MINUTES

Mayor and Council Regular Meeting July 24, 2025 **7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER -

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge was held in person at the River Edge Public Library located at 685 Elm Avenue, River Edge, NJ 07661 and virtually via Zoom on July 24, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Thomas Papaleo.

SILENT PRAYER - FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Papaleo asked for a moment of silence for the country and world as whole as well as government leaders. Councilman Benson then led those present in a salute to the flag.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE -

Mayor Papaleo read the Statement of Compliance into the record as follows:

Statement of Compliance with Open Public Meeting Act: This meeting complies with the Open Public Meeting Act by notification on June 4, 2025 of this location, date and time to the Town News and the Record and by posting of same on the municipal bulletin board and Borough Web Site and filing a notice of the same with the Municipal Clerk.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Council President Montisano-Koen, Councilwoman Kinsella (arrived at 7:04 p.m.),

Councilwoman Malellari, Councilman Benson, Councilman Glass, Councilwoman

Dhariwal and Mayor Papaleo.

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Administrator Lissette Aportela

Borough Attorney John Shahdanian, Esq.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

On a motion by Council President Montisano-Koen, seconded by Councilman Benson, with Council President Montisano-Koen abstaining from the Minutes of June 12, 2025 and all other members present voting in favor, that the Minutes of the Mayor and Council Regular Meeting and Closed Session of June 12, 2025 and Mayor and Council Regular Meeting of June 26, 2025 are hereby approved.

FOR DISCUSSION -

Determination & Award Certificate

Chris Battaglia, CFO, explained that last year notes were sold in the amount of \$9 million. As those notes have matured, the Borough was required to hold another sale to pay back the \$9 million and borrow an additional \$2,789,000 for a total of \$11,789,000. He noted that the interest rate decreased from 4.5% to 3.75% which means the interest year over year will only increase slightly. He commented that the amount borrowed represents a little over a half of the Borough's total debt authorizations, explaining that he attempts to borrow as little as possible to avoid incurring interest. He advised that in 2030, which is when the amortization schedule

drops, he will be looking to sell serial bonds which will be permanent versus temporary financing.

PRESENTATIONS -

Police Department Table of Organization

Although this topic was not listed on the agenda, Chief Walker explained that the plate readers are coming to the end of their useful life. He requested to use the Outside Duty Trust to purchase 4 plate readers, noting that they are currently buy one, get one free for a total cost of \$64,000. He emphasized the importance of this equipment both for investigations and patrol.

With respect to the Table of Organization, he advised that he is looking to fill the vacant Captain position. He then reviewed the current Table of Organization as well as what was in place under the three prior Police Chiefs. He explained the importance of the Captain position, noting that additional responsibilities have been placed on the department due to accreditation as well as increased training requirements and directives from both the Attorney General and Prosecutor's office. He reviewed the job descriptions for each role in the department. He detailed the ways that he has both saved money and brought in revenue for the Borough. He expressed his belief that one Lieutenant is yielding to the other and Officer Blue is the only person on the list for the role of Sergeant meaning that they would only need to go through the promotional process for the position of Lieutenant.

Lieutenant Zemaites commented that it has been overwhelming since the position of Captain became vacant as most of the responsibilities of that position have fallen on him and Lt. McGinty. He pointed out that there is money in the budget for this position since money was budgeted for the former Captain's salary for the entire year. He confirmed that he would not be pursuing the Captain position at this time.

Mayor Papaleo explained that, when Old Business is reached, there would need to be a motion and a second with 6 affirmative votes should the governing body wish to reconsider the Captain position and/or the plate readers. Should it be decided to reconsider one or both items, they would be considered at the following meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA -

On motion by Councilwoman Malellari, seconded by Councilman Benson, and all present voting in favor, to open for public comments on any item on the agenda.

Ken Schuffenhauer, 780 Millbrook Road, questioned whether the Borough will be going back out to bid for KBG quickly as the fall leagues were told they would need to find another location to play and that spring sports would not be impacted. He questioned whether any modifications are being made to ensure that the bids come in lower next time.

On a motion by Councilman Glass, seconded by Councilman Benson, and all present voting in favor, to close public comments on any item on the agenda.

Borough Administrator Aportela advised that, although the bids were not substantially over budget, they came in too high which is the basis for the rejection. She noted that there were also questions on the lowest bidder. As such, she expressed her belief that it is in the Borough's best interest to reject and go back out to bid. She stated that work must be completed by March 2026, and should there be the need to reject the bids again, it would allow the Borough to enter into negotiations.

APPOINTMENTS & PERSONNEL CHANGES -

Mayor Papaleo announced that he is appointing Gemma Staines to the Green Team, as Student Representative

for a term from 7/24/25 to 8/31/26 effective July 24, 2025.

MONTHLY REPORTS –

Mayor Papaleo advised that the following reports are on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk and available for review:

Land Use Board - June 11, 2025 Fire Prevention - July 2, 2025 Tax Collector - June 30, 2025

FIRST READING - ORDINANCES -

Ordinance #25-14

Mayor Papaleo read into the record:

The following ordinance published herewith was first read by title only on June 12, 2025 and posted on a bulletin board outside of the Clerk's office.

ORDINANCE 25-14 - AN ORDINANCE BY THE BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE RIVER EDGE BOROUGH CODE, CHAPTER 350 SITE PLAN REVIEW AND CHAPTER 416 ZONING

Mayor Papaleo noted that there was a minor revision to this ordinance which is not substantive and was made only for clarification purposes.

