

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

Reorganization Meeting  
of the Mayor & Council  
January 5, 2026

Borough of Palisades Park  
Reorganization Meeting of the Mayor and Council  
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• **REORGANIZATION MEETING**

Allan Roth stated before they opened the Reorganization Meeting, they needed to go through the process of opening the meeting. Allan Roth stated he appreciated everyone's patience as the Sine Die Meeting had to take place before the Reorganization Meeting. Allan Roth stated he knew there were a lot of people present to support the new council, but they needed to go through the process first.

Mayor Kim welcomed everyone and wished them a Happy New Year. Mayor Kim stated on behalf of the Borough of Palisades Park, he wished everyone and their families health, happiness, and hope in 2026. Mayor Kim stated that night was more than a Reorganization Meeting, but a time to look back on how far they had come, and to recognize what they had accomplished together. Mayor Kim stated that year they had delivered real meaningful change and he thought there were a lot of first times which occurred the previous year. Mayor Kim stated they had reimplemented the Fleet Account Program so they could replace borough vehicles responsibly without burdening taxpayers with lumpsum, out of pocket costs. Mayor Kim stated they transformed Broad Avenue to a safer, welcoming place. Mayor Kim stated morning alcohol sale restrictions reduced public intoxication, more garbage containers and benches were installed, and stronger police presence was seen. Mayor Kim stated all of these things together restored dignity and pride through the heart of the town. Mayor Kim stated he had never seen the streets so clean. Mayor Kim stated they restored the police department with lawful, fair, promotion processes. Mayor Kim stated a new chief was the key to secure a proper work environment for the men in blue. Mayor Kim stated because of these reforms the department received accreditation for the first time in history, something earned by only one third of the police departments in New Jersey. Mayor Kim stated some employees choose not to be apart of this new direction, and they reduced unnecessary positions. Mayor Kim stated that to was part of building a government that served residents first. They were expanding public parking spaces and including green EV charging stations at 12 Bellview Place and repaved a record number of roads. Mayor Kim stated they began fixing long standing flooding issues on First, Second, and Fourth Street. Residents that lived on those streets had faced many years of flooding due to the lack of drainage and sewage lines that were never installed to accommodate new duplex developments. Mayor Kim stated they secured more grant funding than at any time since the boroughs history the year prior thanks to Roberta Stern. Mayor Kim stated they received 1.4 Million Dollars to redesign Broad Avenue from Central Boulevard to Brinkerhoff Avenue in order to get closer to the vibrant main street experience residents deserved. Mayor Kim stated they received funding for the first dog park, where communities could come together. Mayor Kim stated they installed new, advanced, user friendly, parking meters, and improved traffic safety on Fifth and Sixth Street off and on ramp Route 46 by adding more police presence, and LED yield signs, stop signs, and speed humps. Mayor Kim continued that they replaced outdated streetlights with LED bulbs for free to quickly brighten the streets. Mayor Kim stated for the first time they had implemented an employee check-in and check-out system to ensure accountability and optimization. Mayor Kim continued that they were on their way to implement an in-person credit card payment system and digital payment online options to make the quality of life better for residents. Mayor Kim stated after many years, they had renovated the swimming pool and reopened the snack bar, something families had been waiting a long time for. Mayor Kim stated thanks to Senator Gordon Johnson, the pedestrian crosswalks with safety systems on Grand Avenue were finally on the way. Mayor Kim stated no administration was able to do this before then, but they were able to achieve it. Mayor Kim stated there was more positive news to come that year, but progress was not about what was built but about what could be repaired. Mayor Kim stated it was about fixing what was broken for so long which hindered them from reform. Mayor Kim stated they had handled many issues that had been ignored for many years before he was a council member which included POSHA violations, building and fire code failures, leaking roofs, and problems caused by the former borough administrator. Mayor Kim stated most of all, there was a failure to comply with affordable housing laws, and no governing body was aware until this administrator stepped forward and took responsibility. Mayor Kim stated all of the violations, all of the responsibilities, and compliance that went unchallenged under the former borough administrator and administration were coming to light. Mayor Kim stated he should know because he was one of those undermined and manipulated. Mayor Kim stated it was only a matter of time before everything surfaced, and the system of control finally collapsed. Mayor Kim stated long existing issues were used against this administration to make them look bad, and when it did, the administration confronted everything openly and honestly and head on. Mayor Kim stated they abolished a loophole ordinance created by the former governing body and administration that benefited developers at the hands of residents. Mayor Kim stated these developers also improperly avoided providing affordable homes out of their massive developments. Mayor Kim stated the borough fought builders remedy lawsuits to protect the community from over development proposing 100% affordable units to dramatically reduce developments instead of allowing developers to profit with only 20% set aside affordable housing. Mayor Kim stated they were still fighting to be immune from uncontrollable builders remedy lawsuits from round four which was from 2025 to 2035. Mayor Kim stated this was expensive but necessary to do in order to protect the residents. Mayor Kim stated they had also received lawsuits from former employees treated unfairly by prior administration, and new lawsuits from employees before the reform began. Mayor Kim stated he considered these attempts as a way to drain the borough of their resources. After the former borough administrators departure, he had double digit lawsuits against the town. Mayor Kim

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stated he wanted to remind everyone reform was never easy and took time. Mayor Kim stated when change strengthened long held power for personal benefit, resistance followed. Mayor Kim stated they remained committed to fixing what was wrong, preventing future liabilities, and creating a brighter future for residents. Mayor Kim stated they would not be intimidated or distracted but would continue forward with transparency, accountability, and unwavering commitment to the people of the town. Mayor Kim stated they could not build a better Palisades Park if elected officials did not put residents first. Mayor Kim stated politics should not interfere and residents should always come before personal agenda. Mayor Kim stated they would continue to put residents first. Mayor Kim stated he wanted to share something personal. Mayor Kim stated for sixteen years in public service he had felt the Lord's protections and blessings. Not because of who he was but because he tried every day to put the people first and help the many and not the few. Mayor Kim stated he loved the town like he was born there because it was his new home, his new country, and as long as he could serve with honesty, humility, and heart for others, he believed the Lord would continue to guide him and protect him. Mayor Kim thanked the Lord, his savior and son of God Jesus Christ. A round of applause was heard. Mayor Kim continued that every funeral they went to reminded them that life was short and each of them had to decide what their lives would stand for. Mayor Kim continued that for some, they found meaning and success through wealth, and for others it was raising children and protecting their families. Mayor Kim stated as he faced challenges, stress, fighting of the borough, he asked himself what his purpose was and what he wanted his life to mean. Mayor Kim stated he had been left questioning if it was even worth it when he had to take care of his own family and himself. Mayor Kim explained that he had a loving, strong, independent wife, and a loving mother who had a blessed health at 92 years old. Mayor Kim stated if it wasn't for his mom, he wouldn't be there today and thanked her. Mayor Kim stated his family was happy and healthy, and he had enough to live a modest but content life. Mayor Kim stated through all of this, he discovered his passion, and his life was to make Palisades Park better for all. One day, no one would know his name or even say hello to him, but this was the legacy he wanted to leave behind for them to show his commitment, and the meaning of his life. Mayor Kim stated it was his honor that he was living his dream. Mayor Kim stated as long as the people of Palisades Park allowed him to serve, they would always be his highest priority. Mayor Kim stated that night he wanted to thank council members that were giving there all as true public servants. Mayor Kim thanked his diligent staff, and professionals that had been with him since the beginning of 2024 and stated he could not do it alone. Mayor Kim stated he was filled with gratitude and respect for the residents who believed in him. Mayor Kim stated he was pleading with the governing body, administration, and employees, to let them continue proving to the people of Palisades Park that they made the right choice, and together they were building a brighter future for all. Mayor Kim stated he loved Palisades Park and he always mentioned that on his Facebook. Mayor Kim thanked everyone for the opportunity of a lifetime and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Kim	Present
Councilman Donohue	Present
Councilman Kwak	Present
Councilwoman Lee	Present
Councilman Min	Present
Councilman Shin	Present
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Present

