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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

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COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT

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Room 400, City Hall  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Friday, March 30, 2007, 2:45 p.m.

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10 Resolution No. 060247 - Authorizing City  
11 Council's Legislative Oversight Committee to  
12 hold public hearings to investigate the Hero  
13 Scholarship Fund scholarship award  
14 guidelines, the Fund's administrative  
15 decision-making, and the status of the 2006  
16 Thrill Show.

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COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

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James F. Kenney, Chair

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1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2

WITNESS

PAGE

3

PANEL #1

4

|                                           |    |
|-------------------------------------------|----|
| - Cathy Redmond, Widow of John Redmond    | 6  |
| - Joanne Hayes, Widow of Officer Hayes    | 16 |
| - Shawn Hayes, Son of Officer Hayes       | 18 |
| - Fran Friel, Widow of Ed Friel.....      | 25 |
| - Lorraine Craig, Mother of Craig Gleason | 30 |
| - Craig Gleason, Son of Officer Gleason   | 36 |
| - Harry Craig, Father of Craig Gleason    | 46 |

8

9

PANEL #2

|                                          |    |
|------------------------------------------|----|
| - Karen Boyle, Local 22 Admin. Assist.   | 55 |
| - Brian McBride, Local 22 President..... | 63 |
| - Bobby Eddis, FOP President.....        | 71 |
| - Michale Lutz, FOP.....                 | 77 |
| - Jim Binns, Hero Thrill Show Chairman   | 87 |

13

PANEL #3

14

|                                        |     |
|----------------------------------------|-----|
| - John McGrath, McKissock & Hoffman    | 111 |
| - R. Sliwinski, Hero Scholarship Pres. | 117 |

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1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Good  
3 afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. This  
4 is the public hearing of the  
5 Legislative Oversight Committee on  
6 Resolution 060247. Due to the fact  
7 that we are not moving any legislation  
8 out of this committee today, there's no  
9 need for a quorum.

10 So I will get started in the  
11 interest of time and in the interest of  
12 2:30 on Friday afternoon to get us  
13 moving through the list. As other  
14 members come, they're welcome to also  
15 hear this.

16 We're here today because over  
17 the course of the last few years, I've  
18 been getting consistent complaints from  
19 individuals who are sitting in the  
20 audience who have experienced, I guess,  
21 perhaps the greatest loss and tragedy  
22 that anyone can experience -- the loss  
23 of a spouse in the line of duty.

24 As a result of that, the  
25 complaints that were coming into my

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 office was related to some of the lack  
3 of responsiveness and sometimes  
4 outright denial of benefits to children  
5 who are trying to matriculate through  
6 colleges and universities relative to  
7 their interaction with the Hero  
8 Scholarship Fund.

9 We have asked people from the  
10 Fund to be here today, and they are  
11 here, and the way I want to conduct the  
12 hearing is, I want to bring up  
13 basically three panels so that the  
14 people from the Fund can hear some of  
15 the concerns that are going to be  
16 expressed by the spouses and by the  
17 children. And then we'll ask them if  
18 they could respond.

19 The goal here is to try to  
20 create a situation where people feel  
21 that they don't have to, I guess, jump  
22 through hoops or climb mountains in  
23 order to get something for their  
24 children that we all in 1954, as a City  
25 Council, established in an effort to

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 make up somewhat -- no one can ever  
3 make up for the loss of a dad.

4 So with that, I would like to  
5 call the first panel of witnesses:

6 Mrs. Cathy Redmond, Fran Friel, Joanne  
7 Hayes, Shawn Hayes, and Craig Gleason.

8 Whoever's going to testify,  
9 whoever's going to actually speak can  
10 go to the microphones. Anyone else  
11 over that can take the black chairs to  
12 the back, so just come forward.

13 And the second panel will be  
14 Bobby Eddis, Brian McBride, Karen  
15 Boyle, Michael Lutz, and Jimmy Binns.

16 (Panel members come forward.)

17 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Wherever  
18 you're comfortable. You can just fill  
19 in the chairs here.

20 And do me a favor. This is an  
21 old system, so pull the microphone  
22 close to you, and before you testify,  
23 please just identify yourself for the  
24 record so the record is clear.

25 So I guess, Cathy, if you want

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 to start.

3 MS. REDMOND: Good afternoon.

4 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Good

5 afternoon.

6 MS. REDMOND: My name is

7 Cathleen Redmond. My husband, John, a

8 proud member of the Philadelphia Fire

9 Department for 17 years, was a willing

10 participant in fundraising activities

11 connected with the Hero Scholarship

12 Fund. Many times, John told me if the

13 unthinkable happened and he was killed

14 in the line of duty, the children would

15 receive a college education. He

16 believed this, and it gave him a sense

17 of comfort.

18 On January 28, 1994, the

19 unthinkable did happen. John was

20 killed in a fire at the Rising Sun

21 Baptist Church. Our four children

22 ranged from 11 to 2 years of age. In

23 the weeks following his death, I

24 received a letter signed by John

25 Street, who was then Managing Director,

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 promising that all four of our children  
3 would be awarded college scholarships  
4 through the Hero Scholarship Fund.  
5 What a wonderful promise.

6 I stayed at home and raised  
7 our children for ten years after John's  
8 death. I felt that John would have  
9 wanted me to do this and that the  
10 children needed the security and  
11 consistency of having me at home.

12 We had promised them that we  
13 would never put them in day care, and  
14 we always tried to keep our promises.  
15 After all, I did not have to worry  
16 about paying for college. They had all  
17 been promised a scholarship. Together  
18 with an investment counselor provided  
19 by the City of Philadelphia, I based my  
20 financial plan on this promise.

21 My next contact with the fund  
22 was with my oldest daughter Kate's  
23 senior year of high school. I called  
24 and spoke with Mr. Callaghan and told  
25 him that Katie was looking at colleges.

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 He informed me that she could attend  
3 any college in the United States or  
4 abroad, and the Fund would pay her  
5 tuition. I would be responsible for  
6 her room and board. The Fund would  
7 even cover \$250 towards the purchase of  
8 books. If she were to pick a state  
9 school, the Fund would cover the entire  
10 amount, including room and board.

11 Mr. Callaghan instructed me to  
12 send a copy of her letter of acceptance  
13 and the original invoice to the Fund,  
14 and a check would be forwarded directly  
15 to the school. There was no other  
16 paperwork required.

17 For four years, it was that  
18 simple. Katie attended the University  
19 of Scranton and received an outstanding  
20 education for which we are both  
21 grateful.

22 Three years later, I contacted  
23 the Fund and informed Mr. Callaghan  
24 that Bridget was graduating high school  
25 and looking at colleges. I was given

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 the same instructions. Her first three  
3 semesters were handled by the Fund  
4 exactly as Katie's had been. At the  
5 end of December of 2004, I submitted  
6 the invoice for Bridget's spring  
7 semester to the Fund. She was then in  
8 her sophomore year.

9 In January, at which time the  
10 invoice was past due, I received a  
11 message on my answering machine that  
12 the fund would only cover \$8,800 of the  
13 tuition, and I would be required to  
14 file a FAFSA form for financial aid.  
15 This left me in the position of having  
16 to immediately come up with the  
17 additional tuition costs, which were  
18 \$2,050.

19 I contacted the Fund and was  
20 informed by Mr. Callaghan that new  
21 regulations had been adopted in August.  
22 This was my first knowledge of any such  
23 changes -- five months after they had  
24 taken effect. Mr. Callaghan promised  
25 to send me a copy of the new

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 guidelines.

3 I made a few inquiries within  
4 the Fire Department to see if I could  
5 obtain more information about these  
6 changes. It was, and still is, my  
7 feeling that if the regulations had  
8 changed, I should have been notified in  
9 writing immediately, and Bridget should  
10 have been grandfathered, as she was  
11 already enrolled in the program.

12 I did not receive any further  
13 written instructions or a copy of the  
14 new requirements from the Fund.

15 In the meantime, my son John  
16 graduated high school and prepared to  
17 attend Holy Family University. I  
18 contacted Mr. Callaghan and informed  
19 him that John's academic record was  
20 poor but he wanted to try attending  
21 college, even though we were not sure  
22 he would be able to succeed.

23 Mr. Callaghan said it was not  
24 a problem: The Fund would contribute  
25 \$8,800 towards John's tuition, which

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 covered the entire amount. I filed the  
3 FAFSA forms as directed and submitted  
4 the invoices for payment. The Fund did  
5 pay \$8,800 for each of the children.  
6 John attended the fall semester at Holy  
7 Family but unable to keep up  
8 academically and did not register for  
9 the spring semester.

10 On December 16, 2005, I  
11 submitted to the Fund the spring  
12 invoice for Bridget. On January 15th,  
13 I received a letter from Rider  
14 University informing me that no tuition  
15 payment had been made, and if not paid  
16 within five days, Bridget would be  
17 required to reregister for all of her  
18 classes.

19 Bridget was in her junior  
20 year, and the courses she was taking  
21 were required in order to complete her  
22 major. If she attempted to reregister,  
23 the classes more than likely would have  
24 been full, and this would delay  
25 graduation.

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 Bridget was hysterical, and I  
3 was embarrassed and bewildered. I was  
4 forced to arrange immediate in the  
5 payment in the amount of \$9,495 to  
6 avoid further difficulties.

7 A few days later, more than  
8 one month after submission of the  
9 invoice, I received a letter from the  
10 Fund stating that the invoice could not  
11 be paid until the Fund received  
12 Bridget's grades in the sealed envelope  
13 from Rider University. This was the  
14 first time I had heard of this  
15 requirement. I had not been asked to  
16 do this the previous two semesters.

17 Bridget obtained the grades as  
18 instructed and mailed them to the Fund.  
19 I received no further communication  
20 from the Fund or Mr. Callaghan.

21 On March 13, halfway through  
22 the semester, I wrote a letter to the  
23 Hero Scholarship Fund requesting  
24 reimbursement for the spring tuition,  
25 as it was my belief I had fulfilled all

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 of the requirements necessary. I  
3 expected either a check or instructions  
4 as to what additional information the  
5 Fund required.

6 The response I received was a  
7 vile, insulting, and disrespectful  
8 letter signed by Mr. Callaghan  
9 informing me that the Fund's auditors  
10 had advised him that no more monies  
11 would be made available to the Redmond  
12 family due to lack of cooperation. I  
13 still had not received the guidelines,  
14 and there was no instruction as to how  
15 I could put myself in compliance or any  
16 offer of assistance to do so. We were  
17 simply cut off.

18 I was astounded. I had  
19 fulfilled every request communicated to  
20 me. I have had to pay for five of the  
21 eight semesters of Bridget's college  
22 tuition, and in two years, will also  
23 need to provide for Nora's college  
24 education.

25 You can imagine what this has

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 done to my financial plan. Both  
3 Bridget and Nora are excellent  
4 students, and Nora is currently being  
5 considered for induction into the  
6 National Honor Society.

7 Mr. Callaghan's letter also  
8 demanded information as to what had  
9 happened to the tuition paid for John.  
10 What is he suggesting? The Fund paid  
11 for one semester; John attended one  
12 semester, and the tuition was paid  
13 directly to Holy Family University.

14 My husband was a good fireman,  
15 well respected in the Fire Department.  
16 This is evidenced by the award given in  
17 his name. He was also well respected  
18 in the community, and many  
19 organizations give scholarships in his  
20 honor, scholarships that his children  
21 are not eligible for. He was a role  
22 model and mentor for many young people  
23 through CYO sports; yet his children  
24 have had to grow up without his  
25 guidance.

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 I have spent the last 13 years  
3 trying to do the right thing. I have  
4 worked extremely hard and devoted  
5 myself entirely to raising my children,  
6 and they are people I am proud of and  
7 respect.

8 We have dealt with a lot of  
9 heartaches along the way -- sporting  
10 events, father/daughter dances,  
11 graduations, birthdays, the reception  
12 of sacraments, all without John's  
13 presence. I have experienced the grief  
14 of all four of my children, attended  
15 many counseling sessions, comforted  
16 children awakened by nightmares, and  
17 tried to console the inconsolable.

18 We have dealt with many  
19 uncertainties, but college tuition was  
20 supposed to be a given. This was a  
21 no-brainer. All four of my children  
22 were promised a college education.

23 All four of them have paid  
24 quite a price to receive that  
25 education. Neither they nor I should

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 be made to beg or fight to have that  
3 promise kept, nor should we have to  
4 endure this total disrespect for John's  
5 sacrifice to this city.

6 I intend to do whatever it  
7 takes to see that the promise made to  
8 my husband and my children is  
9 fulfilled. It's my hope that you will  
10 assist me in this matter.

11 Thank you.

12 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you  
13 for your testimony.

14 Whoever would like to go next,  
15 please just identify yourself for the  
16 record.

17 MRS. HAYES: Okay. My name is  
18 Joanne Hayes. My husband was killed in  
19 1993.

20 I went through many, many  
21 things with my children. First of all,  
22 Father's Day was one of the days that  
23 their father was either killed or shot.  
24 Graduation was the same. My children  
25 have been in and out of the hospital

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 and -- having many problems.

3 The only good thing I got out  
4 of this was that my children were going  
5 to receive their scholarships. And it  
6 was really, really a rough time.

7 When my son Ryan went to take  
8 his time to go to get his scholarship,  
9 I was given a very, very hard time. I  
10 was told that -- it was really crazy.  
11 I keep -- I'm sorry I keep on getting  
12 upset.

13 When I called him and said my  
14 son Ryan was going to receive -- my son  
15 Ryan was going to go to school, he told  
16 me I had to fill out all these papers  
17 and then he could go to school. Well,  
18 at first, the papers didn't come in on  
19 time and we were deciding what to do.

20 Now, just like the other ones  
21 I gave up my life to stay home for my  
22 children, and I tried to do the best I  
23 know how. And I fully feel that, you  
24 know, scholarships are very important  
25 because this is the one thing my

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 husband wanted, was for the children to  
3 have those scholarships.

4 So I went through so much with  
5 this man. He hung up the phone on me,  
6 he slammed doors in my face, and I just  
7 don't believe he's for real.

8 When -- when a husband is  
9 killed in the line of duty, especially  
10 when we're told this at the Thrill  
11 Show, we should not have to go through  
12 what we're going through.

13 Now, I didn't just go through  
14 one of my children. My second son here  
15 would like to tell his story, and then  
16 I will tell about my third son.

17 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: If you  
18 could just take the opportunity to  
19 change seats. Please identify yourself  
20 for the record.

21 MR. HAYES: My name is Shawn  
22 Hayes, son of Officer Robert Hayes.

23 I was trying to attend Holy  
24 Family University for a radiology  
25 program. When I called Mr. Callaghan

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 and told him I wanted to attend school,  
3 he gave me numerous excuses why I could  
4 not attend, that I was not eligible for  
5 the scholarship.

6 First of all, it was that I  
7 was too old for the program 'cause at  
8 the time, he said, I would be 21. I  
9 was not. I was 20 and I would be in  
10 school two weeks before I turned 21,  
11 which would mean I would still meet the  
12 'cause I would be in school before age  
13 21.

14 Second was that I could not  
15 attend because I would not be out of  
16 school in time. You have to be out of  
17 school by age 23. My program was only  
18 two years for radiology program, so I  
19 still would have met the guidelines.

20 The third one he told me was  
21 that I was married. He considered me  
22 married because I had a child out of  
23 wedlock. It's not a marriage, I told  
24 him. He hung up the phone on me, I  
25 called him back and told him if he

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 doesn't handle the situation, I'm going  
3 to go to the press and they're going to  
4 help me out with this, and I'm going to  
5 explain to them all of the guidelines  
6 and show 'em that I meet everything.

