

REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 21, 2017

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held in Borough Hall, 221 South 5th Avenue, on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 and was called to order by Mayor Brill Mittler at 7:01 PM. Mayor Brill Mittler read the Open Public Meetings Statement.

Present: Mayor Brill Mittler; Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hersh, Welkovits; Borough Attorney Schmierer; Borough Administrator Kovach; Borough Clerk Hullings.
Absent: None.

Mayor Brill Mittler noted that they received sad news that Austin Gumbs passed away. He will be remembered for a number of “firsts” in the educational arena. In 1971, he was hired as the first black principal in Highland Park High School. In 1980, he was appointed the first black superintendent of schools in Highland Park and Middlesex County. She asked for a moment of silence in his memory.

Councilwoman Welkovits noted that she attended Highland Park High School when Mr. Gumbs was the principal and she remembered something that he said at every assembly, “PRIDE” (Please Remember Ignorance Destroys Everything).

On motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits and seconded by Councilman George, the minutes of the Adjourned and Organization Meetings held January 3, 2017 were approved by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present.

Mayor Brill Mittler asked the Council members to present their reports.

Councilwoman Foster-Dublin – No report.

Councilman Fine reported that like the Mayor and his fellow Council Members, he believes that exploring the possibility of shared services between Highland Park municipal entities and between Highland Park and other municipalities is one way to explore how we may stabilize property taxes in the Borough. On January 17th, the Council’s Finance Committee introduced, and this Council adopted, a resolution to establish a Shared Services Commission, whose purpose is to make recommendations on potential revenue and savings opportunities for Highland Park to pursue. Per the adopted resolution, the Shared Services Commission will have ten members who are residents or employees of the Borough of Highland Park. Former Mayor Stephen Nolan has been appointed to serve as Chairperson of the Commission. The 2 representatives from the Board of Education appointed to the Commission are Board of Education President Darcie Cimarusti and the Business Administrator Linda Hoefele. Police Chief Stephen Rizco will represent the Highland Park Police Department. Donald Rish, Superintendent of Public Works and Public Utilities, will represent the Department of Public Works. Library Executive Director Jane Stanley will represent the Library. Housing Authority Executive Director Donna Brightman will represent the Highland Park Housing Authority and Gabriel Paul, Assistant to the Chief Financial Officer, will represent the Borough on the Commission. The remaining 2 seats on the Commission were reserved for Borough residents. One of those seats will be filled later tonight when the Mayor appoints Dr. Marc Scheiner, leaving one position left on the Commission. If you are interested in serving on the Shared Services Commission, please fill out and submit a Highland Park volunteer application, which can be picked up at the Clerk’s office or found on the Borough’s website; www.hpboro.com. Each of the ten members of the Commission, appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of Council, will serve a term that will expire on December 31, 2017. The Shared Services Commission will hopefully begin to meet in March, with the goal of making recommendations to the Finance Committee regarding potential revenue and savings opportunities for Highland Park by the fall of 2017.

Councilman George reported that applications for spring recreation programs are available on line or can be obtained at the Senior/Youth Recreation Center.

Councilman Hersh commented that following an absolutely horrific act of violence in our community, he thanked Chief Rizco; Detective McGraw and the entire Highland Park Police Department; and Dr. Scott Taylor and the Highland Park public schools for addressing kids’ concerns and for providing counseling for students, if needed. We have to remember that Highland Park is a safe community and that “community” runs so, so deep here. He noted that when he arrived in Highland Park 10 years ago, they knew only a handful of people. Now, there are more people than he can count who he would entrust with his life and the lives of his kids. There are expansive community networks that provide advice, support and protection. When there is a threat to those bedrocks of the community, we come together as one to protect and defend our principles, our neighbors, and our way of life. This is what Highland Park is all about and the reasons we treasure this town remain unchanged and unshaken. Let us all provide support for the victim in any way we can. On Sunday, Highland Park hosted its annual Park Partners grant event that provides seed dollars for citizen innovation. Congratulations to the winners: The Highland Park Outdoor Movie Theater, EduCutHunger, the Cave After School Drop In Center, OQ Coffee Co., for its Community Gallery and Arts Initiative, and Raices Eco-Culture’s Sustainable Living Workshops. He thanked Woodbridge Mayor John McCormac for attending and learning about the program. On Tuesday, he and other members of the Borough’s Administrative staff and the Board of Health met with folks from the County to discuss several ideas for mosquito awareness and pesticide-free remediation. On Thursday, the Board of Health received a detailed presentation from Dr. Dina Fonseca from the Department of Entomology at Rutgers on mosquito related backyard remedies and prevention. Sustainable Highland Park gathered at the Senior/Youth Center to celebrate the Borough’s recent Sustainable Jersey Silver Certification, which places Highland Park in the lead for New Jersey municipalities when it comes to actions taken to reduce energy consumption and energy-related costs, while increasing community awareness and engagement. Thursday evening was then punctuated by a wonderful unity vigil at the Middle School organized by the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom. There he was able to meet many others from surrounding towns to hear about their efforts to promote tolerance and acceptance. He thanked East Brunswick Mayor Brad Cohen for being in attendance. The Highland Park Human Relations Commission will meet on February 22nd. He thanked Highland Park Stop n’ Shop and

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Manage Ron Dzingleski for donating \$2,147.00 to the Highland Park Community Food Pantry. Today, Mayor Brill Mittler, Janice Ballou from the Food Pantry and others were honored to receive the donation. The money was raised by way of paper turkeys via the store's "Our Food for Friends Campaign". Thanks for the overwhelming support by the community and the hard work of the cashiers. Highland Park is very fortunate to have caring merchants like Stop n' Shop here in town.

Councilwoman Welkovits echoed the comments made by Councilman Hersh about the horrific event that occurred. She has seen the community come together and they have started walking groups and planning how they will pick up their kids from school tomorrow. She thanked the Chief and the Mayor and she also thanked the Schools who put out an email about what services will be available in the school's tomorrow for the children, if needed. She reported that Main Street has a brand new website, mainstreethp.org, with a new design. The calendar will connect with your google calendar, twitter, Instagram and Facebook. Main Street and Code Enforcement are making themselves available to meet with our new businesses to help them set up their new business to comply with code department regulations and to make that process much more streamlined and efficient. Over the past couple of years, Main Street has been awarded with money from the Community Development Block Grant funds and they will be spending that down this year. They are getting new banners on the avenue welcoming people as they walk and drive through town in different languages and they are super colorful. They will also be ordering some new benches and trash cans to match what is on Raritan Avenue. They will also order additional signs and awnings.

Borough Administrator Kovach – No report.

Borough Attorney Schmierer - No report.

Mayor Brill Mittler commented that this past weekend was a trying time in Highland Park. She thanked Councilpersons Hersh and Welkovits for mentioning what transpired. This was an eye opener for her working closely with the Police Chief and Prosecutor's Office. Highland Park has a fine Police Department. With so many things happening, the Chief was able to get information out to her and to the public. She thanked Chief Rizco and his department for their efforts and asked that he express her thanks to the Prosecutor's Office.

Stop n' Shop Manager Ron Dzingleski appeared to present the Borough of Highland Park Food Pantry with a check for \$2,147.00. He noted that each store is asked to select a charity and cashiers were challenged to each sell 500 turkeys. They surpassed their original goals and raised \$2,147.00. Mayor Brill Mittler, Councilman Hersh and Food Pantry Chairperson Janice Ballou accepted the check. Ms. Ballou noted that Stop n' Shop helps the Food Pantry everyday by having a bin at their store for customers to donate food.

