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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA  
JOINT COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY  
AND PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- - -

West Philadelphia High School  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Monday, October 2, 2006  
7:10 p.m.

- - -

PRESENT:  
COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER  
COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCIO  
COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO

RESOLUTION 051155 - Resolution authorizing the  
Council Committees on Public Safety and Public  
Health and Human Services to hold hearings  
regarding the findings and recommendations of  
the "Blueprint for a Safer Philadelphia," and  
further authorizing the Committees to seek  
advice and recommendations on how Philadelphia  
can reduce and eliminate crime affecting the  
City's youth.

- - -

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COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Good

3

evening, everyone. My name is Marian

4

Tasco. I am Chair of the Public Health

5

and Human Services Committee. Tonight we

6

are co-sponsoring with the Public Safety

7

Committee, chaired by Councilwoman Donna

8

Reed Miller, a series of public hearings

9

across the City.

10

Two hundred ninety five. This

11

is the number of homicides in

12

Philadelphia this year, and we have still

13

three months to go before 2007. When

14

will this madness stop? When will we get

15

sick and tired of living with the crime

16

and violence that is wreaking havoc on

17

our City? And I dare say tonight we saw

18

the news today about what happened up in

19

the Amish country.

20

According to a recent

21

Philadelphia Inquirer story, an FBI

22

report, Philadelphia was No. 1 among big

23

cities for violent crime. Last year,

24

violent crime was up 3.4 percent, which

25

includes a 1.5 percent increase in

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           homicides. Considering this information,  
3           we not only have a serious crime issue in  
4           our City, but a major public health  
5           crisis.

6                       Something has to be done about  
7           this violence that is escalating in our  
8           City, about the number of guns in our  
9           City and about the willingness of our  
10          youth to resort to handguns to address  
11          their problems.

12                     That something has started and  
13          continues today as we hold this Joint  
14          Public Health and Human Services and  
15          Public Safety Committees hearing, not in  
16          City Hall but here in the community, to  
17          discuss this epidemic of violence and how  
18          the Blueprint for a Safer Philadelphia  
19          can address this problem.

20                     We started this process in City  
21          Council last spring. The two joint  
22          committees came together and held public  
23          hearings in Council Chambers. And then  
24          we have taken this hearing on the road  
25          throughout the City of Philadelphia,

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           beginning in Germantown at Germantown  
3           High School, Olney High School, South  
4           Philadelphia High School, Gratz High  
5           School. Last week we were at Overbrook.  
6           Tonight we are here, and next week, the  
7           19th, we will be at Bartram High School.  
8           Tonight is another step in our process of  
9           solving this problem.

10                   Last Tuesday, we went to  
11           Harrisburg to rally, demonstrate and  
12           bring attention to this issue and to  
13           address the members of the Pennsylvania  
14           General Assembly. On Tuesday, our State  
15           Representatives needed to hear our voices  
16           and see our presence in Harrisburg so  
17           that they know that we are serious about  
18           our efforts to end the violence in  
19           Philadelphia and throughout our State.

20                   I would like to thank my  
21           colleagues, members of the Committee,  
22           Councilman Rizzo, who is here, and again  
23           Councilwoman Miller, who will address  
24           you. I'd also like to recognize State  
25           Representative James Roebuck, and you

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           will hear from State Representative  
3           Dwight Evans. And I also thank you, the  
4           public, for your participation in our  
5           effort to commence ending violence in our  
6           City. Through your presence and  
7           participation, you are demonstrating that  
8           you, like all of us, are sick and tired  
9           of this crime and violence problem in our  
10          City. Enough is enough, and together we  
11          can develop a solution to this problem.

12                       We would have hoped that we get  
13          more people to come out, because the  
14          Blueprint for a Safer Philadelphia is a  
15          blueprint. It is to come together to  
16          figure out what we can do collectively to  
17          end the violence, and we're here tonight  
18          to hear from you.

19                      Before we begin the program,  
20          let me have my Legislative Chief, Derek  
21          Green, read the resolution so we can  
22          formally open this meeting. The meeting  
23          is being recorded by our stenographer.  
24          We will have a record of the proceedings,  
25          and hopefully at the end of the series of

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           hearings, we will do a report, which we  
3           will give to our colleagues in City  
4           Council.

5                       MR. GREEN: Resolution 051155,  
6           resolution authorizing the Council  
7           Committees on Public Safety and Public  
8           Health and Human Services to hold  
9           hearings regarding the findings and  
10          recommendations of the "Blueprint for a  
11          Safer Philadelphia," and further  
12          authorizing the Committees to seek advice  
13          and recommendations on how Philadelphia  
14          can reduce and eliminate crime affecting  
15          the City's youth.

16                     COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: We will  
17          now hear from Councilwoman Donna Reed  
18          Miller of the Eighth Councilmanic  
19          District and Chair of the Public Safety  
20          Committee.

21                     COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Good  
22          evening, everyone. I don't have long  
23          remarks, but, again, I just want to say  
24          that we are here to discuss the Blueprint  
25          for a Safer Philadelphia and its ten-year

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           plan. There's been so much talk of  
3           violence in our City, from murders and  
4           other violent forms of crime, that we  
5           felt it necessary to convene these public  
6           hearings in communities to get the input  
7           from our constituency.

8                       As we all know, we cannot  
9           legislate attitude change. One of the  
10          reasons we brought these hearings to the  
11          community is to show the rest of our City  
12          that we are not indifferent.  
13          Indifference can be an easy solution.  
14          It's so much easier to look away from  
15          victims. It's so much easier to avoid  
16          such rude interruptions to our daily  
17          lives. It is, after all, awkward,  
18          troublesome to be involved in another  
19          person's pain and despair.

20                      Gun violence is only a part of  
21          what we are here for today. We are here  
22          to show our young people that they are  
23          not destined to a violent end. We want  
24          to offer them other alternatives to  
25          taking lives as a way of resolving

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           disputes. We want to give them other  
3           options for their future. We want to let  
4           them know that there is a bright future  
5           ahead of them and not one of doom and  
6           gloom.

7                       Certainly everyone today that  
8           I've talked to is very saddened by the  
9           shootings that's taken place up in  
10          Lancaster County. And I was just looking  
11          at the news and it said that there have  
12          been 100 shootings, 100 type shootings  
13          similar to this one that we had today in  
14          Lancaster.

15                      Everybody just shakes their  
16          head. They're all saddened. We just  
17          don't know what to do. As elected  
18          officials, as citizens, we just don't  
19          know what to do. And I guess one of the  
20          good things that we can do is everybody  
21          put their heads together and come up with  
22          suggestions, because that's all we can do  
23          right about now, other than use our State  
24          Representative, Dwight Evans, to help us  
25          get funding for various programs.

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155

2                   REPRESENTATIVE EVANS: Thank  
3           you, Donna.

4                   COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank  
5           you. Thank you all for coming out.

6                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Let me  
7           just say before I introduce State  
8           Representative Evans, Councilwoman Miller  
9           and Councilman Darrell Clarke have  
10          introduced and we have had hearings on  
11          several bills that they have introduced,  
12          had hearings on the Calendar waiting to  
13          be passed, but we can't do it until the  
14          State legislature takes action. Anyway,  
15          she'll tell you what the bills are, but  
16          the bills are to control the guns, and  
17          I'll let her talk about it.

18                   But the Council has taken a  
19          leadership role in trying to gain local  
20          control over how we deal with guns in  
21          Philadelphia. At one time, Councilman  
22          Ortiz introduced a bill in Philadelphia  
23          to ban assault weapons, but that was  
24          overridden by the State legislature.  
25          They said we don't have the power to

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           legislate guns or gun activity in  
3           Philadelphia.

4                       That's what we're trying to do  
5           in Harrisburg. So we want you to know  
6           that we are trying on the local level to  
7           do what we can to exercise some control,  
8           and I wanted you to know that  
9           Councilwoman Miller and Councilman  
10          Darrell Clarke have been very forceful in  
11          trying to get their bills passed.

12                      COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Right.  
13          We actually have probably about eight  
14          bills. Another one was introduced last  
15          week. But Philadelphia does not have the  
16          authority to enact its own gun laws, and  
17          that's why it's important that our  
18          partners at the State level have now  
19          taken those bills to the State to fight,  
20          and it's actually a real fight.  
21          Representative John Myers, whom we sent  
22          about four bills up to and it's a one gun  
23          a month, called me this morning to tell  
24          me that he believes and he was sure that  
25          he's going to get beat up tomorrow when

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           his one-gun-a-month bill comes up on the  
3           House floor, and he said that he's  
4           actually heard Reps talking about how  
5           they can't wait for this bill to come up  
6           tomorrow so they can defeat it in a major  
7           way.

8                       COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Maybe not  
9           after today.

10                      COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: You're  
11           right, because now it's in Lancaster.

12                      I used to work for State  
13           Representative David Richardson, and we  
14           always had a staff exchange. We brought  
15           our Harrisburg staff down to Philadelphia  
16           and we, in turn, went up to Harrisburg.  
17           And people in Harrisburg and people in  
18           other parts of the State, maybe other  
19           than Pittsburgh, just don't have a real  
20           clue of what we go through here in  
21           Philadelphia. So taking the bus to  
22           Harrisburg last Tuesday I thought was an  
23           excellent way to show our State Reps and  
24           our State Senators that they have our  
25           support, that people in Philadelphia care

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155

2           enough to take a day off to go to  
3           Harrisburg to show them support for the  
4           bills that they're introducing.

5                       We had another bill in 2005  
6           where voters went to the polls and voted,  
7           should Philadelphia control its own gun  
8           laws, and 80 percent of the voters voted  
9           yes. And so that's one of the bills that  
10          Representative Evans has now introduced  
11          and he'll be fighting for, but we have a  
12          long fight ahead, a long fight ahead.

13                      I just wanted to give you a  
14          briefing, but there's many other bills,  
15          like straw purchases and other things.

16                      COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: One of the  
17          things we're going to do, we're going to  
18          have the presentations and then we're  
19          going to open the floor for questions.  
20          The presentations are brief. We're going  
21          to ask our State Representative, Dwight  
22          Evans, to come forward and explain to you  
23          how we came about the Blueprint, what is  
24          the Blueprint and what does it do. But  
25          first let me recognize Sergeant Kyler,

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           who is here with us, and also State  
3           Representative Ronald Waters, who has  
4           joined us at the end of the table.

5                       In 1999 when Representative  
6           Evans was a candidate for Mayor, he was  
7           talking about the No. 1 issue in the  
8           country was guns and violence, and we  
9           were all telling him, he had a wonderful  
10          story to tell about what he had done up  
11          on Ogontz Avenue in revitalizing that  
12          community and why didn't he tell that  
13          story, but his message was, in 1999, we  
14          have to do something about the violence,  
15          the guns, the violence in the City of  
16          Philadelphia. At that time, it wasn't  
17          sexy and the message fell on deaf ears.

18                      Here we are in 2006 and that is  
19          the message, and he has taken a  
20          leadership role in the City of  
21          Philadelphia on the issue of guns and  
22          violence. And I'd like to introduce him  
23          to you, because he is sort of the  
24          initiator of the Blueprint for a Safer  
25          Philadelphia. He will talk to you about

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           the Blueprint, what it does, how it came  
3           about and how the funding works and how  
4           you might be able to get involved.

5                       Then we have Alicia Jackson  
6           from MEE Productions, who will talk to  
7           you about what they're doing to promote  
8           the Blueprint and to engage the broader  
9           community in the activities of the  
10          Blueprint.

11                      Then we have Archye Leacock,  
12          Don't Fall Down in the Hood, who is the  
13          gentleman who is working in the community  
14          to help stem the tide of violence and  
15          working with young people.

16                      And then we have the 18th  
17          Police District, Sergeant Kyler, who is  
18          here with us tonight.

