COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

COMMITTEE ON LAW AND GOVERNMENT

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Monday, June 9, 2014
1:05 p.m.

PRESENT:
    COUNCILMAN WILLIAM K. GREENLEE, CHAIR
    COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.
    COUNCILMAN BOBBY HENON
    COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
    COUNCILMAN JAMES KENNEY
    COUNCILMAN DENNIS O'BRIEN
    COUNCILMAN DAVID OH
    COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO

BILLS 120248, 130922, and 140377
RESOLUTION 120253

- - -

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2   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Good

3   afternoon, everybody. This is the

4   Committee on Law and Government. We have

5   established a quorum: Councilman Kenney,

6   Vice Chair of the Committee; Councilman

7   Goode; Councilwoman Tasco; Councilman

8   O'Brien; and myself, Bill Greenlee.

9   Let me first say for the record

10   at the request of the sponsor, Bill No.

11   120248 and Resolution 120253 are being

12   held to the call of the Chair.

13   Ms. Marconi, will you please

14   read the title of the first bill before

15   us today.

16   THE CLERK: Bill No. 130922, an

17   ordinance amending Title 9 of The

18   Philadelphia Code, entitled "Regulation

19   of Businesses, Trades and Professions,"

20   to clarify that it is discrimination

21   based on sex and therefore an unlawful

22   business practice for any employer to

23   fail to accommodate an individual's

24   reasonable need to lactate or express

25   breast milk; all under certain terms and

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 1      6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.
 2      conditions.
 3              COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:  Thank
 4      you.  Why don't you call the first couple
 5      witnesses.  They can come up together.
 6              THE CLERK:  Rue Landau,
 7      Dr. Esther Chung, and Amal Bass.
 8              COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:  As
 9      they're approaching, the Chair recognizes
10      Councilman O'Brien.
11              COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN:  Thank you,
12      Mr. Chairman.  I would like to commend
13      Councilman Kenney's attempt once again --
14              COUNCILMAN KENNEY:  No, no, no.
15      Wrong bill.
16              COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN:  I'm sorry.
17              COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:  Sorry
18      about that.
19              (Witnesses approached witness
20      table.)
21              COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:
22      Ms. Landau, will you please.  Why don't
23      you start.  State your name and proceed,
24      please.
25              MS. LANDAU:  Good afternoon,
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1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   Chairman Greenlee and members of the Law

3   and Government Committee. My name is Rue

4   Landau, Executive Director of the

5   Philadelphia Commission on Human

6   Relations. As you know, the Commission

7   is the City agency that administers and

8   enforces the Fair Practices Ordinance,

9   the City law protecting citizens from

10   unlawful discrimination in employment,

11   public accommodations, and housing and

12   real property that Bill No. 130922 will

13   further clarify.

14   Today, on behalf of the

15   Administration, I appreciate the

16   opportunity to testify in support of this

17   bill and will highlight the issues

18   affecting Philadelphia families that this

19   bill will address.

20   Nationally, we have witnessed

21   President Obama reaffirming equal

22   protections for new mothers through the

23   federal Affordable Care Act, which

24   includes a provision requiring employers

25   to offer reasonable break times for

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   employees to pump breast milk up to one

3   year after birth. The ACA states that

4   employers must provide a private place,

5   other than a bathroom, for employees to

6   pump their breast milk so long as it does

7   not cause undue hardship. Smaller

8   businesses, those with fewer than 50

9   employees, are exempt from those federal

10   requirements. Still, both a more clear

11   legal and cultural foundation has been

12   laid to produce a more inclusive work

13   environment.

14   Closer to home, Pennsylvania's

15   Freedom to Breastfeed Act permits covered

16   or exposed breastfeeding in any location,

17   public or private, in Philadelphia.

18   COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: I'm sorry.

19   Can you say that again.

20   COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Please

21   speak into the mic.

22   MS. LANDAU: Closer to home,

23   Pennsylvania's Freedom to Breastfeed Act

24   permits covered or exposed breastfeeding

25   in any location, public or private. In

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   Philadelphia, while the Fair Practices

3   Ordinance covers breastfeeding in public

4   places, it does not include an explicit

5   provision for a reasonable accommodation

6   in employment, causing our Commission to

7   accept and investigate cases under a

8   theory of sex discrimination. Bill No.

9   130922 would rectify that situation and

10   make protections to breastfeeding women

11   in employment explicit in the FPO,

12   covering all employers in Philadelphia

13   with one or more employees. This

14   addition to our law would further

15   underscore Philadelphia's commitment to

16   all employees and families, particularly

17   women, and reinforce the City's

18   unwavering commitment to the overall

19   well-being of all workplaces and

20   communities.

21   This is critical because many

22   Philadelphia families rely on working

23   women for their survival. Census data

24   shows that women remain the primary or

25   co-breadwinners in two of three

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   Philadelphia households, a tally that

3   includes nursing mothers. In addition,

4   the Centers for Disease Control report

5   that more than seven in ten mothers

6   breastfeed their children at some point,

7   with nearly four in ten mothers nursing

8   exclusively during the first three months

9   after childbirth.

10   Some would say that nursing

11   mothers actually perform a valuable

12   public service and should be supported

13   and applauded. Science has concluded

14   that when compared with their

15   formula-only counterparts, breastfed

16   children suffer from fewer chronic

17   ailments such as ear infections,

18   diarrhea, respiratory illnesses or other

19   issues. That helps to lessen overall

20   healthcare costs and heighten business

21   productivity, with fewer new mothers

22   being preoccupied or absent from work

23   because of caring for a sick child.

24   That's good for the City's economic

25   bottom line.

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 1        6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

 2                  Historically, the Commission

 3        has investigated cases where new mothers

 4        have faced difficult choices between

 5        working and nourishing their children as

 6        they see best.  We have seen instances

 7        across the country and even closer to

 8        home where women have had to resort to

 9        lawsuits to assert rights already

10        afforded, such as Bockoras versus Saint

11        Gobain Verallia North America.  The

12        issues of this 2013 Pennsylvania case are

13        chilling, a nursing mother returning to

14        work, being forced to first pump in a

15        filthy bathroom and then a bug-laden

16        locker room, where co-workers purposely

17        would try to upset her with insulting

18        pranks and comments.  These are appalling

19        work conditions and should never be

20        tolerated, and this bill would help

21        ensure that they won't take root here.

22                  The Commission expects to

23        remain the primary enforcer of laws

24        designated to protect women like Bobbi

25        Bockoras, including this bill, if it is
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1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   enacted. Past updates to the Fair

3   Practice Ordinance have helped shield

4   many women from various forms of

5   discrimination based on their sex,

6   including public breastfeeding. This

7   bill explicitly would ban a practice that

8   is harmful to working mothers and their

9   families. That is why the Administration

10   is in support of this bill.

11   We thank Councilman Oh for

12   sponsoring this bill to ensure that new

13   mothers are not ridiculed at or forced

14   out of their jobs, all because they want

15   well-nourished, healthy children. And we

16   thank the Law and Government Committee

17   again for the opportunity to testify in

18   favor of Bill No. 130922 with the

19   proposed amendment.

20   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

21   you, Ms. Landau.

22   And let's hear from the other

23   panel before we take questions.

24   If I could just say, Dr. Chung

25   and Ms. Bass, we have your written

 1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

 2   testimonies. That will be made part of

 3   the record. If you could summarize your

 4   statements, because they're --

 5   particularly yours is rather lengthy.

 6   DR. CHUNG: I speak quickly.

 7   Okay. Thank you.

 8   Good afternoon, Chairman

 9   Greenlee and distinguished members of the

10   Committee on Law and Government. Thank

11   you for the opportunity to provide

12   testimony on behalf of the amendment to

13   Bill 130922. My name is Dr. Esther Chung

14   and I'm a Board-certified practicing

15   physician with Nemours, Professor of

16   Pediatrics at Jefferson Medical College,

17   Medical Director of the Newborn Nursery

18   at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital,

19   and a Fellow of the American Academy of

20   Pediatrics. I have had the opportunity

21   to visit a number of small and large

22   businesses with successful workplace

23   lactation support programs. As a

24   pediatrician and a mother of two

25   children, I did breastfeed them, and I am

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   very familiar with the barriers to

3   breastfeeding in the workplace based on

4   my personal experience as well as that of

5   my patients and families that I serve.

6   The evidence that breast milk

7   provides health benefits to infants is

8   well established and widely accepted and,

9   as mentioned, it includes not only ear

10   infections but also reduced rates of

11   asthma, sudden infant death syndrome,

12   childhood leukemia, and child obesity.

13   Women who breastfeed also have health

14   benefits, in that they are less likely to

15   develop breast cancer, have less

16   post-partum hemorrhage, and return to

17   their pre-pregnancy weight more quickly.

18   Breastfeeding also promotes infant

19   bonding, which is thought to contribute

20   to lower rates of child neglect seen in

21   children who are breastfed.

22   Breastfeeding not only impacts

23   children and women, but it also impacts

24   society. Experts have shown that higher

25   breastfeeding rates in the United States

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   will result in a $13 billion annual

3   savings and, therefore, breastfeeding is

4   everybody's business.

5   The World Health Organization

6   and the American Academy of Pediatrics

7   recommend that all babies breastfeed

8   exclusively for the first six months of

9   life. In Philadelphia, however, only 29

10   percent of infants breastfeed at age 6

11   months, and only 61 percent ever

12   breastfed. Among the ten largest cities

13   in the United States, Philadelphia

14   continues to rank 10th and last, having

15   the poorest breastfeeding rates.

16   Philadelphia has been a city

17   supportive of breastfeeding, and we are

18   actually the first city to have an

19   ordinance that allowed for public

20   breastfeeding.

21   There's a biologic basis for

22   breastfeeding. In order for women to

23   continue to provide breast milk to their

24   baby after returning to work, she must

25   also express breast milk or pump while at

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   work. In response to a baby's suck or,

3   alternatively, to a breast pump,

4   mechanoreceptors in the breast send

5   chemical signals to higher areas of the

6   brain, which ultimately cause a gland

7   called the pituitary gland to secrete

8   hormones, including prolactin and

9   oxytocin, and these hormones result in

10   milk production and secretion. The very

11   intricate process of breastfeeding and

12   breast milk production begins early and

13   in mid-pregnancy. Many factors can

14   negatively impact milk production,

15   including stress, medications, and

16   infrequent pumping. It is essential for

17   working women to pump breast milk on a

18   regular basis in order to maintain an

19   adequate supply of nutrition for their

20   baby. If milk removal or pumping is

21   stopped, then milk secretion drops and

22   eventually ceases, and the mammary gland

23   or breast tissue is remodeled back to its

24   pre-pregnancy state.

25   Returning to work is a major

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   barrier to breastfeeding for many women

3   and has been shown over and over again in

4   the literature that is one of the most

5   common reasons why women do not even

6   start breastfeeding or continue

7   breastfeeding.

8   Workplaces need to provide time

9   and a place, as mentioned previously. No

10   one would prepare a meal in the bathroom.

11   Therefore, women should not be expected

12   to express milk in an unsanitary

13   environment like a bathroom.

14   A minority of working women are

15   able to breastfeed after returning to

16   work because a majority of women are not

17   given the support that they need.

18   As a physician working in a

19   hospital, I would not have been able to

20   breastfeed my two children, who are now

21   18 and 14, without a private room or

22   office where I could pump. In the U.S.,

23   the majority of working women, however,

24   do not have a private office or room

25   where they can pump. Section 4207 of the

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   ACA, as mentioned, provides a reasonable

3   amount of time and a place for hourly

4   paid workers to express breast milk when

5   a baby -- until a baby turns one.