Borough Attorney Allan Roth	Present
Borough Administrator Roberta Stern	Present

**PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO COUNCILMAN JASON KIM**

Mayor Kim stated Jason Kim had served as a council member multiple times and had also served on the Board of Education for many years. Mayor Kim asked Jason Kim to step up to be awarded and honored amongst everyone. A round of applause was heard.

Mayor Kim stated the administration, councilmembers, and himself had made the plaque and had put in a lot of thought to make it. Mayor Kim read, "Councilman Jason Kim, the Mayor and Council are grateful and appreciative of the many years you have served and dedicated your life, time, and energy to the many roles you have played in service to Palisades Park. You have showed the true meaning of public service." Mayor Kim congratulated Jason Kim. A round of applause was heard. Mayor Kim stated the State of New Jersey General Assembly had also made a Certificate of Appreciation on his behalf. Mayor Kim stated the certificate was long and he would read certain things that were important for everyone. Mayor Kim read, "Jason Kim is greatly appreciated for lending his experience and expertise as a dedicated member of the Health Committee. He is recognized as the Honorable Jason Kim, a highly esteemed resident of Bergen County as he concludes a superb tenure on the Palisades Park Borough Council on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025. He applied his considerable knowledge and outstanding work ethic to benefit his consituate. Jason Kim has earned his binding strength, and admiration of all who know of his accomplishments and furtherance of the robust and vital borough. As a result of his inspired and effective governance, Jason Kim has

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provided examples worthy of emulation, and a standard of excellence which all who held a public office might strive for. Therefore, let it be resolved by the General Assembly of New Jersey that this legislature hereby commenced Jason Kim pays tribute to his meritorious record of service, leadership, and commitment and extends his best wishes for continued success in all of the days to come. Further resolve the duty authenticated by a copy of this resolution signed by the assembly speaker attested by the senate secretary, assembly clerk be transmitted to the Honorable Jason Kim, brought to you by Nicholas P. Scutari President of Senate, and Craig J. Coughlin Speaker of Assembly.” Mayor Kim congratulated Jason Kim. A round of applause was heard. Mayor Kim stated Jason Kim deserved a moment.

Jason Kim stated he moved into Palisades Park over forty years ago and had been in politics for over thirty years. Jason Kim stated he had some good times, and some hard times. Jason Kim stated he had stress at times and the stress got him. Jason Kim elaborated that due to the stress, he lost his hearing in his left ear from a blood aneurysm. Jason Kim stated many people asked him why he continued to study politics, and many people expressed their disinterest in it as well. Jason Kim stated his answer from the very beginning until then was always the same – his family. Jason Kim stated everything he did was for the benefit of Palisades Park. Jason Kim stated he wanted to be a proud dad, husband, and family member. Jason Kim stated he grew up to love his town, and he could add that throughout his whole political career, he did everything for the betterment of Palisades Park. Jason Kim continued that there were many moments where it was hard, and mistakes were made. Jason Kim stated he was sure the Mayor and Council would go through the same thing and it was only a matter of time. Jason Kim stated at the time the borough was faced with lawsuits and hard times, and it wasn't the time to pinpoint anybody and call out peoples mistakes. Jason Kim stated this was the time they had to all work together, Mayor and Council. Jason Kim continued, even though everyone had different opinions, they were all there for the same purpose, family and the betterment of Palisades Park. Jason Kim stated everyone should support the mayor, the individual council members, and make it work. A round of applause was heard.

Mayor Kim thanked Councilman Kim again.

#### **PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO COUNCILMAN MICHAEL VIETRI**

Mayor Kim stated unfortunately Councilman Vietri could not make it, but they prepared a plaque and the New Jersey Senate provided a Certificate of Appreciation. Mayor Kim stated they would deliver it to him when he got back.

#### **CERTIFICATION OF THE ELECTION**

Mayor Kim introduced Bergen County Clerk John Hogan. A round of applause followed.

John Hogan stated they all just witnessed democracy in action, and it was not easy. John Hogan stated the Democratic Republic met up with so many communities like Palisades Park and it was tough. John Hogan stated anyone who offered to serve on the governing body – John Hogan then stated he was a councilmember for six years, and mayor for two terms. John Hogan stated the problems he faced in the beginning when he was 30 years old were the same problems he faced at 50 years old and the problems just kept coming back. John Hogan stated the two individuals they were recognizing that day and certifying their election deserved to serve on the governing body. John Hogan stated they had experience, know-how, and the energy to get the job done. John Hogan stated the 2025 general election there was a 51.84% voter turn out in Bergen County which was ten percent higher than the last election. John Hogan asked Councilman Donohue to come up first and asked if the mayor wanted to certify first.

Mayor Kim and Allan Roth confirmed to certify first, and then swear in.

John Hogan stated this was to certify that the general election held on the four day of November in the year 2025, Frank Donohue was duly elected to serve as a member of Palisades Park Council for a full term in Bergen County. John Hogan stated Councilman Donohue had a lot of people in Palisades Park that liked him, around 2,191 supporters. A round of applause was heard.

John Hogan stated this was to certify that the general election held on the four day of November in the year 2025, Christopher J. Kwak was duly elected to serve as a member of Palisades Park Council for a full term in Bergen County. John Hogan stated Councilman Kwak received 2,186 total votes. A round of applause was heard.

