

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, June 16, 2011
9:30 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL
COUNCILMAN DARRELL CLARKE
COUNCILMAN FRANK DiCICCO
COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.
COUNCILMAN BILL GREEN
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM K. GREENLEE
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILMAN JACK KELLY
COUNCILMAN JAMES KENNEY
COUNCILWOMAN JOAN L. KRAJEWSKI
COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILWOMAN MARIA D. QUINONES-SANCHEZ
COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN
COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO, JR.
COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO

BILLS 110135, 110136, 110137, 110138, 110139,
110140, 110477, 110478, 110479
RESOLUTION 110161

- - -

1
2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: We
3 will have silence, because we're going to
4 have testimony. We're going to respect
5 those who are speaking, and I expect all
6 of you to respect the members of Council.
7 So I'd like to go on with this hearing.

8 And may I say that we have any
9 number of witnesses this morning. So for
10 everybody to be heard, we are going to
11 limit each witness three minutes, three
12 minutes to testify. So when you hear a
13 bell, you'll know to please try to
14 conclude your remarks.

15 This is a continued public
16 hearing of the Committee of the Whole.

17 I would ask Mr. McPherson to
18 please read the bills that are before us.

19 MR. MCPHERSON: Bill No.
20 110135, an ordinance to adopt a Capital
21 Program for Fiscal Years 2012 through
22 2017.

23 Bill No. 110136, an ordinance
24 to adopt a Fiscal 2012 Capital Budget.

25 Bill No. 110137, an ordinance

1 6/16/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.
2 adopting the Operating Budget for Fiscal
3 2012.

4 Bill No. 110138, an ordinance
5 amending Chapter 19-1500 of The
6 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Wage and Net
7 Profits Tax," by revising certain rates
8 and making technical changes.

9 Bill No. 110139, an ordinance
10 amending Chapter 19-1800 of The
11 Philadelphia Code, entitled "School Tax
12 Authorization," by amending Section
13 19-1806, entitled "Authorization of
14 Realty Use and Occupancy Tax."

15 Bill No. 110140, an ordinance
16 amending Section 19-1801 of The
17 Philadelphia Code, entitled
18 "Authorization of Tax," to further
19 authorize the Board of Education of the
20 School District of Philadelphia to impose
21 a tax on real estate within the City of
22 Philadelphia.

23 Bill No. 110477, an ordinance
24 amending Section 19-1801 of The
25 Philadelphia Code, entitled

1 6/16/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 "Authorization of Tax," to further
3 authorize the Board of Education of the
4 School District of Philadelphia to impose
5 a tax on real estate within the City of
6 Philadelphia.

7 Bill No. 110478, an ordinance
8 amending Chapter 19-1800 of The
9 Philadelphia Code, entitled "School Tax
10 Authorization," by adding a new Section
11 19-1807, entitled "Authorization of
12 Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Tax."

13 Bill No. 110479, an ordinance
14 amending Section 19-1301 of The
15 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Real Estate
16 Taxes," by revising the real estate tax
17 rate, under certain terms and conditions.

18 Resolution No. 110161, for the
19 approval by the Council of the City of
20 Philadelphia of a Revised Five Year
21 Financial Plan.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
23 you.

24 Our first witness will be?

25 MR. MCPHERSON: Karen Brown.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Is

3 Ms. Brown here?

4 (Witness approached witness
5 table.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good
7 morning. Kindly identify yourself for
8 the record and proceed with your
9 testimony.

10 MS. BROWN: I'm Karen Brown,
11 and I thank you for letting me testify
12 today.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:
14 Please proceed.

15 MS. BROWN: I am very proud of
16 my heritage, as someone who came from
17 South Philly who grew up loving cheese
18 steaks, cannolis and soft pretzels. It's
19 been a tradition in our fair city where
20 visiting the City, tourists also enjoy
21 these things. If one makes a diet of
22 these foods, no doubt obesity may be a
23 problem. But in the land of cheese
24 steaks, cannolis and pretzels, we choose
25 a soda tax to fight childhood obesity?

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2 The fact that we use taxes as a
3 method of paying for the bill of our
4 overspending is bad enough, but we
5 further this mockery by using our
6 children to make this legislation.

7 Tugging at the hearts of the
8 parents while robbing their purses has
9 become a standard of this Administration.
10 Add to that that the tax will cause
11 consumers to also purchase out of our
12 City, further crippling our businesses,
13 increasing more closures among them,
14 which will eventually result in more
15 unemployment. Who does this benefit?
16 Not the citizens of Philadelphia.

17 Twenty-three million for a
18 summer SLAM program for 700 children is
19 absurd and another way of wasting our
20 taxpayers' money. Why are these children
21 failing, is what I asked?

22 I do not agree that throwing
23 more money into a broken school system is
24 a solution. We need more accountability.
25 I am glad that Mayor Nutter is listening

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2 to the parents and the children who are
3 crying about this broken system. I am
4 also glad that he is finally believing in
5 accountability, but what has he done for
6 the past three and a half years? Why is
7 he now just waking up?

8 Finally, if the Mayor gets his
9 way by passing this tax as part of the
10 school budget, by state law it can never
11 be repealed.

12 Mayor Nutter, no more taxes.
13 That's what you said. That's what you
14 should be sticking to. You need to be
15 accountable. That's what you promised
16 the voters of this City. No more taxes.

17 You tried this last year and it
18 didn't work. You used this as a switch
19 and bait to raise our property taxes. Is
20 this your plan again? Eventually the
21 tax-paying well runs dry.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Our
25 next witness.

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2 MR. McPHERSON: Our next

3 witness is Danita Bates. Danita Bates.

4 (No response.)

5 MR. McPHERSON: William Wade.

6 (No response.)

7 MR. McPHERSON: Emmanuel

8 Bussie.

9 (No response.)

10 MR. McPHERSON: Dorothea

11 Graham.

12 (No response.)

13 MR. McPHERSON: Dorian Harris.

14 (No response.)

15 MR. McPHERSON: Ogbonna Hagins.

16 (No response.)

17 MR. McPHERSON: Tim Stults.

18 (No response.)

19 MR. McPHERSON: Bridgett

20 Timons.

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Is

23 Ms. Timons here?

24 (No response.)

25 MR. McPHERSON: Robert

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2 Benjamin.

3 (No response.)

4 MR. McPHERSON: Susan Gobreski.

5 (No response.)

6 MR. McPHERSON: Helen Gym.

7 (Witness approached witness
8 table.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

10 Please approach the witness table,
11 identify yourself for the record and
12 proceed with your testimony.

13 MS. GYM: Hello. My name is
14 Helen Gym. I'm a Philadelphia public
15 school parent, taxpayer, resident of this
16 City.

17 I guess I'm here today to talk
18 a little bit about what I hope is a
19 conversation of the day around this City,
20 which is what is happening to our
21 Philadelphia public school system and the
22 important need to address what's
23 happening for the Philadelphia public
24 schools, not only for next year but for
25 the long term. And for a long time we've

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2 been saying that we need to talk about
3 our schools and that our schools would be
4 both the best thing that could be told
5 about Philadelphia or an albatross around
6 its neck. And so here we are at the end
7 of a long process and period, and I just
8 want to say to all the City Council
9 people who are here, we are here today
10 because of a lot of bad decisions that
11 have been made over a long period of
12 time. There have been a lot of decisions
13 that we certainly wish that City Hall
14 could have done. We wish that City
15 Council could have asked a lot more
16 questions when the School District came
17 up every single year to present its
18 budget, and we felt that there were
19 massive holes and lots of questions that
20 could be asked.

21 We know that this District and
22 this Administration is one that many
23 parents rebuke. We do not endorse it.
24 But at the end of the day -- and they
25 should be rebuked for terrible sudden

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2 decisions they've made over a long period
3 of time, but at the end of the day, we're
4 asking you not to use City funds to
5 reject the Administration, that that is
6 not the way to send -- that is not the
7 only way to send a message of rebuke.

8 And we appreciate the City Council people
9 who have been down at the School

10 District. I believe Councilman Green,
11 Councilman Blondell Reynolds Brown sent a
12 letter, but for the other Councilmembers
13 who have not been there, we're asking you
14 to think very carefully about how we're
15 going to fix the system so that it's not
16 just about whether it's -- it's not just
17 about a soda tax today or it's not just
18 about a rebuke of the School District
19 today, but that this is a conversation
20 that needs to talk about setting up a
21 partnership that works with parents and
22 community people who are deeply concerned
23 and out there fighting every single day
24 for our public schools, for a better
25 administration, for strong leadership for

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2 our school budget that places children
3 and classrooms first. We need City
4 Council's help to be able to do that. We
5 need you to send out a message and to say
6 things like accelerated schools, to talk
7 about school funds going back into our
8 local schools so we can restore back
9 teachers. We ask you not to think that
10 giving money to the schools necessarily
11 endorses a leadership in the
12 administration that has not done right by
13 our children.

14 But we do need City Council
15 today. We need your partnership. We
16 believe that -- you have partners at the
17 schools and parents who are out there who
18 are going to fight and hold this system
19 accountable. We'll be there with you,
20 but we need your help.

21 Thank you.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
23 you.

24 (Applause.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Our

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2 next witness.

3 MR. McPHERSON: Has Robert

4 Gates made it down from upstairs?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. McPHERSON: Stephanie

7 Nagele and Helen Kindle?

8 (No response.)

9 MR. McPHERSON: Lola Oladopo,

10 O-L-A-D-O-P-O.

11 (No response.)

12 MR. McPHERSON: Marcia Kling.

13 (Witness approached witness

14 table.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good

16 morning. Welcome. Please identify

17 yourself for the record.

18 MS. KUNG: Marcia Kung. I am a

19 parent of children who had gone through

20 the public school system in Philadelphia.

21 I won't take three minutes.

22 I too am terribly concerned

23 that we are talking about a soda tax and

24 not the long-term look, picture of the

25 school system. I know personally of

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2 people who have considered moving into
3 the City, but are waiting until their
4 kids are finished school in the suburbs
5 because the school system in the City is
6 questionable, and the future certainly is
7 questionable. I know of a corporate
8 entity who considered moving into the
9 City, but doesn't feel that their
10 employees will have a sound system in the
11 future, nor are they concerned -- they
12 are concerned about the workforce and how
13 educated it will be for them.

14 I don't understand why we're
15 talking not about the big picture but
16 about a soda tax. Our kids are worth
17 much, much more than that.

18 Thank you.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

20 You're welcome.

21 (Applause.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good
23 morning. Please identify yourself for
24 the record.

25 MR. HARRIS: Excuse me?

1 6/16/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:

3 Please identify yourself for the record.

4 MR. HARRIS: I'm sorry. My
5 name is Dorian Harris. I'm a parent of
6 six children that attend the public
7 School District.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:

9 Please proceed.

10 MR. HARRIS: Yes. Good
11 morning, Council. Good morning, parents,
12 family and everyone. I'm here to protest
13 against the budget cuts. I have six
14 children that attend the public School
15 District, and as far as they've been
16 there -- the school that I'm personally
17 involved with is Pastorius Elementary --
18 I have seen a big turnaround in the
19 school over the past year and a half,
20 academically and socially.

21 I'm also a parent that's
22 involved with Parent University presented
23 by the Philadelphia School District.
24 Through this program, it enhanced my
25 education. I am now a product of -- I

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2 just graduated through one of their
3 accelerated programs to obtain my high
4 school diploma as well. So by me
5 enhancing my skills, I would like my
6 children to go through the same steps
7 that I'm leading as an example to them.

8 I even had a chance to attend a
9 couple of the Philadelphia promise
10 academies, which I have seen made a big
11 turnaround. There's a big difference
12 from what the school once were and then
13 when it became a promise academy. I've
14 seen all the achievements and how that
15 had actually changed during the school.

16 If additional funding is not
17 obtained, transportation services will be
18 eliminated. I mean, even the pre-K will
19 be half days. Proper public education
20 for Philadelphia students is not
21 something we can allow to be sacrificed
22 for the sake of budget balancing. We
23 need our elected officials to support
24 public education. With City Council's
25 support, we can stand as a united front

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2 and demand of the state that our students
3 get the education they deserve and so
4 desperately need.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
8 you very much.

9 Please identify yourself for
10 the record.

11 MS. WILSON: Good morning. My
12 name is L'Keisha M. Wilson and I have
13 been a volunteer for the Philadelphia
14 School District for nine years proudly,
15 and I'm just here today because I was
16 asked just to say a few words, because I
17 do have experience from when the
18 school -- the school that I was at when I
19 first entered the school, it was Eastside
20 High Elementary to me, and it made a
21 whole turnaround under Dr. Ackerman's
22 supervision and things.

23 And I just want to say the
24 School District of Philadelphia faces
25 unprecedented funding cuts in next year's

1 6/16/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 budget, contributing to 629 million
3 budget gap. The parents, students and
4 employees of the School District need the
5 sponsoring governments to provide
6 additional funding in order to preserve
7 the gains that have been made and
8 increase the success of our children and
9 to turn the success of the City.

10 If additional funding is not
11 obtained, transportation services will be
12 eliminated for the most students. Proper
13 public education and public students is
14 not something we can allow to be
15 sacrificed for the sake of budget
16 balancing. We need our elected officials
17 to support public education. With City
18 Council's support, we can stand as a
19 united front and demand of the state that
20 our students get the education they
21 deserve and so desperately need.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good
25 morning, sir. Please identify yourself.

1 6/16/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 MR. BENJAMIN: Good morning.

3 My name is Robert Benjamin. I'm a parent
4 of an eight-year-old at Blankenburg
5 Elementary School, and I'm here today to
6 speak on behalf of the children.

7 While all these adults in this
8 room are vying for positions for or
9 against, it's the children who are going
10 to be hurt. So I'm just here to speak on
11 the 400 children at Blankenburg School
12 when I say whatever things are needed,
13 let's get them done. Let the adults in
14 the room stop playing games with these
15 kids' lives.

16 Thank you.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: Thank
18 you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. McPHERSON: Lisa Bennett.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: Is
22 Ms. Bennett here?

23 MS. BENNETT: Yes.

24 (Witness approached witness
25 table.)

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good
3 morning.

4 MS. BENNETT: Good morning.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
6 Please identify yourself for the record.

7 MS. BENNETT: Hi. My name is
8 Lisa Bennett and I got, I think, about
9 three concerns.

10 I couldn't understand why were
11 the children education being targeted.
12 Now, I don't really know, but I know it's
13 targeted.

14 Now, we know our kids need
15 education and we know that's not what
16 should have been targeted, but the way
17 the school system is run, everybody be
18 honest, when you walk in those schools,
19 it's a mess. I don't know if that's why
20 they took the money. I don't even know
21 why they took the money, but it is a
22 mess. So I guess in order to ask for
23 more funding, I guess you do need to work
24 on it, because it's not about Arlene
25 Ackerman. It's not about nobody but our

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2 children, and the way these children in
3 this school, the School District, is
4 working, the kids are not really being
5 educated the way they should. So that's
6 my first concern.

7 Now, the second one is that out
8 of taxes, first of all, they're always
9 saying we're poor. So if we're poor, why
10 would you tax the sodas, why would you
11 put taxes on houses when people can
12 barely afford living now? I couldn't
13 understand that part.

14 But if you walk around, it's so
15 many empty houses. They start selling
16 them empty houses, the state will make
17 money, the schools can make money, and
18 the people that don't have a house will
19 have a house.

20 And that's basically it. Thank
21 you very much.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
23 you. Thank you very much.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. AUERBACH: Steve Bogan.

1 6/16/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Is
3 Mr. Bogan here?

4 (No response.)

5 MR. AUERBACH: Judy Hoover.

6 (No response.)

7 MR. AUERBACH: Vaughn
8 Dickinson.

9 (Witness approached witness
10 table.)

11 MR. DICKINSON: Good morning.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good
13 morning. Please identify yourself for
14 the record and proceed with your
15 testimony.

16 MR. DICKINSON: Vaughn
17 Dickinson from the Pepsi Bottling Group.

18 Good morning. I appreciate
19 your time. Under Vice-President and
20 General Manager for Pepsi Bottling, which
21 covers New Jersey, the Philadelphia plant
22 and also Delaware, I'm here for one
23 reason, not to rehash what you've already
24 heard about our concerns as industry, but
25 really my concern are the employees that

1 6/16/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 will lose their jobs if this tax is
3 passed.

4 We all care about education.

5 I'm a parent. My mother has taught for
6 40 years as a teacher. This comes out of
7 my employees and their children go to
8 school in the City of Philadelphia. The
9 impact alone on this tax to my facility
10 in Philadelphia will be a few hundred
11 jobs will be lost. For the industry
12 across Canada Dry, Coke and Pepsi, you
13 will lose at a minimum 1,200 jobs in the
14 City up to 2,000 jobs.

15 We care. We understand the
16 concerns about education, but what will
17 you do in tax breaks for me to keep
18 production in the City? I'd be forced to
19 look at my New Jersey opportunities and
20 my Delaware opportunities to maintain my
21 business model. What tax breaks would
22 you give me, again, to keep production
23 and my employees to have jobs in the
24 City?

25 My biggest concern and the

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2 concern of those I speak for are, at the
3 end of the day when you look for the
4 money from this tax, based on the
5 estimates that we've heard, they will
6 fall very, very short of that number, and
7 as testified to earlier, that will be
8 law. You'll have to find the money
9 somewhere. Where will you go to find the
10 money next year when the estimates that
11 you're using are not there to go to
12 education? That's what concerns us and
13 myself about this tax.

14 My employees have worked hard
15 the last two and a half years for me to
16 invest millions of dollars in this plant
17 on the Boulevard in this great city. I'm
18 about to invest 10 million more dollars,
19 which I cannot do if the sugar tax is
20 passed. In fact, I would have to
21 consider deeply and very seriously the
22 amount of families I would impact. I
23 will remind each of you, 1,200 jobs at
24 minimum would be lost.

25 Thank you for your time.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank

3 you, sir.

4 (Applause.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: We

6 will call the list again so that

7 everybody that signed up has had an

8 opportunity to speak. They may be having

9 a hard time getting up to the 4th Floor.

10 So why don't we read the names

11 of those who we called earlier.