6   Unfortunately, not all women, including

7   administrative and executive

8   professionals and even teachers, are

9   covered by Section 4207 of the ACA. The

10   majority of women that I speak to on a

11   daily basis in our Newborn Nursery do not

12   even know that such a section of the law

13   exists.

14   I met a 26-year-old low-income

15   African American mother who was a

16   first-time mother, very much wanting to

17   breastfeed. She was successful in the

18   nursery, but when I told her that it

19   would be great if she continued when she

20   went back to work, she said to me, You

21   don't really understand. I don't have

22   that kind of job where I can pump, and my

23   boss wouldn't even understand or even

24   care. She worked as a cashier, and in

25   reality, there was no place for her to

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   pump other than the bathroom.

3   Another 33-year-old Caucasian

4   middle-income experienced mother who

5   worked in a nearby hospital brought her

6   daughter to see me for the first time as

7   a patient. And knowing that she was

8   breastfeeding, I continued to support

9   her. I saw her at four months and I

10   asked how things were going, and she told

11   me that she had stopped breastfeeding

12   because her employer was not supportive

13   and would not allow her the time that she

14   needed to pump.

15   Breastfeeding makes business

16   sense. First, the return on investment

17   is substantial. We actually have

18   companies like our own CIGNA that showed

19   some of this data, that for every $1

20   invested in providing a room, space,

21   time, that there's $3 in savings of

22   healthcare costs, and that's based on

23   lost productivity from parents missing

24   work to take their sick child to the

25   doctor's office. Companies with

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   breastfeeding or lactation support

3   programs have shown a cost savings of

4   approximately $400 per baby per year, and

5   that's based on data that's about ten

6   years old.

7   Second, employees miss fewer

8   days of work and are more likely to stay

9   in their jobs and have better job

10   satisfaction. And then productivity has

11   also been shown to be increased.

12   No woman should have to choose

13   between her job and the health of her

14   baby. During these hard times, families

15   more than ever need to return to work,

16   and women should not have to choose

17   between their job and the right to

18   breastfeed or breast pump. Workplaces

19   should provide the necessary supports.

20   And with a three-to-one return on

21   investment, being everybody's business,

22   and having fewer missed days of work and

23   higher productivity, breastfeeding makes

24   business sense.

25   I am proud to say that Thomas

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   Jefferson University, following the

3   passage of the ACA Section 4207, went

4   from having one building with two pumping

5   rooms to now having six buildings with

6   seven pumping rooms, demonstrating that

7   laws really can make an impact.

8   I urge you to support the

9   amendment to Bill 130922, which provides

10   mothers with the right to express breast

11   milk while at work and requires

12   workplaces to provide reasonable time and

13   a place, other than the bathroom.

14   Thank you very much, and I'd be

15   happy to answer any questions.

16   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Ms. Bass.

17   MS. BASS: Thank you. Good

18   afternoon. My name is Amal Bass. I am a

19   staff attorney at the Women's Law

20   Project, which is a non-profit legal

21   advocacy organization based in

22   Philadelphia that seeks to advance the

23   legal status of women and girls through

24   litigation, public policy advocacy,

25   community education, and individual

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   counseling.

3   Health experts are -- there's a

4   consensus about how important

5   breastfeeding is for both mothers and

6   babies, and we've heard from Dr. Chung

7   about those benefits, so I won't go into

8   that here today.

9   In Pennsylvania, about 70

10   percent of women initiate breastfeeding

11   after the birth of their babies, but only

12   16.5 percent nurse exclusively at six

13   months. In order for a working mother to

14   maintain her milk supply, she will need

15   to express milk while at work, but many

16   women find that their employers will not

17   accommodate their need to express milk in

18   the workplace. Women often cite the

19   difficulty they face in securing

20   accommodations in the workplace as one of

21   the reasons for why they either stop

22   breastfeeding entirely or have to

23   supplement with formula.

24   At the Women's Law Project, we

25   often hear from women in Pennsylvania,

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   including in Philadelphia, whose

3   employers have denied them unpaid break

4   time or a private space to express breast

5   milk. Many of these women resort to

6   pumping in bathroom stalls or in their

7   cars. Sometimes they skip pumping

8   entirely while they are at work, causing

9   them to experience significant physical

10   pain while increasing their likelihood of

11   an infection in their breast and

12   decreasing their milk supply.

13   Occasionally we hear from women who feel

14   compelled to leave their jobs because

15   their employers fail to accommodate their

16   need to express milk in the workplace,

17   leaving those women caught between the

18   advice given by their children's

19   pediatricians and the other unreasonable

20   demands of their employers.

21   While 24 states and the

22   District of Columbia have laws that would

23   protect many of these women, Pennsylvania

24   does not have a law that pertains to

25   expressing breast milk in the workplace.

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 1        6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.
 2        Until 2010, women in Pennsylvania had
 3        little legal recourse when their
 4        employers refused to accommodate their
 5        need to express milk.  That changed for
 6        many, but not for all women, with the
 7        passage of the Affordable Care Act, which
 8        included an amendment to the Fair Labor
 9        Standards Act known as the Break Time for
10        Nursing Mothers provision.  The Break
11        Time for Nursing Mothers provision
12        requires employers to provide all
13        employees covered by the Fair Labor
14        Standards Act overtime provision with
15        reasonable unpaid break time and a
16        private sanitary space for expressing
17        breast milk.  Employers with fewer than
18        50 employees do not have to provide these
19        accommodations if doing so would impose
20        in undue hardship on them.
21                  The Break Time for Nursing
22        Mothers provision of the ACA helps many
23        women whose employers have refused to
24        allow them to express milk in the
25        workplace.  However, it does not protect
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1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   women who choose to nurse their babies

3   beyond one year, nor does it protect

4   employees who are exempt under the Fair

5   Labor Standards Act, which includes

6   employees working in an executive,

7   administrative or professional capacity.

8   As a result, determining whether a woman

9   is exempt or non-exempt under the Fair

10   Labor Standards Act is often an issue in

11   these cases.

12   At the Women's Law Project, we

13   have heard from women whose employers

14   have denied the request to express breast

15   milk in the workplace on the basis that

16   they are exempt employees, even when

17   their jobs might not meet the legal

18   requirements under the Fair Labor

19   Standards Act to be considered exempt.

20   Exempt status under the Fair Labor

21   Standards Act is often a fact-intensive

22   analysis that differs from job to job, an

23   analysis that is sometimes necessary

24   under the federal law, but would not be

25   necessary under the bill we are

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   discussing here today.

3   By eliminating the distinction

4   between exempt and non-exempt employees

5   for the purposes of expressing breast

6   milk in the workplace, the bill we are

7   discussing today would fill a gap left by

8   the federal law by covering all employees

9   and it would clarify employers'

10   obligations and employees' rights. The

11   bill amends the Fair Practices Ordinance

12   to require employers with one or more

13   employees to provide reasonable

14   accommodations to women who need to

15   express milk in the workplace. It

16   provides clear instructions to employers

17   and employees about what constitutes a

18   reasonable accommodation, and there is a

19   definition in there specifically

20   included.

21   Thus, if enacted, this bill

22   would provide to employees in

23   Philadelphia who are exempt from the Fair

24   Labor Standards Act who want to nurse a

25   child beyond the first year of life the

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   same rights given to nursing mothers

3   covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act

4   in the Affordable Care Act. This is an

5   important step.

6   However, the Women's Law

7   Project recommends one change to the

8   bill. Under the bill, employers of any

9   size can deny an accommodation to a

10   nursing mother by asserting that it

11   imposes an undue hardship. The ACA only

12   allows smaller employers, those with

13   fewer than 50 employees, to deny

14   accommodations based on undue hardship,

15   and we believe this bill should do the

16   same. As a legal matter, under the

17   factors listed in Section 9-1128 of the

18   Fair Practices Ordinance that guide

19   whether an accommodation imposes an undue

20   hardship, which includes the size of the

21   employer with respect to the number of

22   its employees, it is unlikely that large

23   employers will prevail on the question of

24   undue hardship, because they have more

25   employees to fill in for an employee

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   while she is pumping and they often have

3   more space available for pumping. But by

4   allowing large employers to assert undue

5   hardship in the first place, this bill

6   enables them to unreasonably delay a

7   woman's ability to express milk. By the

8   time she enforces her rights, the delay

9   in pumping at work may decrease her milk

10   supply and foreclose her ability to

11   breastfeed.

12   With breastfeeding, time is of

13   the essence, and it's the Women's Law

14   Project's position that an employer must

15   have a reasonable likelihood of success

16   of proving that providing a workplace

17   accommodation to a nursing mother is an

18   undue hardship before the law should

19   allow them to assert it either as a delay

20   tactic or simply out of ignorance or

21   confusion.

22   Overall, this bill is an

23   important piece of legislation, though,

24   that would help fill many gaps in the

25   federal law by ensuring reasonable

1 6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2 accommodations to women that allow them

3 to express milk in the workplace. With

4 this law, women in Philadelphia would not

5 have to choose between working and

6 providing their children with the

7 benefits of breast milk. We strongly

8 support this legislation.

9   Thank you.

10   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

11 you.

12   Any questions?

13   Councilman Kenney.

14   COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you,

15 Mr. Chairman.

16   I'm curious as to why 50

17 employees. It seems like an awful lot of

18 people in a company, that all these moms

19 who work for companies with less than 50

20 people --

21   MS. BASS: In the version that

22 we're discussing today, there is no

23 number. Anyone can assert the undue

24 hardship. It's the federal law that has

25 50.

2   COUNCILMAN KENNEY: So the 50

3   is --

4   MS. BASS: Is under the federal

5   law.

6   COUNCILMAN KENNEY: It still

7   seems like an awful big company.

8   MS. BASS: Yes, it does. I

9   think that law predates -- I mean, it

10   goes to other federal laws like the

11   Family Medical Leave Act, which has 50

12   or -- has that same kind of language in

13   it. So I think that's just the number we

14   use.

15   COUNCILMAN KENNEY: You can

16   provide a screen that you would see in a

17   drugstore where people are ordering their

18   medication, they stand behind the screen

19   sometimes if they want privacy.

20   MS. BASS: That's exactly

21   right. So it's hard to prove that this

22   would be an undue hardship. So by

23   allowing employers of any size to assert

24   it, they can -- and they might do it just

25   because they're confused, but by allowing

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   them to assert it, they can actually

3   delay a woman's ability to express milk,

4   and that might foreclose her ability to

5   breastfeed at all.

6   COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I worked in

7   a restaurant in the '70s in high school

8   and college where the owner of the

9   restaurant actually threw a woman out, a

10   customer out, which is like the most

11   appalling thing I've ever seen. It was

12   just ridiculous. I mean, hopefully we've

13   come some ways forward since the '70s, I

14   would think.

15   MS. BASS: I wish I could say

16   that didn't happen anymore, but it does

17   still happen.

18   COUNCILMAN KENNEY: All right.

19   Thank you.

20   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:

21   Councilman O'Brien.

22   COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Thank you.

23   Babette Josephs amusingly used

24   to call me the breast man in Harrisburg

25   because I was involved in this issue when

1	6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.
2	I was involved in the response to the
3	Breast Cancer Protection Act. But in
4	response to Councilman Kenney's query,
5	the insurance industry and the National
6	Federation of Independent Business
7	arbitrarily pick out 50 or more because
8	they just say. And even though we've
9	debunked that successfully in
10	Pennsylvania with the passage of the
11	Autism Insurance Act of Pennsylvania,
12	Breast Cancer Protection Act and
13	Colorectal Cancer, they still spew that
14	information all over the country. But I
15	think in your testimony you provided the
16	response to that, and I believe it's
17	important to echo what Councilman Kenney
18	said here; that is, that some people will
19	choose not to be employed by those
20	employers. And if you're one of those
21	key employees that you're not allowed to
22	breastfeed, then you will go to the
23	bigger companies that will allow you and
24	provide that, and it could cripple the
25	economic vitality of that small business.

