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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3

COMMITTEE ON RULES

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Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, May 22, 2007
10:30 a.m.

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PRESENT:

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA

11

COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE

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COUNCILMAN FRANK DiCICCO

13

COUNCILMAN WILLIAM GREENLEE

14

COUNCILMAN JACK KELLY

15

COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY

16

COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER

17

COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL

18

COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN

19

BILLS 070261, 070266, 070342 and 070372

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good

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morning, everyone. This is the public

4

hearing of the Rules Committee, and I

5

would ask Mr. McPherson to please read

6

Bill No. 070261.

7

MR. MCPHERSON: An ordinance

8

approving the Third Amendment of the

9

redevelopment proposal for the Tioga

10

Urban Renewal Area, being the area

11

generally bounded by Hunting Park Avenue

12

on the north, Broad Street, Germantown

13

Avenue, Venango Street, 15th Street,

14

Allegheny Avenue and Germantown Avenue on

15

the east.

16

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good

17

morning.

18

MR. KOONCE: Good morning.

19

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Who

20

is going to testify first?

21

MR. KOONCE: I will.

22

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Very

23

well. Please identify yourself for the

24

record and proceed with your testimony.

25

MR. KOONCE: Madam Chairperson

1 5/22/07 - RULES - BILL 070261
2 and members of the Committee, I am
3 Michael Koonce and I am here to speak in
4 support of Bill No. 070261, the Third
5 Amendment to the Redevelopment Proposal
6 and Urban Renewal Plan for the Tioga
7 Redevelopment Area and Urban Renewal
8 Area.

9 This bill would authorize the
10 Redevelopment Authority to acquire 19
11 vacant structures and lots. The
12 properties have been requested for
13 acquisition by Councilwoman Donna Reed
14 Miller on behalf of Allegheny West for
15 their Forgotten Blocks III project. The
16 developer is committed to long-term
17 affordability by serving very low-income
18 families and it's been doing so for 30
19 years. No families or individuals will
20 be displaced or relocated as part of this
21 development plan.

22 The purpose of these
23 acquisitions is to facilitate a proposal
24 which includes properties to be acquired
25 under the Neighborhood Transformation

1 5/22/07 - RULES - BILL 070261
2 Initiative, a strategy to rebuild
3 Philadelphia's neighborhoods as thriving
4 communities with clean and secure
5 streets, recreational and cultural
6 outlets, and quality housing. One of the
7 central goals of NTI is to eradicate
8 blight caused by dangerous buildings,
9 debris-filled lots, abandoned cars,
10 litter and graffiti and to promote
11 redevelopment through large-scale land
12 assembly.

13 Madam Chairperson and members
14 of the Committee, I respectfully request
15 favorable consideration of Bill No.
16 070261 and would also ask the suspension
17 of City Council rules to allow first
18 reading today, May 22, 2007.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
20 you.

21 Mr. Koonce, what are the
22 projected acquisition costs for these
23 properties?

24 MR. KOONCE: Council President,
25 I don't have those numbers available, but

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2 by the end of the rest of the testimony,
3 I can have the figures for you.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
5 you.

6 Can you tell us the source of
7 funding?

8 MR. KOONCE: Neighborhood
9 Transformation bond proceeds.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Is
11 there a proposed developer for these
12 properties? If so, who is he?

13 MR. KOONCE: Yes; the Allegheny
14 West Foundation.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Is
16 this a proposal to expand an existing
17 project?

18 MR. KOONCE: No. This is a new
19 project. It's actually the third phase
20 of their Forgotten Blocks project.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And
22 what type of residential properties are
23 to be developed? Will they be single
24 family, multiple occupancies?

25 MR. KOONCE: These are single

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2 family homeownership opportunities.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: What
4 is the projected project cost?

5 MR. KOONCE: We don't have
6 development funding estimates yet. I do
7 now have the estimated cost of
8 acquisition, however, and that's
9 \$400,000.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I
11 believe your testimony is that these
12 properties are for very low-income
13 families?

14 MR. KOONCE: Yes.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: What
16 is the proposed income range for the
17 ownership?

