

1
2 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
3 PUBLIC HEARING
4 BEFORE COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

5 - - -
6 Room 400, City Hall
7 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
8 Tuesday, June 22, 1999
9 10:30 a.m.
10 - - -

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13 Resolution 990264 - Authorizing the Committee on
14 Public Safety and Education to conduct a hearing
15 to come access to current need for additional
16 crossing guards throughout the City of
17 Philadelphia.

18 PRESENT: COUNCILMAN ANGEL L. ORTIZ, Chair
19 COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER
20 COUNCILMAN FRANK DICICCO
21 COUNCILMAN RICHARD T. MARIANO
22 COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO

23 - - -
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5 AOP* Parent Team Leader

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7 A.K. McClure Elementary School

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17 Crossing Guard Union, Local 1956

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27 (*AOP = Alliance Organizing Project)

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

3 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Will the
4 Councilpeople for Public Safety please come down
5 so we could start the meeting.

6 We will begin the hearing on Resolution
7 990264. Councilman Frank DiCicco is just about to
8 turn the corner and come in.

9 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: I'm here.

10 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Oh, he is already
11 here. Okay.

12 Resolution 990264, authorizing the
13 Committee on Public Safety and Education to
14 conduct a hearing to come access to current need
15 for additional crossing guards throughout the City
16 of Philadelphia.

17 Could I have Audrey Correll, Delores
18 Shaw and Carmen Vasquez, please.

19 (Witnesses come forward.)

20 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Put the microphone
21 close to you, and state your name for the record,
22 please.

23 MS. CORRELL: Good morning. My name is
24 Audrey Correll.

25 MS. SHAW: Good morning. My name is

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2 Delores Shaw.

3 MS. VASQUEZ: Good morning. My name is
4 Carmen Vasquez.

5 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Who's going to speak
6 first?

7 MS. CORRELL: I will start. Again, my
8 name is Audrey Correll, and I have four children.
9 I'm a leader in the AOP Parent Team -- or one of
10 the leaders, I should say in the AOP at Cook
11 Wissahickon School. I come to you also as
12 co-chair for the citywide AOP, and AOP is Alliance
13 Organizing Project.

14 Basically we're coming, of course, on
15 the crossing guard issue. And first off, Alliance
16 Organizing Project is an organization of parents
17 with children in the School District of
18 Philadelphia, and we work both in the local level
19 as well as on the citywide level to actually work
20 towards having effective and improved public
21 education.

22 In October 1998, parents across the
23 city came together, and we came together to
24 identify the issues that were of most concern to
25 us and to our children. Safety was one of the

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2 those identified, and we actually feel that with
3 the crossing-guard issue, that's one of many
4 safety issues. We're concerned about the crossing
5 guards on the corners around our school, and
6 identified eight AOP schools that were in need of
7 crossing guards.

8 Since then, we as parents have been
9 waging a citywide campaign to get these crossing
10 guards. We have had several research meetings
11 with police captains crossing guards and, of
12 course, with you, Councilmembers. We've surveyed
13 our corners, we've counted the number of children
14 and cars crossing the intersections. We've
15 gathered about 1500 signatures on petitions and we
16 built a partnership with the crossing guard union
17 and our crossing guard union president, Betty
18 McDonald, whom you will hear from later.

19 On April 7th at the John Welsh
20 Elementary School, we met with, of course,
21 Councilmembers Mariano and Councilman Ortiz, and
22 three of the police districts, the president of
23 the crossing guard union, and representatives from
24 crossing guard headquarters were also on hand to
25 respond to our concerns.

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2 Some of the clippings you have in your
3 handouts. And from that action, we had some
4 results. We've actually gotten two of our AOP
5 corners with crossing guards.

6 We'd also like to say, Councilman Ortiz
7 and Miller, we appreciate for introducing this
8 resolution for the public hearings on this issue,
9 and we're very appreciative of the crossing
10 guards. However, you know, we still have a lot of
11 work to do as far as getting those other corners
12 supplied with crossing guards.

13 You know, when we look at --

14 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Are we just talking
15 about six corners?

16 MS. CORRELL: We're talking about eight
17 additional corners.

18 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Eight corners, is
19 that what --

20 MS. CORRELL: We're actually talking
21 about more.

22 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Is that we're
23 talking about, eight corners?

24 MS. CORRELL: We're actually talking
25 about more than eight corners. We are asking for

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2 those eight corners immediately to be done by
3 September school opening, but there are hundreds
4 of corners as well that we are asking to be
5 surveyed.

6 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: If you have a
7 listing of those corners --

8 MS. CORRELL: It's in your packet, some
9 of the corners are in your packet, and that are
10 still some corners that are not yet identified.

11 To wrap up, what I have to say, again,
12 there are dozens, even hundreds, of corners across
13 the city that need crossing guards in order for
14 our children to get to school safely.

15 And three things we're for asking for
16 here today: one, to have those crossing guards
17 hired and ready to work by September school
18 opening, and we're talking about eight priority
19 corners first, but definitely, all of those --

20 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Have you spoken with
21 the commissioner? He's the one who can --

22 MS. CORRELL: We have definitely spoken
23 to the commissioner.

24 Again, I'm going to outline three of
25 the things we're asking for today, if I may.

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2 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Go ahead.

3 MS. CORRELL: Thank you.

4 Number one, we'd like to have crossing
5 guards hired; number two, we're asking the Police
6 Department to do a needs assessment of the
7 additional 32 corners that are outlined in your
8 packet and listed on the facts sheet itself, and
9 we're definitely going to ask City Council to hold
10 other public hearings. Today is the last day of
11 school, many of our staff as well as parents are
12 involved in the ceremonies and end of the school
13 year activities happening. As you can see, some
14 Councilmembers aren't here today. We definitely
15 want other public hearings, and we're asking for
16 one in September.

17 And with that said, we're going to
18 actually ask some of our local leaders to share
19 with you some of their efforts, and we'll start
20 with Delores Shaw from McClure School.

21 MS. SHAW: Good morning. My name is
22 Delores Shaw and I'm an AOP mother of three
23 children. I am here representing the A.K. McClure
24 Elementary School at Sixth Street and Hunting Park
25 Avenue. The A.K. McClure School is a K-through-4,

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2 with an enrollment of approximately 650 schools.
3 McClure is currently without crossing guard at the
4 corner of Seventh Street and Hunting Park Avenue.

5 Coverage of this corner is considered a
6 priority to us as parents for the following
7 reasons:

8 The large volumes of both commercial
9 and passenger traffic along this stretch of
10 Hunting Park Avenue, between Sixth and Seventh
11 Street. The dangerous speed at which some
12 vehicles move have been known to travel along this
13 route;

14 The location of two annex classrooms in
15 the Church of Praise and Worship at the corner of
16 Seventh and Hunting Park Avenue;

17 The large number of our children who
18 travel this often dangerous route to come to
19 school.

20 As parents, both the education and
21 safety of our children to and from school is our
22 priority. The immediate funding for our priority
23 corners is why we are here today. Our efforts
24 will continue until all of our corners are fully
25 staffed and all our children are safe both to and

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2 from school.

3 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Go ahead.

4 MS. SHAW: And I'd like to do now
5 Miss Carmen Vasquez from the Welsh Elementary
6 School.

7 MS. VASQUEZ: I am -- I'm a little
8 nervous. My name is Carmen Vasquez.

9 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: You got to talk into
10 the microphone.

11 MS. VASQUEZ: My name is Carmen
12 Vasquez. I am an AOP leader, and I have a
13 grandchild at John Welsh Elementary School.

14 Crossing guard is the first issue we
15 want to work on at Welsh. We have 850 kids at
16 Welsh. We used to have three crossing guards; now
17 we only have one. For some reason, we lost two
18 guards and now we want to know why.

19 And we are not alone today. I
20 represent four schools in the 26th Police
21 District: Welsh, Hunter, McKinley, and
22 Hartranft.

23 In our first meeting with Captain
24 Asher, he told us that there used to be 75
25 crossing guards in our district; now we only have

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2 42. This is critical. Children have been hit.
3 One little girl at John Welsh was put in a body
4 cast. We have kids at John Welsh volunteering to
5 be Welsh cadets. They are doing the job of a
6 crossing guard. That should tell you how bad the
7 situation is. We cannot let this continue. How
8 many children need to get hurt before the City and
9 the police gives us more crossing guards.

10 Please do something about this now.
11 Make sure our eight AOP priority corners have
12 crossing guards by September and make sure that
13 the other 32 corners are covered by the end of
14 September.

15 Thank you.

16 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Have you had
17 meetings with -- 'cause this is funded. We in
18 City Council have funded this. And we had a
19 hearing here more than a year ago in which we had
20 a big attendance of crossing guards and some
21 parents. So I've gone through this. We had some
22 conflicts with the mayor's office and with the
23 commissioner. The commissioner was not listening;
24 and, in fact, was at one point told not to attend
25 hearings.

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2 At that time, there were around 175
3 corners, I think, that were not covered. Since
4 that time, I've been assured that over 993 corners
5 are presently staffed. There are a thousand
6 positions that are budgeted for. During -- ever
7 since those hearings, we have had Miss McConnell's
8 here, so it's. . . Betty, we have had very good
9 compliance by the City.

10 Now, are the eight corners that you're
11 mentioning here included in the thousand positions
12 that are open, or are they extra and beyond the
13 thousand? Have they already been budgeted for and
14 are not covered?

15 MS. CORRELL: I can only answer that
16 they are not yet covered. As far as the budget
17 aspect of that, I cannot answer that.

18 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: But you don't know
19 whether they're included in the process. These
20 are all elementary schools, right?

21 MS. CORRELL: These are all elementary
22 schools, yes.

23 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: So they should be
24 because, supposedly, crossing guards are only for
25 elementary schools, so all elementary schools

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2 should be covered.

3 MS. CORRELL: If we go by the math
4 alone, you said there were 993 corners presently
5 staffed, and you said there were a thousand
6 positions budgeted for. At least one of our
7 corners may not actually have been budgeted for
8 'cause we're asking for eight. And then if you
9 consider the 32, that's --

10 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Which corner is
11 that?

12 MS. CORRELL: If you look at one of
13 your handouts, it actually lists the corners that
14 are --

15 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Yeah, but we don't
16 know which one you're talking about.