19                      We'll first begin with our  
20          State Representative, Dwight Evans.

21                      REPRESENTATIVE EVANS: Thank  
22          you very much, Madam Chairperson.

23                      Before I make a few comments  
24          relating to how we got to where we are, I  
25          want to sincerely thank Councilwoman

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           Marian Tasco, Councilwoman Donna Reed  
3           Miller and Councilman Frank Rizzo,  
4           because we started this partnership in  
5           City Council, and we have gone from City  
6           Council to Germantown to Olney to Gratz  
7           to South Philly, Overbrook last week and  
8           West Philadelphia, and then we're due to  
9           go to Strawberry Mansion and Bartram.  
10          And it's not an accident, it's not an  
11          accident that we're doing it in the  
12          schools. I want you to think about this  
13          for a second.

14                       The incident that occurred in  
15                       Colorado, the 16-year-old who was shot  
16                       and killed was in a school. The young  
17                       boy who was 15 years old who shot a  
18                       principal was in a school. The incident  
19                       today was in a school.

20                      If we cannot make our schools  
21                      safe, there is a direct connection to our  
22                      ability to grow our economy. Let me  
23                      repeat that. If we cannot make our  
24                      schools safe and secure, there's a direct  
25                      connection to what happens in our

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           economy, because schools are the basis of  
3           our ability to grow. And if you think  
4           about the incidents in Colorado, in  
5           Lancaster and in Wisconsin, they all  
6           happened in schools. And think about  
7           this: There used to be a time, if you  
8           have a child, that you could send them to  
9           school and you were assured that they  
10          would be safe and secure. That no longer  
11          exists.

12                       Now, the reason I want to thank  
13          Marian Tasco and Donna Reed Miller from  
14          their perspectives, because this is not  
15          an easy issue to deal with. This is not  
16          going to be dealt with in an election  
17          cycle. This is not going to be dealt  
18          with in next year's Mayor's race or  
19          Council's race. This is a long-time  
20          struggle, and this is a movement. And  
21          the reason I said what Marian Tasco said  
22          to me was, I want to share with you what  
23          I think was the tipping point to this  
24          movement.

25                       Faheem Thomas-Childs, February

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           of 2004, on his way to school, in the  
3           right place, not the wrong place, 90  
4           rounds he gets shot in the head, a  
5           10-year-old. From that effort, Jerry  
6           Mondesire, Jewell Williams and others led  
7           a 12,000-person march. From that march,  
8           Jewell and Jerry came to me and they said  
9           to me, What is it that we can do?

10                   I met a person out of Harvard  
11           by the name of Dr. Stith, and she wrote a  
12           book called "Murder is Preventable," and  
13           in that book she described what happens  
14           with murders and the trends, and I want  
15           you to think about this for a second.  
16           When murder primarily is happening in  
17           black neighborhoods, in poor  
18           neighborhoods, in people of color, folks  
19           generally didn't think much of a problem.  
20           When the problem happened in Columbine,  
21           when it happened in Columbine, there was  
22           a different attitude about it.

23                   What I have been saying  
24           consistently is that no one is immune.  
25           You can live in the City, you can live in

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155

2           the suburb, you can live in rural  
3           Pennsylvania. No one is immune from this  
4           violence. This is a national epidemic.

5                       So when I met Dr. Stith, who is  
6           a medical doctor, who is a trauma doctor,  
7           she stopped patching people up and she  
8           went on a crusade and talked about this  
9           as a public health problem, very similar  
10          to cigarettes. In 1964, there was a  
11          Surgeon General report and the Surgeon  
12          General report talked about the danger of  
13          cigarettes, and if you recall, in 1964,  
14          they started putting warning labels on  
15          cigarettes. It went from warning labels  
16          to a full-blown campaign. Now you have a  
17          debate around not just the nation but  
18          around the world where you have entire  
19          countries where people don't -- they have  
20          campaigns against smoking. Well, I would  
21          argue we are at the same point about  
22          violence.

23                      Now, we have tried the criminal  
24          justice approach, and the criminal  
25          justice approach by itself will not solve

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155

2           this problem. You can't hire enough  
3           police officers, though we need more  
4           police officers. You can't build enough  
5           prisons, though there's nothing wrong  
6           with having them because some people  
7           deserve to be in prison. So, yes, you  
8           can get more police officers, but by  
9           itself.

10                       The public health aspect of it  
11           is where the Blueprint comes in. What a  
12           group of us decided is, we got  
13           together -- and this is where the MEE  
14           Production will explain what happened --  
15           is, we're running kind of a campaign to  
16           try to undo this type of behavior. So  
17           what happened is, we, Ron Waters here and  
18           Representative Roebuck, both of them, we  
19           have been hitting this on every front you  
20           can think of. We've been talking about  
21           guns. We've been talking about public  
22           health. We've been doing grass-root  
23           organizing. We've been going  
24           neighborhood by neighborhood. We've been  
25           doing everything. And each member does

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           something that can contribute to what you  
3           call a Blueprint for a Safer  
4           Philadelphia.

5                       So what Councilwoman Marian  
6           Tasco and Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller  
7           and Councilman Frank Rizzo are doing is,  
8           we're doing something that we probably  
9           should have done a long time ago. We're  
10          just kind of going to grass-root  
11          organizing from the bottom up, not from  
12          the top down. And we're trying to  
13          solicit your effort to join this  
14          movement, because that's what this is.  
15          We're trying to solicit you to join this  
16          movement.

17                      We have a hotline number called  
18          1-888-570-BLUE, 1-888-570-BLUE, which  
19          Alicia will talk to you about. We have a  
20          website. And what we've basically been  
21          doing is, we've been kind of going  
22          neighborhood by neighborhood, organizing,  
23          getting people to go door by door,  
24          canvassing. You name it, that's what  
25          we've been trying to do. And then we've

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           been organizing the groups to kind of  
3           hook the groups up with various  
4           neighborhoods. There's all kinds of  
5           activity that occur around the City. So  
6           far in terms of the money in the last  
7           three years, a total of \$28 million has  
8           been invested towards this Blueprint.  
9           For example, money in which you call  
10          Witness Relocation Program with Cherelle  
11          Parker. There's a local State Firearm  
12          Task Force, which is dealing with  
13          enforcement around gun policy. A parent  
14          involvement program, which basically you  
15          have a parent desk at schools, the  
16          organizing parents. We have what you  
17          call a Gun Court, which deals with gun  
18          issues. We have patrol of Philadelphia  
19          interstate, which Councilman Frank Rizzo  
20          was one of the ones to lead. We have  
21          three hospitals we work with,  
22          Pennsylvania injury reporting, which  
23          we're working with hospitals in terms of  
24          documenting. The Violent Reduction  
25          Partnership we have as an initiative.

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2           And then we fund an awful lot of groups  
3           in the City of Philadelphia that are  
4           involved.

5                       So you can see we are trying to  
6           hit this from short term and long term.  
7           It's a ten-year initiative that is  
8           targeted to trying to eradicate youth  
9           homicides by the year 2016, because it's  
10          going to take this kind of an effort.  
11          And I know there's a lot of people who  
12          say, What are you doing now? Well, this  
13          just didn't get here where we are today.  
14          I mean, it's really deep-seated to  
15          understand this question of violence.

16                      Think about something for a  
17          second. Dr. Martin Luther king led a  
18          movement with using non-violence as a  
19          tool, when there was dogs and fire hoses  
20          and everything, and he charged the  
21          movement basically using that as a tool,  
22          which revolutionized this country and  
23          this world, and he stayed consistent. He  
24          stayed consistent. If you look between  
25          him and Rosa Parks, it was a consistent

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2           effort.

3                       So my theory is, when you have  
4           a righteous position -- and are there  
5           going to be setbacks? And you will look  
6           at the statistics. We're up to like 290  
7           murders. We're up to 1,300 shootings,  
8           and I know you look at those numbers and  
9           stuff and then you ask yourself a  
10          question, Is there a connection between  
11          what we're trying to do and the  
12          reduction. I can only say to you that we  
13          can't afford to do what we have done in  
14          the past, start and stop.

15                      What Councilwoman Marian Tasco  
16          and Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller are  
17          doing and Councilman Rizzo is doing is,  
18          basically they are the official City  
19          representatives and they're, in a sense,  
20          giving a stamp of approval of the City  
21          government. Ron Waters and Jim Roebuck  
22          here, we are from the State perspective.  
23          And I've been in politics a long time.  
24          Never has there been a joint effort  
25          between the City Council and the

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           Philadelphia delegation to attack this  
3           issue. I mean, think about that. You  
4           got the City legislators here and you got  
5           the State legislators here, which are  
6           trying to make policy changes to put  
7           things in place that will reduce  
8           violence.

9                        So I want you to understand  
10          something. I want you to understand. So  
11          if you go from Faheem Thomas-Childs, he  
12          was shot and killed in February of 2004.  
13          We met for the first time in April of  
14          2004 with the DA. Yes, we met with all  
15          of these people, and we basically have  
16          been trying to collectively bring our  
17          influence to attack this issue.

18                       So I want to put that in  
19          perspective to you to understand how we  
20          have been working together to send a  
21          message to all of our constituents,  
22          because we all represent you. Even  
23          though we may be from districts and  
24          sometimes -- I think sometimes people get  
25          too caught up into districts and what

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           districts they're from, but let me tell  
3           you something, a bullet doesn't know  
4           anything about a district. Let me repeat  
5           that again. A bullet does not know  
6           anything about a district. I don't think  
7           a bullet stops -- what's your district  
8           number, Jim?

9                         REPRESENTATIVE ROEBUCK: 188.

10                        REPRESENTATIVE EVANS: 188.

11           I'm in the 203. You think a bullet knows  
12           the difference between those districts?

13                        Ron, what are you?

14                        REPRESENTATIVES WATERS: 191.

15                        REPRESENTATIVE EVANS: 191.

16           And Frank Rizzo is the only one who is a  
17           Councilman-at-large, and others are 8 and  
18           9. I don't think bullets know anything.  
19           I don't think a bullet stops at a  
20           district line and says, I can't pass this  
21           district, I can't go in this district.  
22           It doesn't know anything about it.

23                        So what we're trying to say to  
24           you, we're trying to show you as the  
25           elected leadership in this City that we

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           have a unified effort and we are not  
3           going to stop until we can collectively  
4           with you -- because we must do it with  
5           you. It's not us -- it's not a piece of  
6           legislation in City Council or in  
7           Harrisburg or in Washington, but what it  
8           is, what we're trying to show you -- and  
9           it's been a lot of work, and that's why I  
10          want to applaud the Councilpeople in what  
11          they're doing. They have districts in  
12          another part of the City, but they come.  
13          They've been regularly sticking with  
14          this, and I want to just say that to you.

15                 So I want to now turn it over  
16          to Alicia Jackson, who can talk about the  
17          specifics.

18                 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Just a  
19          second, Representative Evans. Just  
20          before Alicia speaks, I would like to  
21          recognize Councilman Rizzo as a member of  
22          this Committee, who would like to make a  
23          few comments, and I apologize,  
24          Councilman.

25                 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: No problem

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           at all.

3                       Councilwomen Tasco, Donna Reed  
4           Miller, thank you for bringing our  
5           Council hearings to the community, but I  
6           must say that I have to applaud the  
7           members of our House, Dwight Evans. I  
8           went to Harrisburg and I know how  
9           difficult it is for you gentlemen and the  
10          ladies also that represent Philadelphia,  
11          how difficult it is to deal with some of  
12          your colleagues.

13                      We met. We thought we would  
14          get at least a cordial reception, and it  
15          was far from that. They didn't want to  
16          hear anything at all. Matter of fact,  
17          one particular State Senator was very,  
18          very rude to us. And my point is that  
19          the members of the House that are here,  
20          it's difficult for them up there, because  
21          when they walk down the hallway, their  
22          colleagues aren't very happy that they  
23          brought thousands of people to Harrisburg  
24          to protest on the steps of the Capitol.

