

Borough of Palisades Park
275 Broad Avenue
County of Bergen
State of New Jersey

Special Meeting
of the Mayor & Council
September 11, 2024

Borough of Palisades Park
Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council
September 11, 2024

Mayor Chong Pual Kim opened the Special Meeting at 7:00 P.M.

STATEMENT:

This is a Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council, and notice was given as follows:

1. Notice was filed September 5, 2024 with the Record & Newark Star-Ledger, both official newspapers of the Borough.
2. Notice was posted on the Bulletin Board at the Borough Hall and the Borough website at <https://mypalisadespark.com/>
3. Copy is preserved in the Clerk's Office.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE:

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Kim	Present
Councilwoman Jang	Present
Councilman Kim	Present
Councilwoman Lee	Present
Councilman Min	Present
Councilman Vietri	Absent
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Present
Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz	Present
Borough Administrator Raymond Herr	Present

OFF CONSENT AGENDA:

RESOLUTION 2024-223 Claims

Mayor Kim advised everyone to take a look at the claims. Mayor Kim began by explaining one of the reasons the Mayor and Council needed to have the special meeting. Mayor Kim thanked Councilwoman Won-Yoon for working hard and sacrificing for the preparation of the meeting. Mayor Kim stated first, claims needed to be completed specifically for the 125th Anniversary because some vendors required that they received a down payment or a certain percentage. Mayor Kim stated the council worked with the recreation department to provide all invoices that were displayed at the meeting. Mayor Kim explained these claims needed to be approved before the regular meeting. Mayor Kim asked council members again to read through them and take their time. He advised all council members to let him know if there were any questions. Mayor Kim stated it seemed like there were a lot more invoices present than pertaining to the 125th celebration. Mayor Kim believed Chief Financial Officer Roy Riggitano thought these other invoices were urgent, although there were a lot. Mayor Kim asked if there was a reason Roy Riggitano decided to submit the invoices the day of the special meeting. Borough Administrator Raymond Herr responded that some of the bills were due soon or were late by a week or two. Roy Riggitano submitted some other invoices and figured as long as all of the paperwork was signed and everything was approved it would be allowed. Mayor Kim reiterated that Roy Riggitano had the opportunity to submit these invoices so he took it. Mayor Kim asked if that meant the Mayor and Council would have less invoices to go over at the regular session. Raymond Herr stated hopefully Mayor Kim was correct. Mayor Kim asked if there were any questions. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she had a question regarding an invoice on page four with a description as Charter Communications. Councilwoman Won-Yoon continued, it seemed possibly the July payment had not been submitted, because the amount was a bit off from the usual amount. The amount read \$869.75, and she saw two of these invoices listed. Mayor Kim questioned what she was referring to. Mayor Kim stated he saw the invoice for \$123, but he guessed he was referring to a different charge. Councilwoman Won-Yoon questioned the \$119.99 invoice as well as the \$259.86 invoice. Councilwoman Won-Yoon explained that these were a bit off from the usual amount invoiced. Raymond Herr stated there was an invoice from Charter Communications for \$861. Borough Clerk Sophia Jang clarified Councilwoman Won-Yoon was in fact speaking about Charter Communications. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked if Deputy Chief Financial Officer Maria Elefteriou was present. Raymond Herr stated he advised Maria Elefteriou that she did not need to attend the meeting. Mayor Kim stated Charter Communications was the telephone company the borough used. Councilwoman Won-Yoon added they were also the cable company used by the borough as well. Mayor Kim stated Councilwoman Won-Yoon was catching this based on her own knowledge of the previous invoices, and she stated the amount was a bit off. Mayor Kim asked which invoice

