2008 BUSINESS RETENTION SUMMIT

March 26, 2008

9 a.m.

Held at The

FRANK GUARACINI, JR., FINE & PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

CUMBERLAND COUNTY COLLEGE

Vineland, NJ

HOSTED BY:

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

PRESENT:

LOUIS MAGAZZU, Freeholder Director

KIMBERLY WOOD, Director of Planning & Economic Development

PANEL PRESENT:

HARRY STONE, Cooperative Business Assistance Corporation

CAROL WATIES, New Jersey Small Business Development Centers

KEN DREWS, U. S. Rural Development

DENISE JACKSON, Millville/Vineland Urban Enterprise Zone Program

ALBERT KELLY, Tri-County Community Action Agency

LAURA WALLICK, New Jersey Economic Development Authority

MIKE RUSSO, New Jersey Department of Transportation

SHERRY THOMPSON, New Jersey Department of Labor

DAN RYAN, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

LAUREN MOORE, New Jersey Commerce and Economic Growth

DARLENE BARBER, Cumberland County Technical Education Center

DANTE RIETI, Cumberland County One-Stop Career Center Cumberland Salem Workforce Investment Board

STEVE WYMBS, Cumberland County Improvement Authority

JEANNE MacDONALD, Cumberland Empowerment Zone Corporation

DR. KEN ENDER, Cumberland County College INDEX

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PROCEEDINGS 1 * * * 2 3 MS. WOOD: We have a couple of 4 housekeeping items. First off, I'm Kimberly Wood. 5 I'm with the Cumberland County Department of 6 Planning and Development, and I want to thank you 7 all for taking time out of your business day to come 8 and be with us. 9 We have a transcriber here to take some notes about the morning and some of your comments so 10 11 that we can really take a hard look at the issues 12 that you will be raising today. So when you get up 13 to the microphone, if you would please speak clearly and slowly, your name, your full name, your company, 14 15 and the town that you're from, that would be a big

16 help; and panelists, if you could also do the same 17 if you have a need to respond to anything that 18 you're hearing from the floor.

I think with that said, I would like to ask the Freeholder Director Lou Magazzu to come up to the podium and join us and welcome us here today. MR. MAGAZZU: Thank you, Kim. Good morning everyone. First of all, let me welcome everyone to the Summit and ask you to join me, please, in the flag salute. (Flag salute.)

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MR. MAGAZZU: First let me thank 2 everyone for coming. We have around 200 folks, 3 4 about 200 who have registered, and we certainly 5 appreciate your participation. Let me also do a 6 little bit of housekeeping myself before we begin 7 this, and I'm going to change the rules a little bit 8 for our panel, if you would, because I think that we're going to have a little bit of time. I'm going 9 10 to ask you to introduce yourselves and give a one or 11 two-minute -- not a full presentation -- I know Kim 12 told you there would not be a presentation, but just 13 a two-minute overview of who you are and who you 14 represent.

15 This Summit came out as an idea when I 16 spoke before the Vineland Chamber a couple of months ago, and it was to find a way to assist businesses, 17 because one of the things that we've heard 18 throughout the time I have been an elected official 19 20 and others is you do a lot to bring new businesses 21 in, what are you doing for existing businesses; and 22 I thought that that had particular resonance because 23 of the recession you clearly see happening 24 throughout the rest of the country and what can we in a meaningful way do to assist businesses that are 25

1 in Cumberland County.

2 I want to thank the sponsors who have 3 assisted us in this; The Daily Journal, the 4 Bridgeton News, 2QBC, WSNJ, WVLT, the Bridgeton Area 5 Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Millville Chamber 6 of Commerce, the Greater Vineland Chamber of 7 Commerce, and the CEO Group. Can we have a round of 8 applause to thank our sponsors. 9 I want to also acknowledge the chairman of the Cumberland County Economic Development Board, 10 11 and that board has been very supportive for this 12 project as well as others that we have done 13 throughout the county, and that's Assemblyman Matt Milam. Matt, I saw you earlier. Kim is going to 14 15 give me a list of all the elected officials who are 16 in the room, because I cannot see through the glare. 17 So we can get that.

18 Let me also tell you we have got packets. You have packets that I want to identify 19 20 what we have here. First of all, this is a 21 prescription card. Now, you may be wondering why 22 did we give you a prescription card. One of the 23 things we tried to do is to be relevant. County 24 governments try to be relevant. In association with 25 the National Association of Counties, we have

entered into an agreement with this prescription 1 2 card program that costs nothing to the county or the 3 taxpayer. Literally every resident in this county 4 can use this card, and in conjunction with any 5 existing program they have, see which one is better 6 and more efficient and more affordable for 7 prescriptions. I would urge you to contact Kim 8 Wood, and we will give you as many of these as you need for your employees, and you can give them to 9 10 your employees. In the first three months of this 11 program, a thousand people have used it county-wide, 12 and it saved \$26,000, about 22 percent of 13 prescription costs. They don't have to pay anything. We don't have to pay anything. You don't 14 15 have to pay anything. Very rare that happens in 16 government, and it's because of the buying power of the National Association of Counties. 600 counties 17 are involved. Again, your employees are always 18 looking for benefits. This is one that we can give 19 20 to each of them without any cost to you. 21 Secondly, I would like to tell you about 22 a diagram that we have inside your packet, and it's 23 a diagram of all of the agencies that are here, and this is a two-tier type of form for the Summit. 24 First will be an opportunity for you to speak to 25

these folks here in a general way about the impact 1 2 that state or local government has both positive or 3 negative upon you, but then we thought this would be 4 an opportunity for one-on-one kind of meetings with 5 any state agencies or departments. What we would 6 ask you to do, if you haven't already done so, is 7 to -- you can actually leave for a moment if you 8 want to and sign up across the way, because we're trying to do it in an organized fashion so that 9 10 people will have the opportunity to consult. My 11 thought is here at this part of the conference you 12 have the opportunity to talk about general issues 13 and concerns and then across the street -- across 14 the way rather have the ability to speak to private type of issues. 15

We also have a Business Retention Summit 16 17 Evaluation Form that when this is over we would ask you to fill out. Your input is extraordinarily 18 important to us, and we would ask you to fill that 19 20 out. In the event we make this an annual event or 21 for future events, your input would be helpful. 22 Now, I would ask you to hold your 23 applause, and I'm going to just ask for these folks 24 to stand, and if we've missed anybody, it's Kim's fault. 25

Freeholder and former Director Doug 1 Rainear, Mayor George Garrison, Mayor Perry Barse, 2 3 DRBA Commissioner, County Treasurer Gary Simmerman, 4 and Bridgeton Councilman Albert Kelly. If we could 5 give recognition to these elected officials. 6 Now, what I would like to do is 7 acknowledge and also recognize our panelists, and I 8 want to indicate that the seating arrangements -and I also want to thank Kim Wood and De'Ann James 9 in her office, who have done a great job for me. 10 11 Kim, thank you. 12 Kim remembers when I was the director 13 years ago, and the worst phrase in the world was I 14 have an idea, and I had that phrase at the Vineland Chamber event to try to do this, and in a matter of 15 16 probably six weeks, she has put this event together. 17 But I also want to reference that Kim 18 put the seating arrangement together. So I want to indicate the seating arrangement was put together 19 20 before we read any articles or editorials about 21 people possibly going to greener pastures. So their 22 seating has nothing to do with where we expect them 23 to be in the next week or two. With that, from my far left is the college president, Dr. Ken Ender. 24 25 Thank you for being here.

And also Jeannine MacDonald from the 1 Cumberland Empowerment Zone. Jeannine, thank you. 2 3 Steve Wymbs from the Cumberland County 4 Improvement Authority. Steve, thank you very much 5 for being here. 6 Dante Rieti, the executive director of 7 the Cumberland County One-Stop. He is here today. 8 Thank you. 9 Darlene Barber, the superintendent of Cumberland County Technical School. Thank you, 10 11 Darlene. 12 Lauren Moore from the New Jersey Commerce and Economic Growth Department. Thank you. 13 Now, this gentleman, I promised if any 14 bullets were going to come, I would take the bullet 15 because he is a long-term friend and he is a 16 17 terrific person from DEP. Dan Ryan from the Department of Environmental Protection. So, Dan, 18 I'll take the bullet if it comes. 19 Rich Byer, from the New Jersey 20 21 Department of Labor. Thank you, Rich. We 22 appreciate you being here. 23 (Sherry Thompson appeared on behalf of Rich Byer.) 24 25 MR. MAGAZZU: Okay. Well, then you know

what? We're going to find the Department of Labor. 1 2 Mike Russo from the New Jersey 3 Department of Transportation. 4 Laura Wallick for the New Jersey 5 Economic Development Authority. 6 Albert Kelly for Tri-County Community 7 Action Agency. 8 Denise Jackson from the Millville/Vineland UEZ. 9 Ken Drews from the U.S. Rural 10 11 Development. 12 Carol Waties from the New Jersey Small Business Development Centers. 13 Harry Stone from the Cooperative 14 15 Business Assistance Corporation. Also I understand the clerk of -- the 16 Cumberland County clerk is also here. Ms. Gloria 17 Noto. Please stand and be recognized. Gloria, the 18 rule is it's always best to be first or last for 19 20 recognition, so it works out. 21 Let me -- I'm going to ask starting from 22 Harry and working our way down if every member of 23 the panel would give about a two-minute summary of who they are and what they do. Then we're going to 24 invite folks starting with Paige Desiere from the 25

Vineland Chamber to come up to make any comments or 1 2 remarks, and then I really would like you to -- and 3 as I have traveled throughout the county, we have 4 heard and I have heard and Doug Rainear has heard 5 and others people talking about issues; this delay 6 cost me money or this problem has cost me a deal or 7 if I had a little more enthusiasm here, something 8 might happen.

