

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, June 6, 2013
3:45 p.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILMAN BILL GREEN, CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM K. GREENLEE
COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILMAN DENNIS O'BRIEN
COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA

BILL 130456 - An ordinance authorizing the
Director of Housing, on behalf of the City, to
file applications with the United States
Department of Housing and Urban Development
for a Community Development Block Grant...

- - -

1

2

COUNCILMAN GREEN: Good

3

afternoon, everybody. I apologize for

4

the delay. The public hearing of the

5

Finance Committee on Bill No. 130456 will

6

come to order.

7

I'd ask the Clerk to read the

8

title of the bill.

9

THE CLERK: Bill No. 130456, an

10

ordinance authorizing the Director of

11

Housing, on behalf of the City, to file

12

applications with the United States

13

Department of Housing and Urban

14

Development for a Community Development

15

Block Grant; to participate in the HOME

16

Investment Partnership program and the

17

Emergency Solutions Grant program; and

18

for a Housing Opportunities for Persons

19

With AIDS grant; and to file applications

20

with the Commonwealth to obtain grants

21

under the Act of April 12, 1956, Public

22

Law 1449, Section 4, as amended, to

23

prevent and eliminate blight; authorizing

24

the Director of Housing and the Director

25

of Commerce to file applications to

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2 obtain other grants from the
3 Commonwealth; authorizing the Director of
4 Commerce to use the Section 108 Loan
5 Guarantee Program; and authorizing the
6 Director of Housing and the Director of
7 Commerce to enter into all understandings
8 and assurances contained in such
9 applications and to take all necessary
10 action to accept the grants; all under
11 certain terms and conditions.

12 COUNCILMAN GREEN: I recognize
13 a quorum in the presence of
14 Councilmembers Blackwell, Greenlee, Brown
15 Johnson, and O'Brien.

16 Will the first people to
17 testify come up. That would be Deborah
18 McColloch, Director of Office of Housing
19 and Community Development, and I see Alan
20 Greenberger joining her.

21 (Witnesses approached witness
22 table.)

23 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Please feel
24 free to summarize your testimony. State
25 your name for the record and proceed.

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2 MS. MCCOLLOCH: Good afternoon,
3 Councilman Green and other members of the
4 Finance Committee and members of City
5 Council. I am Deborah McColloch, the
6 Director of Housing. I will present
7 testimony on behalf of the Administration
8 on Bill No. 130456, which permits the
9 City to apply for the federal Community
10 Development Block Grant funds, HOME
11 Investment Partnership, Emergency
12 Solutions Grant, and Housing
13 Opportunities for Persons with AIDS known
14 as HOPWA funds; in addition, funds from
15 the Department of Community and Economic
16 Development from the Commonwealth.

17 The bill refers to Exhibit A,
18 which is the Year 39 Consolidated Plan,
19 the required HUD funding application. In
20 order for the City to receive funding
21 from HUD, the City is required to submit
22 an approved Consolidated Plan to HUD no
23 later than August 16th, 2013.

24 With me today are Alan
25 Greenberger, Deputy Mayor for Economic

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2 Development; representatives from the
3 Department of Commerce, which administers
4 funds allocated for community economic
5 development; and related agencies,
6 including the Philadelphia Redevelopment
7 Authority, the Philadelphia Housing
8 Development Corporation, and the
9 Philadelphia Industrial Development
10 Corporation.

11 The Year 39 Consolidated Plan
12 for the fiscal year which begins July
13 1st, 2013 details our plans for spending
14 funds from the four primary federal
15 resources that I just described.

16 At the time the Year 39
17 Proposed Consolidated Plan was printed,
18 the City had not received its federal
19 allocations from HUD. For the purposes
20 of that Plan, the City assumed an 8
21 percent cut to CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, and
22 ESG. This reduction was based on the
23 City's best estimate for the federal
24 sequestration cut and HUD's funding
25 formula. The City subsequently received

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2 its federal allocation from HUD, and I am
3 pleased to report that the City actually
4 received an increase of 1.704 million in
5 CDBG and 121,000 in HOME funding. HUD's
6 formula is based on a range of
7 demographic and housing data, including
8 the number and size of households,
9 vacancy rates, and the age of the housing
10 stock. According to HUD, the switch from
11 using the 2005-2009 American Community
12 Survey data last year to this year using
13 2006 to 2010 data accounted for the
14 majority of the increase. It was this
15 transition of data plugged into the
16 funding formula that increased our
17 allocation despite the fact that the
18 overall budget was decreased from
19 Washington. It was a funding formula
20 change.

21 This change in the formula also
22 resulted in an unanticipated 30 percent
23 reduction in the City's Emergency Shelter
24 Grant allocation -- excuse me; Emergency
25 Solutions Grant allocation. ESG is

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2 reduced by \$1.2 million.

3 The City has amended the Bill
4 130456 and the Year 39 Consolidated Plan
5 budget to reflect the actual CDBG, HOME,
6 ESG, and HOPWA allocations. This being
7 submitted to City Council today as an
8 amendment.

9 Although the City realized
10 increases in CDBG, HOME, and Housing
11 Trust Fund funding, the Year 39 budget is
12 \$15.9 million less than the Year 38
13 budget. This reduction is primarily due
14 to the reduction in the ESG funding and
15 the loss of the one-time allocation of
16 reprogrammed state funds and the
17 conclusion of the Neighborhood
18 Stabilization Program 2 funding. Despite
19 this reduction, the Year 39 Proposed
20 Consolidated Plan maintains initiatives
21 and programs to achieve the City's
22 priorities: to prevent homelessness by
23 keeping people in their homes, increase
24 the affordable housing by producing new
25 units, strengthening communities by

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2 eliminating blight and promoting
3 neighborhood planning, and create jobs by
4 attracting and retaining businesses.

5 Last year the City identified
6 programs and services that were most
7 effective in achieving the City's
8 priorities. These programs and services
9 will remain at level funding in Year 39
10 and include housing counseling,
11 completion of the pipeline of
12 homeownership housing, citizen
13 participation through neighborhood
14 advisory committees known as NACs,
15 cleaning and greening of vacant lots
16 through the Philadelphia LandCare
17 Program, neighborhood commercial corridor
18 support, small business lending, and job
19 training through Youthbuild.

