

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

Regular Meeting  
of the Mayor & Council  
March 24, 2025

Borough of Palisades Park  
Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council  
March 24, 2025

Mayor Chong opened the Regular Meeting at 6:00 P.M.

**MAYOR CHONG PAUL KIM WILL CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:**

**STATEMENT:**

This is a Work Session of the Mayor and Council, and notice was given as follows:

1. Notice was filed January 9, 2025 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://palisadesparknj.org/>
3. Copy is preserved in the Clerk's Office.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

**ROLL CALL:**

Mayor Kim	Present
Councilman Kim	Present
Councilwoman Lee	Present
Councilman Min	Present via Zoom
Councilman Shin	Present via Zoom
Councilman Vietri	Present
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Present
Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz	Present
Borough Administrator Roberta Stern	Present

Mayor Kim invited everyone to have donuts and coffee that were provided by the Police Department. Mayor Kim also stated that he would like to change the order of the proceeding of the meeting due to the immense amount of people that were present to support the newly hired police officers. Mayor Kim started with the consent agenda and then moved on to the introduction of the ordinances, and finally the off-consent agenda.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

Work Session of the Mayor and Council:	February 18, 2025
Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council:	February 24, 2025

Mayor Kim asked if any council members had any questions regarding the adoption of minutes for February 18, and February 24. Mayor Kim requested a motion to pass the minutes. Councilman Kim made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilman Kim	Yes
Councilwoman Lee	Yes
Councilman Min	Yes
Councilman Shin	Yes
Councilman Vietri	Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes

**INTRODUCTION:**

**ORDINANCE 2025-8      Amending Chapter 84 Entitled "Alcoholic Beverages" to  
Modify the Penalties for Violation**

Following the police swear ins, Mayor Kim asked if any council members had any questions, but none arose. Mayor Kim stated because this was an introduction they wouldn't be opening it up for public participation. Scott Krumholz reminded Mayor Kim he had to take a vote to pass the first reading. Mayor Kim requested a motion. Councilman Kim made a motion which was

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seconded by Councilman Min. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilman Kim	Yes
Councilwoman Lee	Yes
Councilman Min	Yes
Councilman Shin	Yes
Councilman Vietri	Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang stated that notice was hereby given that Ordinance 2025-8 Amending Chapter 84 Entitled “Alcoholic Beverage” to Modify the Penalties for Violation was introduced and passed on the first reading at the regular meeting of the Mayor & Council, held on March 24th, 2025, and published in accordance with the law. Said ordinance would be considered for final reading and adoption at a meeting held on April 28th, 2025, at 6:00 P.M, in the Council Chambers, at which time all persons interested could have appeared for or against the passage of said ordinance. A copy of the ordinance would be posted on the bulletin board in the Borough Hall and would be available at the Office of the Borough Clerk.

**ORDINANCE 2025-9            Amending Chapter 282, Vehicles and Parking, Relating to Handicap Parking**

Mayor Kim asked if there were any questions from council members. Councilman Vietri stated that the ordinance read in Section B the chief of police herby are directed to have proper signage calling attention to the provisions of this section. Councilman Vietri questioned this because there was no acting chief of police. Mayor Kim stated it should have read Officer-in-Charge instead of chief of police. Scott Krumholz asked which section Councilman Vietri was referring to. Roberta Stern stated it was section B. Scott Krumholz explained that all the ordinances in the borough refer to the chief of police, and if there is no acting chief of police then it refers to the Officer-in-Charge. Councilman Vietri stated that wasn't what the ordinance read, and it read chief of police. Scott Krumholz responded that he knew that, and he would double check but from his understanding the ordinances speak for themselves in terms of how certain things are handled when there is an absence of the chief of police whether that be the Officer-in-Charge or the Police Director. Councilman Vietri stated they were making an ordinance so the ordinance should have read the chief of police or the officer in charge in absence of the chief of police. Mayor Kim asked Scott Krumholz to add that verbiage in. Scott Krumholz asked if they wanted him to redo the whole thing. Scott Krumholz responded that it was the first reading, and they could have amended the wording right then and there. Mayor Kim stated that it was a good point, and it would be an added condition. Mayor Kim requested to pass the first reading of the ordinance. Councilman Kim made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilman Kim	Yes
Councilwoman Lee	Yes
Councilman Min	Yes
Councilman Shin	Yes
Councilman Vietri	Yes with the added condition
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang stated that notice was hereby given that Ordinance 2025-9 Amending Chapter 282, Vehicles and Parking, Relating to Handicap Parking with stipulations was introduced and passed on the first reading at the regular meeting of the Mayor & Council, held on March 24th, 2025, and published in accordance with the law. Said ordinance would be considered for final reading and adoption at a meeting held on April 28th, 2025, at 6:00 P.M, in the Council Chambers, at which time all persons interested could have appeared for or against the passage of said ordinance. A copy of the ordinance would be posted on the bulletin board in the Borough Hall and would be available at the Office of the Borough Clerk.

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Councilman Vietri stated he didn't understand why there was two sections of writing with one of the sections crossed out. Scott Krumholz explained when amending an ordinance, the struck out text would be removed, and the underlined text would be added. The old UCC fees were being removed from the ordinance and new fees were added. Mayor Kim explained that the struck out text and the underlined text only specifies what text is going to be removed and what text would be added. Scott Krumholz stated that the new fees were listed on page 11.

**ORDINANCE 2025-10      Amending Chapter 116-3, Construction Code Fees**

Mayor Kim asked if there were any questions regarding ordinance 2025-10. None arose, and Mayor Kim reminded everyone that this was spoken about at the work session. Mayor Kim requested a motion. Councilman Min made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Kim. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilman Kim	Yes
Councilwoman Lee	Yes
Councilman Min	Yes
Councilman Shin	Yes
Councilman Vietri	Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang stated that notice was hereby given that Ordinance 2025-10 Amending Chapter 116-3, Construction Code Fees was introduced and passed on the first reading at the regular meeting of the Mayor & Council, held on March 24th, 2025, and published in accordance with the law. Said ordinance would be considered for final reading and adoption at a meeting held on April 28th, 2025, at 6:00 P.M, in the Council Chambers, at which time all persons interested could have appeared for or against the passage of said ordinance. A copy of the ordinance would be posted on the bulletin board in the Borough Hall and would be available at the Office of the Borough Clerk.

**ORDINANCE 2025-11      Amending Chapter 167-30(A)(4), Escrows**

Mayor Kim asked if there were any questions and reminded everyone that this was already discussed at the work session. Scott Krumholz explained that for subparagraphs A & B they were changing the escrow amounts that were required by applicants when it came to planning or zoning matters. The reason for the increase was because the escrow was used to pay borough officials such as the engineer and planner to review the applications. They had been told by the boards that the escrow amounts were being used up too quickly and a request for replenishment was made and not received quick enough. Scott Krumholz stated that this procedure would be more practical and easier to just increase the escrow amount. If escrow wasn't fully used, the remainder would be returned to the applicant after the application was complete. Scott Krumholz continued that under paragraph A, the escrows for C variance was previously \$2,000 and changed to \$3,000. Under subparagraph B, the escrow for D variance was \$3,000 and increased for \$7500. Mayor Kim stated that when it came down to variance requests it was more technical therefore more money. Mayor Kim asked if there were any questions. 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:

Councilman Kim	Yes
Councilwoman Lee	Yes
Councilman Min	Yes
Councilman Shin	Yes
Councilman Vietri	Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes

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Borough Clerk Sophia Jang stated that notice was hereby given that Ordinance 2025-11 Amending Chapter 167-30(A)(4), Escrows was introduced and passed on the first reading at the regular meeting of the Mayor & Council, held on March 24th, 2025, and published in accordance with the law. Said ordinance would be considered for final reading and adoption at a meeting held on April 28th, 2025, at 6:00 P.M, in the Council Chambers, at which time all persons interested could have appeared for or against the passage of said ordinance. A copy of the ordinance would be posted on the bulletin board in the Borough Hall and would be available at the Office of the Borough Clerk.