9 I think one of the things we're doing --10 we have a court reporter here, and, therefore, it's 11 important that you identify yourself and who you are 12 before you speak. What we want to do is let these 13 folks know who are decision-makers and, frankly, impact decision-makers in an anecdotal way ways that 14 15 things have gone good or bad and ways that we can 16 improve that interaction, and as I said, afterwards 17 you're welcome to have one-on-one meetings with these folks as well as about ten others representing 18 state and local and county agencies in the -- across 19 20 the way, the Luciano Community Center. 21 But with that said, I'm going to start 22 on this side with Harry Stone and ask everyone if 23 they would spend a minute or two to talk about who

24 they are and who they represent, and then we will 25 begin with audience participation. 1 Please, panelists.

2 (Panelists now do their introductions.) 3 MR. MAGAZZU: Later on because I just 4 want to knowledge them, and I'm going to ask two of 5 them just to say a minute or two hello, but let me 6 first acknowledge that he arrived, Joe Pepitone. 7 Joe, thank you for being here. I appreciate it. 8 We have two state legislatures that are here, and I asked any of the elected officials who 9 10 are here not to make speeches, but I do want to 11 recognize the two state legislators, particularly 12 because one is our chair of the Economic Development 13 Board and the other is our state senator, and, frankly, both of you should know that every state 14 15 agency that we reached out to or department came 16 here today, which I thought was extraordinary. If I 17 could ask Assemblyman Milam and Senator Van Drew to come up just to say a few words, and then we will 18 19 get to the meeting. 20 SENATOR VAN DREW: It's always tough 21 with elected officials to only have a couple 22 minutes, but that's all you're really going to get. 23 I just want to primarily really congratulate this 24 freeholder board, Freeholder Director Magazzu and

25 the entire freeholder board, for doing this. This

is something that should be happening, quite
frankly, in each and every county throughout the
state of New Jersey. It is something that should be
happening in all of our major municipalities, and
you have done a good job, and it's something that
really is a role model in what should be done, as I
have said, throughout the state.

8 Let me just get to the point. The State 9 of New Jersey needs to be more business friendly. It's something that Milam and something that Albano 10 and myself actually issued a press release yesterday 11 12 where we said -- and we have asked the governor --13 and I don't know if he is going to do it or not, but 14 I'm hopeful that he will at least consider it, and it's been in a bipartisan way -- Assemblyman Malone 15 16 actually from the northern part of the state also 17 asked the same -- that we have a moratorium, a 18 moratorium on new regulations, a moratorium that essentially says you know what, let's catch our 19 20 breath in this State of New Jersey, really analyze 21 what we're doing, and make sure that we have a 22 business environment that is business friendly, that 23 we stimulate business, that we create jobs, and that 24 we create economic energy. Quite frankly, that's 25 what we need to do.

We want to know how to get out of the 1 2 tax situation that we have in New Jersey, the 3 budgetary issues that we have. If we increase --4 the way to increase revenues is to increase economic 5 activity, and we said that we're going to be in our 6 legislative district -- there are two issues that we've said. One, that we are pledged to work with 7 8 this freeholder board in Cumberland County and do whatever it is we need to do to make sure -- and I'm 9 10 proud that all our state agencies are here -- that 11 our state agencies are at their beck and call in 12 doing what they need, because you do have a proactive board of freeholders. 13 And, secondly, what we've said at our 14 15 level, at the senate level, and at the assembly 16 level, is before we start pushing any new pieces of 17 legislation that have major appropriations with them or before we vote for any regulations, we're going 18 to be very careful, and, quite frankly, we're not 19 20 going to. We have got to stop and catch our breath

21 in New Jersey. It's been too much for too long. We 22 need to review our mandates, we need to review our 23 tax structure, and we need to incentivize business.

24 That's my message for today.

25 Thank you, guys, for having me.

1 ASSEMBLYMAN MILAM: Good morning, 2 everyone. It is an honor for me to be here, not 3 only as the chairman of the Economic Development 4 Board but also as an assemblyman for District 1 to 5 represent 240,000 people to bring what I have to 6 bring there, which is business. That's all I know. I was asked to do this a year ago by then 7 8 Assemblyman, Senator Van Drew, and I said what actually could I offer. He said you know what? 9 10 Your ear is on the street. You've got the business point, which is a very good thing, and I will tell 11 12 you after 74 days so far up here, all the rumors you 13 heard about the State of New Jersey are absolutely true. They are messed up, but there are solutions 14 15 as well; and you know what? If we can be a part of 16 the solutions and bring our views from South Jersey 17 and the views of you folks as well in South Jersey, 18 that's our job, and we plan to do that. We plan to keep working hard, and that's the only thing Senator 19 20 Van Drew asked me. He said can you work hard. I 21 said absolutely. I have been working for my dad for 22 like 31 years, so absolutely I do work hard, and we 23 have, and we are proving it.

It's a very exciting time for Cumberland County, because even though the state is in, you

know, the turmoil, the fiscal problems it is, you 1 2 know what? There is so many -- now that I see all 3 these other counties in the state, Cumberland County 4 has not stopped to wait to see what the state is 5 going to do. Cumberland County just keeps moving, 6 which makes me very, very glad to be part of this Economic Development Board. You know why? Because 7 8 I can represent business, and you know what? 9 Businesses are up to here with regulations, and I am very glad that our state department heads are here 10 to hear what is going on down here in the south. 11 12 Sometimes it does get forgotten, but with our voices 13 as strong as it is and with Director Magazzu in his role at NJAC, which is very, very important as well 14 because it gets our voice louder and louder. 15 16 Again, it is a pleasure to be here, and 17 Senator Van Drew, Assemblyman Albano, and myself are 18 here as your representatives. Thank you. MR. MAGAZZU: Thank you. We're going to 19 20 lead off with -- the representatives of all the 21 chambers have agreed to be the leadoff, and I want 22 to just thank all the chambers for their support of 23 this. Paige, if you would come up and encourage 24 your members to ask any questions and, frankly,

25 share any comments that you have from the time that

you've served, and you've done a great job for us. 1 2 MS. DESIERE: Good morning. 3 Congratulations for being here. When I look out 4 into the audience, what I see is a group of the 5 leaders. I know I have worked with many of you on 6 various projects and issues over the years, and I 7 really mean that. You all are like the voice of 8 business. You're here today for a reason. To that end -- and kudos to the county and the Board of 9 10 Chosen Freeholders for the structure that they chose 11 for this event -- you have a tremendous opportunity 12 this morning to talk about your issues, talk about 13 your problems, talk to these agencies. They are not here to talk to you. They are not here to give 14 15 speeches to you. They are here to hear your 16 concerns and to hear what you face every day. So 17 please take advantage of that opportunity. We are getting ready to start, and they are waiting. 18 Thev have introduced themselves. You know who is 19 20 present. Take advantage of the opportunity to tell 21 them what you think on a daily basis. 22 Don't forget also after this open 23 session, there are tables on the other side. You 24 sign up. You can meet one-on-one. If you have

specific questions, if you have issues that you

25

would like to get into more detail with and get 1 2 answers from them, then have the one-on-one 3 conversation. There is that opportunity as well. 4 That will take place after this open mic session. 5 Congratulations, once again, to all the 6 people who are tending and to the county, and I 7 think we're going to get started. 8 MR. MAGAZZU: We sure are. Thank you 9 very much, Paige. 10 We are so fortunate in terms of the chambers involved in all the communities, and thank 11 12 you for that. Now really is your opportunity. We 13 had about twenty-five minutes with these folks, who 14 had about two minutes each to speak, we had about 15 three or four minutes for our elected officials, but 16 this is really about you. I am hopeful that we will 17 have a lineup of people who will in a respectful way but in a serious way talk about some of the problems 18 that they have had. 19

A note was given to Kim Wood by someone who said that you provide a fine array of solutions and search for problems, but really are the problems based on Cumberland County businesses. This certainly is the forum to talk about the kind of problems that you face either on your own or you

could use some assistance or where there is an
 impediment because of what you see from any of these
 entities.

4 So I would encourage people to come up. 5 Please identify yourself. Identify your business 6 and who you are and where you come from and what 7 issue you would like to present. Don't be bashful. 8 We got all these people down here. Come on down 9 here. Thank you, and I didn't bring my glasses. So 10 you have to identify yourself.