12 MR. AUERBACH: Danita Bates.

13 (No response.)

14 MR. AUERBACH: William Wade.

15 (No response.)

16 MR. AUERBACH: Emmanuel Bussie.

17 (No response.)

18 MR. AUERBACH: Dorothea Graham.

19 (No response.)

20 MR. AUERBACH: Ogbonna Hagins.

21 (No response.)

22 MR. AUERBACH: Tim Stults.

23 (No response.)

24 MR. AUERBACH: Bridgett Timons.

25 (No response.)

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2 MR. AUERBACH: Susan Gobreski.

3 (No response.)

4 MR. AUERBACH: Stephanie Nagele
5 and Helen Kindle.

6 (No response.)

7 MR. AUERBACH: Lola Oladopo.

8 (No response.)

9 MR. AUERBACH: Steve Bogan.

10 (No response.)

11 MR. AUERBACH: Judy Hoover.

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Do we
14 have anyone else who has not been called
15 to testify?

16 (Witness approached witness
17 table.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good
19 morning.

20 MS. YANOFF: Good morning.
21 Just a short testimony. I'm Shelly
22 Yanoff. I'm Executive Director of Public
23 Citizens for Children and Youth, the
24 region's child advocacy organization.

25 The decisions today that you

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2 make, that you have to make, are very
3 hard. I want to remind everybody that
4 every year about 25,000 babies are born
5 in Philadelphia. We urge you to find a
6 way to say yes, not no, to them and their
7 chances and their future. That means
8 making the hard decisions that you have
9 to.

10 Thank you.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:

12 You're welcome.

13 (Applause.)

14 (Witness approached witness
15 table.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good
17 morning. Welcome.

18 MR. McGorry: Good morning,
19 Madam President.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:
21 Identify yourself for the record.

22 MR. McGorry: Good morning. My
23 name is Francis McGorry. I lead the
24 Coca-Cola Bottling Plant in Northeast
25 Philadelphia, Juniata section of

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2 Philadelphia. Our plant has been located
3 in that section and in Philadelphia for
4 over 100 years. We employ 750 people out
5 of the plant. We employ another 500
6 people outside of the Philadelphia area.

7 We've been operating in
8 Philadelphia for over 100 years, 110
9 years to be exact, and we'd like to
10 continue operating in Philadelphia for at
11 least 110 years. However, any beverage
12 tax will be devastating to our local
13 business, not just to our business but to
14 our retailers' business. Many of you
15 heard a lot of the retailers calling,
16 Wawa in particular. They stepped up to
17 the plate.

18 With that beverage impact, a
19 significant amount of loss of jobs, not
20 just with our Philadelphia plant but with
21 all the retailers, and you've heard the
22 numbers from the gentleman earlier.
23 Hundreds of jobs will be lost just in our
24 Philadelphia plant. In the retailers,
25 it's probably thousands.

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2 Our industry really just
3 doesn't understand why we're being
4 singled out. We just don't get it.
5 We've really been one of the few
6 industries in Philadelphia that has
7 invested significantly over the last 20
8 years. We've added jobs. We've added
9 investments into the City. And really in
10 the end, we need to know should we stay
11 in Philadelphia. Should we continue to
12 invest in Philadelphia. We just need to
13 hear it, and we're not getting those
14 signs.

15 So I would say in closing,
16 we've added jobs. We need to know that
17 everyone here wants to support our
18 industry and wants to continue supporting
19 the people in Philadelphia, the jobs that
20 we created and the taxpayers that our
21 employees are in Philadelphia.

22 So with that, I would just ask
23 that we really need your support, and we
24 are going to be here for a long time and
25 we expect to.

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2 Thank you.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
4 you.

5 (Applause.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good
7 morning. Please approach the witness
8 table, kindly identify yourself for the
9 record.

10 MS. Goldman: Good morning,
11 Madam Chair and other members of Council.
12 My name is Mary Goldman.

13 I agree we need to keep jobs,
14 but we need to train and educate our
15 children for jobs of the future. This is
16 a game of chicken, who is going to run
17 into the wall, the children or the
18 bottling companies. You've got to stand
19 firm. I'm not saying we should do this
20 tax, but you are the leaders. You must
21 come up with a way to make sure that the
22 children of this City, who are the
23 responsibility of all of us adults, are
24 going to get educated properly, and that
25 means watching this administration at the

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2 School District, which has not been
3 properly over -- have oversight, but we
4 need you to come and find a way to make
5 this stuff work. We can't be bludgeoned
6 about losing jobs or this or that. We've
7 got to work for the kids.

8 Thank you.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
10 you.

11 (Applause.)

12 (Witness approached witness
13 table.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good
15 morning.

16 MR. LOFTON: Good morning. For
17 the record, my name is Andrew Lofton.
18 I'm a concerned citizen, I'm a parent of
19 three children, and I'm here today to
20 urge you to not overtax the already
21 overtaxed citizens of Philadelphia. I
22 believe that Council, at its discretion
23 and at its power, has other means of
24 being able to raise money for schools or
25 whatever. An example would be there's

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2 more properties on inventory with the
3 City that can be at some point in time
4 either rented to individuals or move some
5 money from City budget in order to rehab
6 these properties and then in turn rent
7 these properties or potentially sell
8 these properties to individuals, much
9 like a tax abatement situation. This
10 would create revenue for the City, and
11 you can use it towards the City schools,
12 or whatever else you need to use it for.

13 But if we continue to tax the
14 City residents, what's going to happen is
15 an exodus of individuals from the City to
16 the suburbs or to other areas, and then
17 what's going to continue to happen is
18 those who are already still here, you're
19 going to be looking to them for more tax.

20 So I urge you today not to tax
21 the already overtaxed citizens of
22 Philadelphia.

23 Thank you.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: Thank
25 you.

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2 (Applause.)

3 (Witness approached witness
4 table.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good
6 morning.

7 MS. Lassiter: My name is Wanda
8 Lassiter and I'm school nurse at Martin
9 Luther King High School, which has
10 recently become a Promise Academy. I'm
11 sure many people here are aware that for
12 years our students have failed, and now
13 for -- I mean, the children have hope.
14 They have hope, and they're looking
15 forward to trying to do the best that
16 they can, but as we all know also, that
17 takes resources.

18 So I'm here. I'm not beating
19 around the bush. I really want to appeal
20 to you to help the School District of
21 Philadelphia by giving up the \$102
22 million that's going to help them.

23 What I want to let you know
24 also is what I see in schools. I don't
25 know if anybody realizes that even of

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2 last year, we still had teachers that
3 were Xeroxing textbooks. Our children go
4 to biology and chemistry and they don't
5 have a real lab, you know, whereas other
6 schools may have that. They have to
7 simply learn by reading the book. That's
8 a difficult way to learn.

9 They have homework that needs
10 scientific calculators to complete and
11 they don't have those calculators to do
12 the homework. They need to use
13 technology, computers. They go to
14 libraries and they sign up for 30-minute
15 time slots. Certainly not enough time to
16 do your homework. So they are really
17 disadvantaged, and we desperately need
18 your help if this is going to work.

19 But what I want to also say is
20 that this is just not a problem that's
21 any single individual's problem, that
22 everybody has to work together. Now, I
23 hear people saying, you know, that we
24 shouldn't raise the housing taxes or we
25 shouldn't add on a soda tax or -- I'm not

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2 saying whether or not that's right or not
3 right, you know, but what I do say is
4 that we all have to own it. It's going
5 to be a give and take. This is not a
6 win-win. But what I do ask is that we
7 not put this on the shoulders of the
8 children. They have been stressed long
9 enough, that we as adults have to own
10 this problem. We have to work together.
11 And instead of us really protesting and
12 saying what not to do, we need more
13 people to come forth and give some ideas
14 as far as what to do. And in conjunction
15 with that, we need the politicians to
16 listen to those ideas. Like I said, we
17 need to work together.

18 We're looking forward to this
19 upcoming year becoming a promise academy.
20 It is going to take money, but like I
21 said, I ask you to please invest in our
22 children. We do need that \$102 million.
23 The children represent 100 percent of our
24 future. We have to invest.

25 Thank you.

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2 (Applause.)

3 (Witnesses approached witness
4 table.)

5 MS. McILWAINE: Praise the
6 Lord. My name is Mrs. McIlwaine. I'm an
7 advocate for education.

8 I'm sitting in the audience now
9 and I'm looking around, and I'm 52 years
10 old and I graduated from school maybe 35
11 or 37 years ago and the education system
12 failed me as well. And so I'm looking
13 ahead of time and I look around and I
14 look at our children, and the education
15 system is failing them at this particular
16 time. It doesn't have anything to do
17 with Arlene Ackerman. She has been a
18 blessing since she got here. She has
19 really been a blessing to the children,
20 and she has a vision, but she need help
21 in reference to that vision.

22 So I said I wanted to just
23 stand here and say that the Lord said
24 that children are gifts from God, and we
25 are held accountable. We're held

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2 accountable for how we treat these
3 children on this earth. And so I'm just
4 coming on the behalf of education and I'm
5 asking you, because I know that God has
6 placed all of you in the position. If it
7 was not for the Lord, you would not be
8 sitting in the seats that you're sitting
9 in. So I trust that God will put on your
10 heart to make the right decisions in what
11 to do for our children.

12 God bless you. Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
15 you.

16 Good morning.

17 MS. Whitfield: Good morning.
18 First, I bind up every spirit that is
19 against our children in the name of
20 Jesus.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:
22 Excuse me. Identify yourself for the
23 record.

24 MS. Whitfield: My name is
25 Desiree Whitfield and I am a parent of a

1 6/16/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.
2 kindergartner of the Philadelphia School
3 District.

4 Psalms 127:1 says, Behold
5 children are a heritage from the Lord.
6 The fruit of the womb is that reward.

7 Good morning, Dr. Ackerman,
8 Mayor Nutter and the City Council
9 members. I stand before you as a parent
10 of a kindergartner of the Philadelphia
11 School District. This day is history in
12 the lives of our children, because what
13 you do today, the decision you make will
14 forever have an effect on the children of
15 our future.

16 Education is a right, not a
17 privilege. Last week, one of your
18 members, Councilwoman Quinones, asked why
19 can't we go back to what we did three
20 years ago. I can answer that question.
21 Thanks for asking. The Bible says at
22 Philippians 3:13 and 14, Brethren, I do
23 not count myself to have been
24 apprehended, but one thing I do,
25 forgetting those things which are behind

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2 and reaching toward to those things which
3 are ahead.

4 I press toward the goal for the
5 prize of the upward call of God in Christ
6 Jesus.

7 Under the 2014 plan of Dr.
8 Ackerman, here are some of the progress
9 of the Philadelphia School District. For
10 the first time, more than half of our
11 City school students scored proficient or
12 better on state-governed standardized
13 tests; nearly 100 schools given state
14 Keystone Achievement Awards for making
15 adequate yearly progress, AYP, two years
16 in a row. They have led a Parent
17 University under Dr. Ackerman in order to
18 give parents of District students the
19 opportunity to enrich their education and
20 boost their parenting skills. Work
21 continues to provide educational supports
22 and learning opportunities for parents
23 through the use of Parent Resource
24 Centers located throughout the City.

25 I don't have a chance to read

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2 all that has been accomplished within the
3 Philadelphia School District within the
4 last three years, but I can say that
5 since Dr. Ackerman has been here, it has
6 been a change in our Philadelphia School
7 District.

8 I'm asking each and every one
9 of you today, do the right thing. This
10 is our children. The next President of
11 the United States will be a member of the
12 Philadelphia School District. Do the
13 right thing. Vote for the school tax.
14 Vote for the soda tax, because our
15 children deserve the education that they
16 so rightly deserve.

17 Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good
20 morning. Please identify yourself for
21 the record.

22 MR. ARMSTEAD: Good morning.
23 My name is Brian Armstead. I'm Director
24 of Civic Engagement for the Philadelphia
25 Education Fund.

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2 I guess to members of Council,
3 on the one hand I don't envy the decision
4 that you have to make today. It's a very
5 difficult one. But on the other hand,
6 this is an opportunity for you all to
7 really make a serious commitment and
8 demonstrate a serious commitment toward
9 the children of Philadelphia.

10 One point that I don't want to
11 be overlooked again today is that if you
12 all commit to making a serious
13 investment, increased investment, into
14 the children of Philadelphia right now,
15 one point that shouldn't be overlooked is
16 that also will help us leverage
17 additional funds from the state. So,
18 again, don't even just think about what
19 you're doing today, because it will
20 actually mean even more money if you do
21 the right thing and have a significant
22 amount coming into the District right
23 now.

24 But what will those things be
25 used for? Right? So we've talked about

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2 priorities that the District can use this
3 money for. So one thing that will be key
4 is yellow bus service, right? For a
5 family that has two children, absent your
6 investment, it will probably cost them
7 upwards of \$1,600 a year. So 1,600 extra
8 dollars a year for a family with two
9 children to send their kids to and from
10 school, which in effect is a tax on those
11 children without actually your having to
12 say so. So if we're talking about extra
13 expenses, that's an extra expense.

14 And if we're talking about
15 alternative schools and accelerated
16 schools, your constituent services
17 constantly have people coming through
18 your doors asking how they can recover
19 from having dropped out of school, and
20 when you dropped out, having bleak life
21 chances. This is your opportunity to say
22 to them, We care about you. We want to
23 fund these accelerated schools that will
24 help give you the opportunity to come
25 back and maybe reverse a mistake that you

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2 may have made before, but to give you an
3 opportunity to come back, get a diploma
4 and have some real opportunities in your
5 life.

6 I mean, this is what we're
7 talking about. This is not just about an
8 extra 25 cents, or however people want to
9 spin the numbers on soda taxes. This is
10 about the very real effects on very real
11 people's lives, and we have to keep those
12 things in mind.

13 Again, I don't envy your
14 choices, but I do think that you're in an
15 opportunity to make a dramatic stand and
16 really show that you care about the
17 children and families of the City.

18 Thank you.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
20 you.

21 (Applause.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good
23 morning.

24 MS. GRAHAM: Good morning. My
25 name is Dorothea Graham. I'm speaking

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2 for the students. I want to share
3 something with you what we have the
4 students read --

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:

6 Ms. Graham, can you pull the microphone
7 closer to you, please.

8 MS. GRAHAM: How is that?

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Much
10 better.

11 MS. GRAHAM: Good morning. I
12 want to -- I'm pleased to be here to
13 share something what we have the students
14 read every day in our academies. They're
15 reading it, and they want to believe it.

16 We, the students of
17 Philadelphia Promise Academy, promise to
18 achieve and succeed. We will believe in
19 ourselves and in one another. We will
20 act responsible and honestly, with
21 self-respect, self-reliance and concern
22 for others. We promise to take our
23 studies seriously, complete all
24 assignments and make no excuses for not
25 trying. We will be dedicated, committed

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2 and self-confident students. We promise
3 to never give up if we falter or fail.
4 Instead, we will reach out, get help and
5 keep going. We will lift thou, dream big
6 and aim high. And after we graduate from
7 college, we will work hard to make this
8 world a better place.

9 I want to say that what is a
10 promise? A promise is to make a
11 commitment to agreeing to do something in
12 the future, grounds for feeling hopeful
13 about the future and to make a prediction
14 about it.

15 I think here in Philadelphia we
16 easily point the fingers at parents who
17 are not doing their job in parenting, but
18 I would like to remind you here I guess
19 at this time you have a decision for the
20 future of the children to act upon it.
21 It is not just jobs, future workers. You
22 are parents, too. Jobs are important,
23 but it is the future for our children.
24 We want them to do well and to believe in
25 it, but they need our support, because

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2 you say education is the future and here
3 is the time for you to act upon it.
4 Thank you very much.
5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
6 you.
7 (Applause.)
8 (Audience members yelling.)
9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Wait
10 a minute. You're not at a football game.
11 Please.
12 Are there any other witnesses
13 before we hear from the Administration?
14 (No response.)
15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: All
16 right. Members of the Administration can
17 come up to the witness table.
18 (Witnesses approached witness
19 table.)
20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good
21 morning.
22 MS. RHYNHART: Good morning.
23 MR. DUBOW: Good morning,
24 Council President Verna and members of
25 Council. Ms. Rynhart and I are just

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2 going to do a short introduction and then
3 there are some other members of the
4 Administration who are here to talk and
5 specifically wanted to talk about the
6 impact of shifting a fund balance to the
7 School District.

8 The number we heard was \$30
9 million. Shifting \$30 million would
10 create deficits in our Five Year Plan
11 beginning in FY13 and growing after that.
12 As a result, we would have to make cuts.
13 We have a few Deputy Mayors here to talk
14 about what those cuts would mean.

15 So unless there are other
16 questions specifically for us, we'll ask
17 them to come up.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
19 you.

20 Before you introduce yourself,
21 I would like to make an announcement.
22 Council sessions will be held at the
23 conclusion of our public hearing.

24 So please proceed. Anybody
25 that's here for the Council session.

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2 MR. DUBOW: So we're going to
3 start with the Deputy Mayor Gillison.

4 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Point of
5 order.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
7 Chair recognizes Councilman Goode.

8 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
9 Madam President. I'd like to question
10 Mr. Dubow.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:
12 Certainly.

13 Councilman.

14 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Mr. Dubow,
15 how much in new spending was proposed for
16 Fiscal Year '12?

17 MR. DUBOW: I'm sorry. I
18 didn't hear you.

19 COUNCILMAN GOODE: How much in
20 new spending was proposed for Fiscal Year
21 '12?

22 MR. DUBOW: It's about \$20
23 million.

24 COUNCILMAN GOODE: So there was
25 \$20 million more -- I believe it was \$25

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2 or \$30 million.

3 MR. DUBOW: I'm sorry; 30
4 million.

5 COUNCILMAN GOODE: About \$30
6 million in new spending was proposed over
7 Fiscal Year '11; is that correct?

8 MR. DUBOW: Well, new General
9 Fund spending. Some of that was to
10 replace grants that expired. So, for
11 example, there was 2.4 million for
12 probation officers. That would
13 replace --

14 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I'm just
15 asking the dollar amount. How much --

16 MR. DUBOW: I'm just trying to
17 differentiate between General Fund and
18 new spending. So, in other words, it's
19 not new spending to the government. It's
20 new to the General Fund.