Councilwoman Welkovits read proclamation for Joe Policastro on behalf of Mayor Brill Mittler and presented the proclamation to his son Michael Policastro. Mr. Policastro noted that he is the middle of three sons and his dad bleeds red for Highland Park. They only moved out of Highland Park so that his children did not have to go to school where their dad taught and coached. They are throwing an event for him at the Pines Manor on April 1st.

Mark Pappas noted that he was born and raised in Highland Park. He is the co-chair for the event to honor Joe Policastro. Information about the event will be available at Borough Hall. The event is recognizing his life achievements and his 53 years of public service.

Mayor Brill Mittler noted that they will be holding two sessions of open public discussion. The first session will be to speak to any topic other than refugee and immigrant status.

Mayor Brill Mittler opened the meeting for public discussion and called upon all those wishing to speak to identify themselves.

Herb Gross, Adelaide Gardens, introduced Commander William Young of the VFW. He was born, raised and educated in Highland Park. He was the first person to be drafted in 1963. He was drafted 3rd.

William Young, Post 370, New Brunswick/Highland Park, commented that it was chartered in 1920 and is the 4th oldest, active veteran's post in the State of New Jersey. They meet once a month at the Elks Club in New Brunswick. They had a post on Somerset Street, but RWJUH took their home. The Post is a 501C, and helps veterans, veteran's families and the community. They offer scholarships to graduating students, have EMT programs, blood drives, participate in parades, visit schools and hospitals, etc. They are proud of their work with homeless veterans and Middlesex County leads the nation in this project and their Post was the leader. He spoke about a national cemetery in Pennsville, NJ called Finn's Point. He would be interested in meeting with the Mayor in the future.

Jackie Zinberg, 239 South 6th Avenue, asked for a better description of the assault suspect. Chief Rizco explained that more information was put out by the Prosecutor's Office. Ms. Zinberg insisted that she needs to know more information so that she can be on the lookout. Chief Rizco explained that they can only give out the information they know and the description was given. Mayor Brill Mittler added that they all share her concern. Chief Rizco further explained that the Prosecutor's Office is the lead agency and the information was posted on the Police Department website and Facebook.

Andrew Getraer, South 2nd Avenue, commented that he is frustrated with the way information was put out and feels the Borough was way behind and people are upset. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that when a serious crime is committed, the County Prosecutor's Office takes over. They cannot release information until they tell us to. This was an eye opener for her about how things work. When it is an investigation

headed by the County, the Chief has to follow their instructions. Chief Rizco added that the County has more resources and they have spared no expense. Press releases come from the County and they put out information they feel is appropriate. Mr. Getraer commented that it is helpful to know this information and that they should educate the residents about the process. He asked if it is safe for his daughter to walk home from school. Chief Rizco suggested that they walk in buddy groups and there are tips of the Police Department's Facebook page.

No one else appearing to be heard, the Mayor closed the public discussion.

The Clerk reported advertising an ordinance entitled, BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING BOND ORDINANCE NUMBER 15-1881 FINALLY ADOPTED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY ON FEBRUARY 17, 2015, ORIGINALLY ENTITLED "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF AN APPROXIMATE 4.176 ACRE TRACT OF LAND DESIGNATED AS BLOCK 47, LOTS 27 - 75 ON THE OFFICIAL HIGHLAND PARK TAX MAP, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (THE "BOROUGH"); APPROPRIATING \$1,860,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,767,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF", AS PREVIOUSLY AMENDED BY BOND ORDINANCE NUMBER 15-1894 FINALLY ADOPTED ON OCTOBER 1, 2015 AND BY BOND ORDINANCE NUMBER 15-1897 FINALLY ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 1, 2015, TO INCREASE THE APPROPRIATION THEREIN BY \$5,000,000, TO INCREASE THE AUTHORIZATION OF BONDS OR NOTES THEREIN BY \$4,750,000 TO FINANCE PART OF THE ADDITIONAL COSTS THEREOF, AND TO AMEND THE DESCRIPTION SET FORTH THEREIN TO INCLUDE THE ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY IN THE BOROUGH for consideration of passage on final reading by title and that affidavits of publication thereto are on file. She also reported that the ordinance had been posted and made available for public inspection as required by law and that the Supplemental Debt Statement filed in her office prior to introduction by Chief Financial Officer Kathleen Kovach had been filed with the New Jersey Division of Local Government Services on February 7, 2017.

On motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman George and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote, the above entitled ordinance was taken up on final reading by title.

Mayor Brill Mittler declared the public hearing on the ordinance open to all officials and persons present and called upon all those wishing to speak for or against the ordinance to do so.

No one appearing to be heard and no objections having been received in writing, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

On motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman George, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 17-1928, was duly adopted on final reading by title by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hersh, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

The following resolution, introduced by Finance Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:

No. 2-17-86

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance entitled, BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING BOND ORDINANCE NUMBER 15-1881 FINALLY ADOPTED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY ON FEBRUARY 17, 2015, ORIGINALLY ENTITLED "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF AN APPROXIMATE 4.176 ACRE TRACT OF LAND DESIGNATED AS BLOCK 47, LOTS 27 - 75 ON THE OFFICIAL HIGHLAND PARK TAX MAP, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (THE "BOROUGH"); APPROPRIATING \$1,860,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,767,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF", AS PREVIOUSLY AMENDED BY BOND ORDINANCE NUMBER 15-1894 FINALLY ADOPTED ON OCTOBER 1, 2015 AND BY BOND ORDINANCE NUMBER 15-1897 FINALLY ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 1, 2015, TO INCREASE THE APPROPRIATION THEREIN BY \$5,000,000, TO INCREASE THE AUTHORIZATION OF BONDS OR NOTES THEREIN BY \$4,750,000 TO FINANCE PART OF THE ADDITIONAL COSTS THEREOF, AND TO AMEND THE DESCRIPTION SET FORTH THEREIN TO INCLUDE THE ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY IN THE BOROUGH, passed on final reading at this meeting be delivered to the Mayor for his approval, and if approved by him, that the same be recorded in full by the Borough Clerk in a proper book kept for that purpose, and be advertised by publishing the same by title in the "Home News Tribune", of East Brunswick, New Jersey, a newspaper published in the County of Middlesex and circulating in this municipality, there being no newspaper published in this municipality, in the manner prescribed by law.

The Clerk reported advertising an ordinance entitled, ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY, ADOPTING A REDEVELOPMENT PLAN AMENDMENT RELATING TO BLOCK 173, LOTS 36 AND 37 IN THE BOROUGH PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et seq for consideration of passage on final reading by title and that affidavits of publication thereto are on file. She also reported that the ordinance had been posted and made available for public inspection as required by law.

On motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman George and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote, the above entitled ordinance was taken up on final reading by title.

Mayor Brill Mittler declared the public hearing on the ordinance open to all officials and persons present and called upon all those wishing to speak for or against the ordinance to do so.

No one appearing to be heard and no objections having been received in writing, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

On motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman George, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 17-1929, was duly adopted on final reading by title by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hersh, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

The following resolution, introduced by Economic Development and Planning Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:

No. 2-17-87

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance entitled, ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY, ADOPTING A REDEVELOPMENT PLAN AMENDMENT RELATING TO BLOCK 173, LOTS 36 AND 37 IN THE BOROUGH PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et seq. passed on final reading at this meeting be delivered to the Mayor for his approval, and if approved by him, that the same be recorded in full by the Borough Clerk in a proper book kept for that purpose, and be advertised by publishing the same by title in the "Home News Tribune", of East Brunswick, New Jersey, a newspaper published in the County of Middlesex and circulating in this municipality, there being no newspaper published in this municipality, in the manner prescribed by law.

The Clerk reported advertising an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, CHAPTER VII, "TRAFFIC" for consideration of passage on final reading by title and that affidavits of publication thereto are on file. She also reported that the ordinance had been posted and made available for public inspection as required by law.

