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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
PUBLIC HEARING

3

BEFORE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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- - -
Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, March 17, 1998
10:05 a.m.

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- - -
BILL NO. 980001 - Ordinance to adopt the capital
program for six fiscal years '99 through 2004.
BILL NO. 980002 - Ordinance to adopt a fiscal 1999
capital budget.
BILL NO. 98004 - Ordinance amending Chapt. 19-1500
of Philadelphia Code entitled "Wage and Net
Profits Tax" by decreasing rates of the tax.
BILL NO. 98005 - Ordinance amending Chapt. 19-2600
of Philadelphia Code entitled "Business Privilege
Taxes" by decreasing the rates of the tax based
upon gross receipts.
BILL NO. 980131 - Resolution calling on Council's
Committee of the Whole to hold hearings, conduct
investigation into the School District's proposed
FY '99 budget.
BILL NO. 980138 - Resolution supporting transfer
of \$15 million from City's General Fund to School
District of Philadelphia.

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PRESENT: PRESIDENT JOHN F. STREET, Chairman
COUNCILWOMAN ANNA C. VERNA, Vice Chair
COUNCILWOMAN AUGUSTA A. CLARK
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL
COUNCILMAN DAVID COHEN
COUNCILWOMAN JOAN L. KRAJEWSKI
COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY
COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER
COUNCILMAN MICHAEL A. NUTTER
COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO
COUNCILMAN ANGEL L. ORTIZ
COUNCILMAN FRANK DICICCO
COUNCILMAN W. THACHER LONGSTRETH
COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO

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1 PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

2 P R O C E E D I N G S

3 PRESIDENT STREET: Now we will go into
4 Council Committee of the Whole. If I could -- we
5 actually are just shy of a forum. I'd like for
6 Council Members to please come to the chambers for
7 a meeting of the Council Committee of the Whole.

8 (More Council Members enter chamber.)

9 PRESIDENT STREET: We will now have the
10 Council Committee of the Whole.

11 Is Mr. Kaplan here? Mr. Kaplan, could
12 I ask you to take the witness stand for just a
13 minute.

14 (Dean Kaplan comes forward to the
15 witness stand.)

16 PRESIDENT STREET: This is a meeting of
17 Council Committee of the Whole. Today we will
18 have a public meeting and take testimony, if
19 necessary, on Bill No. 980001, an ordinance to
20 adopt the capital program for the six fiscal years
21 1999 through 2004.

22 Bill No. 980002, an ordinance to adopt
23 a fiscal 1999 capital budget.

24 And Ordinance No. 980003, an ordinance
25 adopting the operating budget for the fiscal year

1 PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

2 1999.

3 And Bill No. 98004, an ordinance
4 amending Chapter 19-1500 of the Philadelphia Code
5 entitled "Wage and Net Profits Tax," by decreasing
6 the rates of the tax.

7 And Bill No. 98005, an ordinance
8 amending Chapter 19-2600 of the Philadelphia Code
9 entitled "Business Privilege Taxes," by decreasing
10 the rates of the tax based upon gross receipts.

11 And Bill No. 980131, a resolution
12 calling on the City Council's Committee of the
13 Whole to hold hearings and to conduct an
14 investigation into the School District's proposed
15 FY '99 budget.

16 And Resolution No. 980138, supporting
17 the transfer of \$15 million from the City's
18 General Fund to the School District of
19 Philadelphia.

20 Mr. Kaplan, during the course of our
21 considering, I guess it's Bill No. 98001, there
22 was some discussion about the capital funding for
23 the libraries and for certain improvements to the
24 libraries. And we asked some specific questions
25 about how much money would be available and

1 PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
2 whether or not there would need to be any delay in
3 any of those improvements.

4 What can you tell us?

5 MR. KAPLAN: Thank you. I'm Dean
6 Kaplan, Budget Director for the City.

7 Mr. President, the Mayor has met with
8 the President of the Free Library and considered
9 the issue and is prepared -- the Administration is
10 prepared to offer an amendment at the appropriate
11 time to the FY '99 capital budget to provide an
12 additional \$900,000 for the Free Library, and that
13 will allow the Library to carry forward its
14 originally proposed renovation program.

15 PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you very much.

16 Does Mr. Shelkrot know that? Mr.
17 Shelkrot, are you aware of this?

18 MR. SHELKROT: (Off mike; responds in
19 the affirmative.)

20 PRESIDENT STREET: Are you happy?

21 MR. SHELKROT: (Off mike; responds in
22 the affirmative.)

23 PRESIDENT STREET: Are the Friends
24 happy?

25 MR. SHELKROT: (Off mike; responds in

1 PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

2 the affirmative.)