Borough Administrator Aportela advised that the purpose of this ordinance is to codify recommendations from the Land Use Board to amend the Borough's zoning regulations regarding swimming pools and building coverage, among other minor changes, to be consistent with the Borough's most recent master plan reexamination report.

Public Comments on Ordinance #25-14

Motion by Councilwoman Kinsella, second by Council President Montisano-Koen, and all members voting in favor, to open the floor to the public on Ordinance #25-14.

No one came forward.

Motion by Councilwoman Kinsella, second by Councilman Benson, to close the floor to the public on Ordinance #25-14.

Motion by Council President Montisano-Koen, second by Councilwoman Malellari, that Ordinance #25-14 be passed on second and final reading and are hereby adopted and notice of same shall be published according to law.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Council President Montisano-Koen: aye
Councilwoman Kinsella: aye
Councilwoman Malellari: aye
Councilwoman Dhariwal: aye

RESOLUTIONS - By Consent

Councilwoman Kinsella requested that the Borough Administrator explain the purpose of Resolution #25-216.

Borough Administrator Aportela explained that the Governor, in consultation with the Department of Treasury, adjusts the threshold over which municipalities must go out to bid every five years. She noted that the purpose of this resolution is to increase the bid threshold to this amount, and since she is a QPA, it will allow contracts under the bid threshold to be awarded without going out to bid.

a.	#25-204	Approve Refunds – Recreation Department
b.	#25-205	Resolution Permitting the Possession and Consumption of Alcoholic
		Beverages at a Block Party on Princeton Drive
c.	#25-206	Amend Professional Services Contract – Tax Appeal Attorney
d.	#25-207	Resolution Permitting the Possession and Consumption of Alcoholic
		Beverages at a Block Party on The Fenway
e.	#25-208	Resolution of Certification of the Annual Audit
f.	#25-209	Approve the Hire of a Police Dispatcher
g.	#25-210	Award Contract – 2025 Local Road Improvement Program
h.	#25-211	Award Contract – Fire Company #2 and Sidewalk Improvement Project
i.	#25-212	Award Contract – 2025 Drainage Improvement at Mohawk Drive and
		Intersection of Lozier Terrace & Van Saun Drive
j.	#25-213	Resolution to Refund Escrow Money
k.	#25-214	Resolution Authorizing Advanced Travel Expenses for the Fire
		Department
1.	#25-215	Authorize Rejection of Bids - FY19, FY20 & FY24 KBG Field
		Improvements Project
m.	#25-216	Increase Public Bidding Threshold

Motion by Councilwoman Kinsella, second by Councilwoman Malellari, that the Consent Agenda be approved.

The vote was recorded as follows:

Council President Montisano-Koen: aye
Councilwoman Kinsella: aye
Councilwoman Malellari: aye
Councilwoman Dhariwal: aye*

#25-217 Payment of Bills

Councilwoman Kinsella read resolution #25-216 into the record:

At a Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, held on July 24, 2025.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge approve the following expenditures.

^{*}Councilwoman Dhariwal recused from Resolution #25-204 and #25-215.

GENERAL CAPITAL FUND	\$ 529,009.61
GRANT FUND	\$ 443.89
ANIMAL CONTROL	\$ 21.60
TRUST OTHER	\$ 12,722.61
PAYROLL	\$ 23,241.32
DEVELOPER'S ESCROW	\$ 315.00
RECREATION TRUST	\$ 32,680.95

Motion by Councilwoman Kinsella, second by Councilman Glass, that Resolution #24-217 be approved.

The vote was recorded as follows:

Council President Montisano-Koen: aye
Councilwoman Kinsella: aye
Councilwoman Malellari: aye
Councilwoman Dhariwal: aye*

NEW BUSINESS -

There was no New Business.

OLD BUSINESS -

Councilwoman Dhariwal announced that the 250th Anniversary met, and on behalf of Eric Model, Chair, she encouraged citizens to join this committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS -

Motion Councilwoman Kinsella, second by Councilman Benson, and all members present voting in favor, to open public comments.

Ken Schuffenhauer, 780 Millbrook Road, questioned whether residents have access to the scope of work with for the KBG project.

Motion by Councilwoman Kinsella, second by Council President Montisano-Koen, and all members present voting in favor, to close public comment.

COUNCIL COMMENTS –

Mayor Papaleo noted that the 2024 Audit did not include any recommendations or comments which is a credit to the Borough Administrator, CFO, and Department Heads.

Borough Administrator Aportela added that there have been two perfect audits in a row and three since she joined

^{*}Councilwoman Dhariwal recused from checks #66559, #66576, #66606, #66627, #66629, #66635, #66669, #66687, #66705, #66706, #66707, #66731 and #6058 through #6086.

the Borough in 2021. She commented that ensuring proper financial and purchasing practices are followed takes a team effort and she couldn't have asked for a better team.

On behalf of Chief Schlossbeg, Council President Montisano-Koen reported that the Fire Department responded to 30 fire calls this month with one critical call last week that was handled professionally and responsibly. Chief Schlossberg expressed appreciation to the DPW, especially Pete Stitz, Mechanic, and Jason Milito, DPW Superintendent, who have done a wonderful job both maintaining current vehicles and outfitting new vehicles which has saved the department approximately \$13,000. She echoed Chief Schlossberg's comments, noting that DPW Superintendent Milito and his staff work hard to save the Borough money where possible.

