf: P.L.2011, c.172, s.1)

19
20 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

21
22
23 STATEMENT

24
25 This bill provides that a vessel may not be deemed abandoned
26 during the six months immediately following a declared state of
27 emergency. The bill also provides that if a municipality or harbor
28 commission is not able to remove an abandoned vessel due to the
29 effects of a disaster, that municipality or harbor commission may
30 request the county where the abandoned vessel is located to remove
31 and impound the abandoned vessel.

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 39**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

216th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2014 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANGELICA M. JIMENEZ

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

Assemblyman VINCENT PRIETO

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

Assemblyman CHARLES MAINOR

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblyman JASON O'DONNELL

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblyman CARMELO G. GARCIA

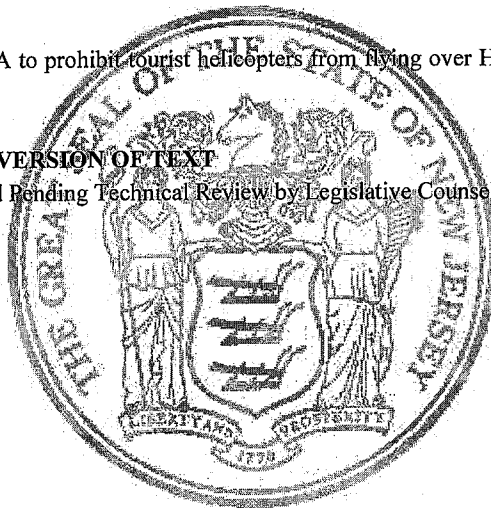
District 33 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Urges FAA to prohibit tourist helicopters from flying over Hudson River in NJ.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/12/2014)

ACR39 JIMENEZ, PRIETO

2

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging the Federal Aviation
2 Administration to prohibit tourist helicopters from flying over
3 the Hudson River in New Jersey.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), as the federal
6 entity that regulates the United States airspace and the modes of
7 transportation that utilize United States airspace, has sole
8 jurisdiction over the Hudson River airspace; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Approximately 700 helicopters, carrying the many tourists
10 that visit the area each year, fly over the Hudson River into New
11 Jersey each day to capture the views of the New York City skyline;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS**, These helicopters create health and safety risks, as well as
14 nuisance concerns, for New Jersey residents living along the
15 Hudson River; and

16 **WHEREAS**, On August 8, 2009, a small private plane collided with a
17 tourist helicopter in a low-altitude midair accident over the Hudson
18 River near Hoboken, New Jersey; and

19 **WHEREAS**, As a result of the accident, the New York Airspace Task
20 Force made recommendations, which included dividing the airspace
21 into distinct corridors to separate planes from helicopters flying
22 over the Hudson River and limiting helicopters to the airspace
23 below 1,000 feet, to the FAA for the Hudson River airspace; and

24 **WHEREAS**, To alleviate the additional health, safety, welfare, and
25 nuisance concerns of New York residents, the New York City
26 Economic Development Corporation restricted tourist helicopters
27 operating out of New York heliports from flying over Central Park,
28 the Empire State Building, and the Borough of Brooklyn; and

29 **WHEREAS**, The restrictions imposed by the New York City Economic
30 Development Corporation increased the heavy tourist helicopter
31 traffic on the New Jersey side of the Hudson River, thereby
32 increasing the need for the FAA to prohibit tourist helicopters from
33 flying over the Hudson River in New Jersey; and

34 **WHEREAS**, Although New Jersey residents living along the Hudson
35 River have filed several petitions with the FAA to prohibit tourist
36 helicopters, the tourist helicopters that fly over the Hudson River
37 and create health and safety risks within New Jersey airspace are
38 still permitted by the FAA to fly over the Hudson River in New
39 Jersey airspace; and

40 **WHEREAS**, On June 30, 2013, a tourist helicopter was forced to land
41 on the Hudson River after losing power, providing another example
42 of the need to prohibit tourist helicopters from flying over the New
43 Jersey side of the Hudson River; and

44 **WHEREAS**, The FAA, as the entity that can regulate the airspace over
45 the Hudson River, is urged to consider the health, safety, and
46 welfare of the New Jersey residents living along the Hudson River

ACR39 JIMENEZ, PRIETO

3

1 and to prohibit tourist helicopters from flying over the Hudson
2 River in New Jersey; now, therefore,

3

4 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
5 Jersey (the Senate concurring):

6

7 1. The Federal Aviation Administration is urged to prohibit
8 tourist helicopters from flying over the Hudson River in New
9 Jersey.

10

11 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the
12 Speaker of the General Assembly and President of the Senate and
13 attested to by the Clerk of the General Assembly and the Secretary
14 of the Senate, shall be transmitted to the Secretary of the
15 Department of Transportation and the Administrator of the Federal
16 Aviation Administration.

17

18

19

STATEMENT

20

21 This resolution urges the Federal Aviation Administration to
22 prohibit tourist helicopters from flying over the Hudson River in
23 New Jersey.

24 The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), as the federal entity
25 that regulates the United States airspace, has sole jurisdiction over
26 the Hudson River airspace. Each day, approximately 700 tourist
27 helicopters fly over the Hudson River into New Jersey to view the
28 New York City skyline. These tourist helicopters create health and
29 safety risks and nuisance concerns for the New Jersey residents
30 living along the Hudson River.

31 When a small private plane collided with a tourist helicopter in a
32 low-altitude midair accident over the Hudson River, near Hoboken,
33 New Jersey on August 8, 2009, the New York Airspace Task Force
34 made recommendations to the FAA for the Hudson River airspace.
35 To alleviate the additional concerns of New York residents, the
36 New York City Economic Development Corporation prohibited
37 tourist helicopters operating out of New York from flying over
38 certain New York locations. The recommendations and restrictions
39 increased the tourist helicopter traffic on the New Jersey side of the
40 Hudson River, thereby increasing the need for the FAA prohibition
41 on tourist helicopters on the New Jersey side of the Hudson River.
42 However, after several petitions by New Jersey residents to the
43 FAA, tourist helicopters are still permitted in New Jersey airspace.

44 On June 30, 2013, a forced landing of a tourist helicopter over
45 the Hudson River, provided another example of the need to prohibit
46 tourist helicopters from flying over the New Jersey side of the
47 Hudson River. The FAA, as the only entity that can regulate the

ACR39 JIMENEZ, PRIETO

4

- 1 airspace over the Hudson River, is urged to consider the health,
- 2 safety, and welfare of New Jersey residents along the Hudson River
- 3 and to prohibit tourist helicopters from flying over the Hudson
- 4 River in New Jersey.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Manuel R. Grova Jr., Esq. President Elizabeth City Council	1
Reverend Doctor Robert D. Higgs Pastor First Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth, and Executive Director The Old First Historic Trust	3
J. Christian Bollwage Mayor City of Elizabeth	10
Assemblyman Vincent Prieto District 32	10
Senator Raymond J. Lesniak District 20	10
Christopher Rodriguez, PhD. Director Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness State of New Jersey	14
Tiffany J. Haas Communications Director, and Legislative Counsel Office of Representative Donald M. Payne Jr. 10th Congressional District	20
Lieutenant Colonel Christian Schulz Deputy Superintendent Homeland Security Branch New Jersey State Police	23
Clifton R. Lacy, M.D. Director Institute of Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey	29

TABLE OF CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Page</u>
Donald W. Weyant Manager Regulatory Compliance Public Service Electric and Gas	33
Kevin Lynott Director Government Relations Elizabethtown Gas	39
Mathieu Nelessen Regional Chief Executive Officer American Red Cross	41
James W. Horne Jr. President and Chief Executive Officer United Way of Greater Union County	44
Assemblyman Joseph Cryan District 20, and Acting Sheriff Office of the Union County Sheriff	45
Christopher Scaturro Director Division of Emergency Management, and Coordinator Emergency Management Union County	49
Captain Giacomo Sacca Police Department City of Elizabeth	51
Andrew C. Sandoukas Deputy Fire Chief City of Elizabeth	52

TABLE OF CONTENTS (continued)

APPENDIX (continued)

	<u>Page</u>
Dawn Zimmer Mayor City of Hoboken	55
Gerald R. Drasheff Mayor Town of Guttenberg	60
Giovanni Ahmad Assistant Township Manager, and Deputy Coordinator Office of Emergency Management Township of Weehawken	63
James T. Woods Coordinator Office of Emergency Management Hudson County	65
Robert Antolos Police Director Town of West York	71
Sal Risalvato Executive Director New Jersey Gasoline-Convenience Store-Automotive Association	74
APPENDIX:	
Brochure <i>History and Homeland Security: How 350 years of New Jersey still speaks to us</i> submitted by Reverend Doctor Robert D. Higgs	1x
Testimony submitted by Tiffany J. Haas	22x

TABLE OF CONTENTS (continued)

APPENDIX (continued)

	<u>Page</u>
Testimony submitted by Clifton R. Lacy, M.D.	27x
Testimony submitted by Kevin Lynott	29x
Testimony submitted by Sal Risalvato	33x
Testimony submitted by Raemon Mallin Manager Emergency Preparedness Jersey Central Power & Light	36x
Testimony submitted by Grant Lucking Associate Director Government Affairs New Jersey Food Council	39x
Letter, addressed to Members of the Assembly Homeland Security and State Preparedness Committee from William G. Dressel Jr. Executive Director New Jersey State League of Municipalities	40x

TABLE OF CONTENTS (continued)

APPENDIX (continued)

	<u>Page</u>
Letter, addressed to Joseph Bertoni Acting Commissioner Department of Transportation State of New Jersey from New Jersey Senate and Assembly members, and County Executive, Mayors, and County Freeholders Hudson County	41x
Letter, addressed to The Honorable Michael P. Huerta Administrator Federal Aviation Administration, and Joseph Bertoni Acting Commissioner Department of Transportation State of New Jersey from U.S. Senator Robert Menendez, and U.S. Senator Cory A. Booker, and Congressman Albio Sires	46x
Letter, addressed to Bill de Blasio Mayor City of New York from Elected Officials New York State and the City of New York	48x
Letter, addressed to New Jersey Elected Officials from Brian Wagner Founder/Lead Advocate Stop NYC Air Tour Helicopters, and Co-Lead Advocate Stop the Chop NY/NJ	50x

TABLE OF CONTENTS (continued)

APPENDIX (continued)

	<u>Page</u>
Letter, addressed to Mayor de Blasio, NYC EDC Chairman Schlein, and all NYC Officials from Brian Wagner Founder/Lead Advocate Stop NYC Air Tour Helicopters, and Co-Lead Advocate Stop the Chop NY/NJ	52x
Summary position paper submitted by Stop the Chop NY/NJ	53x
pnf: 1-81	

ASSEMBLYWOMAN ANNETTE QUIJANO (Chair): Good afternoon. I call the Assembly Homeland Security and State Preparedness Committee to order.

Our first order of business will be the Pledge of Allegiance. I call on The City of Elizabeth Council President, Manny Grova, to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MANUEL R. GROVA Jr., Esq.: Good afternoon. All rise, and please face the flag.

(all recite pledge)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: I'd ask you to continue standing for a moment of silence in remembrance of 9/11. On this eve of Patriot's Day, I ask everyone assembled in this room to join me in honoring the memory and heroism of those who perished on 9/11, their families, their friends, and first responders by observing a moment of silence.

(moment of silence observed)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you.

Amanda, could we have roll call, please?

MS. HOLLAND (Committee Aide): Sure.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Before we do roll call, I've been advised that Assemblyman Cryan will be substituting for Assemblyman Chivukula today.

MS. HOLLAND: Assemblywoman Schepisi.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Here.

MS. HOLLAND: Assemblyman Russo.

ASSEMBLYMAN RUSSO: Here.

MS. HOLLAND: Assemblywoman Pinkin.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINKIN: Here.

MS. HOLLAND: Assemblyman Cryan.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Here.

MS. HOLLAND: Chairwoman Quijano.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Present.

MS. HOLLAND: We have a quorum.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you.

Welcome everyone to the Assembly Homeland Security and State Preparedness Committee meeting. For the first time we are holding this meeting here in the City of Elizabeth, in honor of its 350th year anniversary. Many of you don't know that Elizabeth is the state's first capital, and Elizabeth is also my hometown.

Elizabeth is a thriving city, rich in history and rich in culture. Today we honor the City for its 350 years.

Today we also will recognize National Preparedness Month. As Chair of this Committee, I've had the privilege of traveling the state, hosting presentations and workshops that teach everyday people in this state how best to be prepared for any kind of emergency.

At this meeting, we will hear testimony from a broad range of invited guests who serve on the front lines during emergency situations.

Before we begin, I'd like to acknowledge some of our distinguished guests.

First, I'd like to thank our Mayor, Chris Bollwage, for hosting this meeting here in these lovely chambers. I'd also like to welcome our Assembly Speaker, Vincent Prieto. I'd also like to acknowledge my colleagues, Senator Raymond Lesniak and Assemblyman Joseph Cryan.

Present as well -- you have already seen Council President Manny Grova. And we also have Roselle Councilman Yves Aubourg. Thank you for coming.

The first item on the agenda is the commemoration of the 350th anniversary of the City of Elizabeth. We will hear inspiring words from Reverend Doctor Robert Higgs, Executive Director of Old First Historic Trust and pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth.