3 PRESIDENT STREET: Councilwoman Clark
4 is happy.

5 Thank you very much, Mr. Kaplan. We
6 appreciate it.

7 Are there any other questions for Mr.
8 Kaplan? I think that was the one issue that we
9 wanted to make sure we had some clarity on.

10 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
11 Tasco.

12 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: During the course
13 of the budget, we talked about the Street Lighting
14 Program, and I asked for a response on whether or
15 not the street lights were going to be -- the
16 alley lights were going to -- was there enough
17 money in the program to complete the alley
18 lighting program in the 9th Councilmatic District.

19 We got responses to other requests; we
20 have not gotten a response on that.

21 MR. KAPLAN: I'm sorry about that. I
22 was under the impression that a response had been
23 provided, but I'll look into it.

24 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: No.

25 MR. KAPLAN: I don't -- I don't -- I

1 PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
2 think -- as I recall, they had -- the Streets
3 Department was planning to contact your office
4 directly and meet with you. If that hasn't
5 happened, I will call them today and make sure
6 that we --

7 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: We do not have a
8 response.

9 MR. KAPLAN: Yeah.

10 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: We have spoken to
11 them. As with all the requests that were made
12 from Council Members, they came to the President
13 in the form of a written response; we do not have
14 a written response.

15 And I had a verbal response before, and
16 no action was taken. We got no alley lights. I
17 want a written response as to what is going to
18 happen and when it's going to happen.

19 MR. KAPLAN: We'll provide that.

20 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Today.

21 MR. KAPLAN: Yes.

22 PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you very much.
23 The Chair recognizes Councilman Rizzo.

24 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Mr.
25 President.

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2 Mr. Kaplan, the issue of the Park
3 Rangers, I know that we're looking for outside
4 sources of funding, but I would hope that after
5 hearing the Executive Director of Fairmount Park's
6 testimony, the importance of that program, that
7 the Administration is doing something along with
8 outside funding to retain such a very important
9 program.

10 MR. KAPLAN: Yes. As you've mentioned,
11 the Administration is looking into ways to extend
12 the Park Ranger Program.

13 I think that clearly the Mayor's
14 position has been that it is very important that a
15 significant amount of that support come from the
16 private sector. And we're continuing those
17 discussions.

18 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: The Administration,
19 though, if that private funding isn't available,
20 will do everything that they can do to fund the
21 program without outside funding?

22 MR. KAPLAN: I don't think I could say
23 that on the Mayor's behalf today. I think that
24 the program would have to involve both public and
25 private funding.

1 PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

2 PRESIDENT STREET: Councilman, I can
3 tell you that I discussed the Park Rangers with
4 the Mayor's as recently as this morning, around
5 8:30. And there's a commitment to do everything
6 we can to continue the program. There is an
7 interest on everybody's part that there are some
8 changes made to revitalize it.

9 And I have to tell you that the reason
10 why Mr. Kaplan and the Mayor are hedging the way
11 they are hedging is because if he sits here and
12 says, "We'll fund it if we don't get anything from
13 the private sector," then that's the one way to be
14 sure that we won't get any additional cooperation
15 out of the private sector. So he really has to
16 say that, or else we know we won't get any help.

17 But, actually, I've talked to almost
18 every member of the Council. There is strong
19 support for continuing the Park Rangers, but
20 there's an equally strong sentiment that the
21 private sector should be involved in it with us.
22 And I think we have sufficient commitment from the
23 Administration.

24 The question is whether or not we get,
25 you know, a revised and a kind of enhanced

1 PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
2 program, and then we make sure that we keep the
3 private sector involved in it as our partner.
4 It's important to us.

5 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Mr.
6 President.

7 PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you. The
8 Chair recognizes Councilman Nutter.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Actually, Mr.
10 President, my light is on inadvertently. Many of
11 the questions that I had been prepared to ask have
12 already been asked and answered. So it's a quiet
13 day for me so far.

14 PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you. That
15 usually is a good thing.

16 Anyone else? I see no lights.

17 Is there anyone else to testify on any
18 of these bills? Is there anyone else to testify
19 on any of these bills?

20 (No response.)

21 PRESIDENT STREET: If not, this brings
22 us to the end of our public meeting.

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24 PRESIDENT STREET: We will now go into
25 our public meeting.