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Councilwoman Won-Yoon thought was off from Charter Communications since there were five amounts listed. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she assumed the borough didn't pay one month \$119.99. Mayor Kim responded she was correct and it was for buildings and grounds. Councilwoman Won-Yoon added that the other invoice was for \$259.86. Mayor Kim specified that it was for the unclassified telephones. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated the two invoices she mentioned were the ones that were a bit off. Raymond Herr stated he had the bills and the vouchers on hand. Raymond Herr continued there was a charge for \$123 for the swimming pool. Mayor Kim clarified no, her question was regarding the invoices for \$119.99 and \$259.86. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated the invoices description read buildings and grounds. Mayor Kim corrected that the invoice description read Charter Communications unclassified telephone O/E account. Raymond Herr started to read the invoice for \$119.99, and Mayor Kim responded that the invoice was pertaining to building and grounds. Mayor Kim stated he needed to get glasses and Raymond Herr joked around stating he also needed a new pair of glasses. Raymond Herr stated that invoice was for Palisades Park Department of Public Works. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated usually the invoice was around \$89 rather than \$119.99. Raymond Herr explained there were the current charges for the month which was \$109.98, and then a \$10 charge from the previous month's bill that the company claimed they were shorted on. Mayor Kim questioned the invoice for \$869.75. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated that the amount was the same as usual, and from what she understood it looked like one month an invoice went unpaid. Raymond Herr stated that was correct. Councilman Min asked if this was an invoice related to the swimming pool. Raymond Herr responded it wasn't, and it was for the DPW as well. There was a prior balance that had not been paid. Mayor Kim thanked Raymond Herr for coming prepared for the claims portion. Councilman Min stated on page six there were two more invoices for the same amount although they showed two different purchase orders. Councilman Min continued that the descriptions and account numbers were the same, both dates August 28, 2024. Mayor Kim asked if that meant there was a double charge. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated it meant there was a prior month that the borough did not pay. Raymond Herr confirmed the bill also showed that it was late. Councilwoman Won-Yoon commented that it was very common that invoices were not paid on time. Councilman Min asked if the reasoning was because there was no meeting for the month of August. Mayor Kim and Raymond Herr both responded that he was correct. Mayor Kim continued that was the reason for the special meeting, and at the time the bills were just accumulating. Raymond Herr stated Roy Riggitano wanted to include those bills that night to get the borough all caught up to date. Mayor Kim asked if there were any more questions. Mayor Kim stated there were some Collazuol Engineering bills. He reminded Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz to complete what he had previously requested. Scott Krumholz asked if he was referring to the letter he was advised to send. Mayor Kim asked if Scott Krumholz remembered the last things he sent over to him. Councilman Min asked when submitting escrow payments, did the borough ever include a purchase order. Mayor Kim asked what he was referring to. Councilman Min responded he was referring to the last page. Mayor Kim asked what Councilman Min was looking at. Councilman Min asked again if the borough ever obtained a purchase order for each line of service. Mayor Kim asked if the borough was supposed to get a purchase order when submitting these payments. Raymond Herr stated escrow payments were done differently. Mayor Kim stated they were like contractor salaries. Raymond Herr continued, for the escrow accounts that were listed, contractors and builders put up money. This money was mostly paid out to the borough engineer. Councilman Min and Mayor Kim stated they both understood. Councilman Min added it was not like the borough was paying for it out of the budget. Raymond Herr stated he was correct. Councilman Min stated it was almost like the borough was actually getting paid, or getting a deposit. Raymond Herr stated when the borough received a deposit, it would sit in an escrow account where it eventually was paid out when the work was completed. Mayor Kim added that the money was put into an escrow account, and estimating on how long their services were rendered, then they would receive payment. Councilman Min asked depending on the amount could they ask for more money? Raymond Herr responded yes, and if there was money left over then they would get it back at the end of the project. Mayor Kim requested a motion. Councilman Min made a motion to pass Resolution 2024-223 claims. Councilwoman Jang seconded this motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang:	Yes
Councilman Kim:	Yes
Councilwoman Lee:	Yes
Councilman Min:	Yes

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Councilwoman Won-Yoon: Yes

Mayor Kim thanked everyone for paying the bills and keeping the lights on.

