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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3

PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE JOINT COMMITTEES OF

4

THE WHOLE AND FINANCE

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Room 696, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, June 5, 2003
10:15 a.m.

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Bill 030372 - An ordinance authorizing the Mayor, on
behalf of the city, to file
applications with the U.S. Department
of HUD for a CDBG, et cetera

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Bill 030306 - Resolution approving the annual
Program Statement and Budget for the
expenditure of the NIT Bond Proceeds
for FY '04

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Bill 030429 - Resolution authorizing the RDA to use
NTI bond proceeds to acquire certain
properties under certain terms and
conditions

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PRESENT: COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA, Chair
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL, Vice Chair
COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN
COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE
COUNCILMAN DAVID COHEN
COUNCILMAN FRANK J. DICICCO
COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.
COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY
COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER
COUNCILMAN MICHAEL A. NUTTER
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILMAN ANGEL L. ORTIZ
COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO
COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good morning,
3 everyone. This is a continued public hearing of the
4 joint committees on the Whole and Finance regarding
5 Resolution Nos. 030429 and 030306 and also Bill No.
6 030372.

7 I would ask Mr. McPherson to please read
8 the titles.

9 MR. MCPHERSON: Resolution No. 030429, a
10 resolution authorizing the Philadelphia
11 Redevelopment Authority to use NTI bond proceeds to
12 acquire certain properties under certain terms and
13 conditions; Resolution 030306, a resolution
14 approving the annual Program Statement and Budget
15 for the expenditure of the Neighborhood
16 Transformation Initiative (NTI) Bond Proceeds for FY
17 2004; Ordinance 030372, an ordinance authorizing the
18 Mayor on behalf of the City to file applications
19 with the United States Department of Housing and
20 Urban Development for a community development block
21 grant and to use Section 108 bond loan guarantee
22 program; authorizing the housing director to file
23 applications with HUD to participate in the HOME
24 Investment Partnership program and the emergency
25 shelter grant program; authorizing the Housing

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2 Director on behalf of the City to file an
3 application with HUD for housing opportunities for
4 Persons with AIDS grant; authorizing the Managing
5 Director on behalf of the City to file an
6 application or applications to obtain grants from
7 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania under the Act of
8 April 12, 1956, P.L. 1449, Section 4, as amended, to
9 prevent and eliminate blight; and authorizing the
10 Mayor, the Housing Director and the Managing
11 Director to enter into all understandings and
12 assurances contained in such applications and take
13 all necessary action to accept the grants, all under
14 certain terms and conditions.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you very
16 much.

17 Do any of the Council members have any
18 questions of the witnesses at the table?

19 I'm sorry. We are going to have to have
20 some order, please.

21 Do any of the Council members have any
22 questions of the witnesses at the table?

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Yes.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
25 recognizes Councilman Nutter.

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2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
3 President. A couple things. Good morning, Miss
4 Smith. Good morning, Mr. Hanna.

5 MS. SMITH: Good morning.

6 MR. HANNA: Good morning.

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: It's my
8 understanding from the letter that we received I
9 believe yesterday from the Mayor's chief of staff,
10 Miss Wilkerson, that the administration has agreed
11 to support the proposed amendment that was discussed
12 on Monday with regard to three categories of
13 programmatic funding that are technically in the
14 CDBG plan to be funded in the original proposal
15 through the use of NTI bond proceeds and that you
16 have and we have discussed and gone through a
17 process where we asked you if you don't think that
18 the additional funding should come as a result of
19 those proceedings, but if you can figure out within
20 the categories and within proper use and within the
21 legal guidelines a way to net increase \$10 million,
22 you will not take any money from another program or
23 category to fund these initiatives and that actually
24 the amendment here takes the budget from the
25 original \$106 million for FY '04 to now a new \$116

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2 million, which is in fact a \$10 million increase.
3 Is that correct?

4 MR. HANNA: Yes, that's correct.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And can you explain
6 to us how you did that, and I am very serious and I
7 know that you did hard work, but I'm most serious
8 about establishing on the record that there will be
9 no confusion later on about any other program in the
10 CDBG budget or the entire CDBG application being,
11 quote/unquote, shortchanged as a result of these
12 changes and that all of the categories either are
13 staying the same or some are being increased as a
14 result of increased funding. So if you could walk
15 us through the proposal which is to increase the
16 neighborhood-based rental item in the CDBG a net
17 additional \$2-1/2 million, the BSRP Tier 2 program,
18 a net additional \$5 million, and the adaptive
19 modification program, a net additional \$2-1/2
20 million, if you could walk us through that, I would
21 appreciate it.

22 MR. HANNA: Certainly. Thank you,
23 Councilman.

24 My name is Kevin Hanna and I serve as
25 secretary of housing and neighborhood preservation

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2 for the City of Philadelphia.

3 The three line items that are to be
4 affected are the neighborhood-based rental program,
5 the basic systems repair program, BSRP, Tier 2, and
6 the adaptive modifications program.

7 Starting with neighborhood-based rental,
8 what the administration proposes to have done would
9 be to simply increase the amount of CDBG money
10 dedicated to that particular line item by \$2.5
11 million.

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Which one?

13 MR. HANNA: This is the neighborhood-
14 based rental program.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Is that 221?

16 MR. HANNA: That is on Page 221,
17 Section B, affordable rental housing. So that goes
18 up, the CDBG column, for year 29, fiscal year 2004.

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: It goes from 2
20 million 548 to 5 million 48, right?

21 MR. HANNA: Yes.

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Where does the
23 \$2-1/2 million come from?

24 MR. HANNA: I'm coming to that.

25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay.

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2 MR. HANNA: Next, the basic system
3 repair program, BSRP --

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Page 222.

5 MR. HANNA: 222.

6 What we propose there is to decrease the
7 amount of CDBG allotment from that particular
8 program, essentially move it from -- that \$2-1/2
9 million in CDBG, move it from BSRP to the
10 neighborhood-based rental program, the one about
11 which I just spoke, and then to fund or refund that
12 particular program, first of all, to make up for the
13 2-1/2 million that we just took out with NTI bonds,
14 put \$2-1/2 million in there, so that brings it back
15 to ground zero and then add an additional \$5 million
16 in NTI tax-exempt bond proceeds for a net increase
17 of \$5 million.

18 So that program goes from \$7,750,000 as
19 proposed in the year 29 budget to \$12,750,000,
20 again, a net increase of \$5 million.

21 The third category, that of adaptive
22 modifications would simply have a \$2.5 million bond
23 increase specifically from NTI tax-exempt bond
24 proceeds. There is no touching of CDBG funds there.
25 So the net increase is simply the \$2-1/2 million

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2 from NTI tax-exempt bond proceeds.

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. Let me just
4 raise two other things. Thank you very much for the
5 explanation. It's clear now that these are net
6 increases, the funds have been moved around, but no
7 program is any less as a result of these changes and
8 all three of these areas have received the net
9 increase that we talked about.

10 Now I want to just very quickly make
11 sure that we have added our numbers correctly. As I
12 have gone through this, I think there are at least
13 two places where we need to change the figures on
14 this plan. On Page 223 it appears that we need to
15 increase the total line from the 15 to 17,966; is
16 that correct?

17 MS. SMITH: That's correct.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And then we have a
19 total total line on Page 227.

20 MS. SMITH: Uh-huh, yes.

21 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: That would be the
22 total \$10 million increase. The grand total program
23 activities line should be 250 million 159.

24 MR. HANNA: That's correct.

25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And then the

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2 resource allocation line would be 250 million 159;
3 is that correct?

4 MR. HANNA: That's correct.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So that is the
6 amendment?

7 MR. HANNA: That is the amendment.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: It's the \$10 million
9 and the correction on the numbers, correct?

10 MR. HANNA: Correct.

11 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Let's talk about the
12 last issue that was a part of the amendment that was
13 put forward on Monday. That had to do with the
14 child care health and safety fund. In reading the
15 letter from the Mayor's chief of staff, Miss
16 Wilkerson, she lays out that the administration
17 opposes the use of NTI bond proceeds to fund the
18 child care health and safety fund and later goes on
19 and the reasons are basically the necessity for
20 these bond proceeds to do a variety of things. I
21 need to ask you a question about this statement
22 though.

23 Under the legislation the program was to
24 use bond proceeds to: Eliminate blight, assemble
25 land for redevelopment and engage in housing

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2 preservation activities. In light of this, we do
3 not support using NTI dollars to fund the child care
4 health and safety fund.

5 Now, it is my understanding that there
6 has been a fair amount of flexibility in the use of
7 NTI bond proceeds. For instance, the Center City
8 District I believe just last week announced that it
9 is engaged in a marketing and promotion campaign of
10 six neighborhoods throughout Philadelphia. I know
11 that two of them are in the district that I
12 represent, Roxborough and Overbrook. I believe Mt.
13 Airy is a third. I think Fox Chase is a fourth.
14 Southwest Center City is the fifth and I believe
15 Southwest Philadelphia is the sixth.

16 How is it that the NTI proceeds can be
17 used in a marketing campaign for a program, but we
18 cannot use it for children?

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. SMITH: We did not use bond
21 proceeds --

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I'm not sure what
23 proceeds you used, and, you know, I mean from your
24 table and on this side of the blue barrier we can
25 have a wonderful discussion about the distinctions

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2 between operating and capital and bond proceeds and
3 whether they are taxable, tax-exempt or any other
4 macerations that we want. What the public knows is
5 NTI is a very large program, I think described many
6 years ago. I think it's an umbrella. It's a
7 framework. It has all kinds of elements to it, and
8 if you are saying that it wasn't bond proceeds of
9 NTI that were used, I don't know of any other
10 proceeds out of NTI because NTI is a bond-funded
11 program, so what proceeds were used to fund the
12 marketing campaign, which I support, but how is it
13 that they can't be used for the child care fund?

14 MS. SMITH: There were general funds
15 that were allocated to support that initiative.
16 Again, NTI can and does have other resources to
17 support investment in neighborhoods, but I just
18 wanted to clarify for the record --

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: How does NTI have
20 any other resources? NTI is a bond program, isn't
21 it? When we talk about the \$295 million NTI
22 program, isn't it all funded by bond proceeds?

23 MS. SMITH: The way we, the
24 administration, talk about NTI, it is an initiative
25 of the administration. It has a variety of

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2 component parts and also different resources help us
3 to achieve those objectives. So some objectives of
4 the Neighborhood Transformation Initiative is
5 achieved through the use of general funds. Some
6 objectives are achieved through the use of money
7 that may come from other federal and private
8 sources. It is not just limited to the bonds. The
9 bonds represent one source of funding for the
10 initiative and, as you know, the initiative has
11 several objectives.

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Miss Smith, I do
13 appreciate the explanation and I will do my best to
14 stay up on all the lexicon and the various
15 components. That, though, does not diminish my
16 commitment and I think the commitment of many other
17 Council members to support the child care health and
18 safety fund.

19 In front of us the other day were a
20 couple things. There was a proposed transaction
21 which happened to have been, in essence, a financing
22 that was going to put \$5 million into a child care
23 health and safety fund. Some of us did not think
24 that particular method was the right way to go, but
25 we are committed to the child care health and safety

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2 fund.

3 Now what we have in front of us is a
4 program that has an incredible realm of flexibility
5 to do a wide variety of things, to use proceeds in
6 ways that we have not seen in the past, and so I
7 cannot now back up and say we are not going to
8 support the child health and safety fund because of
9 a variety of quirks and vagaries of how program
10 proceeds are going to be used. They are being used
11 in a variety of ways, all of which are good. So I
12 will ask my colleagues and then members can decide
13 what they want to do because I am going to put
14 forward an amendment for the \$5 million for the
15 child care health and safety fund and then we will
16 just take it from there, but I can't back away from
17 that.

18 (Applause.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: I believe
20 Councilman Goode has a point of information.

