

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

St. John's AME Church
2114 S. 71st Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, March 14, 2012
6:25 p.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT DARRELL L. CLARKE
COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.
COUNCILMAN BILL GREEN
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM K. GREENLEE
COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILMAN DENNIS O'BRIEN
COUNCILMAN DAVID OH
COUNCILWOMAN MARIA D. QUINONES-SANCHEZ
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA
COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO

BILL 120164 - An ordinance to adopt a Capital Program for the six Fiscal Years 2013-2018 inclusive.

BILL 120165 - An ordinance to adopt a Fiscal 2013 Capital Budget.

BILL 120166 - An ordinance adopting the Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2013.

RESOLUTION 120167 - Resolution providing for the approval by the Council of the City of Philadelphia of a Revised Five Year Financial Plan...

- - -

1

2

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good

3

evening, everyone. It is truly a

4

pleasure to be here.

5

I got to tell you that I got

6

lost, and once I found my way, I got

7

behind a trolley on Woodland Avenue. I'm

8

sure you all know what that's about

9

living out here.

10

Folks, real briefly, before we

11

actually get into the script, I just want

12

to say that it's a pleasure to be here.

13

City Council in years past had a number

14

of hearings in the neighborhoods. I do

15

want to say that this is actually an

16

official public hearing. This actually

17

starts the process as it relates to our

18

first budget hearing period, and we

19

happen to have it in a particular

20

neighborhood.

21

I would like to thank my good

22

friend --

23

(Applause.)

24

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I

25

would like to thank my good friend and

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 colleague Kenyatta Johnson for pulling
3 this together --

4 (Applause.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: --
6 to host the first session.

7 Councilman, would you like to
8 give us a few words as the host of this
9 wonderful event, sir.

10 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes.
11 Sure.

12 First, I would like to say good
13 evening.

14 (Good evening.)

15 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Good
16 evening.

17 (Good evening.)

18 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I am truly
19 honored and privileged to be here in the
20 capacity of a Councilman in the 2nd
21 Councilmanic District. I like to call it
22 the great state of South and Southwest
23 Philadelphia. And when the Council
24 President talked to me early on about
25 going out into our individual districts

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 and putting on a budget forum and I
3 talked about that although I am from
4 South Philadelphia, Southwest
5 Philadelphia is my second home and it
6 would be very, very fitting for me to
7 organize and host this budget hearing in
8 the Southwest part of my district. And I
9 do thank my constituents and community
10 leaders from South Philadelphia who have
11 traveled here to be here so you can have
12 your voice heard as we address the 2013
13 City government budget.

14 So I'm honored and I'm happy
15 that everyone is here, and I look forward
16 to engaging in a constructive dialogue as
17 related to your issues, concerns
18 regarding the budget.

19 But I will say -- and I'm quite
20 sure that Council President will lay the
21 ground rules -- this is budget-related
22 testimony, and if you do want to give
23 testimony, my staff is in the back, Ms.
24 Deborah Hopkins -- raise your hand -- you
25 can officially sign up for your comment

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 so they can be included in the record. I
3 will ask if it's not budget related and
4 you have specific issues, maybe you may
5 want the Councilman to address some of
6 the abandoned buildings or clean some
7 alleyways or some potholes, to please
8 refrain from that particular part of --
9 just refrain from those comments,
10 particularly because this is specifically
11 relating to the budget, and what I will
12 do is, I'll make a public commitment to
13 do a follow-up meeting to address
14 particular neighborhood issues.

15 Is that kind of fair, how I'm
16 explaining it?

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

18 Absolutely, Councilman.

19 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Because
20 this is specifically dealing with the
21 dollars and cents, your dollars and cents
22 as taxpayers as it relates to this
23 upcoming budget.

24 And so I just wanted to kind of
25 put that out there, and I'm going to turn

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 it over to the Council President. But I
3 would want to also acknowledge the Pastor
4 of this great church, Pastor Burns. Can
5 you raise your hand.

6 (Applause.)

7 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: For giving
8 us this space.

9 I know he's going to go
10 upstairs. We are celebrating Lent this
11 Wednesday starting off this month, but I
12 do appreciate you humbly and sincerely
13 for opening up the doors to this church
14 for this actual budget hearing.

15 So I'm going to turn it over to
16 Council President Darrell Clarke at this
17 time.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
19 Thank you, Councilman.

20 I would like to say currently
21 we have the members present. I would
22 like to recognize our members here today
23 and thank them for helping us kick off
24 this budget season. We have Councilwoman
25 Maria Quinones-Sanchez.

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 (Applause.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Councilman David Oh.

5 (Applause.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

7 Councilwoman Marian Tasco.

8 (Applause.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

10 Councilman W. Wilson Goode, Jr.

11 (Applause.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

13 Councilman Bill Greenlee.

14 (Applause.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And

16 the aforementioned Councilman Kenyatta

17 Johnson.

18 Okay, folks.

19 Pastor, would you like to have

20 a couple of comments before you go

21 upstairs? You're good?

22 Councilman Goode.

23 PASTOR BURNS: Too many people.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I

25 hear you.

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
3 Mr. President. It's good to be in the
4 district of the Honorable Kenyatta
5 Johnson. I was raised in this district,
6 the 2nd District, under the previous two
7 Councilpeople. When I say raised in this
8 district, I mean right here. I grew up
9 down the street at 6921 Greenway Avenue.
10 This church used to be the First Baptist
11 Church of Paschall. I was actually
12 baptized upstairs, took my first
13 communion upstairs. I attended Sunday
14 school down here. This is where we held
15 our church banquets.

16 So consider this budget process
17 officially blessed by starting here.

18 Thank you.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

20 Okay. We now have officially established
21 a quorum. We were actually stalling
22 until we got our quorum established.
23 Councilman Mark Squilla.

24 (Applause.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 Councilman, a new member of the Serious
3 Six.

4 And Councilman Curtis Jones,
5 Jr.

6 (Applause.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

8 Okay. Any other comments by members?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: If
11 not, we will now officially kick off the
12 budget season with a wrap, boom.

13 Good evening. The hour has
14 come and a quorum is present. The
15 Committee will now come to order. I'd
16 like to ask everyone please be seated,
17 but the reality is, we do not have enough
18 seats. So for those of you who are
19 standing, you will have to continue to
20 stand. We apologize for that.

21 This is the public hearing of
22 the Committee of the Whole regarding Bill
23 No. 120164, Bill No. 120165, 120166 and
24 Resolution No. 120167.

25 I would ask Ms. Lewis to please

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 read the titles of the bills and
3 resolutions.

4 MS. OLANIPEKUN-LEWIS: Bill No.
5 120164, an ordinance to adopt a Capital
6 Program for the six Fiscal Years 2013
7 through 2018 inclusive.

8 Bill No. 120165, an ordinance
9 to adopt a Fiscal 2013 Capital Budget.

10 Bill No. 120166, an ordinance
11 adopting the Operating Budget for Fiscal
12 Year 2013.

13 Bill No. 120167, a resolution
14 providing for the approval by the Council
15 of the City of Philadelphia of a Revised
16 Five Year Financial Plan for the City of
17 Philadelphia covering Fiscal Years 2013
18 through 2017, and incorporating proposed
19 changes with respect to Fiscal Year 2012,
20 which is to be submitted by the Mayor to
21 the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental
22 Cooperation Authority (the "Authority")
23 pursuant to the Intergovernmental
24 Cooperation Agreement, authorized by an
25 ordinance of this Council approved by the

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 Mayor on January 3rd, 1992 (Bill No.
3 1563-A), by and between the City and the
4 Authority.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Thank you.

7 This evening we convene the
8 first public hearing of the Committee of
9 the Whole to consider various bills read
10 by the secretary that constitute proposed
11 Operating and Capital Budgets for Fiscal
12 Year 2013, a Capital Program and a
13 forward-looking plan for 2014.

14 As I said earlier, you all have
15 entrusted us to be the stewards of the
16 budget as it relates to representing you
17 as Councilmembers, and we will ensure you
18 that we take that seriously and we will
19 appropriately with respect listen to your
20 priorities this evening. So as we enter
21 into this process to determine how we
22 spend your money, we will take into
23 account the priorities that have been
24 established at these community sessions.

25 What I'd like to do now, I

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 would like to proceed and ask if there
3 are any additional comments by members of
4 the Committee?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

7 There being none, we will now proceed
8 with our first witness.

9 As Councilman Johnson said
10 earlier, we're going to ask that you
11 limit your comments to the budget,
12 because we have a packed house and we
13 want to have an opportunity to ensure
14 that everyone has an opportunity to talk
15 about the things that are important to
16 them as relates to our budget process.

17 We'll ask again if anyone wants
18 to speak, please sign up to testify so we
19 can ensure that we get your input in
20 tonight.

21 Okay. I'm supposed to talk
22 about this timer, but I know you all are
23 going to respect the number of people
24 here, so I'm not going to deal with the
25 timer today. Councilman asked me about

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 that timer. I said, Councilman, I don't
3 know.

4 Okay. Ms. Lewis, will you
5 please read the title of and the name of
6 the first individual who will be
7 testifying.

8 MS. OLANIPEKUN-LEWIS: David
9 Krain. David Krain.

10 (Witness approached
11 microphone.)

12 MR. KRAIN: Hi. Good evening.
13 My name is David Krain. First, I'd like
14 to thank Council for coming out to the
15 neighborhoods, in the sense that most
16 people would not normally be down at City
17 Hall.

18 Secondly, I'm a social worker
19 at DHS. I'm also a shop steward with
20 AFSCME Local 2187.

21 In regards to the budgetary
22 concerns from the Department, I hope that
23 Council would not be fooled by the
24 slogans that the Department is going to
25 propose to you. They're going to speak

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 about improving the outcomes for
3 children. That's just going to be a
4 slogan. They're going to be speaking
5 about streamlining cases. That's just
6 going to be a catch phrase. It's going
7 to get right down to privatization.

8 For years, workers go out and
9 perform cases. They want to outline it,
10 so that way, private providers will be
11 the only ones to see children once we do
12 the investigations.

13 I'm sure Council has seen from
14 the past they had another catch phrase
15 called "alternative response systems."
16 In January of 2011, when they have that
17 alternative response system, we had a
18 baby die at our Travelers Aid shelter,
19 when they only allowed the private
20 providers to see children. This is a
21 very deep concern for me and the members
22 and ongoing will be the families. I hope
23 that Council can take that serious.

24 They will also provide a study
25 from New York and they might provide a

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 study from Florida to show how they
3 streamlined it. I found a study from New
4 York -- I found a study from Georgia
5 State University that shows that
6 outsourcing social services has never
7 worked. The clear example was from New
8 York. If Council would like to see the
9 study, I have a few extra copies with me.

10 I'm going to keep it short, you
11 know, in respect to the rest of the
12 people. And I'm sure from the
13 Councilmembers that I've spoken to and
14 have a great deal of respect for, that
15 they understand that myself, my brothers
16 and sisters in 47, 33 and the Police and
17 Fire, our jobs are to protect the lives
18 of the families and citizens, not to
19 protect the lives of, so far, a tone-deaf
20 Administration.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

24 Thank you for your testimony.

25 Let the record reflect that we

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 have been joined by Councilman Dennis
3 O'Brien, one of the Serious Six.

4 (Applause.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Folks, I'd like to ask you again to
7 please turn off your cell phones. It's
8 important that we be able to conduct
9 business without the phones ringing. And
10 in addition to which I've been told by
11 the Councilman that there's an overflow
12 room upstairs that's being monitored. So
13 if anybody is interested who is standing
14 and would like a seat, there's an
15 overflow room upstairs.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. OLANIPEKUN-LEWIS: Carol
18 Bangura. Carol Bangura.

19 (Witness approached
20 microphone.)

21 MS. BANGURA: Good evening. I
22 actually have folders. I don't know if
23 someone -- do you want me to pass it out?

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
25 Sergeant-At-Arms will.

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 MS. BANGURA: This is for the
3 Council President. He has the original,
4 and then copies, but no slighting
5 intended.

6 My name is Carol Bangura and
7 I'm here to speak on behalf of two
8 separate issues regarding the City
9 funding.

10 The first is for the children
11 as a whole of Southwest Philadelphia.
12 According to the School District of
13 Philadelphia, more than 70 percent of the
14 children in this community live below the
15 federal poverty guidelines. Less than 40
16 percent of the children are reading at or
17 below grade level.

18 There are limited amounts of
19 after-school programs for the Southwest
20 community, and Education Works dominates
21 a lot of the contracts, and for the last
22 ten years, according to study, the
23 Education Works is not working. The
24 literacy rate for the children and their
25 reading is on a consistent decline.

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 There are no publicly open
3 recreation centers.

4 I'm not going to read verbatim
5 on this. I'm making targets.

6 There are no publicly open
7 recreation centers in this vicinity. The
8 closest is Myers, which is at 58th and
9 Kingessing, and then on the other side
10 of Lindbergh Boulevard and then down, I
11 believe, around 49th Street.

12 I currently have a former
13 recreation center, which is at 65th and
14 Elmwood, and I'm contracted with the City
15 to run my program, which I'll get to, but
16 because children are consistently
17 knocking at the door, we let them in.

18 In terms of literacy for the
19 children, again, the after-school
20 programs, they play. They're not
21 learning. In terms of literacy for the
22 community, that 70 percent that I
23 mentioned means literally that a lot of
24 the parents are not -- do not have their
25 GED or higher education. And right now

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 the Mayor's Commission on Literacy, they
3 just funded agencies \$30,000 to create
4 partnerships.

5 I'm sorry. I didn't recognize
6 anyone here. I apologize. I'm nervous,
7 but good evening to everyone and thank
8 you guys very much for being here.

9 And, Councilman Jones -- but
10 Councilman Johnson is a God send to this
11 community. I mean, he really is. He's
12 down and working and he's only been here
13 a few months.

14 They funded \$30,000 to create
15 partnerships to recruit. Thirty thousand
16 dollars will go a long way. Last year,
17 we had a literacy, an adult literacy,
18 program, and it's not funded this year by
19 the School District. There's nowhere to
20 go in this entire community.

21 If you go to the rec center
22 now, my center is in the middle of a
23 park. It's glass, broken bottles
24 everywhere, and it's full of kids. The
25 kids are out there playing. It's part of

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 their life now.

3 And the second piece that I
4 wanted to add is, I stand here for all
5 the children, but I also stand here for
6 the African and Caribbean immigrant
7 community. I'm an African immigrant. I
8 was born in Sierra Leone, raised in the
9 public school system, lived in North
10 Philly. And even in this room, to be
11 honest with you, I heard disparaging
12 remarks about the Africans. And I hear
13 it all the time, until I say to someone,
14 I'm African. And it's like, Oh, excuse
15 me. I didn't mean it that way.

16 In regards to the budget and as
17 taxpayers, we all pay taxes. Even if we
18 work at Walmart, we pay taxes. The
19 African and Caribbean immigrant community
20 pays taxes.

21 The City of Philadelphia, the
22 Mayor's Office, the Commonwealth of
23 Pennsylvania, the federal government is
24 not providing any funding to our
25 community as they are to the Hispanic and

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 Asian community. We're immigrants. And
3 I get an argument all the time, Oh, we're
4 all black. Okay. If you ask me my
5 culture, it's totally different from the
6 next person, even in Liberia, Sierra
7 Leone culture. So you can't lump
8 everyone in. And because of Title III
9 funding, which is a federally funded
10 program, if everyone's lumped in, our
11 community doesn't get the dollars. And
12 right now I'm going back and forth with
13 the School District regarding their
14 contracting. I've submitted a series of
15 right-to-know requests, and what I'm
16 doing is, I want to know the Hispanic
17 agencies that they're funding, the Asian
18 agencies that they're funding, because if
19 you look traditionally, they're getting
20 all the money. Last year the School
21 District got a supplement of \$158 million
22 from the state. It didn't trickle down
23 to our community.
24 I have been on the ground, and
25 Councilman Jones will tell you,

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 Councilman Johnson will tell you,
3 Councilman Tasco will tell you, even
4 Councilman Sanchez will tell you and
5 Councilman Oh. I mean, you name it, I've
6 been in stairways meeting with folks.

7 I was on unemployment for two
8 years running my program. No one gave me
9 a dime. I fought tooth and nail with the
10 Department of Economic Development with
11 the state for them to give us some grant
12 funding.

13 Right now at the center, we
14 have 20 laptops not in use, because we
15 don't have any Internet. The Mayor
16 promised us that we in this community
17 would be part of the Freedom Rings, and
18 that was last June. We're still waiting.
19 The Freedom Rings, they're supposed to
20 have 11 -- no; I'm sorry; 77 neighborhood
21 centers. There's only one in this
22 community and it's for a homeless men's
23 shelter. So it's not open to the public.

24 Real fast -- I'm glad you don't
25 have me on a timer, but just a few points

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 that I do want to make. Again, I stand
3 here for all the children, because I know
4 how it is. I know how it is as an
5 African kid coming here and losing my
6 accent because I had to, because even
7 things that I've heard in this room, I
8 know what it's like to be called an
9 African booty scratcher. I know what it
10 is for people to say, Oh, y'all stink. I
11 know what it is for people to say, Your
12 foods stink. And even if you look at
13 this community, there's a lot of tension
14 between the communities, and what people
15 don't realize is a lot of people that
16 come to Southwest Philadelphia from
17 Africa and the Caribbean islands, a lot
18 of folks went through a ten-year or more
19 civil war. The kids didn't go to school.
20 So there's a huge gap in education. You
21 have adults that have no more than a
22 second-grade level education having kids.
23 They only speak their own languages at
24 home. And so if you're to tell us that
25 the parents, you know, aren't raising

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 their kids, they don't know how. There
3 aren't parenting classes for us.

4 If you look at DHS -- I'm glad
5 David brought up DHS. I met with DHS.
6 DHS receives millions of dollars and they
7 contract it out. There's -- I mean, it's
8 not coming down to our community. DHS
9 doesn't know what to do with African and
10 Caribbean kids. I get calls from the
11 funded agencies, Carol, can you? Nope,
12 sure can't. Sure can't, you know.

13 And just two more points.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

15 We're going to have to kind of --

16 MS. BANGURA: Okay. The
17 demographics, when you look at the
18 demographics, I touched on it, and also
19 the languages. If you look at the City
20 of Philadelphia, there are eight major
21 languages supported with the Managing
22 Director's Office, and that's Spanish,
23 French, Arabic, Albanian, Russian,
24 Chimera, Chinese and Vietnamese. We
25 speak Krio, Temne, Fullah, Mende, Loko.

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 What are we supposed to do? What are we
3 supposed to do? Why should my mom have
4 to come and learn English and no one else
5 does?

6 And then just one more thing.
7 This is the last one.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You
9 said one more thing about five minutes
10 ago.

11 MS. BANGURA: This is the last
12 one.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: We
14 got a lot of people here.

15 MS. BANGURA: This is the last
16 one.

17 We're just really asking that
18 you take a look in your budget. I was
19 floored when I looked at the numbers and
20 contracts for your services throughout
21 the budget, what the Mayor is proposing
22 and what you guys are proposing, and to
23 give us a little bit so that we can
24 provide services so that we can raise the
25 literacy rate for the entire community.

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 Thank you.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

7 We're going to please ask people, because
8 we got a lot of people, we want to make
9 sure everybody has an opportunity to
10 speak.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Use that
12 timer, brother.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

14 Yeah, it's getting ready to happen. Got
15 to use the timer.

16 MS. OLANIPEKUN-LEWIS: The next
17 speak is David Feldman, and will David
18 Krain also tee up. He's after that.

19 (Witness approached
20 microphone.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

22 Folks, if you have written testimony,
23 don't feel like you have to read it all.
24 Just kind of summarize it, because we
25 will in fact -- I'm just saying, some of

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 you have written testimony. So if you
3 just want to summarize it, that's fine,
4 because we will in fact read the
5 documents that you submit.

6 MR. FELDMAN: I might be
7 quicker that just reading through it --

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
9 That's fine.

10 MR. FELDMAN: -- than dangle my
11 feet to summarize it.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
13 That's fine.

14 MR. FELDMAN: Good morning,
15 (sic) Council President Clarke, members
16 of City Council. Thank you for the
17 opportunity to testify this evening. My
18 name is David Feldman. I'm the President
19 of Right-Sized Homes, a sustainable
20 redevelopment company based in Center
21 City working in Grays Ferry and
22 throughout the City. I'm also a member
23 of the Association of -- Philadelphia
24 Association of Community Development
25 Corporations and the Design Advocacy

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 Group and a proud native Philadelphian.
3 Thank you for holding hearings
4 out in the community at a time that's
5 convenient for residents to speak to
6 Council, and I'd like to weigh in on
7 three budget issues; specifically, the
8 reduction in federal HUD funds; the
9 Housing Trust Fund, the Actual Value
10 Assessment and a related, not
11 specifically budgeted, ordinance to
12 establish a land bank in Philadelphia.

13 And while many areas of the
14 City are financially stressed in the
15 budget, especially the CDBG -- I'll try
16 and summarize -- CDBG funds from HUD have
17 reduced by millions, if not tens of
18 millions of dollars, the amount of money
19 for housing preservation, new housing
20 production, homeownership counseling and
21 neighborhood economic development. So
22 we're looking for creative ways to make
23 up some of those losses from the federal
24 funds.

25 The primary source for a lot of

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 that work alternatively to CDBG is the
3 Housing Trust Fund, which was established
4 by City Council working cooperatively
5 with the State Legislature in 2005, and
6 this has provided funds free of federal
7 restrictions to support rental, for-sale
8 housing, rehabilitation, new
9 construction, home repairs for low-income
10 homeowners, housing preservation and
11 homelessness preservation programs. In
12 the first five years, the \$47 million of
13 funding from the Housing Trust Fund
14 brought in over \$234 million in private
15 funds for these purposes.

16 Thanks to strong support from
17 City Council, the Pennsylvania
18 Legislature this year has approved a new
19 source, an additional source, for the
20 Housing Trust Fund. So I'm hoping that
21 the City Council can step forward like
22 they did in both those cases and that
23 can-do attitude to find other sources to
24 build up the Housing Trust Fund to help
25 make up for some of the HUD cuts.