On motion made by Councilwoman Foster-Dublin, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote, the above entitled ordinance was taken up on final reading by title.

Mayor Brill Mittler declared the public hearing on the ordinance open to all officials and persons present and called upon all those wishing to speak for or against the ordinance to do so.

No one appearing to be heard and no objections having been received in writing, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

On motion made by Councilwoman Foster-Dublin, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 17-1930, was duly adopted on final reading by title by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hersh, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

The following resolution, introduced by Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilwoman Foster-Dublin, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:

No. 2-17-88

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, CHAPTER VII, "TRAFFIC" passed on final reading at this meeting be delivered to the Mayor for his approval, and if approved by him, that the same be recorded in full by the Borough Clerk in a proper book kept for that purpose, and be advertised by publishing the same by title in the "Home News Tribune", of East Brunswick, New Jersey, a newspaper published in the County of Middlesex and circulating in this municipality, there being no newspaper published in this municipality, in the manner prescribed by law.

The Clerk reported advertising an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, CHAPTER 16, "CLAIMS APPROVAL" for consideration of passage on final reading by title and that affidavits of publication thereto are on file. She also reported that the ordinance had been posted and made available for public inspection as required by law.

On motion made by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote, the above entitled ordinance was taken up on final reading by title.

Mayor Brill Mittler declared the public hearing on the ordinance open to all officials and persons present and called upon all those wishing to speak for or against the ordinance to do so.

No one appearing to be heard and no objections having been received in writing, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

On motion made by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 17-1931, was duly adopted on final reading by title by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hersh, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

The following resolution, introduced by Finance Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:

No. 2-17-89

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, CHAPTER 16, "CLAIMS APPROVAL" passed on final reading at this meeting be delivered to the Mayor for his approval, and if approved by him, that the same be recorded in full by the Borough Clerk in a proper book kept for that purpose, and be advertised by publishing the same by title in the "Home News Tribune", of East Brunswick, New Jersey, a newspaper published in the County of Middlesex and circulating in this municipality, there being no newspaper published in this municipality, in the manner prescribed by law.

The Clerk reported advertising an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, CHAPTER 64, "POLICE DEPARTMENT" for consideration of passage on final reading by title and that affidavits of publication thereto are on file. She also reported that the ordinance had been posted and made available for public inspection as required by law.

On motion made by Councilwoman Foster-Dublin, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote, the above entitled ordinance was taken up on final reading by title.

Mayor Brill Mittler declared the public hearing on the ordinance open to all officials and persons present and called upon all those wishing to speak for or against the ordinance to do so.

No one appearing to be heard and no objections having been received in writing, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

On motion made by Councilwoman Foster-Dublin, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 17-1932, was duly adopted on final reading by title by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hersh, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

The following resolution, introduced by Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilwoman Foster-Dublin, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:

No. 2-17-90

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, CHAPTER 64, "POLICE DEPARTMENT" passed on final reading at this meeting be delivered to the Mayor for his approval, and if approved by him, that the same be recorded in full by the Borough Clerk in a proper book kept for that purpose, and be advertised by publishing the same by title in the "Home News Tribune", of East Brunswick, New Jersey, a newspaper published in the County of Middlesex and circulating in this municipality, there being no newspaper published in this municipality, in the manner prescribed by law.

The Clerk reported that an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, CHAPTER 85, "AFFORDABLE HOUSING" had been introduced in writing by the Health and Human Services Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

On motion made by Councilman Hersh, seconded by Councilman George, the ordinance entitled as above was duly adopted on first reading by title by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hersh, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

The following resolution, introduced by the Health and Human Services Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilman Hersh, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:

No. 2-17-91

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, CHAPTER 85, "AFFORDABLE HOUSING" has been introduced and duly passed on first reading;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that this Council meet at the Borough Hall, 221 South Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, New Jersey, on Tuesday, March 7, 2017, at 7:00 PM, for the purpose of considering said Ordinance on final passage after public hearing thereon.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said a Notice of Pending Ordinance and Summary of said Ordinance be published once at least one (1) week prior to the time fixed for further consideration of said Ordinance for final passage in the "Home News Tribune", of East Brunswick, New Jersey, a newspaper published in the County of Middlesex and circulating in this municipality, there being no newspaper published daily in this municipality, together with a notice of the introduction thereof and of the time and place when and where said Ordinance will be further considered for final passage as aforesaid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of said Ordinance shall be posted on the bulletin board at Borough Hall, 221 South Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, New Jersey, forthwith and that the Borough Clerk have available in her office for the members of the general public of Highland Park copies of said Ordinance for those members of the general public who may request the same.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hersh, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

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No. 2-17-92

WHEREAS, a need has arisen to provide adequate funds for certain budget items pending adoption of the Local Municipal Budget for 2017 and NJSA 40A:4-20 provides for the making of emergency appropriations in such cases; and

WHEREAS, the total emergency temporary resolutions adopted in the year 2017 pursuant to the provisions of NJSA 40A:4-20 (Chapter 96, PL 1951), as amended, including this resolution, total \$5,244,497.63; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of Highland Park (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) that in accordance with NJSA 40A:4-20;

1. An emergency temporary appropriation be and the same is hereby made for the budgetary appropriations herein:

		2017
	Account Number	TEMPORARY
		BUDGET
		#2
MAYOR & COUNCIL		
Salaries & Wages	20-110-1	8,259.00
Other Expenses	20-110-2	2,100.00
BOROUGH ADMINISTRATION		
Salaries & Wages	20-100-1	22,832.25
Other Expenses	20100-2	4,575.00
MUNICIPAL CLERK		
Salaries & Wages	20-120-1	36,518.50
Other Expenses	20-120-2	15,000.00
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY		
Salaries & Wages	20-140-1	16,065.25
Other Expenses	20-140-2	20,000.00
CENTRAL SERVICES		
Other Expenses	20-316-2	50,000.00
MOTOR POOL		
Salaries & Wages	26-315-1	18,070.75
Other Expenses	26-315-2	35,625.00
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION		
Salaries & Wages	20-130-1	32,689.50
Other Expenses	20-130-2	30,000.00
AUDIT SERVICES		
Other Expenses	20-135-2	0.00
TAX ASSESSMENT		
Salaries & Wages	20-150-1	11,576.75
Other Expenses	20-150-2	4,090.00
TAX COLLECTION		
Salaries & Wages	20-145-1	27,253.75
Other Expenses	20-145-2	3,875.00
LEGAL SERVICES		
Other Expenses	20-155-2	60,000.00
ENGINEERING & PLANNING		
Other Expenses	20-165-2	6,625.00
BUILDING & GROUNDS		
Salaries & Wages	26-310-1	10,597.50
Other Expenses	26-310-2	9,875.00
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION		
Other Expenses	27-335-2	1,000.00
PLANNING BOARD		
Other Expenses	21-180-2	6,875.00
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT		
Other Expenses	21-185-2	4,275.00
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION		
Other Expenses	21-191-2	763.75
CABLE TELEVISION		
Other Expenses	30-411-2	2,125.00
MUNICIPAL COURT		

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Salaries & Wages	43-490-1	50,893.50
Other Expenses	43-490-2	2,256.25