17 MS. CORRELL: Basically, if you simply
18 think of the math and --

19 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Is it Waring? Is it
20 Hartranft, Kelly?

21 MS. CORRELL: We definitely have one of
22 those at Kelly. Hartranft is definitely one of
23 those. If you look at your priority corners list,
24 it's one of the eight, at least. And then if you
25 look at the 32, there's -- you know, I mean, just,

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2 there's more to be done.

3 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Is one of the
4 corners you're referring to at 18th and Wallace?

5 MS. SHAW: 18th and Fairmount.

6 MS. CORRELL: No, he's talking about
7 Kelly and Hartranft, I would think.

8 MS. SHAW: No, he said 18th and
9 Wallace.

10 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: I'm asking if
11 that's one.

12 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: That's 18th and
13 Fairmount.

14 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Same thing, right
15 That corner, ma'am, according to the Police
16 commissioner's testimony -- and he'll be here to
17 read this into the record later -- has already
18 been -- the funds have been allocated and that
19 corner will be --

20 MS. CORRELL: Which one?

21 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: 18th and Wallace
22 -- or 18th and Fairmount. That has already been
23 taken care of.

24 MS. CORRELL: Okay, so that's one
25 that's done.

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2 Now, you know, as far as the funding,
3 we can't really answer that totally at this time.
4 There's still more research to be done, you know,
5 and as we've also said, there's more work to be
6 done on our part, but we're definitely asking City
7 Council for more. And that's why we sit here
8 today.

9 MS. SHAW: Councilman Ortiz.

10 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Yes?

11 MS. SHAW: As a parent, some of this
12 information has been a little bit slow being
13 forthcoming. We know that there were studies done
14 earlier and that there were some corners that were
15 designated that are not being staffed at the
16 moment.

17 At Seventh and Hunting Park, we
18 recently had a relationship with the District
19 Commander there, and he agreed to temporarily
20 staff that corner, but that's still presenting a
21 problem because that's not a permanently-assigned
22 area, so you don't always get coverage there.

23 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: But that's an
24 elementary school, right?

25 MS. SHAW: Yes, it is. It's a

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2 the Elkin School has probably one crossing guard
3 and it may need another one. Is this what we're
4 talking about, right? Does the Elkin School need
5 another crossing guard plus the crossing guard
6 that they now have? Do they need to cover
7 different corners and so on?

8 This is what has to be made very clear:
9 we cannot do that. The information has to come
10 from the parents, from the school organizations.

11 So if we're talking and if we're saying
12 that we have a thousand that are budgeted but we
13 need 1,032 budgeted, then you have to understand
14 that either we've got to enter -- parents have to
15 enter into negotiations with the mayor and the
16 commissioner because the budgeted -- the budgeted
17 amount is 1,000 crossing guards, not 1,032, 1,000
18 crossing guards.

19 If the amount is bigger than 32, then
20 you have to bring here a map of the corners, the
21 schools, and the rationale of why it's needed. We
22 will get the commissioner here, we will get the
23 Police Department, and we will begin that
24 dialogue.

25 MS. CORRELL: With all due respect,

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2 these are additional corners.

3 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Excuse me?

4 MS. CORRELL: These are additional
5 corners. Thank you.

6 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Well, what I am
7 saying to you is that the budget for this year --
8 that means beginning July 1st to June 30th of the
9 year 2000 budget -- has been approved and it has
10 budgeted for a thousand crossing guards. What we
11 need to begin discussing and putting the record
12 forward is that there's need for more than a
13 thousand crossing guards.

14 MS. CORRELL: Absolutely.

15 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And then we have to
16 begin the process of sitting down with the mayor
17 and the commissioner to see where that money is
18 going to come from to hire those crossing guards.

19 It isn't just -- I mean, the money that
20 has been allocated at this point in time is for a
21 thousand crossing guards, okay? Thank you.

22 MS. VASQUEZ: I would like to say
23 something.

24 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Yes?

25 MS. VASQUEZ: Well, you know that the

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2 welfare system have taken parents to put to work
3 and they have little ones going to school, so you
4 have to worry about that too.

5 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: We understand that.
6 We've been talking about those things.

7 Do you have a question, Fran?

8 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: No.

9 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Okay, chief
10 Inspector Anthony DiLacqua.

11 (Inspector Anthony DiLacqua and
12 Sergeant David Thompson come forward.)

13 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Good morning.
14 That's a little misprint on the paper according to
15 my rank. It's just inspector. Maybe some day it
16 will be chief inspector, but right now, it's just
17 Inspector Anthony DiLacqua.

18 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Just inspector?

19 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: I'm assigned as
20 the as executive officer to our patrol bureau.

21 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Well, you can tell
22 them that Council promoted you, so it's. . .

23 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: This is Sergeant
24 David Thompson, the commanding officer of our
25 school crossing guard headquarters.

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2 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: All right.

3 Inspector, you can begin whenever, and bring the
4 microphone closer to you, because it's. . .

5 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: At full staffing,
6 the Philadelphia Police Department employes 1,000
7 crossing guards. This number has been fairly
8 consistent over the last ten years. That number
9 of a thousand guards has been consistent pretty
10 much over the last ten years, since 1990. For
11 example:

12 In June of '90, we had 1040 guards;

13 In '91, 978;

14 In '92, 1,043;

15 In '93, we had 958;

16 In June of '94, 976;

17 In '95, we had 968;

18 June of '96, we had 971;

19 Then up to 988 in June of '97;

20 In June of '98, 988;

21 And presently, June of 1999, we have

22 993.

23 There are a thousand corners for which
24 the Police Department has authorized funds to
25 staff. Of these 1,000 budgeted positions, there

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2 are 993 school crossing guards employed, and there
3 are 7 vacancies. The Police Department does
4 intend to fill these vacancies.

5 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Excuse me,
6 Inspector, do you know where those vacancies are?

7 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Do you have that
8 listing?

9 SERGEANT THOMPSON: No. These are just
10 recently retirees in the last month.

11 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Identify yourself
12 for the record.

13 MR. THOMPSON: I'm sorry. Sergeant
14 David Thompson, Crossing Guard Headquarters.

15 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Okay, continue, go
16 ahead.

17 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Again, as I said,
18 we do intend to fill those vacancies.

19 Although at times in the past, there
20 were 1,228 corners identified as crossings, many
21 of these corners were not covered, as evidenced by
22 the number of guards previously mentioned. There
23 were more school crossing guard corners listed
24 than this were the budgeted number of guards.
25 Currently, 1,000 guards are budgeted for 1,000

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2 corners. They cover crossings for 175 public and
3 96 parochial elementary schools.

4 In the past, district captains were
5 asked to prioritize the school crossings in their
6 districts. The current crossings have been
7 determined to be the most crucial based on the
8 number of students crossing, the volume of
9 traffic, the size of the street, etc. Using this
10 list as a template, the most critical corners can
11 be staffed by reassigning guards when vacancies
12 occur at higher-priority corners.

13 Another change in policy that will
14 better enable our department to efficiently staff
15 identified school crossings, instead of hiring
16 school crossing guards for a specific corner,
17 employing them by police district will allow the
18 department greater flexibility in assigning them.
19 If a vacancy occurs, a senior guard will have the
20 opportunity to move into the vacant corner if he
21 or she so desires. The department, however, shall
22 also have the ability to reassign guards to meet
23 changes in school population, traffic, and so on.

24 The Police Department is committed to
25 staffing all presently funded corners. Of the 28

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2 corners for which the department has recently
3 received requests for guards, only one was a
4 funded corner -- at 18th and Wallace. I am happy
5 to report that the department has already also
6 filled this vacancy.

7 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Do you have a list
8 of all of the corners that are funded for?

9 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Yes, sir. We can
10 supply that to you.

11 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Could you supply
12 that to us, please.

13 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Yes, sir.

14 Of the 27 corners that were requested,
15 of the 27 corners remaining, studies have been
16 completed for 19 of them. We've identified 16 of
17 these corners for which a guard may be utilized if
18 funding was allocated to increase the number of
19 guards in our employ. The assignment guards at
20 the other three corners is thought to be not
21 justified.

22 As stated earlier, although the number
23 of crossings may have at one time numbered 1,228,
24 the number of guards did not exceed 1,043. That
25 was the watermark. The present staffing and

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2 deployment is consistent with the number of funded
3 school crossing corners and the fiscal year budget
4 allocation.

5 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: You said, going
6 back, that the assignment of guards at three
7 corners is thought not to be justified. What is
8 the criteria that you use to decide whether a
9 corner is justifiable for a crossing guard or
10 not? And do you have that -- is that something
11 that you have in writing, and is that something
12 that has been, you know, put to empirical sort of
13 test and so on?

14 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Admittedly, sir,
15 it's somewhat subjective. It is based on the age
16 of the kids crossing, the number of children
17 crossing, the size of the street, the volume of
18 the traffic, and just generally the vehicle
19 conditions, parking problems. It is somewhat
20 subjective.

21 It is difficult to develop some sort of
22 a quotient where we have x-number of children and
23 divide it by the number of cars in the area,
24 multiplied by the width of the street, and come up
25 with some sort of magic number of 0.45, and

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2 anytime a corner meets that quotient, a guard will
3 be assigned.

4 It's difficult to do that for a number
5 of reasons, one of which is, it is feasible under
6 a system such as that that one particular school
7 may have no guards assigned because none of them
8 reach that cutoff number. And, certainly, that
9 would be creating a hazardous environment.

10 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: But you said, again,
11 it's subjective. And what about -- did you take
12 into consideration the parents and the home and
13 school, the desires in terms of crossing guards?
14 And what value do you give to that vis-a-vis other
15 criteria?

16 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: We give that a
17 great deal of value, sir. And, in fact, we
18 respond to any request for a new corner to be
19 identified as deserving a guard, whether that
20 comes from City Council, the mayor's office, a
21 parent group, a home and school association. We
22 give those all our utmost attention. We certainly
23 don't shun parent groups in favor of other
24 groups. We get out there as quick as we can to
25 conduct a survey.

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2 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: For instance, the
3 Hunter School doesn't have a very wide street, but
4 the Hunter School has very dangerous corners.
5 They are -- there is shooting galleries around
6 there, there are points of drug dealings and so on
7 around there. Are these the type of issues that
8 you take into consideration?

