

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE  
BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD  
MAYOR & COUNCIL REORGANIZATION MEETING  
JANUARY 1, 2026**

At 3:05 p.m. Mayor Amatorio read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement: "In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the notice requirements have been satisfied. Notice of this meeting has been sent to The Record, The Star Ledger, Twin Boro News and Cablevision, and placed on a Municipal Bulletin Board, and is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk. In case of an emergency, exits are to the rear and your right. Please turn off all cell phones.

The Bergenfield Police Department Honor Guard presented the colors.

Salute to the Flag was led by Mayor Amatorio.

Invocation offered by Councilperson Marc Pascual.

Mayor Amatorio asked for a moment of silence to remember and to honor the father of Councilperson Hernando Rivera who passed away few days ago.

Mayor Amatorio welcomed and acknowledged the presence of County Executive John Tedesco, Bergen County Clerk John Hogan, Commissioners Tom Sullivan, Tracy Zur, Rafael Marte, Assemblywoman Lisa Swain and Assemblyman Chris Tully, and Councilman Ezio Altamura from Wood-Ridge. The families and friends of the elected Officials, Bergenfield Police Department, and Fire Chief Ryan Zadrozna were also welcomed.

**SWEARING-IN OF COUNCILMEMBERS**

Bergen County Clerk John Hogan stated when he speaks with high school students, he tells them about the importance of voting. He tells them sometimes everyone thinks things just happen, but he tells them that that there are real people who make it happen. The people, the leaders, that are chosen by the people affects all of our lives. Mr. Hogan stated by voting, we the people, determine our destiny. Mr. Hogan explained that our America, our Democratic Republic, as you know is not that easy in Bergenfield, especially today, when there is so much noise, so much nastiness, lies, and distortions. He stated people are against other people, but they are still involved in trying to make this world perfect. The way to do that is to choose the right leaders and that matters more than ever before, like the leaders of this fine community, Mayor Amatorio, and the ones that are being sworn in, Buddy and Ora, and all the rest of the Governing Body. Mr. Hogan stated that today, they are going to celebrate democracy, the Democratic Republic, and, of course, the leaders of this governing body. There was a turnout of 51.84% at the 2025 Bergen County general elections, about 10% more than the last Gubernatorial election. Bergenfield's turnout was 50.09%, with 9,563 voters.

Bergen County Clerk John Hogan read the Election Certificate of Councilwoman-Elect Ora C. Kornbluth. Councilwoman-Elect Ora C. Kornbluth received 6,497 votes.

Bergen County Clerk John Hogan read the Election Certificate of Councilman-Elect Salvador "Buddy" Deauna. Councilman-Elect Salvador "Buddy" Deauna received 6,198 votes.

Councilwoman-Elect Ora C. Kornbluth was administered the Oath of Office by New Jersey State Assemblyman Chris Tully.

Councilman-Elect Salvador "Buddy" Deauna was administered the Oath of Office by County Executive James Tedesco.

Roll Call of 2026 Council

Roll Call	Present	Absent
MAYOR ARVIN AMATORIO	✓	
COUNCILMAN DOMINGO ALMONTE	✓	
COUNCILMAN BUDDY DEAUNA	✓	
COUNCILWOMAN ORA KORNBLUTH	✓	
COUNCILMAN THOMAS LODATO	✓	
COUNCILMAN MARC PASCUAL	✓	
COUNCILMAN HERNANDO RIVERA		✓

**PRESENTATIONS**

County Executive James Tedesco stated the new building is a beautiful facility and that the council members along with Borough Administrator Gallo did a great job. He stated it was an honor to be present today to congratulate Buddy and Ora on their reelection on behalf of the people of Bergen County. He thanked them for doing a very good job here in Bergen County, not only in Bergenfield, for the people of Bergenfield, but for giving their time to do it. There's a lot of people that don't want to do it, don't like the atmosphere and what it is to sometimes be called a politician. He believes they're better called elected officials. He stated the council members stand up here and govern to make your community a better community and that's what they do every day, that's why Bergenfield is such a wonderful town. Mr. Tedesco stated that's why so many people came out to vote to say that they wanted to keep this government here in Bergenfield, the people that have been doing the job for the people. He presented and read into the record the certificates for Councilwoman Kornbluth and Councilman Deauna on behalf of the people of Bergen County.

