

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, April 15, 2015
10:35 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT DARRELL L. CLARKE
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL
COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM K. GREENLEE
COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILMAN ED NEILSON
COUNCILMAN DENNIS O'BRIEN
COUNCILMAN DAVID OH
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA
COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO

BILLS 150162, 150163, and 150164
RESOLUTION 150179

- - -

1
2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
3 morning. Thank you. I apologize for my
4 tardiness.

5 This is a public hearing of the
6 Committee of the Whole regarding Bills
7 No. 150162, 150163, 150164, and
8 Resolution No. 150179.

9 Ms. Lewis, please read the
10 titles of the bills and resolution.

11 MS. LEWIS: Bill No. 150162, an
12 ordinance to adopt a Capital Program for
13 the six Fiscal Years 2016 through 2021
14 inclusive.

15 Bill No. 150163, an ordinance
16 to adopt a Fiscal 2016 Capital Budget.

17 Bill No. 150164, an ordinance
18 adopting the Operating Budget for Fiscal
19 Year 2016.

20 And Resolution No. 150179,
21 providing for the approval by the Council
22 of the City of Philadelphia of a Revised
23 Five Year Financial Plan for the City of
24 Philadelphia covering Fiscal Years 2016
25 through 2020, and incorporating proposed

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 changes with respect to Fiscal Year 2015,
3 which is to be submitted by the Mayor to
4 the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental
5 Cooperation Authority (the "Authority")
6 pursuant to the Intergovernmental
7 Cooperation Agreement authorized by an
8 ordinance of this Council approved by the
9 Mayor on January 3rd, 1992 (Bill No.
10 1563-A) by and between the City and the
11 Authority.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

13 Thank you.

14 Today we continue the public
15 hearing of the Committee of the Whole to
16 consider various bills read by the Clerk
17 that constitute proposed operating and
18 capital spending measures for Fiscal
19 2016, a Capital Program and a
20 forward-looking Capital Plan for Fiscal
21 2016 through Fiscal 2021.

22 Today we will hear testimony
23 from the following departments: Police,
24 Fire, and Prisons.

25 I see our first witnesses are

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 at the table. Good morning.

3 (Good morning.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

5 Please proceed.

6 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Thank
7 you, Mr. President.

8 Good morning, Council President
9 Clarke and distinguished members of City
10 Council. On behalf of the Philadelphia
11 Police Department, I want to thank you
12 for this opportunity to discuss the
13 status of policing in Philadelphia.
14 Joining me today is First Deputy
15 Commissioner Richard Ross and Deputy
16 Commissioner Christine Coulter.

17 I'd like to take a few minutes
18 to highlight the accomplishments of the
19 men and women of the Philadelphia Police
20 Department and our partners. I'm very
21 proud of what they have done, are doing,
22 and will do in the coming months. This
23 Police Department is one of the best in
24 the country. First, let me comment on
25 our Fiscal Year 2016 budget request.

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2 Philadelphia Police

3 Department's Fiscal Year 2016 total

4 operating budget request is \$685,450,484.

5 The proposed FY16 budget funds a sworn

6 head count of 6,525 and current civilian

7 positions. There is a significant

8 increase in other operating funds,

9 largely due to wage increases from the

10 contract awarded to the Fraternal Order

11 of Police.

12 The Philadelphia Police

13 Department continues to make progress in

14 preventing crime. So far in Calendar

15 Year '15, we continue to see fewer

16 shootings and fewer homicides. Part I

17 violent crimes overall have declined by 7

18 percent in Calendar Year '15; that is, as

19 of today, April 15th, compared to the

20 same period in 2014. Part I violent

21 crimes include homicides, sexual assault,

22 robbery, and aggravated assault. And

23 here are some numbers comparing April

24 15th of this calendar year with the same

25 date last year: Homicides are down 4.5

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2 percent; the number of shooting victims
3 down 8 percent; number of rapes dropped
4 by 6 percent; robbery down 8 percent;
5 aggravated assault 6.6 percent. Part I
6 violent crime has dropped a total of 7
7 percent. Burglaries are down 10 percent.
8 Vehicle thefts dropped 3 percent. The
9 only major category of crime showing an
10 increase is theft, and that is up 1.4
11 percent. We have approximately 120 more
12 thefts reported this year than last year
13 at this time.

14 And as a reminder, these
15 reductions are on top of historic crime
16 drops in Calendar Year '13 and '14. In
17 fact, homicides have dropped 37 percent
18 between 2007 and 2014. This represents
19 143 fewer people being killed.

20 Similarly, the number of
21 shooting victims was down 34 percent from
22 2007 to 2014 and represents 550 fewer
23 victims. There were 14,223 fewer
24 incidents of serious Part I crime in 2014
25 than in 2007. This is substantial

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2 progress, and it's being maintained.

3 However, safety cannot come at
4 a cost of constitutional rights or a lack
5 of trust between police and community.

6 And I want to close my testimony by
7 addressing police-community relations in
8 Philadelphia and the Department of
9 Justice recommendations in reference to
10 the use of force.

11 The Philadelphia Police
12 Department is committed to improving
13 relationships within our communities and
14 increasing the level of trust between
15 police and the community. When I came to
16 Philadelphia in 2008, I began
17 implementing a community policing
18 neighborhood-based policing strategy,
19 which I believe contributed to our crime
20 reduction. Much has been accomplished,
21 and much work is left to be done by the
22 Philadelphia Police Department and the
23 communities we serve.

24 My written testimony details
25 the actions we are taking to create

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 opportunities where police and community
3 can come together to work and discuss
4 issues. Our department recognizes that
5 community members want their voices heard
6 and their concerns acknowledged. Our
7 department supports and looks forward to
8 working with the new Community Oversight
9 Board for the implementation of the
10 Presidential Task Force and Department of
11 Justice recommendations and will work
12 with the PAC in accomplishing their
13 mission. PPD is committed to listening
14 and adjusting, where possible, policies
15 and procedures based on community input.

16 Finally, this has been a
17 productive year, and I'm proud of the
18 work of the men and women of the
19 Philadelphia Police Department. Their
20 efforts are moving the Police Department
21 to the forefront of policing and making
22 Philadelphia a safer city. I expect that
23 this level of effort and innovation will
24 continue throughout Fiscal Year 2015.

25 Thank you for your time and

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 attention. Again, I'm joined by First
3 Deputy Commissioner Rich Ross to my right
4 and Deputy Commissioner Christine Coulter
5 to my left. We also have other members
6 of the command staff that, depending on
7 the nature of the questions, may be
8 called upon to come up and provide some
9 information to members of the Council.

10 Thank you very much again for
11 this opportunity, and we are available to
12 answer any questions that you may have.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

14 Thank you very much, Commissioner.

15 Commissioner, can you just
16 state your name for the record.

17 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Charles
18 H. Ramsey, Police Commissioner,
19 Philadelphia Police Department.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

21 Thank you very much.

22 Commissioner, you just
23 referenced in your testimony this whole
24 issue with respect to community relations
25 and you engaging in that on the onset.

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2 Can you talk about or what metrics do you
3 use to track whether or not these
4 programs are working?

5 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: The
6 community policing in general or just the
7 general attitudes of citizens toward
8 police?

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: In
10 general. I mean, it's difficult to
11 determine what a person is feeling, but
12 when we implement various things -- and
13 this is probably one of the more
14 difficult to determine whether or not
15 it's working. I guess there are ways
16 that you can -- people verbally talk
17 about the great things you're doing, but
18 is there a way you can get a sense of --

19 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Yes, sir.
20 Citizen satisfaction surveys are probably
21 the most accurate way of doing it, where
22 you can actually break it down by
23 neighborhood, because opinions can vary.
24 A city our size and different
25 neighborhoods we have, it can go from

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2 very high ratings to very low ratings,
3 and we need to be able to know which ones
4 we have the most tension, we have the
5 most challenges. I think by instinct you
6 kind of know where that may be, but it's
7 good to have that survey, because then
8 you've got something that you can then
9 compare year to year and whether or not
10 you're making any real progress.

11 One of the issues that we did
12 address in the Presidential Task Force
13 was this idea of how do you know not only
14 which strategies are working but the
15 impact it has, and I'll give you an
16 example. There's been a lot of research
17 done by various universities, including
18 universities here in Philadelphia, that
19 measure the effectiveness of a particular
20 policing strategy. Hotspot policing, for
21 an example, would be one. Our foot
22 patrol would be another, where we
23 actually work with, in most instances,
24 Temple to really give us an evaluation.
25 But what's missing is a followup to find

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2 out what impact did it have on the
3 community at large. In other words, what
4 collateral damage may have been caused by
5 a particular policing strategy. And I
6 think as a profession across the country,
7 that's where we have actually failed,
8 because we don't have that kind of
9 information, but we are looking now to
10 get the kind of research we need so that
11 we know that a particular strategy may
12 have worked in reducing crime, but what
13 good is it if you've alienated a large
14 part of the community, law-abiding
15 community in the process. So we need to
16 know so that we understand not only the
17 strategy and how effective, but what are
18 some of the potential consequences, and
19 then you can go in early on and work with
20 that community so you minimize any of
21 that negative impact. And that's
22 something now that departments across the
23 country, including ours, are working
24 toward, so we have a better assessment.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

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2 Thank you.

3 Who actually conducts the
4 surveys? Is there a
5 particular organization?

6 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well, the
7 best way is to do it through one of the
8 universities, would be the best way, and
9 then it's objective, impartial. And they
10 know how to do it. We do have the
11 capability internally to be able to do
12 something like that, but working through
13 Temple or one of the other institutions
14 would be the best way, in my opinion, of
15 doing it.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Who
17 do you have?

18 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: We work
19 with Dr. Jerry Ratcliffe and
20 Dr. Elizabeth Goff --

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
22 We're using Temple now?

23 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: -- quite
24 a bit at Temple for the majority of our
25 projects.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Okay. There's been a substantial amount
4 of attention given to the demographics of
5 the police force, not only here but
6 across the country, and there's been
7 obviously conversations among members,
8 people in general just about the makeup
9 of the Philadelphia police force, and
10 what I'd like to know -- I don't know if
11 you have the specifics. I'm assuming
12 because I did see something in the paper
13 about the demographic, racial
14 demographic, of the current Philadelphia
15 police force.

16 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Right.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And
18 what I'd like to see -- and you may not
19 have this with you -- is the demographics
20 of the classes over the last four years,
21 the recruitment for the Philadelphia
22 Police Department.

23 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Yes, sir.

24 I can provide you with the exact
25 breakdown. In fact, we did it a couple

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2 ways. We changed the standards about
3 three years ago for entry into the
4 Department, requiring 60 semester hours
5 now of college work, but we also made
6 some other adjustments. At one point you
7 had to have a license before you came on.
8 Now we recalled that, because reality is
9 some young people aren't able to get
10 licenses because of insurance costs and
11 things of that nature. So we no longer
12 require that, and also the age is now 20
13 as opposed to 21.

14 So what we did was, we did
15 break down before and after in terms of
16 diversity to see what impact the new
17 standards are having, and we can send
18 that to you. I do have -- and I can have
19 Deputy Coulter give you the numbers, but
20 also send you a copy.

21 Thirty-three percent of our
22 force currently is African American,
23 about 8 percent Hispanic, 57 percent
24 Caucasian, Asian is right at 1 percent.
25 When you look at the new hires, those

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2 numbers in terms of -- African Americans
3 in particular is lower.

4 Now, I have personally gone out
5 to colleges and universities, trying to
6 get interest in joining the Police
7 Department, some of our institutions here
8 in Philadelphia, but also the
9 historically black colleges. I've
10 attended seminars there where we're
11 trying to recruit. So we're taking a
12 look at that to see what impact that's
13 having.

14 It's also not just standards.
15 It's also the current environment that
16 we're in right now in policing is not all
17 that positive. I mean, there's not a day
18 goes by you don't see something negative
19 about what's occurring in policing
20 somewhere in the country. That has an
21 impact on young people too, because they
22 see that and then in many cases -- and a
23 lot of opportunities are there. Many
24 want to get into technology fields and
25 various other things. So, you know,

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2 trying to go after that population of
3 people that probably would not have
4 thought about law enforcement because
5 they have no family members necessarily
6 as part of it is a population we have to
7 attract.

8 We also just hired a person
9 with recruiting experience. This is a
10 person that came out of the military that
11 became a non-commissioned officer while
12 in the military, spent more than ten
13 years doing nothing but recruiting and
14 has a great deal of expertise in that
15 area, civilian employee, so that we can
16 have more expertise in terms of how you
17 recruit, how do you target certain
18 populations and go after them to get them
19 interested in the profession. And that's
20 not something just anybody can do. So we
21 hired somebody to do that.

22 We also are looking at
23 marketing and how do you reach
24 populations of people specifically so
25 that we can increase the diversity in the

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2 Department, because it is a work in
3 progress.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

5 Right. I actually had a conversation a
6 couple of days ago with young African
7 Americans and, I mean, there were two
8 things that came out of that
9 conversation, minimum two things. One
10 was -- and you kind of referenced that --
11 young African Americans, particularly in
12 today's environment, that has a degree is
13 probably going to look to do something
14 else and not become a police officer
15 given the realities or the perception of
16 people as it relates to the police force
17 versus minorities.

18 The other thing, I wanted to
19 ask you about something that -- we may
20 have actually passed this ordinance prior
21 to you. I don't know if it was an
22 ordinance or was a regulation -- that
23 allowed non-Philadelphians to apply for
24 the police force. I can't remember if it
25 was legislation or regulation. Did that

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2 have some impact as it relates to

3 increasing the level of non-minority

4 applicants; therefore, creating a --

5 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well,

6 that was passed during my tenure here.

7 It has enhanced -- it has increased the

8 applicant pool overall in terms of

9 number. It has not enhanced in terms of

10 number of minorities. But I don't know

11 how much difference that would make,

12 because we're still pulling from the same

13 pool of people in terms of City residents

14 and so forth that apply. We're taking

15 people off an entire list. It's not like

16 people are being left hanging, because we

17 are 213 people down from our budgeted

18 strength right now. So we're literally

19 taking everybody off a list that meets

20 the qualifications.

21 We lose a lot during the

22 screening in terms of their reading test.

23 We lose an awful lot in terms of the

24 fitness test, which is mandated by the

25 state. It has to be done up front. It

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2 can't be done toward the middle or end of
3 training. Polygraph is certainly one
4 area too where a few people drop out. We
5 have lessened the drug policy that we had
6 before, particularly as it relates to
7 marijuana usage, to make it more in line
8 with today's world and reality.

9 So we're doing what we can, but
10 we're going to continue to monitor that
11 very, very closely so that we don't fall
12 behind in terms of our numbers.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
14 Okay. All right. If you can forward the
15 information that I requested initially --

16 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: We will.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: --
18 that will be very helpful to me. Thank
19 you.

20 The Chair recognizes Councilman
21 Greenlee.

22 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
23 you, Mr. President.

24 Good morning, everyone.

25 (Good morning.)

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2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I know
3 the issue of cameras come up a lot, and I
4 was wondering have -- the cameras that
5 are actually operated by the City or by
6 the Department, have they increased? And
7 I know there was concern a lot expressed
8 before that they're not -- a lot of them
9 are not working. Has there been work
10 done on that?

11 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well, we
12 have 250 City cameras. Ninety-three
13 percent are operational.

14 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: How much?
15 I'm sorry.

16 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY:
17 Ninety-three percent. OIT is constantly
18 working to keep them up and running, but
19 we do have 250. We have access total to
20 almost 4,000 cameras. That's a
21 combination -- that's SEPTA, some of the
22 universities, and other entities that
23 have allowed us to have access when
24 needed.

25 So we continue to monitor that

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2 and make sure we have cameras in the
3 right locations where they can do us some
4 good. We also get an awful lot of video,
5 just as an aside, from stores and so
6 forth when crimes are committed that's
7 been very, very helpful, and we're very
8 aggressive in putting these videos out on
9 YouTube. Our recent numbers show 7.5
10 million views on YouTube of the various
11 camera footage that we've put out around
12 various crimes in our City.

13 So I'm a big believer in
14 cameras, and so we'll continue to do what
15 we can do to have as many as we can in
16 the areas that will do us the most good.

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And I've
18 seen -- obviously we all see it on TV how
19 the camera oftentimes helps in many
20 issues.

21 With the warmer weather that
22 finally I think is coming, I know
23 sometimes that presents different
24 challenges. How much does the Police
25 change some of their patrol policies or

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2 whatever? I'm particularly thinking with
3 bicycle police, that kind of thing in the
4 warmer weather.

5 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: We do,
6 sir. That's a good question. I'm going
7 to turn it over to First Deputy Ross to
8 talk more about how we do that, but we
9 pay a lot of attention to our -- not
10 just, for example, what's happening in
11 April, but we're already anticipating
12 May, June, and as we roll into the summer
13 months and how we need to make
14 adjustments both in terms of deployment,
15 kinds of strategies we use and so forth.
16 So I'll let the First Deputy talk more
17 specifically about some of the strategies
18 that we use.

19 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
20 you.

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ROSS: Good
22 morning. Deputy Commissioner Ross.

23 One of the things that we do --
24 first of all, with regard to your
25 question about bicycle officers or bike

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 officers, generally speaking, unless it's
3 snow, they sign up for that duty, then
4 they ride. That's the way it is, with
5 some few exceptions. But by and large, I
6 mean, we use numbers and statistics to
7 our advantage as much as possible. So
8 we're constantly following the trends.

9 There are districts where we
10 know that they trend at certain times
11 during the year. For example, there are
12 parts of the 22nd District where we know,
13 generally speaking, in the beginning of
14 the year that tend to be slower, and so
15 we will augment other places with foot
16 beats during those times and we will then
17 come back, for example, to the 22nd
18 District or other districts like that.

19 But when you follow the trends,
20 when you follow the stats, generally
21 speaking, they don't let you down.
22 Obviously you have your anomalies, but
23 for the most part, we are very much in
24 tune with how crime flows in Philadelphia
25 and we do make adjustments accordingly.

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2 We use our citywide forces largely to
3 supplement some of those issues that
4 you're alluding to, and so we're able to
5 do that.

6 With regard to the districts
7 themselves, I mean, they're out there.
8 They're 24/7, but most of the adaptations
9 or adjustments are made according or with
10 the citywide units, but we do that,
11 absolutely.

12 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

13 Thank you.

14 And, Commissioner, I know we
15 talked a little bit before, and I thought
16 it was interesting one of the things you
17 mentioned with the success you've had in
18 dealing with the flash mob issue, and
19 particularly I thought it would be good
20 to put on record the support you've had
21 from parents to intercept, if you will,
22 or hear about some things that are going
23 on.

24 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well, we
25 have had -- and if there's some wood

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2 around, I'd better knock on it, because
3 we haven't even started the summer yet
4 when you're talking about some of this
5 stuff. But we have had compared to two,
6 three years ago when we had a tremendous
7 problem with flash mobs -- and we've done
8 a lot in terms of tracking some of the
9 social media and conflicts with kids and
10 where they might tend to gather and these
11 kinds of things, but we also have gotten
12 phone calls from parents who have been
13 informed by their kid that there's a plan
14 to do something at a given location,
15 whether it's Gallery or wherever it might
16 be, and then we can then deploy people in
17 advance so that when they see that
18 presence out there, then they're not
19 likely to engage in that kind of
20 behavior. So kudos to the parents and
21 others that really become aware of this
22 sort of thing. And it's not that their
23 child was going to be aware. It usually
24 is the kid knows and says, Whoa, we don't
25 need to be doing this kind of stuff, and

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2 it's just good to know that people really
3 understand and take that kind of action
4 to avoid having problems.

5 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: That's
6 very interesting. Okay. Thank you.
7 Thank you all very much.

8 Thank you, Mr. President.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
10 Thank you, Councilman.
11 The Chair recognizes Councilman
12 Jones.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
14 Mr. President.

15 It seems like every year we are
16 offering condolences to you and your
17 department for the loss of an officer,
18 most recently Officer Wilson, and it
19 juxtaposes that even though we have to
20 look at policing and community-oriented
21 policing, we also have a corresponding
22 responsibility to make sure that officers
23 return to their families after the
24 completion of a shift, and we don't want
25 to ever let you down in this body by not

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2 giving you what you need. So this budget
3 process is also balanced by the fact that
4 we know that although you protect and
5 serve, we need to protect and serve you
6 as well. And I wanted to say thank you
7 for your service and sorry for your
8 losses continually.

