

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON LICENSES AND INSPECTIONS

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, May 8, 2014
3:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILWOMAN MARIA D. QUINONES-SANCHEZ, CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM K. GREENLEE
COUNCILMAN BOBBY HENON
COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON
COUNCILMAN DAVID OH
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA

BILLS 140052, 140080, and 140223

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COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: The Committee on Licenses and Inspection is now in order, a quorum having been established with the attendance of Councilman Bill Greenlee, Councilman Henon, and Councilman Kenyatta Johnson.

Will the Clerk read the titles of the bills.

THE CLERK: An ordinance amending Title 9 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Regulation of Businesses, Trades and Professions," to modify an exception to the Expeditors license requirements, all under certain terms and conditions.

An ordinance amending Title 10 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Regulation of Individual Conduct and Activity," by allowing the granting of permanent licenses for guide dogs for the blind, handicapped persons, or government-owned dogs used for law enforcement; all under certain terms and conditions.

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.

2 An ordinance amending Title 10
3 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
4 "Regulation of Individual Conduct and
5 Activity," by amending Title 10-100,
6 entitled "Animals," by providing further
7 for the proper care and treatment of
8 certain animals and making technical
9 changes, all under certain terms and
10 conditions.

11 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
12 you.

13 We are going to start with Bill
14 No. 140223 and so I am going to ask
15 Rebecca Swanson, the Policy and
16 Communications Director from Department
17 of License and Inspection; Allan Domb;
18 and William Giuda, member of the Greater
19 Philadelphia Association of Realtors, to
20 come forward.

21 (Witnesses approached witness
22 table.)

23 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: We'll
24 start with Rebecca.

25 MS. SWANSON: Good afternoon,

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 Councilwoman Sanchez and members of the
3 Committee on Licenses and Inspections.
4 My name is Rebecca Swanson. I'm the
5 Policy and Communications Officer for the
6 Department of Licenses and Inspections
7 and I am pleased to have the opportunity
8 to provide testimony on Bill No. 140223,
9 which was introduced by Councilman
10 Greenlee on behalf of President Clarke.

11 The Department of Licenses and
12 Inspections supports the intent and
13 purpose of this bill. As we are the
14 agency that issues expediter licenses and
15 works with expediters on a daily basis
16 during the permit application and permit
17 issuance process, the Department fully
18 supports both the requirement that
19 expediters have licenses and the
20 exceptions set forth in this bill.

21 Requiring expediters to
22 maintain a valid expediter license helps
23 protect public safety by ensuring that
24 all those applying for building and
25 demolition permits are tax compliant and

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 properly certified and insured. The
3 Department recognizes, however, that
4 certain certified professionals such as a
5 real estate broker can be permitted to
6 act as an expediter within the scope of
7 their licensed practice area without
8 needing an expediter license due to their
9 certifications and experience in their
10 field. Providing an exception to the
11 expediter license requirement for this
12 subset of qualified individuals will not
13 have a detrimental effect on public
14 safety.

15 Thank you for the opportunity
16 to provide the Department's testimony in
17 support of this bill. I'll be happy to
18 answer any questions.

19 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Let me
20 recognize that Councilman David Oh and
21 Councilman Squilla have joined us.

22 Any questions for the
23 Department of L&I?

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Madam
25 Chair?

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.

2 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Yes.

3 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
4 you, Madam Chair.

5 Not really a question, but just
6 for the record there will be an amendment
7 submitted for this bill. It was sent to
8 us by the Law Department, because when
9 the bill was written, the addition that
10 was put in was not put in bold. So just
11 to make clear what the addition is, we'll
12 put it in as an amendment.

13 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Okay.
14 Thank you, Councilman Greenlee.

15 With that, Mr. Domb.

16 MR. DOMB: Thank you. On
17 behalf of the Greater Philadelphia
18 Association of Realtors, we're testifying
19 in support of Bill No. 140223, which
20 exempts realtors from having to apply and
21 pay for any expediter's license.

22 Realtors on a daily basis
23 assist Philadelphia property owners
24 obtain permits, licenses, certificates,
25 pay taxes and other fees required before

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.

2 selling or purchasing a home and assist
3 them in managing property they offer for
4 rent.

5 GPAR believes realtors should
6 be exempted from this licensure
7 requirement, much like attorneys and
8 architects. Realtors must fulfill
9 continuing education requirements
10 mandated by the Pennsylvania Real Estate
11 Commission and are already licensed to
12 perform property management services and
13 pay the fees under the Pennsylvania Code
14 35.203. Not only must realtors pay an
15 official fee of \$114, but every two years
16 realtors, in order to renew their
17 license, have continuing education and
18 complete 14 hours per year of continuing
19 ed at an average cost of 140 in addition
20 to their license renewal of 106.

21 Additional fees would place an
22 excessive burden on realtors and we agree
23 that anyone who does not hold appropriate
24 licenses should be required to do so and
25 pay those fees so there is some

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 accountability to avoid catastrophes that
3 have happened in the past.

4 In closing, we would like to
5 thank all Councilmembers I see in front
6 of me today and President Clarke for
7 introducing this legislation. We
8 respectfully request this legislation be
9 voted out of committee with a favorable
10 recommendation and look forward to the
11 final passage of this bill.

12 Thank you.

13 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
14 you.

15 Mr. Giuda.

16 MR. GIUDA: Yes. Thank you
17 very much. This actually came upon a
18 couple months ago, so I'd like to thank
19 the Philadelphia Board bringing it up and
20 Councilmembers for getting it up so
21 quickly.

22 I agree with what both parties
23 said. I think it's very important for us
24 as an industry to help our clients obtain
25 these particular items that are needed.

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.

2 Most of them do not have it when they
3 come to us, and one of the things that --
4 I wouldn't take it unless they do obtain
5 the proper licenses and proper permits
6 and everything that they need. So in
7 that -- so what I try to do is, I try to
8 expedite getting it for them so that I
9 can get the property rented for them and
10 to comply with all of the different
11 things that are required.

12 So I appreciate you guys taking
13 this into consideration, and I thank you
14 very much.

15 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I want
16 to thank the Greater Philadelphia
17 Realtors Association for their
18 collaboration with us and happy that we
19 can make you happy very fast.

20 Thank you to the Department of
21 Licenses and Inspection.

22 MS. SWANSON: Thank you,
23 Councilwoman.

24 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: With
25 that, we are going to go to Bill No.

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.

2 140052. Is Susan Cosby available?

3 (Witness approached witness
4 table.)