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   So that is a compelling

3   argument, and I believe it has always

4   been and always will remain to be an

5   arbitrary standard, and I welcome the

6   opportunity to say that again here today.

7   But thank you for your

8   testimony. I've heard a lot of that

9   before, but, again, I believe that it has

10   to be amplified and it can't be stated

11   enough.

12   Thank you.

13   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

14   you.

15   Councilwoman Tasco.

16   COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: How often

17   does a woman have to pump during the day

18   in an eight-hour day, workday?

19   MS. BASS: That is going to

20   vary from woman to woman.

21   Dr. Chung, you might be best to

22   answer that.

23   DR. CHUNG: It is variable.

24   Some women will need to pump every three

25   hours, depending on their milk

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   production, but other women will just

3   need to pump once at work. A lot of

4   people will do it strategically before

5   they leave for work so that they're not

6   having to take break time, do it at break

7   time, and then do it again before they

8   leave.

9   COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: What are

10   some of the objections by the employers

11   to this?

12   DR. CHUNG: I've been told

13   people don't even know what the concept

14   of pumping is. They know they pump gas,

15   but they have no idea why a woman would

16   need to pump their breast. And so there

17   have been pretty unique videos made about

18   this.

19   So I think some of it is

20   education. And so I know at the federal

21   level they've had the business case for

22   breastfeeding where they've tried to

23   really not only have place and time as

24   well as a space, but to educate employers

25   about the need and that it's not going to

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   affect productivity. I think the sense

3   is they don't want women to be treated

4   differently than men, allow for more time

5   and be special somehow. And yet with

6   minimal accommodations -- I mean, people

7   have actually gotten the size of the room

8   down to dimensions of like 4 by 9, and as

9   you may know, there's some women who pump

10   in a closet. There's a book written

11   about women who were all pumping in a

12   closet and they started a memo book. So

13   just some of the humiliation, lack of

14   education, which is why employers won't

15   allow it, but we think that it's going to

16   actually enhance productivity.

17   MS. BASS: I think most of the

18   time I don't really understand why the

19   employers are denying the request, but

20   they do, and we do hear from women who

21   just frequently are told that they can't

22   do this in the workplace. I think some

23   of it comes from the idea that this is

24   private and you've made a choice to have

25   a child and it can't impact the

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   workplace. It comes from sort of a sense

3   of that kind of remaining in our society.

4   And also from the idea that it's an

5   accommodation, that if I have to do this

6   for you, do I have to make other

7   accommodations for everyone, and they

8   might not realize that that may already

9   be required under federal law, or even if

10   it's not, if they're one of the people

11   that the federal law doesn't apply to,

12   that it's actually good for their

13   business, it's good for their

14   environment, and it's good for their

15   workers to do it, to allow it to happen.

16   MS. LANDAU: Also,

17   Councilwoman, it seems foreign to some

18   employers the concept of pumping, that

19   we've heard employers say sometimes, Oh,

20   you can have the baby brought to you and

21   then be able to breastfeed at work, and

22   the employee says, No, that's not what

23   I'm asking to do. I'm not saying I want

24   someone to bring my baby to me. I

25   actually just need to pump.

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Need to

3   talk to the mothers.

4   Thank you.

5   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

6   you.

7   Councilman Kenney.

8   COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Just one

9   final comment. I would assume that if

10   men could bear children, we wouldn't be

11   having this discussion. And I think

12   that's part of what -- it's the lack of

13   sensitivity because you're not in that

14   situation. And since it's kind of a

15   male-dominated world, changing every day,

16   that that's things we have to deal with

17   like this. So happy to support it.

18   MS. LANDAU: Thank you.

19   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Any other

20   questions or comments?

21   (No response.)

22   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Seeing

23   none, thank you all very much. Thank you

24   for coming.

25   Ms. Marconi, who else do we

 1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

 2   have on our list.

 3   THE CLERK: Katja Pigur and

 4   Bonnie Higgins-Esplund.

 5   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Other

 6   than these last two witnesses, is there

 7   anyone else here to testify on Bill

 8   130922?

 9   (No response.)

10   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

11   They'll be our last witnesses on this

12   bill.

13   (Witnesses approached witness

14   table.)

15   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Please

16   identify yourself. Again, if you have

17   written testimony, it will be made part

18   of the record.

19   Go ahead. Please.

20   MS. HIGGINS-ESPLUND: Hello.

21   Thank you. Very glad to be here to

22   testify on the behalf --

23   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: A little

24   bit more in the microphone, please.

25   MS. HIGGINS-ESPLUND: My name

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   is Bonnie Higgins-Esplund. I am a

3   registered nurse and an international

4   Board-certified lactation consultant at

5   the Hospital of the University of

6   Pennsylvania and I also am an Executive

7   Board member from the Pennsylvania

8   Breastfeeding Coalition here to support

9   and testify on this bill.

10   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: That's

11   it?

12   MS. HIGGINS-ESPLUND: I'm

13   sorry. I thought you were -- okay.

14   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I was

15   going to say, I really appreciate your

16   brief testimony.

17   MS. HIGGINS-ESPLUND: No. I

18   have a letter of support that was drafted

19   from our Chair and then approved by the

20   Executive Board, and a lot of it is

21   information that was already presented,

22   but I'm just going to read the bill, and

23   then I also have some clinical scenarios

24   that I've actually experienced from

25   mothers in my practice.

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: The

3   letter will be made part of the record.

4   MS. HIGGINS-ESPLUND: Okay.

5   The Pennsylvania Breastfeeding

6   Coalition was established in 1992 in the

7   Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The

8   mission of our coalition is to facilitate

9   community and statewide efforts to

10   protect, support, and promote

11   breastfeeding as the cultural norm. Our

12   members are advocates from across the

13   state comprised of health professionals

14   from hospitals, clinics, local and

15   state-level health departments, and

16   universities, concerned parents and

17   citizens, and volunteers from community

18   organizations such as La Leche League and

19   nursing mothers counselors. Each member

20   contributes voluntary time and expertise

21   to activities that support breastfeeding

22   in Pennsylvania.

23   And then we've heard this, that

24   according to the U.S. Department of

25   Health and Human Services and the CDC,

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   across the U.S. most mothers hope to

3   breastfeed. It is an action that mothers

4   can take to protect their infants and

5   their own health. Support from their

6   families, communities, clinicians,

7   healthcare leaders, employers, and

8   policymakers can help mothers accomplish

9   their goals to breastfeed their baby.

10   As you know, the Affordable

11   Care Act grants protection to women who

12   are covered by the Fair Labor Standards

13   Act to obtain adequate break time and a

14   sanitary place to pump. However, this

15   leaves the exempt employees, including

16   salaried workers, without this

17   protection. Sadly, women are being

18   challenged by employers and co-workers,

19   at times prohibiting them the ability to

20   pump and to provide milk for their

21   infants.

22   Worksite lactation support is

23   not overly burdensome, which we had heard

24   previously, to employers and can bring

25   about cost savings through reduced

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   absenteeism, lower healthcare costs,

3   higher employee retention, and improved

4   productivity.

5   We believe that the proposed

6   legislation and this bill providing for

7   accommodations for nursing mothers to

8   express milk in the workplace is

9   imperative to enabling women to succeed

10   in breastfeeding, according to the public

11   health recommendations, and meet their

12   own goals to breastfeed.

13   We are pleased that the

14   Philadelphia City Council has proposed

15   this bill and support expedient passage.

16   That was from our Chair.

17   And I would really like to

18   share some of these personal scenarios

19   that I've had with patients, and one of

20   them was just recently. This was a

21   mother of a premature infant that was

22   born 12 weeks early and the baby weighed

23   2.5 pounds and she was not able to

24   maintain her milk supply to provide

25   enough breast milk for her baby when she

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   returned to work. She worked in

3   Philadelphia and went back early so that

4   she was able to -- so when her baby was

5   discharged, she could take the remainder

6   of her FMLA. Typically mothers of

7   premature infants since they're in the

8   hospital for so long, they may go back to

9   work within four to six weeks and then

10   save that time for later.

11   She had initially wanted to

12   formula feed, but after education from

13   our pediatric team and our nurses and our

14   lactation consultants of the benefit-risk

15   of not breastfeeding her premature

16   infant, she changed her decision and

17   wanted to provide breast milk for her

18   baby.

19   When she -- her particular

20   position, she was not at a designated

21   worksite. And I don't know the

22   specifics, but she perhaps could have

23   been a bus driver, she could have been a

24   police officer, some place where she did

25   not have a designated workplace to pump,

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   and she spent her lunch breaks at public

3   food courts and lunch trucks. So she had

4   no place to pump, and she was not also

5   accommodated at the time. And this

6   particular point was actually an -- it

7   was a non-exempt employee. She was a

8   salaried employee.

9   So she could not pump in her

10   increments and she was not able to

11   breastfeed her infant to maintain her

12   milk supply, and then the infant ended up

13   going on what we call human donor milk.

14   This is a substitute for babies. It's

15   women will donate milk, and it's a

16   healthy and safest alternative. But the

17   research has shown that there's a high

18   correlation that a mother's own milk has

19   the best outcomes for their babies.

20   And so recently I had a nurse

21   tell me from a Philadelphia hospital --

22   all of these scenarios are from

23   Philadelphia employees -- that she did

24   not have a sanitary place to pump. The

25   space she had previously pumped was in a

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   medication room. Nurses go in and out of

3   that medication room, and she was in the

4   way, so the employees and her fellow

5   colleagues were disgruntled, and then she

6   was asked to pump in a closet, a dirty

7   closet.

8   And another scenario is that I

9   had a manager from a Philadelphia

10   hospital. She was referred to me for the

11   particular law of providing break time

12   for breastfeeding mothers. Some of those

13   employees were exempt, some were

14   non-exempt, and I told her the law. But

15   her reasoning was that she was not able

16   to provide sufficient break time because

17   it just interfered with the workflow of

18   the unit and that their times were at a

19   certain time. So other employees became

20   very disgruntled because then this

21   allowed -- this created more work for

22   them.

23   Frequently mothers want to

24   breastfeed, but may wean abruptly, and

25   they choose to -- they may choose to wait

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   to the three-month mark when they go back

3   to work and maybe because they didn't --

4   they wanted to continue breastfeeding,

5   they weren't prepared to stop, so they

6   wean abruptly, or they had planned to go

7   to work and pump at work and unexpectedly

8   it was not conducive to their work

9   conditions. So this may cause physical

10   discomfort and potential health risks for

11   the mother such as breast infections.

12   That's it.

13   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

14   you.

15   I'd like the record to reflect

16   Councilman Henon, a member of the

17   Committee, is also present and neglected

18   to mention earlier Councilman Oh, the

19   sponsor of the bill, is present and

20   Councilman Jones, the Majority Leader is

21   present.

22   I know you had a question,

23   Councilman. Let me hear from the other

24   witness and then...

25   Please, identify yourself and

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   proceed. Talk right into that

3   microphone.

4   MS. PIGUR: I would like to

5   thank the City Council for this

6   opportunity to provide testimony on the

7   proposed amendment to Bill No. 130922.