1 PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

2 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Verna
3 for a motion on Bill No. 98001.

4 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: Mr. Chairman, I
5 move that Bill No. 980001 be reported out of
6 committee with a favorable recommendation. Also a
7 recommendation that the rules of Council be
8 suspended so as to permit first reading at our
9 next session of Council.

10 (Duly seconded.)

11 PRESIDENT STREET: All in favor, let it
12 be known by saying aye.

13 All those opposed, say nay.

14 The ayes have it. Bill No. 980001 is
15 reported from this committee with a favorable
16 recommendation, and a recommendation that the
17 rules be suspended to permit first reading at our
18 next session of Council.

19 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Verna
20 for a motion on Bill No. 980002.

21 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: Mr. Chairman, I
22 move that Bill No. 980002 be reported out of
23 committee with a favorable recommendation. Also a
24 recommendation that the rules of Council be
25 suspended so as to permit first reading at our

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - BILL NO. 980001, 980002
2 next session of Council.

3 PRESIDENT STREET: Is there a second?
4 (Duly seconded.)

5 PRESIDENT STREET: All in favor, let it
6 known by saying aye.

7 All those opposed, say nay.

8 The ayes have it. Bill No. 980002 is
9 reported from this committee with a favorable
10 recommendation and a recommendation that the rules
11 of Council be suspended to permit first reading at
12 our next session of Council.

13 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Verna
14 for a motion on Bill No. 980003.

15 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: I move that Bill
16 No. 980003 be reported out of committee with a
17 favorable recommendation. Also a recommendation
18 that the rules of Council be suspended so as to
19 permit first reading at our next session of
20 Council.

21 (Duly seconded.)

22 PRESIDENT STREET: All those in favor,
23 let it be known by saying aye.

24 Those opposed say, nay.

25 The ayes have it. Bill No. 980003 will

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - BILL NO. 980003

2 be reported from this committee with a favorable
3 recommendation and a recommendation that the rules
4 of Council be suspended to permit first reading at
5 our next session of Council.

6 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Verna
7 for a motion on Bill No. 980004.

8 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: I move that Bill
9 No. 980004 be reported out of committee with a
10 favorable recommendation. Also a recommendation
11 that the rules of Council be suspended so as to
12 permit first reading at our next session of
13 Council.

14 (Duly seconded.)

15 PRESIDENT STREET: All those in favor,
16 let it be known by saying aye.

17 All those opposed, say nay.

18 The ayes have it. Bill No. 980004 will
19 be reported from this committee with a favorable
20 recommendation and a recommendation that the rules
21 of Council be suspended to permit first reading at
22 our next Council session.

23 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Verna
24 for a motion on Bill No. 980005.

25 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: I move that Bill

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - BILL NO. 980138
2 No. 980005 be reported out of committee with a
3 favorable recommendation. Also a recommendation
4 that the rules of Council be suspended so as to
5 permit first reading at our next session of
6 Council.

7 (Duly seconded.)

8 PRESIDENT STREET: All in favor, let it
9 be known by saying aye.

10 All those opposed, say nay.

11 The ayes have it. Bill No. 90005 will
12 be reported from this committee with a favorable
13 recommendation and a recommendation that the rules
14 of Council be suspended to permit first reading at
15 our next session of Council.

16 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Verna
17 for a motion on Resolution No. 980138.

18 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: I move that
19 Resolution No. 980138 be reported out of committee
20 with a favorable recommendation.

21 (Duly seconded.)

22 COUNCILMAN STREET: All in favor, let
23 it be known by saying aye.

24 All those opposed, say opposed nay.

25 The ayes have it. Resolution No. 980138 will be

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - BILL NO. 980131
2 reported from this Committee with a favorable
3 recommendation. The Chair recommends that the
4 committee hold Resolution No. 980131.

5 This brings us to the end of our public
6 meeting.

7 The Chair recognizes Councilman Nutter.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Mr.
9 President.

10 Just a point of information, maybe I
11 missed it. Bill No. 980005 --

12 PRESIDENT STREET: -- was acted upon.

13 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay, thank you,
14 Mr. President.

15 PRESIDENT STREET: I think we covered
16 the turf.

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right.

18 PRESIDENT STREET: This brings us to
19 the end of our public meeting.

20 Thank you very much.

21 (Adjourned at 10:15 a.m.)

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RE: Council Committee of the Whole

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Bill No.'s 980001, 980002, 98004, 98005,
980131, 980138

JOSEPHINE CARDILLO, RPR