25                      So I thank you personally for

21 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: A quick  
22 short story I will share with you. When  
23 State Representative David P. Richardson  
24 was in the House, for many years he tried  
25 to get the State legislators to lift the

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           lien law. In the old days when  
3           unfortunately you might have had to go on  
4           public assistance, you owned property,  
5           the State would lien your property for  
6           the amount until you paid it back. If  
7           you sold your house and you hadn't paid  
8           the lien, they would take the money from  
9           your sale. And he tried to convince the  
10          rest of the State that it was important  
11          that they lift this lien law, but the  
12          State Representatives just thought it was  
13          Philadelphia and those poor people down  
14          there who can't stay off of welfare.

15                 Well, back in the '80s, mid  
16          '80s when the steel mills closed upstate  
17          Pennsylvania and those people who had  
18          worked in the steel mills for years and  
19          who owned their homes had to go on  
20          assistance, it became quite apparent to  
21          the legislators that they had to do  
22          something, and it was because of this  
23          that the Representative's bill finally  
24          passed, but it took a very long time.

25                         REPRESENTATIVE EVANS: Sixteen

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155

2           years.

3                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Sixteen  
4           years for them to see. And I hope that  
5           we don't have to wait until more people  
6           are killed upstate. It's just like  
7           predatory lending, we couldn't get them  
8           to understand it until the people were  
9           being preyed upon in the rest of the part  
10          of the State.

11                   So let's hope that we don't  
12          have to have more killings like today,  
13          and when these people kill a lot of  
14          innocent people in one time, that the  
15          legislators can see that there has to be  
16          something done.

17                   So now I thank you for letting  
18          me share that story with you, but it sort  
19          of ties in with what Councilman Rizzo was  
20          saying.

21                   Alicia Jackson from MEE  
22          Productions, please proceed. Thank you  
23          so much for coming.

24                   MS. JACKSON: Thank you.

25                   How is everyone doing this

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           evening? We appreciate you coming out.

3                     As it's been said, we really  
4           appreciate the Councilpersons here,  
5           specifically Councilwoman Tasco,  
6           Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller,  
7           Councilman Rizzo and, more importantly,  
8           State Representative Evans.

9                     My name again is Alicia  
10          Jackson. I'm with an organization called  
11          MEE, M-E-E, Production. We're a  
12          research-based communications company  
13          located here in Philadelphia but doing  
14          national work around a lot of public  
15          health issues, specifically violence. We  
16          were brought in to this effort about a  
17          year and a half ago as the team that  
18          Representative Evans talked about was  
19          looking at a different strategy around  
20          how we approach violence in Philadelphia.

21                    As a part of this new approach,  
22          the Representative, of course, alluded to  
23          the criminal justice aspect, and we  
24          concur. We cannot continue to deal with  
25          this issue from a criminal justice

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           standpoint. So we were very excited to  
3           be involved in this effort as it was  
4           looked at from a public health  
5           standpoint. And when we talk public  
6           health, we're talking prevention.

7                       We were brought in as a social  
8           marketing company to actually develop a  
9           social marketing campaign, and what that  
10          is intended to do, that is intended to,  
11          one, raise awareness in the community  
12          around a particular issue. This issue  
13          being violence prevention.

14                     In addition to that, we're  
15          charged with raising the level of  
16          education around violence prevention.  
17          The ultimate goal is to change our  
18          behavior with reference to how we  
19          approach violence. We don't want to be  
20          reacting to violence. We want to now  
21          start to think about violence very  
22          differently.

23                     As a research-based  
24          communications company, our initial  
25          strategy with reference to the campaign

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           was to go out and talk to the community.  
3           We actually conducted focus groups with  
4           community-based organizations, parents  
5           and young people here in Philadelphia  
6           around how they view violence. There  
7           were a lot of consistencies with this  
8           research. Some of the major findings  
9           were, which are very critical as you talk  
10          about message development, the community,  
11          the parents and young people all  
12          articulated that education is critical.  
13          Education is most important, and we need  
14          to focus on these young folks' education.  
15          They articulated that, and it was very  
16          strong.

17                 Another major finding as a  
18          result of this research was that adult  
19          involvement is critical. These young  
20          folk need adults involved in their lives.  
21          Right now we're looking at a lack of  
22          adult involvement. So they articulated,  
23          along with community-based organizations  
24          and along with parents, that adults must  
25          step to the forefront and be involved in

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           this effort.

3                     Another critical finding was  
4           that parenting was very important to  
5           young people. We're not placing blame.  
6           We're not saying that parents are at the  
7           root of this problem, and we're not  
8           saying that parents are at fault. What  
9           we are saying is that parents need  
10          support. So we're here to educate the  
11          community to say it takes all of us to  
12          raise these children, and parents need  
13          our assistance with doing that.

14                    And then, finally, another  
15          critical finding was that, again, kids  
16          articulated that they wanted us to be  
17          involved in their lives. Unlike most  
18          people think, kids really want us to be  
19          there for them, and they articulated  
20          this.

21                    For anybody who wants this  
22          research, it is available in DVD format,  
23          as well as in a written research report,  
24          and it's available to anyone who would  
25          like this research to, again, check out

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           the findings for the issue of violence in  
3           Philadelphia.

4                       As a result of those findings,  
5           MEE Productions set out to develop a  
6           campaign around those messages. This is  
7           a multi-component campaign. It is a  
8           multi-year campaign, as the  
9           Representative articulated, and we really  
10          thank him for his vision as well as his  
11          leadership.

12                      This is not going to happen  
13          overnight. It's going to take some time.  
14          So we are looking at ten years of hard  
15          work, of rolling our sleeves up to say,  
16          Let's get into the community, let's get  
17          into the trenches to change our behavior  
18          as it pertains to violence.

19                      We have started this campaign  
20          back in February of 2006 where we  
21          launched radio ads. You might have heard  
22          those radio ads. Again, we're talking  
23          the Blueprint for a Safer Philadelphia.

24                      In addition to the radio ads,  
25          there are print materials out. I

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           distributed a few of those print  
3           materials this evening before we got  
4           started. I will distribute more. These  
5           materials are in the community. We are  
6           saturating community-based organizations,  
7           churches and individuals with these  
8           materials in the community.

9                       In addition, we will be  
10          launching TV PSAs this fall. So look out  
11          for those.

12                      Now, we are doing the  
13          traditional media strategies, if you  
14          will. That's part of the social  
15          marketing strategy. You must hit the  
16          community via mass channels. But what's  
17          important and what's unique to MEE  
18          Productions' strategy is that we are also  
19          getting into the community to have a  
20          sound dialogue with the community around  
21          this issue. Just like we're here  
22          tonight, we're looking to have a  
23          dialogue. It's real important for us to  
24          have PSAs, but it's more important for us  
25          to come into the community so we can have

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155

2           an exchange around how we're going to  
3           approach this particular issue.

4                       With that said, we've already  
5           recruited approximately 450  
6           community-based organizations in the City  
7           of Philadelphia that have agreed to have  
8           a dialogue with their constituency around  
9           this issue. They've agreed to distribute  
10          materials. They've agreed to have these  
11          materials in their organizations, as well  
12          as hair and nail salons, churches, any  
13          entity that is in the community. We have  
14          400-plus distributing this message. And  
15          then, more importantly, they are willing  
16          to defend this cause called the Blueprint  
17          for a Safer Philadelphia.

18                      We've had workshops for  
19          community-based organizations before we  
20          launched this campaign so everyone would  
21          be on the same page. And then the last  
22          strategy that we're employing is that we  
23          are actually recruiting young people to  
24          get involved with carrying this message  
25          to the community and to their peers about

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           violence prevention.

3                       So as you can tell, this is a  
4           multi-component effort. We will be at  
5           this for the next five years, six years  
6           maybe, but behind the social marketing  
7           component will come programming,  
8           programming that is critical to the  
9           support of the community, mentoring  
10          programs, parenting programs, education  
11          programs, a lot of those programs that  
12          are going on in the community now.

13                      If you need those resources, as  
14          the Representative articulated, there is  
15          a resource hotline that is very critical  
16          to this campaign. If you need to reach  
17          out and touch, we'd like you to call  
18          1-888-570-BLUE, 1-888-570-BLUE. This is  
19          a critical component of the campaign.  
20          This hotline is being manned by an  
21          organization called CHOICE. CHOICE is  
22          equipped with case managers to deal with  
23          all kinds of issues that they are  
24          confronted with as they look to have  
25          people call looking for resources,

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           looking for solutions. So, again, if you  
3           need to reach out, please feel free to  
4           call that toll-free number.

5                     In addition to that, we do have  
6           an interactive website,  
7           www.phillyblueprint.com. That's  
8           www.philly, P-H-I-L-L-Y, blueprint.com.  
9           You can sign up on the website to  
10          actually say, I'm committed, I want to  
11          volunteer. You can find out the events  
12          that we're going to be at. You can find  
13          out how to get involved in this campaign.

14                    In addition to the TV ads this  
15          fall, we will be launching what we call  
16          the Great Vine. That's a take from the  
17          grapevine. That's where we move messages  
18          through the community via oral  
19          communications. The Great Vine is going  
20          to highlight the positive things that are  
21          going on with young people. We don't  
22          always want to single out the negative.  
23          We want to let the kids know who are  
24          doing the right thing that they're just  
25          important as the ones that are doing the

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           negative things. So if you know of a  
3           young person who is doing something  
4           positive in the community, have them send  
5           their story to phillyblueprint.com and  
6           they will be recognized in the newsletter  
7           and the website and on the radio. So,  
8           again, that's very critical that we start  
9           to highlight the good things that young  
10          people are doing.

11                     In addition to that, we will be  
12          releasing a youth directory resource  
13          guide. That was something that came out  
14          in the research. People articulated that  
15          they needed to know where to go and who  
16          they can contact for help as it pertains  
17          to young people. So we will be releasing  
18          a resource guide that you can use online  
19          and that you can download and distribute.

20                     With that said, again, we're  
21          here to change the mindset with reference  
22          to the community of Philadelphia to look  
23          at this issue very differently, to no  
24          longer be willing to lock our kids up but  
25          to say, Let's prevent violence, let's

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           show them the alternatives in life, let's  
3           show them that they have choices. With  
4           that said, we can make a difference if we  
5           ban together.

6                       Thank you so much.

7                       (Applause.)

8                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you  
9           very much. Now we'll ask Archye Leacock  
10          to come forward with his brief  
11          presentation.

12                      MR. LEACOCK: Let me sit up.  
13          I've been sitting back.

14                      I'm Archye Leacock. I'm the  
15          Executive Director of the Institute for  
16          the Development of African-American  
17          Youth, and Don't Fall Down in the Hood is  
18          one of the eight programs that we manage  
19          at the agency.

20                      We're all over the City. I'm  
21          just starting a Beacon program up on  
22          Widener Middle School up in the Ogontz  
23          area. We are in Southwest Philadelphia.  
24          We're in North Philadelphia, Germantown.  
25          We're all over the place. Some 1,200

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           young people are in our programs and some  
3           65 staff members, and it's busy every  
4           day.

5                       I sit back and I listen to our  
6           elected officials and Alicia talk, and I  
7           really applauded their move in providing  
8           the leadership for this situation, for  
9           this violence. And I know it took a  
10          while to get here, so it's going to take  
11          a while for us to fix it. So ten years  
12          is not unreasonable for us to try and  
13          figure out how to solve it, except I got  
14          to tell you, though, Dwight Evans, and I  
15          tell you this all the time, that ten  
16          years is an awfully long time, because  
17          every brother or sister who gets killed,  
18          every brother or sister who gets killed,  
19          I can't wait another day for this to  
20          stop. It simply has to stop. And I  
21          don't know how we're going to get this  
22          across. And I think the citizens have to  
23          be the ones to really get this to the  
24          politicians.

25                      The folks in Harrisburg talk

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           about they don't like the ones in  
3           Philadelphia. Guess what? Give me their  
4           names and phone numbers. I'll call them  
5           and I'll send them letters. I'm not  
6           kidding. I sent a bus load of students  
7           and staff to Harrisburg last Tuesday for  
8           this same kind of reason.