18 MR. KOONCE: It's 30 percent,
19 Ron?

20 MR. HINTON: The proposed range
21 for these properties will be between 30
22 and 80 percent of area median income.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm
24 sorry.

25 MR. HINTON: Between 30 and 80

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2 percent of area median income.

3 MR. KOONCE: You should
4 identify yourself.

5 MR. HINTON: I'm sorry. I'm
6 Ronald Hinton, President of the Allegheny
7 West Foundation.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Do we
9 have any other questions?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I
12 just have one more. What is the
13 significance of a 30-year time frame that
14 you mention? Is there a projected
15 completion date?

16 MR. KOONCE: I'm sorry. I
17 didn't remember mentioning 30 year. Oh,
18 I'm sorry. I'm sorry. It was mentioned
19 in the context that Allegheny West, the
20 developer, has been serving this
21 population for 30 years.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
23 you.

24 Are there any questions from
25 members of the Committee?

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2 space there. We decreased that density
3 on lots of blocks, and I just want to
4 commend them for doing a good job.

5 Ron, did you come today to
6 testify or just to --

7 MR. HINTON: Yes, I did.

8 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: You want
9 to testify?

10 MR. HINTON: I just wanted to
11 again thank the body and Council
12 President Verna and the members of this
13 Committee for hearing us today. Just to
14 quickly summarize the project, we are
15 acquiring in total 22 parcels. All of
16 them or many of them are vacant lots.
17 The project will consist of basically ten
18 new construction units and four rehabs.
19 The significance of the rehabs, that they
20 are either right next door to or on the
21 blocks of houses that we just completed
22 last year, and so for a homeowner who
23 just bought a house, knowing that there
24 will be a follow-up with the vacancy next
25 door with a new homeowner is very

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2 important.

3 Of the 14 parcels, there will
4 be three double-wide units. So that's a
5 double house with a lot of space. There
6 will be four double-wide units with side
7 yards. We took advantage in working with
8 Councilwoman Miller and NTI to demolish
9 as many corner structures as we could.
10 Some of them were former corner stores,
11 bars. We demolished them in such a way
12 that you could develop a double home with
13 a side yard. You can give people space,
14 and take away that type of circumstance
15 from inner city neighborhoods.

16 And there will be one
17 triple-wide property where we're going to
18 have a very large property with some
19 outdoor space. And so for the
20 low-to-moderate-income home buyers, we
21 are presenting an opportunity for them to
22 have housing opportunities within the
23 community.

24 And of the new construction
25 units, one of them will be completely

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2 accessible, and so we are looking also to
3 identify opportunities for people who are
4 looking for accessibility but also to be
5 homeowners. I would like to mention in
6 our last project one of our home buyers
7 or one of the neighboring properties was
8 a disabled person who was able to
9 purchase a home and become a homeowner.
10 We're very, very proud to see that happen
11 in our projects in the neighborhood.

12 So thank you very much.

13 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank
14 you.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Any
16 other questions or comments from members
17 of the Committee?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
20 you again.

21 Mr. Redding.

22 MR. REDDING: Thank you, Madam
23 President and members of the Rules
24 Committee. My name is Richard Redding,
25 Director of Community Planning at the

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2 Planning Commission, testifying today in
3 support of Bill 070261 approving the
4 amended redevelopment proposal for Tioga
5 Urban Renewal Area, authorizing
6 acquisition of 19 properties.

7 The staff approved this in
8 March of '07 and it's consistent with
9 previous Planning Commission approvals
10 for the Forgotten Blocks housing
11 initiative.

12 Thank you very much.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

14 You're welcome.

15 Did I understand Mr. Koonce to
16 say that there are 19 properties in this
17 program?

18 MR. KOONCE: This bill supports
19 the acquisition of 19 properties. Some
20 of the properties I'm assuming that
21 Allegheny West is acquiring on their own
22 to make up the difference. I believe he
23 stated that the project total was 22.
24 This bill supports the acquisition for
25 19.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Very
3 well.