Reverend Higgs, could you please step up to the podium to address the attendees?

Reverend, you have to make sure your microphone-- Push the button -- this microphone. We have a multitude of microphones today to do a lot of different jobs.

R E V E R E N D D R . R O B E R T D . H I G G S : How is this one?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: This one (referring to PA microphone), and you have to push it so the button is up.

DR. HIGGS: How is that? Am I on the air? Hello? Hello?

MS. HOLLAND: Sounds like it from here.

DR. HIGGS: Are we working?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Can everyone hear Reverend Higgs in the back?

DR. HIGGS: Hello, hello? Can you hear me now? (laughter)

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF AUDIENCE: Yes.

DR. HIGGS: Yes?

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF AUDIENCE: Yes.

DR. HIGGS: Yes; we have a yes. (laughter)

As you can see, I brought a visual presentation and we have a printed copy with the notes -- make sure everybody has that since you folks can't see it, but they can.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Oh, we have this (referring to brochure).

DR. HIGGS: Yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Okay.

DR. HIGGS: We have more in case you don't have one.

Thank you, Madam Chair. Honorable members of the General Assembly, Mayor Bollwage, distinguished guests, it is a great privilege to be with you during this 350th anniversary of the beginning of the State of New Jersey and the City of Elizabeth, where our state was founded.

It maybe seems strange to be discussing history before a Committee tasked with the grave responsibility of promoting the safety and security of our State from a variety of natural and human-made threats; but, in fact, the history of our State and the security of our State are intertwined to such an extent that the more aware we are of our history the more secure we will be as New Jerseyans.

Let us begin with the founding of our state and this city in 1664. It was all about security. As we know, the eastern coast of North America was sparsely populated in those days; only a few European nations had shown interest in planting colonies. Great Britain had two, Massachusetts and Virginia; and in between, the Netherlands had established a colony they called New Amsterdam, headquartered on an island they called Manhattan.

After many years of Civil War in Great Britain, King Charles II ascended to the throne in 1660 and, with his brother James, the Duke of York, saw an opportunity to expand his land and create new economic opportunities for his nation. Accordingly, James sent the Royal Navy to take over the Dutch City of Amsterdam, which was promptly renamed New York in his honor.

Now our story begins.

Watching these events from his home on Long Island was a man named John Ogden. Ogden was an Englishman who had originally moved to Massachusetts in the 1630s, but was constantly looking for a better place to farm and do business. With the arrival of the British and the capture of New York, Ogden saw his opportunity. He wasted no time in introducing himself to Richard Nicolls, the Governor of New York, and requested permission to negotiate settlement privileges for the land south of the Hudson River.

This permission Nicholls granted in the summer of 1664, and by October, Ogden had obtained from the Lenape Indians the right to all the land from the Arthur Kill to the Delaware River and south of the Passaic and north of the Raritan River. Thus the gap between Massachusetts and Virginia began to be filled. The British colonies started to become more secure.

Ogden and his associates -- about 150 people in all -- began to relocate to this area, building their meeting house only a few hundred yards from where we are now -- in the sanctuary of the First Presbyterian Church, which is located next to what is now the Union County Courthouse. Why here? Because in those days it was possible to sail an ocean-going ship up

the Elizabeth River all the way to where the Courthouse is today, and that river extended miles into the interior of what is now Union County so farmers could easily transport their crops to market. Ogden saw this particular location as an ideal place to launch New Jersey, and began to sell small, hundred-acre plots of land called *freeholdings* all along the Elizabeth River. The idea was simple. Anyone who had the means to get to New Jersey from anywhere could obtain land and start farming.

Needless to say, New Jersey was a hit from the beginning, and people from many nations started to arrive. Under Lords Carteret and Berkeley, friends of King Charles II who were awarded the bulk of the state's land by His Majesty, New Jersey practiced the policy of openness and toleration. Sadly, of course, slaves also came to our state as early as the 1680s, in accordance with the custom of the time. Yet, New Jersey's policy of encouraging small farmers helped make the colony strong and prosperous, ensuring our security. Our history of encouraging small farmer freeholdings helps explain why our state is still so fierce on home rule and local government. Despite our population of over 8 million, our largest city still has only 250,000 people. We don't like bigness in our towns.

How many of you know that in terms of national security, New Jersey played an indispensable role in winning the American Revolution? Over 60 percent of the encounters between British and American soldiers took place in our state, many within a 20-mile radius of Elizabeth. Why? Because only a mile from here is Staten Island, and it was on Staten Island that the British, Mercenary, and Loyalist troops made their headquarters throughout the entire war. From 1776 to 1783, as many as 40,000 soldiers were stationed on Staten Island. And so in groups of various sizes they

would periodically cross the Arthur Kill and raid the land where we are meeting today. Over the course of the war, the small farms painstakingly established by colonists of many nationalities were destroyed. George Washington, who spent many months of the war in Morristown, stated that no place in America was damaged as much as New Jersey, especially this section of New Jersey. The people fought and resisted and fought again for seven years. No place in America endured like we did. Why? Because as freeholders, they had something to fight for.

For over 100 years, people came from many lands and were coming to New Jersey to settle. Some bought farms and stayed; others found new homes and moved further west. But they all came to this land with the hope of starting a new life and freeing themselves from oppressive systems in their former homes.

This is where history meets security. Republican or Democrat, liberal or conservative, we forget, to our peril, that the reasons that people came to New Jersey and to Elizabeth for 350 years are the reasons people are still coming today.

Friends, we are meeting in the City Hall of the most ethnically diverse city in the most ethnically diverse state in our nation. Elizabeth High School educates students who speak at least 40 different languages.

Yet, Elizabeth remains a remarkably peaceful city, a testimony to the fact that people from all nations can live and work together. To celebrate our unity and diversity, our 350th Anniversary Committee organized a celebration this summer outside of City Hall, bringing together an amazing cross section of the people who live here.

It is a shame that our schoolchildren know less about our city's and our state's history -- its unity and our diversity -- than do children in New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Virginia know about theirs. I say it is a shame because *Unity in Diversity* must be the cornerstone of Homeland Security.

We see the news; we know of the violence and killings and hatred in so many corners of the world. Tomorrow is 9/11's 13th anniversary. Tonight, our President talks to us about yet another security threat. Over and over again we see that so much of this finds its roots in ethnic and religious groups who have been made to feel excluded, hated, and rejected. Majority groups turn on their minorities of whatever background and tell them explicitly, "You are not one of us."

I believe, Madam Chair, that one of the most effective yet inexpensive ways your Committee can increase our Homeland Security is to remind New Jerseyans -- all New Jerseyans, whether newly arrived or descended from the founders -- the story of the colonists and the story of the revolutionaries is their story today. The reasons people came here so long ago are the reasons people are coming today, and will come tomorrow. The more we can do to make sure people of all backgrounds are welcome and included means the less we will have to worry that our schools, our hospitals, our roads, ports, and refineries will be attacked. When *we* are truly *us* there is no *them* to attack.

For the sake of Homeland Security, I urge you to work with your colleagues on the Education Committee to promote the teaching of New Jersey history from kindergarten to college. For the sake of Homeland Security, I urge you to work with your colleagues on the Tourism

Committee to remind our own people what a great state we are, and they should go out and discover it for themselves. For the sake of Homeland Security, I urge you to seek out and build bridges of welcome and friendship to people of all backgrounds, using the City of E as an example of what can happen when we realize that we have much more in common than what makes us different.

The motto of our state's 350th anniversary is "Innovation, Diversity, and Liberty." What better way can we ensure our own security than by continuing to build on these three pillars.

Thank you. (applause)

Madam Chair, if I may, I'd like to introduce a few people in the audience. First of all, Susan Cohen, who is with the New Jersey Historical Commission; (applause) David Rogers, who is way in the back, a member of the Old First Historic Trust; (applause) my lovely projectionist, Phyllis Reich; Jonathan Phillips and Kathy Kakaletis, who are with the Elizabethtown 350 Committee. (applause)

Thank you.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you, Reverend Doctor Higgs.

I learned so much today from you, as I do every time we meet.

We'll now have the presentations of the Ceremonial Resolution honoring the City of Elizabeth. Mayor, could you please come to the podium to accept the Resolution? And any other Elizabeth councilmembers, if they're still here, could join you.

It's my privilege to introduce our Assembly Speaker, Vincent Prieto.

MAYOR J. CHRISTIAN BOLLWAGE: I'll be short and brief, and turn it over to the Assemblyman.

ASSEMBLYMAN VINCENT PRIETO: It's a great honor and pleasure to be here today. And I want to thank Mayor Bollwage for inviting us here for this occasion, and lending us this beautiful room to convene a committee of the Assembly. And I thought it was proper to do something, since 350 years ago the Colonial Assembly met in this -- that was the capital of the colony of New Jersey, the royal colony. So I think-- It is with great pride, as you being the Mayor of this great City, this is, on behalf of the General Assembly, a Resolution commemorating this day. (applause)

SENATOR RAYMOND J. LESNIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As a matter of fact, I want to commend the Speaker for having this Committee meeting convened here today to honor Elizabeth's 350th anniversary year. I am looking forward to the President of the Senate responding to Mayor Bollwage's request to have a Senate meeting here before the end of the year. How about that? Can we go to the bank on that? (applause)

In addition to that-- And by the way, I have a special attachment to that, being a life-long resident of Elizabeth -- born in Elizabeth Port, raised in Bayway, and now live on Irvington Avenue. So it would be a great day for me. Maybe I can be acting Senate President when that happens. (laughter)

But I just want to say one other thing; and I want to commend Madam Chair, Annette Quijano, Assemblyman Joe Cryan, the members of

the Committee, for continuing to be vigilant in terms of the need for Homeland Security. I was at the Port Authority building at 9:30 in the morning on Monday, September 10. So there, but for the grace of God, go I. But we can't always rely on the grace of God -- right, Reverend? We have to be prepared. And with the mounting threat of ISIS, this meeting is all the more important. And Chairwoman Quijano was on this issue from the get-go. She had the vision to see that we always have to be prepared and stay prepared. So I want to thank you all. (applause)

(photographs are taken)

MAYOR BOLLWAGE: Thank you very much, Chairwoman Quijano. I appreciate you taking the opportunity to come here.

I want to thank the Speaker of the Assembly as well for encouraging this meeting to be held. I want to thank the Reverend Doctor Higgs. It was actually his idea that we suggest a meeting of the Assembly and the Senate, actually, in his church, which was burned down in 1947, and then there was a tornado -- or it was burned down by the British, and then the tornado in 1947, or a hurricane. But that was the actual--

DR. HIGGS: They keep beating us up.

MAYOR BOLLWAGE: Huh?

DR. HIGGS: They keep beating us up. (laughter)

MAYOR BOLLWAGE: Yes, they keep whatever-- It was destroyed twice. But that was the actual location -- his church, next to the Courthouse -- of the first Assembly, 350 years ago, here.

We get to celebrate 350 years for two consecutive years because there were no cell phones in 1664, and there were two guys in England giving away the land in New Jersey. Hence, our litigious state today: we're

still fighting over land, but there were people giving land grants in 1664; there was another guy named Nicolls giving land grants in 1665. Do I have that correct? Close?

DR. HIGGS: Other way around.

MAYOR BOLLWAGE: Other way around. Nicolls was giving them out in 1664, and the King in 1665. So we're going to celebrate 350 years for two consecutive years. I want to thank Assemblyman Joe Cryan and Senator Lesniak. I also want to thank the Republican members of the Committee. We haven't had a Republican sit in one of those chairs since 1964. (laughter) So I'm actually thrilled that the Republican members of the Committee are here. And the Republican members of Council in 1964 -- they're probably turning over and saying, "Oh, thank God, we got them back!" (laughter) So I want to thank you for making the trek here to the City of Elizabeth, and we appreciate your commitment to our community and the 350th celebration.

This building -- just a real quick history -- was built during the WPA program under Franklin Roosevelt in 1939 and 1940. The desk that I use was used by the original mayor at that time, James T. Kirk. Legend has it that Gene Rodenberry was writing *Star Trek* in the 1950; the Mayor's name at that time was James T. Kirk in the City of Elizabeth. I have not been able to confirm if his middle name was Tiberius, for all you Trekkies out there. If I can ever do that, then we'll have proof that Captain James T. Kirk was patterned after the Mayor from 1938 to 1952 here in the City of Elizabeth.

So I hope you enjoy your meeting here; I hope you enjoy your stay in the City of Elizabeth. I'm on the second floor; if there's anything I can do to help you or members of your Committee, please call.

Thank you very much for this honor. (applause)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you, Mayor.

All right, now we're going to start our second portion of our meeting, which is National Preparedness Month.

National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort to encourage all Americans to take a few small steps to prepare for any type of emergency. The purpose of this meeting is to increase public awareness and encourage individuals to take action.

New Jersey is no stranger to emergencies. The upcoming two-year anniversary of Superstorm Sandy is a potent reminder of why we can never be too prepared. Preparedness requires learning from our experiences and each other to increase our state of readiness each and every year. As Chairwoman of the Assembly Homeland Security and State Preparedness Committee, it is my duty and that of this Committee to promote emergency preparedness.