21 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I'm actually
22 going by the Budget in Brief that was
23 presented to Council.

24 How much was presented to
25 Council in new spending for Fiscal Year

1 6/16/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 '12?

3 MR. DUBOW: For the General
4 Fund, it was \$30 million. Some of that
5 was replacing grant funding. So it's
6 not --

7 COUNCILMAN GOODE: So how much
8 of that are you willing to not spend in
9 order to contribute to the School
10 District?

11 MR. DUBOW: I think we would be
12 willing to make some level of shift.

13 COUNCILMAN GOODE: How much?

14 MR. DUBOW: Probably in the
15 kind of 5 to 10 million range.

16 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
17 Madam President.

18 Thank you, Mr. Dubow.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
20 Chair recognizes Councilman Green.

21 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
22 Madam President.

23 This question is also for Mr.
24 Dubow. We just heard testimony from two
25 bottlers that are currently in the City

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2 of Philadelphia that they will likely
3 leave if we pass the soda tax or put our
4 foot in the door with respect to a soda
5 tax. That's 1,300 direct jobs and
6 thousands of indirect jobs. In other
7 words, Teamsters from Delaware or New
8 Jersey would be hauling the soda instead
9 of Teamsters from Philadelphia, and I can
10 go on and on in terms of the support
11 services and other things, the businesses
12 that are built up around those plants to
13 service those plants, to clean those
14 plants, et cetera.

15 So the question is, is that the
16 result the Administration wants?

17 MR. DUBOW: Obviously losing
18 jobs is not the result we want. We don't
19 know what will actually happen. We do
20 know that --

21 COUNCILMAN GREEN: We just
22 heard them tell us what will happen.

23 MR. DUBOW: Can I just finish?

24 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Sure.

25 MR. DUBOW: We do know that the

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2 School District just sent out 3,400
3 layoff slips. So we know those are jobs
4 that are being lost if we don't do
5 something.

6 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And we know
7 that all those jobs, most of those jobs
8 will be lost no matter what we do,
9 Mr. Dubow. We're talking about net jobs
10 here.

11 MR. DUBOW: Right, but we know
12 that if we put money back into the
13 District, that there will be jobs saved.

14 COUNCILMAN GREEN: That's
15 right. That's exactly correct.

16 So the next question is, I want
17 you to imagine a scenario where we don't
18 have bottlers in the City of Philadelphia
19 and both Coke and Pepsi are looking for a
20 place to expand and grow their business.
21 What would Alan Greenberger be telling
22 them about what the business climate is
23 going to be in the City of Philadelphia
24 if they create 1,300 direct jobs here and
25 thousands of indirect jobs here? What

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2 would we be selling them about the City
3 of Philadelphia?

4 MR. DUBOW: Well, I mean,
5 there's a lot to sell about the City of
6 Philadelphia. We could talk about our
7 workforce, which is -- and we would want
8 to be able to talk about our education
9 system --

10 COUNCILMAN GREEN: What if they
11 asked a question --

12 MR. DUBOW: -- because that's
13 an essential element of what people look
14 for when they move to cities. We could
15 talk about our plans for wage and
16 business tax reduction. There are a lot
17 of things that you can talk about.

18 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay. But
19 one thing that's very important to that
20 industry is that there are not the
21 beverage taxes, sugar-sweetened beverage
22 taxes. Delaware doesn't have one. If
23 I'm the Governor of Delaware, I'm picking
24 up the phone and saying, I'll pay to move
25 you.

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2 That's what you're doing.

3 You're telling businesses, one at a time,
4 that we're not a business-friendly city,
5 one industry at a time. The reason we
6 have empty buildings in neighborhood
7 after neighborhood after neighborhood in
8 the City of Philadelphia where there used
9 to be well-paying jobs is because of tax
10 decisions made by the City of
11 Philadelphia, and you're asking us to
12 make another very fateful, very poor
13 decision about jobs and emptying two more
14 factories in more Philadelphia
15 neighborhoods. That's the problem.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. DUBOW: I just want to
18 respond. I mean, what we're actually
19 asking you to do is invest in the School
20 District and the children of the City. I
21 know that there are trade-offs, and we
22 think it's essential that we fund the
23 District.

24 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Madam
25 President?

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
3 Chair recognizes Councilman Green.

4 COUNCILMAN GREEN: We have a
5 choice, for example, that would cost the
6 average Philadelphia family in certain
7 Councilmanic Districts \$40, that would
8 cost the average Philadelphia family in
9 certain districts about probably on the
10 citywide average \$180 per household to
11 invest in children, which is the Mayor's
12 other bill before City Council. The
13 question is, why we wouldn't make that
14 choice rather than a choice that is
15 destined to fallow plants and eliminate
16 well-paying jobs?

17 MR. DUBOW: What other -- never
18 mind.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
20 Chair recognizes Councilman Jones.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
22 Madam President.

23 Mr. Dubow, in your experience
24 with the Commerce Department as we start
25 to talk about firms that want to locate

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2 in the City of Philadelphia, it is my
3 recollection in testimony that one of the
4 number one concerns that a firm
5 interested in Philadelphia has is not
6 just its marketplace, it's not its crime
7 statistics, but it is where CEOs will
8 send their children to neighborhood
9 schools; is that correct?

10 MR. DUBOW: Yes. Schools are a
11 very important element.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: In
13 Philadelphia, how many schools are there,
14 public schools?

15 Let me help you, 291 -- 264.

16 MR. DUBOW: 264.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: And in
18 Pennsylvania, how many state and federal
19 prisons are there? Okay?

20 MR. DUBOW: Yeah.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: There are 67
22 in the county, eight that are federal and
23 30 that are state.

24 How much does it cost on
25 average to educate a young person in the

1 6/16/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 City of Philadelphia? It's \$16,462 a
3 year, if my memory serves me correctly.
4 To incarcerate someone, it is \$26,650 a
5 year.

6 (Applause.)

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: People in
8 this Chamber do the math. We pay now or
9 we pay later.

10 Thank you, Madam Chair.

11 (Applause.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
13 Chair recognizes Councilman Kenney.

14 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you,
15 Madam Chair.

16 I agree with both Councilman
17 Green and Councilman Jones, and while
18 we're doing the math, I'd like someone to
19 give me a figure on what it costs to send
20 700 kids to an enhanced summer program
21 for 18 days at \$23 million. Could
22 someone give me that number? Because it
23 seems like an awful lot more than it
24 should be for 700 children to have that
25 experience for 18 days when the

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2 Superintendent is talking about
3 increasing class size and stopping
4 transportation and is not even discussing
5 the possibility of delaying that program
6 for one year at \$23 million for 700 kids
7 for 18 days. That's what we're talking
8 about. That's what we're talking about,
9 40,000.

10 Now, I want enhanced summer
11 experience for our children and I also
12 want them to get to school on the bus
13 every day. Now, if I got to make a
14 choice between the two, it will be the
15 bus and not the summer camp, and that's
16 why it is really annoying how this School
17 District Administration has couched these
18 issues. I think it's disgraceful to tell
19 parents that we as a Council are cutting
20 their buses and increasing their class
21 sizes when they won't consider one
22 program to be delayed for a year that
23 would save \$23 million. Now, when we
24 have that discussion, I'll talk about
25 raising additional revenue, but until

1 6/16/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 that time, I'm getting increasingly angry
3 about the way in which this is being
4 couched.

5 We're not cutting anything.

6 The District sets its priorities with the
7 money that they have, and if that's their
8 priority, an 18-day \$23 million program,
9 and their priority is to increase class
10 size K to 3 by three kids a class, that's
11 their decision. It's not our decision.
12 We're providing a lot of money to this
13 District, and we're going to provide some
14 more by the time we're done today. And I
15 don't like the way this is being couched,
16 because it's unfair and it's untrue.

17 Twenty-three million dollars
18 for 18 days, I couldn't spend that in
19 Europe if I went to the best hotels and
20 stayed in the biggest cities in Europe
21 for 18 days. I couldn't spend \$23
22 million.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's not
24 700. It's 40,000.

25 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Well,

1 6/16/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 that's not -- oh, we're going to have a
3 debate from the audience?

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you
5 want one? The number is 40,000.

6 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: The number
7 is not 40,000. It's about 700. That's
8 who shows up.

9 Thank you, Madam President.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
11 Councilman Green.

12 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
13 Madam Chair.

14 I couldn't agree with
15 Councilman Kenney any more. I did get a
16 response from the District on some of the
17 information requests. There were only --
18 there were 24,000 children that attended
19 16 days last year. According to the
20 District, about 19,000 or 20,000 are
21 people who have to move up grade level,
22 and we can save about \$10 million if we
23 eliminate the extra programming for
24 people who aren't at grade level. I just
25 received that information the other

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2 night. So it wasn't available to us. So
3 we're still -- whether it's \$10 million
4 or \$20 million, I completely agree with
5 the point. I just see Mr. Masch there
6 and wanted to say that.

7 But the question here really on
8 the table is about even if we do revenue,
9 we're making choices between different
10 revenue options, and I haven't gotten a
11 clear answer from Mr. Dubow or the
12 Administration about why they would
13 rather risk well-paying good jobs and
14 sending the wrong message to the business
15 community versus proposing a real estate
16 tax increase. That's the choice they're
17 making, and I don't understand that
18 choice.

19 Thank you, Madam President.

20 MR. DUBOW: I think what we
21 said is that while we prefer the sugary
22 drinks option, that our main objective is
23 to get revenues to the District. We
24 introduced two bills.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The

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2 Chair recognizes Councilman Jones.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Madam Chair,
4 I'm really afraid in this Chamber today
5 that Bill Green, Councilman, and
6 Councilman Kenney actually agreed on
7 something. This is scary.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Well,
9 you know it has to be right, then.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Well, not
11 necessarily. They can be doubly wrong.

12 But let me say this, that I
13 absolutely believe that both of them care
14 deeply, deeply about the future of
15 education and the future of this City.
16 That is not in question.

17 What is also not in question is
18 whether this is a referendum on Dr.
19 Ackerman and her administration. What
20 this is is a referendum about what our
21 commitment is to public education and
22 whether we're willing --

23 (Applause.)

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: -- whether
25 we're willing to do the heavy lifting.

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2 I grew up in a time where the
3 cowboy movie was King, and there's always
4 that time when we're going into the
5 desert and the wagon master has to make
6 tough choices, but when they start
7 choosing to throw over the piano, I'm
8 okay with that choice. And we looked
9 into the school budget to get rid of the
10 waste of the piano. And then when they
11 start looking at throwing away grandma's
12 dresser, I'm okay with that too. But
13 when they start looking around, because
14 times got rough, at the kids, that's an
15 unacceptable choice to me, and we better
16 figure something out today because we're
17 running out of runway. We can have all
18 the rhetoric and do analysis paralysis,
19 but September is coming and those kids
20 got to get to school.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
24 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Brown.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,

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2 Madam President.

3 Good morning. I completely
4 concur and support all of what Councilman
5 Kenney stated. I think many of us -- and
6 I will not say majority, Councilman Bill
7 Green -- many of us acknowledge that
8 based on my observation and listening to
9 testimony, a number of missteps were
10 cited in the testimony presented by the
11 School District. That's been clearly,
12 clearly evident. But as Councilman
13 Jones -- at the end of the day, Madam
14 President, it's not about the City of
15 Philadelphia making decisions. The 17 of
16 us in this City Council are confronted
17 with making important decisions today.
18 We're the ones who have been elected to
19 do, as Councilman Jones said, do the
20 heavy lifting. So I really don't care
21 about the answers to Bill Green's
22 questions on jobs and et cetera. The
23 decision is going to rest with us on what
24 we're going to do to find the dollars to
25 support the School District, period.

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2 Underscoring what Councilman Jones
3 said -- and Jesse Jackson said it
4 first -- we're going to pay sooner or
5 later. We can pay 17,000 now per kid or
6 be faced with the decision of doubling
7 that to \$26,000 12 years later.

8 So I appreciate Bill Green's
9 request of the City, but it doesn't
10 matter what those answers are. At the
11 end of today, we will have to make
12 decisions about where we find those
13 dollars. And, yes, I submit the City has
14 to do its part and share in this heavy
15 lifting and City Council has to do ours.

16 Thank you, Madam President.

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
19 you.

20 You never did -- I'm sorry.
21 Councilman Green, your light is on. Did
22 you want to be recognized?

23 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.
24 I just want to say for the record, I'm
25 not sure what we're debating about

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2 anymore. We all, I think -- sorry,
3 Councilwoman. Most of us have committed
4 to providing additional resources to the
5 District. The only question is, how much
6 and what's the vehicle. That's all we're
7 talking about today.

8 So before we leave, since we
9 have Dr. Ackerman and Mr. Masch here
10 today, I would like to know whether they
11 are willing to now say they are not going
12 to spend money on new promise academies,
13 which will save 19 million, and whether
14 or not they are willing to eliminate the
15 SLAM program for people who don't need to
16 go to next grade level, before I take a
17 vote on any tax.

18 Thank you.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
20 you.

21 Yes, please.

22 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Good
23 morning, Council President Verna and
24 members of City Council. I am Everett
25 Gillison, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety,

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2 and it is a pleasure to be with you this
3 morning. The purpose of my testimony is
4 to give you a brief summary of the
5 consequences of reducing the City's fund
6 balance by \$30 million in each of the
7 next five years. Shifting this level of
8 funding to the School District could have
9 a very grave consequence for public
10 safety in the City of Philadelphia. We
11 need those dollars so we can move forward
12 with our planned investments in the
13 Police Department and other public safety
14 offices.

15 I will just add parenthetically
16 that I've asked and I'm happy to
17 acknowledge the presence of First
18 Assistant Ed McCann on behalf of Seth
19 Williams. I also know that the First
20 Judicial District President Judge Dembe
21 has indicated that she should be down to
22 talk about her impacts as I go through
23 the testimony to summarize.

24 If we do not have the funds
25 available to make our proposed

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2 investments in the Police Department,
3 specifically our plans for a new police
4 class, the sworn strength of the
5 Department will fall to the lowest level
6 since 1995. While we have made
7 significant progress in reducing our
8 crime numbers, these efforts will not be
9 sustainable if we are unable to increase
10 the numbers of officers we have on the
11 street.

12 For probation, we have planned
13 to make a \$2.4 million investment in the
14 Courts this coming year. If we can't, 52
15 probation officers would need to be laid
16 off. Obviously this would cause an
17 increase in the numbers of offenders the
18 remaining probation officers will be
19 required to supervise. Probation
20 officers' caseloads are already too high.
21 The impact of these cuts will mean
22 probationers will not be adequately
23 supervised in the communities, and we all
24 know that that may lead to re-offending.

25 Again, President Judge Dembe

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2 has indicated that she would be present,
3 if need be, to testify as to the
4 collective impact they'd have on
5 probation.

6 For the District Attorney's
7 Office, I will only say before Mr. McCann
8 testifies, a dramatic reduction in our
9 fund balance will require us to
10 reconsider our planned \$1.9 million
11 investment in the District Attorney's
12 budget. The anticipated impact of this
13 reduction would be the elimination of
14 assistant attorney positions. With fewer
15 prosecutors, cases will move slower
16 through the system, creating backlogs and
17 inefficiencies that the City and our CJAB
18 partners have worked very hard to
19 eliminate.

20 In YVRP, we have planned to
21 make a \$1.5 million investment in our
22 Youth Violence Reduction Program next
23 year. It currently employs 35 probation
24 officer/street worker teams. The
25 proposal to use the fund balance for the

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2 school would push us to eliminate 13
3 teams, along with four supervisory staff,
4 with the result being seven fewer
5 targeted patrols per week. Overall, this
6 is a 37 percent reduction in staff and
7 316 fewer youth partners being served
8 each day. This impact can be distributed
9 across all YVRP districts or the total
10 elimination of YVRP from two districts.
11 With either scenario, YVRP services will
12 be severely compromised, negatively
13 affecting our work with the most at-risk
14 young people in the neighborhoods of
15 Philadelphia hardest hit by crime.

16 And in Prisons, finally the
17 proposal offered by Councilman Green last
18 week will reduce the Prison budget by \$9
19 million, 4 million from Class 100 and 5
20 million from Class 200. This proposal is
21 tied to a \$4 million increase in the
22 budget of the First Judicial District,
23 ostensibly for hiring parole officers and
24 the purchase of electronic monitoring
25 bracelets. These reductions in shifts

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2 would not result in the savings to the
3 Prison system and are not feasible given
4 the current anticipated population levels
5 and the mandated services we provide.

6 The proposal is premised on the
7 incorrect assumption that an expansion of
8 the electronic monitoring program will
9 result in completely unrealistic savings.
10 The Administration has analyzed the costs
11 and the potential savings and has
12 determined that there would not be any
13 General Fund savings associated with an
14 increase in the electronic monitoring at
15 this time.

16 The cost of increasing the
17 electronic monitoring program by 400
18 units is estimated to be \$2.7 million in
19 Year 1 and about \$2 million thereafter.
20 Additional parole officers would need to
21 be hired at a cost of \$2 million, for a
22 total program cost of over \$4 million
23 annually. However, a significant number
24 of the prisoners would not be removed
25 from the placement from our contracted

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2 providers, which is our most expensive
3 form of service, because our first
4 obligation would be to reduce triple
5 celling. There would be some savings
6 from movement from triple cells to the
7 electronic monitoring program, but the
8 savings from electronic monitoring is
9 estimated to be only \$2.2 million
10 annually. This would result in a net
11 cost to the General Fund of at least \$1.8
12 million annually. This savings plan
13 simply would not work.

14 A total reduction in \$4 million
15 in Class 100 funding would mean a
16 reduction of overall workforce by
17 approximately 80 positions. The Prisons
18 has already reduced their budget officer
19 positions by 50 to account for the
20 population reductions over the last two
21 years. Our current prison population is
22 approximately 7,800 to a little over
23 8,000, depending upon the day. Fiscal
24 Year '12 budget request was predicated on
25 a daily population of approximately

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2 7,600. As a result, with significant
3 cuts to the Prisons budget, we anticipate
4 the need for significant overtime as a
5 result, with no ultimate savings in Class
6 100 funding.