8   My name is Katja Pigur and I'm speaking

9   in my role as the Director of Clinical

10   and Breastfeeding Services of the

11   Maternity Care Coalition, a working

12   mother, and as a breastfeeding advocate.

13   Since 1980, Maternity Care

14   Coalition has been bringing people

15   together who care about the health and

16   well-being of pregnant women, infants,

17   young child, and high-risk families. Our

18   mission is to improve maternal and child

19   health and well-being through

20   collaborative efforts of individuals,

21   families, providers, and communities.

22   Empowering women to initiate

23   and continue to breastfeed has always

24   been an integral part of MCC's home base

25   services. The Maternity Care Coalition

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   has been honoring employers and

3   businesses for their excellent player

4   support of breastfeeding employees and

5   patrons since 2004.

6   In March 2010, Maternal Care

7   Coalition, MCC, partnered with the

8   Philadelphia Department of Public Health

9   and launched the Breastfeeding-Friendly

10   Philadelphia campaign as a part of the

11   Get Healthy Philly initiative to improve

12   citywide breastfeeding rates through a

13   twofold approach. First, encouraging

14   hospitals to implement evidence-based

15   policies and practices to support and

16   promote breastfeeding and, second,

17   promoting the health and economic

18   benefits of breastfeeding within the

19   business community and helping employers

20   create and strengthen lactation support

21   policies and programs for their

22   worksites. Since then, all six

23   Philadelphia birthing hospitals have

24   joined together to help create a

25   Breastfeeding-Friendly Philadelphia,

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   which includes working to help mothers

3   make an informed choice about infant

4   feeding and to use their collective

5   voices to make citywide changes that

6   promote, protect, and support

7   breastfeeding.

8   But let's be honest, our local

9   hospitals can't do it alone. In 2011,

10   the Surgeon General's call to action

11   asked for active involvement and support

12   from family members, friends,

13   communities, clinicians, healthcare

14   systems, and employers. It takes a

15   village to raise a healthy and happy

16   child, and it also will take a village to

17   create a breastfeeding-friendly city, a

18   Philadelphia of Motherly Love.

19   Because of the joint efforts of

20   City hospitals, more mothers are

21   initiating breastfeeding. Many of them

22   are working moms and wish to continue

23   breastfeeding after returning to work.

24   In response, MCC created a

25   Breastfeeding-Friendly Employer

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 1       6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

 2       Certificate program, including technical

 3       assistance services for free to motivate

 4       and honor companies and organizations

 5       that support nursing employees.

 6               Breastfeeding makes a

 7       difference.  It is the healthiest food

 8       for babies, critical for the development

 9       of healthy individuals and communities.

10       The World Health Organization and the

11       American Academy of Pediatrics have

12       identified breastfeeding as the optimal

13       method of infant feeding, ideal for

14       fostering nutritional immunological and

15       emotional health.  In a time when 60

16       percent of all our children are obese,

17       there is a lower risk of obesity for both

18       mothers and babies.  Both organizations

19       recommend exclusive breastfeeding for six

20       months, followed by continued

21       breastfeeding as complementary foods are

22       introduced, with continuation of

23       breastfeeding for one year or longer as

24       mutually desired by mother and infant.

25       The effect of breastfeeding is related to
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 1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

 2   the dose, which means that health effects

 3   are stronger for both mother and baby

 4   when breastfeeding continues for a year

 5   or more.

 6   Breastfeeding is the cheapest

 7   and best preventive medicine, and the

 8   risks of not breastfeeding affects our

 9   society as a whole. Yet, despite these

10   benefits, 23 percent of women in the

11   United States do not breastfeed after

12   giving birth, and more than half stop

13   breastfeeding by six months or even never

14   start. Philadelphia's breastfeeding rate

15   is an unacceptable 14.3 lower than the

16   national average at delivery -- in

17   Philadelphia, 60.2 and nationally,

18   76.5 -- and 14 percent lower at six

19   months after birth. That is 28.9 percent

20   versus 43 nationally.

21   More than 50 percent of women

22   with infants and a one-year-old in the

23   labor force in two-thirds of these are

24   employed full time. Employed mothers are

25   more likely to stop breastfeeding early

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   if they do not receive the supports they

3   need in the workplace. Workplace support

4   makes a difference. Federal law provides

5   mothers reasonable break time to express

6   milk in a private non-bathroom location

7   for one year after the child's birth. As

8   of now, this provision only applies to

9   non-exempt hourly wage earning employees

10   and provides protection support for the

11   most vulnerable workers. Working with

12   employers, I notice that this leads to

13   lots of confusion about who is covered

14   and how to implement breastfeeding

15   support for an exclusive employee group.

16   So many moms that I talk with

17   on a daily basis want so badly to

18   continue to breastfeed when they go back

19   to work, but the barriers they face are

20   sometimes insurmountable. There are

21   barriers such as a lack of private space,

22   a lack of suitable accommodations, and a

23   lack of support from their supervisor or

24   co-workers. Just the other day, a staff

25   person from one of our certified

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   breastfeeding-friendly employers reached

3   out to me and asked for my advice. His

4   wife, who is the mother of two small

5   children, struggles at her workplace with

6   receiving appropriate accommodations to

7   express her breast milk. She's an exempt

8   employee, and by trying to combine her

9   work responsibilities and her need to

10   pump, she was publicly labeled as being

11   needy by her co-workers during a work

12   meeting.

13   Every day women face

14   discrimination and harassment for

15   breastfeeding their children. When these

16   situations happen, it is time to stop and

17   ask what is it about our society that is

18   preventing so many women from

19   breastfeeding. Is it really so difficult

20   for employers to provide support for

21   breastfeeding mothers? The answer is

22   clearly no.

23   So what do mothers need to

24   successfully continue breastfeeding when

25   they return to work outside the home?

         1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

         2   They need time and a clean private space

         3   to express their breast milk, formal and

         4   informal support at the workplace,

         5   gatekeepers at the workplace who make

         6   sure that the support happens, and

         7   legislation to make sure that their

         8   breastfeeding success does not depend on

         9   the level of empathy of a supervisor or

        10   the mercy of workplace policies that vary

        11   from employer to employer.

        12   Our Philadelphia certified

        13   breastfeeding-friendly employers agree

        14   with us that this is clearly a win-win

        15   situation for employer, worker, family,

        16   baby, and society as a whole. The

        17   Department of Health and Human Services

        18   has published a business case of

        19   breastfeeding, which shows that employers

        20   that provide lactation support experience

        21   an impressive return on investment,

        22   almost three to one, including lower

        23   healthcare costs, absenteeism, and

        24   turnover and improved morale, job

        25   satisfaction, and productivity. The

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   retention rate for companies providing

3   lactation support is 94 percent. The

4   national average is 59 percent. We

5   should feel compelled to make these

6   changes on behalf of working mothers.

7   Let's enact the amendment to

8   Bill No. 130922 now and support women to

9   continue breastfeeding by bringing home a

10   paycheck to support themselves and their

11   families. Let's join our efforts and

12   make Philadelphia the City of Motherly

13   Love.

14   Thank you for your

15   consideration.

16   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

17   you.

18   Any questions?

19   (No response.)

20   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:

21   Councilman Jones, you had a question?

22   COUNCILMAN JONES: Yeah. I

23   have a quick question for anyone who

24   testified today. I was listening in my

25   office and felt compelled to come in.

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   Two quick questions. One, I

3   was looking at the number of lawsuits

4   that have been filed in different

5   circumstances and I guess, Mr. Chairman

6   and Councilman Oh, the author of the

7   bill, that from everything from

8   bookstores have been sued to airports

9   have been sued because they wanted to

10   require -- the TSA workers wanted to

11   require x-ray of the milk, which has an

12   effect on the milk possibly. And so

13   municipal pools, Starbucks, restaurants.

14   At what point -- at some point

15   we're going to have to notify,

16   particularly anything run by the City of

17   Philadelphia, that this law is in effect

18   since 2010 and that we need to adjust our

19   policies accordingly. So particularly

20   the Airport folk, we might want to send a

21   letter, Mr. Chairman, asking them how

22   they are complying with this by way of

23   x-rays at least, and then applaud you and

24   the Committee and the author for bringing

25   this subject up.

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I'll talk

3   to Ms. Landau about that. That's

4   something that we could probably work

5   together on.

6   COUNCILMAN JONES: Do we

7   have --

8   MS. PIGUR: So I actually have

9   here the information for you. So one of

10   our certified breastfeeding employers is

11   actually -- was the Philadelphia

12   Department of Public Health, and as a

13   result, Mayor Nutter actually signed an

14   Executive Order that women and working

15   mothers receive workplace breastfeeding

16   support. I actually tried to reach out.

17   I wanted to work also with the Airport to

18   implement that support, but it's a City

19   agency, I understand, so they should be

20   providing workplace breastfeeding

21   support, but I don't really know what's

22   exactly happening. So I appreciate your

23   point, because definitely I would

24   recommend to look into that, and I'm

25   happy to work with them.

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   And the other piece too will be

3   breastfeeding milk actually. So I

4   think -- and you can correct me -- when

5   you have breast milk, you don't have

6   actually to send it to x-ray. You give

7   that to them and explain to them, and

8   then they don't put it through the x-ray.

9   That is one of the liquids you actually

10   are allowed to bring on the plane.

11   COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,

12   Mr. Chairman.

13   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

14   you.

15   Any other questions or

16   comments?

17   (No response.)

18   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Seeing

19   none, anyone else here -- let me try one

20   more time -- to testify on 130922?

21   (No response.)

22   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Seeing

23   none, just for the record, before we move

24   to the next bill, there will be an

25   amendment submitted by the sponsor,

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   Councilman Oh, presented at the meeting,

3   which further defines reasonable

4   accommodations.

5   With that, we'll go to our next

6   bill. Ms. Marconi, will you please read

7   Bill No. 140377.

8   THE CLERK: Bill No. 140377, an

9   ordinance amending Title 10 of The

10   Philadelphia Code, entitled "Regulation

11   of Individual Conduct and Activity," by

12   adding a new Chapter 10-2100, entitled

13   "Marijuana Possession," to create a civil

14   penalty for the possession of certain

15   items and to provide for penalties and

16   enforcement procedures for violations of

17   such provisions, all under certain terms

18   and conditions.

19   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Our first

20   witness is?

21   THE CLERK: Michael Resnick.

22   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: As

23   they're coming up, I recognize Councilman

24   Kenney and then Councilman O'Brien.

25   COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you,

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   Mr. Chairman. Back on March 10th, 2014,

3   this Committee heard testimony on Bill

4   140001, which was the first iteration of

5   the bill and policy shift that is before

6   us today. After that bill was moved out

7   of Committee favorably, I had several

8   meetings with members of the Philadelphia

9   criminal justice community and I became

10   convinced that because of bureaucratic

11   red tape, the policy and aim of the bill

12   would not be accomplished. At that point

13   and with the help of the legal community,

14   specifically Paul Messing of ACLU, I

15   introduced Bill No. 140377, which is

16   before us today.

17   The bill creates a civil

18   violation of The Philadelphia Code for

19   the possession of a small amount of

20   marijuana, essentially an ounce. The

21   fine for this violation will be $25, and

22   instead of a mandatory arrest, the person

23   would be handed or mailed a ticket, which

24   will be payable by mail, in person or

25   online. This procedure will save

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   thousands of police officer hours

3   estimated to be about 17,000 hours a

4   year, which represents 2,100 eight-hour

5   shifts where officers are off the street

6   processing people with small amounts of

7   marijuana, and it will save countless

8   young people from trauma of an arrest and

9   the specter of an arrest record that will

10   hamper them from finding employment.

