

Tony-winner loves new Hudson home and new role
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Public Works director suspended

By Earl Morgan
Journal staff writer

The director of Jersey City's Public Works Department, Michael Martucci, was suspended yesterday while the Police Department continues to investigate whether he misused public property and employees.
"I have suspended Mr. Martucci with pay effective immediately," Mayor Bret Schundler said last night. He

Cops probe Martucci's use of city property, workers

confirmed that police are investigating Martucci.
"He can ask for a hearing within 30 days on the suspension or he can take the matter to the City Council," Schundler said.
"The council can override my action by a two-thirds majority, or six votes. If he fails to ask for a hearing, I

will assume he does not wish one and he will be terminated effective Dec. 31."
Martucci, who was appointed in July 1989 by former Mayor Gerald McCann, did not respond to requests for comment. His attorney, the Rev. Francis Schiller, could not be reached for comment.

The Public Works Department is primarily in charge of city recreation programs, municipal parks, tree trimming and street paving.
Charlotte Haley-Mizzi, an administrator with Housing and Economic Development who has been serving as Schundler's chief of staff, has been appointed acting director.

Law enforcement and City Hall sources said the police Special Investigations Unit is checking allegations that Martucci took city equipment, including an air-conditioner and lawn mower, to his summer home in Pennsylvania.
Sources also said police are checking allegations that Martucci used Public Works employees, working on tax-

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Witness tells jury of payoff

Horan says Russo took \$3G bribe

By Michael Finnegan
Journal staff writer

NEWARK — Hoboken Councilman Anthony Russo took a \$3,000 payoff from a construction contractor when he was chairman of the Hudson County Utilities Authority, an FBI informer testified yesterday.
The informer, Patricia Horan, told a federal jury that her mother, Dorothy Horan, gave the cash to Russo about five years ago at the Malibu Diner in Hoboken. At the time, their family-owned company, James P. Horan Inc., held a \$17.4 million sewer construction contract with the HCUA and Jersey City Sewerage Authority.
In an interview last night, Russo acknowledged meeting with the Horans at the Malibu Diner around March 1987, but denied accepting a payoff.
"That's totally and unequivocally false," he said. "It's totally absurd."
Russo, who plans to run for mayor of Hoboken next May, said he was "one of the few" HCUA commissioners who "constantly" questioned Horan's cost overruns.
Horan made her accusation in her testimony at the bribery trial of Charles "Chuck" Davis, who is executive director of the Jersey City Sewerage Authority, and his alleged "bagman," Edward Deak of Secaucus.
Judge H. Lee Sarokin is presiding over the trial in U.S. District Court.
Horan told the jury she and her mother paid Davis and Deak about \$132,000 in kickbacks, disguising the payoffs as "consulting" fees to Deak.
Assistant U.S. Attorney Donald Davidson asked Horan if her family's company bribed HCUA Executive Director George Crimmins Jr., who is a former campaign treasurer for Russo,

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Newport welcomes business tenant



Gov. Jim Florio and Jersey City Mayor Bret Schundler welcome USA Network to Newport Tower.

Journal photo by Bill Bayer

New bid to lure office tenants

By Bill Campbell
Journal staff writer

Saying he has no intention of starting a new economic border war with New York, Gov. Jim Florio yesterday announced a major program to make New Jersey more at-

Florio has N.Y. officials fuming

tractive to office tenants — especially those now in Manhattan.

In making the announcement, Florio also said the New

York-based production studios of USA Networks will be moving to the Newport Tower in Jersey City — a building partially owned by the state.
The decision by the cable network to move across the Hudson River comes two

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Mayor names GOP activist as rights chief