7 Then I hung up on him. He  
8 called me right back and then he said,  
9 "We'll work something out."

10 During my time attending Holy  
11 Family University, I had a complication  
12 with my hand where I was in a cast for  
13 my thumb. I missed a lot of school  
14 running back and forth to the doctors  
15 and also going to rehab.

16 I talked to my instructors.  
17 They advised me the best thing to do  
18 was to withdraw from the courses. I  
19 contacted the school immediately and  
20 advised them what I was doing; they  
21 said okay. They never informed me that  
22 I had to come up and sign papers.

23 No one ever called me from  
24 school saying I was missing class, or I  
25 would have handled the situation right

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 away. Eventually, I got a letter in  
3 the mail saying that I was kicked off  
4 the scholarship because of  
5 academically.

6 Later on, I was told by my  
7 mother that Mr. Callaghan had called  
8 her and said that he had accused me of  
9 stealing the money for the tuition. He  
10 also called Mr. Mike Lutz and Bobby  
11 Eddis and told 'em that I had stolen  
12 the money. He never called the school  
13 to check to see that they never gave me  
14 the money back for the tuition.

15 That could have really  
16 affected me in life. I could have lost  
17 my job, saying that I stole money. I  
18 could have had a hard time finding a  
19 job. It's not something you accuse  
20 someone of doing without checking into  
21 it, especially over \$8,000. That's a  
22 lot to say someone has stole.

23 So I sat down with Mr. Mike  
24 Lutz. We talked then with the board of  
25 Holy Family University. I explained my

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 situation, I brought my medical records  
3 in to them, showed them the situation.

4 Within a few weeks, they  
5 agreed to give back the money to the  
6 Holy Family -- for my tuition. They  
7 also changed all of my grades from F's  
8 to withdrawals, showing that I was  
9 withdrawing from the program.

10 We sat down with Mr. Callaghan  
11 one day at the FOP with the check, and  
12 we asked him about reinstatement, and  
13 he advised that he would not be able to  
14 reinstate me; he didn't even consider  
15 reinstating me into the program. He  
16 only cared about coming to get this  
17 check.

18 At the time, I was still  
19 attending Lincoln Tech, where my hand  
20 had recovered from it, where I was  
21 going to be an automotive technician.  
22 I was currently -- I had a 4.0G PA  
23 average, and I had a perfect attendance  
24 at the time.

25 I finished Lincoln Tech

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 October 13th with a degree in  
3 automotive. My GPA was a 3.87, and my  
4 attendance was a 97.5.

5 That's all I have to say right  
6 now.

7 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you  
8 very much for your testimony.

9 Would you please identify  
10 yourself for the record are you  
11 through?

12 Joanne, are you through?

13 MRS. HAYES: I'm sorry. I  
14 wanted to come back and tell you about  
15 my third son.

16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay. I'm  
17 sorry.

18 MRS. HAYES: His name is  
19 Bobby. He was a learning-disability  
20 child.

21 Now, I went to Mr. Callaghan  
22 once again and said, "Look, I know  
23 there's scholarships out there for  
24 learning-disability children. Is there  
25 any way could you look into it?" He

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 said, "No, there's nothing out there,  
3 there's nothing we can do."

4 I said, "You know, once again,  
5 I'm going to tell you: My husband died  
6 in the line of duty. When we went to  
7 the Thrill Show, they told us there  
8 were scholarships out for us. I don't  
9 think this is right what you're doing  
10 to me."

11 "Well," he said, "that's just  
12 the way it is." Okay. So then I kept  
13 on saying, "This isn't right."

14 I did come to Councilman  
15 Kenney, which is my friend, and I  
16 really appreciate you for helping me to  
17 try to deal with what is going on.

18 And to tell my son Shawn also  
19 that he had stole money really broke my  
20 heart because I know this is not my  
21 son. My son is a very good son. He  
22 works a job at AAA, he takes care of  
23 two children. And this is a person  
24 that they didn't want to let go to  
25 college? There's something wrong.

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 I don't think this man should  
3 be on the board.

4 Thank you.

5 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you  
6 for your testimony.

7 MS. FRIEL: My name is Fran  
8 Friel, and my husband, Ed Friel, was  
9 killed in the line of duty on May 30.

10 At the time, my son, Daniel,  
11 was four years old, and my daughter,  
12 Kathleen, was six months old. Like the  
13 others, they have endured the pain of  
14 not having their father, and for them  
15 being so young, not even remembering  
16 their father.

17 When they reached school age,  
18 there was a small measure of comfort  
19 because I could tell them that in honor  
20 of their father, the City of  
21 Philadelphia was paying for their  
22 college tuition through the Hero  
23 Scholarship Fund; that their father,  
24 for his call to duty, and they, for the  
25 sacrifice they were forced to make,

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 were not forgotten.

3 I have a letter to my son in  
4 May of 2000, when he graduated high  
5 school saying, I quote:

6 "I offer you the Hero  
7 Scholarship Fund for 2000. This is  
8 will entitle you to a full-paid  
9 scholarship covering tuition and  
10 expenses as well as a bookstore account  
11 at any college of your choice  
12 worldwide."

13 While my son only attended  
14 college for one year, my daughter,  
15 after her high school graduation,  
16 applied to and was accepted at Loyola  
17 college in Baltimore. We filled out  
18 the Hero Scholarship Fund Committee  
19 application, which, I was told, was  
20 only a formality because my husband had  
21 been killed in the line of duty, and so  
22 there was no question of our  
23 eligibility.

24 From the time in 2000 through  
25 2004, when my children started college,

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 we filled out the necessary forms,  
3 included FAFSA and PHEAA forms. We  
4 were never told we had to apply for  
5 grants or other scholarships. We had  
6 earned the Hero Scholarship, and it was  
7 not a last-dollar award but a full  
8 scholarship.

9 I believe it was in January  
10 2005 that I was sent a registered  
11 letter with a regulation handbook and  
12 told the amount -- maximum amount to be  
13 paid would be \$8800. This announcement  
14 was made with no prior warning.  
15 Kathleen already attended Loyola, and I  
16 would not ask her to now leave because  
17 we no longer received a full  
18 scholarship.

19 I received a letter on  
20 February 11, 2000, from Jerry Callaghan  
21 indicating that he had received the  
22 Loyola invoice for \$13,525 and that the  
23 maximum \$8800 would be paid after we  
24 had applied for all financial aid.

25 I had applied for FAFSA and

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 PHEAA forms. We did not qualify for  
3 grants or loans.

4 They told me in this letter  
5 that if I did not adhere to their  
6 regulations, Kathleen would be dropped  
7 from the program. I thought we had a  
8 adhered to the rules and regulations  
9 needed to qualify for this scholarship:  
10 Kathleen lost her father in the line of  
11 duty.

12 I was made to feel like I was  
13 trying to get something that I was not  
14 promised and, unfortunately did, not  
15 qualify for.

16 Let me state clearly: I would  
17 give up every penny of this money if I  
18 could have Ed back and my children  
19 could have their father.

20 While I can understand, in  
21 this day and age, when the cost of  
22 college education has risen beyond  
23 expectations, I can appreciate asking  
24 students to apply for any other  
25 possible grants or scholarships. I

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 absolutely do not feel it was right or  
3 fair to us, in the middle of Kathleen's  
4 education, to no longer pay her tuition  
5 in full as promised.

6 I have paid to Loyola since  
7 that spring semester \$27,725 that was  
8 supposed to be paid by the Hero  
9 Scholarship Fund.

10 I am grateful to the Fund, but  
11 it is not what I was promised -- a full  
12 college education for my children.

13 I know that City Council cares  
14 about this city, but I ask you, would  
15 there be a city if it was not for its  
16 firefighters and policemen?

17 My daughter is finished with  
18 her education in a month, and I beg you  
19 to do whatever is necessary to revive  
20 the integrity of the Hero Scholarship  
21 Fund for those in the future that will  
22 pay the ultimate price.

23 Thank you.

24 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you  
25 very much for your testimony.

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 Is there anyone else here to  
3 testify? If could you change seats  
4 with someone, please.

5 (Witnesses come forward.)

6 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Good  
7 afternoon.

8 MRS. CRAIG: Hi.

9 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Please  
10 identify yourself for the record.

11 MRS. CRAIG: My name is  
12 Lorraine Craig. I'm the mother of  
13 Craig Gleason. This is my son.

14 The fact that he is my son is  
15 bittersweet. His father died in the  
16 line of duty when he was three months  
17 old, and his mother was my husband's  
18 sister, so we are not his original  
19 parents.

20 And when his mother died, he  
21 was three years old. The oldest was  
22 18. There were six children.

23 My experience with Jerry  
24 doesn't go back very far. My husband  
25 became so frustrated with Jerry that he

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 asked me to deal with him in the end,  
3 recently.

4 So I can just...

5 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Please  
6 recount what you --

7 MRS. CRAIG: ... talk about my  
8 experience.

9 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Please.

10 MRS. CRAIG: It's been very  
11 short. My experience with Jerry has  
12 only been in the last few months. My  
13 husband, Harry, became exhausted with  
14 him, so the job became mine.

15 The first time that I called  
16 Jerry, I left several messages before  
17 he returned my call. During that first  
18 conversation, he stated that my son  
19 Craig left him voice mail message the  
20 previous spring that he would probably  
21 be dropping out of school.

22 I told Jerry that there could  
23 be no truth to this, as Craig had no  
24 intention of quitting Drexel. In  
25 addition, I told him that Craig loved

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 Drexel and that he enjoyed what he was  
3 studying and had every intention of  
4 continuing.

5 In addition to insisting that  
6 Craig had left him a message to inform  
7 him that he would no longer need the  
8 scholarship, he also went on to tell me  
9 how much he helps the students and  
10 bends over backwards to assist them.  
11 He told me that although he had had a  
12 stroke, he would continue in his  
13 volunteer position with the Hero  
14 Scholarship Fund because he only wanted  
15 to help the children.

16 At some point in that  
17 conversation, Jerry hung up the phone  
18 on me, and I can't tell you at what  
19 point; he just hung it up.

20 He called me back about a half  
21 an hour later to tell me that he had  
22 checked his records. The only written  
23 correspondence that Jerry seemed to  
24 have had been sent via certified mail  
25 by my son the previous year.

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 According to Jerry, no one  
3 from my family had mailed him anything  
4 nor had they attempted to contact him  
5 except for the voice mail message from  
6 Craig stating that he was quitting  
7 school. This, I knew, was not true.

8 When I suggested to Jerry that  
9 perhaps we could agree to disagree on  
10 the matter of Craig quitting and move  
11 on to getting his bill paid, Jerry  
12 again hung up the phone on me.

13 Before hanging up on me, Jerry  
14 told me all of the items that he needed  
15 regarding Craig and Drexel. He stated  
16 that Drexel would be paid within two  
17 weeks of receipt of those items. I  
18 said that we would get them together  
19 and get them to him. Jerry sent a  
20 letter to Craig with the same  
21 information.

22 The items have been gotten  
23 together; the bill is not paid.

24 My son managed to get all of  
25 the documents that Jerry requested. I

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 called Jerry several times before he  
3 returned my call. I said that we would  
4 like to personally deliver the  
5 documents since they never seem to get  
6 there. Jerry's response was, "Sure, if  
7 you want to drive to South Delaware."  
8 I said that that was not a problem,  
9 could we set up an appointment? And in  
10 an abrasive manner, he told me that we  
11 could not come to his place in  
12 Delaware; just mail everything.

13 I stated that I had concerns  
14 about everything being received by  
15 Jerry; could we set up an appointment  
16 to meet in Philadelphia when he came up  
17 next? He said that he never comes to  
18 Philadelphia. He further stated that I  
19 was not to send anything certified  
20 mail.

21 My son Craig took pictures of  
22 all of the paperwork that mailed. From  
23 his cell phone, he took pictures and  
24 sent them regular mail to Jerry.

25 Several weeks and numerous

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2       unanswered phone calls went by before  
3       Craig received a letter from Jerry  
4       stating that nothing would be paid on  
5       his account at Drexel. Craig has that  
6       letter.

7               I called Jerry, leaving  
8       messages several times. He has not  
9       returned any of those calls.

10              I would just like to state  
11       that -- that life has not been easy.  
12       It has not. I mean, it was not my  
13       spouse who died, but it was my  
14       brother-in-law who died, and it was  
15       Craig's father who died, and it was his  
16       brothers' and sisters' father who died.  
17       And they were all promised the Hero  
18       Scholarship Fund.

19              And we have had a great deal  
20       of problems dealing with the problems  
21       of these kids losing both of their  
22       parents. And it is not been easy.  
23       It's been -- it's been very, very  
24       difficult.

25              And of all the things, we did

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 not think that the college would be a  
3 problem, you know, getting that paid.  
4 And it has and it's all because of  
5 Jerry.

6 That's all I have to say.

7 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

8 Please identify yourself for  
9 the record.

10 MR. GLEASON: Thanks. My name  
11 is Craig Gleason, son of Daniel  
12 Gleason.

13 My dealings with Jerry have  
14 been very few. Of the many phone calls  
15 I've given to him, only one has ever  
16 been returned. I guess I'll start off  
17 by reading what I have here.

18 Or, actually, I'd like to say  
19 a little something before that. Like,  
20 as I was growing up and I was attending  
21 high school and you begin to start  
22 thinking about your future education, I  
23 was always promised that I never had to  
24 worry about where I wanted to pick, for  
25 it was taken care of.

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2                   You know, when I was younger,  
3       I knew this, but I didn't know all the  
4       reasons of it. As I grew up, I was  
5       told it was because my father was  
6       killed in the line of duty, there was a  
7       Hero Scholarship Fund set up in his  
8       name and in all the other names of the  
9       officers and firefighters, and that I  
10      would never had to worry about it.

11                  So as I grew up and I go to  
12      high school and I'm thinking about my  
13      colleges and I started to get into a  
14      mindset where I want to go to an  
15      engineering school -- it's what I want  
16      to do -- I ended up picking Drexel  
17      University, a local university known  
18      for its engineering program.

19                  I did not know that picking  
20      that specific school would be such a  
21      bigger problem for the way they deal  
22      with their semesters and their billing  
23      issues.

24                  I guess I'll start reading.

25                  My correspondence with Jerry

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 was exceedingly difficult. It started  
3 out with my father making all dealings  
4 with Jerry. And when I started college  
5 in September of 2004, I submitted all  
6 of the necessary paperwork for Jerry to  
7 process my scholarship.

8 He made the first payment  
9 required that year with no difficulty.  
10 The second payment didn't get paid, and  
11 Jerry claimed he never received the  
12 bill. When trying to call Jerry at the  
13 office located on JFK Boulevard here in  
14 the city, I was never once able to talk  
15 to a person; I was always referred to  
16 an answering machine. These calls were  
17 almost never returned.

18 And the one time he did return  
19 my phone call -- I'm sorry. When he  
20 would return phone calls, it would be  
21 directed towards my father and not to  
22 me, even though I asked him to call  
23 myself back on my personal cell phone.

24 I finally started leaving  
25 multiple messages in the same day, and

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 that's when they finally got  
3 returned -- once. And when he did, I  
4 was informed he never received the  
5 bill, and it ended with him hanging up  
6 on me.

7 Eventually, I was able to get  
8 Drexel to send him this other bill, and  
9 it was paid eventually. It's hard for  
10 me to tell the exact date that these  
11 items were paid because Drexel is very  
12 used to dealing with scholarships, and  
13 when they know a scholarship is owed,  
14 they just post it to your account so it  
15 doesn't reflect in your statement. I  
16 eventually have to call to verify that  
17 it's been paid.