9                     The reason I feel the passion  
10          about this is because every day parents  
11          call me at the agency. Every day I hear  
12          the story, that please -- even today  
13          three parents, My son is 13, could you  
14          help? My son is 11, could you help? My  
15          son got arrested, could you help? Every  
16          day we hear this story. And I'm thinking  
17          that people in Harrisburg are supposed to  
18          support Pennsylvania? We're supposed to  
19          be looking out for the health of the  
20          entire state. Are we going to be  
21          segmenting this whole situation about  
22          Philadelphia versus this one versus that  
23          one? That's a lot of crap, as far as I'm  
24          concerned.

25                    We really need to get on the

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           ball, all of us as citizens, and be  
3           making phone calls, not only to go up to  
4           Harrisburg one time, but we need to make  
5           phone calls to these people who don't  
6           want to talk to our leaders, and our  
7           leaders need to let us know who they are.  
8           Put it in the newspapers, tell us, put it  
9           on the website phillyblueprint.com. Let  
10          us go on the website and find out who  
11          they are. I'm ready to do what I need to  
12          do.

13                       Unfortunately, last week  
14          Tuesday, I could not have been up there  
15          to make my voice heard, but I sent my  
16          students, my parents and my staff. We're  
17          willing to do whatever.

18                       It's just not about violence.  
19          We feel that violence is critically  
20          important, but folks in the audience,  
21          listen, it's a larger issue. It's just  
22          not about violence. I really think this  
23          violence is a by-product. We need  
24          economic development in our  
25          neighborhoods. We need to provide

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           opportunities for young people to work.  
3           We need better schools so they know and  
4           they're educated how to think critically,  
5           how to read and not be thugs on the  
6           street.

7                           (Applause.)

8                           MR. LEACOCK: We need  
9           neighborhoods that work.  
10                          Last night, I was at a meeting  
11           where we were trying to select 32 of the  
12           most dangerous blocks in Philadelphia.  
13           At 6:30 at night on a Sunday I'm in a  
14           meeting with a bunch of other brothers  
15           and sisters trying to figure out which  
16           are the most dangerous 32 blocks in our  
17           City. So we're the ones that's going to  
18           go and stand up on the corner just to  
19           stand up. We want to really go in and  
20           find out what is going on in these 32  
21           blocks, what it is we have to do, what  
22           services we got to provide, who do we  
23           need to talk to, who are the potential  
24           leaders in these blocks that we need to  
25           help. I was there on a Sunday night

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           while my son is with my mother so I can  
3           spend time trying to figure out how to do  
4           this kind of work.

5                       This can be done. People, we  
6           are sitting and not letting it happen.  
7           We are waiting. Yeah, ten years is  
8           great. Our political leaders are giving  
9           us the forum, the policies and telling us  
10          what we need to do to support them, but  
11          we are tolerating a lot of this, and  
12          until we begin to talk up in our  
13          neighborhoods and talk about what's going  
14          on, who is perpetrating this crime to our  
15          brothers and sisters, who is doing this  
16          kind of stuff, we got to talk. This  
17          snitching has got to stop. We got to let  
18          the people in Harrisburg know enough is  
19          enough.

20                      Folks in the audience, you got  
21          to get rabble-raoused about this. You  
22          just can't be sitting down listening to  
23          speeches like Sunday morning in a church  
24          and then you go out and do the same thing  
25          after. We got to do something different,

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155

2           and I'm doing something different. If  
3           I'm blind and I'm disabled, all you guys  
4           can see, you got to do twice what I'm  
5           doing. Let's do it.

6                        (Applause.)

7                       MR. LEACOCK: Thank you.

8                       COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you  
9           very much, Mr. Leacock.

10                      Let me just introduce Sergeant  
11           Kyler, who is going to say a couple of  
12           words, and he's here to answer questions.  
13           We'll also ask our State Representatives  
14           to say a couple of words, and then we'll  
15           open up the floor for comments.

16                      SERGEANT KYLER: Good evening.  
17           My name is Sergeant Kyler from the 18th  
18           District.

19                      Several things I'd like to talk  
20           about. We talk about communication.  
21           That's something we're lacking from the  
22           adults to the young people, to the police  
23           and to the people in this panel. All  
24           these things that are coming to light,  
25           the shootings, the robberies, they're

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           stemming from school events and events in  
3           our community. They're going back and  
4           forth. If it starts in the neighborhood,  
5           they bring it to the school and the  
6           school starts the intervention. The  
7           Police Department has programs to do  
8           intervention, too. We just don't lock  
9           people up or just enforce the law. There  
10          are social things we also do. For  
11          instance, DARE, we have conflict  
12          resolution programs, we have intervention  
13          programs. And some of these programs  
14          actually happen at the police station.  
15          So the police station is not always a bad  
16          place to be. There's meetings there.

17                 Just recently in reference to  
18          young people, some young ladies wanted to  
19          fight. They're on their school bus.  
20          They don't fight on the school bus. They  
21          didn't fight at school. They fought as  
22          soon as they got off the school bus. My  
23          staff arrived there, ascertained what was  
24          going on, why did this start. People  
25          were taken into custody, taken back to

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155

2           our building, and we had an intervention  
3           with their parents in our courtroom.

4                       Things like that, helping  
5           people, speaking up. They didn't want to  
6           talk in front of the police, but they  
7           talked in front of their parents. So we  
8           must maintain those bridges of  
9           communication with the parents, the young  
10          people and the police. And when we speak  
11          up, it's not snitching. It's helping  
12          others. Because one day you may need a  
13          person to help you, and the only way we  
14          can do that is if we help each other.

15                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you  
16           very much. Thank you.

17                      Representative Waters, would  
18           you like to say something?

19                      REPRESENTATIVE WATERS: Sure.  
20           Thank you, Madam Chair.

21                      I am here to lend my support to  
22           this program, this mission, as my  
23           colleague, Representative Evans, said.  
24           But there's something that I just want to  
25           say to all of us who are here, that

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           there's no magic wand that's going to fix  
3           this problem. It's not going to happen  
4           like that. And I know that so many of  
5           us, we believe that the answer is on the  
6           horizon from some unrealistic place. The  
7           answer is within us, and that's something  
8           that we have to get real about, is that  
9           we hold the answers to our own problems.

10                   I keep going to an analogy or  
11           this example that I would like to share  
12           with you. When I go to a maternity ward  
13           and visit and I look at the infants that  
14           are laying there in their bassinets and  
15           in their incubators or however they're  
16           laying there and they're wrapped up in  
17           their blankets and their little blue  
18           blankets and their pink blankets, those  
19           are usually the only indicators that we  
20           get as to who's laying there, boys or  
21           girls, but there's no blanket that's  
22           wrapped around these children that says  
23           that they are going to be a drug dealer,  
24           that they're going to be a scientist,  
25           that they're going to be an elected

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           official or they're going to be a  
3           prostitute or they're going to be a drug  
4           addict or college professor. There's  
5           nothing that says that when we go to the  
6           hospital. When we see them, all we see  
7           is human life, with plenty of potential  
8           and promise. And we have to say, What is  
9           it that's happening to them when they  
10          start growing up in this world that sends  
11          them into these different directions that  
12          make them 12 and 15 years later after we  
13          were seeing them in the hospital and we  
14          were all anxious and all excited and  
15          goo-goo ga-ga and looking at them and  
16          loving them, and 15 years later we don't  
17          even want to see many of them. The same  
18          human being, all the sudden something  
19          happened to them.

20                 So we as a community have to  
21          start paying close attention to these  
22          programs, because somewhere what God sent  
23          to us and put in our charge, something  
24          has happened to them.

25                 The elected officials who are

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           here, we have a responsibility from  
3           government to bring resources to the  
4           community, and we're going to do that,  
5           but without community participation and  
6           cooperation, we're not going to be as  
7           effective as we could be with it.

8                        So I'm happy to see that you  
9           are here today. In my opinion, you are  
10          here because you want to help and you're  
11          looking for answers.

12                       We do have something to offer  
13          here today. This Blueprint I believe  
14          will be very helpful. I'm paying close  
15          attention to it because I'm looking for  
16          answers, too. I live in Philadelphia. I  
17          grew up in Philadelphia. I'm just  
18          fortunate that I'm still here today to be  
19          able to come to this meeting, and I'm  
20          even doubly privileged that I'm here in  
21          the capacity as an elected official to  
22          come before you. But I'm not going to  
23          say vote for me and I'll set you free.  
24          I'm not going to say that. I'm going to  
25          say we, working together collectively,

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           government for the people, by the people,  
3           working with the people who you have put  
4           in charge, together we're going to solve  
5           our problems. And no one else is going  
6           to solve our problems. We got to get  
7           real with that, too. Nobody else is  
8           going to solve them. We have to take  
9           charge of our community. We have to take  
10          charge of our children, and we have to  
11          make a difference, and we can do it with  
12          your commitment, your commitment to  
13          peace.

14                       Thank you very much.

15                       COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you.

16                       State Representative Roebuck.

17                       REPRESENTATIVE ROEBUCK: Thank  
18          you, Madam Chairman. I certainly am  
19          grateful to be here tonight. I thank you  
20          for the invitation and the ability to  
21          participate.

22                       It's important I think that  
23          City and State officials are coming  
24          together around this issue. It's  
25          important that we cooperate together to

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155

2           try and design policies to address a  
3           critical problem within our community,  
4           and as we do it on this, we need to do it  
5           on other things as well.

6                       It's clear that there's much  
7           that we need to do in Harrisburg. I  
8           would like to be optimistic enough to  
9           believe that Dwight and Ron and I can  
10          somehow convert some of our colleagues  
11          who believe that guns are their friends,  
12          who believe that there's no serious  
13          problem that you don't solve by putting  
14          people into prison or designing laws that  
15          are harsh in their consequences, that the  
16          real problem isn't a question of who has  
17          guns who don't see the need to address  
18          that issue. I would like to believe we  
19          have that ability, and I think that in  
20          time, certainly today's actions in  
21          Lancaster suggests very clearly this is  
22          not simply a Philadelphia problem. It's  
23          not simply an urban problem. But the  
24          reality is, it's going to take a lot more  
25          of those kinds of incidents to maybe

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           convince them that they need to do  
3           something.

4                       So the real problem, the real  
5           issue comes back to what we need to do as  
6           individuals who live here, as I do, in  
7           Philadelphia, in West Philadelphia, and  
8           in part, certainly we need to do more as  
9           a community to resolve the issues that  
10          lead to violence. We need to do more  
11          about setting standards in our community  
12          and dealing with things that are  
13          acceptable and are not acceptable. We  
14          need to have consequences. We need to do  
15          those things that say to those who we  
16          live with, we aren't going to accept  
17          things that you're doing.

18                      It's hard. It's not easy.  
19          It's dangerous in some cases, but unless  
20          we go back and regenerate our  
21          communities, we aren't going to solve  
22          this problem. If we don't rebuild our  
23          families, we don't make kids, our young  
24          people, again, the most important thing  
25          in our communities, we don't invest in

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           them, we aren't going to solve this  
3           problem. If we don't say over and over  
4           again that, yes, you need to go to  
5           school, yes, you need to stay in school,  
6           yes, you need to find a career that you  
7           want to pursue, unless we make education  
8           a priority, we aren't going to solve this  
9           problem.

10                        So it's about going back to our  
11           roots to use what we have. And certainly  
12           we need to do more things in Harrisburg.  
13           I don't want to lose sight of that, but  
14           we also can't say that unless Harrisburg  
15           does something, we can't do anything  
16           either.

17                        We've got to rebuild our  
18           communities. We've got to set up  
19           consequences. We've got to set up  
20           responsibilities for our young people,  
21           for our adults, and we've got to use what  
22           we have to resolve this problem.

