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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE ON PARKS,
RECREATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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Room 400, City Hall

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Wednesday, May 19, 2004, 10:20 a.m.

BILL 040311 - An Ordinance naming and
designating the Mantua Recreation Center
located at 34th Street and Haverford Avenue as
the "James Lee Wright Recreation Center."

PRESENT:

COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN
COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.
COUNCILMAN JACK KELLY
COUNCILMAN FRANK DI CICCIO
COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO

- - -

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2 P R O C E E D I N G S

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4 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Good
5 morning. The City Council Committee on Parks,
6 Recreation and Cultural Affairs is now in a
7 public hearing to hear testimony on Bill No.
8 040311.

9 With us today in attendance are
10 Councilman Jack Kelly, Councilman Frank
11 DiCicco and Councilman W. Wilson Goode.

12 I will now ask the clerk to read the
13 title of Bill 040311.

14 MR. FORDE: 040311, an
15 Ordinance naming and designating the Mantua
16 Recreation Center located 34th Street and
17 Haverford Avenue as the "James Lee Wright
18 Recreation Center."

19 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you.

20 Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell may be
21 joining us. While we wait, I will call on
22 Bill Carapucci from Recreation to testify.

23 Please state your name for the
24 record, if you would.

25 MR. CARAPUCCI: William

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2 Carapucci, Deputy Commissioner, Recreation
3 Department.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Testimony
5 on the Bill?

6 MR. CARAPUCCI: The only
7 testimony I know is, I know James Wright for
8 about 25 years and he did a tremendous job for
9 the community, volunteered numerous hours for
10 very low wages, and he was really the heart of
11 the Mantua Rec Center.

12 I supervised him back in the mid
13 '80s, and I actually was one of the guys that
14 got him in the system. He did a great job.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Is that
16 right?

17 MR. CARAPUCCI: His actual
18 Civil Service title was Community Outreach
19 Worker, which is a low-paying job, but in
20 reality, he ran the place. So he did an
21 excellent job.

22 COUNCILMAN KELLY: Was he an
23 employee of the Recreation Department?

24 MR. CARAPUCCI: James Wright
25 was a Civil Service Community Outreach Worker

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2 for the Rec Department.

3 COUNCILMAN KELLY: How long was
4 he employed?

5 MR. CARAPUCCI: I know him at
6 least 20, 25 years. I met him in '85 or '86,
7 and he was there, he was helping out, he was
8 one of our seasonal workers. And from there,
9 he would spend numerous hours at the place,
10 always there. And then he wound up becoming
11 one of our Community Outreach Workers.

12 We only have about seven of those in
13 the City and they're really good, because you
14 don't really need the same academic
15 background, but if you're a neighborhood
16 person, you could get in the system and it
17 makes a big difference.

18 We've had some really good success
19 with that title. That came in in the early
20 '90s. We haven't used it much lately, but
21 maybe down the road that could come back.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Let me
23 please say thank you to Councilman Frank
24 Rizzo, who has joined us this morning as well.

25 Does there remain a community

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2 outreach at that Center?

3 MR. CARAPUCCI: That job has
4 not been replaced at this point in time.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: I see.
6 Any other questions from Members of the
7 Committee?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Testimony,
10 comments, observations, statements from
11 Members of the Committee?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: That
14 concludes testimony then on Bill No. 040311.
15 We thank you.

16 MR. CARAPUCCI: Thank you.
17 It's my pleasure.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: This
19 concludes our public hearing and we will now
20 move into a public meeting.

21 Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell is not
22 here, so I would ask the Vice Chair of the
23 Committee if we could please have a motion on
24 Bill 040311.

25 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I move that

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2 Bill 040311 be reported out of the Committee
3 with a favorable recommendation and a further
4 recommendation that the Rules of Council be
5 suspended to permit first reading at our next
6 Council session.

7 (Seconded.)

8 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: All in
9 favor say aye.

10 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Those
12 opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Bill
15 040311 has been moved and properly seconded.
16 No opposition. Therefore, Bill 040311 will be
17 reported out of this Committee with a
18 favorable recommendation and a further
19 recommendation that the Rules of Council be
20 suspended to allow first reading at our next
21 scheduled session of City Council.

22 This concludes the Committee hearing
23 on Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs.

24 I do thank my colleagues, and please
25 forgive my tardiness. Thank you very much.

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2 (Parks, Recreation and Cultural

3 Affairs Committee adjourned at 10:25 a.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 May 19, 2004, and that
this is a true and correct transcript of same.

MICHELE L. MURPHY
RPR-Notary Public

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