18 So, again, I repeated this  
19 process in the next school year. This  
20 time, you know, Drexel, like I said,  
21 knew I was dealing with a scholarship,  
22 posted the amount when I showed them  
23 the letter that I was a granted a  
24 certain amount. They posted the amount  
25 to my account, so I really had no idea

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 or no reason to think that these  
3 weren't paid.

4 When I found out that these  
5 weren't paid and we tried to contact  
6 Jerry, at this point, the bill had  
7 backed up to my account to a total of  
8 over \$50,000. This is when Jerry sent  
9 me the letter that my mother referred  
10 to that I needed three very specific  
11 items. These three specific items were  
12 so specific that Drexel doesn't have  
13 the specific paperwork. I had to  
14 attend meetings with members from the  
15 Bursar's Office and the Registrar to  
16 get them to fabricate this paperwork  
17 that he needs.

18 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Can you  
19 give me an example of what the  
20 paperwork was?

21 MR. GLEASON: It wasn't  
22 unreasonable. I needed transcripts for  
23 my grades, a student enrollment  
24 verification, and...

25 MRS. CRAIG: We have

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 everything here.

3 MR. GLEASON: Sorry. One

4 second. Oh, and the invoices.

5 But the problem is, with  
6 Drexel, it doesn't break its invoices  
7 into two clear semesters since it's on  
8 a quarterly system. Some people might  
9 refer to it as trimesters. That's what  
10 made it exceedingly difficult.

11 Eventually, after a month and  
12 a half to two months of dealing with  
13 Drexel, who, in itself, is very  
14 difficult to deal with, irregardless of  
15 what's going on here today, I was able  
16 to get this paperwork, and I sent it to  
17 Jerry at his address in Southern  
18 Delaware, in Felton, Delaware, and I  
19 also sent it with a letter clearly  
20 detailing everything that was contained  
21 in the package I was sending him and  
22 asking him to please call me  
23 immediately as he receives it just so I  
24 know that he has it.

25 I never received this phone

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 call, and phone calls were made towards  
3 him to see if he received it.

4 MRS. CRAIG: We both called.

5 MR. GLEASON: Yes, we both  
6 called.

7 During all of this, I have a  
8 hold on my account at Drexel. I can't  
9 do anything. I can't even tell what  
10 you my grades are now because I can't  
11 even look at them anymore.

12 Sorry. It's a little  
13 frustrating.

14 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: That's  
15 okay.

16 MR. GLEASON: So basically,  
17 with these dealings, I found out the  
18 exact balance between what Hero  
19 Scholarship is supposed to pay and what  
20 is my own personal contribution and was  
21 able to pay the balance, and the  
22 balance left over would be four  
23 payments for the two years that were  
24 unpaid of \$8800, the same amount that  
25 you've heard everyone else, times four,

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 which is \$35,200.

3 That, to this day, is unpaid,  
4 and I cannot register for classes,  
5 which start on Monday.

6 Anyway, I want to go back to  
7 what I was saying with the package I  
8 sent to Jerry with everything that he  
9 needed. He never called me and never  
10 sent correspondence to me.

11 And the first I found out that  
12 this was not getting paid is when I was  
13 talking to the Bursar's Office at  
14 Drexel, trying to get my account  
15 unlocked, for it was a tuition -- it  
16 was a scholarship issue and not a  
17 personal fund issue.

18 That's when I was informed by  
19 the Bursar at Drexel that Jerry had  
20 contacted Drexel and told them that he  
21 was not paying. That's how I found out  
22 about it.

23 About a week and a half later,  
24 I received a letter from Jerry saying  
25 that I did not meet the requirements.

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 I was not a full-time student and my  
3 GPA did not meet the requirement.

4 I don't know how that's  
5 possible. I have always been a  
6 full-time student. My only guess is  
7 that is he does not know how to read  
8 the paperwork that Drexel supplied to  
9 him.

10 I don't know if anyone's  
11 familiar about how Drexel works. I'm  
12 in a five-year program at Drexel, and  
13 even though the scholarship only pays  
14 for the five years, I've conceded to  
15 the fact that the fifth year will be  
16 personally on myself.

17 The way it works is, they have  
18 a co-op program, and they have a school  
19 portion of it. You know, your freshman  
20 year, you attend school, you have a  
21 summer break. Then half the year you  
22 spend in co-op and half the year you  
23 spend in schooling. And it flip-flops  
24 back and forth for four years, until  
25 the fifth year, when it's a complete

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 year of schooling again.

3 This is the same equivalent  
4 amount of schooling you would have in  
5 any other school; it's still 12  
6 semesters of schooling. So it accounts  
7 to being full-time in the same amount  
8 of time.

9 All right. I'm sorry I'm a  
10 little bit all over the place.

11 I'd also like to point out a  
12 note that Jerry cannot be contacted at  
13 his contact phone number in the JFK  
14 Boulevard office down here in Center  
15 City, and there is no one there to meet  
16 with. His office is all over.  
17 Wherever he corresponds out is all the  
18 way out of Felton, Delaware, and I'm  
19 just curious as to why there isn't any  
20 other sort of contact information for  
21 him other than a P.O. box that the only  
22 way I got it was because it was on the  
23 bottom of a paper he sent to me.

24 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I'm  
25 curious too.

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 MR. GLEASON: Okay. That's  
3 all I have to say about my dealings  
4 with him.

5 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Please  
6 identify yourself for the record and  
7 just pull that microphone closer.

8 MR. CRAIG: I'm Harry Craig,  
9 CJ's uncle/father, "Craig," as you call  
10 him -- or you call him. We call him  
11 "CJ."

12 I'm not as organized as the  
13 Redmonds were and some of the other  
14 people here, and I appreciate the time  
15 that they took.

16 In the beginning, like many  
17 other people here, the scholarships  
18 came, paperwork was minimal, promises  
19 were met. As the years progressed, I  
20 don't have a chronological statement.

21 CJ's older sibling Amanda was  
22 in her third year of Chestnut Hill.  
23 Judy would have been starting her  
24 second year at LaSalle, and CJ was just  
25 now starting to get his paper processed

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 for Drexel.

3 It was at that time that we  
4 got notification that they were going  
5 to cap the fun at \$8800, but not to  
6 worry about Judy because she's  
7 grandfathered in, and don't worry,  
8 whatever the amount they're paying now  
9 they'll pay then.

10 Amanda's was under the \$8800.  
11 That was not going to be a problem.

12 Down the road, talking with  
13 Jerry, he said that the grandfather  
14 clause would not affect, that Judy  
15 would still be capped at \$8800.  
16 Something was better than nothing; we  
17 were grateful. And Judy finished  
18 college.

19 CJ, obviously, would not have  
20 that ability. He would be capped at  
21 the \$8800.

22 Jerry first started getting a  
23 little iffy when Judy and Amanda  
24 started school, and he says, "What's  
25 this room and board? This is a

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 hardship fund. If they have money for  
3 room and board, they have money to pay  
4 tuition. The board at the Hero  
5 Scholarship doesn't like that."

6 I said, "Jerry, if someone in  
7 the family or someone scrapes together  
8 money so that they can have a normal  
9 college life, that's the Hero  
10 Scholarship's -- it's none of their  
11 business."

12 That one got put aside. That  
13 bill got paid.

14 As time went on with Judy --

15 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: You  
16 weren't asking for payment of room and  
17 board?

18 MRS. CRAIG: No.

19 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Oh, okay.

20 You --

21 MR. CRAIG: No. He said that  
22 the board did not like the fact that  
23 the we had money to put out for room  
24 and board, that we should be using that  
25 money for tuition.

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: So you  
3 would interpret that as saying that --

4 MR. CRAIG: We have money;  
5 therefore, they shouldn't have to pay  
6 the bill.

7 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay,  
8 thank you.

9 MR. CRAIG: You know, the  
10 board did not like it. It's a hardship  
11 fund. You know, if you have money for  
12 board, then, you know, you should be  
13 able to put money towards tuition was  
14 the implication.

15 And the last year Judy was in  
16 school -- she's a student teacher. Her  
17 last year, as many student teachers --  
18 or she went for secondary education and  
19 special education. She then basically  
20 was a full-time teacher. So,  
21 therefore, it showed one class with  
22 twelve credits. He tried to say that  
23 she's not a full-time student 'cause  
24 she only has one class. Well the class  
25 was teaching all day.

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 We went round robin with that.

3 That one eventually got paid.

4 MRS. CRAIG: It took forever.

5 MR. CRAIG: But it did take

6 forever. Judy's account was frozen.

7 As a matter of fact, she almost wasn't

8 able going to be able to walk her

9 graduation walk because money wasn't

10 paid.

11 And, again, it's wear and

12 tear. I mean, I don't know about you,

13 but when you're frustrated with

14 different things, it affects the rest

15 of the family and everyday life.

16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I've had

17 my conversations just like this.

18 That's why we're here.

19 MR. CRAIG: And I'd say, "Well

20 Jerry, can't we meet with the board?

21 Isn't this a public board meeting that

22 the public can come and interview and

23 plead our case as to, you know, why

24 these things aren't being met and why

25 this is such a hardship?"

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 "It's none of your business."

3 I said, "Wait a minute. You  
4 take public funds. Where's the balance  
5 on your accounts? I should be able to  
6 go get public records of this."

7 "No, it's none of your  
8 business."

9 I said, "You have a" -- what  
10 is it, a 503 --

11 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: A  
12 501(c)(3).

13 MR. CRAIG: Yeah. You know, I  
14 said, "Everyone should be able to see  
15 that."

16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: It is.

17 MR. CRAIG: You know, what  
18 about the board? "It's a closed board  
19 meeting."

20 I said why? "Well, that's the  
21 way it is."

22 So if you take public funds,  
23 we should be able go there and plead  
24 our case just like any other fund.

25 He says, "No, it's a closed

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 door." Okay.

3 On many cases, when these  
4 conversations would take place, I said,  
5 "Jerry, that's okay. I know the phone  
6 number for the media." Click, he would  
7 hang up.

8 There are other cases where he  
9 would raise his voice at me. I would  
10 say, "Jerry, you can yell at me, but if  
11 I get a little upset, you're going to  
12 hang up the phone on me."

13 "That's right. You just deal  
14 with it."

15 I said, "Jerry, you're not in  
16 that position. You're supposed to  
17 helping people here."

18 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I have not  
19 go through what you have gone through,  
20 but I've been hung up on too, so...

21 MR. CRAIG: Sorry to hear  
22 that.

23 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: You're not  
24 special.

25 MR. CRAIG: I'm sorry to hear

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 that.

3 But here we are today. Craig  
4 has to start school Monday and the  
5 payment was still not paid back.

6 (Addressing Mr. Callaghan.)

7 That's right, Jerry. Hide behind the  
8 hat.

9 That's where we are today. So  
10 anything you can do, Councilman, we  
11 appreciate it.

12 Thank you for taking the time.

13 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I  
14 appreciate you taking the time to come  
15 here.

16 This is the end of the first  
17 panel.

18 I'd like to apologize for your  
19 experiences. I think that there --  
20 there's no possible excuse for them,  
21 but I would also like to apologize  
22 because I introduced this resolution in  
23 March of 2006, and I went around and  
24 around and around with some of these  
25 cases for months prior to March 2006

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 and was persuaded, I guess, because I  
3 thought we could negotiate and work  
4 something out so we wouldn't have to be  
5 here.

6 So I owe you an apologies for  
7 not bringing this to a head a year ago  
8 and trying to resolve something then.  
9 I feel badly about it and hopefully --

10 MR. CRAIG: And least you took  
11 the initiative, and we thank you for  
12 that.

13 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I should  
14 have trusted my instincts and took this  
15 bull by the horns a year ago, but I  
16 appreciate your coming in and  
17 testifying.

18 Thank you. Panel No. 2 is  
19 Bobby Eddis, Brian McBride, Karen  
20 Boyle, Michael Lutz, and Jimmy Binns.

21 (Panel members come forward.)

22 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I assume  
23 no one's going to stop Karen from going  
24 first. Is that a safe assumption?  
25 You're the one who actually deals with

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 this on the front line, so I give you  
3 the courtesy of identifying yourself  
4 for the record.

5 MS. BOYLE: My name is Karen  
6 Boyle. I'm the administrative  
7 assistant of Local 22.

8 I am here to tell about my  
9 experiences with some of our widows and  
10 also with my experiences with Hero  
11 Scholarship.

12 My first experience started in  
13 realizing that there was a problem when  
14 Mrs. Friel called me in 2005 in a  
15 terrible, terrible state of mind,  
16 crying terribly and very upset about  
17 her child Katie's tuition and the  
18 problems that she was having in trying  
19 to get it paid.

20 She was told that they would  
21 not pay -- by Mr. Callaghan, she was  
22 told that they would not pay her  
23 tuition, the \$8800, until she complied  
24 with the rules and regulations.

25 And here's my point. I'm

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 making a point. My point is that they  
3 expect too much from these families.  
4 They are inundated with paperwork that  
5 they should not be inundated with.  
6 They are asked to divulge their income,  
7 which they should not have to do.

8 The Hero Scholarship Fund was  
9 a promise and it was a gift. Their  
10 spouses gave the ultimate sacrifice,  
11 their children were promised this  
12 scholarship, and they should not have  
13 to do this paperwork. It's not fair.

14 They should not be asked to  
15 answer these questions. It's not fair.  
16 It should not be a part of this  
17 program.

18 So that was my first  
19 experience.

20 I tried to get a hold of  
21 Mr. Callaghan and had a very hard time,  
22 found out that they were no longer at  
23 City Hall. I was told that they were  
24 thrown out of City Hall by Mayor  
25 Street. That may be true; I don't

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 know. That very well may be true.

3 When I did find Mr. Callaghan,  
4 he was at a post office box, and it was  
5 a Delaware phone number, which I found  
6 out also was his cell phone. I don't  
7 know how they operate without an  
8 office. It makes no sense to me.

9 I will also add that  
10 Mr. Callaghan is not the only party in  
11 this. There is a Miss, I believe,  
12 Slowinski, and there is also  
13 accountants. That's what I have been  
14 told by Mr. Callaghan. This is the  
15 board. That's it. Makes no sense to  
16 me. Again, no sense to me.

17 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Let me  
18 just interrupt and tell you that as far  
19 as the most recent information I have,  
20 which is a little old -- it's 2003,  
21 it's a directory.

22 The officers of the  
23 cooperation are Ruth Sliwinski,  
24 President; George Nyes, Treasurer;  
25 Honorary President Milton Eisenberg;

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 Associate Treasurer Commissioner Harold  
3 B. Hairston, which, of course, I  
4 assume, is now Commissioner Ayers; Vice  
5 President Norbert McGettigan; Associate  
6 Treasurer Commissioner Sylvester  
7 Johnson; Assistant Vice President  
8 Sandra Kenton; and the secretary is  
9 David L. Rhode.

10 And that may be different now  
11 because, obviously, Hairston is no  
12 longer there.

13 But I also understand -- and  
14 I'll try to get some of this  
15 information as we go to the next  
16 panel -- is that there's also a  
17 sign-off process where the Council  
18 President, the Police Commissioner and  
19 the Fire Commissioner and, I believe,  
20 the Chairperson of the Committee on  
21 Public Safety signs off formally on the  
22 scholarships themselves in some format.

23 But in my conversations with  
24 Council President Verna, it's been it's  
25 like it's a formality signing. I don't

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 really review any of the applicants. I  
3 just kind of sign off on it 'cause I  
4 want to get these kids the money. And  
5 it's usually all done at the same time.

6 So I don't know if there is a  
7 process, but the people who helped  
8 create this -- or the body that helped  
9 create this and the ex-officio members  
10 of it, I think, would be absolutely  
11 assured have no idea that any of this  
12 is going on.