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PUBLIC DEFENDER		
Salaries & Wages	43-495-1	1,500.00
FIRE DEPARTMENT		
Salaries & Wages	25-265-1	45,000.00
Other Expenses	25-265-2	15,200.00
POLICE DEPARTMENT		
Salaries & Wages	25-240-1	850,008.50
Other Expenses	25-240-2	42,199.50
POLICE DISPATCH/911		
Salaries & Wages	25-250-1	55,515.25
Other Expenses	25-250-2	625.00
PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE		
Salaries & Wages	25-275-1	8,500.00
Other Expenses	25-275-2	
FIRST AID		
Contribution	25-260-2	6,500.00
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT		
Other Expenses	25-252-2	1,625.00
BOARD OF HEALTH		
Other Expenses	27-330-2	325.00
COMMUNITY SERVICES - AGING		
Salaries & Wages	28-371-1	58,779.50
Other Expenses	28-371-2	4,900.00
COMMUNITY SERVICES - RECREATION		
Salaries & Wages	28-370-1	4,405.00
Other Expenses	28-370-2	2,250.00
PUBLIC WORKS		
Salaries & Wages	26-290-1	258,872.50
Other Expenses	26-290-2	30,475.00
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
Other Expenses	20-170-2	13,825.00
ARTS COMMISSION		
Other Expenses	28-374-2	187.50
SHADE TREE COMMITTEE		
Other Expenses	28-375-2	625.00
UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE		
Salaries & Wages	22-195-1	86,374.00
Other Expenses	22-195-2	2,037.50
COMMUNICATIONS		
Salaries & Wages	20-105-1	23,395.00
Other Expenses	20-105-2	6,957.50
UNCLASSIFIED		
Gasoline	31-460-2	25,000.00
Electricity & Gas	31-430-2	100,000.00
Telephone & Telegraph	31-440-2	50,000.00
Street Lighting	31-435-2	75,000.00
Sanitary Landfill	32-465-2	200,000.00
Accumulated Sick & Vacation	30-415-1	0.00
STATUTORY EXPENDITURES		
Social Security System	36-472-2	78,441.00
Unemployment Compensation Insurance	23-225-2	0.00
INSURANCE		
General Liability/Workers Compensation	23-211-2	353,364.00
Employee Group Health	23-220-2	500,000.00
LIBRARY		
Library S & W	29-390-1	161,443.00
Library OE	29-390-2	212,000.00

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GARBAGE COLLECTION		
Apartment Collection	26-305-2	0.00
LOSAP		
Other Expenses	25-265-3	0.00
INTERLOCAL MUNICIPAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS		
County Health Services OE	42-401-2	10,750.00
M.C.I.A. RECYCLING		
Other Expenses	42-402-2	2,250.00
ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES		
Other Expenses	27-340-2	4,750.00
SUBTOTAL		0.00
GRANTS		0.00
NJ Sustainable Grant		0.00
EPA Cherry Hill		
Municipal Alliance		0.00
County Message Board		0.00
Body Camera		0.00
NJ DDEF		0.00
Recycling MCI A Grant		0.00
Smart Growth		0.00
Clean Communities		0.00
Subtotal		3,786,896.50
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	44-901-2	250,000.00
STATUTORY EXPENDITURES (OUTSIDE OF CAP)		
Public Employees' Retirement System	36-471-2	494,553.00
PFRS Other Expenses	36-475-2	730,680.00
DEBT SERVICE		
Bond Principal	45-920-2	1,250,000.00
BAN Principal	45-925-2	0.00
Interest on Bonds	45-930-2	323,294.00
Interest on Notes	45-935-2	44,289.00
Lease Agreement	45-950-2	256,063.00
EDA Loan	45-955-2	0.00
EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION	46-870-2	
SPECIAL EMERGENCY	46-875-2	
RESERVE FOR TAX APPEAL	46-876-2	0.00
RESERVE FOR UNCOLLECTED TAXES	50-899-2	0.00
Grand Total		5,616,253.50

WATER & SEWER

	2017
	TEMPORARY
	BUDGET
	#2
OPERATING	
Salaries & Wages	\$ 80,167.50
Other Expenses	\$ 1,000,000.00
Middlesex County MUA	\$ 75,796.88
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	
Capital Outlay	
DEBT SERVICE	
Payment of Bond Principal	\$ 430,000.00
Interest on Bonds	\$ 96,000.00
Interest on Notes	
DEP Waste Water Loan Repayment	
STATUTORY EXPENDITURES	
Public Employees' Retirement System	\$ 15,000.00
Social Security System	\$ 25,000.00
Deferred Charges	

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TOTAL	\$ 1,721,964.38
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2. Said emergency temporary appropriations will be provided for in the 2017 budget under the various captions listed herein.
3. A certified copy of this Resolution will be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

Resolution Nos. 2-17-93 through 2-17-101 were duly adopted on motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:
 Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hersh, Welkovits.
 Opposed: None.
 Absent: None.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 2-17-93

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Department of Public Works had a need to make emergency repairs to water mains at various locations, as more fully described on the attached quotation; and
 WHEREAS, J. Fletcher Creamer and Son, Inc. was called out to make said emergency repairs; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of the Department of Public Works has confirmed that said repairs were completed by J. Fletcher Creamer and Son, Inc. and payment is due to them for said repairs in the amount of \$120,748.76; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in the amount of \$120,748.76 in Account No. U-06-55-803-205 as reflected by the certification of funds by Chief Financial Officer, Kathleen Kovach shown below:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Finance Director shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to issue payment in the amount of \$120,748.76 to J. Fletcher Creamer and Son, Inc, 101 East Broadway, Hackensack, NJ 07601, for services in connection with said water main repairs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Superintendent of Public Works Donald Rish and Chief Financial Officer Kathleen Kovach, forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Recreation and Arts Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 2-17-94

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Arts Commission has obtained a grant from the Middlesex County Cultural and Historic Commission to retain the services of an artist for the Spoken Word Workshop; and

WHEREAS, said Arts Commission has reviewed the resumes received and recommends that an agreement be authorized with Angela Kariotis for a sum not to exceed \$1,250.00 for her artistic services as a part of the Spoken Word Workshop.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Highland Park Borough Council as follows:

1. The Mayor and Clerk of the Borough of Highland Park are hereby authorized and directed to enter into an agreement with Angela Kariotis for a sum not to exceed \$1,250.00 for her services for the Spoken Word Workshop as recommended by the Highland Park Arts Commission. The agreement authorized by this Resolution is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk and may be inspected during regular office hours.

2. A certified true copy of this Resolution and the Agreement shall be furnished to the Borough of Highland Park Arts Commission, Attn. Pandora Scooter upon its adoption.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 2-17-95

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Finance Director be and is hereby authorized and directed to remit to the following the amounts set opposite, the same being the amount of overpayment of 2017 1st quarter taxes for the properties indicated:

<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>REMITTEE</u>	<u>AMOUNT TO BE REMITTED</u>
169 (a.k.a. 301 Harrison Ave.)	44	Riverside Abstract 212 Second St., Ste. 502 Lakewood, NJ 08701	\$3,605.44
181 (a.k.a. 1413 Hudson Circle)	43	Authentic Title Services, Inc. 230 Passaic Avenue Fairfield, NJ 07004	\$3,013.09

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Finance Department and Tax Collector forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 2-17-96

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Department of Public Works has a need to make repairs to DPW Truck #5, as more fully described on the attached quotation; and

WHEREAS, quotes were solicited and only one quote was received as follows:
 Cambria Companies \$16,460.00

And

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of the Department of Public Works has recommended that said repairs be done by Cambria Companies based on their quote; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in the amount of \$16,460.00 in the following account, as reflected by the certification of funds by Chief Financial Officer Kathleen Kovach shown below:

<u>ACCOUNT NO.</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
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7-01-26-315-2PW

\$16,400.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Superintendent of Public Works is hereby authorized and directed to arrange for said repairs from Cambria Companies, PO Box 52202, Newark, NJ 07101-0220, at a total price of \$16,400.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Superintendent of Public Works Donald Rish and Chief Financial Officer Kathleen Kovach, forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 2-17-97