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 The Actual Valuation

3 Assessment, while stirring controversy,
4 is actually long overdue, and it's
5 encouraging to see that Council and the
6 Administration are showing their
7 political will to tackle the issue that
8 after the Zoning Code is the most
9 outdated, dysfunctional property-related
10 aspect of City government. Not only
11 would this bring the City in line with
12 state laws, it will provide transparency
13 and fair determination of values.

14 At the same time, the big
15 concern with actual valuation is around
16 the dramatic sudden changes to people's
17 tax bills and the impact on low-income
18 homeowners --

19 (Bell rings.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Go
21 ahead.

22 MR. FELDMAN: -- and seniors,
23 especially long-time residents in
24 neighborhoods that have seen dramatic
25 rises in property values since these

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 folks have bought these homes.

3 So clearly we need to look at
4 ways to limit the amount of increase in
5 property taxes in individual homeowners
6 and to provide relief for low-income
7 homeowners and seniors when the actual
8 value comes in play.

9 And, again, I bring this up
10 here because it is an issue that people
11 in the community should be aware of and
12 be aware to speak out and vote in support
13 of, and understand that it's a difficult
14 issue that Council luckily is tackling,
15 because it will be fairer when it's all
16 flushed out if these safeguards are in
17 place.

18 The final issue I want to talk
19 about -- I really mean it -- is the land
20 bank ordinance, which while it's not
21 strictly a budget, it's related to the
22 budget, because the City spends \$20
23 million a year now maintaining the vacant
24 property. And as I summarize in here,
25 the recent PHA auction, in the course of

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 two months with 500 single scattered
3 sites, PHA received over seven and a half
4 million dollars in unrestricted funds,
5 and that's for over 500 properties.
6 There are thousands of individual
7 scattered site single homes, single
8 vacant houses and lots that could be
9 developed, and there should be a simple
10 administrative process for these to be
11 transferred, these single lots, like the
12 PHA auction, individual neighborhood
13 residents who want to buy the home down
14 the block or buy the vacant lot next to
15 them or small developers who are buying
16 one or two properties to rehab that's
17 taken out of the cumbersome process of
18 all the City agencies now. While the
19 front-door process is going to streamline
20 and make clearer, more transparent what
21 properties are available and what they're
22 worth, there should be a simple
23 administrative process that allows those
24 single properties to move quickly,
25 because clearly there's demand. That

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 would give tens of millions of dollars of
3 revenue to the City.

4 The large properties -- the
5 large collections of adjacent closely
6 related properties are ones that need to
7 be done more in conjunction with the
8 Planning Commission and the new Zoning
9 Code. So the new Planning Commission as
10 2035 comes into play and the new Zoning
11 Code has a Civic Design Review, that
12 might be a time in fact people are
13 looking for larger developments, that the
14 Civic Design Review actual come into play
15 at the time that the larger properties
16 are requested.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You
18 actually have a question by a member of
19 Council.

20 MR. FELDMAN: Yeah.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Go
22 ahead, Councilman Jones.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'm going to
24 try to ask very few questions so that we
25 won't belabor this, but I was interested

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 to hear what your plans on surplus
3 property is and the cuts from the federal
4 government. Are you in support of what
5 Harrisburg is talking about doing by way
6 of allowing for municipalities to acquire
7 these properties and dispose of them in a
8 way that allows community groups to take
9 control of some of these vacant
10 properties? What's the --

11 MR. FELDMAN: Absolutely. And
12 we --

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Jonathan
14 Taylor's bill in particular.

15 MR. FELDMAN: Yes. Absolutely.
16 And we should also maintain what we have
17 now, which is that properties for things
18 like affordable housing, community
19 gardens, rec centers, you know, community
20 uses be done at reduced or nominal
21 transfer.

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

24 MR. FELDMAN: One quick -- for
25 the thousands of individual residential

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 lots and vacant houses owned by the City
3 entities, the lessons from the PHA
4 auctions are clear. These should be part
5 of a simplified administrative process.
6 And happily, the land bank ordinance
7 actually improves on the way PHA did it,
8 because it includes safeguards of
9 requiring that people obtaining the
10 property actually are not delinquent on
11 other property taxes and don't have any
12 L&I violations, something that was not a
13 requirement in the PHA auction and should
14 also be required in Sheriff's sale, which
15 is not currently a requirement.

16 So I thank you very much for
17 your time.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

22 Folks, what we're going to have to do,
23 we're going to have to do a five-minute
24 limit for your presentation so it allows
25 in the event that Councilmembers ask some

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 questions. Is that okay?

3 (That's fine.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

5 Okay. Thank you.

6 MS. OLANIPEKUN-LEWIS: David
7 Krain and after -- I'm sorry. I'm sorry.
8 Donna Henry, and after Donna Henry is
9 Marsha Wall.

10 (Witness approached
11 microphone.)

12 MS. HENRY: Good evening. I'm
13 Donna Henry. I'm the Executive Director
14 at Southwest CDC. Southwest CDC is
15 funded by the City with federal Community
16 Development Block Grants for our housing
17 counseling, our Neighborhood Advisory
18 Committee, the Woodland Avenue
19 Revitalization Project, our employment
20 counseling. We are funded by other
21 non-profits who have contracts with the
22 City for the Neighborhood Energy Center
23 and the after-school and drug and alcohol
24 prevention programs.

25 Southwest CDC supports the

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 Mayor's plan for additional police
3 officers. Southwest has more than its
4 fair share of crime, and it has been
5 proven that additional police presence is
6 a deterrent for criminal behavior.

7 Mayor Nutter's budget does not
8 talk about employment initiatives, and
9 the people in this neighborhood need
10 jobs. The Philadelphia Department of
11 Commerce -- I'm sorry; the Philadelphia
12 Department of Commerce has already told
13 Southwest CDC that they will be
14 eliminating the \$44,000 Southwest CDC
15 gets out of the CDBG budget and that
16 there is a high risk that these services
17 will be terminated. This will leave more
18 than 400 neighborhood residents without a
19 place to go to get help for jobs.

20 Philly Rising is a new
21 initiative to strengthen the
22 neighborhoods. Essentially, Philly
23 Rising is doing the work of the NACs.
24 The City recreated the wheel, but would
25 have been more efficient by working

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 closer with the existing NACs. Instead
3 of hiring strangers to work in Southwest,
4 the City could have filled the funding
5 gaps left by CDBG budgets and empower the
6 existing NAC staff to do the work Philly
7 Rising is doing now.

8 While Southwest CDC funding
9 originates at the federal level, we are
10 paid by the City. And even though there
11 is a proven track record of providing
12 services to the neighborhood residents on
13 the behalf of the City for more than 25
14 years, there is no contract advances.
15 The City expects small non-profits like
16 Southwest CDC to carry the funding for 30
17 to 90 days and occasionally longer. This
18 causes hardship to the non-profits, but
19 especially to the staff, who sometimes
20 have to wait to get their paychecks and
21 are accruing additional costs as a
22 result. Please consider allowing
23 contract advances.

24 Lastly, Southwest CDC thanks
25 Councilman Johnson for focusing attention

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 on Woodland Avenue. His tour in February
3 and his participation in the cleanup on
4 Saturday is demonstrating to the
5 merchants that he understands that small
6 businesses can help strengthen the
7 neighborhood.

8 Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Hold
11 on. Councilman Goode has a question.

12 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Ms. Henry,
13 very briefly, the Commerce Department
14 told you that they were cutting your
15 targeted neighborhood support grant?

16 MS. HENRY: They told us we
17 were -- they told us that they are
18 eliminating the employment counseling.
19 We have two contracts with the Department
20 of Commerce, and that in the Consolidated
21 Plan, they're going to eliminate the
22 three organizations that citywide get the
23 funding for employment counseling, we
24 have been told.

25 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I guess my

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 question is, was it a targeted grant that
3 went to your organization every year, and
4 did they say anything about you being
5 able to compete for grant money beyond
6 that?

7 MS. HENRY: They only said that
8 there are three organizations citywide.
9 Lighthouse is one of them --

10 COUNCILMAN GOODE: That's not
11 the question I'm asking you, and I'll put
12 it a different way.

13 Five percent of all CDBG money
14 has to go to economic development done by
15 CDCs. That's the law. I know because I
16 did the law. So whatever 5 percent of
17 that pot is, even the budget is shrinking
18 from the federal government, that money
19 has to be available. I'm asking whether
20 they are eliminating certain programs or
21 did they tell you that Southwest CDC is
22 not going to be able to compete for any
23 of the funding? Because I would be
24 surprised to hear that at all.

25 MS. HENRY: We have been told

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 that they're eliminating the line item
3 for employment counseling.

4 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Other than
5 that, you're able to compete for other
6 economic development funds?

7 MS. HENRY: Yes.

8 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
10 Councilman Squilla.

11 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Ms. Henry,
12 I was just curious, you said that you
13 feel that Rising Philly is doing similar
14 work of the NACs. Do you think they
15 duplicate the work that you do and other
16 NACs throughout the area?

17 MS. HENRY: They have smaller
18 concentrations, but with the CDBG cuts
19 that have come along in the last year and
20 more expected this year, that the funding
21 for Philly Rising could have filled the
22 gap that all of the NACs are feeling in
23 their budgets.

24 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Do you
25 feel that the Philly Rising has helped

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 the CDCs and also the NACs in the area?

3 MS. HENRY: It's too new to
4 tell at this point.

5 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Okay.
6 Thank you.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
8 Thank you so much for your testimony.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. OLANIPEKUN-LEWIS: There's
11 a gray Jeep Liberty blocking someone in
12 the parking lot.

13 (Parking issue already taken
14 care of.)

15 (Witness approached
16 microphone.)

17 MS. WALL: Good evening and
18 welcome, Council President Clarke and all
19 the members of City Council and our
20 guests. Thank you for coming to our
21 community. My name is Marsha Wall and
22 I'm the President of the Southwest
23 Community Advisory Group. I'm also a
24 block captain for the 6000 block of
25 Trinity Street, but, more importantly, I

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 am a 35-plus year resident of Southwest
3 Philadelphia.

4 I am well aware that other
5 proposed projects targeted for our
6 community that I don't necessarily agree
7 with, but I hope you would consider a
8 revitalization project for our
9 neighborhoods, such as businesses,
10 housing and beneficial development.

11 There are several acres of
12 land, entire City blocks of vacant and
13 abandoned, trash-filled lots that can be
14 used for in-fill housing and new
15 businesses. Honorable Councilmembers,
16 please consider in your 2013 budget using
17 those parcels of land for positive
18 development, new businesses and
19 residential homes.

20 As in the words of the City
21 Council -- the City's vision -- the
22 citywide vision for 2005, Framing for Our
23 Future - Help, Thrive, Connect and Renew
24 our community back to what it once was
25 and even better.

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 Thank you again for your
3 attention.

4 (Applause.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Thank you so much for your testimony.

7 MS. OLANIPEKUN-LEWIS: Claudia
8 Sherrod, and after Ms. Sherrod is Gloria
9 Kellem.

10 (Witness approached
11 microphone.)

12 MS. SHERROD: Good evening to
13 our President Darrell Clarke and to the
14 many Councilpeople, rather than to call
15 you name by name. It's an honor to be
16 able to stand up here and speak before
17 you.

18 I'm going to speak on two
19 particular topics - expanding housing
20 opportunities and facilitating strong
21 neighborhood commercial corridors. But I
22 would like to piggyback on what the young
23 lady just spoke about with the CDBG funds
24 that were cut, because I was hit hard
25 with it myself.

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 It was a competitive bid
3 because of the federal dollars. However,
4 I just thought that money would go to
5 only community-based organizations, which
6 in fact it did not happen in Point
7 Breeze. I do represent Point Breeze.
8 And I think that is something you as City
9 Councilmen need to really do your
10 homework and watch these OHCD, RDA where
11 they spend their dollars and who they
12 direct their dollars to. Sometimes the
13 people who are in control are not the
14 people they favor.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. SHERROD: Expand funding
17 for the housing. Philadelphia Housing
18 Trust Fund is close to becoming a
19 reality. Given the overwhelming need for
20 resources to expand housing opportunity,
21 the City should also make a commitment
22 from its General Fund for affordable
23 homes. When I say "affordable homes"
24 now, I don't mean 200 and excess. I mean
25 200 and decreasing.

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: That's
3 correct.

4 MS. SHERROD: Because right
5 now, thank God for City Council and their
6 support, I am doing 19 developments. It
7 went from 110,000 to 180,000. Now
8 presently, it has strangely been risen to
9 135,000 to 250,000, and it is shocking
10 me. I may be hurting myself up here, but
11 it's okay, because I'm working for the
12 people. I don't work for Claudia. And I
13 think it's time that the people come out
14 and tell you guys what's going on. You
15 need to find out what's going on in these
16 RDAs, OHCDs, and they're filling their
17 pockets and pockets of their friends.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. SHERROD: The next thing is
20 to facilitate strong neighborhood
21 commercial corridors. I do have a
22 proposal in for that. I am the only one
23 through my community organization, South
24 Philadelphia Homes, that has ran a
25 fantastic corridor manager, Mrs. Alice

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 Gaberdine. And we're waiting for the
3 money to come so we can continue that
4 path so we can help the many -- when I
5 say minority, I'm not necessarily talking
6 about black. I'm talking about people
7 who are poor, who are struggling to make
8 their business work.

9 Number two, I am concerned
10 about our community recreation centers.
11 We only have one in Point Breeze, one,
12 Chew. It's a room, not as big as this.
13 When you're talking about capital
14 dollars, see if you can put some of them
15 dollars away for the very, very small
16 community recreation centers such as
17 Chew's. Look at what we need, our needs.

18 We have a petition of over 500
19 people five years ago. We thought it was
20 going to fly. It didn't. I'm asking
21 you, I'm urging you, think about when you
22 do the budget of putting some money aside
23 for these neighborhoods that are growing.
24 Ours is growing by leaps and bounds, and
25 it's a good thing, but it's not as good

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 as it could be if we had the resources we
3 need to grow it.

4 On that, I'm going to quit so
5 others can talk.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

9 Thank you so much.

10 Let the record reflect that
11 Councilman Bill Green has joined us.

12 Real quick, in response to
13 that, the last part of what you reference
14 relating to rec centers, recently, I
15 think maybe two weeks ago, there was an
16 issue, the School District was actually
17 suggesting that a number of facilities
18 were going to close gyms and some of the
19 things that related to activities for
20 young people, and there was this process
21 that was established that utilized both
22 the City facilities and the School
23 District facilities and created an
24 opportunity during different hours for
25 everybody to have an opportunity to

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 participate in recreational programs.

3 I think one of the things as we
4 move through this process, understanding
5 the dwindling dollars that we have, that
6 we need to be in a position if there's
7 not the appropriate recreation centers
8 numbers-wise in the community, then maybe
9 we need to come up with a strategy to
10 have schools or some of the other
11 facilities that have gyms or other
12 recreational opportunities.

13 Too often this is an issue
14 whether we're going to do either/or.
15 Sometimes we can figure out a way to do
16 both. Five years ago there was actually
17 an approach to talk about merging the
18 capital programs of both the City and the
19 School District where you would instead
20 of building a recreation center down the
21 street and have a school a block away
22 that had a gym, why don't we merge the
23 new construction to incorporate all of
24 those facilities, and I think we need to
25 get back to that discussion, that if

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 we're going to build a gym in the school
3 and we're going to build a gym in a rec
4 center, why not consolidate those so
5 you'll be able to utilize them, saving
6 money that will allow to build more
7 facilities throughout the City.

8 So those are the kind of things
9 that we need to be talking about, and I
10 believe that Councilmembers will in fact
11 be very aggressive. I actually think
12 that Councilwoman Bass, who is the Chair
13 of the Committee on Recreation and Parks,
14 had a discussion a week or so ago about
15 utilizing some of the facilities in the
16 neighborhoods.

17 So you're right, we don't have
18 enough in recreation, and we have to come
19 up with better strategies. Thank you so
20 much for that testimony.

21 MS. OLANIPEKUN-LEWIS: Gloria
22 Kellem, and after Ms. Kellem is James
23 White.

24 (Witness approached
25 microphone.)

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 MS. KELLEME: Good evening,
3 everybody. Giving honor to God.

4 I was placed on the list
5 without being told or known or aware. So
6 I have not looked at the budget. Because
7 I am a representative and a lifetime
8 resident of Southwest Philadelphia, but I
9 also represent an organization, Utility
10 Emergency Services Fund, and I'm a
11 housing stabilization manager and
12 counselor. And I speak not only for my
13 neighborhood, but I also speak about the
14 37 percent budget cut with the City
15 Community Development Block Grant and the
16 \$120 million that HUD has been decreased
17 on, but to also acknowledge that the
18 banks have given billions of dollars for
19 housing and housing services.

20 But what I do stand up here and
21 say as a resident and as a 30-year
22 service representative in the City, I
23 have been in a non-profit for over 30
24 years, servicing the public and assisting
25 the residents of Philadelphia. We need

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 to address homeless prevention and
3 housing stabilization in this city.
4 Right now we are turning away hundreds of
5 folks who are either in eviction or
6 already living in the street, and the
7 shelters are full. And I plead and I ask
8 that City Council go back and reassess
9 the budgets that were cut with HPRP as of
10 2012 that came down through the stimulus
11 and the ARRA program and look at the
12 crisis that we are facing with the
13 disadvantaged in the next year to five
14 years if there is not some money placed
15 in these programs to service those that
16 are poor, moderate and the new group
17 called the new poor, who have never
18 needed or had to come to the neighborhood
19 energy centers, the community --

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. KELLEME: -- organizations
22 and my organization seeking assistance.
23 And I also support a housing
24 revitalization program for the blight,
25 not only citywide but definitely in our

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 neighborhood, because my question is, in
3 the last 20 years, I have never known or
4 seen City Council or our public officials
5 come to our neighborhood, which is
6 neglected and under-serviced in this
7 area.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. KELLEME: I work every day.
10 I pay taxes. I was unemployed for three
11 years and I got up every day and I went
12 out and I worked for Labor Ready to keep
13 my home and a roof over my head, and
14 never once did I miss paying my real
15 estate taxes or my insurance.

16 So I don't like being
17 classified as low in income or poor or
18 shiftless, and I appeal to our President,
19 our Councilman Kenyatta Johnson and the
20 entire Council to look at -- and you,
21 Wilson, Jr. since you were a resident
22 here -- to look at our need, to the
23 blight in this neighborhood, to address
24 the housing, to allow us because we have
25 no representation. We have no recreation

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 center. We don't have a community
3 development corporation out here. We
4 don't have a housing development
5 corporation out here. Heck, we don't
6 even have an advisory committee out here,
7 but we put new housing in the
8 neighborhood, which was a blessing, but
9 it's undesirable. We want to bring
10 people in, but what do we have here to
11 offer?

12 So I'm just asking that you
13 consider citywide the issues that we are
14 facing in large numbers, and that's
15 housing issues and homeless prevention,
16 and that the issues that we are facing in
17 our neighborhood here in Paschall is
18 unemployment and jobs and affordable
19 housing. And to also my baby, which is
20 green and sustainability, that we also
21 consider when we look at economic
22 development and urban lending and
23 housing, that we begin to look at -- I
24 have 20 years in weatherization and
25 conservation, and I say that it's time

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 for us to bring manufacturing into this
3 city, that we begin to start to build --

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. KELLEME: -- windmills, that
6 we begin to start to build solar panels,
7 not from Germany, not bringing in
8 manufacturers down in South Philly, but
9 doing it right here in our neighborhoods.
10 And that we also focus on not just
11 renovating and rehabbing and new
12 construction, but that when we do it, we
13 do it on an E basis and we start from
14 scratch, that we begin to build houses
15 for low income so that it's sustainable
16 and that we build them energy efficient.

17 Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

20 Thank you so much for your testimony.

21 MS. OLANIPEKUN-LEWIS: The next
22 speaker is Shawn Kelly -- I'm sorry;
23 James White, and then Shawn Kelly is
24 after James White.

25 (Witness approached

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 microphone.)

3 MR. WHITE: Boy, it's good to
4 be back in the 2nd District in Southwest.
5 I lived on Lindbergh for about seven
6 years.

7 Good evening, and thank you for
8 the opportunity to testify. My name is
9 James White, and I'm the Policy
10 Coordinator of the Philadelphia
11 Association of Community Development
12 Corporations. We're a citywide
13 association of 100 organizations,
14 including 50 CDCs. Some of our members
15 you've already heard from this evening on
16 a number of issues. I'll just highlight
17 some and go very quickly, because I know
18 there's other people that want to talk.

19 Our members are very engaged
20 and experienced in accessing a lot of
21 City programs, as you know. Tonight I
22 just want to focus my testimony on issues
23 that are critical to meeting the needs of
24 Philadelphia residents and fostering
25 successful revitalization in our

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 neighborhoods.

3 The City is facing, as you've
4 heard, further significant cuts in
5 federal resources to address local
6 housing and community development needs
7 that will necessitate hard decisions on
8 how to allocate these scarce resources.
9 We count on the Council to address the
10 loss of the \$30 million, or the 37
11 percent, as someone of my colleagues have
12 mentioned, in federal and state support
13 for housing and community dollars.

14 We also know that we've been
15 successful in lobbying to get an increase
16 in the Philadelphia Housing Trust Fund
17 from the General Assembly. Right now
18 those funds are going into the mortgage
19 and deed recording fees for the Trust
20 Fund to increase it by about \$3.5 million
21 a year. While this is a great gain, it's
22 not enough, and I hate to say it's never
23 enough, but in order for us to climb out
24 of this, we're going to ask you to go
25 back to the way things used to be in the

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 previous Administrations, to consider
3 putting in some of the General Fund, some
4 of the proceeds that are gained from some
5 of the new vehicles the City now uses to
6 address anti-blight.

7 This fall, the City started a
8 Blight Court for absentee landlords and
9 landlords that neglected properties. I
10 went to the first hearing. They
11 collected \$90,000 in one afternoon. It
12 wasn't even a whole day, one afternoon.
13 They've had three of these sessions where
14 they're collecting thousands and
15 thousands of dollars. None of this money
16 is recycled back into the community. We
17 ask the Council to look into recycling
18 that money back into the community for
19 affordable housing for residents, for
20 homeless prevention. Help us rebuild our
21 communities. Recycle the dollars back in
22 from the Capital Program. You have ways
23 to do it. We're asking you to look at
24 doing that.