13 MS. BOYLE: I agree with that.  
14 I'm sure you're right.

15 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay.  
16 Thank you.

17 MS. BOYLE: Yes.

18 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Please  
19 proceed.

20 MS. BOYLE: I would also like  
21 to mention my next experience.

22 My next experience was with  
23 Mrs. Charlene Taylor, whose husband, we  
24 all know, perished in a drug house.

25 Anyway, Mrs. Taylor not well.

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 Mr. Callaghan knows that she is not  
3 well. She has a lot of difficult times  
4 with detail. And I have been a go-  
5 between for Mrs. Taylor and for Jerry  
6 Callaghan mostly because Mrs. Taylor  
7 cannot handle his abrasiveness.

8 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: How many  
9 children are involved in this?

10 MS. BOYLE: Well, there are  
11 two children involved, there are two  
12 children, and they both go to college.

13 Sometimes there is a problem  
14 with their book -- their fees being  
15 paid by Mrs. Taylor, and that sometimes  
16 helps keep them from getting to school  
17 -- getting into school.

18 And so my point in talking to  
19 you about these book fees and my point  
20 is that they shouldn't have to pay  
21 these book fees, that it was a part of  
22 their gift, that was a part of their  
23 gift.

24 Mrs. Taylor should not have to  
25 be bothered with this, and she should

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 not have to be afraid to talk to  
3 Mr. Callaghan, but she is because he's  
4 an abrasive man.

5 If they are going to keep this  
6 board, they need to change their  
7 spokesperson, the person who speaks to  
8 these families, the person who works  
9 with these wives. They don't need this  
10 crap, and that's what it is, it's crap.

11 My third experience is with  
12 Mrs. Redmond. I know that she received  
13 a letter from Mr. Callaghan asking,  
14 Where is the \$8800 that we paid for  
15 your son John?

16 Well, if Mr. Callaghan would  
17 have taken five minutes instead of  
18 accusing these people of withholding  
19 the \$8800 because he said John dropped  
20 out, if he would have taken the five  
21 minutes that I took to call Holy Family  
22 College, call the Bursar's Office and  
23 spoke to Ann Marie McManus there, he  
24 would have known that that boy never  
25 dropped out of college.

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 He completed the semester.

3 Maybe his grade point average wasn't  
4 what they would have wanted it to be,  
5 but that boy completed that semester.  
6 And she never, ever should have gotten  
7 that kind of letter. That was a  
8 disgrace.

9 There is a human issue here  
10 involved, and that's what's lacking  
11 with the people that are running the  
12 Hero Scholarship Fund. They have to  
13 stop running it like a business and run  
14 it like what it's supposed to be.

15 It is a gift. It is a  
16 scholarship fund to young people that  
17 are -- that deserve it, that were  
18 promised it.

19 Where is your compassion and  
20 your understanding?

21 Something has to change here.  
22 This is not fair.

23 And I know you're not working  
24 with a whole lot of students here. How  
25 many are we talking about? How many

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 are we talking about? Is that hard, is  
3 it that complicated?

4 This has to stop, and it has  
5 to stop now.

6 Thank you, Councilman.

7 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.  
8 Thank you very much.

9 Either Mr. McBride or  
10 Mr. Eddis, whoever.

11 Brian, you have to pull that  
12 mic up.

13 MR. McBRIDE: I just want to  
14 say that I'm tired of seeing widows  
15 cry, I'm tired of hearing Karen running  
16 in my office and cry after dealing with  
17 these people. It's wrong. It's wrong.

18 The Hero Scholarship Fund was  
19 created over 50 years ago after ten  
20 firefighters were killed in the line of  
21 duties from explosions at the Berg  
22 Chemical Laboratories.

23 In the fall of 2005, the Hero  
24 Scholarship Fund Thrill Show, I  
25 approached Jerry Callaghan, introduced

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 myself as the new president of the  
3 Firefighters Local 22. He was crying  
4 and said he didn't think he could do it  
5 anymore. Well, maybe you can.

6 I told him that I was there to  
7 help and I wanted to help make the show  
8 bigger and better. I gave him my card  
9 and asked him to call me after the  
10 show. That was the last time I saw or  
11 spoke to Jerry Callaghan before today.

12 In late January 2006, I  
13 received a phone call from FOP  
14 President Bobby Eddis. He asked me if  
15 received a letter from the Hero  
16 Scholarship Fund; I had not. As a  
17 matter of fact, to this day, I have  
18 never been invited to a meeting or a  
19 function of the Hero Scholarship Fund.  
20 Never, not once.

21 Bobby Eddis told me the  
22 letter, which was signed by Jerry  
23 Callaghan, stated there would be no  
24 longer a Thrill Show no longer. It  
25 also stated that there was no longer a

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 need for a board.

3 We met the next day and  
4 discussed the letter and decided that  
5 the show must go on. We also decided  
6 we should seek the advice of an  
7 attorney. We felt that we needed to  
8 assume some control of this fund so  
9 that we could be a part of the  
10 decision-making process and to keep it  
11 alive. We had Jimmy Binns send them a  
12 letter saying that that was that our  
13 intent.

14 I still don't get the part  
15 that there's no need for a board.  
16 That's just absurd. Who's watching the  
17 henhouse, the fox?

18 What happened next disturbed  
19 me the most. I received a call from  
20 Cathy Redmond, the widow of John  
21 Redmond, to whom we dedicated a plaque  
22 on May 9, 2006. Cathy was crying on  
23 the phone, having just read the letter  
24 from the Hero Scholarship Fund and  
25 signed by Jerry Callaghan, which seemed

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 to be retaliatory against her and her  
3 children for acts of myself and  
4 President Eddis.

5 He put blame on her for having  
6 to be father and mother. This is the  
7 mother of four children who were made  
8 eligible for this fund when their  
9 father gave his life protecting the  
10 citizens of Philadelphia.

11 When I read the letter, I was  
12 in a rage. I'd like to read an excerpt  
13 from it so you all understand. This is  
14 from Jerry Callaghan to Cathy Redmond,  
15 March 15, 2006.

16 "I am sorry for any  
17 embarrassment you may have suffered,  
18 but this entire problem seems to be  
19 generated and maintained by you. The  
20 thrust of the problem is this: You  
21 presented us with an \$8800 invoice for  
22 your son, and we never received another  
23 bit of paperwork on him until you  
24 simply informed us that he quit and  
25 might go to school part time.

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 "First of all, what happened  
3 to the 8800? Somebody must be  
4 accountable for this."

5 You, sir, are accountable for  
6 it.

7 It seemed to me that  
8 Mr. Callaghan was taking out his anger  
9 on the wife and children of a deserving  
10 hero. I wanted to make sure Jerry  
11 Callaghan knew what the purpose of the  
12 fund was so we have some documents that  
13 the Fund had filed, the charitable  
14 reorganization statement from the  
15 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

16 Item 11. Purposes and  
17 programs for which the contribution is  
18 to be used. Typed in was a reply: Buy  
19 a scholarship for the children of  
20 police officers and firefighters of the  
21 City of Philadelphia who were killed or  
22 disabled in the line of duty.

23 This form was design signed by  
24 Ruth Sliwinski and Jerry Callaghan on  
25 June 15, 2005. IRS Form 990 return of

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 an organization exempt from income  
3 tax, right?

4 Statement of program service  
5 accomplishments: To provide  
6 scholarships for the children and  
7 police officers and firefighters of the  
8 City of Philadelphia who were killed or  
9 disabled in the line of duty.

10 The purpose is clear. To not  
11 make every effort to fulfill the Fund's  
12 prime purpose is not living up to the  
13 promise. It seems as if now the Fund's  
14 purpose is to make it difficult for the  
15 families who have paid the price.

16 The Fund has set up strict  
17 guidelines that some of the families do  
18 not even get a copy of. Letters that  
19 deny benefits without a chance of  
20 appeal and so untimely that the  
21 children lose their course selections  
22 that they have made. Letters that are  
23 callous and mean.

24 There is no "King of the  
25 Fund." Find a way to help the families

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 and stop trying to find ways to deny  
3 them. It's not your fund; it belongs  
4 to the children of our fallen heroes.  
5 Live up to the purpose, live up to the  
6 promise.

7 Thank you.

8 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Let me ask  
9 a question.

10 Your organization, or your  
11 organizations along with Mr. Binns, I  
12 believe, established a revived and new  
13 Thrill Show, which is a separate, I  
14 guess, a separate nonprofit identity.

15 MR. McBRIDE: That's correct.

16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Prior to  
17 that, who sold the tickets and raised  
18 the money for the Thrill Show for the  
19 revenue that went into the current Hero  
20 Scholarship Fund?

21 MR. McBRIDE: The police and  
22 firefighters.

23 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: 'Cause  
24 I've been in office for 15 years and  
25 prior to that, worked in politics, and

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 I mean I knew when those guys were out  
3 there beating the bushes to sell those  
4 tickets to that show. I mean, you  
5 never wanted to tell them no anyway,  
6 but, I mean, they were out there and  
7 they were enthusiastic and, you know,  
8 willing to make those sales and to go  
9 and visit the offices and visit the  
10 stores and the businesses and really  
11 hawk those tickets, knowing that the  
12 money was going ultimately and  
13 hopefully one day not to one of their  
14 children.

15 I assume that that's the main  
16 way in which the money was raised.

17 MR. McBRIDE: Yes, absolutely.

18 You know, I imagine the Thrill  
19 Show -- the Hero Scholarship Fund, I  
20 should say, did other things to raise  
21 funds also, but, you know --

22 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: That was a  
23 signature event.

24 MR. McBRIDE: Ticket sales was  
25 a big thing. It was probably a

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 \$100,000 for the Fire Department. I  
3 imagine probably the same for the  
4 police department.

5 And I know that everywhere I  
6 worked, you know, I made sure that I  
7 worked hard how tell those tickets, and  
8 I know that John Redmond did too  
9 because I knew John Redmond. I studied  
10 for lieutenant with John Redmond, you  
11 know, and I know that he cared about it  
12 too.

13 We believed in the Fund, we  
14 believed in the purpose. You know, we  
15 understood it to be something there if  
16 we paid the price. We understood it to  
17 be something there if our brothers and  
18 sisters paid the price.

19 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay,  
20 thank you. Whoever would like to go  
21 next.

22 MR. EDDIS: Thank you,  
23 Councilman.

24 As we're sitting here today  
25 hearing these various comments, the

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 situation that we have is -- over the  
3 course of time, we've watched the  
4 people from this fund do a magnificent  
5 job for our members. Kindhearted.  
6 It's my understanding and my belief --  
7 not my understanding but my belief that  
8 most of the people, if they would have  
9 sat through and heard the comments that  
10 you'll hear us be able to tell you  
11 today, the members on the board would  
12 be just as appalled as we are.

13 As we go to these events prior  
14 to last year and we would have our  
15 little sit-down, the courtesy and the  
16 manners and the class that the people  
17 have from Miss Sliwinski on down was  
18 unbelievable. I've heard the stories  
19 from our widows over the years of how  
20 well their family was being taken care  
21 of. I think that's what throws us so  
22 much of a curve.

23 Because it doesn't stop, it  
24 doesn't end. The problem that we had  
25 last year is once we were notified, we

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 were told, Well, you're not really a  
3 part of the board. We understand that.

4 We don't agree with it because  
5 when the members have problems, they do  
6 not call the Police Commissioner or the  
7 Fire Commissioner; they call the Fire  
8 Union and the Police Union. That's  
9 where we get the calls, the frustration  
10 that we have when we sit there and  
11 listen to how the children were heard.

12 What made it extremely hard  
13 last year as it does again today is,  
14 all the families suffer; it doesn't  
15 end. We're getting ready for Monday.  
16 Again, we have another reopener that  
17 the Hayes family has to sit through  
18 over the person who killed their  
19 father. This was also going on last  
20 year, which caused great pain.

21 When we received the  
22 notification that there wasn't going to  
23 be a Thrill Show, we wanted to find out  
24 why because we felt that this was  
25 something that has to go on. We

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 continue to lose brave firefighters,  
3 brave police officers, unfortunately,  
4 faster than we would like, as anybody  
5 would like.

6 And we had a very unique  
7 opportunity to try to resolve some of  
8 these issues because a lot of times,  
9 the widows are left with young  
10 children, and they need personal  
11 assistance, they need personal help.  
12 They need somebody who, I feel, sits  
13 down and shows the concern of what it  
14 is that we need to get done.

15 We hear the different stories,  
16 but until you sit there yourself and  
17 see the level of disrespect -- and the  
18 one thing we always learn is, we don't  
19 have to like each other, but you never  
20 stop respecting people.

21 The level of disrespect that  
22 took place in my office on March 27th  
23 last year was enough for me to see that  
24 the problem that you say today that  
25 you're bringing forward -- Councilman,

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 you've always been there for the police  
3 and fire, you've always been there, and  
4 I think the people in this room need to  
5 know that because while this process  
6 was going on, you were in communication  
7 with us. You were trying to find out  
8 more, you were looking for a win/win,  
9 you were trying to resolve a problem,  
10 and we respect you to the utmost for  
11 that.

12 But the only way that this can  
13 be given the credibility is, Michael  
14 Lutz, who is a former president of  
15 Lodge 5, former state president, had an  
16 issue in regards to the Holy Family  
17 situation, as we heard testimony  
18 earlier from Karen, that it only took a  
19 phone call to be able to be resolved.

20 And the situation that  
21 developed in our office on March 27th,  
22 where one of the sons of our officers  
23 who was getting ready to go back and  
24 see the trial for the person who killed  
25 his father, was being accused of being

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 a thief. I don't understand that.

3 Would not even look, would not  
4 even take the turn and say to us, I'm  
5 here for the check. Is that it? Is  
6 that it? Is that it?

7 Well, as I will now relinquish  
8 to Mike too, my friend Mike, you will  
9 hear the sad event that took place in  
10 our office on March 27th.

11 After this, our friend Jim  
12 Binns -- Jimmy Binns is here today and  
13 has been sitting there with us, trying  
14 to help us get this to the way that we  
15 can be responsive to our families.  
16 They can know that there is something  
17 there for them, they can know that the  
18 people there care.

19 But before I pass the mic, it  
20 is honestly my belief that the other  
21 people sitting here today were not  
22 aware at all of how rude our children  
23 were treated.

24 Michael?

25 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Please

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 identify yourself for the record.

3 MR. LUTZ: My name is Michael

4 Lutz, L-U-T-Z, and I'm a trustee

5 chairman for the Fraternal Order of

6 Police, Lodge 5, Philadelphia.

7 I just want you to know that

8 my comments are confined to Robert

9 Hayes and to Shawn Hayes. It has

10 nothing to do with the rest of the

11 board of the Hero Scholarship Fund.

12 During -- oh, by the way, this

13 is in regard to Robert Hayes. Robert

14 Hayes was killed in the line of duty,

15 shot to death on June 17, 1993, leaving

16 behind a wife and three children, age

17 10, age 9 was Shawn, and age 8 was

18 Ryan. That's who he left behind.

19 During the summer of 2005, I

20 had occasion to speak to Jerry

21 Callaghan, administrator of the Hero

22 Scholarship Fund, regarding Shawn Hayes

23 attending Lincoln Technical Institute.

24 Mr. Callaghan's issue at the

25 time was that Shawn Hayes had already

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 received the scholarship money from the  
3 Hero Scholarship Fund in the fall of  
4 2004 to attend Holy Family University.  
5 Unfortunately, Shawn did not finish his  
6 course for the fall semester at Holy  
7 Family University because he broke his  
8 hand. Due to the fact that he broke  
9 his hand, he could not use his hand at  
10 all whatsoever. He could not take  
11 notes and could not go to classes.