23                        I'm hopeful certainly that we  
24           can resolve this problem short of ten  
25           years. I remember when we did the

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           provisions for the session we're in now  
3           in Harrisburg, Committee of the Whole,  
4           and we made that decision in June, and  
5           when that decision was made, I felt like  
6           standing up on the floor and saying, Wait  
7           a minute, we shouldn't go out of session  
8           here in June, we should do this right  
9           now, because by the time we come back in  
10          September, how many more people will be  
11          dead in the City that I represent? This  
12          is a serious crisis. It's something we  
13          can't delay. So although I understand  
14          that time is a factor, it's something  
15          we've got to resolve with a greater  
16          urgency, with a greater commitment and  
17          try to resolve it with an immediacy and  
18          urgency that transcends everything else.

19                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you.  
20           Thank you so much.

21                   Now that we have heard from the  
22           panel about the Blueprint, how it got  
23           started, what we're trying to do, we're  
24           going to open up the floor to those of  
25           you who would like to come over to the

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           microphone, ask a question, make a  
3           statement, give us your ideas. We will  
4           ask you to limit your comments to a  
5           couple of minutes because we have a lot  
6           of people here.

7                       First let me recognize  
8           Ms. Clare Ryans, who is from -- I don't  
9           have my glasses, so I can't see. Cherie  
10          Ryans. Stand up, please, from Mothers in  
11          Charge.

12                       (Applause.)

13                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: They're  
14          part of the Blueprint, and as you know,  
15          they were organized around violence.  
16          Most of them have children who have been  
17          murdered, and they are working very hard  
18          with young people to help them change  
19          their behavior in the community. And  
20          thank you so much for coming out.

21                      We're going to recognize Steven  
22          Johnson from Men United for a Better  
23          Philadelphia, who is here. Thank you for  
24          coming.

25                       (Applause.)

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2                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Their  
3 leader walked from Philadelphia to  
4 Harrisburg to talk to individuals along  
5 the way up in Reading and Norristown and  
6 some of the smaller towns between here  
7 and Harrisburg to talk about the issue of  
8 gun violence, and that was very effective  
9 and a very important thing for them to  
10 do.

11                   And Elisha Morris is here from  
12 PAAN, Philadelphia  
13 Anti-Drug/Anti-Violence Network. Thank  
14 you very much.

15                   (Applause.)

16                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: And we'd  
17 like to have -- Mr. Leacock, I think  
18 these are young people with you from  
19 Don't Fall Down in the Hood. Let's ask  
20 the young people to please stand and be  
21 recognized. They're part of his program.

22                   (Applause.)

23                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you.  
24 We appreciate your coming out, and we  
25 invite you to share with us some of the

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           comments that you might want us to hear  
3           as you function in the program or however  
4           you feel you might want to communicate  
5           with us.

6                       Those who would like to say  
7           something, please come to this  
8           microphone. We ask you for our records  
9           to please identify yourselves so we'll  
10          have your name on the record. And if you  
11          have a question, you might want to direct  
12          it to one person or you might want to  
13          have a comment. We're taking  
14          recommendations and suggestions. We want  
15          to hear from you how you feel about this  
16          issue of violence and how you think the  
17          Blueprint might be able to help you in  
18          your community.

19                      MS. McFADDEN: Good evening,  
20           everybody. My name is Tamika McFadden.

21                      I want to applaud you all for  
22           bringing this together. I think this is  
23           very much needed.

24                      (Applause.)

25                      MS. McFADDEN: But I also want

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           to say that our problem is bigger than  
3           violence. If you ask me, we are truly in  
4           danger of losing our community within the  
5           next ten, 20 years, not only to violence  
6           but the rise in HIV amongst our youth, as  
7           well as our families being put into the  
8           prison system.

9                     But I don't want to sit up and  
10          tell everybody about our problems. I  
11          prefer to talk about solutions. And let  
12          me just say one of the things I did hear  
13          you say earlier was, you want to solicit  
14          membership. So I'm not going to stand  
15          here today and say, Oh, we need to do  
16          this or we need to do that, but what I  
17          will say is that you have my membership  
18          and that I will participate in any way  
19          that I can as a leader in the community  
20          and as a mother.

21                    COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you  
22          so much. Make sure you either sign on to  
23          the Blueprint on the Internet or you talk  
24          to Ms. Jackson.

25                    MS. McFADDEN: Okay. Thank

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155

2           you.

3                       I wrote down a couple of notes  
4           as you were talking, because I wanted to  
5           make sure I didn't forget my thoughts,  
6           but one of the first things that I  
7           noticed that we did today, and I was very  
8           much impressed with this comment -- I  
9           can't remember which one of you made this  
10          comment, but you said that when you came  
11          together, you said we don't know what the  
12          answer is, and I think that's really the  
13          first step in solving the problems,  
14          because if you ask me, for years and  
15          years and years and years in program  
16          after program after program, resource  
17          guide after resource guide after website  
18          after phone numbers, we are spinning our  
19          wheels. I'm not saying now moving  
20          forward, but over the past, we have been  
21          spinning our wheels.

22                      To me as a resident, it don't  
23          make sense to me that we have all these  
24          resources and programs, but yet  
25          statistics continue to get worse. I

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           don't understand that. So with my own  
3           perception of what I'm thinking is what  
4           we see in our community extrinsically, I  
5           think it's only a reflection of what's on  
6           the inside of our people. We have a  
7           wounded community emotionally, mentally  
8           and socially. And I honestly believe  
9           that in our approach to making these  
10          changes, please do not forget leadership  
11          development. Please do not forget to  
12          bring the churches on board, because  
13          honestly, I'm not a religious fanatic,  
14          but we need our spirituality. We need  
15          our spirituality. I want you to really  
16          hear that. I don't care if it's a  
17          Christian or a Muslim, a Buddhist, we  
18          need God. And until we're able to  
19          recognize and not just chase numbers and  
20          not just run after business but run after  
21          qualitative programs that will be  
22          non-threatening, wholistic and engaging  
23          so that families can want to participate  
24          in our programs -- because we can have  
25          all the programs you want, but our front

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           line staff does not have community  
3           sensitivity training -- we will continue  
4           to spin our wheels, and nobody will  
5           utilize our resources. You may have that  
6           small pocket, that minority, but what  
7           about the majority?

8                       And it's a good thing that  
9           you're having this dialogue. I'm very  
10          happy you're having this dialogue,  
11          because I've been having this inside of  
12          me to say for a very, very long time and  
13          it feels good to get it off my chest, and  
14          I really hope that we take it to heart.

15                      It's inside of us to change,  
16          economic development and social,  
17          emotional and mental development and  
18          family development. And we have to be  
19          able to care, not just chase numbers but  
20          really care and have that passion. You  
21          can have them both, because I understand  
22          in order to get funding, we got to chase  
23          numbers, too, but just don't forget about  
24          the quality, and that's all I ask, is  
25          that we make sure that we instill some

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           leadership and some community sensitivity  
3           training with these CBOs, the  
4           community-based organizational leaders  
5           and the front line staff of these  
6           organizations.

7                       Thank you.

8                       (Applause.)

9                       COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you.

10                      MS. GARRIS: Good evening,  
11           Madam Chair, elected officials and  
12           guests. My name is Denise Garris, former  
13           President of the business association on  
14           60th Street.

15                      Programs are good. Programs  
16           are great. Okay? What the young lady  
17           said is fine. We used to have them in  
18           the School District. We used to have  
19           them in the School District. You say  
20           that a lot of these things are coming  
21           from schools, school-based as far as  
22           violence are concerned. Home economics  
23           taught parenting, by the way. Okay?  
24           Took that out. All right? You had your  
25           vocational education situation where

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           young people were proud of what they  
3           produced. Took that out. Okay? All  
4           these programs that you gave a lot of  
5           money to, they were in the School  
6           District. You took that out. Why  
7           reinvent the wheel?

8                     One thing I do see that -- I'm  
9           an educator, by the way, and one thing  
10          that I do see that you have here is  
11          Truancy Court, and I had the pleasure one  
12          year while subbing as a counselor in the  
13          late '90s to be a part of that Truancy  
14          Court. That was the best thing that ever  
15          happened. Okay? Because who did you  
16          have accountable for? Parents. Parents  
17          were accountable for their children.  
18          About time.

19                    But other programs that you  
20          have, you had them in the school system.  
21          You had churches and prayers in the  
22          school system. You had a lot of things  
23          in the school system and you took them  
24          out. Okay? Put them back.

25                    I am now teaching in the

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155

2           prison. Okay? That's where my school  
3           system is, and it's horrifying that we  
4           have to build another prison for the  
5           women and we have an over-crowdedness of  
6           young people in the prison. This should  
7           not happen.

8                       GED programs, this is the first  
9           year I've had a group of men that want to  
10          get their GED and say they're going to  
11          make a difference. We got to get the  
12          young people like these young people to  
13          grab more young people. Okay? And we  
14          got to be accountable for them as people.  
15          Okay? Put those things back in the  
16          school system. All this money is going  
17          elsewhere. Fine. But you had them right  
18          there where they belong, back in the  
19          school system. Please put them back.

20                      Thank you.

21                      (Applause.)

22                      COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I think  
23          they're listening, because I believe the  
24          vocational schools are coming back, which  
25          are desperately needed. Not everybody is

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           a scientist or a genius that can head to  
3           college. But the School District, I  
4           believe, has reestablished the vocational  
5           training. So I think that the home ec --  
6           I just was kidding my colleague,  
7           Councilwoman Miller. The little bit I  
8           learned to cook was in school. She  
9           assumed it was my mother that taught me,  
10          but it wasn't. And I agree with you  
11          totally.

12                   MS. GARRIS: I'm a former home  
13          economics teacher, by the way.

14                   COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I think  
15          we're heading in the right direction,  
16          because the vocational training is back,  
17          and I think some of those basic things  
18          are heading back to our School District.

19                   MS. GARRIS: They should never  
20          have been taken out. Okay?

21                   Thank you.

22                   COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank  
23          you.

24                   (Applause.)

25                   MR. PORTER: Good evening. My

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           name is Thomas Porter. I'm a registered  
3           voter, conscientious citizen. I'd just  
4           like to make one recommendation to our  
5           panel of politicians and legislature.

6                       If we could possibly make any  
7           kind of change with the Witness  
8           Protection Program such as why can't  
9           witnesses testify anonymously so they  
10          don't have to be subjected to all this  
11          harassment and intimidated,  
12          what-have-you? Therefore, it would allow  
13          them to even come forward more willingly,  
14          as opposed to the way the situation is  
15          now. Nobody wants to stand in court.  
16          You got a whole family, whole  
17          neighborhood looking at you, and where  
18          are you going to hide?

19                      Relocation, there's not enough  
20          money for relocation. If you can testify  
21          anonymously, hey, eliminate the costs,  
22          people would be willing to stand up and  
23          it will definitely effect change right  
24          away.

25                      COUNCILMAN RIZZO: One of the

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           things that we're looking into right now  
3           is, the federal government has an  
4           excellent Witness Protection Program. We  
5           don't want to in government keep  
6           reinventing the wheel and we're going to  
7           look to see if the feds can help us, and  
8           when we have people that want to step  
9           forward, that the federal government  
10          could be the organization that oversees  
11          the folks.

12                   MR. PORTER: But why invoke all  
13          this cause factor?

14                   COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I'm sorry?

15                   MR. PORTER: I said why invoke  
16          this cause factor, the government  
17          stepping in? Like I said, if you do this  
18          anonymously, there's no problem.

19                   COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Well, the  
20          message I'm trying to send to you is the  
21          fact that we've got an excellent program  
22          in place and to utilize the existing  
23          federal Witness Protection Program might  
24          be a way to head.

25                   COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: The

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155

2           gentleman is saying the person should do  
3           it anonymously.

4                       The Constitution says that the  
5           accused has to face the accuser.

6                       MR. PORTER: Yeah, but this is  
7           a new day. We got new problems. You got  
8           to get new solutions.

9                       That's all I want to say.  
10          Thank you.

11                      COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you.  
12          That's a federal constitutional  
13          amendment. We can't get it on the State,  
14          let alone the federal.

15                      MR. HAYWARD: Good evening. My  
16          name is Raymond Hayward. To the City  
17          official and the State officials, it's an  
18          honor to be in your presence and that you  
19          saw fit to come to West Philadelphia High  
20          School for this forum.