4 Any questions from members of
5 the Committee of Mr. Koonce?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Is
8 there any reason to suspend the rules on
9 this bill?

10 MR. KOONCE: No; we would
11 request that the rules be suspended
12 today.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You
14 are not?

15 MR. KOONCE: No; we are
16 requesting for rules --

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Oh,
18 you are requesting. Okay. Very well.
19 Thank you very much.

20 Do we have anyone else to
21 testify on Bill No. 070261?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Bill
24 Nos. 070266, 070342 and 070372 have been
25 readvertised for June the 6th at 10:00

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2 a.m. Although Bill No. 070342 is
3 scheduled for June 6th, I understand that
4 there are some individuals who are
5 present today and would like to testify.

6 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: That's
7 correct.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Yes.
9 All right.

10 Tom, would you please read the
11 title of that bill.

12 MR. EREKSON: Bill No. 070342,
13 an ordinance amending Section 14-1605 of
14 The Philadelphia Code, entitled
15 "Regulated Uses," by providing for
16 Special Regulated Uses, prohibiting such
17 uses in the vicinity of certain
18 residentially related uses, and
19 designating overflow storage tanks as a
20 special regulated use, all under certain
21 terms and conditions.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
23 you.

24 The Chair recognizes Councilman
25 O'Neill.

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2 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Madam

3 President, I believe there are some

4 residents here on our witness list from

5 the Brookhaven East Development.

6 Brookhaven East Development is just east

7 of Frankford Avenue and just above Holy

8 Family University, and it's bordered by

9 Fairmount Park and the Poquessing Creek

10 and then Bucks County on the other side.

11 So it's about as far up as you can get

12 east of Frankford Avenue. And it's in

13 the 65th Ward, where my co-sponsor is

14 both the ward leader and Councilwoman

15 almost in Brookhaven.

16 Holy Family University is just

17 south of the Brookhaven community, and

18 Stevenson Lane intersects or bisects the

19 University, and Councilwoman Krajewski

20 has the southern portion of the

21 University; I have the northern portion.

22 This bill -- I don't see the

23 Water Department here. I assume they'll

24 be around on June 6th. And I should

25 explain to the neighbors that it was

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2 discovered late last week that the bill
3 needed 15 days as a zoning bill for
4 advertising instead of five and it wasn't
5 going to be practical to start calling
6 people, because there's so many people in
7 Brookhaven that knew about this hearing.
8 So we're taking testimony today and then
9 we'll be taking testimony again on June
10 6th. I don't want to have people come
11 down and find out that nothing was going
12 on.

13 But to explain the bill, there
14 is a serious problem that has been
15 occurring for some time at a sewer
16 receptor that is right next to Holy
17 Family University and just south of the
18 development of Brookhaven, and in heavy
19 rains -- these are separate systems in
20 the Far Northeast, as there are in many.
21 So there's separate water pipes and
22 separate sewer pipes. Well, the sewer
23 pipe gets infiltrated with water, heavy
24 rains, starts backing up right at this
25 place near the homes and the University.

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2 Sewage overflows, gets in the Poquessing
3 Creek, gets in the river, and the state
4 has been very concerned about this and
5 said they were going to put a moratorium
6 on development in Lower Bucks, where much
7 of this sewage and water treatment comes
8 from that we do for them, and also that
9 we had come up with a plan. Well, the
10 plan, other than the fact that it's on
11 Fairmount Park ground a few feet from
12 homes and dormitories, is one of the
13 possible solutions to dealing with this
14 and, that is, to build a multi million
15 gallon underground storage tank. It
16 covers about an acre and a half of
17 ground. And it would fill with sewage
18 during or before heavy storms and then be
19 released some days later, estimated to be
20 approximately ten times a year.

21 I submit to my colleagues that
22 no one should have to live this close to
23 what is the least recommended solution to
24 a problem like this, but it is certainly
25 the cheapest, and that this 1,500 foot

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2 requirement I think is reasonable, and
3 the fact that it's on Fairmount Park
4 ground really exacerbates it even more.
5 But I'll let the neighbors speak for
6 themselves. They're the ones that will
7 be within such close proximity to this
8 sewage pit.