12 The unfortunate issue in this  
13 case was that Shawn notified Holy  
14 Family of the circumstances; however,  
15 he never officially withdrew from the  
16 school.

17 To compound the issue, he  
18 never notified Hero Scholarship Fund of  
19 his incapacity because he thought the  
20 school would notify the Scholarship  
21 Fund due to the fact that the school  
22 had received the initial check from the  
23 Hero Scholarship Fund. Obviously,  
24 Shawn was wrong in that one regard.

25 In an effort for Shawn to

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 continue his education without further  
3 interruption in his benefits, I  
4 requested as to what information was  
5 required to expedite the matter, as  
6 Shawn was already registered at Lincoln  
7 Technical Institute.

8 Mr. Callaghan requested a  
9 letter from Shawn as to the reason why  
10 he missed a semester. In addition, he  
11 requested documentation from a  
12 physician regarding his broken hand.

13 During this time,  
14 Mr. Callaghan also suggested that we  
15 get a check back from Shawn in the  
16 amount of \$8,000.

17 The letter along with the  
18 necessary documentation was given to  
19 Mr. Callaghan. However, he did not  
20 accept a letter or the doctor's note,  
21 as he wanted the \$8,000 to seal the  
22 deal. Mr. Callaghan said nothing -- or  
23 didn't want to hear anything concerning  
24 any negotiations unless the \$8,000 was  
25 paid back.

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 It was at this time he said  
3 that getting the money back was really  
4 going to be tough to get because Shawn  
5 took the money and converted it to his  
6 own use. I said what? He said, "Shawn  
7 stole the money." I asked him if he  
8 had any substantiation of that. He  
9 said no, he called the school, and the  
10 school didn't have the check.

11 He told me this, that Shawn  
12 stole the money also in front of Terry  
13 Reed, one of our constituents down  
14 there at the Fraternal Order of Police.  
15 She's also a trustee.

16 I contacted Shawn and  
17 requested that he meet Terry Reed and I  
18 at Holy Family College because I needed  
19 his permission to have access to the  
20 records because I wanted to find out  
21 what was going on here.

22 At this point in time, I met  
23 Ann Marie Vickery (sp?) who's a  
24 registrar at Holy Family College. At  
25 this meeting, I informed Miss Vickery

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 as to the reason of Shawn's absence  
3 during the fall semester of 2004. I  
4 also her showed her medical  
5 documentation along with the  
6 explanation.

7 The Registrar's Office  
8 requested a letter of retroactive  
9 medical withdraw, which he was obtained  
10 from me. The school accepted the  
11 letter of retroactive medical  
12 withdrawal and then gave Shawn the  
13 reimbursement check in the amount of  
14 \$7200. This check was minus a few  
15 hundred dollars for the cost of the  
16 summer course that Shawn did attend.

17 In an effort for Jerry  
18 Callaghan to keep his word, I made  
19 arrangements for the check to be  
20 returned to Mr. Callaghan at the office  
21 of President Eddis. I did this because  
22 of his attitude toward the Hayes  
23 family. I wanted witnesses there.  
24 Imagine that, having to get witnesses  
25 because of a person's attitude toward a

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 family of a police officer that was  
3 killed in the line of duty.

4 The meeting took place on or  
5 about March 7, 2006, with Shawn Hayes,  
6 his mother, Joanne, President Eddis,  
7 Terry Reed, and I. All of those  
8 people, all of those witnesses.

9 Upon arrival of Jerry  
10 Callaghan, the check was turned over to  
11 him. I said, "Now that you have the  
12 check, obviously the check is not  
13 stolen, we would like to see Shawn  
14 Hayes's education be continued at  
15 Lincoln Technical Institute where he's  
16 currently enrolled."

17 And, by the way, I also take  
18 great pride in telling you that he  
19 almost has a 4.0 grade point average.

20 Mr. Callaghan said he has to  
21 go to the board to get approval. In  
22 addition, Mr. Callaghan also reminded  
23 us that the FOP or the Firefighters  
24 Union are no longer part of the board  
25 of directors.

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 At this point, I said that I'd  
3 been a board of director myself, and  
4 I'd been a member, and I had been at a  
5 number of meetings that you, in your  
6 capacity, have a lot of influence on  
7 how the vote goes. I continued, "Your  
8 recommendations carry a lot of weight."

9 Mr. Callaghan responded  
10 bitterly by stating he don't have a  
11 vote, but if it was up to him, he would  
12 vote against Shawn obtaining the  
13 scholarship plus the fact that he is  
14 not in favor of giving him the money.  
15 This is after I gave him the check back  
16 for the \$7200.

17 This is the check that he said  
18 that would seal the deal, that he would  
19 get his money back and get back in  
20 school. Now he's saying he's not going  
21 to get back in school.

22 I looked at him and said, "How  
23 can you say that? His father was shot  
24 to death. He was visually killed in  
25 the line of duty."

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 He said -- this was right in  
3 front of Joanne Hayes, his wife.  
4 Robert Hayes was killed in the line of  
5 duty on June 17, 1993. And in front of  
6 his son Shawn, he said this: He said,  
7 "I don't care. I don't care. I don't  
8 like the family." He said it right in  
9 front of them.

10 I said, "You don't care? You  
11 don't care about a police officer who  
12 was killed in the line of duty? You  
13 don't care?" I said, "That's 'cause  
14 your not family. You're not worthy to  
15 be in this office. We are family. Get  
16 out of here. We don't want you here.  
17 We don't want you in our office."

18 And he was escorted out of the  
19 building because we don't want anything  
20 to do with him. He is a terrible,  
21 ungrateful representation of the Hero  
22 Scholarship Fund and the good work they  
23 do. He's a disgrace, to have to talk,  
24 especially in front of a family like  
25 that. What nerve, what audacity.

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2                   So as a result of that, as it  
3           was alluded to by the president --  
4           probably Bobby Eddis, the president of  
5           the FOP, was the fact that they started  
6           their own Hero Scholarship Fund. And  
7           as a result of the money raised through  
8           their initiative, through their good  
9           initiative, and only through their good  
10          initiative were we able to obtain the  
11          money to pay for Shawn's education. We  
12          had to pay that.

13                   The Hero Scholarship Fund  
14          didn't pay that; we paid it because he  
15          wouldn't have graduated. Here he is  
16          with a 4.0 great point average, and he  
17          wouldn't have graduated without the  
18          goodheartedness of the president of the  
19          firefighters and the president of the  
20          FOP. That's the only way it got paid.

21                   Here's the check, an FOP  
22          check, and all of the letters that I  
23          have told you about is here in this  
24          package.

25                   If you have any questions, I'd

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 be more than happy to respond to any  
3 questions that you may have.

4 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you  
5 very much for your testimony.

6 I have no questions. I thank  
7 you for taking the time and spending  
8 your time this afternoon here.

9 I would request now that any  
10 representative who's going to give  
11 testimony, please --

12 MR. EDDIS: Councilman?

13 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Yes.

14 MR. EDDIS: Can we first here  
15 from Jimmy Binns?

16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Hold on a  
17 second.

18 Mr. Binns?

19 (Witness comes forward.)

20 MR. BINNS: Good afternoon,  
21 Councilman.

22 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Good  
23 afternoon. Please identify yourself  
24 for the record.

25 MR. BINNS: My name is James

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 Binns, and I am the chairman of the  
3 Hero Thrill Show.

4 My involvement with this topic  
5 came at about January of the year 2006,  
6 when Bob Eddis, the President of the  
7 Fraternal Order of Police, asked me to  
8 come to his office, and he showed me a  
9 letter dated January 20, 2006, and if I  
10 could, I would like to read that into  
11 the record.

12 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Please  
13 proceed.

14 MR. BINNS: It says:

15 "Dear board member: The 2005  
16 Hero Scholarship Fund Show, the 51st,  
17 was held September 10 and 11, 2005.  
18 After carefully comparing revenues over  
19 the past several years, including  
20 decreases as well as the expense and  
21 difficulty in putting on the show, it  
22 has been decided to discontinue the  
23 show as its main fundraiser. The Fund  
24 will continue to be managed by the  
25 Haverford Trust Company, Financial

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 Advisors, and Heffler, Ratititch &  
3 Saita, Auditors.

4 "Scholarships will continue to  
5 be awarded to eligible recipients by  
6 the executive and scholarship  
7 committees of the Hero Scholarship  
8 Fund. These funds extend well into the  
9 future to ensure continuance of the  
10 mission statement, that of helping  
11 provide scholarships to the children of  
12 police officers and firefighters killed  
13 or permanently disabled in the line of  
14 duty.

15 "Because of this change, there  
16 is no need for a full board as it now  
17 exists. However, we would welcome your  
18 continued support as you see fit. Mere  
19 words pale in light of in light of our  
20 gratitude for your past efforts and  
21 valued input over the years for this  
22 most worthy cause. You have indeed  
23 made the mission statement a reality.

24 "Again, thank you, and kindest  
25 regards.

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 "Sincerely, Ruth A. Sliwinski,  
3 President."

4 After meeting with Mr. Eddis,  
5 I then met with Ryan McBride, the  
6 President of Local 22, as well as  
7 Police Commissioner Sylvester Johnson  
8 and the Fire Commissioner Lloyd Ayers,  
9 and they were, I would say, apoplectic  
10 at having Mr. Eddis receive this letter  
11 because Mr. McBride had never received  
12 a similar letter.

13 And I then wrote to  
14 Mrs. Sliwinski on February 15, 2006 and  
15 that letter reads:

16 "Dear Miss Sliwinski: I  
17 represent Lodge 5 of the Fraternal  
18 Order of Police and Local 22 of the  
19 Philadelphia Firefighters Union. The  
20 presidents of each union are in receipt  
21 of your letter of January 20, 2006,  
22 regarding the Hero Scholarship Fund."

23 Well, that was erroneous; I  
24 thought Mr. McBride received it but  
25 found out he had not.

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 "Since your organization has  
3 decided to discontinue the Thrill Show,  
4 I request a directory of your board  
5 members and the financial statements  
6 prepared by Heffler, Ratititch & Saita.  
7 Upon receipt of that information, I'd  
8 like to meet with you. The police and  
9 firefighters will produce the Thrill  
10 Show and assume control over the Hero  
11 Scholarship Fund.

12 "Thank you for your  
13 anticipated cooperation. I look  
14 forward to hearing from you at your  
15 earliest convenience."

16 Now, I want to stress that my  
17 intention at that time was not to pick  
18 any fight and not to be in an adversary  
19 position vis-a-vis Mrs. Sliwinski or  
20 any members of her board. As a matter  
21 of fact, I later found out that the  
22 gentleman in the back row has been a  
23 friend of mine for over 40 years, and  
24 he is listed on what was given to me as  
25 a -- I'm talking about Mr. McGettigan,

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 Norbert McGettigan.

3 He is listed in what was given  
4 to me as a list of Finance Committee  
5 members. But after I wrote to  
6 Miss Sliwinski, I received a very nice  
7 letter from her on March the 3rd, and  
8 she stated to me in that letter:

9 "Dear Mr. Binns: I'm in  
10 receipt of your letter of February 15th  
11 regarding the Hero Scholarship Fund.  
12 The reason for our discontinuance of  
13 the show is that it was originally  
14 established in 1954 as a City function  
15 and operation."

16 Now, I want to repeat that.  
17 As a City function and operation.  
18 Because that's going to tie into my own  
19 only conversation with Mr. Callaghan.

20 "Since 1994, we have been  
21 forced to operate the show simply  
22 because there was no City backing.  
23 Hence, we have been operating as a  
24 one-man director of operations.  
25 Further, we cannot continue to lay out

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 the money necessary to fund the show  
3 each year by becoming the producers as  
4 well.

5 "Therefore, it was decided to  
6 continue fundraising through other  
7 sources in order to continue our  
8 mission, that of providing college  
9 scholarships for the children of police  
10 officers and firefighters killed or  
11 permanently disabled in the line of  
12 duty.

13 "The Fund continues to be  
14 operated by a board consisting of the  
15 executive and scholarship committees as  
16 described in my letter to the directors  
17 as of January 22, 2006." That letter  
18 was not included in this letter, and to  
19 this date, I do not know who the  
20 members of the board or the scholarship  
21 committee is -- are.

22 "In accordance with your  
23 request, we will have a copy of our  
24 financial statement prepared by  
25 Heffler, Ratititch & Saita and sent to

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 you.

3 "On a personal note, I have  
4 been associated with the Fund since  
5 1962 and president since 1994. Our  
6 board would be happy to work with  
7 responsible agencies dedicated to the  
8 welfare of police officers and  
9 firefighters as we continue to be and  
10 in accordance with our bylaws. I trust  
11 this gives you background of the Fund  
12 and our board.

13 "Very truly yours, Ruth A.  
14 Sliwinski, President."

15 I received then a letter four  
16 days -- dated four days later from  
17 Mrs. Sliwinski that says:

18 "Dear Mr. Binns: As per your  
19 letter of February 15, 2006, requesting  
20 a copy of our financial statement, it  
21 is herewith enclosed, prepared by our  
22 auditors, Heffler, Ratititch & Saita,  
23 dated January 31, 2006."

24 And I would like to introduce  
25 all of these as part of your record but

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 --

3 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Mr. Binns,  
4 are they copies for us?

5 MR. BINNS: I'm going to give  
6 them to Miss Putnam and she can return  
7 the originals to me after making  
8 whatever copies she needs.

9 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Fine.  
10 Thank you.

11 MR. BINNS: But I have still  
12 not received any -- I'll -- I'm going  
13 to give you everything when I'm  
14 finished -- received a list of the  
15 board members or the scholarship  
16 committee.

17 What I did receive was a list  
18 of what appears to be Finance Committee  
19 members, and that's when I first  
20 learned that my friend Norbert  
21 McGettigan was a member of that  
22 committee.

23 And there are ten members in  
24 all, and I don't know what role, if  
25 any, they play with regard to the grant

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 of scholarships or the convening after  
3 quorum for a board meeting.

4 But what I wanted now to  
5 inform you about is a conversation I  
6 had with Mr. Callaghan. And at the  
7 time, believe me when I tell you, I  
8 know how to pick a fight, and I wasn't  
9 trying to pick one.

10 What I was told by  
11 Mr. Callaghan was that -- his  
12 explanation for the reason that they  
13 were no longer going to run the Thrill  
14 Show was that Mayor Street stole all  
15 the money.

16 Now, that kind of took me by  
17 surprise, and I said, "Well, what do  
18 you mean by that?" And he said, "Well,  
19 when he came into office, he stole all  
20 the money, and we don't have the money  
21 to put it on so we're not going to put  
22 the Thrill Show on anymore."

23 Then I received -- strike  
24 that. Then I wrote on March 31st to  
25 Mrs. Sliwinski and said to her:

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 "Dear Miss Sliwinski: Thank  
3 you for your letter of March 3, 2006.  
4 Subsequent to that letter, I received  
5 your March 7, 2006, letter enclosing  
6 the financial statements prepared by  
7 Heffler, Ratititch & Saita, for which I  
8 thank you.

9 "I am still not in receipt of  
10 your list of the executives and  
11 Scholarship Committee members, which I  
12 requested in my letter of February 15,  
13 2006. Kindly provide me with those  
14 lists at your earliest convenience.  
15 Thank you very much for your  
16 anticipated cooperation in this  
17 matter."

18 The next thing I received as a  
19 phone call having to do with Shawn  
20 Hayes, which I really wasn't involved  
21 in. There was a lot of heated blood and  
22 heart palpitations from my friends to  
23 the right.

24 But I was really approaching  
25 this in a very antiseptic manner because

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 we, as of this time, had decided to form  
3 our own Hero Thrill Show. We left out a  
4 word so that we wouldn't be ever accused  
5 of comingling funds or not being  
6 forthright with who exactly we were.