25 Issue two: The City is

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 hemorrhaging from maintaining vacant
3 property, \$20 million annually. The City
4 loses an additional 2 million because
5 some of these are tax delinquent. Ten
6 thousand properties are vacant that the
7 City owns, scattered among four agencies.
8 You know who they are. But yet when our
9 developers for- and non-profit try to put
10 an assemblage together, we start here, we
11 run there, and we get a runaround. And
12 we're trying to put these properties back
13 into productive use. Yes, the front door
14 that the Administration suggests is
15 great, but we need more than that. We
16 need a land bank, and we ask Council to
17 work with the community and the
18 Administration to make it happen.

19 The last thing, we're doing
20 this citywide reassessment, as we all
21 know, on actual property values. Myself,
22 like a lot of new property owners in
23 moderate and low income -- well, hey, I
24 work for a non-profit. I don't have to
25 tell you. But the reality is, we're

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 faced with a big challenge, and we need
3 Council. We know that the state General
4 Assembly has a homestead exemption of the
5 first 15,000 that they're grappling with
6 in Harrisburg, and the Administration
7 will hopefully -- and we hope they do
8 it -- will phase in the increase for
9 seniors, but we want you to actually look
10 beyond our elders and look to young
11 working family folks like myself and my
12 colleagues here. We could use some
13 phase-in, too.

14 Thank you for your time.

15 (Applause.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

17 Thank you so much for your testimony,
18 Mr. White.

19 I've been informed that our
20 buzzer is no longer operable. Somebody
21 did something to it. So we're keeping
22 the time up here, so you may hear a
23 verbal request, someone saying it's time.
24 We ask that you please finish up your
25 remarks. We do have a significant number

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 of people still want to testify.

3 MS. OLANIPEKUN-LEWIS: Shawn

4 Kelly, and after Mr. Kelly is Tyrone

5 Buckley (sic).

6 (Witness approached

7 microphone.)

8 MR. KELLY: Good evening,

9 Council President --

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good

11 evening, sir.

12 MR. KELLY: -- Darrell Clarke

13 and fellow Councilmen. I wanted to speak

14 about something that Mr. White had just

15 spoke about. My name is Shawn Kelly

16 again. I'm the President of Community

17 Achievement Association. I'm also a

18 retired Philadelphia firefighter

19 stationed right down at 65th and

20 Woodland.

21 The concern that I have and I

22 think a lot of people have in the

23 community is twofold, and it's regards to

24 the increase in property taxes. As the

25 taxes go up with the full assessment,

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 there also is concerns with the
3 development that goes along with that,
4 too. As we improve the community, the
5 market values of those properties will go
6 up. The City is going to go to a full
7 assessment. The concern is, those people
8 on fixed income, like the seniors, people
9 who receive Social Security, the people
10 who are unemployed and underemployed, as
11 those increasements occur, those income
12 of those individuals will be the same.
13 The concern is, how are they going to
14 sustain themselves as the adjustments are
15 made with those taxes? Because if they
16 don't sustain yourself, then you talk
17 about possible displacement and, again,
18 we talk about homeless.

19 That's all I wanted to say.

20 (Applause.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

22 Thank you so much. Thank you, sir. That
23 will be an issue that there's going to be
24 significant conversations about, probably
25 will be the cornerstone of this

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 particular budget.

3 MS. OLANIPEKUN-LEWIS: Tyrone
4 Buckley. Tyrone Buckley. And the next
5 speaker is Judith Burrell. Judith
6 Burrell is after Mr. Buckley.

7 (Witness approached
8 microphone.)

9 MR. BEVERLY: Good evening. I
10 want to first start off about Southwest,
11 for them that don't know. We have some
12 homes and homeowners that been under
13 water in 2011, 2010, and I'm asking how
14 do you get fair market value?

15 My particular home, I've
16 invested a lot of money and it's sinking.
17 I had this discussion with ex-Mayor John
18 Street. We had several meetings. We had
19 a couple houses taken off, and now you're
20 going to tell us that we're going to come
21 up with a budget by doing some
22 assessments to a house I was told I have
23 no market value. I have no market value
24 to 6843 Lindbergh Boulevard.

25 On my particular block, there

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 are homes that's shifting. The City
3 don't take responsibility. They know
4 that they were involved with the
5 reorganization of the City of that area
6 under urban renewal, and they walked
7 away.

8 Now, I'm a senior now. I've
9 been there 34 years. My home is paid
10 for, but I cannot sell it to you, not one
11 of you Councilpeople, because I can't
12 disclose. How do you give me a fair
13 market value? So I'm actually buying a
14 home or I've paid for a home that have no
15 worth.

16 I'm 65 years old June. So I
17 worked 37 years driving trains to not to
18 have no value. The homes that are under
19 water, they bought some homes, left some
20 homes, left some of these people in
21 disarray, but yet in front of City Hall
22 we see a major construction where Occupy
23 get put off.

24 Some Councilpeople I don't
25 know, but I go back a long way with Bill

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 Greenlee, and I have never seen nothing
3 like this. We have areas out here where
4 we're paying high taxes and children
5 don't even have a place to play.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. BEVERLY: We had a
8 community organization. We was
9 disfunded, which was the Eastwick PAC.
10 You disfunded us. And this was before
11 you, Darrell, so I cannot say as
12 President of Council that some of y'all
13 were involved. But we were disfunded.
14 Now you have no voice in the community.
15 People don't have nobody to talk to.

16 Our politics is weak, but yet I
17 rode down Northern Liberties and I see
18 the money expansion. Where's the budget?
19 Where's the budget?

20 We just want a piece of the
21 pie. We don't need the whole pie. Give
22 us our slice.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. BEVERLY: I thank you, and
25 I thank you for your time.

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 (Applause.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Thank you, sir, so much for that
5 testimony. If you can -- sir, can I ask
6 your particular situation, you seem to
7 have -- particularly if you can just give
8 your name to someone, because the whole
9 issue about how you get the valuation of
10 your property given the condition I'm
11 sure will be reflected. So if you can
12 just give us your name and number.

13 (People yelling out.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I
15 understand. It's a whole area, I
16 understand. I just need a reference
17 point so we can --

18 MR. BEVERLY: I would like to
19 say one thing. We really need, we really
20 need -- and we appreciate immensely y'all
21 being here. We need y'all to walk with
22 us and talk with us and look at our
23 problem. It's major. Out of all the
24 City, you have a major problem. I have a
25 lady literally crying on my block. If I

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 take you to her house, you will shake
3 your head. She's young and now she's
4 disillusioned.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You
6 are fortunate enough to have a great
7 Councilperson. I think he wants to speak
8 about the followup.

9 MR. BEVERLY: Thank you. Thank
10 you.

11 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON:
12 Mr. Beverly, how you doing, sir? I
13 mentioned this earlier when I first got
14 started that the issue separate from the
15 budget, as a new Councilman, I am fully
16 committed to doing an actual followup.
17 We can actually, separate from the tour,
18 sit down and talk about the nitty-gritty
19 regarding the actual issues relating to
20 Paschall.

21 So I want that to be noted for
22 the record. And we can sit down, have a
23 frank conversation regarding support for
24 the Paschall actual area. And I'm quite
25 clear -- just for the record, I picked

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 Southwest for a specific reason, so we
3 can start addressing your actual issues
4 and concerns. And so we will definitely
5 follow up.

6 (People yelling out.)

7 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you
8 very much, ma'am.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
10 We'll follow up. And I actually -- it
11 was interesting, Councilman referenced
12 the fact that he selected Southwest,
13 because I'm not as familiar with his
14 entire district. He had a whole lot of
15 areas to choose from, you know, and he
16 chose -- this is the first one, and there
17 was a reason for that, so I got to
18 commend him for that.

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
21 Councilman Jones.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: One of the
23 things -- and Council President is right.
24 One of the reasons why Council President
25 started out in communities is so that we

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 could hear this. And just because we're
3 not going to ask a lot of questions or do
4 a lot of -- does not mean we aren't
5 listening. We're doing this all around
6 the City for a reason. Because what you
7 want to understand is that your problems
8 in Southwest in Kenyatta's --
9 Representative Johnson's district is not
10 different from the ones in mine. We have
11 sinking homes. So when you raise the
12 question here, it echoes in my district
13 as well.

14 So as we start to get some of
15 these issues on the record, on the
16 record, when we then negotiate with the
17 Administration, we'll be able to talk
18 about the example on your block and the
19 example of your home not having value.
20 But believe it or not, these are the same
21 questions we're going to pass on.

22 So we appreciate these comments
23 and want you to understand that we're
24 taking them to heart. Please sign in.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 Thank you, Councilman.

3 Next witness.

4 MS. OLANIPEKUN-LEWIS: Just for
5 the record, the gentleman's name was
6 Tyrone Beverly, not Buckley.

7 The next speaker is Judith
8 Burrell. Judith Burrell, and after that
9 is Roosevelt Brand, Jr.

10 Judy Burrell.

11 (No response.)

12 MS. OLANIPEKUN-LEWIS: The next
13 speaker is Roosevelt Brand, Jr. After
14 Mr. Brand is Tracey Gordon.

15 (Witness approached
16 microphone.)

17 MR. BRAND: Good evening.
18 Congratulations to all the members of
19 City Council, all newly elected members
20 of City Council. My name is Roosevelt
21 Brand, Jr.

22 I want to talk about one thing
23 first, and that's the taxes, property
24 taxes and the penalties and fines on the
25 back taxes. I'm a lot owner, and I heard

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 a gentleman talking about the many lots
3 and everything we have around the City.
4 I owe about \$2,000 in back taxes. I'm
5 currently on an agreement paying \$204 per
6 month to make that property free and
7 clear.

8 The problem is is that when I
9 surf the Internet, the BRT Internet, and
10 I see so many properties with huge fines,
11 penalties, I'll say to myself, why can't
12 City Council come to some kind of a term
13 where there's a moratorium or either a
14 period of forgiveness to allow those that
15 owe back taxes on their land or property
16 to just pay off the taxes itself, which
17 will make it much easier. Because what I
18 see what's going around South Philly --
19 mainly I'm from South Philly -- is,
20 people are buying up land because we
21 can't pay the penalties and fines. So
22 people are literally stealing other
23 people's property and land because we
24 cannot pay for it.

25 So I'm imploring you, please

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 take that under consideration. Offer a
3 period of forgiveness for taxes.

4 The other thing is, I'm also a
5 DC 33 member. I'm a blue-collar worker.
6 You know, we've been working darn near
7 four years without a contract. When we
8 had our rally down at City Hall, some of
9 us got in there. I was one that didn't
10 get in there. I learned the budget
11 results or the presentation of the budget
12 by Mayor Nutter on KYW, and when KYW
13 mentioned all those -- I'm talking about
14 the new PA building -- PAB building,
15 traffic, some kind of margin system and
16 some other things and he didn't include
17 the workers of the City, it was almost
18 demoralizing. And I'm going to say this
19 much. You got union members, including
20 myself, that are working, you know,
21 diligently without a contract. Because
22 you know what? We really value our job.
23 We're really loyal to what we do, and
24 it's just not right for Mayor Nutter to
25 present a budget to the City that does

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 not include DC 33 or DC 47.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. BRAND: And we should be
5 included.

6 Now, DC 33 is getting ready to
7 go through a new election of officers in
8 early April, and, you know, I'm
9 confident, I'm hoping very much that Pete
10 Matthews is going to be reelected.

11 With that, thank you.

12 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Sir.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Hold
14 on, sir.

15 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Just one
16 thing. On your first point, sir, we had
17 a tax amnesty -- it looks like we have
18 competition -- tax amnesty program just
19 two years ago. Were you aware of that?

20 MR. BRAND: No, I was not.

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: It was
22 pretty well publicized.

23 MR. BRAND: I wasn't aware of
24 it.

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 But we did have that as recently as about
3 two years ago.

4 MR. BRAND: Have it again.

5 Please just try it one more time.

6 Thank you.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

8 Councilman Green.

9 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Yes. Sir,
10 actually 14 members of City Council -- I
11 think everybody up here -- signed a bill
12 that was introduced in Council three
13 weeks ago. That bill will allow people
14 to sign up to pay automatically their
15 back taxes. They will be able to choose
16 between 5 and 15 percent of their monthly
17 salary as the payment. The percentage
18 will be up to the person applying based
19 on how quickly they want to release their
20 property, and if you're below certain
21 income thresholds, the penalties and
22 interest will be waived and you will only
23 be paying back the principal.

24 And so we are trying to address
25 this issue, and if we pass this bill and

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 the Mayor signs it, there will be an
3 automatic payment plan amnesty for
4 low-income individuals in the City of
5 Philadelphia.

6 MR. BRAND: Thank you, sir. I
7 want to just say this. Why don't you
8 guys just go ahead and show the Mayor who
9 you guys really are. Okay? Come on,
10 just do it.

11 (Applause.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I'd
13 like to give a response to that, but
14 there's press in the house. We'll talk
15 about that a little later on.

16 MS. OLANIPEKUN-LEWIS: Tracey
17 Gordon is our next speaker, and after
18 Ms. Gordon is Leo Brundage.

19 (Witness approached
20 microphone.)

21 MS. GORDON: Good evening,
22 Councilperson. Congratulations,
23 President Darrell Clarke.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
25 Thank you.

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 MS. GORDON: Congratulations,
3 Kenyatta.

4 My friend Curtis Jones, always
5 my friend, Wilson Goode, and to
6 everybody. Thank you all for coming out
7 in Southwest. Good evening to all the
8 leaders. This is the leadership here.
9 We come out all the time to meetings, and
10 we are very happy that you come out to
11 talk to us.

12 I have a ten-point neighborhood
13 concern, and I'm going to go through
14 three of them and I'm going to propose
15 the rest of them to the Councilman when
16 we meet together.

17 We have major concerns,
18 business corridors, unregistered rental
19 properties, Conrail or BMX problems
20 through our community, L&I, business and
21 building permit violations, Southwest
22 parks and recreations, airport, business
23 district, immigrant service and the
24 pop-up businesses where we can get
25 revenue from.

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 I actually talked to Councilman
3 Curtis Jones on several occasions showing
4 where we can get money from.

5 Unregistered rental properties,
6 if you all can go and call the current
7 City Controller, Alan Butkovitz, he has a
8 report that he did June of 2011. This is
9 where a lot of money, a lot of money is
10 going unkept, but yet still our taxes
11 keep going up.

12 He found in this audit that
13 over 50 percent of rental properties in
14 our district is delinquent in real estate
15 taxes and water revenue, 50 percent. He
16 also found over 50 percent of the rental
17 properties have some sort of property
18 violations, and we found that when they
19 are issued citations, the City never
20 collects the penalty. So when we call
21 3-1-1 and complain about a negligent
22 rental property that's increasing the
23 value and the quality of life in our
24 area, they get the tickets, they throw
25 them away. The City don't pay them -- we

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 don't get the revenues.

3 Fifty percent of the rental
4 properties in this city are not paying
5 taxes in rentals, but yet every day us,
6 who are paying rental tax, all of us in
7 here, our taxes keep going up.

8 Parks and Recreation, I
9 actually cried, because I walk around
10 Cobbs Creek Park. Y'all realize that's
11 one of our most wealthiest parts of our
12 part of the City, that Cobbs Creek. If
13 you go and walk around that park, you
14 will see how filthy dirty it is. It has
15 tires. It has oil barrels. They are
16 dumping. Remember back in the day when
17 the Indian cried back in the day with the
18 litter? He would have a nervous
19 breakdown if he came over there now.

20 I want to know how your Parks
21 and Recreation has a \$48 million budget.
22 They just propose -- which I talked to my
23 good friend Cindy Bass and she said
24 they're probably going to table. They
25 want to get -- Parks and Recreation put a

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 proposal for 25 million for Love Park.
3 Fairmount Park is -- what about -- that's
4 Fairmount Park. That's one of the
5 largest parks in the country, it's
6 historic. I don't even want to go to
7 Mount Moriah. That's an abomination to
8 dead people and ancestors and our
9 revolutionary.

10 But in the parks, it is so
11 infested and dangerous, it's
12 unbelievable. So if \$48 million,
13 Councilman Kenyatta, I would like for you
14 to see where is the money for our
15 district, for our health and safety and
16 welfare. Because I walked to West River
17 Drive and they was jogging, and I didn't
18 even see a cigarette butt. So the money
19 is going in certain areas and it's not
20 coming here.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. GORDON: So that's going to
23 be dealt with. Because the City
24 Controller, by the way, I asked him to do
25 a work audit to see where the workers

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 are, because we don't even see workers.
3 We see one woman picking up all them
4 tires, and then you see 1,000 workers in
5 certain other areas.

6 Three, last, the bubbling
7 airport district. That district is
8 getting ready to bring a lot of money in
9 that district, a lot of money. That's
10 the 2nd Councilmanic District, y'all.
11 That's our district. We want some jobs,
12 and we don't just want the job where you
13 hold a flag so nobody won't run you over.
14 We want some of the contracts and we want
15 some of the primary contracts so our
16 people -- thank you, Councilman Goode,
17 for putting the bills through, but
18 somehow they seem to be ignoring your
19 bills.

20 But we want some of the primary
21 contracts and the secondary, and we don't
22 want the phony primary contract that they
23 get and then in three weeks, you don't
24 see any minorities there and then they
25 put the green tarp. That's the new thing

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 they do in the City we need to ask them
3 about. They put the tarp around there so
4 you can't see in. Climb up over there
5 and you're not going to see near one of
6 us or minorities over there working, with
7 our taxpayer dollars.

8 I'll close with this: L&I,
9 L&I -- no, no. I'm going to tell you, if
10 you get the right person, you could work
11 with L&I. They only get \$22 million of a
12 budget, and they can't afford to be cut.
13 They are stretched to the limit. In
14 order for me to protect my property
15 value, because, quite frankly, I can't
16 afford to move -- and, also, why should I
17 have to move? I love Philadelphia. I
18 was born here.

19 However, when you have
20 negligent neighbors that come in and they
21 rip these properties and the developers
22 live in Florida, they live in Bahamas or
23 whatever, they never come see their
24 property. They tearing the property up,
25 the kids. It's a mess. It's just like a

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 nightmare. My head is ready to explode.
3 We need to fund L&I. We need
4 to fund L&I, and we need to get a mini
5 service building that have L&I in this
6 community right on Woodland Avenue where
7 we can go right there and knock on L&I
8 door and say, Deal with this nuisance.
9 Because it's decreasing our property.

10 I don't know how we're going to
11 go to full assessment of taxes, because I
12 live --

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
14 Ms. --

15 MS. GORDON: I'll close.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
17 Well, there are actually three
18 Councilmembers that would like to ask you
19 questions.

20 MS. GORDON: Okay. All right.
21 Because I got to get it in. They may not
22 never come to Southwest.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
24 Councilman Jones.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: Amen. Amen.

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 Amen.

3 I had an opportunity to meet
4 with Ms. Gordon about this important
5 issue, and, in fact, the Council
6 President, I, other members of the
7 leadership met with the editorial boards
8 of both the Inquirer and the Daily News
9 today about this subject, and the
10 interesting point of view -- and I have
11 to give Councilwoman Sanchez a lot of
12 credit for this -- was when we met with
13 merchants and we were debating the sugar
14 tax, and they point blank said, why would
15 you put another tax on the books that you
16 just haven't bothered to collect the old
17 ones? And it is very true, and your
18 report points this out glaringly about
19 the rental properties that put a burden
20 on a lot of the municipal services,
21 whether you're talking about sanitation
22 or L&I and other services.

23 So we're going to take a hard
24 look at correcting the ratio of L&I
25 inspectors that need to go out and do the

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 enforcement that actually brings in
3 revenue to the City of Philadelphia. And
4 we brought that up to the editorial
5 boards today.

6 MS. GORDON: And the Revenue
7 Board, they're not collecting the money.
8 When you rent a property, that's a
9 business. You got to get a business
10 privilege tax. You got to pay taxes on
11 it and you got to pay rental property.
12 Some of that money could come back to our
13 community, because we know most of them
14 going to tear up the house, so at least
15 if it goes back to the community, good
16 homeowners, like we, and good renters,
17 like some people are, can maintain our
18 properties.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: A
20 couple more. Because we actually have 17
21 additional witnesses, so...

22 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: And also
23 tomorrow, I shall be introducing
24 legislation regarding the illegal and
25 short dumping that has been taking place,

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 as well as --

3 (Applause.)

4 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: -- as well
5 as looking at with L&I, Managing
6 Director's Office, Streets Department,
7 we're going to be looking at also litter
8 enforcement teams.

9 Also --

10 (Applause.)

11 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Also
12 working in conjunction with my Serious
13 Six Councilmember Mark Squilla, who has
14 some of the concerns in South
15 Philadelphia.

16 So I'm going to introduce --
17 that legislation will be going in
18 tomorrow regarding starting the process
19 of hearings. But we have been talking to
20 individuals from the Managing Director's
21 Office regarding the tire situation up
22 there on 71st Street.

23 MS. GORDON: No. All over.

24 All over.

25 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Well, the

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 initial area that we received a report
3 from Southwest CDC is right there on 71st
4 and Upland. So we have started that
5 process to aggressively start looking at
6 it for the long term, not just for right
7 now.

8 But thank you.

9 MS. GORDON: Thank you.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
11 Councilmember Goode.

12 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
13 Mr. President.

14 Real briefly, you are exactly
15 right that until and unless we penalize
16 and debar contractors for lack of
17 diversity, they won't take it serious.
18 We've set in the process -- the bill
19 should probably be signed into law by
20 now -- to review that stuff on at least a
21 quarterly basis and invite people to
22 snitch. The first two cases of people
23 who got penalized or debarred came from
24 people snitching to the Controller's
25 Office, came from people snitching to the

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 Inspector General's Office. And,
3 interesting enough, the first case of
4 someone being penalized was an airport
5 contractor, who was barred from doing
6 work for the City for a while.

7 MS. GORDON: Thank you. Thank
8 you.

9 MS. OLANIPEKUN-LEWIS: Our next
10 speaker is Leo Brundage. Leo Brundage.
11 And after Mr. Brundage is Howard Lee
12 Jordan.