Assemblywoman Swain congratulated Councilwoman Kornbluth and stated that Ora has served this community in such a heartwarming and inclusive way. It's so wonderful that the council behind her is so diverse, it's such a great representation of the town of Bergenfield. Assemblywoman Swain read the proclamation for Councilwoman Kornbluth from the Senate President and also the Speaker of the House into the record. She congratulated Councilperson Kornbluth and wished her best of luck on her next term.

Assemblyman Tully wished everyone a Happy New Year. He congratulated Councilman Buddy Deauna on his incredible victory and reelection. He stated that Buddy and he go way back in Bergenfield. Buddy ran Arvin's first campaign for council, and one of his campaigns as council and they were victorious. It was an amazing experience, and it's what led to Buddy, who's not just through this time in the council, but for nearly over a generation now, really been a true leader, within the Bergenfield community, for the Filipino community, so many individuals have always looked up to you as a mentor, and as somebody to really strive themselves towards. Assemblyman Tully thanked him for his service to this community and stated it is a well-earned honor. He presented a proclamation on behalf of the State Senate, State Assembly, himself, Assemblywoman Swain, and Senator Lagana. Assemblyman Tully also congratulated Councilwoman Ora Kornbluth. He stated this is your 16th year on the council, and funny enough, they actually started off on opposite sides of the political equation here at Bergenfield back when nobody got along, and he stated those days were very tough. It's something to be said that when you have a counsel that works together, and there's always going to be disagreements, but this job is extremely difficult. He explained it is

something to behold when you see the leadership of this Mayor and this Council. Assemblyman Tully thanked the volunteers, Borough employees, the Police Department, the Fire Department, and all of the first responders. Everybody that makes Bergenfield such a wonderful community. He's honored to live here.

Commissioner Thomas J. Sullivan stated, on behalf of the Board of Commissioners, it is great to have Buddy and Ora here, they help us to get elected in the county. He stated he can't believe Councilwoman Kornbluth has been on the council for 16 years. Buddy has the kindest heart and has always been behind the scenes. It brings him great joy to see him front and center where he belongs. It's an honor to be here to stand with everyone. He thanked the Police Department, Fire Department, and all of the first responders of Bergenfield.

Commissioner Rafael Marte congratulated Councilperson Buddy Deauna and Councilperson Ora Kornbluth. He thanked them for their service and to continue to serve the community. He read the commendation for Councilman Deauna into the record.

Commissioner Tracy Zur thanked everyone on the dais. She gets excited about reorganizations as it is a day we get to turn the page and come back with new energy and new ideas, reinvigorated by the intense conversation and dialogue we've had with the voters during an election. Commissioner Zur stated the council has served the community with so much distinction and love and passion for all this time, making this community stronger, from generation to generation. She thanked the families for sharing their loved ones with this community so that they can make a difference for all of us and be part of that ongoing conversation on how we move things forward. Commissioner Zur read the commendation for Councilwoman Kornbluth into the record.

#### **STATEMENTS AND INTRODUCTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

Councilperson Thomas Lodato thanked everyone for coming out on a cold day. He welcomed two former councilmembers Ray Gorman and Barry Doll for being here. He extended his sincere congratulations to Councilman Buddy Deauna and Councilwoman Ora Kornbluth for their recent election victories. The residents of Bergenfield continue to recognize their efforts and hard work, and he looks forward to working with them in the next year, as well as the Mayor and Council. He stated he's usually a pretty modest individual, but today he begins his 20<sup>th</sup> year as a member of the council. He looks forward to working together to meet the challenges that is ahead of them during the coming year and working together with those at the county government and state government to meet those challenges.

Councilperson Buddy Deauna thanked everyone for coming. He felt very overwhelmed and happy his family is present. He welcomed and thanked all of the dignitaries for coming. Councilperson Deauna stated he is once again humbled by the great responsibility the town, his neighbors, and his friends have invested in him. It is an honor for him to serve once again. He stated his goal is to give back with the same generosity and spirit that he has been fortunate to receive. Councilperson Deauna stated one of the proudest moments of his service has been contributing to the grace of the borough hall and making improvement to the parks, sidewalks, and roads. These accomplishments aren't applied alone and are the legacy of the dedicated team, working for the good of Bergenfield. They are just getting started. There's more to do, more to straighten, and more to beautify, so that Bergenfield continues to be a place where families gather, neighbors connect, and community thrives. Bergenfield has always been the reflection of America at its best. It is a place where people from different backgrounds, cultures come together as one community. Diversity is embraced, not as a choice, but as our greatest strength. Councilperson Deauna stated that as a minority, he recognizes that the opportunity like this is not always according to people