21                      I just so happened to be coming  
22          off the El and someone handed this to me.  
23          Prior to that, I knew nothing about  
24          Blueprint, knew nothing about anything.  
25          What I feel -- I'm an alumni of West

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           Philadelphia, alumni of Sulzberger Junior  
3           High. So I'm born and bred right here in  
4           West Philadelphia.

5                        You have an apathetic  
6           philosophy that's just taking over. On  
7           my way walking here, an older woman was  
8           sitting on her porch and I spoke to her.  
9           She's at least 76. Her son is upstairs.  
10          He's younger than me. Lord willing, on  
11          Thursday I'll be 52. He's 33.

12                      He's upstairs looking at TV. I  
13          said, Well, didn't he see about the  
14          flyer?

15                      Oh, we got it in the mail.

16                      He's not going?

17                      So you have that apathy that's  
18          going on in the City. You also have the  
19          bureaucracy which has somewhat turned a  
20          face to the residents of West  
21          Philadelphia. When they initiated the E1  
22          and what they were going to do, they had  
23          said that they were going to hire so many  
24          youth in the City to help work. I don't  
25          see nobody in my neighborhood working

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           there.

3                     To further elaborate on that,  
4           you have a market at 56th and Market  
5           Street, Fresh Grocer. They are  
6           petitioning LCB to sell alcoholic  
7           beverages. You don't hear about that.

8                     You also do not have anyone  
9           addressing the AIDS and HIV situation.  
10          With violence, with the drugs, with the  
11          alcohol, people become promiscuous. Oh,  
12          man, I was so high, I didn't know what I  
13          was doing, and here they're HIV positive.

14                    You also have churches who do  
15          not want to face the fact that some of  
16          these young women that are getting  
17          pregnant are in their congregations.

18                    So when you say that the health  
19          issue is to direct it to prevention, you  
20          have to look at the reality that people  
21          are doing it. They don't want the  
22          condoms in the schools, but somebody has  
23          got to give it to them. If you don't  
24          give it to them, they're going to go in  
25          the bushes and do it anyway.

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155

2                   So I think there definitely has  
3           to be a tie-in with maybe through the HIV  
4           Office of Planning, these type of things.  
5           I didn't hear anything about that, but  
6           everything ties into one another. Just  
7           like they say, if people start drinking  
8           or start using marijuana, they go to  
9           alcohol, they go to crack. Well, you  
10          also have to look at if you're going to  
11          get high, then something is going to feel  
12          good, this might feel better.

13                   So it's a continuation. We  
14          need to address that. And the young  
15          people aren't as stupid as we think they  
16          are. They know what's going on. They  
17          can tell us a thing or two. And that's  
18          what I would like to just share.

19                   I was just elected to co-chair  
20          a committee called Positive Committee and  
21          it's through the HIV Planning Office. So  
22          you will be seeing a lot of me at some of  
23          your public forums. And my only question  
24          tonight is, where is Jannie Blackwell?  
25          Where is Tommy Blackwell? Aren't they

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155

2           part of this constituent in this area?

3                     Thank you.

4                     (Applause.)

5                     COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Let me  
6           just answer the question about the  
7           HIV/AIDS issue. I chair the Public  
8           Health and Human Services Committee,  
9           introduced a resolution a couple of weeks  
10          ago. We will be having hearings in City  
11          Council on the whole issue of HIV/AIDS,  
12          and in a moment after we finish with a  
13          couple of you, we're going to introduce  
14          our State Senator, who is Chair of the  
15          Public Health Committee or the Health  
16          Committee in the State and has been a  
17          leader in the whole issue of HIV/AIDS.

18                    These events come and we all  
19          have schedules that conflict sometime.  
20          So elected officials go when their  
21          schedule will allow them to go. So  
22          they're not here not because they're not  
23          interested, because I know they both care  
24          a lot, and this is Councilwoman  
25          Blackwell's district, I think State

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           Representative Blackwell's district, too,  
3           and --

4                       REPRESENTATIVE EVANS: This is  
5           Roebuck's district.

6                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Roebuck's  
7           district. I'm sorry. They're across the  
8           street.

9                       But their not being here  
10          doesn't mean that they're not interested.

11                      COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: And I  
12          also know that Councilwoman Blackwell  
13          will be having some City Council hearings  
14          also around the issue of violence,  
15          particularly targeted to the West  
16          Philadelphia area or her district.

17                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you.  
18          Would you identify yourself, please.

19                      MR. WILLIAMS: Hello. My name  
20          is Renald Williams and I'm a 30-year  
21          resident of Philadelphia, over 30 years,  
22          from North Philly to West Philly to  
23          Southwest, South Philly. I've been  
24          moving around and some of the things I'm  
25          seeing. And what you were saying, a lot

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           of things I was hearing tonight is what I  
3           always wanted to see, politicians,  
4           community, church-based, schools,  
5           everybody connected to actually say to  
6           children. So I want to believe that  
7           there is not just going to be talk, there  
8           is going to be action to go along with  
9           everything I'm hearing.

10                     In saying that, I want to say I  
11           wanted to volunteer, find out how I can  
12           get connected with this. And I think his  
13           program is where I can best serve right  
14           now. But I just wanted to say, we have  
15           new problems, but we're doing it the old  
16           way.

17                     As far as education, I heard  
18           education and I heard supporting the  
19           parents. What I just said, I've been  
20           moving around this City from four  
21           different parts of the City, and we know  
22           that there's a lot of ignorance coming  
23           out of households that once you bring  
24           these children in here, you see what kind  
25           of children you're getting. So you just

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2           can't say the parents and hold them  
3           accountable if they're not accountable.  
4           So what happens to these children?

5                       So I'm just thinking that the  
6           Philadelphia education school and its  
7           curriculum has to revitalize itself or  
8           reinvent itself. Keep the textbooks, but  
9           somebody has to actually put as part of  
10          the curriculum "critical thinking,  
11          "creative thinking and moral thinking."  
12          Somebody has to teach kids to be moral  
13          all over again. And if you talk about a  
14          ten-year initiative, you start with  
15          whatever grade, 8th grade, 6th grade, and  
16          teach these kids for ten years, you'll  
17          save a whole lot more, because we cannot  
18          assume. Because I always say I can teach  
19          my kids, and I have two, but they still  
20          got to sit next to somebody else's child  
21          that's not teaching them. And if we're  
22          going to say we're going to educate and  
23          support the parents, I did hear that,  
24          that is supporting the parents.

25                       We heard about the prison

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           system. Somebody just said  
3           African-American women are one of the  
4           fastest rising populations. So you got  
5           the brothers in jail and the sisters in  
6           jail. Where are the children in this?  
7           Somebody got to teach them. So I think  
8           that should be part of the initiative of  
9           the whole Blueprint movement, is to  
10          actually think about teaching children to  
11          be critical thinkers about their own  
12          lives, to teach them to be moral, to  
13          teach them respect and to teach them to  
14          be creative thinkers, because then we can  
15          build new children. We just can't give  
16          them textbooks and hope they become  
17          capitalists after they graduate high  
18          school. They have to be conscious.

19                   But I love what I'm hearing and  
20           I believe, because I have to -- I have no  
21           other choice but to believe -- this is  
22           not going to be talk but action, and I  
23           definitely want to join this brother's  
24           program.

25                   Thank you.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0:

3 Dr. Leacock, he wants to join your  
4 organization and work with you and the  
5 young people. I think that's good.

6 We'll make sure you give us  
7 your name to Mr. Leacock.

8 Yes.

9 MR. JACOBSON: My name is Wayne  
10 Jacobson. I'm from Ex-Offenders for  
11 Community Empowerment. I'm Executive  
12 Director. I just want to ask the Reps  
13 one quick question.

14 The guy that was involved with  
15 the killing in Lancaster, was he an  
16 unauthorized person to have a gun or was  
17 he legal? Ya'll checking that out now?  
18 Because that's the first thought that  
19 came to my mind when I heard. I wonder  
20 was he unauthorized to even own a gun.

21 My question is mostly to the  
22 Representatives. First of all, I'd like  
23 to say that the Blueprint is a very good  
24 plan. However, I look at the gun  
25 violence as one would look at coming home

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           and finding water running throughout his  
3           house. What would be the first thing you  
4           do? The first thing you're supposed to  
5           do is to cut the flow off. Then you do  
6           the cleaning up and the assessment of the  
7           damage. And I think that is ya'll  
8           responsibility in terms of elected  
9           officials, to get legislation passed to  
10          stop the flow of illegal guns. Once  
11          ya'll can decrease the flow of illegal  
12          guns coming into this community, then the  
13          Blueprint will be a very good plan.  
14          That's all I want to say.

15                        (Applause.)

16                       MS. RYANS: Hi. Good evening.  
17           My name is Cherie Ryans. You already  
18           introduced me as Mothers in Charge.

19                       I'm here to say that I support  
20           the Blueprint. We support the Blueprint  
21           as Mothers in Charge, and we also support  
22           all of you who come out. But I want you  
23           to know that I am the result of a gun  
24           issue. My son and his best friend were  
25           gunned down at 40th and Walnut Street 16

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           years ago. That pain never goes away.  
3           So those elected officials that are in  
4           Harrisburg, they don't understand  
5           anything else. Let them understand the  
6           pain that we feel every day. When that  
7           little 5-year-old girl was killed, it  
8           opens up our children's coffins. If that  
9           doesn't get them, I don't know what will.

10                   They have got to do something  
11           about these illegal guns on the street.  
12           And we are trying all we can to help  
13           along with everybody else to stop the  
14           flow of these guns. It was my son 16  
15           years ago. It was that lady's daughter  
16           the other day. Who is to say -- and it  
17           was the people in the Amish County today.  
18           Who is to say it won't be one of them  
19           tonight? We have to wake up. We have to  
20           wake up, people. All of us have to wake  
21           up.

22                   (Applause.)

23                   MR. PATTERSON: I'm Horace  
24           Patterson. Four quick comments.

25                   Number one, my nephew was

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155

2           killed at 48th and Market Street.

3                       Second, nothing is going to  
4           change -- no. What goes in is what comes  
5           out. What is going into the young people  
6           is not good, and that's what we're  
7           seeing. We have to put better things  
8           into their minds, and what we'll see will  
9           be a whole lot different.

10                      The second thing is, nothing  
11           will change until you change people's  
12           hearts. It has to come from the inside  
13           out.

14                      The third thing, this  
15           gentleman -- excuse me; the blind  
16           gentleman. You want to know the 32 most  
17           dangerous blocks in the City of  
18           Philadelphia. I was on -- I'm going to  
19           tell you what the number one is, in my  
20           opinion. The 1500 block of Taney Street  
21           in South Philadelphia. I was down there  
22           the other day looking at a job, and some  
23           young people went behind -- could have  
24           been a 15-year-old boy. Pulled out a  
25           gun, an automatic weapon, was walking

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           down the street with it. What shocked me  
3           the most about that is, there was kids  
4           along the block, parents, adults. Not  
5           one person moved and ducked. When I saw  
6           it, I hopped in my car and backed down  
7           the street to get the heck out of the  
8           neighborhood. But everybody on that  
9           block, it's like a normal everyday  
10          occasion, like no big deal. You would  
11          think he was bouncing a basketball down  
12          the street. It was that ridiculous to  
13          me. An automatic weapon, walking down  
14          the street. All the boys were on the  
15          corner taking it back and forth, under  
16          his shirt, back out. It was  
17          unbelievable.

18                 So for your information, the  
19          most, in my opinion -- and I've been on a  
20          lot of blocks in Philadelphia. I've been  
21          in Philly my whole life. The 1500 block  
22          of Taney Street in South Philadelphia,  
23          make that your number one block. That  
24          should be number one of your 32 blocks  
25          you're looking for. Okay?

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2 MR. LEACOCK: I got you. Okay.

3 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Any more  
4 questions or comments?