13 (Witness approached
14 microphone.)

15 MR. BRUNDAGE: My name is Leo
16 Brundage. One of the -- I have a few
17 issues, but I'm going to make it short.

18 Councilman Johnson, you were
19 out in Eastwick, and that seems to be the
20 forgotten community. We don't have no
21 representation out there. And I'm going
22 to piggyback on what Mr. Beverly had said
23 about the flooding, because I'm one of
24 the victims that get flooded bad. And
25 the worse thing about that is that right

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 in back of my house, there is a Superfund
3 list. So that water that flows through
4 the Superfund list come right in our
5 homes.

6 One of the things I would like
7 to do or what I'd like for you to do is
8 probably -- they talked one time about
9 putting a berm up to stop the water from
10 coming into our homes. Perhaps you can
11 look into that.

12 One of the other issues is, the
13 City always wait until the day of we get
14 flooded before they decide to come
15 around. Now, a lot of people in our
16 community don't know how to prepare for
17 the flood. This is one of the things I
18 wanted the City to do. I spoke with this
19 Amy Myers when we got flooded back in
20 August that we wanted the City to prepare
21 us.

22 The other thing, we don't have
23 no emergency evacuation. If we really
24 get hit like we did Floyd, we'll be
25 stranded out there, you know. And I hope

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 there won't be another Katrina.

3 So that's basically -- that's
4 the issues that I have.

5 (Applause.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

7 Thank you so much, sir.

8 MS. OLANIPEKUN-LEWIS: Howard
9 Lee Jordan. Howard Lee Jordan. And
10 after Mr. Jordan is John Brazington.
11 John Brazington.

12 (Witness approached
13 microphone.)

14 MR. JORDAN: My name is Howard
15 Jordan, and I have some paperwork for
16 Mrs. Deborah Hopkins and City Council
17 President Darrell Clarke. Sorry I left
18 the E off your name.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

20 That's okay.

21 MR. JORDAN: And 2nd District
22 Kenyatta Johnson.

23 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.

24 MR. JORDAN: I'm not going to
25 hold you all up, because Tyrone Beverly

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 and I know each other very well and we
3 have fought ever since I moved out here
4 in '87. Since '87 -- I'd like to get
5 this in. From the Tinicum Wildlife
6 Preserve to the City, I got letters in
7 there for all the Councilpeople that's in
8 the envelope from the government saying
9 that ten foot from the curb to the
10 telephone poles, the City is responsible
11 for that. In '87 I bought a big riding
12 mower, \$2,800, and I got another new one
13 now. I wore the first one out. Because
14 I was brought up in North Carolina, and
15 my mother and father taught their son
16 well. They proud of him, too. I'm beat
17 up now from working with the City on
18 those raggedy trucks and police cars, but
19 I'm just saying.

20 I put all my effort on
21 looseleaf, working, keeping things neat.
22 My mother said, You can polish an old
23 rubber boot and make it look good. So I
24 do that, and it had paid off for me
25 working with the City. I enjoyed working

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 for the City. I was an old hotrod drag
3 racer, got broke up on my motorcycle,
4 speed bike.

5 But I'm just saying,
6 Philadelphia, to be a great city as Mayor
7 Nutter said, we got to get involved in
8 more things. Anne Verna since 2003 -- I
9 wish she was here now -- she disregarded
10 paperwork. And I'm a heavy-duty
11 automotive technician, went to school for
12 mechanics in North Carolina to come up
13 here, because there are plenty of cars up
14 here. If you're a mechanic, cars is
15 cars, you can work on them.

16 And I work hard in my life.
17 All I'm saying is, I'm in Philly, my
18 wife, I got two grandchildren. Also, my
19 neighbor that live in the townhouse, he
20 was in the service, and I guess they
21 follow up on it. I had Anne Verna's
22 office. I was wearing the secretaries to
23 death. I'm wearing the secretary now
24 under Mr. Clarke, Councilman Clarke. And
25 since 2003, Anne Verna was getting

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 certified letters sent to her. No
3 response as of yet. No response as of
4 yet.

5 So I talked with Kenyatta
6 Johnson -- I mean Councilman Kenyatta
7 Johnson, and I hope that we can get it
8 done, because I work hard on my property.
9 The property next to me when Charles
10 Harold, Sr., the owner -- I was there
11 when Norma Clark -- Norma and George
12 Clark had the house. They moved to
13 Florida and both of them died.

14 But I'm just saying, the people
15 that live in there now is a son, a girl,
16 two kids and three fighting dogs.
17 Yesterday a lady walking down the
18 street -- because they like walking down
19 the street, it's nice out there, because
20 I keep it that way. My mower got bit,
21 tore up. I vacuum, clean the street,
22 keep it clean. We don't even get the
23 street cleaner that come out. It's a lot
24 of things the City neglecting. The homes
25 out there, not even on the map. Me and

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 Dave Napta know. I know a whole lot of
3 people. They gone now. Like Tyrone, I
4 know a whole lot of people. They gone
5 now.

6 Dave Napta -- I got the old map
7 at the house. 8602 Lindbergh Boulevard,
8 owner paid for in cash, is my wife's
9 house and mine. It's paid for. We
10 paying the taxes. I can't pay taxes off
11 like everybody in one lump sum, but in
12 three months, it will be paid for. We
13 never been delinquent on nothing hardly.
14 I go without. I eat oranges and apples.
15 I'm going to make sure my bills are paid.
16 I was brought up that way.

17 But in doing that, Howard
18 Jordan don't mind speaking to nobody. I
19 was out there. The neighbors that I'm
20 talking about now said I had a gun, said
21 I had a gun, one time. The first two
22 Caucasian police officers came out there
23 and they saw that I was about something.
24 Having a gun? No, no, no. I done work
25 for the City too long. I'm a broken down

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 old man. I don't need a gun, because
3 when you a mechanic, I got tools hanging
4 on the wall that take care of a lot of
5 people. They legal. Ain't not nobody in
6 here. All right? So I don't need a gun.
7 I mean heavy duty. I worked on the big
8 equipment, the big loader, pavers, all
9 that.

10 So I'm saying then after that
11 incident, they try again. This is her
12 brother from over there in Sharon Hill.
13 They got three cars with Delaware tags,
14 not registered in Philly. They got one
15 car with Pennsylvania tag, but it's in
16 Sharon Hill. So Mayor Nutter can't get
17 nothing from them, see. So I'm just
18 saying, the SPCA, the dog -- the people
19 with dogs, I reported the three fighting
20 dogs. When I looked at him, the dog just
21 bark, bark, bark, bark, bark, bark. I
22 said, Ursula, my wife -- excuse me. I
23 had cancer of the neck and throat.
24 Excuse me.

25 It's something, because won't

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 nobody check the dogs out or go over
3 there, because the people that live in
4 there now is his son. Charles Harold,
5 Sr. owned the house. He was in service
6 out in the field and they said he
7 couldn't get him.

8 I'm going to get out of y'all
9 way.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
11 all right. Drink some water.

12 MR. JORDAN: But I don't want
13 to hold y'all up, because, like I said,
14 Tyrone done enough talking, but I was in
15 the meeting along with him, when Maggie
16 and all them was at. But I'm just
17 saying, y'all please help me out. Just
18 open them envelopes. Please help me out.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Yes,
20 sir.

21 MR. JORDAN: Because if you
22 come, I ain't bragging. If you come look
23 at my house, that's a work -- I done it
24 that way. I done it. Look at it. My
25 title is heavy-duty AMT.

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
3 right.

4 MR. JORDAN: But when you look
5 at the house, you say is he a carpenter
6 or everything? But you know what? My
7 father brought me up that way.

8 A snotty nose now. It's not
9 y'all's fault. It's from cancer. They
10 said I'll be like that the rest of my
11 life.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Sir,
13 we guarantee --

14 MR. JORDAN: But I'm proud to
15 be living. I'm proud to be living.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: --
17 you'll get a response.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. JORDAN: But I'm just
20 saying, Anne Verna, I'm so glad she got
21 that 600-some-thousand and gone. Gone.

22 So please, all I'm asking
23 y'all, read what's in those envelopes and
24 y'all see a lot of stuff is printed from
25 the government, printed it from Anne

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 Verna handing it down to Terri Paone. So
3 many names in there. And I've done some
4 writing on the side. Now, my
5 handwriting, I am a mechanic, but y'all
6 can understand. But I'm just saying,
7 please follow up on that for me, because
8 since 2003 to the present, y'all know
9 that's kind of bad.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
11 Thank you, sir. Thank you so much for
12 your testimony.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. OLANIPEKUN-LEWIS: John
15 Brazington is our next speaker, and after
16 Mr. Brazington is Lamont Bennett.

17 (Witness approached
18 microphone.)

19 MR. BRAZINGTON: Good evening,
20 Council President Darrell Clarke and the
21 esteemed body of the City of
22 Philadelphia. I'm a proud member of
23 District Council 47 and I'm a proud City
24 worker. I work at the Philadelphia
25 Prison.

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 I come to you tonight to ask
3 that you take a serious look at the
4 Philadelphia Prison social services,
5 because at this time, we are grossly,
6 grossly understaffed and we are grossly
7 overworked.

8 This past weekend, there was an
9 attempted suicide and a successful
10 suicide. And the reason why I am coming
11 here to speak to you and very proud to
12 speak to the City Council, some of you,
13 who which I covered as a newspaper
14 reporter at the Tribune, I would like to
15 say that social services needs more
16 bodies. There are inmates at all six
17 Philadelphia prisons that are not being
18 seen, and they're not being seen because
19 there are not enough bodies.

20 I'm also a proud member of
21 District Council 47. My father worked
22 for the City, one of the first African
23 American dentists in the City of
24 Philadelphia for 35 years.

25 I ask that you as a City

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 Council look at providing a fair,
3 equitable contract for City workers. We
4 live in Philadelphia. We pay taxes in
5 Philadelphia. We deserve, 33 and 47,
6 deserve a fair contract. We have not had
7 a contract in four years.

8 Thank you very much.

9 (Applause.)

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
11 for your testimony.

12 MS. OLANIPEKUN-LEWIS: Lamont
13 Bennett is our next speaker. Lamont
14 Bennett.

15 (No response.)

16 MS. OLANIPEKUN-LEWIS: Lansana
17 Koroma. Lansana Koroma. After Lansana
18 Koroma will be Cathy Brady.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: Are any of
20 the -- there we go.

21 (Witness approached
22 microphone.)

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: State your
24 name for the record and submit your
25 testimony, please.

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 MR. KOROMA: Lansana Koroma. I
3 work for the Mayor's Commission for
4 African and Caribbean Affairs.

5 There was a time when the goats
6 and the lion met, that the lion ask the
7 goat, Do I see a goat?

8 The goat says, Yes.

9 Then the goat said, Tell me
10 three things so I can free you. The goat
11 said, Mr. Lion, if I knew you was here, I
12 would not be here.

13 He said, That is true.

14 He said, Mr. Lion, I know
15 you're not hungry.

16 He said, That is true.

17 He said, Mr. Lion, we cannot be
18 in the same venue.

19 He said, That is true.

20 You see when we meet
21 politicians, there's a difference between
22 an opportunist and politician. It's
23 unfortunate people always call
24 politicians liars, because the actual
25 sense of politics means to live what you

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 are doing for the common good of your
3 community. I don't think the lion knows
4 that, but it's actually misinterpreted.

5 I hope and pray that the
6 politicians before us would be good
7 politicians, like my brother there and
8 the audience.

9 My comment is this: The former
10 Mayor and the present Mayor have done a
11 lot by creating the Mayor's Commission
12 for African and Caribbean Affairs. So we
13 have no reason to blame the
14 Councilmembers or the government, but we
15 want the Councilmembers to talk with
16 Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell so that she
17 can make sure that whenever Americans are
18 meeting, they assisted and adjusted that
19 American of African and Caribbean would
20 be seen and will be given the same equal
21 power, economy power, like others.

22 In politics, when you give
23 responsibility to people, it is also your
24 responsibility to make sure that what you
25 have given to people is being

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 implemented, because if it is not, at the
3 end of the day, the community have
4 nothing to do but to blame you. And
5 sometime you have done a lot to work for
6 the community.

7 Finally, I also want to ask the
8 politicians that if we can find a way, we
9 want to make this Southwest Philadelphia,
10 especially Woodland Avenue and Elmwood
11 Avenue, as African American and African
12 community. That's the reason why we have
13 so many stores. And we're also proud for
14 the Southwest CDC, for the first time for
15 the Mayor to come to our aid, at least to
16 meet the shop owners.

17 In politics, when you meet a
18 grassroot, it's a power to you and to the
19 grassroot.

20 I thank you very much.

21 (Applause.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

23 Thank you so much for your testimony,
24 sir.

25 MS. OLANIPEKUN-LEWIS: Cathy

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 Brady. Cathy Brady.

3 (Witness approached
4 microphone.)

5 MS. BRADY: Good evening,
6 Councilpeople. And I have a shirt for
7 Councilman Johnson.

8 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: How you
9 doing, Cathy.

10 MS. BRADY: How you doing?

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You
12 only have one shirt?

13 MS. BRADY: I got to tell you
14 that's --

15 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: It's
16 called district prerogative.

17 MS. BRADY: The shirt has never
18 been worn. I dug it out of my closet.
19 It's about five years old, to be honest
20 with you, but it's Spring Into Your Park.
21 And piggybacking off of what Tracey
22 Gordon said, I'm here on behalf of the
23 Friends of Elmwood Park. We're a
24 community organization. We try to take
25 care of the park. Directly down the

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 street when you leave here, if you go
3 straight down to Buist, you will see a
4 seven-acre oasis in the middle of this
5 neighborhood. The problem is, living
6 here 55 years, I've seen the life, death
7 and resurrection of that park.

8 It used to be a vibrant park.
9 Once the funding got cut, once the
10 maintenance people were let go, the park
11 turned into a Den of Iniquity. It looked
12 like a crack park, and it was a crack
13 park. It took the neighbors to
14 rejuvenate that park. And what I learned
15 through that process is that the City
16 budget used to allow for 2.8 percent of
17 the City budget to go to Parks and
18 Recreation. Through the past 20 years,
19 that's down to 0.04 percent.

20 So I'm asking City Council to
21 start prioritizing quality-of-life issues
22 in this neighborhood.

23 (Applause.)

24 MS. BRADY: When we left to
25 come here, there had to be 15 kids

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 playing soccer. There had to be three or
3 four families with their little ones,
4 riding bikes, sitting on the benches,
5 looking at the Labor Monument. That's
6 what we want to see when we look out our
7 door. And all of these parks in this
8 neighborhood, as someone hit on before,
9 are not the priority.

10 You know, the little bit of
11 money that Parks and Recreation gets
12 really doesn't reach into here like it
13 should have, and we urge you to not only
14 prioritize Parks and Recreations in your
15 budget, but especially in the
16 neighborhoods where these kids don't get
17 to go to Disney World in the summer, they
18 don't get nannies watching them after
19 school. The parks and the playgrounds
20 are all they have, and if they're not
21 clean, if they're not neat, if they're
22 not safe, if they're not, you know,
23 healthy, these kids are going to find
24 other things to do.

25 (Applause.)

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 MS. BRADY: And we want to
3 foster and create a good environment for
4 our kids today.

5 So please, when you think of
6 budget, think of Parks and Recreation and
7 the value that it adds to all of these
8 neighborhoods.

9 Thank you.

10 And one last thing, completely
11 off of Parks. Something needs to be done
12 about the banks and the public school
13 system. So Wells Fargo, no.

14 (Applause.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

16 Thank you so much for your testimony.

17 MS. OLANIPEKUN-LEWIS:

18 Mr. President, there are no other names
19 on the speaker's list.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: That
21 concludes the list?

22 That concludes the list of
23 speakers that have been listed. Is there
24 anyone else -- I'm supposed to ask. Is
25 there anyone else that wishes to testify?

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 (No response.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 There being none, Councilman.

5 I would like to recognize

6 Councilman Kenyatta Johnson.

7 (Applause.)

8 (Witness approached

9 microphone.)

10 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: One more

11 speaker.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: One

13 more speaker?

14 MS. WHITE-WILLIAMS: Hi. How

15 is everybody?

16 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: How are

17 you?

18 MS. WHITE-WILLIAMS: I'm doing

19 good. My name is Deena White Williams

20 and I'm from South Philly, and I come up

21 to speak about the School District,

22 what's going on.

23 The ship is sinking. They are

24 up for grabs. People are grabbing, and

25 nobody is saving the children. We are

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 getting ready, NTAs, SSAs, all of the
3 assistants, and they are jumping off the
4 chain.

5 The Mayor found money to hire
6 100 policemen. They're talking about
7 selling 440. Where's the money coming
8 from? Where is the money coming from?
9 And I think all points were really hit on
10 going other places, other than South
11 Philly, West Philly and all the target
12 areas of rebuilding.

13 The taxes for the senior.
14 Councilman Greenlee, you spoke about the
15 two years that the seniors -- I really
16 got put on the spot right now. Sorry.

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Tax
18 amnesty is what I said.

19 MS. WHITE-WILLIAMS: Tax
20 amnesty. I have over ten seniors that
21 didn't put in for it. So can we assist
22 them?

23 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Yes.

24 MS. WHITE-WILLIAMS: You said
25 yes?

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Yes.

3 MS. WHITE-WILLIAMS: We can
4 assist them with tax amnesty and make
5 sure that they have it, Mr. Goode?

6 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Yes.
7 There's a bill in that Councilman Green
8 is the primary sponsor of but many of us
9 also co-sponsored along with him to bring
10 back a system that will allow for tax
11 amnesty and deals with penalties and
12 fines.

13 MS. WHITE-WILLIAMS: And when
14 is that in effect?

15 COUNCILMAN GREEN: We have to
16 pass the bill, and when we pass the bill
17 and it gets signed, then it will be in
18 effect. So we have to have hearings over
19 the next couple of months.

20 MS. WHITE-WILLIAMS: Okay. And
21 I will take that back to them and my
22 community, 36th Ward.

23 Thank you so much --

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

25 Thank you so much.

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 MS. WHITE-WILLIAMS: --

3 Councilman Johnson and everybody else for
4 listening.

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: That's no
6 problem at all.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
8 Chair now recognizes Councilmember
9 Johnson.

10 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
11 Council President.

12 Just before we wrap up, we want
13 to thank everyone for taking time out of
14 their schedule -- one more.

15 (Witness approached
16 microphone.)

17 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: It's up to
18 the Council President.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
20 right.

21 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: This is
22 the --

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
24 been a long night, but come on, sir.

25 MR. CROWDING: How you doing?

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 My name is Bob Crowding and --

3 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: What's up,
4 Bob?

5 MR. CROWDING: I tried to run
6 for committeeman a while back. I'd
7 rather not be on camera, because I'm kind
8 of like Occupy. But we didn't like being
9 pushed out for a \$50 million project that
10 really all that money could go somewhere
11 else.

12 But there's a lot of blight in
13 this community. There's a lot of houses
14 that are falling down. There's a lot of
15 programs, people going here, down the
16 street getting food. There's a lot of
17 stuff around, but there's a lot of waste,
18 a lot of abuse. They're putting in gas
19 pipelines. They got the road all tore up
20 on Woodland Avenue.

21 Isn't there some kind of time
22 mandate to get these bad houses ripped
23 down? And just make parks. I mean, and
24 then, you know, you got the park and the
25 kids -- they build them a new park, and

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 they abuse it and destroy it. Where's
3 the police system to lock these litterers
4 up, you know? And the City is
5 disgusting. I mean, it's terrible. I
6 mean, there has to be something done to
7 where -- where does the money come from?
8 Where is the money going, that's what we
9 want to know. Where is all the money
10 going? I mean, somebody is making a lot
11 of money, but it sure ain't coming to our
12 community.

13 So just basically all I got to
14 say.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

16 Thank you, sir.

17 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you
18 very much.

19 Before I turn it back over to
20 Council President, I just want to thank
21 everyone for coming out. I do want to
22 acknowledge two individuals who are also
23 elected in the room. We have ward leader
24 for 40th Ward, Ann Brown and Ed Thorton.
25 I want to thank you for coming out here

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 today as well.

3 (Applause.)

4 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: But, more
5 importantly, I want to thank all of you,
6 the community leaders, for stepping up to
7 the plate, coming out here and making
8 your voices heard so we can have this
9 opportunity to take the information back.

10 For the individuals
11 particularly that live in the Paschall
12 community, I heard you loud and clear.

13 (Thank you.)

14 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Tyrese, I
15 will be back.

16 Tyrese works for me out in the
17 Paschall area. He'll be helping me set
18 up the actual one-on-one meeting where we
19 can sit down and talk about the issues
20 and we can do the tours so we can also
21 make Paschall a part of our priority in
22 my Southwest on the Move initiative.

23 So I would like to thank
24 Council President for allowing me to host
25 this event in the Southwest part of my

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 district.

3 And just a small brief
4 announcement. State Representative Ron
5 Waters, who I work very closely with,
6 tomorrow at --

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sayre.

8 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Is it at
9 Sayre? Yes. I'm sorry. Sayre High
10 School auditorium. He's having a
11 community forum regarding this recent
12 voter suppression bill that passed today
13 in Harrisburg. And so I want to
14 encourage all of you to mobilize and
15 advocate, because if we don't mobilize
16 people to make sure they get their IDs,
17 make sure people are properly registered
18 to vote -- and it's ironic today, because
19 today I hosted about 30 young men as a
20 part of my Peace Not Guns Task Force in
21 City Council, and they were stopped at
22 the door because like half of the young
23 men didn't have IDs. And that's just a
24 pure reflection of what's going to take
25 place across the board in April. And I

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.
2 know this is a totally different forum,
3 but I do want to acknowledge that State
4 Representative Ron Waters will be having
5 a forum addressing this issue tomorrow at
6 Sayre High School at 6 o'clock.

7 We have some pretzels in the
8 back and some water. Please take as many
9 pretzels as possible and some water as
10 well. And I'm going to turn it back over
11 to Council President Darrell Clarke.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

13 Thank you, Councilman.

14 (Applause.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I
16 too would like to thank all of you for
17 participating in the government process
18 tonight. It's been fun. We look forward
19 to continuing to have this dialogue on a
20 consistent basis.