7 Now, what we want at the end of  
8 all this, and hopefully with your good  
9 graces and those of your fellow  
10 Councilmembers, is first of all, some  
11 knowledge as to who it is that's  
12 deciding the fate of these boys and  
13 girls that you've heard about today.

14 I am not a police officer, nor  
15 am I a firefighter, and so I don't  
16 really have the passion that Bobby and  
17 Brian have for this. I respect all of  
18 the members of that fraternity, and I  
19 think that my public actions have  
20 demonstrated that.

21 But these people here are  
22 trustees of their two organizations by  
23 virtue of their position. And by virtue  
24 of that position, they are, in their  
25 minds, trustees of every kid who's a

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 child, whether or not their parents are  
3 living or dead, but they see to it --  
4 and I know the fervor with which they  
5 operate.

6 And they're not up here  
7 saber-rattling. They take this stuff  
8 home with them every night and wake up  
9 with it every morning. And I'm simply,  
10 more or less, a sounding board for them  
11 and someone who they have very -- might  
12 I say I'm very humbled by their  
13 selection of me as the chairperson of is  
14 organization that now, in its first  
15 year, with less than a half a year to  
16 prepare, raised \$370,000 as opposed to  
17 the letter that said it was costing them  
18 money.

19 And today, these two guys gave  
20 a check to Mrs. Redmond for her tuition  
21 for her children because they weren't  
22 going to wait any longer. And you've  
23 heard Mr. Lutz testify that the FOP, out  
24 of its own coffers, paid for Shawn  
25 Hayes's, where we reimbursed his company

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 from the funds that we raised.

3 That's how passionate these two  
4 men are about it, and you, I'm sure,  
5 have seen the visible body language as  
6 they were testifying.

7 We still don't want to pick a  
8 fight. I mean, I'm not going to fight  
9 Norbert McGettigan. First of all, he's  
10 tougher than I am. But, second of all,  
11 he's a gentleman, and I'm sure  
12 Mrs. Sliwinski is a lady of the highest  
13 repute and means very well.

14 But from what you've heard --  
15 and I only know what you have heard here  
16 today, save that one conversation I had  
17 with Mr. Callaghan. I don't know him, I  
18 don't dislike him, I don't know one  
19 thing about him. I don't know where he  
20 lives. If they have an office, I don't  
21 know where it is.

22 I do know that they have  
23 invested the funds with a very reputable  
24 money manager. The Haverford Trust  
25 Company is very reputable.

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 But these people are entitled  
3 to know how much money there is. It  
4 appears from the financial statements,  
5 there's over \$3 million.

6 But they are also entitled, in  
7 my view -- and hopefully you and your  
8 associates will share it -- to have a  
9 say in whether these families have to  
10 come groveling hat in hand for the  
11 tuition for their children, and what are  
12 the criteria; and if the rules changed,  
13 when did they change. And why shouldn't  
14 that \$3 million be now folded into the  
15 Fund that is now obviously up and  
16 running.

17 And I'm going to bite off a  
18 little something here, but we'll double  
19 that 370 this year 'cause now we've had  
20 a full year to work. And now it's  
21 turned into one of the biggest  
22 attractions in Philadelphia.

23 You'll recall that Sylvester  
24 Stallone served as the grand marshal  
25 last year, and we had a packed house on

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 not much time up and running. We, since  
3 that time, have started to piece  
4 together a blue chip, a blue ribbon  
5 board of directs, and nobody wants  
6 anything, nobody takes anything, there's  
7 no salaries involved, there's no  
8 expenses involved.

9 And we can run the Hero Thrill  
10 Show out of the combined offices of the  
11 Fraternal Order of Police and Local 22  
12 without having to pay anybody to be any  
13 kind of executive director, probably  
14 without even having to pay for postage.

15 And we will people at the helm  
16 who live, eat, and breathe the lives of  
17 their members. And I think that that's  
18 only fair.

19 We don't want to cast stones at  
20 anybody, we don't want to engage in  
21 litigation, but unless there is an  
22 accounting forthcoming, there will be  
23 litigation forthcoming. That's not a  
24 threat; that's just a fact of life. I  
25 have already spoken to a lawyer about

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 that.

3 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: You had to  
4 speak to a lawyer?

5 MR. BINNS: Pardon?

6 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: You had to  
7 speak to a lawyer?

8 MR. BINNS: Yes, because I'm  
9 not acting as any lawyer. I will -

10 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I'm just  
11 being --

12 MR. BINNS: I am here as a  
13 friend of the court, as you will, but  
14 actually, I think I've turned blue  
15 because my friends, Eddis and McBride,  
16 will turn me into one of them, which is  
17 probably the best thing that's ever  
18 happened to me.

19 But, anyway, what we want --  
20 and I am kind of their mouthpiece here  
21 today; not that they need anybody  
22 because you've heard their testimony.

23 But I sit in the meetings, and  
24 they feel these phone calls from the  
25 Mrs. Hayeses and the Mrs. Redmonds of

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 the world with an entirely different  
3 mindset than someone other than them.  
4 They are very compassionate men, and  
5 the people in their organizations are  
6 very compassionate, and that's all they  
7 think about.

8 And it would seem to me that  
9 it would make great good sense for us  
10 to get together with the people that  
11 Mrs. Sliwinski and Mr. McGettigan  
12 function with and see if we can't bring  
13 them into our fold. If they don't want  
14 to, we will not be -- you know, we  
15 won't be mad or anything like that.

16 But that money should really  
17 be placed in a fund and managed by  
18 people -- not that they're mismanaging  
19 that, nobody's making that allegation,  
20 and it's the furthest thing from our  
21 mind.

22 But we believe that we can  
23 make this fund grow because of the  
24 money that will augment it. And we  
25 believe that if these men and/or their

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 designees within these two unions are  
3 burdened with the decision-making  
4 process as to who gets a scholarship,  
5 how long they get a scholarship for,  
6 what schools they are allowed to  
7 attend, for how -- what GPAs they have  
8 to maintain in order to keep up their  
9 eligibility.

10 It just makes sense to me. I  
11 mean, they're on the front lines with  
12 'em every day. They night shoulder to  
13 shoulder. Bobby Eddis is out polishing  
14 plaques on Christmas Day, Brian McBride  
15 is there with him. I mean, their whole  
16 mindset is directed to their  
17 membership.

18 These men are really knights  
19 in shining armor, they really are.  
20 There's no other way to describe them.  
21 And all they live, eat, sleep, breathe  
22 is the families of their union members,  
23 their extended families, but they're  
24 really not that extended. It's all one  
25 family.

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 And as you know from reading  
3 the New York papers, this is the only  
4 city in the country that has the  
5 symbiotic relationship between its  
6 police force and firefighters. It's  
7 the only city in America that has it.

8 And these people beside me  
9 embody it, and these women that you  
10 have heard are the backbone of our  
11 firefighting family and our police  
12 family.

13 So I would just like to see  
14 something happen. I mean, Bruce  
15 McKissock is a friend of mine; I'd be  
16 happy to sit and meet with him and be  
17 honored to meet with Norbert at any  
18 time he wants to. I'd like to make the  
19 acquaintance of Mrs. Sliwinski; I've  
20 never met her.

21 But our goal is to have this  
22 all enveloped into one organization and  
23 take it from there, and then you're not  
24 going to be in a position where you're  
25 going to have -- you're not going to

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 ever receive a phone call from a  
3 disgruntled widow or widower because  
4 these people here will handle it in  
5 such a way that it will obviate the  
6 necessity for such a call, and the  
7 decisions that they can make are going  
8 to be made on the basis of merit.

9 So I don't want to go into  
10 this, but I would like to offer all of  
11 these documents into evidence, give 'em  
12 to Miss Putnam to make copies, and she  
13 can send them back to me whenever she  
14 gets around to it.

15 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I just  
16 have a general question relative to  
17 your investigation and research into  
18 this whole situation.

19 MR. BINNS: Yes, sir.

20 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: The 1954  
21 ordinance, which created the Fund,  
22 provides the composition of the Award  
23 Committee to be the Chairman of the  
24 Committee of Public Safety of the City  
25 Council, the Police Commissioner and

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 the Fire Commissioner and the Managing  
3 Director and the Council President, who  
4 is Chairman of the Award Committee;  
5 that's what the original ordinance  
6 intended.

7 In your view, is it legal  
8 without an act of City Council, without  
9 an additional ordinance, to change any  
10 of that composition or to run the  
11 corporation in a different way other  
12 than what was intended in 1954?

13 I mean, certainly, you need to  
14 make changes and adjustments over the  
15 course of 40, 50 years, but can you --  
16 could a board just unilaterally change  
17 the way in which they operate?

18 MR. BINNS: No. Not only  
19 that, but it goes further than that,  
20 Councilman.

21 And once, again, we're not --  
22 I'm not casting any aspersions here,  
23 but that money, that \$3 million, was  
24 raised by firefighters and cops going  
25 out among the populace, and they were

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 carrying out the mission that you just  
3 read of that organization. And there's  
4 an -- if not explicit, there's an  
5 implied covenant that it can't change.

6 And so that's -- that's the  
7 beef here. In other words, it has  
8 changed. They've even been told it's  
9 changed, and it's being changed by  
10 people who weren't privy to that 1954  
11 resolution.

12 And from what we were told by  
13 both commissioners -- the Police and  
14 Fire Commissioner -- they played no  
15 role in this practically at all.

16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: And the  
17 Council President basically concurs  
18 that she signs a document.

19 MR. BINNS: Well, I mean, it  
20 shouldn't be that way.

21 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I  
22 understand.

23 MR. BINNS: Nothing is Utopia,  
24 but we have an opportunity here to do  
25 real good, real good things.

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2                   And we have two people that I  
3           know from my intimate knowledge of how  
4           they act that would be excellent at it.  
5           And with the cooperation of the City  
6           Council, the Police Department, the  
7           Fire Department, their commissioners,  
8           their titular heads, and the unions, I  
9           mean, you couldn't have a better  
10          setting for the administration of this  
11          type of aid to needy and --

12                   But I guess it doesn't even  
13          amount to a question of need. These  
14          children are entitled to it. I don't  
15          care if they struck the lottery;  
16          they're still entitled to this  
17          education, and they're entitled to get  
18          the money from this scholarship fund  
19          that their mothers' and fathers'  
20          coworkers went out and sold the tickets  
21          to raise.

22                   So it's as simple as that, and  
23          I don't see why there should really be  
24          a brouhaha about this. You got people  
25          who have volunteered -- and I'm one of

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 the volunteers, and we all work without  
3 pay, we don't want anything, we don't  
4 need any offices -- we got more offices  
5 than we can use between the two of  
6 them.

7 And we don't need any  
8 employees, we don't need any paid  
9 employees because we have people who,  
10 at the snap of either of those two  
11 gentlemen's fingers, will do whatever  
12 it takes to get it done to make this  
13 thing work, and the proof of the  
14 pudding is that in less than six  
15 months' time, we went out and we raised  
16 net net \$370,000. And this year, we'll  
17 double, if not triple, that.

18 (Applause.)

19 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.  
20 Thank you very much for your testimony.

21 I would request anyone from  
22 the Hero Scholarship Fund who's  
23 testifying please approach the witness  
24 table.

25 (Witnesses come forward.)

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Good  
3 afternoon.

4 MR. McGRATH: Good afternoon,  
5 Councilman Kenney.

6 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Good  
7 afternoon. Thank you for waiting.

8 MR. McGRATH: My name is John  
9 McGrath. I'm with the law firm of  
10 McKissock & Hoffman. I am pleased to  
11 be here on behalf of the Hero  
12 Scholarship Fund of Philadelphia.

13 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

14 MR. McGRATH: Councilman,  
15 first of all, let me thank you for the  
16 opportunity that you have given us  
17 today to hear the comments and the  
18 concerns that have been voiced so  
19 eloquently by those who are with us.

20 I am here today with  
21 Mrs. Sliwinski, with Norbert  
22 McGettigan. They are two of the  
23 current officers of the Fund. Also  
24 with us is today is David Rhode, who is  
25 a member of the board and a former

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 officer; and finally, Jerry Callaghan,  
3 who is our director, our executive  
4 director.

5 Councilman, first of all, what  
6 I would like to do, I think, is address  
7 the last question that you asked of  
8 Mr. Binns because I think it is  
9 important to try to dispel what seems  
10 to be a misunderstanding.

11 The Hero Scholarship fund of  
12 Philadelphia was not created by an  
13 ordinance of City Council. In 1954,  
14 City Council passed an ordinance that  
15 created a Scholarship Award Committee  
16 of Council. That committee is  
17 something separate and apart from the  
18 Philadelphia Hero Scholarship Fund,  
19 which was created in 1955. It is a  
20 private corporation. It enjoys  
21 501(c)(3) status, but it is not an  
22 organization that was created by  
23 Philadelphia City Council.

24 I have spoken with the  
25 attorney for City Council, Mr. Masters,

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 during the week. He was kind enough to  
3 forward to me the ordinance that I  
4 believe you are referring to.

5 I have read it and I can only  
6 state to a legal certainty that it is  
7 not us; it is something else.

8 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Who -- I  
9 know you probably weren't around in  
10 '55, at least in your capacity, when it  
11 was created, but how was it created?  
12 Who formed it? What was the  
13 circumstances of its existence?

14 MR. McGRATH: It was formed in  
15 the normal manner for incorporating  
16 businesses back at that time. The  
17 incorporators consisted of -- if I can  
18 refer to the articles of incorporation.  
19 The incorporators were John B. Kelly,  
20 Samuel Daroff, Paul MacNamara, Robert  
21 Pryor, and Fred Johnson.

22 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay. The  
23 issue why I raised this is because in  
24 the organization's 990 form from the  
25 year 2005, on Page 5, it says:

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 Note 1, Organization. The  
3 Hero Scholarship Fund of Philadelphia  
4 ("the Organization") was created in  
5 December 1954 by a City of Philadelphia  
6 municipal ordinance to provide  
7 scholarships for the children of police  
8 officers and firefighters killed in the  
9 line of duty -- I'm sorry -- of the  
10 City of Philadelphia who were killed or  
11 disabled in the line of duty. The  
12 organization derives the majority of  
13 its revenue from the Hero Scholarship  
14 Thrill Show and Carnival. This is a  
15 two-day event which raises funds from  
16 admission fees, carnival ticket sales,  
17 and other activities throughout the  
18 show. Entertainment is provided by the  
19 various units within the Philadelphia  
20 Police and Fire Departments.

21 That is your audited 990 for  
22 2005 submitted by the organization.

23 MR. McGRATH: I'm familiar  
24 with the document that you are quoting,  
25 Councilman Kenney. The purpose that is

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 stated there of the organization is  
3 correct, and I would refer back to the  
4 original articles of incorporation from  
5 1955.

6 The purpose of the corporation  
7 is to establish and maintain  
8 scholarships for the children of  
9 fireman, policemen, park police of the  
10 City of Philadelphia killed or disabled  
11 in the line of duty and to accept  
12 contributions and raise funds for such  
13 purpose from the general public.

14 The reference, however, in the  
15 990 to an ordinance creating this  
16 corporation is, unfortunately,  
17 incorrect. And as I sit here today, I  
18 cannot tell you how that misinformation  
19 found its way into that document.

20 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Who's  
21 responsible for filing the 990?

22 MR. McGRATH: The Fund as a  
23 whole is responsible for it.  
24 Ultimately, it would be the  
25 responsibility of the board of

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 directors. The 990 was prepared by the  
3 auditors.

4 I can assure you, Councilman,  
5 that the error will be corrected in  
6 future filings. The 2006 990 has not  
7 yet been filed to my knowledge.