MS. LODS: Marianne Lods. Good morning.
Marianne Lods with the Millville Development
Corporation, and we are the management entity for
the Glasstown Arts District.

15 Steve Wymbs brought up the tourism, 16 which was on my mind, and it is one of our biggest 17 industries in Cumberland County and growing. It's 18 my suggestion, idea. I would like to plant a seed, 19 whether it's with the CCIA and the county all 20 together. With the advent of New Jersey Motorsports 21 Park opening in July, I see a great need for a 22 shuttle system for the visitors and tourists that 23 will be attending small racing events and large 24 racing events at the Motorsports Park, and I think it's a great burden for any individual town, whether 25

1	it's Bridgeton and the zoo, townships, with Dutch
2	Neck Village, Millville with the Arts District and
3	Wheaton Arts and the river system, Vineland for its
4	future ideas with the Restaurant Row development. I
5	think it would be a service to the county to have a
6	regular shuttle system seven days a week from that
7	Motorsports Park going to each of the tourist
8	destinations within our county; and, again, I think
9	if that cost factor were spread among the entire
10	county, it would be much more affordable than any
11	city just taking it on, and it would also be
12	exclusive if a city did that kind of venture rather
13	than the county.
14	MR. MAGAZZU: Any comments?
15	MS. LODS: Well, I planted the seed.
16	MR. MAGAZZU: Well, you did, and I'm
17	going to make this a little bit interactive, and I
18	think that's a very good comment. I'm going to
19	ask and I don't because I think it's a very
20	good comment. I think particularly on weekends it
21	may make some sense when we have in terms of the
22	Motorsports, there will be several thousand people
23	coming every weekend as part of these clubs, and
24	then four or five or six times a year there will be
25	20 or 30 or 40,000 people coming for various races,

and I think the interaction makes a lot of sense. 1 2 We have expanded already the Cumberland 3 Transportation System. That was previously just for 4 seniors, and now we have done a work force 5 investment. In fact, Dante, if you could respond and talk about the limited model we have already 6 used -- and Marianne, thank you very much for the 7 8 suggestion -- the limited models that we have used. 9 Perhaps that could be built upon.

10 MR. RIETI: Well, not in direct response to your question, Marianne, because this is not a 11 12 system that we have run for what I think you're 13 looking at, but we operate transportation services 14 for work force purposes, and currently we have three 15 routes to operate. One connects the City of 16 Bridgeton to the Seabrook area, another connects the 17 downtown Vineland area to the Vineland Industrial Park, and the third is a direct route -- that's the 18 19 most recent one we just started a little over a year 20 ago -- it's a direct run from Bridgeton to Vineland 21 that runs straight out Landis Avenue called Landis 22 Avenue Express.

All of those are set up from schedules
that are related to work force issues, to move
people from the various cities to where the jobs are

1 at, from the downtown Vineland area to the 2 Industrial Park, individuals who live in Bridgeton 3 who are working at Clement Pappas, Seabrook Brothers 4 in the Upper Deerfield area, and vice versa, people 5 living in Upper Deerfield connect to the Bridgeton 6 area. All the schedules of those groups are all timed out to match the New Jersey Transit's main 7 8 line that runs or loops with the county, and we do 9 have currently a grant in that we're waiting for 10 funding on to do the same thing for the City of 11 Millville, which will run to downtown Millville, the 12 Millville Industrial Park, and also a second line 13 that would run from downtown Millville out to the 14 airport area in conjunction with the New Jersey 15 Motorsports Park.

That does not exist yet. The grant is 16 in. We're doing our follow-up on that. We believe 17 we will be funded. How soon we will be funded we 18 don't know. It's a function of the federal 19 20 government, the state government to move on that; 21 but it will partially deal with some of the issues 22 that Marianne brought up, but it's not intended to 23 be for tourism purposes. So it has some of those 24 uses, but it certainly could be expanded and looked 25 at in that manner.

1 MR. MAGAZZU: One of the -- and I would 2 ask every panelist to identify yourself, because we 3 are going to being making a record that will be also 4 put on our website.

5 There is another point that I think that needs to be made on this, and that is if I were 6 7 asking everybody to raise their hands to see how 8 many people think that's a good idea, probably 9 everybody would raise their hand. If I then said 10 how many people would be prepared to have their 11 taxes go up for that program, I suspect a lot of 12 hands would go down, because we do have so much 13 burden with tax. So the key is to try to find some 14 of these federal and state grants that we can 15 leverage, and then it's not quite as painful. 16 Sometimes they will do a 10 percent match or a 17 20 percent match. Sometimes will we partner with 18 the Improvement Authority, sometimes with a 19 developer.

20 You should also know that we have begun 21 discussions to try to broaden for the employment 22 purposes this transportation system, because we 23 found it to be very effective in Vineland and in the 24 Bridgeton, Upper Deerfield run, as Dante said, the 25 Millville run, and, frankly, to increase it even

more. Dante, how much do those riders pay? 1 2 MR. RIETI: There is no cost to the 3 riders. 4 MR. MAGAZZU: No cost at all. Okay. 5 Yes, sir. Please identify yourself. 6 MR. CIANCARELLI: Good morning. My name is Domenic Ciancarelli. My business is Precision 7 8 Electronic Glass located in Vineland, and I live in Millville, the best of both worlds. 9

10 One thing that has come to our area of concern recently -- and I think it's something that 11 12 the governmental agencies could help not only us but 13 many other small businesses with -- is international 14 marketing. There are great opportunities partly 15 because of the currency situation with the eruo and 16 things that are going on in China, which is such a 17 hungry market, that there are a lot of opportunities, but it's very difficult for small 18 businesses to handle that individually, and I'm not 19 20 just talking fluff. I mean we have sold things to 21 China, which I've taken, you know, great thrill with 22 because that's quite a twist. I mean we are always 23 buying from China, but now we are selling to China. 24 In the course of making a rather large 25 sale to China, what we ran into was a lot of

difficulty in the regulatory area because what we 1 2 were selling in this particular case went into 3 nuclear power plants. Well, all of a sudden, now 4 we're dealing with the NRC, we're dealing with the 5 Chinese embassy. I mean it was really a difficult 6 thing to get through, but we made the sale, and it 7 worked out very well, and we expect and hope to do 8 more.

9 Today I'm about to sign a contract to 10 promote us in China by translating our website into 11 Chinese and getting onto the Chinese version of 12 Google and doing those kinds of things; but trade 13 missions to this area helping us to develop a presence in the international markets I think would 14 15 be a great benefit to a lot of companies. There are 16 tremendous opportunities out there. Especially 17 China. I mean, you know, why is gas so high? The Chinese are buying a lot of oil. They are on a 18 terror in terms of development. So there are a lot 19 20 of things that we can get done in terms of marketing 21 there, but it's very hard for a small company to do 22 it individually.

23 MR. MAGAZZU: Thank you, Dom.
24 Anyone? Yes, please, and identify
25 yourself again for the court reporter.

MR. MOORE: Certainly. Lauren Moore 1 2 with the New Jersey Commerce Commission, and I 3 believe it was Domenic. Your timing is perfect. On 4 the 31st we have a Chinese delegation coming into 5 New Jersey. If you see me after -- and I apologize 6 for not mentioning this when we had introductions, but if you see me during our free session, I will be 7 8 glad to give you the information and connect you. 9 The Chinese delegation is coming in. We are meeting with them. About twenty representatives 10 11 will be in the delegation up in Newark at the Newark 12 Hilton up by the International Airport, and what 13 we're doing is we're having one-on-ones with the 14 delegation, and one of the areas that the Chinese delegation is interested in is electronics. So I'll 15 16 be glad to supply you with that information and have 17 you work with our International Trade Unit so you can meet one-on-one with the dignitaries from China 18 to be able to see if you can do some business with 19 20 them. 21 And our International Trade Unit will

21 also help you with any regulatory issues that you 23 have trying to set up deals with the delegation, and 24 we do that on a regular basis for different 25 companies. So it's important that periodically to

1 call our office.