21 I would like to thank my
22 colleagues for being here this evening.
23 I would also like to thank Pastor Burns
24 for allowing us to use this wonderful
25 facility and church tonight.

1 3/14/12 - WHOLE - BILL 120164, ETC.

2 So with that, I would like to
3 say that this concludes the neighborhood
4 budget hearing for this evening. The
5 Committee will stand in recess until
6 Monday, March 26th, 2012 at 11:00 a.m.,
7 at which time we will reconvene in the
8 City Council Chambers, Room 400, City
9 Hall.

10 Thank you all very much.

11 (Applause.)

12 (Committee of the Whole
13 recessed at 8:15 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
proceedings, evidence and objections are
contained fully and accurately in the
stenographic notes taken by me upon the
foregoing matter on March 14, 2012, and that
this is a true and correct transcript of same.

MICHELE L. MURPHY
RPR-Notary Public

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direct control and/or supervision of the
certifying reporter.)

A	adjusted 101:18	aggressive 50:11	31:4	61:6 63:7
abandoned 5:6	adjustments	aggressively	amounts 17:18	70:15 75:19
43:13	62:14	86:5	AMT 95:25	87:13 89:12
able 16:8 40:5	Administration	ago 25:10 47:19	Amy 88:19	97:17 99:21
40:22 41:5	15:20 30:6	48:15 49:16	ancestors 79:8	103:3 107:8
44:16 50:5	59:14,18 60:6	50:14 73:19	and/or 117:22	110:15
69:17 74:15	69:17	74:3,13	Ann 112:24	appropriate
abomination	Administratio...	agree 43:6	Anne 91:8,21,25	49:7
79:7	58:2	agreement	96:20,25	appropriately
absentee 58:8	administrative	10:24 71:5	announcement	11:19
Absolutely 5:18	32:10,23 35:5	ahead 30:21	114:4	approval 1:21
34:11,15	adopt 1:15,17	33:22 75:8	annually 59:3	10:14
abuse 111:18	10:5,9	aid 14:18 102:15	anti-blight 58:6	approved 10:25
112:2	adopting 1:19	ain't 94:5 95:22	anybody 16:13	29:18
accent 23:6	10:11	112:11	apologize 9:20	April 73:8
accessing 56:20	adult 19:17	airport 76:22	19:6	114:25
account 11:23	adults 23:21	80:7 87:4	appeal 53:18	Arabic 24:23
accruing 38:21	advances 38:14	Alan 77:7	Applause 2:23	area 41:16 42:2
accurately	38:23	Albanian 24:23	3:4 6:6 7:2,5,8	53:7 64:5
117:5	advisory 36:17	alcohol 36:23	7:11,14 8:24	66:15 67:24
Achievement	42:23 54:6	Alice 46:25	9:6 15:22 16:4	77:24 86:2
61:17	Advocacy 27:25	alleyways 5:7	26:5 35:20	113:17
acknowledge	advocate 114:15	allocate 57:8	39:9 42:9 44:4	areas 28:13 65:3
6:3 51:17	Affairs 100:4	allow 50:6 53:24	45:15 46:18	68:15 79:19
112:22 115:3	101:12	71:14 74:13	48:7 52:20	80:5 108:12
acquire 34:6	afford 81:12,16	104:16 109:10	53:8 55:4,18	argument 21:3
acres 43:11	affordable	allowed 14:19	60:15 62:20	ARRA 52:11
activities 48:19	34:18 45:22,23	allowing 34:6	65:6,23 66:2	Asian 21:2,17
actual 6:14 28:9	54:18 58:19	38:22 113:24	68:19 73:3	aside 47:22
30:2,15 31:7	aforementioned	115:24	75:11 79:21	asked 12:25
33:14 59:21	7:16	allows 32:23	85:3,10 89:5	79:24
67:16,19,24	Africa 23:17	34:8 35:24	96:18 97:13	asking 25:17
68:3 100:24	African 20:6,7	alternative	99:9 102:21	40:11,19 47:20
113:18	20:14,19 23:5	14:15,17	104:23 105:25	54:12 58:23
add 20:4	23:9 24:9	alternatively	106:14 107:7	63:13 96:22
addition 16:10	98:22 100:4	29:2	113:3 115:14	104:20
additional 12:3	101:12,19	AME 1:5	116:11	aspect 30:10
29:19 37:2,5	102:11,11	Amen 82:25,25	apples 93:14	assemblage
38:21 59:4	Africans 20:12	83:2	apply 117:20	59:10
84:21	AFSCME 13:20	American 98:23	applying 74:18	Assembly 57:17
address 4:12 5:5	afternoon 58:11	101:19 102:11	appreciate 6:12	60:4
5:13 52:2	58:12	Americans	66:20 69:22	assessment
53:23 57:5,9	after-school	101:17	approach 49:17	28:10 30:3
58:6 74:24	17:19 18:19	amnesty 73:17	approached	61:25 62:7
addressing 68:3	36:23	73:18 75:3	13:10 16:19	82:11
115:5	agencies 19:3	108:18,20	26:19 36:10	assessments
adds 106:7	21:17,18 24:11	109:4,11	42:15 44:10	63:22
adjacent 33:5	32:18 59:7	amount 28:18	50:24 55:25	assist 108:21

109:4	57:25 58:16,18	beneficial 43:10	78:1 79:1 80:1	Bob 111:2,4
assistance 52:22	58:21 59:12	Bennett 97:16	81:1 82:1 83:1	bodies 98:16,19
assistants 108:3	64:25 70:25	99:13,14	84:1 85:1 86:1	body 97:21
assisted 101:18	71:4,15 74:15	berm 88:9	86:18 87:1	books 83:15
assisting 51:24	74:23 78:16,17	better 43:25	88:1 89:1 90:1	boom 9:12
association	84:12,15 88:2	50:19	91:1 92:1 93:1	boot 90:23
27:23,24 56:11	88:19 109:10	Beverly 63:9	94:1 95:1 96:1	booty 23:9
56:13 61:17	109:21 111:6	65:7,24 66:18	97:1 98:1 99:1	born 20:8 81:18
attempted 98:9	112:19 113:9	67:9,12 70:6	100:1 101:1	bothered 83:16
attended 8:13	113:15 115:8	87:22 89:25	102:1 103:1	bottles 19:23
attention 38:25	115:10	beyond 40:5	104:1 105:1	bought 31:2
44:3	bad 87:24 97:9	60:10	106:1 107:1	64:19 90:11
attitude 29:23	111:22	bid 45:2	108:1 109:1,7	Boulevard
auction 31:25	Bahamas 81:22	big 30:14 47:12	109:16,16	18:10 63:24
32:12 35:13	Bangura 16:18	60:2 90:11	110:1 111:1	93:7
auctions 35:4	16:18,21 17:2	94:7,8	112:1 113:1	bounds 47:24
audience 101:8	17:6 24:16	bike 91:4	114:1,12 115:1	Boy 56:3
audit 77:12	25:11,15	bikes 105:4	116:1	Brady 99:18
79:25	bank 28:12	bill 1:10,15,17	billions 51:18	103:2,2,5,10
auditorium	31:20 35:6	1:19 3:1 4:1	bills 10:2 11:9	103:13,17
114:10	59:16	5:1 6:1 7:1,13	30:17 80:17,19	104:24 106:2
August 88:20	banks 51:18	8:1 9:1,22,23	93:15	bragging 95:22
Authority 10:22	106:12	10:1,4,8,10,13	bit 25:23 92:20	Brand 70:9,13
10:22 11:4	banquets 8:15	11:1,2 12:1	105:10	70:14,17,21
authorized	Baptist 8:10	13:1 14:1 15:1	black 21:4 47:6	73:4,20,23
10:24	baptized 8:12	16:1 17:1 18:1	Blackwell	74:4 75:6
automatic 75:3	bark 94:21,21	19:1 20:1 21:1	101:16	Brazington
automatically	94:21,21,21,21	22:1 23:1 24:1	blame 101:13	89:10,11 97:15
74:14	barred 87:5	25:1 26:1 27:1	102:4	97:16,19
automotive	barrels 78:15	28:1 29:1 30:1	blank 83:14	breakdown
91:11	based 27:20	31:1 32:1 33:1	blessed 8:17	78:19
available 32:21	74:18	34:1,14 35:1	blessing 54:8	Breeze 45:7,7
40:19	basically 89:3	36:1 37:1 38:1	blight 52:24	47:11
Avenue 2:7 8:9	112:13	39:1 40:1 41:1	53:23 58:8	brief 114:3
36:18 39:2	basis 55:13	42:1 43:1 44:1	111:12	briefly 2:10
82:6 102:10,11	86:21 115:20	45:1 46:1 47:1	block 32:14	39:13 86:14
111:20	Bass 50:12	48:1,11 49:1	36:16 42:24,24	bring 30:11 31:9
aware 31:11,12	78:23	50:1 51:1 52:1	49:21 51:15	54:9 55:2 80:8
43:4 51:5	beat 90:16	53:1 54:1 55:1	63:25 66:25	109:9
73:19,23	becoming 45:18	56:1 57:1 58:1	69:18	bringing 55:7
a.m 116:6	behalf 17:7	59:1 60:1 61:1	blocking 42:11	brings 84:2
	38:13 103:22	62:1 63:1 64:1	blocks 43:12	broke 91:3
B	behavior 37:6	64:25 65:1	blue-collar 72:5	broken 19:23
B 1:14	belabor 33:25	66:1 67:1 68:1	BMX 76:19	93:25
baby 14:18	believe 18:11	69:1 70:1 71:1	board 84:7	brother 26:12
54:19	50:10 69:20	72:1 73:1 74:1	114:25	94:12 101:7
back 4:23 21:12	Bell 30:19	74:11,13,25	boards 83:7	brothers 15:15
43:24 49:25	benches 105:4	75:1 76:1 77:1	84:5	brought 24:5
52:8 56:4				

29:14 84:4 90:14 93:16 96:7 Brown 112:24 BRT 71:9 Brundage 75:18 87:10,10,11,15 87:16 bubbling 80:6 Buckley 61:5 63:4,4,6 70:6 budget 1:18,19 2:18 4:2,7,13 4:18 5:3,11,23 6:14,24 8:16 9:12 10:9,11 11:16 12:11,16 20:16 25:18,21 28:7,15 31:21 31:22 37:7,15 40:17 43:16 47:22 51:6,14 63:2,21 65:18 65:19 67:15 72:10,11,25 78:21 81:12 104:16,17 105:15 106:6 116:4 budgetary 13:21 budgeted 28:11 budgets 11:11 38:5 41:23 52:9 budget-related 4:21 build 29:24 50:2 50:3,6 55:3,6 55:14,16 111:25 building 49:20 72:14,14 76:21 82:5 buildings 5:6 Buist 104:3 burden 83:19 Burns 6:4 7:23 115:23	Burrell 63:5,6 70:8,8,10 business 16:9 47:8 76:18,20 76:22 84:9,9 businesses 39:6 43:9,15,18 76:24 Butkovitz 77:7 butt 79:18 buy 32:13,14 buying 32:15 64:13 71:20 buzzer 60:20 C call 3:21 44:14 77:6,20 100:23 called 14:15 23:8 52:17 103:16 calls 24:10 camera 111:7 cancer 94:23 96:9 can-do 29:23 capacity 3:20 capital 1:15,18 10:5,9 11:11 11:12 47:13 49:18 58:22 captain 42:24 car 94:15 care 42:14 94:4 103:25 Caribbean 20:6 20:19 23:17 24:10 100:4 101:12,19 Carol 16:17,18 17:6 24:11 Carolina 90:14 91:12 carpenter 96:5 carry 38:16 cars 90:18 91:13 91:14,15 94:13 case 87:3 cases 14:5,9	29:22 86:22 cash 93:8 catch 14:6,14 Cathy 99:18 102:25 103:2,9 Caucasian 93:22 causes 38:18 CDBG 28:15,16 29:2 37:15 38:5 40:13 41:18 44:23 CDC 36:14,14 36:25 37:13,14 38:8,16,24 40:21 86:3 102:14 CDCs 40:15 42:2 56:14 celebrating 6:10 cell 16:7 center 18:13 19:21,22 22:13 27:20 36:22 49:20 50:4 54:2 centers 18:3,7 22:21 34:19 47:10,16 48:14 49:7 52:19 cents 5:21,21 certain 40:20 74:20 79:19 80:5 CERTIFICA... 117:2 certification 117:19 certified 92:2 CERTIFY 117:3 certifying 117:23 chain 108:4 Chair 50:12 110:8 challenge 60:2 Chambers	116:8 changes 10:19 30:16 Charles 92:9 95:4 check 95:2 Chew 47:12 Chew's 47:17 children 14:3,11 14:20 17:10,14 17:16,24 18:16 18:19 20:5 23:3 65:4 107:25 Chimera 24:24 Chinese 24:24 choose 68:15 74:15 chose 68:16 church 1:5 6:4 6:13 8:10,11 8:15 115:25 cigarette 79:18 Cindy 78:23 citations 77:19 citizens 15:18 city 1:2,21 2:13 4:13 10:15,16 11:3 13:16 17:8 18:14 20:21 24:19 27:16,21,22 28:14 29:4,17 29:21 30:10,11 31:22 32:18 33:3 35:2 36:15,22 37:24 38:4,10,13,15 42:19 43:12,20 45:8,21 46:5 48:22 49:18 50:7 51:14,22 52:3,8 53:4 55:3 56:21 57:3 58:5,7,25 59:3,7 62:6 64:2,5,21 66:24 69:6	70:19,20 71:3 71:12 72:8,17 72:25 74:10 75:4 77:7,19 77:25 78:4,12 79:23 81:2 84:3 87:6 88:13,18,20 89:16 90:6,10 90:17,25 91:2 91:6 92:24 93:25 97:21,23 98:12,22,23,25 99:3 104:15,17 104:20 112:4 114:21 116:8,8 citywide 39:22 40:8 43:22 52:25 54:13 56:12 59:20 City's 43:21 Civic 33:11,14 civil 23:19 Clark 92:11,12 Clarke 1:9 2:2 2:24 3:5 5:17 6:16,18 7:3,6,9 7:12,15,24 8:19,25 9:7,10 11:5 12:6 15:23 16:5,24 24:14 25:8,13 26:3,6,13,21 27:8,12,15 30:20 33:17,21 35:18,21 36:4 39:10 41:9 42:7,18 44:5 44:13 48:8 55:19 60:16 61:10,12 62:21 66:3,14 67:5 68:9,20 69:25 73:13 74:7 75:12,23,24 82:13,16,23 84:19 86:10 89:6,17,19
--	---	--	--	--

91:24,24 95:10 95:19 96:2,12 96:16 97:10,20 102:22 103:11 106:15,20 107:3,12 109:24 110:7 110:19,23 112:15 115:11 115:12,15 classes 24:3 classified 53:17 Claudia 44:7 46:12 clean 5:6 92:21 92:22 105:21 cleaner 92:23 cleanup 39:3 clear 15:7 35:4 67:25 71:7 113:12 clearer 32:20 clearly 31:3 32:25 climb 57:23 81:4 close 45:18 48:18 81:8 82:15 closely 33:5 114:5 closer 38:2 closest 18:8 closet 103:18 Cobbs 78:10,12 Code 30:8 33:9 33:11 colleague 3:2 colleagues 57:11 60:12 115:22 collect 83:16 collected 58:11 collecting 58:14 84:7 collections 33:5 collects 77:20 come 9:14,15 23:16 25:4 33:14 41:19	46:13 47:3 49:9 50:18 52:18 53:5 63:20 71:12 75:9 76:9,10 81:20,23 82:22 84:12 88:4,14 91:12 92:23 95:22,22 98:2 102:15 104:25 107:20 110:24 112:7 comes 31:8 33:10 coming 13:14 23:5 24:8 42:20 76:6 79:20 88:10 98:10 108:7,8 112:11,21,25 113:7 commend 68:18 comment 4:25 101:9 comments 5:9 7:20 9:8 12:3 12:11 69:22 Commerce 37:11,12 39:13 39:20 commercial 44:21 46:21 Commission 19:2 33:8,9 100:3 101:11 commitment 5:12 45:21 committed 67:16 committee 1:3 9:15,22 11:8 12:4 36:18 50:13 54:6 116:5,12 committeeman 111:6 common 101:2 Commonwealth	20:22 communion 8:13 communities 23:14 58:21 68:25 community 4:9 11:24 17:14,20 18:22 19:11,20 20:7,19,25 21:2,11,23 22:16,22 23:13 24:8 25:25 27:24 28:4 31:11 34:8,18 34:19 36:15 42:21,23 43:6 43:24 46:23 47:10,16 49:8 51:15 52:19 54:2 56:11 57:6,13 58:16 58:18 59:17 61:16,23 62:4 65:8,14 76:20 82:6 84:13,15 87:20 88:16 101:3 102:3,6 102:12 103:24 109:22 111:13 112:12 113:6 113:12 114:11 community-b... 45:5 company 27:20 compete 40:5,22 41:5 competition 73:18 competitive 45:2 complain 77:21 completely 106:10 concentrations 41:18 concern 14:21 30:15 61:21	62:7,13 76:13 concerned 47:9 concerns 4:17 13:22 62:2 68:4 76:17 85:14 concludes 106:21,22 116:3 condition 66:10 conduct 16:8 confident 73:9 Congratulatio... 70:18 75:22 76:2 conjunction 33:7 85:12 Connect 43:23 Conrail 76:19 conservation 54:25 consider 8:16 11:9 38:22 43:7,16 54:13 54:21 58:2 consideration 72:2 consistent 17:25 115:20 consistently 18:16 consolidate 50:4 Consolidated 39:20 constituents 4:9 constitute 11:10 construction 29:9 49:23 55:12 64:22 constructive 4:16 contained 117:5 continue 9:19 47:3 continuing 115:19 contract 24:7 38:14,23 72:7	72:21 80:22 99:3,6,7 contracted 18:14 contracting 21:14 contractor 87:5 contractors 86:16 contracts 17:21 25:20 36:21 39:19 80:14,15 80:21 control 34:9 45:13 117:22 Controller 77:7 79:24 Controller's 86:24 controversy 30:3 convene 11:7 convenient 28:5 conversation 67:23 conversations 62:24 Cooperation 10:22,24 cooperatively 29:4 Coordinator 56:10 copies 15:9 17:4 cornerstone 62:25 corporation 54:3,5 Corporations 27:25 56:12 correct 46:3 117:8 correcting 83:24 corridor 46:25 corridors 44:21 46:21 76:18 costs 38:21 Council 1:2,9,21
---	---	--	---	--

2:2,13,24 3:5 3:23 4:20 5:17 6:2,16,18 7:3,6 7:9,12,15,24 8:19,25 9:7,10 10:14,25 11:5 12:6 13:14,23 14:13,23 15:8 15:23 16:5,24 17:3 24:14 25:8,13 26:3,6 26:13,21 27:8 27:12,15,16 28:6 29:4,17 29:21 30:5,20 31:14 33:17,19 33:21 35:18,21 36:4 39:10 41:9 42:7,18 42:19 43:21 44:5 46:5 48:8 52:8 53:4,20 55:19 57:9 58:17 59:16 60:3,16 61:9 61:10 62:21 65:12 66:3,14 67:5 68:9,20 68:23,24 69:25 70:19,20 71:12 73:13 74:7,10 74:12 75:12,24 82:13,16,23 83:5 84:19 86:10 89:6,16 89:19 95:10,19 96:2,12,16 97:10,20,23 98:12,21 99:2 102:22 103:11 104:20 106:15 106:20 107:3 107:12 109:24 110:7,11,18,19 110:23 112:15 112:20 113:24 114:21 115:11 115:12,15	116:8 Councilman 1:9 1:10,10,11,11 1:12,12,13 3:7 3:10,15,18,20 5:5,18,19 6:7 6:19 7:4,10,13 7:16,22 8:2,23 9:2,4 12:9,25 13:2 16:2,11 19:9,10 21:25 22:2,3,4,5 33:22,23 34:13 34:22 38:25 39:11,12,25 40:10 41:4,8 41:10,11,24 42:5 46:2 48:11 53:19 67:11,15 68:7 68:11,21,22 70:2 73:12,15 73:21,25 74:8 74:9 76:15 77:2 79:13 80:16 82:24,25 84:22 85:4,11 85:25 86:12 87:18 89:23 91:24 92:6 99:10,19,23 103:7,8,15 107:4,6,10,16 108:14,17,23 109:2,6,7,15 110:3,5,10,17 110:21 111:3 112:17 113:4 113:14 114:8 115:13 Councilmanic 3:21 80:10 Councilmember 85:13 86:11 110:8 Councilmemb... 11:17 15:13 35:25 43:15	50:10 82:18 101:14,15 Councilmen 45:9 61:13 Councilpeople 8:7 44:14 64:11,24 90:7 103:6 Councilperson 67:7 75:22 Councilwoman 1:13,14 6:24 7:7 50:12 83:11 101:16 counseling 28:20 36:17,20 39:18,23 41:3 counselor 51:12 count 57:9 country 79:5 couple 7:20 63:19 84:20 109:19 course 31:25 Court 58:8 covered 98:13 covering 10:17 co-sponsored 109:9 crack 104:12,12 create 19:3,14 106:3 created 48:23 creating 101:11 creative 28:22 credit 83:12 Creek 78:10,12 cried 78:9,17 crime 37:4 criminal 37:6 crisis 52:12 critical 56:23 Crowding 110:25 111:2,5 crying 66:25 culture 21:5,7 cumbersome 32:17	curb 90:9 curious 41:12 current 77:6 currently 6:20 18:12 35:15 71:5 Curtis 1:11 9:4 76:4 77:3 cut 44:24 51:14 52:9 81:12 104:9 cuts 29:25 34:3 41:18 57:4 cutting 39:14 D D 1:13 Daily 83:8 dangerous 79:11 dangle 27:10 darn 72:6 Darrell 1:9 6:16 44:13 61:12 65:11 75:23 89:17 97:20 115:11 Dave 93:2,6 David 1:12 7:4 13:8,9,13 24:5 26:17,17 27:18 36:6 day 53:9,11 58:12 78:5,16 78:17 88:13 102:3 days 38:17 DC 72:5 73:2,2 73:6 dead 79:8 deal 12:24 15:14 82:8 dealing 5:20 deals 109:11 dealt 79:23 death 91:23 104:6 debar 86:16 debarred 86:23	debating 83:13 Deborah 4:24 89:16 decide 88:14 decisions 57:7 decline 17:25 decreased 51:16 decreasing 45:25 82:9 deed 57:19 Deena 107:19 deep 14:21 definitely 52:25 68:4 Delaware 94:13 delinquent 35:10 59:5 77:14 93:13 demand 32:25 demographics 24:17,18 demonstrating 39:4 demoralizing 72:18 Den 104:11 Dennis 1:12 16:2 dentists 98:23 Department 13:22,24 22:10 37:10,12 39:13 39:19 85:6 deserve 99:5,6 Design 27:25 33:11,14 destroy 112:2 determination 30:13 determine 11:21 deterrent 37:6 developed 32:9 developers 32:15 59:9 81:21 development 22:10 27:24 28:21 36:16
---	--	---	---	---