#### **SWEARING IN OF ELECTED OFFICIALS**

##### **Oath of Office Administered to Councilman Frank Donohue**

John Hogan asked Councilman Donohue to repeat after him. John Hogan read, “I, Frank Donohue, due solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the state

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of New Jersey and 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 due futher solomly swear that I will faithfully, impartially, and justly perform all of the duties of Palisades Park Councilman according to the best of my abilities so help me God.”. Councilman Donohue repeated.

**Remarks by Councilman Frank Donohue**

Councilman Donohue thanked everyone and stated the meeting was long but good, things were done that needed to be done. Councilman Donohue wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Councilman Donohue thanked everyone in town for their support and input as Councilman Kwak and himself journeyed the town trying to obtain votes and spoke to residents. Councilman Donohue stated there were a lot of great suggestions on improvements that needed to be made to the town, and things that would just make Palisades Park better. Councilman Donohue stated 99% of people were excited about being residents of Palisades Park and he could say the same thing about himself. Councilman Donohue stated originally, he thought he was going to be a teacher in Clifton because it was where he played basketball. Councilman Donohue’s aunt was a teacher in Palisades Park for many years and got him a substitute job in town. Councilman Donohue stated one thing led to another and he became a teacher, coach, administrator, and councilman in Palisades Park. Councilman Donohue stated in 1984 he married his wife Cheryl and made so many friends in town. Councilman Donohue stated it had been a great experience for him. Councilman Donohue stated he came back to the hot seat because he didn’t think he was ready. Councilman Donohue stated he was defeated in 2020, and when he lost as a coach it was demoralizing. Councilman Donohue stated at this point, he wanted to give something back to the town, but he also felt like he had energy to do so. Councilman Donohue stated he understood there were a lot of issues spoken about, but the Mayor and Council would work hard to get things done in a positive direction. Councilman Donohue stated he would be a bit different than he previously was as a councilmember. Councilman Donohue stated he would be more deliberative and measured in his decision making because he wanted to make sure he was making the right decision at all times. Councilman Donohue congratulated Councilman Jason Kim, and Councilman Michael Vietri for their years on the council. Councilman Donohue stated they provided great service for the town, and he appreciated their efforts. Councilman Donohue thanked his wife for encouraging him to be on the council along with his running mate Councilman Kwak. Councilman Donohue stated they went door to door together, and Councilman Kwak was a very charismatic guy, and it was a pleasure to run with him. Councilman Donohue thanked Mayor Kim for giving him the opportunity.

Mayor Kim stated the deal was this. Mayor Kim told Councilman Donohue that if he was on the council this time, he could actually do something. Mayor Kim stated before it wasn’t the same, and he now had the liberty and opportunity to make things different. Mayor Kim stated they were going to make Councilman Donohue do good things for the community and congratulated him once more.

John Hogan stated he also wanted to recognize Councilman Shin and Councilman Kim. John Hogan stated both of these men helped him to be elected mayor of Norvale 30 years ago. John Hogan stated more specifically Councilman Kim helped them break into the Korean Community in Northvale, which was something he would never forget. A round of applause was heard.

**Oath of Office Administered to Councilman Christopher Kwak**

John Hogan asked Councilman Kwak to repeat after him. John Hogan read, “I, Christopher Kwak, due solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the state of New Jersey and 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 due further solemnly swear that I will faithfully, impartially, and justly perform all of the duties of Palisades Park Councilman according to the best of my abilities so help me God.”. Councilman Kwak repeated.

**Remarks by Councilman Christopher Kwak**

Councilman Kwak thanked everyone for being present. Councilman Kwak thanked the Mayor and Council for everything they had done for him. Councilman Kwak stated this had been an incredible way to start his new career and position at the borough. Councilman Kwak stated when he was starting out with politics, he wasn’t sure how to give back. Councilman Kwak explained he was nineteen years old at the time when he first started politics, and he had decided to make food and drive around Newark. Councilman Kwak stated he drove around to find anyone in need, the homeless, people in need of food, or money. Councilman Kwak stated that he also provided these individuals with his phone number as well. Councilman Kwak stated he had come across a single mother, and her son who were homeless outside in twenty-degree weather. Councilman Kwak stated he pulled over, didn’t think anything of it, gave them two plates of food, and told the mother to call him if they ever needed anything. Councilman Kwak stated about a year later, the woman’s son called him and asked him if they could meet up without his mother. Councilman Kwak stated the boy explained that their lights were out, and they needed twenty

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dollars to pay the light bill. Councilman Kwak stated he immediately drove straight to Newark, met up with the boy, and gave him the money. Councilman Kwak advised the boy to not thank him, and to never worry about asking him for anything. Councilman Kwak stated he believed that was when everything really started for him. Councilman Kwak stated it didn't take much to help people and make the world a better place. Councilman Kwak stated it took people to commit, who believed in each other, believed in good people, and believed that there were good things in the world that they could do. Councilman Kwak stated because he was in the position, he was privileged and thankful for all of the burdens he had been given. Councilman Kwak stated he had the opportunity now to make real changes in the town filled with people he truly loved like David and Mary Terranova, Maria Alvarez, and Karen Nascenti. Councilman Kwak stated he loved everyone and named a few more. Councilman Kwak stated everyone in town had given one thing – the commitment, blood, sweat and tears, to make sure the people lived a good life. Councilman Kwak stated there was nothing that these people spoke about other than that, helping people. Councilman Kwak stated at every meeting the constant question that arose was if the decision they were making would benefit other people and the community. Councilman Kwak asked everyone to remember their neighbors cared, and everything that they did was done for the community. Councilman Kwak stated it was his privilege and honor to serve. Councilman Kwak stated residents did not work for him, but he worked for the residents. Councilman Kwak advised that if there were any problems, anyone could call him, even if they just wanted to offer to volunteer. Councilman Kwak stated he was there to work and not sit in his chair and do nothing. Councilman Kwak stated there were great business leaders in Palisades Park and many families. Councilman Kwak stated business owners opened businesses in Palisades Park because they believed in what the town could do, and who Palisades Park really was. Councilman Kwak implored to never give these things up and believe in Palisades Park. Councilman Kwak stated he looked forward to working with everyone and was there to work. Councilman Kwak guaranteed everyone that he would never stop working and he would always tell everyone what he was up to. Councilman Kwak thanked everyone for the opportunity, and stated it was his honor to give back as much as possible to the community. A round of applause was heard.

Mayor Kim thanked Councilman Kwak and stated before they continued he wanted to recognize his dear friend Mark Zinna. A round of applause was heard. Mayor Kim asked Mayor Mark Zinna to say a few words. Mayor Kim stated he graduated from Tenafly.