2 We also reach out to companies to alert 3 them to delegations that are coming in. Maybe one 4 of the things that we can do better is be able to 5 get the word out about these delegations. 6 MR. MAGAZZU: I wanted to ask you, Mr. 7 Moore, do you do any kind of blast E-mails, for 8 example, to counties or economic development directors or anything like that, because that would 9 10 be a way to really get to know what's going on. 11 MR. MOORE: Yeah, and we do do that, and 12 I apologize if that didn't trickle its way here. 13 MR. MAGAZZU: We are delighted for your information. 14 15 Dom, any follow-up? MR. CIANCARELLI: Yeah. Just one quick 16 17 comment. I have worked with Jean Chang in the delegation. She is wonderful, a big help. The 18 other thing, though, I want to stress is really 19 20 something on the local level. 21 MR. MAGAZZU: I am going to follow up on 22 that. How many folks in this room would like to see 23 us develop some type of international marketing 24 program on some level? To how many businesses would it be helpful? About a dozen or so. 25

One of the things I would like you to 1 2 do, please, on the sheet where you're ranking the 3 event, the Evaluation Form, please indicate that an 4 international marketing program would be beneficial 5 to you, your company, and it's something that you 6 want to assist us in developing. I'm not looking 7 for money, but I'm looking for ideas. 8 Dom, thank you very much, and hopefully it will turn out to be additional assistance. 9 10 Yes, please. I'm sorry. All the way at the far end, and I apologize. The lights are 11 12 blinding me. So you have to identify yourself. 13 MR. HASENAUER: My name is Rick Hasenauer. I'm with Gerresheimer Glass, formerly 14 Kimble Glass, and just a couple of things. One, 15 16 we've had great service from Cumberland County 17 College. Vickie Simek has done a terrific job for us with respect to grant work and some of the 18 training. So I just want to echo that, and I'm very 19 20 appreciative of it. 21 But my question concerns energy. As a 22 glass company, it's a very big expense, and when you 23 look at the amount of gas that a company like us 24 purchases and you look at South Jersey and the fact that there are so many glass companies, it really --25

and not to restrict it simply to the glass industry, 1 2 but we're high users. There is a great use of gas, 3 and it would be quite helpful if there was a 4 business or industrial consortium that was able to 5 get guidance from or orchestration and coordination from a county or state agency. As individual 6 7 companies, very often there is even marketplace 8 competition, but on the supplier side, we could use 9 a great deal of assistance in something that's 10 escalating beyond the means of many companies, 11 perhaps smaller ones than ours; but at the same 12 time, as a group, we would certainly benefit from some assistance and coordination of an effort that 13 might help that New Jersey Friendly Initiative, New 14 15 Jersey Business Friendly Initiative really be 16 realized in a local level. So it's maybe again another seed, but it's a matter of some assistance 17 on the energy side, which is really spiralling and 18 creating quite a problem. 19

20 One other thing is we compete within our 21 company for getting jobs in New Jersey. We've got 22 some very good opportunities. We have been 23 expanding, as some people locally know, and we have 24 purchased some local companies, but we have been 25 expanding, and we will be doing so or continuing to

do so; and there is a choice we got, whether we 1 2 place those jobs in New Jersey or in other states 3 like Tennessee or New York or our parent company 4 operation in Georgia. We have got another operation 5 in North Carolina. We have got choices, and it 6 really means a lot when we can represent the 7 opportunities here in New Jersey, and we need 8 assistance to do that. 9 MR. MAGAZZU: Thank you. We would like 10 to respond. I think I saw Mr. Moore first, and then 11 identify yourself. MR. MOORE: Certainly. Lauren Moore 12 13 with the New Jersey Commerce Commission. I believe you said you were with Kimble Glass? 14 15 MR. HASENAUER: Yes. MR. MOORE: I believe the commission has 16 17 worked with Kimble through our Sales Tax Exemption 18 For Energy Program through the Urban Enterprise Zone, if I'm correct, for your commodity purchases 19 20 as well as transmission purchases. Companies that 21 are located in the UEZ right now, companies that 22 have reached 250 employees, are eligible for sales 23 tax exemption on your energy purchases, which takes 24 7 percent off your energy bill. 25 MR. MAGAZZU: I think Denise wants to

follow up on UEZ. Just identify yourself for the 1 2 reporter. 3 MS. JACKSON: My name is Denise Jackson, 4 Vineland/Millville UEZ. You do take advantage of 5 the Energy Sales Tax Program. 6 MR. HASENAUER: We do. Both of our 7 companies locally, which is Gerresheimer Glass, 8 formerly Kimble Glass, and Kimble Chase, which is a 9 joint venture with Thermo Fisher, J. Scientific, 10 which is what many local people would know as Kontes 11 Glass locally, but they are bigger than just that 12 location on national. MS. JACKSON: Right, but you are 13 certified as a --14 15 MR. HASENAUER: Yes. Both companies are 16 taking advantage of that aspect. 17 MS. JACKSON: Right, and it's the same forms, that any business manufacturer that employs 18 250 employees is eligible for an energy sales tax --19 20 MR. MAGAZZU: I'm going to either ask 21 Rick or really the two panelists. What type of 22 offset is that as a percentage? Does anybody know? 23 MR. MOORE: 7 percent is the sales tax 24 on purchases. 25 MR. MAGAZZU: Sales tax, but what Rick

is saying I think is that as increases have gone up 1 2 so substantially, although the 7 percent is 3 appreciated, it's not --4 MR. MOORE: You got to do better. 5 MR. MAGAZZU: You got to do better than 6 that. 7 MR. HASENAUER: I think that you got to 8 do much better than that. The tax relief is wonderful. It's outrageous with the administration 9 10 that we now have to go through to have that. 11 MR. MAGAZZU: Let's talk --12 MR. HASENAUER: But that aside, it's a great benefit. You have to work for that 13 administratively within your company to take 14 15 advantage of it. That aside, though, we're talking about the gas prices, we're talking about things 16 17 spiralling upward, and as a group, we might be served very well if someone can take a look at, 18 again, leadership in a business consortium or 19 industrial consortium, because businesses use that 20 21 kind of utility. 22 MR. MAGAZZU: Thank you. 23 MR. HASENAUER: Can we talk about the administrative end of it? 24 25 MR. MAGAZZU: Yeah.

MR. HASENAUER: Because I would like to 1 2 do that. 3 MR. MAGAZZU: Let me just ask how many 4 folks participate in the UEZ program, how many 5 businesses? Okay. Thank you. Put your hands down. 6 How many have found the administrative 7 regs over the last year and a half to be onerous, 8 more difficult? 9 This is a problem. I mean this is a huge problem. Okay, and this is an issue that I'm 10 11 going to raise certainly because I have heard about 12 it, and we need to raise it through our legislators. 13 Because there was some abuses in other UEZs, typically -- in typical fashion, they decided 14 15 to throw the baby out with the bath water and 16 made -- penalized everybody else. I think we need to revisit the whole regulatory process, because I 17 have heard over and over again how difficult, and 18 we're going to wind pushing people out of this 19 20 program. 21 Yes. Who is next? I saw -- yes. 22 MR. CATALANA: Hi. Carmine Catalana 23 from Cumberland Dairy. First of all, I appreciate this forum. As a suggestion, though, those of us 24 that run businesses, seven-thirty might have been a 25

nice start time, since we're at ten o'clock, and we 1 2 got to get back to running our business today. 3 We are very fortunate. We are going to 4 be celebrating our 75th year in business. My 5 grandfather started the business in Bridgeton. 6 We've had the good fortune to expand it several times, and one of the facilities that we sold off 7 8 four years ago has continued to expand in Bridgeton. 9 So we feel very fortunate.

10 But on the capital side of things, economic development, any additional help that we 11 12 can get there as far as from a financing perspective 13 is certainly appreciated; but the issue that I 14 face -- and I was going to bring up the issue on the energy side -- so I would just underscore that --15 16 because of the cost when we compete in other states 17 with the energy cost. Anything that we can do 18 there.

But the biggest one that affects us is the human capital side. I have read comments that the unemployment rate in the county, Cumberland County, is well in excess of 6 percent. We, like many of the other businesses that are sitting here, are selective in the people that we bring in. I don't know specifically who those 6 percent are that

1	are unemployed. I would tell you the bulk of our
2	employees, because we do criminal background checks,
3	because we do drug testing we work with One-Stop
4	Center to help us with this. The lion share of the
5	people that we get are I would say unemployable, and
6	the employers that are in this room and some in the
7	area you know, we're in some cases we're
8	taking employees from each other, and that's really
9	counterproductive when we're talking about trying to
10	do something here as a county, and we've had to go
11	further outside the county in order to get
12	employees. We have quite a few people actually
13	driving in from Pennsylvania every day.
14	So I don't know what I don't have a
15	specific question or something that I'm looking to
16	have an answer with, but I would tell you that on
17	the drug testing and criminal background check side
18	of things, we certainly take out a large percentage
19	of that work force there, and it makes it very
20	difficult then when and, again, you're really
21	taking employees from other companies, and that
22	makes it difficult to operate in this county.
23	MR. MAGAZZU: Let me just respond ask
24	a question while Mr. Catalana is still here. Is
25	there a statistic as to how many folks are
1 institutional -- or chronically unemployed or 2 unemployable? I mean that 6 percent -- what's 3 really available? Does anybody have that kind of 4 data?

5 MR. RIETI: I don't have a specific 6 statistic on that, Lou, but I can certainly find 7 that out. A guess would be about one-half that 8 population is a transient unemployed, just moving 9 from one job to the other, lost employment due to a 10 layoff at a facility, has skill capability to go 11 back.

12 The other half is that chronically 13 unemployed group. You know through your use of the 14 One-Stop Center what we try to do. We look at 15 ourselves as a value added situation for 16 individuals. If someone comes into our One-Stop 17 Center, lacks those skills, we can do everything possible to increase their academic skills to help 18 them improve their work ethic, which is probably the 19 20 biggest barrier that we run into outside of the drug 21 and alcohol and the criminal background checks, and 22 we also provide the occupational skill assistance 23 necessary through our connections with the colleges 24 and whatnot. So all we can do is try to add that value of service to its individuals. 25

1 There is a population that's very, very 2 difficult to work with. They are -- we can place 3 them, and we see them again two or three months 4 later. We place them again, and we will see them 5 two or three months later. It's a development 6 process. It's something that doesn't get cured 7 overnight.