RESOLUTION 2024-224 Appointing Special Borough Engineer (Re: Pennoni)

Mayor Kim stated this special meeting was very urgent because the borough needed a special engineer. Mayor Kim stated Councilwoman Won-Yoon had made a good point and she needed additional information to be provided. Mayor Kim stated if Councilwoman Won-Yoon had any questions she could ask any other councilmembers. Mayor Kim requested a motion. Councilman Min made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Lee. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang: Yes
Councilman Kim: Yes
Councilwoman Lee: Yes
Councilman Min: Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon: Yes

RESOLUTION 2024-225 Authorizing the use of Instant Verification Inc. to Perform Background Searches for Palisades Park Borough

Mayor Kim stated this resolution had been halted also because of lack of information. Mayor Kim apologized, and stated it was a recommendation from the police director that it was not feasible or common practice to use police department sources to background check potential employees. This company was reputable and was recommended by the borough administrator. Mayor Kim proposed that the Mayor and Council moved forward with the resolution. Mayor Kim requested a motion. Councilman Min made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Lee. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang: Yes
Councilman Kim: Yes
Councilwoman Lee: Yes
Councilman Min: Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon: Yes

RESOLUTION 2024-226 Authorization to Enter Agreement with County of Bergen (Re: 2024-2026 Snow Plowing Program)

Councilwoman Jang made a motion, and Councilwoman Lee seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang: Yes
Councilman Kim: Yes
Councilwoman Lee: Yes
Councilman Min: Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon: Yes

RESOLUTION 2024-227 Award Contract for 12 Bellview Place Roof and other Asbestos Containing Materials Removal (Re: Plymouth Environmental Co, Inc)

Mayor Kim stated this resolution was close to his heart. Mayor Kim explained he had tried to get this project going since the beginning of the Spring season and it had been delayed for a long time. Mayor Kim stated as everyone had known the project at 12 Bellview was set in place so the borough could demolish the building, and create additional parking spaces that residents desired especially for the busy streets of Broad Avenue. When Mayor Kim had become the mayor, he noticed even though the contractor that had previously been voted on and approved for the demolition, upper management who should have been on top of it did not follow through. Mayor Kim thought there was another process for safety issues. The borough had a surveyor to find out

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if everything was safe such as checking for rats and mice, environmental pathogens, or asbestos. The surveyor discovered that on the roof there was asbestos compound therefore they had to halt the project throughout the entire summer. The demolition contractor had been approved but they were just waiting for the go. Due to the fact that this was an emergency, and it was dangerous to the public, it had been appropriated because it was still standing for too long. Mayor Kim requested the borough to award the contract for 12 Bellview Place roof and asbestos removal to Plymouth Environmental Co. Mayor Kim continued this would bypass the bidding process. Mayor Kim asked Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz if he was correct. Scott Krumholz responded the bid was not bypassed. Mayor Kim corrected himself, and meant to say that the borough didn't have to put out a rebid. The borough had decided on the next bidder that was qualified. By law, since it was an emergency, it didn't need to go through a rebid, and the borough would just move forward with the company. Borough Administrator Raymond Herr, and Borough Clerk Sophia Jang stated that Mayor Kim was correct. Scott Krumholz explained the borough did go through a bidding process, they advertised, and there were five to six companies that picked up a bid package. Plymouth Environmental Co. was the only company that actually submitted a bid. The borough received the bid, and it was fully compliant. Chief Financial Officer Roy Riggitano was also happy with the price of the bid. Mayor Kim thanked them, and stated it was then not considered an emergency contractor, but a bid that was submitted on their own accord. Councilman Min reiterated the borough was only awarding it. Mayor Kim asked for any other questions. Mayor Kim wanted to let everyone know this project required an asbestos specialist almost like a guide on site to make sure the asbestos didn't go into the air. Mayor Kim recommended this specialist who had worked with the borough engineer who had initially helped out with this bid. Mayor Kim advised Raymond Herr that this specialist had to go back in, to perform his job function in making sure the asbestos did not spread into the air. Mayor Kim asked if there were any other questions. Councilman Min made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Lee. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang:	Yes
Councilman Kim:	Yes
Councilwoman Lee:	Yes
Councilman Min:	Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon:	Yes

RESOLUTION 2024-228 Amending the Contract Between the Borough of Palisades Park and Ruderman & Roth, LLC.