like he. He explained coming from the Philippines, he never imagined that he would one day, have a voice in this Borough, let alone, have a chance to help shape its future. He is proud to stand by the community, and to contribute his time with honor and dignity alongside the dream team, with the leadership of Mayor Arvin Amatorio, Councilmembers Ora Kornbluth, Tom Lodato, Marc Pascual, Hernando Rivera, Domingo Almonte and their energetic Borough Administrator Corey Gallo. The dream continues, and together, they will keep building a brighter future. He thanked his sons, Jonathan and Jeremiah, both his daughters in law named Maria Teresa, his only daughter, Mary Anne Josephine, his only son in law, Jane Louis Payumo, and his grandchildren, Gabriella, Juliana, Anabel, Joshua, Joseph, and Emma and stated he loves them all. They are the fulfillment and the living testament of his quest for the American dream. He has truly found his dream in this little town of Bergenfield. Councilperson Deauna stated his ever devoted and lovely wife, Celi, is the Light that guides him, is the strength that steadies him, and is the heart that reminds him what truly matters. He stated with her at his side, he has everything. God bless America and God bless Bergenfield.

Councilperson Almonte thanked everyone for being present and congratulated Councilperson Deauna and Councilperson Kornbluth on their re-election. He stated they set the bar high for Councilperson Pascual and himself this year. He wished they continue to serve the community the way they have been in the past decade or more.

Councilperson Ora Kornbluth thanked everyone for being here today and really appreciate everyone in the audience, mentioning the elected officials, Assemblyman Tully, Assemblywoman Swain, Bergen County Executive Tedesco, Commissioners Marte, Sullivan, and Zur, County Clerk John Hogan, Councilman Ezio Altamura, and her family and friends who joined today. Councilperson Kornbluth stated being sworn in for a sixth term as a councilwoman is humbling and does not take it for granted. She thanked the residents of Bergenfield for their trust, believing in her, challenging her, and allowing her the privilege of serving them again. Councilperson Kornbluth thanked her family, Indie, Sam, SD, Nikki, Benji, Bella, Nora, Talia, Ave, Atan, my cousins, Kana, my brother here tonight. Their support is what makes this possible. Public service is not just one person's work. It becomes a family commitment. She thanked her family for being there and for their patience when meetings run late, when the phone rings at 11:00 p.m., when weekends go up, and with the needs of the town take time and attention. Their understanding has allowed her to serve, and she is deeply grateful. Councilperson Kornbluth thanked and acknowledged fellow council members, Tom, Buddy, Domingo, Arvin, Hernando, and Mark. People sometimes assume that their disagreements on the dais means the division or disrespect. It's quite the opposite. She explained what she's experienced is, even though they sometimes debate and disagree, they share the same goal, doing what they believe is best for this town. She stated, over time, not only have they become her colleagues and her friends, they've become a family. Public service isn't only about projects and budgets. It's about people in the moment that matter most, when a community is facing challenges, when neighbors are struggling, when families are in need, they are reminded that leadership is not about policies and plans. It's about being there for each other and for our community, with compassion and steadiness. Over the past few years, the Jewish community has gone through a lot. She is proud to serve in a town where everyone stood together in difficult moments. They showed up together, they showed care. Bergenfield is what a community should look like. Councilperson Kornbluth stated, like Buddy said, Bergenfield is a huge, diverse community made up of many different backgrounds and cultures. One of the nicest things about being on the council is really being a part of all the different communities, going to events and learning about the different customs and teaching everyone mine. But, at the end of the day, we're not 10 different communities, we're one community, Bergenfield, and we all stand together. Councilperson Kornbluth stated it's hard to believe she is beginning her 16th year on the council. Six terms,