9 Thank you.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
11 you.

12 I would ask Mr. Erekson to
13 please call the first witness.

14 MR. EREKSON: Mr. Lew Halas.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And
16 after Mr. Lew Halas will be?

17 MR. EREKSON: James Cressman.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
19 Mr. James Cressman, could you approach
20 the witness table also.

21 Good morning, sir. Please
22 identify yourself for the record and
23 proceed with your testimony.

24 MR. HALAS: Good morning,
25 Council President Verna and members of

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2 the Rules Committee. My name is Lew,
3 L-E-W, M. Halas, H-A-L-A-S. I reside at
4 9211 Melrose Street, Philadelphia, PA
5 19114. I am here in my capacity as
6 President of the East Torresdale Civic
7 Association. The East Torresdale Civic
8 Association sent a letter to Council
9 President Verna and the members of the
10 Rules Committee and I would like to read
11 this letter into the testimony.

12 Dated 18 May 2007, Council
13 President Anna C. Verna and members of
14 the Rules Committee, City Hall, Room 405,
15 Philadelphia, PA 19107-3290, RE: Bill
16 No. 070342, introduced April 26, 2007 by
17 Councilmembers O'Neill and Krajewski.

18 Council President Verna, on
19 behalf of the East Torresdale Civic
20 Association, ETCA, concerning the above
21 City Council bill, we bring to your
22 attention that the ETCA strongly supports
23 this bill and respectfully requests that
24 this bill be passed. Our members are
25 very concerned about the placement of

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2 overflow storage tanks generally used for
3 sewage, and at our monthly meeting held
4 14 May 2007, the members voted
5 unanimously to support this bill.

6 Thanking you in advance for
7 your consideration, we are sincerely East
8 Torresdale Civic Association, Lew M.
9 Halas, President.

10 Also, I would like to add that
11 we feel that this is a quality of life
12 issue and has no benefit to our
13 community.

14 Thank you, Council President
15 Verna and members of the Rules Committee,
16 for allowing me to speak, and thank you
17 to Councilmembers Krajewski and O'Neill
18 for authorizing and introducing this
19 bill.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
21 you very much.

22 The Chair recognizes Councilman
23 Kenney.

24 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you,
25 Madam President.

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2 of different communities in Bucks have to
3 chip in and solve this problem. And the
4 problem is serious, but the one thing we
5 know is that people in East Torresdale
6 didn't have anything to do with it. It's
7 developments that occurred --

8 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Now, in
9 heavy rain the sewage backs up into their
10 homes?

11 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: No. It
12 hits a point -- there's a low point of
13 this receptor right near Holy Family.
14 It's on their ground. And it just
15 hits -- it can't get uphill, and it just
16 comes out of that area. And the
17 Poquessing is not very far away. It
18 leaches over there and then into the
19 river.

20 No one here is having any
21 sewage problems. Their systems are
22 performing fine.

23 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: But is the
24 problem exacerbated by heavy rain or
25 just --

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2 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Yes. It
3 happens when there's a heavy rain.

4 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Because one
5 of the things that we discussed in South
6 Philly with a similar problem, not
7 exactly the same problem, was, they were
8 talking in a long-term solution of
9 putting diversion tanks for storm water
10 only underneath one of the parks, either
11 Marconi or one of those, so that when
12 there was a heavy rain, they could push a
13 button or move a stop or something and
14 have the water flow into the tanks. Is
15 that a possible solution for this?

16 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Well, the
17 problem is I believe that they can't
18 separate out the water that's causing the
19 problem from the sewage that is leaking,
20 because it's all in the same pipe. If
21 this were a water reservoir that they
22 were building near these homes, we would
23 not be here today.

24 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Since the
25 leach is going into the Poquessing, isn't

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2 this an EPA issue?