Mayor Kim stated he would allow Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz to explain Resolution 2024-228. Scott Krumholz explained the borough was facing significant issues in terms of litigation and ongoing matters that went beyond what anyone could imagine. The chief financial officer advised the borough was getting close to the end of the budget. The borough needed to defend the many litigation matters, OPRA issues, and litigations in OPRA. Scott Krumholz continued as the borough clerk had already known, the borough had been bombarded with OPRA issues that needed to be dealt with. The chief financial officer required this resolution to be put in order for the Ruderman & Roth Law Firm to remain as borough council. Mayor Kim jokingly asked him if that was a threat. Everyone laughed. Mayor Kim asked if there were any questions. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked how much the borough had in the budget so far? Mayor Kim responded that it was a good question. Scott Krumholz stated he believed the original was \$120. Mayor Kim stated that was about the average. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked if he meant \$120,000 for the year? Mayor Kim responded yes, that was about average. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated the Mayor and Council was speaking about exceeding \$150,000 which was also for that year? Scott Krumholz responded she was correct. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked if that meant the borough had that money to spend. Mayor Kim stated no, for example, yearly in past practices the average was around \$120,000, but because of the special circumstances that had occurred that year resulting in multiple lawsuits it would exceed that prior amount. Mayor Kim considered this as a positive thing but there were people who felt otherwise and had received lots of litigation on the actions that were taken that year. This was considered an extra out of the normal increase. The borough rarely did this, but Mayor Kim understood the special need because there were multiple lawsuits, litigations, and builders remedy cases. Scott Krumholz stated there were five builders remedy cases. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked what the \$150,000 was for. Mayor Kim stated that would have been the new

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maximum instead of the \$120,000 maximum. Councilwoman Won-Yoon responded she understood this was in place of the \$120,000. Mayor Kim agreed the maximum was originally \$120,000. Scott Krumholz clarified this was actually an additional cap on top making it a total maximum of \$270,000. Mayor Kim asked what the total maximum amount was. Scott Krumholz replied \$270,000. Mayor Kim clarified he had it wrong before, and he thought when he read the resolution they wanted an additional \$30,000 making it a new maximum amount of \$150,000. Scott Krumholz responded no, that was incorrect. Scott Krumholz commented this was recommended by the chief financial officer. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked if she was correct that the money was to be spent that year. Scott Krumholz agreed she was correct, it was for the year and it wasn't an invoice, just an increase in the maximum amount. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated her concern. She stated she wasn't qualified to judge on whether or not this was the right or wrong amount, so she depended on the chief financial officer. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated the thing was, if the borough was going to spend that much, then some of the lawsuits should have progressed. Mayor Kim stated that was what they hoped for. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated a lot of the legal proceedings didn't move at all. Mayor Kim agreed and spoke with the other Borough Attorney Allan Roth who had stated he would make sure they moved as fast as possible and the council would get something in writing to show the progress. Councilwoman Won-Yoon requested some kind of report describing the status of the lawsuits from time to time. Mayor Kim replied absolutely and asked Scott Krumholz if it was alright that Councilwoman Won-Yoon would call him with any questions, and he would be responsive. Mayor Kim joked around saying if he didn't call back the mayor he would spank him. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated first, she wanted to know of the recent lawsuit, Mayor Kim stated that could not be discussed because the meeting was public. Mayor Kim advised her to give Scott Krumholz a call. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she understood. Mayor Kim asked for any other questions. Councilwoman Lee asked how often they invoiced the borough. Scott Krumholz replied monthly, and every invoice was displayed on the claims list that was subject to council's approval. Mayor Kim stated he mentioned before that everyone should have had a clear understanding of the rates and what the law firm charged. Mayor Kim asked if this was what Councilwoman Lee had asked. Councilwoman Lee responded it was. Mayor Kim stated he would ask for their law firm to send an email and that the Mayor and Council would have to watch out for that email. They would define how they charged the borough and advise on issues like saving money as the previous borough attorney had. Scott Krumholz agreed. Mayor Kim stated they would prepare that for the work session, and to add in an executive session in order to discuss. Mayor Kim advised Borough Clerk Sophia Jang and Borough Administrator Raymond Herr. Mayor Kim requested a motion. Mayor Kim stated he knew it was a lot of money but the borough was being sued. Councilman Min made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Lee. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang:	Yes
Councilman Kim:	Yes
Councilwoman Lee:	Yes
Councilman Min:	Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon:	Yes

Councilman Kim made a comment that he wished the money would be spent well. Mayor Kim was shocked the council had all voted yes at the same time. Raymond Herr stated there was one more resolution to go.