Mayor Papaleo recognized the Recreation Department for a great Summer Camp season, advising that tomorrow is the last day.

CLOSED SESSION -

On a motion from Councilwoman Dhariwal, seconded by Council President Montisano-Koen, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned to the Closed Executive Session via Resolution #25-218 at 8:26 pm.

#25-218 Resolution to Go Into Closed Session and Exclude Public

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-12 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, as follows:

- 1. That the public shall be excluded from the July 24, 2025 regular meeting and discussion of the hereinafter specified subject matter:
 - A. Attorney-Client Privilege N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(7)
 - 1. Easement Maintenance
- 2. Formal action may/may not be taken.
- 3. Minutes will be kept and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then the minutes can be made public.

ADJOURNMENT -

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilman Benson, second by Council President Montisano-Koen, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE ORDINANCE NO. 25-14

AN ORDINANCE BY THE BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE RIVER EDGE BOROUGH CODE, CHAPTER 350 SITE PLAN REVIEW AND CHAPTER 416 ZONING

WHEREAS, pursuant to <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 40:55D-62, the Borough of River Edge, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey (the "Borough") may adopt or amend Zoning Regulations by Ordinance relating to the nature and extent of the uses of land and of buildings and structures thereon; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:55D-89 requires that the governing body shall, at least every 10 years, provide for a general reexamination of its master plan and development regulations by the Municipal Land Use Board; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the 2020 Periodic Reexamination Report of the Master Plan & Development Regulations for the Borough of River Edge prepared by Burgis Associates, Inc., dated October 9, 2020 (the "2020 Reexamination"), it was recommended that the Borough review it regulations pertaining to single-family homes including the lot and building coverages and accessory structures; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Land Use Board of the Borough of River Edge (the "Land Use Board") adopted amendments to the 2020 Reexamination entitled "2022 Amendment to the Reexamination Report of the Master Plan & Development Regulations", dated May 13, 2022, prepared by Thomas Behrens, Jr. PP, AICP of Burgis Associates, Inc., which recommended additional changes to the Borough's land use and development regulations, including updates to swimming pool and coverage regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Borough's Land Use professionals have reviewed the Borough's Zoning Regulations and have identified proposed changes to the swimming pool and coverage requirements to maintain clarity and uniformity in the administration of the Borough's land use regulations; and

WHEREAS, the proposed changes will allow the uniform application of the Zoning Regulations, increased flexibility in improving private property, and will provide residents with certainty in the regulation of their property; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council desires to adopt zoning that is in the Borough's best interest to maintain and support stability, future growth, development and uniform zoning determinations on all parcels of land in the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council believes that amending the Zoning Regulations is in the best interest of the Borough such that the Borough Code, Chapter 350 "Site Plan Review" and Chapter 416 "Zoning" be amended to update and clarify ambiguity in the swimming pool and coverage requirements and definitions, among other changes.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. The aforementioned recitals are incorporated herein as though fully set forth at length.

Section 2. The Borough Code of the Borough of River Edge, Chapter 350, Site Plan Review, Section 3, Definitions; Word Usage, is hereby amended and supplemented as follows (additions **between asterisks and/or in bold**, deletions {within brackets and/or struck through}):

350-3 Definitions; word usage.

- A. No change.
- B. As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

BUILDING AREA

For purposes of determining building coverage, the area of the building shall be the projected area on a horizontal plane of the outer extremities of the structure, including by way of example as part of the structure in determining said outer extremities, the foundation, roofs, protruding floors, **decks, porches, roofed patios, raised patios above natural grade** {patios} and any overhangs and the floors of any **other** structures **identified in Section 416-27(B), but excluding overhangs or projections which project 24 inches or less from the structure, including roof eaves, roof overhangs, projections above entranceways and garage doors, and chimneys** {not having a roof}.

BUILDING COVERAGE

That portion of a lot which is occupied by buildings and accessory buildings and structures, as identified in § 416-27B. **Among other items identified in § 416-27(A), swimming pools shall not be included in the definition or calculation of building coverage.**

Section 3. The Borough Code of the Borough of River Edge, Chapter 416, Zoning, Section 4, Definitions and Word Usage, is hereby amended and supplemented as follows (additions **between asterisks and/or in bold**, deletions {within brackets and/or struck through}):

416-4 Definitions and word usage.

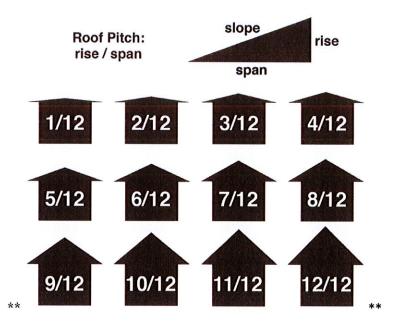
BUILDING AREA

For purposes of determining building coverage, the area of the building shall be the projected area on a horizontal plane of the outer extremities of the structure, including by way of example as part of the structure in determining said outer extremities, the foundation, roofs, protruding floors, **decks, porches, roofed patios, raised patios above natural grade** {patios} and any overhangs and the floors of any **other** structures **identified in Section 416-27(B), but excluding overhangs or projections which project 24 inches or less from the structure, including roof eaves, roof overhangs, projections above entranceways and garage doors, and chimneys** {not having a roof}.