11   As a reminder to all members

12   here, in your packet of information is

13   the copy of the latest report by the ACLU

14   regarding marijuana arrests in this city.

15   The numbers bear out starkly the issues

16   of who is and who is not being arrested

17   for marijuana possession. While I can

18   understand the Police Department's

19   reasons and explanations for these

20   numbers, I continue to believe we can and

21   should be doing better.

22   I support the Police

23   Commissioner in his efforts to gain

24   approval from the General Assembly to

25   lower this offense at the state level to

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   a summary offense. In fact, all of the

3   issues that the Administration have

4   raised with this bill would also be faced

5   by the police if there were a change at

6   the state level. They did not put that

7   in their testimony today.

8   But my issue is that we cannot

9   sit idly by while our kids are treated

10   differently than those in other counties

11   by making mandatory arrests, and we

12   cannot sit idly by while these kids are

13   given arrest records that will follow

14   them forever. Philadelphia must be a

15   leader on this issue, and I am hopeful

16   that with the support of this Committee

17   and the support of the full Council, we

18   take a stand that we do not tolerate

19   unequal justice for any of our citizens.

20   In the end, in order for this

21   policy to be implemented in the best way

22   possible for officers and citizens alike,

23   we must have leadership from the

24   Administration to make clear to the

25   entire City what our Police Department's

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   internal guidelines will be going

3   forward. We hope to see that Executive

4   Order issued quickly and thoughtfully.

5   The Police Department has asked for an

6   implementation period, and this bill

7   includes exactly that. We hope to see

8   action from the Mayor's Office before

9   that three-month mark, and we have faith

10   that with the cooperation and leadership,

11   we can immediately work to improve the

12   lives of all here in Philadelphia.

13   So thank you for the

14   opportunity to make an opening statement.

15   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

16   you, Councilman.

17   Councilman O'Brien.

18   COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Thank you,

19   Mr. Chairman. I commend Councilman

20   Kenney's attempt to once again bring this

21   dialogue in an effort to reduce resources

22   spent on small amounts of marijuana

23   arrests in the Police Department, DA's

24   Office, and the courts. Efforts have

25   been made by other agencies to ease the

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   resources spent on marijuana arrests.

3   The DA's Office implemented SAM, Small

4   Amount of Marijuana, after an attempt to

5   make possession of marijuana a summary

6   offense. This attempt was struck down by

7   the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

8   Despite the Law Department's

9   memo and the technical limitations of the

10   language, I still believe that if this

11   ever went before the Supreme Court, they

12   would likely say that Philadelphia has no

13   business making up its own penalties for

14   things that the Legislature has already

15   penalized.

16   Regardless of where you fall on

17   this issue, we're bound to live within

18   the confines of our laws, and the reality

19   remains that in Pennsylvania, possession

20   of marijuana remains illegal. To change

21   that reality, you have to go to

22   Harrisburg. And while this bill doesn't

23   per se decriminalize marijuana possession

24   because it's civil in nature under the

25   The Philadelphia Code, it essentially

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   aims to have the same effect. But the

3   truth remains, this bill does not change

4   the law. The bill does not make

5   marijuana legal. This bill does not take

6   away any officer's ability to arrest, the

7   DA's ability to prosecute, and the

8   court's ability to sentence.

9   Marijuana, the possession of

10   it, the smoking of it, remains illegal.

11   I fear the limitations of this bill will

12   be lost on the public. The public will

13   believe that marijuana is legal in

14   Philadelphia. My concerns on the bill

15   are as follows:

16   The impact on police: Will the

17   police be put in an awkward position to

18   decide who to arrest and who to issue a

19   ticket to? There are numerous other

20   police departments operating in the City

21   of Philadelphia, Temple Police, SEPTA

22   Police, Penn Police, and sometimes the

23   State Police. This bill has no

24   jurisdiction over those other police

25   departments. Therefore, people will be

 1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

 2   treated differently depending on where

 3   you are arrested and who arrests you.

 4   If I'm arrested and someone

 5   else is fined, can I sue the City for

 6   unlawful arrest? Can this raise

 7   unwarranted equal protection claims

 8   against the City?

 9   What is 30 grams of marijuana?

10   COUNCILMAN KENNEY: It's an

11   ounce.

12   COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Police do

13   not carry scales.

14   Furthermore -- and this is a

15   concern -- many times people are in

16   possession of marijuana that is laced

17   with other substances. How are police to

18   know without confiscating and testing?

19   I'm concerned about the public

20   perception, what kinds of problems this

21   will cause for police officers when and

22   if this bill passes with the public.

23   Will the public believe that marijuana is

24   now legal in the City of Philadelphia and

25   when a police officer arrests you, that

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   they do not have the right to do so? How

3   many aggravated assaults on police

4   officers will we have due to the

5   misunderstanding and misinterpretation of

6   the law?

7   Public places: What about

8   public places? Will it now be only a

9   fine of $25 to smoke marijuana in public?

10   It is not a question of public

11   health to allow people to smoke marijuana

12   in public. Do you want to be standing on

13   a corner or a bus stop with your children

14   while someone is smoking a joint? What

15   does the Health Department have to say

16   about that?

17   Both in Washington, DC and

18   Chicago, they make it clear that it is

19   not okay and remains unlawful to smoke in

20   public. Even Colorado where marijuana is

21   legalized statewide, it does not allow

22   smoking in public.

23   There are specific carved out

24   prohibitions to not only public smoking,

25   but also public impairment.

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   Fine: The fine is entirely too

3   low, $25. You have to pay $50 for an

4   open container violation, and alcohol is

5   legal. You have to pay $50 for public

6   urination and defecation. Skateboarding,

7   rollerblading, bicycling on public

8   property is a $300 fine. The Chicago

9   ordinance itself calls for fines of $250

10   to $300.

11   Probation: What about people

12   who are on probation and the judge

13   specifically orders that they do not

14   possess or consume any controlled

15   substance? How will the judge know that

16   this person was fined $25 for violating

17   their order? Police officers do not have

18   the capability to know whether someone is

19   on probation from the street.

20   Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21   COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Just --

22   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay. I

23   don't want it to go back and forth.

24   COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I want to

25   clear up a couple things before we get

 1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

 2   into the testimony.

 3   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

 4   Sure.

 5   COUNCILMAN KENNEY: First of

 6   all, we can't find a county in the

 7   Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that arrests

 8   for marijuana possession. So

 9   Philadelphia dragging us down into the

10   depths of drug addiction and use is just

11   not accurate. They've been issuing

12   citations in Pittsburgh and even in

13   Montgomery County for quite some time.

14   We cannot find a county in Pennsylvania

15   that actually physically makes an arrest.

16   When it comes to SEPTA Police

17   and university police, I am positive that

18   if this is in place, we could have a

19   dialogue with them that would allow them

20   to comply with our laws. And also

21   Philadelphia Police theoretically would

22   not be transporting any of these

23   arrestees to a booking operation.

24   We are behind in our technology

25   when it comes to our police. We have not

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 1      6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.
 2      invested in the technology necessary for
 3      them to do their jobs as well as --
 4      someone gave me an example of a summer
 5      police officer in Wildwood has the
 6      ability to find out if you have a warrant
 7      or have any other issues relative to
 8      their stopping and frisking you.  We're
 9      in the dark ages IT-wise, but that does
10      not mean that our citizens should be
11      taken advantage of as a result of our IT
12      inadequacies.
13                I think that the real
14      leadership on this should come from the
15      Mayor.  There should be an Executive
16      Order.  The Law Department, believe it or
17      not, for the first time I think in my
18      career, the Law Department actually
19      agrees with us, and that like never
20      happens, as it relates to interfering
21      with any state law.
22                So I just think 4,000 people a
23      year, 83 percent of them African
24      Americans, are the only people being
25      stopped and frisked in this city, and
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1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

 2   that's the Administration's policy. I

 3   don't agree with it, but that's their

 4   policy, and that's why they're getting

 5   caught. And last year I believe in the

 6   5th Police District, which represents

 7   Manayunk, East Falls, Main Street in the

 8   4th Council District, there was one

 9   arrest. A very unluckily black man got

10   arrested for marijuana possession in the

11   5th Police District last year in an area

12   that's highly college, highly young. I'm

13   sure there's people there that are using

14   marijuana on a regular basis. And I'm

15   not suggesting that we encourage people

16   to use it. I don't see any reason why

17   some kid who is coming out of a concert

18   with two joints in his pocket deserves to

19   spend Friday through Monday in lockup

20   because it's a weekend. And we've had

21   those cases and we've had people testify

22   to that stuff.

23   So I just think we need to come

24   into the new world and do what --

25   Pennsylvania is not a progressive state

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1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   in any level, but I think we should be

3   more progressive than the rest of the

4   state, who are not arresting people for

5   this activity. So that's just my

6   opinion.

7   Thank you.

8   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

9   you.

10   Mr. Resnick, please.

11   MR. RESNICK: Good afternoon,

12   Chairman Greenlee, Vice Chair Kenney, and

13   members of the Committee on Law and

14   Government. My name is Michael Resnick,

15   Director of Public Safety for the City.

16   With me I have Captain Francis Healy,

17   Esquire, Special Advisor to Police

18   Commissioner Ramsey.

19   We appear before you today to

20   offer testimony on Bill 140377. In

21   short, the Administration is not

22   unsympathetic to the overall intent of

23   this bill. However, we believe that if

24   implemented, this bill will present

25   numerous legal and operational

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   difficulties for our officers on the

3   street. We appreciate that the sponsor

4   has proposed a set of amendments that

5   address certain issues we have discussed

6   and recognize that they're offered in

7   good faith. Unfortunately for the

8   reasons I will discuss, we must still

9   agree to disagree on the ultimate

10   package.

11   Primarily the bill is limited

12   to the possession of small amounts of

13   marijuana, which is defined as 30 grams

14   or less of marijuana by the Controlled

15   Substance Act. An initial difficulty is

16   that in many cases, there is no accurate

17   method for officers on the street to

18   definitively know the amount of marijuana

19   an individual may have in their

20   possession. Patrol officers would,

21   therefore, not be able to make an

22   accurate determination as to the weight

23   to trigger the provisions of this bill.

24   Under the current practice, weight is

25   determined at the district.

 1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

 2   Additionally, the definition

 3   fails to recognize that it is common for

 4   individuals to possess marijuana laced

 5   with other drugs that would be possible

 6   for the officer to identify. In essence,

 7   the bill would have the unintended

 8   consequence of decriminalizing the

 9   possession of these additives that are

10   commonly placed in marijuana, since

11   without chemical testing, these

12   individuals would not face the additional

13   charges.

14   Next, with respect to Section

15   6, Enforcement, the bill calls for a code

16   violation notice, or a CVN, for the

17   possession of a small amount of

18   marijuana. If this provision is not

19   preempted by the Pennsylvania Controlled

20   Substance Act, this would create a

21   serious dilemma for law enforcement in

22   the City. Having two separate and

23   distinct charging options for the same

24   offense, which is exactly what the bill

25   would create, is extremely problematic

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   from the perspectives of procedural

3   justice, and procedural justice is

4   grounded in fairness and consistency.

5   Under the bill, it is possible

6   that one offender could be cited for

7   possessing a small amount of marijuana

8   with a CVN and another similarly situated

9   offender, even in the same district,

10   would be arrested and charged under a

11   state misdemeanor violation. Each charge

12   would be equally applicable. This is so

13   because as the bill itself acknowledges,

14   state law necessarily remains unaffected.