5 MR. MORRIS: Madam Chairwoman,  
6 thank you. To the other honorables, good  
7 evening. My name is Elisha Morris. I'm  
8 the coordinator of the PIRIS program for  
9 PAAN. My supervisor, Mr. Rudy Johnson,  
10 is sitting back there.

11 Mr. Johnson, wave your hand so  
12 they'll know you're here. Mr. Kenyatta,  
13 Bay, who works with me.

14 And I point them out because I  
15 heard a couple of people come to this  
16 mike, Madam Chairwoman, and said they  
17 hadn't really heard about the Blueprint.  
18 Well, since April the 24th when I was  
19 hired at PAAN to run this particular  
20 program, Representative Evans, I had  
21 three clients. Last week on Friday,  
22 Senator Hughes, I had 65. I'm not real  
23 good in math, Councilwoman, but they tell  
24 me that's a 2,000 percent increase.

25 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: You're good

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2           in math.

3                       MR. MORRIS: Yeah. I did

4           graduate.

5                       And we've been going out --

6           from Cheyney and Germantown High School.

7                       We've been going out after

8           these individuals have been shot and

9           received services at either Einstein,

10          Temple or University Hospital of

11          Pennsylvania and doing meetings and

12          rallies about them. And the Senator was

13          out at 49th and Aspen out in the rain

14          along with his Ward Leader, Willie

15          Jordan, one evening with us. And last

16          week -- before I get to last week, can I

17          just tell you that tomorrow night we'll

18          be at 72nd and Woodland at 6 o'clock, and

19          on Thursday night, the 5th, we'll be at

20          50th and Summer Street in West

21          Philadelphia.

22                       Last Thursday, we had one of

23          these shootings that we went out in the

24          community, and, Councilwoman Tasco, it

25          was in our neighborhood, 66th Avenue

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2           right around 18th Street. And when I  
3           came in the office this morning, I got a  
4           phone call from Officer Baynard, the  
5           community relations officer in the 35th,  
6           and he was a little disturbed about the  
7           fact that we had the meeting on Thursday.  
8           And he had a lot of residents, a lot of  
9           community people in his office at the  
10          moment he called me, and they were  
11          concerned, Representative Evans, because  
12          after our meeting on Thursday, somewhere  
13          on Saturday and Sunday night a number of  
14          cars were vandalized, a number of windows  
15          broken out and that kind of thing. And  
16          he was upset and he wanted to know what  
17          did we do while we were out there, what  
18          did we do.

19                   And I said, Well, we were on  
20          the corner of 66th and 18th and we had  
21          about 50 neighbors and one of the  
22          committee persons out, and we were  
23          talking about what we do over at PAAN  
24          around the PIRIS program and how we had  
25          all these other services, because Twist

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           was out there with us, and unfortunately  
3           none of the other City agencies were with  
4           us that night. And so I said, We were  
5           just talking about solutions through the  
6           Blueprint that we can bring to the  
7           neighborhood, same thing we do all over  
8           the City.

9                     He called me back at around 4  
10          o'clock and said that there's a  
11          subsequent meeting scheduled at Mount  
12          Airy Church of God and Christ on  
13          Saturday.

14                    I told him I hope it wasn't  
15          Saturday morning because I'm already  
16          booked early Saturday morning. I hope it  
17          was Saturday afternoon.

18                    But I'm trying to make light of  
19          a very serious situation. What Officer  
20          Baynard said to me -- and this really, I  
21          think, is a part of what the Blueprint  
22          causes, and if people don't get this,  
23          then they missed the whole point of what  
24          you all are trying to do.

25                    He said to me, he said, In the

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2           crowd were a lot of young people.

3                     And I said, Yes.

4                     He said, Well, the adults are  
5           saying that the young people were there  
6           to intimidate the adults so that they  
7           wouldn't talk to you about what was going  
8           on in the community.

9                     I said, Well, we weren't asking  
10          about what was going on. I was telling  
11          them what was going on, because I'm  
12          talking about this individual who was  
13          shot and the reason he was shot around  
14          that neighborhood, according to the  
15          police report.

16                    And he said that the adults  
17          were being intimidated by the young  
18          people in that community.

19                    And it seemed strange to me  
20          that we will do all that you all are  
21          doing that's good and we will still  
22          allow -- and when I say "we," I'm talking  
23          about "we" as adults -- we will still  
24          allow the children who live in our homes  
25          or the children who live next door to us

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2           or the children who live in our  
3           neighborhoods to intimidate us to the  
4           point where they will not even tell the  
5           police who was in the crowd with the  
6           menacing looks intimidating them on last  
7           Thursday. They would rather get mad at  
8           me and PAAN for coming out and holding  
9           the meeting. I think the anger is  
10          misplaced.

11                   I'll be there on Saturday, Lord  
12          willing, and they don't have it early in  
13          the morning, but I think we need to  
14          recognize that this whole problem is more  
15          than what the Blueprint can do, and it  
16          goes back to a policing issue. And I  
17          know I'm the only one probably in the  
18          City who thinks like this, but I'm from  
19          Germantown High School and Cheyney and we  
20          think a little bit differently.

21                   We keep building prisons way  
22          out where there used to be coal mines and  
23          steel mills and we keep shipping our kids  
24          out there. I think we need to look at  
25          building some of those prisons, because I

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2           hear people say it's an economic thing.  
3           Forty-five thousand dollars a year as a  
4           prison guard is a lot of money, and we  
5           need some of that money to stay somewhere  
6           near. If we can build a federal prison  
7           across the street from the  
8           African-American Museum that doesn't look  
9           like a federal prison, I think we can  
10          build some state county prisons in some  
11          of our areas where there are train tracks  
12          and nothing else that would help.  
13          Because at the end of the day, after we  
14          all have done all that we're doing in a  
15          social work kind of way, we need some  
16          police who will arrest, some DAs who will  
17          convict and some prisons that will  
18          contain and hold some folk who refuse to  
19          recognize that the rest of us have a  
20          right to be on the corner, too. And when  
21          young people can intimidate adults, young  
22          people who are not working, who are still  
23          in school, can intimidate adults who are  
24          working and paying taxes to try and keep  
25          the adults from meeting on the corner to

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2           make life better for the whole of the  
3           community, something is wrong, and we  
4           need to go back to a police solution for  
5           those group of young people.

6                       I want everyone to recognize  
7           the Blueprint is working. We're out  
8           every day. Kenyatta and I are out every  
9           day. We are talking to your constituents  
10          every day. Some of you, Rep Waters and  
11          your staff and all of you, are out there.  
12          It's working, but we still need a police  
13          side to all of this.

14                     Thank you.

15                     COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you.

16                     Let me recognize State Senator  
17          Vincent Hughes, who might comment on that  
18          and say a few brief remarks until we have  
19          the other two people to come up and give  
20          their comments.

21                     MR. LEACOCK: Could I add  
22          something to that, Donna Reed Miller?

23                     COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Yes.

24                     MR. LEACOCK: Could I just add  
25          something?

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2                   I do hear what you're saying  
3           about young people and I do want to say  
4           I've spent the last 20 years of my life  
5           working with young people. I would like  
6           to be invited out to the next corner  
7           where these young people are.

8                   We work with some of the most  
9           difficult, the most truant, the most  
10          dangerous young people, and we find that  
11          young people are, once given  
12          opportunities and some support and  
13          mentoring, that they are not that  
14          difficult. I have a very different take  
15          on a lot of this stuff, because we  
16          work -- I'm in a room with 50 young men,  
17          only with Heather, who is here.

18                  Heather, do you want to raise  
19          your hand. Everyone can see you?

20                  When I'm in the room with 50  
21          young men, I'm not afraid, and they know  
22          very well they got to do what I'm telling  
23          them to do. And I would like for some of  
24          them to stare me down. Obviously I won't  
25          see them staring me down. That's why

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2           they don't stare me down.

3                       But I'm serious. I would like  
4           to come out to join you, because I'm not  
5           so sure I'm supportive of more police. I  
6           think that's something we need a dialogue  
7           on, and I really am much more optimistic  
8           about the resilience of young people and  
9           the kinds of support young people need.  
10          And those young people who are staring  
11          down adults, we really need to take a  
12          look at that and work with those young  
13          people on that corner. I would like to  
14          see that handled in a positive way and I  
15          would like to join you on that journey.

16                      COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Senator  
17          Hughes, would you like to comment?

18                      SENATOR HUGHES: Yes, I can  
19          comment, and I know it's getting late,  
20          and I'm certainly impressed with the  
21          amount of people who are here on an  
22          Eagles football night and certainly  
23          appreciate that, but I will be brief.  
24          Okay?

25                      To the brother who wanted to

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           know anything about HIV, you can always  
3           contact my office. We do a lot of work  
4           in that whole area. Folks need to know  
5           that 60 percent of all the new HIV  
6           infections in the City are  
7           African-American women and it's  
8           principally through heterosexual contact.  
9           And, young ladies, if the man who you're  
10          with does not want to wrap it up, don't  
11          open it up. I'll just make it that  
12          plain. Okay? I'll make it that plain.  
13          If he doesn't respect you enough to do  
14          what you need to have done to protect  
15          your life, then you don't need him in  
16          your life in any capacity. I'm going to  
17          be straight. If he don't want to wrap it  
18          up, don't open it up.

19                 I could direct you to a  
20          website, a U2 website. If any of you are  
21          interested in it, some of my colleagues  
22          in Harrisburg may have come across this,  
23          because it's a video of some young  
24          brothers in Harrisburg who are  
25          blandishing their weapons -- and, Dwight

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2           and Ron, your office may have come across  
3           this one -- who are blandishing their  
4           weapons in a video that they made.  
5           They're talking all kinds of trash, using  
6           all kinds of language on the video on U2,  
7           and it's alarming from a number of  
8           different perspectives. It's alarming  
9           that they would do that, that they would  
10          have those weapons with them. It's  
11          alarming that they would act that way.  
12          It's alarming that they would expose  
13          themselves on television on a video,  
14          because within a few days after it was on  
15          the video and people got wind of it, they  
16          were all arrested. Because you kind of  
17          like expose yourself when you put it out  
18          there.

19                       But then if you look at it a  
20          little deeper and you hear the attitude  
21          of one of the young men, who was like, I  
22          don't care, I'll do my time, come back  
23          out and come back to this and ya'll can  
24          arrest me again, and I'll do my time and  
25          I'll come back out and I'll do this.

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2           It's just a self-repeating cycle.

3                       There is a combination of, I  
4           think, a need for policing and  
5           appropriate policing, because we have a  
6           right to have safe and sound communities  
7           for us to live in. None of us wants to  
8           think about -- all of us hate the idea  
9           every morning when we wake up and send  
10          our children off. And all of us live  
11          this, whether you're elected officials or  
12          not. All of us go through this, think  
13          about is my child going to come home at  
14          the end of the day, are they going to  
15          come home from school at the end of the  
16          day. It doesn't matter who you are. We  
17          all go through that.

18                      So we have a right to have a  
19          safe and secure society so that we can  
20          live freely, but I also know that there's  
21          a lot of pain all over the place.  
22          There's a lot of hurt and a lot of pain  
23          all over in these young people, who then  
24          become adults, who then become old  
25          people, and they're suffering and dealing

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2           with a lot of pain, and it starts at the  
3           very early age. And we got to create a  
4           system -- and I think the Blueprint is a  
5           great piece. It's comprehensive in its  
6           scope. It addresses the issue at  
7           multiple levels. We have to support it  
8           and create a system where we can  
9           intervene at no matter what age someone  
10          may be, no matter what circumstance they  
11          may be in. We have to create a situation  
12          where we can figure out a way to grab  
13          them. If they're on their way to jail  
14          and they're doing serious time in jail,  
15          we know they're going to come out at some  
16          point, so what are we doing with them  
17          while they're incarcerated to make sure  
18          that when they come out, that they're  
19          better than they went in. And at the  
20          moment that they hit the street when they  
21          come out -- and we're working on a  
22          program like this with Ray Jones and  
23          Bilal. It's an offender reentry program.