5 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Let me
6 recognize for the record that
7 Councilwoman Bass has joined us. We
8 almost have a quorum of Council. What
9 else do you want to do? Can we pass the
10 budget right now?

11 Please proceed.

12 MS. COSBY: Good afternoon,
13 Committee members. My name is Susan
14 Cosby and I'm the Executive Director of
15 the Animal Care and Control Team of
16 Philadelphia, also known as ACCT Philly.
17 Thank you for the opportunity to appear
18 before you today in support of Bill
19 140052, which provides relief from the
20 financial expense of acquiring a dog
21 license for service dogs and dogs used by
22 law enforcement.

23 ACCT Philly is a non-profit
24 that was formed in 2011 to meet the
25 City's annual care and control needs,

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 which are extensive. We are located in
3 North Philadelphia and provide services
4 to all Philadelphia each and every day of
5 the year around the clock. Our shelter
6 handles more than 30,000 animals
7 annually, and we are the largest animal
8 service provider in the tri-state region
9 in terms of volume of animals handled and
10 requests for service. Our organization
11 manages the dog licensing program on
12 behalf of the City.

13 The dog licensing program is a
14 critical tool in reuniting lost pets with
15 their owners and protecting public health
16 and safety. The cost of this program are
17 borne by all dog owners who comply with
18 the law and purchase a license.

19 While most dogs are pets and a
20 member of the family, in the case of
21 service dogs, we recognize they serve a
22 purpose for greater than that of a best
23 friend. For those with physical
24 disabilities, they can be a means to
25 which the blind or partially sighted

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 persons steers safely through life's
3 challenges. They provide not just
4 physical but emotional support. Study
5 has shown that people with severe
6 physical disabilities who own service
7 dogs have a higher than average quality
8 of life and self-esteem than those who do
9 not. Studies have also indicated
10 additional benefits of an increased
11 likelihood of employment, economic
12 independence, and improved self-reliance.

13 The very same studies that
14 validate the positive effects of service
15 dogs also note that a negative aspect of
16 keeping a service dog is the costs
17 associated with the dogs.
18 Recommendations include conceptualizing
19 service dogs in financial terms as being
20 similar to assistive medical equipment.
21 This bill recognizes that burden and
22 would eliminate the annual financial
23 obligation to the City by providing a
24 lifetime, fee-waived, permanent license.
25 Likewise, dogs serving our city

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 and our country in law enforcement roles
3 are of tremendous benefit to the safety
4 of our entire community. The costs borne
5 by government agencies to purchase,
6 train, and maintain these valuable dogs
7 are already significant. Law enforcement
8 should not further be burdened or put
9 upon to pay back the annual license fee
10 for dogs in service to our community.

11 ACCT Philly commends
12 Councilmember Greenlee and Council
13 President Clarke for recognizing the
14 value of service dogs and lessening the
15 burden on those who care for them.

16 I would be pleased to answer
17 any questions, if you have them.

18 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
19 you so much. I just asked Councilman
20 Greenlee were we really charging our
21 police dogs. How much money were we
22 talking about; do you know?

23 MS. COSBY: For dogs that are
24 intact, it's a \$40 annual fee.

25 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Now, I

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.

2 just got a puppy. Do I have to register
3 my puppy?

4 MS. COSBY: You do. Within 30
5 days of getting your dog after your dog
6 reaches the age of four months of age and
7 can receive a rabies vaccination.

8 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So I got
9 to get a license.

10 MS. COSBY:
11 Phillydoglicense.com.

12 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Oh, I
13 can do it on the Internet?

14 MS. COSBY: Yes, you can.

15 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Madam
16 Chair, I believe veterinarians are told
17 that they're supposed to inform the
18 person when they bring their pet in for a
19 license -- I mean, for an examination
20 that they're supposed to get a license.
21 Most vets will provide that form.

22 MS. COSBY: Yes. The
23 veterinarians are resellers of
24 Philadelphia's license.

25 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: We're

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 newbies. We just had him for a month.
3 He's about to get groomed and get all his
4 health insurance. I didn't even know
5 they had health insurance. I got to get
6 a health plan for him.

7 Thank you so very much for the
8 work that you do and thank you for coming
9 out and supporting Councilman Clarke's
10 bill. Thank you.

11 MS. COSBY: Thank you.

12 COUNCILMAN OH: I have a
13 question.

14 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Oh,
15 excuse me. Councilman David Oh.

16 COUNCILMAN OH: I have a
17 question for you.

18 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Ms.
19 Cosby, my apologies.

20 COUNCILMAN OH: So a lot of pet
21 owners, particularly dog owners in
22 Philadelphia, do not have a license for
23 their dog, and so they have to get a
24 metal, is that right, a metal tag?

25 MS. COSBY: Yes. As part of

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 getting a dog licensed, you do get a tag
3 as well as a certificate that states your
4 dog is licensed. We actually have just
5 recently put together an evaluation
6 broken down by zip codes of which zip
7 codes have the highest and lowest
8 licensing compliance rate. The highest
9 compliance rate in a single zip code in
10 Philadelphia is just over 10 percent of
11 the households that we estimate own dogs
12 actually have a license.

13 COUNCILMAN OH: So the
14 enforcement seems kind of problematic in
15 that so many people don't get licensed.
16 And it's \$40 every year; is that right?

17 MS. COSBY: It's \$40 if your
18 dog is intact. It is 16 if your dog is
19 spayed or neutered, and there's a 50
20 percent discount if you are aged 65 or
21 older.

22 COUNCILMAN OH: And so my
23 question is, for example, we have dog
24 parks in Philadelphia. Is there any
25 benefit if you have a licensed dog that

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 these parks are more accessible? In
3 other words, what is the benefit to
4 having paid this licensing fee when so
5 many people don't pay it and there
6 doesn't seem to be a means, based on our
7 fiscal situation right now, of enforcing
8 that? Is there an incentive; for
9 example, a preference for a dog that has
10 a license to -- is there some benefit
11 here?

12 MS. COSBY: We're actually --
13 that's one of the things that we've been
14 looking at recently and how we can add
15 benefits to the program, and that was
16 actually part of my discussion in the
17 hallway right before this meeting. Some
18 of the benefits that we added in terms of
19 what we have ability to control in our
20 agency is if your dog is lost and does
21 get found and brought to our shelter, the
22 normal boarding fees and any kind of fees
23 associated with your dog staying at the
24 shelter while we try to locate you and
25 reunite you with your dog are actually

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 waived. So you're essentially purchasing
3 almost like an insurance policy for your
4 dog.