I'm proud to be able to bring this information and resources to this Committee, and highlight this issue for the public. We have invited special guests from both the public and the private sector to testify on the steps they take to keep the public safe.

Our first witness today will be Dr. Christopher Rodriguez, State Director of the Office Homeland Security and Preparedness.

Dr. Rodriguez, since this is out of our Trenton usual meeting -- if you would push the button on that microphone, that it is in the up position, then everyone can hear you.

CHRISTOPHER RODRIGUEZ, PhD.: Madam Chair, thank you for having me here today.

Good afternoon. My name is Chris Rodriguez, and since late July of this year I've served as the Director of New Jersey's Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness. Allow me to thank the Committee for inviting me here today to discuss the State's level of preparedness.

I just want to begin by telling you a little bit about myself and what brought me to this position. After the events of 9/11, I was compelled to a life of public service -- like many here. I joined the Central Intelligence Agency in 2003, and served for over a decade in that Agency's Counterterrorism Center, where I worked with Federal, State, local, and international partners to identify and counter persistence threats to the United States and its allies.

I also oversaw an analytic unit that handled global economic and energy security, as well as related counterintelligence and cyber threats.

My experiences in the Federal government at the CIA taught me important lessons about the integration of law enforcement, emergency management, information sharing, and partnerships between a variety of public and private sectors. They also taught me another important lesson: the importance of being ready to face challenges presented by both old and new problems.

As the Governor's Homeland Security Advisor and Director of Homeland Security Preparedness, my comments today on the State's efforts

for emergency preparedness are done through the prism of Homeland Security. We have entered a new phase in Homeland Security, one that presents us all with a new set of challenges. Some threats remain constant -- such as international terrorism, the threat of active shooters, and weather related emergencies; but other threats are new, such as cybersecurity, attacks on faith-based communities, attacks on soft targets, and lone wolf domestic terroristic events such as we saw in Boston in 2013.

No matter the type of threat or source of threat, history has taught us that incidents which occur nationally and/or internationally can have an effect here in New Jersey. As a result, our work this year reflects our recognition of integrating planning to address both these old and new challenges.

An emergency will have an effect on all of us in some direct or indirect way; it will affect multiple public and private sectors; and it would also impact multiple areas. And because our state is so densely populated, and so interconnected and interdependent, incidents that occur in one part of the state necessarily have impacts in others.

In order to address these issues, we have divided the state's 21 counties into four preparedness regions: the UASI, which is the Urban Area Security Initiative, 7 counties on the northeast -- Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, and Union; the Northwest Region; the Delaware River Region; and the Shore Region. Each region has established a regional working group that includes representatives of each of the counties, as well as representatives of each of the key organizations involved in emergency preparedness and response.

This commitment to regional planning has improved our interim housing capabilities, enhanced sheltering and commodities distribution, and updated county emergency operations plans. Recent hurricanes and superstorms have presented a new reality to New Jersey, and has heightened our awareness of increased planning and collaboration to shelter evacuees during the hurricane if and when local counties capabilities are overwhelmed. We are working with our partners in the State Office of Emergency Management, Department of Human Services, Department of Health, Department of Transportation, and the National Guard to build capacity to develop evacuation plans and procedures, stockpile commodities, and formulate logistical plans to support the State during a catastrophic event.

We are able to stockpile commodities to support the State's shelters for a period of three days. We will continue to improve on this ability to shelter evacuees in the event of any type of emergency event. During my short term as Director, I have quickly come to the realization that we cannot do this alone. Our mission involves shared responsibilities, and because budgets are shrinking and resources are finite, we must work together with our partners, both public and private.

I want to make a point about the importance of the private sector in our efforts to do this. More than 85 percent of the critical infrastructure sites and key resources in our state are owned and operated by the private sector. Thus, having representatives from key private sector industries in our decision-making process is a key priority for us.

This is precisely why we have redoubled our efforts to incorporate the private sector into our daily work. We have established a

private sector desk at the State EOC, which is housed at the Regional Operations Intelligence Center in West Trenton. The private sector desk can and will be activated during any major event, and will serve as a single point of contact for the private sector to communicate directly with representatives across various Federal, State, and local agencies. The desk, which is staffed by personnel from my office and from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and FEMA, will be up and running before, during, and after an emergency event and will ensure real time situational awareness for critical sectors. It will be integral in the resolution of post-emergency issues affecting key industries.

Just like we value the importance of the input of the private sector, we must also recognize the important role the public plays in our efforts. This is why my office takes very seriously its responsibility to better engage the public. Simply put, the more engaged and prepared our residents and communities are, this helps make our state safer.

This year we have invested funds to make it much easier. By calling 2-1-1, the 24-hour and toll-free telephone line, the public can report suspicious activity to trained law enforcement personnel operating our terrorism tip line. I'll be introducing a public service message in the upcoming months that engages the public in supporting our preparedness and prevention mission to see something and say something. I will also be increasing the ability of my office to engage the citizens of this state in overall preparedness activities by building an external affairs office with the sole responsibility of reaching out to our constituents on a regular basis.

Additionally, we will continue to explore ways to communicate our message to the public in both traditional outlets, such as media

advertisements and billboards, as well as through new media including social media outlets. We are assessing social media best practices employed elsewhere for consideration in our planning.

Since assuming the role of Director of Homeland Security preparedness I have taken steps to better position the office to meet these new and emerging challenges. I have reorganized our intelligence division to provide both tactical and strategic analysis support across all efforts of the office. All of the programs in the office will now be enhanced by the integration of operations and analysis in all aspects of the work that we do -- whether it be citizen preparedness, protecting the State's critical infrastructure, or administering our grants program.

I have also created a position of Senior Cyber Advisor, who will have the responsibility of coordinating the State's cybersecurity efforts, analyzing national and international cyber threat streams to determine the impact on New Jersey's citizens, its institutions, and its critical infrastructure.

I have renewed our office's efforts to engage the tremendous potential of the State's universities and colleges, and I'm proud to announce that I have partnered with Dr. Cliff Lacy and his colleagues at the Rutgers Institute for Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security. You will hear more from Dr. Lacy, about the exciting and cutting edge work that the Institute is doing, shortly.

I have also partnered with the New Jersey State Police and the Office of Information Technology for the collaborations of the Rutgers Police Institute, under the leadership of Tom O'Reilly, to increase the

State's ability to bring real time information into the hands of our State's emergency responder community in the private sector.

Lastly, I am happy to announce that our office is tackling the final unresolved issue of the 9/11 Commission report -- interoperability. As we meet here today, there is a collaborative effort underway in cooperation with the State Police, Office of Technology, New Jersey Transit, and the cities of Newark, Atlantic City, and Camden to bring a public safety wireless network that will enhance interoperability and real-time crime information sharing.

In closing, let me thank you for not only being here today, but also for your work throughout the year. I believe that this Committee has been of tremendous value not only to my office, but to the citizens of the State of New Jersey. Thank you for inviting me, and I look forward to continuing our work together.

Thank you. (applause)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you, Dr. Rodriguez.

I appreciate the meeting that we had a few weeks ago, and I will be making an appointment for our whole Committee to meet with you in your office shortly.

DR. RODRIGUEZ: Great; I look forward to it. Thank you, Assemblywoman.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: The next individual will be Tiffany Haas, Communications Director and Legislative Counsel for the Office of Congressman Donald Payne Jr., U.S. Committee on Homeland Security.

Thanks, Tiffany.

T I F F A N Y J . H A A S: Thank you, Madam Chair, for inviting me to testify, and for having me here today.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Tiffany, just make sure your button is up -- in the upward position. Okay.

MS. HAAS: Can you hear me now?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Yes.

MS. HAAS: Okay.

Thank you, Madam Chair, for inviting me here today and having me testify on behalf of Congressman Donald Payne Jr. As you said, I am Tiffany Haas; I serve as Counsel to Congressman Payne, and advise him in his position on the House Committee on Homeland Security where he serves as ranking member of the subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications.

This Committee meeting in honor of September as National Emergency Preparedness Month is very fitting, and the Congressman is very sorry he could not be here today. He's in Washington at a previously scheduled immigration conference that he is hosting. He does send his regards and best wishes, and commends the Committee for their critical work in raising awareness around emergency preparedness within our communities. I will certainly share with him the events of today, and any sentiments shared with me here, as well as the proceedings of today.

Congressman Payne wanted me to first thank Assemblywoman Quijano for inviting him to attend today's proceedings. He also wanted me to thank the distinguished Committee members, as well as everyone in attendance today, for their commitment to this important issue.

Since coming to Congress, Congressman Payne has been strongly committed to emergency preparedness. Having being sworn in just months following Hurricane Sandy and, shortly before that, Hurricane Irene, he saw the need for strong representation of New Jersey on the Committee on Homeland Security. One of his first orders of business in Washington was to secure Hurricane Sandy relief funding, which amounted to nearly \$51 billion.

And, in fact, his being on the Committee is very appropriate, as he often tells the story, which is fitting on this eve of Patriot's day, about his memories of September 11, 2001. At the time, he was the Essex County Director of Student Transportation. After the twin towers were hit that day, it was his responsibility to make sure that the thousands of children returned home safely to their families. The day was so chaotic, so frightening and such a shock; it took him the entire day to carry out this responsibility, and his last child made it home not until 11 p.m. This experience really struck home with him, and stayed with him. And so many of his initiatives have been in response to his own experiences and the increasing number of natural and man-made disasters our state has experienced in recent history, to ensure that our cities, our State, and our country are prepared for whatever emergency that may occur.

This Congress, he introduced the Safe in Our Schools Act, which would require every state that receives Homeland Security grant dollars to at least make sure that they certify their schools have an emergency plan in place. To him, it is not too much to ask to make sure that there are emergency plans in place, for our children who are most vulnerable, that include a relocation plan, a reunification plan, a plan for

children with disabilities, and a plan for multiple disasters so that we protect the most vulnerable among us.

Many times it is our children who know more than adults about emergency preparedness. They are valuable resources to their parents and families. They are often the ones who learn most about emergency procedures in school, and that is why we must continue many of the educational initiatives that are already being carried out by FEMA, the Red Cross, and our first responders within our communities.

The Congressman has also introduced a bill that would modernize and upgrade our electric grid. Following Hurricane Sandy, power lines were knocked out for nearly two weeks. The business community and the families didn't have access to power. His Smart Grid Study Act would examine ways to strengthen the electric grid so that it can withstand these powerful storms and protect us from ever-increasing cyber attacks. He is proud to say that he passed this bill in this contentious Congress, and is hopeful that the Senate will do the same and it will be signed by the President.

If people can't watch the news on their television, or get emergency alerts on their phones because they don't have the power to do so, it is far more difficult to be prepared and respond in times of emergency, and it makes the first responder community's job much more difficult.

His initiative would ensure that we learn from what happened following Hurricane Sandy, to make our power grid more resilient and our cities better protected and prepared.

Finally, the last thing I'll touch on, that Congressman Payne has been a very ardent advocate for, is continued funding for Homeland

Security grants. With its high density population and with Newark Liberty Airport, Port Newark, Port Elizabeth, and the many chemical facilities in his District, he has been an outspoken advocate for emergency preparedness funding for northern New Jersey. Although budgets are strained, he has been able to help secure more than \$52 million in Homeland Security grant funding for New Jersey for Fiscal Year 2014, and he will continue to fight for more dollars to increase educational outreach efforts to provide our first responders with the resources and manpower they need, and to ensure that our communities are protected. As I said, the Congressman is the sole member from New Jersey on the House Committee on Homeland Security, and he takes this responsibility very seriously and feels that he's not only responsible for protecting his District, but also the State and the country.

And, again, he thanks you very much for your invitation and for your initiative on emergency preparedness. And he wants you to use his office as a resource in the future.

Thank you.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you so much, Tiffany. And please send my regards to the Congressman.

MS. HAAS: I will. Thank you.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: The next person to testify is Lieutenant (*sic*) Christian Schulz, Deputy Superintendent, New Jersey State Homeland Security Branch.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHRISTIAN SCHULZ:
Good afternoon. I think the button is up; very good.

Good afternoon, Chairwoman Quijano and Committee members. My name is Lieutenant Colonel Christian Schulz; I am the

Deputy Superintendent of Homeland Security for the New Jersey State Police. And I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to speak to the New Jersey State Assembly Homeland Security and Preparedness Committee this afternoon.

My remarks today will focus on a macro level, a programmatic view of emergency preparedness and homeland security initiatives being undertaken by the Division of State Police and the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management.

As we approach the 13th anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center and, very soon, the second anniversary of Superstorm Sandy making landfall in New Jersey, it is important to emphasize how the national preparedness architecture -- which encompasses prevention, protection, response, and recovery -- is closely modeled in New Jersey, where we have had great success in preparing our communities with an all-hazards, all-threats philosophy. Our experiences and those of partner states have demonstrated the complexity we face today from both natural and man-made threats, resulting in the State's homeland security enterprise to adapt and evolve, with an even greater focus on sustainability and resilience.

Our approach to encourage resilience challenges is to establish interdisciplinary relationships and mechanisms to secure resources so residents of our communities can eventually thrive after these events occur.

Building resilience is about learning to navigate the new normal, and about developing a model for successfully coping with the changes that large scale natural, technological, and civil disasters inevitably bring.