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Middlesex County Housing and Community Development Committee shall be and is hereby requested to approve the reprogramming of the following items under the Borough’s Block Grant Application, to wit:

FROM:

Street Lighting		<u>5,555.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$5,555.00

TO:

Streetscape Banners		<u>5,555.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$5,555.00

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 2-17-98

WHEREAS, regulatory agencies require that the water distribution and sewer collection systems require a licensed operator with both W-2 and C-2 licenses to oversee these systems; and

WHEREAS, Middlesex Water Company, who provides the treated water used in the Borough’s water distribution system, also provides licensed operator services to other municipal water and sewer systems and possess the required W-2 and C-2 licenses necessary to operate the Borough systems; and

WHEREAS, the Borough intends to award this contract as a professional service agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Borough desires to enter into an agreement with the Water Company for these services,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, that it does hereby authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement with Middlesex Water Company in a form approved by the Borough Attorney and consisting of terms and conditions consistent with the attached contract outline.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk shall send certified copies of this resolution to the following:

Richard M. Risoldi, Vice President, Subsidiary Operations, Middlesex Water Company, 1500 Ronson Road, Iselin, NJ 08830-3020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk publish a notice of this award or contract in accordance with the requirements of the Local Public Contracts Law.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 2-17-99

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Department of Public Works had a need to make emergency repairs to a manhole, as more fully described on the attached quotation; and

WHEREAS, quotes were solicited and only one quote was received as follows:

J.Fletcher Creamer & Son, Inc.	\$81,750.00
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And

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of the Department of Public Works has recommended that said repairs be done by J. Fletcher Creamer and Son, Inc. based on their quote; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in the amount of \$81,750.00 in Account Nos. U-06-55-802-205 and U-06-55-803-205, as reflected by the certification of funds by Chief Financial Officer, Kathleen Kovach shown below:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Finance Director shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to arrange for said repairs from J. Fletcher Creamer and Son, Inc, 101 East Broadway, Hackensack, NJ 07601, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Superintendent of Public Works Donald Rish and Chief Financial Officer Kathleen Kovach, forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 2-17-100

WHEREAS, Sustainable Highland Park would like to apply for a grant from Sustainable Jersey to support a recycling and waste reduction program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute and submit, on behalf of Sustainable Highland, the grant application to Sustainable Jersey, a copy of which is attached to the original of this resolution.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 2-17-101

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that all claims presented prior to this meeting as shown on a detailed list prepared by the Borough Treasurer, and which have been submitted and approved in accordance with Highland Park Ordinance No. 1004, shall be and the same are hereby approved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk shall include in the minutes of this meeting a statement as to all such claims approved as shown in a Bills List Journal in accordance with said Ordinance.

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The bills approved for payment at this meeting, Bills List 2/7/17 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 36.

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed John Marron to serve as a Regular Member of the Arts Commission for a term to expire August 1, 2020.

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed the following to serve as Members of the Recreation Advisory Committee for terms to expire December 31, 2017:

Jan Verstraete
Matthew Landis, Student Member
Sophie Woodward, Student Member

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed the following to serve as Regular Members of the Immigration & Refugee Task Force for terms to expire December 31, 2017:

Leticia Almeida
John Adler
Isabel Ruano
Tracy Cangiano

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed Donald Newton to serve as the Deputy OEM Coordinator for a term to expire December 31, 2018.

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed Marc Scheiner to serve as a Regular Member of the Shared Services Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2017.

The above appointments were confirmed on motion made by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hersh, Welkovits.
Opposed: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent: None.

The Clerk reported receipt of notification of the election of Volunteer Firefighter Miguel Rondon to the rolls of the Highland Park Volunteer Fire Department.

The above appointment was confirmed on motion made by Councilwoman Foster-Dublin, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hersh, Welkovits.
Opposed: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent: None.

Mayor Brill Mittler opened the meeting for public discussion and called upon all those wishing to speak to identify themselves. She noted that this public discussion session will be devoted to the resolution the Council will be considering regarding immigration and refugee status. That resolution represents the formalization of common and current existing practices here in Highland Park. It will require no additional public expenditure. It does not circumvent federal, state or county law. It can protect the Borough from adopting practices that might impose unfunded mandates.

Councilman Hersh commented that they started working on this approximately one year ago when they started working the NJ Alliance for Immigrant Justice. It is a state-wide organization that works to provide access to resources for new immigrants as well as awareness to immigrant related issues. They worked closely with the Borough on developing the municipal ID program which will get started this April and is available to all residents 14 and over and will also serve as a library card and serve as a primary proof of residency and will be accepted by all municipal agencies. The purpose is to provide a Government issued ID for those without State issued identification. To acquire the ID, there is a checklist, fairly extensive, and staff is undergoing training. Highland Park has an active and engaged immigrant population who have a lot of questions about what is happening here in town and on a Federal level. They are worried about family members in town and their status and they are worried about existing policy. The Borough felt it was important to affirm existing practices and provide a road map moving forward on additional resources that they think would be useful to the immigrant population. The essence of the resolution is an affirmation of existing practices and requires no additional public expenditure. This does not change enforcement practices; but it is necessary to formally state that we honor and protect all residents and it is not in the practice of our local law enforcement officers to question one's immigration status outside of Attorney General directive.

Mayor Brill Mittler advised that the Governing Body will not be voting on resolution tonight. Purpose of this meeting is to hear from the residents in town. She thanked Congressman Pallone for coming and asked that he provide information on the latest information coming out of Washington, DC.

Congressman Pallone commented that he is opposed to the Trump Administration's Executive Orders that came out today. The Department of Homeland Security issued a directive to carry out the President's Executive Orders. The practical thing to do with immigrants is to put them on a pathway to citizenship. If they have been here a certain number of years, they would have to pay a certain fee, learn English, pay their taxes, and not get involved in criminal activity (felony) and then work towards citizenship. The Executive Order talked about building a wall along the border with Mexico, increasing the number of patrol and ICE officials and increasing enforcement against those who are here undocumented. He feels these executive orders are very vague. The Department of Homeland Security issued a directive today to be more specific. The Refugee order banning refugees from certain countries has been put on hold by the court. The previous practice under President Obama had been that ICE went after people who committed or were suspected to have committed a felony. Today's directive is

much broader and says that ICE and immigration will seek out anyone who has committed any type of crime (violated any law). It specifically excludes those who come under DACA (kids) and excludes the parents of the kids. The problem with this, it provides for hiring more immigration officials, more border patrol and specifically encourages the federal government to enter into agreements with towns to deputize the local police to act as immigration officers. That program has been in existence for a number of years and very few towns, municipalities or counties have signed up for that. There is no real definition for a sanctuary city or what a fair and welcoming city is. Generally speaking, it is a city that will not cooperate on a voluntary basis with the federal authorities. There is nothing preventing ICE from coming tomorrow and rounding up a bunch of people who are undocumented and Highland Park's Police force cannot do anything about that. However, if the Borough does not want to deputize their police or wants to express their opposition to these federal policies, or want to notify the citizenry of Highland Park about an ICE operation, these are things that towns can do if they want to be sanctuary cities or a fair and welcoming city. He is proud of the fact that Highland Park is considering such a resolution and that so many people would show up tonight is a great thing. This executive order is creating a lot of fear and he has had several calls in the last few days from Canada afraid that they will be deported. This is having a chilling effect on those who are undocumented or those who feel their immigration status might be in question.

Mayor Brill Mittler asked that anyone who wishes to speak limit their comments to 2-3 minutes and she asked that everyone be respectful.