**ORDINANCE 2025-12      Creating Chapter 141, Entitled “Filming and Photography”**

Mayor Kim asked Scott Krumholz to give a brief explanation. Scott Krumholz explained that this was brought to the attention of the council that some of the neighboring towns had seen an increase in pay for photography and filming to control several elements of that regarding public safety and privacy in using public streets and areas. This ordinance sought to set controls and permit requirements for any company that sought to engage in photography or filming in the borough whether it be still or motion picture. Mayor Kim stated that other towns had this ordinance as well. Councilman Kim stated he knew the reason that they previously didn't have any filming or photography requirements in place. Councilman Kim stated the last time that this was brought up it was an applicant trying to get permission to record R rated films in the high school. Councilman Kim stated that they should have sort of control for the borough to protect itself. Mayor Kim asked Scott Krumholz to investigate the restrictions and rules when it came to adolescence and minors. Councilman Kim stated that they had to have some control regarding prohibiting rated r films to film in places like the schools. Roberta Stern commented that they couldn't interfere with the board of education. Mayor Kim clarified that Councilman Kim wanted to prohibit r and x rated movies. Scott Krumholz stated that he didn't have any knowledge in the motion picture industry work but it was his understanding that motion pictures were given a rating after they were filmed, produced, and put together. Mayor Kim asked Scott Krumholz to correct him if he was wrong, but the governing body could impose an added stipulation. Scott Krumholz stated it depended on what the limitations were because there could be first amendment issues. Mayor Kim asked if they prohibited certain rated movies, would it impose on a parties constitutional rights. Sophia Jang pointed out 141-1 definitions on page 2 specified student films. Scott Krumholz stated that had to do with students actually filming which would be treated differently. Mayor Kim stated they would leave it to the board of education like Roberta Stern had mentioned. Mayor Kim responded to Councilman Kim that he understood he wanted to prohibit certain rated movies, but it might impose on constitutional rights. Councilman Kim asked if they had any control. Scott Krumholz asked if he was referring to the substance of what was being filmed. Councilman Kim responded yes. Scott Krumholz stated he thought so. Mayor Kim stated that it was not the substance, just the rating. Sophia Jang read over the part of the ordinance specifically mentioning that the borough had control over all public land, such as parks and playgrounds. Mayor Kim stated he was sure that the borough couldn't interfere if the film was being done in a private facility unless the parties involved were underage. Scott Krumholz stated he wasn't sure if that included within the four walls of the school. He was sure that the board of education was separate control for indoors and this resolution really referred to outdoor spaces. The resolution was to control more of a safety issue rather than the substance of what was being filmed. Scott Krumholz stated that he would keep everyone updated with his findings.

Councilman Kim stated that Scott Krumholz had mentioned the separation of the borough and the school systems, but the borough was the entity that rented out their buildings to the school systems. Councilman Kim asked if the borough would be responsible if someone sued because it was borough property. Scott Krumholz stated that he would have to go over the lease again because he wasn't sure if the borough had control over what happened within the four walls of the school. Roberta Stern stated that the schools didn't rent from the borough and the fields were a completely different issue not the building itself. Mayor Kim asked if there were any more questions. Mayor Kim asked Scott Krumholz to make sure he looked into the questions received and forward the answer to Councilman Kim and himself. Mayor Kim requested a motion.

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Councilman Kim made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilman Kim	Yes
Councilwoman Lee	Yes
Councilman Min	Yes
Councilman Shin	Due to technical difficulties Councilman Shin could not vote.
Councilman Vietri	Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang stated that notice was hereby given that Ordinance 2025-12 Creating Chapter 141, Entitled “Filming and Photography “was introduced and passed on the first reading at the regular meeting of the Mayor & Council, held on March 24th, 2025, and published in accordance with the law. Said ordinance would be considered for final reading and adoption at a meeting held on April 28th, 2025, at 6:00 P.M, in the Council Chambers, at which time all persons interested could have appeared for or against the passage of said ordinance. A copy of the ordinance would be posted on the bulletin board in the Borough Hall and would be available at the Office of the Borough Clerk.

Following Ordinance 2024-12, Councilman Kim asked if they should ask Councilman Shin for his vote on ordinance 2025-12 since he was having technical difficulties. Mayor Kim asked if it was to late and then asked to put on record that Councilman Shin wasn’t present to vote on Ordinance 2025-12 but was later asked to vote. Scott Krumholz stated that it was okay for Councilman Shin to provide a vote at that time for said ordinance. Sophia Jang re-read Ordinance 2025-12, along with the names of the councilmembers who made a motion and a second. The vote was recorded as follows:

Councilman Shin	Yes
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**ORDINANCE 2024-12      Bond Ordinance for Authorization for Improvement of Palisades Boulevard Phase II (Re-Introduction)**

Mayor Kim asked Roberta Stern to explain. Roberta Stern explained that the original vote for this ordinance was not recorded appropriately for this bond ordinance. Mayor Kim stated due to technical issues they had to redo it. Mayor Kim asked what the issue was again. Sophia Jang explained that it was the vote. Mayor Kim asked if there were any questions. Councilman Vietri asked if this included Palisades Boulevard. Mayor Kim responded it would. Councilman Vietri stated he didn’t understand that because Palisades Boulevard had been paved from Bergen Boulevard to Grand Avenue, so why would they repave again. Mayor Kim stated it wasn’t totally paved, only Bergen Boulevard to Broad Avenue and Broad Avenue to Grand Avenue remained unpaved. Mayor Kim asked if this also involved the drainage that had to be destroyed. Roberta Stern responded she was unsure. Councilman Vietri asked if this would also include West Palisades Boulevard below Grand Avenue as well. Roberta Stern stated she thought that was apart of Stage 2. Councilman Vietri responded he just wanted to know because he knew that some of it had been done, and he was curious as to what part that was. Mayor Kim asked if Roberta Stern had that record. Roberta Stern responded she didn’t have that record but she would get it and provide it to Councilman Vietri. Mayor Kim stated he knew for certain they weren’t repaving streets that were already paved, and if there was an error they would correct it. Unfortunately, Chief financial Officer Roy Riggitano wasn’t present at the meeting to get into the details but they would verify with him. Mayor Kim asked for Roberta Stern to make a note to obtain this information and then send an email to Councilman Vietri as well as himself. Mayor Kim asked for any other questions. Mayor Kim requested a motion. Councilman Kim made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Min. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilman Kim	Yes
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Councilwoman Lee	Yes
Councilman Min	Yes
Councilman Shin	Yes
Councilman Vietri	Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang stated that notice was hereby given that Ordinance 2024-12 Bond Ordinance for Authorization for Improvement of Palisades Boulevard Phase II (Re-Introduction) was introduced and passed on the first reading at the regular meeting of the Mayor & Council, held on March 24th, 2025, and published in accordance with the law. Said ordinance would be considered for final reading and adoption at a meeting held on April 28th, 2025, at 6:00 P.M, in the Council Chambers, at which time all persons interested could have appeared for or against the passage of said ordinance. A copy of the ordinance would be posted on the bulletin board in the Borough Hall and would be available at the Office of the Borough Clerk.

**OFF CONSENT AGENDA:**

**RESOLUTION 2025-93     2025 Temporary Emergency Budget Appropriations**

Mayor Kim stated this was spoken about at the work session in regard to transfers that needed to be made in order for finance to pay for services and bills. Mayor Kim asked if there were any questions. Mayor Kim requested a motion. Councilman Won-Yoon made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Kim. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilman Kim	Yes
Councilwoman Lee	Yes
Councilman Min	Yes
Councilman Shin	Yes
Councilman Vietri	Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes

**RESOLUTION 2025-94     Authorization of Appropriation Transfers**

Mayor Kim explained that since resolution 2025-93 was passed it was required to also pass resolution 2025-94. Mayor Kim explained that this resolution was to transfer funds for the temporary emergency budget. Mayor Kim asked if there were any questions. Mayor Kim requested a motion. Councilman Min made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilman Kim	Yes
Councilwoman Lee	Yes
Councilman Min	Yes
Councilman Shin	Yes
Councilman Vietri	Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes

Mayor Kim thanked everyone and reminded Roberta Stern that the finance department should follow the recommendations and conditions that the council had previously raised.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

RESOLUTION 2025-95	Claims
RESOLUTION 2025-96	Cancellation of Stale Checks
RESOLUTION 2025-97	Authorization of Revised Resolution of 2025-26, Appointing Borough Risk Management Consultant
RESOLUTION 2025-98	Authorization of the BCUA to Provide Service of a Certified Recycling Professional (CRP)
RESOLUTION 2025-99	Authorization of Borough of Palisades Park to Enter into Agreement with Borough of Ridgefield (Re: Provisional Authorization and Designation of an