six swearing ins, and yes, six times her family has smiled politely while thinking we're doing this again. She stated when she first started, she truly didn't know what to expect. She came with the desire to help and a willingness to work hard. She quickly learned that local government is like homeownership. You're always fixing something, you're always paying for something, and someone always has a strong opinion on how you should have done it. Over the years, she learned that progress isn't always loud. Things you only notice when they're not working. That's why she is so proud of what they've accomplished together, improvements to our parks, upgrades to our fields, better and safer roads, and essential building and infrastructure projects that strengthen our town for the future. She explained while they work hard to do all this, they are being responsible with taxpayer dollars by keeping taxes as stable and as low as possible, making careful choices, and always asking, "how can we meet the town needs in a way that makes it affordable for balance?" That balance is not easy. It requires discipline, planning, and the willingness to make thoughtful trails, but is essential. Councilperson Kornbluth stated as she begins her sixth term, she feels what she felt when she started, excitement, gratitude, and responsibility, but with a deeper meaning of what it really means. It has been hard at times. This job asks a lot, but it's also been fulfilling. There is nothing like the honor of helping shape a town you love, working together with an amazing council to make daily life better for those who live here, raise families and invest their hopes here. So today, she renews her commitment to you. She will keep listening, will keep advocating, and will keep pushing for smarter investments in infrastructure and community spaces. She will continue to focus on strong services, safe streets, and responsible budgeting. She will keep doing this work with transparency, respect, and the seriousness it deserves. She thanked everyone again for their trust and partnership, and for giving her the opportunity to serve. Councilperson Kornbluth stated she is grateful and excited to see what they can accomplish in the next three years.

Councilperson Pascual congratulated Councilperson Buddy Deauna and Councilperson Ora Kornbluth. He stated he is so honored to be part of this council and very, very thankful for what our previous councilman did for us here to make it a little easy. They're talking about how it was divided earlier in the years in the '90s, and Chris telling him that it was very a lot of back and forth. He thanked them working together. The job is never done. It is what Councilperson Buddy Deauna and Councilperson Ora Kornbluth were saying, it's not just for us, this is for future generations. He stated they are here to stay and to continue to work to benefit the residents of Bergenfield.

Mayor Amatorio again congratulated Councilperson Ora Kornbluth and Councilperson Buddy Deauna. This afternoon marks the start of a new council year and is a good moment to be clear about where Bergenfield stands, what we accomplish, and what this year will require of us. He stated, over the past year, Bergenfield, delivered real results. They completed this new Borough Hall, and we did it on a budget, \$16 million. That's something worth saying out loud. It shows that Bergenfield can take major projects and manage them responsibly, delivering without burdening taxpayers. The old building served them well, and now they have a new, modern borough hall, that will serve this community for decades. They also focus on the basics, because they believe that basics matter. They repaved major roads across town and completed the paving of Memorial Park parking lot. This is the first time that the Memorial Park parking lot was paved, improving safety, access, and daily use for residents. This year also mark important progress in economic development. Mayor Amatorio stated through careful planning, they approved three major mixed-use projects that will bring modern, retail, residential, and commercial space to Bergenfield. Together, these developments, once completed, will include more than 300 combined residential and commercial units, providing long-term rentals that help stabilize our budget, while strengthening our business district, including the look of our downtown areas. They hope for them to start this coming year. Also, this will help meet our affordable housing obligations.

Mayor Amatorio mentioned that safety also remained our foundation, our Police Department, Fire Department, Ambulance Corps, OEM, and DPW showed up day in and day out, especially towards storms and emergencies. Their professionalism and teamwork kept Bergenfield running under difficult conditions. As a matter of fact, earlier today they swore in the officers of the volunteer Fire Department for the coming year, and they affirmed their commitment to support them as best as they can. Mayor Amatorio affirmed that the Council stays disciplined, financially, and completing major projects, maintaining services and investing in infrastructure while staying within the budget, required planning, oversight, and tough decisions. Bergenfield remains financially stable, enabling the Council to plan responsibly. He stated he is proud to say that Bergenfield has a double A class rating, that is why they are able to plan ahead with their programs and projects for the coming years. Mayor Amatorio stated as they look ahead, some of their most important work is focused on community spaces. On the top of the list is Coopers Pond. They are working toward completing the dredging of the pond, the renovation of the building at Coopers Pond, while restoring a cherished community asset, and ensuring it could be enjoyed for generations to come. He thanked the County, the County Executive, for keeping their commitment to help dredge the pond. He thanked Assemblyman Tully, Assemblywoman Swain, and Senator Lagana, for the grant, to build the Coopers Pond building, \$1,000,000 grants. Hopefully, it can start this year. Also, they have an ambitious plan to build an extensive indoor recreation center within the broader Vivian field area. This facility is envisioned as a multi-use, indoor space that can support sports, recreation, and community events. They had reached out to the county and the state, and is glad that they have given their commitment to help with proceeding with the program as long as they have the plans and apply for the grants. Mayor Amatorio stated beyond projects and development, they invested in people. This year, under the Mayor's Wellness Campaign, Bergenfield hosted its first ever 5K Run, drawing around 500 runners. It was more than just a race. It was a progression of what's possible when you bring health, community, and civic pride together. This year will be a year of execution, finishing what they started. They will continue with plot mitigation and stormwater work, by supporting public safety, and managing the rising cost carefully. He thanked the borough staff for the work they do every day behind the scenes to keep the town running. Dedication and professionalism matter more than most people ever see. Mayor Amatorio mentioned his colleagues on the council. He thanked them for their partnership, honesty, and commitment to Bergenfield. He stated, as everybody mentioned, they don't always agree, but when they show up, they do work, and they keep the borough first. He thanked Borough Administrator Gallo for his steady leadership and attention to the detail. He thanked AJ, Hilda, Grisel, and Marie for their support, organization, and constant work to keep things moving the right way. Mayor Amatorio thanked the professionals, John Schettino, who has been the legal guidance all throughout the years. We are lucky to have John on our side. Finally, he thanked Ilya, my wife, the first lady. She's been very supportive, giving him the conscience on what he does every day, as a family man and also as a public servant. He thanked his sons, Lance and Andrew for their patience, support and the sacrifices they make, so he can do his work. He couldn't do it without them, and is deeply grateful. Mayor Amatorio thanked the residents of Bergenfield for their trust and their voices. He wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked everyone for coming to this beautiful reorganization.

