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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, September 30, 2010
9:30 a.m.

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PRESENT:

10

COUNCILMAN DARRELL CLARKE

COUNCILMAN FRANK DiCICCO

11

COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.

COUNCILMAN WILLIAM K. GREENLEE

12

COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.

COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER

13

COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL

COUNCILWOMAN MARIA D. QUINONES-SANCHEZ

14

COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO, JR.

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BILL 100488 - An ordinance authorizing
transfers in appropriations for Fiscal Year
2011 within the General Fund from the Clerk of
Quarter Sessions to the First Judicial
District of Pennsylvania.

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BILL 100541 - An ordinance authorizing
transfers in appropriations for Fiscal Year
2011 within the Grants Revenue Fund from the
Director of Finance...

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COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Good

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morning. This is the Committee on

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Appropriations. We have established a

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quorum. To my left, Councilman Rizzo,

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Councilwoman Maria Quinones-Sanchez,

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Councilman Wilson Goode and Councilman

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Frank DiCicco.

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Would Mr. Creelman please read

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the title of the first bill.

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THE CLERK: Bill No. 100488, an

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ordinance authorizing transfers in

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appropriations for Fiscal Year 2011

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within the General Fund from the Clerk of

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Quarter Sessions to the First Judicial

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District of Pennsylvania; and

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Bill No. 100541, an ordinance

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authorizing transfers in appropriations

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for Fiscal Year 2011 within the Grants

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Revenue Fund from the Director of

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Finance -- Provision for Other Grants --

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Federal Stimulus Funding to certain or

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all City offices, departments, boards and

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commissions.

25

(Witness approached witness

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2 table.)

3 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you.

4 Let the record reflect that
5 Councilman O'Neill and Councilwoman Donna
6 Reed Miller have joined the Committee.

7 MR. DUBOW: Good morning --

8 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Good
9 morning, sir.

10 MR. DUBOW: -- Councilman
11 Clarke, members of the Committee. My
12 name is Rob Dubow. I'm Director of
13 Finance and I'm here to testify on Bill
14 No. 100488. The bill transfers \$4.5
15 million within the General Fund from the
16 Clerk of Quarter Sessions to the First
17 Judicial District. The purpose of this
18 ordinance is to transfer the
19 appropriations of the Clerk to the First
20 Judicial District.

21 As you know, the functions of
22 the Clerk and the personnel are being
23 transferred over to First Judicial
24 District, and that necessitates the
25 transfer of the corresponding funding.

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2 I request that you report this
3 bill out of Committee with a favorable
4 recommendation and I further request that
5 the rules of Council be suspended to
6 permit first reading at the next session.

7 Thank you for the opportunity
8 to testify. There are representatives of
9 the court and Deputy Mayor Everett
10 Gillison here to answer any questions you
11 may have.

12 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you.
13 I guess the first question is, it's my
14 understanding that there have been some
15 concerns about the employees and their
16 status. I'm hearing through the,
17 quote/unquote, grapevine that there has
18 been some resolution to that, and I don't
19 know if it should be reflected on the
20 record.

21 MR. DUBOW: Yeah.

22 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Please do.

23 MR. DUBOW: I'll ask Judge
24 Dembe to come up to respond to that.

25 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you.

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2 (Witness approached witness
3 table.)

4 JUDGE DEMBE: Good morning,
5 Councilmembers.

6 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Good
7 morning, Your Honor.

8 JUDGE DEMBE: To answer that
9 question first, yesterday afternoon after
10 finally squeezing an answer out of the
11 labor lawyers by threatening to be real
12 slow pace on their bill, they gave us the
13 necessary information so that we were
14 able to put together a memorandum of
15 understanding with Mr. Davis and the
16 other union representatives, and after a
17 number of mechanical difficulties, we
18 actually got it all printed out and
19 signed. And I have an electronic signed
20 copy, but I don't yet have hard copy, but
21 that issue is taken care of.

22 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Anyone else
23 want to reference that particular issue?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Okay.

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2 Thank you, Your Honor.

3 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Could she
4 stay a minute, Councilman.