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- Acting Municipal Court Administrator)
- RESOLUTION 2025-100 Authorizing the Borough Clerk to Advertise for Bids for Improvements to the Library Roof
- RESOLUTION 2025-101 Appointing Borough Appraiser (Re: Sockler Realty Services)
- RESOLUTION 2025-102 Authorizing Lease Amendment for Parking Lot (B-602, Lot-22)
- RESOLUTION 2025-103 Authorizing Planning Board to Undertake an Area In Need of Rehabilitation Study for Block 617, Lots 21-23 known as 35-39 West Columbia Avenue
- RESOLUTION 2025-104 Authorizing Planning Board to Undertake an Area In Need of Rehabilitation Study for Block 420, Lots 16 known as 450 East Edsall Blvd.
- RESOLUTION 2025-105 Appointing Borough Traffic Engineer (Re: Simoff Engineering Associates Inc)
- RESOLUTION 2025-106 Appointing Donald J, Lenner, Esq. Borough Tax Appeal Attorney for Specified Pending Matters
- RESOLUTION 2025-107 Hiring of Part- Time Code Enforcement Officer (Re: P. Kim)
- RESOLUTION 2025-108 Acceptance of New Firefighter (Re: J. Simon Martinez)
- RESOLUTION 2025-109 Acceptance of Resignation (Re: K. Lee)
- RESOLUTION 2025-110 Acceptance of Retirement (Re: N. Then)
- RESOLUTION 2025-111 Hiring of Police Officer (Re: F. Saint-Hilaire)
- RESOLUTION 2025-112 Hiring of Police Officer (Re: H. Morsy)
- RESOLUTION 2025-113 Authorization to Auction Surplus Equipment
- RESOLUTION 2025-114 Approval Settlement of Litigation (Re: D. Pavlik)
- RESOLUTION 2025-115 Approval Settlement of Litigation (Re: M. Messing)
- RESOLUTION 2025-116 Authorization of Promotion of Police Lieutenant (Re: S. Cottrell)
- RESOLUTION 2025-117 Authorization of Contract for Crossing Guard Services
- RESOLUTION 2025-118 Hiring of Clerk Secretary to the Borough Clerk's Office (Re: J. Park)
- RESOLUTION 2025-119 Authorizing Settlement of Tax Appeal (Re: 408 Broad Avenue)
- RESOLUTION 2025-120 Awarding Contract for Electrical Work (Re: Sanchez Networks LLC)
- RESOLUTION 2025-121 Awarding Contract for Completion of the Borough Hall Egress Project (Re: Innovational Construction and Design, Inc)

Mayor Kim commented that the items on the consent agenda were already reviewed at the work session although there were some new additions added. Mayor Kim asked that all council members make sure they didn't have any other questions before they voted. Councilman Vietri stated he had some questions. Councilman Vietri stated that he wanted to speak about the handicap parking. Mayor Kim reminded Councilman Vietri that they were going over the consent agenda first, and the handicap parking was an ordinance. Mayor Kim asked again if any council members had any questions regarding the consent agenda.

**RESOLUTION 2025-95 Claims**

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated that they had to know what department was spending money on what. Roberta Stern responded yes. Councilwoman Won-Yoon mentioned that she understood the system was being switched over. Roberta Stern stated that they would need Edmund to add it onto their program. Mayor Kim asked what exactly Councilwoman Won-Yoon wanted to add on. Councilwoman Won-Yoon responded that she wanted to add the section that specified what departments used what. Roberta Stern stated she understood. Mayor Kim thanked her for pointing that out.

**RESOLUTION 2025-96 Cancellation of Stale Checks**

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated that Councilman Min had pointed this out at the work session. The resolution stated that the chief financial officer reviewed all stale checks issued within the last twelve months although there were some checks that went back several years. Roberta Stern stated that some of the checks were old. Roberta Stern continued that these were all escrow checks that people never cashed. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated that she understood. Mayor Kim stated these were usually done on a yearly basis.

**RESOLUTION 2025-97 Authorization of Revised Resolution of 2025-26, Appointing Borough Risk Management Consultant**

**RESOLUTION 2025-98 Authorization of the BCUA to Provide Service of a Certified Recycling Professional (CRP)**

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- RESOLUTION 2025-99**     **Authorization of Borough of Palisades Park to Enter into Agreement with Borough of Ridgefield (Re: Provisional Authorization and Designation of an Acting Municipal Court Administrator)**
- RESOLUTION 2025-100**   **Authorizing the Borough Clerk to Advertise for Bids for Improvements to the Library Roof**
- RESOLUTION 2025-101**   **Appointing Borough Appraiser (Re: Sockler Realty Services)**
- RESOLUTION 2025-102**   **Authorizing Lease Amendment for Parking Lot (B-602, Lot-22)**
- RESOLUTION 2025-103**   **Authorizing Planning Board to Undertake an Area In Need of Rehabilitation Study for Block 617, Lots 21-23 known as 35-39 West Columbia Avenue**
- RESOLUTION 2025-104**   **Authorizing Planning Board to Undertake an Area In Need of Rehabilitation Study for Block 420, Lots 16 known as 450 East Edsall Blvd.**
- RESOLUTION 2025-105**   **Appointing Borough Traffic Engineer (Re: Simoff Engineering Associates Inc)**

Councilman Vietri asked if the borough was paying \$30,000 for these services. Mayor Kim responded that it was a cap. Borough Administrator Roberta Stern commented that it was not to exceed \$30,000. Councilman Vietri stated he thought that was a lot of money.

- RESOLUTION 2025-106**   **Appointing Donald J, Lenner, Esq. Borough Tax Appeal Attorney for Specified Pending Matters**
- RESOLUTION 2025-107**   **Hiring of Part- Time Code Enforcement Officer (Re: P. Kim)**

Councilman Vietri stated that they had a full-time code enforcement officer that was doing a good job, and traffic officers that were trained as a code enforcement officer. Councilman Vietri asked why they were hiring someone for part time. Mayor Kim explained that this hire wasn't only for manning code violations to public grounds, and Broad Avenue. Mayor Kim stated that Councilman Vietri had mentioned that the existing code enforcement officer was doing a good job, and he didn't think that he wasn't, but he believed with the increase in population, the noncompliance from some residents, and whatever else the future had to hold, the need for more code enforcement officers was necessary. Mayor Kim stated that there were continuous complaints that there were some residents that had overgrown grass. Mayor Kim continued to explain that for a long time there had been only one code enforcement officer, and it was time to increase the amount. The code enforcement officer who was doing a good job, could have taught incoming code enforcement officers. Councilman Vietri stated that there were traffic officers who were trained by the code enforcement officer to perform these duties. Mayor Kim stated that the traffic officers could not go inside residents. Councilman Vietri asked if he could finish what he was saying. Mayor Kim stated that he understood what Councilman Vietri was trying to say, and what trying to answer it but Councilman Vietri was just repeating it. Councilman Vietri responded that he wasn't repeating it, he was trying to understand why there were four part time traffic officers that weren't offered the position. Mayor Kim stated that traffic officers could not knock on residents' doors and go into homes. Councilman Vietri stated that he didn't believe that. Mayor Kim asked if there were any other questions.

**RESOLUTION 2025-111**     **Hiring of Police Officer (Re: F. Saint-Hilaire)**

Mayor Kim announced Officer Fernando Saint-Hilaire badge number 337 had been latterly hired to the Palisades Park Police Department. Officer Saint-Hilaire was 31 years old, and a certified police officer having attended the Bergen County Police Academy in 2019. Officer Saint-Hilaire graduated from Lodi high school in 2011 and attended Bergen Community College and Fairleigh Dickenson University to obtain a degree in psychology. Officer Saint-Hilaire was a Paterson Police Officer where he served as a field training officer and a major crime detective solving numerous crimes including homicide, robbery, burglary, shootings, and fugitive apprehension. Mayor Kim jokingly stated he didn't think that was going to happen in town. Mayor Kim continued, Officer Saint-Hilaire was a certified emergency medical technician and had served on the Union City Ambulance. Before transferring to the Palisades Park Police Department Officer Saint-Hillaire was an officer for the Demarest Police Department as a patrol officer. Officer Saint-Hillaire was bilingual in English and Spanish and spoke, read, and wrote both languages at an advanced level. Officer Saint-Hillaire was married, with a one-year-old daughter. Mayor Kim

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continued that Officer Saint-Hillaire would be a worthy addition and asset to the future of the Palisades Park Police Department. Mayor Kim congratulated Officer Saint-Hillaire as a round of applause followed. Mayor Kim advised Officer Saint-Hillaire to repeat after him, "I, Officer Saint-Hillaire due solemnly swear that I will support the constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the state of New Jersey. That I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same, and to the governments established in the United States, and in this state under the authority of the people. I will faithfully, impartially, and justly perform all the duties of the office of Police Officer." Mayor Kim congratulated him as a round of applause could be heard all around.

**RESOLUTION 2025-112    Hiring of Police Officer (Re: H. Morsy)**

Mayor Kim invited Officer Hosam Morsy, badge 338 to come to the front to be sworn in. Mayor Kim stated Officer Hosam Morsy was 34 years old police officer having successfully completed the police academy in 2022. Officer Hosam Morsy graduated from Union Catholic Regional High School in 2008. Following high school, Officer Morsy earned his bachelor's degree in engineering. Mayor Kim jokingly asked what he was doing there if he had an engineering degree. Mayor Kim continued, that Officer Morsy had a graduate certificate in systems engineering management and economics from Stevens Institute of Technology. After college, Officer Morsy spent 10 years in a private sector as a manufacturing and mechanical design engineer, project engineer, and director of operations for large global corporations. Mayor Kim continued that Officer Morsy served approximately two years as a Tenafly Police Officer. Although Officer Morsy had a hefty background in engineering, his passion was law enforcement and serving others in this capacity. Officer Morsy was bilingual in both English and Spanish and reads, speaks, and writes both languages at an advanced level. Mayor Kim stated that Officer Morsy would be a worthy addition and asset to the future of the Palisades Park Police Department. Mayor Kim congratulated Officer Morsy as a round of applause was heard all around. Mayor Kim advised Officer Morsy to repeat after him, "I, Officer Morsy due solemnly swear that I will support the constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the state of New Jersey. That I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same, and to the governments established in the United States, and in this state under the authority of the people. I will faithfully, impartially, and justly perform all the duties of the office of Police Officer." Mayor Kim congratulated him as a round of applause could be heard all around. Mayor Kim asked for everyone who was present in support of the three newly sworn in officers to take a group photo.