8 I will tell you Cumberland County is not 9 alone. If you were in Salem County, if you were in 10 Bergen County, if you were in most other states in 11 this country, you would find the same information coming from employers. There is a part of the work 12 13 force that's very difficult to be employed. We will continue to work on that. We will continue to put 14 15 the resources of One-Stop full services activity. 16 We will do the best we can.

17 MR. CATALANA: Just a quick comment on that, and we have worked with the One-Stop Center 18 trying to do that. My only caveat with that is that 19 20 when listening to the media or what have you --21 we're talking about -- again, this is not exclusive 22 to our company and many of the other people that are 23 in here. We're talking competitive wages, we're 24 talking about fine benefits, we're talking about a 25 worker friendly environment, all of those kind of

1 things, and it's still difficult to get people.

2 So respectfully, again, I don't have a 3 specific response I'm looking for. You wanted to 4 hear what's -- know the things that are affecting 5 our businesses, and when I hear about we want to 6 bring in new stuff -- I'm a motorsports fan. I'm 7 glad to see the Motorsports Park coming here; but as 8 new businesses come in, those of us that are in the room, it makes it even more difficult for us, 9 10 especially in this county.

11 MR. MAGAZZU: And I think that's a 12 double-edge sword certainly, and one of the points 13 to follow up on Mr. Catalana, we're not going to come up with solutions today. This is the beginning 14 15 of a dialogue certainly, but we are -- we will 16 within thirty days have a responsive paper on the 17 things that we hear today and develop a game plan. 18 The only other point that I'll reference is Dante and I talked about a month ago about 19 20 another project with Atlantic City about the 21 possibility of doing a bus service with the casinos, 22 to use some of our folks for the next wave, and he 23 made the observation to me that unlike fifteen or 24 twenty years or twenty-five years ago when the casinos came into the area, Cumberland County is in 25

a much less distressed state in terms of 1 2 unemployment than it was. We probably were in 3 15 percent or 18 percent unemployment twenty-five 4 years ago as opposed to 6 now. So that the \$8 or 5 \$10 an hour jobs just are not worth it for people to 6 bus to Atlantic City. The same type of dynamic here. The more success you have in bringing folks 7 8 in, the more difficult it becomes, and we understand 9 that.

10 I think -- I don't know if Ken Ender or 11 Darlene Barber want to respond in terms of any kinds 12 of programs that the college or the technical school 13 have in this regard.

MS. BARBER: Darlene Barber, Cumberland 14 County Tech. I think if you listen, business and 15 16 industry talk about those unemployable people and their needs in the industry, and it's difficult for 17 18 us as well as you to pull those people out of the 19 walls and make them available to you, but we tried 20 that this year with an Industrial Maintenance 21 Program. We put that together. Hopefully we will 22 have some people that are available, and we do have 23 some people that are currently working out of that 24 program. So we will continue to listen and 25 hopefully develop that population.

1 MR. MAGAZZU: Thank you. Ken? 2 DR. ENDER: The other only thing I would 3 add is I think there is a large segment of jobs that 4 require fairly sophisticated technical skills, and 5 most of the employers are not looking out for 6 college graduates, but they are looking for high school graduates that have strong skill sets and 7 8 have the capacity to learn, which is more important 9 than anything else when you're changing jobs. 10 My own feeling is that we lose a ton of talent in high school that simply are just not 11 12 aware, and parents aren't aware about the kind of 13 opportunities that could be available in Cumberland County if they had the necessary skill sets to go 14 15 into those jobs and then to continue on with the 16 rest of their lives; and I think we have got to do a 17 much better job county-wide in exposing talented kids in high school to the kind of skills that they 18 are going to need to acquire to sustain a lifestyle 19 20 here in this county. 21 And, Carmine, I think your kind of job 22 fits that more specifically, and most kids don't 23 have any idea (inaudible), and by the time they 24 become aware, it is too late for them to get started

25 learning what they should learn. We can't do much

with them except continue to work with a very tough 1 2 population. (Inaudible.) 3 4 MR. MAGAZZU: Ken, can you add another 5 minute or two to talk about the work that you've 6 done working with the high school superintendents on 7 the core areas. I think that also speaks to Mr. 8 Catalana's issue. 9 DR. ENDER: All right. MR. MAGAZZU: We also need you to talk 10 11 just a little bit louder. DR. ENDER: I really am not -- I just 12 don't have it all here today. I think one of the 13 most promising signs to this county have been the 14 15 kind of partnerships that are being developed and 16 continue to evolve between the county college, the county technical education center, and the 17 vocational public institutions. 18 19 The fact of the matter is across our 20 county, 40 to 50 percent of our kids that start 21 ninth grade don't graduate. I mean like it or not, 22 that's the reality. The fact is that most of those 23 kids have got a ton of potential, and we've got to 24 figure out a way early on to expose them to what's out here and to challenge them to do things 25

differently and work with them in ways that we have not worked with before with our high school partners to expose them to these types of jobs and also to ensure that when they graduate, they have got the kind of skill sets required of them for the rest of their lives.

7 I have -- one of the things that -- one 8 of the things that I have never been able to find I think in my entire career -- I don't care how long 9 10 I've looked -- is the kind of openness and 11 receptivity that I have found from our county 12 superintendents to try to develop these types of 13 alliances with, and, frankly, I think that's our future. I absolutely believe that if we don't get 14 15 that right here in this county, in the region, 16 across this state, in this country, we have got a 17 long road to hoe with respect to being able to compete with the Chinas of the world. 18

19 The good news for Cumberland County is 20 we're heading in that direction, and I think we have 21 got to continue to hear voices like Carmen to remind 22 us.

23 MR. MAGAZZU: Thank you. Yes, sir.
24 Please identify yourself and who you represent.
25 MR. KUHAR: Thank you. My name is Tom

Kuhar. I'm here to introduce both to the panel and 1 2 to our audience the development that I am involved 3 with that I'm very excited about. We call it The 4 Glassworks, Where Business Comes Together. I'm sure 5 you won't recognize that by name as we just came up 6 with the name about a week ago. I actually have our first fax sheet on the property today, but I think 7 8 you will -- most of you will know the property as the former Wheaton Industry Worldwide headquarters. 9 10 This facility is a 168,000 square foot facility in 11 Millville at the corner of Wheaton Avenue and G 12 Streets.

Three friends of mine purchased that 13 property two years ago, and it is their vision and 14 my charge to try and bring this property back to its 15 16 former hay day. At one time not too along ago, this 17 property had about 400 employees just at that one property for Wheaton Industries. Today we have 18 approximately 100 to 125 people working at the 19 20 facility, and we think that we can get it back to at 21 least 300 people working there on a daily basis. 22 What our vision is is to basically 23 create a unique environment for working people to do 24 their business, and when we say Where Business Comes 25 Together, what we're talking about is basically

shared facilities. We are going to have -- we have 1 2 very unique conference facilities. We have a 3 200-seat auditorium on site. We have on-site 4 sleeping rooms, and the craftsmanship in this 5 building is something really to see. So I invite 6 all of you sincerely to take a look at this facility 7 at your convenience. We would welcome you to come 8 over and see what we're doing; but we're going to have a day-care service, we're going to have a 9 10 health and wellness center, we're looking to have an 11 on-site valet cleaning service, and things like 12 that, but it's going to be a challenge. To bring 13 200 people to Millville today is not going to be an easy task. I welcome any assistance that can be 14 15 given.

One of the things we're certainly 16 looking forward to is getting the word out about 17 this facility. I've worked with Kim Wood to this 18 point, and I have an appointment this coming week 19 20 with Denise Jackson, which I appreciate. So little 21 by little, we're going to start to see how we can 22 work together to do this, but I can assure you we 23 need all the help we can, and I think you would be 24 very proud of the results that we're going to 25 achieve at this facility.

So I thank Lou, and I thank all of you 1 2 for taking the time this morning. I look forward to 3 speaking with some of you on a continual basis. 4 MR. MAGAZZU: Thank you very much. 5 MR. KELLY: Mr. Magazzu? 6 MR. MAGAZZU: Yes, Mr. Kelly. 7 MR. KELLY: One of the things that 8 Tri-County does I think rather well is childcare, and I would be very interested in working with 9 10 Glassworks in helping them develop the childcare, 11 because we know that's the basis of everyone having 12 a job, is the need for childcare. So we are very 13 interested in talking to you after this meeting so that you can develop that and work with you to 14 15 develop that. MR. KUHAR: Thank you very much. 16 17 MR. MAGAZZU: Thank you. MR. MYERS: I'm Richard Myers. I'm the 18 19 senior pastor of the New Life Church, and I am here 20 with two issues. We worked with a consortium of 21 churches in Vineland, Bridgeton, and Millville, and 22 we deal with a lot of the people that you place over 23 and over again. We have Help and Hope Ministries. 24 We have a Second Chance Training Program that trains 25 these people to go into middle management level. We

have Prescription Drug that helps them get their medicines when they don't have it, fuel oil help for their homes, feed them. A new program coming out is called Everybody Eats in Millville.