5 We also offer a free ride home.
6 So our Animal Control officers -- it
7 occurred to us that if you are, for
8 example, in South Philadelphia and
9 perhaps you don't have a car and your dog
10 gets out, if we receive a report and we
11 come down and pick up your dog from South
12 Philadelphia and drive it to North
13 Philadelphia and we need you to come pick
14 that dog up right away, because we are at
15 capacity with dogs nearly every single
16 day of the year, for you to come and get
17 your dog is a burden, and so we've
18 actually -- if your dog is wearing a
19 license, and if your dog is not wearing a
20 license, we're going to make every effort
21 to get that dog home to you by getting
22 your dog a free ride home. And we're
23 also looking for other opportunities that
24 we can create to provide a benefit, and
25 we welcome any ideas that the Council may

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.

2 have.

3 COUNCILMAN OH: Well, I'm glad
4 that you are. I talked to some friends
5 who live in the Art Museum area. They
6 complain about how hard it is and where
7 to take their dog, the dog park, but they
8 also say, Listen, I pay this fee every
9 year and I don't know why I pay this fee,
10 because I don't get a benefit from it,
11 and yet so many other people don't pay
12 the fee and there seems to be no
13 distinguishing me from them. I just pay
14 the fee.

15 And so if you could think of a
16 benefit in some way that would encourage
17 people to do this, I think that would be
18 great.

19 So thank you very much.

20 MS. COSBY: Thank you.

21 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: What
22 would be good, if you can give to the
23 Committee -- you say you did an analysis
24 of where the licenses are and stuff.
25 Maybe if you give us that data by

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 district. I know for many of us since
3 we're renovating parks, we're being asked
4 for dog parks, and we need to weigh that
5 in and say where are people registering
6 as an incentive.

7 I just did a dog park and now
8 that I am a doggie owner, thanks to my
9 colleague over here, but I think that's
10 important, because that will be one of
11 the matrix that we can use around
12 supporting the creation of dog parks.

13 MS. COSBY: Absolutely. I'd be
14 happy to get that whole report.

15 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: If you
16 can forward it to the Chair, that would
17 be great.

18 MS. COSBY: Absolutely.

19 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
20 you.

21 MS. COSBY: Thank you.

22 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Our next
23 bill is Bill No. 140080. The Chair wants
24 to recognize Councilman Johnson, the
25 sponsor of this bill.

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.

2 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
3 Madam Chair. I want to thank you for
4 allowing me the opportunity for bringing
5 this bill to this Committee. As a dog
6 owner, this bill was important to me just
7 from the simple fact that I used to think
8 this was kind of corny until I actually
9 purchased a dog. My dog is a part of my
10 family, and so when I start looking at
11 the issue of the welfare of animals
12 outside during like this last winter,
13 which was one of the coldest winters on
14 record, I began getting calls from
15 constituents regarding individuals
16 leaving their animals outside their homes
17 during the cold.

18 My whole thing is, if you're
19 going to have a dog or a puppy or any
20 other type of animal, then you should
21 maintain it, and if not, if you're not
22 going to, then you should get rid of it.

23 But as I looked into this
24 situation, I discovered that the current
25 City law doesn't go far enough to protect

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.

2 our dog and educate dog owners about the
3 dangers of exposure to extreme weather.

4 My staff and I worked with the Animal

5 Care and Control Team of Philadelphia,

6 Ms. Penny Ellison from the Hand2Paw

7 Foundation, and the Philadelphia Law

8 Department to develop an amendment to

9 this bill, which has been shared with the

10 Committee. I believe this amendment

11 properly protects the dogs of our city

12 while ensuring that we don't punish

13 responsible pet owners. This amendment

14 use codes red, gray, and blue weather

15 emergencies to indicate when overexposure

16 can be harmful and will be a violation.

17 We've also worked to cut out exceptions

18 for doghouses, but these structures are

19 specifically defined to ensure that they

20 adequately protect their dog who is using

21 them as shelter.

22 I believe that the majority of

23 dog owners care for their animals and

24 that often is not -- and that often is

25 not due diligence to negligence, but

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.

2 rather just being uninformed about the
3 dangers of extreme weather.

4 Protecting the dogs of this
5 city from the dangers of extreme weather
6 is important to me and all dog lovers,
7 and I believe this bill is just what the
8 City needs to ensure our beloved pets are
9 protected.

10 And I am a profoundly profound
11 confessed dog lover. And so at this
12 particular time, we're going to have
13 representatives -- don't laugh.

14 We have representatives from
15 various organizations that we will call
16 up to testify.

17 Madam Chair, I just want to
18 thank you for allowing me to have opening
19 statements. And, again, I guess, you
20 know, a couple of friends -- and I'm home
21 kind of like, Are you kidding me, right?
22 But until you actually own a dog or a
23 cat -- and we had our dog -- we bought
24 her as a puppy, Sasha Blue. Your dog
25 becomes a part of your family. In the

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 middle of the night, she's walking
3 around, we're trying to sleep. I'm
4 talking to my good friend Bobby Henon,
5 Councilman Henon, about finding different
6 ways to tire my puppy out at that
7 particular time so we wouldn't be up all
8 night. He gave me some technique and so
9 forth. And so a year later, this is a
10 part of the family.

11 So this is important to me. We
12 go out of our way to take care of our
13 Sasha Blue, as she's a part of our
14 family, and I think that promoting this
15 overall for this city I think is a good
16 thing.

17 So thank you, Madam Chair.

18 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: You make
19 me feel bad on the naming. That's a very
20 fancy name there. We got a puppy and we
21 fought about the name. I said I want
22 something normal, and now his name is
23 Norman. Poor dog.

24 Anyway, with that, if I could
25 re-call back Susan Cosby and George

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.

2 Bengal for our first panel. There's
3 someone here for him. And then after
4 that, I have a Samantha Jones, Lori
5 Albright, Ashton Phillips, Julia
6 Bringinghurst, Pat Brett, and Jennifer
7 Augustin, just so that folks could start
8 getting ready, but we will begin with
9 Ms. Cosby and the representative for
10 Mr. Bengal.

11 (Witnesses approached witness
12 table.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: You may
14 proceed.

15 MS. COSBY: Good afternoon
16 again. I'm Ms. Cosby, Susan Cosby, again
17 with the Animal Care and Control Team,
18 and thank you for the opportunity to
19 appear before you in support of Bill
20 140080, which provides protection for
21 dogs that are living some or all of their
22 time outdoors during inclement weather.