Tenafly Mayor Mark Zinna stated he loved Palisades Park. Mark Zinna stated he was proud, and Councilman Kwak and himself had spent a lot of time together talking about politics and what it was like to serve. Mark Zinna stated Councilman Kwak knew how to speak the truth to people and have people understand him. A round of applause was heard.

Mayor Kim thanked Mayor Mark Zinna and asked to move forward.

**SWEARING IN OF FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS:**

Oath(s) of Office Administered by Mayor Kim to:

Chief of Fire Department, John Mantone  
Deputy Chief, Robinson Rivera  
Battalion Chief, Alex Cancian

**Hose Company #1**

Captain, Michael Vietri  
Lieutenant, William Duarte  
Commissioner, Michael Valente

**Hose Company #2**

Captain, John Morin  
Lieutenant, Matthew Bonaguaro  
Commissioner, Andrew Chiurazzi

**Hook & Ladder #1**

Captain, James Roper  
Lieutenant, William Raimondo Jr.  
Commissioner, Hector Contreras

Mayor Kim asked all Fire Department Officers to repeat after him. Mayor Kim read, "I, (state name) due solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the state of New Jersey and 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 due further solemnly swear that I will faithfully, impartially, and justly perform all of the duties of Palisades Park Councilman according to the best of my abilities so help me God." A round of applause was heard.

**REMARKS BY MAYOR CHONG PAUL KIM**

Mayor Kim invited everyone to the fire department for drinks and food to celebrate the new council members and fire officers after the meeting. Mayor Kim stated there was enough food to go around. Mayor Kim asked where Roberta Stern went and asked to move on without her.

RESOLUTION 2026-1

Appointment of Council President for 2026

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Sophia Jang stated Mayor Kim skipped over the 2026 standing committee list. Mayor Kim advised that he would go over it after.

Allan Roth stated for the record, N.J.S.A 10:4-6 stated the public was given advanced notice to attend the meeting of (speaking indistinctively). Allan Roth stated now it was the time of the meeting for nominations for the position of council president for 2026. Allan Roth stated he would go over the process and explain it to those present. Allan Roth stated for the voting process, the mayor would ask for three motions related to nominations to open the nominations, to place nominations on the table, and to close the nominations. Allan Roth stated to start, the Mayor would ask for a motion to open the nominations for president which required a second, and a roll call vote. Allan Roth stated they would then ask for a motion to be placed on the floor for the position for council president. Allan Roth stated this motion did not require a second. Allan Roth stated this step of the process required council members to call out the name of the candidate who they would like to be voted on for council president. Allan Roth stated the borough clerk would say each name of the candidates for council president and those who proposed them. Allan Roth stated each council member could only propose one name, and only names that had been proposed could be called out earlier. Allan Roth continued that the borough clerk would continue to accept names until there were no further nominations for that office. When there were no further nominations, a motion would be requested to close the nominations which did require a second. Allan Roth stated presidency would be determined based on the majority vote of the members present and voting. Allan Roth stated the borough clerk would call out the nominations for president and they would require a motion to vote on those nominations only. Allan Roth stated this motion would require a second and a roll call vote. Allan Roth stated each council member would choose a name from those nominated in the prior step. Upon roll call, the president would be determined by the majority vote of those present and voting. Allan Roth stated if there was no majority vote, the voting would be repeated once more. Allan Roth asked if there were any questions from the council members.

Mayor Kim stated he believed there were plenty of questions so he would delegate the responsibility from the mayor to the borough attorney.

Allan Roth stated that wasn't a problem at all and asked if council members had any questions regarding procedure. Allan Roth stated they first would open for nominations of the council president. Allan Roth requested a motion to open nominations.

Councilman Kwak made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Shin. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilman Donohue	Yes
Councilman Kwak	Yes
Councilwoman Lee	Yes
Councilman Min	Yes
Councilman Shin	Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes

Allan Roth stated the floor was open and advised councilmembers that they had the opportunity to nominate a council president.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon nominated Councilman Min for council president.

Allan Roth repeated that Councilwoman Won-Yoon nominated Councilman Min. Allan Roth asked if there were any other nominations.

Councilman Kwak nominated Councilwoman Lee for council president.

Allan Roth repeated that Councilman Kwak nominated Councilwoman Lee. Allan Roth requested a motion to close nominations.

Councilman Shin made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Donohue. All joined in favor.

Allan Roth stated the borough clerk could proceed with a roll call vote to determine each council members vote.

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang announced there were two candidates nominated, Councilman Min, and Councilwoman Lee. A roll call vote was recorded as follows:

Councilman Donohue	Councilwoman Lee
Councilman Kwak	Councilwoman Lee

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Councilwoman Lee	Abstain (Allan Roth advised that Councilwoman Lee could vote for herself)
Councilman Min	Councilman Min
Councilman Shin	Councilwoman Lee
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Councilman Min

Sophia Jang announced there were three votes for Councilwoman Lee and two votes for Councilman Min.

Allan Roth congratulated Councilwoman Lee on her new appointment as council president.

Councilwoman Lee thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve the town as the council president. Councilwoman Lee stated she would make sure that the councilmembers worked together as a team to better the town which was the primary goal. Councilwoman Lee thanked everyone again. A round of applause followed.

**SUBMISSION OF MAYOR’S 2026 STANDING COMMITTEES LIST**

Mayor Kim stated before they moved forward, he wanted council members to recognize the 2026 standing committees. Mayor Kim stated Councilwoman Lee was the council president. Councilwoman Won-Yoon was the Environmental and Beautification Chair and Councilman Min was a member. The Community Affairs Seniors Chair was Councilwoman Lee, and Councilwoman Won-Yoon was a member. Mayor Kim continued, the Department of Public Works Chair was Councilman Shin and Councilwoman Lee was a member. The Finance Chair was Councilwoman Lee and Councilman Shin was a member. For Health, the Chair was Councilman Min and Councilwoman Won-Yoon was a member. For the Library, Councilman Kwak was the Chair, and Councilman Donohue was a member. For Police, Fire, Office of Emergency Management the Chair was Councilman Shin and Councilman Donohue was a member. Mayor Kim stated for the Swimming Pool, Councilman Kwak wanted this. Mayor Kim stated the Chair for the pool was Councilman Kwak, and Councilman Shin was a member. For the School Board, Councilman Donohue was the Chair, and Councilman Kwak was a member. Mayor Kim thanked everyone for their services.