Appointee has led nonprofit agency

By John Petrick
Journal staff writer

Mayor Bret Schundler has appointed Marjorie Boon, a Republican, director of the Jersey City Human Rights Commission.
Boon, 54, a Union Street resident, ran unsuccessfully for City Council in the special election last month.
Her appointment fills the vacancy left by the death last month of the Rev. Elijah Hendon, who headed the commission for eight years.
She has served as Ward F leader for the Jersey City Republican Party. The Ward F club of the party endorsed Schundler.
Boon is also founder and organizer of Hope Unlimited, a nonprofit organization that helps integrate the poor and chemically dependent into society, providing job training, job placement, recreational activities and shelter.
Deputy Mayor R.L. Williams pointed to Boon's work with Hope Unlimited as one of her major qualifications for the position of Human Rights Commission director.
"She is well versed with people who feel they have been disenfranchised," he said.
One of the major duties of the commission is to investigate discrimination complaints filed by city residents.
Boon has been a panel member and co-chairman of the Greater Black Coalition of Jersey City Conference, and was Jersey City chairwoman of the March on Washington. She has also been a nursing aide at Greenville Hospital.
Boon's appointment is for a four-year term, and pays \$26,500 annually.



Marjorie Boon

- Residence: 71 Union St.
- Age: 54
- Education: Courses taken at Hudson County Community College in basic college math, college reading, development of analytical thought; at St. Peter's College's Alternative to Violence Program; at New York School of Music for piano
- Career highlights: Jersey Journal newspaper district manager, circulation department, 1986 through 1989; founder and organizer of Hope Unlimited, Inc.; nursing aide at Greenville Hospital; LiL Dee's Record Shop manager, Jersey City
- Other organizations: Jersey City chairwoman of the March on Washington; panel member and chairwoman of the Greater Black Coalition of Jersey City Conference.
- Family: Eight children, 15 grandchildren

Health care tax plan OK'd, Florio signs it

By Herb Jackson
Associated Press writer

TRENTON — The state Senate has given final legislative approval and Gov. Jim Florio signed into law the nation's first payroll tax for hospital bills for the poor and uninsured while simultaneously reducing unemployment taxes.
The Senate vote was 21-18 and the bill went Florio at 12:30 a.m. today.
Earlier the Assembly voted 48-23 in favor of the bill after a 2½ hour debate. No Democrats voted for the bill and four Republicans opposed it.

The bill raises \$1.6 billion over three years for hospital and individual health insurance subsidies while simultaneously lowering workers' and employers' unemployment taxes by the same amount.
"The plan we put forth meets our moral and legislative obligation to provide health care for the citizens that need it the most," said Assemblyman Nicholas R. Felice, R-Bergen before last night's votes.
Angry union members and hospital workers jammed the Statehouse during the debate.

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Inside

WEATHER:



Today: Mostly cloudy, in the low to mid 40s
Tonight: Partly cloudy, in the mid 20s to 30s
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States can't outlaw abortions

By Aaron Epstein
Knight-Ridder News Service

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court signaled its view yesterday that states may not ban abortions.
Over the objections of three conservative justices, the court left intact a federal appeals court ruling that Guam's almost complete ban on abortion is unconstitutional.
The 6-3 vote was the high court's first action on the inflammatory abortion issue since it surprised the nation last June by voting 5-4 to reaffirm the constitutional right of women to terminate early pregnancies.
That ruling, Casey vs. Planned Parenthood of South-eastern Pennsylvania, allows

Supreme Court lets ruling stand

states to restrict abortions in ways that do not impose an "undue burden" — a substantial obstacle — on a woman seeking an abortion of a fetus unable to live on its own.
How far the states may go in restricting abortions could be tested in a new case from Mississippi, which requires counseling for women and a 24-hour waiting period in a state with a high proportion of poor women and only three abortion clinics.
The justices could decide as early as next week whether to hear the Mississippi dispute.
In its Casey ruling, the court

majority observed that a ban on abortion, as distinguished from regulation of abortion, would be "an undue burden" on women and therefore unconstitutional.
Nevertheless, Guam Gov. Joseph Ada argued that the court has never confronted a statute that prohibits abortion. Moreover, he contended, Guam at least should be allowed to bar abortions of fetuses able to live outside the womb.
But Ada persuaded only three of the four justices who had

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More court rulings

■ Supreme Court to rule on size of liability awards Page 10