On a motion by Councilperson Pascual, second by Councilwoman Kornbluth, and unanimously carried, the meeting was recessed at 3:59 p.m. The meeting was resumed at 4:02 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Mayor Amatorio opens the meeting and invites the public to comment on any subject matter, limited to five (5) minutes per speaker.

Barry Doll, stated that as a member of the Bergenfield Museum, he wanted to congratulate the elected officials and thanked council for their support of the Bergenfield Museum.

**RESOLUTION 26-001/**To Appoint Councilman Domingo Almonte as Council President.

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, second by Councilperson Lodato, that Resolution #26-001 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>absent</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

**RESOLUTION 26-002/**To Establish the Seating Order of the 2026 Governing Body

Councilman Thomas A. Lodato  
Councilman Buddy Deauna  
Council President Domingo Almonte  
Mayor Arvin Amatorio  
Councilwoman Ora C. Kornbluth  
Councilman Hernando Rivera  
Councilman Marc Pascual

Motion by Councilperson Pascual, second by Councilperson Deauna, that Resolution #26-002 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>absent</i>
Council President Almonte:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

Mayor recommends and nominates John L. Schettino, Esq. to the position of Borough Attorney for a one-year term, expiring 12/31/2026.

**RESOLUTION 26-003/**To Confirm Mayor's nomination of John L. Schettino, Esq. as Borough Attorney.

Motion by Councilperson Lodato, second by Councilperson Almonte, that Resolution #26-003 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>absent</i>
Council President Almonte:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

Mayor recommends and nominates Franklin S. Montero, Esq. to the position of Municipal Court Judge for a three-year term, term expiring 12/31/28.

**RESOLUTION 26-004**/To Confirm Mayor's nomination of Franklin S. Montero, Esq. as Municipal Court Judge.

Motion by Councilperson Almonte, second by Councilperson Pascual, that Resolution #26-004 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>absent</i>
Council President Almonte:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

**CONSENT RESOLUTION 26-005.** All matters listed below are considered by the Governing Body to be routine in nature. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If any discussion is desired by the Governing Body, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

- a. **26-006**/Adopt By-Laws for 2026
- b. **26-007**/Establishing Meeting Dates
- c. **26-008**/Reaffirming Interest Rates and Dates on Delinquent Taxes
- d. **26-009**/Authorizing Fire Department Mutual Aid
- e. **26-010**/Confirming Source Separation and Recycling
- f. **26-011**/Reaffirming Petty Cash and Change Funds
- g. **26-012**/Designate Official Depositories for Current Operating Funds
- h. **26-013**/Designate Secondary Bank Accounts, Signatories and Fiduciary Responsibilities
- i. **26-014**/Authorizing the Utilization of GovDeals, Inc. for the Purpose of Disposing of Surplus Equipment
- j. **26-015**/Authorizing Tax Collector to Cancel Tax Overpayments or Delinquent Amounts less than \$10.00
- k. **26-016**/Authorizing \$20.00 Fee for Tax Payments Returned for Insufficient Funds
- l. **26-017**/Authorizing Police Department Mutual Aid
- m. **26-018**/Approving the December 16, 2025 Regular Public Meeting
- n. **26-019**/Approving the 2026 Tow Companies
- o. **26-020**/Approving a Tax Sale Certificate \$50.00 Fee for Third Redemption Request or More