RESOLUTION 2024-229 Authorization of Chamber of Commerce to Hold Fall Street Festival

Mayor Kim stated as the council already knew, the Chamber of Commerce held a street fair in either the fall or summer seasons. The reason for the street fair was to foster commerce in town and it was a great opportunity for the businesses to serve in surplus and make money. Mayor Kim stated he had reviewed the resolution and letter but he believed the Chamber of Commerce had forgotten the standard letter that they usually provided listing the details on what they were, and were not going to do. Mayor Kim proposed to pass the resolution with three stipulations. The stipulations stated that the Chamber of Commerce would clean up all garbage, have insurance to make sure if an accident happened it, they were present first and would call the local police, and they could not sell any foods that were prepared in an improper location. Mayor Kim stated that should have sufficed, and if anyone wanted to add more conditions they could, but the Chamber

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of Commerce did a good job and were responsible for it. Mayor Kim requested a motion. Councilwoman Won-Yoon made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Min. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang:	Yes
Councilman Kim:	Yes
Councilwoman Lee:	Yes
Councilman Min:	Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon:	Yes

Mayor Kim thanked everyone and requested a motion to close and open to the public. Councilman Min made a motion, and Councilwoman Lee seconded. All joined in favor, none opposed. Mayor Kim thanked the public for their patience.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Susan Brauer asked what the special borough engineer was for. Mayor Kim stated for projects that had not been attended to, projects that had many errors, and other special reasons. Mayor Kim used 12 Bellview Place as an example. He stated it had been sitting for too long and they needed someone to get it moving. Susan Brauer stated in regard to Resolution 2024-225, it was worded the Palisades Park Borough, but Mayor Kim stated it was only for possible employees. Mayor Kim responded yes, for the borough. Susan Brauer asked who would perform the background checks? Mayor Kim replied, the company they were about to hire. Susan Brauer asked if this would be a person from Palisades Park that contacted them. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz stated he would be the one to contact them. Susan Brauer stated from her understanding there was supposed to be a paralegal or attorney doing that depending on the information provided. Susan Brauer asked again if this service was only for employees. Mayor Kim responded yes only for employee background checks. Susan Brauer said that she would take his word. Mayor Kim asked her why she would say that, and what she assumed. If she had mentioned it to the Mayor and Council then they would fix it. Mayor Kim asked Ms. Brauer what the possible errors were in the situation. Susan Brauer responded she didn't say there were errors. Mayor Kim reiterated that Susan Brauer said she would take his word for it. Susan Brauer stated she would. Mayor Kim replied she had been around longer than he had so he respected her opinion. Susan Brauer stated Plymouth Environment was the only bidder. Susan Brauer commented she was originally told the 12 Bellview Place location was going to be used for the police department, and now she was being told that it would be used by shopping residents. Mayor Kim asked who told her that it would be used for the police department. Susan Brauer responded about five years prior. Mayor Kim asked who told her that. Susan Brauer stated she didn't remember, but it was mentioned at a meeting. Mayor Kim stated he had been present for the past five years. Susan Brauer stated that he remembered then. Mayor Kim stated he didn't remember, but he would cross reference check with Borough Clerk Sophia Jang meeting minutes. Susan Brauer stated there were one to two things not on the agenda in regards to the upcoming legal fees. Susan Brauer asked if the borough anticipated any settlements in order to just move past the lawsuits. She stated the borough was not moving forward on these issues. Susan Brauer continued that it would be "a clog in the wheel" until the lawsuits were over, and done with. Mayor Kim asked if that meant in her opinion she would have liked to see the borough act, and settle fast. Mayor Kim also asked her for her reasoning, and if it was because the borough would save money. Mayor Kim stated this was on record, and he wanted her position on settling cases in the future as well as set a precedent on her own opinion because her opinion mattered to him. Susan Brauer requested the Mayor and Council give her the paperwork on every single case and she would let them know. Mayor Kim replied no, he was just asking for her opinion on why she thought the borough should settle fast. Susan Brauer stated no, not settle fast but actually progress on it. Susan Brauer asked how long some of these cases had been going on. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz stated they could not get into discussion on the lawsuits that were pending but many factors were in play to determine a settlement, including the boroughs insurance carrier. Mayor Kim stated that was true. Scott Krumholz stated they needed authorization from the insurance carrier to settle. Mayor Kim thanked her. Susan Brauer tried to continue but her time was up. Susan Brauer stated there were not a lot of people present to ask

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questions. Mayor Kim stated everyone had an equal opportunity of three minutes, and if there was more time, and council allowed, then he would entertain a second question.