**RESOLUTION 2025-114    Approval Settlement of Litigation (Re: D. Pavlik)**

**RESOLUTION 2025-115    Approval Settlement of Litigation (Re: M. Messing)**

Scott Krumholz commented that it was his recommendation regarding the settlement agreement without getting into the specifics of it was that it be made contingent upon no employment as an officer until a later time. Mayor Kim asked for the resolution number. Scott Krumholz repeated the resolution number. Scott Krumholz also repeated the contingent that the officer does not obtain employment as an officer until he resigns. Councilman Min and Councilman Vietri had a question. Scott Krumholz stated if they were going to get into the specifics of the settlement – Councilman Vietri cut him off and stated he wasn't getting into the specifics. Scott Krumholz responded he just wanted to make sure they didn't. Mayor Kim asked Scott Krumholz to allow Councilman Vietri to finish. Councilman Vietri stated that this deal was done, and settled, and Scott Krumholz was now changing it. Councilman Vietri asked if the other party knew. Scott Krumholz responded yes, it had been agreed upon but the boroughs outside council were having some issues making some of the changes that were agreed upon the Friday before. Scott Krumholz mentioned that the document that was late that day didn't have sufficient language included that Scott Krumholz had requested. Therefore, instead of putting it off until the next meeting, Scott Krumholz suggested that the stipulation that the vote to approve that settlement be approved with that stipulation. Councilman Min reviewed the packet, and he agreed with Scott Krumholz to make the motion with the contingency of the new wording for both. Mayor Kim stated there was already a motion on the table and asked for a second. Councilman Kim seconded the motion. Before the roll call vote, Mayor Kim apologized and stated they could vote all together at the end. Mayor Kim asked for any other questions.

**RESOLUTION 2025-116    Authorization of Promotion of Police Lieutenant  
(Re: S. Cottrell)**

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Captain George Beck asked if they could swear in Lieutenant Cotrell first. Mayor Kim jokingly stated that Captain Beck took his thunder away. Mayor Kim stated now that they were done with the consent agenda, they would move on to the swearing in of the hiring Officer Fernando Saint-Hillaire, and Officer Hosam Morsy and then the promotion for Lieutenant Sean Cottrell. Roberta Stern stated that the police department wanted to do the promotion of Lieutenant Sean Cottrell first. Captain George Beck asked if they could. Mayor Kim stated Lieutenant Sean Cottrell had been a part of the police department for 30 years. Mayor Kim stated that before Officer Cottrell became a police officer, he was a special police officer since 1993. Lieutenant Cottrell successfully performed supervisory duties and responsibilities for the past several years as a sergeant assigned to patrol while holding the police department in high regard. Lieutenant Cottrell served ten years as a detective. He oversaw the field training program and had mentored new officers to become proficient in their duties and responsibilities. Lieutenant Cotrell had served on the fire department for thirty-seven years where he had been an advisor to the Junior firefighters since 1990. Lieutenant Cotrell was a third generation Palisades Park Police Officer where his grandfather Abraham Cotrell was a Palisades Park pioneer who was instrumental in incorporating the borough in the 1890's. Mayor Kim continued that Lieutenant Cotrell's grandfather Leonard Cotrell became a police officer in 1940 and retired in 1967 as chief of police. Lieutenant Cotrells father Leonard Cotrell Jr. served as a Palisades Park police officer from 1963 to 2000 retiring as a captain. Lieutenant Cotrells late brother Ryan Cotrell also served as a police officer. Lieutenant Cotrell was married with three children and was a very proactive officer who truly deserved this promotion. Mayor Kim continued that Lieutenant Cotrell would productively and positively contribute to the police department and the community. Mayor Kim congratulated Lieutenant Cotrell as a round of applause was heard. Mayor Kim asked Lieutenant Cotrell to repeat after him. Officer Sean Cotrell repeated, "I, Sean Cotrell, due solemnly swear that I will support the constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the state of New Jersey. That I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same, and to the governments established in the United States, and in this state under the authority of the people. I will faithfully, impartially, and justly perform all the duties of the office of Lieutenant. Mayor Ki congratulated him as a round of applause could be heard all around. Mayor Kim invited Officer Cotrells family to the front to take pictures. Mayor Kim invited Officer Cotrell to say a few words, but Officer Cotrell declined to do so. Mayor Kim jokingly stated he had been waiting thirty years for this.

**RESOLUTION 2025-117    Authorization of Contract for Crossing Guard Services**

Councilman Shin asked how many locations crossing guards were needed. Mayor Kim asked the Officer-in-Charge to answer. Mayor Kim repeated Councilman Shins question and asked how many locations were needed to be filled by crossing guards. Mayor Kim stated before he answered, it was in the best interest of the borough to hire local people who were interested in serving the public. Unfortunately, the borough did not have much participation therefore they had to reach out to outside sources. Officer-in-Charge George Beck stated that the crossing guards would be taking over every post in the borough. Mayor Kim asked about the prior crossing guards who were local people. George Beck explained that these individuals would be employed by the new company. Roberta Stern explained that the spots weren't changing, but going forward, priority was given to new hires that were residents. All existing crossing guards that were residents were still being used for this purpose. Mayor Kim summarized that the current local crossing guards would be managed by the new company, and the borough wouldn't be responsible for existing or new crossing guard hires. Mayor Kim explained that the new system included a crossing guard on each block, but he wasn't sure if that was entirely true, and repeated Councilman Shins question regarding the amount of crossing guards. Councilman Min stated that the agreement was that the company was going to be utilizing the current crossing guards from the residents, and then whoever wanted to apply that was a Palisades Park resident would be considered first. With that said, the borough was having a shortage of crossing guards which was why they were trying to move to the new company so that the posts could be filled. Councilman Min stated that they couldn't give an exact number of posts that needed to be filled until they signed the contract, and a review was done to see which sections needed to be filled. Mayor Kim asked Councilman Shin if Councilman Min answered his question. Councilman Shin stated he understood that residents were priority when it came to hiring more crossing guards, but at the time the spots were still empty. Councilman Shin stated he understood that the contract had to be signed first but asked for an estimated number of spots that needed to be filled. Councilman Min responded every post was not always filled, and currently it was based on manpower. The company would base their number off of the current posts that would usually be filled by the borough. Councilman Min invited Officer-in-Charge George Beck to provide an