5 And one of the biggest problems we have 6 is getting the people to the facilities.

7 Transportation is a problem here for us. We've got 8 the resources, but we can't deliver it to these 9 families, and most of the families that need this 10 kind of help, they can't hop the public bus because 11 there is no public bus around them.

12 So, number one, anything we can do to 13 help in that transportation mode of getting these 14 people just once a week -- that's all they need to 15 get there -- we can give them enough food for the 16 week, we can get them their prescription medicines, 17 we can get them whatever it is they need. We worked with Tri-County. We worked with the different 18 pastors, Pastor Ennis and Pastor Wilkins, and I know 19 20 he works with you in some of the programs that we 21 have. So transportation is a serious problem. 22 The second issue, being a church still 23 does not alleviate us from paying salaries and 24 benefits, and I was wondering if there was a way --25 because the second probably biggest expense we have

as a church and many of the small businesses is
 healthcare for our employees.

3 Is there any way that we could possibly 4 form some kind of a coalition, an organization, that 5 small businesses can join, thus negotiating with 6 healthcare, health insurers, a lower price and better benefits for us as a corporate group rather 7 8 than for each of us individually having to pay these benefits out. I know for us, we cover four 9 10 employees, and our cost is over \$56,000 a year just 11 in health insurance. So if there is anything we can 12 do in that area, in forming some kind of 13 conglomerate that small businesses could join and that could be the negotiating arm for this, it would 14 15 be a powerful entity and help us perhaps to reduce 16 some of those healthcare costs.

MR. MAGAZZU: Let me follow up on that, and then I'll go back to the panel. There is something called a Health Insurance Fund that is a joint fund that's put together. It's been done successfully in some of the areas of the country that I'm researching that businesses could participate in.

How many businesses would at least be interested in looking at participating in a more

global health insurance fund that would be a 1 county-wide type program? Well, that's pretty much 2 3 everybody. 4 Okay. Mr. Kelly, did you raise your 5 hand in agreement or --6 MR. KELLY: Yes. Two things. I was 7 sitting here thinking that we have a Business 8 Retention, but we also need to have the same type of summit for social services and nonprofits in 9 10 Cumberland County and the surrounding area because 11 of the problems that Pastor Myers was talking about. 12 Tomorrow I have a meeting in Trenton 13 with Social Services Agency on exactly what you're talking about, trying to put together a coalition of 14 15 nonprofits so that we can have a practical census so 16 that we can make it affordable for everyone in the 17 nonprofit sector to have health insurance, because that's the thing that's driving all of us to the 18 brink of disaster. 19 20 And so I got a model that I'm looking at 21 out of the State of Kentucky who was successful in 22 developing that, and I'm presenting that tomorrow 23 at the Department of Human Services tomorrow

24 morning. So I will be interested in talking to you
25 more about that.

MR. MAGAZZU: In your Evaluation Form, 1 2 please indicate that you would have interest in 3 participating or learning more about -- not even 4 participating -- learning more about a county-wide 5 health insurance fund. That will help us. 6 Mayor Barse, the great City of 7 Vineland. 8 MAYOR BARSE: Thank you, Director. Good 9 morning everyone. 10 Two points that I'm going to direct 11 primarily to Mr. Moore but just to the group in 12 general. I've had the good fortune to be part of the Vineland/Millville Urban Enterprise Zone Board 13 of Directors since its inception back in the mid 14 15 '80s, and we've ridden the peaks and valleys with that program, and it's been just a tremendous, 16 17 tremendous success story in Cumberland County with Vineland, Millville, and Bridgeton; but speaking for 18 Vineland and Millville and wearing two hats, as a 19 20 board member and also as a mayor and also as CPA in 21 private practice, I can tell you we are hellbent for 22 failure with this program with the way things have 23 become more and more onerous and more difficult to 24 operate, small and large businesses alike. 25 I am here to support those who made

those comments previously. Something has to be 1 2 done. I have been to meetings with the League of 3 Municipalities and spoke to the different people 4 from around the state and spoke with my colleagues, 5 who have worked very hard to try to keep this 6 program alive, and it's dying a slow death right now, and someone has got to start to answer these 7 8 problems. Everyone says, well, we're looking at it, we're trying to be more responsive, we're trying to 9 10 be more authoritative with this program. Whatever 11 the case may be, it's still dying a slow death. 12 MR. MOORE: You're specifically talking about the reimbursement --13 MAYOR BARSE: All different areas of the 14 15 Urban Enterprise Zone from across the board. I'll 16 be happy to spend time with you, go through the 17 detail with our director, Denise, and we're hearing these all the time. We did not used to hear these 18 problems because it was having a tremendous positive 19 20 effect in our county, particularly in Vineland and 21 Millville where I'm actively involved. 22 But I can tell you as a private 23 practitioner and wearing a governmental hat, you're 24 dying a slow death. It almost seems like a

25 self-fulfilling prophecy, and it's scary because

right now the State of New Jersey is not doing their
 fair share to keep business here and to attract
 business here.

4 The second point I would like to make is 5 something that just took place quite recently in my 6 city. We've had the good fortune to be working with a company from another part of the state who had 7 8 made a decision to leave the state. Five to six 9 hundred jobs. We met with them a week ago Saturday. 10 Director Jim Lelli and I met with them on a 11 Saturday. They came into town with a representative 12 from Commerce and Economic Growth. Had a great 13 meeting. We're working very hard to try to keep 14 them here, but the state's incentives, number one, 15 aren't coming up to par with what other states are 16 offering, and we're suffering, and we've seen that 17 time and time again.

18 And the second point I would like to 19 make is to commend your department because the 20 gentleman who came down to bring this company here 21 said he came on his own time on a Saturday because 22 of situations where he could not come during the 23 week, and he had to come on his own time on a 24 Saturday to bring this company into Vineland to talk 25 to us.

Now, I admire that gentleman. He is 1 2 doing a great job on his own time to try to keep a 3 company here in New Jersey. I think it's a little 4 disconcerting that he is on a Saturday morning 5 coming to bring this company -- this gentleman in 6 from this company who is trying to maybe relocate 7 here. I think there is a message there. I think we 8 have to be more aggressive with keeping business as well as to attract business. 9 10 MR. MAGAZZU: Thank you. 11 MR. MOORE: That's a little different 12 than the version that you have on why he came down 13 Saturday, but we can talk about that. MAYOR BARSE: The fact of the matter is 14 we spent a Saturday, which we're happy to do. If 15 it's a Saturday, Sunday, weekends, nights, we don't 16 17 care. If we're able to create jobs -- in the last eight years just in Vineland, we created 4,500 new 18 jobs. We're proud of that, but we want to create 19 20 more, but we need help from the top. 21 Assemblyman Milam made it very clear. 22 There are problems. Things have to be fixed. 23 Sooner or later we got to stop talking and we got to 24 start fixing, and we have been in the trenches fighting for jobs and trying to retain jobs here. 25

We need help. To spend money will help generate
 money as far as I'm concerned as far as the economic
 growth is concerned. We need to do something, and
 we got to stop talking.

5 MR. MOORE: I think we're here to help, 6 and that's why the gentleman came down, because we 7 were juggling the schedules.

8 MR. MAGAZZU: Well, we certainly have 9 time to have a dialogue privately afterwards. I 10 don't want to -- because we are going to break in a 11 few minutes to go to the private meeting.

12 Denise, do you want to follow up? 13 MS. JACKSON: Yes. What Mayor Barse said -- I mean I have a great board of directors, 14 15 both mayors of the cities, and as the administrator 16 of this program, they know it's a struggle all the time. We have 249 certified businesses in 17 Millville. It's a struggle to keep them certified 18 because of all the new regulations, all the 19 20 different changes to where -- if you don't have 21 advanced warning, it's just this is changing today, 22 quick, notify your businesses. In Vineland we have 23 680 businesses. Same thing. It's a struggle every 24 day to keep them certified to take advantage of the 25 program because of all the different changes in

regulations to where -- it seems like the state does 1 2 not want this program to last. It doesn't want this 3 in effect, and our assemblymen, our senators, they 4 fight for this program all the time. 5 So we definitely need changes to make it 6 easier for businesses to take advantage of programs 7 and to relocate here. 8 MR. MAGAZZU: I would ask any business that's part of the UEZ program to also put that in 9 their evaluation sheet. 10 11 I'm going to ask Denise. Do the 12 businesses have any kind of group where they work 13 together, they have dialogue together, they lobby together, they advocate together? 14 15 MS. JACKSON: Basically through the 16 Chamber of Commerce. They are a great advocacy for 17 businesses. We work with them personally, and we do 18 let them know issues or any tax changes, and they do get that for businesses. We do try and hold 19 20 quarterly workshops and seminars free to the 21 businesses just on these issues. 22 MR. MAGAZZU: Okay. Thank you. Is 23 there anyone else who wants to speak, because then 24 we're going to -- okay. 25 We're going to do a couple more, and

1 then we're going to break in about five or ten 2 minutes to go across the way for individual 3 meetings. I would urge you, particularly since 4 we've not had every participant have a question 5 posed to them, to meet with them.