40:14 41:6 43:10,18 51:15 54:3,4,22 56:11 57:6 62:3 developments 33:13 46:6 DHS 13:19 24:4 24:5,5,6,8 dialogue 4:16 115:19 die 14:18 died 92:13 difference 100:21 different 21:5 40:12 48:24 69:10 115:2 difficult 31:13 diligently 72:21 dime 22:9 direct 45:12 117:22 Directly 103:25 Director 36:13 Director's 24:22 85:6,20 dirty 78:14 disadvantaged 52:13 disarray 64:21 disclose 64:12 discussion 49:25 50:14 63:17 disfunded 65:9 65:10,13 disgusting 112:5 disillusioned 67:4 Disney 105:17 disparaging 20:11 displacement 62:17 dispose 34:7 disregarded 91:9 district 3:21 4:8	8:4,5,6,8 17:12 19:19 21:13,21 48:16,23 49:19 56:4 68:14 69:9,12 76:23 77:14 79:15 80:7,7,9,10,11 89:21 97:23 98:21 103:16 107:21 114:2 districts 3:25 diversity 86:17 documents 27:5 dog 94:18,20 dogs 92:16 94:19,20 95:2 doing 21:16 34:5 37:23 38:7 41:13 46:6 55:9 58:24 59:19 63:21 67:12,16 69:5 87:5 93:17 101:2 103:9,10 107:18 110:25 dollars 5:21,21 19:16 21:11 24:6 28:18 32:4 33:2 45:3 45:11,12 47:14 47:15 49:5 51:18 57:13 58:15,21 81:7 dominates 17:20 Donna 36:8,8,13 door 18:17 59:13 82:8 105:7 114:22 doors 6:13 drag 91:2 dramatic 30:16 30:24 Drink 95:11 Drive 79:17 driving 64:17 drug 36:23 dug 103:18 dumping 78:16	84:25 duplicate 41:15 duty 94:7 dwindling 49:5 dysfunctional 30:9 E E 55:13 89:18 earlier 11:14 12:10 67:13 early 3:24 73:8 easier 71:17 Eastwick 65:9 87:19 eat 93:14 echoes 69:12 economic 22:10 28:21 40:14 41:6 54:21 economy 101:21 Ed 112:24 editorial 83:7 84:4 education 17:20 17:23 18:25 23:20,22 effect 109:14,18 efficient 37:25 55:16 effort 90:20 eight 24:20 either 52:5 71:13 either/or 49:14 elders 60:10 elected 70:19 112:23 election 73:7 eliminate 39:21 eliminating 37:14 39:18 40:20 41:2 Elmwood 18:14 102:10 103:23 emergency 51:10 88:23 employment 36:19 37:8	39:18,23 41:3 empower 38:5 encourage 114:14 encouraging 30:5 energy 36:22 52:19 55:16 enforcement 84:2 85:8 engaged 56:19 engaging 4:16 English 25:4 enjoyed 90:25 ensure 11:17 12:13,19 enter 11:20 entire 19:20 25:25 43:12 53:20 68:14 entities 35:3 entrusted 11:15 envelope 90:8 envelopes 95:18 96:23 environment 106:3 equal 101:20 equipment 94:8 equitable 99:3 especially 28:15 30:23 38:19 102:10 105:15 Essentially 37:22 establish 28:12 established 8:20 8:22 11:24 29:3 48:21 estate 53:15 77:14 esteemed 97:21 evacuation 88:23 evening 2:3 3:13 3:14,16,17 9:13 11:7,20 13:12 16:21	19:7 27:17 36:12 42:17 44:12 51:2 56:7,15 61:8 61:11 63:9 70:17 75:21 76:7 97:19 103:5 115:22 116:4 event 3:9 35:25 113:25 everybody 26:9 48:25 51:3 74:11 76:6 93:11 107:15 110:3 everyone's 21:10 eviction 52:5 evidence 117:4 exactly 86:14 example 15:7 69:18,19 excess 45:24 excuse 20:14 94:22,24 Executive 36:13 exemption 60:4 existing 38:2,6 expand 45:16,20 expanding 44:19 expansion 65:18 expected 41:20 expects 38:15 experienced 56:20 explaining 5:16 explode 82:2 extra 15:9 ex-Mayor 63:17 F faced 60:2 facilitate 46:20 facilitating 44:20 facilities 48:17 48:22,23 49:11
--	--	--	---	---

49:24 50:7,15 facility 115:25 facing 52:12 54:14,16 57:3 fact 26:25 27:4 33:12 45:6 50:10 68:12 83:5 fair 5:15 30:13 37:4 63:14 64:12 99:2,6 fairer 31:15 Fairmount 79:3 79:4 fall 58:7 falling 111:14 familiar 68:13 families 14:22 15:18 105:3 family 60:11 fantastic 46:25 far 15:19 Fargo 106:13 fast 22:24 father 90:15 96:7 98:21 fault 96:9 favor 45:14 February 39:2 federal 17:15 20:23 28:8,23 29:6 34:3 36:15 38:9 40:18 45:3 57:5,12 federally 21:9 feel 26:23 41:13 41:25 feeling 41:22 fees 57:19 feet 27:11 Feldman 26:17 27:6,10,14,18 30:22 33:20 34:11,15,24 fellow 61:13 Ferry 27:21 field 95:6	Fifty 78:3 fighting 92:16 94:19 figure 49:15 filled 38:4 41:21 filling 46:16 filthy 78:14 final 31:18 Finally 102:7 Financial 1:21 10:16 financially 28:14 find 29:23 46:15 102:8 105:23 fine 27:3,9,13 36:3 fines 70:24 71:10,21 109:12 finish 60:24 Fire 15:17 firefighter 61:18 first 2:18 3:6,12 8:10,12 11:8 12:8 13:6,13 17:10 29:12 58:10 60:5 63:10 67:13 68:16 70:23 73:16 86:22 87:3 90:13 93:21 98:22 102:14 Fiscal 1:16,17 1:19 10:6,9,11 10:17,19 11:11 fitting 4:6 five 1:21 10:16 25:9 29:12 40:13 47:19 49:16 52:13 103:19 five-minute 35:23 fixed 62:8 flag 80:13 flood 88:17	flooded 87:24 88:14,19 flooding 87:23 floored 25:19 Florida 15:2 81:22 92:13 flows 88:3 Floyd 88:24 flushed 31:16 fly 47:20 focus 55:10 56:22 focusing 38:25 folders 16:22 folks 2:10 7:18 16:6 22:6 23:18 26:22 31:2 35:22 52:5 60:11 follow 68:5,10 91:21 97:7 followup 67:8 67:16 follow-up 5:13 food 111:16 foods 23:12 fooled 13:23 foot 90:9 Force 114:20 foregoing 117:7 117:19 forgiveness 71:14 72:3 forgotten 87:20 former 18:12 101:9 forth 21:12 fortunate 67:6 forum 4:2 114:11 115:2,5 forward 4:15 29:21 115:18 forward-looki... 11:13 for-sale 29:7 foster 106:3 fostering 56:24 fought 22:9 90:3	found 2:6 15:3,4 77:12,16,18 108:5 four 59:7 72:7 99:7 105:3 Framing 43:22 frank 67:23 frankly 81:15 free 29:6 71:6 100:10 Freedom 22:17 22:19 French 24:23 friend 2:22,25 76:4,5 78:23 friends 46:17 103:23 front 59:13 64:21 front-door 32:19 full 19:24 52:7 61:25 62:6 82:11 Fullah 24:25 fully 67:15 117:5 fun 115:18 fund 28:9 29:3 29:13,20,24 45:18,22 51:10 57:16,20 58:3 82:3,4 funded 19:3,14 19:18 21:9 24:11 36:15,20 funding 17:9 20:24 21:9,17 21:18 22:12 29:13 38:4,8 38:16 39:23 40:23 41:20 45:16 104:9 funds 28:8,16,24 29:6,15 32:4 41:6 44:23 57:18 further 57:4	Future 43:23 G Gaberdine 47:2 gain 57:21 gained 58:4 gap 23:20 41:22 gaps 38:5 gardens 34:19 gas 111:18 GED 18:25 General 45:22 57:17 58:3 60:3 General's 87:2 gentleman 71:2 gentleman's 70:5 George 92:11 Georgia 15:4 Germany 55:7 getting 21:19 26:14 73:6 80:8 91:25 108:2 111:16 girl 92:15 give 3:8 4:22 22:11 25:23 33:2 64:12 65:21 66:7,12 75:13 83:11 101:22 given 45:19 51:18 66:10 101:20,25 giving 6:7 51:3 glad 22:24 24:4 96:20 glaringly 83:18 glass 19:23 Gloria 44:8 50:21 go 6:9 7:20 14:8 19:16,20,21 23:19 30:20 33:21 37:19 40:14 45:4 52:8 56:17 57:24 61:25
--	---	---	--	---

62:5,6 64:25 73:7 75:8 76:13 77:6 78:13 79:6 82:7,11 83:25 93:14 95:2 99:20 104:2,10 104:17 105:17 111:10 goat 100:7,7,8,9 100:10 goats 100:5 God 19:10 46:5 51:3 goes 62:3 84:15 going 3:25 5:25 6:9,15 12:10 12:23,24 13:24 13:25 14:3,4,6 14:6 15:10 18:4 21:12 24:15 26:7 32:19 33:23 35:22,23 39:21 40:22 44:18 46:14,15 47:20 48:4,18 49:14 50:2,3 57:18 57:24 62:6,13 62:23 63:20,20 69:3,21 71:18 72:18 73:10 76:13,14 77:10 77:11 78:7,24 79:19,22 81:5 81:9 82:10 83:23 84:14 85:7,16,17 87:17,21 89:24 93:15 95:8 105:23 107:22 108:10 111:15 112:8,10 114:24 115:10 good 2:2,21,25 3:12,14,15,17 7:21 8:3 9:13 13:12 16:21	19:7 27:14 36:12 42:17 44:12 47:25,25 51:2 56:3,7 61:8,10 63:9 70:17 75:21 76:7 78:23 84:15,16 90:23 97:19 101:2,6 103:5 106:3 107:19 Goode 1:9 7:10 7:22 8:2 39:11 39:12,25 40:10 41:4,8 76:5 80:16 86:11,12 108:23 109:2,5 109:6 Gordon 70:14 75:17,18,21 76:2 79:22 82:15,20 83:4 84:6 85:23 86:9 87:7 103:22 government 4:13 20:23 30:10 34:4 40:18 90:8 96:25 101:14 115:17 grabbing 107:24 grabs 107:24 grade 17:17 grandchildren 91:18 grant 22:11 39:15 40:2,5 51:15 Grants 36:16 grappling 60:5 grassroot 102:18,19 gray 42:11 Grays 27:21 great 3:22 6:4 15:14 57:21 59:15 67:6	91:6 green 1:10 48:11 54:20 74:8,9 80:25 109:7,15 Greenlee 1:10 7:13 65:2 73:12,15,21,25 108:14,17 Greenway 8:9 grew 8:8 grossly 98:5,6,6 ground 4:21 21:24 group 28:2 42:23 52:16 groups 34:8 grow 48:3 growing 47:23 47:24 guarantee 96:13 guess 39:25 91:20 guests 42:20 guidelines 17:15 gun 93:20,21,24 94:2,6 Guns 114:20 guys 19:8 25:22 46:14 75:8,9 gym 49:22 50:2 50:3 gyms 48:18 49:11 H half 32:3 114:22 Hall 13:17 64:21 72:8 116:9 hand 4:24 6:5 handing 97:2 handwriting 97:5 hanging 94:3 happen 2:19 26:14 45:6 59:18 happily 35:6 happy 4:14 76:10	hard 44:24 57:7 83:23 91:16 92:8 hardship 38:18 Harold 92:10 95:4 Harrisburg 34:5 60:6 114:13 hate 57:22 head 53:13 67:3 82:2 health 79:15 healthy 105:23 hear 7:25 20:12 34:2 40:24 60:22 69:2 heard 4:12 20:11 23:7 56:15 57:4 70:25 113:8,12 hearing 2:16,18 4:7 6:14 9:21 11:8 58:10 116:4 hearings 2:14 28:3 85:19 109:18 heart 69:24 heavy 94:7 heavy-duty 91:10 95:25 Heck 54:5 held 8:14 help 29:24 37:19 39:6 43:23 47:4 58:20 95:17,18 helped 41:25 helping 6:23 113:17 hemorrhaging 59:2 Henry 36:8,8,12 36:13 39:12,16 40:7,25 41:7 41:11,17 42:3 hey 59:23 He'll 113:17	Hi 13:12 107:14 high 37:16 65:4 114:9 115:6 higher 18:25 highlight 56:16 Hill 94:12,16 hire 108:5 hiring 38:3 Hispanic 20:25 21:16 historic 79:6 hit 44:24 88:24 105:8 108:9 hold 39:10 73:13 80:13 89:25 95:13 holding 28:3 home 4:5 23:24 29:9 32:13 53:13 63:15 64:9,14,14 69:19 homeless 22:22 52:2 54:15 58:20 62:18 homelessness 29:11 homeowners 29:10 30:18 31:5,7 63:12 84:16 homeownership 28:20 homes 27:19 31:2 32:7 43:19 45:23,23 46:24 63:12 64:2,18,19,20 69:11 88:5,10 92:24 homestead 60:4 homework 45:10 honest 20:11 103:19 honor 44:15 51:3 Honorable 8:4
---	--	---	---	--

43:15 honored 3:19 4:14 hope 13:22 14:22 43:7 60:7 88:25 92:7 101:5 hopefully 60:7 hoping 29:20 73:9 Hopkins 4:24 89:16 host 3:6,8 4:7 113:24 hosted 114:19 hotrod 91:2 hour 9:13 hours 48:24 house 12:12 63:22 67:2 75:14 84:14 88:2 92:12 93:7,9 95:5,23 96:5 houses 32:8 35:2 55:14 63:19 111:13,22 housing 28:9,19 28:19 29:3,8 29:10,13,20,24 34:18 36:16 43:10,14 44:19 45:17,17,20 51:11,19,19 52:3,23 53:24 54:4,7,15,19 54:23 57:6,13 57:16 58:19 Howard 87:11 89:8,9,14 93:17 HPRP 52:9 HUD 28:8,16 29:25 51:16 huge 23:20 71:10 humbly 6:12 hundreds 52:4	hungry 100:15 hurting 46:10 I IDs 114:16,23 ignoring 80:18 III 21:8 illegal 84:24 immensely 66:20 immigrant 20:6 20:7,19 76:23 immigrants 21:2 impact 30:17 implemented 102:2 imploring 71:25 important 12:15 16:8 83:4 importantly 42:25 113:5 improve 62:4 improves 35:7 improving 14:2 incident 94:11 include 72:16 73:2 included 5:2 73:5 includes 35:8 including 56:14 72:19 inclusive 1:16 10:7 income 53:17 55:15 59:23 62:8,11 74:21 incorporate 49:23 incorporating 10:18 increase 31:4 57:15,20 60:8 61:24 increasements 62:11 increasing 77:22 Indian 78:17	individual 3:25 13:6 31:5 32:6 32:12 34:25 individuals 62:12 75:4 85:20 112:22 113:10 infested 79:11 information 113:9 informed 60:19 Iniquity 104:11 initial 86:2 initiative 37:21 113:22 initiatives 37:8 inmates 98:16 input 12:19 Inquirer 83:8 Inspector 87:2 inspectors 83:25 insurance 53:15 intended 17:5 interest 74:22 interested 16:13 33:25 interesting 68:11 83:10 87:3 Intergovernm... 10:21,23 Internet 22:15 71:9,9 introduce 85:16 introduced 74:12 introducing 84:23 invested 63:16 investigations 14:12 invite 86:21 involved 64:4 65:13 91:7 in-fill 43:14 ironic 114:18 islands 23:17 issue 30:7 31:10	31:14,18 42:13 48:16 49:13 58:25 62:23 66:9 67:14 74:25 83:5 115:5 issued 77:19 issues 4:17 5:4 5:14 17:8 28:7 54:13,15,16 56:16,22 67:19 68:3 69:15 87:17 88:12 89:4 104:21 113:19 item 41:2 J James 50:22 55:23,24 56:9 Jannie 101:16 January 11:2 14:16 Jeep 42:11 job 72:22 80:12 jobs 15:17 37:10 37:19 54:18 80:11 jogging 79:17 John 63:17 89:10,11 97:14 Johnson 1:11 3:2,10,15,18 5:19 6:7 7:17 8:5 12:9 19:10 22:2 38:25 46:2 53:19 67:11 68:7 84:22 85:4,11 85:25 87:18 89:22,23 92:6 92:7 103:7,8 103:15 107:6 107:10,16 110:3,5,9,10 110:17,21 111:3 112:17 113:4,14 114:8 Johnson's 69:9	John's 1:5 joined 16:2 48:11 Jonathan 34:13 Jones 1:11 9:4 19:9 21:25 33:22,23 34:13 34:22 68:21,22 76:4 77:3 82:24,25 99:10 99:19,23 Jordan 87:12 89:9,9,10,14 89:15,21,24 93:18 95:12,21 96:4,14,19 Jr 1:9,11 7:10 9:5 53:21 70:9 70:13,21 Judith 63:5,5 70:7,8 Judy 70:10 jumping 108:3 June 22:18 64:16 77:8 K K 1:10 Katrina 89:2 keep 15:10 53:12 77:11 78:7 92:20,22 keeping 60:21 90:21 Kellem 44:9 50:22,22 51:2 52:21 53:9 55:5 Kelly 55:22,23 61:4,4,8,12,15 Kenyatta 1:11 3:2 7:16 8:4 53:19 76:3 79:13 89:22 92:5,6 107:6 Kenyatta's 69:8 kick 6:23 9:11 kid 23:5 kids 19:24,25
--	--	--	---	---

23:19,22 24:2 24:10 81:25 92:16 104:25 105:16,23 106:4 111:25 kind 5:15,24 24:15 26:24 50:8 71:12 72:15 97:9 111:7,21 Kingssessing 18:9 knew 100:11 knock 82:7 knocking 18:17 know 2:8 6:9 12:22 13:3 15:11 16:22 21:16 23:3,4,8 23:9,11,25 24:2,9,12 34:19 40:15 56:17,21 57:14 59:8,21 60:3 63:11 64:3,25 68:15 72:6,20 72:22 73:8 78:20 82:10 84:13 88:16,25 90:2 93:2,2,4 96:6 97:8 100:14 105:10 105:22 111:24 112:4,9 115:2 known 51:5 53:3 knows 101:3 Koroma 99:17 99:17,18 100:2 100:2 Krain 13:9,9,12 13:13 26:18 36:7 Krio 24:25 KYW 72:12,12	lack 86:16 lady 44:23 66:25 92:17 Lamont 97:16 99:12,13 land 28:12 31:19 35:6 43:12,17 59:16 71:15,20 71:23 landlords 58:8,9 languages 23:23 24:19,21 Lansana 99:16 99:17,17 100:2 laptops 22:14 large 33:4,5 54:14 larger 33:13,15 largest 79:5 Lastly 38:24 law 40:15,16 86:19 laws 30:12 lay 4:20 leader 112:23 leaders 4:10 76:8 113:6 leadership 76:8 83:7 leaps 47:24 learn 25:4 learned 72:10 104:14 learning 18:21 leave 37:17 104:2 Lee 87:11 89:9,9 left 38:5 64:19 64:20 89:17 104:24 legal 94:5 legislation 84:24 85:17 Legislature 29:5 29:18 lending 54:22 Lent 6:10 Leo 75:18 87:10	87:10,15 Leone 20:8 21:7 lessons 35:3 letters 90:6 92:2 level 17:17 23:22 38:9 Lewis 9:25 13:4 liars 100:24 Liberia 21:6 Liberties 65:17 Liberty 42:11 life 20:2 77:23 91:16 96:11 104:6 lifetime 51:7 Lighthouse 40:9 limit 12:11 31:4 35:24 81:13 limited 17:18 Lindbergh 18:10 56:5 63:24 93:7 line 30:11 41:2 lion 100:6,6,11 100:14,17 101:3 list 51:4 88:3,4 106:19,21,22 listed 106:23 listen 11:19 listening 69:5 110:4 literacy 17:24 18:18,21 19:2 19:17,17 25:25 literally 18:23 66:25 71:22 litter 78:18 85:7 litterers 112:3 little 25:23 75:15 105:3,10 live 17:14 81:22 81:22 82:12 91:19 92:15 95:3 99:4 100:25 113:11 lived 20:9 56:5 lives 15:17,19	living 2:9 52:6 96:15,15 104:5 loader 94:8 lobbying 57:15 local 13:20 57:5 lock 112:3 Loko 24:25 long 19:16 30:4 64:25 86:6 93:25 110:24 longer 38:17 60:20 long-time 30:23 look 4:15 21:19 23:12 24:4,17 24:19 25:18 31:3 47:17 52:11 53:20,22 54:21,23 58:17 58:23 60:9,10 66:22 83:24 88:11 90:23 95:22,24 96:4 98:3 99:2 105:6 115:18 looked 25:19 51:6 94:20 104:11 looking 28:22 33:13 85:5,7 86:5 105:5 looks 73:17 looseleaf 90:21 loses 59:4 losing 23:5 loss 57:10 losses 28:23 lost 2:6 lot 17:21 18:23 23:13,15,17 25:14 26:8 28:25 32:14 42:12 56:20 59:22 61:22 63:16 68:14 69:3,4 70:25 77:9,9 80:8,9 83:11,20 88:15	92:23 93:2,4 94:4 96:24 101:11 102:5 111:12,13,14 111:16,17,18 112:10 lots 32:8,11 35:2 43:13 71:2 loud 113:12 love 79:2 81:17 low 53:17 55:15 59:23 low-income 29:9 30:17 31:6 75:4 loyal 72:23 luckily 31:14 lump 21:7 93:11 lumped 21:10 L&I 35:12 76:20 81:8,9,11 82:3 82:4,5,7 83:22 83:24 85:5
M				
Maggie 95:15 maintain 34:16 84:17 maintaining 31:23 59:2 maintenance 104:10 major 24:20 64:22 66:23,24 76:17 making 18:5 112:10 113:7 man 94:2 manager 46:25 51:11 Managing 24:21 85:5,20 mandate 111:22 manufacturers 55:8 manufacturing 55:2 map 92:25 93:6 March 1:6 116:6				