9 And I wanted to also say some
10 things that from year to year sometimes
11 we get frustrated in these Chambers,
12 because we'll say something, it goes
13 unacted upon, and year after year we come
14 back with, Oh, that's a great idea,
15 Councilman, so-and-so, such-and-such and
16 we'll get back to you. That is not the
17 case with your department. We mention
18 and ask about the recruiting issue and
19 the disparity of not having the minority
20 officers and we sat down with you and
21 your staff, and you came up with
22 practical responses to it, whether it is,
23 as you mentioned, going to historically
24 black colleges and universities and
25 recruiting, but also the Explorers

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2 Program.

3 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Yes.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: Which you
5 said you would do. You came back and
6 did. It is in the -- it's not in the
7 high schools, but we compromised. It's
8 in the police precincts, particularly the
9 one in the 19th Precinct. I had an
10 opportunity to see the young people going
11 into training. And maybe some of them
12 won't go into the force, but some of them
13 will matriculate into that force.

14 So I wanted to thank you
15 publicly for at least listening to us,
16 hearing us, and actually acting on it.

17 And it doesn't get much better
18 than that, Mr. President, and I wanted to
19 say that publicly on the record.

20 In addition, you guys in the
21 19th District came out and we have
22 interaction with the community. We had a
23 basketball tournament. Your police took
24 on the tough duty of being referees.
25 They got yelled at by everybody and took

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2 it on the chin and really did that. So
3 for those young people, it wasn't the
4 first time of having police interaction
5 in a negative way. They had police
6 interaction in a positive way. So I
7 wanted to cite those facts and thank you
8 for them. And now I'll segue into my
9 questions, but I really wanted you to
10 know that.

11 When it comes to that Explorers
12 Program, can you tell us for the record
13 how it's going, where you're going with
14 it, and what the results have been.

15 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well,
16 first of all, thank you for your opening
17 comment, and I'm sure that Officer
18 Wilson's family appreciates it as well.
19 It has been a tough time for all of us in
20 our business.

21 One of the things I didn't
22 mention, Mr. President, when you asked
23 early on about the issue of diversity is
24 the Explorer Program. It had been
25 centralized. We are in the process of

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 decentralizing it so that each district
3 has its own Explorer post, and one of the
4 waivers we have to the 60-hour
5 requirement is if you spend two years as
6 a Police Explorer. So I think that's
7 going to help us in the future with a lot
8 of our kids from these neighborhoods.
9 They can't get all the way up on State
10 Road, which, by the way, soon would
11 become Woodhaven, because the Academy is
12 moving, which will make it even more
13 difficult for many of our kids to get to.
14 But by having it in the districts, I
15 think we're going to be able to be far
16 more effective in getting interest from
17 young people.

18 It's moving along. I mean, I'm
19 hoping that by the end of the year, we're
20 able to see in each district a nice group
21 of young people that are going to be able
22 to join the Explorers.

23 One of the issues that we're
24 going to have to deal with and we're
25 going to work with our foundation, some

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2 kids can't afford uniforms, things of
3 that nature. Some kids, quite frankly --
4 and Deputy Commissioner Bethel, who now
5 is in charge of patrol and I put that
6 under him to make it lock in more with
7 the districts, was even talking about
8 youngsters that may not be able to become
9 police officers because of some perhaps
10 disability or something else. But it
11 shouldn't stop them from being a Police
12 Explorer. They should still be able to
13 participate. So it's not just about
14 recruiting onto the job. It's also about
15 just building relationships.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Whatever I
17 can do -- and I don't speak for my other
18 colleagues, but I'm sure I can reflect
19 their sentiments. Whatever we can do to
20 raise money for uniforms or whatever, I
21 personally want to do that.

22 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: I
23 appreciate it.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Just a quick
25 question to transition. By way of -- no.

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2 You know what? I'm going to wait because
3 it's -- I'll wait. All right.

4 Thank you, Mr. President.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Thank you, Councilman.

7 The Chair recognizes
8 Councilwoman Blackwell.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
10 you very much.

11 Good morning, Commissioner and
12 all our Deputies.

13 (Good morning.)

14 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Good
15 morning. I first want to thank you and
16 those sitting behind you behind the gate
17 for all that you do. I know we call
18 daily and there are always issues, and
19 we're very, very, very grateful.

20 I want to also commend you on
21 this program that allows youngsters who
22 don't have big problems to have their
23 records expunged while they're young.
24 That is so positive and the most creative
25 program.

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2 And I will say with regard to
3 the School District, the two issues that
4 concern me are whether or not you think
5 we have enough probation or parole
6 officers in schools. I know they're in
7 those that have the most crime. Do you
8 think that's adequate?

9 And, number two, I've been
10 concerned that -- the Safe Corridors
11 Program is a real good safety mechanism,
12 in my opinion, and when I went to a
13 program in my district at Sayre School
14 and there was nobody there, they told me
15 that the School District had cut the
16 funding. So I thought that we should
17 mention that to them when they come up
18 for budget, but wanted to know your
19 opinion on those two issues.

20 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well,
21 first -- and you said probation, but I
22 assume you meant police officers in
23 schools, or did you mean --

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: The
25 parole officers so kids don't have to

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2 leave school to check in.

3 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Oh, I'm
4 not that familiar with that particular
5 part of it. I don't know if -- I'm not
6 personally that familiar with that. I
7 mean, I can understand where you're
8 coming from with that. The more we do to
9 keep kids in school, obviously the better
10 off we are.

11 Safe corridors is something
12 we're always concerned about, making sure
13 that kids can travel to and from safely.
14 The other thing we monitor too is any
15 rivalries that may be occurring between
16 schools that occur during different
17 transportation hubs and locations where
18 they meet up, try to get home, so that we
19 can make sure and work with SEPTA,
20 coordinate with them to make sure that we
21 have enough deployment there so we don't
22 have conflict at those particular times.
23 The School District has been very good at
24 keeping us informed whenever there's been
25 some issues or some concern there.

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2 The last part of your question,
3 which I apologize, if you could just
4 repeat, because there was a third part.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: No.
6 That was it for me.

7 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Okay.
8 Well, but there is one thing, though,
9 that I think you should know about, and
10 that is, are you aware of the diversion
11 program that we have started in working
12 with the schools? Because I think it's
13 something that for the record needs to
14 really -- so that people understand
15 what's taking place. If it's okay, I can
16 let the First Deputy and perhaps even --

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ROSS: So,
18 Councilwoman, you started with it with
19 your question, and so the diversion
20 program, which as you know, it's
21 spearheaded by Deputy Bethel seated
22 behind us, and he's done a fantastic job
23 in working with other entities, and there
24 has been a 60 percent reduction in the
25 number of kids who were diverted or

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2 arrested or wouldn't have been arrested
3 otherwise, and that's tremendous. I
4 mean, because we don't want these young
5 people in the criminal justice system
6 unnecessarily. And so I know you know
7 about this program, but the Commissioner
8 rightfully wants everybody to be aware of
9 it, so that a lot of these young children
10 who are coming to school for offenses
11 that really they shouldn't have been
12 arrested for, we now have the ability to
13 divert them on the front end instead of
14 them on the back end going through some
15 other program and still having a record
16 that you have to deal with.

17 So, I mean, we can't say enough
18 about the work that Deputy Bethel has
19 done. He's been traveling nationally
20 speaking about this, because a lot of
21 people want to hear about it, but it's
22 one of the things that from the ground
23 floor, you can make some significant
24 inroads in helping all of our children in
25 this City. And so thank you for bringing

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 that up. I mean, because people need to
3 know more of this. A lot more
4 information about this, if anyone wants
5 to hear about this, Deputy Commissioner
6 Bethel is the person to speak to about
7 it. He will be glad to talk to anybody,
8 I assure you of that.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
10 you. Thank you so much. Thank you all.
11 I'm so proud of what we've done with this
12 diversion program and the work that all
13 of you do to help us and help our city.
14 God bless you all.

15 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Thank
16 you.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
18 Thank you, Councilwoman.

19 The Chair recognizes
20 Councilwoman Bass.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
22 Mr. President.

23 And good morning.
24 (Good morning.)

25 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So just a

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 couple of questions. And, number one, I
3 wanted to start out and say -- and,
4 Commissioner, I had said this earlier. I
5 just really wanted to thank you all for
6 the great work that you do and also to
7 really recognize the 14th, 35th, and 39th
8 Districts, which all do fantastic work,
9 and we've had a great working
10 relationship with the new leadership
11 that's in the 14th and 35th. We've just
12 really come a long way, I think. And the
13 existing leadership that was -- the
14 previous leadership was very, very good
15 as well. So I'm just very pleased, and I
16 just really wanted to say that publicly,
17 because I know that when things go wrong,
18 they tend to go really wrong. And so I
19 think that it's important for all of us
20 to be able to give you your accolades
21 when we have the opportunity to do so.

22 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Thank
23 you.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Two things
25 I just wanted to ask you in reference to.

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2 And you have to excuse me. You may have
3 already mentioned this. I had to step
4 out of the room for a moment. But could
5 you discuss issues that have been
6 previously talked about as being issues
7 related to your budget in the past such
8 as the overtime issues, court time,
9 disability time, all of those things
10 which factor into the availability of
11 your workforce and how that is faring, if
12 there are any improvements that you've
13 seen thus far.

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER:
15 Christine Coulter.

16 We work really, really hard to
17 get the most cops on the street in any
18 given time, and we work with the courts,
19 we work with our district commanders,
20 always to look to make sure that only the
21 most necessary people are going, because
22 we realize even if it's not in an
23 overtime status, they're being taken away
24 from their ability to do their police
25 work.

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2 We have put in all of the
3 mechanisms that become available to us to
4 try to reduce obviously the unnecessary
5 overtime, but also the unnecessary
6 manpower draws. And the things that were
7 put in place over the years have started
8 to pay those dividends, that there are
9 more court officers who are assigned to
10 daywork, but that's also the flexibility
11 for Operations to hire additional people
12 and Crime Plan and different ways to put
13 the maximum number on the street during
14 the hours that we need it.

15 One of the other things that's
16 also helped is the flexibility with our
17 five platoon personnel to ensure that
18 they can change their hours and put them
19 in when they're needed to work instead of
20 that standard schedule that they followed
21 in the past.

22 So we're doing everything we
23 can to reduce unnecessary overtime.
24 Spend it when we need it, but also make
25 sure that the cops are on the street in

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2 the districts that they need to be at the
3 times that they need to be there.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Is there
5 like a minimum number of officers? And I
6 don't know if that's public information,
7 but is there when you're doing your
8 scheduling a minimum number that takes
9 into account the district and obviously
10 the needs of the area?

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER:
12 Each district commander has minimum
13 manpower staffing numbers. They change
14 from tour to tour and they change from
15 district to district depending on the
16 needs. It's not numbers that we would
17 put out. We would never want people to
18 know the exact number or the deployment
19 of our officers. But each district has a
20 minimum and they also have mechanisms in
21 place if they fall below that to ensure
22 that they have that minimum number, not
23 only for the officers' safety but the
24 public that they're serving and response
25 time.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Is there
3 ever a chance that you would fall below
4 that number, or you just make sure that
5 you don't fall below that number?

6 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well,
7 it's a possibility we could fall below.
8 We're 213 officers down below our
9 budgeted strength now, but we do try
10 to -- and it ties back into an earlier
11 question around deployment and paying
12 attention to trends and patterns so that
13 we can maximize the number of people that
14 we have in the different parts of our
15 city based on what we anticipate being
16 crime problems.

17 So is it possible? Yes. But
18 we try to really mitigate that through
19 other ways of shifting personnel from
20 units that really have citywide
21 authority. We don't let them just go out
22 and roam wherever they want to go.
23 Deputy Ross and his team do a very good
24 job of targeting where they need to be
25 and when they need to be there, and then

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 that supplements whatever the district
3 may have.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And as I
5 mentioned earlier, I've had very good
6 response from the Police Department and
7 from Deputy Commissioner Ross and Bethel
8 as well. So I just really want to say
9 that also.

10 One other quick question, and I
11 don't know if this is fully formulated
12 yet, but it's in reference to the large
13 events that are coming to Philadelphia,
14 the Pope visiting in the fall, the DNC
15 next year, things of that nature. Have
16 you begun to strategize --

17 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Oh, yeah.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: -- and put
19 your plans together in place for that?
20 And can you talk a little bit about some
21 of the protections, what you can talk
22 about.

23 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well, for
24 months now, there have been regular
25 meetings around the visit of the Pope

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2 this fall and all -- it's not just
3 Police. I mean, it's all the different
4 City agencies that are participating in
5 that, outside agencies that are
6 participating in that, and that's going
7 to continue and actually become more
8 frequent as we get closer to the time
9 when the Pope actually does arrive.

10 The DNC planning, we're just
11 beginning to get started with that, but a
12 lot of what we're doing around the Pope
13 in terms of crowds and deployment and so
14 forth, some of it will carry over,
15 although there will be a few different
16 challenges with the DNC, I anticipate,
17 than we'll have with the Pope in terms of
18 any kind of demonstrations or things of
19 that nature that would probably tend to
20 happen for the DNC versus -- maybe some
21 with the Pope's visit, but certainly not
22 to the degree that we anticipate perhaps
23 with the DNC.

24 But the planning has already
25 started. It has been going on for months

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2 now.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. Very
4 good. Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: You're
6 welcome.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
8 Thank you, Councilwoman.

9 The Chair recognizes Councilman
10 Johnson.

11 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
12 Council President.

13 I want to thank Commissioner
14 Ramsey for being here today as well as
15 his team, Deputy Commissioner Ross and
16 Deputy -- young lady, I didn't catch your
17 name.

18 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Coulter.

19 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: First
20 name?

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER:
22 Christine.

23 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I didn't
24 want to be disrespectful by calling you
25 by your first name, Christine. But your

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2 last name is Coulter?

3 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER:

4 Yes.

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you
6 for being here today as well.

7 I just want to commend
8 Commissioner Ramsey for his public
9 service under his leadership, crime being
10 at an all-time low. So I want to commend
11 you for the work that you've done with
12 your team and making our city a safer
13 city.

14 A couple questions that I just
15 want to talk about or at least get some
16 insights or answers. But I have grave
17 concerns about being an African American
18 young man growing up in the City of
19 Philadelphia with a newborn son. There's
20 a report from the Justice Department
21 regarding the use of deadly force by
22 Philadelphia police officers, and from my
23 research, the report was really based
24 upon you calling for --

25 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Yes.

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2 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: -- an
3 overall assessment, which I do commend
4 you for your character in stepping up and
5 saying let's do an internal assessment of
6 how we're operating. And from the
7 research that we have specifically, part
8 of the report says there are serious
9 deficiencies in the Department's use of
10 force policies and training, and then it
11 goes on to say, Our assessment uncovered
12 policy, training, and operational
13 deficiencies in addition to the
14 undercurrent of significant strife
15 between the community and the Department.

16 And so my question is, what is
17 the City of Philadelphia's plan to begin
18 correcting --

19 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Right.

20 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: -- the
21 things that were pointed out in the
22 actual report? Is there a plan of action
23 in place right now? Because obviously --
24 I work with officers on a day-to-day
25 basis. I do my Peace Not Guns basketball

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2 game with young men in the neighborhood
3 playing Philadelphia police officers
4 every year over the past eight years
5 before this issue even became an issue
6 regarding community-police relations,
7 because I just understand that fostering
8 that type of good relationship just
9 benefits everyone. I would rather have
10 an officer know that young man when they
11 pull them over on Point Breeze Avenue,
12 which I believe would go a long way
13 before a situation escalating to
14 something that would be not good for any
15 of us.

16 But based upon this report from
17 the Justice Department, like what is our
18 plan moving forward to address the things
19 that were pointed out in the plan so we
20 won't in the future become another
21 Ferguson or New York or recently what
22 just took place in Oklahoma? Like what's
23 our actual plan in place to begin
24 addressing this? And then the followup
25 is, I know you were tasked by President

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 Obama on the national level on the 21st
3 Century Task Force, and I presented a
4 resolution here in the City Council being
5 supportive of those efforts. You adopted
6 those recommendations, and so I just want
7 to also understand the key finding points
8 of the recommendation as to why you
9 adopted them as well. But my most
10 pressing issue right now is the use of
11 force report by the Justice Department
12 specifically from Philadelphia police
13 officers. So how are we addressing
14 training, community relations, and also
15 addressing the issue which you always
16 stepped up and addressed and the reason
17 why I respected you, is the issue of
18 rogue officers in terms of misconduct.
19 And I think that goes a long way as well
20 with eroding the public's trust in the
21 Department.

22 So if you can begin to talk
23 about how we're going to move forward as
24 a city.

25 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well,

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 thank you for your question, first of
3 all, and you're correct. In May of 2013,
4 I asked the Department of Justice COPS
5 office to come in and take a look at the
6 Philadelphia Police Department and review
7 our training, our policies, procedures as
8 it relates to use of force. I did this
9 after reviewing the report they did in
10 Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.
11 That was the first agency that they did
12 this particular collaborative reform work
13 with. We were the third department to
14 ask. I'm told there's eight now that are
15 currently under review voluntarily
16 getting the same kind of review.

17 We are working on this and we
18 have been working on it. I have a person
19 assigned full time, Captain Jackie
20 Pittman, who was in the 16th District and
21 now I brought her in to kind of spearhead
22 this, gave her a staff. We've had
23 several meetings. What we've done is,
24 we've taken both the collaborative reform
25 report, which has a total of, I believe

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 it's, 91 recommendations, the
3 Presidential Task Force report, which had
4 48 findings and 92 recommendations, and
5 we've combined them both and we've
6 created a matrix, which I have gone
7 through. We just recently had a meeting
8 where we've established responsibility
9 for seeing to it that that particular
10 part of the recommendation be
11 implemented, a timeline by when we expect
12 it to be done. A lot of it focuses on
13 training. We are in the process now of
14 revamping our training to include more
15 reality-based training, for an example,
16 giving officers -- putting them --

17 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: What type
18 of training?

19 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Reality
20 based, which is scenario driven. It's
21 not just going to a range for target
22 practice. It's scenario driven based on
23 circumstances that an officer might be
24 confronted with out there on the street
25 and test their judgment in terms of how

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 they diffuse a situation, how they
3 resolve a situation. That's not just
4 through force. That's also through
5 verbal communication, being able to
6 de-escalate situations as well. We have,
7 I think it's, 1,240-some-odd hours that
8 are part of recruit training; 777 are
9 state mandated, the rest are all specific
10 to Philadelphia.

11 So we're working to change a
12 lot of that. A lot of it falls on Deputy
13 Coulter, who oversees training. A lot of
14 it falls on Deputy Joyce, who has a
15 policy and the orders that need to be
16 changed and so forth and, of course,
17 Deputy Ross, who has taken a huge chunk
18 of it as well. So every deputy has
19 certain areas that I've made them
20 specifically responsible for seeing to it
21 that this implementation takes place.

22 We're embracing this report.
23 There are a couple recommendations that
24 may require some negotiation with the
25 union because it would impact terms and

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 conditions of employment, but I don't see
3 anything that's really insurmountable.

4 In addition to those two
5 things, we are also in the process of
6 becoming accredited through the
7 Pennsylvania Chiefs Association.
8 Obviously we'd be the largest
9 jurisdiction to have that, but I'm told
10 that we'd be the largest municipality in
11 the country to have an accreditation.

12 We went through a mock
13 assessment earlier this week, and so far,
14 so good. We'll have our final assessment
15 in August. Again, it's ways in which to
16 improve. It's to make sure that we're
17 reflecting best practices.

18 But the other thing that I
19 think is important for me to mention and
20 the reason why I wanted the Justice
21 Department to come in, I mean, I could
22 see and all of us in command, we could
23 see that there were deficiencies and
24 areas that needed improvement, but having
25 that outside set of eyes is always good.