9 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Hunter School is
10 on York Street, I believe?

11 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: It's at Dauphin and
12 Second.

13 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: We do, in effect.
14 In a recent meeting with members of AOP, this was
15 discussed, and actually, I was going to talk to
16 you on that later in my testimony.

17 There are some conditions where -- and
18 I'll give you a for-example 'cause it may be
19 easier. Where we have some illegal drug sales,
20 some open drug sales out on the corner, the
21 shooting galleries you referred to, there are
22 certain corners where vehicle traffic is a big
23 problem because of people parking illegally,
24 obstructing the view of other traffic, maybe
25 disregarding red signals and stoplights and things

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2 of that nature.

3 In those situations, it is our belief
4 that the use of a police officer on directed
5 patrol, motorized police officer enforcing current
6 laws, vehicle laws, and chasing disorderly crowds
7 and making drug arrests and generally just having
8 a presence in that area may be more effective in
9 producing a safe environment for school children
10 than the use of a school crossing guard that is
11 not able to enforce motor vehicle laws, for
12 example, or the right to put parking tickets onto
13 the cars that are blocking the view.

14 So we do use directed patrol, using our
15 patrol force earmarked to certain corners where we
16 know we have dangerous conditions.

17 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: We have just been
18 joined by Councilman Rick Mariano.

19 Franny?

20 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you.

21 Inspector, Sergeant, nothing replaces,
22 in my opinion, a school crossing guard. But what
23 I would like to know is, has the Police Department
24 been working with the Streets Department?

25 And I want to go into the area of

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2 technology for a minute. We've -- we're
3 installing and are continuing to install speed
4 control devices at most of our schools. What I
5 would like to know, and I would like to ask both
6 of you if we haven't, to get with the Streets
7 Department to see if there is any technology that
8 could help make this job as a school crossing
9 guard even safer for the employees and also the
10 students.

11 It appears to me that we haven't done
12 much to make that environment a safer place, using
13 technology, giving the school crossing guards the
14 ability to patrol traffic signals. I know that's
15 kind of like a sanctuary for the Streets
16 Department to even suggest that anyone would have
17 the ability to stop traffic in all four directions
18 while students cross.

19 But I would appreciate the Police
20 Department, the Streets Department getting
21 together to look to see if there's any technology
22 out there, even for areas where we agree that
23 school crossing guards don't meet that equation
24 that you've developed, that possibly there's
25 technology in conjunction with the existing

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2 15-mile-an-hour speed limit signs that we have.
3 And, by the way, somebody should think about
4 shutting those things off after the school season
5 'cause it's, you know, not necessary to have them
6 flashing, in my opinion, in July and August.

7 But I would like to see something in
8 that area to try to make this safer for where we
9 don't have school crossing guards; and where we
10 do, make it safer for the guards and also the
11 pupils.

12 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Yes, sir, we will
13 do that. And that's one of the many things we try
14 to do with our patrol forces, and certainly, we
15 will be in contact with the Streets Department to
16 see what we can coordinate.

17 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: You can continue. I
18 don't want to interrupt you.

19 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: That's okay.

20 All right, as I've stated earlier, the
21 number of crossings may have at one time numbered
22 1,228, but the number of guards never exceeded
23 1,043 -- that was our watermark high. The present
24 staffing and deployment consistent with the number
25 of funded crossings and the fiscal year budget

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2 allowance.

3 The elimination of non-funded corners
4 occurred when school crossings were prioritized.
5 Corners that were not staffed were either
6 eliminated or staffed by the reassignment of
7 guards from the lowest-priority corners. By doing
8 this, the Police Department developed a list of
9 corners needing guards that was consistent with
10 the number of guards in our employ. The number of
11 school crossing guards in our employ was not
12 reduced.

13 In response to requests for new school
14 crossing corners, the Police Department will
15 conduct a survey of a proposed corner to determine
16 the need for a guard based upon the aforementioned
17 criteria. This study will also consider the
18 proposed corner and priority ranking along with
19 established funded corners. If the proposed
20 corner is determined to be a higher priority than
21 another established corner, then the Police
22 Department may consider reassigning a guard from
23 the lowest-priority corner. Meeting the demands
24 for service in this manner will allow the Police
25 Department to continue to effectively operate

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2 within our allocated budget.

3 The addition of newly hired guards
4 would mean additional spending. This would then
5 necessitate an increase in the Police Department's
6 authorized budget. The addition of one new school
7 crossing guard would cost an additional \$10,571
8 for his or her first year of service. Please bear
9 in mind that in addition to the annual salary, the
10 Police Department must also bear the additional
11 clothing allowance cost of \$647 per guard for the
12 first year and \$300 for each subsequent year.

13 The cost of a new guard is broken down
14 as follows:

15 The salary is \$41.46 per day, and for
16 200 days, it's \$8,292. And just a point to note:
17 this is a newly-hired position.

18 The initial uniform allowance is \$647.

19 Leave, which is -- guards receive 10
20 vacation days, 12 holidays, 3 administrative days,
21 and 4 emergency days per year. Again, just a
22 note: they also are granted 10 sick days that
23 have not been factored into the cost of the annual
24 leave. But the annual leave, vacation and holiday
25 and so on and so forth is another \$1,202 a year.

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2 So the total Police Department expense,
3 then, is \$10,141.

4 There's also a benefit package. This
5 benefit package is not paid through the Police
6 Department budget but it is a cost that the City
7 must bear, and that's an additional \$430, again,
8 bringing our total to \$10,571 for the addition of
9 one guard in his or her first year of service.

10 In subsequent years, the annual salary
11 increase is through increments. And, again, the
12 clothing allowance is an additional 300 per year.

13 Presently, the Police Department up
14 until I was saying in this list anyway, the Police
15 Department had been requested to consider 27
16 additional crossings. Unless guards are
17 reassigned from other crossings, this would mean
18 an increase of spending of \$285,417 for the first
19 year of service of newly hired guards.

20 As stated earlier, although the number
21 of corners was 1,228 at one time, there were not
22 that many guards. To employ 228 more guards than
23 budgeted would create a deficit of \$2,410,188.

24 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Instead of saying
25 "deficit," why don't you say that to employee 220

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2 more guards than are currently budgeted, we would
3 need \$2,410,000. And. . . why don't you put it
4 that way instead of the other way?

5 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Okay. And, again,
6 so it's a --

7 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: In addition to the
8 budget.

9 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: We would need it
10 certainly in addition to the budget.

11 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I mean, we're not
12 trying to create a deficit in the Police
13 Department, okay?

14 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Very good, sir.

15 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Go ahead.

16 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: We would need,
17 then, an additional \$2,410,188. In addition to
18 these costs, there are other administrative costs
19 incurred anytime the Police Department surveys an
20 intersection or hires a guard. A study to
21 determine the need for a guard takes approximately
22 four hours. The school crossing guard unit is
23 also charged with administratively processing and
24 training new guards. The training program
25 consists of four hours of training. The time

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2 expended in this process is a cost in personnel
3 hours.

4 As of this date, the school crossing
5 guard unit has a list of 28 corners being
6 studied. This will cost the Police Department
7 approximately 112 personnel hours spread over a
8 period of about one month.

9 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I would like a list
10 of those 28 corners.

11 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Yes, sir.

12 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Go ahead.

13 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: We'll get that to
14 you, sir.

15 Additional hours would then be expended
16 for each guard hired. Of course, the safety of
17 our school children is a worthwhile expense.
18 Fortunately, our records indicate that no children
19 were struck by autos at corners covered by school
20 crossing guards.

21 It is also a noteworthy that in the
22 last full school year -- September of '97 to June
23 of '98 -- there were no school children struck by
24 autos at any of the locations for which the
25 Alliance Organizing Project has requested guards.

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2 A similar survey is being conducted for the school
3 year ending this month, June of '99. It may be
4 inferred, however, that the Police Department's
5 employment has been successful by effectively
6 utilizing the authorized number of guards
7 presently employed.

8 In addition to employing school
9 crossing guards, the Police Department provides a
10 safe environment for school children through the
11 directed patrol of our police officers. As I
12 stated earlier, at some corners, vehicle traffic
13 -- that is unsafe driving -- is the major
14 condition affecting pedestrian safety. In these
15 situations, it is more productive to have a police
16 officer assigned to motorized patrol concentrate
17 his or her efforts to enforce applicable vehicle
18 code statutes.

19 A school crossing guard has little if
20 any impact on controlling people's errant
21 driving. When poor driving habits create a
22 hazardous environment, a police officer writing
23 traffic citations for dangerous moving violations
24 should alleviate conditions.

25 At a recent meeting with members of

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2 AOP, corners at Fourth and York as well as Fifth
3 and York were discussed. The Alliance Organizing
4 Project reports that illegal parking, unsafe
5 driving, and illegal drug sales create a dangerous
6 situation for the children traversing to school.
7 Situations such as this should and will be
8 combatted by directed police patrol.

9 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

10 Councilman DiCicco?

11 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you,
12 Mr. Chairman. Good morning, Inspector.

13 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Good morning, sir.

14 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: In your testimony,
15 we speak to corners. It is not necessary that
16 these corners we refer to are actually
17 intersections directly around the perimeter of the
18 school. These can be corners that can be a block
19 or two blocks away from the school, I assume.

20 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Yes, sir.

21 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Okay. So in your
22 study of the 28 locations, these are -- some of
23 them could be -- unless you happen to know this
24 morning -- locations that are not directly outside
25 of the perimeter of the school or directly at

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2 those intersections; is that correct?

3 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: That is possible.
4 I'd have to look at the list to tell you exactly
5 which were --

6 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: So what I'm
7 getting at basically is that some of the schools
8 may have a crossing guard or crossing guards at
9 the intersections around the perimeter of the
10 school, but they may not have a guard or guards a
11 block or two blocks away.

12 'Cause I know of a school -- actually,
13 a couple of schools in the southern part of my
14 district where there are crossing guards that are
15 -- one in particular, she's about two and a half
16 blocks away from the actual school facility.

17 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: That is correct.