**RESOLUTION 2026-2**

**Mayor’s Nominations and/or Appointments for 2026**

Mayor Kim requested a motion to pass Resolution 2026-2. Councilman Donohue made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Lee. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilman Donohue	Yes
Councilman Kwak	Yes
Councilwoman Lee	Yes
Councilman Min	No
Councilman Shin	Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	No

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

RESOLUTION 2026-3	Continuance of the Cash Management Plan
RESOLUTION 2026-4	Authorization of Signatories on Checks for Municipal Accounts
RESOLUTION 2026-5	Designation of Official Signatories for Municipal Accounts
RESOLUTION 2026-6	Authorization of Borough’s Participation in Cooperative Purchasing
RESOLUTION 2026-7	Establishment of Purchasing Procedure
RESOLUTION 2026-8	Setting of Interest Rate
RESOLUTION 2026-9	Establishment of Meeting Dates for the Governing Body
RESOLUTION 2026-10	Adoption of Civil Rights Resolution as Mandated by JIF as part of the Employment Practices Liability Compliance Program
RESOLUTION 2026-11	Establishment of Petty Cash Fund
RESOLUTION 2026-12	Authorization of Award of Contract for Borough Attorney
RESOLUTION 2026-13	Authorization of Award of Contract for Borough Planner
RESOLUTION 2026-14	Authorization of Award of Contract for Borough Planning Board Attorney
RESOLUTION 2026-15	Authorization of Award of Contract for Borough Bond Counsel
RESOLUTION 2026-16	Authorization of Award of Contract for Borough Architect 1
RESOLUTION 2026-17	Authorization of Award of Contract for Borough Architect 2
RESOLUTION 2026-18	Authorization of Award of Contract for Borough Engineer 1
RESOLUTION 2026-19	Authorization of Award of Contract for Borough Engineer 2
RESOLUTION 2026-20	Authorization of Award of Contract for Special Attorney 1
RESOLUTION 2026-21	Authorization of Award of Contract for Special Attorney 2
RESOLUTION 2026-22	Authorization of Award of Contract for Special Attorney 3

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RESOLUTION 2026-23	Authorization of Award of Contract for Special Attorney 4
RESOLUTION 2026-24	Authorization of Award of Contract for Grant Consultant and Grant Administration Service
RESOLUTION 2026-25	Authorization of Award of Contract for Borough Risk Management Consultant
RESOLUTION 2026-26	Authorization of Award of Contract for Borough Tax Appeal Attorney 1
RESOLUTION 2026-27	Authorization of Award of Contract for Borough Tax Appeal Attorney 2
RESOLUTION 2026-28	Authorization of Award of Contract for Rent Leveling Board Attorney
RESOLUTION 2026-29	Authorization of Award of Contract for Borough Swim Club Attorney
RESOLUTION 2026-30	Authorization of Award of Contract for Borough Public Relations Service
RESOLUTION 2026-31	Authorization of Award of Contract for Municipal Housing Liaison
RESOLUTION 2026-32	Authorization of Award of Contract for Affordable Housing Administrative Agent
RESOLUTION 2026-33	Authorization of Award of Contract for Borough Alternate Prosecutor
RESOLUTION 2026-34	Authorization of Award of Contract for Borough Public Defender
RESOLUTION 2026-35	Acceptance of New Firefighter (Re: D. Lim)
RESOLUTION 2026-36	Acceptance of New Firefighter (Re: Y. Shawareb)
RESOLUTION 2026-37	Appointment of Special Police Persons - <b>STRIKE</b>
RESOLUTION 2026-3	Continuance of the Cash Management Plan

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated the last sentence of the resolution read “now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Borough of Palisades Park Cash Management Plan as attached to this Resolution be continued for 2026” but there was no attachment to the resolution.

Mayor Kim asked how they found out at the last moment that they didn’t get the Cash Management Plan from Roy Riggitano. Mayor Kim stated they had security measures in place to make sure things like this didn’t happen. Mayor Kim stated at the end, there was the borough administrator and the borough clerk, and asked how this happened.

Roberta Stern stated both the clerk and herself looked for this and they had not received it from Roy Riggitano.

Mayor Kim stated the CFO was there the whole day and asked why no one called him to ask. Mayor Kim stated the CFO was in his office, and the borough administrators office, and asked again why no one asked him.

Roberta Stern stated she had to ask him.

Mayor Kim stated Roy Riggitano knew he messed up and should have brought it. Mayor Kim stated that there were safety measures, and professionals such as the borough administrator and clerk. Mayor Kim stated it was the responsibility of these two, and even the borough attorney to make sure the packet was completed to be voted on. Mayor Kim stated he hoped Resolution 2026-3 didn’t have to be passed that night and asked someone to call Roy Riggitano right then and there. Mayor Kim asked again for someone to call Roy Riggitano and ask him if this needed to be passed that night and stated he didn’t want to get into trouble for it.

Allan Roth stated they could pass it in January, and they wouldn’t get in trouble.

Mayor Kim stated he understood, but there had to be a reason it wasn’t included. Mayor Kim stated there were two council members who were very adamant on proper procedure whether or not the people were affected, services were lost, or the borough got in trouble. Mayor Kim stated again they were there for proper due process and it was serious business. Mayor Kim stated there was a reason Roy Riggitano wanted to put it on for the Reorganization Meeting.

Allan Roth stated he couldn’t answer why the documents were not attached.

Mayor Kim asked if they could pass this in January.

Allan Roth confirmed they could.

Mayor Kim asked Roberta Stern if they could pass it in January.

Roberta Stern confirmed they could and requested it was removed from the agenda.

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Mayor Kim advised Roberta Stern to let Roy Riggiano know that they would need to speak with him about that.

Allan Roth asked Sophia Jang to pull Resolution 2026-3.

RESOLUTION 2026-12	Authorization of Award of Contract for Borough Attorney
RESOLUTION 2026-13	Authorization of Award of Contract for Borough Planner
RESOLUTION 2026-14	Authorization of Award of Contract for Borough Planning Board Attorney
RESOLUTION 2026-15	Authorization of Award of Contract for Borough Bond Counsel
RESOLUTION 2026-16	Authorization of Award of Contract for Borough Architect 1
RESOLUTION 2026-17	Authorization of Award of Contract for Borough Architect 2
RESOLUTION 2026-18	Authorization of Award of Contract for Borough Engineer 1
RESOLUTION 2026-19	Authorization of Award of Contract for Borough Engineer 2
RESOLUTION 2026-20	Authorization of Award of Contract for Special Attorney 1
RESOLUTION 2026-21	Authorization of Award of Contract for Special Attorney 2
RESOLUTION 2026-22	Authorization of Award of Contract for Special Attorney 3
RESOLUTION 2026-23	Authorization of Award of Contract for Special Attorney 4
RESOLUTION 2026-24	Authorization of Award of Contract for Grant Consultant and Grant Administration Service
RESOLUTION 2026-25	Authorization of Award of Contract for Borough Risk Management Consultant
RESOLUTION 2026-26	Authorization of Award of Contract for Borough Tax Appeal Attorney 1
RESOLUTION 2026-27	Authorization of Award of Contract for Borough Tax Appeal Attorney 2
RESOLUTION 2026-28	Authorization of Award of Contract for Rent Leveling Board Attorney
RESOLUTION 2026-29	Authorization of Award of Contract for Borough Swim Club Attorney
RESOLUTION 2026-30	Authorization of Award of Contract for Borough Public Relations Service
RESOLUTION 2026-31	Authorization of Award of Contract for Municipal Housing Liaison
RESOLUTION 2026-32	Authorization of Award of Contract for Affordable Housing Administrative Agent
RESOLUTION 2026-33	Authorization of Award of Contract for Borough Alternate Prosecutor
RESOLUTION 2026-34	Authorization of Award of Contract for Borough Public Defender

Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked if a contract for each resolution was required.

Borough Administrator Roberta Stern clarified that Councilwoman Won-Yoon was asking for the contracts.

Allan Roth replied no, he didn't usually provide the contracts before they were executed to the council because it didn't make sense to him to provide a blank contract. Allan Roth stated the council didn't vote on blank contracts and it wouldn't be proper practice to ask them to vote on a blank contract. Allan Roth stated the council voted on the resolution that covered the contracts which then were executed administratively by the mayor because the contracts mirrored the RFQ's that were submitted. Allan Roth stated when he did get the signed contracts back he would provide them to the council for their records.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she understood but she wanted to raise the issue that occurred the year prior, which was that it took a long time to get the contracts back.

Allan Roth stated he was going to take care of it and work with the clerk to take care of it personally to make sure contracts were sent out. Allan Roth stated he would personally take care of making sure the contracts were returned to the borough clerk who would get them signed by the mayor and present them to the council. Allan Roth stated he was hopeful no later than the February meeting. Allan Roth stated he would stay on top of it and whatever he could get the council in January he would, and whatever he could get the council in February he would. Allan Roth repeated he would be personally working with the clerk.

RESOLUTION 2026-37                      Appointment of Special Police Persons - **STRIKE**

Allan Roth announced that Resolution 2026-37 had been pulled and was not for the councils consideration.

Mayor Kim stated Resolution 2026-37 was not ready therefore they pulled it out.

Allan Roth stated again this resolution was removed and not for councils review at that time.

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Mayor Kim requested a motion to pass Resolution 2026-4 through Resolution 2026-36.

Councilman Kwak made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Donohue. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilman Donohue	Yes
Councilman Kwak	Yes
Councilwoman Lee	Yes
Councilman Min	Councilman Min stated he wanted to vote no on Resolution 2026-7. Councilman Min wanted to abstain on Resolutions 2026-12 through Resolution 2026-34. Allan Roth explained to him the council wasn't voting to pass the contract, just to appoint. Councilman Min asked if that meant he couldn't abstain. Allan Roth stated he could, but he wanted to make sure it was clear that he was abstaining on the appointments not the contract. Allan Roth repeated Councilman Min was abstaining on all professional appointments. Sophia Jang repeated Resolution 2026-12 through Resolution 2026-34 were abstentions.
Councilman Shin	Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes

Sophia Jang announced consent agenda Resolution 2026-4 through Resolution 2026-36 was carried.

### COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilwoman Lee did not have anything to report.

Councilman Shin stated he mentioned the parking meters and asked Roberta Stern to explain the situation and explain when residents could expect them to work. Councilman Shin stated it wasn't a good idea to instate free parking until January 3<sup>rd</sup>, and then January 4<sup>th</sup> was a holiday. Councilman Shin stated regardless, the parking meters still weren't working.

Roberta Stern stated the following year, they would make sure the holiday no parking amounts really worked. Roberta Stern stated meter parking should have been reinstated that following Monday, instead of the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Roberta Stern stated since it was always reinstated on the second, they made it on the second, but the actual new meters were working, and they were told that by the company. Roberta Stern stated the meters were accepting coins even before they were officially running. Roberta Stern stated unfortunately on Saturday without telling the appropriate people of the borough being either herself, Captain Rotundo, or Councilman Shin, the company did an update to the computer software. Roberta Stern stated parking meters were new to her, and apparently the company had to physically come and work on each one as this was not something that could be done wirelessly. Roberta Stern stated starting the following day, they would be present starting at 9:30AM to correct and update the software. Roberta Stern explained that the software was the part that controlled the credit card payments. A sticker would also be affixed to each one that had instructions in Korean plus information on how to use the app. Roberta Stern stated Captain Rotundo could explain more about it but that was about it in a nutshell.

Mayor Kim asked Roberta Stern to repeat what the issue was.

Roberta Stern stated either Saturday night or morning the company did an update to the software creating a glitch that didn't accept credit cards. Roberta Stern stated the borough was not given advanced notice and this was something they had to deal directly with the company. Roberta Stern stated the company would never do that again without advising the borough. Roberta Stern stated she wasn't a techy and she wasn't sure why this wasn't done when they first installed them.

Captain Rotundo stated it wasn't just the boroughs system that was updating but was all systems across their entire network. Captain Rotundo stated other towns had been able to reset their meters, but the boroughs officers had not been trained on that yet. Captain Rotundo stated they would be trained on it the following day in terms of resetting and replacing parts. Captain Rotundo stated they received an email to confirm everything had been ready, the borough was unaware that the company was planning on the update, and he believed this was not a routine update.

Roberta Stern stated so the residents knew no tickets were being issued anyways. Roberta Stern used the restaurant business as an example, and stated the borough was doing a soft opening so the only way they could find out if things were wrong was if the meters were used.

Captain Rotundo agreed they would only find out if the meters were used.

Roberta Stern stated quite frankly, it was never explained to them early on, but that was what happened.

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Captain Rotundo stated they tried their best, but things did happen sometimes.

Mayor Kim stated he appreciated everyone's support.

Councilman Shin stated he wanted to point out two things. First of all, the borough lost income for two days, which was not their fault, but the parking operators fault. Councilman Shin stated they needed to get some sort of compensation for the loss that the borough had to deal with due to the systems being updated. Second, when the company introduced these meters to the borough, they stated that there would be four types of payments accepted including cash, credit cards, tap pay, and app pay. Councilman Shin stated there was no explanation on how to use the app on the parking meters at all which they needed.

Captain Rotundo replied that was what was coming the following day.

Councilman Shin asked Captain Rotundo if he was sure.

Captain Rotundo replied that was what they told him.