5 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Your Honor,
6 we had a couple of questions, please.

7 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I apologize
8 if this was already addressed, but there
9 was one other issue, and if it's not
10 appropriate at this time to answer, but
11 one of the issues that I understand is
12 that District Council 33's representation
13 of the employees is not -- if these folks
14 retire -- it's the position. Will those
15 positions be preserved for the future if
16 in fact one of this group retires and a
17 new person comes in?

18 JUDGE DEMBE: I'm not entirely
19 sure I understand the question. Let me
20 address what I think you're asking.

21 For the employees who left and
22 wanted to stay with civil service jobs,
23 they've gone on about their business.
24 Ninety-three of the 104 or 114 people
25 decided to come with us. We left those

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2 who were in the DROP on the Clerk
3 payroll, did not make them officially
4 part of the FJD, because they had a great
5 deal of concern that they might -- that
6 moving from the City to the FJD might
7 trigger a break in service and they would
8 have to retire, and some of them wanted
9 to get more time in the DROP. So they
10 are there. That's why you've been
11 hearing about an October 1st date,
12 because when we were all discussing this
13 at the beginning of the summer, the
14 thought was that we would be able to get
15 this done by October 1st so that they can
16 then move over and work out their time
17 with the FJD. Functionally they're
18 working under us, but technically they're
19 still in the Clerk's Office.

20 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Not to
21 belabor this, but, again, the positions
22 in First Judicial that are going to be --
23 the employees that are going to be still
24 represented by District Council 33 -- is
25 that correct, there's going to be some

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2 folks there?

3 JUDGE DEMBE: Yes. Yes.

4 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: One of them
5 retired, not a DROP person, just normal
6 attrition. Will the representation of
7 District Council 33 eventually go away
8 when everybody that moved over retires or
9 will positions be preserved?

10 JUDGE DEMBE: No, I don't think
11 so. My understanding -- and, again, I'm
12 not a labor lawyer -- is that when you
13 move a group of employees from one
14 employer to another employer, City to
15 FJD, if they are doing exactly the same
16 work and they have essentially the same
17 supervisors and all that kind of stuff,
18 their union representation comes with
19 them as a package. So things will just
20 go on.

21 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: They retire.
22 You hire --

23 JUDGE DEMBE: We are already
24 hiring new people.

25 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: But I

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2 believe the union believes that that's
3 their position, that you'd hire a person
4 that would be then represented by
5 District Council 33, a new hire.

6 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: It sounds
7 like to me, Councilman, you're saying
8 that the arrangement that has been made;
9 i.e., the memorandum of understanding,
10 reflects the existing employees. Any
11 future employees, will they be subject to
12 that same memorandum as it relates to the
13 tenure -- their status in the union under
14 33?

15 JUDGE DEMBE: Frankly, it was
16 my understanding that they would remain
17 under the union, yes. So they will --

18 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: The
19 position, not the person.

20 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: The
21 position, not the person.

22 JUDGE DEMBE: Yes. That's
23 correct.

24 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Is that
25 reflected in writing anywhere?

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2 JUDGE DEMBE: In the memorandum
3 of understanding.

4 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: That's in
5 the memorandum? Okay. If you could
6 forward a copy of the final version,
7 because I know there were several
8 iterations, of that to the Chair.

9 JUDGE DEMBE: I will do that.

10 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you.

11 JUDGE DEMBE: I'm sorry I
12 didn't understand your question.

13 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: No. I'm
14 sorry. I had a tough time explaining it.

15 JUDGE DEMBE: I only had one
16 cup of coffee today.

17 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Okay.

18 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Any other
19 questions of this witness?

20 Councilwoman Sanchez.

21 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: In your
22 written testimony, you talk about needing
23 an additional 11 clerks. How were those
24 folks going to be hired and will this
25 allocation or appropriation give you the

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2 funding to do so?

3 JUDGE DEMBE: Those -- we have
4 already begun the hiring process, first
5 to replace those folks who decided not to
6 come with us, and we got to the 11 clerks
7 as follows --

8 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Can you
9 explain the process, how are those folks
10 going to be hired?