7 The proposed cut of \$5 million
8 in Class 200 funding would have
9 far-reaching effects, causing us to
10 significantly reduce or eliminate outside
11 housing contracts or programming. Nearly
12 all other Class 200 expenditures are for
13 basic needs and would not be able to be
14 cut below current Fiscal Year '12 level.
15 Outside housing projections have already
16 been reduced for Fiscal '12's submission
17 and are at near minimum levels at each
18 site. If we reduce housing contracts,
19 those inmates would have to be triple
20 celled in our main prison complex, most
21 likely the House of Corrections. Moving
22 inmates into triple cell housing at the
23 House of Corrections is not a viable
24 alternative. We are currently involved
25 in litigation over our use of triple

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2 celling inmates. Any increase in the use
3 of triple celling would spur new
4 litigation from inmates challenging their
5 conditions of confinement on
6 constitutional grounds. Work release
7 housing and the vocational training
8 program would be reduced in scope and
9 effectiveness. Even with the elimination
10 or reduction of programming, contracted
11 housing would still have to be reduced,
12 thereby increasing the size of the
13 facility house population.

14 The overall conclusion for
15 Prisons is that a combination of reduced
16 staff and increased census at our
17 facilities would exacerbate the overtime,
18 sick time, officer fatigue and employee
19 turnover. As in the past, this creates
20 an undesirable and dangerous situation.

21 I would ask the District
22 Attorney would actually join me at this
23 time just to briefly talk about the
24 impacts to him. The one thing that we've
25 learned over the last three years of

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2 working together is that the CJAB
3 partners actually do not only work
4 together, but it's as a result of that
5 that it has come to work. And I would
6 ask that he be allowed to join and just
7 give his testimony.

8 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Point of
9 order.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
11 Chair recognizes Councilman Goode.

12 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
13 Madam President. I'd like to question
14 Deputy Mayor Gillison before anyone else
15 speaks.

16 Deputy Mayor, how much does a
17 police class cost?

18 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: \$6.4
19 million.

20 COUNCILMAN GOODE: You threw
21 out the figure of a \$30 million fund
22 balance reduction. If we reduce the fund
23 balance by \$25 million rather than 30,
24 will you continue with the police class?

25 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: That

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2 is -- I'd leave that to the Finance
3 Director. I'll be able to talk after he
4 would.

5 MR. DUBOW: A \$25 million shift
6 would still create holes in our Five Year
7 Plan and so --

8 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Will you
9 continue with the police class if we
10 reduce it by \$25 million rather than 30?

11 MR. DUBOW: I'm not sure. I
12 mean --

13 COUNCILMAN GOODE: If we reduce
14 it by \$20 million rather than 30, will
15 you continue with the police class?

16 MR. DUBOW: Well, could we go
17 back, kind of go to where I think you're
18 going. Before you said kind of what
19 shift would work. I think if we were in
20 that kind of 5 to 10 area, then we could
21 be able to keep the class.

22 COUNCILMAN GOODE: So at what
23 level of fund balance reduction will you
24 continue with a police class?

25 MR. DUBOW: Again, in that 5 to

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2 10 range.

3 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
4 Madam President.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
6 you.

7 Councilman Green, did you want
8 to be recognized at this point?

9 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.

10 Mr. Gillison, since you
11 characterized my proposal, I thought we'd
12 correct the record a little bit. We're
13 not assuming -- my proposal does not
14 assume \$10 million in savings just from
15 electronic monitoring. For example,
16 there are currently 1,100 beds that we
17 pay for from the Prison system in case we
18 have overflow in the Prison system, and
19 that costs us -- I can't remember exactly
20 how much. I know if we eliminate 700 of
21 those beds or 600 of those beds, we can
22 save \$6 million a year.

23 Even taking your very low
24 estimate on electronic monitoring
25 savings, which the Courts have testified

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2 and sent back-up material saying it's \$24
3 million, even taking that together
4 between eliminating the excess beds and
5 because we'll have fewer prisoners, that
6 won't happen.

7 Also, I want to say -- so there
8 is 8 million bucks right there. Call it
9 8, call it 10, whatever. It's there in
10 the Prison system today. Even without
11 electronic monitoring, we can save 5 by
12 eliminating those beds.

13 Secondly, today the DA doesn't
14 have the people that you're discussing,
15 and today we've been reducing backlog and
16 we've been lowering the Prison system, et
17 cetera. So that's just a red herring.
18 It's a false statement. It can't be
19 true, because these people don't exist
20 and we've lowered the Prison costs.
21 We've lowered the thing every year.

22 And, finally, every year for
23 the last three years, the Administration
24 has said we couldn't get the savings in
25 the Prisons that City Council said we

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2 could get, and every year we have
3 exceeded the savings in Prisons that the
4 Administration came and testified and
5 said was impossible, and we can do it
6 again this year if we just give it that
7 old college try.

8 I really don't have any
9 questions.

10 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Would I
11 be permitted to respond to the
12 Councilperson?

13 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Sure.

14 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: On the
15 anticipated savings that you just talked
16 about with the Prisons, we have already
17 negotiated that we pay for most of those
18 minimum contracts and we do not pay for,
19 quote/unquote, the excess that is not
20 used. It is a result of CJAB and our
21 working together with our partners that
22 we are able to have moved things in the
23 way that we've gone, number one.

24 Number two, the idea that we
25 are currently -- that we could take

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2 another \$8 million out of the Prison and
3 still get the kind of things that we've
4 been able to testify to and also come
5 here and tell Council what we were doing
6 and how we were doing it and how we were
7 achieving, that is a hallmark of success
8 of this Administration and working
9 together with all of our partners, not
10 one that says that we thought it was
11 impossible. We were the ones that
12 actually started the "possible" in this
13 discussion and we're maintaining that,
14 because we believe in collaboration.
15 That's why I believe that the investments
16 that we are suggesting for the District
17 Attorney's Office is one that I'm not
18 going to speak for how it would hit.
19 That's why I've asked Mr. McCann to be
20 here to basically tell you what I know,
21 but something that I think that you need
22 to hear from the DA and not assume that
23 what you're suggesting is actually true.

24 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Councilman
25 Green.

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2 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.

3 Well, it's my understanding
4 that the Court's, for example, budget
5 can't be cut based on what we
6 appropriate. They're an independent
7 agency. They get their money. They
8 spend their money. Same thing with the
9 DA. We have no -- I have no intention of
10 cutting the DA's budget. I don't know --
11 maybe that's a choice you would make with
12 fewer dollars, but it's not a choice City
13 Council would make.

14 Once again, it gets back to the
15 choices people are making. The School
16 District is making some choices. Your
17 choice would be to cut the DA. Mine
18 wouldn't.

19 Thank you.

20 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you.

21 Would you identify yourself,
22 please, for the record.

23 MR. McCANN: Yes. Thank you.

24 I'm Acting First Assistant District
25 Attorney Ed McCann from the Philadelphia

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2 District Attorney's Office. Thank you,
3 Councilwoman.

4 The DA is out of the country or
5 else he would be here today.

6 I just want to say that we're
7 certainly not here to advocate one way or
8 the other of the decisions Council has to
9 make to increase revenues or shift the
10 fund balance for the schools. That's
11 clearly the decision that this body will
12 make. I just want to talk very briefly
13 about if cuts were made to the District
14 Attorney's Office, what the impact would
15 be on the DA's Office.

16 I'm certainly appreciative of
17 the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and Council's
18 support for us up to this point and
19 partnering with us to implement justice
20 reforms we've begun to put in place. Any
21 cuts to this budget could have a
22 significant impact on our ability to
23 continue these reforms, and cuts to the
24 DA's Office sort of have a ripple effect
25 throughout the system into the Court

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2 system, into the Prison system, and at
3 the end of the day, any cuts to the DA's
4 Office could cause significantly more
5 issues for the City in terms of revenue,
6 particularly in things like the Courts
7 and the Prison system.

8 It's our position that we
9 should continue the great start we have
10 made with the Administration, with the
11 CJAB -- Councilman Green's a part of
12 that -- and the Courts in reinvesting in
13 the criminal justice system that we've
14 done up to this point. We've made a lot
15 of progress and we hope to continue to
16 make that progress and not take a step
17 back from where we've been.

18 Thank you.

19 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you
20 very much.

21 Are there any questions of this
22 witness?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you.

25 MR. DUBOW: Our next testifier

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2 is Deputy Mayor Don Schwarz.

3 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: Good
4 morning.

5 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Good
6 morning.

7 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ:
8 Councilwoman, members of City Council, my
9 name is Donald Schwarz. I'm the Deputy
10 Mayor for Health and Opportunity. Thank
11 you for this opportunity to testify
12 regarding the impact of any cuts to the
13 City's Fiscal Year 2012 budget and the
14 impacts on services in the departments in
15 my area of government.

16 As you know, in each of the
17 last three years, health and opportunity
18 agencies have received cuts to our
19 budgets, both from the City and from the
20 State. I'm here to say that we've
21 reached a point where there is no longer
22 room to cut. Our homeless system is on
23 the edge. We are barely able to keep up
24 with the continued impacts of the
25 recession and unemployment on the number

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2 of individuals who need shelter every
3 night. Our family shelter beds are full
4 today. Our single clients no longer have
5 case managers in sufficient numbers to
6 help them move on to permanent housing.
7 Even a 1 percent cut to the OSH budget
8 will mean the loss of close to 40
9 emergency and transition housing beds
10 that house over 100 people during the
11 year. These cuts to the homeless system
12 will mean more people will be living on
13 the streets of Center City and more
14 people's lives will be compromised by
15 having to survive on our streets.

16 We've asked City Council this
17 year to support investments in our
18 obesity and tobacco programs, since the
19 Health Department cannot support these
20 programs when federal support ends. As
21 you've heard, tobacco alone is now
22 responsible for the deaths of more
23 Philadelphians than homicide,
24 tuberculosis, HIV and infant mortality
25 combined. In our neighborhood, 70

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2 percent of our children are either
3 overweight or obese. The programs we've
4 created this past year are bringing fresh
5 produce to our neighborhoods through
6 farmers' markets, corner stores and
7 bodegas. We're supporting better food
8 and physical activity for our school
9 children, are helping after-school
10 programs provide exercise programs for
11 our children, and are educating retailers
12 to reduce the selling of tobacco to
13 minors and helping bring tobacco
14 cessation to more than 300,000
15 Philadelphia smokers. We need these
16 programs to continue. We must continue
17 to make these important investments in
18 our neighborhoods.

19 I ask Council to find a
20 solution to the school funding issues
21 that doesn't throw the burden back on
22 City departments that have had to
23 shoulder these burdens of the recession
24 both in terms of the increased need for
25 our services now for more than three

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2 years. Having our budgets shrink during
3 this time period is deleterious to the
4 health and welfare of Philadelphians.
5 We've done our best to get by during this
6 time. We will not be able to do so with
7 further cuts at this time.

8 Thank you, and I'm happy to
9 answer questions if there are any.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
11 you.

12 The Chair recognizes Councilman
13 Goode.

14 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
15 Madam President.

16 Dr. Schwarz, how much of the
17 money that would be cut would be in
18 contracting dollars?

19 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: Not the
20 majority, I can tell you that. I can
21 give you a number. I don't have it off
22 the top of my head, but it's not the
23 majority.

24 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Let's talk
25 about your contracting dollars.

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2 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: Yes,
3 sir.

4 COUNCILMAN GOODE: What
5 percentage of your contracting dollars go
6 to businesses owned by women and people
7 of color?

8 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: Of all
9 of the dollars, these dollars in
10 particular from OSH, where the majority
11 of dollars that are contracted, go to
12 women and people of color.

13 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Excuse me?

14 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: The
15 particular contract cuts that we would
16 see are related --

17 COUNCILMAN GOODE: That's not
18 the question I asked you. And you are
19 Deputy Mayor for Health and Opportunity.

20 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: Yes,
21 sir.

22 COUNCILMAN GOODE: So I'm not
23 just asking about your particular
24 department. I'm asking about health,
25 human services and everything else. Do

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2 you actually use your dollars fairly?

3 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: I

4 believe we do, and we've had this

5 conversation before.

6 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I believe

7 you don't.

8 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: Yes,

9 sir.

10 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,

11 Madam President.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The

13 Chair recognizes Councilman Green.

14 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,

15 Madam Chair.

16 Dr. Schwarz, how much money did

17 you get from the federal government for

18 anti-obesity programs last year?

19 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: Over two

20 years it's \$26 million.

21 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And how much

22 did you get last year, or was the whole

23 26 last year?

24 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: It's 26

25 over two years, 26 million over 24

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2 months.

3 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So have they
4 paid us the whole 26? How much did we
5 actually receive from the federal
6 government last year?

7 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: We
8 received about half of it, half of it
9 each year for two years.

10 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And we're
11 getting another 13 million this year?

12 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: No.
13 That's included. So it's 13 in the first
14 year, 13 in this year.

15 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thirteen in
16 this current fiscal year?

17 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: It's
18 happening now. We're actually about a
19 quarter of the way, a third of the way
20 through.

21 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Quarter of a
22 way through?

23 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: The
24 final year.

25 COUNCILMAN GREEN: The final

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2 year of spending?

3 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: Correct.

4 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And did we
5 spend the entire 13 million the first
6 year?

7 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: We did.

8 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And how much
9 have we spent this year?

10 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: It is
11 proportionate, so --

12 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Fair enough.
13 And so how did you spend it the first
14 year?

15 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: We -- I
16 can give you actually a very long list of
17 all of the programs.

18 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Well, how
19 much did you spend on advertising?

20 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: The
21 federal government, which included and
22 specified the requirements, it's about a
23 million dollars last year.

24 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Spend a
25 million dollars of money --

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2 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: On

3 advertising.

4 COUNCILMAN GREEN: On

5 advertising?

6 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: Yes,

7 sir.

8 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And you

9 spent the rest?

10 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: On

11 programs in neighborhoods, working with
12 the School District, improving recreation
13 opportunities after school and child care
14 opportunities both in terms of exercise
15 and food, improving farm-to-school,
16 improving farm-to-child care settings,
17 working to establish farmers' markets,
18 working with corner stores in
19 Philadelphia to bring fresh food, working
20 on tobacco.

21 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So you could
22 spend the balance of the money doing
23 after-school or extended-day programs as
24 long as you focused on anti-obesity as
25 part of it?

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2 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: Only

3 if --

4 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Putting more
5 money into the schools or through the
6 School District.

7 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: Only if
8 we've told the federal government that's
9 what we're doing. We have no discretion.
10 This is a cooperative agreement.

11 COUNCILMAN GREEN: But it could
12 pay for athletics, for example?

13 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: No,
14 actually, it can't.

15 COUNCILMAN GREEN: It can't pay
16 for athletics?

17 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: It
18 cannot.

19 COUNCILMAN GREEN: But it could
20 pay for education, adding to the School
21 District curriculum, science classes, an
22 anti-obesity platform?

23 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: No, it
24 could not.

25 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And you know

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2 that because you've asked the federal
3 government that question?

4 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: It's
5 specific in the requirements that were
6 part of the request and it's part of the
7 cooperative agreement language. They
8 monitor us on a monthly basis.

9 COUNCILMAN GREEN: But we could
10 go ask for a change of the cooperative
11 agreement?

12 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: We've
13 tried that, as have other districts.

14 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And they've
15 said no?

16 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: That is
17 correct.

18 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay. At
19 any rate, I was just curious about that
20 program. Thank you very much.

21 No further questions.

22 Oh, I do have one further
23 question. I'm sorry. Has the health
24 centers taken -- are the health centers
25 cooperating with the Children's Hospital

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2 and their anti-obesity program?

3 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: There's
4 no formal relationship at this point.

5 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Have they
6 requested one?

7 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: The
8 Children's Hospital has called to ask if
9 we would sit down and talk, and I am
10 absolutely open to any resource for
11 people in the City of Philadelphia.

12 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay. Well,
13 I'll look forward to an update on that.
14 Thank you.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Point of
16 information, Madam President.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
18 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Brown.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Madam
20 President, we would be remiss not to at
21 least acknowledge and salute why that
22 Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
23 agreement happened, at the work of
24 Councilman Clarke and I working very,
25 very, very closely with the Honickmans,

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2 who were generous enough to first
3 acknowledge that we have the problem and,
4 B, figure out a way where they could help
5 the City fix it. And so as I sat in
6 those meetings, I do not ever recall
7 there being early discussions about that
8 agreement with Children's Hospital and
9 our Philadelphia health centers. It
10 makes sense to have gone that way, but
11 based on the agreement, that was not the
12 strategy that Children's Hospital had in
13 place.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And
15 how much was given to CHOP?

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Do you
17 recall, Dr. Schwarz? I do not remember.

18 DEPUTY MAYOR SCHWARZ: Ten
19 million dollars was given to Children's
20 Hospital of Philadelphia. I don't know
21 that any of those dollars have been spent
22 as yet, but I don't know that. Certainly
23 none have been spent on any of the
24 children in the health centers in
25 Philadelphia.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,
3 Madam President.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
5 you.

6 Thank you, Doctor.

7 Any --

8 MR. DUBOW: Yeah. Last, but
9 certainly not least, Deputy Mayor
10 DiBerardinis.

11 DEPUTY MAYOR DiBERARDINIS:
12 Good morning, Council President Verna.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good
14 morning.

15 DEPUTY MAYOR DiBERARDINIS:
16 Good morning, Council President Verna.
17 My name is Mike DiBerardinis and I'm
18 Deputy Mayor and Commissioner for the
19 Department of Parks and Recreation.

20 In this Operating Budget for
21 FY12, proposed Operating Budget, the
22 Mayor has requested \$180,000 for the
23 extension of our swimming season and a
24 million dollars to the Mayor's Commission
25 on Literacy and the Free Library to

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2 expand adult literacy programs throughout
3 the City. If these funds were not
4 available, we would be -- in the
5 Recreation and Parks Department, we would
6 have to curtail our swimming season by
7 about seven to ten days if these proposed
8 increases were not there. We would lose
9 community swim time as well as
10 instructional swimming for youth and
11 would lose about 100,000 visits to our
12 pool system. Last year, we had a million
13 one. We think we'll be down to a
14 million.