18 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: So that can
19 change, I assume, the dynamics of the survey in
20 terms of how many more children -- naturally,
21 outside the school, you're going to have a lot
22 more kids coming out of the building than there
23 are maybe going east two and a half blocks away.

24 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Certainly.

25 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: So that also is a

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2 determination. And that probably, I would assume,
3 is where you establish your priority list?
4 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Absolutely.
5 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Okay. And then of
6 the \$2.4 million we speak to in the Police
7 Department's budget that would have to be absorbed
8 to hire an additional 228 crossing guards, how
9 many more police would we be able to hire for that
10 same amount of money?
11 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: I haven't done
12 that math, but think it's roughly, with the
13 benefit package, somewhere around \$55,000 a year
14 in salary and benefits.
15 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: So if it was 60,
16 we're talking about 40, 40 more police officers?
17 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Give or take.
18 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Okay. I have no
19 further questions at this time. Thank you.
20 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Inspector, the
21 issue, you say, is that you prioritize corners.
22 And then accordingly, you move crossing guards to
23 those corners that have a higher priority. And
24 then those corners that don't -- you moved a
25 crossing guard from the lower priority to the

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2 higher priority and you leave that corner with the
3 lower priority uncovered.

4 I think that doesn't -- that may be not
5 sit well with parents.

6 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Now, we would
7 utilize police personnel to cover absences, and we
8 do that routinely. And the number of guards we
9 have is -- and we spoke of 993 today, and that may
10 change tomorrow. Because of retirement, that's an
11 ever-changing number. So those lower-priority
12 corners are not abandoned. They are -- we absorb
13 the absences at the lower-priority corners until
14 we can hire replacement guards.

15 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: But we never get to
16 the point of the 1,000 that we budgeted, and
17 that's disturbing. I mean, we budgeted for a
18 thousand, we expect to see a thousand, and we
19 never get to that thousand number.

20 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: There were a
21 couple of years, sir, in '90 and '92, for example,
22 where we were actually over a thousand guards.
23 Again, there are seven vacancies now and there is
24 a movement under foot to replacement guards for
25 those seven positions.

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2 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Those 28 corners
3 that you mentioned, are they ones that are
4 included in the AOP package here?

5 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: This sheet is the
6 first I've seen this, this sheet. We have other
7 lists from AOP dated a little bit earlier. Some
8 of those 28 corners were from AOP -- I think 12 or
9 13 were from AOP. And then we have other requests
10 from other concerned parents and from people in
11 City Council and various offices throughout the
12 City that we also certainly entertain those
13 requests and consider them.

14 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Are there any other
15 questions?

16 Do you understand that the proposed --
17 and the reasons for these hearings is because
18 there is a obviously an overt need, as expressed
19 by parents from across the city, and the schools
20 come from every area of the city, for a greater
21 number of crossing guards in terms of -- beyond
22 the 1,000. And I think that the department, you
23 -- and your title is what? As inspector you're
24 in charge of. . . ?

25 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: I'm assigned as

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2 the executive officer to our patrol bureau. We
3 have all the numbered districts under our command
4 and certainly all the school crossing guards.

5 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Are you the person
6 then that's in control and in charge of
7 determining the need in terms of crossing guards?

8 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Not me
9 personally. Sergeant Dave Thompson conducts the
10 surveys and he also coordinates his efforts along
11 with the district captains.

12 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: But in the final
13 analysis, it is you and the sergeant who then make
14 a final recommendation to the commissioner, who
15 then goes to the mayor and says, Mr. Mayor, we
16 need \$2,400,000 more in order to hire 228 more
17 crossing guards. Is that the way it --

18 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Yes, sir.

19 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Is that the way the
20 hierarchy is structured?

21 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Yes, sir.

22 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: So you would be the
23 one recommending to Timoney, and Timoney then to
24 the mayor, and then the mayor putting that in the
25 budget and coming here.

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2 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Yes, sir.

3 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And then you sit
4 down with groups of parents across the city to
5 make a determination as to what budget numbers
6 you're going to recommend for the -- obviously,
7 the current year is already done. But, however,
8 they have expressed a need for at least eight more
9 in terms of September, which will have to be done
10 if it is done through a transfer ordinance. That
11 means the police will have to take money from
12 somewhere that you have currently budgeted and
13 send to Council a request for eight more crossing
14 guard positions.

15 Is that something that you're
16 contemplating doing in terms of guards and a
17 transfer ordinance for covering the year beginning
18 in September?

19 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Not at this point
20 in time. The Police Department is not planning to
21 ask for additional funding or a transfer ordinance
22 at this time. That's not to preclude that it
23 doesn't happen sometime in the future. We're
24 still studying some of the corners that were
25 submitted to us. And certainly, that would have

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2 to be a decision that's made by our Police
3 Commissioner John Timoney.

4 At this time, there's no immediate
5 plans to ask for a transfer ordinance.

6 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I would like you to
7 submit your studies to this committee as soon as
8 you -- how much time do you need to conduct these
9 studies to determine the need for corners?

10 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: The actual time
11 spent on the corners, about four hours. We split
12 that up in both morning and afternoon dismissal.
13 Now, certainly, it's impossible to do a study now
14 'cause the school's not in session. So once
15 school goes back into session in September, we
16 could go out and --

17 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: But you said that
18 you had 28 corners that you were currently
19 studying.

20 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Yes. We've
21 completed 19 of them, I believe it was, and I can
22 give you that information.

23 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Can you give us
24 those determinations?

25 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Yes, sir.

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2 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Okay. And when can
3 I expect that so I can hand that out to the
4 committee?

5 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: We can fax that to
6 you if you'd like. It would just be a question of
7 us getting back to our headquarters and doing some
8 typing and photocopying.

9 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Inspector, is
10 there a way to identify -- in the report that you
11 will submit to us on the survey of the 19 or so
12 corners, could you give us a description as to the
13 location of that corner in relationship to the
14 school, whether it's two or three blocks away. I
15 think for me, that would help me a great deal. I
16 mean, obviously, if it's something outside the
17 school immediately, that would be a higher
18 priority. So I don't know if that's in your
19 report.

20 SERGEANT THOMPSON: No, it's not in our
21 report. Basically, when it comes down to
22 prioritizing, a corner could be four blocks away,
23 but if it's a lot of kids, over a hundred kids
24 going away, even though it's far from the school,
25 a school don't determine the need.

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2 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: So the number of
3 children crossing would be --

4 SERGEANT THOMPSON: I think more so the
5 children and traffic than the school.

6 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Okay.

7 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Inspector, let me
8 say to you that there are two issues really that
9 almost create a greater degree of phone calls and
10 complaints to District Councilpeople's offices, to
11 At-Large Councilpeople's offices, and that is
12 abandoned cars and the lack of crossing guards,
13 two issues that go beyond the Kvaerner deal or
14 whether Bill Giles is going to put the stadium at
15 Broad and Spring Garden. And they create and are
16 more important to people than any of those
17 issues. And we take 'em very seriously,
18 obviously.

19 So I would like to get that report as
20 soon as possible. I'd like to see the listing of
21 all the corners, and I think you gave 'em to us
22 already?

23 SERGEANT THOMPSON: I gave you a
24 thousand corners throughout the city.

25 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Okay, a thousand

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2 corners that are here. So that we can begin to
3 determine how we're going to operate and what we
4 are going to be doing. Because if the
5 commissioner and the mayor do not come down with
6 certain budget changes, then we as a Council may
7 have to look to see how we can make those budget
8 changes happen from Council's side.

9 Councilman, do you have a question?

10 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: No.

11 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Okay. Councilman
12 Franny Rafferty -- I mean --

13 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Frank Rizzo.

14 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Oh, God, I'm going
15 back.

16 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I'm recovering from
17 that one.

18 (Laughter.)

19 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Inspector, you
20 indicated that you can't do these surveys during
21 the off-season.

22 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Yes.

23 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Based on -- it seems
24 that all this time that we have here some
25 preliminary work to be done, do we work with the

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2 principal of the school, determining where these
3 young people live, whether go to their home,
4 whether they go to grandmom's, to aunt's, to
5 uncle's?

6 I mean, it amazes me that we're
7 actually physically dependent on watching a
8 particular intersection to determine the number of
9 young people crossing that particular -- and I see
10 a lot of the school crossing guards helping our
11 seniors too, so the kids aren't the only ones that
12 are getting help from the school crossing guards.

13 But I'd like to talk about that
14 survey. Who physically does that, the sergeant?

15 SERGEANT THOMPSON: Yes, or my officer,
16 yes.

17 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Have you been
18 trained on how to conduct these surveys that you
19 determine need or --

20 SERGEANT THOMPSON: Well, I was trained
21 by the previous supervisor who was there for over,
22 I think, ten, twelve years, who had been trained
23 by another lieutenant who was there in that unit
24 since 19 -- I think -- 72.

25 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Inspector, are you

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2 confident -- with no disrespect to the process
3 that you use, have you ever possibly discussed
4 with the traffic engineering people a way to do
5 this maybe more efficiently or with more
6 accuracy?

7 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Certainly we're
8 always interested in revisiting the process to
9 make it more effective. And, in fact, something
10 that wasn't touched on, we actually look at every
11 corner. Out of all 1,000 funded corners, every
12 year at the end of the school year, each district
13 captain is required to submit a report that's
14 forwarded to school crossing headquarters listing
15 the number of children, if conditions change.

16 For example, this year, we expect some
17 changes. We're going to have -- a couple of the
18 parochial schools in South Philadelphia are going
19 to merge. I think one's closing and a couple are
20 merging, and certainly that will impact on the
21 pedestrian traffic on school children crossing.
22 So those kind of changes are revisited every year.

23 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Councilman, the
24 experience I have is that every time you ask
25 traffic engineering, the Streets Department, they

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2 usually say no. They take the studies, they do
3 'em, and they come back and say something like,
4 "You don't need a traffic light."

5 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: I would certainly
6 agree.

7 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I'm not suggesting
8 that they make a decision as to whether we need
9 school crossing guard or not but what I'm
10 suggesting is that we make sure -- and, again,
11 with no disrespect to the sergeant or his officer
12 -- that we're using -- maybe there's a better way
13 to do it, maybe there's an easier way to do it,
14 maybe there's some technology again out there that
15 could help calculate the number of people that
16 actually cross at intersections. Using the data
17 from the school, you could do this during summer
18 months, at least preliminarily, so. . .