BUILDING COVERAGE

That portion of a lot which is occupied by buildings and accessory buildings and structures, as identified in § 416-27B. **Among other items identified in § 416-27(A), swimming pools and hot tubs shall not be included in the definition or calculation of building coverage.**

- Section 4. The Borough Code of the Borough of River Edge, Chapter 416, Zoning, Section 27, Accessory Buildings and Structures, is hereby amended and supplemented as follows (additions **between asterisks and/or in bold**, deletions {within brackets and/or struck through}):
 - 416-27 Accessory buildings and structures.
 - A. The term "accessory building or structure" is not intended to include
 - (1) No change.
 - (2) No change.
 - (3) {Reserved}**Swimming pools and hot tubs**.
 - (4) Unroofed {decks, unroofed porches or unroofed} patios **at natural grade**.
 - B. The term "accessory building or structure" shall include but **shall** not be limited to the following, whether prefabricated or constructed on-site:
 - (1) Pergolas, pavilions, {detached} **roofed or unroofed** decks, **roofed or unroofed porches, roofed patios, raised patios above natural grade,** gazebos, flagpoles, outdoor bins and other similar buildings.
 - (2) No change.
 - (3) No change.
 - (4) No change.
 - (5) **For the purposes of calculating accessory setbacks,** Air-conditioning units, HVAC equipment, electric vehicle equipment and generators for residential and nonresidential buildings ** shall be considered accessory buildings or structures, but shall not be included in the calculation of building coverage**.
 - (6) {Aboveground and in-ground swimming pools} **Reserved**.
 - C. Accessory buildings and structures in residential areas shall be governed by the following regulations. Accessory buildings and structures in all residential zoning districts which are not attached to a principal building or structure may be erected in any side yard or rear yard, provided that:
 - (1) Except as provided in § 416-32, no such accessory building or structure shall exceed 12 feet in height, except for garages **with gabled roofs having a roof pitch not less than 6/12 (see diagram below)** and flagpoles, which shall not exceed 15 feet in height.



- (2) No change.
- (3) The aggregate of all accessory buildings and structures shall not occupy more than 30% of the area of the side or rear yard in which said accessory building or structure is located**. No roofed accessory building or structure shall exceed 150 square feet** {or 150 square feet (area of accessory building), whichever is lesser}.
 - (a) No change.
- (4) No change.
- (5) No change.
- (6) No change.
- (7) No change.
- D. No change.
- E. No change.
- F. No change.

Section 5. The Borough Code of the Borough of River Edge, Chapter 416, Zoning, Section 28, Swimming Pools, Hot Tubs and Other Bodies of Water, is hereby amended and supplemented as follows (additions **between asterisks and/or in bold**, deletions {within brackets and/or struck through}):

- 416-28 Swimming Pools, Hot Tubs and Other Bodies of Water.
- A. No change.

- B. Swimming pools, hot tubs and other bodies of water shall not encroach on any front or side yard **area**. No wall of a swimming pool, hot tub or other body of water shall be located less than 10 feet from any rear or side yard property line or 25 feet from any street property line. For swimming pools, hot tubs or other bodies of water built above ground, the outside of the walkway or rail shall be the governing factor for the setback line.
 - **Swimming pools and hot tubs shall not be included in building coverage calculations. For clarification purposes, swimming pools, hot tubs and other bodies of water shall not be located within any front or side yard, including corner lots.**
- C. No change.
- D. No change.
- E. No change.
- F. No change.
- G. No change.
- H. No change.
- I. No change.
- J. No change.
- K. No change.
- L. No change.
- **Section 6.** The Borough Clerk is directed to give notice at least ten (10) days prior to a hearing on the adoption of this Ordinance to the Borough of River Edge Municipal Land Use Board and to all other persons or entities entitled thereto pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-26 and N.J.S.A. 40:55D-64. The Municipal Land Use Board is directed to make and transmit to the Borough Council, within thirty- five (35) days after referral, a report including identification of any provisions in the proposed Ordinance that are inconsistent with the Master Plan and recommendations concerning any inconsistencies and any other matter as the Borough Council deems appropriate.
- **Section 7.** Any and all prior Zoning Regulations of the Borough that are inconsistent with this Ordinance are superseded by the Zoning Regulations adopted by this Ordinance.
- **Section 8.** If any part of this Ordinance shall be deemed to be unconstitutional, preempted by federal or state law, or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such parts shall be severed and the invalidity thereby shall not affect the remaining parts of this Ordinance.
- **Section 9.** A copy of this Ordinance and the Zoning Regulations shall be available for public inspection at the office of the Borough Clerk during regular business hours.
 - **Section 10.** This Ordinance shall take effect in accordance with all applicable laws.