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, second by Councilperson Lodato, that the Consent Resolution be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>absent</i>
Council President Almonte:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

**RESOLUTION 26-021**/To Approve Temporary Budget Appropriations in CY2026.

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, second by Councilperson Pascual, that Resolution #26-021 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>absent</i>
Council President Almonte:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

**PROFESSIONAL NOMINATIONS**

Mayor recommends and nominates the following professionals for a one-year term, term expiring 12/31/26:

- a. Borough Engineer: Remington & Vernick Engineers
- b. Special Projects Engineer: T&M Associates
- c. Bond Counsel: Rogut McCarthy, LLC
- d. Labor Counsel: Trenk Isable Siddiqi & Shahdnian, P.C.
- e. Tax Appeal Counsel: Boggia Boggia & Betesh, LLC
- f. Borough Auditor: Lerch, Vinci, & Bliss, LLP
- g. Risk Manager: GJEM Insurance Agency, Inc.
- h. Grant Writer and Consultant: Millennium Strategies, LLC
- i. Borough Appraiser: Appraisal Systems, Inc.
- j. Borough Prosecutor: Marc A. Calello, P.C.
- k. Alternate Borough Prosecutor: Linda H. Schwager, Esq.
- l. Public Defender: Metzdorf Law Office
- m. Planner/Engineer for Economic Development: Neglia Engineering Associates
- n. Continuing Disclosure and Independent Registered Municipal Advisor Services: Phoenix Advisors, LLC

**RESOLUTION 26-022/**To Confirm Professional Nominations and Authorize Execution of Contracts.

Motion by Councilperson Lodato, second by Councilperson Almonte, that Resolution #26-022 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>absent</i>
Council President Almonte:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

**ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS**

Mayor recommends and nominates the following for a one-year term, term expiring 12/31/26:

- a. Wastewater Consultant C-3 Licensed Collection Operator: John Pampaloni
- b. Director of Recreation: Edward Volmer
- c. Assistant to Director of Recreation: Chris Brown
- d. Public Agency Compliance Officer: Corey Gallo
- e. Safety Coordinator: Alexandra Cacciatore
- f. Town Historian: Eva Gallione

**RESOLUTION 26-023/**To Ratify Administrative Appointments for 2026.

Motion by Councilperson Pascual, second by Councilperson Deauna, that Resolution #26-023 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>absent</i>
Council President Almonte:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

### **RECOMMENDATIONS AND NOMINATIONS FOR BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

Mayor Amatorio recommends and nominates the following to serve on the respective boards and committees:

#### **BARRIER FREE COMMITTEE**

Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Barrier Free Committee for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2026.

Lee Brinkman  
Milagros Cabuhat  
Patti Enders  
Lorraine Forcier  
Dana Macaluso Falcicchio  
Neha Puniani  
Sharon Thiermann  
Liezl Cruz, Public Health Nurse  
Robert Giacomelli, DPW Superintendent  
Jayne Mania, Building Dept.  
Police Officer Robert Mader

#### **BOARD OF HEALTH**

Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Board of Health for the following terms:

Jeremy Rivera	4-year term, term exp. 12/31/29
Niharika Nath	4-year unexpired term, term exp. 12/31/28

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**

Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Environmental Committee for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2026.

Jessica Aleman  
Cris Bontia  
Robert Gallione  
Angela Meister  
Laura Michelson  
Rachana Nair  
Niki Nath  
Venus Rose  
Paul Stypulkoski  
Joseph Verga  
Elena Villanueva

Craig Vogt  
Robert Giacomelli, DPW Superintendent

**GREEN TEAM**

Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Green Team for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2026.

Jessica Aleman  
Robert Gallione  
Rachana Nair  
Paul Stypulkoski  
Sarah Stypulkoski  
Joe Verga  
Corey Gallo, Administrator  
Robert Giacomelli, DPW Superintendent  
Dr. Chris Tully, Board of Education  
Craig Vogt, Jefferson School Principal  
Liezl Cruz, Public Health Nurse

**LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Library Board of Trustees for the following terms:

Laurie Phipps      5-year term, term exp. 12/31/30

**LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

Mayor appoints the following to serve on the Local Emergency Planning Council for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2026.