3 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Well, DEP
4 has put a moratorium on the City and
5 Lower Bucks. This is the City's way of
6 saying within five years we'll solve it
7 by building this. When I asked the Water
8 Department about other alternatives that
9 wouldn't be either on Fairmount Park
10 ground or this close to homes and
11 dormitories and the like, the only
12 specific answer I got was that Bensalem
13 Township, which is just above this area,
14 is responsible for just under 20 percent,
15 they've determined is responsible for
16 just under 20 percent of the problem and
17 that they were going to build a pump
18 further up in this pipe area and divert
19 it into an undisclosed area that they
20 haven't identified yet.

21 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Can't they
22 just fix the low end? Can't the Water
23 Department just fix --

24 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Well,
25 they're not forthcoming with a lot of

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2 information, but clearly, this is the
3 cheapest, easiest solution.

4 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I guess
5 we'll have the discussion with them on
6 the 6th.

7 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Yes,
8 hopefully.

9 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thanks.

10 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: I'd like
11 to thank Mr. Halas for coming down. And
12 there are, I believe, three letters or
13 possibly four by now from civic
14 associations in my district that support
15 this legislation.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
17 you.

18 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: My point
19 on this legislation is that this kind of
20 problem could occur in any community and
21 if the Water Department's solution is the
22 most neighborhood unfriendly and
23 abhorrent, actually, when you think of
24 people that particularly live the closest
25 to this potential sewage tank, they won't

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: Thank
8 you.

11 MR. CRESSMAN: Good morning.

12 My name is James Cressman. I'm a
13 resident of Brookhaven. I'm here to
14 represent myself and neighbors who
15 haven't been able to attend. And
16 Councilman O'Brien (sic) has just hit on
17 several of our concerns, property value.
18 This tank would be less than a thousand
19 feet from the nearest resident that lives
20 in Brookhaven. We will get no benefit
21 from it. The people who will benefit are
22 the people who live in big fancy homes in
23 Bucks County, who bought homes in areas
24 where the contractor to save money is
25 putting the rainwater in the sewer. It's

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2 coming down and it's overloading our
3 systems. It's been identified. And I've
4 walked my dog a lot and I have seen on
5 several occasions where this spout comes
6 up in Holy Family College.

7 I agree it is a problem, but we
8 will lose property value. We will lose
9 in that there would be an odor problem,
10 and there's no -- we don't benefit. Our
11 taxes will probably go up. Will the
12 taxes of the people in Bucks County who
13 are causing the problem go up? Probably
14 not.

15 So these are the feelings of
16 many of the residents. Thank you.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
18 you very much.

19 Are there any questions or
20 comments for this witness?

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
23 Again, I thank you for coming in to
24 testify.

25 Mr. Erikson.

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2 MR. EREKSON: Michelle Campbell
3 and Benjamin Cruz.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good
5 morning. Please identify yourself for
6 the record.

7 MS. CAMPBELL: Good morning.
8 My name is Michelle Campbell. I live in
9 4222 St. Denis Drive. Zip code is 19114.

10 I'm very concerned about the
11 sewage containment that they want to put
12 into the wooded area down the street from
13 us. I've lived in the neighborhood for
14 years, grew up there. My mom is three
15 doors from me. I can't believe that the
16 City would even want to put this down
17 there. I'm really upset about it. I
18 have a petition with over 500 names from
19 people in our neighborhood.

20 I want to raise my family in
21 this neighborhood and I just don't think
22 it's a good idea to put it down the
23 street from my house. My oldest is 13.
24 He runs through the park down there with
25 his friends. They play down there. They

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2 build bridges near the creek out of the
3 stones that are down there. And I just
4 don't -- I just see it that it's going to
5 be detrimental to our neighborhood. And
6 our school is only a -- not even a half a
7 mile away. Sister just put a convent at
8 the bottom of the area that we're talking
9 about. There's going to be dorms going
10 up. I just don't see that it's a good
11 idea.

12 And I'm sorry to get so upset.
13 I'm just -- it's very -- I just want to
14 raise my kids and just be in a nice,
15 clean neighborhood.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: We
17 understand.

18 MS. CAMPBELL: Thank you.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
20 Chair recognizes Councilman O'Neill.

21 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Michelle,
22 I want to thank you for all your
23 volunteer efforts above and beyond just
24 coming here today. Five hundred
25 signatures on petitions, I think all of

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2 us in this room know how tough it is to
3 get petitions signed.