Jeff Axelbank, 226 South 4th Avenue, commented that he is a psychologist in town and he read some excerpts from the American Psychological Association. "The Administration's proposed restrictions on refugees are likely to compound the stress and trauma already experienced by populations at risk for discrimination, limit scientific progress and increase stigma". "Such restrictions harm whole communities and society at large because it pits people against each other". He can say from his practice that a lot of people are scared and it is not good for mental health and not good for the community and the economy. He welcomes any act by the Governing Body that makes Highland Park a safe, fair and open community for immigrants and refugees.

David Hughes, 330 So. 3rd Avenue, commented that he is proud of Highland Park for its basic decency and humanity and he urged the Governing Body to pass the resolution in its entirety. He also spoke as a member of a Rutgers faculty union that has over 7,000 members, 700 of whom live in Highland Park. They pushed the administration of Rutgers University back in December to give its students, DACA and other undocumented students, the full protections of a sanctuary campus which Rutgers University is doing. The reason they did this was because they teach this student body and they want to continue teaching this student body and they do want the Federal Government under President Trump to be interfering with the learning experience at Rutgers. There is a loophole here because they realize that some of these students live in Highland Park. He implores the Governing Body to extend these same provisions and to formalize what you are already doing to protect Rutgers students and other people who lack documents in this country. Mayor Brill Mittler commented that she has received phone calls and emails from faculty members at Rutgers who were concerned about losing their positions because their visas were expiring. The process for renewing visas is so far behind schedule. She referred them to Congressman Pallone's office.

Resident, 439 South 5th Avenue, commented that he has been here for 8 years. He commented that if the Borough declares it is a sanctuary city more and more undocumented immigrants will move to town. In his opinion undocumented immigrants have low paying jobs and the town will not be able to collect enough taxes and house prices will go down and school quality will go down.

Jay Crosson, 113 Harper Street, commented that as a member of the Board of Health that what they are considering is important from a public health perspective. The Borough needs to make sure the public feels safe and comfortable to report health issues and infectious disease issues and not fear for deportation or breaking up their family when they share information with public health authorities. If the Borough deputizes their Police Department, it could expose the Borough to liability and risk if they enforce orders that are not legitimate. He encouraged the Borough to not get involved in the 287G program.

Anthony Digrigoli, Piscataway, commented that he attends church in Highland Park. He has friends that might be in trouble with this and they are his family and he loves them and they are great members of society and they should not be treated like anything less.

Anna Pairet, 344 Becker Street, conveyed her enthusiastic support for this resolution as a member of this community, as a member of the Rutgers community, and especially, as an immigrant. This protection is more important to our community. Today, the Department of Homeland Security issued two memos giving the Federal Government the ability to detain and deport all undocumented immigrants. The Trump Administration is also putting front and center what it calls a false multiplier. Now is the time to act, we have no time to waste. We must tell loud and clear to people at risk that we will do all we can to ensure their safety. Highland Park is next to Rutgers that has a diverse boy that includes undocumented students and we must think of protecting them also.

Ellen Webb, 20 South 1st Avenue, commented that she is a member of the Central Jersey Coalition Against Endless War and she is a longtime immigrant rights activist. Over the last several administrations, there have millions of immigrants who have been deported, but are now looking at major step up in enforcement. It is important that Highland Park make a very clear stand on this and against sharing information with them. She is fine with calling Highland Park "sanctuary" because it makes it clear about what Highland Park's stance is. Middlesex County is widely called a "sanctuary county" when it has never called itself that and has an extremely weak detainer policy. We should stand in solidarity

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with what other towns and states who are standing up and saying we are not going to do this and be part of the overall sanctuary movement. Highland Park is going to be on the side of justice.

Catherine Ambos, 418 Magnolia Street, commented that she is in favor of making Highland Park a sanctuary or welcoming city. She stands here today because two people fled Poland at the turn of the last century to find opportunity in New Jersey. She stands here today because two more people fled hunger in Ireland around the same time, eventually landing in New Jersey. The extreme vetting imposed on all four amounted to determining that they did not have tuberculosis. Do justly, love mercy, walk humble with God is inscribed on the cornerstone of one house of worship in Highland Park. The sentiment is echoed across the town and county. We need to continue reflecting those values in our lives and in our actions. Our local law enforcement efforts must continue to focus on keeping all residents of Highland Park safe, a job they do admirably. If our police became an arm of federal law enforcement against out of status immigrants in town, the trust between citizens and law enforcement would be broken. She urged them to make Highland Park a welcoming or sanctuary city.

Sheila Highsmith, 221 South 9th Avenue, commented that she is honored to be here tonight to lend support for any safe haven they can give to immigrants in the area. She was former chair of the Human Relations Commission and was brought in by Councilwoman Foster-Dublin and they have been in this fight to help immigrants since approximately 2005. Pastor Kaper-Dale asked them to partner with him when they started the ICE raids. In 2012, he provided sanctuary for the Indonesian immigrants. She is a forensics psychiatric social worker and it is stressful to hear what some of her clients talk about, but it is stressful to see enforcement agencies come at night and separate families. People are here trying to live right and give their families a better life and we should support them as best we can. There are criminal elements in our midst and they should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. We need to pull together as a people and work and help each other.

Dan Stern Cardinale, 221 Harper Street, thanked Congressman Pallone for being here and for his work on tri-committee health care bill back in 2009. He thinks we should give this resolution our full support. This country was built by immigrants and is better for having immigrants and our community will be better for it. He hopes that we don't use the assault that happened the other night as an excuse for scapegoating to try to decide who does or does not belong in town. Anybody who wants to be in Highland Park should be welcomed in Highland Park with open arms.

Jenny Chapman, 123 Magnolia Street, thanked the Council for working on this resolution and Congressman Pallone for being their voice in Washington, DC. The resolution is happening because we are all afraid and fearing for our neighbors and friends. It is not lost on any of us that it is starting out with targeting ethnic groups, religious groups, and people of color. She encouraged the Council to call it sanctuary city.

Helen Teitelbaum, 224 South 4th Avenue, commented that her beliefs on immigration are complicated, but under what is currently happening in this country she supports sanctuary and she hopes that Highland Park goes through with declaring itself a sanctuary town and thereby setting an example to surrounding towns who are also grappling with this issue. In her youth, she was active in the Soviet Jewish movement that allowed Jews to practice their faith and emigrate from the Soviet Union. This is the same regime that produced Vladimir Putin. She has not forgotten what it takes to stand up for what is right. For a decade she was a librarian to hundreds of students who came from undocumented families in New Brunswick. The thought of someone coming in at night and separating children from their parents is unimaginable. People talk about illegals getting healthcare and other benefits, but if they saw the conditions some of these families live and work under they might not complain. Instead of directing anger at the poor, why don't these people ask why our middle class doesn't get free or low cost healthcare as in Canada or Holland or Israel. To those who would say why can't undocumented immigrants just come legally like our ancestors did, the image we have is oversimplified. Unjust restrictions have always been a part of our immigration system. Her paternal cousins on her father's side only made it here because one brother bucked the trend and emigrated to New York at the end of the 1920's. Without his sponsorship, they would not have been able to come. Many of the undocumented families in our midst do not have the luxury of sponsorship. In 1928, the Supreme Court rejected the citizen application of her great, great aunt because of her political beliefs. There was a target on her head in Hungary during its anti-Semitic campaign. Luckily, she was allowed to stay, but under surveillance. One of President Trump's advisors from Hungary proudly wears the pin of the same group that terrorized Jews and liberals like her aunt. We need to educate ourselves and our children better on the history of immigration. We need to look at which politicians have stymied recent efforts in immigration reform.