21 COUNCILMAN Nutter: Sure.

22 COUNCILMAN Goode: I would like to ask
23 Councilman Nutter whether he actually had a proposal
24 for a child care health and safety fund before he
25 decided to kill the library deal.

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2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I'm sorry,
3 Councilman. I didn't hear the whole question.

4 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I want to ask you
5 whether you actually had a proposal for a child care
6 health and safety fund before you decided to kill
7 the library deal.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: The amendment for
9 the child care --

10 COUNCILMAN GOODE: That's a simple
11 question, whether you actually had a proposal for a
12 child care health and safety fund before you decided
13 to kill the library deal proposed by the
14 administration.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Let me respond this
16 way, Councilman. As I contemplated what my actions
17 would be with regard to the library transaction, I
18 was well aware that the child care health and safety
19 fund was the funding source, and as we have gone
20 through that process, I knew that I needed to have
21 some proposal to seek to replace those funds. So
22 that's why I also put forward the bill last week to
23 put the right capital funds for the library because
24 I believed under the circumstances it was not enough
25 to be against something and not have an alternative.

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2 So I think the proposal for an actual amendment I
3 probably started working on over the weekend prior
4 to the hearing. I think our hearing was on Monday
5 for NTI and put that amendment forward at least on
6 Monday, but it has been on my mind since the
7 controversy around the library proposal evolved last
8 week.

9 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Since it was your
10 decision to kill the library deal proposed by the
11 administration, you had to find a way --

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, I didn't kill
13 it by myself, Councilman.

14 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Since you decided to
15 kill the library deal proposed by the
16 administration, you had to find a way to make the
17 child care health and safety fund whole. You chose
18 this method. This is not the only method that can
19 be used. Just like the financing mechanism for the
20 library was not the only mechanism that could be
21 used. Whether it is the best mechanism or not, it
22 is not the only mechanism that can be used to fund a
23 child care health and safety fund; is that correct?

24 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: You are absolutely
25 right, Councilman. There are many ways to do that.

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2 COUNCILMAN GOODE: So just a point of
3 information. Is the administration prepared to find
4 a way to make the child care health and safety fund
5 whole?

6 MS. SMITH: Yes, we are.

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What is the
8 proposal, Miss Smith?

9 MS. SMITH: We don't have a specific
10 proposal, but we are willing to look at this issue.
11 We again feel that the use of NTI bond proceeds
12 under this circumstance is not appropriate. There
13 may be resources both within the private sector that
14 also can be brought to bear on this issue.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
17 recognizes Councilwoman Tasco for a point of
18 information.

19 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: The child safety
20 issue is one that could possibly be referred to the
21 Department of Commerce since it is a revolving loan
22 fund. Funds do come through PCDC and other
23 departments of the commerce that go to businesses.
24 These day cares are a business and you would look to
25 find a set of at least part of the money there until

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2 you find all of the money from the Commerce
3 Department because I see it as an economic
4 development piece.

5 MS. SMITH: Again, what the
6 administration plans to do is to work very closely
7 with all of the departments and we also believe
8 there may be opportunities within the private sector
9 to establish a revolving loan fund to support this
10 type of need within the community.

11 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Miss Smith, let me
12 ask one other question. When the proposed increase
13 to \$5 million was announced back in January for the
14 child care health and safety fund, was the proposed
15 financing that was before us earlier in the week,
16 was that anticipated at that time to be the funding
17 source for the \$5 million increase?

18 MS. SMITH: Councilman Nutter, you
19 really do have me at a disadvantage --

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I don't mean to have
21 you at a disadvantage.

22 MS. SMITH: -- in that I am not familiar
23 with the library financing and the conversations
24 that have been going back and forth, so I cannot
25 speak to that.

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2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. Let me ask
3 you one other question, and if it is inappropriate,
4 you will just tell me. Are you aware of any other
5 proposed financing mechanism that has been discussed
6 or any other -- maybe it is not a financing
7 mechanism, but any other source of funds that have
8 been discussed within the administration with regard
9 to the child care health and safety fund?

10 MS. SMITH: When this question was
11 raised on Monday, I reached out to a community
12 development financial institution in the City, the
13 reinvestment fund, that has been involved in
14 financing day care facilities and that is one
15 possibility to maybe look at creating funds.

16 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: No, I meant City
17 fund. Are you aware of any proposal for the use of
18 City funds, not outside funds, but what would
19 represent our commitment?

20 MS. SMITH: Again I feel that I cannot
21 speak to that issue because I have not been involved
22 in it. I can only tell you what I have done
23 personally on Monday in response to this issue being
24 raised, looking for what could be other possible
25 sources, particularly I think the opportunity to

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2 bring the private sector into this issue as a
3 resource, since we are looking at a revolving loan
4 fund.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. Thank you
6 very much. I appreciate it.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair at
8 this time recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

9 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: In your
10 testimony or in somebody's testimony you talked
11 about the proposals for targeted basic systems
12 repair program. I noticed that ten organizations
13 have responded to your RFP to provide the service.
14 Would those funds only be used by those
15 organizations in their neighborhoods? Can
16 individuals from other neighborhoods access targeted
17 basic systems repair money if they don't live in a
18 targeted area or area where you have one of those
19 groups?

20 MS. SMITH: An individual who may not
21 live in a target basic system repair program can
22 apply for resources under the basic system repair
23 program, Tier 2. That's a citywide program that
24 operates citywide.

25 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Which is citywide,

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2 basic --

3 MS. SMITH: The basic system repair
4 program, which we added the additional money to, is
5 citywide. It was geographically targeted to work in
6 a defined geographic area.

7 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: But that money is
8 not restricted by income, right?

9 MS. SMITH: Yes, it is. The targeted
10 does have income restrictions. I believe it is up
11 to 80 percent.

12 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: The basic systems
13 repair program?

14 MS. SMITH: The targeted basic systems
15 repair program is also capped. Since it was a grant
16 program, it was also income limited to 80 percent, a
17 medium.

18 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: What program is
19 provided for those people who I think we talked
20 about did not meet -- did not have -- could not meet
21 the income guidelines?

22 MS. SMITH: Again, we believe we can
23 work closely, and one of the principles behind that
24 program is for the community-based organization to
25 work one-on-one with individual homeowners to get a

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2 sense of their entire need and their entire issues,
3 and there may be opportunities for a loan if the
4 person is over 80 percent of income and particularly
5 with the new loan products involved.

6 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: For instance, I'm
7 interested in the northwest section of Philadelphia,
8 and Mt. Airy USA appears to be one of the groups.
9 Have they defined their targeted area of where they
10 would service and would that cover the northwest and
11 looking at the targeted systems program and in
12 trying to reach out to a broader spectrum of the
13 community, Philadelphia community, was any
14 consideration taken, anything taken into
15 consideration to look at what parts of the City are
16 being served?

17 MS. SMITH: Yes. We tried to make sure
18 that this was targeted to areas where individuals --
19 we could leverage the resources, where there was low
20 vacancy on the block. I can get back to you with
21 the specific boundaries of both the Mt. Airy USA
22 program as well as the Korean CDC program, which I
23 believe is in your district. That's in Olney. I
24 just don't have the exact boundaries that they chose
25 to target in my mind.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: I would like to see
3 those boundaries. Thank you.

4 Thank you very much.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

6 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Brown.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you, Madam
8 President.

9 I simply wanted to underscore
10 Councilwoman Tasco's recommendation with regard to
11 the health and safety fund. My office has actually
12 been in discussions with the Commerce Department
13 close to a year ago suggesting that the Commerce
14 Department find some dollars for the health and
15 safety fund, so I needed to underscore a
16 recommendation to see that those discussions have
17 actually started. Thank you.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
19 recognizes Councilman Cohen.

20 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you, Madam
21 President.

22 Is there any limit at all to the NTI
23 program? You know, the dollar figures have changed
24 so, I thought we had finally agreed it was a \$300
25 million program, but apparently any and all

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2 resources can be added to that apart from the loan
3 fund? We voted the loan fund I thought because we
4 felt there was no other way of supporting it, but
5 now there apparently are other ways, so I would like
6 to know how much of the money, how much more than
7 \$300 million is available for NTI? Is it the whole
8 City budget? Can we call it a \$6 billion program?
9 It might be the best use of all the money.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. SMITH: Councilman Cohen, there are
12 several objectives which we have articulated for NTI
13 and we do look at other resources to achieve those
14 objectives and in some instances it is redeploying
15 or reallocating resources within the general budget.
16 As you know, this Mayor is very much committed to
17 investing in neighborhoods, so the abandoned car
18 removal program. We consider how to fulfill NTI's
19 objective to eliminate blight. That program is
20 funded out of the general fund.

21 So, again, NTI is an initiative of this
22 administration which represents the pledge to
23 eliminate blight, to create opportunity for
24 development, and to improve the delivery of City
25 services, and we are trying to bring all of the

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2 resources to bear in the City to support those
3 primary objectives.

4 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Who determines the
5 boundary lines of what is a blight program? It
6 seems to me that if anybody else proposes something
7 and the administration doesn't agree, they rule it
8 out or find some technicality to rule it out.

9 (Applause.)

10 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Now, we have either a
11 government of laws or we have a government of
12 people, and I thought we passed legislation to set
13 limitations or at least set guidelines and then to
14 define those guidelines. So I'm trying to find out
15 who is going to decide what blight is and whether an
16 appropriation can be funded from monies other than
17 the loan funds.

18 MS. SMITH: The senior officials in the
19 Mayor's administration which includes
20 representatives from the Managing Director's Office,
21 from the Redevelopment Authority, my colleague here,
22 Secretary Hanna, myself, the senior members of the
23 Mayor's administration are working together as a
24 team looking at these issues and participating in
25 the decision-making around them.

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2 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And what's the role
3 of City Council? Do we have anything to say, or do
4 you just say no automatically when Council proposes
5 something because it didn't originate with the
6 Mayor's office? When we present a proposal that we
7 have fielded from community organization, we think
8 it's good to present it, if it doesn't originate
9 with the administration, does it mean automatically
10 it is not part of the blight program?

11 MS. SMITH: No, that's not the case,
12 Councilman Cohen. We have been working very closely
13 with District Council people identifying properties
14 for acquisition.

15 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Do you know there are
16 seven Council members that are not District Council
17 people? Do you work with them?

18 MS. SMITH: Yes, we are working with
19 at-large Council. We have invited people to
20 briefing. We take information and suggestions
21 routinely. There's a lot of requests at times and
22 sometimes when we prioritize things, it takes a
23 little bit longer to get to some requests than we
24 had hoped, but we are committed to working with the
25 Council. We consider the City Council of

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2 Philadelphia an important and key partner in this
3 initiative. We cannot accomplish the objectives of
4 this initiative without the support of the Council.

5 COUNCILMAN COHEN: There are all kinds
6 of partnerships. It seems to me that you think
7 Council and you think the same of community
8 organizations, if they are partners, they are very,
9 very minor partners. They have a right to be heard,
10 but not necessarily listened to or paid any
11 attention to, and that's what concerns us.

12 Take on the child care and child safety
13 program. Do we have to build an expansion of the
14 Convention Center in order to find a way to get \$5
15 million for child care and child safety, or are
16 children's lives important enough for the City to
17 spend \$5 million and make that commitment now?

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. SMITH: As I stated, the
20 administration is committed to finding the resources
21 to support this type of initiative.

22 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Without taking money
23 from other items?

24 MS. SMITH: Sometimes -- if we are
25 successful in bringing maybe some private sector

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2 resources to add to the pot, we probably won't have
3 to take money from other items, but when you have a
4 defined pot of money, sometimes we have to do that.

5 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, I don't think
6 City Council can live with that. I think we've got
7 to know that kids are an important part of life.
8 Human beings count. Poor people, working people
9 deserve consideration in addition to developers.