19 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: The criteria should
20 be -- and I think crossing guards should be at
21 every elementary school, period, no discussion.
22 Those are kids from kindergarten to sixth grade.
23 They need some assistance, they need some help,
24 they need to be taken care of. Everything else is
25 like (Spanish phrase), you know, like smoke going

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2 up.

3 And that should be the criteria -- the
4 safety of that age of children. And if you are
5 not meeting it and we do not have police or
6 crossing guards in those corners, then we have to
7 look at what it is that we need to do to make sure
8 that those corners are covered.

9 Thank you very much, Inspector.

10 Could I have Kenneth Moragne, Myron
11 Reddy, and Betty McDonald.

12 (Above-named witnesses come forward.)

13 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Ken Moragne, please.

14 MR. MORAGNE: Yes. My name is Kenneth
15 Moragne. I'm a member of the AOP Parent Team, and
16 I'm also the chairperson of John B. Kelly
17 Elementary School Safe Corridors Program. I'm
18 also a lifelong Philadelphian, a grandfather and a
19 father, and my children have graduated from the
20 public school system in Philadelphia.

21 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Please, just -- you
22 going to testify?

23 MR. MORAGNE: I'm here in support of
24 the requests coming out of AOP for the immediate
25 implementation of crossing guards at those

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2 priority corners, of which one of those corners,
3 by the way, I myself personally stand over and see
4 that the children cross safely every day for a
5 period of two years. So I'm not coming from a
6 third-person point of view; I know what goes on at
7 those corners.

8 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: What corner is
9 that?

10 MR. MORAGNE: This corner happens to be
11 Coulter Street and Pulaski Avenue. And the John
12 B. Kelly Elementary School Annex is housed in the
13 Wissahickon Boys and Girls Club, which is located
14 on Coulter and Morris Street. They have four
15 classes there -- two kindergartens and two
16 1st-grades. The main school is at Pulaski and
17 Hansbury. Of course, I don't know if you're
18 aware, but we're talking about 1200 elementary-
19 school students.

20 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I think that's the
21 issue that Councilman DiCicco was talking about.

22 MR. MORAGNE: Yes. But one of the
23 things I heard, I understand that the parameter of
24 the school is important, and I would agree with
25 that. But also, since the mayor and City Council

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2 found it expedient to remove traffic lights from
3 other intersections in this particular corridor --
4 and I'm speaking about one of those intersections,
5 which is Pulaski and Coulter Street.

6 Now my question is, and has been all
7 the time, before you did that, City Council and
8 the mayor, did you have this survey?

9 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: No, no. City
10 Council did not eliminate any traffic lights.

11 MR. MORAGNE: Oh, you approved it or --
12 I'm not aware of that.

13 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: That's a decision
14 made, an administrative decision made by the
15 executive branch of government.

16 MR. MORAGNE: I see. That's the mayor,
17 then, we're speaking of.

18 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Yes, that's right.

19 MR. MORAGNE: Okay, I'm glad you
20 clarified that because my question would be, and
21 this is part of my testimony that --

22 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I don't think any
23 District Councilperson would go out and approve
24 the elimination of a traffic light.

25 MR. MORAGNE: Well, I'm very pleased to

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2 hear that, I'm very pleased that you gave me the
3 clarity on that because as far as I see it, as a
4 safe corridors person and being on those corners,
5 this particular corner had a traffic light, and
6 elementary-school students crossed this
7 intersection.

8 When the traffic light was there, that
9 did supplement the crossing guards down on
10 Hansbury so that we did have some safety factor
11 there for the children to cross that
12 intersection. But when you took that traffic
13 light away, those elementary-school students,
14 those middle-school students that go to Pickett
15 School still had to cross this highway. And I
16 call it a highway because you have at least 300 to
17 500 automobiles, buses, tractor-trailers going
18 through this because it's a fairway to the
19 expressway using Midvale Avenue.

20 So to have taken the traffic light away
21 and not to have put a crossing guard or made that
22 a funded corner is a travesty to me, whoever did
23 it. That's where the survey should have been done
24 as far as I'm concerned, but that's over and
25 that's happened.

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2 So what happened is, being a safe
3 corridor individual and being a grandfather and
4 having raised children in the Philadelphia public
5 school system, I know our city rests upon the fact
6 that our children grow up healthy and become the
7 leaders of this great city. And that all begins
8 education-wise in elementary school. So I just
9 happen to be a safe corridor person who's dealing
10 with elementary-school students.

11 And my heart bleeds many times at the
12 things I see that have been done by the city, by
13 this great city, to me seemingly disregarding what
14 this city is all about, the growth of our young
15 people to come up to fill in your leadership
16 seats.

17 Getting back to the issue, I heard it
18 said this morning -- someone said some of the
19 corners that we've requested, there have been no
20 accidents -- I guess no children killed or maimed
21 or hurt. Well, we parents, we believe in
22 prevention. And I don't know if the survey has
23 been made as to how many close calls there were at
24 these particular sites, but we as parents are
25 concerned about the safety of our children

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2 crossing highways that are hazardous, whether
3 there have been accidents.

4 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I don't think the
5 inspector meant to say that they were waiting
6 until somebody got really hurt to decide about
7 that and make that a part of the --

8 MR. MORAGNE: Well, that's what I heard
9 and that's what I interpreted.

10 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I understand.

11 MR. MORAGNE: So that's what I'm
12 saying.

13 So my main premise is that there is no
14 question in my mind, being out there on the
15 corner, on this particular corner, and as a safe
16 corridor person, and my personnel, we are to be
17 patrolling these corridors that our children travel
18 from home to school and to home again. That's our
19 job, that's what safe corridors is about.

20 However, the issue is the safety and
21 welfare of our children. And so when we saw --
22 when we saw what our children had to go through in
23 order to get from home to school, I was shocked,
24 and I immediately said, Well, why isn't there a
25 crossing guard here? Well, there used to be a

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2 traffic light here. I said but the traffic light
3 is gone, why isn't there something here? Well, I
4 don't know. I was amazed, nobody knows.

5 You paying attention there,
6 Councilperson?

7 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Yes, sir.

8 MR. MORAGNE: Thank you.

9 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: The gentleman in
10 the audience is a friend who waved, and I waved
11 back.

12 MR. MORAGNE: Thank you very much.

13 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: If I wasn't paying
14 attention, I wouldn't be here, sir.

15 MR. MORAGNE: All right, thank you,
16 Councilperson.

17 But anyway, I found out that the person
18 who was in charge of crossing guards is the
19 district captain, so we immediately went to
20 District Captain Nestel, and we began to inquire
21 about the crossing guard situation. And when we
22 asked him about it, that's when we first started
23 hearing about funded and unfunded corners, which
24 we had no awareness of this.

25 But we asked him, Well, what can you do

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2 immediately to facilitate a crossing guard being
3 on that corner? He said, Well, we can go out and
4 look at the corner and see if it merits a crossing
5 guard. So he did, and I was out there with the
6 surveyor when he was out there and he surveyed.
7 And then I learned that there was a certain number
8 of children that should be going across the
9 highway and a certain amount of traffic. This is
10 how I learned about the survey.

11 And I said, You mean to tell me if it's
12 25 children and you see there's about 300 buses
13 and cars going on, if it's 25 children that have
14 to cross here, that doesn't meet the criteria for
15 a crossing guard? He said, Well, it's -- you
16 know, it's a toss-up and other things come into
17 play. Of course, I didn't know what those other
18 things were.

19 But, of course, you know, me standing
20 here and watching this situation, I'm disturbed
21 about this right away 'cause I'm seeing little
22 children going across, and if 25 and all these
23 buses and tractor-trailers and --

24 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: The issue is
25 priorities. That's what they want, and obviously,

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2 this is not and has not been a priority.

3 MR. MORAGNE: Well, with the City, is
4 that what you're saying?

5 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Yeah.

6 MR. MORAGNE: All right, with the City,
7 it's not a priority. But I'm here to say as a
8 parent that it will become a priority with the
9 City because the City represent the parents, the
10 parents and the people of the city. So if the
11 people say, Well, this is got to be a priority,
12 Commissioner Timoney, this has to be a priority,
13 Mayor Rendell, then Mayor Rendell and Commissioner
14 Timoney --

15 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Mayor Rendell only
16 has five more months.

17 MR. MORAGNE: Well, he's in now and it
18 all depends on whether we approach him while he's
19 in or the new mayor when he comes in. That's all
20 I'm saying.

21 See, this issue is important to the
22 parents and important enough to approach all of
23 you. We're here today, and you don't see many
24 back here, but we have a petition with over 500,
25 600, and we can have a thousand people here in

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2 these chambers if need be. And that's a promise
3 that I will see that that happens if I have to.

4 So because this is a real issue,
5 whether you want to -- it's not a budget issue
6 with the parents; it's a child safety issue with
7 the parents. So that's what we want to designate
8 to you. Don't -- it's a budget issue to you.
9 Well, that's why we elected you, so you can make
10 that budget fit this safety issue for us.

11 And that's why I'm here. So we're not
12 looking at a budget issue; we're looking at a
13 little children going to elementary school and
14 middle school or even high school, getting from
15 home to school safely. That's the issue. Not a
16 stadium. I heard a figure of \$2.5 million.
17 What's that? What you going to spend for a
18 stadium? What are you going to spend for a
19 football field? That's what --

20 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: \$100 million.

21 MR. MORAGNE: That's what I'm saying,
22 that's what I'm saying.

23 So. The issue is not budget with us;
24 it's the safety of our children. And that issue
25 should be an issue with every Councilperson and

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2 every mayor and every commissioner, everyone.

3 Their issue should be the welfare and the safety

4 of the children and the people of Philadelphia.

5 That's our issue. Our issue is the safety of our

6 children as they go from home to school.

7 And prayerfully, gentlemen, that is

8 your issue also. Because if it isn't, it will be,

9 it will be, gentlemen. And I'm speaking firsthand

10 because I'm out there every day. So all of this

11 jargon I'm hearing, I don't -- I hear it but I

12 know what's going on, and I thank God that I've

13 been out there. And I know that this is a real

14 issue.

15 And it's not about dollars and cents;

16 it's about the safety and welfare of the children

17 of Philadelphia. That's what this issue is. And

18 I hope all the parents are hearing this because

19 that's what this issue is; it's not a budget

20 issue. It's a safety issue for our children and

21 that should be the primary issue of the

22 councilmen, the mayor, whoever is in office. And

23 if that's not your issue, you don't need to be

24 there.

25 And that's what I have to say.

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2 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. MORAGNE: I'll field your questions
5 now.

6 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

7 Kit Mullen.

8 MS. MULLEN: Okay, I was here to speak
9 for someone else, but Todd Porter will be doing
10 the testimony of another parent.

11 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Very good.

12 MR. PORTER: Good morning. I'm going
13 to be reading Myron Reddy's testimony. He
14 couldn't be here this morning, so I'm going to be
15 reading his testimony in his absence.

16 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Could you identify
17 yourself for the record, please.

18 MR. PORTER: Yes. My name is Todd
19 Porter, and I work with the Alliance Organizing
20 Project. And I'm also a member of the John B.
21 Kelly Safe Corridors Team.

22 Myron Reddy is a parent of a
23 five-year-old who attends Waring Elementary
24 School. He also has many nieces and nephews that
25 also attend Waring. He would be here today

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2 representing over 350 parents and community
3 members who signed the petition to increase the
4 number of crossing guards in their district.

5 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: That's at 18th and
6 Wallace, 18th and Fairmount, right?

7 MR. PORTER: Correct.

8 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: They've already --
9 will be assigning someone to that intersection.

10 MR. PORTER: Well, they have a number
11 of intersections that they've identified in the
12 area.

13 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: In case you didn't
14 hear earlier that that already has been addressed.

15 MR. PORTER: Well, no, it hasn't. One
16 corner has been addressed, but as I mentioned,
17 they have other corners in their district that
18 they've identified.

19 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: All right.

20 MR. PORTER: They're very concerned
21 about the fact that the children have to cross
22 busy highways such as 17th and 18th and Fairmount.
23 They became concerned with the issue and even took
24 it upon themselves, as did we in the Germantown
25 area, to do surveys at these intersections,

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2 counted the number of children and the number of
3 cars that cross the intersection.

4 To this date, they were able to get a
5 guard placed at the intersection of 18th and
6 Wallace, which was mentioned. And they have also
7 identified eight people who are willing to
8 actually work as crossing guards.

9 In closing -- and this is not a part of
10 Myron's comments -- what we have essentially done
11 here, and this is after having meetings with
12 Councilman Ortiz and others, we have took it upon
13 ourselves to go out and we were asked to actually
14 identify 200 corners because that was the original
15 request. But we have took it upon ourselves to go
16 out and identify intersections across the city
17 that need crossing guards.

18 And as you can see in our list of
19 corners here, we've identified 40 intersections,
20 40 intersections. What I want to do is just
21 simply read and state the requests. We are not
22 asking for 200 crossing guards. And I know in
23 Inspector DiLacqua's comments, he had mentioned
24 228 crossing guards that were needed. But what
25 we're asking for is 40 crossing guards. We're

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2 asking that 8 of them, which in fact, the survey
3 has already been done to determine the need for
4 crossing guards, be supplied by September.

5 Now, back to Inspector DiLacqua's
6 comment. He said that 16 corners had already been
7 identified as needing crossing guards. Again,
8 what we're asking for is 8 intersections be
9 staffed by September.

10 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: You have seven
11 vacancies, right?

12 MR. PORTER: Exactly, exactly. And for
13 the additional number to be surveyed by October.
14 And as he stated again in his comments, that would
15 not be unrealistic because it wouldn't take more
16 than 30 days to survey those additional 32
17 corners.

18 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: The other 32 may not
19 be budgeted for.

20 MR. PORTER: Exactly. In fact, he said
21 that just one of them was considered a funded
22 corner.

23 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: So you would need
24 actually money for at least 32 more corners.

25 MR. PORTER: Exactly.

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2 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Above the thousand
3 that are funded.

4 MR. PORTER: Well, in fact, we are
5 asking for a budget increase -- make no mistake
6 about that, we're asking for a budget increase.
7 So, yes, we would be asking for that money be
8 earmarked for an additional 32 crossing guards.

9 So what I want to do is just make the
10 request real clear: we want these eight corners
11 staffed by September.

12 And I'd like, if I could, put the
13 question to Inspector DiLacqua, is that if a
14 transfer ordinance has not been submitted in the
15 police budget, then why not, based on the fact
16 that parents have made this request across the
17 city -- this was a bad day for parents to come out
18 today because, as we know, this is graduation
19 day.

20 And when can we expect this transfer
21 ordinance to be placed in the city's budget or the
22 police budget?

23 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: That's a request
24 that has to come from the mayor's office. I
25 think, as we said, the inspector would say to you

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2 the commissioner, This is what is needed. The
3 commissioner would then propose that, and then
4 that would come down to City Council for
5 discussion and approval. If that is not done,
6 City Council can take it up to itself to put a
7 transfer ordinance in.

8 However, with a caveat. If we approve
9 transfer ordinance in which an agreement has not
10 been reached with the Administration according to
11 the Charter and the mayor's -- and not only this
12 mayor, but other mayors, they can decide to use or
13 not use the money that we approve.

14 And let me tell you something, there is
15 no way that this Council can -- or there are ways,
16 there are ways that this Council can make that
17 money be used. But in the last seven years, we
18 haven't done it and -- but there are ways of us
19 imposing our will in terms of certain things that
20 we consider priorities. We just have to have the
21 political will to be able to do it and the
22 challenge. And that's the way the process works.

23 So as I told you, if the need is there
24 for these 40 or 38 or 32 more, the process has to
25 work along those lines. And then if, as

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2 Mr. Moragne said, if we get a couple of thousand
3 parents in here, you would see how the will of
4 this Council increases, especially as it gets
5 closer to election time in November. But it does
6 happen.

7 So that is the process. And like I
8 said, there are some of us here who are more than
9 willing, but I have put transfer ordinances to
10 change the budget in the last seven years, and I
11 can tell you that we have not been that
12 successful.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. PORTER: Thank you.

15 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Betty?

16 MS. MCDONALD: Thank you, Councilman,
17 for coming. Thanks for having me.

18 I think we're discussing the same
19 things we discussed in December of '96.

20 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: That's right.

21 MS. MCDONALD: December 5th.

22 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: The more things go
23 around, the more they come around.

24 MS. MCDONALD: But we just can't talk
25 about it every few years.

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2 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: That's right.

3 MS. MCDONALD: I wanted to bring you a
4 list. The first two schools of eight that they
5 have --

6 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: We've just been
7 joined by Councilwoman Donna Miller.

8 MS. MCDONALD: Yes. They were
9 crossings in the 26th District. In 1997 --

10 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Just sit down,
11 Betty. We'll get it.

12 MS. MCDONALD: That's okay.

13 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Just go back.

14 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: We have to hear
15 your testimony to be recorded.

16 MS. MCDONALD: Now you can hear me?

17 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Go ahead.

18 MS. MCDONALD: The first two schools
19 the AOP has asked for on this sheet were, in fact,
20 crossings in 1997.

21 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: When did they
22 cease being crossings?

23 MS. MCDONALD: Well, I would certainly
24 like to know that.

25 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: I'm asking you, do

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2 you know?

3 MS. MCDONALD: I have no idea who
4 funded and then unfunded corners.

5 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Well, when was the
6 last time there was a crossing guard at those
7 intersections?

8 MS. MCDONALD: There wasn't one there
9 in 1997.

10 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: There wasn't any
11 in '97?

12 MS. MCDONALD: But they were listed as
13 crossings, yes.

14 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Are they in the list
15 now Betty, do you know?

16 MS. MCDONALD: I do not know.

17 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Okay. We'll check
18 that out.

19 MS. MCDONALD: Some of these questions,
20 I will not be able to answer.

21 Number 31 on the list of the 32, D and
22 Clearfield, I know that's right outside of Elkin
23 School. I know the crossing guard there had a
24 hard time when she was there with the parents
25 double-parking their cars, the children all coming

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2 out.

3 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I know.

4 MS. MCDONALD: And I don't know why the
5 -- the last crossing guard I know of was there in
6 1995.

7 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I've been there many
8 times in that school and I've seen it. When kids
9 are coming out, I've seen the lines of parents
10 that were --

11 MS. MCDONALD: Yes, yes.

12 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: -- double-parked on
13 the avenue, on Allegheny and so on, and it's
14 hectic.

15 Go ahead, Betty.

16 MS. MCDONALD: What this group is
17 asking for is not unreasonable. I don't know
18 whoever took the 223 and made them unfunded. I
19 would like to have a list of those thousand funded
20 corners.

21 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I'll get 'em to you.

22 MS. MCDONALD: Thank you.

23 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Betty, I would like
24 to ask you a question.

25 MS. MCDONALD: Certainly.

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2 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: 'Cause I think
3 you're the one person that really knows the
4 subject better than anybody else that I know. And
5 like I said, you and I have been through this many
6 times, and I think we're going to go through it in
7 the next few years a few more times. I would
8 really hope not, but knowing -- knowing mayors and
9 knowing administrations, I'm sure that we're going
10 to be here discussing this in 2001 and 2002.

11 If we are currently funded for a
12 thousand --

13 MS. MCDONALD: Mm-hmm.

14 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: -- what is, in your
15 estimation, the current need for crossing guards?
16 And I know that this does not include middle
17 schools. Although, if you go to Roberto Clemente
18 School at Second and Erie, you know that there's
19 needs for crossing guards all over the place over
20 there, and that's a middle school. And according
21 -- or they keep on telling me that they don't
22 qualify for crossing guards. And we already had a
23 grandparent and a child killed in that area.

24 But in your estimation, what is the
25 true need that we have in terms of the current

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2 schools?

3 MS. MCDONALD: The true need? Todd has
4 surveyed the corners. He can better tell you than
5 I can, to be honest with you.

6 And as far as the middle schools, the
7 elementary schools only go to the fifth grade
8 now. There are many of those babies that should
9 not even be going to a middle school, and they do
10 need someone to cross them. They are ill-equipped
11 to go to a middle school, 5th grade, no.

12 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: But would you say
13 that there are around 200 corners that are
14 currently unfunded and that there might be need
15 for crossing guards?

16 MS. MCDONALD: Oh, absolutely. We'll
17 take the 40 extra they hired in 1990 just to start
18 with. When you are crossing a child, you do not
19 talk about \$2 million. If we save one child's
20 life, it's worth that \$2 million.

21 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: It's worth more than
22 that, but 2 million is good.

23 MS. MCDONALD: Well, okay, yes,
24 absolutely. We cannot speak of money when it
25 comes to our children.

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2 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Franny, you have a
3 question?

4 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Yes.
5 Mrs. McDonald?

6 MS. MCDONALD: Certainly.

7 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Could you please
8 describe the process that presently exists where
9 if an intersection, a school crossing location
10 becomes -- a person's sick, heart attack, could
11 you describe the relationship, the support that
12 the Philadelphia Police Department gives a
13 community, gives you in covering those locations?
14 I hear it's, for lack of a better word, there's
15 room for improvement?

16 MS. MCDONALD: Well, when I came on in
17 1973, Councilman Rizzo, a policeman was on the
18 corner if I was out, okay. They can't do that.
19 They don't have the staffing to do that, and even
20 if they put someone on the corner, if they get a
21 call, they must leave that corner.

22 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: It's the wrong use
23 of a policewoman or policeman. We've been trying
24 to put civil servants in different jobs at the
25 round house because we want our uniformed police

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2 out on the streets. I think crossing guards is
3 one of the best things we've done. That we
4 haven't done 'em on every corner that's needed,
5 that's another matter.

6 But I would like to really get to the
7 point where we can establish -- and the inspector
8 is still here -- where we can establish what the
9 true need is. And I would like to begin the
10 discussion about middle schools because Clemente
11 and Julio de Gorgos that is coming up now at
12 Fourth and Elkins and other schools down the line
13 are schools that really need caution at different
14 levels at different sites. Councilman DiCicco, I
15 know, can identify a whole series of other schools
16 along the same lines.

17 I would like to really get a handle on
18 what is the need that we have currently in the
19 city, because we don't want to come back here
20 after the fact, after the accident, after the
21 injury. We don't want to come back here and say,
22 Well, we shall have had a crossing guard at that
23 corner before that 7-, 8-, 9-year-old got hit by
24 that truck.

25 So, Inspector, you know, if you're

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2 listening to me, really, we have a universe of a
3 thousand that are funded, but we know that during
4 the last ten years, our school system has grown
5 incredibly. The number of students coming into
6 the public school system is growing, it is not
7 going down, and it will not be going down for the
8 foreseeable future. So that means we are going to
9 have a bigger population of kids out on the
10 street, and we need to begin finding out what is
11 the universe that we need to be looking at in
12 order to realistically and properly do a job that
13 these kids can feel safe and the parents can feel
14 safe that they're sending their kids to school.
15 And that includes me because I have a 9-year-old
16 going to public school and I'll have a 6-year-old
17 going to public school next year. So it is
18 imperative that we have that.

19 Betty, do you have anything else?

20 MS. MCDONALD: Just to say that the
21 need is there. We can't wait every three years
22 and go through the same thing over 'cause we're
23 not solving anything.

24 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: No. We were here
25 before and we're here again.

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2 Mr. Moragne, one closing word?

3 MR. MORAGNE: Yes. Councilman Ortiz,
4 our main objective here is to find out when we
5 leave -- before we leave here, we have priority
6 corners that we asked to be staffed by September.
7 Now --

8 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Into the microphone,
9 please.

10 MR. MORAGNE: We have eight corners
11 here that we're asking to be staffed by September.

12 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: We understand that.

13 MR. MORAGNE: Are they going to be
14 staffed? That's the question.

15 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: That I can't -- I
16 can't --

17 MR. MORAGNE: Well, who can answer
18 that?

19 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: The inspector, we
20 asked the inspector that. They cannot answer that
21 either. The inspector's here. He testified. We
22 have seven vacancies.

23 MR. MORAGNE: Yeah? At hopefully only
24 eight corners.

25 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Hopefully, those

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2 seven vacancies will be filled by September '99,,
3 and at least seven of these eight corners will be
4 staffed.

5 MR. MORAGNE: Is that possible?

6 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Okay? Am I right?
7 The one at 18th and Fairmount has already been
8 staffed.

9 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Yes, sir.

10 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Okay?

11 MR. MORAGNE: All right.

12 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Miss Miller, please.

13 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Could I just follow
14 back on that question I asked a minute ago.

15 Inspector, could you please come back
16 to the table.

17 (Inspector DiLacqua returns to the
18 witness table.)

19 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Inspector, what I
20 think would drive this vacancy issue, could you
21 describe -- and, again, I heard Mrs. McDonald say
22 that the resources aren't there for a police
23 officer in service to cover an intersection,
24 especially a crossing that is high-volume, lots of
25 traffic, lots of kids, lots of pedestrians.

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2 Could you tell me from the Police
3 Department's position in covering those locations,
4 even though I agree with Councilman Ortiz, this is
5 not the best use of uniformed patrol police, but
6 could tell me the policy and how it's carried out
7 in the event that there is a long-term illness at
8 a high-volume intersection, the police, will they
9 -- would you explain how it works.

10 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: When we're aware
11 of a vacancy, for example, a school crossing guard
12 calls out sick, that information is given to the
13 shift supervisor, the platoon lieutenant or
14 sergeant who will assign a police officer to cover
15 that crossing. And the problem Ms. McDonald spoke
16 about is just because a police officer is at that
17 corner where there's a vacancy, it does not ensure
18 that he or she will be able to remain there for
19 the duration of the crossing, based on other needs
20 for service.

21 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: We're all talking
22 about -- and I agree with -- how important this is
23 to protect the life and safety of children. Could
24 that policy be revisited that on very, very busy
25 locations that that car be out of service?

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2 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: There have been in
3 the past some crossings that were considered --
4 where the officer is considered to be held out of
5 service. But in the harsh reality in some of the
6 busier areas of the district, even though that is
7 a priority out-of-service corner, there may be a
8 hospital case pending, a shooting pending, and --

9 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: You cannot ask that,
10 you cannot ask that a policeman not answer a call.

11 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Exactly.

12 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Okay. The issue is
13 that we need crossing guards.

14 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Yeah, I agree, I
15 agree.

16 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: That said,
17 Councilman, if I may, if I may, okay?

18 You know, this is not about -- this is
19 about crossing guards. Let us keep the
20 perspective on the crossing guards, and that's
21 where it should be.

22 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Where I'm heading is
23 the fact that if your policy required you to
24 commit a police officer, that would drive your
25 management to fill these vacancies, I think, a

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2 little bit quicker.

3 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Well, we are
4 committed to filling all vacancies. As I said
5 earlier, the seven vacancies we have will be
6 filled by the start of the school year.
7 Obviously, we're not going to hire someone in
8 June, the end of June here, but by September,
9 those vacancies will be filled. The numbers I had
10 talked about --

11 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: The eight vacancies
12 here will be filled by September.

13 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Yes, sir.

14 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

15 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: There's only seven
16 now.

17 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Seven vacancies.

18 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Mr. Moragne, you got
19 your answer, the other vacancies will be filled.

20 MS. MULLEN: Excuse me. He only states
21 that the seven vacancies will be filled; he is not
22 stating that those seven vacancies will take at
23 least seven of the corners that we are requesting,
24 and that's what we're asking right here, right
25 now, to fill those seven vacancies.

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2 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Let us clarify
3 this, okay? Now, listen, five of these seven
4 vacancies that are left are in my Council
5 district. They're five of the ten that I've been
6 pushing, and I think I have an understanding with
7 the mayor's office to have these five taken care
8 of. The guy's just a man, he's just trying to do
9 a job. If he says the wrong thing, he's walking
10 the corner of Front and west Moreland tomorrow.

11 MS. MULLEN: I just wanted to --

12 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: But I'm not here
13 to stick up for him or to go --

14 MS. MULLEN: But --

15 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Now, you got to
16 let me finish, that's how it works; you talk, I
17 talk.

18 Inspector, let me say this to you, that
19 way there's no misunderstanding.

20 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Certainly.

21 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: These seven
22 corners -- Fifth and York, Fifth and Susquehannah,
23 Hancock and Dauphin, Seventh and Hunting Park,
24 Westmoreland and Glenwood, Pulaski and Coulter,
25 and Seventh and Cumberland -- will be filled in

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2 September with permanent crossing guards. Is that
3 a yes or no, Inspector?

4 (Inspector DiLacqua confers with
5 Sergeant Thompson.)

6 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Inspector, you got
7 to answer me 'cause I'm a councilman, he's a
8 sergeant.

9 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: I was just trying
10 to get the information to give you the correct
11 answer, sir.

12 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: I'm trying to
13 throw you a softball here. Either say yes or no.
14 If you say no, we'll go somewhere else.

15 These seven corners that I mentioned
16 will be filled with permanent crossing guards. No
17 games, no --

18 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: If they are funded
19 corners. And if they're not funded corners, and I
20 am being told they're not funded corners, they
21 won't be filled by September.

22 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Hold it, hold it,
23 hold it, hold it, hold it. Hold it, hold it.

24 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: We need to fund
25 those corners.

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2 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Yes, sir.

3 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Hold it, hold it.

4 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Yes, sir.

5 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Now, these are not
6 funded corners?

7 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: That's the
8 information I was getting.

9 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: These are new
10 corners?

11 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Are these elementary
12 schools?

13 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: All seven of 'em.

14 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Yeah.

15 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: They're all
16 elementary schools. All seven of these aren't
17 funded, Sergeant? Sergeant, why don't you step up
18 here.

19 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: They're not funded
20 corners.

21 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: None of 'em?

22 INSPECTOR DILACQUA: Not a one.

23 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: So they cannot --
24 you cannot promise that you will have those
25 corners filled in September.

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2 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Because they're
3 not funded. Go ahead.

4 SERGEANT THOMPSON: The seven vacancies
5 right now are currently -- the seven out of a
6 thousand, they just retired in the last month.
7 These corners are already -- those seven positions
8 are already dedicated.

9 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: These seven I just
10 spoke of?