INTRODUCED:

June 12, 2025

ADOPTED:

July 24, 2025

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Montisano-Koen	Х		Χ			
Kinsella			Х			
Malellari		Х	Х			
Benson			Χ			

Glass	X	
Dhariwal	X	
Mayor Papaleo		00

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of an Ordinance adopted by the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge on July 24, 2025

Thomas Papaleo, Mayor

Approve Refunds - Recreation Department

WHEREAS, participants of various programs offered by the River Edge Recreation Department have requested a refund; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Administrator, Lissette Aportela, has reviewed the requests and recommended them for Mayor and Council approval.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, that the refunds listed below are hereby approved; and

RESIDENT	ADDRESS	PROGRAM	AMOUNT	ACCOUNT#
Mira Park	244 Monroe Ave River Edge NJ 07661	Pickleball Lessons	\$200.00	T-18-55-286-021
Susan Kim	279 Van Saun Dr. River Edge, NJ 07661	Summer Youth Chess Class	\$180.00	T-18-55-286-023
Edel Corrigan	118 Manning Ave River Edge, NJ 07661	2025 Summer Playground Camp (2 Kids)	\$838.00	T-18-55-286-003
Gicylle Almonte	179 Valley Road, River Edge NJ 07661	Adult Tennis Lessons Foundation	\$200.00	T-18-55-286-001

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Finance Department and Department of Recreation and Cultural Affairs.

July 24, 2025

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
Montisano-Koen			Х				
Kinsella	Х		Х				
Malellari		Х	Х				
Benson			Х				
Glass			Х				
Dhariwal							Х
Mayor Papaleo							

I hereby certify that this resolution, consisting of <u>1</u> page(s), was adopted at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, held on this <u>24th day of July</u>, 2025.

Resolution Permitting the Possession and Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages at a Block Party on Princeton Drive

WHEREAS, on or about July 24, 2025, the Borough of River Edge granted permission to Jason Rosado, 205 Princeton Drive, River Edge, New Jersey, to hold a block party on Princeton Drive between Oak Avenue and Lexington Drive on Saturday, July 26th from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. (rain date Sunday, July 27th) in accordance with Borough Ordinance #1678; and

WHEREAS, Jason Rosado has requested that the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages be permitted in connection with said block party; and

WHEREAS, Borough Code Section 114-15 allows the Governing Body to permit the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages in or on a public street or sidewalk in connection with an authorized block party.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge that persons age 21 and over be and hereby are permitted to possess and consume alcoholic beverages at the block party described above, on the date and time specified herein.

July 24, 2025

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Montisano-Koen			Χ			
Kinsella	Х		Х			
Malellari		Х	Х			
Benson			Х			
Glass			Χ			
Dhariwal			Χ			
Mayor Papaleo						

I hereby certify that this resolution, consisting of 1 page(s), was adopted at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, held on this 24th day of July, 2025.

Amend Professional Services Contract – Tax Appeal Attorney

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council awarded a one-year contract for the position of Tax Appeal Attorney through a non-competitive process pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5; and

WHEREAS, Resolution #R25-09 anticipated payments under said contract for 2025 in the total amount of \$25,000; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has determined that an amendment is required to increase the amount from \$25,000 to \$60,000 for aforesaid professional services for the remainder of 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available and said certification is attached to the original of this resolution.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge hereby approve the amendment of the professional services contract with Alan Spiniello, Esq. upon adoption of this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with NJSA 40A:11-5 (1)(a)(i) the Borough Clerk shall publish a notice of amendment to a professional services contract stating the nature, duration, service and amount of the contract, and that the resolution and contract are on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Borough Clerk in the Wednesday, July 30, 2025, edition of the Record.

July 24, 2025

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Montisano-Koen			Χ			
Kinsella	Х		Χ			
Malellari		Х	Χ			
Benson			Χ			
Glass			Х			
Dhariwal			Χ			
Mayor Papaleo						

I hereby certify that this resolution, consisting of <u>1</u> page(s), was adopted at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, held on this <u>24th day of July</u>, <u>2025</u>.

Certification of Availability of Funds NJAC 5:30-5

Date: July 24, 2025

For Resolution #R25-206

To:

Mayor and Council

I hereby certify to the availability of public funds for the following specific purpose:

Purpose: Amend professional services contract for Tax Appeal Attorney services from Alan Spiniello, Esq. from \$25,000 to \$60,000.

Line Item (or Ordinance) to be Charged:

5-01-35-470-100 - \$35,000

Chris Battaglia, CFO

Resolution Permitting the Possession and Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages at a Block Party on The Fenway

WHEREAS, on or about July 24, 2025, the Borough of River Edge granted permission to Colleen Kiely, 489 The Fenway, River Edge, New Jersey, to hold a block party on The Fenway between Wayne Avenue and Kensington Road on Saturday, August 30th with a rain date of August 31st starting at 3:00 p.m. in accordance with Borough Ordinance #1678; and

WHEREAS, Colleen Kiely has requested that the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages be permitted in connection with said block party; and

WHEREAS, Borough Code Section 114-15 allows the Governing Body to permit the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages in or on a public street or sidewalk in connection with an authorized block party.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge that persons age 21 and over be and hereby are permitted to possess and consume alcoholic beverages at the block party described above, on the date and time specified herein.

July 24, 2025

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Montisano-Koen			Χ			
Kinsella	Х		Χ			
Malellari		Х	Χ			
Benson			Х			
Glass			Χ			
Dhariwal			Χ			
Mayor Papaleo						

I hereby certify that this resolution, consisting of 1 page(s), was adopted at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, held on this 24th day of July, 2025.