The best and most recent example of our efforts to make the State more resilient from natural hazards can be found in our recent FEMA Public Assistance Award of \$260 million to build a comprehensive flood protection system at the wastewater treatment facility in Newark, which will incorporate a microgrid technology to allow the facility to continue operations when the larger electric grid fails.

Over the past decade and beyond, we have learned that large-scale events are rarely contained to a certain, single jurisdiction or region. We have learned that challenging economic times make family preparedness difficult. We know that a long-term recovery process is demanding, and that sustainable mitigation practices can be complex to implement. We have been shown that people with disabilities and older adults are still disproportionately impacted by disasters. We know that success on paper -- acquiring grants, equipment, and other resources -- is true success only if corresponding skills such as leadership and cultural confidence are also in place.

So how do you transition effectively from lessons learned to lessons applied? Today's complex threats and events require an interdisciplinary approach, the ability to work with nontraditional partners, and the need to navigate decentralized command and control systems. Our homeland security leaders have embraced the philosophy and characteristics of meta-leadership, making our State the model for information sharing, event planning, and community partnerships.

At the Regional Operations Intelligence Center -- the Rock, as it's known -- we are harnessing the skill sets of intelligence analysts to aid in creating a common operating picture during natural disasters, further

enhancing the fusion center's concept. External communications from the Rock to key stakeholders totaled nearly 18,000 messages regarding threats and crime during 2013.

We've also created a Cyber Fusion Cell, making New Jersey one of the first within the National Fusion Center Network to develop a cyber capability. Our working groups and committees, social service providers, and faith-based groups are showing the best ways to help at-risk populations. Land-use professionals are informing mitigation efforts, and small business owners have helped to regain the character of New Jersey's communities in the aftermath of disasters.

We are embracing regional approaches to planning. This is evident in the work that is being done on cross-border plans between Philadelphia and southern New Jersey, and also New York City and the northeast corner of the state. We participate in the regional catastrophic planning team involving the multi-state area of New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania.

The agreements established with other states have allowed us to accept assistance during times through our participation in the National Emergency Management Assistance Compact. Community-based emergency plans have adapted to include development of contingency action plans for specific sites. These plans are essential to the protection of critical infrastructure and soft targets, such as shopping malls. They are also necessary to ensure public safety around special events; we were nationally recognized for our planning efforts during Super Bowl XLVIII.

Counties are strengthening their existing working relationships through county MOUs. These actions aided in the movement of assets

during Sandy and helped to streamline Federal assistance following the storm.

The costs of Sandy's damages to our communities are being recovered steadily, with an emphasis on integrity within the grants management process. Governor Christie's Administration has worked closely with the recovery team to put the necessary technology in place so the duration of hardship is lessened for victims of Sandy. Software applications have improved our information sharing about the status of projects with local officials. Advances on reimbursements for emergency protective measures and debris clearance offered solutions to Sandy's extreme impact on local budgets. We also had a record number of private, nonprofit agencies apply for disaster public assistance grants. This is a whole community approach to disaster recovery for agencies that are serving marginalized populations.

(Indiscernible) NJOEM's focal point for planning for large scale responses, the Division of State Police also has its boots on the ground, deploying personnel and resources through a variety of terrorism prevention strategies. The New Jersey State Police Aviation Bureau conducts maritime patrols of the state's ports, nuclear power plants, and other critical infrastructure.

The State also deploys Target Hardening Response and Emergency Activation -- THREAT -- Teams. These squads of Federal, State, County and local law enforcement officers respond to identify critical sites based on threat-related intelligence reports in order to prevent acts of terrorism.

Our enhanced sector security patrols are being deployed to key resources throughout the state during major holidays and other special occasions as a terrorism preventative measure. In 2014, we have deployed 382 times. On the maritime front, the State Police Marine Bureau maintains a presence on all tidal and nontidal waters throughout the state and along the coast. It has enhanced its capabilities to detect suspicious devices that might be attached to a vessel, bridge, or other structure within a port.

The New Jersey State Police continues to maintain the most advanced SWAT teams in New Jersey. The Technical Emergency and Missions Specialists -- TEAMS -- unit has special weapons and tactics training on advanced rescue operations, and underwater search and recovery capability. The State Police Bomb, K-9, Hazardous Materials units also provide advanced expertise to local and county agencies, supporting planned events, critical incidents, training, and exercises.

The State's whole community approach to citizen engagement and preparedness measures remains strong and robust. Today, there are nearly 20,000 of New Jersey's community members who serve as Community Emergency Response Team volunteers. The NJOEM is grateful for, and proud of, the work that is being done by these energetic and talented community members who serve in shelters, emergency operations centers, and on the streets of their own towns during adverse conditions. We receive feedback and reports on conditions from community members through our social media channels, which have a healthy following.

In conclusion, the positive trends that I outlined here focus heavily on approaches to planning that have been influenced by political,

societal, and other external factors. The strong sense of identity and unique character that New Jersey small and large communities possess is a factor which positively influences our homeland security efforts. Our State has made great strides in its preparedness since the events of 9/11, and today we are better prepared to respond to manmade and natural disasters, are better able to prevent threats from terrorism while continuing to adapt and evolve within our ever-complex environment.

As we move forward we will continue to practice the four principles of emergency management: focusing on stakeholders, building partnerships, developing new technologies, and communicating to the public and private sectors.

I thank you again for the opportunity to discuss New Jersey's Homeland Security and Emergency Management initiatives and accomplishments, and at this time I'd be happy to answer any of your questions, should you have them.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you so much, Lieutenant Schulz.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL SCHULZ: You're welcome.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Our next speaker will be Dr. Clifton Lacy, Director of Rutgers Institute of Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security.

I just want to make sure -- the button should be in the up position.

CLIFTON R. LACY, M.D.: Button up.

Good afternoon, Committee Chair Quijano, Assemblyman Cryan, Assemblywoman Pinkin, Assemblyman Russo, Assemblywoman Schepisi, and other distinguished luminaries here today.

My name is Dr. Clifton Lacy; I'm the Director of the Rutgers University Institute for Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security. Many of you know me from my prior service to New Jersey as Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to make this presentation about the Rutgers Institute for Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security, and to highlight its missions and activities.

The Rutgers Institute was recently established to play a national and international leadership role in developing and implementing initiatives to protect the lives, health, and well-being of individuals and populations of our state, our nation, and, ultimately, the world.

The Institute brings together experts from the broad spectrum of disciplines, schools, departments, and centers that exist across the statewide campuses of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey -- and with Federal, State, national, and international partners in both the public and private sectors -- to address all aspects of emergency preparedness, disaster response, and homeland security.

The Institute coordinates and facilitates academic, scientific, technological innovative and entrepreneurial interactions between and among Rutgers faculty; among those faculty, staff, and students; and between the university and outside entities.

The mission of the Institute: The Institute is a university-wide, multidisciplinary center of excellence, blending the expertise and experience of the sciences and humanities from all campuses statewide to protect and enhance the life, health, and wellness of individuals and populations; and to safeguard the physical, economic, and societal infrastructure through national and international collaboration in research, education, community outreach, and practice.

Our vision is to bring together a multidisciplinary group of subject-matter experts whose efforts help to optimize prevention, protection, preparation, mitigation, response, recovery, and resiliency for all-hazards emergencies, disasters, and terrorism -- whether of natural, accidental, or intentional origin.

Our robust cadre of subject-matter experts span the spectrum of disciplines, including health care, behavioral health, public health, biosafety, biosecurity, emergency medical services, emergency management, law, public safety, criminal justice, homeland security, transportation science, engineering, pharmacology and drug development, computer science and cybersecurity, mathematics, environmental and exposure science, business, public policy -- among the other areas also having a nexus to preparedness and response.

This Institute is an umbrella entity that encompasses existing centers located across all the campuses of Rutgers University. Some of our collaborating centers are -- I'll enumerate quickly -- the Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation; the Center for Discrete Mathematics and Theoretical Computer Science; the Center for Dynamic Data Analysis; the Center for Transportation Safety, Security, and Risk; Command, Control,

and Interoperability Center for Advanced Data Analysis; the CounterACT Research Center of Excellence; the Center for Exposure and Risk Modeling; the Institute for Families; the Police Institute; and the University Center for Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response. Many of these are federally funded, some State funded, all robust and working together under this umbrella.

The Institute is a University-wide initiative of Rutgers that spans all its schools and centers to provide opportunities for collaboration, cooperation, and consultation with subject-matter experts in a wide variety of disciplines through one, single point of entry. Organizations outside the University can contact the Institute with their needs and then be matched with appropriate subject matter experts.

Our expertise and experience have both broad spectrum and depth. We offer a one-stop portal to address educational, clinical, research, and community outreach needs.

Individuals and centers within the University and among our affiliates, who perform work in the areas related to emergency preparedness and homeland security, can become engaged in and collaborate with our Institute -- and we encourage this and facilitate it.

The Institute can assist in developing collaboration, identifying shared resources, seeking funding, and guiding project development and management.

So to summarize, the Institute's major features include fostering collaboration among Rutgers faculty, students, and staff; developing collaboration between the University and outside public and private entities; serving as a single portal to connect with Rutgers experts;

and featuring a one-stop capability for access to the full breadth and depth of expertise in the relevant subject matter.

I have some brochures that I'll leave. For more information, you can access our website at iephs.rutgers.edu. In the brochure there's also contact information, as well as means of addressing and interacting with our Institute.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to make this presentation about the Rutgers Institute for Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security, and to highlight its missions and activities. And thank you again for the great work of your Committee. We look forward to working closely with you in the future.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you so much, Dr. Lacy. We look forward to working with you. The first conference you had was great; I wish I could have stayed the whole day. It could have probably gone into the night with all the information that was presented that day. I think the one-stop portal is going to be a great vehicle for all of us.

DR. LACY: Thank you. We are currently in the process of scheduling the remaining conferences for this year. Multiple topics, multiple experts -- but all relevant to the work of this Committee.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you.

The next speaker will be Don Weyant, Regulatory Leader, PSE&G, Government Affairs.

DONALD W. WEYANT: Good afternoon, Madam Chairwoman Quijano and members of the Committee. On behalf of PSE&G I thank you for inviting us to share the practices that we have in place to ensure that our

customers and employees are fully prepared for any emergencies that may occur.

My name is Don Weyant; I'm PSE&G's Manager of Regulatory Compliance, and I've been involved with storm restoration and emergency restoration work my entire career with PSE&G.

PSE&G has been recognized by PA Consulting, a leading industry benchmarking firm, for being the most reliable electric utility in the Mid-Atlantic Region for the past 12 years; for being the most reliable electric utility in the country for the years 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, and 2011; and for outstanding response to a major outage event in 2010, 2011, and 2012. So we're proud of our record.

PSE&G's storm disaster plan was formalized over 50 years ago, and continues to be enhanced. It encompasses all the electric delivery and all the departments in the utility including our gas delivery folks and our customer operations people. And it includes all of the departments within the company, PSEG.

Let's talk a little bit about the processes that we have in place: our command center, our nerve center is -- (indiscernible) we call a Distribution Emergency Response Center -- DERC; it's located in our general office in Newark, and it coordinates our responses to major storms that may come up on us suddenly, or forecasted storms such as Sandy and Irene. We open it for significant customer outages and planned damage events such as the August 2003 Northeast blackout; and, of course, we opened, unfortunately, on 9/11, 13 years ago.

We would open it for any interruption involving a business continuity process, involving our 2.2 million customers -- electric customers -- at any of our huge substations or our switching stations.

We basically have five components integrated with our preparation in response to major events.

Preparation: Preparation could begin a week in advance, if we had that notice, such as for a hurricane. It could come a day in advance, such as what we're doing today for a possible thunderstorm tomorrow. So that's the first key step.

Mobilization is the next step, involving our internal crews and personnel, along with any mutual aid, and line contracting crews, and tree contracting crews that we may deem necessary.

Then we get into damage assessment -- an extremely important part of our process. And when we get into that area, we may also go back and revisit the need for additional mutual aid, depending on the severity of the storm.

Restoration: We have a robust restoration process where we reach out to our key stakeholders, regulators, county and State agencies, public media. And then we wind up with lessons learned -- we always have lessons learned after a major event.

Our priority focus during storm restoration includes hospitals, obviously, initially; infrastructure; huge pumping stations; and we work our way down from that.

We feel we effectively implemented this process, and for us we got a lot of experience the last couple of years, starting with the March 2010 Nor'easter; a Nor'easter is nothing more than a winter hurricane.

Then we had Irene in August of that year; the wet snow storm in October of that year; and then, two years ago, Superstorm Sandy, which interrupted about 91 percent of our customers -- over 2 million customers. That was unique in that we wound up getting over 3,200 linemen from throughout the country; 1,300 tree trimmers; and we had to bring in about over 100 substation personnel because of the flooding that we wound up getting hit with when the Arthur Kill sort of went on a rampage. So that was-- We brought in over 4,600 people, overall.