15 Relative to the Commission on
16 Literacy, a reduction of funds would halt
17 the work on the Mayor's Commission on
18 Literacy in some crucial areas. The
19 Commission for the upcoming year is
20 planning to launch several initiatives
21 and tools designed to integrate adult
22 learning and to career paths, provide
23 adult learner counseling and coaching,
24 create a system for all literacy learning
25 opportunities, and engage the public,

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2 business, faith communities or non-profit
3 organizations in lifelong learning
4 opportunities throughout
5 neighborhood-based events and volunteer
6 activities.

7 This is a particularly
8 difficult lift for the Commission on
9 Literacy due to changes in the funding
10 guidelines from the state, which would
11 mix the Library ineligible to apply for
12 funds they had previously gotten to
13 support the Commission, and that total
14 was over \$3 million.

15 If you have any questions, I'd
16 be happy to answer them. Thank you.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: Thank
18 you. Thank you very much.

19 DEPUTY MAYOR DiBERARDINIS:
20 Thank you.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA:
22 That's it.

23 MR. DUBOW: Thank you.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: Thank
25 you.

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2 Do we have anyone else that
3 would like to testify? I understand some
4 people had difficulty in getting up to
5 the 4th Floor.

6 (Witnesses approached witness
7 table.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good
9 morning. Nice seeing you. Please
10 identify yourself for the record.

11 MS. DUNGEE-GLENN: My name is
12 Sandra Dungee-Glenn. May I begin, Madam
13 President?

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:
15 Please proceed.

16 MS. DUNGEE-GLENN: Thank you.
17 Thank you, Madam President and members of
18 Council, for allowing me this opportunity
19 to come and speak to you today. I come
20 here today as a homeowner in the 46th
21 Ward, I come here today as a graduate of
22 the School District of Philadelphia, and
23 I come here today as someone who spent
24 thousands of volunteer hours studying and
25 analyzing and investing in the issues

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2 related to education here in
3 Philadelphia, and now as a member of our
4 State Board of Education and a member of
5 the National State Boards of Education
6 and a member of the United States
7 Department of Education's Commission on
8 Excellence and Equity, and along the way
9 I've learned a few things that I think
10 are important. I just want to bring them
11 forward to you today.

12 One of the things that I
13 learned is that all of our conversations
14 about education, what it is and what it's
15 not, it's not shadow boxing, that we are
16 dealing with these issues in the context
17 of what's needed and what's going to be
18 required for these young people to have
19 any opportunity or any chance in the 21st
20 century. And this is a century that is
21 changing tremendously and changing
22 tremendously fast.

23 The kinds of skills that would
24 allow someone to come out of school just
25 prepared to work with their hands, those

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2 are the jobs that everything is showing
3 us and telling us are being replaced
4 largely by machines and technology. What
5 young people are going to be required to
6 do now is going to require them to be
7 critical thinkers, requiring them to
8 understand how to work collaboratively,
9 how to be innovative, how to analyze and
10 dissect information that comes before
11 them, that the choice is going to be
12 whether we're preparing our young people
13 to be essential members of the 21st
14 century or to be expendable. And as I
15 said, I've been a lifelong resident of
16 Philadelphia. I know what expendable
17 looks like. I live in West Philadelphia.
18 I see it every day as I travel through my
19 community. I see young people, young
20 men, who basically see themselves as
21 expendable because they have not been
22 given the skills and they have not been
23 given the preparation that makes them
24 viable in the job market of the 21st
25 century, and as a city, that's something

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2 we cannot sustain. We cannot write off
3 half of our human capital and still see
4 ourselves as thriving as we go forward.

5 And the other thing that is
6 very concerning and troubling is, I
7 learned as I've done this work that we
8 know, we know what it takes to help
9 children learn. We know what works in
10 our schools. We know what works in
11 education. We know that when young
12 people come, especially young people with
13 challenges, they need an early start.

14 That's why this issue of childhood
15 education is so important. We know that
16 they need more time. So when we talk
17 about extended day or summer school, it's
18 not -- these aren't pet projects. These
19 are research-based and data-proven
20 strategies that are impacting and showing
21 that they have results when we are able
22 to deliver them to children with
23 fidelity.

24 We know that it takes effective
25 instruction and that the teachers that we

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2 have in our school districts, many of
3 them are young. They don't have the
4 experience. We have to invest in the
5 professional development to prepare them
6 to take over the classrooms.

7 We know that it takes extra
8 supports. Our children and our families
9 are fragile. The impact of this
10 recession has been widespread, it has
11 been deep. It is disintegrating families
12 across this City. So when they come to
13 our schools, they do need the counseling
14 support. They need behavioral health
15 support that is going to make them and
16 give them the time and attention to
17 learn.

18 And we also know that when we
19 deliver these things and we do it in a
20 way that is consistent, that over time
21 the impact on children is measurable.

22 When I started on the School
23 Reform Commission, we were talking about
24 just 18 percent of our young people being
25 at grade level. Last year, that number

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2 and that needle had moved to over 50
3 percent, around 52 percent. In
4 children's terms, that translates to
5 70,000 children who are now able to
6 operate at grade level versus eight years
7 ago. Seventy thousand. That is a
8 district's worth of children.

9 The Pittsburgh School District
10 only has 50,000 children. Seventy
11 thousand children is significant. That's
12 the impact of these programs and
13 strategies. This is not theoretical.
14 It's real children and real lives.

15 And I want to say that over
16 time, we have already invested as a
17 District, as a City, as a State millions
18 of dollars in reducing class size,
19 extending day, summer programs, bringing
20 on extra counselors and teachers,
21 alternative schools for the accelerated
22 learning and the disciplinary schools,
23 adding the charters, which has given us a
24 very robust charter system here in
25 Philadelphia. All of these things have

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2 been important components of adding the
3 capacity and bringing a comprehensive and
4 strategic approach to turning around our
5 schools.

6 And, again, I believe and I
7 think that the data shows that it is
8 giving results. So whether you call this
9 the restructured schools or you call them
10 empowerment schools or you call them
11 promise academies, give them whatever
12 name you choose, the important thing is,
13 do we continue to sustain the programs
14 and the initiatives that are impacting
15 our children and giving them a real --

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
17 you. May I ask that you conclude your
18 remarks. You're well over your three
19 minutes.

20 MS. DUNGEE-GLENN: I appreciate
21 that.

22 And I do want to support your
23 call for accountability. I think that's
24 perfectly reasonable to have the District
25 come and bring forth the data.

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2 And I just wanted to close by
3 saying two things. I know these choices
4 aren't easy. I'm a property owner. I
5 pay property taxes. I've paid my fair
6 share of fines and parking fees in the
7 City, but there are two things that
8 happened very recently that I think
9 showed that this is important.

10 Last week, the Boys' Latin
11 Charter School had their first
12 graduation. Eighty young men who we were
13 told should not have this school as a
14 choice graduated. Ninety-six percent of
15 them are going on to higher education.
16 And just yet the School of the Future
17 concluded their graduation.

18 I think and I would support --

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: I
20 think your time has been up some time
21 ago. I'm going to ask you again to
22 please conclude your remarks.

23 MS. DUNGEE-GLENN: I will. I
24 will just ask you and implore you, if you
25 would, I will do anything to support,

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2 prepare and protect these young people,
3 and I would just ask you very
4 respectfully, Madam President and
5 Councilmembers, if you would do the same.

6 Thank you for your time and
7 attention.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
9 you.

10 (Applause.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Just
12 a moment, please.

13 The Chair recognizes Councilman
14 Jones.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
16 Ms. Glenn, for that testimony. You were
17 drowned out a little bit by the young
18 people that the media sometimes doesn't
19 believe cares about issues like this, but
20 they're proof positive that they are.

21 Just real quick, those
22 auxiliary programs, those supplementary
23 programs, if the School District is a
24 large ship, it takes a long time for it
25 to turn around, but it's very easy to

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2 sink. Which of those programs that
3 you're talking about do you believe with
4 your experience are critical, critical to
5 keep us moving in the right direction?

6 MS. DUNGEE-GLENN: Very
7 respectfully, Councilman, I think part of
8 my message is that there is not a silver
9 bullet. It is a comprehensive approach
10 that has to be delivered and layered
11 consistently that really has given the
12 impact. I think it's very difficult to
13 pull out one thing or two things that do
14 it, because we have such a diverse
15 district with very diverse children and
16 very diverse needs. You need this
17 strategy. You need this portfolio of
18 things that are being delivered
19 consistently over time that, again, is
20 showing that we are turning and turning
21 children around.

22 So that's really, I think, the
23 important part of this message. It's
24 very hard to pull and tear it apart.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
3 you.

4 The Chair recognizes Councilman
5 Green.

6 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.

7 Thank you for your service on
8 the School Board and for your very
9 impassioned speech and comments today. I
10 assume that you are agnostic as to how we
11 provide resources to the School District
12 as long as we provide sufficient
13 resources.

14 MS. DUNGEE-GLENN: I am
15 agnostic. I do think it is very
16 important to try to hold on to, again,
17 this package of approaches and
18 initiatives that, Councilman, I think
19 that have been given you the return on
20 your investment, quite honestly. I think
21 that's really the critical thing that I
22 think is important that I would like to
23 just share --

24 COUNCILMAN GREEN: But yes or
25 no, how we provide the resources --

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2 MS. DUNGEE-GLENN: I'm not
3 weighing in on that, no, sir.

4 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you
5 very much.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
7 Chair recognizes Councilman Kenney.

8 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you,
9 Madam President.

10 Sandra, we've known each other
11 a long time, and I know your advocacy for
12 the schools, and I don't disagree with
13 anything you're saying. I think that
14 these programs, given the resources that
15 are necessary, are critically important,
16 but I think -- and calmly now -- the
17 thing that bothers me, I guess, is that
18 the most critical things, however, in my
19 mind were all-day kindergarten, which
20 seems to be resolved, alternative
21 schools, because these kids are troubled
22 and they've been in an environment now
23 where they're getting help and we can't
24 put them back in the normal school
25 environment. I think that transportation

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2 obviously is critical. I mean, the
3 tokens and TransPasses are critical to
4 get these kids to school and so are the
5 yellow buses.

6 In a year where we're being
7 destroyed by the Commonwealth and if you
8 look at the Commonwealth cuts across the
9 State, they're disgraceful. It's Chester
10 Upland, it's Philadelphia, it's York,
11 which includes Harrisburg, and it's two
12 poor counties out in Allegheny County,
13 Duquesne and Clairton. And I don't
14 discount the fact that this is just kind
15 of a critical mass, a critical storm, and
16 I would love to do all of this. I really
17 would. But when push comes to shove, if
18 I got to make a decision on getting a kid
19 to the classroom or not having that K to
20 3 classroom increased by three children,
21 I almost have to make that decision,
22 despite the good work of summer SLAM or
23 any of these other programs, at least for
24 one year, because I'm hoping that when we
25 go to Actual Value Initiative -- and

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2 that's why, so people understand, real
3 estate taxes are so difficult, because
4 we've done it twice in two -- we're going
5 to do it twice in two years. We've been
6 asked to do it again, and then we're
7 going to hit Actual Value Initiative.
8 These folks are going -- they're going to
9 go crazy.

10 So I'm looking at one year of a
11 little bit of cutback or little bit of
12 doing the most important things first,
13 and then when we get into the year where
14 we started to get a little more money in
15 here, to go do those programs again.

16 I don't want anyone or you to
17 think that I just am discounting these
18 programs like -- it's just very difficult
19 to continually balance the needs of all
20 the things we need to deal with with the
21 important issues relative to the schools.

22 So I just want you to
23 understand. And you know me. You know
24 I'm not a person who discounts public
25 education. I care. I just know that

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2 when those four issues get on the radar
3 screen of cuts, what people are going to
4 say is that, Well, how could you do this
5 to our kids? And I would -- if I were on
6 the School Reform Commission, I would not
7 be voting to cut public transportation
8 for kids, nor increase class sizes, nor
9 get rid of full-day kindergarten.

10 So I just want you to
11 understand that, and as we wrestle with
12 this stuff, please understand our side
13 of -- our needs, too. Okay?

14 MS. DUNGEE-GLENN: May I
15 respond, Councilman?

16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Sure.

17 MS. DUNGEE-GLENN: For one, I
18 do respect you, and I thank you for all
19 that you have done and will continue to
20 do around education. And I'm not at all
21 suggesting that we take our attention
22 away from Harrisburg and what's being
23 done there to cut back all the supports
24 that have gone into that. Again, I think
25 it's incumbent whether it's in Harrisburg

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2 or in here that we look at the cost, and
3 I think that's what I really wanted to
4 bring home, that what I have learned and
5 what I've seen firsthand, that moving
6 back from these programs for a year
7 pushes you back for two to three years,
8 because it's not easy to stop and start
9 up again, and that lag time increases the
10 cost of the very things you're talking
11 about, sending more children to
12 accelerated schools and so forth.

13 And so what I'm hoping is that
14 between what's done here in this Chamber
15 and still the push that's being put in
16 Harrisburg, that we can cobble together
17 the resources to sustain this floor,
18 because that's all we're talking about.

19 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I agree. I
20 want you to --

21 MS. DUNGEE-GLENN: I think
22 that's really the challenge.

23 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I don't
24 think the City has the capacity in its
25 tax base to replace what Harrisburg is

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2 ripping out of us and what the federal
3 government no longer provides. That's my
4 only point, and that's kind of the forum
5 I want to have the discussion in.

6 MS. DUNGEE-GLENN: And I
7 understand.

8 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: And if I
9 lost my temper on that one issue, I do
10 apologize. It's a very emotional thing
11 for all of us, and I just want you to
12 understand where I am.

13 MS. DUNGEE-GLENN: I
14 understand. I'm just asking for us to
15 get as close as we can --

16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I hear you.
17 I hear you.

18 MS. DUNGEE-GLENN: -- to
19 keeping it whole. Thank you.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
21 Chair recognizes Councilman Green.

22 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.

23 Just one quick question for
24 Ms. Dungee-Glens, and, that is, you
25 served on the SRC.

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2 MS. DUNGEE-GLENN: Yes, sir.

3 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Is this a
4 year that you would create new programs
5 that didn't exist in prior years if it
6 could save reduced class sizes, for
7 example? If you had to choose between 21
8 million in programs that haven't been
9 spent, no child or parent would lose
10 anything, and you could put the money
11 into reduced class sizes instead, what
12 would your choice be this year? I
13 understand --

14 MS. DUNGEE-GLENN: Do you want
15 my honest answer?

16 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Yes.

17 MS. DUNGEE-GLENN: Which may
18 not be a nice, clean, crisp one for you,
19 but very honestly, it really depends on
20 who those programs are going to impact.
21 We have children that are falling off the
22 edge, literally every day, and so if I
23 had a new program that was going to keep
24 a child in school who was about to leave
25 or --

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2 COUNCILMAN GREEN: That's

3 not --

4 MS. DUNGEE-GLENN: -- or keep a
5 school safer, I'm not -- but my point is
6 to you that I understand your question
7 very clearly. I don't think it's as cut
8 and dried about new versus old. I think
9 it's about impact. I think that's really
10 it. What is the reach and what are the
11 number of children that we can support
12 with this. I really think that's the way
13 we have to look at it.

14 COUNCILMAN GREEN: I completely
15 agree, but reduced class sizes has proven
16 to be efficacious in every academic
17 study. New programs, we don't know if
18 they're going to work or not.

19 MS. DUNGEE-GLENN: If I may,
20 sir. Even with the issue of new class
21 size, that's a strategic tool. Yes, K to
22 3, very effective. Grade 6, grade 8,
23 very effective. Grade 4, grade 10, not
24 so much.

25 So I don't -- this is not a --

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2 what's the word? You have to be like
3 very surgical, if you would, in looking
4 at a lot of this, and I think that's the
5 point.

6 I don't pretend to be an
7 expert. I am not an educational expert.
8 I have learned a lot, but there are a lot
9 of people who really truly have studied
10 this stuff and really can show what
11 works, and I really think we need to be
12 respectful of a lot of the opinions that
13 they're bringing forth, because I think
14 that's what's bearing out and being
15 helpful to our children.

16 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Well, you
17 know, you have to -- the problem with
18 that answer -- and I respect it -- is
19 that there's only so many dollars
20 available, and so you have to make a
21 choice.

22 MS. DUNGEE-GLENN: And, again,
23 sir, I think you are completely within
24 your rights to bring the School District
25 to the table and have them substantiate

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2 to you why they're making the choices
3 that they are saying they need to make
4 and using your best judgment to determine
5 if that's valid or not. But I do think
6 that they've taken a careful look at what
7 these choices are and where they believe
8 the dollars would be best spent, even
9 with these limited resources, and I think
10 it's appropriate for you to vet that and
11 really push them to substantiate that.

12 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And
13 fundamentally I've been trying to do that
14 for two weeks. I received late Tuesday
15 night some responses to my questions.
16 What was missing, what was missing was
17 specific information about some of the
18 new programs that have only been in place
19 for a year that are potentially being
20 expanded as compared to early childhood
21 education between K through 3, which
22 costs \$16 million to maintain, for
23 example, and now I'm being asked to vote
24 on that.

25 MS. DUNGEE-GLENN: I

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2 understand.

3 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So, as I
4 said earlier, Madam President, as I said
5 earlier, I would like to hear from the
6 School District before we adjourn this
7 hearing as to whether or not they would
8 make the difficult choices that many of
9 us have suggested that they make with
10 respect to expansion of promise academies
11 and reducing summer SLAM. I think we
12 need to know that before we vote on
13 taxes.

14 MS. DUNGEE-GLENN: I would just
15 suggest for your research and the
16 District's as well, many of the things
17 that are being packaged under new names
18 and programs are things that the District
19 has done for a while, and the data, I do
20 think if you go back and look at the data
21 from what they used to call restructured
22 schools is much of what they're talking
23 about with the promise academies. Summer
24 SLAM and summer programs or summer
25 school, that if you really looked at that

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2 trend data, you could see the impact of
3 those individual programs and, again, as
4 I said, when you've delivered them
5 effectively. I do think there's data
6 that can be brought to you that could
7 help to answer your question.