11 JUDGE DEMBE: I can tell you,
12 yes. What we did was, we posted the
13 jobs. We developed the job criteria, and
14 I will tell you, this is a wonderful time
15 to be hiring. We were getting people
16 with the most amazing qualifications and
17 we were really able to pick cream of the
18 crop, college graduates, people with
19 computer experience, people with -- I
20 mean, really high-level people.

21 So we've got a group of people
22 and we're going to start training -- have
23 we started already?

24 Yes, we've already started
25 training them, but we were really able to

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2 get terrific people.

3 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So

4 you've hired the 11 positions?

5 JUDGE DEMBE: No. This was

6 just backfilling.

7 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So how

8 many were hired and how many of those

9 were Philadelphia folks?

10 JUDGE DEMBE: All Philadelphia.

11 All Philadelphia folks.

12 We need 11 more, however, and

13 that's something I'll need to talk to you

14 about in a minute when his testimony is

15 finished.

16 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So this

17 allocation, this appropriation gives you

18 enough money to backfill the 11?

19 JUDGE DEMBE: No.

20 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: It

21 doesn't? That's what I wanted to

22 clarify.

23 JUDGE DEMBE: And I'll explain

24 why in a bit.

25 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank

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2 you.

3 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,

4 Councilwoman.

5 Any other questions?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,

8 Your Honor. You said you wanted to --

9 you had some other?

10 JUDGE DEMBE: I do. The City,
11 I think, has recommended to you that you
12 allocate four and a half million dollars,
13 actually 4,549,000 and change. The City
14 is also proposing to put \$182,000 of that
15 in reserve and make it not available to
16 us. As to that money, it is our position
17 that it is illegal for them to do that.
18 We are not a City department nor a City
19 agency, and they cannot hold up court
20 funds. But we can fight that battle
21 later on, if we need to.

22 But the original
23 appropriation -- the FY11 original
24 appropriation for the clerks was about
25 4.9 million, and at that point, Council

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2 had no real data about how that money was
3 being used. What we have done in the
4 month since we have taken over is, we
5 have a very detailed organizational
6 chart, and you're getting a summary of it
7 here. We are moving to something in the
8 criminal courts called Zone Court. So
9 that on each floor of the Criminal
10 Justice Center, all the cases from a
11 given detective division will be heard
12 there. So we're going to have -- and
13 we're going to be bringing in -- and that
14 will include the Municipal Court
15 proceedings. So we will be bringing
16 those in as well. So there's really only
17 going to be a Municipal Court operation
18 in one place at this point so we really
19 have an absolute head count of how many
20 clerks we need. And, as you know, the
21 District Attorney and Supreme Court
22 Justice McCaffery have been very strongly
23 backing this.

24 We will have in operation 46
25 Common Pleas courtrooms, 18 MC

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2 courtrooms, a District courtroom. We
3 need a couple people at the prisons to
4 handle the paperwork there. Family Court
5 was a disaster when we got there. We
6 desperately need two more people there.
7 In total, we need the 11 additional
8 clerks, and that amounts to \$366,000,
9 which Council had pulled out of the
10 budget back in June when it didn't have
11 any information to work with.

12 Councilman Rizzo, when we were
13 here last week, you had some questions
14 about what efficiencies would be -- what
15 efficiencies would result from this
16 transfer -- I'm sorry. Councilman Goode.
17 I told you, I only had that one cup of
18 coffee.

19 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: It happens
20 all the time.

21 JUDGE DEMBE: Well, he would
22 have if he were there. I apologize.

23 The salary of the Prothonotary,
24 who is acting as the Clerk of Court, and
25 the Deputy are coming out of the FJD

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2 budget, not out of the Clerk's budget.

3 The budget office, data processing,

4 procurement, human resources and a host

5 of other functions are being eaten by the

6 First Judicial District's budget. For

7 instance, in order to have these clerks

8 up and operating in these rooms, we've

9 had to replace out of the FJD budget

10 about \$100,000 worth of computers,

11 printers, recabling, that kind of thing.