We wound up -- all of the utilities getting a Board order -- Board orders from the BPU on Sandy and Irene. Most of the recommendations that were involved in the Board orders we already had in our processes, but the recommendations have all been implemented. They involved the communications -- basically how we could strengthen our communications with municipal officials, with our customers, estimated times of restoration, using social media, debris management -- clearing roads -- enhancing that. That goes through the county OEMs, so they were a whole mess. I think Public Service itself had probably 80, plus or minus, orders directed towards them; the other utilities, the same thing.

These storms led PSE&G to our Energy Strong initiative, which is basically to harden its electric and gas infrastructure to make them less susceptible to wind damage, flying debris, and water damage in anticipation of future major events, and to increase the resiliency of our electric delivery system. As approved, these Energy Strong investments will be made over a three- to five-year period -- five years we need to work on our flood mitigation programs for electric and gas facilities; \$600 million has been allocated to our electric infrastructure investments, \$400 million to the gas.

And the \$600 million for electric will be directed to flood mitigation. It's a five-year program, as I said. We had 29 stations that we're going to be working on which were damaged by water, not only in Sandy but in recent storms. And we hope to begin later this year, once final plans are finalized. These stations are located in Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Passaic, Somerset, and Union counties.

There's \$100 million dedicated toward contingency reconfiguration strategies. We have about 80 circuits that we're looking at to beef them up, to redesign them so that they can provide better service and reduce outages when damage occurs. And there's \$100 million associated with advanced technologies, including microprocessor relays and SCADA improvements. SCADA stands for Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition. At substations we have over 600 circuits we're going to be working on, and over 50 substations -- all to better monitor our circuits and our operations.

Energy Strong work that's going to be performed in Union County -- flood mitigation work is going to be done at Bay Way switch and Bay Way sub, the same piece of property; Cranford Substation, Linden Switching Station, and Rahway Substation. The advanced technology, the relays, and the SCADA work is going to be done, again, in Union County, in the Aldene substation, the Doremus Place substation, Fanwood substation, North Avenue sub, South Second Street sub, Springfield Road sub, and Warinanco sub. And the contingency reconfiguration that -- we're really just beginning to develop that but, as I said, we're going to have over 80 circuits involved.

Yes, the work is going to be done; \$350 million of the \$400 million will be to modernize over 250 miles of low pressure, cast-iron mains. That will prevent them from -- reinforcing them so water doesn't get into them. We expect to have 8 miles done this year. Work has begun in Bergen and Hudson counties, and recently in Mercer County.

We have two stations -- MNR stations that are going to be protected -- raised up; two of the five are in Union County -- Crown Central and Piles Creek. So you have two of those in Union County.

In closing, Energy Strong is our program that is going to begin to harden our systems against the kind of severe weather damage we sustained to our infrastructure over the past few years. Our employees and contractors are working hard now to replace these gas pipes, these gas mains, and upgrading substations and adding the intelligence to our system to speed restoration.

But much more, really, can be done so that we can ensure that additional electric and gas systems can withstand the kind of severe weather that we have been experiencing. We intend to work with regulators and other parties to consider these measures -- other measures that were in our original proposal, at a later date.

New Jersey now has the opportunity to begin creating a holistic model for infrastructure resiliency in the 21st century. And PSE&G is proud to be a company that's doing foundational work to make New Jersey stronger than the storm.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you very much.

The next speaker will be Kevin Lynott, Director of Government Relations, Elizabethtown Gas.

KEVIN LYNOTT: Good afternoon. You all have a copy of my testimony; I won't read it, but I'll highlight five points I would like to explain.

First are emergency preparations. In order to respond to a storm you have to have a plan. AGL Resources, our parent company, is very adept at developing crisis management plans. These plans are very comprehensive -- they deal with mutual aid; they deal with analysis of maps, forecasts, and FEMA data so we can predict what's going to happen as a storm approaches. It goes through communications with our employees and customers to make sure they understand the information they need before the storm, during the storm, and then after the storm. It also deals with routine work. We get all the routine work done -- completed -- so that when the storm approaches and comes, those crews are available for restoration work only.

After you have a plan, you have to have a group that implements the plan. We have our Incident Support Team; it's a cross-sectional company -- group of people -- that focuses on the preparations for the storm, and then the execution of the plan after the storm hits. It's been very effective during Hurricane Sandy, specifically.

The third point is that AGL Resources has an awful lot of resources. Elizabethtown Gas is very fortunate to be a member of the AGL Resources family, and AGL is one of the largest natural gas distribution companies in the country. We have sister utilities in Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, and Florida. We have a huge professional and

experienced bench that, in an emergency, we can bring them in very quickly; they know and understand our routines and procedures, and they jump right in and they have been very effective in restoring service.

As an example of that, we prepped our call center in Georgia to handle calls that would have gone to our Union Township call center in case we lost communications. We did. Those calls were sent directly to Georgia; it was all seamless, and it worked very well.

Another point is, Elizabethtown Gas is focusing on turning off the gas. Electric companies will focus on getting their customers restored. We focus on turning off the gas. When the floods come, that meter-- The flood will go up; the meter will be flooded, and the water goes back down. There's a very good chance that meter will still work. We don't trust the integrity of that meter. What we did is, right after the storm ended, we went out and did 8,000 meter checks; we shut off 1,008 meters, and then we began the process of replacing all of them. It's just a way we thought it would be much safer to conduct our business, and it worked very well.

The final issue is *endure*. Because of lessons learned from Superstorm Sandy we asked the Board of Public Utilities' permission to spend \$15 million in a one-year program to reinforce the areas of our service territory that got flooded. The program will include upgrade and replacement of 12 miles of low-pressure cast-iron mains that were in the flood zones; the replacement of 600 meter sets in those flood zones; the replacement of the communication apparatus dealing with our three gate stations that got flooded; the relocation and raising of our control equipment and our LNG facility in Elizabeth; and we're going to engage a consultant to assist in our development of improved communications with

our customers during emergencies. We will continue to refine the procedures we use during a storm.

I'd be happy to answer to answer any questions you may have.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you so much.

Okay. I want to put in the record that Jersey Central Power & Light submitted written testimony.

And the next speaker will be Mathieu Nelessen, Regional CEO, American Red Cross.

And Paul Gass.

MATHIEU NELESSEN: Thank you, Madam Chairwoman; thank you to the Committee members and distinguished guest.

My name is Mathieu Nelessen; I'm the Regional CEO for the American Red Cross in New Jersey.

A small piece of background on the Red Cross is that we operate on an unfunded Congressional mandate, which essentially titles us as a Federal instrumentality. So we sit within the National Disaster framework and occupy the only nonprofit position in that framework with an ESF #6 -- which is sheltering and mass care. We operate solely funded by the general public, with the support of the general public; 91 cents on each of our dollars goes back to the mission which we serve, and we are a volunteer-led and driven organization with 90 percent of our workforce being volunteers.

We focus primarily on five core components of our mission: service to the armed forces; international services; disaster -- full cycle of disaster service, and I'll talk about that; blood; and preparedness, health, and safety.

Within disaster, in New Jersey we are the ESF #6 co-lead, which is mass care. And I'd like to recognize some of our municipal, county, and State-level partners, specifically the Office of Emergency Management, Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, Department of Community Affairs, Department of Human Services, and the Governor's Office, of course, for their great support and partnership.

Within the work that we do in disaster cycle services, we focus on three areas or phases, and they are all intertwined: response, recovery, and preparedness. As you know, during Superstorm Sandy we operated 65 shelters and delivered 4.5 million meals and snacks. In regards to the recovery, we're coming up on the two-year anniversary on October 29 and we're still doing work with Sandy victims every day and distributing resources of the restricted dollars that we raised -- so good work is still happening on the ground.

And this transitions right into our preparedness work. Madam Chairwoman, you've been a fantastic ambassador of preparedness in your community. We really look at preparedness in two phases: one is the large-level disasters, the *notice* events, like a hurricane; and the *non-notice* events -- an act of terror, earthquake -- things of that nature. And then our day-to-day preparedness work is what we're focusing on, predominantly with single-family house fires -- the Red Cross responds to about 70,000 disasters a day, and many of them are single-family house fires. The bulk of those are-- We respond to, in New Jersey, about four single-family house fires a day, some of them right here in the City of Elizabeth, frequently.

Within those preparedness categories we focus on individuals, organizations, and corporations. What we realize is that 40 percent of the

Garden State residents, both organizations and individuals, took any steps, post-Sandy, to become better prepared. That's something where we really appreciate this opportunity to come and testify, to be sure that we're keeping the volume increased on preparedness.

When we look at individuals, we're looking at tools like "Be Red Cross Ready." The Red Cross just released a suite of apps from wildfire, to tornado, to sheltering, to hurricane apps; first aid, CPR apps. They are also all in Spanish -- available in Spanish; they're free to the public; great resources to have at home and in day-to-day business.

And then from corporate preparedness, we're looking at things like Ready Rating tools. We know that 40 percent of small businesses never come back online after a disaster. Small or large, we have some really great free tools for you as a small business owner to come use and to become better prepared.

Lastly, I would say that we are going to very quietly launch a "Prepare New Jersey" campaign -- with some of those key stakeholders that we talked about -- on September 30 in Perth Amboy. And we're looking at kind of cross-function, cross-industry Prepare New Jersey so we can all be consistent in our messaging -- because this has to be repetitive. This is a behavior change question when it comes to making our residents and our constituents better prepared.

And we really appreciate the opportunity to talk about preparedness; we really appreciate your leadership when it comes to preparedness; and I'm happy to answer any questions.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you so much.

We're a little behind, so I'm trying to get all the speakers up.

The next speaker will be Jim Horne, CEO of United Way of Greater Union County.

J A M E S W. H O R N E Jr.: Good afternoon, Madam Chair and Committee members. My name is James Horne, the President and CEO of United Way of Greater Union County. And I will adhere and be as brief as possible to move the program along.

Just by way of a brief introduction, the United Way of Greater Union County provides services to residents of Union County and North and South Plainfield -- thus the *greater*. But our primary focus is on improving the quality of life and ensuring our residents in Union County have access to services.

Our primary work has been in the area of disasters -- in responding and helping folks find the resources that they need after the disasters. Clearly, 9/11 was a huge activity for our community and our country. And the United Way of Union County helped connect the families not only with financial support, but social services as well.

More recently, with Hurricane Sandy, we again found our role in collecting resources and helping families put their lives back together after the storm.

The Union County community is very generous and supportive. We were actually, through the United Way, able to raise over \$500,000 to support families in Union County, and we continue to work with families in Union County on long-term recovery, with the Red Cross and Catholic Charities as well.

It has been our privilege to work with Assemblywoman Quijano on disaster preparedness throughout the county. And annually, over the

past three years I think, we've gone out to talk to seniors in our communities about being prepared for disasters, and provide them with information and materials to ensure that they're aware of how to be prepared for disasters, and who to contact if a disaster occurs.

And then, for us, we see our role as being on the ground helping our community. The United Way in New Jersey has-- There are actually 22 other chapters; together, back in 2003, we got together and established the New Jersey 2-1-1 system. NJ 2-1-1 is a 24-hour information referral system, that is either an inbound call or online, to help our residents connect with critical services. We've been able to expand this service to partner with the OEM, as well as other disaster preparedness agencies in New Jersey, to ensure that residents can call into NJ 2-1-1 if there is a disaster to understand how to connect, how to evacuate; and then afterwards, how to connect for services.

It's really been our pleasure to work with this Committee to ensure that residents have access to the information, so that during the time of a critical disaster they are able to connect with those services.

So I would like to thank you folks, and thank the Committee for allowing the United Way to talk about our work, and our continued work with your Committee, and NJ 2-1-1.

Thank you.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you so much, Jim.

Our next speaker is Assemblyman Joe Cryan, Union County Acting Sheriff.

ASSEMBLYMAN JOSEPH CRYAN: Thanks; thank you, Madam Chair.

Hi, everybody. I'm glad you're still here; thank you. I also want to reiterate -- along with the Chair -- thank you for coming to the great City of Elizabeth, the fourth-largest city in New Jersey. I don't think folks realize that.

And thank you so much for being (*sic*) what our current Governor and then-U.S. Attorney calls part of *the most dangerous two miles in America* at the time; which is, with Newark Airport, the Port of Elizabeth, and the refineries -- as anybody who took the Turnpike to come up today knows -- it's also the economic heartbeat, one would argue, of our great state and maybe of the region.

We are particularly excited about the raising of the Bayonne Bridge and the opportunity that it brings to the Port, and the economic opportunities that the Port brings to all of us here -- not only in the City of Elizabeth and the 20th District, but in the region as well.

A couple of little trivia facts for you that I want to make sure you take away, especially as Legislators continue to debate over economic opportunities around the state. If you get a chance, stop by Jersey Gardens Mall, because outside of Atlantic City, it is the busiest tourist spot in New Jersey. I think a lot of folks don't realize that. In addition, the City of Elizabeth has the second-most hotel space; actually, it has the most hotel space outside of Atlantic City in New Jersey as well. Think about that for a minute. It's the fourth-largest city -- Newark, Jersey City, Paterson, and then the city that you're in right now. The majority of Newark Airport, by the way, in acreage, is in the City of Elizabeth.

There are a lot of great things happening here, and we're excited that you're here to be a part of it.