24                       The moment they come out, as  
25          soon as they hit the street, we grab them

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2           up and put them in a place and put them  
3           in a circumstance where they can get the  
4           rest of their situation together.

5                       But you got to intervene.

6           Whether it's in schools, whether it's in  
7           churches, we got to create a  
8           comprehensive network, shelters, wherever  
9           it may be, and that's why we're here, to  
10          hear that kind of feedback, make sure we  
11          don't miss nothing. But we got to create  
12          a point and a mindset that allows us to  
13          figure out a way to heal people in any  
14          and every situation so we can truly bring  
15          a break to the violence.

16                      We live in a violent society  
17          that is violent not just because of guns.  
18          It is economically violent when you have  
19          the disparate economic situation that  
20          exists. It's socially violent. We are  
21          very violent. Even those of us who are  
22          not doing anything, we are violent in how  
23          we interact with one another, how we talk  
24          to one other, You no-good so-and-so,  
25          such-and-such. It's not just the mother

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2           in the supermarket who backhands her kid  
3           because he's walking too slow and won't  
4           catch up. You know what I'm talking  
5           about. And we all have to do a policing  
6           of ourselves.

7                       I don't know if this is the  
8           wrap-up comment, Councilwoman.

9                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: We go two  
10          more people.

11                      SENATOR HUGHES: We got two  
12          more people. We got to be out of here.

13                      But we all got to police  
14          ourselves, and I'll just end on that. We  
15          all have to police ourselves in how we  
16          engage with one another. That is  
17          fundamental to how we really deal with  
18          this whole situation. We cannot escape  
19          that reality.

20                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you  
21          very much.

22                      Gentlemen, you have some  
23          comments. Come on, stand up. If you all  
24          stand at the mike. They're going to be  
25          brief, because we are late. We're

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2           supposed to be out of here at 9 o'clock.

3                       MS. WILLIAMS: Very, very  
4           brief. My name is Heather Williams and,  
5           like Archye said, I do work with 50 young  
6           men who like half the time they're bigger  
7           than me, and they don't scare me. Like I  
8           read their files before I see their  
9           faces, and half the time I'm like, Oh, my  
10          gosh, how many guns, and oh, my gosh, how  
11          many narcotics, I don't think I want to  
12          meet this kid. I meet the kid and he's  
13          like a teddy bear like half the time.  
14          Their files are worse than their faces.

15                      So I think that a lot more  
16          needs to be done in like community  
17          programming and support. Once you get to  
18          know these kids, there's nothing  
19          dangerous about them. I don't know if  
20          it's a victim of circumstance or just  
21          that they haven't been given the  
22          opportunity to be in the environment to  
23          thrive, but whatever the case may be, our  
24          small environment at Anderson Hall -- I  
25          mean, we don't win them all, but we win

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2           most of them, and like that's why I go  
3           like every single day, to get like the  
4           least one that's going to like thrive out  
5           of it. It might not be like a suburban  
6           area, but it's not the streets between  
7           4:00 and 7:30. So a little bit helps,  
8           and I'm appreciative to Archye to be a  
9           part of the organization.

10                   COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: All right.  
11           Thank you.

12                   (Applause.)

13                   MR. EDRICKSON: My name is  
14           Michael Edrickson and I'm here to  
15           represent Nu Sigma Youth Services. And  
16           one thing I do look at is -- I will say  
17           that I'm a graduate of Roman Catholic  
18           High School. I was raised in a foster  
19           care system, born addicted to heroin, and  
20           graduated from Lincoln University the  
21           first HBCU.

22                   (Applause.)

23                   MR. EDRICKSON: And I'm also a  
24           proud member of Phi Beta Sigma  
25           Fraternity, Incorporated, and I say that

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2           because I look at Lincoln University and  
3           a lot of things that was happening in  
4           that Lincoln University, because we were  
5           known as a party school, because we do  
6           party. There was a period where there  
7           were guns on campus, a lot of drugs on  
8           campus and a lot of fights on campus.  
9           And the Dean shut the school down. We  
10          couldn't have any more parties, things we  
11          couldn't do, and he held the Greek  
12          organizations accountable. He said, If  
13          you want your parties back and stuff like  
14          that, we need the people in the Greek  
15          organizations to come back and hold  
16          meetings and talk to the students and  
17          talk to the freshmen and stuff like that.

18                   And I look at a lot of State  
19          Representatives, Mayors and  
20          Councilpeople, and if not all but a lot  
21          of them are members of Greek letter  
22          organizations. And when I look at the  
23          City of Philadelphia, you had Kappa Alpha  
24          Psi International headquarters right  
25          there on Broad Street, and it's like the

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2           only time that I ever heard of Greek  
3           organizations was the Greek Picnic coming  
4           up. And when I got to college, I decided  
5           to pledge Sigma, and those guys taught me  
6           a lot of things.

7                        So I'm wondering if we can hold  
8           Greek letter organizations accountable  
9           maybe through funding and stuff like that  
10          to come into these high schools, mentor  
11          these young people so that they can go to  
12          college or even look outside of the box.  
13          Because growing up in Philadelphia, I  
14          didn't even think about going to college,  
15          and the only reason why I even applied to  
16          a college at Roman was because all of the  
17          Caucasian kids was getting their names up  
18          on the board saying that they got  
19          accepted to this college. So I applied,  
20          but then I went to the Air Force and then  
21          I wound up going to Lincoln. And even at  
22          Lincoln, it's a shame that the  
23          empowerment that I had to get in college  
24          two years after I graduated than when I  
25          was in school. When I was in high

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2           school, if you was to ask me when did  
3           black history begin, I will say slavery.  
4           I had to wait to get to college to be  
5           empowered to know that we were kings and  
6           queens in Africa and we were  
7           mathematicians and scientists and things  
8           like that to really drive me to know that  
9           I can be a lawyer, a doctor or whatever I  
10          want to be. And now that I've run a  
11          mentoring program for young black men in  
12          South Philadelphia, is there a way that  
13          we can get funding for not just one Greek  
14          organization but all of the Greek  
15          organizations, these undergraduate  
16          chapters at Temple, St. Joe's, Drexel,  
17          University of Penn, to come into these  
18          high schools and maybe start mentoring  
19          programs and SAT prep programs so that  
20          the people of West Philadelphia High  
21          School, Overbrook High School, Germantown  
22          High School can actually have a time to  
23          really get out of the box by somebody who  
24          has been out of the box and been at  
25          college and say, You can go to college.

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2           I didn't have straight A's in high  
3           school, but I was able to get a college  
4           degree.

5                        So if there was some type of  
6           way where ya'll can help us, I think that  
7           will be very helpful for our young people  
8           to know that they can do something  
9           besides drive SEPTA or get a vocational  
10          job and things like that, and maybe we  
11          could take the Greek Picnic and make it  
12          bigger, not to have the chicks on the  
13          motorcycles and stuff like that. But I  
14          remember the Greek of 2004 where there  
15          were college recruitment. College  
16          admission counselors set up tables at the  
17          Greek and was giving people applications  
18          to go to college. And you don't see that  
19          a lot.

20                      So I think that maybe we need  
21          to look to our Greek letter organizations  
22          to take a leadership role to go into the  
23          communities and help our young people so  
24          that they can get out of the box, because  
25          there's more to the world than

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2           Philadelphia, and it's a shame that they  
3           had to wait most likely to get on a  
4           prison bus to see that there's more stuff  
5           out here than what's on these corners.

6                       COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you  
7           very much. If you will give your name  
8           and phone number to Sharon from my  
9           office, we'd like to follow up this  
10          conversation with you.

11                      Yes, sir.

12                      MR. CARTER: God bless you. My  
13          name is Philip Carter. I'm a product or  
14          by-product of this community. I'm also a  
15          minister of the gospel now. But I grew  
16          up around here. I'm 49 years old now,  
17          and I've seen a lot. I've seen, thinking  
18          in my memory bank, that I have more  
19          friends that have died or on drugs or in  
20          bad situations more so than in good in  
21          terms of just living or having a job and  
22          things of that. That's when I look at  
23          the young people sitting here, and though  
24          I thank God for everyone that's here, all  
25          of us, God bless everybody for being

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2           there, but the young people particularly,  
3           because our young people are living in  
4           the City that's pretty much under siege  
5           for whatever reason, economic, social,  
6           whatever. We're not even going to get  
7           into all that.

8                       But the young people have the  
9           mentality -- and I talk to a lot of them,  
10          because I just left the Y playing  
11          basketball and football with some of  
12          them. They kind of don't look at  
13          tomorrow as being promised to them so  
14          much, and that reason is because I don't  
15          think people are in their ears enough  
16          telling them, Look, like the brother was  
17          just saying, you can go to college, or  
18          like I would tell them, You can go to the  
19          military or you can go to church and  
20          become somebody in the Lord. You can do  
21          things other than what I seen some young  
22          guys I know doing yesterday, breaking out  
23          somebody's windows and stuff. And a  
24          friend of mine and myself, we intervened  
25          and tried to stop them, but what

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2           surprised me is that the guys are this  
3           little, but that's all they know.

4                       So if this is all they know,  
5           what we have to do at a grass-roots level  
6           is come to them and just let them know by  
7           grabbing them by the arm or just telling  
8           them, Hey, young brother, you don't do  
9           that, and explaining the consequences for  
10          their actions. You know, if you do this,  
11          you're going to go to jail or this is  
12          going to be like that. But we have to do  
13          it in a way to where -- I heard not too  
14          long ago talking about people being  
15          afraid of young people. I'm not afraid  
16          of young people. I did years in the  
17          gangs. In fact, I was a leader of one of  
18          the most powerful gangs around here,  
19          Woodland Avenue one time. And I'm not  
20          boasting about that. I'm just saying  
21          what I've been through, what I've seen.  
22          As I said earlier, I have more friends  
23          that are deceased. I got tired of going  
24          to funerals. Seventeen at one time.

25                       The most dangerous block -- and

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2           I'll cut it short here. The most  
3           dangerous block that I know of in this  
4           area, we're on it now, because two of the  
5           young brothers that I know was shot on  
6           this block. One was a promising fighter  
7           getting ready to become a professional on  
8           his way to making a lot of money, and  
9           another brother was a student in high  
10          school. Should that have happened? I  
11          can't judge. I'm not God, but I talk to  
12          God about that.

13                 What I don't like to see is the  
14          young lady getting shot and people  
15          looking at it as though this is so  
16          commonplace. That should not be.

17                 So if we can change that from  
18          here, from where we are right now, then  
19          that's a good thing, but we've got to  
20          start like yesterday.

21                 Thank you for your time.

22                 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you.

23                 (Applause.)

24                 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: We  
25          certainly want to thank all of you for

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           coming out this evening to listen and to  
3           share. We will be at Strawberry Mansion  
4           High School on the 19th. I had it  
5           confused. And then on the 25th -- and  
6           I'll bring my glasses the next time --  
7           we'll be at Bartram High School. So feel  
8           free if you'd like to attend those  
9           hearings in those neighborhoods also.

10                       We'd like to ask State  
11           Representative Evans if he has some  
12           closing remarks. We want to thank the  
13           Representatives for coming out. This is  
14           a wonderful showing. Our State Senator  
15           for coming out. Give them a round of  
16           applause.

17                       (Applause.)

18                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank my  
19           colleague, Councilman Rizzo, my Co-Chair,  
20           Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller, and  
21           Mr. Leacock and Alicia for being on the  
22           road. This is the road show. Thank you  
23           all very much and God bless you.

24                       We will recess this hearing  
25           until Thursday, October 19th at 7:00

1           10/2/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155  
2           p.m., Strawberry Mansion High School.  
3                       (Joint Committees on Public  
4           Safety and Public Health and Human  
5           Services adjourned at 9:00 p.m.)  
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proceedings, evidence and objections are

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foregoing matter on October 2, 2006, and that

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this is a true and correct transcript of same.

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MICHELE L. MURPHY

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RPR-Notary Public

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