Councilman Kwak asked if they would have any street signs displaying instructions.

Captain Rotundo stated that was the whole part of the roll out that signs would be provided as well.

Mayor Kim stated there was a planning disconnect between the police department trying to work with the new parking meter vendors, but he didn't consider this a soft opening. Mayor Kim stated something slipped between the cracks, and the company should have told them what was going to happen. Mayor Kim stated additionally, the police department should have known this was going to happen as well and asked that it didn't happen again. Mayor Kim asked that Captain Rotundo to answer the questions from the new police committee chair to see if the borough could receive compensation, and if everything was fully functional.

Captain Rotundo stated he believed the compensation being mentioned was about the old parking meters.

Mayor Kim stated no, the new parking meters.

Roberta Stern stated the borough did receive a credit from the old parking meters, but she intended, as she mentioned to Councilman Shin earlier, that she would be speaking with the company directly. Roberta Stern stated when they started to get an average of how much was received daily, which they could tell through reports, she would be able to tell how much money was lost.

Mayor Kim stated as long as the company provided proper notification that this was going to happen.

Roberta Stern stated they didn't receive any notification.

Mayor Kim asked if there was anything else that Councilman Shin wanted to report on.

Councilman Shin stated unfortunately, the 2026 recycling/garbage schedule was not delivered. Councilman Shin stated they needed to make sure that these were done immediately.

Mayor Kim asked Roberta Stern what happened.

Roberta Stern stated the year prior she was not in charge of it, and when they were delivered this year she was not in charge of it. Roberta Stern stated someone did not follow through and she was not going to speak about who it was at that point.

Mayor Kim asked when it would be delivered.

Roberta Stern stated the borough paid for the postage, and she called the printing company that day three times with no call returned. Roberta Stern stated if she did not hear back from them the following day she would drive over to speak with them and find out what was going on.

Mayor Kim stated temporarily the conditions of the pickup and garbage - Mayor Kim then asked DPW Deputy Superintendent Charlie Chung if the conditions changed.

Charlie Chung stated the conditions didn't change.

Mayor Kim asked Charlie Chung if they knew what they needed to do now and asked if he had to spoon feed them. Mayor Kim stated Roberta Stern knew what to do, and it needed to be posted on the borough website that they were having a technical difficulty however the schedules didn't change, and the old ones

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could be picked up at the DPW. Mayor Kim stated they could even take the 2025 schedule scratch out 2025 and replace it with 2026 and post it on the website.

Roberta Stern stated they could create more confusion.

Mayor Kim stated it was more confusing when the residents didn't have any updates and told Roberta Stern that he wanted her to do that.

Councilman Donohue stated in the old days, they used to get students from the high school to come out at 2:30PM and get in a truck to hand deliver the recycling calendars.

Roberta Stern stated apparently, the last few years, they paid to have it mailed to each home. Roberta Stern stated the year prior that's what they did and the year prior to that she wasn't to sure about. Roberta Stern stated she knew they did it that way the previous year because she was the one to do it and this year she was not in charge of it.

Mayor Kim stated he missed the old days.

Roberta Stern stated in her town they used to have the DPW do it.

Councilman Min stated he didn't have anything to report but wanted to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilman Kwak stated he wanted to wish everyone a happy new year, and he also wanted to recognize the people he forgot such as Pathways that was a great organization for foster care that he was apart of. Councilman Kwak thanked Charlie Chung for his help and support and stated he was an integral part of the community. Councilman Kwak also thanked Michael Gardner, and Michael Apicella for always speaking the truth and honesty. Councilman Kwak stated he looked forward to serving at the borough and wished everyone a Happy New Year. Councilman Kwak stated he couldn't wait to hear from everyone and couldn't wait to serve the community. Councilman Kwak stated he was honored to do something that would help make the town better. Councilman Kwak stated in whatever capacity, he was there for.

Councilman Donohue stated both Charlie Chung and Michael Apicella were great workers and told them to keep up the good work. Councilman Donohue stated he was pleased with his positions on the committees and would try to meet with them as soon as possible to find out what's going on.

Mayor Kim stated the position fit him perfectly and thanked him.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she didn't have anything to report and wished everyone a Happy New Year. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she hoped everyone was blessed with health, wealth, and happiness for the new year.

## **POLICE REPORT**

Chief George Beck wished everyone a Happy New Year and congratulated the newly elected council members. Chief Beck stated he was impressed with Councilman Kwak's speech. Chief Beck stated they were at 105 years of service at the Palisades Park Police Department, and 2025 was the year of action. Chief Beck stated in 2025 they had 35 community events that they mostly held themselves but also worked with others. A round of applause was heard. Chief Beck stated this allowed them to meet with residents, engage with them, and open up themselves to the residents so they could have honest and great communication. Chief Beck stated they enhanced their proactive patrols, which was important because Palisades Park had a lot of pedestrian traffic. Chief Beck stated they enhanced multiple measures to combat people not stopping for pedestrians, U-turns on Broad Avenue, speeding on the hills, or anything that could create danger for the residents. Chief Beck stated he knew they worked a lot on fixing the speeding problem in town, as well as the issues on the on and off ramps on Fifth Street. Chief Beck stated most of it was coming to fruition and was still continuing. Chief Beck stated there would be a reduction of speed coming soon on Central Boulevard where traffic studies were already done and prepared. Chief Beck stated this was a county roadway and would be handled by them. Chief Beck explained they would be present and there was also going to be some updates to one of the intersections where students crossed frequently. Chief Beck stated they were on it and in 2025 they met all the requirements for accreditation. Chief Beck stated this was a milestone for the department and stated he remembered when they all came before the governing body. Chief Beck stated he remembered the laughing and the comments that the department would never get accredited.

Mayor Kim commented who's laughing now.

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Chief Beck stated accreditation had standards and was given to the best practices of law enforcement. Chief Beck stated it was a playbook and as long as the playbook was followed it was pretty awesome. Chief Beck stated he was glad they equalized that for the employees. Chief Beck stated they rehabilitated headquarters, and stated officers contributed time themselves to rehabilitate headquarters because they wanted to work in a clean, and safe environment. Chief Beck stated these were officers that didn't have to contribute but took it upon themselves to help make a better environment. Chief Beck thanked Roberta Stern for the break room and stated it was beautiful. Chief Beck stated 2025 was a tremendous year for the police department which included investing heavily into the officers trainings. Chief Beck stated they used the court room to have vendors come in and train officers on vital requirements as well as opportunities to develop better skills to serve the public. Chief Beck stated this was done at no cost, and they enhanced a lot of training activities. Chief Beck stated the administrative department which included Seargent Chris Scilingo knew everything down to the cent of what the department was giving, and where it went. Chief Beck stated not only were they financially accountable but also utilized grants. Chief Beck commended Lieutenant Chris Beck for grant writing and getting the department the opportunities. Chief Beck stated they were able to do so much more for the residents of the town, and to bring the department forward based on their efforts and strict financial responsibility. Chief Beck stated reform was difficult and 2025 was a tough year for the police department. Chief Beck stated whenever reform occurred they would always have people against them which was just the way it went. Chief Beck stated in 2026 they looked forward to a continued year of reform, honesty, accountability to the residents, and transparency. Chief Beck stated it was the pleasure of his life to serve as the police chief and thanked everyone.