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answer. Councilman Shin stated that the contracted amount was 200,000 but the borough wouldn't be using that amount. Councilman Shin asked if he was correct. Councilman Min stated he was correct; every month the borough would receive a bill for the month prior. Councilman Min continued that usually there was about \$200,000 spent on the crossing guard services monthly therefore with the liability from the new crossing guard company, and raises they were looking at about \$350,000 possibly. Councilman Vietri stated he had a question, but Mayor Kim asked if he could wait so that Councilman Shins question could be finalized. Mayor Kim repeated Councilman Shins question regarding how many spots were needed for crossing guard services. Mayor Kim asked how many posts in Palisades Park were currently filled by crossing guards. Captain George Beck stated that there were 14 posts with two of those posts being unmanned, due to the lack of recruitment. Captain Beck also mentioned that there had been a lot of crossing guards that had either retired or quit. Captain Beck explained that from December 19, 2023, to December 19, 2024 the police department had covered 219 shifts for the crossing guards which was severely taxing to the traffic department, and patrol officers who were managing these shifts. Captain Beck stated that after analyzing the financial part of this, one of the agreements that they settled with the new crossing guard company was that if a post wasn't filled with any neighboring crossing guards that were contracted, they would have to pay the hourly rate of the police officers to supplement this. Mayor Kim responded that there were 16 posts, and asked Councilman Shin if that was okay. Councilman Shin asked if the hourly rate was increased then they could potentially reel in more candidates. Mayor Kim asked what the hourly rate was. Captain Beck responded that rates remained the same at \$17.50. Councilman Min stated the main problem with the crossing guard services was that they were not receiving applicants. Mayor Kim stated he understood and asked if Councilman Shin was okay. Councilman Shin responded if they had increased their rates to \$20 for residents there would be more candidates. Mayor Kim asked what he meant. Roberta Stern responded that Councilman Shin was proposing if the hourly rates were raised, they would have more candidates. Mayor Kim stated it was too late to discuss that at that time. The other council members had heard his proposal to raise the hourly rates, but it was too late. The resolution that was presented at that meeting had to be read off as is. Mayor Kim asked if he could continue with Councilman Vietri. Councilman Vietri asked if Councilman Min had stated that the borough had spent \$250,000 on crossing guard services the year prior. Mayor Kim asked Councilman Min to repeat what he had stated. Captain Beck stated that they had spent \$197,000. Councilman Min had stated they had spent \$200,000. Councilman Min asked all council members to remember that this was the amount when there was a shortage of crossing guards in house, and on top of that it was the spending when special police officers were used for the post. Mayor Kim responded that Captain Beck had mentioned that it wouldn't be cost effective to use police officers as crossing guards when they could be utilized elsewhere. Mayor Kim stated that Councilman Vietri asked what the cost was. Captain Beck stated it was \$197,000 plus any other fees. Councilman Vietri stated that Councilman Min had mentioned that they had spent \$250,000. Roberta Stern stated that going forward it would cost more because the company paid for the insurance and these individuals would become employees of the crossing guard service. Mayor Kim responded that it was a very simple question that Councilman Vietri had asked, and repeated his question as to how much money had been spent previously. Mayor Kim asked where Councilman Min got the number \$250,000. Roberta Stern commented that Councilman Min had stated \$350,000. Councilman Min stated the actual money spent on the crossing guard services the year before was \$200,000. Considering the borough was signing a contract with the new crossing guard company, the amount would go up. Mayor Kim asked if Councilman Vietri had any other questions. Councilman Vietri questioned why according to the paperwork the borough had \$240,000 to spend. Councilman Min stated it was an estimation. Captain Beck stated that wasn't what the captain had stated. Sophia Jang mentioned the contract verbiage was not to exceed \$240,000. Councilman Vietri stated that he believed the borough was going to spend too much money. Mayor Kim asked if he could continue and asked why these questions were being raised at the regular session when they had a work session the week prior. Councilman Vietri responded that he wasn't at the work session. Mayor Kim stated that he could've asked questions beforehand. Mayor Kim stated that the questions were getting redundant, and they needed crossing guards. Mayor Kim continued that it was a safety issue, and unless the conditions weren't justified, they shouldn't have added any more conditions. Mayor Kim asked to have this resolution passed and then conditions could always be added on later. Councilman Shin stated he wanted to clarify that at the work session there was no paperwork or additional information present for councilmembers to review. Now, at the regular meeting the actual amount was included along with the paperwork. Mayor Kim apologized to Councilman Shin and repeated that the paperwork containing to information wasn't included in the work

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session packet. Mayor Kim stated for the following month they would verify that every single item was included in the work session packet along with the resolution. Mayor Kim asked for any other questions.

**RESOLUTION 2025-118    Hiring of Clerk Secretary to the Borough Clerk’s Office (Re: J. Park)**

Councilman Vietri stated that there were two part time secretaries in the borough clerk office and asked why they couldn’t be hired as full time and leave the part time position for the new hire. Mayor Kim stated that nothing changed from the past, there was always one full time borough clerk, along with a full time deputy clerk. Mayor Kim explained that they were saving taxpayers money, and when the previous borough clerk resigned, they were given the opportunity to save money. When there was a borough clerk and a deputy clerk there were three additional people working in the office. At the moment, there was one full time employee, and one part time employee. Mayor Kim stated that Roberta Stern was going to figure out the logistics, but the clerk’s office needed two full-time employees. Councilman Vietri stated that there were two part time secretaries in the office currently. Mayor Kim responded he didn’t understand why Councilman Vietri was saying that because there had previously been two borough clerks and three additional full-time employees. At that point in time, they only had one borough clerk and two additional employees, which was much less than what was needed. Mayor Kim commented that the borough clerk’s role was a very big role. Councilman Vietri stated that he didn’t say anything about the borough clerk’s job. Mayor Kim responded that he was asking why the borough clerk needed an additional employee, and the answer was because additional support was needed. Mayor Kim added on that they were saving a lot of money, and the office wasn’t even close to the amount they were at before cost wise. Councilman Vietri repeated that there were two-part timers, so why couldn’t one of them be made a full-time employee. Borough Clerk Sophia Jang stated that wasn’t true, there was one full time and one part time. Mayor Kim repeated that it wasn’t enough. Roberta Stern repeated that there was only one part time and one full-time employee. Mayor Kim asked if there were any other questions.

Mayor Kim requested a motion to pass Resolution 2025-95 through Resolution 2025-121 with a stipulation for resolution 2025-115. Councilman Kim made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Min. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilman Kim	Yes
Councilwoman Lee	Yes
Councilman Min	Yes
Councilman Shin	Yes
Councilman Vietri	Yes, Except 2025-103, 2025-104, 2025-105, 2025-107, 2025-120, 2025-121

Scott Krumholz wanted to put on the record that Councilman Vietri was voting against resolution 2025-103 and 2025-104 which meant voting against the settlement agreement which was part of the requirement. Councilman Vietri asked who the agreement was between. Scott Krumholz explained that these were related to the builder’s remedy settlements and were a part of the requirements that were voted. Councilman Vietri stated that he didn’t understand it. Scott Krumholz clarified he was just noting for the record that Councilman Vietri did vote no for resolutions 2025-103 and 2025-104. Councilman Vietri changed his vote for both resolutions to “yes”. Mayor Kim asked if Councilman Vietri was going to approve every resolution except 2025-105, and 2025-107. Sophia Jang clarified that Councilman Vietri was voting no for resolution 2025-105, 2025-107, 2025-120, and 2025-121.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon    Yes, Except 2025-114, and 2025-115

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilwoman Lee reported that the school board had submitted a tentative budget of thirty million for the 2025-2026 school year. There would be public hearing on this at the early childhood center on April 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM. Councilwoman Lee stated that all were invited to ask any questions at that time regarding the school budget. Mayor Kim stated that the money that had been being collected from wedding ceremonies was being put into scholarships although he

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wanted to allocate certain funds to be used to beautify the underpass tunnel of route 46. Mayor Kim used Fort Lee as an example, stating that they had kids come and paint the walls. Mayor Kim explained it wasn't a simple process, and it did cost money because they had to remove the old paint and put a new layer of cement on the wall. Mayor Kim specified if Councilwoman Lee could get the board of education on board with that, he would like to see who was interested and how much it would cost.

Councilman Shin reported there was no report from the DPW. The swimming pool was preparing their opening in May on Memorial Day. Councilman Shin specified that they were waiting on quotations for maintenance such as new painting and crack repairs. Councilman Shin stated there were no available locations for a pickleball court in town so they reached out to county to request that they would allow one of the tennis courts to be transformed into a pickleball court. Councilman Shin stated an email was sent to the county park commissioner with the request. Councilman Shin hoped that they would receive a response. Councilman Shin reported that the dog park was going to be placed in Columbus Park. The site was investigated, and Councilman Shin had asked the engineering company what size dog park would fit in the space. They were currently waiting for the information from the engineer. Mayor Kim stated it was a lot of progress. He acknowledged that there were a lot of cracks at the pool which created a potential increase in the costs of renovations. Mayor Kim commended Councilman Shin on getting the new pumps prepared. Mayor Kim repeated that Councilman Shin had mentioned that the borough did already receive the grant for the dog park and the pickleball court, but they did realize that placing a pickleball court in Columbus Park would create a noise disturbance as the pickleball hitting the racket created a loud noise. Mayor Kim mentioned that there were apartment buildings surrounding Columbus Park and residents might complain. Mayor Kim asked Councilman Shin to find somewhere in Palisades Park. Mayor Kim asked Roberta Stern if she had anything to add to the development. Roberta Stern explained that they were at the stage where they were trying to get the quotes to get the things fixed. They also were looking into quotes to take down a very large tree that would be in the middle of the dog park. Roberta Stern also mentioned that there were trees on the other side of the park that needed to be trimmed so she wanted to investigate it more. Roberta Stern mentioned it was very hard to get equipment into the park to trim those trees so she would have to investigate it further. Roberta Stern stated they were going to have a meeting to see how much the DPW has and would do before they reached out to outside sources. Mayor Kim asked if this could all be completed before it became cold out. Roberta Stern stated it would be.

Councilman Min stated that he did have a report to give but he was currently driving to a hotel so he couldn't read from it. Therefore, the report that the officer in charge was going to give was going to pretty much be along the same lines as his report. Councilman Min congratulated the new lieutenant, and two new hires.