20 In Year 39, the City has
21 identified two programs to receive an
22 increase in funding. The Basic Systems
23 Repair Program, BSRP, which provides home
24 repairs to enable low-income homeowners
25 to remain in their homes, which has over

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2 4,500 homeowners on the waiting list.

3 This program is cost effective in that

4 the average home repair cost is \$10,000

5 compared to the average cost of a shelter

6 stay, which is \$20,000. Given the unmet

7 need and effectiveness of BSRP in

8 achieving the City's priority to keep

9 people in their homes, the City provided

10 an increase of \$500,000 for this core

11 program.

12 The City utilizes the

13 neighborhood-based rental productions to

14 support affordable rental projects

15 Seeking Low-Income Housing Tax Credits

16 through the Pennsylvania Housing Finance

17 Agency, known as PHFA. PHFA requires the

18 City to have the funding in place to

19 support the project it recommends for tax

20 credit financing. In order to meet that

21 requirement, the City has increased

22 funding for the neighborhood-based rental

23 production to 10.119 million.

24 In Year 39, the Consolidated

25 Plan budget includes 3 million in CDBG

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2 funding for CDC economic development
3 activities and programs. This allocation
4 exceeds the requirement of City Council
5 Bill 000716 that at least 5 percent of
6 CDBG funds be allocated to economic
7 development activities carried out by
8 community development corporations by a
9 total of \$609,000.

10 In addition to CDBG and HOME
11 funding, the Year 39 Consolidated Plan
12 includes federal funding for the HOPWA
13 program, which the City of Philadelphia
14 administers for a five-county
15 metropolitan region, including
16 Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware,
17 and Montgomery Counties. The federal
18 formula for HOPWA is based on the
19 historical and contemporary AIDS caseload
20 in the region. Rental assistance to
21 allow persons with AIDS to rent their own
22 apartments or homes is the largest single
23 expenditure of HOPWA funds. In Year 39,
24 the City will receive 7.519 million in
25 HOPWA funds for the five-county region, a

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2 decrease of 183,000 from last year.
3 Prior year's reprogrammed HOPWA funds
4 will be used to continue the
5 implementation of Philadelphia's pilot
6 Housing First program in partnership with
7 ActionAIDS and Pathways to Housing.

8 The fourth source of federal
9 funding for housing is the Emergency
10 Solutions Grant program. As previously
11 stated, the City received a cut of 1.203
12 million in ESG resources. These funds,
13 which are administered by the Office of
14 Supportive Housing, OSH, support
15 emergency shelter, homeless prevention,
16 rapid rehousing, and housing retention
17 services and programs. CDBG funds are
18 not an eligible source of funding for
19 these programs. OSH is exploring other
20 funding options to make up for the loss
21 of ESG funding.

22 Thank you for the opportunity
23 to present this testimony. In order for
24 the City to receive funding from HUD, the
25 City is required to submit an approved

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2 Consolidated Plan to HUD no later than
3 August 16th, 2013. Additional tables and
4 information required by HUD as part of
5 the funding application will be included
6 in the final submission to HUD. In order
7 to permit expeditious transmittal of the
8 Consolidated Plan to HUD, suspension of
9 the rules to permit first reading at the
10 next Council session is requested.

11 My colleagues and I would be
12 happy to answer any questions that you
13 may have for us today.

14 COUNCILMAN GREEN:
15 Councilmember Blackwell.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
17 you very much.

18 I will have an amendment that
19 I'll be submitting shortly, but while we
20 are here, you know one of my main issues
21 is certainly our work with our homeless
22 community, and I know we have been --
23 there's been a lot of talk in my end
24 about the program we had with PHA and how
25 we tried to help homeless people for a

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2 number of years and how we are with that,
3 as you know, that I know we were trying
4 to also find more shelter places. And
5 these are tough times in communities to
6 try to get people to buy in, but we
7 wanted to ask you how you see the whole
8 issue of homelessness and the budget.
9 And we're still looking to try to see
10 where we can expand.

11 MS. MCCOLLOCH: I'm sorry. How
12 we see the whole -- the budget here for
13 homelessness?

14 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Yes.

15 MS. MCCOLLOCH: In this case,
16 this is where the funding gap that I
17 described has its impact, that the
18 federal funds were reduced by 1.203
19 million and that we can't replace that
20 with CDBG funds. So I know OSH is
21 looking for other resources from the City
22 or elsewhere to try to replace those
23 funds or else there would have to be a
24 reduction in services.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Yes.

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2 That's a real concern for us, because as
3 you know, we never need to have more
4 homeless people in the street. We need
5 to have less. And if we try to work
6 harder too at people who have drug and
7 alcohol abuse issues and certainly seeing
8 that they get put in places that can help
9 them more, that may help us with some of
10 our street issues as well. But that's
11 such a serious issue, and we're still
12 committed to that issue.

13 Thank you.

14 COUNCILMAN GREEN:

15 Councilmember Brown.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you.

17 Good afternoon. Given the
18 backdrop of the 23 schools that the
19 School District is closing and how that
20 will impact closing of a number of child
21 care centers, how doable or possible is
22 it for OHCD to, not knowing the status of
23 it now, the Child Care Facilities Fund,
24 where can the Child Care Facilities Fund
25 process be reinstituted or reignited

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2 given the backdrop of the closing of X
3 number of child care centers?

4 MS. MCCOLLOCH: We still have
5 some money remaining unspent in the Child
6 Care Facilities Fund, the old fund, if
7 you will, that was supported several
8 years ago with Community Development
9 Block Grant funds, and there are a number
10 of cases that are still, if you will,
11 churning their way through that pipeline,
12 and there's a small balance of funds,
13 probably enough to serve one more center,
14 that's being identified now. Those funds
15 are under contract to the Philadelphia
16 Housing Development Corporation, which in
17 turn contracts with the non-profit
18 Finance Fund, NFF. And so applications
19 go through NFF, and then NFF brings them
20 forward to PHDC. And so I know that
21 there's a funding balance to serve at
22 least one more center through that, if
23 you will, old pot of money. So we're
24 working through that with NFF.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay. And

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2 so that I'm hearing this correctly, since
3 we're in the middle of budget
4 negotiations, there are enough dollars
5 for one more?