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2 But the other part is, we wanted
3 something that would become public,
4 because it's important that folks like
5 you and the public see it for themselves
6 and can continue to shine the light on it
7 so it doesn't stop. It's not something
8 that's going to be there for a little
9 while and should for whatever reason, I'm
10 no longer here or Deputy Ross or Coulter
11 or the current command, we're not there,
12 that somehow it stops. It needs to
13 continue, and we've got to continue to
14 push forward so that we don't have issues
15 in the future as well.

16 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I want to
17 follow up on this. So what's the
18 timeline, one? Then, two, I'm glad you
19 talk about it stopping, because we never
20 know what the future may hold. I think,
21 to be quite frank with you, depending on
22 who the leadership is may determine if it
23 stops or not, because unless you say here
24 are certain things that are going to be
25 in place when I leave, because the

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 reality is this report is based upon a
3 person's leadership voluntarily saying,
4 Federal government, come do an assessment
5 of my department, and actually that's
6 pointed out the deficiencies. So I kind
7 of think a little differently depending
8 on who is taking the helm regardless of
9 whatever the next Administration looks
10 like, and that will determine -- I mean,
11 obviously -- because we just don't know.

12 But what's the timeline? What
13 would be things that, from your
14 perspective, that would at least be
15 concrete to make sure that these
16 recommendations or the plan in place will
17 be something that regardless of whoever
18 is at the helm, it will be something
19 that's followed? Because everybody may
20 not have the same passion as you.

21 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Right.
22 We have broken down each recommendation
23 separately and there's a timeline for
24 each specific recommendation. So it
25 varies. Some could be as short as a

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 month; some could be as long as six
3 months or seven months. I'd be glad to
4 provide the President of the Council with
5 a matrix, copy of the matrix that we're
6 using, to show what that recommendation
7 is, who is responsible for it, and what
8 we have as a timeline established in
9 terms of getting the work done.

10 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay. May
11 I have a copy as a member of the Public
12 Safety Committee, if that's okay.

13 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Yeah. I
14 will just send it through the President.

15 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Council
16 President.

17 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Right.

18 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Just one
19 last component. In terms of the
20 training, does any of it deal with
21 cultural diversity --

22 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Yes.

23 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: --
24 interaction?

25 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Yes. One

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 of the courses -- we had Professor Lorie
3 Fridell from the University of South
4 Florida come up. She has a course called
5 Fair and Impartial Policing, and it
6 focuses on implicit, explicit bias, that
7 everyone has a bias of some kind and how
8 do you manage that, how you want to
9 identify it, how you manage it. But that
10 course is one that she's going to be
11 coming up doing the training, the trainer
12 for our people. It's going to become
13 part of both recruit and in-service
14 training. We also have courses that will
15 be taught on procedural justice. We
16 recently just in working with the
17 National Constitution Center right here
18 in Philadelphia -- I've been working with
19 them for the last seven months. We have
20 a created a training course right now for
21 recruits. It will include veteran
22 officers hopefully by the end of the year
23 to help officers better understand the
24 role of police in a democratic society
25 and also to understand how not only our

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 democracy and Constitution has evolved
3 since it was first begun here in
4 Philadelphia, but how policing has
5 evolved and, quite frankly, how police
6 have not always stood on the right side
7 of justice based on how we view justice
8 today. If you look at the actions of
9 police during the Civil Rights era, for
10 an example, and even some of the issues
11 that we're confronted with today, but you
12 have to understand it and acknowledge
13 those mistakes before you can hope to
14 move forward in the future.

15 So that's the basis of that
16 kind of training. It's unique. We put
17 one group of recruits through. I took
18 the command staff through last Sunday.
19 We had our trainers go through, and we're
20 going to be putting classes through. So
21 that's something that's different and
22 working with the National Constitution
23 Center right here in Philadelphia. So
24 we're pretty excited about that
25 particular program as well.

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2 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
3 Council President.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
5 Thank you, Councilman.

6 The Chair recognizes Councilman
7 Neilson.

8 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Thank you,
9 Mr. President.

10 Thank you, everyone, for all
11 your dedication and hard work to keeping
12 us safe every night. It's something that
13 goes -- I think sometimes you have a
14 thankless job in what you do, because
15 people don't understand the only reason
16 they're safe is because you're out
17 protecting us while we're sleeping, the
18 Police and Fire especially units within
19 the City. I mean, running into burning
20 buildings and just protecting us on a
21 daily basis, and some people take that
22 for granted. So I want to thank you on
23 the record for all you do.

24 I have a few questions that
25 deal with how the first responders are

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 treated, and I was wondering if you
3 can -- something that's been brought up
4 during our budget process was the
5 condition of facilities and your fleet.
6 As a member of Council, I'd like to know,
7 Commissioner, if you can answer it, what
8 can we do as a City Council to help your
9 department on its deplorable conditions?
10 We've been to some of the districts.
11 I've seen some of the cars. Some of the
12 cars I wouldn't put my children in the
13 front seat, but yet I'm putting my first
14 responders. And we do see an increase in
15 the budget plan for new vehicles, but I'd
16 like to know if you can, because I just
17 don't see it as being enough. We haven't
18 had Fleet Management in here yet, but I
19 just don't see it being enough and I
20 would -- I hate to throw this out there
21 to you like this, Commissioner, but I
22 think it needs to be discussed and I
23 think the people of Philadelphia need to
24 know what's happening. That's what's
25 happening. I mean, we see cars broken

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 down. We see it all. We see cars not
3 moved in the district because they can't
4 move, because -- they said, Well, we
5 don't have enough cars on the street.
6 Well, they can't move. I know that's
7 happening.

8 I know we don't like to talk
9 about it, but if you could, maybe some
10 kind of strategic plan on what we're
11 doing to help put our first responders
12 with the right equipment.

13 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well, let
14 me begin -- and thank you for your
15 question -- the response and then I'll
16 ask the First Deputy as well as Deputy
17 Coulter to jump in as well.

18 We have an aging fleet and we
19 have aging buildings. I mean, that's the
20 way it is. Now, we were given some
21 additional funding this year to replace
22 vehicles. I think we had a total of 91
23 vehicles that were condemned. We have
24 fleet that if you're just talking about
25 sedans, we're working to replace 2007,

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 2008 year models, but we have some trucks
3 that go back into the '90s in terms of
4 how old they are.

5 So we did go through a period
6 of time during the recession when there
7 just wasn't funding available to really
8 keep pace, and we're paying for it now,
9 but there has been an effort to provide
10 some additional funding so that we can
11 begin to replace the fleet best we can
12 over time, and that's what we've been
13 trying to do, to take the worst vehicles,
14 get them off the street, replace them
15 with newer vehicles.

16 As far as facilities go, there
17 is money in the budget, but, again, we've
18 got some aging facilities. I mean, the
19 39th District is almost 100 years old.
20 You look at what we call the double
21 deuce, the 22nd, the 16th. I mean, I
22 could go on and on, that perhaps at some
23 future point in time there needs to be a
24 five- or ten-year plan in place to
25 actually start replacing some facilities,

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 but also -- the money is in the budget
3 for repair. Spending it down and how we
4 best do that in order to correct some of
5 the conditions in many of these
6 facilities is another matter, and we've
7 been working with Finance and Public
8 Property around that as well.

9 So let me turn it over to
10 Deputy Ross and then to Deputy Coulter to
11 give you a little more insight in terms
12 of actual numbers in terms of our fleet
13 and also some of the things around our
14 facilities.

15 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ROSS:

16 Deputy Ross.

17 So like the Commissioner said,
18 there's no denying, Councilman, some of
19 our cars are not in the best of shape,
20 but we have worked very closely with
21 Fleet, and they've made commitments with
22 us to help us improve that significantly.
23 So you heard the Commissioner talk about
24 '07 and '08 vehicles, getting a rotation
25 in place. There's some districts who did

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 not have that many; therefore, they
3 didn't see or are not seeing newer cars
4 as much as some of the other districts
5 that had a plethora of older vehicles,
6 '07 and '08's that were in dire need of
7 being replaced.

8 But what we did is, we also had
9 a commitment internally to push as many
10 of those new vehicles out into patrol
11 where they're needed the most. Now, to
12 be honest with you, there's a little bit
13 of a calculated risk with that, because
14 they're being pushed 24/7, and so you
15 might not get the same life cycle.
16 However, the men and women that work in
17 patrol needs these cars. I mean, if
18 we're going to say they're the backbone
19 of the Department, we have to prove it.
20 We have to show it by giving them what
21 they need.

22 So I can honestly say that as a
23 result of the collaboration with Fleet,
24 that things are getting better. You will
25 notice a lot of those 2015 and '14 trucks

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 that you see out there. That's as a
3 result of that collaboration and us
4 pushing those cars out.

5 Could things always be better?
6 Absolutely. But there's not a
7 disconnect. We're happy to say that. So
8 we're working very hard. You know,
9 Northeast, working very hard, trying to
10 get some cars up there as well as the
11 rest of the City, but there is a plan in
12 place. We're not kind of haphazard about
13 the way we do it. Very, very strategic
14 in the manner in which we replace these
15 cars, and we're going to get them out
16 there as best as we can.

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER:
18 And with regards to some of the work
19 that's being done in the buildings, we
20 met with Public Property and we're part
21 of that prioritizing as to what needs to
22 be done to ensure that not only do we get
23 things done that are important, but that
24 the cops see that progress, that we
25 identify it and then how long do we wait.

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2 So there's some things that can be picked
3 off relatively easily, and it's going to
4 increase the quality of the working
5 conditions for the officers immensely.
6 And they sat down and met with us and
7 showed us what their assessments were,
8 and we agreed on the areas that we needed
9 to prioritize, and I really think that
10 everybody is on the same page and to
11 getting the cops in the best working
12 conditions we can until such time that
13 there is the possibility to move forward
14 to get new buildings for them.

15 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: I guess my
16 time is up, so I don't have -- I guess
17 I'll come back around.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Do
19 you have another question?

20 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Thank you
21 very much for your answers.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
23 Okay. The Chair recognizes Councilman
24 Jones.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: You know I

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 want the Johnson bell.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Councilman, can you hold on for one

5 second. Councilwoman Tasco hasn't spoken

6 yet.

7 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Good

8 morning.

9 (Good morning.)

10 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Nice to

11 see you.

12 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Good to

13 see you.

14 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: First, I

15 want to certainly thank you for you,

16 Commissioner, and your staff and the

17 Department for all the hard work you do.

18 I know it can be challenging sometimes,

19 and sometimes you get a lot of

20 complaints, but overall I see that the

21 Police Department has been -- in my

22 district at least, and I can pretty much

23 tell across the City -- been responsive

24 to the community. But the only criticism

25 I have. It's not a criticism. I get

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 used to a captain and then he gets
3 promoted. I guess it's because he's
4 good, he or she is good. But otherwise
5 thank you so much for your leadership.
6 We appreciate it very much.

7 I just have a couple of
8 questions that I've been asked to share
9 with you.

10 In the interim report of the
11 Philadelphia's Task Force on 21st Century
12 Policing, Recommendation 4.5.1 lists an
13 action item that reads, Law enforcement
14 agencies should schedule regular forums
15 and meetings where all community members
16 can interact with police and help
17 influence programs and policies.

18 Would you please discuss the
19 Department's plan to use the PSAs, the
20 police service meetings, to implement
21 this recommendation and what portion of
22 the Department's budget will be
23 designated for marketing of the monthly
24 PSA meetings? And I know we do have PSA
25 meetings at least in my district, and I

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 think the bottom line is, we get
3 notification. I'm not sure it's all
4 citywide, but our districts do a pretty
5 good job of that. I think the question
6 is, how are we able to fund that portion
7 of your program so it can be maximized
8 with the community?

9 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well,
10 that's a good question, and to be honest
11 with you, I hadn't thought of it in terms
12 of specific funding, because I think a
13 lot of this can be done within the
14 existing budget and with our existing
15 resources if it's going to be able to be
16 sustained long term. I tend to not want
17 to create something that is going to
18 require additional funding, because then
19 what happens when the funding goes away,
20 then usually that goes away. So we're
21 going to try to work this so that it just
22 becomes a way in which we do business,
23 and in that way, we can ensure that it's
24 going to last into the future.

25 Now, that's one of the

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 recommendations that is part of the
3 matrix that we created that combines both
4 the Presidential Task Force
5 recommendations as well as collaborative
6 form with specific timelines and the
7 "how" are we going to do it. I mean,
8 obviously I think it's a good
9 recommendation. I was part of the Task
10 Force. So, I mean, you know, that was
11 something that I believe needs to be
12 done. The question is, how can we best
13 do that and how do we get that kind of
14 dialogue and discussion where it's
15 thoughtful discussion, not just a bunch
16 of folks yelling at each other and not
17 getting anything really accomplished. So
18 having facilitated discussion, and
19 whether it's done at the PSA, whether or
20 not that's something we'd be better off
21 doing in the district, having people
22 invited to come and participate along
23 with officers in that facilitated
24 discussion to really talk about the
25 problems, the challenges, the issues and

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 come up with solutions.

3 But I think we can do most of
4 this within our existing budget. I would
5 be hesitant to ask for something more
6 until I really know more about the "how"
7 we would wind up being able to
8 successfully implement this, because this
9 is something that can't just be for the
10 next six months or a year or just because
11 right now every time you turn on TV
12 you're seeing something that's
13 controversial about police. There will
14 be something else that will take its
15 place. It doesn't mean, though, that we
16 shouldn't constantly be working toward
17 building better relations.

18 So this, there is no end date.
19 It's got to go on from now on if we want
20 to really have strong relationships, and
21 that's why we're going to try to build
22 this into what we do already without
23 asking for additional funding. And if we
24 do, I'll come back to you.

25 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Well, one

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 of the --

3 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Point of
4 information, Mr. President.

5 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: I think
6 Deputy Ross wants to add something to
7 that.

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ROSS:
9 Councilwoman, I just want to jump in on
10 the Commissioner's point and to your
11 question about maybe Council folks
12 helping us out with this endeavor. As
13 you know from going to thousands of
14 meetings, what's generally absent is
15 younger people. When I say "younger,"
16 adults. So to the extent that you could
17 help us, because we go to a lot of them
18 and, generally speaking, they're
19 middle-aged folks who are very committed
20 to their neighborhoods, but we miss out
21 on the opportunity to connect with people
22 who really sometimes will be most likely
23 to encounter the police even. Even young
24 adults. I mean, Deputy Commissioner
25 Bethel and I spearhead a young millennial

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 group of young dynamic people who are
3 from all over the City, very interested
4 in improving the quality of life in the
5 City, but have some really serious ideas
6 and concerns. But that's just one thing.

7 And so we need for folks to
8 bring people out to your respective
9 meetings, and that doesn't necessarily
10 cost any money, but it would go a long
11 way towards helping us kind of bridge the
12 gap with folks who we never connect with.

13 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: And that
14 was part of the discussion that was
15 asked, how do we -- I mean, what you need
16 is a budget so that we can do outreach.
17 How do we promote the PSAs so that the
18 folk in the neighborhood know that they
19 exist, what they do. So you need a
20 budget for promotion.

21 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Can I do a
22 point of information, please.

23 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Could you
24 let me finish.

25 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Sure,

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 ma'am.

3 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: You know,
4 we need to be able to reach them. So for
5 people who are on the list, the normal
6 people who come, I think there's a
7 representative from each district and all
8 that, but how do we engage the general
9 public who might want to attend a PSA
10 meeting, and that is the concern.

11 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: And I
12 appreciate it, and what I'm basically
13 saying, there may be a need to have some
14 modest amount of money set aside for
15 that, but I'm reluctant to say that now,
16 not really figuring out yet just how best
17 to go about doing it and what the cost
18 may be, is all I'm saying. I don't want
19 to -- I mean, everybody needs money,
20 right? But I don't want to just ask for
21 something for the sake of asking for it.

22 And I also think like social
23 media, for an example, if we want to
24 reach all of our Twitter followers, if we
25 want to reach all of our LinkedIn, which

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 is supposedly the best way to go now --
3 that's where everybody is looking at, I
4 guess -- there's a modest cost associated
5 with being able to blast that out.

6 Now, we still have a lot of
7 people who aren't engaged in social
8 media. So how do we reach that
9 population of people to get them engaged.
10 In today's world, I mean, we need to take
11 advantage of everything that's out there,
12 whether we have virtual town hall
13 meetings and discussions, whether we have
14 face-to-face in the basement of a church
15 or school or auditorium or something like
16 that. We got to figure out how to do it
17 and how to continue to do it, and then we
18 could give you some kind of straw budget
19 if that's necessary. But if we can do it
20 within our existing budget, then that's
21 what I would like to do, only because
22 then I know it can be sustained, because
23 if we're looking at extra money every
24 time and it's not built into your regular
25 operating funds, then it's like getting

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 grants. How many programs have we seen
3 come and go, some of them which were very
4 good, but when the money ran out, it ran
5 out, and that's not the way to do
6 business long term.

7 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Well, I
8 appreciate that you have that in your
9 psyche to just even begin to look at that
10 and understand the importance of that, so
11 I appreciate that.

12 Now you may speak.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
14 Councilman Johnson, you had a point of
15 information?

16 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes.
17 Thank you, Mr. President, for the point
18 of information, and it was really just
19 being in support of the context of the
20 question that the Councilwoman asked
21 regarding getting out the word for the
22 community forums with Police and the
23 community. They already have a model
24 that's already in place right now. At
25 least I know for a fact it's very, very

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2 effective in the 2nd Councilmanic
3 District, which is the PDAC, which is the
4 Police Department Advisory Council
5 meetings, where the Chairperson of every
6 PDAC usually works toward getting the
7 word out to the wider community about the
8 actual monthly meetings that are taking
9 place within the individual Police
10 Departments, and they also work in
11 partnership with letting everyone in the
12 community know when the PSA meetings are
13 taking place via social media, rather
14 it's Tweeting, Facebook, but also
15 flyering the community. And I think when
16 you have that partnership with community
17 leaders and the Chairperson from the
18 PDAC, that, most importantly, the
19 community relations officer, because a
20 good community relations officer will
21 make sure that the wider community knows
22 about the actual meetings. And so I
23 think that can also be something that
24 could be built on as it relates to the
25 dissemination of information.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Thank you, Councilman.

4 The Chair recognizes Councilman
5 Jones.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you so
7 much, Mr. President.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
9 You're welcome, sir.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'm trying
11 to mature in my budget process.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
13 That's okay.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: Respect the
15 bell.

16 A couple of things, and whoever
17 is responsible for your body camera
18 program, your dashboard camera program,
19 the SafeCam program should come up, and
20 I'd like to discuss the preliminary
21 findings of the body cam and things like
22 that, but I have one other -- I won't --
23 let me stop with that.

24 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well, let
25 me just start by saying we don't have

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 dash cams, just so you know.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Are we
4 looking to do that?

5 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: We do
6 have body cameras. We used the 22nd
7 District as our pilot. We have about 35
8 officers that volunteered, and we've got
9 about seven different vendors that have
10 given us cameras to test free of charge.
11 That should end the end of June. We've
12 had some drop out simply because they
13 just were flimsy. I mean, they just
14 didn't hold up under the kind of use that
15 is needed. And I'm looking to expand
16 citywide.

17 Now, we're going to try to
18 narrow by sometime in May down to the top
19 two. Now, that's based on the feedback
20 we get from the officers and others that
21 are involved in this as to which ones
22 really work best out in the field, and
23 then we can start to kind of figure out
24 where we go from there.

25 But let me just say this,

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 because I think it's very important in
3 this whole discussion of body cameras
4 across the country. This doesn't come up
5 as much. The cost of the camera itself
6 is not the issue. We have some money.
7 It's already been set aside for that.
8 But there's the associated costs with it.
9 There's storage of the data that you have
10 to be concerned about. It's the
11 infrastructure, the network. It
12 shouldn't take eight hours to upload an
13 eight-hour video when it's possible to do
14 it in 20 minutes if you have the right
15 equipment in place. There's editing that
16 has to be done. You see it on TV all the
17 time when there's a thing and they're
18 pixelating faces of people who aren't
19 involved in whatever the incident is so
20 that their identities aren't just thrown
21 out there. But that's staffing. That's
22 equipment. That's cost.