117:7 margin 72:15 Maria 1:13 6:25 Marian 1:14 7:7 Mark 1:13 8:23 85:13 market 62:5 63:14,23,23 64:13 Marsha 36:9 42:21 matter 117:7 Matthews 73:10 Mayor 10:20 11:2 22:15 25:21 37:7 72:12,24 75:2 75:8 91:6 94:16 101:10 101:10 102:15 108:5 Mayor's 19:2 20:22 37:2 100:3 101:11 ma'am 68:8 mean 8:8 19:11 20:15 22:5 24:7 31:19 45:24,24 69:4 92:6 94:7 111:23 112:5,6 112:10 means 18:23 100:25 117:21 mechanic 91:14 94:3 97:5 mechanics 91:12 meet 76:16 83:3 100:20 102:16 102:17 meeting 5:13 22:6 56:23 95:15 101:18 113:18 meetings 63:18 76:9 member 9:2	27:22 33:18 72:5 97:22 98:20 members 6:21 6:22 9:8 12:3 14:21 27:15 42:19 56:14,19 70:18,19 72:19 74:10 83:6 men 114:19,23 Mende 24:25 mentioned 18:23 57:12 67:13 72:13 men's 22:22 merchants 39:5 83:13 merge 49:22 merging 49:17 mess 81:25 met 24:5 83:7,12 100:6 MICHELE 117:14 microphone 13:11 16:20 26:20 36:11 42:16 44:11 50:25 56:2 61:7 63:8 70:16 75:20 87:14 89:13 97:18 99:22 103:4 107:9 110:16 middle 19:22 104:4 million 21:21 29:12,14 31:23 32:4 51:16 57:10,20 59:3 59:4 78:21 79:2,12 81:11 111:9 millions 24:6 28:17,18 33:2 mind 93:18 mine 69:10 93:9	mini 82:4 minorities 80:24 81:6 minority 47:5 minutes 25:9 misinterpreted 101:4 mobilize 114:14 114:15 moderate 52:16 59:23 mom 25:3 Monday 116:6 money 11:22 21:20 28:18 40:5,13,18 45:4 47:3,22 50:6 52:14 58:15,18 63:16 65:18 77:4,9,9 79:14,18 80:8 80:9 84:7,12 105:11 108:5,7 108:8 111:10 112:7,8,9,11 monitored 16:12 month 6:11 71:6 monthly 74:16 months 19:13 32:2 93:12 109:19 Monument 105:5 moratorium 71:13 Moriah 79:7 morning 27:14 mortgage 57:18 mother 90:15,22 motorcycle 91:3 Mount 79:7 move 32:24 49:4 81:16,17 113:22 moved 90:3 92:12 mower 90:12	92:20 municipal 83:20 municipalities 34:6 MURPHY 117:14 Myers 18:8 88:19 N NAC 38:6 NACs 37:23 38:2 41:14,16 41:22 42:2 nail 22:9 name 13:5,13 17:6 22:5 27:18 42:21 44:15,15 56:8 61:15 66:8,12 70:5,20 87:15 89:14,18 99:24 107:19 111:2 names 97:3 106:18 nannies 105:18 Napta 93:2,6 native 28:2 near 72:6 81:5 neat 90:21 105:21 necessarily 43:6 47:5 necessitate 57:7 neck 94:23 need 31:3 33:6 37:9 45:9,19 46:15 47:17 48:3 49:6,9,24 50:9 51:25 53:22 59:15,16 60:2 65:21 66:16,19,20,21 81:2 82:3,3,4 83:25 94:2,6 needed 52:18 needs 47:17 56:23 57:6 98:15 106:11	neglected 53:6 58:9 neglecting 92:24 negligent 77:21 81:20 negotiate 69:16 neighbor 91:19 neighborhood 2:20 5:14 22:20 28:21 32:12 36:17,22 37:9,18 38:12 39:7,15 44:21 46:20 51:13 52:18 53:2,5 53:23 54:8,17 76:12 104:5,22 105:8 116:3 neighborhoods 2:14 13:15 30:24 37:22 43:9 47:23 50:16 55:9 57:2 105:16 106:8 neighbors 81:20 93:19 104:13 nervous 19:6 78:18 never 15:6 52:17 53:3,14 57:22 65:2 77:19 81:23 82:22 93:13 103:17 new 9:2 14:25 15:3,7 28:19 29:8,18 33:8,9 33:10 37:20 42:3 43:14,18 49:23 52:16,17 54:7 55:11 58:5 59:22 67:15 72:14 73:7 80:25 90:12 111:25 newly 70:19 News 83:8 newspaper
--	--	--	---	---

98:13	officers 37:3	10:11 11:11	16:3	particularly
nice 92:19	73:7 93:22	opportunist	o'clock 115:6	5:10 66:7
night 110:24	official 2:16	100:22		113:11
nightmare 82:2	officially 4:25	opportunities	P	partnerships
nitty-gritty	8:17,20 9:11	44:20 49:12	PA 72:14	19:4,15
67:18	officials 53:4	opportunity	PAB 72:14	parts 78:11
nominal 34:20	Oh 1:12 7:4	12:13,14 26:9	PAC 65:9	Paschall 8:11
non-profit 51:23	20:14 21:3	27:17 45:20	packed 12:12	54:17 67:20,24
59:9,24	22:5 23:10	48:24,25 56:8	paid 38:10 64:9	113:11,17,21
non-profits	OHCD 45:10	83:3 113:9	64:14 90:24	pass 16:23 69:21
36:21 38:15,18	OHCDs 46:16	oranges 93:14	93:8,9,12,15	74:25 109:16
Nope 24:11	oil 78:15	order 9:15 57:23	panels 55:6	109:16
Norma 92:11,11	okay 7:18 8:20	81:14	Paone 97:2	passed 114:12
normally 13:16	9:8 12:21 13:4	ordinance 1:15	paperwork	Pastor 6:3,4
North 20:9	21:4 24:16	1:17,19 10:5,8	89:15 91:10	7:19,23 115:23
90:14 91:12	36:2,5 42:5	10:10,25 28:11	parcels 43:17	path 47:4
Northern 65:17	46:11 73:25	31:20 35:6	parenting 24:3	pavers 94:8
nose 96:8	75:9 82:20	organization	parents 18:24	pay 20:17,18
noted 67:21	89:20 109:20	40:3 46:23	23:25	53:10 71:16,21
notes 117:6	OLANIPEKU...	51:9 52:22	park 19:23	71:24 74:14
NTAs 108:2	10:4 13:8	65:8 103:24	78:10,13 79:2	77:25 84:10,11
nuisance 82:8	16:17 26:16	organizations	79:3,4 103:20	93:10 99:4
number 2:13	36:6 42:10	39:22 40:8	103:23,25	paychecks 38:20
12:23 47:9	44:7 50:21	45:5 52:21	104:7,8,10,12	paying 53:14
48:17 56:16	55:21 61:3	56:13	104:13,14	65:4 71:5
60:25 66:12	63:3 70:4,12	organize 4:7	111:24,25	74:23 78:4,6
numbers 25:19	75:16 87:9	original 17:3	parking 42:12	93:10
54:14	89:8 97:14	originates 38:9	42:13	payment 74:17
numbers-wise	99:12,16	outcomes 14:2	parks 50:13	75:3
49:8	102:25 106:17	outdated 30:9	76:22 78:8,20	pays 20:20
Nutter 72:12,24	old 64:16 83:16	outline 14:9	78:25 79:5,10	Peace 114:20
91:7 94:16	90:22 91:2	outsourcing	104:17 105:7	penalize 86:15
Nutter's 37:7	93:6 94:2	15:6	105:11,14,19	penalized 86:23
	103:19	overdue 30:4	106:6,11	87:4
O	once 2:6 14:11	overflow 16:11	111:23	penalties 70:24
oasis 104:4	43:24 53:14	16:15	part 4:8 5:8	71:11,21 74:21
objections 117:4	104:9,9	overwhelming	19:25 22:17	109:11
obtaining 35:9	ones 14:11 33:6	45:19	35:4 48:13	penalty 77:20
occasionally	69:10 83:17	overworked	78:12 113:21	Pennsylvania
38:17	105:3	98:7	113:25 114:20	1:6 10:21
occasions 77:3	one-on-one	owe 71:4,15	participate 49:2	20:23 29:17
Occupy 64:22	113:18	owned 35:2 95:5	participating	94:15
111:8	ongoing 14:22	owner 70:25	115:17	people 7:23
occur 62:11	open 18:2,6	92:10 93:8	participation	12:23 13:16
offer 54:11 72:2	22:23 95:18	owners 59:22	39:3	15:12 23:10,11
office 20:22	opening 6:13	102:16	particular 2:19	23:14,15 25:14
24:22 85:6,21	operable 60:20	owns 59:7	5:8,14 34:14	26:7,8 31:10
86:25 87:2	Operating 1:19	O'Brien 1:12	44:19 63:2,15	33:12 35:9
91:22			63:25 66:6	

37:9 45:13,14 46:12,13 47:6 47:19 48:20 54:10 56:18 61:2,22 62:7,8 62:9 64:20 65:15 66:13 68:6 71:20,22 74:13 79:8 80:16 84:17 86:21,22,24,25 88:15 92:14 93:3,4 94:5,18 95:3 100:23 101:23,25 104:10 107:24 111:15 114:16 114:17 people's 30:16 71:23 percent 17:13 17:16 18:22 40:13,16 51:14 57:11 74:16 77:13,15,16 78:3 104:16,19 percentage 74:17 perform 14:9 period 2:18 71:14 72:3 permit 76:21 person 21:6 74:18 81:10 Pete 73:9 petition 47:18 PHA 31:25 32:3 32:12 35:3,7 35:13 phase 60:8 phase-in 60:13 Philadelphia 1:2 1:6,21 3:23 4:4 4:5,10 10:15 10:17 17:11,13 20:21 23:16 24:20 27:23 28:12 37:10,11	43:3 45:17 46:24 51:8,25 56:10,24 57:16 61:18 75:5 81:17 84:3 85:15 91:6 97:22,24 98:4 98:17,24 99:4 99:5 102:9 Philadelphian 28:2 Philly 20:10 37:20,22 38:6 41:13,21,25 55:8 71:18,19 91:17 94:14 107:20 108:11 108:11 phones 16:7,9 phony 80:22 phrase 14:6,14 picked 67:25 picking 80:3 pie 65:21,21 piece 20:3 65:20 piggyback 44:22 87:22 piggybacking 103:21 pipelines 111:19 place 31:17 37:19 65:5 84:25 114:25 placed 51:4 52:14 places 108:10 plan 1:22 10:16 11:13 37:2 39:21 75:3 Planning 33:8,9 plans 34:2 plate 113:7 play 18:20 31:8 33:10,14 65:5 playgrounds 105:19 playing 19:25 105:2	plead 52:7 please 5:7 9:16 9:25 12:18 13:5 16:7 26:7 38:22 43:16 60:24 69:24 71:25 74:5 95:17,18 96:22 97:7 99:25 106:5 115:8 pleasure 2:4,12 plenty 91:13 pockets 46:17 46:17 point 42:4 45:6 45:7 47:11 66:17 73:16 83:10,14 points 22:25 24:13 83:18 108:9 poles 90:10 police 15:16 37:2,5 90:18 93:22 112:3 policemen 108:6 Policy 56:9 polish 90:22 political 30:7 politician 100:22 politicians 100:21,24 101:6,7 102:8 politics 65:16 100:25 101:22 102:17 poor 47:7 52:16 52:17 53:17 pop-up 76:24 position 49:6 positive 43:17 possible 62:17 115:9 pot 40:17 potholes 5:7 poverty 17:15 power 101:21,21	102:18 pray 101:5 prepare 88:16 88:20 prerogative 103:16 presence 37:5 present 1:8 6:21 9:14 72:25 97:8 101:10 presentation 35:24 72:11 presently 46:8 preservation 28:19 29:10,11 Preserve 90:6 President 1:9 2:2,24 3:5,24 4:20 5:17 6:2 6:16,18 7:3,6,9 7:12,15,24 8:3 8:19,25 9:7,10 11:5 12:6 15:23 16:5,24 17:3 24:14 25:8,13 26:3,6 26:13,21 27:8 27:12,15,18 30:20 33:17,21 34:23 35:18,21 36:4 39:10 41:9 42:7,18 42:22 44:5,13 48:8 53:18 55:19 60:16 61:9,10,16 62:21 65:12 66:3,14 67:5 68:9,20,23,24 69:25 73:13 74:7 75:12,23 75:24 82:13,16 82:23 83:6 84:19 86:10,13 89:6,17,19 95:10,19 96:2 96:12,16 97:10 97:20 102:22	103:11 106:15 106:18,20 107:3,12 109:24 110:7 110:11,18,19 110:23 112:15 112:20 113:24 115:11,12,15 press 75:14 pretty 73:22 pretzels 115:7,9 prevention 36:24 52:2 54:15 58:20 previous 8:6 58:2 primary 28:25 80:15,20,22 109:8 principal 74:23 printed 96:24,25 priorities 11:20 11:23 prioritize 105:14 prioritizing 104:21 priority 105:9 113:21 Prison 97:25 98:4 prisons 98:17 private 14:10,19 29:14 privatization 14:7 privilege 84:10 privileged 3:19 probably 62:24 78:24 86:19 88:8 problem 66:23 66:24 71:8 104:5 110:6 problems 69:7 76:19 proceed 12:2,7 proceedings
---	---	---	--	---

117:4 proceeds 58:4 process 2:17 8:16 11:21 12:16 32:10,17 32:19,23 35:5 48:20 49:4 85:18 86:5,18 104:15 115:17 production 28:20 productive 59:13 program 1:16 10:6 11:12 18:15 19:18 21:10 22:8 52:11,24 58:22 73:18 programs 17:19 18:20 29:11 36:24 40:20 49:2,18 52:15 56:21 111:15 project 36:19 43:8 111:9 projects 43:5 promised 22:16 properly 114:17 properties 32:5 32:16,21,24 33:4,6,15 34:7 34:10,17 58:9 59:6,12 62:5 71:10 76:19 77:5,13,17 78:4 81:21 83:19 84:18 property 30:25 31:5,24 34:3 35:10,11 59:3 59:21,22 61:24 66:10 70:23 71:6,15,23 74:20 77:17,22 81:14,24,24 82:9 84:8,11 92:8,9	property-relat... 30:9 proposal 46:22 79:2 propose 13:25 76:14 78:22 proposed 10:18 11:10 43:5 proposing 25:21 25:22 protect 15:17,19 81:14 proud 28:2 90:16 96:14,15 97:22,23 98:11 98:20 102:13 proven 37:5 38:11 provide 14:24 14:25 25:24 30:12 31:6 provided 29:6 providers 14:10 14:20 providing 1:20 10:14 20:24 38:11 99:2 public 2:16 5:12 9:21 11:8 20:9 22:23 51:24 53:4 106:12 117:15 publicized 73:22 publicly 18:2,6 pulling 3:2 pure 114:24 purposes 29:15 pursuant 10:23 pushed 111:9 put 5:25 40:11 47:14 54:7 59:9,12 64:23 78:25 80:25 81:3 83:15,19 90:20 108:16 108:21 putting 4:2 47:22 58:3	80:17 88:9 111:18 p.m 1:7 116:13 Q quality 77:23 quality-of-life 104:21 quarterly 86:21 question 33:18 39:11 40:2,11 53:2 69:12 questions 33:24 36:2 69:3,21 82:19 quick 34:24 48:12 quicker 27:7 quickly 32:24 56:17 74:19 Quinones-San... 1:13 6:25 quit 48:4 quite 4:19 67:24 81:15 quorum 8:21,22 9:14 R racer 91:3 raggedy 90:18 raise 4:24 6:5 25:24 69:11 raised 8:5,7 20:8 raising 23:25 rally 72:8 ran 46:24 rate 17:24 25:25 ratio 83:24 RDA 45:10 RDAs 46:16 reach 105:12 read 10:2 11:9 13:5 18:4 26:23 27:4 96:23 reading 17:16 17:25 27:7 ready 26:14	53:12 73:6 80:8 82:2 108:2 real 2:10 22:24 48:12 53:14 77:14 86:14 reality 9:17 45:19 59:25 realize 23:15 78:10 really 19:11 25:17 31:19 45:9 66:19,19 72:22,23 75:9 88:23 105:12 108:9,15 111:10 reason 68:2,17 69:6 98:10 101:13 102:12 reasons 68:24 reassess 52:8 reassessment 59:20 rebuild 58:20 rebuilding 108:12 rec 19:21 34:19 48:14 50:3 receive 62:9 received 32:3 86:2 receives 24:6 recess 116:5 recessed 116:13 recognize 6:22 19:5 107:5 recognizes 110:8 reconvene 116:7 record 5:2 15:25 38:11 48:10 67:22,25 69:15 69:16 70:5 99:24 recording 57:19 recreated 37:24 recreation 18:3	18:7,13 47:10 47:16 49:7,20 50:13,18 53:25 78:8,21,25 104:18 105:11 106:6 recreational 49:2,12 recreations 76:22 105:14 recruit 19:15 Recycle 58:21 recycled 58:16 recycling 58:17 redevelopment 27:20 reduced 28:17 34:20 reduction 28:8 reelected 73:10 reference 48:13 66:16 referenced 68:11 reflect 15:25 48:10 reflected 66:11 reflection 114:24 refrain 5:8,9 regarding 4:18 9:22 17:8 21:13 67:19,23 84:24 85:18,21 114:11 regards 13:21 20:16 61:23 registered 94:14 114:17 rehab 32:16 rehabbing 55:11 rehabilitation 29:8 rejuvenate 104:14 related 4:17 5:3 28:10 31:21 33:6 48:19
---	---	---	--	---

relates 2:17 5:22 11:16 12:16	resident 43:2 51:8,21 53:21	79:9	59:11	Secondly 13:18
relating 5:11	residential	riding 90:11	running 22:8	second-grade
48:14 67:19	34:25 43:19	105:4	Russian 24:23	23:22
release 74:19	residents 28:5	right 8:8 14:7	S	secretaries
relief 31:6	30:23 32:13	18:25 21:12	S 1:5	91:22
remarks 20:12	37:18 38:12	22:13 46:4	safe 105:22	secretary 11:10
60:25	51:25 56:24	50:17 52:4	safeguards	91:23
Remember	58:19	55:9 57:17	31:16 35:8	Security 62:9
78:16	resolution 1:20	61:19 68:23	safety 79:15	see 14:11,20
Renew 43:23	1:20 9:24	72:24 81:10	salary 74:17	15:8 30:5
renewal 64:6	10:13	82:6,7,20 86:3	sale 35:14	47:14 64:22
renovating	resolutions 10:3	86:6,15 87:25	Sanchez 22:4	65:17 71:10,18
55:11	resources 45:20	88:4 94:6	83:11	78:14 79:14,18
rent 84:8	48:2 57:5,8	95:11 96:3	sanitation 83:21	79:25 80:2,3,4
rental 29:7	respect 10:19	108:16 110:20	Saturday 39:4	80:24 81:4,5
76:18 77:5,13	11:19 12:23	Right-Sized	saving 50:5	81:23 94:17
77:16,22 78:3	15:11,14	27:19	107:25	96:24 100:7,20
78:6 83:19	response 9:9	right-to-know	saw 93:23	104:3 105:6
84:11	12:5 14:15,17	21:15	saying 26:25	seeking 52:22
rentals 78:5	48:12 70:11	ringing 16:9	60:23 90:8,19	seen 14:13 30:24
renters 84:16	75:13 92:3,3	rings 22:17,19	91:5,17 92:14	53:4 65:2
reorganization	96:17 99:15	30:19	94:10,18 95:17	98:18,18
64:5	107:2	rip 81:21	96:20 97:6	101:20 104:6
repairs 29:9	responsibility	ripped 111:22	Sayre 114:7,9,9	selected 68:12
report 77:8	64:3 101:23,24	risen 46:8	115:6	sell 64:10
83:18 86:2	responsible	rises 30:25	says 100:8	selling 108:7
reported 94:19	90:10	Rising 37:20,23	scarce 57:8	send 19:10
reporter 98:14	rest 15:11 76:15	38:7 41:13,21	scattered 32:2,7	senior 64:8
117:23	96:10	41:25	59:7	108:13
represent 45:7	restrictions 29:7	risk 37:16	schedule 110:14	seniors 30:22
51:9	result 38:22	River 79:16	school 8:14	31:7 60:9 62:8
representation	results 72:11	road 111:19	17:12 19:19	108:15,20
53:25 87:21	resurrection	rode 65:17	20:9 21:13,20	sense 13:15
representative	104:7	Ron 114:4 115:4	23:19 48:16,22	100:25
51:7,22 69:9	retired 61:18	roof 53:13	49:19,21 50:2	sent 92:2
114:4 115:4	revenue 33:3	room 16:12,15	91:11 105:19	separate 17:8
representing	76:25 77:15	20:10 23:7	106:12 107:21	67:14,17
11:16	84:3,6	47:12 112:23	114:10 115:6	Sergeant-At...
reproduction	revenues 78:2	116:8	schools 49:10	16:25
117:20	review 33:11,14	Roosevelt 70:9	scratch 55:14	series 21:14
request 60:23	86:20	70:13,20	scratcher 23:9	serious 9:2
requested 33:16	Revised 1:21	RPR-Notary	script 2:11	14:23 16:3
requests 21:15	10:15	117:15	season 6:24 9:12	85:12 86:17
required 35:14	revitalization	rubber 90:23	seat 16:14	98:3
requirement	36:19 43:8	rules 4:21	seated 9:16	seriously 11:18
35:13,15	52:24 56:25	run 18:15 59:11	seats 9:18	service 51:22
requiring 35:9	revolutionary	80:13 111:5	second 4:5 20:3	52:15 76:23
		runaround	secondary 80:21	82:5 91:20