Councilman Kim reported that Covid was still going around as well as RSV and reminded everyone to be safe and take care of their health. Mayor Kim stated that they had a joint services agreement between the health department of Ridgefield and palisades park. Mayor Kim stated that they used to set up an event at Lindbergh school in reference to COVID therefore considering the money was there, they could think of restarting it. Councilman Kim stated that would be great. Mayor Kim responded to have the borough administrator and himself kept on track. Mayor Kim stated they could even have the event at borough hall. Councilman Min asked if he could remove himself from the meeting so he could focus on his travels.

Councilman Vietri stated as an elected official it had come to his attention by several residents that the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office had come in and taken over the Palisades Park police department internal affairs unit. Scott Krumholz asked Councilman Vietri before he continued, if he wanted to make a motion to move into a closed session. Councilman Vietri stated he wasn't mentioning any names just asking a question. Councilman Vietri stated as a councilman he had no clue what was going on with this and as a councilman had the right to know. Councilman Vietri stated in the history of Palisades Park this had never happened where the prosecutor's office had come in and done anything. Councilman Vietri stated there were other towns he had seen in the past that had started out just like this. Councilman Vietri asked why he had to find out from outside sources. Councilman Vietri stated that other councilmembers had not heard about this and if they had then why was he the only one that didn't. Scott Krumholz stated if he wanted an answer to his question, they would have to go into an executive session. Councilman Vietri

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stated they could go into an executive session because this was the only way he was figuring things out. Councilman Vietri stated the mayor, and council should know about this. Mayor Kim responded Councilman Vietri found out, and when it was good and ready, and safe for the rest of the council to find out then they would be notified. Councilman Vietri stated it was ready. Mayor Kim stated the prosecutor's office never came to the police department. Councilman Vietri stated in the past. Mayor Kim advised that he was 100% incorrect. Councilman Vietri argued that he wasn't. Mayor Kim asked for Captain Beck to clarify if Councilman Vietri was correct or not. Captain Beck responded due to the sensitive nature of this. Mayor Kim stated he was asking about the statement Councilman Vietri had made regarding the past involvement of the prosecutor's office with the borough. Captain Beck repeated due to the sensitive nature of this, he would appreciate it if the police department did not make any statements in regard to anything the council stated. Captain Beck continued that he thought it be appropriate not to make any statements. Mayor Kim stated if Councilman Vietri wanted to further discuss this then he had every right to make a motion to go into an executive session. Councilman Vietri made a motion to move into an executive session. Councilwoman Won-Yoon seconded this motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilman Kim	Yes
Councilwoman Lee	Yes
Councilman Min	Yes
Councilman Shin	Yes
Councilman Vietri	Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes

Mayor Kim requested a motion to close the regular meeting to move into the executive session. Councilman Kim made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon. All joined in favor, none opposed.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon reported that the library was hiring librarians so if anyone knew anyone interested, she encouraged them to apply. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated they had received the 2024 financial statements. She hadn't reviewed it yet but she would by the next meeting. The 2025 budget was also reviewed by the auditor and hopefully could be introduced at the next meeting.

#### **ATTORNEY REPORT**

#### **BA REPORT**

Roberta Stern stated she didn't have a particular report to give but she wanted to express her gratitude for the new police officers and thought the police department had been doing a phenomenal job since shed been there. Roberta Stern mentioned that they had been putting in their own labor and work in updating the department. Roberta Stern stated it made her feel good as the borough administrator. As Councilman Shin had mentioned they were doing work on the pool, but it was unfortunately taking longer than expected. Roberta Stern stated she wasn't sure why the people were coming to look at it but didn't start on the work, but the pool would be open on time. Some improvements would have to be made at the end of the pool season, but for the time being they were taking care of the emergency situations. Mayor Kim stated that Roberta Stern was doing a very big thing for the borough by optimizing management. Mayor Kim stated that Roberta Stern was working on two big projects. One of these things was a digitalized processing system for payments. When she was done by April, they would decide on a company to go with that would aid in paying taxes, tickets, permits, etc. through a centralized payment system. This was something that the borough and been wanting to do for a long time, and Roberta Stern was going to get the borough to modern day and age. The second project she was working on was creating an HR self-registered program where each employee can clock in and out in one system. This would also bring the borough to the modern age. Roberta Stern was also working on 12 Bellview Place, and she had promised before it got cold they would get 47 parking spaces installed. Another project that Ms. Stern was working on was implementing LED streetlights to brighten up the streets. They had also allocated funds to put in at least 30 solar panels in places it was dark.

#### **POLICE REPORT**

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Captain Beck stated it was day 2 for him so Captain Rotundo was going to give the report, and he would provide comments. Mayor Kim stated that it was fine. Captain Rotundo thanked everyone for their support in the hiring of the new police officers and the promotion of Lieutenant Cottrell. Captain Rotundo thanked the governing body for approving the crossing guard services, and stated it would help out a lot. Taking traffic officers off the road even for half a day to cross the kids didn't help financially for the town. Captain Rotundo stated that they had received two new police vehicles, Ford Mavericks. One would be given to the traffic unit, and one the police department would keep. Captain Rotundo specified that he had submitted the meter report to the borough administrator that day so if anyone had any questions, they could give him a call. Officer Nelson Then did submit his retirement, and even though he was going to be around for a bit longer, they wanted to wish him a happy retirement. Captain Rotundo stated that they also had an officer leave for a different town and wanted to wish her the best of luck in Harrington Park. They had received back the Durango which had the lettering installed which was beautiful. Captain Rotundo stated the Ford F-150 was next to be lettered, and then they had some other designs that are going to be installed. It was a one for one type of thing where they would get lettered one at a time. They had an accreditation meeting on April 3<sup>rd</sup> to start the accreditation process. The last thing to report, was that the department went out and read to the children of Lindbergh and the Early Childhood Center. In the past there were maybe one or two officers that were able to get off the road to read to the kids, but that year they made a huge effort and got as many as thirteen officers to participate. Captain Rotundo stated that they even gave out little badges and bracelets to the kids. Captain Rotundo thanked the department for allowing him to be the Officer-in-Charge for the past six months and stated it was an honor. Mayor Kim thanked Captain Rotundo for being the reason he department was going to get accredited. Mayor Kim continued that the police department was never accredited, and the current officers were taking their time in making the department more approachable, safe, and healthier. Mayor Kim stated that the parking meters were a sensitive matter especially because they were hard to function. The police committee and police department were going to decide on what next steps were best to take. Mayor Kim stated that they would also have a public session so that the public could give their input. Mayor Kim stated all proper procedures had been taken, and they had even changed the interview process to be legitimate. In thee past, there were many lawsuits because proper procedures for interviews was not met. Mayor Kim commented that it was unfortunate that it had to be this way but in the past before a promotion was even announced, the crowd already knew which was wrong. Mayor Kim stated he was glad that they department made a system with the police committee including Councilman Shin and Councilman Min. Mayor Kim stated on behalf of the mayor and council, he thanked Captain Rotundo.

Captain Beck stated that everyone knew he was into history and pointed out that the doors read March 22, 1899 which meant they were two days into the towns 126<sup>th</sup> year. This meant that the 125<sup>th</sup> year celebration ended. Captain Beck thanked Mayor Kim for a great year including the celebration and events that took place for the festival. Captain Beck also extended gratitude towards Councilwoman Won-Yoon for her expert work on the history book. Captain Beck joked around that he had worked with Councilwoman Won-Yoon on the book and she was very militant expecting things done on time, and correctly. Captain Beck pointed out that Peter Longo was also in the crowd, who was also a big part of the project. Captain Beck encouraged everyone to get a copy of the book which included information and pictures from the very beginning of the incorporation of the town to the current time. Mayor Kim asked if they were going to be throwing a celebration. Captain Beck stated yes, he figured since 125<sup>th</sup> year was over he wanted to bring it up. Captain Beck also mentioned to Councilwoman Won-Yoon that they had met the deadline. Captain Beck repeated that he loved history, and the police department was founded on December 14, 1920. Mayor Robert Todd and Councilman Albert King incorporated the police department. The first police officer Joseph Shocoff was appointed with William Romaine who resigned 17 days later. David Bell was then appointed to fill his position. Officer Bell was the first leader and chief of the police department. In 1944 when he retired, Officer Shocoff became the chief until his death in 1953. Captain Beck thought about what those two gentlemen thought during that time, regarding the plans and services that they had for the police department and residents. Captain Beck reiterated he was sure that these men had a ton of visions, dreams, and goals for the police department for the next hundred years. At the time they were at now, Captain Beck felt that the department was pivoting for reform again especially with Captain Rotundos leadership. Captain Beck specified that he blessed to have been apart of the reform, and work hand and hand with Captain Rotundo. Captain Beck expressed his gratitude with working with