23 Our organization would serve as
24 the primary responder to enforce the
25 provisions of this bill, if enacted. As

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 an organization that takes a
3 non-judgmental approach towards pet
4 ownership and through our interactions
5 with the loving pet owners in every
6 neighborhood of this city, we recognize
7 that the overwhelming majority of pet
8 owners and dog owners love and value
9 their pets. Although that love exists in
10 nearly every single home that we come
11 across, the love does not translate in
12 every case to empathy for a dog left out
13 in inclement weather.

14 Currently, there is no portion
15 of the City Code that addresses the
16 welfare of dogs maintained for some or
17 all of their time outdoors, and the
18 provisions for the care of these animals
19 rests entirely in PA State Statute 5511
20 are less than the requirements of this
21 bill and are enforceable only by
22 organizations that have police powers.

23 Critically, our Animal Control
24 officers do not have police powers and,
25 therefore, we must refer any complaints

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 we receive about potential cruelty to
3 animals to our friends and partners at
4 the Pennsylvania SPCA, leaving that
5 organization as the sole humane law
6 enforcement arm in the City.

7 This bill tackles the challenge
8 of establishing a locally enforced
9 increased standard of care for dogs that
10 are, for whatever reason, not able or not
11 living inside a home above what is
12 achieved by current state law, and it
13 does so in a manner that is easily
14 carried out by any dog owner. The
15 addition of protections for dogs under
16 City Code will allow us as Animal Control
17 officers to take immediate action with
18 violators, providing education about the
19 law's standards and, if necessary, a code
20 violation notice.

21 By using the existing system of
22 code red and code blue weather alerts
23 that Philadelphians are familiar with,
24 this bill adopts an already recognizable
25 and publicly announced system for

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 understanding heat and cold warnings in
3 Philadelphia. The code red and code blue
4 declarations take into consideration wind
5 chill, precipitation, temperature, and
6 humidity, all of which are important
7 factors to dog health just as they are to
8 humans.

9 We believe that this bill, if
10 passed, provides specific guidance for
11 residents whose dogs do not live inside
12 the home to easily improve the living
13 conditions of their dogs without placing
14 an undue burden or extraordinary expense
15 on the family.

16 And at ACCT Philly we stand
17 ready to assist our city in elevating the
18 standard of care for dogs. We commend
19 Councilman Johnson's attention to this
20 matter, and thank you again for the time
21 to voice our support. And I'd be happy
22 to answer any questions.

23 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
24 you.

25 MS. COSBY: And it's a good

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.

2 reason to license your dog.

3 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: We will
4 now hear from the SPCA and then we'll
5 take any questions for our professionals.

6 You may proceed.

7 MS. EREMUS: Good afternoon.

8 My name is Sara --

9 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Speak
10 into the microphone.

11 MS. EREMUS: Good afternoon.

12 My name is Sara Eremus and I'm the
13 Communications and Marketing Manager for
14 the Pennsylvania SPCA. I am here on
15 behalf of our Director of Humane Law
16 Enforcement, George Bengal, and with your
17 permission, I'd like to read his
18 statement in support of Bill No. 140080.

19 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ:

20 Absolutely.

21 MS. EREMUS: My name is George
22 Bengal and I have been the Pennsylvania
23 SPCA's Director of Humane Law Enforcement
24 since 2007. I have worked in humane law
25 enforcement for over 20 years after

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 spending 20 years as a Philadelphia
3 police officer. Prior to joining the
4 Pennsylvania SPCA, I served as Chief
5 Humane Officer for the Women's Humane
6 Society in Bensalem and as Field Services
7 Manager and Director of Law Enforcement
8 for Delaware County SPCA in Media.

9 The Pennsylvania SPCA is a
10 Pennsylvania non-profit society
11 incorporated for the prevention of
12 cruelty to animals whose headquarters are
13 located in Philadelphia at 350 East Erie
14 Avenue. The Pennsylvania SPCA is
15 organized in part to receive and
16 investigate criminal complaints of animal
17 cruelty, abuse, neglect or abandonment
18 and to prosecute individuals under the
19 state animal cruelty law. The
20 Pennsylvania SPCA employs 12 Humane
21 Society police officers who are empowered
22 to enforce the animal cruelty law. All
23 of our officers are sworn in to serve in
24 Philadelphia County.

25 The PSPCA maintains a cruelty

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 hotline for citizens to report complaints
3 of suspected animal cruelty. During
4 periods of extreme weather, calls to the
5 hotline substantially increase, and our
6 officers have investigated countless
7 complaints of dogs left out in the cold
8 or the heat. In some instances, the dogs
9 have no shelter at all. In others, the
10 shelter provided is inadequate to
11 maintain a body temperature that's
12 conducive to their health and safety.

13 The state animal cruelty
14 statute provides some protection, but in
15 situations of extreme temperatures, I
16 have found it inadequate at times to
17 protect the health and safety of dogs
18 left outdoors. The state prohibits
19 depriving any animal of necessary
20 sustenance, drink, shelter or veterinary
21 care or access to clean and sanitary
22 shelter which will protect the animal
23 against inclement weather and preserve
24 the animal's body heat and keep it dry.

25 In my years of enforcing this

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.

2 law, I have found that this language is
3 inadequate to address situations where
4 exposure to extreme weather is
5 endangering the health of a dog. For
6 example, in extreme heat, my staff and I
7 have examined doghouses with internal
8 temperatures that make them feel like
9 ovens. In the winter, we have recovered
10 the bodies of dogs left outdoors with a
11 doghouse whose bodies were literally
12 frozen to the floor of the house.

13 While this ordinance would be
14 enforced by the City's Animal Control
15 officers and not Humane Society police
16 officers, based on what I have seen in
17 investigating cruelty for more than 20
18 years, I believe this ordinance is needed
19 to provide additional protection for dogs
20 in the City. It would give the Animal
21 Control officers the opportunity to
22 educate the public about the need to
23 either bring their dogs indoors in
24 extreme temperatures or provide them with
25 housing that will provide complete

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 protection from the elements. It would
3 be a step forward in making Philadelphia
4 a leader in protecting animals, and I
5 support it wholeheartedly.

6 Thank you.

7 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
8 you.

9 Any questions for our experts?
10 Councilwoman Bass.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
12 Madam Chair.

13 I had a question about, I
14 guess, the amount -- the number of dogs
15 or the scope of the problem. Could you
16 talk a little bit further about that,
17 either one of you.