15   As such, law enforcement officers would

16   be faced with an option - arrest under

17   state law or issue a CVN. If the

18   Philadelphia Police Department were to

19   enforce only the code violation, there is

20   no guarantee that other law enforcement

21   agencies in the City, including transit

22   police, the university police

23   departments, Pennsylvania State Police,

24   housing police, Amtrak Police, would

25   follow suit. And if the Philadelphia

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   Police Department were to give its own

3   officers discretion in choosing which law

4   to enforce, the consequences could be

5   significant, as equally reasonably and

6   well-trained officers, professional --

7   excuse me. The consequences could be

8   significant, as equally reasonable and

9   well-trained law enforcement

10   professionals make decisions in widely

11   varying circumstances.

12   Consistency and fairness are

13   the hallmarks of procedural justice, and

14   allowing or creating such a dichotomy of

15   possible outcomes for the same violation

16   is simply unfair.

17   For example, if the bill were

18   to pass, it is entirely possible if the

19   Pennsylvania State Police or SEPTA or the

20   Housing Authority Police Department and

21   the Philadelphia Police conducted a joint

22   operation and stopped two individuals for

23   smoking marijuana, one individual could

24   receive a CVN from the Police Department,

25   our Police Department, and be released,

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   while the other stopped by the other law

3   enforcement agency would be arrested and

4   charged with a misdemeanor. Imagine the

5   reaction of the community who witnesses

6   the disparate treatment. There is no

7   procedural justice in this scenario.

8   Finally, we are left with the

9   operational reality that in order for

10   enforcement of any kind under any legal

11   regime to be meaningful, individuals

12   stopped on the street must be properly

13   identified. This is so regardless of

14   whether the City's civil code violation

15   or the state misdemeanor is being

16   enforced.

17   Philadelphia Police Department

18   is considering its options for

19   accomplishing positive identification on

20   the street without bringing the

21   individual to the station. However, this

22   significant operational enhancement

23   cannot be accomplished overnight.

24   Having noted our significant

25   issues, I would nonetheless acknowledge

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   the substantive discussions that have

3   taken place between the Administration

4   and the sponsor's office on this issue,

5   and I'd like to thank the sponsor and his

6   office staff for the opportunity to

7   engage in this continued dialogue. We

8   appreciate the amendments that were

9   offered.

10   And this concludes our

11   testimony. We'd be glad to answer

12   questions at this time.

13   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

14   you, Mr. Resnick.

15   Councilman Kenney.

16   COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

17   Mr. Resnick, can you tell me

18   how many times the Philadelphia Police,

19   along with the State Police, conduct

20   joint operations to see what people are

21   carrying on their person as opposed to

22   what normal drug investigations are like,

23   as they set up a network, they get people

24   to flip, and they go and grab big amounts

25   of marijuana or other drug.

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   MR. RESNICK: Well --

3   COUNCILMAN KENNEY: But let me

4   finish.

5   So I remember seeing the

6   circumstance where a state police officer

7   and a Philadelphia police officer will be

8   stopping and frisking a 20-year-old

9   African American male. If that's our

10   joint operations, we should be doing

11   something else.

12   MR. RESNICK: That's not what I

13   was referring to, Councilman. I was

14   referring to like Operation Pressure

15   Point where the City of Philadelphia,

16   along with our other law enforcement

17   partners on the federal and the state

18   level, went out and they did larger-scale

19   operations, but you would -- a situation

20   would arise where an individual would be

21   stopped, and if that person was to be

22   frisked, depending on the officer who

23   stopped them and did the frisk, if it was

24   one of ours, Philadelphia officer, as

25   opposed to from another agency that

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   didn't have to follow the City code

3   violation, we would have disparate

4   treatment.

5   COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Do police

6   on our street now use discretion?

7   MR. RESNICK: Certainly.

8   COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Every day

9   it's part of their job, I guess, to use

10   discretion.

11   MR. RESNICK: Sure.

12   COUNCILMAN KENNEY: So your

13   concern over their use of discretion is

14   somewhat misplaced because they have

15   discretion now to arrest who they want to

16   arrest and who they don't want to arrest.

17   MR. RESNICK: Sure. They can

18   arrest who they want to arrest, but the

19   discretion in terms of what are we

20   charging. Are we charging somebody with

21   a civil code violation where they pay the

22   $25 fine and they're on their way or

23   where a custodial arrest was undertaken

24   and they're charged with a violation of

25   state law? So that's the discretion that

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   I'm talking about that I think is

3   problematic when we go down that road.

4   COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Well, I

5   mean, I grew up in a time where underage

6   drinking was not uncommon, and the

7   officer would come by and if he caught

8   you, he'd pour it out. You didn't even

9   get a fine then. I mean, discretion is,

10   I think, part of what a good police

11   officer does, and they make choices on

12   who to arrest based on their information,

13   based on their instinct, and based on

14   their training. And I think our police

15   officers could be trained to make those

16   distinctions. Right now there are no

17   distinctions whatsoever, unless of course

18   you're a majority member of the

19   community. Seemingly, they don't get

20   arrested for probably equal amount of

21   use.

22   The other thing I'm concerned

23   about is, you've expressed that you

24   support the change in grading on the

25   state level. Doesn't that give you the

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   same operational difficulties you have

3   now? If Senator Stack's bill passed

4   today, we would have the same operational

5   problems. We would have to retrain and

6   do what we have to do to comply with

7   state law. Why is it different?

8   MR. RESNICK: I wasn't saying

9   that all of these are insurmountable.

10   Yeah, there'll be difficulties and, yes,

11   there'll be challenges, but if Senator

12   Stack's law passes, every officer on

13   patrol will be enforcing the same law.

14   It's not as if they would be able to pick

15   and choose. Sure, there would be

16   difficulties with respect to the weight

17   issue. Sure, there would be issues with

18   respect to is the marijuana laced with

19   some other substance. I would imagine

20   under those circumstances, we would

21   ignore that. But it's not as if his law

22   or his bill does not have issues for us.

23   Those issues would be overcome. I'm not

24   saying all the issues that I described

25   here today are not issues that we

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   couldn't overcome. But I think the

3   larger issue is, you have two schemes to

4   punish people essentially, and one is de

5   minimis with a $25 civil fine and the

6   other one constitutes an arrest. In

7   Senator Stack's bill, everybody would be

8   treated equally by everyone.

9   COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Well, how

10   does the rest of the state get away with

11   this? How could every police department

12   that we have contacted in the rest of the

13   Commonwealth treat it without a custodial

14   arrest? How do they get away with that,

15   and why are we not leading as opposed to

16   dragging our feet behind?

17   MR. RESNICK: I don't know -- I

18   haven't called every other police

19   jurisdiction, police district in the

20   Commonwealth.

21   COUNCILMAN KENNEY: We've

22   called a lot of them.

23   MR. RESNICK: I know what they

24   do in the counties surrounding

25   Philadelphia. I think it's Montgomery

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   County, they don't charge under the state

3   law. They give people disorderly

4   conduct. That's what they're charged

5   with.

6   COUNCILMAN KENNEY: How do they

7   have that authority?

8   CAPTAIN HEALY: They don't.

9   COUNCILMAN KENNEY: They don't.

10   Who is suing? I mean, we talked a lot

11   about lawsuits, and Councilman O'Brien is

12   concerned about stuff. I mean, you tell

13   me that somebody who gets a $25 ticket is

14   going to sue because they weren't charged

15   with the state law? I mean, who is the

16   plaintiff here when you worry about going

17   to the state Supreme Court? I mean, I

18   would think they would have enough sense

19   to recognize what everybody is trying to

20   do. And if you think we're ever getting

21   statutory relief out of Harrisburg, we'll

22   be getting the school funding formula

23   changed before that happens. They're not

24   exactly very helpful to us in a lot of

25   different ways and I suspect will not be

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   helpful in this way either.

3   So I just believe honestly that

4   we don't really have to be here. You

5   could leave here today and have the Mayor

6   issue an Executive Order and have the

7   Police Commissioner write directives that

8   told his officers what they should do and

9   how they should conduct themselves and I

10   think this would all go away.

11   The reason that we're here,

12   frankly, is because of all the flack we

13   got on the first bill, which we went

14   through the Criminal Justice Advisory

15   Board, and they gave us a myriad of

16   problems that they, in my mind, probably

17   could have dealt with, but didn't want

18   to. So then we go to the next, which

19   takes them out of it, and there's still

20   problems.

21   I think the problem is carrying

22   an arrest record around with you for

23   probably most of your life when you make

24   a dumb mistake as a 25-year-old, and I

25   think that is more obnoxious than

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 1      6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

 2      anything else we're concerned about here.

 3                      COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:   Thank

 4      you.

 5                      Any other questions or

 6      comments?

 7                      Councilman O'Brien.

 8                      COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN:

 9      Mr. Resnick, how many other departments

10      are there in Philly?  I named some.  You

11      named some others.  How many are there?

12                      MR. RESNICK:  Drexel; Temple;

13      University of Pennsylvania have police

14      departments; the SEPTA obviously, the

15      transit police; Amtrak has a police

16      department; the Housing Authority has a

17      police department.  The Pennsylvania

18      State Police operates in the City of

19      Philadelphia.

20                      COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN:  And I

21      think we're all in agreement with

22      Councilman Kenney and we empathize with

23      his frustration in trying to get to where

24      we want to be.  And I do fall down

25      because I spent so much time in
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1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   Harrisburg on the fact that the remedy

3   does lie there and it does frustrate

4   these other efforts, as evidenced by the

5   fact that there was an attempt to make

6   this a summary offense, but the Supreme

7   Court chose to intervene in

8   Philadelphia's attempt to do just that.

9   So I really do believe that that becomes

10   problematic.

11   But we do not have the

12   capability in the police cars to identify

13   someone, do we, if we make an arrest?

14   MR. RESNICK: Not immediately,

15   no.

16   COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: And so

17   they don't have access to JNET.

18   But, hypothetically, I'm

19   looking at another issue that arises with

20   these separate jurisdictions. Right now

21   I can envision or I know if there's a

22   case for an arrest of cocaine, marijuana,

23   whatever it is, the defense attorney

24   isn't doing his job or her job if he

25   doesn't bring that person in and say, How

1 6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2 far, Officer, were you from this

3 transaction or did you see the exchange

4 and did you see the people purchase the

5 marijuana and, further, did you go and

6 interview all those people that purchased

7 it or did you just get my guy? I just

8 think the last question is going to be,

9 Or did you arrest that individual, not

10 because of the circumstances at hand but

11 because you pulled up on JNET that this

12 person had eight other arrests? Is that

13 the reason, Officer, that you arrested

14 this guy, because of his eight other

15 arrests, not the circumstances for the

16 offense at hand?

17   So this is a complicated issue.

18 I do empathize with the resources that

19 Councilman Kenney is bringing, and this

20 is a dialogue that absolutely has to be

21 had. But we don't have scales to see how

22 much it is, but, again, that's up to the

23 discretion. But one of the big problems

24 I have, again -- and this is a slippery

25 slope -- there's no way -- if you can

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   tell me, is there a way that if a judge

3   has someone on probation and parole and

4   they get a ticket, that that judge will

5   find out that that person has in fact

6   violated?

7   CAPTAIN HEALY: Not with a CVN,

8   no.

9   COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: And that

10   creates a problem for me, whether there's

11   a violation of parole action.

12   So I do agree with this. There

13   are hills you die on. But I do believe

14   that this is an issue, again, that is

15   controlled by Harrisburg. The

16   intervention of the Supreme Court into

17   our attempts to mediate this issue and

18   the multiple jurisdictions that we're

19   exposed to make this challenging for me.