8 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Madam
9 President?

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Yes,
11 sir.

12 COUNCILMAN GREEN: The problem
13 is, I need to vote today.

14 MS. DUNGEE-GLENN: Understood.

15 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So thank
16 you.

17 MS. DUNGEE-GLENN: Yes.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:
19 You're welcome.

20 Any other questions for this
21 witness?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
24 you.

25 MS. DUNGEE-GLENN: Thank you.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
3 you very much.

4 MR. BUSSIE: Hi.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good
6 morning.

7 MR. BUSSIE: Good morning,
8 Council President.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:
10 Please identify yourself for the record.

11 MR. BUSSIE: My name is
12 Emmanuel Bussie. I'm the Director of
13 Operations for the Coalition of African
14 American Organizations. I come here
15 today -- this is not my first time
16 testifying before you, but I come here
17 today to say we need all the programs.
18 When you talk about promise academies,
19 that's just another name for what we
20 already have. That promise academy, it's
21 already working. It's called Central.
22 It's called Masterman. It's called Girls
23 High. It's called the schools in Center
24 City. We already have promise academies.
25 They just somewhere else.

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2 We need every single one of
3 these programs. Our budget, our City
4 budget, is just a reflection of our
5 priority, just like our state budget.
6 What we saying, me and Sharif, we met all
7 day yesterday. We've been meeting for
8 almost a week. We have 20 professionals
9 meeting and talking about how we can save
10 money. This is just a reflection of our
11 priority. We need every single dime.

12 You cannot talk about -- if the
13 state says that we are underfunded, the
14 State of Pennsylvania in 2007 said that
15 Philadelphia is underfunded by \$1.2
16 billion, or \$4,000 per child, how dare
17 any elected, paid elected official by me,
18 by us say we don't need more money? That
19 is -- as the Mayor is going up to
20 Harrisburg to lobby for more money, we
21 got officials here in Philadelphia saying
22 we don't need more money, it's a spending
23 issue. How dare you say that, when
24 Harrisburg did a comprehensive study
25 saying that we do need more money?

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2 I used to say stop playing
3 games, but I see that there are many
4 people in Council that are passionate as
5 I am. Like Sandra told me one day, she
6 said that -- and I have to say this, I'm
7 not a minister, but this education piece
8 is a ministry for me. So if I'm
9 passionate about this, you have to excuse
10 me, but we cannot allow people to
11 disregard and manipulate the facts.

12 The facts are that these
13 programs that we have in our Philadelphia
14 school system are working. The fact is
15 that Pennsylvania is No. 47th -- please
16 hear me when I say this -- Pennsylvania,
17 out of all of the states in the nation,
18 is No. 47th in terms of what it's been
19 doing in education. Philadelphia is
20 almost dead last in terms of what it's
21 spending when reflected to us around the
22 counties. We only fund our schools at
23 somewhere around 25 percent. That is
24 absolutely ridiculous.

25 All we're saying is, find

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2 something else to cut. We're not saying
3 that any program is more important than
4 education. But we spend \$19 million on
5 flags. Flags. We spend 21 million on
6 decorative lighting. I'm not saying that
7 we don't need decorative lighting, but a
8 budget is just a reflection of your
9 priorities. We're saying cut something
10 else, find something else, tax something
11 else. We don't care how you do it; just
12 do it.

13 Being members of City Council,
14 you have to understand something. These
15 are our schools. Even if Harrisburg is
16 the governing body of our schools, they
17 still our schools. That does not
18 eliminate our responsibility, City
19 Council's responsibility to fund our
20 schools. I'm talking about just at rates
21 that would be adequate.

22 Harrisburg said we need \$1.2
23 billion, 4,000 per student, to be
24 adequate. What happened to the word
25 "exceptional"? Does that even enter the

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2 minds of anybody here? And I'm not
3 saying that you guys don't care about our
4 kids, but if we start looking at the term
5 "exceptional," right, we got to get 1.2
6 billion just to be adequate. How can we
7 dare not talk about funding our schools?

8 We don't care about the soda.
9 I don't care how you do it. We need to
10 fund our schools. We need every single
11 one of these programs and some.

12 (Applause.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
14 you. Thank you.

15 MS. BATES: Hello. Good
16 afternoon. My name is Danita Bates. I'm
17 a community activist and advocate and
18 youth leader. I'm coming in regards of
19 Action United, a concerned parent and a
20 community leader and a youth leader.

21 I didn't have my speech, but
22 I'm just going to speak off the top of my
23 head. We need everything that we need
24 for our education system for each and
25 every school. The things that has been

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2 implemented has been working. It is
3 working.

4 We would like to see tax cuts
5 on the Prison system, Comcast, Verizon,
6 other big million-dollar oil companies,
7 instead of taking away from our
8 education. Our education system is an
9 asset not only to our city, state and
10 communities, but is an asset and is not a
11 money thing. It's not a business.

12 Education should not be put as a
13 business. Education should not be put
14 second or last. Education is very
15 important. Twenty years from now, the
16 youth that are being affected by these
17 budget cuts right now, 20 years from now
18 they're going to be adults, they're going
19 to be parents, and what are they going to
20 have to look forward to?

21 It's unacceptable. We are
22 asking that everyone, everyone, parents,
23 community, everyone stand up, continue to
24 fight for our education for our students
25 and our communities and our future. We

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2 have to remember, this is our future,
3 period.

4 Thank you for allowing me to
5 speak. Thank you very much.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:

7 You're welcome.

8 (Applause.)

9 (Witnesses approached witness
10 table.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good
12 morning. Welcome.

13 MR. STREET: Good morning.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:

15 Please identify yourself for the record.

16 MR. STREET: Good morning,
17 Council President and honorable members
18 of Council. My name is T. Milton Street,
19 and I'm here to testify on the funding of
20 the schools and the taxes and where you
21 get the money from.

22 First of all, let me say that I
23 served in Harrisburg. I was the majority
24 chairperson of the Committee on Housing
25 and Urban Affairs, and every piece of

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2 legislation that came to Harrisburg
3 during that time came into my committee.
4 When Dr. Constance Clayton used to come
5 up to Harrisburg for money for the
6 schools, she would be directed to my
7 office, and I would sit there and talk to
8 her.

9 I say that because I have the
10 experience, one of the few who have the
11 experience, of having sat with the
12 Republican Caucus and had interacted with
13 the republicans in Harrisburg and across
14 this state, and I have a close-up view of
15 their mindset in terms of the schools and
16 the school system in the City of
17 Philadelphia, and I will tell you here
18 today, without fear of any successful
19 contradiction, until we put on the table
20 some comprehensive plan to stem the
21 violence in these schools, you're going
22 to have a difficult time in getting
23 sufficient or adequate money out of
24 Harrisburg with the republicans
25 controlling the House, the Senate and the

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2 Governor's Office.

3 The attitude is that you have a
4 group of people in Philadelphia who can't
5 control their children, and the attitude
6 beyond that is that the District is 76 or
7 77 percent minority, which is very, very
8 important. A lot of us want to step away
9 from that issue.

10 So you have a situation where
11 people in the middle of the state and
12 people in other parts of the state are
13 saying, Why should we invest in perceived
14 failure. Because all of the good that
15 the schools these people sat up here and
16 testified is going, it's submerged. It's
17 not seen. I've been there. I can tell
18 you that. The discussion is the
19 violence. The discussion is how many
20 people are absent from school. The
21 discussion is what's going on in that
22 School District in the City of
23 Philadelphia. And if you don't have a
24 comprehensive plan to put forward when
25 you go to Harrisburg and say, This is

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2 what we're going to do, we're going to
3 stop the violence, we're creating an
4 atmosphere where every child that attends
5 this school will have an opportunity to
6 maximize its God-given talent, then
7 you're going to have trouble getting the
8 amount of money that you need to come
9 down here for these schools.

10 I listened to the Mayor last
11 night, and it was very disheartening. I
12 read the paper this morning where the
13 Administration said they cut last year
14 and, as a result, they had to cut not
15 higher, because my recommendation here is
16 that the only alternative that you have
17 before you today is to use some of that
18 projected \$51 million surplus that's
19 going to be available, because this City
20 can't afford any more taxes. You can't
21 afford a two cents an ounce. I mean, you
22 got to pay 40 cents tax on a 20-ounce
23 bottle of soda? That's brutal.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. STREET: That's brutal. I

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2 mean, it borders on absurdity, you know.

3 And I will tell you, because I just came
4 off a campaign, that people are going to
5 run across the border and buy, across the
6 other counties and buy. They're not
7 going to buy here.

8 But what's important to note is
9 the way the Administration is not
10 straightforward. What they said last
11 year was that we had to cut back on
12 hiring police and they also had to cut
13 back -- had to implement these
14 brown-outs. Not true. I have a copy of
15 a letter here. I wrote letters to the
16 Administration under the Freedom of
17 Information Act asking them to send me
18 the application that they sent to the
19 Homeland Security for the \$15 million for
20 SAFER grants, and here's the application
21 right here. I sent some of it to some of
22 the members of Council. They've put in
23 an application that was 80 percent
24 complete. Eighty percent complete. You
25 can't get money from the federal

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government with an application that's 80 percent complete. But they're making people believe that if you use that projected surplus, that what's going to happen is they're going to have to cut something somewhere else. Well, that's not true. There's money available out there, especially -- and I'm using this as an example -- with the brown-outs to this day -- and these are follow-up letters. Council President, I believe I sent one to your office and I sent one to some of the other Councilpeople's office -- that \$15 million, we still haven't secured it, and the Administration is still lying, talking about they have to have the brown-outs basically because there's no money and you had to cut back on the money. Well, this information is also known across the state.

And I will tell you that you have to say no, resounding no, to real estate taxes and you have to say no to a

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2 soda tax. I mean, you can't -- I don't
3 see how we can do that and call ourselves
4 sensitive to the broader constituency of
5 this City even though -- and I'm not
6 advocating we don't fund these schools.
7 Don't misunderstand me. You have to fund
8 the schools, but I don't -- and I've
9 asked for this information -- know what
10 happened to -- how did we get \$600
11 million in debt? How did we get there?
12 What happened? How did we get there?
13 Who is the oversight people who looked
14 and saw this coming?

15 I don't know who saw it coming,
16 but I do know this -- and I know my time
17 is almost up -- last year during the
18 Council session, Councilman Green asked a
19 question. He asked the question of the
20 Administration. We know that there's not
21 going to be the \$167 million from the
22 stimulus funds next year and we also know
23 that there may not be the \$595 million
24 from the state coming down. If there's a
25 shortfall, what's your back-up plan.

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2 That's a matter of record right here.

3 Councilman Green asked the question.

4 Okay? Councilman Green had a follow-up
5 question, but before he could get to his
6 follow-up question, Councilwoman Blondell
7 Reynolds asked a question and he never
8 got back to it.

9 When I was pursuing that, what
10 we finally concluded was that the back-up
11 plan last year was to lay off these
12 teachers. The back-up plan last year
13 during your hearings last year was the
14 Administration had information on this
15 deficit that we're now facing. So they
16 come as it is a crisis now.

17 But I think transparency is
18 going to be key here, and I think that
19 the only way that the public is going to
20 ever know what the real deal is, the only
21 people they have is you. The only people
22 they have is Council.

23 Council is the only one who has
24 the leverage now or the ability to
25 extract from this Administration

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2 transparency. You have to get answers to
3 these questions. How did we get there?

4 One other question that I
5 have -- I'm finished. I see your light
6 come on.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Yeah.

8 MR. STREET: I'm not finished,
9 but I'm going to finish.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: I've
11 given you some latitude, so I'm just
12 going to ask if you can conclude your
13 remarks, please.

14 MR. STREET: Yeah. I'm
15 concluded.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:
17 You're finished?

18 MR. STREET: Yeah. I'll
19 respect the Chair.

20 The Chair recognizes Councilman
21 Jones.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Just one
23 question. When you were spending all of
24 that time in Harrisburg, my recollection
25 fails me, were you a democrat or a

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2 republican?

3 Thank you, Madam Chair.

4 MR. STREET: I was an elected
5 official who sat in the caucus that I
6 fought. And you probably don't
7 understand Harrisburg. In Harrisburg,
8 the minority will have its say, but the
9 majority will have its way. I positioned
10 myself in the caucus where I could have
11 my way, and as a result, I was able to
12 get money for the schools and I was able
13 to get that.

14 I'm not hung up on democrat,
15 republican, agnostic or independent. I'm
16 hung up on results.

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
19 you, Mr. Street. We appreciate your
20 attendance. Thank you.

21 MR. STREET: Thank you.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Who
23 is going to testify next? Please
24 identify yourself for the record.

25 MR. WADE: Good morning,

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2 Council President. My name is William
3 Wade and I'm the principal of the promise
4 academy at Robert Vaux High School.

5 MR. STULTS: Good morning. My
6 name is Tim Stults and I am the principal
7 at promise academy at University City
8 High School.

9 MR. WADE: We want to start
10 this morning by simply telling the
11 Council that now is definitely not the
12 time to stop funding our schools because
13 of the progress that has been made within
14 our schools. The six promise academies
15 this year, we have definitely stopped the
16 spiral, the downward spiral of our
17 schools. We have turned our schools
18 around, and we are moving upward.

19 Our early data shows that we
20 have stopped the timing out of our
21 communities and our young people. The
22 relationships that we have built have
23 caused our young people to have a renewed
24 interest in school, our educators to be
25 reinvigorated, and we are doing a

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2 fantastic job at educating our young
3 people. So I'm glad that we are here
4 today, because we are the front line.
5 We're the principals. We are the two
6 people that lead the high schools, the
7 only high schools in the City.

8 We know that this model works.
9 We're glad to hear that we're going to
10 open up more high school promise
11 academies, because this is a very
12 important time in the lives of our young
13 people to get them reconnected with our
14 high school students. So now if we stop
15 our funding for the promise academies and
16 any new initiatives surrounding them,
17 we're going to be in a peril once again.
18 We have to continue moving forward with
19 the progress that has been made in our
20 schools.

21 Attendance at Robert Vaux High
22 School last year was -- the average
23 attendance was about 71 percent. This
24 year the attendance improved to 86
25 percent, one of the largest increases in

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2 the City, simply because we forged those
3 relationships. We created those
4 relationships. We brought in the model
5 which includes the enrichment activities
6 on weekends, during the week, during our
7 school day. Our young people are excited
8 about school. Our young people are
9 excited again about being in school, and
10 that's the truth. It happens every day,
11 and I welcome anyone to come and visit us
12 and see what happens at the promise
13 academies in the City.

14 I'm glad that I am here to
15 entertain any questions that you have
16 directly for us.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
18 Chair recognizes Councilman Goode.

19 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
20 Madam President. I just want to say for
21 the record -- and Councilman Kenney has
22 already said it -- this Council has only
23 increased funding for schools since I've
24 been here. We are not cutting funding
25 for schools. We've only increased

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2 funding for schools, and we will increase
3 funding for schools today. It's the
4 state and the republican ideology that's
5 making cuts to schools.

6 Thank you, Madam President.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
8 you.

9 Sir, would you proceed with
10 your testimony.

11 MR. STULTS: Good morning. I
12 would like to just reiterate what my
13 colleague William Wade has talked about.
14 We have seen absolutely incredible
15 results at the promise academy at
16 University City High School, but
17 additionally, across the promise
18 academies, after one year of
19 implementation, the promise academies
20 have increased their proficiency rates by
21 10.1 percentage points in math and 5.9
22 percentage points in reading. They
23 outpaced the District and they outpaced
24 all of the empowerment schools.

25 I think those preliminary PSSA

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2 data points just reiterate all of the
3 other indicators that we've seen
4 happening throughout our schools.

5 We've seen decreases in the
6 amounts of violence in our schools.
7 We've seen increases in our attendance
8 rates. We've seen increases in our
9 graduation rates. Yesterday morning we
10 held our commencement exercises. And
11 Councilwoman Blackwell has been in our
12 building. Yesterday we graduated 130
13 students, and approximately 85 percent of
14 those young people stood up, indicated
15 that they were on their way to college,
16 career internships, some with --

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. STULTS: We had three young
19 men with \$170,000 scholarships to the
20 military academies. We have one young
21 man who is off to Penn, another who is
22 off to Temple. We're in the process of
23 changing the culture of our buildings.
24 That's happening through a variety of
25 methods. One absolutely is the increased

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2 time in our academic programs, our
3 academic school day, our Saturday
4 programs, our July programs, our
5 mentoring programs. We have all kinds of
6 programs that are in place in our
7 building that are being effective. They
8 are having an impact.

9 One of the speakers earlier
10 talked about our students feeling
11 expendable and our students feeling like
12 they weren't worth the time of day in our
13 schools. I can tell you -- and all you
14 have to do is ask our students -- that is
15 no longer the case. Our students are
16 surrounded by a staff of energetic,
17 dedicated individuals who absolutely care
18 about every single one of our students
19 and their plan for post secondary
20 education. We know that the road doesn't
21 stop with us. We know that it is our job
22 to create a college-going culture, one
23 where every one of our students has a
24 sense of hope, a sense of connection and
25 a sense of belonging to the life of our

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2 school.

3 Thank you.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
5 you.

6 (Applause.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
8 Chair recognizes Councilman Green.

9 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.
10 Thank you, Madam Chair.

11 I want to thank you both for
12 your testimony. All of the academic
13 research that I've looked at over the
14 last four years, et cetera, and something
15 I talked about when I first ran for
16 office in 2007 talked about how the
17 major -- I can't remember the top three
18 factors, but two of the top three factors
19 in improving educational outcomes for
20 children were strong quality principals,
21 which you clearly both are, and the other
22 was engaged parents. And I can't
23 remember what the third is. Maybe you
24 guys know off the top of your head. But
25 you're clearly strong quality principals,

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2 and I have no doubt that you're running
3 great schools, and I want to thank you
4 for all the work you've done.

5 Unfortunately the state has left us in a
6 position where choices have to be made
7 that are very difficult and we have to --
8 the District ultimately has to decide
9 between a promise academy and reduced
10 class sizes for K through 3. We know
11 reduced class sizes for K through 3 is
12 the thing that is the most -- very
13 impactful, one of the things that is very
14 impactful, in increasing test scores in K
15 through 8, which has shown tremendous
16 progress.