18 MS. COSBY: Since we don't
19 currently investigate that, it's not a
20 number that we track.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.

22 MS. COSBY: So I don't have a
23 specific number for you.

24 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: The SPCA
25 does.

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.

2 MS. EREMUS: Sure. I can speak
3 on behalf of the SPCA. In 2013, we had
4 in excess of 200 calls that were
5 regarding animals left out in extreme
6 weather conditions that we responded to.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. I
8 just wanted to know. Thank you.

9 MS. EREMUS: Certainly. Thank
10 you.

11 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
12 you.

13 No other questions? Thank you
14 for coming down here today and
15 enlightening us, supporting this.

16 MS. EREMUS: Thank you.

17 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
18 you.

19 With that, we will go to
20 Samantha Jones, Citizens for a No Kill
21 Philadelphia; Lori Albright, COO of Red
22 Paw Emergency Relief Team. After
23 Samantha and Lori, if we could have
24 Ashton Phillips and Julia Bringhurst.

25 (Witnesses approached witness

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 table.)

3 MS. JONES: Good afternoon.

4 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Good
5 afternoon. You may proceed.

6 MS. JONES: My name is Samantha
7 Jones and I am the President of Citizens
8 for a No Kill Philadelphia, a non-profit
9 animal welfare advocacy organization
10 dedicated to saving the lives of healthy
11 and treatable companion animals in
12 Philadelphia shelters and working with
13 the citizens of Philadelphia to prevent
14 animals from entering our city's shelter
15 system.

16 Our organization interacts with
17 members of the public through various
18 means, including public outreach events
19 and via social media. Through these
20 avenues, CNKP seeks to educate members of
21 the community on how to properly care for
22 companion animals, what to do when they
23 encounter an animal in need, and other
24 important issues involving animal
25 welfare. CNKP further encourages members

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 of the public to take action and to speak
3 up on behalf of animals in various
4 situations.

5 This past winter of 2013-2014
6 during a time when temperatures dropped
7 to the extremes, our organization was
8 contacted on numerous occasions regarding
9 dogs left out in the cold. In an effort
10 to provide guidance on how to care for
11 pets during extreme temperatures and what
12 to do if someone spotted a dog unattended
13 in the cold, CNKP implemented a cold
14 weather educational initiative through
15 social media and on our web page,
16 providing winter safety tips and contact
17 information for appropriate authorities.
18 Several people contacted our organization
19 expressing frustration about seeing the
20 same dogs repeatedly left outside as the
21 temperatures continued to plummet, and
22 numerous calls to local authorities
23 proved to lead to nothing but dead ends.
24 Oftentimes individuals were unsure of
25 whom to contact or whether it was a

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 situation in which they could even make a
3 call for help.

4 These personal interactions
5 with the public demonstrate the need for
6 change when it comes to caring for
7 animals when the temperatures drop or
8 rise to extreme levels. Legislation
9 addressing dogs outside in extreme
10 conditions would undoubtedly aid in
11 promoting responsible pet ownership and
12 would serve as a deterrent for neglectful
13 dog owners. CNKP supports this
14 legislative initiative to keep dogs safe
15 in severe conditions.

16 The proposed amendments to Bill
17 140080 strengthen the enforceability of
18 the ordinance and provide guidance with
19 regard to how the City ordinance will
20 align with Pennsylvania state law
21 adequate shelter requirements. The
22 inclusion of code blue, code gray, and
23 code red guideposts will aid with
24 enforceability and will remove discretion
25 as to temperatures in a particular

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 location in the City. The proposed
3 amended bill additionally removes
4 inclusion of cats, which both narrows and
5 strengthens the legislation and removes
6 the discussion as to how community cats
7 would be affected by any such
8 legislation.

9 As drafted, however, the
10 proposed amendments do not contemplate
11 whether the ordinance applies with equal
12 force to animals that are attended versus
13 those that are unattended. Proposed
14 language to avoid ambiguity could state
15 that the ordinance applies to, quote,
16 "any person who owns or has possession,
17 custody or control of a dog shall not
18 allow the animal to remain outdoors
19 unattended," end quote.

20 Further, while the obvious
21 intent of the proposed ordinance is to
22 prevent dogs from being left outside for
23 extended periods, such as 30 minutes, the
24 term "brief" in the statute is not
25 defined and, therefore, could be subject

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 to multiple interpretations as it is
3 currently written without definitive
4 clarification.

5 I am confident that these
6 proposed amendments and this proposed
7 ordinance would undoubtedly protect dogs
8 in the City of Philadelphia, and we thank
9 you for the opportunity to speak in
10 regard to this bill.

11 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.

12 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: We'll
13 hear from Lori and then if we have any
14 questions.

15 Please proceed.

16 MS. LEARY: Hi. My name is
17 Jennifer Leary. I'm the founder of the
18 Red Paw Emergency Relief Team. I'm going
19 to be speaking on behalf of Lori, if
20 that's okay.

21 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ:
22 Absolutely.

23 MS. LEARY: So Red Paw is an
24 emergency response organization that
25 responds in Southeastern Pennsylvania to

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 provide emergency assistance to animals
3 that have been displaced by fires and
4 other residential disasters. We work in
5 conjunction with the Red Cross, the
6 City's Office of Emergency Management,
7 other public and private disaster relief
8 organizations, social service, and animal
9 welfare groups.

10 We respond to all neighborhoods
11 in Philadelphia, and we see firsthand the
12 result of residents leaving their dogs
13 and cats outside has an effect on them.
14 This is not an isolated problem in one
15 neighborhood, but an issue that affects
16 the entire City. To date, we have
17 assisted more than a thousand displaced
18 pets. Many of our displaced pets live
19 outside and, upon intake, are suffering
20 from residual effects, including matted
21 coats, skin infections, intestinal
22 parasites, just to name a few. Left
23 untreated, these can and have led to
24 further and more costly medical
25 conditions. When we provide treatment

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 for these conditions, we are forced to
3 use resources and funding that may
4 otherwise be used to care for the animals
5 requiring extraordinary medical care due
6 to the disaster for which they were
7 displaced.

8 Over the winter, our emergency
9 line that was established for the Fire
10 Department, the Red Cross, Animal
11 Control, and residents to call 24/7 if
12 there's a pet displaced by a disaster was
13 flooded with calls about animals left
14 outside in extreme cold, snow, and ice.
15 When we hung up the phone, we felt
16 defeated and the callers felt frustrated
17 because we did not have the resources,
18 recourse or advice to give them. Our
19 goal as an organization is to try to
20 alleviate some of the burden placed on
21 Animal Control and the first responders
22 in the City, especially during extreme
23 weather events. In addition, we have
24 personally experienced the frustration,
25 so we can commiserate with many of the

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 callers.