Ryan Shell, Emergency Management Coordinator  
Richard Goddin Jr., Deputy OEM Coordinator  
Arvin Amatorio, Mayor  
Ora Kornbluth, Council Liaison  
Corey Gallo, Borough Administrator  
Mustafa Rabboh, Police Chief  
Ryan Zadrozna, Fire Chief  
Alex Cacciatore, Safety Coordinator  
Robert Giacomelli, DPW Superintendent  
Mike Ravenda, Construction Code Official  
James "Jim" Fedorko,  
Liezl Cruz, Public Health Nurse  
Dr. Christopher Tully, Board of Education Liaison

**MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE**

Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Municipal Alliance Committee for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2026.

Jennifer DaCosta  
Linda DePinto

Mr. Robert Ragasa, Bergenfield High School  
Corey Gallo, Borough Administrator  
Bochy Lora  
Michael Merlo, Chairperson  
Nicholas Montello, County of Bergen  
Thomas O'Reilly  
Captain William Duran, Bergenfield Police Department  
Dr. Christopher Tully, Superintendent  
Student Member  
Liezl Cruz, Public Health Nurse

**RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Recreation Committee for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2026.

Mariann Canino  
Diana Cifuentes  
Kevin Barlow, PAL President  
Jose Duran  
Bryan Gilligan  
Kathie Lacey  
Cesar De La Rosa  
Ines De La Rosa  
Tony Londono  
Vinnie Malley  
Ryan Martin  
Pedro Martinez  
Belinda Mendez  
Ricardo Mendoza  
Anthony Roldan  
Brian Timmons  
Melissa Weigl

**RENT LEVELING BOARD**

Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Rent Leveling Board as follows:

Diane Carlson	Tenant, 3-year term, term exp. 12/31/28
Andrew "Andy" Lehr	Member, 3-year term, term exp. 12/31/28
Maureen Sullivan	Tenant, 3-year term, term exp. 12/31/28
Christopher Arp	Member, unexpired 3-year term, term exp. 12/31/26
Sylvia Rosario	Alt. Member, 1-year term, term exp. 12/31/26
_____	Alt. Member, 1-year term, term exp. 12/31/26
_____	Alt. Tenant, 1-year term, term exp. 12/31/26

**MAYOR'S SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Mayor appoints the following to serve on the Senior Citizen Committee for a one-year term, term, term expiring December 31, 2026.

Loretta Amara

Marge Alfano  
Steven Bellavia  
Lorraine Bernich  
Pat Braun  
Eileen Conroy  
Helen Folli  
Barbara Gerin  
John Horsman  
Linda Horsman  
Gwendolyn "Wendy" McDowell  
Annette Roge  
Gary Romano

**SHADE TREE COMMITTEE**

Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Shade Tree Committee for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2026.

Jules Orkin  
Joe Schade  
Robert Giacomelli, DPW Superintendent  
\_\_\_\_\_, Secretary

**SITE PLAN COMMITTEE**

Mayor appoints the following to serve on the Site Plan Committee for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2026.

Nick Garafano, Fire Captain  
Jason Bergman, Zoning Board of Adjustment  
Ryan Zadrozna, Chief of the Fire Department  
Robert Giacomelli, DPW Superintendent and Shade Tree Committee  
John Pampaloni, WWC Operator  
Mustafa Rabboh, Police Chief  
Mike Ravenda, Construction Code Official  
Robert Rivas, Planning Board  
\_\_\_\_\_, Chair/Resident Member  
Lora Shade, Bergenfield Volunteer Ambulance Corp.

**STIGMA FREE COMMITTEE**

Mayor appoints the following to serve on the Stigma Free Committee for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2026.

Maryann Rivera — Chairwoman  
Giselle Dean — Vice Chairman  
Liliza Pancho  
Niharika Nath  
Maria Tubale-Balajadia  
Bartolome Pancho  
Kelle Garcia Supan  
Frederick R. Quiambao

Brittney Von der Osten  
Fanny Cruz Betesh  
Maria Rena Penecilla  
Jenny Ancheta  
Rev. Rich Gelson  
Kirsty Nicole Bocado

**VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Veterans Advisory Committee for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2026.