20   So I appreciate the sponsor of

21   this, and I don't know where to go. I

22   agree that it's frustrating, but I

23   believe we still have to pursue some of

24   these outstanding issues.

25   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   you, Councilman.

3   Councilman Kenney.

4   COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

5   Just for clarification, the

6   Supreme Court intervened in the DA's

7   Office because the DA made an

8   administrative decision to implement a

9   program that was not approved by the

10   court. The court has since approved the

11   program. And this is legislative action,

12   which is much different than an

13   administrative action.

14   Secondly, we have the day

15   after -- we hopefully pass this on the

16   19th. We have a meeting -- the day after

17   we have a meeting scheduled with every

18   extraneous police department chief on the

19   university level, at SEPTA, and we're

20   going to have -- and I know them all and

21   they're all reasonable, rational people.

22   I see no reason why they wouldn't want to

23   comply with this too as -- see, there's

24   two issues here. Number one is the

25   absolute hampering or handcuffing a young

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   person because of his arrest. Secondly,

3   it's 17,000 hours of police officers off

4   the street, 2,100 eight-hour shifts that

5   I could think they could be doing a lot

6   different things, a lot more important

7   things and keeping us safer than sitting

8   in the stationhouse or the Roundhouse

9   waiting to process the young person

10   that's done nothing worse than drinking.

11   I mean, it's basically the same thing.

12   Because one is a state law that says you

13   can't do it, and we celebrate alcohol

14   like it's our birth right, but want to

15   lock people up and ruin their careers and

16   futures based on something that is

17   antiquated at this point. And I just --

18   I don't think that Montgomery County or

19   Allegheny County, I don't know what their

20   scale problem is. Maybe they've invested

21   in scales. But I do think that using

22   common sense and discretion makes a lot

23   of sense here and I just -- it's hard

24   enough today for anyone to find a job,

25   let alone somebody with a criminal

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   record, and I think that there's no

3   reason they should be hampered with that

4   when you don't get a record for drinking

5   underage or drinking open container. I

6   see very little difference in the two

7   activities, other than the fact that

8   state law says what it is, and we'll

9   never change state law, not in this

10   Commonwealth anyway.

11   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

12   you, Councilman.

13   All right. Any other questions

14   for the witnesses?

15   (No response.)

16   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Seeing

17   none, thank you both very much.

18   MR. RESNICK: Thank you.

19   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I think

20   we have two more at least on record.

21   Ms. Marconi.

22   THE CLERK: Chris Goldstein and

23   Bishop J. Darrell Robinson.

24   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Other

25   than these two witnesses, is there anyone

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   else here to testify?

3   (No response.)

4   (Witnesses approached witness

5   table.)

6   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Please

7   identify yourself for the record and

8   proceed with your testimony, please.

9   MR. GOLDSTEIN: Good afternoon,

10   honorable members of Council. My name is

11   Chris Goldstein. I am with the

12   Philadelphia Chapter of the National

13   Organization for the Reform of Marijuana

14   Laws, also known as Philly NORML. We've

15   been working here in the City for the

16   last 15 years and also with state

17   legislators in Harrisburg and with

18   federal legislators on reforming

19   marijuana laws. Our ultimate goal is to

20   end prohibition.

21   Before you today is a very

22   pragmatic bill. Passing this measure

23   will have a positive impact on the City.

24   This will stop 4,000 residents from being

25   put into handcuffs in a holding cell

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   every year, and that could save the City

3   almost $4 million directly out of the

4   public safety budget. This will not only

5   liberate a good chunk of much-needed

6   budget funding, but it will also allow

7   police resources to be better utilized on

8   more serious crimes.

9   Let's take a look at what

10   happens right now. When a single person

11   is arrested, say, with a single joint of

12   less than a gram of marijuana -- and

13   let's be clear, that although we're

14   talking about 30 grams or less, all

15   statistics show that most of marijuana

16   possession arrests are for 7 grams or

17   less, something police officers can

18   easily discern. They can tell the

19   difference between 7 grams and 30 grams.

20   It's visually apparent, and experienced

21   police officers will know this

22   difference.

23   So what happens now when you

24   get caught with a gram of marijuana in

25   Philadelphia? Well, the offender is put

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   million a year, and take that money right

3   to the bank in the public safety budget.

4   More than 10 percent of those

5   arrested for marijuana right now still go

6   to criminal court, requiring even more

7   expenses and personnel on the part of the

8   City.

9   Councilman Kenney's bill will

10   significantly streamline the process.

11   Police officers would be given the

12   discretion to issue a simple ticket, much

13   like a parking ticket or a summary for

14   disorderly persons, public urination.

15   These don't require any special

16   identifications on the street today.

17   These summaries are issued all the time.

18   Evidence would still be seized,

19   locked up at the Police Department, but

20   if the offender pays the fine, there's no

21   need to send it to the laboratory for

22   extra expensive testing.

23   Downgrading possession of small

24   amounts of cannabis is by no means an

25   innovation here in Philadelphia. More

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   than 20 entire states have adopted this

3   approach, including New York state in

4   1979. More than 35 municipalities across

5   the country have followed suit. You

6   mentioned Chicago made the shift in 2012,

7   and just this year Washington, DC City

8   Council and Mayor Vincent Gray

9   decriminalized marijuana in our nation's

10   capital. Councilman Kenney's bill has a

11   structure modeled after DC, a simple $25

12   fine.

13   So instead of paying $3 million

14   a year to arrest 4,000 people, the City

15   could be netting a profit of, say, about

16   $10,000 a year.

17   Keep in mind that even if you

18   approve this bill and make a policy

19   change, police will always have the

20   option, as they do in every other county

21   that doesn't require mandatory custodial

22   arrest, police always have the option to

23   make a custodial arrest if they want to

24   under state law, but other counties have

25   found another way.

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   The bill before you also takes

3   note of the disturbing racial disparity

4   regarding current marijuana arrests here

5   in Philadelphia. For the last six years,

6   we at Philly NORML have produced a report

7   detailing these statistics. We utilized

8   data directly from the Pennsylvania

9   Uniform Crime Reporting System. This is

10   one of only two public crime information

11   databases available to the public,

12   Pennsylvania and Oregon.

13   Here's the breakdown: In

14   2012 -- this is the most recent year

15   available -- there were 3,709 adults and

16   563 juveniles for 4,272 total arrests on

17   the offense of just marijuana possession.

18   3,052 of these arrests were black

19   residents, 629 were white residents.

20   Five to one ratio. About 90 percent of

21   the arrests were men. The bulk of the

22   arrests are men 18 to 34 years old.

23   I ran a comparison of other

24   drugs just to see if this was maybe

25   something that happened across drugs in

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   the City. The offense for opium and

3   cocaine is combined, so all heroin

4   arrests, all powder cocaine, all crack,

5   it's all in one category. In 2012,

6   opium/cocaine combined again, there were

7   4,256 adults arrested for those drugs,

8   but the racial breakdown was about even,

9   2,155 black residents, 2,074 white

10   residents. I compared other crimes.

11   Honorable Councilmembers, there isn't a

12   single other offense in the Pennsylvania

13   Uniform Crime Reporting data for

14   Philadelphia that shows the racial

15   disparity of marijuana arrests. This

16   represents a unique issue that demands

17   your attention and careful policy

18   changes.

19   Young black men in our city are

20   facing harsh treatment for something that

21   is now perfectly legal or at least a

22   civil penalty in many other places, a

23   majority of them actually. Moreover,

24   Philadelphia's policy of mandatory

25   custody isn't replicated in any other

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 1       6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

 2       county in Pennsylvania.  Yes, police can

 3       arrest people, but they don't.  The

 4       mandatory handcuffs, that's what's unique

 5       here in Philly.  So other officers have

 6       the discretion to issue a summary,

 7       avoiding the costs and time we incur

 8       here.

 9               We've met with members of the

10       Philadelphia Police Department and Mayor

11       Michael Nutter's Administration,

12       including Mr. Resnick, since 2009.  We

13       appealed to them to make this change on

14       their own, so far to no avail.  Since we

15       have been engaging the City government,

16       let's make it clear that these numbers

17       don't stop.  Since 2009, we've seen more

18       than 20,000 residents, our families, our

19       friends, our neighbors, arrested, put

20       into handcuffs, locked up, and nearly 30

21       million tax dollars spent needlessly on

22       this overly harsh policy.

23               Something we've also pointed

24       out at the meetings, downgrading the

25       penalties for marijuana possession will
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 1          6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

 2          improve the relationship between police

 3          and the community.  There is a terrible

 4          culture of don't snitch.  If residents

 5          don't fear being put into handcuffs for

 6          smelling like marijuana or having a dime

 7          bag in their pocket, they may be much

 8          more willing to speak with police about a

 9          more violent crime they just witnessed in

10          their neighborhood.

11                    Honorable Councilmembers, there

12          are bills in Harrisburg, Senator Stack's

13          bills.  There are bills to authorize

14          medical marijuana.  We're testifying

15          there tomorrow in front of the PA Senate

16          Law and Justice Committee.  There is even

17          a bill to legalize and tax marijuana here

18          in the state akin to Colorado.  And we're

19          all aware of the active national debate,

20          but that's why this change here now today

21          is so prescient.  Philadelphians should

22          not be forced to be locked up in the past

23          while so much of the country has already

24          moved into the future.

25                    Marijuana consumers of all
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1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   colors are hard-working, productive

3   members of our community. We implore

4   you, take this opportunity, pass this

5   bill, save millions of dollars, improve

6   our community. Let's move forward in

7   Philadelphia, a city that represents the

8   heart and soul of freedom and racial

9   equality in all of America.

10   Thank you. I welcome your

11   questions.

12   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

13   you. We'll hear from the Bishop and then

14   any questions. Please.

15   BISHOP ROBINSON: I'm Bishop

16   James Darrell Robinson of Yesha

17   Ministries in South Philadelphia, and of

18   course, I'm appreciative of this

19   opportunity to sit before City Council.

20   Thank you for the consideration of what I

21   believe is a great bill by Mr. Kenney.

22   I'm sad today. I'm sad based

23   on what I have heard, and so forgive me

24   for the tenor and the tone of what I'm

25   about to say.

 1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

 2   I think it's sad because the

 3   communities that I deal with, the black

 4   community of which I'm a part, and I work

 5   with a lot of black youth, a lot of black

 6   young men in our ministry, in our

 7   community, and one of the greatest

 8   challenges I have, along with a lot of my

 9   other ministerial partners, is that of

10   getting these youth jobs after they have

11   an offense with a small amount of

12   marijuana.

13   Now, we say that in the City

14   and in the state it's not legal and

15   people are being arrested. Well, the

16   only people that are really being

17   arrested are these black youth. And I'm

18   sad because I think that in certain

19   areas, it's fine, but the area in which I

20   come up in, it's not fine. And I think

21   the tragedy is that even today we have to

22   go through all of this, the statistical

23   information -- listen, the police know

24   what a small amount of marijuana is. I

25   mean, the fact of the matter is, these

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 1        6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.
 2        disproportionate numbers are horrendous.
 3        I could take -- I can go to any
 4        university on any weekend and I could
 5        carry these police officers that arrest
 6        young youth that look like me, I can go
 7        to any of the universities and take them
 8        to some of the frat parties and houses,
 9        and guess what?  Plenty of marijuana.
10        And they're not being arrested, though.
11        Not only are they not being arrested, if
12        law enforcement comes around, they don't
13        even pay attention to it.  They say,
14        Quiet down, if there's some disturbance,
15        but they don't even pay attention to it.
16        This is my own experience.
17                Why?  Why are we still in a
18        city in 2014 that seemingly has this
19        racially bias policing of young black,
20        Hispanic youth?  And it's clear, the
21        record is clear, the statistics are
22        clear, and then we talk, Well, the police
23        may not be able to see how much, they
24        might not be -- they don't have any
25        scales.  They're not interested in
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1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   scales. To me it's engineered. It's

3   engineered, and it's directed at only a

4   particular community, and that's not

5   right. What do we have to do?