4 MS. CAMPBELL: Especially
5 dragging around a 7-year-old and a
6 4-year-old with you also.

7 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: It really
8 speaks volumes of your commitment, and I
9 think your neighbors appreciate it every
10 bit as much as I do.

11 MS. CAMPBELL: Thank you.

12 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: And at
13 this time, I'd like to hand up to the
14 stenographer Fox Chase Homeowners
15 Association letter, West Torresdale Civic
16 Association letter, Normandy Civic
17 Association letter and East Torresdale
18 Civic Association letter and ask that
19 they be entered into the record, along
20 with I'll give a copy of Michelle's
21 petition which I have.

22 MS. CAMPBELL: Thank you.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
24 you.

25 Any questions or comments for

1 5/22/07 - RULES - BILL 070261

2 this witness?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
5 you, Michelle.

6 MS. CAMPBELL: Thank you.

7 MR. CRUZ: President Verna and
8 members of the Rules Committee, my name
9 is Benjamin Cruz and I live in
10 Brookhaven. I've been a resident there
11 for 30 years, and I represent a lot of my
12 neighbors that couldn't make it today
13 because they couldn't get out of work.

14 We're for the bill. We are
15 against the sewage system and we are,
16 like many of them, we are afraid of what
17 it could do to the property values of our
18 homes that we work so hard to keep and
19 maintain. You know, we moved there
20 because of the area, and we love the
21 neighborhood and we hate to see anything
22 downgraded or what it could bring with
23 the sewage system, the things that it
24 could bring, like probably smell or just
25 bring the property values down. Like I

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2 said, we are for the bill and we are
3 against this sewage system.

4 Thank you very much.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
6 you.

7 Our next witnesses, please.

8 MR. EREKSON: David Thomas and
9 Debbie Minichuk.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good
11 morning. Please identify yourself for
12 the record.

13 MS. MINICHUK: Good morning.
14 I'm Debbie Minichuk and I live at 9966
15 Hegerman Street and I've been there for
16 about 30 years, and it's a beautiful
17 neighborhood and I hate to see this
18 storage tank be put in our neighborhood.
19 So I am definitely for this bill, 070342,
20 and have really concerns with a sewage
21 tank being so close to our residential
22 homes.

23 Thank you.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
25 you.

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2 Any questions or comments of
3 this witness?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
6 you again.

7 Please identify yourself for
8 the record, sir.

9 MR. THOMAS: My name is David
10 A. Thomas. I live at 4719 Hegerman
11 Terrace, 19114. I've been in the area
12 for 32 years, original owner, and try to
13 keep a nice neighborhood. And somebody
14 that doesn't even live in the area comes
15 along with this water problem but starts
16 up in Bucks County and we're going to be
17 charged with the taxes, downgrading our
18 property, for nothing that has to do with
19 us. And I'm for the bill and against the
20 sewer treatment plant.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
22 you.

23 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Very
24 concise testimony. It hits it right on
25 the nose. Thank you.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Mr.
3 Erekson, our next two witnesses, please.

4 MR. EREKSON: Margaret Wood and
5 John Albanase.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good
7 morning. Please identify yourself for
8 the record.

9 MS. WOOD: I'm Margaret Wood,
10 Michelle's mother. I live at 4216 St.
11 Denis Drive. I've been there 30 years.
12 And I just feel that I've driven 95 all
13 my life and the smell of Richmond and the
14 smell of Fishtown, I don't want to smell
15 it in my own neighborhood again as I get
16 older. So I just feel like it's not good
17 for us to have this tank. And if it's
18 Bucks County's sewage, take it to Bucks
19 County, put a sewage plant up there.
20 That's how I feel. And I am for the
21 bill.

22 Thank you.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
24 you.

25 MR. ALBANESE: My name is John

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2 Albanese. I've been a resident of 9984
3 Hegerman Street for 32 years. Good
4 morning, Madam President and the Rules
5 Committee.