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BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE RESOLUTION #25-208

Resolution of Certification of the Annual Audit

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4 requires the Governing Body of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions; and

WHEREAS, the Annual Report of Audit for the year 2024 has been filed by the Registered Municipal Accountant with the Municipal Clerk pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5-6, and a copy has been received by each member of the Governing Body; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 52-27BB-34 authorizes the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey to prescribe reports pertaining to the local fiscal affairs; and

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board has promulgated N.J.A.C. 5:30-6-5, a regulation requiring that the governing body of each municipality shall, by resolution, certify to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that all members of the Governing Body has reviewed, as a minimum, the sections of the annual audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations", and

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have personally reviewed, as a minimum, the Annual report of Audit, and specifically the sections of the Annual Audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations", as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the Governing Body attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, such resolution of certification shall be adopted by the Governing Body no later than forty-five days after the receipt of the annual audit, pursuant to N.J.A.C.5:30-6-5; and

WHEREAS, all members of the governing body have received and have familiarized themselves with, at least, the minimum requirements of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey, as stated aforesaid and have subscribed to the affidavit, as provided by the Local Finance Board; and

WHEREAS, failure to comply with the regulations of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey may subject the members of the local Governing Body to the penalty provisions of R.S. 52:27BB-52, to wit:

R.S. 52:27BB-52: A local officer or members of a local governing body who, after a date fixed for compliance, fails or refuses to obey an order of the director (Director of Local Government Services), under the provisions of this Article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, in addition shall forfeit his office.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, hereby states that it has complied with N.J.S.A. 5:30-6.5 and does hereby submit a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to said Board to show evidence of said compliance.

July 24, 2025

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Montisano-Koen			Х			
Kinsella	Х		Х			
Malellari		Х	Х			
Benson			Х			
Glass			Χ			
Dhariwal			Х			
Mayor Papaleo						

I hereby certify that this resolution, consisting of $\underline{2}$ page(s), was adopted at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, held on this $\underline{24th}$ day of July, $\underline{2025}$.

Approve the Hire of a Police Dispatcher

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge that Gavin Smith is hereby hired as Police Dispatcher for the Police Department at an hourly rate of \$24.96 with a six (6) month probationary period, effective July 24, 2025.

July 24, 2025

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Montisano-Koen			Х			
Kinsella	Х		Х			
Malellari		Х	Х			
Benson			Х			
Glass			Х			
Dhariwal			Х			
Mayor Papaleo						

I hereby certify that this resolution, consisting of 1 page(s), was adopted at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, held on this 24th day of July, 2025.

<u>Award Contract –</u> 2025 Local Road Improvement Program

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., seven bids were submitted at the date and time specified for the 2025 Local Road Improvement Program and the Borough Administrator did open and read each bid aloud; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer has reviewed the base bid submitted by J.A. Alexander, Inc. in the total amount of \$384,038.80 and has recommended the bid be awarded to J.A. Alexander, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Chief Financial Officer Chris Battaglia has certified funds are available for this project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge that a contract for the 2025 Road Improvement Program shall be awarded to J.A. Alexander, Inc., having its principal office at 130 John F. Kennedy Drive in North Bloomfield, NJ 07003 in the amount of \$384,038.80 based on the bid submitted on July 8, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to sign said contract on behalf of the Borough of River Edge.

July 24, 2025

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Montisano-Koen			Х			
Kinsella	Х		Х			
Malellari		Х	Х			
Benson			Х			
Glass			Χ			
Dhariwal			Χ			
Mayor Papaleo						

I hereby certify that this resolution, consisting of <u>1</u> page(s), was adopted at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, held on this <u>24th day of July</u>, 2025.

Certification of Availability of Funds NJAC 5:30-5

Date: July 24, 2025 For Resolution #R25-210

To: Mayor and Council

I hereby certify to the availability of public funds for the following specific purpose:

Purpose: Award contract for the 2025 Road Improvement Program to J.A. Alexander, Inc., having its principal office at 130 John F. Kennedy Drive in North Bloomfield, NJ 07003 in the amount of \$384,038.80 submitted on July 8, 2025.

Line Item (or Ordinance) to be Charged:

C-04-24-012-451

Chris Battaglia, CFO

<u>Award Contract –</u> Fire Company #2 and Sidewalk Improvement Project

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 11:30 a.m., two bids were submitted at the date and time specified for the Fire Company #2 and Sidewalk Improvement Project and the Borough Administrator did open and read each bid aloud; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer has reviewed the base bid and 3 alternate bids submitted by Marini Brothers Construction, Co, Inc. in the total amount of \$250,470.00 and has recommended the bid be awarded to Marini Brothers Construction, Co, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Chief Financial Officer Chris Battaglia has certified funds are available for this project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge that a contract for the Fire Company #2 and Sidewalk Improvement Project shall be awarded to Marini Brothers Construction, Co, Inc., having its principal office at 9 Lafayette Street in Hackensack, NJ 07601 in the amount of \$250,470.00 based on the bid and 3 alternates submitted on July 8, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to sign said contract on behalf of the Borough of River Edge.

July 24, 2025

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Montisano-Koen			Χ			
Kinsella	Х		Х			
Malellari		Х	Χ			
Benson			Χ			
Glass			Χ			
Dhariwal			Х			
Mayor Papaleo						

I hereby certify that this resolution, consisting of <u>1</u> page(s), was adopted at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, held on this <u>24th day of July</u>, 2025.