12 So there are efficiencies from the City's

13 point of view there, but I still need

14 those 11 clerks.

15 Now, when you see the flowchart

16 and how many rooms there are, probably

17 it's going to occur to you fairly

18 quickly, well, not all those courtrooms

19 are operating every single day, judges

20 get sick, take vacations and whatnot.

21 We've reviewed the data, and on any given

22 day, you have about a ten percent

23 absentee issue, because you have people

24 who are sick, people on vacation, people

25 on various leave. And the other thing is

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2 that because training is so crucial to
3 doing this, we're figuring a five percent
4 training, meaning about four clerks a day
5 in some kind of intensive training so
6 that the -- in order to keep the
7 remaining courtrooms functioning, I
8 really do need those 11 clerks.

9 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you.

10 JUDGE DEMBE: And I apologize
11 again.

12 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Councilman
13 Goode has questions.

14 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
15 Mr. Chairman.

16 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: The real
17 Councilman Goode.

18 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Judge, you
19 talked about the efficiencies, but
20 efficiencies are not always cost savings.
21 You can streamline operation. It doesn't
22 necessarily save cost, particularly if
23 it's streamlined, but you're increasing
24 costs elsewhere. So you did not attach a
25 dollar figure to that in terms of cost

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2 savings. Are there actually cost
3 savings, and what is that dollar amount?

4 JUDGE DEMBE: I will have to
5 get back to you about that. What I can
6 tell you, of course, is that what you
7 have seen is that we've already
8 distributed eight and a half million
9 dollars to the City, which in just the
10 five or six months we've been doing this
11 is a 27 percent increase overall of last
12 year, and we've got money coming into you
13 at the rate of about \$1.1 million a
14 month.

15 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I actually
16 didn't pose those questions to you last
17 week. I posed them to another witness.

18 JUDGE DEMBE: I know.

19 COUNCILMAN GOODE: And as I
20 posed them to another witness, I did not
21 pull you to the table to ask you the
22 question. But the question I posed the
23 other witness was, between the budgets of
24 the FJD and the Clerk of Quarter
25 Sessions, do you anticipate that in the

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2 next budget year there will be less than
3 the current budget year? And that's what
4 we're really getting down to, and
5 everything you've said does not answer
6 that question as of yet. If next year
7 the FJD budget, including the new
8 operation, is more than this year's FJD
9 budget and Clerk of Quarter Sessions,
10 then we have not achieved any cost
11 savings. And so that is the actual
12 question.

13 JUDGE DEMBE: Okay.

14 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Which I'm
15 assuming you don't have an answer right
16 now.

17 JUDGE DEMBE: Yeah. I'll give
18 you my gut answer. We have not begun to
19 prepare next year's budget. I'm going to
20 anticipate that --

21 COUNCILMAN GOODE: You won't be
22 asking for less money.

23 JUDGE DEMBE: We won't be
24 asking for less money for a couple of --

25 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I understand

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2 why, but you won't be asking for less
3 money.

4 JUDGE DEMBE: Yes. We will be
5 producing more revenue.

6 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I
7 understand.

8 JUDGE DEMBE: But we will
9 probably not be asking for less money.
10 That may change at some point. There
11 is a -- we're moving to an electronic
12 document management system in the Clerk
13 and eventually to electronic filing, and
14 when that shakes down, there may be a
15 position or two, but that's going to be a
16 while.

17 COUNCILMAN GOODE: And I
18 understand that efficiencies eventually
19 can lead to cost savings. I also
20 understand that they won't automatically
21 lead to cost savings and won't
22 necessarily lead to cost savings right
23 away, and that those efficiencies and
24 cost savings were not identified in the
25 reports done by the Committee of Seventy

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2 or by PICA, and so the reports that they
3 actually created led us to nothing in
4 terms of efficiencies and cost savings,
5 and that's the point I was making last
6 week.

7 Thank you.

8 JUDGE DEMBE: Thank you.

9 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
10 Councilman.

11 Any other questions of this
12 witness?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: There being
15 none, thank you so much.

16 JUDGE DEMBE: Thank you.

17 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Mr. Dubow,
18 do you have any more testimony on this
19 particular bill?