6   I deal with this every day. I

7   feel bad when I'm getting youth into job

8   situations. And this is real life for

9   me. This is not just paperwork. This is

10   real life, and I'm trying to help these

11   youth to do better, to take a better

12   path, to take a better road. And the

13   only thing -- I'm telling you, because

14   I've been doing it for a number of years.

15   You'd be surprised. Over 30 years. And

16   then they get a job and then they didn't

17   want to say they had a record, but then

18   they get released after doing a good job

19   for their employer. Well, we can't -- we

20   have -- but I just had a joint.

21   No. We can't employ you any

22   longer.

23   This is real life for these

24   youth. Well, maybe no one really cares

25   about that. Maybe it's just a matter of

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   politics and maybe it's just a matter --

3   listen, you know, the criminal justice

4   system for me, just looking at the prison

5   system and everything that goes along

6   with it in this country, blacks in this

7   country, black men make up 4 percent plus

8   of the country, but over 40 percent of

9   the prison population. Now, something

10   must be deliberate here.

11   And so, again, I ask you to

12   forgive my dander and my tone, but, you

13   know, it's hilarious that we are really

14   talking about police officers in the City

15   of Philadelphia that involve themselves

16   based on the laws that they're given in

17   this racially biased policing that takes

18   our youth, black youth in particular, and

19   put them in situations that make it

20   impossible for them to go on and live a

21   productive life because they can't get a

22   job, trust me. Just by the fact that

23   they're black, guess what's going to

24   happen? The employer is going to run a

25   check on them. Just for that fact alone.

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   When other counties -- and I'm finished.

3   I don't want to get on my pulpit here.

4   Other counties experience the, Okay,

5   y'all put that out, don't worry, just

6   quiet down. But my sons have to -- if

7   they have -- and I don't encourage weed

8   smoking. I'm not even for the

9   legalization of it, but let's just be

10   fair. Can we be fair? That's my

11   question.

12   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

13   you, Bishop and Mr. Goldstein.

14   Just a quick question for you,

15   Bishop. Over those many years that

16   you've been helping people try to get

17   employment, give me a rough estimate of

18   how many people you think lost a job

19   because of the situation we're talking

20   about here.

21   BISHOP ROBINSON: Wow. Let's

22   put it in -- I can't even -- you know,

23   it's so many until it's just -- I mean,

24   in 30 years. I mean, and we're actively

25   involved with many groups in the City of

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   Philadelphia, many church groups. And

3   there are some employers that will hire

4   those that have records, but it's awful.

5   I can't even really come up with a

6   number, to be honest with you. I'd have

7   to sit down and pull out a calculator,

8   get my CPA to the table. You know, it's

9   unbelievable.

10   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I

11   understand. And honestly, that was just,

12   in my opinion, one of the best arguments

13   for Councilman Kenney's bill to think --

14   and I know people that I've referred

15   through City Council try to help get jobs

16   and the same situation bounced back, and

17   it just -- I agree with you --

18   BISHOP ROBINSON: And what

19   alternative do they have when they can't

20   get a job, when on the street they have

21   to survive? What are their alternatives

22   then? So what are we leaving them? What

23   then do we leave them to do? What's

24   their alternative?

25   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I

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 1       6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

 2       understand.  Thank you.

 3                   Any other questions or comments

 4       for either of these witnesses?

 5                   (No response.)

 6                   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:  Seeing

 7       none --

 8                   COUNCILMAN OH:  Chairman?

 9                   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:  I'm

10       sorry, Councilman.  Councilman Oh,

11       please.

12                   COUNCILMAN OH:  I have a

13       question, and I know passions are high,

14       so I'm just calming it down.  I have a

15       question.  Because I do understand what

16       you're saying and I did follow the point

17       where you're saying you're not for the

18       legalization of marijuana in the United

19       States.  Is that correct?

20                   BISHOP ROBINSON:  Yeah.  You

21       heard that.

22                   COUNCILMAN OH:  So I do express

23       just a little concern or maybe a lot of

24       concern, not about this bill in

25       particular, but in 2007, the United
```

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   States -- the purchase of marijuana was

3   about $113 billion, and that is related

4   to about 5,000 murders. We are a big

5   consumer of marijuana, and as a result,

6   we have marijuana grown around the world,

7   and in Mexico alone because of the

8   illegal production, exporting, packaging,

9   criminal organizations, there's about

10   5,000 murders related to marijuana,

11   heroin and other drugs from the Mexican

12   drug cartel. And so if it is not illegal

13   in the United States and we are allowing

14   people to purchase more illegal

15   substances, particularly from other

16   countries, poor countries around the

17   world, how do you justify that type of an

18   idea?

19   BISHOP ROBINSON: Well -- and

20   you're talking directly to me, right?

21   COUNCILMAN OH: Yes.

22   BISHOP ROBINSON: First, I

23   don't want to confuse the issues here. I

24   have certainly an idea about how we deal

25   with that, but I think what Councilman

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   Kenney is dealing with has to do more or

3   less -- because I don't think the

4   question of legalization is on the table,

5   is it?

6   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: No.

7   BISHOP ROBINSON: Right. So I

8   think that to stick to the issue, I would

9   like to deal with the disproportionate

10   youth that are being affected by being

11   arrested. I think that the Councilman

12   says let's fine them. What's wrong with

13   that? What's wrong with making sense?

14   Because the idea is, those that are not

15   being -- and instead of turning a blind

16   eye to the others that use it and don't

17   get anything, let's fine them as well,

18   and then maybe the City would take in

19   more money. What do you think about

20   that? Let's fine everyone now. Let's

21   make it even across the board, because

22   it's not even now. Now we have some

23   being arrested while others are being

24   turned a blind eye to. Let's now say to

25   the Police Department and those that are

 1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

 2   in charge of the criminal justice system,

 3   Let's make sure we fine everyone, even,

 4   unfortunately, our college students that

 5   use it. Let's fine everyone. Let's just

 6   be fair. That's all I'm asking.

 7   COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very

 8   much.

 9   MR. GOLDSTEIN: Councilman Oh,

10   I just have one point to make. Even the

11   Drug Enforcement Administration

12   acknowledges that 90 percent of the

13   marijuana that is smoked in the United

14   States is grown in the United States.

15   It's not flowing over borders the way it

16   did in the 1970s. It's a home-grown

17   product.

18   COUNCILMAN OH: Okay. Well, I

19   mean, I'm not an expert in the topic, but

20   I have here that in 2010 -- so that's

21   four years ago -- 60 percent of the

22   profits from the sale of cannabis by the

23   Mexican drug cartel in particular was to

24   the U.S., which primarily is a large

25   market, very competitive market for those

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   organizations to get into the U.S.

3   market. Are you saying that that

4   information is not correct?

5   MR. GOLDSTEIN: The market

6   shifted drastically for marijuana. There

7   are lots of people who make a lot of

8   money on cocaine and heroin, and that

9   comes in from even places like

10   Afghanistan where our United States

11   government is. But, again, what we're

12   talking about is possession. Even in the

13   City of Philadelphia, let's look at how

14   many people we arrest for sale and

15   manufacture here. It's only 2,184

16   adults. So we're not really enforcing

17   the sale and manufacture. We enforce

18   possession. That's where these arrests

19   come in. There's 750,000 marijuana

20   arrests in this country, 90 percent for

21   possession.

22   So I encourage you to take this

23   up with law enforcement if you want to

24   see them better spend their resources

25   dealing with the manufacture and the

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   transport of marijuana, but right now all

3   of our resources are spent on possession,

4   and we shouldn't be spending that money

5   here in the City.

6   COUNCILMAN OH: Okay. Thank

7   you very much.

8   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

9   you, Councilman.

10   Any other questions or comments

11   for the witnesses?

12   (No response.)

13   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Seeing

14   none, is there anyone else here to

15   testify on Bill No. 140377?

16   (No response.)

17   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Seeing

18   none, that will conclude our public

19   hearing.

20   Let me just make sure it's

21   clear for the record there will be also

22   made part of the record the Law

23   Department opinion that was referenced

24   earlier that, in short, said that it did

25   not interfere with -- this bill would not

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   interfere with state law. That will be

3   made part of the record.

4   Again, that concludes our

5   public hearing. We will now go into our

6   public meeting.

7   And the Chair recognizes

8   Councilman Kenney.

9   COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you,

10   Mr. Chairman. I move that we accept the

11   amendment offered to Bill No. 130922.

12   (Duly seconded.)

13   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: It's been

14   moved and seconded.

15   All in favor?

16   (Aye.)

17   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Opposed?

18   (No response.)

19   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Hearing

20   none, the amendment is adopted.

21   Councilman Kenney.

22   COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you,

23   Mr. Chairman. I move that Bill No.

24   130922, as amended, be reported out of

25   this Committee favorably and a request

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   made for rules suspension to allow first

3   reading at our next Council session.

4   (Duly seconded.)

5   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: It's been

6   moved and seconded.

7   All in favor?

8   (Aye.)

9   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Opposed?

10   (No response.)

11   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Hearing

12   none, Bill No. 130922, as amended, is

13   reported out of this Committee favorably

14   with a rules suspension.

15   Councilman Kenney.

16   COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you,

17   Mr. Chairman. I move that Bill No.

18   140377 be reported out of this Committee

19   with a favorable -- thank you,

20   Mr. Chairman. I move that the amendment

21   to Bill No. 140377 be approved.

22   (Duly seconded.)

23   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: It's been

24   moved and seconded the amendment be

25   approved.

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   All in favor?

3   (Aye.)

4   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Opposed?

5   Hold on one second. We'll hold

6   one second.

7   (Pause.)

8   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: The

9   motion was to approve the amendment. All

10   in favor?

11   (Aye.)

12   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Opposed?

13   (No response.)

14   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Hearing

15   none, the amendment is adopted.

16   Councilman Kenney.

17   COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you,

18   Mr. Chairman. I move that Bill No.

19   140377, as amended, be reported out of

20   this Committee favorably and a request

21   made for rules suspension to allow first

22   reading at our next Council session.

23   (Duly seconded.)

24   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: It's been

25   moved and seconded.

1   6/9/14 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 130922, etc.

2   All in favor?

3   (Aye.)

4   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Opposed?

5   COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: No.

6   COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: The

7   record will reflect Councilman O'Brien

8   voting no. The motion carries, and Bill

9   No. 140377, as amended, is reported out

10   of this Committee favorably with a rules

11   suspension to allow for first reading at

12   our next session of Council.

13   That concludes the business of

14   the Law and Government Committee today.

15   Thank you all for your participation.

16   (Committee on Law and

17   Government concluded at 2:40 p.m.)

18   - - -

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1

2   CERTIFICATE

3   I HEREBY CERTIFY that the

4   proceedings, evidence and objections are

5   contained fully and accurately in the

6   stenographic notes taken by me upon the

7   foregoing matter, and that this is a true and

8   correct transcript of same.

9

10

11

12

13   --------------------

14   MICHELE L. MURPHY

15   RPR-Notary Public

16

17

18

19   (The foregoing certification of this

20   transcript does not apply to any reproduction

21   of the same by any means, unless under the

22   direct control and/or supervision of the

23   certifying reporter.)

24

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