Councilman Shin stated he was sorry to mention the minor things that weren't mentioned. Councilman Shin stated the access to Roff Avenue from Sixth Street was blocked improperly. Councilman Shin stated this wasn't blocked following official procedures and asked if there was any way to convenience the residents and to give them access.

Mayor Kim stated it was a good point, but Roberta Stern was working with the traffic engineer Hal Simoff to check out the foot traffic regarding how many cars were going by. Mayor Kim stated Hal Simoff would then provide an assessment which was needed from a professional traffic engineer to say they could bring it back. Mayor Kim explained he couldn't find it with the clerk, a resolution that allowed the change of a two-way becoming a one way and blocked it off. Mayor Kim stated he thought it was just done improperly.

Councilman Shin stated he pointed this out three months prior and it still wasn't open. Councilman Shin stated this was for the convenience of the residents.

Chief Beck stated he spoke with Hal Simoff and he provided a timeline. Chief Beck stated they could follow up with him the following day, but it should be delivered any day. Chief Beck stated they also had to work with him on the speed humps and the speeding issues. Chief Beck stated there was a lot going on and a lot of work to it but that was in his timeline to take care of. Chief Beck stated he would follow up on that with Hal Simoff the following day and get Councilman Shin an answer.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked what the new speed limit was on Central Boulevard.

Chief Beck stated they were reducing it to 30 miles per hour.

Mayor Kim asked what the speed limit was before.

Chief Beck stated it used to be 35 miles per hour. Chief Beck stated it would be going down to 25 miles per hour at the intersection by Central Boulevard because of the students crossing. Chief Beck stated it would then be 25 miles per hour from there to Broad Avenue. Chief Beck stated they petitioned them and had residents come straight to them. Chief Beck stated he was happy the county saw it from the boroughs perspective.

Mayor Kim thanked Chief Beck.

Chief Beck stated it did take five years, but they were there. Chief Beck asked if there were any other questions.

Police Director Michael Gardner stated in an attempt to end the year on building moral in the police department, on Christmas Eve he brought in bagels for officers that worked all three tours and cookies on Christmas Day. Michael Gardner also stated that day he also brought in cookies to end the year on a moral basis. Director Gardner stated that past week, they ruled out the departments daily activity sheets for special police officers and traffic enforcement officers. Director Gardner stated each tour they worked, they were required to fill out these activity sheets describing what they did throughout the tour, what vehicle they used, where the vehicles were parked, what summonses were issued, as well as other things that needed to be covered. Director Gardner stated he reviewed them daily to make sure the special

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officers and traffic officers were covering all of Palisades Park. Director Gardner stated they wanted to focus most of Broad Avenue where they had pedestrian close calls, but they also wanted to ensure all of Palisades Park was being covered. Director Gardner stated this was also to ensure officers were compliant with policies and procedures, including if something was done wrong officers would be sat down and spoken to. Director Gardner stated this was not discipline but was training and they wanted to make sure they were training every day. Director Gardner stated the officers were young, and every day they would be learning from others. Director Gardner stated he had seen a big improvement from the special police officers from day one seeing them come out of the academy to being on the road. Director Gardner stated they would move forward with that and thanked everyone.

Mayor Kim stated just to let the two council members know, the police director voluntarily partook in being the management of the traffic enforcement officers. Mayor Kim stated the former person in charge of the traffic officers were no longer available, so Director Gardner volunteered to partake it in. Mayor Kim stated he appreciated his added service to the borough and thanked him.

#### **ATTORNEY REPORT**

#### **BA REPORT**

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mayor Kim requested a motion to close and open to the public.

Councilwoman Lee made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Donohue. All joined in favor.

Mayor Kim stated members of the public had three minutes each to speak about whatever they wanted.

Neris Papoters asked if anyone had thought about changing the Chief Financial Officer Roy Riggitano. Neris Papoters stated she knew that the borough was being reformed from the old administration and how things used to be done. Neris Papoters stated she saw that his contract was renewed, and it seemed to her that every time a council member asked him a question at the council meetings, he became agitated and uncomfortable. Neris Papoters asked why the borough continued to pay someone who administrated the money when he wasn't open to talk, friendly, or open to answering any questions regarding where the money was going. Neris Papoters asked again why they renewed the contract. Neris Papoters asked who made the decision to renew the contract when she felt he was someone from prior administration that still held the same behavior that was not okay to have. Neris Papoters stated she really felt this change would be beneficial to the town. Neris Papoters stated she also wanted to thank the fire department and police department for the fire trucks going around town for Christmas. Neris Papoters stated this was something she always looked forward to, and the year prior she was away. Neris Papoters thanked everyone, wished everyone a happy new year, and congratulated the new council members.

Allan Roth stated he wanted to answer her question about the CFO. Allan Roth stated the CFO was a position that by law was tenured and Roy Riggitano held the position for more than 40 years, therefore Roy Riggitano got tenured about seventeen years prior. Allan Roth stated Roy Riggitano would remain employed until he retired. Allan Roth stated the only way to remove someone who was tenured was to go to the Department of Community Affairs and to hold a hearing. Allan Roth stated this wouldn't be something the borough was in control of in terms of stopping his employment.

Mayor Kim stated they were thinking in opposite spectrums. Mayor Kim stated he thought they should sit down with the CFO to see if he could be more open and transparent to see what he could provide before they considered doing anything else. Mayor Kim thanked everyone.

Neris Papoters stated she didn't want to go back and forth. Neris Papoters stated as the lawyer had mentioned even though he was a part time employee, she believed part time employees didn't receive tenure.

Allan Roth stated no, Roy Riggitano did receive tenure as a part time employee.

Neris Papoters stated they would see working with him.

Mayor Kim asked if there were any other questions. Mayor Kim requested a motion to close and return to the Reorganization Meeting.

Councilman Kwak made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Shin.

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**ADJOURN**

Mayor Kim requested a motion to adjourn.

Councilman Kwak made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Donohue. All joined in favor.

Attest:



Sophia H. Jang, RMC  
Borough Clerk