17 And so it's difficult choices.

18 We want to see you succeed. We want to
19 see you expand, and if we don't start new
20 ones next year but we start them the year
21 after, that may allow us to have money
22 for other things. And that's the only
23 point we're making. It's not that you're
24 not doing a good job and what you're
25 doing isn't working. It's that other

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2 stuff may be more important in the short
3 run for one year, because -- and this
4 hasn't been talked about much today.

5 Next year, going to full value, which is
6 the Administration's plan, they have
7 testified there will be an additional
8 \$120 million available to the School
9 District. So we really do have a
10 one-year problem. And I look forward to
11 working with the District. I'd love to
12 visit both of your schools this year --
13 or next academic year and come see what
14 you're doing and learn a lot more about
15 it.

16 So thank you very much.

17 MR. STULTS: And you're always
18 welcome.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
20 you, sir. Thank you very much.
21 Gentlemen, thank you.

22 MR. WADE: I have one more
23 thing to say.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I beg
25 your pardon?

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2 MR. WADE: May I speak?

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Yes.

4 I can't hear you.

5 MR. WADE: We just want to --
6 what if we -- can we think about what
7 will happen with the schools, the new
8 schools that we are about to open, the
9 new promise academies, what will happen
10 if we put those schools on pause? Those
11 schools really need to stop their
12 downward spiral right now. I just want
13 to make sure that everyone knows that.
14 We don't have a minute to spare. We have
15 to start now with reorganizing schools
16 and making sure that those schools start
17 the upward growth also.

18 I don't really think because of
19 our moral responsibility to educate all
20 of our children in the City of
21 Philadelphia, I really don't think we
22 have one year. So if this Council can
23 find it somewhere, we really need to get
24 started, because we can't spare a year in
25 the life of those young people. We just

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2 can't, and that's reality.

3 Thank you.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
5 you.

6 (Applause.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
8 you very much.

9 (Witnesses approached witness
10 table.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good
12 morning. Please identify yourself for
13 the record.

14 MR. Churchill: Good morning,
15 Madam Chairman. My name is Michael
16 Churchill. I'm at the Public Interest
17 Law Center of Philadelphia, and I'm here
18 to support the plea of Senator
19 Dungee-Glenn that you move forward and
20 make sure that the progress that you've
21 just heard described by these two really
22 fine principals keeps going.

23 This is not a problem that --
24 this hard choice is not one that
25 Philadelphia City Council is the only one

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2 making. As Councilman Kenney pointed
3 out, this is all brought on -- this is a
4 crisis not at the School District's
5 making. It's a crisis of the Governor's
6 making and of the State Legislature by
7 proposing to cut \$1.1 billion in school
8 funding for districts all around the
9 state. And all around the state, school
10 districts are stepping up to the plate,
11 being squeezed by the state government as
12 you are. They are increasing their local
13 taxes, and that is the next step that we
14 are urging you to take so that like every
15 other school district in the state,
16 Philadelphia can show that it is doing as
17 well as it can locally in order to make
18 sure that the progress and the education
19 that these students need today, not
20 tomorrow, but today will continue.

21 That's the principle message.

22 There is progress. It cannot continue if
23 the cutbacks of the size that we are
24 talking about are allowed to occur.

25 I think it is important to

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2 realize that when you're talking about
3 whether we should slow down the progress
4 and introduction of new promise
5 academies, that we are really talking
6 about the most needy students in the
7 City. We're talking about the schools
8 that are performing the least well. We
9 cannot afford that. It is time that we
10 start saying that the places that need
11 the most help will start getting extra
12 funding. That's the program. You heard
13 two wonderful principals describe how
14 it's working, and I urge you to do your
15 best to support it.

16 It's not as Councilman Green
17 said, a choice between whether we'll have
18 reduced class sizes and whether these
19 programs will continue. What you heard
20 is, these programs will continue under
21 the proposal, and the question is, will
22 you provide the funding so that class
23 size reductions can continue. I urge you
24 to do so.

25 Thank you.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
3 you, sir.

4 Good morning.

5 MS. GOBRESKI: My name is Susan
6 Gobreski. I'm the Director of Education
7 Voters. I'm also a parent of children in
8 Philadelphia. I live in Philadelphia. I
9 pay taxes here, and I'm here in that
10 respect just as much as I am as someone
11 who supports public education.

12 I think that we are taking a
13 giant step forward even if it is a
14 painful and difficult step. I actually
15 brought with me several hundred e-mails
16 that I know have been sent to City
17 Council supporting an increased role from
18 the City of Philadelphia, City Council
19 and the Mayor focusing on education. So
20 I actually want to thank everyone here.
21 I know that this is a difficult
22 conversation. People are having --
23 there's strife over this, but I think
24 that it represents progress.
25 Unfortunately this engagement is very

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2 much needed.

3 Our economic prosperity depends
4 on every child having a quality
5 opportunity to learn. We've been talking
6 about that. We need to attract jobs,
7 keep people from moving out of the City
8 because they have kids. We can preserve
9 our tax base and revitalize our
10 communities. So if you are looking to a
11 cure -- for a cure for the City's ills,
12 we need to look no further than public
13 education.

14 Achievement is up. So we are
15 on the right path. What we know is that
16 money matters. When you spend money on
17 education, you get better results. You
18 get art, and that matters. You get
19 tutoring, and that matters. You get
20 early learning programs, and that
21 matters. You get smaller class size,
22 teachers that matter. So we know that
23 money matters. So it's not just a
24 question -- I think somebody mentioned
25 the silver bullet. There isn't one.

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2 It's very nice to think about, well,
3 maybe everyone could just dig a little
4 deeper and tighten our belt and
5 everything could be fine and we could get
6 a better result with the same amount of
7 money that we're spending, but it's not
8 true.

9 So the difficult question is
10 how to do it. I'm glad -- I want to say
11 as both a parent and an advocate, I'm
12 glad the new Accountability Agreement is
13 in place. It's absolutely and
14 fundamentally true that the way the
15 District spends money must be more
16 transparent, accountable and geared
17 towards the classroom. But I am not here
18 to ask you to save some programs. I'm
19 here to ask you to save them all.

20 If you keep the purse closed
21 because we want to make a point about
22 accountability or about the grownups or
23 about the system or about being
24 frustrated, you are hurting the kids.
25 Our schools have been systematically

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2 underfunded for years, and we've all had
3 an opportunity to take a greater interest
4 and ask tougher questions, and we can't
5 wait until we get to a moment where we're
6 in crisis and laying off teachers and
7 cutting off kids to say, Gee, I think
8 it's time to start asking questions.

9 We need to get programs in
10 place so that kids can stay in school.

11 So I applaud the intensity of
12 this conversation, but we do have choices
13 to make, but one of the choices that we
14 can make is not to just choose A or B,
15 but we could choose A and B.

16 So one of the things I'm going
17 to say as a mother, as a taxpayer, I
18 cannot think of a tax that I support more
19 wholeheartedly than a soda tax or a
20 sugary-sweet beverage tax. That seems to
21 me like a pretty reasonable way to get
22 money. It isn't food, and although I
23 don't love the idea of my property taxes
24 going up, I know that funding education
25 is one of my responsibilities as a member

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2 of this City and as a resident of this
3 City, so I'm willing to do my part there
4 as well.

5 I am, as an advocate, I would
6 say largely agnostic about where we get
7 the money, but I believe that we need to
8 get the money. And as a parent, I
9 believe that City Council needs to do its
10 part to make a priority. So I'm here to
11 ask you to do something.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
13 you. Thank you very much.

14 (Applause.)

15 (Witness approached witness
16 table.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Are
18 you interested in testifying?

19 MS. OLADOP0: Yes.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:
21 Please approach the witness table.

22 MS. OLADOP0: I have copies.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Do
24 you have written testimony?

25 MS. OLADOP0: Yes. I have

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2 multiple copies.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Okay.

4 We will have someone circulate them.

5 While they're being circulated,
6 do you want to start, please.

7 MS. OLADOPO: Okay. Thank you.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

9 Identify yourself for the record.

10 MS. OLADOPO: Greetings,
11 Council President Anna Verna and
12 Councilmembers. My name is Lola O, and I
13 am here to implore the City Council
14 members to cap the gap in the School
15 District's operating budget by voting yes
16 for students and yes for Mayor Nutter's
17 soda and sugary drinks tax.

18 Speaking of capping the gap, I
19 am not here alone, but I speak on behalf
20 of myself and the growing list of
21 subscribers to my blog called
22 Cap.the.Gap. Cap.the.Gap is an online
23 movement to close the most frightening
24 gap of our times, the academic
25 achievement gap. The academic

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2 achievement gap is the well-documented
3 disparity in performance between the
4 various population groups that make up
5 our nation's public school system.

6 Councilmembers, the average
7 12th grade black, Hispanic and poor
8 student is reading and doing math at two
9 to three years behind that of his white
10 or upper-class counterpart. We simply
11 cannot afford to withhold even more
12 funding from such vulnerable populations.
13 The money generated from this new tax is
14 the only hope for capping the gap in our
15 city's academic achievement gap.

16 Everyone must sacrifice,
17 including me, a taxpayer and a beverage
18 consumer. If we are going to win the
19 future for our city, state and ultimately
20 our nation, we must dedicate ourselves to
21 creating and investing in such innovative
22 solutions as the sugar and soda tax.
23 This new tax would serve as an example
24 for the nation in terms of innovation in
25 educational funding.

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2 Our new global economy will not
3 allow us to treat education as if it were
4 a hobby, but a necessity. We have to
5 work hard and make sacrifices. Last
6 week's NBC's Education Nation tour showed
7 us what happens when a nation plays patty
8 cake with the business of educating our
9 youth.

10 Endorsing Mayor Nutter's
11 proposal will signify that the City is
12 serious about education and innovation,
13 that we are willing to pay the cost, bear
14 the burden and work together in spite of
15 our differences to ensure that our
16 students are well prepared to compete
17 against their local and global peers.

18 Finally, voting yes to Mayor
19 Nutter's proposal is not only the right
20 thing to do, but the most cost effective
21 and sustainable given the shortsighted
22 alternative of raiding the City's
23 balanced fund. As for those who fear
24 that raising taxes on soda would run
25 customers away, well not this one. I

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2 would gladly drink more soda if I knew
3 that every sip brought us closer to
4 closing the academic achievement gap.

5 Thank you.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:

7 You're welcome.

8 (Applause.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good
10 morning, sir. Please identify yourself
11 for the record.

12 MR. SATELL: Hi. My name is
13 Steven Satell. I run a program called
14 Bridging Worlds. Some Councilmembers
15 that are present here knew when I had
16 started my program over ten years ago
17 within the Philadelphia district. We had
18 the largest speakers program in
19 Philadelphia, bringing over 400 programs
20 into the school, critical-thinking
21 program.

22 I have a frustration as a
23 citizen, but also as an expert in
24 education on the front line. My first
25 problem is with the federal government

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2 and what happened with the Bush tax cuts,
3 because that has impinged on what's
4 happening here today.

5 My next problem is the
6 disparity of teachers and of unions. We
7 have been successful because we have been
8 supportive of teachers and we have found
9 ways to support teachers and we have
10 found ways to support parents. When you
11 go to bake bread, you bring all the
12 ingredients, but if you don't have the
13 baking soda, it's a little ingredient but
14 it makes the bread rise.

15 We have data from Overbrook
16 High School, Ben Franklin High School,
17 West Philadelphia High School where we
18 have reduced the failure rate from 47
19 percent all the way down to 7 percent.
20 The Philadelphia Inquirer has done
21 articles. If you went to the
22 Philadelphia School District and asked
23 for data on Bridging World's program,
24 they would not be able to give it to you.
25 Although community groups -- and there

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2 have been discussions throughout the ten
3 years with the School District upon
4 getting that data. Dr. Thornton, when he
5 was here, we brought our data right to
6 the SRC to confirm with his data of our
7 data. So on record, any data that I will
8 bring you is confirmed within that
9 testimony. There's been a tremendous
10 amount of testimony between the SRC.

11 The game has got to stop. It's
12 not only in Harrisburg. Harrisburg has
13 come in and said, Check mate. There are
14 people in Philadelphia that have put us
15 into check. We can't afford that now.

16 I am going to send a letter
17 with the data to every Councilmember. We
18 are going to request a meeting with the
19 Education Board Committee so that we can
20 get down to what is really working and
21 what isn't.

22 Thank you very much, and thank
23 you for everything that you've done.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
25 you.

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2 (Applause.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Is
4 there anyone else?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Is
7 Councilman Green here?

8 Councilman Green, we have
9 concluded our witness list. Do you still
10 want someone from the School Board to
11 come up to testify?

12 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Yes.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Do we
14 have anyone here from the School
15 Administration? Please come up to the
16 witness table.

17 (Witnesses approached witness
18 table.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good
20 morning, Doctor. I didn't see you
21 sitting back there.

22 DR. ACKERMAN: How are you?

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Fine.
24 Thank you.

25 DR. ACKERMAN: Did you say you

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2 haven't seen me in a while?

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

4 Pardon me?

5 DR. ACKERMAN: I thought you

6 said you didn't see me in a while.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: No.

8 I said I didn't see you sitting back

9 there.

10 DR. ACKERMAN: Oh, in the back.

11 Thank you.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

13 Councilman Green.

14 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,

15 Madam Chair.

16 I want to thank you for really

17 being here all day, for the energy and

18 attention that the District has applied

19 towards this. I want to say that we had

20 a great meeting, I thought, in the

21 Council President's office last week

22 where we went over choices and priorities

23 in a spirit of collaboration and

24 cooperation, which I truly hope we're

25 going to find a way to continue over the

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2 course of the next school year. And I
3 just want to ask in that vein whether or
4 not the District is open to any of the
5 other choices and priorities that we
6 discussed in that meeting and that have
7 been discussed in the last hearing and
8 that were discussed here today, and if we
9 were to pass, which is on the table, any
10 kind of taxes on the School District's
11 side of the ledger rather than the City's
12 side of the ledger, what assurances we
13 have that the money is going to be spent
14 in a way that reflects priorities that
15 are shared by this Council and not
16 necessarily by the District. For
17 example, how do we make sure yellow bus
18 service is done? How do we make sure
19 accelerated schools are protected? What
20 do we have once we vote for a tax that
21 goes to the School District? Is there a
22 new list that can be put together before
23 we vote or -- I mean, because the
24 District is not -- I mean, the City is
25 not contemplating, the Mayor is not

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2 requesting \$102 million, which was your
3 request. The City is proposing \$60
4 million. We have a list that was an
5 ordered list of priorities. Some of
6 those priorities we disagreed with in
7 public and private. Many of us did; some
8 of us didn't. And the question is, how
9 do we move to the next step with a new
10 level of trust where we can understand
11 this is what we're going to spend it on?
12 With these dollars available, this is how
13 we're going to spend it? Can we get
14 there today?

15 DR. ACKERMAN: You mean can we
16 get there meaning you and the District?

17 COUNCILMAN GREEN: No; City
18 Council, the District, the
19 Administration.

20 DR. ACKERMAN: I would hope
21 that we can agree upon some things. I
22 cannot speak for the SRC, but our
23 Chairman is here.

24 I think we did talk about last
25 week and agreed upon the accelerated

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2 schools and putting priority there. We
3 did agree upon working with SEPTA, and
4 we've gone to do that to get that money.
5 We did agree upon the yellow bus
6 services, that it would be there, and
7 you'd know it because the kids would be
8 getting on yellow buses in September. So
9 that would be really clear.

10 The summer school, again, we
11 have 20,000 young people, not 700, 20,000
12 young people who need summer school
13 services. Another 6,000 of those were
14 kids who were either at grade level or
15 above and/or wanted to graduate early --
16 not early; wanted to catch up, not just
17 failed a class but they wanted to catch
18 up. So we need to look at those numbers.

19 We know right now that there
20 are about 20,000 young people who have
21 failed at least one class and will need
22 the summer school to at least make up
23 those failing classes. We have other
24 young people who we're concerned about
25 who will become part of the alternative

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2 school program if we don't give them a
3 chance to catch up this summer in high
4 school. Seven hundred kids last year
5 took advantage of that. Seven hundred of
6 them graduated.

7 So we need to look at those
8 numbers and decide who are the young
9 people who absolutely need summer school
10 and what's that number and then make it
11 available. If that's what we have to do,
12 that's what we have to do.

13 COUNCILMAN GREEN: I mean, I
14 think you've heard most people here today
15 say that -- and I'll speak for myself. I
16 want to provide additional resources to
17 the District. I also want to know that
18 when I do, that the District is going to
19 spend the money in a way that reflects a
20 shared set of priorities from Council and
21 the City. And so if we pass something
22 this week, we'll have a week before we
23 have to pass a final budget, and I would
24 ask the District in that time to help us
25 set up a process to make sure that what

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2 we purport to be funding with a tax bill
3 will be funded. Is that a reasonable
4 request?

5 DR. ACKERMAN: I think it's
6 reasonable.

7 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
9 you.

10 The Chair recognizes Councilman
11 Jones.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: I support
13 Councilman Green's assertion on
14 accountability and looking at that. I
15 think we've made great strides in the
16 agreement to kind of address some of
17 that. But you talked about 700 young
18 people that are at risk of not graduating
19 this year; is that correct?

20 DR. ACKERMAN: No. That's how
21 many young people took advantage of an
22 all-day program last year and were able
23 to graduate. If we go back to the
24 program we had two years ago, only 100
25 children graduated as a result of that.

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2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Do we have
3 any projections about this summer?

4 DR. ACKERMAN: We are
5 anticipating that somewhere between 500
6 and 700 young people if we have all-day
7 programs for high school students to make
8 up credits, because they can only make
9 up -- if we go back to what we had two
10 years ago, they can only take two courses
11 that they failed, not if they failed them
12 and they are now three and four credits
13 behind. They were able to do it by going
14 all day.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Some of the
16 concessions that my colleague talked
17 about that we were struggling with
18 priorities was to revisit some of the
19 contracts with some of the vendors. Have
20 we proceeded with that course of action?