If I asked you where you were 13 years ago today, you may or may not remember. But if I asked you where you were tomorrow, 13 years ago, I assure you, you would remember. It doesn't seem that long ago, but the reality is, is that the threats that we've talked about here -- utilities and storms -- the thing that's made us most aware of homeland security occurred 13 years ago tomorrow at 8:46 a.m., with the remembrance that we will have here in the City as well.

I just want to remind you all that here in Union County we have a wonderful relation with some of the folks who are going to speak after me and some of the folks who have spoken before us. The coordination of law enforcement, post-9/11, has been something I think every citizen in the State of New Jersey can be proud of as we work to fix things like technology upgrades, coordination in message, and, most importantly, coordination in response, as you've heard through and through today.

But I can't help but think of the fact that the reality is, is that tonight -- tonight, 13 years ago and one day -- Barack Obama is going to talk to the country about a terrorism threat that's very real. And for any of us who watched those videos or heard the story, we can understand how close it is to home. I'd remind you all that it's even closer to home than that. If anyone saw the murder of Brendan Tevlin just a couple of weeks ago -- just a couple of months ago in West Orange. I note for you that this killer, who killed a young man who simply stopped at a red light, indicated that all these lives are taken every single day by America, by this government. So a life for a life, according to the killer of Brendan Tevlin.

Terrorism is literally right next door, whether we consider it in our economic engine in the Port, or whether we consider it at a red light in West Orange; whether we watch the President tonight; or look at a visual of a building going up that reminds us so much that there are two buildings that aren't there, and lives and families that will never be the same.

What I would like to leave you with is a message that law enforcement here in Union County is strong and coordinated; it's been an incredible response all throughout the years.

And finally, on a more positive note than that, and a little more upbeat, you heard Reverend Higgs talk about our proud history here in the City. I'd like to invite you all as we continue the celebration: October 18 and 19 we are doing reenactments, which we think are pretty exciting. If you're into them at all, just very briefly, the Battle of Springfield and the Battle of Connecticut Farms will be done Saturday, October 18; and on October 19, the Attack on Elizabethtown will be reenacted. It's pretty cool stuff, if you haven't seen it, and it will give you a sense of history that, maybe, sometimes gets lost, or certainly isn't felt by reading a book or even looking at an iPad video.

So if you get a chance, come on by and celebrate with us. Know that law enforcement continues to cooperate, whether it's in concerns about emergency response -- be it weather, be it terrorism; and most important, that folks continue to work together for the most important part of what we do each day: provide security for our citizens.

Thanks for the opportunity, madam Chair, and thank you all for being here.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you, Joe.

Thank you.

Our next speaker, from the County, is Christopher Scaturo, Union County OEM.

C H R I S T O P H E R S C A T U R O: Is this working? (referring to PA microphone) Okay.

Good afternoon. And I'd like to thank the Committee for this opportunity to speak today.

My name is Christopher Scaturo, and I am the Director of Emergency Services and the County Emergency Management Coordinator for Union County.

Part of my day-to-day responsibilities include not only emergency management, but hazardous materials, emergency medical services, our fire training academy, communications, and domestic preparedness grants management.

I started in emergency management 20 years ago, before anybody knew what emergency management meant. Early in my career, when people asked what I did for a living and I said I worked in emergency management, they assumed that I drove an ambulance. I think that today, after events such as hurricanes, natural disasters, September 11, 2001, and the anthrax scare that followed, everybody has an understanding of what emergency management is.

We're fortunate in Union County that all levels of government and all agencies within those levels work together and form a partnership to respond to emergencies and disasters. From police, fire, emergency medical, emergency management, health, public works, our utility companies, and

other agencies -- we all work together to ensure that whatever resources are needed for an emergency are there.

In my 20 years in emergency management I've been through a large variety of emergencies. During Hurricane Irene, I remember making a statement in our Emergency Operations Center -- or EOC -- that it was the busiest activation I'd ever experienced. And then Sandy hit, and I realized that that was the busiest activation that I'd ever seen.

I truly believe that the lessons learned from Irene made us capable to handle the response for Sandy. The point I'm making by talking about this is, that we grow and learn with each emergency and each disaster preparedness drill that we conduct. Not only do we learn, but the public learns as well. It underscores the importance of public education and awareness in emergency management.

During Hurricane Irene and Sandy, I learned that people didn't understand what a *state of emergency* meant, what a *travel ban* meant. They didn't understand the importance of staying off of the roads so that we can do our job and respond to areas that were affected. I think one of the objectives of emergency management is to help educate the public, to ensure that they not only know what emergency management means, but what it is that we do.

I encourage the public to contact their local emergency management coordinator or their county emergency management office and ask for public speaking appearances. I think that it's important that we educate the community through civic groups, through schools, and the general public in what emergency management means, not just what we do.

We all need to be prepared for the unexpected. We live in a complicated world and a complicated environment. We have the most dangerous two miles, as was just mentioned, in Union County. We have airports, we have refineries, we have weather situations as we've seen during Irene and Sandy. I think in Union County we are very well prepared to handle these emergencies through the partnerships that we've made -- not only with all of our agencies, but the general public. Without the cooperation of the general public, we certainly cannot do our jobs.

So I would like to, again, encourage any member of the public to contact us so we can help them prepare for an emergency.

Thank you very much.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you so much.

And our last speakers are going to be-- Here from Elizabeth, our next speakers will be Captain Jim Sacca, Elizabeth Police Department; and I will also call up Deputy Chief Andrew Sandoukas, and Elizabeth Fire Official, Captain Chris Lysy.

CAPTAIN GIACOMO SACC A: Good afternoon. Thank you for allowing the Elizabeth Police to be part of this assembly.

With an understanding that the City faces specific vulnerabilities, and recognizing that certain incidents are beyond our control, the Police Department has realized that the protection, response, and mitigation phases of critical incidents will require a whole community approach.

The strategy of the Department is to work with our public and private groups to complete planning, training, and exercises for the possible incidents which we may face.

The Department has actively worked with our personnel. We have integrated with our departments, such as the County Sheriff, the County Police, our State, and other local offices. In addition to our fire and EMS branches, we've created active action plans for critical infrastructure which includes our food, commerce, our hospitals, power companies, schools, and even our shopping mall -- the Outlet Collection -- and the hotels in the area. We all have action plans, we've exercised with them, and we've trained with them.

The protection strategy allows for the identification of needed resources, for evaluations, and corrective actions, when needed. We understand that certain incidents are beyond the control, but that we can work to lessen their effects and return life to normal as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Andy.

A N D R E W C. S A N D O U K A S: Madam Chairwoman, Committee members, thank you for the opportunity to speak here today.

From what I've heard earlier, from the reverend, it appears that the City of Elizabeth has been on the frontlines of homeland security for over 350 years -- with the invasion of the British coming. And it appears that we're continuing to do that right now, today, with terrorism.

Like the Sheriff had said earlier, the City of Elizabeth sits within the two-and-a-half most dangerous miles in the country. And according to the Homeland Security, I believe it's either eight or nine of those target hazards are either within the City of Elizabeth or border the City of Elizabeth. Not to mention all of them, but a few of them are I-95 -- the New Jersey Turnpike runs through the City of Elizabeth with two

exits, not just one. We also have, like the Sheriff said, the Port of Elizabeth in Newark which is, if it's not the busiest, it's the second-busiest in the country. We also have a rail line, CSX, which transports chemicals through the City of Elizabeth over to Staten Island to the Howland Hook. And we also have the Newark International Liberty Airport, where Terminal A is in the City of Elizabeth.

With that said, the City of Elizabeth Fire Department is part of the UASI Initiative Group. We do have one of the heavy rescue units stationed here in the City of Elizabeth; our firefighters are trained. We also have firefighters as a part of the New Jersey Task Force One. We also have the Neptune assets here in the City of Elizabeth which, if there is a large chemical fire anywhere in the State of New Jersey, we can deploy. That unit was deployed to the Boardwalk fire down in Seaside heights, and was also deployed to pump out the Holland Tunnel during Hurricane Sandy.

We are also part of the EMS Task Force, which we have -- there are several buses located throughout the State of New Jersey, but Elizabeth has one of them where we can actually transport anywhere from 17 to 22 patients. We also have a mass casualty unit which can care for up to 50 patients immediately on the scene.

With that said, some of the things I was asked to speak about today was what we would want from the public for them to be prepared. And one of the things is that you, again, I'm not going to reiterate what other people have said, is that if you see something to say something -- not only using 9-1-1, but also the 2-1-1 which the Director of Homeland Security mentioned today. No matter how small you may think it is, it may

turn out to be something of a bigger piece of the puzzle, that small little piece that you saw.

Make sure that you have a build bag ready to go with your essentials. But not only that, but also remember to have medication in there, as well as your cell phones and your cell chargers.

Make sure that you have a plan with your family. We always talk about that in the fire service -- having a plan about getting out of the house in the event of a fire. But you also need to do the same thing about your community. Know your evacuation routes, know where your shelters are. Have a plan with your family, that if they're at work or at school, or you're at work, that you know where you're going to meet them at.

One other thing that the City of Elizabeth is actually involved in, and when it comes to being prepared, is that we're in the process of getting on the State interoperability 800 radios. So that not only will we be able to talk to each other -- police, fire, and EMS -- but also with the rest of the State and also with the state of New York in the event that there's something that goes on across the water or in the water.

Thank you.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you. And I have to thank both of you, and your Departments, for all your help with the Are You Ready? Program. The seniors love when we come to see them, to talk to them about how to be prepared. And it is a partnership with the American Red Cross, United Way of Greater Union County, the Fire Department, and the Police Department. Thank you so much.

MR. SANDOUKAS: Thank you, ma'am.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Okay, now we're going into our third phase. And for those who have sat through, thank you so much.

First we are going to be holding two bills, A-2306 and A-2384.

The first bill that we are going to hear today is a resolution, ACR-39. Amanda, would you read it?

MS. HOLLAND: Sure.

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 39 urges the FAA to prohibit tourist helicopters from flying over the Hudson River in New Jersey.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: I have a few speakers.

I will call up Mayor Dawn Zimmer.

Good afternoon, Mayor.

MAYOR DAWN ZIMMER: Good afternoon.

I'm Mayor Zimmer from Hoboken, and I really, really appreciate this opportunity to come and speak before you. I really appreciate Speaker Prieto and all the sponsors of this bill. So I am here to encourage the Assembly to strongly support this, and support a ban asking the FAA for a ban on tourist helicopters.

I come here representing Hoboken residents, and have worked my fellow mayors. In Hudson County, everyone is supportive of this.

Basically, the tourist helicopters -- it's just a continuous buzz, and very loud, in our parks. And Hoboken residents feel like they can't even have their windows open and our parks are the places where we go to find some peace and solitude. And just as they do in New York City, they go to Central Park; and in Central Park -- just so all of you know -- they have banned tourist helicopters from going over Central Park. So I do feel

that as part of New Jersey we should be treated in the same way that New York City is treated. And I think it's a fairness issue; it's a huge quality of life issue; and it's a major concern.

It's also a very big safety issue. When I first became Mayor in 2009 there was a helicopter and a plane that crashed very close to Hoboken's waterfront and debris went onto Sinatra Drive and Stevens Institute of Technology. It's unfortunate. People were killed, but there were no residents on the ground in Hoboken. We were very thankful that there were no residents who were killed.

But the numbers are increasing dramatically, as far as the tourist helicopters. And something else that you should be aware of is that this request for a ban -- this comes after trying to work with the industry, work with the FAA and making this request. Senator Menendez and Congressman Sires have done so much to try and advocate for this. And it's just come to a point where what needs to be done is calling for a ban of tourist helicopters over the Hudson River.

So I really appreciate this opportunity. It comes down to, really, recognizing that we don't represent, as elected officials, we don't represent industry. We always want to work with industry, but we don't represent industry; we represent the people who elect us. And the people who have elected-- I can say for the people in Hoboken, people who have elected me are really very tired of the noise of helicopters. It's a constant quality of life issue, and it's a safety issue, and I hope that you will strongly support this and call for a ban.

Thank you very much.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you.

Does any Committee member have any questions?

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: I just have a--

Yes, Assemblyman Cryan.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Mayor Zimmer, thank you.

I've heard from folks, and maybe you could just elaborate a little more. You did that you did touch upon, in your comments, that this is actually grown almost exponentially it seems like, in usage over time. In the matter of candor, my daughter was a resident of your great city, and actually the time I'd been there -- you notice these things; it really affects--

I was wondering if you could talk about the growth, and what you have seen -- just a little bit more, for those of us on the Committee who are about to vote.

MAYOR ZIMMER: You can definitely-- I can definitely get together the exact numbers, but I can say that we've seen-- Anecdotally, you can see, it's like, literally, one, two, three; one, two, three. They just come in, one after another -- a constant barrage. I don't want to be quoted it on the exact numbers, and I can definitely get those figures for you and provide it to you. But I remember-- I know that Senator Menendez's office has looked into that, and they have those figures, and we'll make sure that that gets to the Committee.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: So it's more than reasonable -- based on the Senator's advocacy, the Congressman, and yourself -- that people didn't sign up for this when they got there? As a matter of fact, the growth has really changed the quality of life for residents. Is that correct?

MAYOR ZIMMER: Right. It has absolutely changed the quality of life for residents. And I can say that the number has probably,

per day, has increased from about 100 to a 1,000. But I'm not positive of the exact numbers.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: We won't hold you to those numbers, but the reality is, is that it's grown.