23 So as we move forward and we
24 roll out and I would suggest that we
25 probably -- and we are looking at how

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 long would it take to really get, let's
3 say, 3,000, 3,500 cameras that we might
4 need in order to really have it across
5 the board, but that should be done over a
6 three, four-year period, because you also
7 got to figure replacement. Nothing lasts
8 forever. If you buy them all in one
9 year, guess what? You're going to have
10 to replace them all in one year, and
11 that's going to have a negative impact on
12 the City as a whole in trying to come up
13 with that kind of money. So how can we
14 reasonably build this into the budget so
15 that every year -- it's almost like cars,
16 right? You get a replacement cycle and
17 it's X number every year and you just --
18 you never let your fleet get older than
19 whatever that might be, four years, five
20 years old. How long do these cameras
21 last? A lot of those are questions that
22 people just don't know because it's new
23 technology. So I can't tell you if it's
24 two years, three years, four years. I
25 just don't know. But there are a lot of

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 associated costs, and I'm talking
3 millions of dollars, not just a couple
4 hundred thousand.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: So we're
6 familiar -- your preliminary findings,
7 though, if I understood your answer
8 correctly, you've narrowed down some of
9 the brands and said this just doesn't
10 work. You've identified some of the cost
11 structure of data storage and how long
12 you keep it and editing that associates
13 with.

14 As you roll this out, can it be
15 data driven based on high-priority areas?
16 So I don't want to throw my district
17 under the bus, but there's certain
18 portions of my district where there isn't
19 that much activity. There's other parts
20 of my district where every 28 days
21 somebody is getting shot at. So if we
22 can do it by way of priority, I think
23 that might be one --

24 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: In terms
25 of rollout, you mean?

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Correct.

3 And with that, the Council President
4 raised an interesting, intriguing issue
5 of actual on our cameras that are
6 stationary, that do we have actual live
7 eyes on coordinating with boots on the
8 ground in some hotspot areas? That's a
9 general question about the use of our
10 pole cameras.

11 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well, we
12 do have in our Realtime Crime Center the
13 ability to access these cameras to pan,
14 to zoom, that sort of thing. They have
15 radios available to them if they need to
16 reach the officers who are actually in
17 that particular area. We do not have the
18 capability, however, of getting it on our
19 mobile data terminals. Chicago, for an
20 example, they have the ability with
21 theirs to be able to get it right on the
22 MDT. So the officer can actually sit two
23 blocks away from, let's say, a drug
24 corner or something like that and look
25 right on the screen right in the car and

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 actually see what's taking place on that
3 particular camera. We can't do that
4 right now, but we're moving toward it.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Are we
6 evolving to that?

7 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well,
8 yeah. I mean, we're going to have to
9 evolve to it. But our wireless network
10 has to be shored up. One of our problems
11 we have right now is our network, and
12 that's something OIT is addressing, but
13 it is a problem. And the more cameras
14 you get, the more important it's going to
15 be to have that network that can support
16 all the technology that's being
17 transmitted, whether it's camera feeds,
18 whether it's reports that eventually will
19 be done online and that sort of thing,
20 and right now the wireless network cannot
21 handle that.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: So, Council
23 President, I introduced a piece of -- a
24 resolution to look at SpotShotter --
25 ShotSpotter on behalf of the President,

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 and he was interested in that technology,
3 which triangulates gunfire. Are we
4 moving --

5 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Yes, and
6 I'll let Deputy Ross jump in on that,
7 yes.

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ROSS: So
9 we have started looking at that
10 technology. It's not actually the
11 ShotSpotter company that you're talking
12 about, but it does the same thing and
13 where the camera can pan to the gunshot
14 detection immediately. We have pushed
15 out so far five that are out in the
16 field. We have a couple out in West
17 Philly, a couple in North Philly, with
18 five more coming up within the next week
19 or so.

20 Optimistic about the
21 technology. Hopefully it will work, but
22 the point is, is we have it available.
23 And all these technological advances
24 obviously are going to help us, body
25 cameras, all those other things. So

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2 we're excited about that. I think the
3 officers are somewhat excited about it.
4 A little mixed bag at first with some of
5 those. We had a long talk with them,
6 myself and some other commanders, but any
7 time you can get police officers to talk
8 to a deputy for 90 minutes, they must
9 mean they're interested, because normally
10 they don't have much to say. So whatever
11 they did have concerns about, they
12 expressed it. And so I think the
13 technology is moving forward in all the
14 avenues that you spoke of.

15 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: These
16 shot detection systems are very good, and
17 I had some experience with that when I
18 was Chief in DC where we actually put it
19 out and it resulted in a few arrests that
20 probably would not have occurred had we
21 not had that technology, because it
22 identifies the sound so quickly that we
23 actually had to notify our officers when
24 the call -- when the response was coming
25 from the shot detection system versus

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 just a regular 911 call, because the odds
3 of them encountering the person with a
4 gun on scene was a lot higher than it was
5 without the time it takes people to call
6 and to dispatch. I mean, you're getting
7 it quickly, which means you're more
8 likely to run up on somebody who is
9 armed.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: I had an
11 opportunity to meet with one of those
12 purveyors of that technology and so did
13 the President, but what I looked at that
14 was interesting, they were some
15 neighborhoods that don't -- they have
16 grown very tolerant of gunfire, like they
17 don't even bother to call the police
18 anymore because it is a part of their
19 daily existence. This technology, you
20 guys respond every time, and it changes
21 behavior. What they said was that if
22 every time I shoot a gun a police officer
23 is going to come in and investigate it,
24 they tend not to shoot as much. And when
25 people respond to each of those gunfires,

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 it tends to make people a little more
3 apprehensive, and that's one of the
4 reasons -- yeah, at first it's going to
5 increase activity, but then eventually if
6 we always consistently come, it may well
7 change behavior. So I was intrigued when
8 the President brought that to our
9 attention.

10 Thank you, Mr. President.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

12 Thank you, Councilman.

13 The Chair recognizes
14 Councilwoman Tasco.

15 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you.

16 We are aware of the diversity
17 program for offenders with mental health
18 issues operated as a partnership between
19 the Police Department and the Department
20 of Behavioral Health. Could you please
21 brief us on the program and its current
22 source of funding. Also, has your
23 department and DBH, Department of
24 Behavioral Health, taken steps to make
25 this program permanent?

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Yes. I

3 believe you're talking about Crisis
4 Intervention Team training. We have
5 about 2,200 officers that have gone
6 through that training. It is ongoing,
7 and we have worked very closely with the
8 Department of Behavioral Health. They
9 have been fantastic in terms of providing
10 assistance, teachers to help us with
11 that. It's a week-long training. It is
12 citywide. There is no end in sight. I
13 would love to see eventually every
14 officer, especially those assigned to
15 field duty, have that training. So it is
16 five days. It's one extra day if they
17 choose to get one of the electronic
18 control weapons as part in order to --
19 less lethal weapon. Then it becomes a
20 six-day training. But we also train
21 now -- I think University of Pennsylvania
22 has sent people to that, Temple has sent
23 people to that, as well as our own
24 personnel.

25 But we're going to continue the

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 training. Captain Healy, Fran Healy, is
3 the person who has really been the force
4 behind really kind of making that happen.

5 Yeah. So, I mean, we're going
6 to continue on. And so far, we've been
7 able to -- we did get some extra money
8 for some additional ECWs, electronic
9 control weapons.

10 Christine, you want to add
11 anything?

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER:
13 And what's important too is, every
14 officer that went through that program is
15 a volunteer to go. So they all want to
16 be able to have the skills to do the
17 right thing. And we have Police Radio, a
18 protocol in place that if you're dealing
19 with somebody who has any mental
20 deficiencies or any challenges, that they
21 send a CIT-trained officer, which
22 minimizes the likelihood of anything
23 escalating. The officers have those
24 special skills and they also have an ECW
25 in the event that they need to use it,

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 but we try to use the least amount of
3 force necessary when dealing with
4 anybody, but when you're dealing with the
5 mentally ill, that skill set really,
6 really helps.

7 So the partnership has been
8 great. We have officers who still want
9 to go through the program, and like the
10 Commissioner said, our hope is that all
11 of our officers who work in an operation
12 role will get that training and be able
13 to use it daily.

14 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you.
15 Thank you.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
17 Thank you, Councilwoman.

18 The Chair recognizes Councilman
19 Neilson.

20 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Thank you,
21 Mr. President.

22 I'd like to go back to the
23 cameras a little bit and touch -- when I
24 was up in Harrisburg, there was much talk
25 about needing legislative authority for

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 certain body cameras and infringing on
3 other people's rights and stuff like
4 that. Is that an issue that you need to
5 work through or are there still issues
6 with that? Because I've only --

7 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: My
8 understanding is -- I mean, there's been
9 an exemption made for the two-party
10 consent to allow us to be able to not
11 only record -- the video is not the
12 problem. It's the audio that's the
13 issue, and Captain Healy again from my
14 staff has been the person who has worked
15 with others to get that ironed out. So I
16 don't believe it continues to be an
17 issue. That's why we were able to move
18 forward with the pilot program, and we're
19 also able to move forward with the
20 videotaping of interrogations, which is
21 starting in our Homicide Unit first and
22 it will eventually expand out to Special
23 Victims and all the six detective
24 divisions as well. But we did have to
25 work that out with Harrisburg, yes.

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2 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Thank you,
3 Commissioner.

4 PEMA, I know PEMA has a lot of
5 grant money. Can you explain to us how
6 we've -- I know you take advantage of a
7 lot of grants, and I think we need to
8 point out how much your department has
9 been involved in getting federal and
10 state grant money to do some of the work
11 you do. I don't think the public knows
12 that, and if you could just touch on how
13 much grant money you receive and how you
14 use it to its best resources. I know you
15 do that already, but I just think it's
16 important to point out, because some of
17 our departments miss opportunities, and I
18 see through your budget how much you do
19 take advantage of every grant you can
20 get, which is great.

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER:
22 I'll give you the exact number, but it is
23 important to highlight that we do go
24 after every dime that's out there, and
25 we're looking to ensure that we're

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 entitled to any funding source to not
3 drain our City sources for stuff that we
4 absolutely need. The stuff that we use
5 that grant money for isn't optional or
6 luxury. We need it, but we also realize
7 that there's limited funding within our
8 city to get some of that. So we go after
9 state, federal. We work with our
10 partners in all of those areas to
11 identify the grants, identify the funding
12 sources, and then make sure we put
13 something in place to meet the criteria
14 for that grant. If we have to do
15 something on our end to make us eligible,
16 we'll do that. We'll do whatever
17 training is necessary to make sure that
18 we have everything in place to be as
19 successful as we can in bringing in that
20 money, and we've brought in a lot of
21 money over the years for different
22 training programs.

23 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: The
24 numbers are in the millions.

25 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER:

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 Absolutely in the millions.

3 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: That's
4 what I want to make certain that
5 everybody knows, that the Department
6 leadership is doing a wonderful job going
7 after these and making certain that we
8 have extra resources for us.

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER:
10 Over 13 million for this past year in
11 grant money, like 13,800,000.

12 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Great.
13 And I also want to applaud you before I
14 get buzzed out, the labor-management
15 cooperation, your leadership has -- are
16 we okay?

17 (Witness approached witness
18 table.)

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER JOYCE:
20 Nola Joyce, Deputy Commissioner.

21 The 13 million is what we
22 actually spent. We have available to us
23 close to \$34, \$35 million of grant money.
24 A good portion of that is from the COPS
25 office, which allows us to hire 25 --

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 hired 25 officers and their salary over
3 three years. So that's a good portion of
4 that money.

5 We get a good deal of grant
6 money from the Department of Justice,
7 both from the Community Oriented Policing
8 Service and from the Bureau of Justice
9 Assistance, and we use that from
10 everything from technology -- we have
11 bought EWCs, electronic weapon control
12 devices -- we've used it for training
13 purposes, we've used it, as I said, for
14 hiring, we've used it to implement and
15 test new programs. So a great variety.

16 In terms of the FEMA money,
17 that flows through the Southeast Task
18 Force. Philadelphia, along with the
19 surrounding counties, the other four
20 counties, share in that money. Sam
21 Phillips, the Director of our Emergency
22 Management Agency, is actually the one
23 who manages that money, but we do
24 participate in that and we do get money
25 through that process. That's on top of

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 the money that I just talked about.

3 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Thank you
4 very much.

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER JOYCE:
6 You're welcome.

7 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Thank you.
8 I'd like to applaud the Administration
9 for their labor-management cooperation.
10 You can see by the way things flow
11 through HR that you do a great job, and I
12 just wanted to applaud you on that before
13 I get cut off by the Council President.

14 And that's all I have, sir.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
16 You're good?

17 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: I'm really
18 good. Thank you.

19 Thank you all for your
20 testimony.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
22 Thank you, Councilman.

23 The Chair recognizes Councilman
24 Jones.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 Mr. President.

3 I guess the -- I want to ask
4 two basic questions, and I guess that
5 will be it for me today. This is a
6 difficult one because, as you know, in my
7 family we've been victims of crime. One
8 of my nephews was murdered several years
9 back. But I had a disturbing visit to a
10 website that I believe the Philadelphia
11 Inquirer -- the number of homicides over
12 the last ten years, and if you hit on the
13 button, you can see the exact time, who
14 was the victim, what the murder was.

15 What I need to know is, over
16 the last four years, how many of those
17 murders are unsolved?

18 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well, I
19 can get that to you, sir. So far this
20 year, our clearance rate is 65 percent.
21 That's so far this year. So I can get
22 you the exact number of homicides over
23 the last four years and what the
24 clearance rate on that would be, because
25 I just don't have that off the top of my

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 head. Obviously our goal is always to
3 have 100 percent, but unfortunately
4 that's not always the case due to a lack
5 of information that we have, usually
6 witnesses or people willing to come
7 forward or so forth.

8 As far as our clearance rate
9 goes, it is at or above on a pretty
10 consistent basis for cities our size.
11 But, again, so far this year, we've had
12 64 homicides so far this year, and I
13 think our clearance rate is like 65.46
14 percent as of today, as of today.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: And please
16 understand, don't misinterpret the
17 question. I understand some of the
18 community cooperation is an issue. There
19 is a no snitch culture. There is a
20 difficulty in resources that you have. I
21 get all of that. But as we look at it
22 and look it straight in the eye, that's
23 how we then as stewards of the budget
24 actually put more resources towards the
25 things you need to solve more crimes. So

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 I think community-oriented policing will
3 help, because people have a greater
4 trust, but it also falls within the
5 District Attorney's Office, because
6 witnesses have to feel safe coming
7 forward too. So it's not a one-stop
8 shop. It is a whole city and its
9 responsibility to deal with this. But we
10 need to know the number, because then we
11 know if we're trending down, if we're
12 trending up and what some of those causes
13 are.

14 I had a -- the worst part of my
15 job is to hear a mother cry about the
16 loss of her child, and then it's a double
17 hurt when we can't find out who did it.
18 So I want to take a hard look at that
19 number, if you'll provide that to the
20 Chair, and then see if we're trending
21 down, see if we're trending up and if
22 there's anything we can do within the
23 budget process or within public policy to
24 help that.

25 A couple years back we put more

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 money in witness protection, literally
3 looking at that process to make sure
4 people who have the fortitude to come
5 forward are protected. We also looked at
6 what happens in the courts when people
7 come forth and how they were using
8 iPhones and taking pictures of people and
9 putting it out there, and we held the
10 feet to fire of the courts and the
11 Sheriff's Office to protect against that.

12 So we want to look at this with
13 a lens towards solving it, not just
14 saying what exists, but how we can be
15 helpful. So if you could provide that to
16 us, we would appreciate that.

17 Finally, on tasers. Can you
18 explain how many of them are on the
19 street, what the process is by which
20 people are certified to get them, and
21 whether or not that is a part of your
22 ongoing strategy based on the Department
23 of Justice report.

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER:

25 We have 1,919 officers with tasers right

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 now. We have budgeted in this upcoming
3 budget for 1,600 more tasers. Our goal
4 is to have everybody based on the Justice
5 recommendations and our own thoughts --
6 it works in Operations -- to have tasers.
7 They go through -- currently every
8 officer that has a taser has also been
9 through CIT training, that they have
10 de-escalation skills first. We don't
11 want the --

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Can you
13 describe that. What is a de-escalation
14 skill?

15 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER:
16 It's all part of our CIT training, in
17 that we teach people to verbally bring a
18 situation down instead of escalating it
19 or have something go to a higher level.
20 We're always asking our officers to try
21 to calm things, to recognize if it's
22 mental illness, recognize if it's drugs
23 and find the best way to handle it
24 without using either lethal or deadly
25 force. They're our last resorts, not

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 something we want -- but we wanted to
3 make sure that when officers were issued
4 a taser, they had those other skills too.
5 So our current program showed them going
6 through five days of CIT to then go
7 through the one day of taser training.

8 With the Justice report, we're
9 also going to have our officers now have
10 to reuse the taser and get recertified
11 annually instead of just being trained
12 once, because now we've had them for
13 several years, so their training isn't as
14 current as it would be if they had it
15 this year. So we're always looking for
16 ways to have them better trained, with
17 the hope of them not having to use it,
18 but when they do, they have other skills
19 as well.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Finally,
21 without seeming Draconian, whatever
22 happened to the nightstick and the --

23 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: We still
24 have it. That's the expandable baton
25 now. It's called an ASP, A-S-P, and it's

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 expandable. So you see it on the
3 officers' belt and they can flick it out
4 into this full length. But we still have
5 that.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: And pretty
7 much that's non-lethal?

8 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Yeah.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: Does that
10 qualify as non-lethal?

11 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Those are
12 less than lethal, is the term. I mean,
13 anything can be lethal at any given time,
14 but less than lethal is the OC spray,
15 ASP, the electronic control weapons.
16 Those things are all classified as less
17 than lethal weaponry.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
19 Mr. President.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
21 Thank you, Councilman.

22 The Chair recognizes Councilman
23 Squilla.

24 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,
25 Mr. President.

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 Good afternoon -- or --

3 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Yeah,
4 good afternoon.

5 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Yes, it
6 is. Good afternoon. Thank you guys for
7 being here, and I appreciate what you do
8 for our city. My question is on the
9 focused deterrence program and the
10 continuation of it, I guess. We seem to
11 have a way of saying that we as a city
12 are now going to coordinate with other
13 entities and agencies to try to stop the
14 gun violence in the City of Philadelphia.
15 I know we had that pilot area in South
16 Philadelphia.

17 Do you see the ability of that
18 continuing? Do you see that helping with
19 the crime? And do you see that as
20 another weapon in your arsenal in order
21 to, I guess, try to keep down the gun
22 violence in the City of Philadelphia?

23 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well, I'm
24 going to let certainly the First Deputy
25 jump in on this as well. It's one of

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 many tactics that we've used, approaches
3 that we've used to have an impact on
4 crime. It is not something that can be
5 effectively implemented citywide. I
6 mean, it really relies on structured
7 gangs, for an example, or organizations,
8 you know, people that are on either
9 probation, parole, that sort of thing.
10 It's had some impact, mixed results. I
11 mean, I know it's being portrayed by some
12 as being like the panacea, the end-all.
13 I would argue very strongly it's not, but
14 does that mean it's not worth continuing
15 to do? That's not what I'm saying. I
16 think we need to take as many approaches
17 as we can in terms of getting a handle on
18 crime, but that by itself is not going to
19 be the saving grace for this or any other
20 city, but it is one more thing that can
21 be done in order to have an impact on a
22 particular population of people who
23 engage in criminal activity.

24 Deputy.

25 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ROSS:

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 Councilman, I think the Commissioner
3 summed it up nicely. The bottom line is,
4 it's not a panacea. However, it's a nice
5 thing to have in your arsenal. It's one
6 more thing. But we certainly do not view
7 it as the end-all and be-all. And that's
8 not to cast aspersions against the
9 program itself, but just to kind of
10 underscore the fact that there are other
11 things that we do that have been highly
12 successful throughout the rest of the
13 City.