21 MR. ARCHIE: Councilman, that's
22 a part of the Accountability Agreement
23 that we signed with the City and the
24 Pennsylvania Department of Education. It
25 provides for those type of reviews.

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2 DR. ACKERMAN: Are you talking
3 about -- excuse me. I'm sorry. Were you
4 talking about alt ed?

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: I can't hear
6 you.

7 DR. ACKERMAN: Were you talking
8 about alt ed, accelerated schools?

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: We were
10 talking about -- you talked about during
11 your initial budget presentation about
12 revisiting some of our vendors, which you
13 already are beginning to do, and then we
14 started talking about some of the biggest
15 providers to talk about -- have we
16 started those negotiations?

17 DR. ACKERMAN: If you're
18 talking about alt ed, those contracts,
19 we've already started that process
20 talking with people. Three of the
21 providers have already agreed to cut by
22 25 percent. We're still talking to the
23 others. We put on the table 25 percent
24 cut in those alt ed programs that are all
25 day and 10 percent that are half day, and

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2 at this point -- well, three days ago,
3 there were at least three providers that
4 had already said that they would support
5 that, and we're still talking to the
6 others.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: And,
8 finally, a lot of the conversation
9 whether you're on one side of this tax or
10 one side of that tax or no side of no
11 tax, one of the accountability issues
12 was, is there a measurement upon
13 graduation within the first six months to
14 a year of the number of graduates that go
15 on to work? I mean, we keep stats on who
16 goes to the military. We keep stats who
17 goes to trade schools and colleges. Do
18 we keep stats on who actually, based on
19 the years of high school education,
20 actually finds a job in the marketplace?

21 DR. ACKERMAN: I'm not sure,
22 but I can find out from our research
23 department if we can track that. I know
24 we go through the clearinghouse, the
25 educational clearinghouse, for those that

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2 go on to college.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: In these
4 discussions, the one, the only good thing
5 about some of these intense debates is
6 issues percolate to the top that people
7 have concerns about that we have an
8 opportunity to address, and one of them
9 was that a legitimate measurement is and
10 I guess a litmus test for the quality of
11 the product we're producing is, do they
12 find their way to a job in the workplace.
13 Everybody is not going in the military.
14 Everybody is not going to schools of
15 higher ed. But a job is also a valid
16 measurement to the class and product that
17 we produce by way of graduates. So I'd
18 like that --

19 DR. ACKERMAN: We'll try to get
20 that for you. If we can't, we'll let you
21 know.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
23 Madam Chair.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
25 Councilman Green, are you finished?

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2 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Madam

3 President, we've discussed the efficacy
4 of the schools. We've discussed the cost
5 with respect to summer school. I think
6 the District provided a number for the
7 students that need to get to next grade
8 level and the 700 students she's talking
9 about. It's around \$14 million. The
10 cost of summer school with an expanded
11 program is \$23 million. There's 9
12 million there.

13 So I just wanted to understand
14 if there was going to be some kind of
15 process we could engage in the next week,
16 assuming we come back with additional
17 revenue, to make sure that -- to
18 understand what different choices the
19 School District is willing to make in
20 addition to the choices that we have to
21 make here today.

22 Thank you.

23 DR. ACKERMAN: Can I make just
24 a --

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

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2 Please.

3 DR. ACKERMAN: -- closing
4 statement? It's related to Councilman
5 Green's discussion about the things that
6 have been on the table for consideration
7 by the District, and there's been lots of
8 talk about the renaissance school program
9 and I just want the Council to be clear
10 that the renaissance program is actually
11 tied to the federal No Child Left Behind
12 and the state obligation that this
13 District has to turn around
14 low-performing schools. We get money
15 from the federal government. We get SIG
16 money from the state, and that's what
17 we're using to pay for the renaissance
18 program.

19 There are approximately
20 scheduled next year 20,000 students who
21 will be in there, and we gave you a
22 folder so you can see where these schools
23 are scheduled to be in the renaissance
24 program, and we still have another 20 to
25 35 schools left that we have to address

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2 under the No Child Left Behind and the
3 state program which looks at school
4 improvement and gives this District money
5 to turn around low-performing schools.
6 So it's not an option for us to skip a
7 year or we are not in compliance. So
8 that would be something that I guess
9 would -- if that's the only thing, that
10 to me would be -- for educational
11 reasons, it would be something I think
12 would be difficult, but in terms of
13 compliance and the fact that we use
14 federal and state dollars for those
15 schools is an obligation that this
16 District has, and we'll be happy to show
17 you the compliance regulations that we're
18 under.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
20 you. Thank you very much.

21 Are there any other questions?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
24 you.

25 I am told that someone else

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2 would like to testify.

3 (Witness approached witness
4 table.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good
6 afternoon. Please identify yourself for
7 the record.

8 MS. RHODES: Good afternoon.
9 Can you hear me, Councilperson?

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Yes,
11 I can.

12 MS. RHODES: Thank you for
13 allowing me to speak. My name is
14 Mrs. Sacaree Rhodes. I am a black woman,
15 an activist, and I represent black women,
16 children, Asians, Hispanics and poor
17 people.

18 First of all, I am appalled
19 when I heard that Council is taking upon
20 themselves to decide what programs or
21 anything that should be cut or closed in
22 the public school systems. You are not
23 educators. You are here to represent our
24 interest, because we pay for all of you.
25 We pay your salary. We -- this is the

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2 people's house. I pay taxes. I
3 struggled to pay my taxes. But I have
4 grandchildren in the public school
5 system. I have been listening at this
6 debate for some time, and I am insulted
7 and I'm angry.

8 I believe that any time that
9 children that come from my neighborhood
10 and neighborhoods who are struggling who
11 are doing better, who are improving
12 themselves, trying to excel, I don't care
13 if it's just a fraction, but you supposed
14 to do everything you can do to keep those
15 programs and those children doing better
16 and the best.

17 It's so much politics in this
18 situation. I've listened to Councilman
19 Green, who I'm appalled at you. I hear
20 racial overtones. It's almost like
21 you're running for Mayor on the back of
22 these children. You are not the Mayor.
23 I don't like the way -- I've heard you in
24 the past. I don't like the way you
25 address Dr. Ackerman. You seem to have a

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2 problem the way you talk to black women.

3 I'm paying your way. You are
4 representing my interest.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:

6 Please --

7 MS. RHODES: These children in
8 this school system should be given the
9 same kind of regard that these flags and
10 all this other nonsense that City Council
11 pays for it. Why don't you give back
12 some of your cars and some of the things
13 that City Council get?

14 I mean, I don't understand,
15 that we're begging for money. I
16 understand that the state has done
17 what -- they haven't done what they're
18 supposed to do, but here you are. You
19 should be bending over backwards to do
20 everything still to provide goods and
21 services for these children. And any
22 time you got children that are poor that
23 want to go to school and do better and
24 you're talking about a promise academy, I
25 am behind that. I want to see all

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2 children. Everybody can't get into
3 Masterman. So what you're saying, that
4 my children that are in my neighborhood
5 and the children that I help out, because
6 they're maybe down in North Philly in
7 some of the projects and places in these
8 shelters, they shouldn't have the same
9 opportunities.

10 I just hear racial overtones,
11 and it sounds like you just don't give a
12 damn about these children. And I voted
13 for a lot of you, and I spend my money.

14 And, Madam President, you've
15 been here a long time, and you're getting
16 ready to go. It is not right what you're
17 doing. Dr. Ackerman should not have to
18 gravel and beg for money for the school
19 system of Philadelphia. And all of this
20 was here before she got here. And I
21 didn't see these overtones when Vallas
22 was here. As Vallas was here, he was a
23 black-foot hustler, didn't give a damn
24 about the children, but you didn't do him
25 the way that you're doing her. But it's

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2 about the children. Get over that you
3 got a black woman that's standing up for
4 the children and justice in this town and
5 do the right thing by the school children
6 of Philadelphia.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I
9 understand we have one more witness that
10 would like to testify.

11 (Witness approached witness
12 table.)

13 MS. SHUBILLA: Hi. I'll be
14 very quick, and I apologize because I've
15 also been losing my voice. My name is
16 Laura Shubilla. I'm the Co-President of
17 the Philadelphia Youth Network, and I
18 just wanted to make two comments.

19 One is, as we're talking about
20 summer, my organization is one of the
21 organizations that works with the summer
22 jobs program, and I just want to remind
23 Council that we are going to have about
24 6,000 fewer summer jobs this summer
25 because of the loss of stimulus funds.

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2 And so as we're negotiating around
3 summer, I think we would all agree that
4 it's very important for young people to
5 be productively engaged over the summer
6 months, and I think that having the
7 robust School District program in the
8 summer, especially at a time when we're
9 losing significant amounts of summer
10 jobs, is very important.

11 I would also very strongly
12 support the District summer program and
13 bringing young people who have very few
14 credits left to graduate back to
15 graduation. We graduated 700 young
16 people from that program last summer, and
17 it's critically important.

18 We have also, as the managing
19 partner of the Project U-Turn Coalition,
20 very strongly support the work of the
21 accelerated schools, and young people
22 yesterday who I think spoke to many of
23 you about why these schools matter in
24 their lives, I would ask you just to
25 listen to what they have told you and to

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2 take that into consideration as you make
3 the decision that's in front of you
4 today. Because one of the young women
5 yesterday when we were standing out in
6 front of City Hall said to me, I just
7 wish they'd open their shades so we knew
8 that they hear us, and I thought that was
9 a really profound statement from a young
10 woman.

11 And so I would ask you that you
12 hear them and all the young people in the
13 City of Philadelphia who need you to do
14 something courageous and to stand up and
15 be strong leaders in this City for youth.

16 Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
19 you very much.

20 Is there anyone else who wishes
21 to testify?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:
24 Seeing no one, this will conclude our
25 public hearing. We will go into our

1 6/16/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.
2 public meeting. However, I'm going to
3 suggest Council stand in recess for 30
4 minutes. Thank you. Regular session
5 will be after we conclude the public
6 meeting.

7 (Recess.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
9 Committee of the Whole will continue to
10 stand in recess. We will have our caucus
11 in here, please.

12 (Recess for Stated Meeting to
13 take place.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I
15 understand that all of the amendments
16 have been circulated. Therefore, we will
17 reconvene the special meeting of the
18 Committee of the Whole from this morning,
19 and at this point in time -- I don't know
20 what time it is. With that in mind, we
21 will now consider Bill No. 110135.

22 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Madam
23 President --

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
25 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

1 6/16/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: -- I offer
3 an amendment to Bill 110135. The
4 amendment has been circulated.

5 (Duly seconded.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:

7 You're moving for the adoption?

8 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: I move for
9 the adoption.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It
11 has been moved and seconded that the
12 amendment be adopted.

13 All in favor will say aye.

14 (Aye.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those
16 opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
19 ayes have it and the amendment is
20 adopted.

21 The Chair again recognizes
22 Councilwoman Tasco.

23 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Madam
24 President, I offer an -- I move for the
25 amendment to 110136.

1 6/16/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: A

3 motion --

4 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Oh, I'm

5 sorry.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:

7 That's okay. We're all feeling the same
8 way.

9 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: I move
10 that Bill No. 110135, as amended, be
11 reported out of Committee with a
12 favorable recommendation and that the
13 rules of Council be suspended so this
14 bill can be heard at Council's next
15 session.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It
18 has been moved and seconded that Bill No.
19 110135 be reported out of Committee with
20 a favorable recommendation, as amended;
21 further, that the rules of Council be
22 suspended so as to permit first reading
23 at our next session of Council.

24 All in favor will say aye.

25 (Aye.)

1 6/16/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those

3 opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The

6 ayes have it and the motion carries.

7 The Chair recognizes

8 Councilwoman Tasco regarding Bill No.

9 110136.

10 COUNCILWOMAN TESCO: Madam

11 President, I move that Bill 110136 as

12 amended --

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: No.

14 It hasn't been amended yet.

15 COUNCILWOMAN TESCO: I offer an

16 amendment to Bill 110136. It has been

17 circulated.

18 (Duly seconded.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: All

20 in favor of the adoption of the amendment

21 will say aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those

24 opposed?

25 (No response.)

1 6/16/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
3 ayes have it and the amendment is
4 adopted.

5 The Chair again recognizes
6 Councilwoman Tasco.

7 COUNCILWOMAN TESCO: Madam
8 President, I move for the adoption of the
9 amendment to Bill No. 110 -- no. I offer
10 an amendment to Bill 110137. It has been
11 circulated.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: No.
13 We have to report 36 out first.

14 COUNCILWOMAN TESCO: I'm sorry.
15 I'm tired.

16 Madam President, I move that
17 Bill 110136 be reported out of Committee
18 with a favorable recommendation and that
19 the rules of Council be suspended so this
20 bill can be heard at Council's next
21 session, as amended.

22 (Duly seconded.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: As
24 amended. It has been moved and seconded
25 that Bill No. 110136 be reported out of

1 6/16/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 Committee with a favorable
3 recommendation, as amended; further, that
4 the rules of Council be suspended so as
5 to consider the bill at our next session
6 of Council.

7 All in favor will say aye.

8 (Aye.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those
10 opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
13 ayes have it and the motion carries.

14 The Chair now recognizes
15 Councilwoman Tasco regarding Bill No.
16 110137.

17 COUNCILWOMAN TESCO: Madam
18 President, I move to move the amendment
19 of Bill 110137, and the amendment has
20 been circulated.

21 (Duly seconded.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It
23 has been moved and seconded that the
24 amendment be adopted.

25 All in favor will say aye.

1 6/16/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 (Aye.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those
4 opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
7 ayes have it and the amendment is
8 approved.

9 Again, the Chair recognizes
10 Councilwoman Tasco.

11 COUNCILWOMAN TESCO: Madam
12 President, I move that Bill 110137, as
13 amended, be reported out of Committee
14 with a favorable recommendation and that
15 the rules of Council be suspended so this
16 bill can be heard at Council's next
17 session.

18 (Duly seconded.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It
20 has been moved and seconded that Bill No.
21 110137 be reported out of Committee with
22 a favorable recommendation, as amended;
23 further, that the rules of Council be
24 suspended so as to permit consideration
25 at our next session of Council.

1 6/16/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 All in favor will say aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those
5 opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
8 ayes have it and the motion carries.

9 The Chair recognizes
10 Councilwoman Tasco regarding Bill No.
11 110138.

12 COUNCILWOMAN TESCO: Madam
13 President, I move that Bill 110138 be
14 reported out of Committee with a
15 favorable recommendation and a request
16 that the rules of Council be suspended so
17 this bill can be heard at Council's next
18 session.

19 (Duly seconded.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It
21 has been moved and seconded that Bill No.
22 110138 be reported out of Committee with
23 a favorable recommendation; further that
24 the rules of Council be suspended so as
25 to permit consideration at our next

1 6/16/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 session of Council.

3 All in favor will indicate by
4 saying aye.

5 (Aye.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
7 opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
10 ayes have it and the motion carries.

11 The Chair recognizes
12 Councilwoman Tasco regarding Bill No.
13 110139.

14 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Madam
15 President, I move that Bill 110139 be
16 reported out of Committee with a
17 favorable recommendation and that the
18 rules of Council be suspended so this
19 bill can be heard at Council's next
20 session.

21 (Duly seconded.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It
23 has been moved and seconded that Bill No.
24 110139 be reported out of Committee with
25 a favorable recommendation; further, that

1 6/16/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.
2 the rules of Council be suspended so as
3 to permit consideration at our next
4 session of Council.

5 All in favor will indicate by
6 saying aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those
9 opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
12 ayes have it and the motion carries.

13 The Chair recognizes
14 Councilwoman Tasco again regarding Bill
15 No. 110477.

16 COUNCILWOMAN TESCO: Madam
17 President, I offer an amendment to Bill
18 110477.

19 (Duly seconded.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: All
21 in favor of the adoption of the amendment
22 will say aye.

23 (Aye.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those
25 opposed?

1 6/16/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 (No response.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
4 ayes have it and the amendment is
5 adopted.

6 The Chair recognizes
7 Councilwoman Tasco.

8 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Madam
9 President, I move that Bill 110477, as
10 amended, be reported out of Committee
11 with a favorable recommendation and
12 request that the rules of Council be
13 suspended so that this bill can be heard
14 at Council's next session.

15 (Duly seconded.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It
17 has been moved and seconded that Bill No.
18 110477 be reported out of Committee with
19 a favorable recommendation, as amended;
20 further, that the rules of Council be
21 suspended so as to permit consideration
22 at our next session of Council.

23 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: I suggest
24 roll call on this one.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm

1 6/16/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.
2 sorry. Which one?
3 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: 110477.
4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
5 That's right. We haven't had a vote on
6 it.
7 Is the Chief Clerk here?
8 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
9 Blackwell.
10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: No.
11 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
12 Clarke.
13 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Aye.
14 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
15 DiCicco.
16 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: No.
17 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Goode.
18 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Aye.
19 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Green.
20 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Aye.
21 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
22 Greenlee.
23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Aye.
24 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Jones.
25 COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.

1 6/16/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.
2 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Kelly.
3 COUNCILMAN KELLY: Aye.
4 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
5 Kenney.
6 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Aye.
7 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
8 Krajewski.
9 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: No.
10 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
11 Miller.
12 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Aye.
13 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
14 O'Neill.
15 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: No.
16 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
17 Reynolds Brown.
18 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Aye.
19 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Rizzo.
20 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: No.
21 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
22 Sanchez.
23 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Aye.
24 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
25 Tasco.

1 6/16/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Aye.

3 CHIEF CLERK: Council President

4 Verna.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: No.

6 CHIEF CLERK: The ayes are 11;

7 the nays are 6.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Bill

9 Nos. 110140, 110478, 110479 and 110161

10 are all being held.

11 That concludes the meeting of

12 the Committee of the Whole.

13 (Committee of the Whole

14 concluded at 8:30 p.m.)

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1
2 CERTIFICATE

3 I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
4 proceedings, evidence and objections are
5 contained fully and accurately in the
6 stenographic notes taken by me upon the
7 foregoing matter on June 16, 2011, and that
8 this is a true and correct transcript of same.

9
10
11
12
13 -----
14 MICHELE L. MURPHY
15 RPR-Notary Public
16
17
18

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20 transcript does not apply to any reproduction
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