20 MR. DUBOW: No. We have
21 testimony on the other bill.

22 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Any other
23 questions of Mr. Dubow on this particular
24 bill?

25 (No response.)

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2 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: There being
3 none, please proceed.

4 MS. PORTER: Good morning,
5 Councilman Clarke and members of the
6 Appropriations Committee. My name is
7 Maari Porter and I'm the Recovery Officer
8 for the City of Philadelphia. I appear
9 before you today to offer testimony on
10 Bill No. 100541, which makes FY2011
11 Grants Revenue Fund appropriation
12 transfers between and among classes and
13 departments.

14 There are four transfers
15 requested in Bill No. 100541, totalling
16 \$4,703,282. The transfers are required
17 for the American Recovery and
18 Reinvestment Act-funded grants awarded
19 and made available to the City of
20 Philadelphia.

21 The Managing Director, Division
22 of Technology, seeks appropriation for
23 \$4,491,372 for ARRA Broadband II grants.
24 The Managing Director also seeks
25 appropriations of 120,000, which includes

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2 70,000 for the Philadelphia Office of
3 Emergency Management to develop a
4 Citywide Energy Assurance Plan, and
5 50,000 for the Labor Standards Unit to
6 monitor contracts funded by ARRA for
7 weatherization that are subject to Davis
8 Bacon and Related Acts to ensure
9 compliance with prevailing wage
10 requirements. The Department of Health
11 seeks appropriations for \$91,910 for the
12 ARRA IT Epidemiology and Laboratory
13 Capacity grant.

14 I appreciate the opportunity to
15 testify before this Committee today and
16 would be happy to answer any questions
17 you may have. Additionally,
18 representatives from all departments
19 involved with these transfers are
20 available as well.

21 Thank you.

22 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you.

23 A couple of questions, and I think some
24 other members have some questions about
25 this.

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2 In the testimony, you talk
3 about reaching over 14,000 of the most
4 vulnerable citizens. Where does that
5 number come from?

6 MS. PORTER: If I could ask
7 Andrew Buss from the Department of
8 Technology to help you answer that
9 question.

10 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Sure.
11 (Witness approached witness
12 table.)

13 MR. BUSS: Good morning.

14 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Good
15 morning.

16 MR. BUSS: I'm Andrew Buss.
17 I'm the Director of Public Programs at
18 the Division of Technology.

19 To answer your question, I
20 think the 14,000 number was what we
21 extrapolated from all of the current
22 sites' current service levels. So when
23 we wrote the proposal, the grant
24 proposal, we had to put in an estimated
25 number of people served, and that's where

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2 that number comes from. That would be
3 across like 77 sites.

4 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Hold on a
5 second.

6 I'm sorry. The noise level is
7 much too high, as Council President says.

8 You said under the sites that
9 have been selected -- and I think that's
10 going to be one of the questions to
11 follow this particular question -- are
12 you capped at serving 14,000 people?

13 MR. BUSS: No.

14 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Because
15 there may be 14,000 people in my district
16 alone that are vulnerable.

17 MR. BUSS: No. I think we're
18 capable of serving a lot more than that.
19 That was just what we felt was maybe a
20 realistic number to put into the proposal
21 so we didn't look like we were
22 overreaching.

23 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: I just want
24 to make sure that we're not doing
25 something that's not going to give us an

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2 opportunity to reach as many people as
3 possible.

4 MR. BUSS: Absolutely.

5 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: I guess
6 I'll ask the next question and I'll turn
7 it over to my colleagues. I know they
8 have questions.

9 This notion about these
10 selections of these sites, have you
11 talked to any of the District
12 Councilpeople about these selections?

13 MR. BUSS: No, because we had
14 such a quick turnaround from when the
15 notice of funding opportunity came out.
16 We had a 45-day turnaround, so it was
17 really a very intense process of
18 identifying sites.

19 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: That was
20 probably not a good answer. You're
21 telling me you had 45 days?

22 MR. BUSS: I'm sorry.

23 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Do you want
24 to revise that answer?

25 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Did he say

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2 45 hours or days?