14 But whenever you can have any
15 program that the basic essence of it is
16 collaboration with other entities, it's
17 always going to be a win. I mean, that's
18 always going to be a good thing. When
19 you're working very closely with the DA's
20 Office, Probation, and other entities,
21 not to mention some of the men and women
22 that are on the ground who are very, very
23 good at what they do and really good at
24 being creative, if you will, in other
25 words, not even taking what was a program

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 that was in existence and just leaving it
3 where it is, but taking it to another
4 realm, that's always a good thing. But,
5 again, we will always be evolving. I
6 think what the Commissioner is ultimately
7 saying is, we will never rest on our
8 laurels about any crime program that we
9 have or crime-fighting strategy. Once
10 you do that, you're going to be in
11 trouble, because then you'll start to
12 believe your own press, which is a
13 mistake. And there's so many entities
14 and so many things that go into this, the
15 community not the least of which, which
16 helps us out -- I mean, a lot of times we
17 do talk about folks not helping us, but
18 you can't get to 65 percent or 75 percent
19 in a homicide clearance rate unless
20 somebody is talking to you. So it's
21 important to underscore that as well and
22 not to lose sight of that. All of it is
23 important, but I just think we're going
24 to do a lot of things. That's just one
25 more thing that we'll continue probably

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 to do on some scale or another.

3 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: I agree.

4 And I think that obviously we even in

5 Council look for different avenues to

6 bring in revenue and different ways to

7 do. So there's always nine ways to skin

8 a cat per se, but at the end of the day,

9 it's great to have these extra tools in

10 your belt to do things, and I just was

11 wondering because it has been successful

12 in some areas and it seemed to die out a

13 little. Now it's picking back up again.

14 But especially in South Philadelphia

15 where we have the gangs and we have the

16 known gang members, we know their names,

17 we know where they live, who they're

18 associated with, and we can relate to

19 them and then hopefully show them an

20 opportunity or have them see another

21 opportunity to have a lifestyle that may

22 be different than what they choose just

23 gives us another option. And a lot of

24 these folks, they don't want to be bad

25 guys. A lot of key people want to be a

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 tough guy, but they don't want to be bad
3 guys, because they know their lifeline is
4 not really that long if they stay in that
5 pattern of life. So anything we can do
6 to help them to, I guess, change their
7 thinking and the way the street life is
8 to them I think is good. And we would
9 like to promote obviously more revenue
10 streams to even come up with more
11 resources for the Police to do other
12 things in areas, but it's just good to be
13 able to have, I think, different options
14 in different areas in how we approach
15 crime.

16 So thank you for your input.

17 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Thank
18 you.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
20 Thank you, Councilman.

21 The Chair recognizes Councilman
22 Jones.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.
24 Last question I have for you
25 today is, about a year ago we did a

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 resolution, had a hearing about the
3 increase in victimization of seniors in
4 reference to utility worker
5 impersonators, and as a result of that
6 hearing, there was a program to be
7 developed called Be Sure Before You Open
8 the Door. Has there been an involvement
9 by your department with that? Are we
10 close to unveiling that kind of
11 cautionary and alert system which would
12 allow seniors to dial into a number to be
13 sure before they open their door?

14 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Let me
15 ask Denise James, who heads our Public
16 Information Office, our Communications
17 Office, to come forward.

18 (Witness approached witness
19 table.)

20 MS. JAMES: Yes.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: State your
22 name.

23 MS. JAMES: My name is Denise
24 James.

25 We have established an

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 infrastructure internally that will
3 support a call coming in from a senior
4 who is not sure about who is at their
5 door. It's basically the last piece we
6 needed to come into place. We have
7 partners with PGW, PECO, and the Water
8 Department. People had asked about
9 Comcast and Verizon, but they are not a
10 part of that partnership, but are not
11 against participating should someone
12 call. But the infrastructure includes
13 the former three.

14 What we have to do at this
15 point now is reach back out to the
16 partners and set a rollout date. We've
17 also produced video, public service
18 announcement, and written radio public
19 service announcement for the stations and
20 networks and online outlets that are
21 willing and interested in showing that
22 public service announcement. So we
23 anticipate, bottom line, having a rollout
24 in the middle or late spring.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'm excited

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 about that, and I thank you for
3 dedicating your effort to do that. As we
4 get into the fourth quarter of our life,
5 you know, we tend to be a little more
6 trusting, some of us a little less
7 observant, and if we can call into a
8 number that can verify a worker for a
9 utility, it gives some degree of comfort
10 to that senior.

11 We've seen some horrific crimes
12 perpetrated upon them, and if we can roll
13 this out by spring, I think it will be a
14 great thing. So I look forward to, as
15 Chair of Public Safety, to that rollout.

16 Thank you, Mr. President.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

18 Thank you, Councilman.

19 There being no other questions,
20 I want to thank you very much.

21 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Thank
22 you, sir.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

24 Thank you so much for your service.

25 (Pause.)

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Next
3 up we'll have the Fire Department.

4 Are you ready, Commissioner?
5 Good morning.

6 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Good
7 afternoon.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
9 Sorry. Good afternoon. You are
10 absolutely right.

11 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Good
12 afternoon, Council President and members
13 of Council. I'm Fire Commissioner
14 Derrick Sawyer at the Philadelphia Fire
15 Department. With me today are members of
16 my executive team, Deputy Commissioners
17 Wilson, Corrigan, Laster, and Schweizer.
18 I am here to testify on the Fire
19 Department's Fiscal Year 2016 budget.

20 The requested budget for Fiscal
21 Year '16 is 237 million. The fiscal year
22 proposed budget shows a \$5 million
23 decrease from the Fiscal Year '15
24 projection, largely as a result of
25 anticipated savings from overtime cost

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 reductions and 3 million in Fiscal Year
3 '16 and a one-time equipment purchase in
4 FY15.

5 The Fire Department continues
6 to implement its community risk reduction
7 programs under the Freedom from Fire
8 program. Freedom from Fire remains one
9 of the most effective tools reducing fire
10 fatalities and educating the community
11 about fire life-safety issues. This
12 program allows the Fire Department to
13 identify residents who are in need of
14 smoke alarms, but lack the resources to
15 purchase one.

16 During 2014, the Fire
17 Department installed 7,815 ten-year
18 lithium battery-powered smoke alarms into
19 3,405 residences. Working smoke alarms
20 continue to be the most effective way of
21 preventing fire fatalities. During smoke
22 alarm installations, the Fire Department
23 also performs free home safety surveys
24 using the fire safety checklist.

25 The Fire Department is working

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 to find the most effective and efficient
3 means to meet the growing need of
4 emergency medical services while working
5 with partners to develop alternatives for
6 healthcare services. The Fire Department
7 has created a Deputy Commissioner of
8 Emergency Medical Services to assist in
9 developing the most effective and
10 efficient service delivery model for EMS.

11 In response to the City's
12 increasing demand for emergency medical
13 services, the Fire Department also
14 expanded its EMS Unit by appointing an
15 Executive Chief of EMS, increasing the
16 number of field supervisors from three to
17 six, designating four EMS geographical
18 response divisions, assigning an EMS
19 resource officer to the Fire
20 Communications Center, increasing the
21 number of full-time basic life support
22 medic units from four to 14, and hiring
23 the first class of fire service emergency
24 medical technicians on December the 1st
25 of 2014, with the goal to hire 200 EMTs

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 by the end of 2015.

3 The Fire Department continues
4 to make improvements in its information
5 technology capabilities. During 2014,
6 the Department implemented the emergency
7 medical services priority dispatch
8 system. The new system provides an
9 internationally tested EMS protocol
10 system for the Fire Communications Center
11 to organize and stack calls according to
12 patient needs. It also helps the Fire
13 Department to prioritize EMS calls by
14 level of medical seriousness and assign
15 the appropriate resources at the
16 appropriate response mode and speed.
17 This system enables the Fire Department
18 to use Fire and EMS resources more
19 effectively and efficiently.

20 In conjunction with the
21 implementation of the medical priority
22 dispatch system, the Fire Department
23 increased its staffing levels within the
24 Fire Communications Center. Eight
25 additional call-taker dispatchers were

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 added, as well as two new supervisors.
3 The additional staffing supports an
4 enhanced comprehensive quality assurance
5 review and training program, as well as
6 provide staffing to address the increased
7 line of 911 calls.

8 Thank you for the opportunity
9 to testify today. If you have any
10 further questions or concerns, I will be
11 happy to answer them at this time.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
13 Thank you very much, Commissioner. A
14 couple of questions.

15 In your testimony on Page 3,
16 you talk about the industry standard of
17 EMS response and recommended within nine
18 minutes 90 percent of the time, and you
19 are making improvements. I see that
20 we're up from 64 to 70 percent, and the
21 projection is to get to 90. Is that a
22 feasible or realistic projection in terms
23 of the foreseeable future?

24 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: It's
25 foreseeable and realistic. It's going to

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 take time. We've already seen a
3 reduction in response times based on
4 implementing our priority dispatch
5 program or system that we just got, and
6 we have steadily seen a decrease. So we
7 believe that as we roll out more
8 resources and use our priority dispatch
9 system, those times will get better.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
11 right. Along those lines, we also show
12 that we have a 3 percent increase over
13 FY13 and the incidents seem to be
14 continuing to grow. What are the
15 contributing factors to the rise in EMS
16 calls?

17 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Well, one
18 belief is the aging population. So the
19 baby boomers are getting older, retiring
20 and just getting older. That's one. And
21 I think the fact that the Affordable
22 Healthcare Act has been implemented, you
23 have more people that can afford to call
24 emergency medical services now because
25 they have health coverage, where in the

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 past they would wait until the last
3 minute to call EMS because they couldn't
4 afford the ride to the hospital. Those
5 are a couple of factors.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
7 right. Well, it's a good thing that the
8 baby boomers are continuing to age and
9 good thing that people now have
10 healthcare and they take advantage of
11 that fact. So those are two good
12 contributing factors in terms of
13 increases.

14 Okay. Thank you.
15 The Chair recognizes Councilman
16 Jones.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you so
18 very much, Mr. President.

19 A couple of things. Generally
20 the trend has been over the years that
21 we're reducing the number of fires. I've
22 heard prior commissioners talk about the
23 building standards and how they've
24 changed and the sprinkler systems being
25 involved. And at that time, that

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 commissioner said that they would use
3 that time to look at other safety issues,
4 including Freedom from Fire and others to
5 utilize. One of the areas that we talked
6 about in the last couple of years was
7 building inspections as it related to the
8 collapse on 22nd and Market. Have there
9 been -- has there been a changing role by
10 your department on building inspections
11 such as fire escapes, such as
12 construction sites, demolition sites?
13 Has there been an expanded role for your
14 personnel?

15 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Yes. So
16 we just implemented the pilot program
17 with the Vacant Property Task Force, and
18 we were able to conduct 62 inspections,
19 and actually out of those 62 inspections,
20 we found that 32 were vacant and 29 were
21 occupied, and 56 of those were existing
22 buildings and six of them were vacant
23 lots. And we issued citations for 33 out
24 of the 62 properties that we inspected.
25 So we anticipate an expanding role in

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 conducting inspections.

3 Part of the Blue Ribbon Panel
4 recommended that we expand our Fire Code
5 Unit so that we can train more members in
6 our department to conduct more
7 inspections. So rather than just have
8 our Fire Code Unit do the inspection, the
9 long-term plan is to have every fire
10 officer trained to that level of fire
11 inspector, and then when they're out on a
12 daily basis, they can conduct more
13 inspections and be more proactive.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: Well, we're
15 glad the Blue Ribbon Panel agreed with
16 the 75 recommendations President Clarke
17 empowered us to do, but we're glad
18 that -- whoever the author is, that's
19 wonderful that you're doing that.

20 So has it resulted in a
21 budgetary increase or have you been able
22 to do it with the current resources?

23 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: No. It's
24 going to require a budgetary increase,
25 and we're phasing it over three years.

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 So the program is set up to expand over a
3 three-year time period. I believe the
4 first year we're going to hire, I
5 believe, seven inspectors and then the
6 next year we'll hire a couple more. So
7 each year -- so two captains and six
8 lieutenants the first year, three
9 lieutenants and then four lieutenants
10 after that.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: So we
12 appreciate your expanded role in that
13 regard. It adds an immediate degree of
14 professionalism to identify safety issues
15 in advance, and you guys are doing that
16 and so we're appreciative of that.

17 I'll close on this round with
18 the Randolph Career and Technical High
19 School and your EMS training and Fire
20 Academy up there. First of all, it is in
21 the spirit of what President Clarke once
22 said by way of expanded relations with
23 income inequality and a clear career
24 track from high school to the steps.
25 What I would ask is, how many of your

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 graduates of that program actually take
3 the fire test?

4 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: I'm not
5 sure how many take the test. Actually,
6 we encourage them all to take the test.
7 We know that one has graduated from the
8 last firefighting class and academy and
9 we had, I think, seven graduate as EMTs
10 in the first two EMT classes that we just
11 graduated this year.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: I would
13 encourage all my colleagues to go and
14 take a look at that. It is complementary
15 to the Explorers Program that we heard
16 about from the Police Department. So we
17 laud you on that, and I'll --

18 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: We also
19 have an Explorers Program now also to
20 kind of supplement the Randolph Skill
21 Center.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Excellent
23 program. I encourage all my at-large
24 colleagues to get up there.

25 Thank you, Mr. President.

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Thank you, Councilman.

4 The Chair recognizes Councilman
5 Neilson.

6 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Thank you,
7 Mr. President.

8 Thank you, Commissioner, and
9 thank you to all your staff for
10 protecting us, as I stated earlier, while
11 we sleep. There's not too many people I
12 know that will run into a burning
13 building to save someone's life, and
14 being raised in a home with a
15 firefighter, I must compliment you on
16 redoing this firehouse at Engine 38.
17 That's where my dad retired from.

18 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Great.

19 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: It's a
20 great facility. Of course, they moved
21 the candy closet. I don't know where
22 it's at no more as I did as a kid.

23 But I have the same question,
24 to get back on point, as I had with the
25 Police Commissioner. With the aging

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 facilities and your aging trucks, is
3 there a plan or is there something us as
4 a City Council body can do to help you?
5 Because our firefighters and our first
6 responders spend more time in those
7 facilities than they do at their own home
8 in most cases, and we want to make
9 certain that they're comfortable and they
10 have everything they need to do the job
11 and to protect our families.

12 As a Council body, is there
13 anything that we can give you, additional
14 resources or anything, or do you not see
15 it as a problem?

16 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: I believe
17 that as the Fire Commissioner, I will
18 always be glad to have additional
19 resources, but we are working closely
20 with Bridget Greenwald from Public
21 Property to work on our facilities.
22 There's a plan in place to replace
23 windows, electrical systems and things
24 like that. And I would have to say that
25 they've been very responsive. Any time

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 we've had an emergency at a fire station,
3 they get it repaired pretty quickly. So,
4 for example, we had a station where we
5 found out that there was a pipe burst,
6 and they were able to come in right away
7 and repair it and get our fire station
8 back in service in a quick manner. So
9 it's not just the routine maintenance of
10 fire stations; it's those emergency
11 situations that pop up that we have to
12 address also, and they've been doing a
13 pretty good job of working with us.

14 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: And how
15 about Fleet Management? Your aging
16 fleet, do we know the average age of your
17 truck?

18 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: I believe
19 ten years is an average age. We're
20 working with Fleet to get new vehicles
21 also. We've gotten, I believe, 15 new
22 medic units this year and we're on pace
23 to get another, I believe, ten actually
24 in '15, ten more medic units. We also
25 have plans to get new fire trucks and

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 ladders. I believe that Fleet has set
3 aside about 7 million for apparatus for
4 us next fiscal year.

5 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: So I think
6 it's important that the public knows.
7 Let's just say a ladder, how much does a
8 ladder cost?

9 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Anywhere
10 from a half a million to 750,000.

11 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: So with a
12 \$7 million budget, we're talking about
13 you might get six to nine depending upon
14 the cost --

15 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Right.

16 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: -- new
17 pieces of equipment?

18 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Pardon?

19 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: That \$7
20 million will only get six to nine pieces
21 of equipment.

22 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Correct.
23 So the plan is to make sure that we get
24 new equipment each year. So in the past
25 what would happen is, we would get new

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 equipment and then maybe the next year we
3 may not, depending on the Fleet's budget.
4 But they've committed to making sure we
5 get new equipment every single year so we
6 could upgrade our fleet.

7 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Can you go
8 into -- because I know there's been an
9 emphasis in the last year because we see
10 your labor-management cooperation has
11 gone through the roof in the last few
12 years. And can you talk about the
13 training, what you do with the training,
14 because I know it's been an emphasis and,
15 of course, with the collapse, and I think
16 you do some training of our L&I
17 inspectors as well and how that's working
18 out. We had some hearings earlier this
19 year which spoke about the -- you brought
20 in some of the suits and demonstrated
21 some of the hazardous suits, and you told
22 us how the training was going there with
23 making certain that all your responders
24 were trained. Can you speak a little bit
25 about that, please.

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Sure.

3 Just from station exercises alone, each
4 member should be receiving 169 hours per
5 year of training if they're conducting
6 the station exercises that are sent down
7 on a regular basis. Now, that doesn't
8 include the training that they receive at
9 the Fire Academy.

10 In addition -- so you're
11 talking about close to \$11 million a year
12 on training alone. So they have the
13 training that they do at the station.
14 They have training at the Fire Academy,
15 and then there's training that we send
16 out as fire marshals or members that are
17 in staff that require training to keep
18 their certifications current, we send
19 them to training also.

20 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Thank you,
21 Commissioner, and thank you all for your
22 testimony.

23 I have no further questions,
24 Mr. President.

25 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Thank

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 you.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Thank you, Councilman.

5 The Chair recognizes Councilman

6 Oh.

7 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very

8 much.

9 Good morning, Commissioner.

10 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Good

11 morning. How are you?

12 COUNCILMAN OH: Very good.

13 Congratulations. I think this is the
14 first time you're testifying; is that
15 right?

16 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: First
17 time.

18 COUNCILMAN OH: Okay. Thank
19 you very much and to your whole team.

20 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Thank
21 you.

22 COUNCILMAN OH: I do have some
23 questions. I think some of them are a
24 little tough, so I apologize ahead of
25 time, but you're in the position, so...

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 I'm just looking for updates
3 actually. In terms of brownouts, where
4 do we stand on brownouts right now?

5 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: So
6 currently we still are conducting
7 brownouts. What we have done recently is
8 utilize brownouts to conduct cellar fire
9 training. We started cellar fire
10 training approximately two months ago and
11 we've been able to utilize brownouts to
12 conduct some of that training.

13 But we still have brownouts.
14 We cancel brownouts during Saturdays and
15 Sundays for the training and also during
16 any major storms. So we had a pretty
17 difficult winter this year, so we would
18 cancel brownouts in order to make sure we
19 could have enough resources to respond
20 during those heightened times.

21 COUNCILMAN OH: When you say
22 cancelled brownouts, in other words, the
23 station remained open?

24 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Correct.

25 COUNCILMAN OH: And fully

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 manned during that period of time?

3 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Correct.

4 COUNCILMAN OH: Okay. And I
5 think in all fairness, we're also looking
6 at a change in Administration of the
7 Mayor's Office, so these are some things
8 that are going to go, I guess, into
9 future issues.

10 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Right.

11 COUNCILMAN OH: In terms of
12 technology, I understand that, for
13 example, some of the City departments
14 implemented technology whereby when the
15 vehicle was approaching an intersection
16 at a high rate of speed, it would signal
17 the traffic light to change, and it was
18 my understanding that the Fire Department
19 did not adopt that technology.

20 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: We have
21 not.

22 COUNCILMAN OH: Okay. What is
23 the reason for that, just for my
24 edification?

25 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: So we're

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 still doing research on that technology.
3 So, for example, we're not sure what the
4 unintended consequences are going to be
5 when you institute that disruptive
6 technology. So, for example, we've
7 gotten feedback saying that when it snows
8 and you get snow on those sensors, they
9 don't work as well. So now you're going
10 to have an emergency vehicle traveling at
11 a pretty decent rate of speed going
12 through an intersection because they
13 think the light is going to change and
14 you can actually have a major accident.
15 So those are some of the things we're
16 looking at to see if the technology is
17 really as effective as they say it is. I
18 think we should make sure we do our due
19 diligence to make sure before we purchase
20 that. Will it increase accidents? So we
21 have policy in place that says that
22 members should stop at every stop light.
23 When you institute that technology, how
24 does that impact the policy and does it
25 have an increase in accidents? So it's

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 not that we're saying we won't utilize
3 the technology. I think we have to do
4 more research.