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Captain Rotundo for the past six months. Captain Beck stated he believed it was time for reform and out of the box thinking. They were at a moment where if they committed to putting the department first, they could achieve the objective of prospering. In the six months that Officer Rotundo had been officer in charge they had done a lot of updating including putting up historical photos to give the police officers a sense of pride to see where it began and where the department would go. Tons of officers had began to express how they felt like the police department was a huge family, many of them coming off on their days off to hang out. In prior years, you would never see many police officers lined in the back during a promotion in support. Captain Beck expressed that Lieutenant Cotrell deserved that promotion, and many of the other officers acknowledged that. Also, the new hires deserved it too, one of them an engineer who was making a ton of money but wanted to pursue his passion in law enforcement. Captain Beck thanked the mayor and council for trusting himself, and Captain rotundo. Captain Beck also thanked them for their support in the reform and promised that they would be proud of the department. Mayor Kim thanked him. Mayor Kim liked that he pointed out that the old ways clearly didn't work, and the new ways are working which was the definition of reform. Mayor Kim stated they had received phone calls in the past from residents complaining that there was a lack of police presence. It was discussed in the work session that both Captain Rotundo and Captain Beck would create a work schedule where officers were constantly patrolling everywhere and not just one specific area at the same time every day. Mayor Kim hoped to hear more about this at their next meeting including a program where the crosswalks were being monitored by police, and action was taken against the individuals who didn't follow the rules. Mayor Kim asked if this could be completed by the following month. Captain Beck stated in the past few years they had been having a budget issue, but as Captain Rotundo had mentioned regarding the police vehicle lettering, there were officers patrolling but the problem was they weren't visible because of the vehicles not being lettered. Captain Beck expressed how the police committee did a great job that year negotiating so that the department could complete additional endeavors. Officers would be more proactive on Broad Avenue, being visible to all visitors and residents. Captain Beck continued that they had the coffee with a cop event set up for the next month and would be posting the information on the website soon. Captain Beck explained when Captain Rotundo and himself came into the position, it was just the two of them. They had no command staff, or anything. Most of the time they were working on fixing this issue by building more teams. They were provided promotions based off of who was most qualified, and they would be surprised if they saw officers in their capacity included Chrisopher Scilingo, who Captain Beck referred to as a genius. Mayor Kim stated there were no politics involved. Captain Beck stated no there wasn't, and it allowed the police officers to branch out and do more things. Captain Beck and Rotundo had decided that it was the time to branch out to the community and be more proactive in answering any questions or concerns that residents may have. Captain Beck encouraged the community to ask whatever they wanted, and both Captains would try there hardest in explaining the vision. Captain Beck believed the town, residents, and police department was worth it. Mayor Kim explained in the past when a resident would make a complaint or report, the response would be that the individual had to come down to the police station to make a report. Now, the officers were on scene to make sure they were fully aware of the situation, and to make residents feel safe. Mayor Kim congratulated both on their positions.

Mayor Kim requested a motion to close and open to the public. Councilwoman Won-Yoon made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Lee.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mayor Kim reminded everyone that they each had three minutes. Mayor Kim also stated that Roberta Stern was going to put in crosswalks on Grand Avenue.

Loretta Martini asked if they were going to pave Palisades Boulevard. Mayor Kim responded they were, because there was one section that was not paved. Loretta Martini brought up the section of Central and Bergen Boulevard that she always brought up. Loretta Martini specified again it was on Central and Bergen Boulevard by the apartment buildings and was a small street. Loretta Martini stated that the street was almost 59 years old, and had never been paved. That year, she couldn't obtain house insurance because of the instability of the road. About two years prior, she had done paving on her property and fixed the sections of her property that needed to be corrected but the streets remain unpaved. Mayor Kim asked where she was talking about. Ms.

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Martini responded 11<sup>th</sup> street. Mayor Kim asked if it was a dead end. Ms. Martini explained that it was just a street in need of repair not her personal property. Mayor Kim asked Roberta Stern to add it to the list of properties that they had to go to check out. Ms. Martini stated again that this was not her street, but she couldn't get insurance. Mayor Kim asked her why she couldn't get insurance if it wasn't her property. Ms. Martini explained when you exit her driveway you have to drive onto 11<sup>th</sup> Street. Mayor Kim asked if she lived on 11<sup>th</sup> Street. Ms. Martini explained that her home was on 11<sup>th</sup> street. Someone called out from the crowd that Ms. Martini lived on 11<sup>th</sup> street, but the paving had to be done to the street right off of her home which was not a named street. Mayor Kim stated he knew where it was. Ms. Martini explained that when you leave her driveway there is a huge hole because of all of the times that heavy trucks parked to build around which broke the street up. Every year, Ms. Martini called the DPW to have them try and fix it but they would come with a bucket to fill the hole and by the next year it was ruined again. Mayor Kim asked if the damage to the public roads but due to the construction taking place. Ms. Martini stated no, every year the road had been like that and every year she comes to try and get it fixed. Mayor Kim asked Roberta Stern to put it on the list and requested Ms. Martinis phone number for a follow up.

Neris Papoters stated that she was glad they were getting more crossing guards, and she hoped that some of these were placed at the high school, Lindbergh School, and Edsall Boulevard due to the immense amount of traffic. Neris Papoters stated that she saw there were settlements on the agenda, and she didn't hear about any of it on the news. Ms. Papoters asked if it was new, and if they could know what the settlement was for and about. Scott Krumholz stated they were settlements for lawsuits filed against the borough. Ms. Papoters stated she knew that, but the details weren't shared. Scott Krumholz explained that all the information was confidential and after the settlement agreements were signed if she wanted a copy, she could submit an OPRA request. Ms. Papoters thanked them for the positive steps that have been taken to make the police department better, and loved what officers were doing. Ms. Papoters hoped that there really was no political correlation and was glad to hear about the assignments.

Nam Kyung Kim stated she came to the last meeting to speak about the second street flooding issue. Mayor Kim asked if Roberta Stern went to that area, in which she responded that she did. Ms. Kim stated she had not heard anything further about this or received any type of follow-up. Mayor Kim stated they went to the property, and it seemed like the drain had been collecting debris, and they were also going to assess with the engineer regarding a lack of sewage draining. Mayor Kim stated they would probably have to do construction and get more drains installed. Mayor Kim assured everyone that they were working on it and there was even a major catch basin. Roberta Stern stated there was, but it was broken up and it didn't meet current standards. When they redid it, they would have to do paving as well. Roberta Stern mentioned that they had also just received a proposal for Second Street. Mayor Kim repeated that they were working on it and requested she provide Roberta Stern with her phone number for a follow up.

Eric Spieley stated he had two issues. Mr. Spieley stated that the mayor had commented the year before that once the weather got warmer, they would have patrol officers walking Broad Avenue and asked if this was happening. Mayor Kim responded it was. Eric Spieley asked again if it was really happening. Mayor Kim stated it wasn't happening currently but would when the weather got warmer outside. Eric SPEileye stated that the word warm was discretionary. Mayor Kim stated it wasn't really about the weather, but it would be around that time period that there would be individuals established for these tasks. Mayor Kim continued that this was one of the reasons that there were two code enforcement officers. Mayor Kim stated they also changed the ordinance for traffic enforcement officers on Broad Avenue to enforce the codes as well. Mayor Kim provided an example that if someone called and stated that there was illegal tenancy, a traffic enforcement officer could not go into their homes to enforce anything. Mayor Kim stated there was a reason they put in ashtrays, garbage's, and no littering signs. If people continued to do these things after warnings, the department would enforce. Mr. Spieley asked about the temporary police station down by ShopRite. Mayor Kim stated the investigation would be concluded no later than before the April meeting. Mr. Spieley asked if they were still paying for it, and if so, how much longer they had to pay for it. Mayor Kim responded that if he remembered correctly, there were less than six months left. So, now the borough attorney was working with the vendor in removing these containers and providing a discount. Mayor Kim stated whoever was in charge of that project broke the law, and there was a ton of financial burden that was placed on the governing body. Before they had agreed to purchase the rental of

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the trailer, they did not go over the initial charges that should not have went over 20%. As soon as the governing body signed off on this, the people in charge started to provide the additional charges that went way over 20% totaling an extra 400,00 dollars. Mayor Kim continued that the police department didn't need it. Eric Spieley stated that was why he was bringing it up because it wasn't being used. Mayor Kim stated if he remembered correctly, there was a presentation done before the reform stating that people were getting sick. They went through the air quality test and contained the issue. There was no reason to go and add an extra 400-500 thousand dollars on installing electrical lines, sewage lines, and generators.