8 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I'm sorry,  
9 if you have other things.

10 MR. McGRATH: The only thing  
11 else I wanted to ask at this point is  
12 because we have now had the opportunity  
13 to hear the comments and concerns that  
14 have been voiced and because we did not  
15 know specifically before arriveing here  
16 today exactly what would be covered, I  
17 would ask that we be allowed five to  
18 ten minutes so that those of us here on  
19 behalf of the Fund can speak among  
20 ourselves, and then we can more  
21 directly address your concerns.

22 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Sure.  
23 We'll take a five-minute recess.

24 MR. McGRATH: I appreciate  
25 that. Thank you.

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 (Short break taken.)

3 (Proceedings resume.)

4 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: We're back  
5 in session.

6 (Witnesses come forward.)

7 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Good  
8 afternoon. Mr. McGrath, will there be  
9 specific testimony, or are you going to  
10 offer the testimony or --

11 MR. McGRATH: Mrs. Sliwinski  
12 would like to testify.

13 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay.  
14 Please identify yourself for the record  
15 ma'am.

16 MS. SLIWINSKI: I'm Ruth  
17 Sliwinski, President of the Hero  
18 Scholarship Fund. I've been a member  
19 of this organization since 1962, and I  
20 joined it because it does benefit  
21 children.

22 First off, I would like to  
23 express my condolences belatedly to the  
24 widows and the young fatherless  
25 children. I deeply regret that there's

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 been a misunderstanding. We certainly  
3 hope to rectify it.

4 We have a board meeting and a  
5 scholarship meeting April the 17th, and  
6 we've taken a very hard look at this.  
7 And if we could, after our meeting, get  
8 back to appropriate people. We're very  
9 distressed that we've worked and tried  
10 so hard and, you know, and we regret  
11 this misunderstanding.

12 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I  
13 appreciate your comments, and I know  
14 you for a long time, and I understand  
15 you're sincere.

16 I would appreciate it if you  
17 could convey to the board that the  
18 compromise or the offer that Mr. Binns  
19 had made, along with the union  
20 representatives, to try to work  
21 together to maybe recreate or  
22 reconstitute this whole activity and  
23 this whole corporation may be the best  
24 way to go.

25 No one wants to have an

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 ordinance fight, no one wants to have a  
3 legal fight. We think -- I think  
4 you've heard and you've expressed your  
5 concern and disappointment about what  
6 you've heard so -- and I know in your  
7 good heart, you'll go back and try  
8 together work with these people who are  
9 all committed to the same thing.

10 MS. SLIWINSKI: Sure, sure.

11 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay.

12 Thank you.

13 MR. McGRATH: Councilman, if I  
14 may, I do have some additional comments  
15 if I can offer them.

16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Please.

17 MR. McGRATH: Thank you.

18 The Hero Scholarship Fund of  
19 Philadelphia is a private  
20 not-for-profit corporation, as I said,  
21 that was organized in 1955. Its sole  
22 purpose is to provide academic  
23 scholarships to the children of  
24 Philadelphia firemen and policemen  
25 unfortunately killed in the line of

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 their duties.

3 The Fund has been proud to  
4 have diverse members of this community  
5 serve on this board, and those  
6 respected individuals have given so  
7 very generously of their time for this  
8 worthy cause over the years that this  
9 fund has been in existence.

10 Since its inception, the Fund  
11 has successfully filled its mission and  
12 has helped many students -- literally  
13 hundreds upon hundreds of them for --  
14 from so many deserving families, has  
15 helped them to realize their dreams of  
16 receiving college educations. Even  
17 through some lean times and in the face  
18 of uncertain funding and support, the  
19 Fund has been able to carry on that  
20 tradition.

21 In recent years, through what  
22 we believe to be responsible  
23 management, the Fund has been able to  
24 grow so that it can meet the needs of  
25 duly qualified students not only now,

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 but also for years to come. And  
3 hopefully, with the continued support  
4 of the Police and Fire Departments, the  
5 FOP Local 22, and the generosity of so  
6 many other benefactors, we will expect  
7 that the Fund will thrive and continue  
8 to succeed in its mission.

9 As you have heard, the fiscal  
10 integrity of the Fund has been  
11 carefully monitored on a regular basis  
12 by outside auditors. Those accountants  
13 have provided annual reports to the  
14 officers and directors of the Fund,  
15 ensuring that the Fund's assets are  
16 properly managed and that its  
17 guidelines for awarding scholarship  
18 money are followed.

19 At this point, we are pleased  
20 to report that the Fund does indeed  
21 have an endowment that exceeds  
22 \$3 million, and so the ability to  
23 continue on with the mission we believe  
24 to be intact barring any disaster that  
25 we would hope never occurs within the

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 City.

3 Many years ago, the Hero  
4 Scholarship Fund adopted specific rules  
5 and regulations to guide it in  
6 accomplishing its goals and also to  
7 provide clarity for those in need of  
8 its assistance.

9 From time to time, those rules  
10 and regulations have been updated in an  
11 effort to keep them current with  
12 changes in academic aid programs  
13 generally so that, for example, the  
14 current guidelines do require that  
15 students apply generally for financial  
16 aid using the FAFSA, AES, or PHEAA  
17 forms. Current guidelines also require  
18 that students have their schools submit  
19 financial aid summaries to the Fund.

20 The purpose of those forms is  
21 not to establish or use any income  
22 criteria but simply so that we have  
23 some documentation about the sources of  
24 other funding that each of these  
25 deserving children may be entitled to

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 and may in fact be receiving.

3 The basic requirements for  
4 eligibility and for continuing  
5 participation in the Fund's scholarship  
6 program have remained essentially the  
7 same for over the last 25 years or  
8 more. The guidelines are now set  
9 forth, and for the last several years  
10 have been found in the Hero Scholarship  
11 Fund Handbook and guide That is  
12 available for anyone who might seek the  
13 Fund's support.

14 Councilman, you may recall  
15 that we supplied your office with a  
16 copy of that booklet around this time  
17 last year. I believe it might have  
18 been in May of 2006. And certainly  
19 that same handbook is available through  
20 the FOP and through Local 22.

21 Infrequently, there have been  
22 times that the Fund has been unable to  
23 provide scholarships to some  
24 applicants. That circumstance, we  
25 believe, occurs only where the

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 applicant has not met the Fund's  
3 eligibility requirements.

4 As much as the Fund and its  
5 directors might in their hearts want to  
6 help each and every child who is  
7 looking to receive that college  
8 education, each and every child who has  
9 lost a parent who gave so much in  
10 service of this city, we also, as a  
11 fund and as an organization entrusted  
12 with these monies, must walk something  
13 of a tightrope.

14 There is a balance that must  
15 be struck between our generosity, or  
16 the Fund's generosity, on the one hand  
17 generosity and its fiscal  
18 responsibility to the endowment and to  
19 the needs of any students who may be  
20 coming in the years to come.

21 We think that the Fund has  
22 done that responsibly.

23 We have heard today, of course  
24 comments, from some that are  
25 questioning that, and the Fund will

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 take all of those comments to heart.

3 If there is some organizational change

4 that needs to be made, then that is

5 something that the Fund will very

6 seriously consider.

7 If there are individuals at

8 the Fund whom we need to address

9 specifically, then that will be done as

10 well.

11 But on behalf of the Fund and

12 its board of directors, I certainly

13 want to assure you and to assure

14 everyone in this room that their

15 comments -- the comments heard today

16 are not being taken lightly, that they

17 will be acted upon.

18 As Ms Sliwinski said, the

19 board is scheduled to meet in

20 mid-April. The issues that we have

21 heard about today will be addressed at

22 that time, and either I or someone else

23 on the behalf of the Fund will then

24 communicate most probably with

25 Ms Boyle, Mr. Eddis, Mr. McBride,

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 Mr. Lutz, and Mr. Binns so that they  
3 can be assured that some action has  
4 been taken.

5 In closing, I do want to  
6 address one other topic that we have  
7 heard something about today. The Hero  
8 Scholarship Fund has been proud to have  
9 been involved in the production of the  
10 Philadelphia Police and Fire Thrill  
11 Show over the last several decades.  
12 The proceeds from that fundraising  
13 event have, in fact, been a consistent  
14 source of funding.

15 Despite the history of that  
16 event and the Fund's relationship to  
17 it, I do think that it needs to be  
18 acknowledged that the Fund does not  
19 have any obligation, even under its own  
20 bylaws, to produce that show.

21 The Fund's directors certainly  
22 were disappointed to learn last year  
23 that the Fund would not be able to  
24 produce the Thrill Show on its own.  
25 But equally, the directors were very

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 heartened to learn that others were  
3 going to make strides to find another  
4 venue so that the show could go forward  
5 for the benefit of the Hero Scholarship  
6 Fund.

7 We now understand and have  
8 heard from Mr. Binns today that the  
9 show, in fact, was very successful in  
10 2006, and we offer our congratulations  
11 to all of those who made it possible.

12 In the end, their efforts, as  
13 well as the efforts of the Philadelphia  
14 Hero Scholarship Fund, benefit the  
15 children, and that's why we are here  
16 and that's why we will take action.

17 Thank you, Mr. Chairman

18 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

19 I understand your comment  
20 relative to the Thrill Show, but again,  
21 I will harken back -- and maybe this is  
22 also incorrect.

23 In your 2005 990, it says the  
24 organization derives the majority of  
25 its revenue from the Thrill Show and

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 Carnival, which would lead me to  
3 question to then, if it's the majority  
4 of its revenue, why would you end it?  
5 If that's the major way in which you  
6 raise the money, why would the board  
7 decide to end it?

8 I know it's not a convenient  
9 thing to do, it takes a lot of work and  
10 staging and organization, but why would  
11 you why would the board vote to  
12 eliminate its major source of revenue?

13 MR. McGRATH: I'm not sure  
14 that's necessarily a correct way to  
15 express it.

16 The board, to my knowledge,  
17 did not vote to end the Thrill Show in  
18 perpetuity. The decision was simply  
19 made that in 2006, the Hero Scholarship  
20 Fund was not then in a position to go  
21 forward for a variety of factors. As  
22 it turned out, others then did step up  
23 to the plate, and they have now taken  
24 charge of what we know to be the Thrill  
25 Show.

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: What was  
3 Plan B as far as replacing the revenue  
4 that was going to be lost from the 2006  
5 show?

6 MR. McGRATH: First of all, a  
7 substantial amount of revenue is  
8 derived as investment income on the  
9 endowment that exists. The fund has  
10 done well through the management of the  
11 Haverford Trust, and that has allowed  
12 us to continue.

13 There are other fundraising  
14 efforts that were in place in 2006 as  
15 well as 2007. For example, I know  
16 there are discussions of having a  
17 charity golf tournament in 2007.

18 There were also  
19 representations made that the  
20 proceeds -- maybe not all, but some of  
21 the proceeds from the Thrill Show that  
22 was run by the others were to be for  
23 the benefit of Philadelphia Hero  
24 Scholarship Fund, so we had some reason  
25 to believe that funding was not going

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 to dry up completely and that there  
3 would continue to be sources.

4 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I didn't  
5 mean to suggest it was going to dry up  
6 completely. I was just concerned that  
7 it was the major source of revenue.

8 What other activities in 2006  
9 replaced -- other than the interest  
10 income, what other activities replaced  
11 the Thrill Show?

12 MS. SLIWINSKI: We get  
13 donations, we get individual funds from  
14 other companies.

15 And this year, we were able to  
16 get -- Robert Green is on our board  
17 who's president of Philadelphia Park,  
18 and they gave us \$25,000 from their  
19 two-day invitational opening. And we  
20 have received other large contributions  
21 that we get annually, the Annenberg  
22 Fund and the Golden Fund and some  
23 others.

24 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay. I  
25 just have a few other questions for the

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 record that if you can answer them, I'd  
3 like to make sure that they're on the  
4 record as we move forward. If you  
5 can't, I understand; but if you can,  
6 please try.

7 What is the maximum  
8 scholarship awarded to a student  
9 attending a college or a university?

10 MR. McGRATH: At this point,  
11 it is \$8,800 per semester.

12 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: And how is  
13 the cap determined? It's an odd  
14 number. It's like --

15 MR. McGRATH: The cap was set  
16 several years ago in consultation with  
17 members who are representatives from  
18 higher education in the Commonwealth of  
19 Pennsylvania. We went to them seeking  
20 some information on what is the  
21 reasonable cost that is for tuition to  
22 attend a State-run university. That  
23 was the figure that was provided to us,  
24 and we decided that that makes good  
25 sense; we would use that now as some

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 ability to limit the costs that are  
3 incurred.

4 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Were the  
5 regulations or bylaws changed to move  
6 away from private and other  
7 institutions as opposed to just  
8 State-financed institutions?

9 I mean, for example, if the  
10 student is qualified enough and lucky  
11 enough to get into the University of  
12 Pennsylvania or Harvard or one of  
13 ivy's, is it still 8800?

14 MR. McGRATH: That's correct,  
15 but our experience at least has shown  
16 that the students who are able  
17 academically to attend those  
18 institutions also find themselves able  
19 to qualify for other sources of  
20 funding.

21 The Hero Scholarship Fund, as  
22 we have understood our mission to be,  
23 really is a fund of last resort.

24 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: It's clear  
25 from the testimony you've heard earlier

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 that that is not the belief or feeling  
3 of the people who are attempting to  
4 take advantage of the Fund, that I've  
5 heard a number of things said today  
6 about a promise about keeping a promise  
7 that these firefighters and police  
8 officers living and deceased, it was  
9 their understanding that they could go  
10 to work, go into a burning building or  
11 into a gun fight and know that the  
12 promise of their kids' education being  
13 paid for by this fund was a sacred  
14 thing.

15 And that's why I believed that  
16 they hustled and worked so hard to sell  
17 those tickets. I mean, I can't tell  
18 you the number of times that, you know,  
19 in uniform and out of uniform, you  
20 know, they grab you by the collar and  
21 say, "You have to buy these tickets."  
22 And, you know, you don't mind doing it.

23 But was that ever your  
24 understanding or the board's  
25 understanding that this thing was kind

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 of a sacred pledge?

3 MR. McGRATH: Again, I don't  
4 want there to be an misunderstanding.  
5 We see the mission to make sure that  
6 these children are financially able to  
7 attend these institutions. If there is  
8 a shortfall from other sources of  
9 scholarship or awards that they may be  
10 entitled to, then up to \$8800 of this  
11 fund per semester will ensure that that  
12 money is there.

13 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: But only  
14 up to 8800.

15 MR. McGRATH: That's correct.  
16 At this point.

17 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: And that  
18 was -- was that a situation that was  
19 changed by a vote of the board?

20 MR. McGRATH: That would have  
21 occurred approximately three to four  
22 years ago.

23 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: So prior  
24 to that, Shawn could have gone to  
25 Harvard, and you guys would have picked

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 it all up.

3 MR. McGRATH: Again, subject  
4 to his ability to receive funding from  
5 other sources.

6 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Yeah, I  
7 mean, if you're eligible for grants  
8 from another source and the difference  
9 is \$25,000 -- say it's a \$30,000  
10 tuition, it's \$8,000 from other  
11 sources, you would have picked up the  
12 balance three years ago.

13 MR. McGRATH: Correct.

14 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: What  
15 happened to make that change?

16 MR. McGRATH: It was just a  
17 decision made by the board as a matter  
18 of, I guess, fiscal responsibility is  
19 the best way for me to express that.

20 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Was there  
21 an issue of the endowment at the time;  
22 was it dwindling? had you cut into the  
23 endowment directly?

24 How many kids are involved in  
25 this at any given time on average?

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 MR. McGRATH: I'm not sure I  
3 can answer that specifically at this  
4 time.