5 COUNCILMAN OH: Okay. Thank
6 you very much.

7 And then, finally, in terms of
8 operational process and with -- once
9 you've assumed the authority of
10 Commissioner, as you look out, you and
11 your team, there has been disruption and
12 new shifts, brownouts, changing of
13 personnel, there were some promotional
14 issues, issues of promotion. And the
15 breakup of some of the response teams,
16 the teams' integrity of the response, has
17 produced some question at least that's
18 come to my attention as to some of the
19 unfortunate incidents that have occurred
20 in the recent past with the death of
21 firefighters and other things. Have you
22 had a chance to resolve in your mind
23 those issues of how the fire team
24 responds to these fires, what the
25 appropriate processes are and those type

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 of things?

3 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Well, I
4 think that's an ongoing process, but what
5 I will say that in response to the
6 firefighter transfers is that there's
7 been no connection to any fatalities or
8 accident based off of those transfers.
9 I'll also say that if -- you were in the
10 Army, right, if I'm correct?

11 COUNCILMAN OH: Yes.

12 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: And you
13 were trained to do different things. So
14 in the fire service, the expectation when
15 you come into this field is that you are
16 a well-rounded individual. So we don't
17 allow people just to be drivers or just
18 to be EMTs or just to be tipmen. What we
19 require them to do is to rotate and do
20 all the jobs. So if you take a 20-year
21 veteran firefighter, right, and it's your
22 department -- I'm giving you my
23 department for a second, only a second,
24 but it's your department -- and you have
25 a 20-year firefighter, 20 years is 20

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 years, and you have a member that has ten
3 years in the ladder, ten years in the
4 engine or 20 years in the ladder and 20
5 years in the engine, which one is a
6 better member? I want the member that
7 has ten and ten, because I know he's
8 going to be able to do whatever I require
9 him to do.

10 COUNCILMAN OH: Okay. Well,
11 thank you very much.

12 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: You're
13 welcome.

14 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you,
15 Mr. President.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
17 Thank you, Councilman.

18 The Chair recognizes Councilman
19 O'Brien.

20 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Thank you,
21 Mr. President.

22 Good morning, Commissioner.

23 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Good
24 morning. How are you?

25 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: I'm very

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 well. Thank you.

3 Pardon me if I ask some
4 questions and they're redundant. I was
5 on my way down. I wasn't aware that you
6 had started your testimony.

7 But specifically I'll go back
8 to -- I recognize that there's a 2.3
9 percent reduction in your overall budget.

10 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Yes.

11 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Is that a
12 result of the brownouts? You had said --
13 let me ask specifically. The brownout
14 policy, are you going to continue that or
15 is it your plan in the future to
16 eliminate that, and is that the reason
17 for the 2.3 percent reduction, and what
18 number does that translate into? Is it 4
19 million, 2 million?

20 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: I believe
21 the 2.3 reduction is based off of
22 overtime. We've been able to approach
23 all of our units and reduce the amount of
24 overtime that each unit is incurring.

25 And in reference to brownouts,

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 I think that's something that's still
3 being analyzed, try to do a critical
4 analysis to say what works and what
5 doesn't work. I think I've been in
6 office ten months and one day, so I
7 haven't even had a year to look at the
8 processes and analyze those processes.

9 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: I think
10 you realize that we're all sensitive to
11 that, and we appreciate your attention.

12 I'm looking at the total
13 summary for executive staff. Can you
14 give me the compensation for executive
15 staff for the years '12, '13, and '14 so
16 we can compare them to this year.

17 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: I would
18 have to get that for you. I don't have
19 it in front of me.

20 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Thank you.

21 And also my understanding is
22 the brownout is the closing of a station
23 for a temporary shift. Can you explain
24 to me -- can you give me a specific
25 itemized breakdown of where those

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 training dollars are going, the \$11
3 million.

4 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Sure.
5 I'll let Deputy Commissioner Schweizer
6 answer that.

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SCHWEIZER:
8 Hello. How are you?

9 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Very good.

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SCHWEIZER:
11 The \$11 million is basically for --

12 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Can I just
13 interrupt you for one second before I get
14 rung up here.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
16 Please state your name for the record.

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SCHWEIZER:
18 I'm sorry. It's Deputy Commissioner
19 Diane Schweizer.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
21 Thank you.

22 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: As you go
23 through and give me the itemized
24 breakdown, what I'm really focusing on,
25 are all those dollars going specifically

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 or explicitly for training or are those
3 dollars going for overtime to replace the
4 on-duty firefighters that may be going
5 for training for basement fires, et
6 cetera?

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SCHWEIZER:
8 Okay.

9 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Because
10 the Commissioner has just said that we've
11 reduced overtime, so how does that
12 comport to what --

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SCHWEIZER:
14 Specifically, the training dollars is not
15 for overtime. The \$11 million is
16 specific to on-duty training that's done
17 in the stations.

18 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: So none of
19 those dollars are going for overtime to
20 replace those firefighters while they're
21 going for additional training?

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SCHWEIZER:
23 That is correct. The overtime savings
24 has been, as the Commissioner stated, how
25 we've been very efficient, effective

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 looking at all the processes and seeing
3 where we can cut waste, and we've been
4 very successful at cutting back our
5 overtime. It has nothing to do with our
6 ability to train. The training \$11
7 million is specific to the 169 hours that
8 each member does, 2,044 uniform members
9 does, while they're on duty in the
10 station doing station exercises. So no
11 members are backfilled on overtime. And
12 that equates to basically a certain
13 percentage of hours of training per year
14 and then specifically 345,436 hours of
15 training, and we multiply that by salary
16 per hour and comes out to 10.7 million.

17 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Could I
18 get a copy of what you're reading from?

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SCHWEIZER:
20 Absolutely.

21 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Thank you.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Are
23 you good?

24 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: I'm done
25 for now.

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Thank you.

4 The Chair recognizes Councilman
5 Squilla.

6 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,
7 Mr. President.

8 Go back onto the brownouts. I
9 know you said they're being reviewed
10 right now to see how to move forward.
11 The brownout policy that was implemented
12 earlier in the Administration was
13 supposedly set in place to save money.
14 Is that still the object right now?

15 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: I believe
16 so.

17 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: You
18 believe so. If there was more money put
19 into the budget, would the brownouts
20 stop?

21 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: After we
22 conduct an analysis.

23 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: So what's
24 the reason for the brownouts?

25 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: I think

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 you just said to save money.

3 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Right. So
4 if you had more money, what do you have
5 to analyze?

6 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Well, you
7 have to analyze what you're spending your
8 money. So if I get a raise tomorrow, I
9 still can't just say I'm going to put it
10 here or there. I have to do a critical
11 analysis of where it goes in my
12 department, what's critical. We just
13 talked about facilities need to be
14 repaired. We talked about not having
15 enough apparatus that's updated. So I
16 think it would be prudent for me to do a
17 critical analysis of the organization as
18 a whole to see where you put that money
19 at.

20 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: How much
21 money was used for training last year?

22 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: I'd have
23 to get that for you.

24 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: All right.
25 Is there a different amount this year

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 that's going to be used for training than
3 last year? Do you know that?

4 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: I believe
5 we increased our training budget. I
6 don't have the exact numbers, but I'm
7 almost certain we increased our training
8 budget.

9 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: And how
10 many hours of training was done last
11 year?

12 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: A hundred
13 sixty-nine hours per person.

14 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: So 169
15 hours per person last year. And then the
16 projected number this year was what?

17 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: A hundred
18 sixty-nine hours per person, but we've
19 increased the number of people in the
20 organization since last year because we
21 hired and there's been a salary increase
22 also because of the union contracts.

23 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: So when
24 you do the training, the training is done
25 in-house at the station; is that correct?

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Not
3 always. Every day there should be
4 training in-house, yes, but there's also
5 training at the Fire Academy. There's
6 also training where -- yeah, in the Fire
7 Academy.

8 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: And when
9 we do this training, the training is sort
10 of like continuing education type
11 training, on-the-job training of what's
12 happening, what's new out there and
13 things of that nature; is that correct?

14 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: That's
15 some of it. So we have a schedule that
16 goes out every month saying what required
17 training is needed or they should be
18 conducting, and each company is also
19 allowed to implement any new things or
20 new trends into their training program.

21 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: So it
22 looks like at this point we're spending
23 the same amount of training this year,
24 except for additional people, as we did
25 the previous year. That's what it looks

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 like to me. You don't have the numbers
3 yet, but just from what you're stating,
4 the number of hours of training.

5 I know the statement from the
6 Fire Department was that they will
7 increase training this year and do
8 additional training. It doesn't seem
9 like that's actually happening. Is there
10 a reason for that?

11 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: I think
12 there has been additional training. If I
13 look at my little -- so we just started
14 cellar fire training. We actually
15 conducted -- we've actually been able to
16 train 90 people, 46 in Division 1, 44 in
17 Division 2. So there has been additional
18 training other than the ongoing training.

19 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: So then
20 there would be an increase in hours for
21 training? Are you going to reduce the
22 training that was done the previous year
23 and then fill it in with different
24 training? I'm just trying to get an idea
25 because --

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: It will
3 be an increase, because the station
4 exercise training doesn't go away. So
5 whatever other training -- like we just
6 implemented cellar fire training. When
7 you implement new training -- we're
8 getting ready to implement some EEO
9 training -- that doesn't take away from
10 anything that goes on at the company
11 level.

12 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: So that
13 means you'll have additional hours of
14 training that's not being reported; is
15 that correct?

16 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: That's
17 correct, because we just started this
18 training program right here.

19 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: So if you
20 can -- you probably don't have the
21 numbers now, but if we could find out how
22 much additional training will be put
23 forward this year and what the cost of
24 that training is.

25 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Okay.

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: So that --

3 I mean, obviously it's important for us
4 to keep the training and --

5 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: We've
6 already started tracking the cost of this
7 training, so we should be able to get
8 that number for you.

9 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Okay.
10 Also, we know that they do -- there are
11 brownouts that are still happening
12 throughout the area. You also do, I
13 guess, drug testing, which is a random
14 drug testing.

15 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: That's
16 correct.

17 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Who
18 schedules that? How is that performed?

19 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: The
20 vendor schedules that.

21 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Who?

22 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: The
23 vendor. I believe the vendor is
24 Drugscan, and they schedule that.

25 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Does he

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 work with anybody within the Department
3 to make sure that they're not scheduling
4 drug testing in a station that's maybe
5 close by a station that's browned out or
6 something like that?

7 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: That's
8 correct. He calls the Fire
9 Communications Center every morning to
10 see which stations are browned out or who
11 is out for training so that he doesn't go
12 to a station where no one is there.

13 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Well, not
14 a station that's browned out, but we had
15 some incidences where a station was
16 browned out, but a station right next to
17 it was being drug tested, so out of
18 service, so we have to go to a third
19 station to do that. Could we make sure
20 that doesn't happen in the future? I
21 mean, it seems like that's creating a
22 dangerous situation, and I think if they
23 worked in coordination with the
24 supervisors and the hierarchy of the Fire
25 Department, that wouldn't happen. And

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 I'm sure they have to coordinate that
3 with your schedulers -- or I don't know
4 how that works, but that's something that
5 we really need to look at, because we
6 want to make sure that we have as quick a
7 response as possible. I mean, obviously
8 we're against the brownout situation.

9 You have your reason for why you think
10 you need to do it. If we need to come up
11 with additional resources to eliminate
12 that, that still may not happen in your
13 case, but to have -- at least that's
14 something we have control of as a Fire
15 Department and if we could at least look
16 into that to make sure that doesn't
17 happen again in the future.

18 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: We will
19 look into it.

20 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: With
21 the --

22 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:
23 Councilman, I'm going to have to call you
24 on the clock.

25 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: I'm sorry.

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Because
3 Councilman Jones, and he will get angry
4 if we don't call him on time.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Not at all.
6 I'm a man of few words, man of few words.

7 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I reserve
8 comment on that.

9 Councilman Jones.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: All right.

11 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Point of
12 information on that one too.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Very
14 quickly. Personal escape systems and
15 HAZMAT suit upgrades and CSX training.
16 We recently had a hearing dealing with
17 the materials that CSX moves through our
18 city, and there were certain claims made
19 by CSX that they would in fact work with
20 you to increase the amount of training to
21 deal with various types of chemicals.
22 They also made an assertion that they
23 would inform you about hazardous
24 chemicals coming in through the City on
25 different trains, often through your

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 neighborhood, Councilman Greenlee. But
3 have they kept their promise and where
4 are we on the HAZMAT training and the
5 HAZMAT suits?

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILSON:
7 I'll take it.

8 When Commissioner Sawyer took
9 over -- I'm Deputy Commissioner Jesse
10 Wilson, Operations.

11 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
12 you.

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILSON: We
14 reorganized the organization and
15 created -- actually reorganized the
16 Department of Homeland Security inside
17 the organization or the Division of
18 Homeland Security, replaced the Deputy
19 Chief in charge of that division and we
20 brought HAZMAT, which was responsible for
21 that kind of training and technical
22 rescue, under Homeland Security.

23 Our Chief of Homeland Security
24 gets routine updates and alerts and
25 bulletins from CSX. The training has not

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 yet begun, but they do give us
3 information that we distribute throughout
4 the organization, specifically the Bakken
5 crude, and I think that's what goes
6 through the Councilman's district. It is
7 a growing concern, and we are addressing
8 it.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: So if I
10 heard you correctly in your response,
11 that they have complied with the
12 notification of the type and frequency of
13 material?

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILSON:
15 I'll have to get back to you on the
16 notification schedule, but they have been
17 communicating with us on the kind of
18 chemicals that come through the City of
19 Philadelphia and the dangers associated
20 with them. I'll get back to you on an
21 actual schedule.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: If you can
23 provide that information to the Chair and
24 he'll distribute it to us, because that
25 was the claim they made and the

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 assertion. That's not you; that's them
3 complying with what they said.

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILSON:

5 Let me make sure they're doing what they
6 promised you.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: So that
8 would be frequency, when it's coming, and
9 the type of materials that are going
10 through.

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILSON: So
12 we're clear, we're getting the type of
13 materials. I just want to get back to
14 you on the frequency and the schedule.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: And then the
16 second thing was that there was a general
17 understanding that some of the HAZMAT
18 suits that we're using weren't of the
19 quality to deal with a whole wide range
20 of types of chemicals, and I wanted to
21 know how much progress we've made by way
22 of increasing the quality of those suits.

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILSON: I
24 wasn't here for that testimony, but I can
25 tell you that each response apparatus in

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 the City of Philadelphia has a Level B
3 suit, Level B HAZMAT suit, because almost
4 all of our responders are trained to
5 hazardous materials operation level. We
6 have talked to the vendor. The suits are
7 still good, but we're working with Sam
8 Phillips down at OEM and we plan to use
9 UASI money to replace those suits on the
10 first response apparatus over a phased
11 period. So you should start -- we should
12 start seeing new suits this year. But
13 we've talked to the vendor and they're
14 all still good now.

15 Previously we were talking
16 about the suits at the Hazardous
17 Materials Task Force, the Level A, Level
18 B suits there. As far as I know, they're
19 in compliance with the NFPA standards.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay. We
21 want -- I think it was the sentiment,
22 Mr. Chairman, that we wanted to go beyond
23 compliance and wanted to err on the side
24 of protection and wanted to upgrade those
25 suits. If I recall, there were several

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 Councilpeople that we actually had a
3 demonstration of those suits, and we all
4 generally kind of thought that we need to
5 be going to the next level.

6 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: And we
7 did. So you're referring to the suits
8 we're using for the Ebola scare that
9 never occurred. We actually did upgrade
10 those suits.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: Better to be
12 safe than sorry.

13 COMMISSIONER SAWYER:
14 Absolutely. We did upgrade those.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: You might
16 have saved us from that.

17 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: We did.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: So what we
19 do was --

20 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Well,
21 we'll take credit for it anyway.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Take credit
23 for it.

24 So we wanted to make sure that
25 all of our first responders have the best

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 equipment possible.

3 My final question is alleyways,
4 driveways. Has there ever been -- and we
5 found over the years that there's been a
6 general deterioration of the quality of
7 passage throughway in many of our
8 communities. Are you finding that as a
9 problem, particularly if you have to
10 respond to a fire that started in the
11 front and have to traverse an alleyway?

12 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Yeah.
13 There are neighborhoods that are better
14 than others. What we try to do is talk
15 to the community leaders so that they can
16 get those alleyways cleared out. I think
17 one of the things when we go to community
18 meetings and we talk about fire safety
19 and having a home escape plan, we stress
20 the importance of being able to have a
21 second way out through the rear of your
22 home. So that is a problem, not
23 throughout the City but through certain
24 sections of the City, yes.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: Going

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 forward, if you would, you need to note
3 where we're having a problem. And not to
4 overburden residents, but it is
5 important. It is a first responder's
6 nightmare to have to go down an alleyway
7 and then backtrack because there's no
8 through passage. So if you can help us
9 out, District Council, citywide
10 Councilpersons, with areas that need
11 treatment and then we can send CLIP or
12 whoever to go through the -- because it's
13 a public safety issue at this point, that
14 they're well lit.

15 And then finally, finally, we
16 passed a bill that required the address
17 to be visible --

18 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: In the
19 front of the home.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: -- to all
21 first responders. How are we complying
22 with that?

23 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: I believe
24 we're making progress. We don't have a
25 set -- we don't have a database saying

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 who's all been in compliance, but we try
3 to make sure that we inform the residents
4 of that requirement when we get into a
5 community that doesn't have that.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: We kind of
7 complied with yours. We wanted a painted
8 curb, and you showed us the error of our
9 ways and showed about an adhesive that we
10 could use which was reflective.

11 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Right.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: So I'd like
13 to know how are we rolling that out
14 citywide, where are we putting those up,
15 and the success rate of having that
16 displayed.

17 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: So can I
19 ask a follow-up question?

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes.

21 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: So is the
22 expectation that we're putting those
23 numbers up or the residents?

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: It is a
25 mutual. So if you're in a neighborhood

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 and you're seeing this, it is the law.
3 If you report back where we're not -- if
4 alleys aren't being cleaned and you can't
5 find an address.

6 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Okay.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: And it's not
8 just a housekeeping issue. The matter of
9 seconds it takes for you to backtrack to
10 find a proper address is the difference
11 between life and death of both of your
12 individuals that go in, your firemen,
13 firefighters that go in, but also
14 Mrs. Johnson who is trapped. So the
15 easier it is to identify an address, it
16 is mutually beneficial to us all. So,
17 yes, it's their responsibility, but, you
18 know, we can help them help themselves.

19 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Okay.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
21 Mr. Chairman.

22 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
23 you, Councilman.

24 Councilman Neilson.

25 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Thank you,

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 Mr. Chairman.

3 Your budget document reflects
4 that there's 150 vacancies currently and
5 it also reflects that FEMA is going to
6 pay for another 160 full-time
7 firefighters on top of that or is that
8 reflected somewhere in your document, and
9 the question would be, on average we have
10 the deferred option pension plan that
11 allows us to plan ahead and to see how
12 many vacancies are coming up and classes.
13 Is there any limitations on your
14 facilities that doesn't allow us to get
15 enough firemen and women trained so we
16 have no vacancies? I mean, the vacancy
17 seems a little high, and I know there's
18 no problem. I know there's a list out
19 there a thousand pages long.

20 So are our facilities not
21 adequate enough to do enough training to
22 get new classes through or is there a
23 long-term solution that you're working
24 on? And I'm as new as you, Commissioner,
25 too. Remember we got sworn in real close

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 together.

3 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: That's
4 right. The facilities are adequate
5 enough. The issue for this year is that
6 we are hiring a new classification of an
7 employee, Fire Service EMTs, 200 people,
8 and as soon as we get those 200 people
9 trained, then we'll be having two classes
10 of firefighters go in. So we have the
11 facility space. It's just that we had a
12 new training requirement that put us
13 behind a little bit, behind schedule as
14 far as hiring firefighters.