6 MS. McCOLLOCH: That's an --
7 I'm saying approximately, but, yes, that
8 was my expectation. I mean, I believe
9 there's one more.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay. And
11 once those dollars are gone, should there
12 be additional dollars allocated, it would
13 follow the same route that you just
14 described?

15 MS. McCOLLOCH: I'm sorry.
16 Should there be additional dollars
17 allocated?

18 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Would the
19 process be the same in the way that you
20 just described it?

21 MS. McCOLLOCH: Well, we would
22 have to -- we would have to examine the
23 program and see if there were additional
24 funds, do we want to carry out the
25 program in the same way that we have been

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2 carrying that out in terms of would the
3 best -- if there were additional funds
4 made available, would we want to continue
5 that money to flow through NFF to PHDC,
6 and I don't --

7 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: That's the
8 question.

9 MS. McCOLLOCH: I don't know if
10 that would be how we would continue the
11 program or not. We would have to look at
12 it and see is that the best way to do it
13 or would there be another --

14 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Avenue.

15 MS. McCOLLOCH: -- avenue.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And so the
17 compelling factors that you would
18 consider to determine if Option A or B
19 would be what?

20 MS. McCOLLOCH: The
21 effectiveness of the program and the cost
22 to operate the program.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay. All
24 right, then. And, lastly, I'm told that
25 there were a number of hurdles that child

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2 care facilities, child care centers
3 needed to overcome to access these
4 dollars. From where you sit, do you find
5 that to be true? Was the process --

6 MS. MCCOLLOCH: The program, as
7 it's currently being implemented, is
8 complicated, and I would say that we
9 would want to, if we were to move forward
10 with it, we would want to try to
11 streamline that program and work with
12 whatever organization was going to carry
13 it out to improve the dollars.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And
15 maximize the limited dollars.

16 MS. MCCOLLOCH: Yes.

17 DEPUTY MAYOR GREENBERGER: And
18 if you remember, Councilwoman, I think
19 from last year and possibility the year
20 before, we kept running the program on
21 reprogrammed -- not reprogrammed, but on
22 dollars that had not been spent, which
23 was an indication possibly about the
24 market for such things, but also possibly
25 an indication about the ability to move

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2 the program effectively.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Let me
4 just comment on the market. The market
5 is going to explode now that we have Head
6 Starts that are going to be impacted as a
7 result of the school closings. So the
8 market is going to grow again, which
9 means the need is going to grow.

10 DEPUTY MAYOR GREENBERGER:
11 Right, and what we have to examine is, is
12 this the most effective way to get those
13 dollars out there.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Agreed.
15 Okay, then. Thank you both.

16 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17 COUNCILMAN GREEN:
18 Ms. McColloch, we've had multi-year cuts.
19 Obviously we were fortunate to get a
20 little bit back this year, but the
21 administrative costs relative to the cost
22 to go to programs and spending that
23 actually benefit citizens have gone up
24 during that time, and I'd like to
25 understand how we can have a conversation

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2 about lowering administrative costs
3 relative to service delivery to the
4 people who are supposed to be benefited
5 by these dollars. Do you have any
6 thoughts about that?

7 MS. McCOLLOCH: Well, this year
8 in the new budget that I just submitted,
9 the revised budget, the amended budget,
10 we've actually not restored the operating
11 cost cuts that the original budget you
12 received had. So we've actually reduced
13 our operating cost by 4 percent in the
14 budget that was just presented to you.
15 We restored the program funds that had
16 been anticipated to be cut because of --
17 we thought we were going to have an 8
18 percent reduction, but we did not restore
19 the operating funds.

20 So the agencies that are
21 supported with these funds, OHCD, PHDC,
22 the Redevelopment Authority, Commerce,
23 and so forth, are becoming more lean and
24 mean and doing the best we can to reduce
25 our operating expenses.

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2 COUNCILMAN GREEN: But over the
3 years of cuts, in general, operating
4 costs as a percentage of your overall
5 spend have increased, not decreased.
6 Now, obviously the amendment that you
7 just provided me at this moment, I don't
8 know the answer to that question, but
9 over the years where we've had cuts, the
10 percentage spent of dollars spent on
11 administration has increased. So the
12 bureaucrats have not taken the hit; the
13 people who are supposed to be
14 benefited -- have not taken as much of a
15 hit as the citizens who were supposed to
16 benefit with these dollars. So I just
17 would like to know if there's a plan to
18 address that.

19 DEPUTY MAYOR GREENBERGER: I
20 would say that I don't think we
21 completely see it that way. Two years
22 ago --

23 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Well, the
24 numbers are the numbers.

25 DEPUTY MAYOR GREENBERGER: The

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2 percentage I'm sure you're right about,
3 but two years ago when the first major
4 cut happened to these programs, the
5 administrative cut was equal to the
6 percentage of the program cuts. Last
7 year when there were yet another round of
8 major cuts, the administrative costs did
9 not drop as much, because running a
10 program, whether it's a medium-sized
11 program or very large program, those
12 things don't live in direct proportion to
13 one another, and we just didn't feel that
14 we could continue to successfully run the
15 program that was left with the same
16 percentage of cuts. And that's probably
17 where that percentage went up.

18 This year we also assigned yet
19 another cut, so a third year in a row of
20 assigning another cut to administrative
21 costs, and we -- and the money that
22 surprised us that came was not used to
23 restore any of that.

24 COUNCILMAN GREEN: No. I
25 understand. It was a 4 percent cut in

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2 administrative costs with an 8 percent
3 cut overall. So, once again, as a
4 percentage, administrative costs
5 increased compared to the --

6 DEPUTY MAYOR GREENBERGER:
7 Well, what I'd tell you is that that's an
8 accurate statistic as a percentage, but
9 as a series of cuts to the administrative
10 budget has been consistent over the last
11 three years. We keep cutting it. We
12 keep losing staff and resources, and we
13 are struggling to do our best to maintain
14 these programs with fewer people.