11 SERGEANT THOMPSON: No. Those are new
12 from this group AOP that came to you to that City
13 Council meeting with me, and you were there, those
14 are newly requests.

15 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Okay.

16 SERGEANT THOMPSON: These new requests
17 will go over 1,000. There will be 1,008 if that's
18 what they want, and we don't have 8 positions
19 'cause we don't have 8 budgeted.

20 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: You don't have
21 80,000 -- what is it?

22 SERGEANT THOMPSON: I could tell you
23 this: if you want me to get -- I have seven
24 vacancies. Now, the seven vacancies, we'll go to
25 those eight, and then we got the other problem,

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2 the seven that we didn't fund in the previous
3 administration.

4 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Yeah, well that's
5 taking --

6 SERGEANT THOMPSON: It's taking from
7 Peter and adding to Paul.

8 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Yeah, right.
9 You're taking 'em from Donna Miller's district and
10 putting 'em in my district.

11 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: So what you're
12 saying to me is that you need 83-something
13 thousand dollars.

14 SERGEANT THOMPSON: If you want to add
15 those eight AOP organizations, yes.

16 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Okay.

17 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Rick?

18 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: What we got to do
19 is sell some more of them Rendell hoagies and
20 we'll get it.

21 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Councilwoman Miller,
22 you had some questions.

23 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Well, my question
24 initially was the same one that we're just raising
25 here. I was wondering if those seven vacancies

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2 were the AOP priority corner. I thought that they
3 were different.
4 SERGEANT THOMPSON: No. We just gave
5 you a rundown. We have a thousand positions, we
6 had a thousand, close to a thousand this year.
7 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: And seven
8 vacancies?
9 SERGEANT THOMPSON: Currently funded
10 positions.
11 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Where are they?
12 SERGEANT THOMPSON: Across the city.
13 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Do you have a
14 list? Could you get it for us?
15 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I have a
16 question. Miss McDonald, you said you would take
17 the 40 that you had in 1990. Well, if -- can you
18 explain a little further, is it 40 plus 1,000 or
19 is it --
20 MS. MCDONALD: Yes, Councilwoman. The
21 inspector had said that in 1990, we had 1,040
22 crossing guards. We'll take them back. It would
23 solve that.
24 But the first two names on that AOP
25 list were at one time funded.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay.

3 MS. MULLEN: So somebody else robbed
4 Peter to pay Paul earlier; we wanna rob 'em back.

5 MS. MCDONALD: Excuse me, Councilman.
6 The first two corners were at one time funded from
7 the 26th District.

8 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Well, what
9 happened? I mean, why --

10 MS. MCDONALD: I cannot answer that. I
11 do not know who unfunded them. We now have funded
12 and unfunded.

13 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I can tell you what
14 happened.

15 MS. MCDONALD: Please do.

16 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I can tell you what
17 happened. What happened is that we were in an
18 economic situation during the late period of 1989,
19 '90, '91. And what happened is that, again, this
20 -- administration after administration did not
21 put this as a priority. So when they needed
22 money, when they needed staffing, when they needed
23 money to pay some other personnel, they took it
24 from the lower rung of employees.

25 That's what happened. That's what

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2 happened. That's why you see it in 1990, '91 and
3 then you don't see it in 19926789. That's the
4 beginning of David L. Cohen, Ed, and so on,
5 because they needed -- they were coming in in a
6 period of time in which they prioritized different
7 services. And this is a service that was not
8 organized in terms of constituency. As Mr.
9 Moragne said, the constituency was not organized,
10 was not there to be able to be advocates for the
11 positions.

12 And so they decided where is -- where
13 can we take money and there can be very little
14 complaining about it. There were complaints here
15 and there, but none of the complaints were
16 organized. And that's where the money came from.

17 MS. MCDONALD: And that's what we're
18 asking for today.

19 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: That's right.

20 MS. MCDONALD: The money that was
21 taken, we would like to have back to protect the
22 children of this city.

23 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Okay.

24 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Well, didn't we
25 at one time have 1200 funded corners?

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2 MS. MCDONALD: It was 1223. The
3 inspector and I differ on five.

4 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: As the economic
5 conditions of the City became lower and worse,
6 cuts happened. And, again, the -- what is it, the
7 squeaky wheel gets the oil?

8 MS. MCDONALD: Gets the most oil.

9 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And there were no
10 squeaks coming from parents at that time in terms
11 of crossing guards.

12 MS. MCDONALD: But what we are seeing
13 here is, those 223 corners are not being
14 considered again because someone has unfunded
15 them. The number one and number two that AOP is
16 asking for were at one time fund. The 26th
17 District had 75 crossing guards; they now have
18 about 46.

19 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Okay. Are there any
20 other questions? Any other statements?

21 MS. MULLEN: Yes, I have another
22 comment.

23 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Yes.

24 MS. MULLEN: We have all spent --

25 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: State your name

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2 again, please.

3 MS. MULLEN: My name is Kit Mullen, and
4 I'm the mother of four children in the public
5 school system, three of which are in elementary.
6 I'm also a member of the AOP and organizing around
7 our schools.

8 And I'd like to also say that we are
9 still waiting for our copies of the 1,000 funded
10 schools. And it's not like we just asked casually
11 at a hearing; we actually wrote a formal written
12 request, and we're still waiting.

13 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: You give your
14 address to Wanda, and we'll mail you a copy of
15 this, okay?

16 MS. MULLEN: Okay.

17 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Okay?

18 MS. MULLEN: Okay. We would also like
19 copies of the 19 of the 28 corners studied by the
20 police inspector. While you're getting those
21 copies, we would like copies IF you could copy 'em
22 for us if we don't get 'em from the police.

23 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: We'll send 'em,
24 we'll mail 'em. You give us your address, you
25 know, and we'll send 'em.

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2 MS. MULLEN: Okay. And the other thing
3 is, we are quite familiar with how bureaucracy
4 works. I'm learning more and more every day. And
5 you had said in the beginning of these hearings
6 that yes, this is the start, this is the
7 beginning. We still have the mayor, we still have
8 Timoney, we still have the Streets Department.

9 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Actually, this is
10 not the beginning. I think, like Betty McDonald
11 said, we were here in '96, I was here screaming at
12 the commissioner.

13 MS. MULLEN: But we weren't organizing
14 around this before.

15 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Exactly.

16 MS. MULLEN: Because while people were
17 stealing our crossing guards, you know, we would
18 have been squeaky wheels if somebody had said,
19 Look, we're going to take your crossing guards
20 away from your children and fund something else.
21 I think parents would have come together then if
22 they had known, but it was pulled out from under
23 them little by little, trickle by trickle, without
24 them knowing. And, of course, more and more
25 people are driving, so it's becoming imperative

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2 that these things are taken care of. And we're
3 not going to stop squeaking, so you might as well
4 just pass that on to everybody.

5 But we would like another Council
6 hearing in September. We want to keep up to date
7 and we will not go away. So this is a proceeding
8 and this is how we would like to --

9 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Personally, I don't
10 want you to go away; I want you to keep on
11 squeaking as much as you can. And we will try to
12 do -- and like I said, this Council will act
13 hopefully -- the will of this Council will be
14 nourished and made strong as we see the will
15 organized and grouping of parents that come before
16 us.

17 MS. MULLEN: So you're saying you're
18 with us, huh? City Council is going to be with us
19 on --

20 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Well, I've been
21 there.

22 MS. MULLEN: Cool.

23 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And I can only speak
24 for myself, but I've been there, and we have been
25 there, but we cannot force the administration

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2 unless parents are organized.

3 MS. MULLEN: Where would the additional
4 funding come from then that we need to --

5 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: That is a subject
6 for discussion. First you put it up to the
7 administration, and then we then we have to act.
8 If the administration doesn't move forward, then
9 we as a body have to begin determining where it is
10 that we can take money from to do this type of --

11 MS. MULLEN: So we have a date for
12 September?

13 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: We will have a date
14 for September, yes.

15 MS. MULLEN: Great.

16 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Yes, Sergeant?

17 SERGEANT THOMPSON: Just one more word.
18 If you had a thousand narrowed down to nine
19 positions, again, a lot of guards are retiring or
20 just quitting, so we have nine vacancies as of
21 today, and the list is coming over through fax.

22 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Yours certainly
23 won't be done until the end of September.

24 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Well, they have a
25 survey done for 19 of the positions, right? But

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2 for the entire list, your survey will not be done
3 until after school begins in September.

4 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: And the survey
5 would be --

6 SERGEANT THOMPSON: Probably a month.

7 MS. MULLEN: Well, in the meantime, why
8 don't you listen to the parents that have done the
9 work for you?

10 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: It will be done by
11 October 1st.

12 SERGEANT THOMPSON: Okay.

13 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Right?

14 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: My suggestion is
15 that maybe we wait until the survey is completed
16 to meet because I don't want to have to meet and
17 then come back two weeks later again.

18 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: So October 1st?

19 SERGEANT THOMPSON: It sounds good.

20 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: It sounds good?

21 SERGEANT THOMPSON: Yes.

22 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And gives you enough
23 leeway time, okay? Thank you.

24 MS. MCDONALD: There are going to be
25 more vacancies because at this time of the year,

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2 the crossing guards do retire, those that want
3 to. They're still not going to cover those
4 corners.

5 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: We understand that.
6 That has been made very clear. These corners are
7 not funded.

8 MS. MCDONALD: You got it.

9 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: These are not part
10 of the thousand funded corners, the eight corners
11 that are here. So if they told Councilman Mariano
12 that his six corners that are here -- or five,
13 they are not funded, they don't have the money for
14 that. So they either have to come up with a
15 transfer ordinance the first week of September in
16 order to fund those corners and -- or then we're
17 going to have to look at it ourselves and try to
18 do something along those lines.

19 But, Mr. Moragne, I would like to see a
20 thousand parents here.

21 MR. MORAGNE: Oh, yeah, yeah, I'll get
22 you 5,000.

23 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Okay. Is there any
24 other witness?

25 (No response.)

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2 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Seeing none, the
3 Council Committee on Public Safety on Resolution
4 990264 stands in recess.

5 Thank you.

6 (Adjourned at 12:05 p.m.)

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RE: COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

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RESOLUTION NO. 990264

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JOSEPHINE CARDILLO,

Registered Professional Reporter