15 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: What's our
16 average class size?

17 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Eighty.
18 Over, I'll say, the last two or three
19 classes, there's been an average of about
20 80 per class.

21 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: How long
22 does it take from day one to complete
23 your training to be able to actually get
24 on a --

25 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: About 20

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 weeks. So the EMT classes are actually
3 shorter. They're seven weeks, and we are
4 in the process of hiring our fourth
5 class. So once that fourth class is
6 done, we're going to hire two firefighter
7 classes.

8 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: All right.
9 Thank you, Commissioner.

10 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: You're
11 welcome.

12 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Thank you,
13 Mr. Chairman.

14 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
15 you, Councilman.

16 With no further questions,
17 thank you both very much -- thank you all
18 very much.

19 Oh, I'm sorry. Councilman
20 O'Brien, your light wasn't lit.

21 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: I'm sorry.
22 I had it on. I turned it off to talk to
23 someone.

24 Again, I'm just really
25 confused. When I asked for a detailed

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 specific listing of training, my
3 understanding is that you said they're
4 accomplishing their 169 hours of training
5 in the firehouses. They're being paid.
6 That doesn't cost a cent, unless I'm
7 reading this wrong. I don't understand
8 that. And over the years, I've just been
9 frustrated because I've asked the former
10 Commissioner for training logs and other
11 evidence that training was actually
12 taking place, and, again, it gets to the
13 issue of the overtime. If they are going
14 for training, how could -- these
15 brownouts specifically are covered by
16 overtime. Can you please give me a
17 detailed listing of what that \$11 million
18 is. If it's just 11 million and the guys
19 are sitting in the firehouse, that's not
20 real dollars. You're paying them.
21 They're sitting there in the firehouses.
22 They're doing it on their own time, and
23 that's what the Commissioner is --
24 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: It's not
25 their own time. They're getting paid to

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 do it.

3 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: But

4 they're there.

5 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: The

6 citizens pay those --

7 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: But

8 they're there.

9 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: That's

10 true, but they're training. So when

11 they're responding to a fire, they're not

12 training, are they? When they're not

13 responding to a fire, they're training.

14 So they are getting paid to train.

15 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: So they're

16 off the clock, they're training, and who

17 replaces them?

18 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Off the

19 clock? They're training on the clock.

20 The training that happens off the clock

21 normally occurs in our staff units where

22 they have to get their certifications

23 renewed or whatever or if we send members

24 away for other training. So most of the

25 training, even if it doesn't happen at

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 the station level and they go to the
3 Philadelphia Fire Academy, they're still
4 on the clock, but they're being trained.

5 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: That's why
6 I'm having difficulty understanding where
7 that \$11 million is going.

8 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: It's to
9 pay people to train while they're
10 working. So if you break down their day
11 and they spend two hours training, you're
12 saying that they're not on the clock,
13 they're not getting paid? They are
14 getting paid, but that money comes from
15 somewhere.

16 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: But
17 they're going to be paid anyway. That's
18 what I'm saying. Are these not new
19 dollars? They're just -- what am I
20 missing here?

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SCHWEIZER:
22 My understanding is that it's still
23 money, though, that we're using for
24 training. It's part of their salary, but
25 it's training money. So what was

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 explained to me was that --

3 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: But if
4 they're in the firehouse and they're
5 going to be paid --

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SCHWEIZER:
7 Why don't we have Rebecca --

8 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Are they
9 replacing those dollars with training
10 dollars? I'm missing it.

11 (Witness approached witness
12 table.)

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SCHWEIZER:
14 I worked with Budget on this number, so
15 I'll have Rebecca come up and give some
16 clarification.

17 MS. RHYNHART: Rebecca
18 Rhynhart, Budget Director.

19 I'm trying to figure out,
20 Councilman, what the concern here is.
21 The \$11 million -- the question posed is,
22 how many hours/dollars does the City
23 spend for firefighter training. The
24 firefighters spend 169 hours a year on
25 training, and what that represents is \$11

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 million of taxpayer money goes to time
3 the firefighters spend training. And the
4 importance of training -- if we sit here
5 and if we ask why is this important,
6 training is important so that they're
7 ready for a fire, right? It's not --
8 would they be getting the \$11 million if
9 they sat there and did nothing? I guess
10 so, but it wouldn't be a useful way to
11 spend taxpayer money.

12 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: But that's
13 my point. If they're there in place and
14 they're doing the training while they're
15 in the firehouse, where's the additional
16 \$11 million? That's just replacing
17 payroll dollars.

18 MS. RHYNHART: So it might be
19 what question you're actually asking. We
20 believed you to be asking or Council to
21 be asking about how many hours -- how
22 many dollars of taxpayer money goes to
23 time spent training. If the question is
24 how much extra is spent on training
25 that's Class 200 contractual or that

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 they're sent away to conferences -- I
3 mean, we can talk more, but just to get
4 to your question more, I'd be happy to
5 try to figure that out with you.

6 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: But I just
7 don't understand. You're saying there's
8 11 million new dollars.

9 MS. RHYNHART: I'm not saying
10 it's new dollars. Eleven million dollars
11 is the amount of money in Class 100 that
12 go towards the firefighters while they
13 are doing training, for training. They
14 are training. Those are training hours
15 and that is money given to them for their
16 pay during the training.

17 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: I just
18 don't understand.

19 MS. RHYNHART: Is your question
20 what is the new dollar?

21 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: No. I'm
22 just wondering what those dollars are.
23 Let me go on to --

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:
25 Councilman O'Brien, could I just

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 interrupt one second. Is a better way to
3 say it, it's just broken down
4 differently?

5 MS. RHYNHART: Right. Right.

6 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: So the
7 training is separate -- you just list it
8 separately. You're paying them while
9 they're training, right? So they're
10 not -- Councilman O'Brien is saying
11 they're there anyway, but you're breaking
12 down the money separately to show how it
13 was used while they're training; am I
14 correct?

15 MS. RHYNHART: Right. Right.
16 We're showing it --

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Is that
18 helpful?

19 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Also, if
20 you send them to the National Fire
21 Academy, they're still getting paid also.
22 They don't have a deduction from their
23 salary because they go to the National
24 Fire Academy to get training. They're
25 still getting paid.

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN. No. I
3 understand that. I'm looking at what
4 specific dollars are spent for training
5 aside from -- I need a specific listing
6 of what that training is.

7 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: That's
8 not a problem. We can give you a list of
9 all the station exercises. We have them
10 for the whole year. So that's not a
11 problem.

12 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN:
13 Commissioner, you had talked about doing
14 an analysis on the brownouts and you said
15 that there is no information or evidence
16 that shows there's been a loss of life
17 connected to those brownouts. My feeling
18 is that that's probably luck.

19 What specific analysis are you
20 doing or do you intend to do on the
21 brownouts?

22 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Well,
23 we're tracking the companies that are
24 being browned out. We're tracking the
25 number of extra long fires. We're

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 tracking the number of basement fires we
3 respond to, things like that. So each
4 week I get a readout of how many fires
5 we've had, what types of fires and things
6 of that nature.

7 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: And just
8 one other question. The GPS initiative
9 for equipment apparatus, that's been
10 talked about for years. Can you tell me
11 what the status of that was? Because
12 when Officer Craig died in the line of
13 duty, it was reported in the media and
14 beyond that the apparatus either got
15 locked in traffic or got lost because
16 they weren't familiar with the area. Can
17 you tell me what the status of the GPS
18 training is? Because with the brownouts
19 and with the transfers that have taken
20 place, it's my understanding that part of
21 the resistance to that transfer is that
22 someone has to be familiar intimately
23 with what that territory is, what streets
24 are one way, what side of the street the
25 poles are on, what other complications

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 one would have in addressing a fire or an
3 emergency situation.

4 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Every
5 single apparatus have what we call run
6 response cards on them, and if a person
7 isn't familiar with their local, they
8 have a run card -- box of run cards that
9 tells them how to get to where they want
10 to get. In addition to the run cards,
11 every station has a map that outlines
12 their local that helps them figure out
13 where they have to go to. And then in
14 addition to that, I believe the MDTs have
15 GPS on them to give them directions. So
16 they actually have three resources to
17 help them get to where they need to go.

18 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: So can you
19 comment on what the situation was and why
20 it took an untimely responding? Why was
21 there such a considerable time elapsed
22 between the time they left the station
23 and the time they got to the fire?

24 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Well, I
25 think that will come out in the

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 investigation, but preliminary what I'll
3 say is we were told by the officer that
4 they were stuck in traffic. So they're
5 stuck in traffic. I don't know what else
6 they could do, to tell you the truth.

7 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Thank you,
8 Commissioner.

9 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
10 you, Councilman.

11 Councilman Neilson.

12 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Yes.
13 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14 I think, Rebecca, you might
15 want to come up again. I just want to
16 clarify something, if you would.

17 (Witness approached witness
18 table.)

19 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: I think
20 the Councilman's question is, we have a
21 lot of grant money that comes in for
22 training, and that \$11 million represents
23 normal payroll, something that we're
24 paying out already, right?

25 MS. RHYNHART: It's --

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Outside
3 normal payroll dollars, outside normal
4 payroll dollars, how much is the
5 Department putting in for training
6 outside normal payroll dollars? How much
7 is being spent on training? And training
8 is like hands-on training and not sending
9 someone to a conference and stuff like
10 that, because not every firefighter has
11 that access to go to those conferences
12 and all like that. That's more up in the
13 command staff, I'm sure.

14 MS. RHYNHART: So you're asking
15 about grant-funded training?

16 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: How much
17 outside normal payroll dollars are spent
18 on departmental training?

19 MS. RHYNHART: The Department
20 just said that they'll have to -- we
21 could get that to you, but they don't
22 have that here.

23 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Thank you.
24 I think --

25 MS. RHYNHART: We will provide

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 that.

3 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: I think
4 that's what he was trying to get to, how
5 much outside normal payroll dollars. And
6 that would be great.

7 MS. RHYNHART: Thank you.

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
9 you, Councilman.

10 Councilman Oh.

11 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very
12 much. I'm following up, Rebecca. Could
13 you come back.

14 MS. RHYNHART: Are you really?

15 COUNCILMAN OH: Yes, I am.

16 Really I am.

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: He wasn't
18 kidding.

19 COUNCILMAN OH: So in the Fire
20 budget, we have Class 100 funds, and that
21 is for payroll.

22 MS. RHYNHART: That's right.

23 COUNCILMAN OH: We have Class
24 300/400 funds. What is that for?

25 MS. RHYNHART: Materials,

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 supply, and equipment.

3 COUNCILMAN OH: And the \$11
4 million identified for training, where
5 does that fall under?

6 MS. RHYNHART: The \$11 million
7 is part of Class 100, is the dollar value
8 of the number of hours per year the
9 firefighters spend training while on the
10 job.

11 COUNCILMAN OH: So what I
12 understand you're saying in response to
13 Councilman O'Brien is that under Class
14 100, you have categorized how the payroll
15 is being allocated. In other words, it
16 is not that a firefighter is receiving
17 payroll and on top of it there's an
18 additional \$11 million for training. It
19 is that they are receiving payroll, a
20 portion of which is this \$11 million for
21 training?

22 MS. RHYNHART: That's right.

23 COUNCILMAN OH: That is
24 correct?

25 MS. RHYNHART: Yes, that is

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 correct.

3 COUNCILMAN OH: Okay. Thank
4 you very much.

5 MS. RHYNHART: Thank you.

6 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you.

7 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I'm glad
8 we got that straightened out. Okay.

9 Again, no further questions,
10 thank you all very much. Thank you for
11 your service.

12 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Thank
13 you.

14 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: We're
15 going to take a five-minute break and
16 then we'll go to Prisons.

17 We're actually not going to
18 prison. We're going to take up the
19 Prisons.

20 (Short recess.)

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
22 you, everybody. Next is Prisons.
23 Superintendent, good to see you.

24 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Good
25 afternoon, Councilman Greenlee and

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 members of City Council. I'm Prison
3 Commissioner Lou Giorla and I'm here
4 today with several members of the senior
5 Prison staff to testify in support of the
6 Prison's Fiscal Year '16 operating
7 budget.

8 The Philadelphia Prison System
9 was first established in 1683. Today the
10 Prison System is an adult local detention
11 agency housing adult and juvenile
12 pretrial detainees and inmates serving
13 sentences of less than two years. All
14 inmates are offered varying levels of
15 rehabilitative and treatment services.

16 The FY16 proposed General Fund
17 budget allocates \$1.4 million more than
18 the current '15 projection, which is
19 primarily due to the transfer of the
20 Office of Reintegration Services from the
21 Managing Director's Office. Other
22 operating funds in FY16 are on par with
23 '15 levels.

24 In FY16, the Department faces
25 two challenges. First is the size of the

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 prison census. Philadelphia still
3 incarcerates men and women at a higher
4 rate than many other major cities. While
5 significant steps have been taken to
6 reduce the jail census, a desirable level
7 has not been reached.

8 Working with the Philadelphia
9 Criminal Justice Advisory Board assisted
10 in implementing initiatives -- PPS
11 assisted in implemented initiatives,
12 including, but not limited to,
13 specialized treatment courts, case
14 consolidation, and the use of video
15 hearings. The result has been a steady
16 decline in the Prison's daily census.
17 Fiscal Year '13 saw an average daily
18 population of 9,090, while the first two
19 quarters of FY15 the average daily prison
20 census was 8,405.

21 The decline in homicides and
22 other violent crime is a significant
23 factor that drives the jail admissions.
24 In Calendar 2014, jail admissions
25 declined by nearly 3,000.

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 The next rung tier in reducing
3 the size of the custody population is to
4 analyze pretrial processes and safely
5 reduce pretrial detention and length of
6 stay. At this time, the Office of the
7 Director of Public Safety is submitting a
8 grant application to the MacArthur
9 Foundation to facilitate this effort.

10 The second challenge is the age
11 and condition of the jail's physical
12 plant. Two prison facilities - the
13 Industrial Correctional Center and the
14 Detention Center - are in need of major
15 systems upgrades in the next few years.
16 Capital projects for those sites are both
17 planned and underway and need to be seen
18 through to completion. On the other
19 hand, the House of Corrections, the
20 Prison's oldest facility, is in need of
21 replacement. The House of Correction
22 design is nearly 150 years old. The
23 facility's last major renovation was
24 conducted 80 years ago. HOC does not
25 meet the requirements for 21st century

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 jail operations.

3 In Fiscal Year '16,
4 reprogrammed state funding in the amount
5 of 3.7 million, along with 1.2 million of
6 City funding, was budgeted for
7 acquisition in the capital -- land
8 acquisition in the capital budget. The
9 funding combined with FY14 funding of
10 \$2.4 million will be used to purchase
11 land and eventually construct a new
12 prison to replace the House of
13 Corrections.

14 One of the major changes at the
15 Prisons this year is the incorporation of
16 Reintegration Services. A Home Rule
17 Charter change, which I'm grateful for
18 this Council for supporting, was approved
19 by voters in the 2014 General Election
20 and established the Prison System as its
21 own operating department and placed the
22 Office of Reintegration Services, RISE,
23 as a division within the PPS, a transfer
24 from the Managing Director's Office.
25 RISE will continue to work to reduce

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 recidivism by using COMPASS, a benefit
3 screening program, to enroll eligible PPS
4 inmates in medical assistance upon their
5 release. Training for RISE case managers
6 and Prison social work managers is
7 underway, and medical assistance
8 application pilot is slated to commence
9 in the spring of 2015. The effort will
10 reduce the time required to place persons
11 in drug treatment, allow the mentally ill
12 more immediate access to services and
13 make medications available sooner, serve
14 the seriously mentally ill by providing
15 prerelease case management,
16 administrative support to 105 current and
17 former sentenced inmates. The objective
18 is to provide qualifying clients with
19 medical coverage and behavioral health
20 services. And RISE will also serve 110
21 high-risk inmates who reside in the 22nd
22 Police District by providing transitional
23 housing for up to 12 months for 40
24 participants and through a third-party
25 employment contract which will place 75

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 clients in full-time employment.

3 Additionally, participants who
4 require literacy training will be
5 provided with self-paced academic
6 support. This initiative was funded
7 through the Second Chance Act
8 Demonstration Grant for \$750,000, which
9 the Department received in October 2014.
10 The City matched 100 percent of the
11 grant, for a total of \$1.5 million in
12 funding.

13 In the area of staffing, the
14 Prisons is maintaining staffing at near
15 or about our budgeted levels. Our staff
16 demographic breakdown is 72.5 percent
17 African American, 14.8 percent white, 7
18 percent Hispanic, 5.2 percent Asian, and
19 5 percent other ethnic groups. The
20 workforce is almost evenly split by
21 gender at 52.7 percent male and 47.3
22 percent female.

23 The testimony includes
24 compliance information for the M/W/DBE
25 participation for our five largest

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 contracts, and we have information
3 available if the Chair would require for
4 all of our contracted services. Our
5 participation completed for the last
6 completed fiscal year, FY14, was 39
7 percent, and it's above not only the
8 City's stated goal but the Prison's goal
9 of 30 percent participation.

10 The demographic characteristics
11 of our contract staff in the Prisons are
12 65.3 percent female and 36.4 percent
13 male. African Americans are 54.6, with
14 33.7 percent white, 4.5 Hispanic, and 5.6
15 percent Asian.

16 And, finally, as far as how
17 we're affected by other budgetary
18 impacts, the PPS receives approximately
19 \$3 million in behavioral health funding
20 from the state through the Department of
21 Behavioral Health and Intellectual
22 disAbility Services. In 2014, 35 percent
23 of PPS inmates received behavioral health
24 services, including services to the 11.5
25 percent of the PPS populations that are

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 diagnosed as seriously mentally ill.
3 Behavioral health services in 2014
4 included 140,000 visits of care, 12,000
5 days of on-campus psychiatric hospital
6 care, 4,000 days of behavioral health
7 Stepdown Unit care, and 90,000
8 psychotropic medication prescriptions.
9 The loss of \$3 million received annually
10 from the Commonwealth through DBH would
11 affect 24 percent -- would affect a 24
12 percent reduction in behavioral health
13 services. This reduction would mean we
14 could not meet community National
15 Commission on Correctional Healthcare
16 Standards and hospital licensure
17 standards. Our inpatient medical health
18 clinic is actually a licensed mental
19 health hospital at the Detention Center.
20 PPS behavioral health services would
21 become deficient in volume and
22 timeliness.

23 That concludes my written
24 testimony at this time. I'll be glad to
25 answer any questions members may have.

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
3 you, sir.

4 Councilman Goode.

5 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
6 Mr. Chairman.

7 Just some questions for the
8 record. Good afternoon, Commissioner.

9 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Good
10 afternoon, Councilman.

11 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I was
12 reminded through your testimony that
13 through the Charter change RISE is now
14 part of the Prison System. I have always
15 advocated that reentry has to begin while
16 people were still incarcerated in order
17 for it to be truly successful. So I'm
18 wondering what has this change in terms
19 of bringing RISE into the Prison System
20 meant?

21 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Well,
22 Mr. William Hart, the Director of RISE,
23 is here to join us and I'll call him up
24 to the table, but while he comes up to
25 testify, this allows -- it really allows

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 RISE to be involved in our day-to-day
3 operations. The RISE Director will
4 become part of our executive staff, ten
5 weekly meetings, so that he could
6 interact with our executive staff,
7 including the wardens of the facilities,
8 and his staff will be able to enter our
9 facilities and interact with inmates
10 prior to release.

11 We know that the process has to
12 begin really at admission, and we've
13 taken steps to do that, but I'll ask
14 Mr. Hart to expand on that.

15 (Witness approached witness
16 table.)

17 MR. HART: Bill Hart, the
18 Executive Director of RISE.

19 Councilman, your observations
20 are 100 percent correct. Effective
21 reentry should begin the day one of our
22 guys or ladies enter into detention. So
23 the transition of RISE under the Prison's
24 umbrella helps facilitate that
25 relationship much earlier. I'll say, for

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 example, yesterday the RISE team was at
3 all of the Prison's facilities during the
4 initial marketing and assessment
5 interviews of clients that we're
6 recruiting for our Second Chance Reentry
7 Grant. So there's just a closer
8 relationship now with RISE and I'll say
9 in particular using just again as the
10 indicated example, with the social work
11 staff, where in the past we didn't have
12 that touch or that closeness of touch
13 before as compared to where we want to be
14 in the future.

15 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I guess the
16 other question is, the move of the Prison
17 System away from, I guess it was,
18 Department of Human Services and the move
19 of RISE from the Mayor's Office to the
20 Prison System, it now puts the two not
21 only joined in the proper way, but I'm
22 wondering whether it opens up
23 opportunities for funding and whether
24 there was a lack of funding available
25 with regard to social service money

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 and/or job training money that might now
3 be available through federal Justice
4 Department grants and whether RISE and/or
5 the Prison System who are receiving
6 Justice Department grants will now pursue
7 them.

8 MR. HART: Currently -- and
9 hopefully I can answer your question,
10 Councilman. I'll say just intuitively
11 having RISE as a part of the Prison
12 System, it helps us systematically go
13 after funding, because not only RISE is
14 looking for funding, but there are other
15 providers in our broader community that
16 are looking for funding. It just helps
17 us go after it in a systematic and I'll
18 say a more scientific way as compared to
19 everybody competing for the same funds.
20 RISE being under Prison's budget helps
21 eliminate some of that. Currently,
22 again, I want to reference the Second
23 Chance Grant being an indicated example
24 how RISE working in partnership with the
25 PPS system has brought additional funding

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 to Philadelphia for reentry.

3 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Is it
4 because we know that people want to hold
5 on to the federal funding they receive,
6 so if it comes here for workforce
7 development or if it comes here for
8 another purpose, they like to keep it for
9 their own purposes, but we actually do
10 have a Congressman on the Appropriations
11 Committee who oversees some Justice
12 Department funding, so I'm hoping that it
13 will help us in terms of reentry in the
14 future.

15 MR. HART: Absolutely.

16 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you.

17 MR. HART: Thank you for your
18 support, Councilman.

19 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
20 you, Councilman.

21 Councilman Jones.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
23 Mr. Chairman.

24 Let me first apologize for not
25 being able to attend your graduation

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 yesterday. I so look forward to --

3 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: This
4 morning.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Oh, this
6 morning? Well, I was here with these
7 gentlemen.

8 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: I realize
9 you have some other priorities.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: I could
11 either work on your budget or watch you
12 guys' pomp and circumstance. But I
13 always look forward to those graduations
14 and had an opportunity to be at the last
15 couple of years' worth, and I really
16 think that both people that are
17 professionally going into this, you can
18 see how enthusiastic they are and how
19 much spirit of core there is within your
20 rank, and that's important.

21 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Thank
22 you, Councilman.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: I echo
24 Councilman Goode's comments on having
25 RISE finally where it's supposed to be

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 and, in fact, the Corrections Department
3 where it's supposed to be. It was
4 originally under Human Services under a
5 Quaker model. We have kind of evolved a
6 little bit since then. So hopefully
7 we'll be able to rightsize your
8 departments and rightsize compensation
9 for those professionals that stay within
10 that industry.

11 A couple of quick questions.
12 One of the things -- and I've been in
13 just about every one of your jails. And
14 I don't want people to misconstrue that.
15 But are we at a point where population
16 fluctuations, will we ever see the
17 closing of a prison where the real
18 savings come from? Population shifts
19 don't impact lights, electric, heat and
20 things like that. So what do you think?

21 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: As it
22 stands today and as a matter of fact,
23 during the graduation, I mentioned in my
24 comments that when the Administration
25 started, our average daily population was

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 well over 9,000. Our population today,
3 our actual prison census, was 7,888, a
4 substantial difference. What we've seen
5 is a difference in the composition of the
6 population. Low-custody offenders are
7 not admitted in such high numbers because
8 of treatment courts and other specialty
9 courts and other probation initiatives.
10 We see a larger number of high-custody
11 individuals, more violent offenders.

12 However, both our sentenced
13 population, which has declined by about
14 400 inmates, and our pretrial population,
15 which has declined by about 500 in the
16 last year and a half or so, have enabled
17 us to do some things to try and reduce
18 not only our expenditures, but to improve
19 the conditions of confinement.

20 One of the populations that
21 fell significantly was work release. At
22 one time we had the house state-sentenced
23 inmates. We no longer have to do that,
24 and a large majority of them were
25 sentenced to work release. So our work

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 release population fell from about 350 to
3 about 150 now. We withdrew from one of
4 our contracted facilities for work
5 release and consolidated that population
6 at another contracted facility.

7 In our low-custody sentenced
8 institution, Alternative and Special
9 Detention, we closed a housing area
10 because of the reduction in population,
11 and at a contracted site, we closed a
12 housing area as well. What that does, it
13 doesn't strain the resources because
14 there are available beds in the other
15 units, but what it does, it allows us to
16 reduce our overtime and redeploy our
17 staffing.

18 So we're looking at it
19 constantly. We look at the daily census.
20 We look at the institutions' individual
21 censuses and the housing area censuses.
22 Now, we still have because of the
23 high-custody population that we do have,
24 we still have triple cells at
25 Curran-Fromhold and we still have some

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 triple cells at the House of Correction,
3 but we've been able to eliminate -- we
4 closed one area of the Detention Center,
5 which was a non-traditional housing area,
6 was never meant for housing, a couple at
7 ASD. So we're looking at that almost
8 shift by shift at this point.

9 We expect to see -- well, in
10 the last pay period, we realized a 13
11 percent reduction in overtime from last
12 year. So we're monitoring it closely.
13 Wherever we can redeploy staff safely to
14 realize some savings, we are.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: I get an
16 opportunity to sit with you, Mr. Resnick,
17 and Mr. Hart on the Criminal Justice
18 Advisory Commission, and so I see how the
19 coordination works, and I thank you guys
20 for that.

21 My colleague asked earlier,
22 Neilson, and to a different extent
23 Wilson, about state grants that are
24 available through the Pennsylvania --

25 COMMISSIONER GIORLA:

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 Commission on Crime and Delinquency,
3 PCCD.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: Right. I
5 think there will be some good news,
6 colleagues, about that in the next week
7 or so about folk that are going to be
8 Philadelphia based involved, and that's
9 all I'll say, and we'll keep an eye
10 towards what's possible for reentry.

11 Finally, when I toured those
12 prisons, what was discouraging to me, not
13 to your department but to me, was the
14 fact that you had PLATO, program learning
15 up there.

16 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Yes.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Some of our
18 public schools do not have that type of
19 program learning that they have. And we
20 want returning citizens and folks that
21 find themselves in incarceration to have
22 the best of everything, but it just was
23 sad -- it saddened my heart to see better
24 equipment in some cases under a captured
25 audience than what is in the public

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 school. So we got to work on that.

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

5 you, sir.

6 Councilman Neilson.

7 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Thank you,

8 Mr. Chairman.

9 Thank you for testifying here
10 today, and I know it's your last time, I
11 think you told us, that we can torture
12 you all we want today. There's not going
13 to be a next time.

14 A couple of questions. I'd
15 like to bring your attention to Page 20
16 of Section 50 of your budget that you
17 submitted, and it speaks on inmate
18 housing.

19 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Yes, sir.

20 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Can you
21 explain this to me? Because what I see
22 is, I see \$62 for -- then I see 90, then
23 I see 35, the fluctuations. The numbers
24 are double, triple in some instances.
25 Isn't there a rate that when we do our

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 PEs to house inmates, isn't there
3 something when we do the solicitations to
4 be able to house inmates that we pay
5 instead of being all over the board like
6 this?

7 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: I'm
8 assuming you're referring to possibly a
9 standard rate?

10 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Well, we
12 don't start out with a standard rate,
13 because what we do is, it depends on
14 which type of services each of these
15 contractors provide us with. For
16 instance, the CEC facility at D and Erie
17 is a low-custody level therapeutic
18 facility. They provide housing,
19 security, maintenance, food service, and
20 minor medical care at that site. The
21 Lehigh County is actually the Lehigh
22 County Jail, and that supplies similar
23 services, but for higher-custody inmates,
24 and in order to guarantee their beds,
25 they require a higher per diem. Liberty

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 Management, which is listed there at 17th
3 and Cambria, we provide security, food
4 service, medical, and the owner is pretty
5 much a landlord in that facility.

6 So the services differ from
7 facility to facility, and that results in
8 a different cost.

9 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: And to
10 that, you spend 102 million? Am I
11 reading that right? Yeah. Oh, no.
12 Okay. That's -- I'm sorry; 12 million.

13 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Yes, sir.

14 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Almost 13
15 million.

16 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Yes, sir.

17 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: I looked
18 at the number underneath, I went, wow,
19 that doesn't look right.

20 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Yeah.

21 That was a surprise to me too.

22 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Yeah, me
23 too.

24 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: No. But
25 one of the things we look at over the

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 years as our population grew, some of
3 these housing options became necessary.
4 What we're looking at now is our
5 population draw is down to try to reduce
6 that expenditure so we can reduce the
7 cost.

8 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: That's
9 exactly what I was trying to drag out of
10 you. Thank you, sir.

11 Pretrial, you mention in your
12 testimony that other cities don't house
13 for such a long period of time as we do
14 on the pretrial. I believe you said
15 something in your testimony about that.
16 Is there something that we as a
17 legislative body in here can make certain
18 that that doesn't happen?

19 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Well, as
20 Councilman Jones mentioned, we work
21 closely with the Criminal Justice
22 Advisory Board, which includes the
23 courts, the District Attorney, the
24 Sheriff, Defender Association, Probation
25 and Parole and all the other criminal

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 justice agencies in the City, and what
3 we're looking at right now is pretrial
4 length of stay. Our average length of
5 stay for pretrial defendants is 218 days.
6 In comparison with other cities, that's
7 higher. I don't know and I don't have
8 the information -- I would defer you to
9 the courts for that -- on the number of
10 individuals that enter the court system
11 and are held for trial as opposed to
12 those that are either offered nominal
13 bail or released or diverted into other
14 programs. We believe it's higher in
15 comparison with other major cities,
16 because cities like New York and Los
17 Angeles incarcerate 150 per hundred
18 thousand of their population. We detain
19 like 300, almost double. One of the
20 reasons is the pretrial, as I mentioned,
21 pretrial length of stay, and that's
22 determined by the amount of time it takes
23 to try a case, so to speak. So we're
24 working with the courts to try and
25 institute some more efficiencies so that

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 process is declined.

3 One of the greatest concerns
4 that we face sometimes is, people think
5 we want to let everybody out of jail
6 regardless and not hold them accountable,
7 but we have to look at ways to reduce
8 pretrial detention so that the trial
9 process is efficient and individuals are
10 either placed on the right path, sent on
11 the road to state prison or released to
12 the community, because each time -- every
13 day that someone spends in pretrial
14 detention, they lose resources. So
15 they're disconnected from their family.
16 They're disconnected from their
17 community, and they're not involved --
18 not really involved in anything that's
19 therapeutic or can train them.

20 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Do you
21 think that we utilize the -- some of
22 these pretrial people, they're
23 non-violent. I mean, it could be as
24 simple as a possession or something like
25 that of drugs or distribution. Do you

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 think that -- our system here utilizes
3 the electronic monitoring. I know some
4 of the stuff, the technology out there,
5 we have RF GPS. We can talk to the
6 person that's wearing the bracelet with
7 some of the technology there. Do you
8 think we're utilizing that enough? I
9 mean, I'm thinking of a bracelet cost
10 could be \$20 a day depending upon what
11 vendor you get. I looked at some of the
12 state contracts. And what's it cost to
13 house an individual?

14 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: On
15 average, just simply dividing our average
16 daily population into our budget, is \$114
17 a day. Now, within that, there are
18 subsets within the population that cost
19 us maybe \$10 a day. We have weekenders.
20 We have low-custody individuals who work
21 and provide services in the prisons, but
22 then on the other hand, we have people
23 who are chronically ill, seriously
24 mentally ill that may cost us \$1,000 a
25 day, require hospitalization. It's hard

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 to assign an individual cost to the
3 inmates, but on average, it's \$114.

4 As I mentioned in the
5 testimony, the MacArthur Foundation has
6 released a \$75 million grant program to
7 local governments in order to assess,
8 analyze, and reduce the dependence on
9 jails as pretrial alternatives. We filed
10 an application. We don't know what the
11 status of that application is at this
12 point, but we hope that alternatives like
13 GPS monitoring, which has really improved
14 in the last few years, might be an
15 alternative; risk assessments, better
16 risk assessments; and a better bail
17 evaluation, pretrial bail evaluation will
18 enable us to reduce our population.

19 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Thank you.

20 I have one more question, if I
21 may. I don't know if anybody else has
22 anything.

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:

24 Councilman Jones is lit.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: If you --

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Do you
3 want to yield for one question?

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: I will
5 yield.

6 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Last
7 question for me, sir. Thank you. Thank
8 you.

9 The only question is, there's
10 money that was identified in your budget
11 about prison expansion or acquisition of
12 land, so to say. Can you identify where
13 that piece is and identify any
14 notifications of the community or
15 anything like that? Because I think
16 we're talking about building a new
17 facility, I would assume. We're spending
18 a lot of money here on land. Where is
19 that land located?

20 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: I would
21 defer you to the Department of Public
22 Property, because they're in negotiations
23 to purchase a parcel, but what I'd like
24 to say is, we're trying to purchase an
25 adjacent parcel to our Northeast complex.

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: So it's
3 somewhere --

4 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: And I
5 want to clarify in terms of whether it's
6 a -- this is not a jail expansion. This
7 is a replacement for an existing
8 facility.

9 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: A
10 replacement of the facility we already
11 have constructed?

12 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Yes.

13 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: That's 150
14 years old?

15 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Yes.

16 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: I did read
17 that one. But the community involvement
18 is a key too to any kind of expansion
19 project -- not expansion, new
20 construction, and especially where the
21 facilities are. Like, for instance,
22 Holmesburg Prison, do we still utilize
23 any parts of that?

24 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: We
25 utilize it for a couple different

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 purposes. Our training academy that
3 trains new officers and does our
4 in-service training for staff is located
5 there. Our Correctional Emergency
6 Response Team, our tactical team, so to
7 speak, is headquartered there, and
8 adjacent to that facility we have a
9 storage warehouse for our in-house
10 supplies, and there's a small female
11 facility, low-custody female facility of
12 100 beds located just next door to
13 Holmesburg.

14 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Great. I
15 have no further questions. Thank you for
16 your testimony again and good luck in the
17 future.

18 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Thank
19 you, sir.

20 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Thank you.

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
22 you, Councilman.

23 Councilman Jones.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
25 Mr. Chair, and this will be my last

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 question for the day.

3 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: That's a
4 promise, right?

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: No. It
6 depends on what they respond to, Mr.
7 Chair.

8 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Point of
9 information. Can we hold him to that?

10 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I heard
11 him on record.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: So it is
13 with great sadness that I accept the fact
14 that you're not going to be here going
15 forward. You've decided to go off and
16 spend the rest of your life not dealing
17 with inmates and elected officials and
18 things like that.

19 COMMISSIONER GIORLA:
20 Thirty-three years in prison is enough
21 for me.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: It's enough?
23 Well, everybody deserves to be paroled at
24 some point, right?

25 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Thank

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 you, sir.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: So as you
4 reenter private life, we wish you the
5 best, and thank you for your service.

6 Similarly, you have a large
7 workforce that is going through the DROP
8 program. How are you positioned for
9 succession planning?

10 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: What
11 we've done over the last three years and
12 we're continuing to do is, we maintain a
13 DROP list of everyone that's enrolled.
14 We've identified -- there are some
15 positions that will be filled through the
16 civil service process simply because they
17 become vacant, but there are critical
18 positions. Most recently one of the
19 promotions that was formally made today
20 to Deputy Commissioner for Restorative
21 and Transitional Services that handles
22 our social services and treatment
23 programs, we promoted Deputy Blanche
24 Carney two months before the incumbent,
25 Reginald Hammond, was about to retire.

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 We wanted to have a seamless transition,
3 and thus far it's worked out very well.
4 We've identified key positions where we
5 think that will be valuable, and over the
6 last three years, that's worked well. It
7 hasn't had any direct impact on our
8 positions. In the next year, we'll see a
9 couple of other significant positions
10 vacated, and we have steps underway to
11 replace those persons.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Well, we
13 appreciate that and, again, you're going
14 to be a hard act to follow. I remember
15 when you became Commissioner here. I was
16 a Councilperson just starting out, and
17 what I liked -- I didn't like all your
18 answers. All your answers were to the
19 best of your ability truthful, and I
20 could count on that. And that's not bad
21 when you're dealing with a professional
22 on the other side of the rail. So thank
23 you.

24 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: You're
25 welcome.

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Hopefully
3 we'll see you around. You're not going
4 to move to Florida maybe.

5 Oh, one other question. The
6 private --

7 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Point of
8 order, Mr. Chairman.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: The private
10 institutions that are popping up, private
11 prisons, give us your true and honest
12 perspective on those.

13 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: This is
14 my opinion.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: They can't
16 fire you now.

17 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Well, any
18 time, any day.

19 MR. RESNICK: He's got a couple
20 months left.

21 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: They fill
22 and in some cases provide a worthwhile
23 service in a niche, not -- I don't think
24 they are equipped. You can't run an
25 institution to make a profit with

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 high-custody and dangerous and severely
3 mentally ill individuals. You have to
4 design your services and you have to pay
5 whatever it costs. Unfortunately, that's
6 high for a lot of corrections agencies,
7 and they try and use private corrections
8 as a substitute.

9 For low-level offenders, some
10 educational programs, some therapeutic
11 programs, private corrections are very
12 good because they can start up fast.
13 They can recruit staff faster than we can
14 in government, and they usually can meet
15 their turnover.

16 One of the things about private
17 corrections that is very rarely mentioned
18 is the fact that in most of their
19 contracts, they have a right of refusal.
20 So if inmates go there and are unsuitable
21 or create a problem or interfere with
22 their operations, they can send them
23 back. We can't send anybody back. When
24 they get there, it's the last stop.

25 So there's a big difference,

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 and I think a lot depends on the
3 management of the company. Some
4 companies are very well managed and some
5 companies are very poorly managed. So,
6 you know, it takes a lot of attention, a
7 lot of scrutiny on behalf of the
8 contracting agency to make sure they live
9 up to their promises.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: We don't
11 contract as a municipality. It's a state
12 funded --

13 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Well, no.
14 We do contract. We contract, for
15 instance, with Correctional Education
16 Center at D and Erie at Hoffman Hall for
17 a therapeutic program. We contract with
18 Liberty Management Services for a work
19 release program. But nearly all of our
20 other programs are administered on site
21 at the PPS complex by us.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: So the ones
23 you deal with are within your footprint,
24 except for the one at Erie?

25 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Well, we

1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.
2 have one at D and Erie. We have one at
3 17th and Cambria. We formerly had one at
4 600 University Avenue, but that's one we
5 closed. And we also contract with Lehigh
6 County.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: All right.
8 We may have to do a resolution to look at
9 that. I'm deeply concerned about that,
10 Mr. Chair.

11 And isn't the one at 17th
12 Street a female prison?

13 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: No. When
14 we first opened it in 2002 or 2003, it
15 was a female facility. Because of
16 overcrowding, we switched it to male.
17 There's -- I'm sorry. I stand corrected.
18 Across the street from our 17th and
19 Cambria facility is a female facility
20 operated by Liberty Management Services.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay. We'll
22 put a pin in that, sir.

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
25 for your patience and indulgence.

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1 4/15/15 - WHOLE - BILL 150162, etc.

2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

3 you.

4 And let me repeat,

5 Commissioner, thank you for all your

6 service to the City and good luck in the

7 future.

8 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Thank

9 you, sir.

10 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: That

11 concludes the hearing today. This

12 Committee will stand in recess until

13 Tuesday, April 21st, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

14 and we will convene here in Room 400,

15 City Hall.

16 Thank you all very much.

17 (Committee of the Whole

18 adjourned at 2:00 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
proceedings, evidence and objections are
contained fully and accurately in the
stenographic notes taken by me upon the
foregoing matter, and that this is a true and
correct transcript of same.

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