MAYOR ZIMMER: Right. The reality is that it has grown dramatically, and it is absolutely impacting the quality of life of Hoboken residents.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Mayor, thank you; thank you.

MAYOR ZIMMER: All right; thank you.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Assemblywoman Schepisi.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Hi, thank you. A couple of quick questions.

Just in general I'm always apprehensive about supporting a complete ban on an entire industry, of a business. And you had mentioned that certain steps and discussions have taken place in trying to work with the operators as well as, potentially, the FAA. If you could maybe just detail some of what those discussions or efforts have been, and what the reactions have been -- in us making the determination as to whether or not I support this.

MAYOR ZIMMER: Right. So there's been-- I mean, there have been letters, there have been community meetings. And then, through Senator Menendez and Congressman Sires, there have been, actually, meetings set up with the FAA and the industry together. And it has turned into, kind of, a pointing of fingers. The industry is saying, "Oh, we are managed, as far as the numbers, and we're going to do more. We're going to make this happen." And the FAA-- It's not clear on who has the

authority. If they don't have the authority, they need to make that clear, but it seems to be a lot of pointing fingers, but there's been, like, probably for the last year-and-a-half, a lot of advocacy.

So I completely understand where you're at, in your position, of saying, like -- putting your name to something where you're calling for a ban. And I felt the same way, and initially, felt like, okay, let's try to work with them. But after a year-and-a-half and seeing no change, and actually the change that we're seeing is more, and more, and more helicopters. And so it's both a quality of life issue, and definitely a public safety issue.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: And I just have two quick follow-ups.

Talking about the quality of life issue and understanding that, for the residents, it has to be a burden to have this constantly. Have there been any discussions that you're aware of about limiting hours, or numbers that can go up and down on any particular day, or trying to propose some sort of solution that could help mitigate the quality of life issues rather than a total ban?

MAYOR ZIMMER: Well, I mean, those are things that have been asked. But as far as, like, limiting, I think their position would be, "If it's daylight we have the right to keep flying." And they're bringing people in, and I guess I feel like as far as it being-- What's happening is they're literally they're going and booking these things, and people are already booked before they even come to the United States. And, you know, from my perspective, really what we could-- Part of calling for this ban is also for New Jersey to say, "Hey, you want to see New York City? Well, come on over and enjoy all the great cities that are part of -- it's coming over to

Hoboken, over to Jersey City, over to Weehawken -- like, right on up.” I mean, it’s a beautiful view of New York City. So there’s a completely different way to enjoy New York City, and you really get the view. And so, I mean, in some ways, as far as the tourism for New Jersey it would be a way to help us. Right now, as far as like the revenue and thinking about an industry, most of it is going to New York City. So New York City is taking is this money, but sending most of the helicopters over to New Jersey. Quite honestly, I feel like we’re being treated like second-class citizens. I mean, it’s just, from a state-to-state perspective, it’s really unfair. It’s unfair to me-- I appreciate it; I think it’s great that New York City residents can go to Central Park and sit quietly and enjoy -- and go to different areas and enjoy Central Park without having to hear a helicopter fly over. You cannot do that on Pier A; you cannot do that in Sinatra Park; you cannot do that anywhere on the waterfront in Jersey City because it’s a constant barrage.

So even limiting the numbers, how do you decide what the number is going to be? You’re still going to have this constant barrage. And so far they have demonstrated that they are not willing to limit themselves.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Any other questions? (no response)

Okay, thank you so much, Mayor Zimmer.

MAYOR ZIMMER: All right, thank you.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: All right, next speaker is Mayor Gerald Drasheff, the town of Guttenberg.

MAYOR GERALD R. DRASHEFF: Good afternoon.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Good afternoon.

MAYOR DRASHEFF: Chairperson Quijano and members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you briefly today on this issue that is being addressed by ACR-39.

And I'm going to be very brief; obviously, I think Mayor Zimmer said most of it. But I'm the Mayor of Guttenberg; I represent a town that has 12,000 residents in it on the bank of the Hudson. I'm not going to dwell on safety concerns here, even though this is the Homeland Security Committee. But these flights do represent -- over a densely populated area -- do represent a safety concern, and to me that's a no-brainer. It should be obvious to everyone that it's only a matter of time before there's another accident with the potential significant loss of life, injuries, and property damage.

I am, however, going to ask you to give serious consideration to the intrusive nature of this activity on the lives of the hundreds of thousands of residents and visitors who live and work along the banks of the Hudson River in Hudson County. This is one of the most densely populated areas in the country, and those of us who live and work in this area have learned to adjust to the challenges that come with that environment.

These helicopter flights are extremely intrusive. We live along a major approach to LaGuardia Airport, yet the noise of the jumbo jets do not create the same disturbance that's created by the operation of these helicopters. There is something very different and very unique about the thump-thump of a helicopter rotor that makes it impossible to have a conversation when these helicopters are flying overhead.

Assemblyman Cryan asked about the numbers; and I can tell you, I was at a press conference maybe six months ago and the speakers could not speak for more than two or three minutes without being disturbed by one of these helicopters. So if you extrapolate that out, you can think about what the numbers were. And that was the day that there was a press conference, so that shows their concern.

The summer's coming to an end, and we're at that time of year when we all like to open windows and enjoy the fall air. If you live anywhere along the flight path of these helicopters and you try and do that, you'll not be able to carry on a conversation, listen to music or TV in your living room.

As I indicated, we live in an extremely densely populated area, and all of the municipalities along the Hudson, including my own, have worked hard to create some open space along the Hudson River where our residents can escape the hectic pace and enjoy some peace and quiet. Places where you can read to your child or your grandchild, have a normal conversation with someone, or just sit and think. Those efforts are negated by the constant flyovers of these helicopters over these important public spaces.

Over the past several years I have attended, as I said, numerous press conferences and meetings with Senator Menendez and Congressman Sires aimed at trying to address this issue. And I joined my fellow mayors in writing to various agency heads at the Federal and State level concerning our concerns. But the problem just gets worse.

It should be clear to everyone that attempts to address this problem through self regulation have failed, and existing regulations are

inadequate to deal with the problem. It should be equally clear that the only alternative that remains to address this activity that is extremely disruptive to the day-to-day lives of the residents that we all represent is to consider a complete ban on this activity.

On behalf of the people who I represent in Guttenberg, I appreciate the opportunity to address you today and hope you'll be able to support this legislation.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you, Mayor.

Does anyone have any questions for this speaker? (no response)

Okay, thank you very much.

The next speaker, Giovanni Ahmad, Township of Weehawken.

G I O V A N N I A H M A D: Thank you, Chairwoman Quijano and members of the Committee. My name is Giovanni Ahmad; I'm the Assistant Township Manager and Deputy OEM Coordinator for the Township of Weehawken.

I'm here representing the Township of Weehawken, Mayor Richard Turner, and the Township Council.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Giovanni, make sure that the button is up -- the red light. (referring to PA microphone)

MR. AHMAD: Thank you.

I'll start again; I'm sorry.

Thank you, Chairwoman Quijano and members of the Committee. My name is Giovanni Ahmad; I'm the Assistant Township Manager and Deputy OEM Coordinator for the Township of Weehawken. I am here representing of Township of Weehawken, Mayor Richard Turner, and the Township Council.

Before I begin my testimony, I would like to thank Speaker Prieto and Assemblywoman Jimenez for sponsoring Assembly Concurrent Resolution 39. I would also like to thank U.S. Senator Robert Menendez and U.S. Congressman Albio Sires for their unwavering support in curtailing the serious issue that is plaguing the Hudson County waterfront.

This morning I attended an event that was being held on the Hudson River waterfront. It was a beautiful morning, perfect weather. And then the noise began. I was able to count at least one helicopter flying over once a minute, sometimes two a minute, and they did not let up. It is not a noise that you can just talk louder over and continue doing what you're doing. It's a noise and vibration that you feel.

Not only are the helicopters affecting the quality of life of our residents, but they are also posing a safety hazard as well. On August 8, 2009 a single-engine airplane and a tour helicopter collided over the Hudson River near Frank Sinatra Park in Hoboken. Nine people who were in those aircraft lost their lives that day -- debris from the collision landing along the waterfront park and on the college campus, literally feet from where people work, live, and play.

Thankfully, the events on June 13, 2013 had a much better outcome. A tour helicopter had to make an emergency landing in the Hudson River when the aircraft lost power -- and everyone survived.

I have attended several symposiums by the invitation of Senator Menendez, U.S. Congressman Sires, along with mayors, State and County elected officials, and the FAA Regional Administrator Gallo, with stakeholders from the helicopter industry, public advocacy groups, residents who live along the Hudson River corridor, and, most recently, senior staff

from the New Jersey Department of Transportation. To no avail, the issues have not been addressed. Because of this, we're in full support of Assembly Concurrent Resolution 39 and look forward to future dialogue with you and your colleagues in the Legislature.

I thank you for your time.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you.

Anybody have any questions? (no response)

All right, the Committee has received written testimony from U.S. Congressman Albio Sires and U.S. Senator Bob Menendez.

Our next speaker will be James Woods, Hudson County Office of Emergency Management.

Mr. Woods, you just have to make sure that the red button is up -- in the up position.

J A M E S T. W O O D S: Thank you, Madam Chair Quijano and members of the Committee, for allowing me to testify this afternoon on ACR-39.

Good afternoon. My name is James Woods; I'm the Office of Emergency Management Coordinator for Hudson County. Hudson County is the sixth most densely populated county in the United States, exceeded only by counties in neighboring New York City and San Francisco. It's also the state's most densely populated county, with an average of 13,068 persons per square mile.

The confluence of roads and railways in the northeast megalopolis and the northeast corridor passing through Hudson County make it one of the northeast's most major transportation crossroads and provides access to an extensive network of interstate highways, freeways,

toll roads, vehicular water crossings. Many long-distance trains and buses pass through the County. There are many local, interstate, and Manhattan-bound bus routes; the expanding Light Rail system; ferries traversing the Hudson River; the commuter trains to North Jersey, the Jersey Shore, and Trenton.

Much of the rail and surface transit and ferry systems are oriented to commuters traveling to Newark, lower Manhattan, midtown Manhattan, and the Hudson County waterfront. Public transportation is operated by a variety of public and private corporations, notably New Jersey Transit and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, along with New York Waterways.

Located at the heart of the Port of New York and New Jersey, Hudson, since 1980, has seen the restoration of its once extensive ferry system and the New York Waterway operates ferry service from Weehawken, Hoboken, Paulus Hook, Jersey City, as well as other ferry slips along the Hudson River and the waterfront walkway to midtown ferry terminal and Battery Park City in Manhattan.

Statue Cruises provides service to Ellis Island and the Liberty Island for tourist events and visitors. Cape Liberty Cruise Port in Bayonne is one of three passenger terminals in the Port of New York and New Jersey.

Hudson County resides in the New Jersey Urban Area Security Initiative, which is the UASI, due to its numerous financial, energy, transportation -- as outlined above -- and chemical sector facilities; and population density is ranked as the highest risk in threat vulnerability in the UASI region and, moreover, the entire State of New Jersey.

During my tenure as the Hudson County Emergency Management Coordinator we have noticed an uptick in the frequency of tourist and commuter helicopters flying low over the Hudson River, Hudson County, and its waterfront. These helicopters are flying low enough that the passengers and pilots are clearly visible from Hudson County structures, and even from the ground at times. And I know for a fact that Mayor Drasheff, at his residence -- he can tell what color of shirt the pilot is wearing.

They fly at extremely low altitudes over our residential areas rather than flying up the middle of the Hudson River corridor.

For me, this is not only a quality of life issue that is plaguing our towns along the Hudson River; it is also a security issue because there are no regulations for tourist helicopters that are similar to those flying out of an airport.

We are keenly aware of the August 8, 2009 mid-air collision between the small plane and a tourist helicopter -- that was mentioned earlier -- just off of the waterfront in Hoboken. I can assure you that if that collision or a similar collision occurs off of a Hudson County municipal waterfront municipality the potential for hundreds, or even thousands of residents, commuters, tourists, and schoolchildren to sustain serious or fatal injuries would be a mammoth reality.

My OEM office, as well as other County officials and elected officials, have been working closely with Senator Menendez and Congressman Sires on addressing these concerns for well over a year -- with no avail. Even after meetings with the FAA Regional Administrator, Carmine Gallo, officials from the FAA, stakeholders in the industry, and,

most recently, the New Jersey DOT, these concerns have not been addressed.

The risk to millions of New Jersey residents, commuters, and national landmark visitors on daily basis can be significantly reduced by prohibiting low-flying tourist and commuter helicopters from flying over the Hudson River and New Jersey.

On the heels of the 13th anniversary of 9/11 -- an air-driven act of terrorism -- it is imperative that these issues be addressed.

In closing, I would like to thank the Chairwoman and members of the Committee, again, for addressing this issue, and I urge to make this a priority issue.

Thank you.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you.