15 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Doesn't this
16 raise the broader question that Ms.
17 McColloch just sort of implied or alluded
18 to in her response, which was a
19 discussion of these dollars that are
20 going to all these different departments.
21 So Commerce, RDA, other organizations,
22 this alphabet soup of people who get
23 these dollars, as opposed to have sort of
24 one consolidated organization,
25 consolidation of the activities in this

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2 space that has been discussed since plans
3 in the Rendell and Street Administrations
4 in terms of rationalizing the
5 administrivia as compared to service
6 delivery. Is that something that the
7 Administration is currently working on or
8 considering?

9 DEPUTY MAYOR GREENBERGER:
10 We're not looking at some kind of grant
11 consolidation of administration for all
12 these programs, no. The program
13 operation --

14 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And why not?

15 DEPUTY MAYOR GREENBERGER:

16 Because the program --

17 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So it's your
18 testimony that our housing -- the dollars
19 that come this way are being spent as
20 efficiently as possible and there is no
21 better use for the dollars that are going
22 into administration than the paying for
23 the administration?

24 DEPUTY MAYOR GREENBERGER:

25 Well, I feel like that's bit of a set-up

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2 question. We're using the dollars as
3 effectively as we can using the agency
4 expertise where it applies the most. I
5 wouldn't expect OHCD to be running
6 economic development programs, and I
7 wouldn't expect Commerce to be running
8 housing programs. So there has to be
9 some differentiation of administrative
10 dollars to run programs where the
11 expertise lies. Is it the absolute most
12 effective way to do it? I don't have a
13 plan that suggests otherwise at the
14 moment.

15 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And you're
16 not working on a plan?

17 DEPUTY MAYOR GREENBERGER: We
18 are not working on a plan to consolidate
19 it further, correct.

20 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Well, I
21 think we need to have a discussion about
22 that.

23 DEPUTY MAYOR GREENBERGER:
24 Okay.

25 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Anybody

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2 else?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.

5 Thank you for your testimony.

6 Next I have Philadelphia VIP,
7 Roxanne Crowley. And I'll bring a few
8 people up at the same time. Philadelphia
9 Association of CDCs, Beth McConnell,
10 Policy Director, and Urban Affairs
11 Coalition, Donald Kelly, Director of
12 Community and Economic Development.

13 Whoever sits down first can
14 state your name for the record and
15 proceed with your testimony. We would
16 appreciate it if it was summarized to hit
17 the high points, to the extent that that
18 is possible.

19 MS. CROWLEY: My name is
20 Roxanne Crowley.

21 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Please
22 proceed with your testimony.

23 MS. CROWLEY: Certainly.

24 Good afternoon, Chairman Green
25 and members of the Finance Committee.

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2 Thank you for having me here today. I
3 want to make a special thanks to the
4 Committee and to City Council in general
5 for passing a bill today approving
6 uniform payment plans for delinquent real
7 estate taxes. That's going to be a
8 tremendous help for our low-income
9 clients at VIP.

10 As you may know, Philadelphia
11 VIP is one of the local experts in
12 tangled title. One such tangled title
13 case would be my client Alexander. He's
14 68 years old. He's an African American
15 male. He lives on an income of a
16 thousand dollars a month from Social
17 Security. He lives in a property titled
18 in his deceased mother's name. As the
19 record owner, he'll qualify for home
20 repairs from PHDC. He can't get the
21 repairs unless his name is on the deed.

22 Unfortunately for him, there
23 are two wills controlling where this
24 property goes. As a result of those two
25 wills, there are ten heirs with an

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2 interest in this house. That's the only
3 estate asset, including one of the heirs
4 is a Philadelphia church.

5 One of our Philadelphia VIP
6 volunteer attorneys is working with
7 Alexander. He has tracked down all ten
8 heirs. All ten are willing to give him
9 this house. And the Tangled Title Fund,
10 which gives money to folks with tangled
11 title cases to cover the expenses of the
12 cases, recently approved Alexander's
13 application, and they'll be giving him
14 money to cover the probate fees, the
15 inheritance taxes, and the transfer
16 taxes. And Alexander could not resolve
17 this matter without the help from the
18 Tangled Title Fund.

19 So at VIP, we do two things as
20 a staff. We work up these tangled title
21 cases. We refer them to volunteer
22 attorneys who handle them for free.
23 Unfortunately, this year we got an 8
24 percent cut to our CDBG block grant, and
25 that goes to staffing.

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2 In addition, we administer the
3 Tangled Title Fund that I just mentioned.
4 Last year we received \$50,000 for the
5 Tangled Title Fund. The next fiscal year
6 of 2013-2014 we've been reduced to
7 30,000. So so far, the average tangled
8 title applicant uses about \$1,200.
9 However, we predict for the next fiscal
10 year and ongoing that that cost is going
11 to increase due to AVI. Many of the
12 costs of resolving these tangled title
13 cases are linked to the OPA property
14 value; for instance, inheritance tax,
15 transfer tax, probate fees. As though
16 OPA values increase, so do the costs of
17 resolving these tangled title matters.

18 So we are here today in support
19 of OHCD's budget, but due to our cost at
20 VIP, we're going to have to do more with
21 less. We may lose staff. We're going to
22 refer less cases to volunteers, and we're
23 going to help less clients and their
24 attorneys with their expenses to cover
25 the tangled title cases.

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2 So I thank you for having me
3 here today to present this testimony.
4 Thank you.

5 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.
6 Please proceed. State your name and
7 proceed with your testimony.

8 MS. McCONNELL: Good afternoon.
9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
10 My name is Beth McConnell, Policy
11 Director at the Philadelphia Association
12 of CDCs. I submitted longer written
13 testimony. I'm going to abbreviate
14 today.

15 As you know, the City's overall
16 budget for housing and community
17 development has been cut by more than 39
18 million since FY09, and during the Nutter
19 Administration, the General Fund dollars
20 for the agency's work outlined in the Con
21 Plan has been cut by about 2.4 million,
22 and that's on top of the elimination of
23 some stimulus funds that were provided
24 from the General Fund, not federal, from
25 the General Fund that went to Commerce

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2 for economic development under the Street
3 and Rendell Administrations. There was
4 about \$4 to \$20 million a year.