10 (Applause.)

11 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I think there is a
12 lot of question as to what the priorities of this
13 administration are, and this kind of legislation
14 helps define it and your approach to it helps define
15 it. That's why we are wanting to be so precise.
16 We suddenly get stunned when we learn that there are
17 new sources of money because when the original loans
18 were requested we were of the opinion that you had
19 to have the loan money otherwise you had nothing to
20 work with. So we provided it. Once we provide it,
21 well, we now learn there are other sources that can
22 be used, and that is very disconcerting.

23 I think it ought to be clear that City
24 Council is a full partner and that the people of
25 Philadelphia are the most important partners in

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2 everything we do.

3 (Applause.)

4 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you, Madam
5 President.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: You're
7 welcome.

8 Are there any other questions or
9 comments? The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Miller.

10 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank you, Madam
11 President.

12 Good morning. I just want to do a
13 followup to Councilwoman Tasco's question regarding
14 targeted basic systems repair program. Will there
15 be some potential for -- and I know that we only get
16 this money once a year -- the expansion of this type
17 of resources into neighborhoods? I just realized
18 that one of the groups that I thought had a good
19 chance of being funded in a particular section of my
20 district that really needs some resources actually
21 didn't get their proposal in on time. They were ten
22 minutes late unfortunately. Or is there enough
23 money, enough additional dollars, in the basic
24 system program, not the targeted, that would make up
25 the void for that particular neighborhood?

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2 MS. SMITH: For FY '04 we actually have
3 an additional 1 million that we wanted to use to
4 support a second wave, particularly in areas where
5 we are doing significant development activity, so
6 that is for FY '04, and, of course, each year we can
7 come back and allocate. That was one of the
8 objectives, additional funds.

9 In the meantime, if there's individuals
10 with this increase in the citywide program, that is
11 not geographically restricted at all.

12 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: So, you know, what
13 I would like to do is talk about this later, do a
14 followup discussion. Thank you.

15 Thank you, Madam President.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
17 again recognizes Councilman Cohen.

18 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Madam President, I
19 understand in this room is the Republican candidate
20 for Mayor, Sam Katz. I want to suggest that we
21 invite our Mayor, Mayor John Street, to come up here
22 and maybe we can have an impromptu debate on the
23 subject of child care.

24 (Applause.)

25 COUNCILMAN COHEN: We welcome the

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2 attention of all the Mayoral candidates because we
3 think if they listen to the people in the community
4 they will understand better the problems of
5 Philadelphia and we often have urged the Mayor of
6 the City to come to these meetings so he can hear
7 firsthand what we hear in City Council, so we are
8 very pleased that --

9 (Applause.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Please, let's
11 have order.

12 COUNCILMAN COHEN: So I would like to
13 urge the president of City Council to invite the
14 Mayor of the city to come and join the Republican
15 candidate so they will both have equal access to the
16 information required in the Mayor's office.

17 Thank you, Madam President.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: You're
19 welcome. Are there any other questions or comments
20 from members of the committee regarding the two
21 witnesses at the table?

22 Seeing none, I believe we have a witness
23 who would like to be heard, Deborah Anderson. Is
24 Miss Anderson in this room or in the anteroom?

25 MS. ANDERSON: Yes, I am.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Please
3 approach the witness table, if you will.

4 Please identify yourself for the record
5 and proceed with your testimony.

6 MS. ANDERSON: Good morning. My name is
7 Deborah Anderson Johnson, and I appreciate the
8 opportunity to speak today. I'm a home owner
9 occupant of 4717 North Hutchinson Street, and for
10 anyone that is unaware, it is one of the 957 houses
11 on a 17-square block in the Logan section of
12 Philadelphia also known as the sinking homes of
13 Logan.

14 In the early 1900's through 1910 the
15 then City administration of Philadelphia set up this
16 disaster by ordering all coal ash in the City to be
17 hauled to a specific site. A contract was awarded
18 to the Vare brothers. The coal ash was transported
19 in utility cars to 9th Street and the Boulevard.
20 The land was owned by real estate developers who
21 happened to be friends with the then Mayor.

22 The marshy flood plain along
23 Wingohocking Creek was filled with as much as 40
24 feet of ash. By 1920 homes were developed. Many of
25 the houses were built on 40 feet of fill consisting

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2 primarily of ash and cinder without proper anchoring
3 of the structure. The houses built on this unstable
4 fill began settling almost as soon as they were
5 constructed. There was a political scandal
6 surrounding the construction of these homes and is
7 detailed in a book by Harold E. Cox, "Utility Cards
8 of Philadelphia."

9 The settling foundations caused
10 collapses and gas leaks. October 31, 1959, a
11 Friday, approximately 3:00 p.m., there were three
12 blasts that rocked the Boulevard. It was later
13 determined there was a hairline fracture of a gas
14 main beneath 9th Street and the Boulevard that
15 triggered the blast that set fire to five homes on
16 the 800 block of Roosevelt Boulevard. There were no
17 fatalities. There were only minor injuries.

18 After the investigation Logan's little
19 secret was no longer a secret, at least to some.
20 Logan residents began to notice that something was
21 wrong with the then swank homes that a Philadelphia
22 Mayor resided in at one point. Logan then became a
23 melting pot with working-class African-Americans as
24 neighbors.

25 In 1984 the structural problems were

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2 more obvious. The City administration commissioned
3 a study from architect and city planner Gray Smith,
4 who concluded the builders had used unstable soil to
5 fill the valley of the Wingohocking Creek. Gray
6 Smith warned the administration of possible broken
7 utility lines including gas, sewer and water and
8 recommended a more complete geotechnical analysis.
9 The administration disregarded this recommendation
10 and did nothing.

11 Two years later, February 1986, a broken
12 gas main caused an explosion on the 4600 block of
13 North 10th Street, again no fatalities. The
14 administration claimed this was their first
15 knowledge of the Logan fiasco. Panic set in. It
16 would take another seven months for the
17 administration to get the necessary engineering
18 report.

19 The study, which looked at an area
20 encompassing 950 houses, found that the unstable
21 soil was actually ash and cinder whose depth
22 depended on where in the creek valley a house was
23 located. While some were fairly stable, the study
24 identifies 62 homes as dangerous or imminently
25 dangerous. This was late August 1986. The City

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2 offered temporary shelter to homeowners. Suddenly
3 in September the residents were told they had to be
4 out of their homes in 24 hours. Confusion, fear,
5 misinformation started a pattern in Logan that
6 continues to this date.

7 Gray Smith Associates and a group of
8 residents known as Concerned Citizens of Logan knew
9 the boundaries of the 17 blocks in the Logan
10 triangle designated in November 1986 by the
11 administration never made sense. The administration
12 created this by issuing a map with a triangle
13 superimposed on it; hence, the Logan triangle. If
14 this was addressed to encompass the 62 properties
15 identified, it would have been a much smaller area
16 and it would have definitely had an irregular shape.
17 The triangle simply encompassed the three major
18 streets at approximately 1000 properties.

19 1988. Gray Smith attempted to retract
20 this designation, but it fell on deaf ears, and here
21 is a quote from Gray Smith to me, The one violent
22 act that was committed in this process was the
23 drawing of that boundary around the Logan triangle.
24 It was unjustified. It was technically incorrect,
25 unquote.

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2 From this point on no one retracted and
3 no one turned back. Not one leader, not one person
4 had the nerve to stand up and say "Stop. This is
5 insane."

6 In 1988 Lippincott Engineers identified
7 the most dangerous threat to the Logan community was
8 water. Once again the City did nothing. It would
9 be too expensive to underpin the properties that
10 could be salvaged. It was given that 62 properties
11 had to be demolished and the infrastructure had to
12 be stabilized. The same sewer and pipes made of
13 cast iron and clay that was put in Logan when it was
14 developed in the 1920's, which had a 25-year life
15 expectancy, had deteriorated. There were cobwebs
16 when the drains were open, proving no water had
17 passed through for a while. The water, the enemy to
18 the Logan community, was washing away the foundation
19 of ash and cinder.

20 But this community and the residents of
21 this community were and continue to be treated in
22 this manner and completely disrespected. There was
23 no moratorium to stop the sale of property. The
24 administration and every subsequent administration
25 states "We cannot stop the transfer of properties in

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2 Logan. We can be sued."

3 The one thing the administration was
4 able to stop was the transfer of federal relocation
5 rights. You see, the rights to transfer worthless
6 property was okay, but the right to relocation was
7 nontransferable and there was and is no threat of
8 being sued. Hence the term "ineligible." If you
9 purchased after 1986, you are labeled ineligible and
10 are not entitled to assistance.

11 The property I purchased was one of the
12 954 properties identified in 1986. The owner and
13 realtor that sold it to me were aware, and when I
14 went to settlement in 1992, there was a copy of the
15 geotechnical report that was filed with the title in
16 City Hall, which I did learn later on, and I have
17 been told I initialed it. At settlement I initialed
18 a lot of papers, but if anyone chooses to believe
19 that I read a geotechnical survey during settlement
20 and understood it and knew what I was getting into,
21 that's your prerogative, just as it is my
22 prerogative to believe the administration then and
23 all subsequent administrations knew people were
24 being swindled and looked the other way because it
25 was a trump card in place. The ineligible resident

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2 had located the eligible resident and was not
3 entitled to any compensation.

4 And I would just like to know why would
5 the eligible resident sell their property to me for
6 \$24,000 when they were eligible for approximately at
7 that time \$50,000? Something is not right here. I
8 have been labeled a troublemaker, a rebel rouser, a
9 speculator. You know, I bought this property so I
10 could make some money at a later date.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. ANDERSON: And I'm also ineligible.
13 There is one thing I will admit readily to being,
14 and that is absolutely naive. I was naive enough to
15 believe that I had stumbled onto something that
16 elected officials did not know. I honestly believed
17 that if I took this information to the correct
18 entities it would be addressed. No way. There is
19 no way that -- you know, it was just horrendous, and
20 the abuse the residents went through is a whole
21 other issue that I'm not even going to address. I
22 was naive enough to believe that no one else knew
23 and the only thing I learned was that they already
24 knew and there was no one able to or willing to stop
25 the madness. It didn't stop.

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2 The administration created the Logan
3 Assistance Corporation, also known as LAC. I fought
4 to get on the board of this corporation, you know,
5 but I kind of got ostracized because how dare I take
6 information back to residents, how dare I talk to
7 the media about things I learned from being on the
8 board. You know, when I went on the board, it was
9 to be representation for the residents that were
10 there so, therefore, I was never going to stop
11 taking information back, you know.

12 And I went to other organizations for
13 help. You know, I went to the NAACP. I went to
14 PIA, HUD, OHCD, come on, the whole alphabet, we went
15 through, and when it was all said and done, it was
16 right back in Logan. Once the photo opps for
17 politicians running at election time was over it
18 went right back to business as usual and you were
19 just a Logan resident, deal with it.

20 State Representative John Perzel secured
21 \$1-1/2 million for Logan. Unfortunately for Logan,
22 Wisconsin happened. Later it was reduced to
23 \$750,000. Later it was reduced to zero. From my
24 understanding and what I was told, the whole kitty
25 was spent in Wisconsin. You see, the City was

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2 liable for the community's blight in Wissinoming,
3 but Logan was much more complex. It was on a larger
4 scale, et cetera.

5 Senator Santorum made a federal grant
6 available for the five ineligible residents that
7 were still in Logan at that time. The current
8 administration made a decision to not apply for the
9 grant because it would open all of the flood gates
10 for all the ineligibles that left and had never been
11 compensated.

12 The excuses and decisions of the
13 administration in 1986 did not make sense, just as
14 the excuses and decisions of all subsequent
15 administrations do not make sense, and the reason I
16 started with the factual history of Logan is to stop
17 the repeated phrase "The City had no knowledge." It
18 is an insult. It is a lie. The City not only had
19 knowledge, the City created this fiasco by
20 permitting the construction of homes at a site they
21 knew the city's coal ash had been dumped at for
22 years.

23 June 3, 2003, and I just happened to
24 tune in to the testimony that was going on here, and
25 it reminded me a lot of the public hearings I read

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2 about from December 1986 with the Logan residents.
3 You know, June 4 I decided to come down to City Hall
4 and I stopped at my councilperson's office and just
5 asked what was the status, was anything going on
6 regarding Logan. Unfortunately, the person I had to
7 talk to was not available and I did fill out a form
8 requesting information about the status of myself,
9 as I am one of two residents left on Hutchinson
10 Street and maybe there are five residents still
11 currently living in the couple of blocks that still
12 stand.

13 At the recess I introduced myself to
14 Mr. Wetzel of RDA and inquired about any information
15 with Logan with the information that was being
16 disseminated here, and to my surprise he said, "That
17 was finalized in January I think."

18 Mr. Wetzel then introduced me to Mr. Cox
19 of urban renewal programs and asked him to assist
20 me, and I was given Mr. Kunz's card and he told me
21 when he would be back in the office yesterday. I
22 called him, left a message. He returned my call and
23 he said, "Yes, your property, 4717 North Hutchinson
24 Street, is in the ordinance for acquisition."

25 You know, my property is listed for

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2 acquisition and was anybody going to say anything to
3 me? Did I have a right to know? Where do I go from
4 here? You know, there are a lot of questions and,
5 yes, I have no problem at all directing them to RDA,
6 as I was informed to do by Mr. Thomas, the president
7 of the Logan Assistance Corporation. And they, the
8 Logan Assistance Corporation, not only still exists,
9 I'm a board member, even though there hasn't been a
10 meeting in over two years. I really couldn't tell
11 you what goes on, but I do check in periodically to
12 see if there is any information or any decisions
13 that were made and that was exactly why I asked to
14 be put on the list to testify. I missed the
15 testimony, as I now understand it today, regarding
16 this. It was earlier this year. And, no, I did not
17 have knowledge of it, or I would have been here just
18 as I am today.

19 I just feel as though I should have been
20 notified not only as a board member but as a
21 homeowner occupant for a property that is being
22 taken.

23 (Applause.)

24 MS. ANDERSON: And I would personally
25 just like to ask -- nobody -- I don't think anybody

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2 is against redevelopment or blight elimination. It
3 is just the whole issue. As elected officials, one
4 thing I would request in moving forward is to think
5 not as properties, not to look at it as Logan
6 consisting of 954 houses, properties, land. That
7 was over 950 families. It was people, feelings.
8 Your life is just thrown into turmoil.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. ANDERSON: And consideration should
11 be given, and, you know, it just kind of makes you
12 suspicious and just to wonder if it is so good, if
13 this plan is so good, why does it have to be so
14 secretive?

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. ANDERSON: And I thank you for
17 allowing me to testify.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: Thank you very
19 much.

20 Any questions or comments of the
21 witness?

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: Thank you
23 again.

24 Do we have any other witnesses that
25 would like to testify? Please approach the witness

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2 table.

3 Kindly identify yourself for the record
4 and proceed with your testimony.

5 MS. KUVAS: My name is Rosemary Kuvas.
6 I'm a resident at 2100 North 2nd Street, that block,
7 and I am the director of the Community Leadership
8 Institute, and I stood before some of you on
9 Tuesday. I was not planning to speak today, but the
10 person who was going to speak today has gone because
11 she thought that she could not speak. We just
12 discovered when this person spoke that we could.

13 This is what has happened. In our
14 neighborhood we had the American Street Empowerment
15 Zone Urban Renewal Area. We discovered that a block
16 that in our terms was solid, safe, beautified, was
17 taken before any of the residents knew what was
18 happening. They got no notice. This is probably a
19 law you passed in this Council in December of 2001.

20 The residents of the 2100 block of North
21 Bodine, which is my neighborhood, began to get
22 letters that they had to move in January. Right now
23 the person who left here today is the daughter of
24 Don Ramon Hernandez, who is at 2150 North Bodine.
25 Don Ramon today, his home is fit to be in Elfreth's

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2 Alley, and so are the homes that are surrounding it,
3 the five others. Right now those homes have been
4 vandalized around him. As the person before me
5 spoke, they are not just houses. Don Ramon and his
6 family lived there 40 years. His mother owned the
7 house. He lived there. He is raising his
8 granddaughter. His daughter lives there and he is
9 raising his granddaughters as well. These homes are
10 not houses to us. They are our home.

11 I live on my block 30 years. There are
12 people here who represent a total of a hundred years
13 of having lived in our neighborhood. That was the
14 first taking, was Don Ramon. They promised Don
15 Ramon -- the RDA promised Don Ramon the world and he
16 is in the process of negotiation thanks to the
17 Councilman, who is going out of his way to help.
18 However, Don Ramon is now living still in his home
19 because he is waiting for homes to be finished. He
20 is susceptible to being criminalized, vandalized and
21 killed. He is in a bad state of being personally
22 and healthwise because of this process.

23 All of this relates to bills before you
24 related to NTI and the budget. We are not against
25 NTI. We are against the taking of viable homes in

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2 viable neighborhoods.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. KUVAS: The second taking. So Don
5 Ramon still does not have a firm answer. He keeps
6 getting strung along in terms of an alternative site
7 for his home. He is now in danger, in personal
8 physical danger, to say nothing of the health, of
9 being hurt because he is alone. He is a very
10 stubborn man.

11 All the letters, by the way, were in
12 English and most of the letters said you have 90
13 days to move. Those people who moved before him
14 were frightened into moving, and his daughter, were
15 she here, would testify to that fact because she
16 made it very clear to us here. They were frightened
17 into moving. Yes, they moved, but they were
18 frightened into moving because they didn't think
19 they have a choice.

20 The second taking. We found that out by
21 accident, scattered site. This was not a whole
22 block. Two houses on Cecil B. Moore. Two houses on
23 American. Two houses on North Phillip. We know
24 what this means. Bit by bit you are eking away at
25 our community. It has taken us decades, decades, to

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2 build our community safe. We have relationships.
3 We are a family. We have many generations of family
4 that live on these blocks, and the law -- we came
5 here Tuesday. There were 25 of us. By the time
6 that our ordinance came around, there were probably
7 ten of us, and that's when we spoke.

8 You passed -- some of you in committee
9 passed this ordinance on Tuesday. We want you to
10 know that we do not accept this. We will fight
11 this.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. KUVAS: We have a right to stay in
14 our homes. You do not have a right with NTI or with
15 the budget or with anything else to take our homes
16 and we want to tell you that. We didn't vote
17 before, but we vote now.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. KUVAS: And we will vote in
20 increasing numbers, and those of you that care,
21 those of you that care about your constituencies,
22 I'm not sitting here as a representative of any
23 organization necessarily. I'm a resident. 30 years
24 it took us living through drugs, through drive-by
25 shootings, through bombs, through the blight that we

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2 had to create the kind of neighborhood that now
3 these programs want to take because it's viable. We
4 made it viable, not organizations. We made it
5 viable.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. KUVAS: Now, you passed the bills
8 yesterday. I'm speaking specifically of 030303.
9 That is not on your table today but will be on your
10 table next Thursday. I want you to know that the
11 press release that we passed out, of which we have
12 more copies, somebody west of Bart Street got ahold
13 of it and called us last night. They have a store
14 that they have owned for two years. It is a
15 money-making store, grocery store. They have
16 apartments above. They own it. I saw the deed.
17 They bought it. They have paid their taxes. They
18 are Dominicans and they don't sell drugs. They own
19 a store that is money-making and it is on the list.
20 They didn't know it until someone gave them our
21 press release and they saw their address on the
22 list. How do you explain this? How do you explain
23 that this business, because of the vote on Tuesday,
24 is scheduled to be taken?

25 Those folks, we sent them to their

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2 councilperson. I didn't know who it was. They are
3 at, I think, 1445 or 1435 North 19th Street. I
4 don't know which of you is in charge of that area,
5 but that family is in trauma like Dan Ramon. He has
6 lost weight. He looks a mess. He is having serious
7 physical and health problems.

8 Now, I want you to think about this when
9 you try to take our homes and our lots. The reason,
10 by the way, we were here on Tuesday is because on my
11 block, my neighbor's house, whose family has been
12 there for 40 years, was listed for taking as an
13 empty lot. It is a solid home with inhabitants. It
14 was taken off the list because we caught it in time.
15 We told the resident, who came to our office, the
16 Community Leadership Institute, to go and talk to
17 his Councilman. The Councilman moved quickly and
18 took it off the list with the Redevelopment
19 Authority. But you need to understand that the
20 Dominican doesn't know that much English, the one
21 who lives on 19th Street. He didn't have this
22 advanced notice, and so what happens to the many,
23 many people that are on your list like this? We
24 will not be moved. That is a saying that was old
25 and it still stands. We live there. We are going

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2 to keep our neighborhoods and we want you to help
3 us.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. KUVAS: Now, we want a stop, a stop,
6 a stop to the taking of homes. I don't care how you
7 do it, what you do with the budget, what you do with
8 NTI. We're not against NTI. NTI is good. The
9 Mayor at least poured some money into the
10 neighborhoods, and we are appreciative of that, but
11 don't take our homes to build businesses of people
12 that don't even live there. Fair housing.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. KUVAS: We respectfully ask this of
15 you and there will be more of us that come, but we
16 respectfully ask this of you and hope that we will
17 have a response next Thursday to say no more homes,
18 occupied homes where residents want to stay, will be
19 taken.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. KUVAS: If they want to move, fine,
22 but we do not want to move.

23 Thank you all very much.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you very
25 much. Are there any other witnesses that would like

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2 to testify? Please approach the witness table.
3 Kindly identify yourself for the record and proceed
4 with your testimony.

5 MS. WARD: Good morning. My name is
6 Sharon Ward. I am the child care policy director
7 for Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth. I
8 have a brief statement.

9 Thank you Council President Verna and
10 Councilwoman Blackwell and members of the joint
11 committee. I'm here today to urge your support for
12 the amendment to reallocate \$5 million of NTI
13 demolition funds to support the child care health
14 and safety fund. At a public hearing yesterday the
15 finance committee members heard what I hope was
16 compelling evidence about the need to make child
17 care programs better and safer environments for
18 50,000 children who attend them every day.

19 At that time finance committee members
20 expressed support for the value of investing in
21 children and child care. I can't begin to express
22 to you what that meant to the child care community,
23 more than 1500 child care programs here in the City,
24 and the child care teachers who are educating our
25 children, toiling away in neighborhoods across the

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2 city for very little pay and very little recognition
3 and for the parents who struggle in all of our
4 neighborhoods to balance work and family and just
5 want a safe, affordable, quality program for their
6 children.

7 Nonetheless, while embracing the goals,
8 finance committee members did not support the
9 mechanism that was proposed to make this dream a
10 reality. We supported, embraced and fought for the
11 administration's proposal to sell the library in
12 order to support this fund. We appreciate Mayor
13 Street's continued leadership on this issue from the
14 moment he took office; nonetheless, we believe that
15 you have before you a viable alternative proposal
16 that we would urge you to support. There are three
17 reasons that we urge you to do so.

18 The first is and I hope that the need
19 has been established, and if anyone would like to
20 ask any questions about that, I would be happy to do
21 so.

22 Second, an investment in child care
23 facilities is completely consistent with the Council
24 and the administration's goals of neighborhood
25 revitalization. Child care programs do not exist in

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2 Center City. 95 percent of child care programs are
3 in our neighborhoods serving those working families.

4 Third, the funds allocated for the child
5 care health and safety fund would be matched by
6 private philanthropic dollars. It seems like a good
7 investment to spend \$5 million when you can come to
8 the table with \$5 million more. And let me state
9 that those dollars have been pledged to match the
10 City dollars and without them we don't believe that
11 they will exist.

12 I wanted to address the issue of having
13 a health and safety fund that acknowledges the
14 financial need of child care providers. We
15 appreciate the efforts of Councilwoman Blondell
16 Reynolds Brown who has fought for every dollar for
17 this and we recognize there have been efforts to
18 bring loans to these programs.

19 Let me point out that child care
20 teachers in family child care homes make less than
21 \$10,000 a year. Child care teachers earn 40 percent
22 of what their counterparts earn at every education
23 level. Only 20 percent of child care teachers have
24 health insurance. We are talking about poor people
25 in our communities who are doing a vital service and

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2 we have argued that these funds should be grants
3 because child care providers cannot afford loans,
4 and they can by raising fees to parents, which means
5 that parents can't afford quality child care
6 programs. It is a dilemma we have all been forced
7 to deal with.

8 The proposal to reallocate \$5 million
9 from the demolition fund to support the child care
10 health and safety fund we believe is a worthwhile
11 one. NTI's acquisition, demolition and property
12 acquisition policy has two goals. The first is to
13 support affordable housing development and the
14 second is for approved commercial and economic
15 development activities that create job opportunities
16 for low income individuals. Well, I can tell you
17 that child care programs do that. They are
18 commercial enterprises in our communities that are
19 at risk of deterioration, blight and closure. When
20 we invest in them, we create viable jobs for low and
21 moderate income individuals in the very communities
22 where we seek to undertake economic development.

23 The child care health and safety fund
24 will help existing unlicensed providers, especially
25 those in church-based programs, to become licensed.

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2 This will bring in additional dollars as we will
3 enable additional families to draw down state
4 subsidy so they can support families attending child
5 care and keep the costs low.

6 Finally, child care programs are an
7 unacknowledged but an important economic engine of
8 economic development. Recent economic impact
9 studies have shown that if you look at child care as
10 an industry it is often in the top five of private
11 businesses and job creators in a community. We
12 don't normally look at them as an aggregate, but
13 they provide a tremendous amount of jobs and a
14 tremendous amount of economic development, as they
15 allow parents to work.

16 There is an agreement in principle that
17 this is a good thing. There is momentum. The
18 administration, we believe the Council, and the
19 philanthropic community thinks this is a good idea
20 and this is a good time to do it. We need to seize
21 the momentum and to fulfill the promise. We fully
22 understand there are many competing priorities and
23 we have heard of several of them today. Frankly,
24 reallocating funds from the demolition portion of
25 NTI seems to be the thing that will do the least

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2 harm, the most good, and will enable Council to
3 support the important priorities that you have such
4 as affordable housing for people in the City of
5 Philadelphia, which is really necessary.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. WARD: Let me finally say is that
8 the way we view this is that the priorities that the
9 Mayor has set forth in his budget address,
10 refinancing and renovating the library, a child care
11 health and safety fund and renovations to the
12 schools in order to ensure that they are the focal
13 point of the community are priorities that we
14 continue to support and believe that this Council
15 supports as well. We believe there is a viable
16 proposal in front of you to do so and we would urge
17 you to support it. Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you very
20 much.

21 There is a question for the last
22 witness. Would you return?

23 And let me say also that we have had
24 several days of testimony and we want people -- we
25 are happy to recognize people who have not spoken

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2 before, but we do not think it is fair that at this
3 point we have people who have spoken two or three
4 times before to speak. So we say that for anyone in
5 line who has already spoken. Thank you.

6 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Good morning. I
7 don't think anyone within this Council and the
8 administration takes issue with anything that you
9 have said in terms of child care facilities being
10 businesses and being key economic development
11 components, particularly within community economic
12 development. I think the issue at hand is actually
13 the source of funding for the child care health and
14 safety fund.

15 The first proposed mechanism was the
16 library deal. Now there is a second proposed
17 mechanism because some people chose to kill the
18 library deal, but in testimony this morning there
19 was talk about private sources of funding. For the
20 record, what is the best source of funding? Would
21 you prefer public funding or would you prefer
22 private funding, particularly in light of the fact
23 that we are talking about the child care health and
24 safety fund as being a loan fund and the City by
25 charter cannot loan funds. The only thing we can do

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2 is actually invest public dollars to try to spur
3 private investment, and if we spur that private
4 investment by having reached out to a group like the
5 reinvestment fund that is willing to do the lending,
6 that is already, I believe, probably the biggest
7 child care financing entity within the City of
8 Philadelphia, as well as the biggest financier of
9 charter schools, why not choose private funding with
10 limited public resources over public funding?

11 MS. WARD: I think a couple of things,
12 Councilman Goode. First, the City has already been
13 investing about \$300,000 in this fund on an annual
14 basis, this would be, in essence, an increase of
15 that.

16 I think, secondly, the Mayor has done a
17 really good job of coming forth and saying I'm
18 willing to put \$5 million on the table and has
19 gotten commitments from --

20 COUNCILMAN GOODE: My question was the
21 use of public investment as opposed to spur private
22 investment, the use of that \$300,000 fund to spur
23 private investment in a place like the reinvestment
24 fund works. Why not let it work rather than use
25 public tax dollars over private investment?

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2 MS. WARD: The public dollars would
3 leverage the private dollars. The \$5 million --

4 COUNCILMAN GOODE: The public dollars
5 have already been spent, may have already leveraged
6 the private dollars.

7 MS. WARD: I think that they have. I
8 mean I think you're right. What this is is the
9 first step on what we hope is a reverse pyramid.
10 Those dollars, the Mayor has already gotten a
11 commitment for \$5 million from private foundations
12 to match those dollars. In addition, there's some
13 talk about the state also coming in and making some
14 contributions. Finally, it enables us to license
15 more child care programs and bring in more state
16 monies so the public dollars bring in the other
17 ones.

18 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I guess the simple
19 question is, if we can use all private funding, now
20 the library deal has been killed, now if we can
21 reach out to the reinvestment fund and replace those
22 public dollars with private dollars, isn't that the
23 best use?

24 MS. WARD: I think we can't. I think
25 the private funds are contingent on the public funds

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2 and the child care programs that can afford loans do
3 so through the reinvestment fund.

4 COUNCILMAN GOODE: You think that the
5 private funds are contingent upon the public funds?
6 How would you make that assessment? Have you talked
7 to the people who -- how would you make that
8 assessment?

9 MS. WARD: My understanding of the
10 arrangements for the child care health and safety
11 fund is that the City would create \$5 million and
12 the Mayor has gotten commitments based on that
13 commitment from private foundations to put
14 additional dollars in.

15 COUNCILMAN GOODE: So this is actually
16 the administration's commitment from the private
17 sector, which they are better prepared to speak on
18 than you are.

19 MS. WARD: Certainly.

20 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.
22 Just a moment, please. Councilman Cohen, did you
23 want to ask this witness a question, or did you want
24 to make a comment?

25 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I wanted to make a

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2 brief comment to Miss Ward. I think she presents a
3 very interesting case. I don't think she really has
4 to. I don't think she is the person or her
5 organization is the organization that has the
6 responsibility for ultimate decisions, but she has
7 assumed a burden she doesn't have to. It seems to
8 me she has a wonderful case about children, about
9 the need to give them the right kind of care which
10 private resources at the moment can't resolve and
11 she has a strong case just on the need itself and I
12 wanted to commend her for presenting it so
13 eloquently and to congratulate her on her
14 willingness to get involved in the City's finances.
15 If you can understand them, my hat is off to you
16 because after all of these years it seems to get
17 more confusing each year and I'm not sure that the
18 facts are confusing, but I think those who control
19 the facts think it is in their interest to confuse
20 the picture to eliminate any discussion about
21 whether they are right or wrong, but you go on your
22 way. You have a wonderful case, and the government
23 has a responsibility to find a way to give the
24 proper support to the children. And with your kind
25 of support and the support of the people in this

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2 room here today I think we are going to succeed.
3 Thank you very much.

4 MS. WARD: Thank you, Councilman.
5 (Applause.)

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

8 MS. SMITH: My name is Carolyn Smith and
9 I'm representing the people in the model cities
10 areas and the Cecil B. Moore areas. We have some
11 concerns about the bill that is up for affordable
12 housing. When you look at the report for City
13 Council and you see the heading, it states those
14 councilpersons that are for affordable housing and
15 those councilpersons that are not for affordable
16 housing.

17 What we have found out as residents is
18 that this is just a caption, but we do not believe
19 that Council in full is aware of some of the tactics
20 that are being used. It was determined in the
21 session yesterday that many errors have been made in
22 sending people letters for their homes to be taken
23 and in particular our councilperson, Mr. Clarke,
24 Councilman Clarke, told us in the meeting yesterday
25 that the people who had received letters in the 1800

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2 block of Master Street were received in error and
3 that they were going to be given letters indicating
4 that this was an error.

5 Now, this is what our problem is. In
6 the North Philadelphia area you have blocks of
7 totally abandoned houses and just around the corner
8 from the 1800 block of Master in the 1400 block of
9 North 17th Street the entire block is boarded up.
10 So we are saying to you that we want City Council to
11 be aware when they give these people the right to go
12 out and do this affordable housing building, that
13 they not take homes from people where they are
14 living and keeping their blocks in good shape.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. SMITH: There are only five homes in
17 our block that need to be redeveloped. Why did they
18 select that block and not go around the corner to
19 where there is a complete block of 60-some houses
20 that are boarded up?

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. SMITH: So what we are saying to
23 City Council is before you give them carte blanche
24 to go into our neighborhoods that you get someone
25 that will look into it and see to it that it is not

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2 a political move to pull us out of our neighborhoods
3 and then make it possible for someone else to come
4 and live there.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. SMITH: What we also want to say to
7 you is that a number of the people who received
8 notices, they were shoved in their doors. They
9 didn't even have a stamp on them. There are two
10 councilpersons that if you have any questions that
11 you can speak to who were here and saw what was
12 going on with the people and that is Councilman
13 Ortiz and Councilman Cohen. Councilman Kenney
14 chaired the meeting and he was frustrated with what
15 was happening to the people.

16 So we are here to beg Council today to
17 take another look at what you are giving these
18 people carte blanche to do. They are tearing up
19 people's lives.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. SMITH: There were five members of
22 my family down here who live in that block who were
23 directly affected by receiving those letters and
24 that is totally unfair. And when we got here, we
25 were here all day, Councilwoman Verna, all day.

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2 When we got here at 9 o'clock yesterday morning
3 before the Councilpeople came in, someone came in
4 and said this is not where you needed to be,
5 although the letter that we received said come to
6 room 696 at 10:00 a.m. because we are going to take
7 your house and you need to know how we are going to
8 take it. Then when we got here, they sent us
9 downstairs to someone else to speak to us and the
10 person to whom we spoke to who gave us such lousy --
11 I stood in the front and watched each person that
12 asked him a question and I saw how he straddled the
13 fence. I was sick when I came up here and found out
14 he was the man that sat at this desk and at every
15 call of every number said we want rules to be
16 suspended so that this can go through on Thursday.
17 I don't think that they should be allowed to be the
18 persons to come and talk to us. They are not going
19 to give us the right information.
20 People came down here in droves and left
21 here confused and still upset and are not sleeping.
22 So we are saying to you, especially these particular
23 councilpersons, Councilperson Jannie Blackwell,
24 Councilperson Darrell Clarke, Councilperson Donna
25 Reed Miller and Councilperson Marion Tasco, we are

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2 asking you because we believe that you know the
3 pulse of the community, to take a second look at
4 what they are doing to your people, please.

5 (Applause.)

6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you very
7 much.

8 Again, as we say, we have had many
9 people to speak. Certainly we cannot permit the
10 same witnesses to speak three times, two or three
11 times.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, that is
13 incorrect, and I think that your personal
14 differences with me have --

15 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I'm sorry. We
16 cannot permit the same people to speak. We will ask
17 the sergeant-at-arms, please, to escort the witness
18 out. We cannot have the same person speak three
19 times. It is not fair to the people who have waited
20 all day and for days and days for resolution of the
21 issue. Thank you very much.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I am not going to
23 go out. It is unfair for you to have me dismissed.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you very
25 much.

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2 Are there any other witnesses that would
3 like to speak?

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Please
5 approach the witness table.

6 MS. Smith: I think it is unfair for her
7 to not let him speak because of her personal grudge
8 against him for yesterday. I spoke yesterday. You
9 didn't stop me from speaking. I don't think it is
10 fair. You just have a personal grudge.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Please
12 identify yourself for the record and proceed with
13 your testimony.

14 MS. Hernandez: I'm here for my dad,
15 Ramon Hernandez, for the houses that have been taken
16 from 2150 Bodine Street. We say that we were
17 actually like forced because they just sent a letter
18 and like we had to just leave. The whole people
19 that were living there in the neighborhood, they
20 already had gone. We are still there trying to
21 figure out what we are going to do, waiting on
22 relocation, but we haven't had no response or
23 anything from the RDA yet or anything, but we
24 actually out. We don't have nothing in writing, no
25 numbers, nothing, just like eviction letters to

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2 leave.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Have you had
4 any communication with your councilperson? I don't
5 know who it would be.

6 MS. HERNANDEZ: Well, we had meetings
7 and things like that, but nothing in writing like,
8 you know, no further communication right now.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilwoman
10 Tasco, do you have any questions or comments of this
11 witness?

12 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Not this witness.
13 I'm sorry.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Any questions
15 or comments of this witness? Seeing none, thank
16 you.

17 MS. HERNANDEZ: Right now the string has
18 broken. We just don't have nowhere to hang on.
19 Right now the whole families from the neighborhood
20 has left. All the houses are like boarded up.
21 We're there. We are scared for our life. A lot of
22 people had came to the other houses and street
23 people come.

24 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Where did they go?

25 MS. HERNANDEZ: They went somewhere

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2 else. I don't know where they at.

3 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: The families that
4 they took out, where are they?

5 MS. HERNANDEZ: They went on their own.
6 I don't know about them. All I know is that me and
7 my father waiting still.

8 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Your father is still
9 in his house?

10 MS. HERNANDEZ: Yes. We are waiting
11 for the RDA to see --

12 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: You don't know about
13 the other families?

14 MS. HERNANDEZ: No, we are not in
15 contact like that. We're just waiting to see where
16 we are going to get relocated.

17 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: How much money did
18 they promise you, ma'am?

19 MS. HERNANDEZ: We don't know anything.
20 We don't have nothing in writing. All we know is we
21 just have letters that you have to leave in 90 days.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Mr. Wetzel,
23 I'm sure that you have information on this case. I
24 think it would behoove you to at least talk to the
25 witness.

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2 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: All of the houses
3 were in good condition?

4 MS. HERNANDEZ: Yes. Nobody in the
5 neighborhood wanted to leave, no.

6 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: But none of the
7 houses were in imminent danger of falling down?

8 MS. HERNANDEZ: Nobody never had plans
9 to leave out of there at all. It was one day they
10 just sent a letter. I guess they got scared,
11 whatever, and they thought that they had to leave.

12 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: What did they tell
13 you?

14 MS. HERNANDEZ: They said they had a
15 letter they had to leave.

16 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: But why? Why did you
17 have to leave? What did they tell you?

18 MS. HERNANDEZ: The reason they had to
19 leave is because the City was taking the property.

20 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: But why was the City
21 taking the property? Did they give you a reason why
22 the City was taking the property?

23 MS. HERNANDEZ: No.

24 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: They never told you?

25 MS. HERNANDEZ: No. I heard they was

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2 going to put trees in the neighborhood and stuff
3 like that.

4 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: They told you you
5 have to go because they are going to put trees in
6 the neighborhood?

7 MS. HERNANDEZ: They are going to make
8 the city look better, but we didn't want to leave.
9 We didn't ask to leave; you know what I mean?

10 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: What reason did they
11 give you for taking your house other than they were
12 going to put some trees?

13 MS. HERNANDEZ: They were going to make
14 other companies, commercial, factories and stuff
15 like that.

16 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: They are going to
17 what?

18 MS. HERNANDEZ: Make factories.

19 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Factories. And did
20 you and the people in your block know that they were
21 going to make factories out there?

22 MS. HERNANDEZ: I don't know what they
23 know.

24 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Did anybody tell you
25 anything?

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2 MS. HERNANDEZ: To me in my situation, I
3 think that they just read the letter and they
4 thought they needed to be forced or they were forced
5 to get out.

6 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: We keep saying that
7 this is a plan that hasn't been thought out and the
8 people have not been communicated with and we need a
9 moratorium on all of this. We just need to stop
10 taking any of the houses --

11 (Applause.)

12 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: -- anywhere. We need
13 a moratorium.

14 MS. HERNANDEZ: We actually forced
15 because we didn't see this coming. Even though it
16 is coming, it is not fair for us. We are not
17 selling. We didn't ask to move. We don't want to
18 move, but we want an option. We want relocation or
19 whatever.

20 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: In the defense
21 department Donald Rumsfeld a few months back was
22 talking about the destruction of some civil homes
23 that were not enemy participants, but he referred to
24 it as collateral damage and it seemed that there is
25 a lot of collateral damage happening throughout the

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2 city and it is because he has this program. It has
3 not been thought out.

4 Any program that makes headlines and
5 says "City Vote Vows Better Notification When Taking
6 Property," and they already are taking the property
7 and they are admitting that they haven't done it
8 correctly, I think that administration should stop
9 taking any property whatsoever --

10 (Applause.)

11 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: -- period. When you
12 have a headline like this at this late in the game
13 and they want to take thousands of properties from
14 across the city, I think this is an administration
15 that doesn't know where it is going and should stop
16 the taking.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. HERNANDEZ: I would like to know
19 what is going to happen now, now that we are out.
20 We are forced to be out. So what is going to happen
21 next?

22 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Did they tell your
23 father that they were going to give him money for
24 his property?

25 MS. HERNANDEZ: They said, yeah, but no

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2 letter, no amounts, no nothing.

3 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: They just came in and
4 said we are going to give you some money. They
5 didn't say 50,000, a hundred thousand?

6 MS. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, no letter, no
7 nothing. They said that if we don't move by the
8 time that everything will be demolished, that if he
9 stays there until the end, they will make him pay
10 rent in his own property.

11 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Say that again,
12 please.

13 MS. HERNANDEZ: If he don't leave by the
14 deadline, before the sheriff comes or whatever, like
15 if he has a certain date, let's say like tomorrow,
16 if starting tomorrow he is not out, he will have to
17 pay rent on his own property.

18 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Mr. Wetzel, you keep
19 shaking your head. Is she lying?

20 MS. HERNANDEZ: No, I'm saying the
21 truth.

22 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: You are going to tell
23 me that she is lying, that she was not told that?

24 MR. WETZEL: No. What I'm saying is we
25 have been working with Councilman Mariano's office

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2 just said?

3 MS. HERNANDEZ: We can purchase any home
4 we want if we were looking for it, but who says the
5 amount we are going to get? Where is everything in
6 writing; you know what I mean?

7 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Did you agree to
8 move? Did your father agree to move out of that
9 house?

10 MS. HERNANDEZ: We didn't agree
11 anything. We haven't signed anything. We got an
12 option. Either we stay -- we would love to stay.

13 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Obviously they wanted
14 to stay. It is being made impossible for them to
15 stay. Of course they are going to agree to
16 something. You are forcing them to agree.

17 MS. HERNANDEZ: We have to go. They say
18 you have to go. We don't want to go.

19 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: They didn't want to
20 go.

21 MS. HERNANDEZ: I am going to repeat it
22 again and again. We did not want to go, not even
23 the other parties that were living there, the other
24 residents.

25 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And it seems like

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2 none of the other people wanted to go either.

3 MS. HERNANDEZ: We did not want to go.

4 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Something is wrong.

5 Something is wrong.

6 MS. HERNANDEZ: There was a choice made

7 for us. Right now even if we are looking for

8 houses --

9 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: When did they start?

10 When do they start talking to you?

11 MS. HERNANDEZ: We have not been really

12 listening to anything. No promises, no nothing.

13 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: She is obviously

14 lying, Mr. Wetzel?

15 MS. HERNANDEZ: We know that we have to

16 go, but where? Who is going to pay to be relocated?

17 Who is going to pay for the houses? How do we know

18 that they is going to pay for the house?

19 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Now you have to go

20 because you cannot stay there, right?

21 MS. HERNANDEZ: And he is there all by

22 himself trying to fight. That's why I'm here for

23 him today because he is sick. He is sick. He can't

24 move. That's why I'm here to represent him and

25 testify for him today.

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2 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: How old is he?

3 MS. HERNANDEZ: 64.

4 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Point of
5 information.

6 MS. HERNANDEZ: They beat him up so bad.

7 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: One man, one life,
8 one family.

9 MS. HERNANDEZ: Go, go, go. Where?
10 Where is the money?

11 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: You need to rethink
12 everything that you are doing. That's all. Thank
13 you.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
15 recognizes Councilman Kenney.

16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Madam President,
17 over the last number of days this Council, its
18 Finance Committee, its Rules Committee, its
19 Committee of the Whole and now its entire Joint
20 Committee of Finance and the Whole has been through
21 along with the general public an absolute
22 disgraceful display of ineptitude and incompetence
23 and the inability to be prepared in this whole
24 movement of 20 bills spending in excess of \$295
25 million over the life of this project or this

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2 policy.

3 I just want to express my disappointment
4 and my frustration.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilman, I
6 think you deserve a little more respect than you are
7 getting. There is entirely too much noise.

8 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: This chamber has
9 been reduced to a combination of an auction house,
10 sheriff sale room or landlord/tenant complaint room.

11 We are in the process now of probably
12 sending out 20 bills on acquisitions and the
13 spending of money and all the things that we are
14 doing, taxpayer's loans and taxpayers' dollars, and
15 we are doing this in an environment of chaos. It is
16 absolutely chaotic and ridiculous and we are being
17 just run over on this situation. We are going to
18 probably do it, but, you know, you sit in here long
19 enough and you realize that this kind of policy,
20 these kind of bills, should not be discussed in this
21 environment. People should not be tortured and be
22 brought in here to wait for hours to sit and to
23 plead with us who really can't control whether or
24 not their house gets taken or not and they're
25 looking for someplace to go for relief and they

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2 can't get it here. It is just a terrible
3 circumstance that we have to deal with and there is
4 no reason in the world we should be dealing with it.
5 We should have done this, if we were going to do it,
6 spread out over a course of a year or two and deal
7 with these bills one at a time instead of 20 at a
8 time, and we have to have these people coming in
9 here, scared to death they are going to lose their
10 homes and we don't have an answer for them. It is
11 absolutely ridiculous and I want it on the record
12 because it's insane. Thank you.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

14 Councilman Goode, your light was on.

15 Did you want to be recognized?

16 COUNCILMAN GOODE: No.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

18 The Chair recognizes Councilman Cohen.

19 MS. HERNANDEZ: Can I say my last word,
20 please?

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The councilman
22 wants to be recognized.

23 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you, Madam
24 President.

25 I just wanted to add to Councilman

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2 Kenney's remarks. If people have the patience to
3 sit through this and get to our official Council
4 meeting later on today -- just when, we don't know,
5 but it will take place at some point -- on behalf of
6 Councilman Kenney, Councilman Ortiz and myself, I
7 will be introducing a resolution that calls for what
8 I think is needed, at least the first step. I will
9 be introducing a resolution on behalf of the three
10 of us, and we will see what other Council members
11 feel about it, to establish a real office of
12 homestead security, an office to protect the people
13 in their homes --

14 (Applause.)

15 COUNCILMAN COHEN: -- and a consumer
16 advocate for this specific purpose to see that
17 homeowners are protected because it seems to me that
18 more direct danger comes not from the overseas
19 terrorists, but from the people who operate the City
20 of Philadelphia and the Redevelopment Authority.

21 (Applause.)

22 COUNCILMAN COHEN: So I just want you to
23 know you taught us a lesson. We think it's
24 disgraceful that you have to come, and beyond that
25 it is disgraceful not that you have to come. You

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2 ought to come because you are interested citizens,
3 not come out of desperation that somebody is taking
4 your home away from you. That ought to be clearly
5 forbidden. And we are going to hold investigative
6 hearings if this resolution passes the City Council
7 later today to find out what happened here and to
8 see that it never happens again.

9 (Applause.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Do you want to
11 complete your testimony?

12 MS. Hernandez: I want to go home today
13 knowing peace of mind that I can sleep today in
14 peace to know that the RDD or the TNA, whatever.
15 What else is going to happen? What are they going
16 to do? I want to go home and talk to my dad and
17 reassure him that everything is okay.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Mr. Wetzel
19 will personally discuss this issue with you and he
20 is right there. He will meet you in the corridor.

21 Thank you very much. Are there any
22 other witnesses to testify? The Chair recognizes
23 Councilwoman Tasco.

24 COUNCILWOMAN Tasco: Yes. I just wanted
25 to make a comment, Madam President, regarding the

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2 testimony given by Miss Anderson, but before I
3 responded, I wanted to make sure that the
4 information that I'm going to share is correct.

5 Miss Anderson, the Logan area was
6 declared a relocation area in 1986 and admittedly
7 Miss Anderson purchased her home in 1992. Correctly
8 she stated it was very difficult for us to get
9 anyone to stop the sale of houses in the Logan area;
10 however, there have been plenty, plenty and much
11 highlighted information about the Logan sinking home
12 area.

13 All that aside, prior to our declaring
14 the urban renewal area for the Logan triangle,
15 because there is interest in developing that area,
16 and thanks to our Governor Rendell and prior Mayor
17 Rendell, we were able through Section 108 loan money
18 from the City to relocate all of the families out of
19 the Logan area. They have been out for at least
20 three years. There are about four families in that
21 community that were declared ineligible because they
22 moved in much, much later than the time that the law
23 would allow us to relocate them as eligibles. But
24 we declared the area an urban renewal area. There
25 was a public meeting in the community,

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2 well-announced, well-advertised, to discuss this
3 with the community.

4 We issued and had a hearing on the urban
5 renewal area some time ago so that we could move
6 forward with our development. As a result of
7 declaring the area urban renewal, Miss Anderson and
8 the other ineligibles are now eligible for
9 relocation of services that were given to the other
10 residents from that community.

11 So I just wanted to make it clear that
12 we are not about moving people out, but there are
13 laws and restrictions that we have to abide by. By
14 declaring the area urban renewal, she is now and
15 will be made whole. When the process moves forward
16 and we get to that point, she will now receive the
17 relocation services received by everyone else.

18 I believe people have a right to make
19 comments and to make public testimony, but I
20 certainly like to have people and appreciate honesty
21 in their testimony and this information was given to
22 Miss Anderson yesterday by Mr. Wetzel from the
23 Redevelopment Authority. I just want that clear on
24 the record, that everyone in that area has been
25 informed and she is well informed as well as a

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2 member of the board of the Logan Assistance
3 Corporation. Thank you.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you,
5 Councilwoman.

6 At this time we will take a ten-minute
7 recess.

8 MS. ANDERSON: Can I say something?

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: No. We are
10 finished with the testimony. If there is
11 anything -- excuse me. If there is anything that
12 you would like to discuss with the councilwoman
13 privately, that's your prerogative, but we are
14 finished with the public hearing.

15 We will take a ten-minute recess at this
16 point in time. Thank you.

17 (A recess was taken from 12:05 p.m. to
18 12:50 p.m.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: While we are
20 on recess, Councilman Cohen would like to recognize
21 someone who wants to make very brief remarks, and I
22 believe we only have one witness who will testify.
23 We are not going to open up the meeting again.

24 COUNCILMAN COHEN: There is a Dominican
25 family here who has a tale to tell us briefly about

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2 what happened to her as she tried to be a homeowner
3 in Philadelphia. I'm asking and the President and
4 the Chair of the finance committee have cooperated
5 in making this time available, so would Rosemary
6 Kuvás and the Dominican person who is going to
7 testify and the interpreter, if necessary, come
8 forward. I would ask that it be done in just a few
9 minutes. This testimony will be made part of the
10 testimony of the finance committee.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Again, I would
12 ask you to try to be as brief as possible because we
13 still have our Council session that we are going to
14 have to finish.

15 MS. KUVAS: I'm only here as a
16 translator at this time.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Okay. Fine.
18 (Mr. Penya gave his testimony through
19 the interpreter, Ms. Kuvás, at this time.)

20 MR. PENYA: My name is Ramon Penya, and
21 I have a grocery store at 1445 North 19th Street.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Is this the
23 same grocery store that you spoke about earlier?

24 MS. KUVAS: This is the grocery store
25 that contacted us last night.

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2 MR. PENYA: Last night a neighbor
3 brought information to me, an article that was part
4 of a press release that the Community Leadership
5 Institute put together and that's how I got the
6 number, that my house would be taken, knocked down,
7 and I had received no notice of this. My family's
8 survival depends on this business that we have, my
9 family's well-being.

10 MS. KUVAS: There are three families,
11 him, his daughter, and I suppose another child and
12 spouse.

13 MR. PENYA: Last night I had a
14 nightmare. I couldn't keep track of all of the
15 children and nephews and grandchildren but there are
16 about -- I counted about 14 people that depend on
17 this grocery store and this business. It is their
18 sole source of income.

19 I have 20 years in this country and I
20 have all of my sweat, all my efforts, all my money
21 invested in my store.

22 That's it. Thank you very much.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 (A recess was taken from 12:55 p.m. to

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2 1:15 p.m.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This concludes
4 the public hearing on the bill and two resolutions
5 that we have had before us. We will now go into our
6 public meeting and the Chair recognizes Councilman
7 Nutter.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
9 President and Madam Chair, both Chairs of the joint
10 committees. Madam Chairs, it would be helpful I
11 believe at this point if we could have Miss Smith
12 and Mr. Hanna at the table. There are proposed
13 amendments to Bill 030372 and Resolution 030306.
14 Those amendments are being distributed at this
15 moment. The City administration is putting forward
16 amendments that have been the topic of conversation
17 this morning. Councilman Clarke specifically and a
18 number of members have been engaged in a variety of
19 discussions around these issues and we believe we
20 have reached agreement for moving this process
21 forward.

22 I want to ask Miss Smith and Mr. Hanna
23 if we could go through these two amendments to lay
24 them out line by line showing where money is going,
25 showing where money is moving from, and to provide

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2 the assurance on the record that these are all net
3 increases and that the programs as laid out in the
4 budget are not being touched in any negative fashion
5 and I think it will be helpful as we move through.

6 If I can ask the two witnesses at the
7 table if we could start with proposed amendment to
8 Bill No. 030372.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Before they do
10 that, we would like to announce that other State
11 Rep, Ron Waters, is here. We thank him for coming
12 to our hearing. State Representative Ron Waters,
13 thank you. Welcome.

14 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: The context of where
15 we are is that there has been a significant amount
16 of discussion by the housing coalition regarding a
17 \$10 million amendment to the combination of NTI
18 programs, CDBG budget, and the movement of dollars
19 in the amount of \$2-1/2 million for the
20 neighborhood-based rental program, \$5 million for
21 the BSRP Tier 2 program, and \$2-1/2 million for the
22 adaptive modifications program.

23 (Applause.)

24 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Secondly, there has
25 been an expression of support for the child care

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2 health and safety fund and a proposed increase of
3 that fund of \$5 million. Those are the topics of
4 the two amendments.

5 (Applause.)

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Miss Smith and Mr.
7 Hanna, if we can start with Page 221 of the budget
8 detail, of the CDBG Year 29 plan. If you can lay
9 out where the increases are and how the numbers
10 total up, that would be helpful, Page 221 of the
11 proposed amendments to Bill 030372.

12 MR. HANNA: My name is Kevin Hanna, and
13 I serve as secretary of housing and neighborhood
14 preservation.

15 On Page 221 the first account line item
16 to be affected is under Section B, affordable rental
17 housing, neighborhood-based rental production, for
18 CDBG year 29, fiscal year 2004. That number becomes
19 \$7,648,000. That is an increase of \$2.5 million
20 from what was originally proposed. That \$2.5
21 million increase will come from decreasing the basic
22 system repair line item on a subsequent page by a
23 like amount.

24 So we are taking \$2-1/2 million from
25 basic system repair. And you have to hear me out

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2 for the entire thing because we are going to be up
3 and down, but at the end we will be where we need to
4 be.

5 We will take 2-1/2 out of CDBG funds
6 that were allocated for basic system repair and we
7 will allocate that now to the neighborhood-based
8 rental production, so that that number goes from
9 \$5,148,000 to \$7,648,000, again, a \$2.5 million.
10 And all of the totals, all of the totals follow
11 going down, going on down those respective columns,
12 both for the CDBG and the grand total.

13 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Reflecting a \$2-1/2
14 million increase?

15 MR. HANNA: Yes, correct.

16 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And we should move
17 to Page 222.

18 MR. HANNA: Going to Page 222, under
19 Section B, emergency repairs preservation and
20 weatherization, Line Item No. 3, weatherization and
21 basic system repair program, again, pursuant to what
22 I just said, \$2-1/2 million comes out of that to be
23 placed into the rental rehab program, leaving \$4.8
24 million. That \$4.8 million will also be taken out
25 of CDBG funds in addition to \$200,000 from the Line

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2 Item No. 5, the sharp senior housing repair program.
3 \$200,000 comes from the sharp program. \$4.8 million
4 comes from the weatherization. Those funds are
5 pulled out of CDBG.

6 Those two programs -- well, go back up
7 to Number 3, the weatherization and basic system
8 repair program. That program will now be funded
9 entirely with NTI bond proceeds, tax-exempt bond
10 proceeds, to the tune of \$12.3 million.

11 Going back down to Line Item No. 5 --
12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Now in the NTI
13 column as opposed to the CDBG column in the amount
14 of \$12,300,000?

15 MR. HANNA: Correct. So that that
16 \$12,300,000, when added to the 450 that is still
17 there from the state, comes to a grand total for
18 weatherization -- well, basic system repairs to a
19 grand total of \$12,750,000.

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Which is a net \$5
21 million increase in that line because the line
22 originally was \$7,750,000?

23 MR. HANNA: Right.

24 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: The sharp program,
25 the \$200,000 that you took in CDBG money, is being

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2 replaced by NTI money in the same line, separate
3 column.

4 MR. HANNA: Correct. So that the grand
5 total for that particular line of \$325,000 stays the
6 same.

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Exactly.

8 MR. HANNA: We are just taking it from
9 different pots. And, again, those totals will be
10 reflected as you go down the CDBG and the NTI
11 column.

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And the total total
13 column, right?

14 MR. HANNA: Correct.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Page 223.

16 MR. HANNA: Yeah, there was one change
17 to Page 223, but this goes back to this morning's
18 discussion.

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Exactly.

20 MR. HANNA: The adaptive modifications
21 line item which had been budgeted at \$2.5 million, 2
22 million from CDBG and \$500,000 from the state, that
23 will continue to be supplemented by an additional
24 \$2.5 million in NTI tax-exempt bond proceeds for a
25 grand total of \$5 million or net increase of \$2.5

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2 million.

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Exactly. Page 227?

4 MR. HANNA: 227. This really speaks to
5 grand totals, but before I get to these grand
6 totals, let me first tell you what the net change
7 is. Well, actually there is one other issue, the
8 child care fund that is not on this page.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: That is on Page 227.

10 MR. HANNA: There will be an additional
11 line added to this page which reads child care
12 health and safety fund. A new line item is added
13 there. A new line item is added on Page 227, which
14 reads child care health and safety fund program.
15 That program will be funded with \$5 million in CDBG
16 funds.

17 Through all of the either gyrations that
18 we just went through, we essentially freed up \$5
19 million in CDBG dollars. All 5 million of those
20 dollars all be applied to -- will be used to create
21 a new child care health and safety fund.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. HANNA: So, again, I have told
24 people this is a lot like making sausage. It's a
25 real ugly process, but what you want to look at it

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2 is the end product. The end product is the creation
3 of the child care fund of 5 million -- which will be
4 capitalized to the tune of \$5 million, a \$2-1/2
5 million increase in rental rehab, in the rental
6 rehab program, a \$5 million increase in the basic
7 system repair program, and a \$2.5 million increase
8 in adaptive modifications.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: One last item: On
10 Page 227 you will also see -- the handwriting is a
11 little small. We also had to carry down the sharp
12 home repair program, the \$200,000, which is in the
13 NTI column.

14 MR. HANNA: Right.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So the total of the
16 NTI column, the final final number, is now
17 \$121,236,000, correct?

18 MR. HANNA: Correct.

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: When the NTI FY '04
20 budget was introduced, that budget was \$106 million,
21 correct?

22 MR. HANNA: Correct.

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Then it went to
24 \$116,236,000 to reflect the \$10 million increase for
25 the affordable housing coalition recommendations on

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2 the three programs we discussed?

3 MR. HANNA: That is correct, Councilman.

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And now the final
5 total is \$121,236,000 to reflect the additional \$5
6 million for the child care health and safety fund,
7 correct?

8 MR. HANNA: That is correct.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. HANNA: If I may, Madam Chairperson,
11 I would like to add one other thing. Then I will
12 pass the mike on to Miss Smith. The administration
13 continues to be committed however to hopefully, as
14 Councilman Goode so articulately put it, find the
15 funding source from a private source as opposed to
16 using public monies. To the extent that we can find
17 private sources, those private monies will supplant
18 any public monies that are budgeted pursuant to this
19 particular budget. Thank you.

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Do you have the
21 other proposed amendment to Resolution 030306?

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Does anyone
23 have any questions or comment on the amendments?

24 The Chair recognizes Councilman Clarke.

25 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Madam President, I

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2 can hold my comments. They were not necessarily
3 specific to the amendments. I just wanted to
4 reference the process, so I can wait until Miss
5 Smith and Mr. Hanna finish their testimony.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.
7 Councilman Cohen?

8 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Madam President, I
9 would like to get a commitment that before there is
10 a substitution of private monies that Councilman
11 Nutter, who seems to have accepted the
12 responsibility on behalf of the City Council for the
13 funding arrangement, that he be consulted with
14 respect to that source to make sure there is no
15 disagreement between Council and the Mayor on the
16 source.

17 MR. HANNA: I think we can agree to
18 that.

19 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I don't think there
20 will be any problem, but I just want to make sure.

21 MR. HANNA: For the record, I think we
22 can agree to that stipulation. The administration
23 will, in fact, contact Councilman Nutter upon the
24 identification and confirmation of funds that --

25 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Is that okay with

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2 you, Councilman Nutter?

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Councilman Cohen,
4 thank you so much because I really had not planned
5 to do anything else this summer, but, Councilman
6 Cohen, I appreciate that. I'm pleased to
7 participate in any meetings or discussions. I think
8 what I would like to do is recommend that the
9 Council President and the Chair of the Finance
10 Committee be the first sources of contact in this
11 particular regard. I will be pleased to be a
12 participant in it, but I would strongly recommend
13 that the leadership be the first points of contact,
14 and if the administration would keep me abreast of
15 what's going on, I would be glad to bird-dog it.

16 MR. HANNA: We will do that then.

17 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I have no objection
18 to that, but I do think it is important that we know
19 the source of it. In the State of New Jersey
20 currently there are all sorts of investigations
21 ongoing and all kinds of problems as a result of a
22 series of billboard bills. I don't know the details
23 of them, but I would not like to see that occur
24 here.

25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I think we should

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2 have a billboard debate right now.

3 (Laughter.)

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: We should have full
5 discussion of the billboard situation.

6 Thank you, Councilman. I understand.
7 I'm only playing with you. It has been a long day.
8 Thank you. I will stay on it, Councilman.

9 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Very good.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilwoman
11 Tasco, did you want to be recognized?

12 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Yes. I just want
13 to be clear in that you will not hold up issuing
14 grants from this pot of funds waiting until you find
15 a private source. We want you to look that that
16 private source money will be found, but don't hold
17 up the grant money saying we are waiting for private
18 funding so we are not giving out any grants.

19 MR. HANNA: The only holdup, as I have
20 been informed, would be the grant contract from HUD.
21 We cannot commit the funds to anybody until we
22 actually get the grant contract from HUD because
23 these are CDBG monies. But, yes, we will not hold
24 up processing anything while we are looking for
25 private sources of funding.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
4 recognizes Councilman Nutter.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
6 Chair.

7 Mr. Hanna and Miss Smith, if there are
8 no other questions on the previous amendments to
9 Bill 030372, if we could run quickly through the
10 proposed amendment to Resolution 030306, that's the
11 NTI, five-year NTI budget, from Page 7 in the
12 program statement of budget.

13 MS. SMITH: That's correct. On Page 7
14 of the program statement of budget we are amending
15 FY '04 to reflect \$12.3 million being added to the
16 basic systems repair program, Tier 2, 2.5 million to
17 the adaptive modification program, and 200,000 to
18 the sharp home repair program, bringing the total
19 resources for FY '04 to \$121,236,450. We adjusted
20 our projections for fiscal year '07 expenditures to
21 decrease the line item of residential demolition to
22 a total of 13 million. That will make it a total of
23 \$25,900,00 in total for NTI resources in FY '07, and
24 then when we adjust the five-year budget, the total
25 amount that will be available for residential

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2 demolitions is 117 million, the total amount for
3 basic system repair program, Tier 2, 12,300,000, for
4 the adaptive modification program 2.5 million, for
5 the sharp home repair program 200,000, and that
6 still brings us with a total five-year budget of
7 \$275 million.

8 Similarly, on Page 9, which is actually
9 the detail for FY '04, under housing and
10 neighborhood preservation we are allocating 12.3
11 million for the basic system repair program, Tier 2,
12 and a description of that was attached on Page 42,
13 so the program statement would be revised to reflect
14 that; the adaptive modification program 2.5 million
15 and the sharp home repair program 200,000, again for
16 a total of bond proceeds in FY '04 of \$121,236,450.

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And all the
18 narrative pages, Pages 42, 43 and 44, have been
19 amended appropriately to reflect the numbers that
20 you just laid out in the budget detail; is that
21 correct?

22 MS. SMITH: Yes, that's correct.

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Madam Chair, I have
24 no further questions. I do want to say thank you to
25 the witnesses at the table and the administration

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2 staff that have worked so hard to make this happen
3 and also thank Mayor Street and the chief of staff,
4 Joyce Wilkerson, for their assistance in getting
5 through the morning. Thank you, Madam President.

6 (Applause.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: You're
8 welcome. The Chair recognizes Councilman Clarke.

9 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Actually, Madam
10 President, the Councilman already gave my speech,
11 but I just wanted to also thank the members of the
12 advocacy groups who continue to fight for support
13 for the individuals that they represent and I want
14 to commend you all for continuing to keep our feet
15 to the fire. You did a good job.

16 (Applause.)

17 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: And also I would
18 like to thank our colleagues for being patient today
19 until we got this worked out and hopefully we will
20 be able to get this supported and we will move on
21 about our business of finally having a Council
22 session today. Thank you, Madam President.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: At this time
24 the Chair recognizes Councilman Nutter regarding
25 Bill No. 030372.

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2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
3 Chair.

4 I move the adoption of the proposed
5 amendment to Bill 030372 as read into the record
6 which has been distributed previously.

7 (Duly seconded.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
9 moved and seconded that the amendment be adopted.
10 All in favor will signify by saying aye.

11 MEMBERS: Aye.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those opposed?
13 (No response.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The ayes have
15 it and the amendment has been adopted.

16 (Applause.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
18 again recognizes Councilman Nutter.

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
20 Chair.

21 I move that Bill No. 030372 as amended
22 be reported out of this committee with a favorable
23 recommendation, a further recommendation of the
24 rules of Council be suspended so as to permit first
25 reading at our next session.

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2 (Duly seconded.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It has been
4 moved and seconded that Bill No. 030372 be reported
5 out of committee with a favorable recommendation as
6 amended; also, a further recommendation that the
7 rules of Council be suspended so as to permit first
8 reading at our next session of Council. All in
9 favor will indicate by saying aye.

10 MEMBERS: Aye.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those opposed?
12 (No response.)

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

15 (Applause.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
17 recognizes Councilwoman Tasco regarding Resolution
18 No. 030429.

19 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you, Madam
20 President.

21 On behalf of Councilman Darrell Clarke
22 and myself, I offer amendment to the resolution
23 which adds some additional properties for
24 acquisition in the Ninth and Fifth Districts, and I
25 will note that all of these properties are vacant.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Councilwoman
3 Tasco, I believe everyone has a copy of the proposed
4 amendment.

5 COUNCILWOMAN Tasco: Madam Chair, I move
6 for the adoption of the amendment.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It has been
8 moved and seconded that the amendment be adopted.
9 All in favor will signify by saying aye.

10 MEMBERS: Aye.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those opposed?
12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The ayes have
14 it. The motion carries.

15 The Chair again recognizes Councilwoman
16 Tasco.

17 COUNCILWOMAN Tasco: Madam President, I
18 move that Resolution 030429 be voted out of
19 committee with a favorable recommendation as amended
20 and a request for suspension of the rules.

21 (Duly seconded.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It has been
23 moved and seconded that Resolution 030429 be
24 reported out of committee with a favorable
25 recommendation as amended and also a motion that the

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2 rules of Council be suspended. All those in favor
3 will signify by saying aye.

4 MEMBERS: Aye.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those opposed?

6 (No response.)

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

9 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Tasco
10 regarding Resolution No. 030306.

11 COUNCILWOMAN TESCO: Madam President, I
12 move that Resolution --

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Councilwoman,
14 there are amendments that have to be approved.

15 COUNCILWOMAN TESCO: I move that we
16 adopt the amendments of Resolution 030306.

17 (Duly seconded.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It has been
19 moved and seconded that the amendment be adopted.
20 All in favor will signify by saying aye.

21 MEMBERS: Aye.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The ayes have
25 it and the motion carries.

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2 The Chair again recognizes Councilwoman
3 Tasco.

4 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: I move that
5 Resolution 030306 be reported out of committee with
6 a favorable recommendation.

7 (Duly seconded.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
9 moved and seconded that Resolution No 030306 -- the
10 Chair recognizes Councilman Cohen.

11 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I'm asking what is
12 the substance of that resolution, very briefly.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It was the
14 resolution that was circulated and I believe that
15 Mr. Hanna -- it was the NTI resolution.

16 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: NTI resolution,
17 Councilman Cohen, that accompanies the bill that
18 Councilman Nutter amended.

19 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Okay. Very good.
20 Thank you.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: All in favor
22 will indicate by saying aye.

23 MEMBERS: Aye.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those opposed?
25 (No response.)

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The ayes have
3 it and the resolution, as amended, has been adopted.

4 (Applause.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: This concludes
6 our public meeting. Thank you all very much for
7 your patience.

8 (The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.)

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