I have one more person, Robert--

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Chairwoman?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: I'm sorry.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: I'm sorry; I just had a couple of quick questions.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Sorry, go ahead.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: I know we're--

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Sure.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: And some of these questions I had asked Mayor Zimmer as well, but in just listening to your testimony -- a total ban, for me, always seems like an extreme step, and trying to find some sort of compromise that takes into account the safety concerns, the quality of life issues for the residents as well, without doing a

total ban. I was just wondering your thoughts on if there were implementation of measures where there were limits on altitude and how low they could go; regulations on hours, numbers of the tourist helicopters that could be in airspace during any given time; mandating that they have to stay a certain number of feet from any sort of residential areas of the shoreline -- are those alternate types of approaches things that could also help mitigate some of the issues that have been raised?

MR. WOODS: I believe that some of those issues have been discussed with the industry already, as Mayor Zimmer alluded to, along with the FAA. I, unfortunately, was not at the meetings, so I really can't speak to that.

But as far as earlier somebody had asked about the flights -- we received data from Congressman Sires' office that there are up to 700 flights a day coming out of New York on these tourist helicopters. So, I mean, there is an enormous amount of risk -- any time you increase the number of flights, you increase your risk; the odds are just there.

So I don't have the answer to that, whether that would be acceptable. The largest amount of time this is -- the increased amount of flights is, obviously, during weekends and tourism season.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Right.

MR. WOODS: You know, the summertime; and that's also the time that tourism is increasing and people are using parks and they are using the waterfront.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Right, okay. And the FAA, as far as you are aware, has not responded in any sort of fashion with

respect to hearing the concerns regarding safety? They have just been, kind of, going like this? (gestures)

MR. WOODS: They just seem to not be addressing it.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay.

MR. WOODS: Thank you.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Can I-- I'm sorry, just one quick--

Is it your understand -- as it is mine, and I just want to be clear -- it is my understanding it's not only the mayors, but the Congressman and the Senator have actually had meetings and brought folks together and, frankly, haven't been able to get a resolution on this matter. Is that your understanding as well?

MR. WOODS: That is my understanding. I didn't attend it, but the Congressman and Senator have convened meetings with the FAA and DOT.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: It's my understanding that part of this growth is, I mean, these companies are actually marketing Europe and other things to highlight these rides -- which is part of the reason why these helicopters sit in New Jersey at night; the tax dollars and tourism dollars really sit in New York, as opposed to-- So we get the air and the noise, and they get the money, is my understanding. Is that your understanding?

MR. WOODS: I would agree.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: And it's also my understanding that reasonable approaches have been offered and, in fact, there seems to be a lack of a considerable consolidated feeling among elected officials and those who represent these constituents whose quality of life and safety is

being affected -- that they haven't been able to come to any sort of reasonable terms. Is that your understanding as well?

MR. WOODS: That's correct.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Okay. I just want to make sure I understand that. Thank you.

Thanks.

MR. WOODS: Okay, thank you.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Any other questions? (no response)

Okay, thank you so much.

Robert Antolos, Town of West New York, in favor, no need to testify.

Oh, you are going to testify?

ROBERT ANTOLOS: Hi, how are you?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Good.

MR. ANTOLOS: First, thank you, Chairwoman Quijano, for giving us this opportunity.

My name is Robert Antolos; I am the Police Director of the Police Department of West New York, New Jersey. I am here representing Mayor Felix Roque and Commissioner Caridad Rodriguez, who is the Public Safety Commissioner. Neither one could attend today because of prior commitments.

And I would also like to take the time to thank Congressman Sires and Speaker Prieto for supporting this bill, ACR-39.

Now, as public safety concerns go, I'm on the waterfront every day. I drive down there; I have interactions with the citizens. I see these

helicopters from early morning all through the day -- some of them flying very low, some of them flying high. But it is a concern; because if one of those helicopters goes down, our walkway is pretty populated and we have a lot of buildings there. There is no doubt there will be a disaster and people will be killed.

Plus the noise factor is tremendous and you can hear them -- even if you are driving in the car you can't hear yourself speak. So there is some noise pollution there. Some of them do fly very low, especially in the West New York and Weehawken area, because of the close proximity to the Port where they land on the Hudson River which, I believe, there is a heliport south of the Intrepid. So that is a very dangerous area for, especially, Guttenberg, West New York, and Weehawken.

From a personal experience, I don't know if anybody has ever flown in one of these helicopters, have you? (no response) Okay. Well, I can speak from personal experience -- I was fortunate to be up in the sky with the Homeland Security helicopter, okay? And when the pilot briefed me on some safety measures, he said to me, "Keep your head on a swivel and keep your eyes going right to left. If you see any helicopters, let me know, because I can't see everything." We did go up and we were flying -- basically, we were doing an event for a Junior Police Academy in West New York, and we were landing where the kids were waiting for us on a soccer field. But I said, "Okay, why do I have to watch out for helicopters?" He said, "Because nothing is controlled up here. Once you're up here, you're on your own. It's all visual." I said, "Air Control doesn't track?" He said, "Absolutely not. It's all visual." And now, I can just see how one pilot could have such a hard time seeing, because two of us together had a hard

time. Now, I can imagine if you have a helicopter full of people or tourists and you're trying to entertain them and talk to them -- it's very distracting. And I urge everybody, if you get the opportunity, to go up there and see how crazy it is. And you're looking to your right and you're looking to your left and you're seeing helicopters, you're seeing helicopters below you, above you; and it's pretty scary. It opened my eyes that day when I got out thinking that nobody is controlling that airspace. And I feel it is a big security concern; anybody can rent a helicopter, fly it wherever they want without putting in a flight manifest or anything like that. I really think it's a homeland security issue on top of everything else.

Basically, that sums it up. You have to ride in one to understand the ramifications of what's up there. That's basically it.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you so much.

MR. ANTOLOS: You're welcome.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Can I have a motion to release ACR-39?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINKIN: Motion to release.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Second.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Second? Okay.

Amanda, can you do a roll call?

MS. HOLLAND: Sure.

On the motion to release Assembly Concurrent Resolution 39,
Assemblywoman Schepisi.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Real quickly, I appreciate the concerns that were raised by the mayors today, and OEM. But I still do have a concern about a doing a total and complete ban. I do want to

research the issue a little bit more and see if there are, maybe, some alternate solutions that can be done.

I'm going to abstain from the resolution today, but it doesn't mean that I don't wholeheartedly feel for why you're here, and the passion, and understanding the concerns that you have.

So thank you.

MS. HOLLAND: Assemblyman Russo has indicated an affirmative vote.

Assemblywoman Pinkin.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINKIN: Yes.

MS. HOLLAND: Assemblyman Cryan.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Yes.

MS. HOLLAND: Chairwoman Quijano.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Yes.

MS. HOLLAND: The resolution is released.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: I just wanted to add into the record that we received written testimony (indiscernible) binder for stopping nonessential NYC tourism helicopters -- Stop the Chop NY/NJ.

The next bill that we'll consider is A-1338.

MS. HOLLAND: Assembly Bill 1338 establishes a pilot program within the Office of Emergency Management to provide zero interest loans to certain gas stations that install appropriate wiring for generators.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: The first speaker is Sal Risalvato, New Jersey Gasoline-C Store-Automotive Association.

SAL RISALVATO: Is this-- Is it on?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Yes, you're on.

MR. RISALVATO: Thank you, Madam Chair. I was getting a little nervous, looking at my watch. But I will be brief.

I wanted to appear today to thank you and the Committee for sponsoring this legislation. I've spoken about it previously. My support for it continues; my organization fully stands behind it.

There are several things that you should be aware of. One of them is that your legislation here, I guess, planted some seeds inside the Administration, because I had attended many meetings with Homeland Security people, State Police people -- people all very concerned with eliminating what we went through in Hurricane Sandy. And I gave many suggestions, and -- surprise, surprise: they came up with this grant program. I was unaware that FEMA was coming up with some dollars. And there is a grant program that we've worked with the EDA in the State to implement and get people into the program. And it looks like there are a significant number of gas station owners who will take advantage of the program.

However, the program has significant restrictions, in terms of geography. And the geographical qualifications in A-1338 are a little looser in terms of allowing for a greater geographic area. So we are hopeful that this can make its way finally through the Legislature and be signed by the Governor as an additional program to that grant program. We do believe that there will be some folks who may take advantage of it. There is still -- and this is a very important factor -- there is still a risk by anybody who does take on the no-interest loan and does invest in the generator hookup. Because they may have the generator there, but we still have not, in all the meetings that I've attended, we still have not solved the issue that really

was the problem for those gas lines -- and that is, how do we get the gas there? And that is still an issue that I'm hoping there will be some kind of a solution or potential solutions that State government could put forth.

The other very, very important factor with this legislation -- any legislation like this -- one of the reasons that it is so important is that it is another acknowledgement by government of what the true cost of generators are. Unfortunately, the emotions that arose out of the hurricane -- there were lots of folks, including some municipalities in some areas, and I've actually had to go sit with many of them to say, "Stop, you don't know what's going on here." And they all assure me they're not looking for my members to spend \$10,000 or \$20,000; however, that is the minimum of cost, in most instances. There is still this idea that you can go to Home Depot, put one of those generators in your car for \$500 or \$600, and basically that's all they want to see a business owner do. But that is not what is going to solve the problem. Those members that did that -- some were able to successfully do it, although I'm sure the local electrical inspector would not approve of how they had to be wired. And there are some that did it and paid the consequences and had as much as \$10,000 worth of damage done to their pump meters and point-of-sale equipment that controls all that. So unless it's done properly, and the cost is very, very high, then there's a Russian roulette kind of a thing.

Every single one of these pieces of legislation that make this assistance is an acknowledgement of what the true cost really is. And I thank you for your efforts for the past two years on this, and strongly support this legislation.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you, Sal.

Does anyone have any questions? (no response)

Okay. The next speaker, Grant Lucking, New Jersey Food Council. (no response)

He must have left; okay.

May I have a motion to release?

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Motion.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Second?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINKIN: Second.

MS. HOLLAND: We have amendments.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Okay, we have amendments.

Could you read the amendments?

MS. HOLLAND: Sure.

The Committee amended the bill to make technical and clarifying changes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Can I have a motion to amend?

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Motion as amended -- to amend.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: To amend.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINKIN: Second.

MS. HOLLAND: On the motion to amend Assembly Bill 1338, Assemblywoman Schepisi indicated an affirmative vote; Assemblyman Russo indicated an affirmative vote;

Assemblywoman Pinkin.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINKIN: Yes.

MS. HOLLAND: Assemblyman Cryan.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Yes.

MS. HOLLAND: Chairwoman Quijano.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Yes.

MS. HOLLAND: The bill is amended.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Okay. Next bill will be A--
May I have a motion to release, as amended?

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Motion to release as amended.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINKIN: Second.

MS. HOLLAND: On the motion to release Assembly Bill 1338
as amended, Assemblywoman Schepisi indicated an affirmative vote;
Assemblyman Russo indicated an affirmative vote;

Assemblywoman Pinkin.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINKIN: Yes.

MS. HOLLAND: Assemblyman Cryan.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Yes.

MS. HOLLAND: Chairwoman Quijano.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Yes.

MS. HOLLAND: The Bill is released, as amended.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: The next bill is A-276.

MS. HOLLAND: Assembly Bill 276 establishes a pilot program
to provide zero-interest loans to certain emergency shelters and food banks
for the purchase and installation of generators.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: I have Grant Lucking, New
Jersey Food Council, in favor, no need to testify.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Can I make a motion, then?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: We have a motion to release.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINKIN: Second.

MS. HOLLAND: On the motion to release Assembly Bill 276, Assemblywoman Schepisi indicated an affirmative; Assemblyman Russo indicated an affirmative vote;

Assemblywoman Pinkin.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINKIN: Yes.

MS. HOLLAND: Assemblyman Cryan.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Yes.

MS. HOLLAND: Chairwoman Quijano.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Yes.

MS. HOLLAND: The Bill is released.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: The last bill for today is A-2773.

MS. HOLLAND: Assembly Bill 2773 provides that a vessel may not be deemed abandoned for six months following a declared a State of Emergency, and allows a municipality to petition the county for removal of an abandoned vessel.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: The New Jersey State League of Municipalities has submitted written testimony.

Amanda, could you read the amendments, please?

MS. HOLLAND: The Committee amended the bill to make a technical change.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Can I have a motion to amend?

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Motion to amend.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINKIN: Second.

MS. HOLLAND: On the motion to amend Assembly Bill 2773, Assemblywoman Schepisi indicated an affirmative vote; Assemblyman Russo indicated an affirmative vote;

Assemblywoman Pinkin.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINKIN: Yes.

MS. HOLLAND: Assemblyman Cryan.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Yes.

MS. HOLLAND: Chairwoman Quijano.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Yes.

MS. HOLLAND: The Bill is amended.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: May I have a motion to release the Bill, as amended?

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Motion, as amended.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINKIN: Second.

MS. HOLLAND: On the motion to amend Assembly Bill 2773, as amended, Assemblywoman Schepisi indicated an affirmative vote; Assemblyman Russo indicated an affirmative vote;

Assemblywoman Pinkin.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINKIN: Yes.

MS. HOLLAND: Assemblyman Cryan.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Yes.

MS. HOLLAND: Chairwoman Quijano.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Yes.

MS. HOLLAND: The Bill is released, as amended.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Meeting adjourned.

(MEETING CONCLUDED)