

1
2 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
3 PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC MEETING
4 BEFORE THE COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

5 - - -
6 Room 400, City Hall
7 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
8 Tuesday, March 21, 2000
9 11:25 a.m.
10 - - -

11 BILL 000015 - Amending Section 19-203 of the
12 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Payroll Deductions,"
13 by adding a new provision to allow for payroll
14 deductions by Philadelphia firefighters for
15 insurance premiums paid to the Hartford Life
16 Insurance Company.

17 BILL 000122 - Amending Section 22 of the
18 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Public Employee
19 Retirement Code," by amending Section 22-1303,
20 entitled "Exemption From Attachment," to add the
21 German-American Police Association to the list of
22 designated payees to whom a member may direct
23 deductions from benefits payments, all under
24 certain terms and conditions.

25 PRESENT: COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL, Chair
COUNCILMAN FRANK DICICCO
COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY
COUNCILMAN MICHAEL A. NUTTER
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO

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1 /99 FINANCE COMM.

2 I N D E X

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4 Page

5 Bill 000015
6 Thomas O'Drain, Vice President. 4
7 Firefighters Union

8 Bill 000122
9 Joseph Herkness
10 (Written testimony only - attached.)
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1 3/21/00 FINANCE COMMITTEE - BILL 000015

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

3 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you. We
4 will now convene the Finance Committee for Bill
5 No.'s 000015 and 000122.

6 I will note that we do have a quorum.
7 To my left is Vice Chair Marian Tasco; to her
8 left, Councilman Brian O'Neill; and Councilman
9 James Kenney is here, he only stepped out for a
10 moment.

11 And with that we will ask the clerk to
12 read the title of -- I'm sorry. He was sitting
13 here when I came to my right is Councilman Frank
14 DiCicco, just sitting here, being a good person,
15 working hard, and we just totally ignored him.
16 Councilman DiCicco, thank you.

17 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: You're welcome.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: And with that,
19 I will ask the clerk to read the title of Bill No.
20 000015.

21 THE CLERK: An ordinance amending
22 Section 19-203 of the Philadelphia Code, entitled
23 "Payroll Deductions," by adding a new provision
24 to allow for payroll deductions by Philadelphia
25 firefighters for insurance premiums paid to the

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2 Hartford Life Insurance Company.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: All right. Is
4 there anyone here to testify on Bill No. 15?

5 (Witness comes forward.)

6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.
7 Welcome. Please identify yourself for the record
8 and proceed with your testimony.

9 MR. O'DRAIN: Good morning.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Good morning.

11 MR. O'DRAIN: My name is Tom O'Drain.
12 I'm Vice President of the Firefighters Union.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Excuse me, Mr.
14 O'Drain. Would you please your spell last name
15 for the stenographer.

16 MR. O'DRAIN: I'm sorry. It's O,
17 apostrophe, capital D, R-A-I-N.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.
19 Proceed.

20 MR. O'DRAIN: Good morning. I'm here
21 to discuss the payroll deduction of voluntary
22 group life insurance for the Philadelphia
23 firefighters. This is a great opportunity for the
24 City, the Firefighters Union and, most
25 importantly, the firefighters. We have negotiated

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2 with Hartford Life Insurance Company to provide
3 additional life insurance benefits to our
4 members. The plan offers active members the
5 opportunity to purchase \$25,000 to \$100,000 in
6 additional life insurance coverage to protect
7 their families in the event of their death.

8 This coverage is being offered at
9 standard rates, with no surcharge, for our
10 dangerous occupation, or for smokers. This
11 coverage is offered on a guaranteed issue basis,
12 which means no medical questions will be asked,
13 and all who apply will be covered. This is an
14 exceptional opportunity given the current status
15 of the hepatitis C epidemic.

16 The City of Philadelphia will be
17 offering a great benefit to their firefighters at
18 relatively no cost to the City. This benefit will
19 encourage current firefighters to stay on the job
20 and more applicants for new positions. The City
21 will be seen as coming to the aid of those
22 firefighters and their families who are in need
23 now.

24 This is a one-time offer to our
25 members. Hartford is requiring a minimum initial

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2 enrollment of 25 percent to provide these
3 guarantees. We anticipate a very strong response
4 to this offer. We have prepared notices to be
5 placed in each firehouse as well as an individual
6 mailer to each member indicating his or her
7 specific coverage and premium options.

8 And that's all I have. Any questions?

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you very
10 much.

11 The Chair also notes that -- we already
12 mentioned Councilman Kenney. We also note that
13 Councilman Cohen is here, Councilman David Cohen,
14 and also Councilman Frank Rizzo is here.
15 Councilman Michael Nutter is also here, so members
16 of the Finance Committee are here in full.