3 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Days.

4 MR. BUSS: I think we did work
5 with the Recovery Office as we were
6 identifying sites. So what we did to
7 identify sites was send out like a survey
8 form to well over 100 community
9 organizations, and based on their
10 response, we were really looking for
11 sites that could support a PCC, a public
12 computer center, lab, and that's how we
13 went about picking sites.

14 The other factor that went into
15 this was, we were identifying sites that
16 were in low access or low connectivity,
17 meaning Internet connectivity, areas of
18 Philadelphia, as that was one of the
19 criteria for the grant proposal. So most
20 of the sites, as you might imagine, are
21 concentrated in North Philadelphia, part
22 of South Philadelphia and then West
23 Philadelphia.

24 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Okay. I'm
25 going back to my original question. It

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2 seems like you've done a lot in those 45
3 days to do outreach to people who
4 probably give you good information with
5 respect to the demographics, the need in
6 various areas, but I'm a little kind of
7 taken aback that the District
8 Councilperson in that 45-day period
9 couldn't have gotten a call to solicit
10 some of their advice and input as it
11 relates to the possible location and some
12 possible enhancements, and I say that as
13 a District Councilperson in North
14 Philadelphia as you reference. We had
15 had earlier conversations with
16 Ms. Reardon from the Philadelphia Library
17 and the Director at the Cecil B. Moore
18 site about having a computer center in
19 that location for quite some time and
20 actually started in earnest after
21 unfortunately it was a burglary and folks
22 broke in, and we talked about the need to
23 make this a facility that was giving
24 every opportunity imaginable for people
25 to get assistance with employment,

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2 education, all the other things, and,
3 frankly speaking, I would have liked to
4 have had that as a part of the
5 conversation, given the fact that we had
6 people, the librarian, the Director of
7 the center, Ms. Reardon, who is the
8 Executive Director of the libraries, as a
9 part of that discussion.

10 So I guess I'm a little --
11 trying to understand why in that time
12 period you couldn't reach out to District
13 Councilpeople and we hear about this in
14 an Appropriations hearing.

15 MR. BUSS: Well, and I think
16 probably what we were doing is trying to
17 rely on the sites and the partners
18 themselves to do some interfacing with
19 Council. So that's probably my oversight
20 based on --

21 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: It was
22 their responsibility?

23 MR. BUSS: Well, it was all of
24 our responsibility.

25 One possibility, though, for

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2 including more facilities would be that
3 we do have four mobile options, sort of
4 four mobile labs, whose routes are not
5 set yet. So that's kind of a good way to
6 think about getting some more sites
7 involved in this.

8 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Mr. Dubow,
9 you want to save him?

10 MR. DUBOW: I think we
11 understand --

12 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: This
13 really, you know...

14 MR. DUBOW: Right. We
15 understand the issue, and I think there's
16 still some flexibility in where the sites
17 are and the people from DOT, and we will
18 kind of work with you and walk through
19 where they are and talk to you about the
20 sites and make sure that they make sense
21 to you.

22 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: I mean,
23 that would be nice, I mean, all due
24 respect.

25 MR. DUBOW: Yeah.

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2 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: The fact
3 that you're coming here, you're asking
4 for a transfer ordinance to support a
5 very worthy effort, which I think we all
6 support, but, I mean, how can we not know
7 about this? This is like quite amazing
8 to me. You had a 45-day window and a
9 simple phone call saying, Oh, we're
10 thinking about doing some facilities in
11 your district to provide support. I
12 mean, like we do know a little bit about
13 our Council districts, contrary to some
14 people's belief.

15 MR. DUBOW: No, I understand.
16 We will follow up with you, with each
17 District Councilmember.

18 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: All right.
19 Councilwoman Sanchez.

20 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Yeah. I
21 guess I was going to ask the same
22 question. Is there a list of community
23 partners and sites that you've
24 identified?

25 MR. BUSS: Yes.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: And

3 you're going to share that with us?

4 MR. BUSS: Sure.

5 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Is there

6 a reason it wasn't included as part of

7 the testimony?