Cassie Kingsberry, 919 Graham Street, commented that in the past week more than 600 immigrants have been detained ICE raids. We are told this is for the safety of US citizens, but we cannot trust ICE's definition of safety. In Seattle, ICE is detaining a young man who legally resides in the US under DACA, and has not been charged with a crime. In Arizona, a mother of 2 US born children was deported to Mexico following a routine check-in with her immigration officials after she has lived in the US for 21 years. This is how ICE is treating people who are not criminals, people who are following the rules. Her neighbors in Highland Park come from different continents and countries. She doesn't know if all of them are documented, if they were able to come here the right way, but she does know that their families don't deserve to be torn apart to fill deportation quotas. She knows that we should not toss out our belief in the right to due process because of what is on someone's passport. She knows that her immigrant neighbors have found a home in Highland Park just like she has. The federal government is interested in showing strength, not safety. We can choose not to comply with their scapegoating and unconstitutional actions. It is up to local governments to protect their residents and she urged them to pass a resolution that will do so.

Steve Schnetzer, Harrison Avenue, urged the Council to adopt the wording sanctuary city in the resolution. New Brunswick is not going to take this measure. Symbolism is very important and will send a powerful message to the undocumented residents that the town stands behind them and will protect them as much as they possibly can. It will send an important message to other communities, as Newark, Camden and Jersey City have already declared themselves as Sanctuary cities. Highland Park can set

an example by being one of the first small municipalities to do this. It is time to take a stand and call Highland Park a sanctuary city.

Herb Gross, Adelaide Gardens, commented that he enjoyed the Congressman's speech, but hoped that next time the Mayor can invite a Republican Congressman so that we can get opposing views. He is a registered Republican and he is very proud of President Trump and his policies. The past couple of days everyone has seen on television where he has authorized deportation of some 700 aliens. These 700 people were all convicted of crimes. President Trump is not picking on any particular group, but he is trying to run this country in a safe and orderly way.

Mayor Brill Mittler noted that Congressman Pallone was invited to the meeting as he is Highland Park's elected representative in Congress.

Ann Gowan, So. 2nd Avenue, thanked the Council for considering this resolution and add her voice to enthusiastically support it. She is a school board member, but she does not speak for the school board. She considers the children of Highland Park her family and that is why she ran for office. The idea that children are sitting around worried that their relatives could be taken from them is appalling. She thanked the Council for doing everything they can to not be complicit in that. The children whose parents are out of status are not aliens, they are family members, they are our neighbors and we have to protect them. She heard that there are questions about possible federal retaliation. If the federal government attempted to slash the school budget, there would be so much litigation and so many postponements that there would be a lengthy amount of time before we would feel the brunt of that. There could be attempts to retaliate against Highland Park but she thinks it is time as a community that we stand up and fight.

Hanina Hanoch, 223 Montgomery Street, commented that she is proud to be a resident of a town that wants to become a sanctuary city. In her 15 years of high school teaching, she has had a lot of undocumented students and most of them have been unusually hardworking and fully committed to contributing to this country. If they got caught in the deportation net and fear mongering it will be a great loss to our country.

Anna Ramirez, 315 Benner Street, thanked the Council for trying to make Highland Park safe for everybody. All immigrants are hardworking people and most are good people. The President says we have to make America great. We need to respect each other and work together and teach our children to respect everyone. We are here in this country to make this country greater.

Tina Weishaus, 143 North 5th Avenue, commented that she supports this resolution and should call it a sanctuary town and agrees with the man who said it is not a moment for timidity. Highland Park should take a very bold stand and we should be uniting with the other towns and cities around the state who have already done it and we should be serving as an example and model for other towns who are nervous about it. She hopes that the resolution is just the beginning of what Highland Park begins to do. This is getting worse every day and it is very frightening to the families and children to be afraid to bring their children to school or go to work. She is glad to see that there is a task force and she thinks that people in the town can be engaged. We have a tremendous community here that is willing to come out. She is a mental health person and she would work with the Borough. There are so many creative ideas and if it costs money, then it is money well spent for the town. We need to be taking a stand and showing that when you fight back that you are doing the right thing and are on the right side of history.

David Loewenstein, 116 South 4th Avenue, commented that his first charge for the Democrats is to stop arguing and go out and teach and show. Nobody is going after documented people. Unless you are here illegally, there is nothing to be frightened about. He spoke about undocumented college students who are taking the spots of our kids. It taxes our service each and every time somebody who is here that does not have health insurance. We are continuously called to take them to the hospital where they are going to get charity care. We don't have the right to say because something is illegal and we don't agree with it, we are going against it. If you are here legally, you have nothing to worry about. If you are here illegally, find a pathway to citizenship.

Jackie Zinberg, 239 South 6th Avenue, commented about her trials and tribulations about being a home healthcare aid and the danger she was in in certain neighborhoods. She is not in support of this resolution but does not want anyone to be treated badly.

Hava, 288A South 10th Avenue, commented that she is concerned about this resolution and that she could not obtain a copy of the draft resolution. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that the Task Force has been working a draft and it has gone through many changes. Part of the reason she asked for it not to be circulated is that it has not gone through legal review. The intention tonight was for the Governing Body to hear from the public their feelings about it. There is nothing in the last version that she saw that is different from anything that is currently done in Highland Park. Hava asked about the notification of ICE as that is not something that Highland Park does. Councilman Hersh noted that the current draft does include that but it is currently under review with the Borough Attorney. Any public safety issue that causes a disturbance in a neighborhood, it is standard practice to notify residents, however, ICE is not required to notify the Police Department when they come into town. If there is a public safety concern, residents will be notified. Hava commented that she does not want the Borough warning someone who has committed a crime that ICE is coming to get them. Chief Rizco noted that the Highland Park Police Department is still under orders by the Attorney General of New Jersey. If the Police Department arrests someone for an indictable crime or for drunk driving, they must ask for their immigration status. Otherwise, they are not permitted to ask. The Police Department responds when there is a judicial warrant issued by a Judge, which is different from an ICE detainment. Hava commented that her general attitude is that this resolution should not be passed, even though the Borough does not seem concerned about sanctions from the federal government. She cannot afford to pay 2.5% more on her property taxes. Mayor Brill Mittler commented that the Governing Body is concerned about the loss of federal funding and

that is a conversation they will have with legal counsel. Hava commented that fundamentally, passage of this resolution does not make immigrants safe. This is not a Highland Park issue; this is a personal issue. This is under the purview of the federal government and this is real misplaced use of our resources to try and make people feel safe about something we have no authority over.

Andrew Getraer, 801 South 2nd Avenue, commented that he is disappointed in the discourse tonight as this is a very complicated issue. It has been reduced to emotional heartache. He has watched in the news people being taken from their children and he does not want to see that happen in Highland Park. He does not want that to happen and he does not want Highland Park to be complicit in this. How does he explain to his kids that if Highland Park does not like a law, it doesn't enforce it? He wants to teach his children to respect the law. He wants to teach his children that civil disobedience has a place, but civil disobedience is something that citizens engage in, not something that a town engages in. What happens if we establish a sanctuary city and join in movements all over the country and establish the right of towns to negate laws that we disapprove of? We cannot establish this kind of precedent and remain a nation of law. Mayor Brill Mittler commented that there is nothing they would vote on or consider that would circumvent federal, state or county law. Nothing in the resolution that they are looking to do that would break the law. Mr. Getraer heard tonight from fellow citizens that we should take on labels that would break the law. To say that we are a sanctuary city is madness because it leads down a road to lawlessness. He wants to live in a nation of laws. He would like to see the Police Department affirm their right as the experts in this field to enforce the law appropriately as they see fit and they we don't respect the law and enforce the laws we don't like.