Donna Katz came up to speak of Resolution 2024-229. Since Mayor Kim was having the Chamber of Commerce clean up and consider food, she asked if they could consider the English language on their stalls. Mayor Kim asked if she said stalls or stores. Ms. Katz stated that business owners had stalls outside their stores displaying the street fair signage. Mayor Kim asked if the signage was advertised only in Korean. Mayor Kim also stated he would provide the number for the Chamber of Commerce so she could speak directly with them. Mayor Kim asked Ms. Katz if that was the only reason and if it was also because she thought there were enough Koreans already attending. Donna Katz replied no, she just figured since he was asking for stipulations on cleanliness and food that he could also encourage the Chamber of Commerce included not only the Korean speaking residents. Mayor Kim asked her what made her think only Koreans were included and everyone else was excluded. Donna Katz stated there was no English signage, and she couldn't read the signs. Mayor Kim asked her what signage she was referring to. Donna Katz responded, the signage on the stalls. Mayor Kim questioned stalls or stores? Borough Administrator Raymond Herr clarified she was saying the stalls, but what she meant was the stores or tables that were advertising. Donna Katz began to explain again. Mayor Kim stated that he couldn't speak on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce but if he was a Korean American store owner in town, he wouldn't only target his market to Korean Americans. Donna Katz stated Mayor Kim was giving authorization. Mayor Kim replied he did not. Donna Katz stated he was giving the Chamber of Commerce the authorization to hold the fair. Ms. Katz understood that legally they had to approve the issue but also, Mayor Kim could let them know someone came to the meeting and felt excluded. Ms. Katz continued that her family had a store for 50 years, and they were also in the Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Kim assured Ms. Katz non Korean speaking attendees wouldn't feel excluded, and he would be there to welcome them and would take them to a nice taco truck. A lot of non- Korean participants', and performances, were all in English. Ms. Katz asked if he was talking about the street fair on Broad Avenue. Mayor Kim stated yes, and then asked which street fair she was talking about. Donna Katz responded to the upcoming street fair, not the anniversary street fair. Mayor Kim again told her to talk to the Chamber of Commerce. Donna Katz stated they weren't going to listen to her, it was the town itself hosting it. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz asked if her question was premised on the stipulations the mayor had made on the garbage pickup. Donna Katz said yes. Scott Krumholz responded there was a letter that the Chamber of Commerce should have submitted and because they didn't and it wasn't part of the package, Mayor Kim needed to just put it on the record. Donna Katz stated she was under the impression legally the borough could not force them to put the signs in English, however, since the Mayor and Council did authorize the festival, they could say that they wanted everyone to feel welcomed and have signage in English as well. Mayor Kim stated the phrase "we want" was a very dangerous phrase because he could not tell them what to do. Ms. Katz stated he couldn't tell them what to do, but he could say that it had been discussed. Mayor Kim stated that was why he said that wasn't a time to make that decision nor did he have the authority to. That was why he stated he would contact them and get back to her. Ms. Katz rejected his advice and stated to not dump it on her because the Chamber of Commerce would not listen to her. Mayor Kim responded, possibly himself, the Chamber of Commerce, and herself could sit down together because he understood her reasoning and he thought it could be like restricting the market because a lot of customers actually did like Korean stuff. Ms. Katz stated she didn't say to take out the Korean stuff. Mayor Kim responded he didn't say she said that, but he meant patrons liked Korean stuff such as Squid Games and K-Pop. Ms. Katz stated she didn't say otherwise, she just wanted to be able to read the name and prices. Mayor Kim understood and stated they would speak about it at a later time. Mayor Kim advised Ms. Katz to send him an email so they could set up a meeting.