6 To answer his question why we started at 7 eight-thirty instead of seven-thirty, some of these 8 folks drove about two hours, some even longer, some 9 a little less. So we thought eight-thirty was a 10 good time. Maybe we will move it up to eight next 11 time.

MR. BURNLEY: Thank you very much. My name is Scott Burnley, and actually I'm here -- it's my honor to represent Dutch Neck Village. We are one of the proud owners of the Village.

16 And one of the questions I had was with 17 respect to the More to Offer Program. My question is is there a grant funding or any application 18 towards the marketing via web on that aspect in 19 20 terms of ways people work together, having web 21 pages, hits, where we can maybe, you know, 22 cross-multiply our businesses with regard to 23 county-based businesses.

24 MR. WYMBS: We have absolutely no 25 problem with that. We have a program that is

partnered with all three chambers. That's an 1 2 interactive site. All of the participating chamber 3 members actually have links through the More to 4 Offer website. Each one of those then is 5 individually connected to a Map Quest type program 6 and/or an individual link to your own businesses. 7 There are advertising offers on the More to Offer 8 website, and we need to talk about additional 9 partnerships and whatever ideas you might think of. 10 MR. BURNLEY: In the project we're 11 doing -- you may have had heard about it -- we're 12 doing a 47-unit age-restricted housing development 13 around the Village. The Village is going to remain, and all the festivals and all the activities are 14 15 going to be celebrated and continue to go, but 16 that's very important as we move ahead to sort of 17 have that marketing campaign established. Thank you 18 very much. MR. WYMBS: No problem. 19 20 MR. MAGAZZU: Anyone else? Yes, Mr. 21 Brunner. 22 MR. BRUNNER: Serge Brunner with The 23 Espoma Company in Millville, New Jersey. We're a 24 manufacturer that's been there for -- next year will be our 80th year in the town. 25

1 A general comment that I would like to 2 make is that -- and in general I want to thank Lou 3 and everyone involved for this Business Retention 4 meeting, because like many business owners, I shake 5 my head sometimes at what's available to try and 6 bring someone in here and on the other end of the 7 scale to help someone who is just starting out; but 8 I would like to speak as someone from a successful company and some of the problems we have as a 9 10 successful company.

One, I'm really -- there has only been two things in 80 years that government has ever helped The Espoma Company in its growth. The Urban Enterprise Zone designation, and that help -- it was only one phase of it that helps us because we're not a retail organization. We're a manufacturer, and that was the relief we got with the sales tax.

18 It's so onerous now that we're in the 19 midst of evaluating whether to drop it because of 20 the paperwork and the person we have got to put on 21 dedicated to getting the reimbursement. We need to 22 figure out whether that's really worth our while or 23 just forget about it. So we are contemplating 24 dropping out of it because it's just not the win/win 25 that it once was.

1 The only other time that we participated 2 in a program and it failed for us was -- the New 3 Jersey Manufacturing Extension Service came to us 4 and said geez, we really think it's a great thing to 5 keep manufacturers in the country, in New Jersey, 6 and in our county, and is there anything that we can 7 do to help you.

8 And they came up with a deal that would help us become ISO 9000 certified, and we said, you 9 10 know, it's not critical to us, but we think this 11 would help us in our marketing and in our PR, and we 12 would like to do that; and we went through all the 13 procedures, we did everything, and then we were 14 turned down at the last moment, and we were turned 15 down because we're too successful. We were too 16 profitable, and the Department of Labor nixed the 17 deal.

And my point in bringing the story up to 18 the panel is, well, if we don't want to help 19 20 successful companies, who do you want to help. So 21 the general comment that I would like to make is 22 that as a successful company -- and the definition 23 keeps changes on what is a small business. I can 24 tell you that \$35,000 doesn't help me, doesn't help a successful business, and yet I consider myself a 25

1 small business.

2 Okay, and I don't keep up with all the 3 government things. I remember once when SBA said 4 that anything under \$20 million was a small 5 business, and I know Wall Street considers anything 6 less than a billion dollars a small business. 7 But my question is what -- we, like all 8 growing businesses, have capital constraints. We already committed to our capital improvements for 9 10 this coming year. We could do a lot more projects 11 if we could get more money. No one ever comes to us 12 or makes us aware of what's available for a 13 successful, profitable company that wants to keep growing and wants to keep the jobs here, and I can 14 15 tell you with the -- from the New Jersey Commerce 16 Economic Growth Department, there isn't a year that goes by and really not a month that goes by that 17 some other state isn't luring us, and I joke within 18 19 my company and to my employees that they offer me 20 tax abatements, they offer me work force assistance 21 and training, they offer to find me a place at low 22 cost because of the vacant buildings that exist in 23 other states, and I said the day they come to me and say they will help me move, I'm gone, because this 24 25 is a very expensive state to operate in.

And what we're looking for and what I 1 2 would appreciate is help for successful companies, 3 manufacturing companies, paying high wages to stay 4 here and help rationalize it. Thank you. 5 MR. MAGAZZU: Thank you. Let me just 6 have a follow-up, and first of all, I have to give applause to all successful businesses. If you see 7 8 the gentleman from Commerce or Labor, they can 9 respond to you. I'm particularly interested in the 10 ISO 9000. It seems to me to be a little bit inconsistent to say that you're too successful, that 11 12 they are not going to give you --MR. MOORE: I didn't understand the 13 comment. I can certainly do some research on that, 14 15 but I thought he mentioned that he was working with 16 the Department of Labor on that, on the ISO --17 MR. MAGAZZU: Yeah. MR. MOORE: -- training. Is that 18 19 accurate? 20 MR. BRUNNER: Yeah. What happened was 21 New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Service came in 22 and said look, there is a cost to implementing ISO 23 9000, and the deal that we struck was that we would 24 pay a small percentage of that cost, and there were 25 grants that the state would give us to help us

retain manufacturing companies in the state. 1 2 When it finally got to the Department of 3 Labor, they nixed it because they said look, they 4 are too profitable. Let them pay the whole cost 5 themselves, and it all fell through. 6 MR. MAGAZZU: The Labor issue, how long 7 ago was it, Serge? 8 MR. BRUNNER: A couple years. 9 MR. MOORE: Sounds like it was the Work Force Training Grant to help them through the ISO 10 11 training, and they put an application in to Labor 12 for that; and we can certainly look into it, and 13 certainly Sherry can look into it as well to see what's --14 15 MR. MAGAZZU: Yeah. Let me just speak 16 to the larger point. When those kinds of things 17 happen -- and this is no -- in any way disrespect to 18 Serge, who does a terrific job. I would ask you, though, to reach to your -- maybe Serge did, and I'm 19 20 not aware of it -- to your city economic development 21 directors or your county economic development 22 directors, get it to your mayor's attention in your 23 community or, frankly, a freeholder's attention, 24 because maybe we can follow up, because then we can 25 at least go to the state senator or assemblyman and

1 say this doesn't make any sense. Now, maybe on the 2 merits we can't change it, but maybe then you have 3 another look at the regs that these people are bound 4 by.

5 My point is I think that -- particularly 6 if the economy gets tough -- no one should accept no as the first answer or even maybe necessarily the 7 8 second answer, and I would urge you to try to follow 9 up with the municipal economic development 10 directors, between the townships, with the CCC, or 11 with Kim Wood, who does great work with the county, 12 because we want to be proactive. Although it's a 13 cliche, we try to find ways to be of assistance. 14 There are a number of companies in this room where 15 we have been an assistance to, and I take it in some 16 instances, it's because the inquiry is not made. 17 Let me follow up on the second point, 18 and that is about finding ways to assist businesses

19 that aren't in trouble, businesses that are good 20 businesses, businesses that aren't coming in but all 21 they want to do is expand their employees, expand 22 their inventory.

Does anybody up here, without getting into too much detail, have programs like that that can be helpful to people or entities as Serge has 1 described, or do they not exist? Yes.

