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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

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COMMITTEE ON RULES

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Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, October 2, 2007
10:10 a.m.

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PRESENT:

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA, CHAIR

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COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE

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COUNCILMAN FRANK DiCICCO

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COUNCILMAN WILLIAM GREENLEE

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COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY

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COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER

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COUNCILMAN DANIEL SAVAGE

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BILL 070338 - An ordinance continuing a
neighborhood improvement district beyond the
date of termination of such district in an
area bounded generally by the eastern side of
Tulip Street, the northern side of Allegheny
Avenue, the western side of Amber Street, and
the northern side of Venango Street, known as
the Port Richmond Industrial Development
Enterprise (PRIDE)...

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V A R A L L O Incorporated

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Litigation Support Services

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good morning, everyone. This is a public hearing of the Committee on Rules.

I would ask Mr. McPherson to please read the title of Bill No. 070338.

MR. McPHERSON: An ordinance continuing a neighborhood improvement district beyond the date of termination of such district in an area bounded generally by the eastern side of Tulip Street, the northern side of Allegheny Avenue, the western side of Amber Street, and the northern side of Venango Street, known as the Port Richmond Industrial Development Enterprise Neighborhood Improvement District.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Do we have someone from the Administration to testify?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Is there anyone here to testify on this bill?

Please approach the table.

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2 MR. JURASH: My name is Steve
3 Jurash. I'm the President and CEO of the
4 Urban Industry Initiative. We manage the
5 PRIDE Industrial District.

6 I had given testimony in
7 response to this pretty comprehensively
8 on June 12th, so I'm basically here to
9 answer any questions anybody may have
10 regarding this matter.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You
12 said you had given testimony before on
13 this bill?

14 MR. JURASH: I was referring to
15 my previous testimony on June 12th, which
16 was comprehensive at the time. So I
17 basically am here to answer any questions
18 anyone may have.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This
20 bill had a hearing previously. It was
21 recessed until today. The reason for the
22 recess is to assess the commercial
23 properties of the neighborhood
24 improvement districts, and it requires
25 that two public hearings be held on the

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2 bill. So that is why we're having the
3 second hearing.

4 To your knowledge, can you just
5 tell us, have the tax-exempt property
6 owners offered any cash or in-kind
7 services?

8 MR. JURASH: The tax-exempt
9 property owners? I'm not sure I follow
10 you.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Well,
12 under Section 2 of Exhibit A provides
13 that while there are residential
14 properties within the district, they will
15 not be assessed and that the
16 tax-exemption properties located within
17 the district will be encouraged to
18 contribute cash or in-kind services.

19 MR. JURASH: If I understand
20 you correctly, you're referring to the
21 residents?

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Yes.

23 MR. JURASH: Because they're
24 the tax exempt.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

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2 Right.

3 MR. JURASH: The best example I
4 can give of that is this past Saturday we
5 had a major clean-up in the area which we
6 involved as well as the industrial
7 companies who are assessed all of the
8 residents participated and came out. So
9 very frequently they will become involved
10 in some of the more community-based
11 activities that the NID encourages.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Fine.
13 And to the best of your knowledge, do you
14 know of any reason why this should not be
15 passed and what percentage of property
16 owners are represented?

17 MR. JURASH: Well, of course,
18 all of the property owners are -- the
19 commercial property owners are assessed.
20 I see no reason why this shouldn't be
21 passed. It's benefitted the area
22 tremendously. It's kept businesses in
23 place. It's actually kept a lot of
24 companies who prior to the origination of
25 this were considering leaving the City

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2 and they have decided to stay as a result
3 of this.

4 We've made substantial
5 improvements throughout the area, and I
6 think those are the type of improvements
7 which not only benefit the businesses but
8 have really benefitted the residents as
9 well, such as security cameras, improved
10 pedestrian lighting. So the benefits of
11 the district don't just benefit the
12 businesses. They also are designed to
13 benefit the residents as well.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
15 you very much.

16 Any questions from members of
17 the Committee, any comments?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
20 you very much for coming in to testify.

21 MR. JURASH: Thank you.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Do we
23 have anyone else that would like to
24 testify on this bill?

25 Good morning.

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2 MR. CERCHIARO: My name is Tom
3 Cerchiaro. I testified before also. I'm
4 Vice-President of Active Radiator in Port
5 Richmond.

6 Before PRIDE, we were
7 considering leaving the area, but since
8 the establishment of PRIDE and our
9 participation in it, we have actually
10 expanded our operation. We've acquired
11 another 80,000-square-foot plant. We
12 employ 150 employees in the area, and
13 PRIDE has really contributed. We now
14 have security cameras. They help with
15 cleaning the area up, capital
16 improvements as far as lighting. We have
17 a rapport with the police that we meet
18 once a month.

19 If it wasn't for PRIDE, I don't
20 think we would have been in the area. We
21 would have been moving out of the
22 district. So I hope very much that this
23 gets extended, because we are active in
24 it and I think it does a lot for the
25 community.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
3 you very much, and we're delighted you're
4 staying in the City.

5 Anyone else to testify?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: That
8 will then conclude our public hearing.

9 We will now go into our public
10 meeting, and the Chair recognizes
11 Councilman Clarke for a motion on Bill
12 No. 070338.

13 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
14 Madam President. I move that Bill No.
15 070338 be reported out of Committee with
16 a favorable recommendation.

17 (Duly seconded.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It
19 has been moved and seconded that Bill No.
20 070338 be reported out of Committee with
21 a favorable recommendation.

22 All in favor will signify by
23 saying aye.

24 (Aye.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those

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2 opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
5 ayes have it. The motion carries. And
6 this concludes our public meeting.

7 Thank you.

8 (Committee on Rules adjourned
9 at 10:20 a.m.)

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proceedings, evidence and objections are

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contained fully and accurately in the

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stenographic notes taken by me upon the

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foregoing matter on October 2, 2007, and that

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this is a true and correct transcript of same.

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MICHELE L. MURPHY

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RPR-Notary Public

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