5 We do believe that the
6 departments have handled the difficult
7 task of dealing with the budget cuts very
8 well, but as a result of the cuts, the
9 City has diverted a larger share of
10 federal grant funds away from community
11 development work on the streets and
12 toward administration by classifying a
13 greater share of agency work as program
14 delivery. In fact, FY14 proposed budget
15 allocates about 45 percent, before the
16 amendment, of CDBG funds for operating
17 expenses despite CDBG rules that cap
18 admin expenses at 20 percent.

19 If the agencies had followed
20 the spirit of that cap and only 20
21 percent of CDBG funds had been spent on
22 agency operating between '07 and FY14,
23 more than \$98 million more should have
24 been available for community development
25 and housing programs in our neighborhoods

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2 over that last seven years.

3 We do believe that the work
4 that the staff does at the agency is very
5 important. That's why we think the
6 General Fund needs to either contribute a
7 greater share to agency administrative
8 budgets or ideally provide more flexible
9 funds to replace the funds that are being
10 siphoned into operating expenses.

11 My longer written testimony
12 outlines some of the programs that will
13 be cut, again, prior to the amendment,
14 but I want to briefly mention that it
15 provides no funds for new affordable
16 homeownership development or targeted
17 preservation of existing homes. Once
18 already approved projects are completed,
19 those programs will be zeroed out.

20 So in light of the massive cuts
21 in state, federal, and city dollars since
22 FY09, we'd like to ask Council to work
23 with the Administration to reverse the
24 trend of disinvestment in our
25 neighborhoods by increasing the General

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2 Fund allocation to affordable housing and
3 community development. An additional 1
4 million in General Fund support this year
5 would offset the federal funds that are
6 being diverted away from work on
7 neighborhood development as a result of
8 the increase in the operating budget just
9 from FY13 to '14, which I should note was
10 still more than double the 20 percent
11 cap. And another 1.25 million would
12 allow for the targeted preservation of 50
13 homes in desperate need of repair. Just
14 three CDCs in the 4th and the 8th
15 districts report they have waiting lists
16 greater than that for the housing
17 preservation programs that will be
18 unfunded in Year 39.

19 In addition, we want to urge
20 Council to work with the Administration
21 to make available in the Year 39 plan
22 about \$6.2 million in funds from a
23 settlement with the Housing Authority.
24 The settlement was reached in 2012. It
25 was related to water, sewer and tax liens

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2 that were due the City after PHA sold a
3 few properties. The funds must be spent
4 on affordable housing or elimination of
5 blight, but we don't see the dollars
6 reflected anywhere in the Year 39 Con
7 Plan, and we think access to those funds
8 next budget year could be used to restart
9 investment in neighborhood-based
10 homeownership production or preservation.
11 We also believe that Council must lead a
12 larger conversation heading into next
13 year's budget cycle on how we begin to
14 replace lost federal funds for affordable
15 housing and community development with
16 local sources of revenue, and we're
17 committed to working with you to ensure
18 that Philadelphia's progress in
19 neighborhood revitalization is not
20 thwarted by politics and budget cuts from
21 Washington.

22 I thank you for the opportunity
23 to testify.

24 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.

25 Please state your name for the

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2 record.

3 MR. KELLY: I'm Donald Kelly,
4 Director of Community and Economic
5 Development with the Urban Affairs
6 Coalition. Thank you for the opportunity
7 to testify about the Year 39 Proposed
8 Consolidated Plan.

9 We would like to thank OHCD for
10 once again including operational funding
11 in this proposed plan for the PHIL-Plus
12 and Mini-PHIL Home Improvement Loan
13 program and for the non-profit housing
14 counseling industry in its proposed plan
15 to City Council.

16 The PHIL-Plus and Mini-PHIL
17 Home Improvement Loan program is
18 appropriately classified as an
19 anti-predatory lending program. It was
20 launched in 2003 in response to the
21 predatory lending issue raised by
22 Councilwoman Marian Tasco and community
23 groups across the City. OHCD, RDA,
24 banks, and housing counseling agencies
25 all helped to create this program and

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2 helped to operate it now in its tenth
3 year. OHCD has supported most of the
4 operational costs of running the program,
5 and the marketing costs have come largely
6 from the private sector.

7 As of April 2013, with the
8 City's support, the program has leveraged
9 415 private-sector loans totalling \$8.165
10 million. All of these were made by
11 banks. These are loans from mainstream
12 financial institutions at affordable
13 rates to Philadelphia homeowners whose
14 credit records have not prime, most of
15 whom would otherwise have to turn to
16 subprime or predatory lenders for loans
17 for needed home repairs and improvements.
18 The usages have traditionally included
19 energy conservation projects, handicap
20 accessibility renovations, structural
21 repairs, plumbing, electrical work. At
22 least half of the loan can be used to pay
23 off existing high-cost debt and even
24 paying off delinquent taxes and utility
25 bills.

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2 In recent years, 70 to 80
3 percent of the loan recipients have
4 within categorized as low or moderate
5 income. The loans improve homes, help to
6 stabilize or revitalize neighborhoods,
7 help senior citizens to remain longer in
8 their homes, help homeowners to reduce
9 energy costs, all of which reinforce City
10 public policy goals.

11 In addition, this program is a
12 model of public-private partnership. In
13 this partnership, the City uses public
14 resources in a strategic way to leverage
15 private-sector capital to accomplish a
16 public purpose.

17 In times like this, when public
18 resources are becoming scarcer and more
19 public purposes can be achieved by
20 strategically leveraging private-sector
21 capital, that is exactly what the
22 PHIL-Plus and Mini-PHIL Home Improvement
23 Loan partnership does and will continue
24 to do with your support.

25 Another key partner in this

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2 partnership is the non-profit housing
3 counseling industry here in Philadelphia.
4 Trained counselors help homeowners to
5 identify the most appropriate loan
6 program to suit their needs and
7 qualifications. When it's PHIL-Plus or
8 Mini-PHIL is the right choice, they
9 prepare a referral package that gets them
10 on their way to navigate the bank
11 application process and obtain a loan.