Rev. Seth Kaper-Dale, Reformed Church of Highland Park, commented that this resolution should be called sanctuary city and if there is anybody who knows the difference between sanctuary city and providing sanctuary, it is his church. The Borough was very gracious to allow them for 11 months to house 9 people who were able to stay with their children, who are US citizens, and who would have been deported and sent away under the Obama Administration. 2 million people were sent away by President Obama. He was the deporter in Chief and was an absolute disaster on immigration for the first 4 years. The 2nd 4 years, he changed his approach and now what is coming in place is more like Bush and the 1st 4 years of Obama. These Executive Orders are not carefully thought out and that link together all sorts of people as if they are all deportable categories of equal nature. The January 25th Executive Order on the security of the interior lists criminals in point A and then there are other categories of dubious people that will be the focus of deportation. His congregation is committed to offering physical sanctuary again and they hope that they can be a church offering that in a space where they have the blessing of the town. The creativity of an alert system is important and he hopes that it can be part of the resolution. The town has a chance to engage in the theatrics of love, whether that is something that should happen at a church or at a Borough, but we are all citizens in this mess and he believes that through some of these specific things with teeth in the resolution, we might actually guide the nation in what sanctuary cities look like. Low hanging fruit is what ICE goes for and we know that from 2006 when in one night 35 dads got taken from one complex, none of whom had a criminal deportation order. Since that moment, he has been fighting to not have people sent away. If you don't claim yourself as a sanctuary city, it feels like you are inviting your town to be low hanging fruit, which is why he is so upset with Mayor Cahill for his refusal to use that word.

Ruth Bickhardt, 307 Magnolia Street, commented that she was a refugee and was born in Germany. Her father had been arrested and her mother was fortunate enough to get him a visa out Germany via the United States to Panama. While her father was in the states, he realized it was going to be difficult to live there for 2 years until his number came up to emigrate to the United States. He changed his mind and went to Cuba and then sent for his wife and 2 children. They sailed on the St. Louis and could not dock and disembark and the ship turned around and England, France, Holland and Belgium agreed to take the passengers from the ship. They spent time in a small village in France until the war broke out and then they were housebound and they were asked to obey all laws. She spoke about someone they met who had never met a Jew and who took care of them by sending a chauffeur to pick them up daily and give them a place to prepare meals. He arranged for their passage to the train that took them to the ship. She spoke about seeing a person of color for the first time and how her mother told her that there are all kinds of people. To this day, she hears those words and she raised her children that way. Prejudice was never part of their lifestyle, conduct was what mattered, not the exterior part of your skin. They sailed the 2nd time via Halifax, Nova Scotia to Ellis Island in New York. They then sailed to Havana, Cuba where they reunited with her father and they spent a year there. She encouraged people to visit there as it is beautiful and the people are nice. Judge people, not by the color of their skin, but by their character, by the way they behave. She was interviewed by Rabbi Pesach Raymon Yeshiva and they made a movie of the interview. She received a letter from them with a copy of the film. She gave a copy of it to Gary Leslie and asked him to play it on HPTV.

Joe Cunha, 134 Exeter Street, commented that looking around he believes they already know what they are going to do and saying the public as a voice in this is a shame and is completely untrue.

Christine Espiritu, 112 South 5th Avenue, commented that Highland Park is a community of residents that should all feel safe and feel that they can speak their mind and come to law enforcement. If they feel threatened about being silenced or being deported for speaking up that just makes this community less safe. Based on assault that happened this past weekend, they should be all eyes and all ears and everybody in the community needs to speak what they want without feeling they will be deported or feel that there will be consequences.

Yung, Cedar Lane, commented that he respects all opinions expressed tonight. He lives in Highland Park for 2 years and loves the people here and the people that serve us. He suggested that they make sure that whatever they do should meet the goal of Highland Park and not affect the condition of the community. It is important to have a clear definition of the terminology of immigration. This policy change is important for our community and to provide more information to the residents. He would like a

report done that would show who is affected if this resolution is passed. He would like to be notified how the resolution would affect the current status of education, public safety, and many things. He would also like to know who would pay for the costs of this resolution.

Andrew Schwartz, 1412 Central Avenue, commented that this policy is about illegal immigrants and not immigrants. We have to understand that once you come here illegally, it causes a detriment to society and it causes a detriment to taxpaying citizens. According to the Department of Justice, 60% of crimes were committed by illegal immigrants. This is a very serious topic and he hopes that the Council takes this wholeheartedly and seriously. We have legal immigrants to worry about and their children and their safety.

Yu Bi, Cedar Lane, commented about the difference between legal and illegal immigrants. She came to this country on a student visa. She tried hard every year to maintain her legal status and stay in this country. We should encourage people to come to the country legally. They pay a lot of money to maintain their visas and to report to the government everything they do.

Isabella Rano, Adelaide Gardens, commented that everyone is entitled to their opinions, but there are facts. Undocumented people in this country do work, they pay taxes and pay social security that they will never be able to claim. We have to review where we are getting our information from. When people are convicted of a crime, they are deported after they serve their time. The only people who can't be deported are those that come from countries that don't take deportees. It is easy to criticize those who come here with or without a visa. People don't have any idea what it takes to get a visa from certain countries that have a certain relationship with the United States. You have to understand why people are coming and why they cannot get a visa. People are afraid about breaking the law, but the resolution being considered with not overstep federal law, etc. Having the Police Department of a town enforce immigration law costs money. She is in support of this resolution and is willing to help the town get this achieved. It is very shocking to hear all this misinformation and people need to check their attitudes about race.

Rachel Stein, 328 Magnolia Street, commented that she agreed with the last speaker. All her grandparents are immigrants. Her mother is an immigrant from Cuba and she thinks this country is a wonderful country in accepting people. There is no evidence that shows that illegal immigrants have higher rates of crime and she thinks that this is just preying on people's fears that are unfounded.

Rosanna, Overlook Development, commented that America is a country of immigrants and America is a country of law. She is an immigrant and it took her 10 years to get her final citizenship, but there is a way to do it legally and correctly. For those people coming here illegally, there are a lot of ways to do it legally.

Liz Estes, 311 North 4th Avenue, commented about her experience with the Reformed Church of Highland Park with the costs involved when a father is deported and the children are US citizens. It is a costly endeavor when these children are here rightfully according to the 14th Amendment. They found that when those fathers left those families fell apart because the wage earner who was working a job that nobody wanted was taken away and now there is no health insurance. The children went on Medicaid and there was no food so they got food stamps. They needed special services in the schools and that is one of the highest costs. It is a tremendous cost to not support resident children. When she supports people she is doing it for the US citizen children.

Hayden Hsiung, 411 South 5th Avenue, commented that he is an immigrant and came here when he was 12 years old. He remembers the compassion that the townsfolk in a little town in Ohio showed to him and his family and that is what makes America such a wonderful place. He understands the opposite point of view with legal and illegal immigrants. He has 2 young daughters and over the weekend a woman was sexually assaulted at gunpoint. Our streets don't feel safe anymore. His concern is that the issue of public safety is being overlooked by this debate. He asked that Council give ample time for a public hearing on ways to improve our public safety.

Sung Cheng, 1600 Parker Road, commented that he is an immigrant and loves this country and greatly appreciates the opportunity to work here and live here. He is not against undocumented immigrants or refugees. He doesn't want them to get deported, however, he thinks that should be governed at the federal level. He doesn't think it is an urgent issue for Highland Park Borough. He asked how this resolution would be passed, just by the Council or by all the residents. Borough Attorney Schmierer advised that the process would that after the Council gathers all the information and discusses it, they would put together a written document called a resolution, and that resolution would be considered and adopted by the Council. A resolution expresses the sentiments of the Council.

Mayor Brill Mittler thanked the residents for their input and hopes they will continue to provide input. If you have concerns about public safety you may reach out to Councilwoman Foster-Dublin.

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman Fine, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 9:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Hullings
Borough Clerk