3 Red Paw headquarters is based
4 out of our house in Point Breeze. We
5 moved there a little over a year ago to
6 find that our neighbor leaves his dog
7 outside 24/7 all year round. It's a
8 horrible thing to experience. Day and
9 night we see and hear the effects that
10 living outside has on an animal. Brownie
11 cries constantly from hunger, from pain,
12 and from loneliness. Her paw pads are
13 tender and swollen. She limps when she
14 walks the perimeter of the yard, and her
15 fur is patchy from fleas and
16 over-grooming due to boredom and stress.

17 Over the winter we, along with
18 several neighbors, called Animal Control,
19 PSPCA, and the Police several times, and
20 they did respond, but with no real
21 legislation to stand on, not much could
22 be done. Our neighbor would bring
23 Brownie in the house, but as soon as the
24 authorities left, right back out she
25 would go. We tried talking about the

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.

2 harmful effects of leaving her outside.

3 We supplied hay and bedding. We gave her
4 jackets. We even offered a cage for them
5 to keep her in the house, but as we speak
6 right now, she's still outside.

7 We see every day the
8 heart-wrenching results of Brownie's life
9 outside, and we see how important the
10 proposed amendments to this bill and the
11 inclusion of code red, gray, and blue can
12 be, and we support it wholeheartedly.

13 Finally, the proposed
14 amendments to this legislation provides a
15 solid framework to strengthen the
16 definition of what adequate shelter means
17 and provide a guideline for us as
18 neighbors, for our organization, and as a
19 resource when people call our emergency
20 line and for our caseworkers during
21 outreach with our clients.

22 Our goal is to educate our
23 neighbors and fellow residents, our
24 clients, and our caseworkers on the
25 passage of said legislation. While we

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 are encouraged by the proposed amendment,
3 we do have some concern regarding
4 implementation and the verbiage "brief"
5 and "attended" and feel that these vague
6 and subjective terms and enforcement need
7 to be addressed. We do appreciate the
8 opportunity to speak on this ordinance.

9 Thank you.

10 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
11 you.

12 Any questions?

13 The Chair recognizes Councilman
14 Johnson.

15 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you
16 very much.

17 Thank you for your testimony.
18 First and foremost, Jen, I want to thank
19 you for your service for Red Paws.

20 MS. LEARY: Thank you.

21 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Also
22 acknowledge Councilman Curtis Jones and
23 myself, we introduced a resolution
24 honoring you, and we're just going to
25 coordinate our schedules to make sure we

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 publicly acknowledge.

3 But for most of the members of
4 the L&I Committee, some may or may not
5 know that Jen Leary was the CNN hero for
6 2014, which was a big deal.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. LEARY: Thank you.

9 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: From
10 Philadelphia. More importantly, from the
11 2nd Councilmanic District.

12 MS. LEARY: That's right.
13 That's right.

14 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Point
15 Breeze. And so we are truly proud of
16 your accomplishment representing the City
17 of Philadelphia doing some very, very
18 important work that should be highlighted
19 and that we should uplift as you continue
20 to do the work that you're doing through
21 Red Paws.

22 I just wanted to follow up on
23 two of the issues in terms of the
24 language regarding the unattended of the
25 actual dogs or puppies. Just elaborate

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 on that for me, if you can, and then
3 we'll talk about enforcement and how we
4 came up with the language, which was a
5 combination of working with the Law
6 Department and ACCT under their
7 recommendation. But give us an overview
8 as well on what we need to pay attention
9 to from the unattended standpoint.

10 MS. JONES: I can start with
11 that. First and foremost, the proposed
12 amendment as drafted has a parenthetical
13 excluding dogs that are outside for a
14 brief period of time. However, the term
15 "brief" is not defined. Therefore, it's
16 left up to the enforcing officer's
17 discretion or, arguably, the owner's
18 discretion as well. What I might
19 consider brief is five minutes out in
20 temperatures that are in the teens,
21 whereas an owner might say, Oh, well,
22 brief to me is 45 minutes.

23 So in an effort to kind of
24 avoid or remove some of that ambiguity,
25 language to the effect of "brief period,

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 not to exceed 30 minutes" or something to
3 that effect. Of course, that also would
4 have to be read in conjunction with the
5 enforceability and the ability of the ACL
6 officers, or whoever is responding, to
7 observe that animal outside for that
8 given period of time. So it would have
9 to be something that is brief so they're
10 not outside too long.

11 And in terms of the adding just
12 the word "unattended," that would, again,
13 remove any ambiguity in terms of owners
14 that could be outside with the dog or
15 maybe outside in a different part of the
16 yard, or it just really would strengthen
17 the language of the bill and be more
18 directive to the owner so they know
19 exactly what situations they have to
20 avoid under this ordinance.

21 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.
22 Thank you very much. I thank both of you
23 for your testimony and coming down and
24 giving us insight and support for the
25 bill. Thank you very much.

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.

2 MS. JONES: Thank you for the
3 opportunity.

4 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: We just
5 passed a bill today that makes sure that
6 the Administration puts out its
7 regulation and its enforcement of all of
8 our bills. So be sure to monitor that,
9 and if there's some suggestions, you get
10 back to us on the implementation part of
11 that. Thank you.

12 MS. JONES: Thank you.

13 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So Julia
14 Bringhurst and Pat Brett.

15 (Witnesses approached witness
16 table.)

17 MS. BRINGHURST: Do you have a
18 preference on order to speak?

19 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: You are
20 free to do as you please. We work for
21 you.

22 MS. BRINGHURST: Okay. My name
23 is Julia Bringhurst. I live on the 1100
24 block of South Dorrance Street in Point
25 Breeze. I'm not with any agency. I'm

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.

2 just a constituent and had some personal
3 experiences this past winter.

4 This past winter was difficult.
5 It was tough on all of us trying to get
6 to work, trying to dig our cars out from
7 under a foot of snow and ice, and for
8 certain elderly neighbors trying to stay
9 warm with no power or heat. As bad as it
10 was for our friends, neighbors, and
11 family members, it was particularly
12 difficult for animals whose owners did
13 not provide them with the appropriate
14 shelter. "Appropriate" is the operative
15 word in these situations because it is
16 not illegal to leave your pet outside as
17 long as it has adequate and proper
18 accommodations. Although you can call
19 ACCT or the PSPCA to report what you
20 consider to be a dangerous situation, in
21 most cases the officers' hands are tied.
22 They are limited by the current law.