12 We commend OHCD for its
13 exemplary support of this industry over
14 the years and encourage the City to
15 continue that support as much as
16 possible.

17 In light of the mass --
18 finally, in light of the massive cuts in
19 state, federal, and city dollars since
20 Fiscal Year 2009, we are asking the City
21 to increase the General Fund allocation
22 to affordable housing and neighborhood
23 economic development, as recommended by
24 Philadelphia Association of Community
25 Development Corporations. Strategic

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2 funding of housing and community
3 development is not a giveaway. It's an
4 investment that eventually pays for
5 itself in more stable and prosperous
6 communities and increased tax revenues.

7 Thank you.

8 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you
9 for your testimony.

10 Are there any questions from
11 members of the Committee?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Seeing none,
14 thank you.

15 Next we have Paul Aylesworth
16 from the Women's Community Revitalization
17 Project; John Rowe, Utility Emergency
18 Services Fund; and Gary Hawkins, Local
19 1971.

20 (Witnesses approached witness
21 table.)

22 COUNCILMAN GREEN: First person
23 to sit down, please state your name for
24 the record and proceed with your
25 testimony. To the extent you can hit the

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2 high points and summarize your
3 testimony -- we all have paper copies,
4 which will be submitted for the record --
5 we would appreciate it.

6 MR. AYLESWORTH: My name is
7 Paul Aylesworth and the I'm real estate
8 developer at Women's Community
9 Revitalization Project, or WCRP. Thank
10 you for the opportunity to testify today.

11 WCRP is a grassroots community
12 development corporation committed to
13 social and economic justice. We have
14 developed and managed 238 affordable
15 rental homes in eastern North
16 Philadelphia and worked with neighborhood
17 residents to build their leadership to
18 advocate for changes to policies and
19 resource decisions that impact low-income
20 families. I'm here today to testify in
21 favor of additional General Fund
22 contributions for housing and for Council
23 to work with the Administration to
24 release \$6 million in funds from a
25 settlement with PHA for affordable

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2 housing.

3 The City's investment in
4 affordable housing represents a big bang
5 for the buck for families, neighbors, and
6 the entire City. WCRP's housing provides
7 family with spacious, comfortable, and
8 energy-efficient homes that they would
9 not have otherwise been able to afford.
10 Our families increased their household
11 incomes by an average of 88 percent
12 within their first four years in our
13 homes. Neighborhoods benefit from our
14 work as we transform vacant and blighted
15 land into new townhomes. A study by
16 Wharton Professor Susan Wachter found a
17 20 percent decrease in property value
18 when a property is next to a vacant,
19 trash-filled lot. This increase in
20 property value translates directly into
21 additional property taxes for the City.

22 Here are a few examples of the
23 return on investment that our work
24 provides. This year we'll complete a
25 multi-million-dollar project to preserve

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2 77 of our oldest housing units. The City
3 committed \$499,000, or about \$6,500 per
4 unit, which we leveraged to a total of
5 8.5 million for critical repairs,
6 upgrades which will reduce families'
7 utility bills and capture solar energy.
8 Most importantly, this investment will
9 keep these six dozen homes located in a
10 rapidly developing section of lower North
11 Philadelphia affordable for the next 20
12 years.

13 Also this year we will seek \$1
14 to \$2 million from the City to construct
15 our proposed 36 unit Grace Townhomes
16 development in western Port Richmond. We
17 expect that this investment by the City
18 will leverage an additional \$10 to \$11
19 million in public and private investments
20 to build the development, which will
21 complement some improvements to an
22 adjacent recreation area made possible by
23 Councilman Squilla.

24 Finally, I also implore you to
25 pass the land bank bill as soon as

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2 possible. WCRP as a member of the
3 Philadelphia Association of CDCs and
4 founding member of the Campaign to Take
5 Back Vacant Land has been instrumental in
6 crafting this critical bill that will
7 reduce vacancy and blight citywide by
8 creating a balance of affordable and
9 market-rate development, along with
10 farms, open spaces, and small businesses.

11 Thanks for the opportunity to
12 testify.

13 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.

14 Mr. Rowe.

15 MR. ROWE: Thank you. I'm John
16 Rowe, Executive Director of the Utility
17 Emergency Services Fund. Thank you,
18 Chairman Green, members of the Finance
19 Committee, members of City Council.

20 I have copies of the testimony
21 here, and I'll summarize it using a chart
22 that you'll see when you get it.

23 UESF funding was cut in Fiscal
24 Year 2012. It was cut again in Fiscal
25 Year 2013 and used in Fiscal Year 2011 as

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2 the base year. With this proposed cut in
3 this year will result in accumulative
4 loss of utility assistance for vulnerable
5 families of over \$1 million over the past
6 three years. Due to these cuts, 2,865
7 families had or will have their utility
8 service terminated or did not have their
9 service restored. The City lost or will
10 lose the opportunity to leverage an
11 additional \$1,060,000 in matching funds
12 from the three Philadelphia utilities.

13 For Fiscal Year 2014, \$455,000
14 in leveraged funds would be lost. UESF
15 is requesting that the \$455,000 be
16 reinstated to bring the funding
17 allocation back to the level as it was in
18 Fiscal Year 2011.

19 The loss of a utility service
20 is frequently the first step of a
21 downward spiral of many families, leading
22 to homelessness. Family income is
23 diverted from paying the rent. Family
24 income is diverted from purchasing
25 adequate medicine and food for children,

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2 drastically affecting the health of young
3 children. Every dollar that we use that
4 we receive we spent on a family. There
5 are no administrative costs involved in
6 this. Every dollar that we receive, we
7 leverage by 100 percent. So every dollar
8 we receive, we double. And we spend
9 every dollar, and we spend it fast.

10 Thank you for the opportunity
11 to comment.

12 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.
13 Mr. Hawkins.

14 MR. HAWKINS: Hi. My name is
15 Gary Hawkins, Vice President of AFSCME
16 District Council 33, Local 1971.
17 Honorable Chairperson, members of the
18 Committee, thank you for this opportunity
19 to speak.