6 I have lived in East
7 Torresdale, like I said, since 1975. I
8 am for the bill and against the sewer
9 plant. I don't see the benefit to the
10 constituents of East Torresdale, roughly
11 400-plus houses, for a situation that is
12 Bucks County. I've been a resident and I
13 was born in Philadelphia. I grew up,
14 worked here and pay taxes here. I really
15 don't see where it's benefiting us. I
16 could see the people here being
17 benefited, but it's not. Bucks County
18 sewage, let Bucks County handle the
19 problem. I'm not saying we shouldn't
20 work with our surrounding counties, but
21 what I'm saying is, we're Philadelphia
22 residents.

23 Thank you so much.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

25 You're welcome. Thank you for coming in

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2 to testify.

3 Our next witnesses, please.

4 MR. EREKSON: Perlita Baptista
5 and Patrick Hotard.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good
7 morning. Please identify yourself for
8 the record.

9 MS. BAPTISTA: Good morning,
10 ma'am. I'm Perlita Baptista, residing at
11 9836 Garvey Drive. I live in the
12 neighborhood for 34 years and all my
13 family are in that neighborhood, too. I
14 love my neighborhood. And now that this
15 construction is coming there, I'm for the
16 bill that Councilman O'Brien (sic) has
17 introduced and I'm against the
18 construction of that sewer overflow in
19 our neighborhood. Let Bucks County is
20 responsible for their sewage, too.

21 So thank you very much,
22 Councilman, for introducing this bill.

23 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Thank you.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
25 you.

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2 Please identify yourself for
3 the record.

4 MR. HOTARD: Yes. My name is
5 Patrick Hotard, H-O-T-A-R-D. I live at
6 5001 Grant Avenue in East Torresdale. I
7 am here today as Executive Director of
8 the Glen Foerd Conservation Corporation.
9 I just wanted to commend Councilman
10 O'Neill and Councilwoman Krajewski for
11 introducing this legislation, thank them
12 both, and just state that we support this
13 legislation. We sincerely and
14 respectfully ask the City Council of the
15 City of Philadelphia to pass this at the
16 earliest possible moment, and we hope
17 that this will become law soon. It's my
18 understanding it is Bill No. 070342.

19 Thank you very much.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
21 you.

22 Any questions or comments of
23 the witnesses?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Our

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2 next two witnesses, please.

3 MR. EREKSON: Those are all
4 that we have listed.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Oh,
6 fine.

7 Do we have anyone else to
8 testify on this bill?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
11 Seeing no one, this will conclude our
12 public hearing.

13 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Madam
14 President, while the residents are still
15 here, I'd just like them to know that if
16 they want to come down at the next
17 hearing, although their testimony is
18 already on the record, the Water
19 Department I assume will be here at the
20 next hearing, I believe Holy Family
21 University will be here. I will provide
22 transportation for anyone who is here
23 today that has to make a return trip,
24 through no fault of their own.

25 Thank you.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
3 you.

4 This will conclude our public
5 hearing. We will now go into our public
6 meeting.

7 The Chair recognizes Councilman
8 Kenney regarding Bill No. 070261.

9 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you,
10 Madam President. I move that Bill No.
11 070261 be reported out of the Committee
12 with a favorable recommendation and a
13 request made for rules suspension to
14 allow for first reading at our next
15 Council session.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It
18 has been moved and seconded that Bill No.
19 070261 be reported out of Committee with
20 a favorable recommendation; further, that
21 the rules of Council be suspended so as
22 to permit first reading at our next
23 Council session.

24 All in favor will say aye.

25 (Aye.)

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those
3 opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
6 ayes have it. And the record will
7 reflect that Bill No. 070266, 070342 and
8 070372 have been rescheduled for June 6th
9 at 10:00 a.m.

10 Thank you all very much.

11 (Committee on Rules adjourned
12 at 11:05 a.m.)

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that the

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proceedings, evidence and objections are

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contained fully and accurately in the

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stenographic notes taken by me upon the

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foregoing matter on May 22, 2007, and that

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this is a true and correct transcript of same.

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MICHELE L. MURPHY

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RPR-Notary Public

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