Mayor Kim asked Susan Brauer if she wanted to speak once more. He stated because they were almost done and it was a bit early so he wanted to ask if Susan Brauer wanted to come back up for her last three minutes. Susan Brauer agreed. Susan Brauer began, when people walked up and down the road during the street fair, not anniversary, most of the signs were in Korean. If these people knew about the items being sold that was one thing but if people didn't, then they couldn't read the Korean language. Susan Brauer continued, years ago residents asked for

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signage to be in Korean. Mayor Kim asked if she meant signage at storefronts. Susan Brauer stated if it was our stores being represented at the street fair, she assumed they would have signage in English and Korean so she didn't see an issue with the request. However, after talking to some other people in town, they were not getting cooperation from the Chamber of Commerce and these were resident's businesses in town. Susan Brauer believed having a resident speak to the Chamber of Commerce was a mute point. The residents did not have the power, but the Mayor and Council did. Susan Brauer advised Mayor Kim that if he had sent a letter stating residents would appreciate from the outside whether they liked Korean food or not, regardless, the mayor hoped to attract a lot of people. But residents and visitors who did not speak Korean, and who could not read the Korean language, would appreciate knowing what items were being sold. Susan Brauer continued that the Mayor and Council had the power to do it, and asked if that was fair. Mayor Kim stated it wasn't about being fair. There were certain things they could and couldn't do. He asked to let him discuss the letter, and he encouraged merchants to expand their markets. It wasn't like they were only selling to Koreans but he did want to expand the market. Susan Brauer stated in his own way he should explain in order to expand the market, perhaps they could say no but then down the road it could be discussed and the Mayor and Council could say they requested it and they didn't do it. Mayor Kim thanked her and requested a motion. Someone asked if she could make a comment. Mayor Kim stated he called it already, and even allowed Susan Brauer to speak twice, but he would allow it and she had three minutes to speak.

Yuna wanted to comment that she questioned whether the government had the responsibility to convey messages from residents regarding their opinion to other residents. Things like a language aspect should have been a conversation in a different light. Yuna thought exclusion and inclusion were important things to talk about but as she was hearing, people wanted things in English and thinking of the history of people here, immigrants and even her parents, and their struggle with English. Yuna stated it was just looking at things from the other way, it was a valuable conversation but it should have been together in community not a request to the government. Someone called out that their parents were also immigrants. Mayor Kim responded to not speak up when in the crowd. Mayor Kim agreed with Yuna and thanked her for her comments. Mayor Kim stated for him, he felt like that too, sometimes when going into Chinatown he felt like they had the best Chinese food, but the menu did not necessarily have to be in English. He had to go to a place that the locals would eat, find that place, and without speaking Chinese could order so he understood. Mayor Kim requested a motion to close the public session. Councilman Min made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Jang. All joined in favor, none opposed.

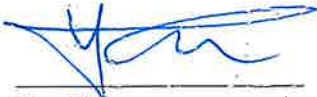
Mayor Kim stated the meeting was almost over and asked if there were any council reports. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated it was a special meeting. Mayor Kim stated the police director wanted to come up and give a presentation. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz stated this wasn't part of the agenda, nor advertised. Mayor Kim stated that was why he had asked earlier if he was coming up for something specifically. Police Director Michael Gardner stated it wasn't a presentation to the council, it was giving them something. Scott Krumholz stated as long as they were not voting on something. Borough Administrator Raymond Herr stated there was nothing to vote on. Director Gardner stated it was September 11th. He announced he was retired from the Port Authority. The freedom tower opened in 2014, and in 2015 Port Authority Police started flying flags around ground zero. They did this throughout the year but on September 11th they would fly a handful of flags and designate these flags for congressmen, governors, and high profile individuals. Director Gardner had something to provide to the Mayor and Council. It was a certificate of authenticity provided by the Port Authority that read, The flag of the United States of America accompanying this certificate was proudly flown over the World Trade Center site on September 11th. It is presented to the Borough of Palisades Park, New Jersey in recognition of the 125th Anniversary." Mayor Kim stated he was going to reject the presentation only because he wanted Director Gardner to come back to the regular session so everyone was there to see it. It was something special that should have been presented at the regular meeting when lots of people were there to celebrate.

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ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Kim requested a motion to close. Councilman Min made a motion, and Councilwoman Jang seconded. All joined in favor, none opposed.

Attest:



Sophia H. Jang, RMC
Borough Clerk