20 Local 1971 represents members
21 employed at the Office of Housing and
22 Community Development, the Philadelphia
23 Housing Development Corporation, and the
24 Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority.
25 OHCD oversees the financing and planning

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2 for housing and community development
3 activities. There are 22 Local 1971
4 members assigned to carry out those
5 functions. PHDC's main core of duties
6 involves servicing Philadelphia low- and
7 moderate-income and senior households by
8 overseeing the Basic System Repair
9 Program, Weatherization Assistance
10 Program, Adaptive Modification Program,
11 and Targeted Housing Preservation
12 Program. PHDC services approximately
13 4,000 households annually.

14 There are 41 Local 1971 members
15 assigned to carry out those functions.
16 The PRA, although a state authority, is
17 charged by the City of Philadelphia to
18 carry out blight elimination within the
19 City and provide the foundation to enable
20 private investors to revitalize
21 neighborhoods. There are 40 Local 1971
22 members assigned to carry out those
23 functions.

24 The purpose of today's
25 testimony is to speak on behalf of the

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2 Consolidated Plan. The proposed Year 39
3 budget for the three housing agencies is
4 less than last year's budget, and there
5 are plans for layoffs. Local 1971 is
6 requesting that the City provide General
7 Fund dollars to support the three housing
8 agencies and assure that the cuts of
9 labor is kept to a minimum, if at all.

10 Local 1971 has lost 80 percent
11 of its members at the three housing
12 agencies since 2004 as a result of budget
13 cuts. Please note that although 1971
14 will be approaching its tenth anniversary
15 of working without a cost of living
16 adjustment and ninth year without a
17 contract, there has been no change in the
18 level of commitment or service to the
19 citizens of Philadelphia.

20 It should also be noted that on
21 June 1st, 2012, Local 1971 presented
22 Council with a consideration to
23 consolidate PHDC and PRA. The
24 consolidation would have saved in two
25 matters, PHDC's pension and PRA's

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2 medical. As much as \$1.9 million could
3 have been saved regarding PHDC pension
4 plan. We still stand firm on our
5 position regarding the consolidation.

6 To ensure that the three
7 housing agencies may continue to service
8 the constituents of the City of
9 Philadelphia and to avoid layoffs which
10 could affect such service, we ask that
11 you not approve the Consolidated Plan if
12 it does not include a line with City
13 General Funds going to the housing
14 agencies or if the budget plan reflects
15 layoffs.

16 Thank you for your time and
17 consideration regarding these matters.

18 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.
19 Does the revised budget presented this
20 morning by the Administration provide for
21 layoffs?

22 MR. HAWKINS: We just received
23 the budgets, and as far as we were aware
24 prior to today, layoffs were being
25 considered.

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2 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Being
3 considered or in the budget?

4 MR. HAWKINS: Well, I'm going
5 to say we were advised that layoffs would
6 take place.

7 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank
8 you.

9 Are there any other questions
10 from members of the Committee?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Seeing none,
13 thank you all for your testimony.

14 Next we have Gerald T. Murphy
15 from Wynnefield Overbrook Revitalization
16 Corporation and Tya Winn from the Logan
17 Community Development Corporation.

18 (Witnesses approached witness
19 table.)

20 MS. WINN: Good afternoon. I'm
21 Tya Winn. I'm with Logan Community
22 Development Corporation. I thank you all
23 today for the opportunity to speak on
24 behalf of community development
25 corporations in Philadelphia.

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2 Logan CDC serves the racially
3 diverse Logan community in the City of
4 Philadelphia, and in our neighborhood the
5 average median income is \$27,670, placing
6 27 percent of Logan households below the
7 poverty line. This is an economically
8 distressed community. Housing is a very
9 key issue.

10 Three-quarters of its
11 households are listed as low- to
12 moderate-income, and with support from
13 many of the housing and City agencies
14 such as OHCD and Commerce Department, we
15 have been able to deliver solid programs
16 and make significant contributions to the
17 neighborhood in just four short years.

18 Some of the funding that we
19 relied on, of course, is CDBG dollars to
20 run programs such as our Neighborhood
21 Advisory Committee to support our
22 commercial corridor/economic development
23 programs as well as to begin doing
24 much-needed affordable housing in the
25 neighborhood. So I urge you to consider

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2 the new plan and the cut to CDBG dollars
3 in the City and how that's going to
4 affect many neighborhoods similar to
5 Logan and what that will mean for
6 community development corporations and
7 their operations continuing.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. MURPHY: Good afternoon,
10 City Councilmembers, and thank you for
11 allowing me to testify before you this
12 afternoon. My name is Gerald Murphy and
13 I'm the Executive Director of the
14 Wynnefield Overbrook Revitalization
15 Corporation. I have served as such for
16 the past two years.

17 While I appreciate the work
18 that OHCD has done throughout the years
19 and understand the difficult budget
20 decisions that they have made in the
21 Consolidated Plan, I come before you this
22 afternoon to respectfully request your
23 support. I am here to ask for this
24 continued funding of the Targeted Housing
25 Preservation Program. This program has

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2 been vital to the residents in the
3 Wynnefield Overbrook area as well as the
4 revitalization and stabilization of the
5 areas.

6 The mission of the THPP program
7 as stated on the website is to augment
8 investments made in existing or new
9 economic development initiatives within a
10 targeted neighborhood by providing grants
11 to support property repairs for
12 homeowners located in close proximity to
13 those development efforts. WORC has
14 utilized the THPP program within such a
15 targeted area and has leveraged other
16 resources to provide the highest impact
17 and return on investment. We feel our
18 utilization of the program can serve as a
19 model to expand, not eliminate the THPP
20 initiatives.

21 As the local CDC servicing this
22 area, with the program mission forefront
23 in our minds, in year one WORC received
24 approval to renovate eight properties
25 within the Wynnefield targeted area, with

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2 a total operating budget of \$200,000.

3 These eight residents have experienced

4 the direct benefit and life-changing

5 impact of the THPP initiatives. For

6 example, Sandra Franks, 1806 North 54th

7 Street, was fortunate enough to receive a

8 new roof, windows, outside stucco, brick

9 pointing, and an upgraded electrical

10 system with a \$20,000 investment.