Certification of Availability of Funds NJAC 5:30-5

Date: July 24, 2025 For Resolution #R25-211

To: Mayor and Council

I hereby certify to the availability of public funds for the following specific purpose:

Purpose: Award contract for the Fire Company #2 and Sidewalk Improvement Project to Marini Brothers Construction, Co, Inc., having its principal office at 9 Lafayette Street in Hackensack, NJ 07601 in the amount of \$250,470.00 based on the bid and 3 alternates submitted on July 8, 2025.

Line Item (or Ordinance) to be Charged:

C-04-25-011-050 - \$77,775.00

C-04-25-011-082 - \$113,900.00

C-04-24-012-451 - \$30,169.81

C-04-23-011-053 - \$22,531.93

C-04-21-018-601 - \$6093.26

Chris Battaglia, CFO

<u>Award Contract –</u> 2025 Drainage Improvement at Mohawk Drive and Intersection of Lozier Terrace & Van Saun Drive

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., two bids were submitted at the date and time specified for the 2025 Drainage Improvement at Mohawk Drive and Intersection of Lozier Terrace & Van Saun Drive and the Borough Administrator did open and read each bid aloud; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer has reviewed the base bid submitted by Matina & Son, Inc. in the total amount of \$139,500.00 and has recommended the bid be awarded to Matina & Son, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Chief Financial Officer Chris Battaglia has certified funds are available for this project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge that a contract for the 2025 Drainage Improvement at Mohawk Drive and Intersection of Lozier Terrace & Van Saun Drive shall be awarded to Matina & Son, Inc., having its principal office at 146 English Street in Hackensack, NJ 07601 in the amount of \$139,500.00 based on the bid submitted on July 8, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to sign said contract on behalf of the Borough of River Edge.

July 24, 2025

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Montisano-Koen			Х			
Kinsella	Х		Х			
Malellari		Х	Х			
Benson			Χ			
Glass			Χ			
Dhariwal			Χ			
Mayor Papaleo						

I hereby certify that this resolution, consisting of <u>1</u> page(s), was adopted at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, held on this <u>24th day of July</u>, 2025.

Certification of Availability of Funds NJAC 5:30-5

Date: July 24, 2025

For Resolution #R25-212

To:

Mayor and Council

I hereby certify to the availability of public funds for the following specific purpose:

Purpose: Award contract for the 2025 Drainage Improvement at Mohawk Drive and Intersection of Lozier Terrace & Van Saun Drive to Matina & Son, Inc., having its principal office at 146 English Street in Hackensack, NJ 07601 in the amount of \$139,500.00 submitted on July 8, 2025.

Line Item (or Ordinance) to be Charged:

C-04-25-011-102

Chris Battaglia, CFO

Resolution to Refund Escrow Money

WHEREAS, the following applications have been made to the Land Use Board for Site Plan approvals and has since received such approval; and

WHEREAS, all professionals have been paid.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to refund the following to:

Block	Lot	Name & Address	Refund Amount
809	25	Jenny Castaneda 429 Windsor Road River Edge, NJ 07661	\$115.00
617	14	Umidjon Khayrulloev c/o Old Bukhara LLC 606 Kinderkamack Rd River Edge, NJ 0766	\$345.00
1108	28	Michael Soltys 298 Taft Rd. River Edge, NJ 07661	\$179.00
213	21	Carmelo Vasquez 792 Park Ave. River Edge, NJ 07661	\$75.00
118	10	Bedros Yessaian 823 Bogert Rd. River Edge, NJ 07661	\$30.00
804 1	3 & 14	Xia Wang 474 Kinderkamack Road. River Edge, NJ 07661	\$117.50
		TOTAL	\$861.50

July 24, 2025

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Montisano-Koen			Х			
Kinsella	Х		Х			
Malellari		Х	Х			
Benson			Χ			
Glass			Х			
Dhariwal			Х			
Mayor Papaleo						

I hereby certify that this resolution, consisting of <u>2</u> page(s), was adopted at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, held on this <u>24th day of July</u>, <u>2025.</u>

Resolution Authorizing Advanced Travel Expenses for the Fire Department

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A5-16.1 permits the governing body for any local unit to authorize payment in advance toward expenses for authorized official travel; and

WHEREAS, certain officers of the Fire Department have requested an advance payment of travel expenses for attendance at the New Jersey State Firemen's Convention in Wildwood, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Trainings, Seminars, Conferences and Conventions portion of Section Four: Personnel Rules and Regulations of the Borough's Personnel and Policy Procedure Manual, provides a policy for Fire Department members to attend certain conferences and enumerates regulations pertaining to travel expenses; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available from the Meetings & Seminars line item in the Fire Department Operating Budget in the amount not to exceed \$5,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Officers of the Borough of River Edge will verify their expenses and any excess cash will be repaid to the Borough of River Edge along with a detailed bill or items of demand, and the certification or affidavits required by N.J.S.A. 40A:5-16 which will be submitted by the officers within 10 days after the completion of the travel for which the advance was made.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Accounts Supervisor and Chief Financial Officer are hereby instructed to reimburse up to \$5,000.00 to the River Edge Fire Department for life members to go to the New Jersey State Firemen's Convention, September 12 and 13, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby instructed to send a copy of this resolution as well as the policy of the Borough with regard to travel expenses, to each of the Fire Department Officers receiving the advance.