2 MS. JACKSON: The UEZ loan program --MR. MAGAZZU: But I think that his point 3 4 is in terms of numbers, what's the biggest number 5 you lend out at this point? 6 MS. JACKSON: Don Ayres is here. You 7 can speak to him afterwards. The loan program is 8 tailored depending on what your specific needs are, but they do help with expansion of business. 9 MR. MAGAZZU: But what's the largest 10 11 that's given out? In the range, what's the max? 12 MS. JACKSON: Don Ayres is in the back. I don't know. 13 MR. MAGAZZU: Don? 14 15 MR. AYRES: Well, it's according to what 16 the project is. I'll be glad to speak with you. 17 MR. MAGAZZU: But in terms of just a range, what's the biggest given out? How many jobs 18 19 does that create? MR. AYRES: Probably 900,000 was the 20 21 largest we have done. Vineland certainly has a 22 bigger loan program, but that created about 200 23 jobs. 24 MR. MAGAZZU: Okay. MR. AYRES: But we are -- I wanted to 25

mention we are rolling out a brand-new program 1 2 strictly for existing businesses called the Grow 3 Millville Fund, and that will be a \$4 million loan 4 program, and that will be out and announced in about 5 a month, but I might as well get it out there now. 6 MR. MAGAZZU: I'm sure the mayor will 7 appreciate that. Thank you. 8 Anyone else? Yes, please. 9 MS. WALLICK: You might have heard earlier when I addressed about what the EDA does. 10 11 The EDA can issue tax exempt bonds for manufacturing 12 concerns. That can be issued for up to \$10 million, 13 and we work in conjunction with your lender to do either a direct purchase of that bond or a private 14 15 placement or a market issue. So there is a number 16 of ways that the bond transactions can happen. 17 And last year the federal government increased the capital expenditure limitation from 18 \$10 million over a six-year period to \$20 million to 19 20 try to make it more meaningful to the midsize 21 manufacturing concerns. So in addition to this 22 issue of tax exempt bonds, we can also issue 23 subordinate financing to kind of fill that gap, if 24 you will, and lower the cost of financing; but specifically those particular subordinate programs 25

at the lowest rate are targeted to the urban 1 2 municipalities, being Vineland, Millville, and 3 Bridgeton in Cumberland County. 4 MR. MAGAZZU: Okay. Yes. 5 MS. WATIES: Carol Waties. The Small 6 Business Development Administration does have loans, 7 and some of them can go up \$4 million, depending on 8 your expansion, if you're going to purchase a 9 building. There are loans for that. 10 MR. MAGAZZU: So there is some answers. I'm going to wrap up with Pearl because we've got to 11 12 go to the next part of the session. 13 MS. GIORDANO. Okay. I want to thank you for being here. I'm Pearl Giordano. I'm with 14 15 Limpert Brothers. It's a small company, and I'm 16 also active with Rutgers on the Board of Managers 17 with the Department of Agriculture. There is a couple of things that I want 18 to say. The talent that I see before me is talent 19 20 that small businesses sorely need. The chamber has 21 been a great vehicle for getting what you have 22 available to us, but we need a path. We need a path 23 to success. Dr. Ender mentioned partnerships. We 24 need partnerships. We need to know the services 25 that are available to us and for us, and we need --

you know, our state officials work for us, and your
 job is to help us become successful and to meet and
 address the needs that we have as individuals.

4 One of the areas that I am really 5 concerned with is the Agriculture Department, when 6 they say that they want to do away with it. We have 7 farmers. We're a farming community. We have so 8 many farmers that are out in the fields and probably couldn't be here today, but they need every ounce of 9 10 help that they can get to survive and to prosper, to 11 grow and to retain their farms so that they -- I've 12 heard farmers who have been in the business for four 13 generations saying I don't know whether my children 14 will ever be able to ride a tractor on their own 15 ground.

What I know as a small business woman is 16 17 that we have so many needs in our own company, and I see it in the community; but I see the talent before 18 me, and all I say is please work with the Chamber of 19 20 Commerce, please work with our local newspapers to 21 get the stories out as to what you can do and how 22 people can access you. I would like to see that 23 path to success. It's all before us. It's all before us. There is some small businesses that 24 25 probably couldn't be here today because they are

small businesses. They may have no one to take
 their place, and they have to be there to run their
 business, but that doesn't negate the need that they
 have for your services.

5 So I thank you. I commend you and thank 6 you, Lou, and please get the help that you have 7 available to the small businesses.

8 MR. MAGAZZU: Thank you, Pearl. I think 9 we have two other folks, and then we really have to 10 wrap up because I have got Mr. LaTorre, and then 11 we're going to go to the other session, please.

MR. LaTORRE: Good morning. My name is Victor LaTorre. I own LaTorre Hardware on Delsea Drive in Vineland. This is our 50th year in business.

Never before have I seen such a downward 16 17 turn in business as in the last six months to a year in this area. We deal with people of all range of 18 income, and we also deal with large companies, small 19 20 companies. Everyone is suffering a cutback. 21 Homeowners especially are spending less these days. 22 They have less to spend, and their energy costs are 23 soaring out of control.

24 We as a small business -- and I only 25 employ fifteen people. I know I don't gather a lot

of attention from a lot of the agencies, but what I
 know is what I see and what I hear from people.
 It's very concerning to listen to these stories of
 people trying to find alternative sources to heat
 their home, not being able to afford things, not
 being able to have expendable money, come to shop at
 other businesses.

8 I have been told over the years when I have attended workshops like this and others to 9 10 think outside the box, to find my niche in business. 11 I've tried to do that over the years, develop 12 commercial customers like Limpert Brothers and Espoma, Gerresheimer. We sell to companies like 13 that. They need your support. If they get your 14 15 support, that will increase -- hopefully increase 16 their work force, better paying jobs.

I'm a firm believer that Wal-Mart and Home Depot and Lowe's will come to the area if there is people here that have money to spend anyway. We won't need to go out and give them these huge incentives to come to our area. They will come if the jobs are here.

I challenge this panel, our local agencies, our state and local governments for you to think outside the box, for you to create a niche for 1 this area to help us find jobs and make this area 2 grow and grow as it did in previous years. I think 3 it's available. Again, I think we just need to take 4 advantage of it. Thank you.

5 MR. MAGAZZU: Thank you very much. 6 Before I ask Mr. Brody, let me just say that I will let Mr. Brody speak, and then I would urge you 7 8 please to participate in the -- across the way on the one-on-one opportunities. I also would ask you 9 10 to do evaluations. There is one other point I would 11 like to make in the evaluations. There is -- yes. 12 I guess a questionnaire is also part of that 13 evaluation.

You probably read that we are also 14 beginning a ten-year plan. We're going to kick it 15 16 off in June of this year. We're going to spend an 17 eighteen-month study in June of this year to December 31 of next year, which we call 2010 - 2020, 18 The Future is Now. The concept being to really have 19 20 a dialogue -- an eighteen-month dialogue within the 21 county on what the county ought to look like during 22 that ten-year period.

23 We are going to invite literally every 24 part of the county including the business community 25 to be part of that dialogue. What should we plan,

to go to Mr. LaTorre's point, what kind of niche should we develop, but also what does your transportation system look like, what does your economic system look like, what does your educational system look like.

6 You all plan as business people every 7 day. Government doesn't plan. We're going to 8 change that, and some people have been critical of me and said, well, ten years is too long. I had 9 10 some -- one of my freeholders sent me an E-mail 11 saying ten years is too long. The reality is that 12 unless we begin that dialogue now, we're not going 13 to have it, and certainly it will be a tighter plan in the first five years than the balance of five, 14 but we need to have that dialogue. 15

16 I would ask all of you to share your 17 talents with that. We're going to have public hearings throughout the county. We're going to be 18 looking for input, and I can assure you your input 19 20 will matter and will be part of the plan as we call 21 it 2010 - 2020, The Future is Now. We I think will 22 be the only county in the state that will have that 23 type of plan, and I think it will hold us in good 24 stead.

25

And on that, I'll recognize Mr. Brody.

1 MR. BRODY: Thank you. Sid Brody, 2 Archetto Construction, Seaboard Realty. What I 3 would like to address -- I think that energy is the 4 biggest detriment to our continuing in the state 5 with everything.

6 We have a great college here, and I 7 would like to suggest to the college -- and I 8 address this to Dr. Ender -- we create a curriculum of energy engineering, which should teach 9 10 conservation, alternative uses of energy, and 11 discovery of energy. We could become a great 12 college here. We just have one engineering curriculum. I think this is something that should 13 be considered by Transportation, by the Department 14 15 of Labor, and everything. Especially transportation 16 today. Everything we have comes to us on wheels. That necktie you're wearing, Lou, came here on 17 wheels. 18

Everything is around energy. We've got to be serious about it, and with the Economic Development Commission of the county, the college, we have a great opportunity to lead our present industries and to attract industries if we can do something about energy. Thank you. MR. MAGAZZU: Thanks. I note that you

probably misspoke. We already have a great college. We're going to make it a greater college. I want to thank all of you for your participation. I want to urge you to please --these folks, some of them or all of them came a great distance, and I want to also say that it's amazing we did this for an hour and not one negative comment about DEP. Dan Ryan, you can consider that a great day, and let's give a round of applause for the folks on this stage. Also Ken Ender and Al Kelly and Dante Rieti see Kim. She has got something for each of you to follow up on. Thank you. * * * (Concluded at 10:58 a.m.)

CERTIFICATION * * * I, CATHERINE M. WYBLE, a Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public of the State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the notes of the proceedings taken by me in the above-captioned matter. CATHERINE M. WYBLE, CMR, RPR CCR Certificate No. XI01090 Notary Public for the State of New Jersey My commission expires 3/15/2010. Dated: