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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3

COMMITTEE ON PARKS, RECREATION

4

AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, October 30, 2007
1:05 p.m.

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PRESENT:

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COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN, CHAIR

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COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO

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COUNCILMAN FRANK DiCICCO

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COUNCILMAN DARRELL CLARKE

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RESOLUTION 070213 - Resolution authorizing
City Council's Committee on Parks, Recreation
and Cultural Affairs to determine the
feasibility of the Department of Parks and
Recreation partnering with the Philadelphia
School Board...

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RESOLUTION 070292 - Resolution authorizing
City Council's Committee on Parks, Recreation
and Cultural Affairs to determine the
feasibility of installing surveillance cameras
in all of the recreational facilities...

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COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: The City Council Committee on Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs is now in a public hearing to hear testimony on Resolution Nos. 070213 and 070292. The Councilmembers in attendance at the beginning of this hearing are my colleague to my left, Councilman Frank Rizzo.

I will now ask the Clerk to read the title of Resolution Nos. 070213 and 070292.

THE CLERK: 070213, a resolution authorizing City Council's Committee on Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs to determine the feasibility of the Department of Parks and Recreation partnering with the Philadelphia School Board for the purpose of developing community-run recreation programs in public school facilities to be used after hours; such community-run recreation programs would be sponsored and run by the Parks and Recreation

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2 Department.

3 Resolution 070292, a resolution
4 authorizing City Council's Committee on
5 Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs to
6 determine the feasibility of installing
7 surveillance cameras in all of the
8 recreational facilities, as a means to
9 further enhance the safety of all persons
10 utilizing these facilities; and as a
11 means to fight crime and violence in
12 these facilities.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you.

14 Please, if we could have the
15 Department of Recreation to please come
16 forward.

17 Good afternoon. Please state
18 your name for the record.

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CARAPUCCI:
20 Bill Carapucci, Deputy Commissioner of
21 the Recreation Department.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Proceed
23 with any testimony, remarks you'd like to
24 offer on these resolutions.

25 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CARAPUCCI:

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2 Well, we support, Councilwoman Brown and
3 Councilman Rizzo, we support both
4 resolutions. The resolution working
5 together with the School Board, we've
6 already done that for a number of years.
7 We're probably in at least 130 school
8 gymnasiums now. We get permits or we run
9 the programs within the schools, and the
10 rec leaders at the nearby facilities
11 coordinate the activities. So we've been
12 doing that for a number of years, but
13 obviously it can be expanded even more
14 so.

15 As far as security cameras,
16 that's one of our priorities. We would
17 like to get security cameras at our
18 facilities.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And you
20 say security cameras are a priority?

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CARAPUCCI:
22 Absolutely. In fact, our Commissioner
23 has requested a grant from the
24 congressmen to hopefully get some federal
25 money to install the cameras at the

1 10/30/07 - PARKS - RES. 070213, ETC.
2 facilities.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And the
4 facilities that make the good luck list,
5 the criteria for them will be what?

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CARAPUCCI:
7 Right now it's 120 of what we call the A
8 and B centers. The A and B centers, A
9 centers are the large centers that have a
10 gym, ball field, usually a pool. The B
11 centers usually have a pool, ball fields
12 and a mid-size building.

13 We have 160 facilities, but the
14 other 40 are small. So if you have
15 limited resources, what we're trying to
16 do is at least get the top 120 facilities
17 covered with the security camera.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Councilman
19 Frank Rizzo.

20 And please let me acknowledge
21 for the record that Council colleague
22 Frank DiCicco, a member of this
23 Committee, has joined the hearing.

24 COUNCILMAN RIZZO:
25 Commissioner, in reference to Recreation

1 10/30/07 - PARKS - RES. 070213, ETC.
2 using School District facilities, could
3 you elaborate or help me recollect, was
4 there some controversy, the School
5 District wanted to be paid? Could you go
6 into that for us please for the record?

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CARAPUCCI:
8 Over the last 30 years, at least 30
9 years, every four or five years it's
10 always come up where the School Board,
11 which now I guess is the School Reform
12 Commission, would always want to get some
13 funds from our department or from the
14 City for use of the gyms, and it's always
15 been worked out by the Administrations
16 that doesn't happen, because over the
17 years, there's always been a quid pro quo
18 relationship.

19 When this first started, it
20 probably was about 40 years ago, it was
21 predominantly in the Northeast, where
22 there was an agreement -- and I'm sure it
23 was a verbal agreement -- between the
24 Commissioner at that time, the Mayor,
25 School Board that they wouldn't build A

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2 centers in the Northeast, in the far
3 Northeast, above Cottman Avenue, but they
4 would build smaller facilities with ball
5 fields, and it would be an agreement that
6 the community groups can use the school
7 gyms. Well, that concept has now spread
8 throughout the City. So we have right
9 now approximately 130 gyms that we're
10 using in all sections of the City.

11 But that's where it all began,
12 and it's most of the times community
13 oriented, community driven, and our rec
14 leaders are the conduits between the
15 school and the community groups. So that
16 was the genesis of it.

17 I've been in the Department 40
18 years. We always had school gyms. I
19 remember myself when I first started, I
20 was working at 15th and Morris in South
21 Philadelphia and I was deployed to 17th
22 and Tasker in the evenings. We had a
23 school called Child School where we used
24 to have activities in the school.

25 So this is not something new.

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2 COUNCILMAN RIZZO:

3 Commissioner, has this been resolved?

4 It's going to be difficult, in my
5 opinion, to expand a program if the issue
6 on funding or reimbursement to the School
7 District hasn't been resolved. Where are
8 we with this?

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CARAPUCCI:

10 The reimbursement has always been worked
11 out by the Mayor, whoever the mayor is.
12 It's always been worked out, because of
13 the fact that if you look at our rec
14 centers, the School Board uses our
15 facilities also. I mean, they use our
16 ball fields. They use our gyms during
17 the day, especially the last 15 years
18 with the expansion of all the charter
19 schools and the specialty schools. They
20 actually have permits to use our
21 facilities, and we don't charge.

22 So it's always been worked out
23 that they can use our tennis courts, they
24 could use our baseball fields, they could
25 use our gyms during the day, and then

1 10/30/07 - PARKS - RES. 070213, ETC.

2 what happens, in the evening we're able
3 to use their gymnasiums.

4 COUNCILMAN RIZZO:

5 Commissioner, do you think we should
6 leave well enough alone or do you think
7 this should be formalized?

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CARAPUCCI:

9 I think we should leave well enough
10 alone. We've been doing it for so many
11 years that -- I mean, I don't see a
12 problem, because it's always worked out.
13 From what I can see, from the Mayor and
14 School Board, people on that level have
15 always worked out any request for
16 reimbursement.

17 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: You would
18 think that this wouldn't pop up in the
19 media as an issue if -- I don't remember
20 exactly how this recent issue surfaced
21 again, but I know it did cause a lot of
22 controversy about the City reimbursing
23 the School District, and it was a
24 substantial amount of money, from what I
25 remember.

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2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CARAPUCCI:

3 But I can tell you, if you tried not to
4 have these school activities, there are
5 so many community groups that use these
6 gymnasiums in the evening that you would
7 really have a controversy. Because I can
8 tell you, we are in schools five nights a
9 week, sometimes even on a Saturday, and
10 there's activities going on.

11 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I guess it's
12 just because there is an expense
13 associated with it, the energy costs, et
14 cetera, even though it's a good rate, I
15 guess it's responsible for the School
16 District to basically remind everyone
17 that part of the tab is this program that
18 they're funding.

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CARAPUCCI:

20 But I think it's a great program, and you
21 would have so many groups that I'm sure
22 you're familiar with that would be
23 knocking on your door and all the other
24 Councilpeople's door, because they are in
25 our schools and they're doing worthwhile

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2 activities. And it's not just in one
3 area of the City. We have them
4 throughout the City.

5 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: What's the
6 swimming program? Is that in a rec
7 center, the swimming program up at --

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CARAPUCCI:
9 We have in the summertime, obviously, we
10 have our 75 outdoor pools, but year round
11 we have another seven pools, and a few of
12 them are in the schools, like Lincoln
13 High School in the Northeast, Sayre
14 Morris in West Philadelphia, schools like
15 that. I mean, we've had that for years.

16 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So it
17 balances out?

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CARAPUCCI:
19 Well, they're always considered part of
20 our program of our centers. Sayre Morris
21 in West Philadelphia, it's a rec center.
22 Even though it's within Sayre Junior
23 High, it's a rec center. We've been in
24 there -- that place was built in 1970.
25 So you're talking 37 years.

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2 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: What's the
3 one in Nicetown? Marcus?

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CARAPUCCI:
5 Rhodes, Marcus Foster. Marcus Foster.

6 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Big one, big
7 program there.

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CARAPUCCI:
9 Yeah. We have a great program. Our PDR
10 swim team, the one that just made the
11 movie on Pride, just came out of this. I
12 mean, this is not something new. This is
13 something we've been doing for a number
14 of years.

15 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you,
16 Commissioner.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Any other
18 questions for this witness?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: We thank
21 you very much for your testimony,
22 Mr. Carapucci.

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CARAPUCCI:
24 Thank you.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Anyone

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2 that's to testify on either one or both
3 of these resolutions?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN:

6 Administration?

7 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Madam Chair,

8 I think it might be good to hear from
9 Mr. Phillis in reference to the budget
10 for the camera surveillance since that's
11 his shop.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Not a
13 problem at all.

14 Please let the record reflect
15 also that in attendance is a member of
16 this Committee, Councilman Darrell
17 Clarke.

18 Good afternoon.

19 MR. PHILLIS: Good afternoon to
20 you, too. I'm Terry Phillis, the Chief
21 Information Officer for the City.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Please,
23 and your name?

24 MS. COOKE: Michaelle Cooke.

25 I'm the Program Manager for the

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2 Surveillance Camera Project.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Terrific.

4 We welcome any testimony you may have on
5 the first of which would be Resolution
6 070292 around surveillance cameras and
7 their use and/or need in recreation
8 facilities around the City.

9 MR. PHILLIS: Well, I think
10 that the obvious inclusion of the rec
11 centers, especially the A and B rec
12 centers, is one of value to be added into
13 and to complement the video surveillance
14 project that is already going on, which,
15 of course, addresses almost entirely the
16 public safety issues. But those A and B
17 rec centers, in talking with the
18 Commissioner, he would very much like to
19 be part of the camera selection process
20 so that we can add their funding to this
21 project to be able to adequately
22 supervise through video monitoring the
23 rec centers to protect some of the things
24 that are going on in there today and also
25 to be able to offer as part of that

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2 forensic evidence for things that go
3 wrong. So many of the people that are
4 around the rec centers when there is a
5 problem are afraid to testify.

6 This project, video
7 surveillance cameras throughout the City,
8 will provide the one witness that cannot
9 be intimidated, and for the rec center
10 supervision and prosecution against
11 people that have problems there, I think
12 this provides an excellent opportunity to
13 do that.

14 We did not include the rec
15 centers as a specific item within this
16 project. Instead it was aimed at public
17 safety in general. So from the rec
18 center standpoint, they just need to be
19 able to come in to the process and to
20 help identify their priorities in the
21 selection of cameras.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Any
23 questions?

24 Councilman Frank Rizzo.

25 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Mr. Phillis,

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2 could I suggest that somehow you look at
3 the possibility of utilizing the cameras
4 that would be used for a recreation
5 facility to also serve the perimeter of
6 the recreation facility so it could serve
7 the public that's in the facility and
8 also outside of it. And I know when we
9 have conversations, you talk about the
10 fact that the monitoring is a big issue.
11 Is there a possibility as we move forward
12 that even though the systems wouldn't be
13 monitored, at least we'd have video
14 surveillance in the event -- and the
15 ideal is to be preventive, to stop a
16 crime because of the presence of the
17 camera, but if the monitoring becomes an
18 issue, is there a way to roll it out that
19 we could at least have video surveillance
20 that could be interrogated in the event
21 something happened?

22 I mean, that's not my goal.
23 The goal is to be able to see something
24 happening and have the police or whoever
25 respond. But is there a way that we

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2 could roll a program out that would allow
3 us at least to gather information in the
4 event we need it?

5 MR. PHILLIS: That will be part
6 of the program. As the rec centers would
7 be merged into the process that we have
8 today, it means that they would be part
9 of that same process. We store all
10 images from video surveillance for a
11 period, as it's set up right now, of 15
12 days. During that 15-day period, if
13 anything had happened, you could go back
14 and you could produce a DVD that could be
15 used in court to either investigate or
16 prosecute someone who had caused a
17 problem.

18 There is a process that's been
19 put in place to continue the chain of
20 evidence so that the extraction of that
21 data will stand up in court to do that.

22 The other part of this is, the
23 solution that we have for video
24 surveillance in the City is a robust and
25 a scalable solution. So if as a city we

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2 have the opportunity to throw more money
3 into this process to be able to expand
4 the scenario that we're currently rolling
5 out, we can do that.

6 So we can expand this to
7 whatever we can afford. And the process
8 for monitoring, et cetera, is also
9 available to be modified. So, for
10 instance, if we decided that the rec
11 centers were to be monitored by their own
12 individual monitoring people, we could
13 make that change so that that could be
14 done.

15 So, again, I think we start --
16 and I always say this in the City: We
17 start with what are the requirements. If
18 you can define all of the "what"
19 questions or the requirements from an IT
20 standpoint, we can deliver a solution
21 that will meet those requirements, but we
22 need to start with what are the
23 requirements. So from a rec center
24 standpoint, if the requirement is to have
25 monitoring available at some central

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2 point or through the police dispatch
3 system or through whatever, that becomes
4 a requirement and then we set it up so it
5 works that way.

6 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Mr. Phillis,
7 one of my associates, an attorney,
8 brought something I think is a good
9 point, that 15 days is short. There
10 might be a situation where someone, a
11 defense lawyer, might need that
12 information and 15 days could pass prior
13 to that attorney being hired and look at
14 the case and then go and ask for the
15 information. Fifteen days seems a
16 little -- can't we expand that 15?

17 MR. PHILLIS: Well, we just
18 expanded it from seven to 15. So, yes,
19 we could expand it to 30, we can expand
20 it to a year. It's all a question of how
21 much money do you want to spend to save
22 the images throughout the City. It's
23 strictly a cost issue. It is not
24 anything that can't be handled. If we
25 throw more money at the storage device,

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2 we can store it for a longer period of
3 time. Because this project is rolling
4 out in a disciplined and a predictable
5 way, the storage requirements won't be an
6 issue, no matter how long we store them,
7 until near the end of the year when we
8 start to run out of space.

9 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I think it
10 would be helpful that you ask the Law
11 Department what is a reasonable -- you
12 just did it for some reason seven to 15,
13 but my colleague indicated that in some
14 cases a person that's hiring a lawyer and
15 until the lawyer gets to the point where
16 they're really knowledgeable of the case,
17 15 days could pass.

18 MR. PHILLIS: You're absolutely
19 right, and those can be changed, but I'll
20 go back to my other statement, what are
21 the requirements. The requirements that
22 we have today were derived from visiting
23 all the other places around the country
24 where they save images today, and 15 days
25 is about the average around the country

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2 for what is saved. Because once you know
3 that you have an issue, you can go in and
4 save the data. You can retrieve it at
5 that point even though you might use it
6 later. If you know you had an incident
7 at a particular rec center, you could go
8 in and capture all of that data --

9 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: You just
10 answered the question.

11 MR. PHILLIS: -- and save it.

12 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: That's a
13 practical way.

14 MR. PHILLIS: So that's why the
15 15 days is not necessarily a problem
16 unless you wouldn't know about an issue
17 until 15 days later.

18 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: But there's
19 got to be some communication between law
20 enforcement and technology people to know
21 that they need to push the button on a
22 particular day and not let that
23 information get away.

24 MR. PHILLIS: And that process
25 is being documented and built today.

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2 MS. COOKE: The police have
3 complete control.

4 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: He's shaking
5 his head that he's okay with that.

6 MR. PHILLIS: Okay. But that's
7 a great question, and those are the kind
8 of questions that we really want
9 answered, because this system is meant to
10 answer all those kind of issues, and it's
11 built in such a way that, again I repeat,
12 that it's scalable and it's robust. You
13 can make it as big and you can make it do
14 whatever it is you needed to do, and
15 that's what's different and why it took
16 us a little bit longer to get to this
17 point, because we didn't just go out to
18 RadioShack and buy a bunch of cameras to
19 hang on a pole.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: But you
21 wanted something you could manipulate
22 based on needs going forward.

23 MR. PHILLIS: Yes.

24 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: But to
25 answer my question -- I think you did,

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2 and I just want to make sure I heard
3 it -- that you could start up a video
4 program that may not be monitored but
5 would be able to -- in other words, our
6 first step, and then you could bring in
7 the monitoring after the fact --

8 MR. PHILLIS: At a later date.

9 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: -- if that
10 part wasn't resolved yet.

11 MR. PHILLIS: Absolutely.

12 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you.

13 MR. PHILLIS: Sure.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you.

15 Councilman Clarke.

16 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
17 Madam Chair.

18 Good afternoon. Real briefly,
19 our ability, the City's ability, to have
20 cameras implemented in rec centers right
21 now aren't subject to the current
22 arrangement we have with Unisys; am I
23 correct? That we can essentially go out
24 and put cameras; the only issue was
25 because they're not integrated into the

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2 ultimate system. So if we tomorrow say
3 there's a need to put cameras in
4 recreation centers to simply record or
5 either have them monitored on site
6 internally in the building, we can do
7 that tomorrow, assuming we had the
8 capital funding?

9 MR. PHILLIS: Yes. That's
10 true.

11 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: So do you
12 believe -- and I guess this is more
13 policing, and Mr. Carapucci is still
14 here -- that if there's a significant
15 need, that we may want to proceed with a
16 low-cost camera to monitor a particular
17 recreation center sooner than later?
18 Because based on earlier discussions as
19 it related to priorities, rec centers
20 weren't initially the phase one high
21 priority areas. I know I saw a map that
22 had certain areas. Is it possible for us
23 to do a relatively low-cost program at
24 recreation centers to simply record or
25 have a monitoring system in the facility

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2 so the rec leader could be able to -- and
3 I know some people like to discourage
4 because they don't like rec leaders
5 sitting in the building and not getting
6 out upon the premises.

7 MR. PHILLIS: I think we could
8 work out a solution from a technology
9 standpoint as to what would be the best
10 for the rec centers based on that kind of
11 criteria that you're talking about. If
12 we were looking for just the forensic use
13 of the stored images, we could come up
14 with a solution that would solve that
15 short-term problem, but maybe by buying
16 the right kind of equipment, it would
17 also give us the ability a little bit
18 further down the road to come back into
19 the network and go back into the ultimate
20 solution where everything is tied
21 together.

22 So at this point I wouldn't be
23 safe saying that we should go out and buy
24 a cheaper solution that might not be
25 integratable six months or a year from

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2 now. I would rather see us buy a
3 solution that at the right point we could
4 take advantage of our investment and
5 integrate it with the rest of the
6 project.

7 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Right. And
8 the reason I ask that question, because I
9 don't know what we'll ultimately end up
10 doing with the Unisys contract, but if a
11 Councilmember had money in their capital
12 budget and they said they want to put
13 cameras in a couple of facilities in
14 their district now and they could be
15 comparable to -- hopefully a little less
16 costly -- comparable to the ones that we
17 currently have at, say, Broad and Erie to
18 simply record --

19 MR. PHILLIS: The pods that we
20 put up there.

21 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Right. And
22 then have the ability to put the antenna
23 on top, because I know when we were in
24 Chicago, they had some that were --
25 initially they were recording, and then

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2 when they went to the wireless component,
3 they basically put the antenna on top of
4 the box and it was able to integrate into
5 the system.

6 So if a Councilmember said
7 tomorrow they want to get with Capital
8 Programs and you guys and Recreation and
9 say, I'd like to have a camera at a
10 facility, understanding that that camera
11 could ultimately be integrated into the
12 full-blown system, would that be
13 something that we can do, or could you
14 give me a scenario where --

15 MR. PHILLIS: I think we could
16 probably write up several scenarios that
17 would cover those kind of situations
18 where you could have a barebones minimum
19 that would meet just the initial issue
20 for that rec center and not have any
21 means of ever integrating to anything. A
22 second scenario that would be probably a
23 little bit more expensive that would do
24 an interim recording on a local basis,
25 but eventually you could remove the local

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2 recording and tie it into the network
3 that would bring it all back to the same
4 solution.

5 We could probably develop two
6 or three different scenarios that would
7 have different price tags with them and
8 different expectations, and we can work
9 with the Recs Department to do that.

10 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: The reason
11 I ask that question, because my
12 understanding, the initial cut at 250
13 will be done within a year, and there's a
14 likelihood that a number of
15 Councilmembers would like to have a
16 facility monitored prior to that 250
17 being implemented like, say, for
18 instance, the start of the season, March,
19 April, and if I had money in my capital
20 budget, I may want to have a camera put
21 at 26th and Master, as an example. We
22 had a significant violent incident where
23 three people got shot this summer. I
24 would like to think that there's a
25 possibility that we can do that in the

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2 interim, understanding that that camera
3 eventually can be integrated into the
4 broader system. So if you can just kind
5 of lay out something like that.

6 MR. PHILLIS: Sure.

7 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: A
8 guesstimate in terms of cost.

9 MR. PHILLIS: I think we would
10 be more than happy to participate and
11 come up with a technology solution that
12 would meet those kind of requirements.

13 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Okay.
14 Thank you.

15 Thank you.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Councilman
17 Frank Rizzo.

18 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: It's
19 interesting, Councilman Clarke just
20 mentioned 26th and Master, and I think we
21 have a City facility there, our police
22 garage. Part of our policy, maybe it
23 wouldn't be a bad idea to have some of
24 our police and fire stations be protected
25 by video surveillance.

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2 MR. PHILLIS: Again, from an IT
3 standpoint, we're not making those
4 decisions. The decisions for where the
5 cameras go is being made through the
6 Managing Director and the Police
7 Department as to where the best
8 opportunities to provide value by having
9 cameras is. We facilitate getting it
10 done, but I'm not physically making those
11 choices.

12 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I believe I
13 just saw on the national news where a
14 camera that was stationed at a particular
15 location captured all the information of
16 an attempted terrorist attack. So the
17 natural thing is, in my opinion, the
18 policymakers at Police and Fire, if
19 they're listening, should consider that
20 the public facilities be considered for
21 monitoring. I know there's other
22 high-crime areas that people will say
23 should be done first, but long term.

24 And that leads me to the
25 question. Since we started to talk about

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2 Philadelphia Wireless, I've read article
3 after article about the next generation
4 of WiFi. This is very basic when you
5 talk about putting a camera on a pole and
6 capturing images. Where are we heading
7 from here? In other words, what is on
8 this drawing board that you could put a
9 camera on the new Comcast tower and that
10 one or four or five cameras could monitor
11 an entire city like they're talking about
12 WiFi? This new blast of a signal will
13 eliminate all these little antennas.
14 What's the next generation? What's a
15 decade from now for doing what we're
16 doing today in this very basic, in my
17 opinion, way?

18 MR. PHILLIS: This is more
19 about wireless now. I think the future
20 of wireless is still in front of us. I
21 think that where the City is at with
22 Wireless Philadelphia, for instance, is
23 probably farther ahead than the
24 technology was when the cable company and
25 the telephone companies first started

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2 their DSL and their cable modem service.
3 For instance, if you go back into the
4 days of Comcast or Verizon when they
5 first brought those service offerings
6 out, there were a lot of issues with
7 that. They would make up to five truck
8 rolls per customer at \$100 a year. But
9 those were the early days of developing
10 that technology.

11 So when you talk about Wireless
12 Philadelphia, it's a WiFi program with a
13 mesh network. It's not perfect yet.
14 It's still in some growing pains. The
15 technology is advancing. I don't think
16 maybe we've advertised that enough, that
17 this is still in an early adopter kind of
18 a way.

19 But you mention the WiMAX as an
20 opportunity. WiMAX has not been
21 developed as to the same standards that
22 WiFi has. So the future of WiMAX is less
23 certain than the future of WiFi right
24 now. But I think that WiMAX will become
25 in the future what WiFi is today, but it

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2 has a way to go to get there. I don't
3 think there's any question that wireless
4 will play a very large part in the future
5 of the City and in the future of
6 technology as to how we reach 135 square
7 miles in the City.

8 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: All right.
9 That's wireless. Tell me about where do
10 you think we go from here with the way
11 we're doing video surveillance.

12 MR. PHILLIS: I think the way
13 we're going with video surveillance
14 today, I would be very surprised if in
15 the near future we don't see the extreme
16 benefit of having these cameras be able
17 to relate to the reduction in crime that
18 the police have talked about and be able
19 to get more investments so that we're not
20 sitting here talking about 250 cameras,
21 instead we're talking about a thousand
22 cameras, and we begin to offer the right
23 kind of protection for the citizens of
24 this City. And I think that's very --
25 that's the very near future. I think

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2 that we're just on the first step of that
3 technology being used in the City.

4 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: But my point
5 again is, you talk about a thousand
6 cameras. What is out there to replace a
7 thousand cameras?

8 MR. PHILLIS: I don't know that
9 I have an answer for that.

10 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: That's fair
11 enough.

12 Thank you, Madam Chair.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Anyone
14 else to testify on Resolutions 070213 or
15 070292?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: We thank
18 you for your testimony.

19 MR. PHILLIS: Thank you.

20 MS. COOKE: Thank you.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: It appears
22 then that that concludes testimony at
23 present on Resolutions 070213 and 070292.
24 This concludes our public hearing on the
25 Committee on Parks, Recreation and

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2 Cultural Affairs, and we will reconvene
3 at the call of the Chair.

4 Thank you very much.

5 (Committee on Parks, Recreation
6 and Cultural Affairs adjourned at 1:35
7 p.m.)

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