17 Are there any questions from members of
18 the committee with regard to Bill No. 000015?

19 (No questions.)

20 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: My
21 understanding is that you also will be requesting
22 a suspension of the rules? Is that true?

23 MR. O'DRAIN: I'm sorry, say that
24 again?

25 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I understand

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2 that you will also be requesting a suspension of
3 the rules.

4 MR. O'DRAIN: Yes.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Okay. Thank
6 you very much.

7 We will now ask the clerk to please
8 read Bill No. 122.

9 MR. O'DRAIN: Thank you for your time.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: You're
11 welcome.

12 THE CLERK: Bill No. 000122, an
13 ordinance amending Section 22 of the Philadelphia
14 Code, entitled "Public Employee Retirement Code,"
15 by amending Section 22-1303, entitled "Exemption
16 From Attachment," to add the German-American
17 Police Association to the list of designated
18 payees to whom a member may direct deductions from
19 benefits payments, all under certain terms and
20 conditions.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you very
22 much.

23 Do we have someone here to testify? I
24 understand Mr. Herkness was to be here to testify
25 on this bill.

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2 (Mr. Herkness not present.)

3 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Is there
4 anyone else here who will testify? Councilman
5 Rizzo?

6 (Councilman Rizzo responds off-mike.)

7 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I can't hear
8 you. Please put on his microphone, please.

9 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I assume that
10 Mr. Herkness's written testimony will suffice for
11 personal testimony?

12 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: The question
13 is, is Mr. Herkness's testimony sufficient? I'm
14 going to ask members of the committee, what is
15 your opinion? In terms of the committee accepting
16 written testimony, will that satisfy members of
17 the committee?

18 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, I think he
19 ought to be here.

20 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: I don't have any
21 problem with it -- unless somebody has any
22 questions as far as his testimony.

23 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: It's pretty
24 straightforward.

25 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: As far as his

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2 testimony, I would accept testimony, but if
3 there's any questions --

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Councilman
5 DiCicco?

6 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: I mean, I have not
7 problem accepting his testimony, unless any of the
8 committee members or other Councilmembers have
9 questions for him. I mean, obviously, he's not
10 here to answer them.

11 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: I don't have any
12 questions.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: All right.
14 The Chair notes that Councilman DiCicco and
15 O'Neill have no questions, as -- I feel the same
16 way, I have no questions of Mr. Herkness. If it
17 is okay with the members of the committee, then we
18 will accept his written testimony.

19 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Madam
20 Chair.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: You're
22 welcome, Councilman.

23 All right. There being no further
24 questions from members of the committee, we will
25 close our committee hearing and go into committee

1 3/21/00 FINANCE COMMITTEE - BILL 000122

2 meeting.

3 - - -

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: The Chair
5 would like to have a motion with regard to Bill
6 No. 000015, that it be reported out of committee
7 with a suspension.

8 COUNCILMAN COHEN: So moved.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: It has been
10 moved. May I have a second?

11 (Duly seconded.)

12 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: It has been
13 moved and seconded that the rules of -- that we
14 ask for a rules suspension that the bill be
15 reported out of the committee with a favorable
16 recommendation.

17 (Duly seconded.)

18 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: And that the
19 rules be suspended so as to permit first
20 consideration at our next session of Council.

21 (Duly seconded.)

22 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: All in favor?
23 Opposed?

24 (None opposed.)

25 COUNCILMAN BLACKWELL: All right. I

1 3/21/00 FINANCE COMMITTEE - BILL 000122
2 will entertain a motion with regard to Bill No.
3 000122.

4 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: I move that Bill
5 No. 122 be moved out of out of this committee with
6 a favorable recommendation and a recommendation
7 that the rules of Council be suspended so as to
8 permit first reading at our next regular session
9 of City Council.

10 (Duly seconded.)

11 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: It's been
12 moved and properly seconded that Bill 000122 be
13 reported out of committee with a suspension of the
14 rules.

15 All in favor?

16 Opposed?

17 The ayes have it.

18 And so that will end our hearing and
19 committee meeting, and we thank everyone for
20 attending and for making it so nice and short and
21 sweet.

22 Thanks.

23 (Adjourned at 11:33 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing
proceedings of the Council of the City of
Philadelphia of Tuesday, March 21, 2000, were
reported fully and accurately by me, and that this
is a correct transcript of same.

RE: COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BILL NO.'S 000015, 000122

_____,
JOSEPHINE CARDILLO,
Registered Professional Reporter