5 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Less than  
6 20, more than 20?

7 MR. McGRATH: It has varied  
8 over the years. There have been some  
9 years that I am aware of that it has  
10 been as high as 40 or more and other  
11 years where it has been below a dozen.

12 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay. So,  
13 I mean, we're not talking about a large  
14 number of children generally.

15 MR. McGRATH: Depending on how  
16 you define that, yes.

17 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Well,  
18 okay, depending on how you define it.

19 So it wasn't an issue of those  
20 grants or scholarships eating into the  
21 endowment at the time, three years ago.

22 MR. McGRATH: Not  
23 specifically, but looking long term,  
24 yes, that is certainly a factor we had  
25 to take into account.

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay.

3 MR. McGRATH: Councilman, if I  
4 may add also, the other thing that we  
5 have seen as a change over the last  
6 several years is the availability of  
7 other sources of funding for the  
8 families of those who have lost  
9 someone, a policeman or a firefighter  
10 killed in the line of duty. So, I  
11 mean, it's unfortunate.

12 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Is the  
13 availability of loans through those  
14 financial aid forms a part of the  
15 formula or just grants?

16 MR. McGRATH: I believe it is  
17 just grants, but I can't answer that  
18 specifically.

19 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Well, you  
20 could get back that information if you  
21 could.

22 MR. McGRATH: Yes.

23 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Actually,  
24 I'd just like to kind of formally ask  
25 if at some point, you could provide a

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 copy of the bylaws if that's available?

3 MR. McGRATH: I think we

4 should be able to do that, yes.

5 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

6 On the 990 -- and we've had a

7 couple questions relative to the 990

8 for 2005. According to the 2005 990,

9 over \$80,000 was spent on compensation

10 for officers, directors, and other

11 salaries and wages. Do the duties of

12 these officers and directors include

13 assisting families to apply for

14 additional financial aid?

15 And if you could break down

16 what those compensation expenses are or

17 were.

18 MR. McGRATH: I am not really

19 in a position to respond to that

20 question.

21 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Is there a

22 staff of the Hero Scholarship, a paid

23 staff of the Hero Scholarship Fund?

24 MR. McGRATH: Yes. The

25 director is compensated.

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: What is  
3 the level of compensation?

4 MR. McGRATH: I don't have  
5 that figure here.

6 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay.  
7 Does anyone know?

8 MR. McGRATH: I'm sure someone  
9 knows, but...

10 MS. SLIWINSKI: What was the  
11 question?

12 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Are there  
13 any other issues of compensation  
14 besides salary?

15 MR. McGRATH: If I may,  
16 Councilman, I mean, with all due  
17 respect, I don't know that the subject  
18 of an employee's compensation really is  
19 an appropriate topic for this  
20 committee. Again, we are talking about  
21 --

22 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I  
23 respectfully disagree because a lot of  
24 the changes that came about three years  
25 ago was a result of the issue of

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 concern of over fiscal stability and,  
3 you know, doing the right thing  
4 fiscally, I mean, if we're reducing the  
5 number -- or the amount of grants  
6 because of fiscal concerns, I would  
7 think that an organization that files  
8 in the public with a public document,  
9 even though it's a privately created  
10 entity, should have some responsibility  
11 to discuss what other expenses are  
12 related to carrying out their mission.

13 I mean, we've had people  
14 testify today that they would be  
15 willing to do it on a volunteer basis,  
16 and I applaud them for that, but, I  
17 mean, don't you think it's germane to  
18 the fiscal health of the organizations  
19 what the expenses are?

20 MR. McGRATH: Absolutely it  
21 is.

22 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay.

23 MR. McGRATH: But at the same  
24 time, I just feel the need to remind  
25 the committee that this is a private

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 corporation.

3 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I would --

4 I would -- I would agree with you that  
5 the letter of the law that this is a  
6 private organization, but in the spirit  
7 of the law and as it's reported in your  
8 990, the bulk of the revenue came from  
9 public employees who are out there  
10 selling tickets to events to provide  
11 that money, which ultimately pays staff  
12 and pays for other expenses.

13 And that should, I think,  
14 unless there's something strange about  
15 it, that it should be something readily  
16 available and reportable.

17 MR. McGRATH: And the  
18 information I think you're asking for  
19 is found on the 990.

20 Also, as we heard from  
21 Mr. Binns earlier this afternoon, to my  
22 knowledge, there is no question about  
23 mismanagement of funds; that's not an  
24 issue as I perceive it.

25 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: No. I

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 think that the Haverford Trust is  
3 certainly a reputable company and firm  
4 and has done a good job in safeguarding  
5 those dollars, but there are other  
6 expenditures that are made that  
7 Haverford Trust I don't know  
8 necessarily has to approve or not, or  
9 maybe it's just approved by the board,  
10 and that's what I wanted to try to get  
11 to.

12 And if, you know, you want to  
13 refer me to the 990 on salaries and  
14 other issues relative to wages, I will  
15 do so, but I'm really curious as to why  
16 the Hero Scholarship Fund's office was  
17 closed and relocated to Felton,  
18 Delaware.

19 To me, it seems very strange  
20 that when a question is needed to be  
21 answered -- Mr. Gleason, for example or  
22 Mr. Hayes, who do you talk to?

23 I mean, how do you justify  
24 Felton, Delaware, as a convenient  
25 location for Mrs. Redmond to get

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 information about a question she might  
3 have on filling out paperwork that  
4 ultimately could preclude their child  
5 from attending a university?

6 I don't -- why -- who made the  
7 decision and why was it done?

8 MR. McGRATH: Councilman, we  
9 heard those concerns voiced here today.  
10 They are not concerns that the board  
11 had heard before this afternoon. Now  
12 that they have been presented to us, I  
13 can only assure you that they will be  
14 addressed.

15 Now to respond more  
16 specifically to your question about why  
17 the office was relocated, once again,  
18 it was at least in part a question of  
19 fiscal responsibility.

20 The rents that were being paid  
21 in the Suburban Station building were  
22 escalating. We needed to find a less  
23 expensive manner to run the operation  
24 because, again, we are look long term  
25 at what's the best way to preserve the

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 endowment.

3 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I

4 understand that and I don't dispute

5 that, but was there any effort made to

6 find pro bono space from Local 22 or

7 the FOP or Mr. Binns -- I'm sure

8 Mr. Binns could find you an office

9 before he walked out the door today

10 that would be donated.

11 Was there an effort made to

12 try to keep the Fund, Philadelphia Hero

13 Scholarship Fund, in Philadelphia? I

14 mean, it just seems bizarre.

15 MR. McGRATH: It is certainly

16 something that the board will consider

17 now.

18 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay.

19 Just a couple other financial issues.

20 In the Fund's audit for 2004

21 and 2005, can you explain a bank fee

22 expenditure of 16,638 for both years?

23 Bank fees generally aren't that high

24 unless you're bouncing checks. Could

25 you find that out or could you --

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 MR. McGRATH: I'm sure the  
3 information is available.

4 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I just --  
5 it's not a huge number but it just  
6 popped out, and I'm like -- I mean,  
7 that's a pretty expensive bank.

8 MR. McGRATH: I understand  
9 your question, Councilman, but as I  
10 come back to the resolution that  
11 enabled this committee to conduct this  
12 investigation, I did not understand  
13 that to be a topic.

14 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I  
15 understand. This came about as kind of  
16 culling all of this information and  
17 seeing things that I just would like to  
18 question for the record. And if you  
19 can provide an answer, fine; otherwise,  
20 it's on the record unanswered.

21 And on the same line, there's  
22 a telephone expenditure for both years  
23 of \$3,084, which seems to me to be  
24 extremely high. I don't know if it's  
25 cell phone bills or it's regular

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 land-line bills, but if you could try  
3 to provide us with that, it would be  
4 helpful.

5 MR. McGRATH: Well, once  
6 again, Councilman, I'm sure we do have  
7 the information, but it does not seem  
8 to me to be within the scope of the  
9 purpose of this investigation.

10 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Well,  
11 we're -- you know, scope changes. As  
12 discussion and testimony comes aboard,  
13 we go, you know, we go in different  
14 directions.

15 Statement of activities for  
16 the year's end of December 31, 2005  
17 indicates that there's one, two, three,  
18 four sources of income for that year.  
19 The big one is the Hero Show Revenues  
20 of \$311,000 and change, other  
21 fundraising revenues of \$4,000 and  
22 change -- I'm sorry other fundraising  
23 revenues. Hold on a second.

24 Other fundraising revenues of  
25 \$4,458. Contributions, I think, Miss

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 Sliwinski has alluded to at 62,000.  
3 Interest and dividend income of 79,000,  
4 so -- almost 80,000. So the Fund is  
5 being managed as far as the investment  
6 side, which I think roughly comes out  
7 to about \$457,000 in revenue for that  
8 year.

9 On the expense side, we had a  
10 fundraising expense of \$89,000, which,  
11 I assume, is generally the cost of  
12 running the show.

13 MR. McGRATH: And maybe other  
14 fundraising costs, yes.

15 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: And other  
16 fundraising costs.

17 And then general and  
18 administrative costs of \$217,000 for a  
19 total of \$306,000.

20 Now, \$457,000 raised that year  
21 and \$306,000 with expenses other than  
22 the scholarships, 'cause you gave away  
23 about \$108,000 in scholarships, that's  
24 understandable and clear.

25 But the 89,000 and the 217 in

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 general and administrative is concern  
3 because the American Institute of  
4 Philanthropy, which rates charities for  
5 donors says that efficient groups will  
6 spend at least 65 percent of their  
7 funds on the causes they support.

8 And according to the Hero  
9 Scholarship Fund's 2005 990, allocation  
10 of grants total only 33 percent of the  
11 Fund's total expenditures, and that  
12 seems to be way off what's accepted or  
13 expected for national philanthropic  
14 organizations.

15 MR. McGRATH: Once again,  
16 Councilman, if the resolution bringing  
17 us today had raised that as a concern,  
18 I think I might be in a better position  
19 to answer your question, but it did  
20 not.

21 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay.  
22 Well, what I will do then, as a result  
23 of you not being in a position to  
24 answer, I will put all of those  
25 questions together and then send you a

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 letter making requests for some  
3 explanation.

4 Could you talk a little bit,  
5 or would somebody else from the Fund  
6 like to talk a little bit about some of  
7 the testimony we heard in the first two  
8 panels?

9 MR. McGRATH: Regarding the  
10 specific instances?

11 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Regarding  
12 the general demeanor and interaction  
13 between staff and families, or at least  
14 these families.

15 I frankly -- I mean, I've  
16 lived some of it myself with two of the  
17 families but was really kind of shocked  
18 at the depth of the hurt and the anger.  
19 And it seems to me that this is exactly  
20 the type of organization that should  
21 never create that kind of environment  
22 with anyone.

23 And I know the board's meeting  
24 soon, but I really have to express kind  
25 of disbelief. I mean, as I said

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 earlier in the testimony, I was hung up  
3 on three or four times myself and, you  
4 know, that is what it is, but there's  
5 got to be some human connection to this  
6 all, especially concerning --  
7 considering why these people are here,  
8 because they've lost their husband, I  
9 mean, in a very tragic and traumatic  
10 way.

11 So when a kid doesn't make a  
12 filing deadline because he has some  
13 psychological issues relative to not  
14 having his dad his whole life, I kind  
15 of think that's a situation where you  
16 want to help and not want to bang a  
17 phone down and not want to cut you off  
18 and not want to accuse people of doing  
19 things. I just really am as much  
20 concerned about that as anything else.

21 And you can comment or not,  
22 but --

23 MR. McGRATH: Well,  
24 Councilman, I can respond both  
25 personally, and I will be presumptuous

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 enough to say that I am responding on  
3 behalf of the board to say that we very  
4 much share your concerns.

5 The board members who are here  
6 were disappointed to hear some of the  
7 comments and frustrations that have  
8 been expressed.

9 And once again, you have our  
10 absolute assurance that we will look  
11 into those matters so that we can get  
12 to the bottom of it.

13 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay.

14 MR. McGRATH: If changes need  
15 to be made, then changes need to be  
16 made.

17 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay. I  
18 would like to end this on Mr. Binns'  
19 note of hope 'cause he's -- again, he  
20 wasn't -- he's not involved as the  
21 union people have been, he's not  
22 involved as the families been, he's not  
23 even involved as I have been.

24 He's newly entered into this  
25 kind of realm and doesn't really have a

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 hard and fast opinion that we can kind  
3 of make this better and fix this with  
4 all of our help and just make sure that  
5 no other mother or stepfather or anyone  
6 else or student ever has to experience  
7 this again. I think that's a fair way  
8 to end this.

9 MR. McGRATH: I think we would  
10 echo that.

11 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you  
12 very much.

13 MR. McGRATH: Thank you.

14 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Anyone  
15 else to testify?

16 (Witness comes forward.)

17 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Please  
18 identify yourself for the record.

19 MR. LUTZ: Thank you. Just  
20 take a moment.

21 I just wanted to make you  
22 aware of another resource. On December  
23 16, 1998, Act 129 signed by Governor  
24 Ridge gave any child of a police  
25 officer or a fireman who was killed in

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 the line of duty since January 1, 1976,  
3 they may be eligible for a waiver of  
4 all charges for tuition, room and  
5 board, and certain other fees while  
6 pursuing an associate's or  
7 baccalaureate degree at any  
8 Pennsylvania community or state-owned  
9 college or state-related educational  
10 institution. Administration of this  
11 waiver program is under the  
12 Pennsylvania Higher Education  
13 Assistance Agency.

14 And the child must be a  
15 Pennsylvania resident who is the child  
16 by birth or adoption of a police  
17 officer or a firefighter killed in the  
18 line of duty.

19 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you  
20 for that information, and I am hopeful  
21 that as we move forward and  
22 reconstitute this fund or reestablish  
23 this fund or commingle the group, the  
24 governance of this, that we will have  
25 either staff or volunteer staff that

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 will research these things and also put  
3 them into the pot of resources for  
4 these deserving people.

5 MR. LUTZ: Thank you very  
6 much. We appreciate your courtesy.

7 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thanks for  
8 coming.

9 MRS. HAYES: I'm Mrs. Hayes.  
10 And like I said, my husband was Robert  
11 Hayes, who was killed in 1993.

12 I also want to say, going  
13 through the experiences I've been  
14 through, there shouldn't be an age.  
15 Our husbands died in the line of duty.  
16 Our children should have their  
17 scholarship no matter what age they  
18 are.

19 When you go through as many  
20 things as us wives have gone through --  
21 like with my son he had to take a  
22 breather because his daughter was, um,  
23 was -- had -- when his daughter was  
24 dead, and I tried to call him and he  
25 didn't want to hear of these things.

1 3/30/07 - LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT - RES. 060247

2 I think it's -- I'm here today  
3 for everybody to say they need to look  
4 at are everything. If there's a point  
5 when the children can't make it, they  
6 need to help the children through this,  
7 not make it any worse for them.

8 Thank you.

9 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you  
10 very much.

11 We all blossom at a different  
12 time in our lives, and those traumas  
13 sometimes keep that blossoming from  
14 happening when it in normally happens,  
15 but hopefully, it ultimately happens,  
16 and we should be there with the  
17 resources and support.

18 So have a nice weekend,  
19 everybody. Happy Easter.

20 (Proceedings end at 4:25 p.m.)

21 \* \* \*

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## C E R T I F I C A T E

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the proceedings of the City of Philadelphia Council Committee on Legislative Oversight are contained fully and accurately in the stenographic notes taken by me on Friday, March 30, 2007, and that this is a true and correct statement of same.

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JOSEPHINE CARDILLO  
Registered Professional Reporter

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