23 In January and February of this
24 year, Philly.com posted several articles
25 by Amy Worden, a staff writer with the

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 Philadelphia Inquirer, who writes a
3 column called Philly Dawg. In one
4 article posted on January 4th, Ms. Worden
5 wrote about the founder of the
6 organization Dogs Deserve Better, Tamira
7 Thayne. Ms. Thayne routinely accompanied
8 law enforcement in Pennsylvania to court
9 cases that involved dogs tied up outside.
10 Although there was shelter present, it
11 was often no more than an uninsulated box
12 that was too large to retain the dog's
13 body heat or lacked four sides. In many
14 cases, the dog owner would win the case
15 and actually file trespassing charges
16 against those who had tried to protect
17 the animal.

18 In another article posted on
19 January 8th, Ms. Worden describes current
20 Pennsylvania state law which is vague and
21 does not have a clear legal definition
22 for proper shelter. The current language
23 means essentially any dwelling with four
24 sides and a bottom is acceptable. There
25 is no requirement for insulation, door

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.

2 flaps, bedding or material for housing.

3 I witnessed several situations
4 of inappropriate shelter in my own
5 neighborhood of Point Breeze this past
6 winter. Often concerned citizens would
7 take to social media, such as Facebook,
8 and post disturbing images and describe
9 deplorable conditions. Specifically, in
10 mid January of this year, a post was
11 shared on the Newbold Neighbors Facebook
12 page from another community page. One
13 image was of a large shaggy black dog
14 peering out over a concrete wall. The
15 dog was kept outside on most days and
16 nights in a concrete patio filled with
17 construction debris. The dog had no
18 enclosed shelter other than the four
19 walls of the patio, his food was dumped
20 on the ground, and his water was often
21 frozen.

22 And I'm going to read the post
23 and I'm going to apologize in advance for
24 a little profanity that's in the post.
25 I'm going to read it verbatim, other than

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 the actual dog owner's name and his
3 address.

4 "So about a month ago, I put in
5 a report with Animal Control. Then
6 contacted the City. Then spoke with a
7 state representative and had him contact
8 the proper authorities. Pretty much
9 everyone has been no help whatsoever. So
10 I am taking to Facebook in hopes that
11 this gets attention and someone does
12 something about it. At first I was just
13 angry that the dog over at a neighbor's
14 house was barking all hours of the night.
15 Upon further investigation, I found out
16 that the house located on South 26th
17 Street was owned by a guy named" -- and
18 I'm just going to call him Mr. Smith.
19 "Mr. Smith doesn't live in this shithole.
20 He lives in another dump on 22nd and
21 Ellsworth Street. He has numerous code
22 violations against the property for
23 unsafe living conditions. The house is
24 condemned or at least it seems that way.
25 This is where things start to get really

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.

2 sad.

3 "Mr. Smith has a big furry
4 black dog that looks like it just needs a
5 hug. It barks because it's cold outside
6 and only has a 5 by 6 cement patio to
7 call home. The house itself is falling
8 apart. Yesterday morning I went over to
9 take a few pictures. The conditions that
10 the dog is living in are abysmal and
11 unsafe. Thanks for nothing,
12 Philadelphia. Please share to get the
13 word out so we can get this dog some
14 much-needed attention."

15 Tagged in the post were CBS
16 News, Eyewitness News, Fox News, the
17 PSPCA, Justice Rescue, and Councilman
18 Johnson.

19 In response to this situation,
20 over 100 comments were posted. The post
21 was shared over 290 times, and neighbors
22 called for a phone bomb of the PSPCA.
23 Some folks were so emotional that they
24 threatened to go to the home to save the
25 dog themselves or to picket the owner's

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 home. The original poster eventually
3 heard back from Eyewitness News who said
4 the PSPCA officer visited the house. The
5 owner was warned of the current laws and
6 informed that the authorities would be
7 making periodic visits to check up on the
8 dog. In addition, Councilman Johnson
9 responded to the post himself and
10 promised to also look into the situation.

11 After the initial post, I
12 personally visited the property several
13 times over the course of the next few
14 weeks. I spoke with nearby neighbors
15 aware of the situation and asked them to
16 contact me if the dog was left outside
17 for long periods of time. I know that
18 several other people visited the property
19 as well since it was pretty easy to see
20 the enclosed patio from the small street
21 next to the house. Each report back on
22 the Facebook page indicated that the dog
23 was safely inside.

24 Up until this past Tuesday when
25 I wrote this testimony, I thought that we

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 had done enough. Unfortunately, I
3 recently reread the post and there was an
4 update from the end of February that I
5 had missed. The young man who had
6 originally posted about the situation
7 wrote: "So as the snow has left and the
8 weather has gotten a tad bit warmer, the
9 pup has been left out in that tiny patio
10 for the last 24 hours just barking and
11 barking and barking. No real
12 resolution."

13 Although I certainly don't know
14 if the proposed legislation will
15 completely fix the current state of
16 affairs, it's certainly a step in the
17 right direction. If passed and
18 communicated properly, it will make
19 people more aware. For those who
20 purposely hurt animals, I don't think it
21 will make much of a difference, but for
22 those who simply need a better
23 understanding of basic animal welfare,
24 those who love their pets but don't know
25 how to take care of them properly, I

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 believe the legislation could be the real
3 difference between life and death.

4 Thank you.

5 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
6 you.

7 MR. PHILLIPS: My name is
8 Ashton Phillips. I'm the President of
9 SOSDOG, which is a local community
10 organization focused in South of South
11 neighborhood. Julia is a member, but is
12 participating, I guess, in her personal
13 capacity here.

14 I wanted to thank Councilman
15 Johnson and also thank Julia for bringing
16 this proposed legislation to our
17 attention. Our primary part of our
18 mission is to advocate for more
19 dog-friendly green space. It sounds like
20 many of you are hearing those kinds of
21 requests in different parts of the City,
22 but part of our mission, independently
23 and related to the first part of the
24 mission, is also to encourage more
25 responsible dog ownership in our

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.

2 community. So it's in that capacity, in
3 that sense that I wanted to make sure to
4 come out today and lend the support of
5 our organization and my personal support
6 to the proposed bill, as amended.