Venus Carpenter  
Kean Castillo  
Joseph J. Cutolo, American Legion Representative  
Gerald J. Ferra Jr.  
Edgar Garcia  
Thomas Lang, Treasurer  
Edward Lora, Secretary  
Richard Morf  
Dina Moore  
Willie Moree Jr.  
Dr. Samuel Paul, Chaplin  
Frederick Sahlberg  
Amos White  
Jose Vasquez  
John Smith, Ex Officio  
Jesus Martinez, VFW Commander

**MOTION** by Councilperson Kornbluth, that all nominations be confirmed. Councilperson Deauna seconded the motion. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

**PLANNING BOARD**

Mayor appoints the following to serve on the Planning Board for the following terms:

Joseph Picheo	Class II, 1-year term, term exp. 12/31/26
Romeo Abenoja	Class IV, 4-year term, term exp. 12/31/29
Oriole Familia	Class IV, 4-year term, term exp. 12/31/29
Edgar Dimaren	Class IV, 4-year term, term expiring 12/31/29
Praveen Joseph	Alternate #1, 2-year term exp. 12/31/27
Yehuda Borg	Alternate #2, 2-year unexp. term, term exp. 12/31/26

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, seconded by Councilperson Almonte, to appoint Thomas A. Lodato as a Class III, 1-year term, expiring 12/31/26 and Hernando Rivera as Class III, 1-year term, expiring 12/31/26. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

**ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

Council President Almonte recommends and nominates the following to serve as members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment:

Richard Morf	Member, 4-year term, term exp. 12/31/29
Jose Morel	Member, 4-year term, term exp. 12/31/29
_____	Alternate #1, 2-year term, term exp. 12/31/27
_____	Alt. #2, 2-year unexp. term, term exp. 12/31/26

**MOTION** by Councilperson Lodato, second by Councilperson Deauna, that the nominations be confirmed. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

Council President Almonte nominates the following Councilmembers to serve on the following committees. The first named of each shall be the Chairperson.

<b>FINANCE</b>	<b>Rivera</b>	<b>Pascual</b>	<b>Kornbluth</b>
<b>POLICE</b>	<b>Kornbluth</b>	<b>Almonte</b>	<b>Rivera</b>
<b>FIRE</b>	<b>Lodato</b>	<b>Deauna</b>	<b>Pascual</b>
<b>DPW &amp; PARKS</b>	<b>Pascual</b>	<b>Kornbluth</b>	<b>Rivera</b>
<b>BUILDING &amp; GROUNDS</b>	<b>Deauna</b>	<b>Almonte</b>	<b>Lodato</b>
<b>COMMUNITY AFFAIRS</b>	<b>Almonte</b>	<b>Lodato</b>	<b>Deauna</b>

**MOTION** by Councilperson Kornbluth, seconded by Councilperson Lodato, that the nominations for all Standing Committees named by Council President Almonte be confirmed.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>absent</i>
Council President Almonte:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

**LIAISONS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

Council President Almonte nominates the following Councilmembers to serve as Liaisons to the following Boards and Committees:

<b>AMBULANCE CORPS</b>	<b>Kornbluth</b>
<b>BARRIER FREE COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Deauna</b>
<b>BOARD OF EDUCATION</b>	<b>Pascual</b>
<b>BOARD OF HEALTH</b>	<b>Rivera</b>
<b>COMMUNITY RESPONSE TEAM</b>	<b>Almonte</b>
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE (Ecology)</b>	<b>Rivera</b>
<b>EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>Kornbluth</b>
<b>GREEN TEAM</b>	<b>Deauna</b>
<b>LIBRARY BOARD</b>	<b>Lodato</b>
<b>MAYOR'S SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Deauna</b>
<b>MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE</b>	<b>Deauna</b>
<b>RECREATION COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Kornbluth</b>
<b>RENT LEVELING BOARD</b>	<b>Pascual</b>
<b>SHADE TREE COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Almonte</b>
<b>SITE PLAN</b>	<b>Rivera</b>
<b>STIGMA FREE COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Almonte</b>
<b>TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Rivera</b>
<b>VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Pascual</b>

**ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

**Lodato**

**MOTION** by Councilperson Kornbluth, seconded by Councilperson Pascual, that the nominations for Liaison to all Boards and Committees named by Council President Almonte be confirmed.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>absent</i>
Council President Almonte:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being nothing further to come before the Council, on a motion by Councilperson Pascual, seconded by Councilperson Kornbluth, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marie Quiñones-Wilson, RMC  
Borough Clerk