Christopher Kwak thanked the mayor and council for everything that had been done. It had been two months since Mr. Kwak spoke at a meeting to address the issues that the community was having. After listening to the council members, and mayor he saw nothing but incredible progress. Mr. Kwak specified that the attention given to the public's issues as well as the immediate follow-up was what the town needed. Mr. Kwak stated they needed someone diligent and proper to remediate these problems and to beautify Palisades Park. Mr. Kwak stated that the mayor wanting to put in his own money to make the bridges look nicer and safer was incredible. Mr. Kwak stated he was prideful to be in Palisades Park, and as much as the governing body had been working diligently. Mr. Kwak commended Councilman Vietri and stated he could physically see the concern that he had for the town in terms of money. It was natural for everyone to have moments of contest but that was what the governing body was meant for. Mr. Kwak stated that all members of the governing body embody Palisades Park's motto being pride, culture, and progress. Mr. Kwak thanked everyone including the police and fire department because they had initiated changes that showed there was nothing that Palisades Park couldn't do. Mr. Kwak stated he also had been speaking to someone at the wellness center, and he wanted to promote a day of wellness for government employees. Mr. Kwak asked if he could speak to Mr. Kim to make this happen because he thought it was a wonderful thing to allow people a day of rest. Mr. Kwak thanked everyone again.

Mayor Kim requested a motion to close the public session. Councilwoman Lee made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon.

#### **ADJOURN**

Mayor Kim requested a motion to close the regular session. Councilwoman Lee made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon. All joined in favor, none opposed.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Scott Krumholz stated that he believed it was inappropriate for Councilman Vietri to bring up what he brought up at a council meeting without raising it first. Councilman Vietri stated that he didn't mention any names only a question. Scott Krumholz stated it didn't matter; the subject of the investigation was confidential. Councilman Vietri responded it did matter. Scott Krumholz responded it didn't because the subject matter was confidential. Councilman Vietri asked why no council members including himself knew about this. Scott Krumholz responded because it was confidential. Councilman Vietri asked what he was in the borough and asked if he was a councilman or not. Scott Krumholz stated other than the letters that they had received from the Bergen County Prosecutors Office, they did not know anything further other than what Councilman Vietri had stated on the record. Scott Krumholz stated according to the Bergen County Prosecutors Office; these matters were to be kept confidential. Councilman Vietri commented that it wasn't confidential because other people had advised him of the situation. Scott Krumholz stated that they had requested a meeting with the prosecutor which had not been granted yet. They were trying to figure out what exactly was going on. Councilman Vietri stated when Scott Krumholz met with the prosecutor, he wanted to be there with him. Scott Krumholz responded he wasn't sure if that was going to happen, but he would ask if it was allowed. Mayor Kim stated as councilmembers they give a vote, and when the either the borough administrator, borough attorney, or the mayor was ready to present to the council they would. Scott Krumholz stated that he would appreciate if next time, Councilman Vietri raised the issue first to the mayor or the attorney because what he just put on the record was inappropriate and puts the borough in a bad light. The information was supposed to be kept confidential, and now that Councilman Vietri had put it on the record it puts the borough in a bad place. Mayor Kim recommended Councilman Vietri speak to the attorney privately about the issue instead of shouting it out to the

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public because it was confidential. Councilman Vietri stated when he asked questions there, he never received an answer. Scott Krumholz responded that he had never received one email or phone call from him with any questions. Scott Krumholz continued that he would've been glad to talk with him and would have mentioned not to ask any questions regarding the matter in public. Councilman Vietri asked why council should be notified on some issues. Councilman Vietri continued that he didn't need to know the specifics of the conversation, or the intricates of what the attorneys were doing but he believed as a councilman he deserved to know that there was brought against the police department by the prosecutor's office. Councilman Vietri clarified that at least he would have been told what was going on. Scott Krumholz stated that he was told it was confidential, and he couldn't even receive a copy of what was going on at that time, only the police department with specific instructions that it was not to be disclosed to anyone. Councilman Vietri stated that it got out there. Scott Krumholz asked who Councilman Vietri heard this information from. Councilman Vietri responded that he wasn't going to tell him who he heard it from. Scott Krumholz stated that it was a problem. Mayor Kim stated this was confidential, but Councilman Vietri had made a public statement about it, so he didn't help out with the matter. Scott Krumholz stated that Councilman Vietri put the borough at risk. Mayor Kim asked how come Councilman Vietri was sandbagging him as a council member. Councilman Vietri responded he wasn't and asked Mayor Kim why he was sandbagging him. Mayor Kim stated what he was trying to say was that Councilman Vietri was trying to figure out was why he wasn't alerted about this as a council member. Councilman Vietri stated that was correct. Mayor Kim explained that they had been instructed specifically that this was supposed to be strictly confidential, and when the time was right for the information to be shared it would be. Councilman Vietri stated they would be alerted when it was all over. Mayor Kim assured that they were choosing the terms of the confidentiality only abiding by it, no one should have known about it, and he made a public statement jeopardizing the borough. Councilman Vietri stated he hoped he wasn't the only one that didn't know about this, and they couldn't tell councilmembers that there was an investigation going on that they couldn't know about. Mayor Kim stated that he never asked. Councilman Vietri asked how he would ask if he didn't know. Mayor Kim asked what he meant, he chose to bring the question up in a public meeting when it could have been at an executive and he could have called the borough administrator or attorney to get information privately. Councilman Vietri stated he never received any answers from the mayor. Mayor Kim asked what he was supposed to do, report to Councilman Vietri? If he wanted answers he could have asked privately. Councilman Vietri responded okay. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked what the subject matter was. Mayor Kim explained they couldn't discuss it. Scott Krumholz stated they didn't know but letters were received from the Bergen County Prosecutors Office stating that they wanted oversight over the internal affairs investigation process. Therefore, they had been specifically instructed to not discuss the letters or discuss anything with anyone which included Council. Scott Krumholz stated how Councilman Vietri knew about it was beside him. Councilman Vietri responded that they were rumors he had heard. Scott Krumholz stated he wasn't sure how the rumors had gotten out, but had he called the mayor, borough administrator or attorney to find out what was going on instead of speaking out in public. Scott Krumholz stated he had jeopardized the borough legally. Councilman Vietri stated this wasn't the first time that the attorney, administrator, and mayor had kept things quiet. Scott Krumholz stated they had kept quiet because they had been instructed by the prosecutor's office to do so. Councilman Vietri stated they were still councilmembers and still should be notified. Mayor Kim stated it was confidential. Councilman Vietri stated he didn't have a problem with that, but the council should have been notified. Scott Krumholz asked if he was really trying to find out an answer to what happened or was he just looking to disclose it to the public. Councilman Vietri responded he was trying to find out why he wasn't notified as a council member. Scott Krumholz stated he should have and could have asked it in private then. Councilman Vietri stated he had asked questions several times and had not received any answers. Scott Krumholz stated that no one asked him any questions related to this, and if they did, he would have told them what he already told them and would have asked to not say anything because it's been confidential and the borough was now in violation of the Bergen County Prosecutors Office instructions contrary to law. Scott Krumholz specified that now they had a problem because he now had to try to clean up the mess. Scott Krumholz apologized if he sounded frustrated, but they were in a bad spot legally. Councilman Vietri responded that he had been frustrated with the mayor and council many times, and asked Mayor Kim to not make a comment. Mayor Kim stated the old ways of the borough were over. Councilman Vietri asked the mayor to not start him off. Mayor Kim responded to not bring him back to the cold era of the crap that the borough had to live through and stated Councilman Vietri was the last. Councilman Vietri asked if it was because he didn't

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listen, and the mayor thought whatever he said as the mayor was God. Mayor Kim stated Councilman Vietri thought that borough employees were God. Mayor Kim asked if they were done. Councilman Kim asked if this was recent. Scott Krumholz responded it was. It was within the past week and since then they had been trying to obtain a meeting with the prosecutor because they didn't know anything other than they had control of the internal affairs process and not to disclose it to anyone. Scott Krumholz stated at that point when they did get a meeting, the tables may have been turned on them a bit. Mayor Kim asked if there were any more questions. Scott Krumholz clarified again that they were not holding any information from the council, just following the instructions of the County prosecutor. Councilman Vietri stated he would say it again, he wasn't telling Mr. Krumholz that he had to say what was happening, only to notify council that there was some kind of investigation being done by the prosecutor's office. Scott Krumholz responded they had specific instructions not to do that. Councilman Vietri argued they were still council members, and they had the right to know. Scott Krumholz responded that Councilman Vietri had announced on public record a rumor that the Bergen County Prosecutors Office had an open investigation on the police department. Scott Krumholz continued that he didn't understand how Councilman Vietri thought that was okay to put on the record. Councilman Vietri stated he didn't think he said anything wrong. Scott Krumholz responded if Councilman Vietri would have come to him first, he would have let him know that it was wrong because we were under order from the prosecutors. Councilman Vietri argued that Scott Krumholz should have said to the council if they had heard any rumors don't believe them. Scott Krumholz responded that it would be a lie, and he didn't lie, he was given instructions to not disclose any information to anyone. Mayor Kim stated he could have just called the borough administrator or attorney; at that point it was spilled milk.

Mayor Kim requested a motion to close the executive session and come back to the regular meeting. Councilman Kim made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon.

**Attest:**



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**Sophia H. Jang, RMC**  
**Borough Clerk**