7 We do, in furtherance of trying
8 to promote more responsible dog ownership
9 on a sort of peer-to-peer basis in our
10 neighborhood, we've put together classes
11 and pack walks, and we got funding
12 recently to put up some dog bag
13 dispensers to try to encourage neighbors
14 to pick up after their dogs and that sort
15 of thing, and it's been very rewarding,
16 because I think to echo the
17 representative from the ACCT that spoke
18 earlier, often the most negative aspects
19 of irresponsible dog ownership are not
20 because the owner doesn't love the dog,
21 but they come out of a place of
22 ignorance.

23 However, sometimes I think as
24 well, evidence, sort of anecdotal
25 testimony from our members, and my own

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 experience supports that education alone
3 is not enough, and so it's important
4 as -- it's important for the City to make
5 a formal declaration, as will be done in
6 this proposed legislation, that certain
7 behaviors are illegal and to put some
8 degree of sanction.

9 So I just wanted to, as I said,
10 show up and put forward our support and
11 also say that we're excited to help
12 promote -- to help try to use the
13 legislation as a means of educating
14 people in our community as well.

15 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Any
16 questions from the panel?

17 Councilman Johnson.

18 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: More of a
19 statement.

20 Well, thank you, Julia, because
21 I remember the actual post that kind of
22 spurred us to take a look into this
23 legislation and really to bring awareness
24 to this issue, but also even moving
25 beyond awareness, begin moving forward

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 looking at, as Councilman Oh would always
3 say, levels of enforcement and really
4 trying to find ways to strategically make
5 sure that when these types of situations
6 do arise, that there's proper enforcement
7 and, most importantly, the response
8 that's needed when someone picks up the
9 telephone and says, Hey, this was taking
10 place down the street or this is what
11 I've seen in my area as it relates to
12 individuals who leave their dogs outside
13 during extreme weather.

14 And so I do want to thank both
15 of you for coming out and all of the
16 individuals who have given testimony. We
17 will pass the bill out of committee
18 today, but also my staff and I will go
19 back and look at the "unattended" and the
20 "brief" parts of the actual language, and
21 if need be after we talk to ACCT and the
22 Law Department, if need be, we will
23 explore the possibility of doing an
24 amendment before the bill gets on the
25 floor, specifically looking at those two

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.

2 parts of the actual language.

3 And so I do thank all of you
4 for coming out here today and
5 participating, being supportive of this
6 bill. Oftentimes folks may think that
7 because you're dealing with animals, the
8 level of importance is different because
9 it's not an actual human issue, but I beg
10 to differ. And so until you have a
11 pet -- and Councilman Oh was just talking
12 about his turtle. You know, we get it.
13 So we do thank you for coming out, for
14 advocating, and thank you for being here.

15 Thank you, Madam Chair.

16 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
17 you so very much for your testimony.

18 I have two other people, a Pat
19 Brett and a Jennifer Augustin. If not,
20 their testimony was submitted in writing
21 and will be added to the record.

22 So if there's no one else to
23 testify on these bills, let us go into
24 our -- excuse me. Councilman Squilla.

25 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.

2 Madam Chair.

3 I just want to say thank you
4 too to the people who testified. It's
5 important as a Councilperson to get input
6 from the community and the members at
7 large, because really that's where a lot
8 of the great ideas come from, and without
9 your help and support with these type of
10 things, they never happen. So that's
11 really a credit to you and your tenacity
12 and your caring and thoughts, and that
13 also makes us better representatives.

14 So, again, thank you all for
15 being here and thank you for caring
16 enough to make something like this really
17 happen.

18 Thank you.

19 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
20 you.

21 And with that, that ends our
22 public hearing. We will now enter into
23 our public meeting, and the Chairwoman
24 calls on Councilman Greenlee for an
25 amendment on Bill 140223.

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.

2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
3 you, Madam Chair. I move the adoption of
4 the amendment to Bill No. 140223 that was
5 distributed to the Committee.

6 (Duly seconded.)

7 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: All in
8 favor?

9 (Aye.)

10 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Any
11 opposition?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Seeing
14 none, can I get a motion on Bill 140223,
15 as amended.

16 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
17 you, Madam Chair. I move that Bill No.
18 140223, as amended, be reported out of
19 this committee with a favorable
20 recommendation and that the rules of
21 Council be suspended to allow for first
22 reading at our next session of Council.

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: All in
25 favor?

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.

2 (Aye.)

3 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Any

4 opposition?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Seeing
7 none, Bill No. 140223 will be moved out
8 of committee with a favorable
9 recommendation and further that the rules
10 of Council be suspended to permit first
11 reading at our next session.

12 With that, I'm going to call on
13 Councilman Johnson for an amendment to
14 Bill 140080.

15 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I move for
16 the adoption of the amendment.

17 (Duly seconded.)

18 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: All in
19 favor?

20 (Aye.)

21 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Any

22 opposition?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Seeing
25 none, Bill 140080 has been amended.

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.

2 Councilman Johnson, can I get a
3 motion on the amended bill.

4 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I move for
5 the adoption of the amendment.

6 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: You want
7 to move for a suspension?

8 One more time. Councilman
9 Johnson, a motion on Bill 140080, as
10 amended.

11 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I move
12 that the bill, as amended, be moved out
13 of committee with a favorable
14 recommendation and the rules of Council
15 be suspended so as to be read at the
16 first meeting of Council.

17 (Duly seconded.)

18 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: All in
19 favor?

20 (Aye.)

21 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Any
22 opposition?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: There
25 being none, Bill 140080 will be moved out

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.
2 of committee with a favorable
3 recommendation and further that the rules
4 of Council be suspended to permit first
5 reading at our next Council session.

6 Councilman Greenlee, can I get
7 a motion on Bill 140052.

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
9 you, Madam Chair. I move that Bill No.
10 140052 be reported out of this committee
11 with a favorable recommendation and that
12 the rules of Council be suspended to
13 allow for first reading at our next
14 session of Council.

15 (Duly seconded.)

16 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: All in
17 favor?

18 (Aye.)

19 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: No
20 opposition, there being none, Bill No.
21 140052 will be moved out of this
22 committee with a favorable recommendation
23 and further moved that the rules of
24 Council be suspended to permit first
25 reading at our first session.

1 5/8/14 - L&I - BILL 140052, etc.

2 Thank you. This concludes our
3 meeting.

4 (Committee on Licenses and
5 Inspections concluded at 4:25 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
proceedings, evidence and objections are
contained fully and accurately in the
stenographic notes taken by me upon the
foregoing matter, and that this is a true and
correct transcript of same.

MICHELE L. MURPHY
RPR-Notary Public

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