July 24, 2025

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Montisano-Koen			Х			
Kinsella	Х		Х			
Malellari		Х	Х			
Benson			Х			
Glass			Х			
Dhariwal			Х			
Mayor Papaleo						

I hereby certify that this resolution, consisting of <u>1</u> page(s), was adopted at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, held on this <u>24th day of July</u>, <u>2025</u>.

<u>Authorize Rejection of Bids –</u> FY19, FY20 & FY24 KBG Field Improvements Project

WHEREAS, bids for the project known as the "FY19, FY20 & FY24 KBG Field Improvements Project" were received on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the lower level (Municipal Courtroom) of the Public Safety Building as advertised according to law; and

WHEREAS, nine bids were received and read aloud by the Borough Administrator; and

WHEREAS, the bids substantially exceed the Borough's appropriation for this project; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Borough to reject all bids as per NJSA 40A11-13.2(b) and rebid this project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council hereby rejects the bids submitted on July 22, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is authorized to advertise a re-bid of this project in which bids are to be received on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the Court Room in the Public Safety Building (lower level) located at 705A Kinderkamack Road, at which time they will be opened and read aloud, and that said advertisement is to be published in the Record on Wednesday, July 30, 2025 in accordance with Local Public Contracts Law.

July 24, 2025

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
Montisano-Koen			Χ				
Kinsella	Х		Χ				
Malellari		Х	Χ				
Benson			Х				
Glass			Х				
Dhariwal							Х
Mayor Papaleo							

I hereby certify that this resolution, consisting of <u>1</u> page(s), was adopted at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, held on this <u>24th day of July</u>, 2025.

Increase Public Bidding Threshold

WHEREAS, the Public Bidding Threshold for Public Units is adjusted every five years by the s Governor in consultation with the Department of Treasury; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge desires to take advantage of the increased bid threshold thus enabling the procurement of reoccurring goods and services to be transacted more expeditiously; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A.40A:11-3c, as authorized by the New Jersey State Treasurer, the Borough of River Edge can increase its Public Bidding Threshold from \$44,000.00 to \$53,000.00 if the Borough has a Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA); and

WHEREAS, Borough Administrator, Lissette Aportela, was appointed as the QPA for the Borough of River Edge via Resolution #21-195 on June 28, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Sections 11 and 12 of the P.L. 2023 Chapter 30 amend N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 and 20.5, respectively, to clarify that the governing body of a municipality or county (or any agency or instrumentality thereof) may delegate the authority to award a contract having an anticipated value in excess of \$17,500 but below the increased bid threshold of a Local Public Contracts Law contracting unit with a Qualified Purchasing Agent (i.e. a "window contract") to the QPA.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge hereby increases its Public Bidding Threshold to \$53,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Public Bidding Threshold for the Borough of River Edge shall equate to the approved bid threshold as adjusted by the State of New Jersey.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Lissette Aportela shall be and is hereby confirmed as the Borough's QPA and, as such, she shall be and is hereby authorized to exercise the contracting powers granted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3, including to prepare, sign, and execute such documents as needed for the purposes of such an award.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Lissette Aportela, as the Borough's QPA has the authority to award a contract having an anticipated value in excess of \$17,500 but below the increased bid threshold of a Local Public Contracts Law pursuant to P.L. 2023 Chapter 30, Section 12.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to New Jersey Division of Local Government Services.

,	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Montisano-Koen			X			
Kinsella	X		X			
Malellari		X	Х			
Benson			X			
Glass			Х			
Dhariwal			Х			
Mayor Papaleo						

I hereby certify that this resolution, consisting of 1 page(s), was adopted at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, held on this 24th day of July, 2025.

Payment of Bills

At a Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, held on July 24, 2025.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge approve the following expenditures.

CURRENT FUND	\$ 1,235,249.53
GENERAL CAPITAL FUND	\$ 529,009.61
GRANT FUND	\$ 443.89
ANIMAL CONTROL	\$ 21.60
TRUST OTHER	\$ 12,722.61
PAYROLL	\$ 23,241.32
DEVELOPER'S ESCROW	\$ 315.00
RECREATION TRUST	\$ 32,680.95

July 24, 2025

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Montisano-Koen			Х			
Kinsella	X		Х			
Malellari			Х			
Benson			Х			
Glass		Х	Х			
Dhariwal			X*			
Mayor Papaleo						

^{*}Councilwoman Dhariwal recused from checks #66559, #66576, #66606, #66627, #66629, #66635, #66669, #66687, #66705, #66706, #66707, #66731 and #6058 through #6086.

I hereby certify that this resolution, consisting of <u>1</u> page(s), was adopted at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, held on this <u>24th day of July 2025</u>.

Resolution to Enter Into Closed Session

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-12 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, as follows:

- 1. That the public shall be excluded from the July 24, 2025 regular meeting and discussion of the hereinafter specified subject matter:
 - A. Attorney Client Privilege N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(7)
 - 1. Easement Maintenance
- 2. Formal action may/may not be taken.
- 3. Minutes will be kept and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then the minutes can be made public.

July 24, 2025

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Montisano-Koen		X	X			
Kinsella	X		Х			
Malellari			X			
Benson			Х			
Glass			X			
Dhariwal			Х			
Mayor Papaleo						

I hereby certify that this resolution, consisting of <u>1</u> page(s), was adopted at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, held on this <u>24th day of July</u>, 2025.