95:5 services 15:6 25:20,24 37:16 38:12 51:10,19 83:20,22 98:4 98:15 servicing 51:24 session 3:6 sessions 11:24 58:13 set 86:18 113:17 seven 32:3 56:5 seven-acre 104:4 shake 67:2 share 37:4 Sharon 94:12,16 Shawn 55:22,23 61:3,15 shelter 14:18 22:23 shelters 52:7 Sheriff's 35:14 Sherrod 44:8,8 44:12 45:16 46:4,19 shifting 64:2 shiftless 53:18 ship 107:23 shirt 103:6,12 103:17 shocking 46:9 shop 13:19 102:16 short 15:10 84:25 87:17 show 15:2 75:8 showing 30:6 77:3 shows 15:5 shrinking 40:17 sic 27:15 61:5 side 18:9 97:4 Sierra 20:8 21:6 sign 4:25 12:18 69:24 74:14 signed 74:11 86:19 109:17	significant 57:4 60:25 62:24 signs 75:2 similar 41:13 simple 32:9,22 simplified 35:5 sincerely 6:12 single 32:2,7,7 32:11,24 sinking 63:16 69:11 107:23 sir 3:9 61:11 62:22 66:4,5 67:12 73:12,14 73:16 74:9 75:6 89:7 95:20 96:12 97:11 102:24 110:24 112:16 sisters 15:16 sit 67:18,22 113:19 site 32:7 sites 32:3 sitting 105:4 situation 66:6 85:21 six 1:16 9:3 10:6 16:3 85:13 98:16 slice 65:22 slighting 17:4 slogan 14:4 slogans 13:24 small 32:15 38:15 39:5 47:15 114:3 smaller 41:17 snitch 86:22 snitching 86:24 86:25 snotty 96:8 soccer 105:2 social 13:18 15:6 62:9 98:4,15 solar 55:6 somebody 60:20 112:10	son 90:15 92:15 95:4 sorry 19:5 22:20 36:7,7 37:11 55:22 89:17 108:16 114:9 sort 77:17 source 28:25 29:19,19 sources 29:23 South 3:22 4:4 4:10 46:23 55:8 71:18,19 85:14 107:20 108:10 Southwest 3:22 4:4,8 17:11,19 23:16 36:14,14 36:25 37:3,13 37:14 38:3,8 38:16,24 40:21 42:22 43:2 51:8 56:4 63:10 68:2,12 69:8 76:7,21 82:22 86:3 102:9,14 113:22,25 space 6:8 Spanish 24:22 SPCA 94:18 speak 12:18 13:25 17:7 23:23 24:25 26:10,17 28:5 31:12 44:16,18 51:12,13 61:13 67:7 98:11,12 107:21 speaker 26:11 55:22 63:5 70:7,13 75:17 87:10 97:15 99:13 107:11 107:13 114:7 speakers 106:23 speaker's 106:19	speaking 14:4 93:18 specific 5:4 68:2 specifically 5:10 5:20 28:7,11 speed 91:4 spend 11:22 45:11 spends 31:22 spoke 44:23 61:15 88:18 108:14 spoken 15:13 sponsor 109:8 spot 108:16 Spring 103:20 Squilla 1:13 8:23 41:10,11 41:24 42:5 85:13 Sr 92:10 95:5 SSAs 108:2 St 1:5 stabilization 51:11 52:3 staff 4:23 38:6 38:19 stairways 22:6 stalling 8:21 stand 9:20 20:4 20:5 23:2 44:16 51:20 116:5 standing 9:19 16:13 start 55:3,6,13 59:10 63:10 68:3 69:14 86:5 104:21 started 58:7 67:14 68:25 86:4 starting 6:11 8:17 85:18 starts 2:17 state 3:22 15:5 21:22 22:11 29:5 30:12	57:12 60:3 99:23 114:4 115:3 stationed 61:19 stealing 71:22 stenographic 117:6 step 29:21 stepping 113:6 steward 13:19 stewards 11:15 stimulus 52:10 stink 23:10,12 stirring 30:3 stop 88:9 stopped 114:21 stores 102:13 straight 104:3 stranded 88:25 strangely 46:8 strangers 38:3 strategies 50:19 strategy 49:9 streamline 32:19 streamlined 15:3 streamlining 14:5 street 1:5 8:9 18:11 42:25 49:21 52:6 63:18 85:22 92:18,19,21,23 104:2 111:16 Streets 85:6 strengthen 37:21 39:6 stressed 28:14 stretched 81:13 strictly 31:21 strong 29:16 44:20 46:20 struggling 47:7 study 14:24 15:2 15:3,4,9 17:22 stuff 86:20 96:24 111:17
--	--	---	--	---

subject 83:9	sustain 62:14,16	targets 18:5	terms 18:18,21	38:24
submit 27:5	sustainability	tarp 80:25 81:3	Terri 97:2	thing 25:6,9
99:24	54:20	Tasco 1:14 7:7	terrible 112:5	46:19 47:25
submitted 10:20	sustainable	22:3	testify 12:18	59:19 66:19
21:14	27:19 55:15	Task 114:20	27:17 56:8	70:22 72:4
successful 56:25	system 14:17	taught 90:15	61:2 106:25	73:16 80:25
57:15 98:9	20:9 72:15	tax 30:17 59:5	testifying 13:7	87:25 88:22
sudden 30:16	106:13 109:10	73:17,18 78:6	testimony 4:22	106:10
sugar 83:13	112:3	83:14,15 84:10	4:23 15:24	things 12:15
suggesting	systems 14:15	108:17,19	26:22 27:2	23:7 34:17
48:17		109:4,10	42:8 44:6	48:19 49:3
suggests 59:14	T	taxes 20:17,18	50:20 55:20	50:8 57:25
suicide 98:9,10	table 78:24	20:20 31:5	56:22 60:17	68:23 72:16
sum 93:11	tackle 30:7	35:11 53:10,15	66:5 97:12	88:6,17 90:21
summarize	tackling 31:14	61:24,25 62:15	99:11,25	91:8 92:24
26:24 27:3,11	tag 94:15	65:4 70:23,24	102:23 106:16	100:10 105:24
28:16 31:24	tags 94:13	70:25 71:4,15	thank 2:21,25	think 41:14 45:8
summer 105:17	take 11:18,22	71:16 72:3	4:9 6:19,23 8:2	46:13 47:21
Sunday 8:13	14:23 25:18	74:15 77:10,15	8:18 11:6	48:15 49:3,24
Superfund 88:2	34:8 64:3 67:2	78:5,7 82:11	13:14 15:21,24	50:11 61:22
88:4	72:2 83:23	84:10 93:10,10	16:16 19:7	67:7 74:11
supervision	86:17 94:4	99:4 108:13	26:2,4 27:16	101:3 106:5,6
117:22	98:3 103:24	taxpayer 81:7	28:3 34:22,23	108:9
supplement	109:21 113:9	taxpayers 5:22	35:16,19 36:5	Thirty 19:15
21:21	114:24 115:8	20:17	39:8 41:8 42:6	Thorton 112:24
support 29:7,16	taken 32:17	Taylor's 34:14	42:8,20 44:2,6	thought 45:4
31:12 34:4	42:13 63:19	teams 85:8	46:5 48:6,9	47:19
39:15 46:6	117:6	tear 84:14	50:19 55:17,20	thousand 19:15
52:23 57:12	talk 12:14,21	tearing 81:24	56:7 60:14,17	59:6
67:23	31:18 37:8	technician 91:11	62:22,22 65:24	thousands 32:6
supported 24:21	48:5 49:17	tee 26:18	65:25 66:4	34:25 58:14,15
supports 36:25	56:18 62:16,18	telephone 90:10	67:9,9 68:7	three 28:7 39:22
supposed 12:21	65:15 66:22	tell 2:5 21:25	70:2 73:11	40:8 53:10
22:19 25:2,3	67:18 69:17	22:2,3,4 23:24	74:6 75:6,25	58:13 74:12
106:24	70:22 75:14	40:21 42:4	76:6 80:16	76:14 80:6,23
suppression	76:11 101:15	46:14 59:25	86:8,9,12 87:7	82:17 92:16
114:12	113:19	63:20 81:9	87:7 89:7,23	93:12 94:13,19
sure 2:8 3:11	talked 3:24 4:3	100:9 103:13	97:11,11 99:8	100:10 105:2
4:20 14:13	77:2 78:22	Temne 24:25	99:10 102:20	thresholds
15:12 24:12,12	88:8 92:5	ten 17:22 59:5	102:23 106:9	74:21
26:9 66:11	talking 34:5	90:9 108:20	106:16 109:23	Thrive 43:23
93:15 101:17	47:5,6,13 50:9	tens 28:17 33:2	109:25 110:10	throat 94:23
101:24 109:5	71:2 72:13	tension 23:13	110:13 112:16	throw 77:24
112:11 114:16	83:21 85:19	ten-point 76:12	112:17,20,25	tickets 77:24
114:17	93:20 95:14	ten-year 23:18	113:5,13,23	time 6:17 20:13
surf 71:9	108:6	term 71:12 86:6	115:13,16,21	21:3 28:4
surplus 34:2	target 108:11	terminated	115:23 116:10	30:14 33:12,15
surprised 40:24	targeted 39:15	37:17	thanks 29:16	35:17 46:13
	40:2 43:5			

54:25 60:14,22 60:23 65:25 74:5 76:9 88:8 93:21 98:5 100:5 102:14 110:13 111:21 116:7 timer 12:22,25 13:2 22:25 26:12,15 Tinicum 90:5 tire 85:21 tires 78:15 80:4 title 13:5 21:8 95:25 titles 10:2 today 6:22 12:25 83:9 84:5 106:4 113:2 114:12,18,19 told 16:10 37:12 39:14,16,17,24 40:25 51:5 63:22 tomorrow 84:23 85:18 114:6 115:5 tone-deaf 15:19 tonight 12:20 56:21 98:2 115:18,25 tools 94:3 tooth 22:9 topics 44:19 tore 92:21 111:19 totally 21:5 115:2 touched 24:18 tour 39:2 67:17 tours 113:20 townhouse 91:19 Tracey 70:14 75:16 103:21 track 38:11 traditionally 21:19	traffic 72:15 trains 64:17 transcript 117:8 117:20 transfer 34:21 transferred 32:11 transparency 30:12 transparent 32:20 trash-filled 43:13 traveled 4:11 Travelers 14:18 Tribune 98:14 trickle 21:22 tried 111:5 Trinity 42:25 trolley 2:7 trucks 90:18 true 83:17 100:13,16,19 117:8 truly 2:3 3:18 Trust 28:9 29:3 29:13,20,24 45:18 57:16,19 try 28:15 33:24 59:9 74:5 94:11 103:24 trying 59:12 74:24 turn 5:25 6:15 16:7 112:19 115:10 turned 104:11 turning 52:4 two 8:6 17:7 22:7 24:13 32:2,16 39:19 44:18 47:9 48:15 58:25 73:19 74:3 86:22 91:18 92:16 93:21 108:15 112:22 twofold 61:23	Tyrese 113:14 113:16 Tyrone 61:4 63:3,4 70:6 89:25 93:3 95:14 U unbelievable 79:12 underemployed 62:10 understaffed 98:6 understand 15:15 31:13 66:15,16 69:7 69:23 97:6 understanding 49:4 understands 39:5 under-serviced 53:6 undesirable 54:9 unemployed 53:10 62:10 unemployment 22:7 54:18 unfortunate 100:23 UNIDENTIFI... 26:11 114:7 union 72:19 University 15:5 unkept 77:10 unregistered 76:18 77:5 unrestricted 32:4 upcoming 5:23 Upland 86:4 upstairs 6:10 7:21 8:12,13 16:12,15 urban 54:22 64:6 urge 105:13	urging 47:21 Ursula 94:22 use 22:14 26:11 26:15 59:13 60:12 115:24 uses 34:20 58:5 Utility 51:9 utilize 50:5 utilized 48:21 utilizing 50:15 V vacant 31:23 32:8,14 34:9 35:2 43:12 59:2,6 vacuum 92:21 valuation 30:2 30:15 66:9 value 28:9 31:8 63:14,23,23 64:13,18 69:19 72:22 77:23 81:15 106:7 values 30:13,25 59:21 62:5 various 11:9 vehicles 58:5 venue 100:18 verbal 60:23 verbatim 18:4 Verna 91:8,25 96:20 97:2 Verna's 91:21 vibrant 104:8 vicinity 18:7 victims 87:24 Vietnamese 24:24 view 83:10 violations 35:12 76:21 77:18 vision 43:21,22 voice 4:12 65:14 voices 113:8 vote 31:12 114:18 voter 114:12	W W 1:9 7:10 wait 38:20 88:13 waiting 22:18 47:2 waived 74:22 walk 66:21 78:9 78:13 walked 64:6 79:16 walking 92:17 92:18 wall 36:9 42:17 42:21 94:4 Walmart 20:18 want 2:11,15 4:22 5:5 6:3 12:13 14:9 16:23 21:16 23:2 26:8 27:3 31:18 32:13 54:9 56:18,22 60:9 61:2 63:10 65:20 67:21 69:7,23 70:22 74:19 75:7 78:20,25 79:6 80:11,12 80:14,14,20,22 95:12 101:15 102:7,9 105:6 106:2 110:12 112:9,20,21,25 113:5 114:13 115:3 wanted 5:24 20:4 61:13 62:19 88:18,20 wants 12:17 67:7 war 23:19 ward 109:22 112:23,24 wasn't 58:12 73:23 waste 111:17 watch 45:10 watching 105:18
---	--	--	---	---

water 63:13 64:19 77:15 88:3,9 95:11 115:8,9 Waters 114:5 115:4 way 2:6 14:10 19:16 20:15 34:5,8 35:7 40:12 49:15 57:25 64:25 79:24 92:20 93:16 95:9,24 96:7 102:8 ways 28:22 31:4 58:22 weak 65:16 wealthiest 78:11 wearing 91:22 91:23 weatherization 54:24 Wednesday 1:6 6:11 week 50:14 weekend 98:8 weeks 48:15 74:13 80:23 weigh 28:6 welcome 42:18 welfare 79:16 Wells 106:13 went 23:18 40:3 46:7 53:11 58:10 91:11 West 79:16 108:11 we'll 12:17 68:10 69:17 75:14 88:24 we're 12:10 21:2 21:3 22:18 24:15 25:17 26:7 28:22 35:22,23 47:2 49:14 50:2,3 56:12 57:24 58:23 59:12,19	59:25 60:21 63:20 65:4 69:2,5,21,23 72:23 82:10 83:23 85:7 102:13 103:23 we've 57:14 72:6 86:18 wheel 37:24 White 50:23 55:23,24 56:3 56:9 60:18 61:14 107:19 WHITE-WIL... 107:14,18 108:19,24 109:3,13,20 110:2 wife 91:18 94:22 wife's 93:8 Wildlife 90:5 WILLIAM 1:10 Williams 107:19 Wilson 1:9 7:10 53:21 76:5 windmills 55:5 wish 91:9 wishes 106:25 witness 12:8 13:10 16:19 26:19 36:10 42:15 44:10 50:24 55:25 61:6 63:7 70:3 70:15 75:19 87:13 89:12 97:17 99:21 103:3 107:8 110:15 witnesses 84:21 woman 80:3 wonderful 3:9 115:24 Woodland 2:7 36:18 39:2 61:20 82:6 102:10 111:20 words 3:8 43:20	wore 90:13 work 20:18 29:2 37:23 38:3,6 41:14,15 46:12 47:8 53:9 59:17,24 79:25 81:10 87:6 91:15,16 92:8 93:24 95:23 97:24 100:3 102:5 114:5 worked 15:7 53:12 64:17 94:7 98:21 worker 13:18 72:5 97:24 workers 14:8 72:17 79:25 80:2,4 99:3 working 17:23 19:12 27:21 29:4 37:25 46:11 60:11 72:6,20 81:6 85:12 90:17,21 90:25,25 works 17:20,23 113:16 World 105:17 worn 103:18 worse 87:25 worth 32:22 64:15 wrap 9:12 110:12 writing 97:4 written 26:22 27:2 Y Yeah 26:14 33:20 year 1:19,21 10:12,16,19 11:12 19:16,18 21:20 29:18 31:23 40:3 41:19,20 43:2 52:13 57:21	years 1:16 2:13 10:6,17 14:8 17:22 22:8 29:12 38:14 47:19 49:16 51:24 52:14 53:3,11 54:24 56:6 64:9,16 64:17 72:7 73:19 74:3 98:24 99:7 103:19 104:6 104:18 108:15 yelling 66:13 68:6 Yesterday 92:17 York 14:25 15:4 15:8 young 44:22 48:20 60:10 67:3 114:19,22 y'all 23:10 65:12 66:20,21 78:10 80:10 95:8,13 95:17 96:23,24 97:5,8 y'all's 96:9 Z Zoning 30:8 33:8,10 \$ \$120 51:16 \$158 21:21 \$2,000 71:4 \$2,800 90:12 \$20 31:22 59:3 \$204 71:5 \$22 81:11 \$234 29:14 \$3.5 57:20 \$30 57:10 \$30,000 19:3,14 \$44,000 37:14 \$47 29:12 \$48 78:21 79:12 \$50 111:9 \$90,000 58:11	0 0.04 104:19 1 1,000 80:4 100 56:13 108:6 11 22:20 11:00 116:6 110,000 46:7 120164 1:15 3:1 4:1 5:1 6:1 7:1 8:1 9:1,23 10:1 10:5 11:1 12:1 13:1 14:1 15:1 16:1 17:1 18:1 19:1 20:1 21:1 22:1 23:1 24:1 25:1 26:1 27:1 28:1 29:1 30:1 31:1 32:1 33:1 34:1 35:1 36:1 37:1 38:1 39:1 40:1 41:1 42:1 43:1 44:1 45:1 46:1 47:1 48:1 49:1 50:1 51:1 52:1 53:1 54:1 55:1 56:1 57:1 58:1 59:1 60:1 61:1 62:1 63:1 64:1 65:1 66:1 67:1 68:1 69:1 70:1 71:1 72:1 73:1 74:1 75:1 76:1 77:1 78:1 79:1 80:1 81:1 82:1 83:1 84:1 85:1 86:1 87:1 88:1 89:1 90:1 91:1 92:1 93:1 94:1 95:1 96:1 97:1 98:1 99:1 100:1 101:1 102:1 103:1 104:1 105:1 106:1 107:1 108:1 109:1 110:1 111:1
---	--	--	--	---

112:1 113:1 114:1 115:1 116:1 120165 1:17 9:23 10:8 120166 1:19 9:23 10:10 120167 1:20 9:24 10:13 135,000 46:9 14 1:6 74:10 117:7 15 74:16 104:25 15,000 60:5 1563-A 11:3 17 84:20 180,000 46:7 19 46:6 1992 11:2 2 2 59:4 2nd 3:20 8:6 56:4 80:10 89:21 2.8 104:16 20 22:14 53:3 54:24 104:18 200 45:24,25 2003 91:8,25 97:8 2005 29:5 43:22 2010 63:13 2011 14:16 63:13 77:8 2012 1:6 10:19 52:10 116:6 117:7 2013 1:18,19 4:12 10:6,9,12 10:17 11:12 43:16 2013-2018 1:16 2014 11:13 2017 10:18 2018 10:7 2035 33:10 2114 1:5 2187 13:20	25 38:13 79:2 250,000 46:9 26th 116:6 3 3rd 11:2 3-1-1 77:21 3/14/12 3:1 4:1 5:1 6:1 7:1 8:1 9:1 10:1 11:1 12:1 13:1 14:1 15:1 16:1 17:1 18:1 19:1 20:1 21:1 22:1 23:1 24:1 25:1 26:1 27:1 28:1 29:1 30:1 31:1 32:1 33:1 34:1 35:1 36:1 37:1 38:1 39:1 40:1 41:1 42:1 43:1 44:1 45:1 46:1 47:1 48:1 49:1 50:1 51:1 52:1 53:1 54:1 55:1 56:1 57:1 58:1 59:1 60:1 61:1 62:1 63:1 64:1 65:1 66:1 67:1 68:1 69:1 70:1 71:1 72:1 73:1 74:1 75:1 76:1 77:1 78:1 79:1 80:1 81:1 82:1 83:1 84:1 85:1 86:1 87:1 88:1 89:1 90:1 91:1 92:1 93:1 94:1 95:1 96:1 97:1 98:1 99:1 100:1 101:1 102:1 103:1 104:1 105:1 106:1 107:1 108:1 109:1 110:1 111:1 112:1 113:1 114:1 115:1 116:1 30 38:16 51:23	114:19 30-year 51:21 33 15:16 72:5 73:2,6 99:5 34 64:9 35 98:24 35-plus 43:2 36th 109:22 37 51:14 57:10 64:17 4 40 17:15 40th 112:24 400 37:18 116:8 440 108:7 47 15:16 73:2 97:23 98:21 99:5 49th 18:11 5 5 40:16 74:16 50 56:14 77:13 77:15,16 500 32:2,5 47:18 55 104:6 58th 18:8 6 6 115:6 6:25 1:7 600-some-tho... 96:21 6000 42:24 65 64:16 65th 18:13 61:19 6843 63:24 6921 8:9 7 70 17:13 18:22 71st 1:5 85:22 86:3 77 22:20 8 8:15 116:13 8602 93:7	87 90:4,4,11 9 90 38:17
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