8 MR. BUSS: No reason. I just

9 didn't include it.

10 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Did we

11 make commitments to people already that

12 we can't go back if there is, as

13 Councilman Clarke mentioned, there were

14 other things that were in the pipeline

15 that could be leveraged?

16 MR. BUSS: No. And, again, I

17 think the opportunity would be the mobile

18 labs for that. That's kind of the way to

19 work in additional sites. I mean, I

20 think the feds approved our proposal

21 generally based on the sites that we

22 identified because they were in low

23 connectivity areas.

24 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So you

25 submitted something in writing to the

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2 feds with sites?

3 MR. BUSS: Right.

4 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I guess,

5 I mean -- and I know Councilman Clarke

6 kind of alluded to that, but I guess the

7 question is, what's going to be the

8 process now? If we allow this to come

9 out of Committee, what are you guys

10 proposing to be the process to ensure

11 District Council input?

12 MR. DUBOW: We will set up

13 meetings with each District Councilmember

14 and walk through the sites, talk to them

15 about whether those sites make sense to

16 them, and we'll do that -- we'll start

17 setting those meetings up today.

18 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Okay.

19 Thank you.

20 COUNCILMAN CLARKE:

21 Councilwoman Miller.

22 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I'd just

23 like to know how soon are we going to get

24 a copy of the list of sites?

25 MR. BUSS: I can give it to you

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2 today.

3 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: So you're
4 going to give it to the Chair after this
5 hearing?

6 MS. PORTER: Yes.

7 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: All
8 right. Thank you.

9 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: I can't
10 say I'm shocked by the lack of contact
11 with Councilmembers, but it is really
12 deplorable when somebody across the
13 street in 45 days can't even make a phone
14 call. And I don't want to hear about
15 partners. Whoever is driving the truck
16 is responsible for driving it correctly.

17 And I'm going to make, Mr. Vice
18 Chair, I'm going to make a request not to
19 suspend the rules today, because I think
20 we need at least two weeks to get those
21 meetings together, realistically. I
22 understand that there's one site in my
23 district and none in the Chair's
24 district. There are more people,
25 particularly poor elderly and isolated

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2 elderly, that if you had even just picked
3 up the phone and called librarians, they
4 would have told you about the need for
5 this kind of contact, and also the
6 immigrant community that has language
7 problems that often enter into this.

8 So I think we've got some work
9 to do in redoing this, at the same time
10 not killing it.

11 Thank you.

12 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
13 Councilman.

14 Any other questions?

15 Councilman DiCicco.

16 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Thank you.

17 When will these facilities be
18 ready or when are you anticipating them
19 to be ready?

20 MR. BUSS: We would like to
21 start having labs in place by the end of
22 the year, of this year, this calendar
23 year.

24 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Calendar
25 year. All right. Thank you.

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2 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
3 Councilman.

4 Thank you. Any other questions
5 for these witnesses on this particular
6 bill?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Anyone else
9 to testify on these bills?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: There being
12 none, we will leave the public hearing
13 and now go into the public meeting.

14 Councilman Goode, can I please
15 ask for a motion on Bill No. 100488.

16 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
17 Mr. Chairman. I move that Bill 100488 be
18 reported out of Committee with a
19 favorable recommendation, that the rules
20 of Council be suspended so as to permit
21 first reading at our next Council
22 session.

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: It's been
25 moved and seconded.

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2 Those in favor?

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Those

5 opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: The ayes

8 have it. Bill No. 100488 is reported out

9 of Committee with a favorable

10 recommendation.

11 Councilwoman Sanchez, please

12 give me a motion on Bill No. 100541.

13 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I move

14 that Bill 100541 be moved out of

15 Committee with a favorable

16 recommendation.

17 (Duly seconded.)

18 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: It's been

19 moved and seconded.

20 Those in favor?

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Those

23 opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: The ayes

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2 have it. Bill No. 100541 will be

3 reported out of Committee with a

4 favorable recommendation.

5 This concludes the Committee on

6 Appropriations. Thank you all very much.

7 (Committee on Appropriations

8 concluded at 10:00 a.m.)

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