11 Fatoumate Conte, 1822 North 54th Street,

12 benefited from new windows, replaced the

13 water and sewer line, which, as you well

14 know, most residents can't even afford to

15 pay for that, and upgrade to her

16 electrical system with \$19,000 worth of a

17 THPP grant. These two residents, while

18 having diverse family structures, could

19 not afford these energy-saving home

20 improvements with their limited financial

21 resources. Similar stories could be told

22 regarding the other six residents and

23 their properties.

24 Not only have the residents

25 experienced a direct benefit from the

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2 program but so has the community. First
3 and foremost, all work performed on these
4 job sites are conducted by local minority
5 contractors who utilize a minority entire
6 minority workforce. Therefore, these
7 public investments are increasing the
8 pride of the local community, raising
9 property values, and putting money back
10 into the pockets of the local workforce.
11 It's a win-win for all involved.

12 WORC has also leveraged this
13 program by receiving a \$50,000
14 Neighborhood Assistance Program grant
15 from the Department of Community and
16 Economic Development. These leveraged
17 funds have allowed for energy audits in
18 these houses to be conducted, foreclosure
19 education forums to educate people on
20 their rights and responsibilities, and
21 sponsorship of the Rebuilding Together
22 Philadelphia Block Build program. In
23 fact, this Block Build program
24 collaborating with them has assumed the
25 costs of providing additional work on

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2 residential properties in this area,
3 including, but not limited to, some of
4 those participating in the THPP program.
5 In addition, WORC has partnered with
6 Presby Inspired Life for construction of
7 a 48-unit senior housing building to
8 inhabit a long-term vacant lot located in
9 the 1800 block of North 54th Street right
10 in this area. The groundbreaking for
11 this initiative is scheduled for July.
12 WORC has also partnered with Penrose
13 Properties as the successful awardee of
14 the Philadelphia Redevelopment
15 Authority's approval to develop 52 units
16 of senior housing and retail space at
17 2100 North 54th Street known as the Wynne
18 Ballroom, which has been vacant for 30
19 years. These two projects serve as an
20 anchor of investment not only to the
21 residents but also to revitalize that
22 small business corridor along 54th
23 Street. They have also been the conduit
24 to empower business owners that have
25 created a business association that has

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2 received small grants for facade
3 improvements as well as the development
4 of a marketing plan to further their
5 prosperity.

6 I realize government programs
7 and services are all facing potential
8 reductions and those that govern are
9 faced with very difficult decisions. I
10 sit before you knowing your struggles
11 firsthand and empathize, having also been
12 face with similar decisions of picking
13 and choosing for the greater good in my
14 past careers.

15 The vision that remains the
16 most vivid in my mind was on Christmas
17 Eve day of 2011 while conducting
18 walk-throughs of the eight THPP homes
19 with my contractor, the residents, their
20 faces, smiles, and sheer joy of the
21 potential reality that a government
22 program would provide them funding to
23 improve their homes, reduce their monthly
24 operating budgets, and finally allow them
25 a glimmer of hope for a better tomorrow

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2 simply made their Christmas and my
3 Christmas holiday.

4 I ask you for the ability to
5 bring this type of joy and hope to other
6 struggling families that already have
7 expressed interest in the THPP program.
8 In fact, we have about 35 to 40 residents
9 already asking about interest in this
10 program. Please consider reinstating the
11 funding to the Targeted Housing
12 Preservation Program.

13 Thank you.

14 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.

15 Any questions from members of
16 the Committee?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Seeing none,
19 we will ask Ms. McColloch to come back
20 and just discuss a few things.

21 (Witness approached witness
22 table.)

23 COUNCILMAN GREEN:

24 Ms. McColloch, if you could just outline
25 for us the difference in spending between

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2 the plan that was presented initially in
3 writing and what's been presented to us
4 today.

5 MS. MCCOLLOCH: Yes. The
6 budget that was presented today
7 represents the actual figures from HUD.
8 The budget that was presented earlier was
9 our estimate based on a reduction in
10 funding. And so the new -- I'll call it
11 the new budget, the amended budget, is
12 based -- is the budget that we -- is the
13 funds that we will really receive from
14 HUD, not just an estimate.

15 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Right, but
16 there are choices. In other words, you
17 put things in buckets that you received
18 from HUD that could have gone to other
19 buckets.

20 MS. MCCOLLOCH: Correct. So I
21 just want to make sure you understood
22 what the difference was. Okay. So the
23 amended budget restored all of the cuts
24 that the original budget made. That was
25 the first thing we did. We restored the

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2 cuts. So, for example --

3 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So you held
4 everybody harmless?

5 MS. MCCOLLOCH: We held
6 everybody harmless from last year.

7 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Regardless
8 of performance?

9 MS. MCCOLLOCH: Yeah. If they
10 weren't performing, we would have cut
11 them, but that wasn't the case.

12 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Everybody
13 who ran a program for you last year did
14 such a good job that every single person
15 and program deserves at least the same
16 funding they got last year and there is
17 no priority that you've identified that
18 is greater than any program that was run
19 last year?

20 MS. MCCOLLOCH: I didn't say
21 that second part. The first part, true.
22 We restored all the funds. Then after we
23 restored those, we added \$500,000 to the
24 Basic Systems Repair Program, because
25 that's a program that offers the grants

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2 to homeowners. It's carried out by the
3 Philadelphia Housing Development
4 Corporation, because that's a priority
5 program of the Administration. It's one
6 of our core programs. It has a waiting
7 list of over 4,000 people. So we put an
8 additional \$500,000 there, and then we
9 put an additional million dollars into
10 the neighborhood-based rental program.
11 That's the program that provides
12 subsidies for Low-Income Housing Tax
13 Credit developments. And, there again,
14 it's because we have a pipeline of
15 projects in the current year and there'll
16 be new applications going to PHFA this
17 coming fall, and in order to support
18 applications to PHFA, we have to
19 demonstrate that we have the subsidies
20 that are required.

21 So because we got a little bit
22 extra money than we had originally
23 anticipated, we restored last year's
24 programs to last year -- we restored the
25 programs from last year to the levels of

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2 last year and then we added money to the
3 two core programs, Basic Systems Repair
4 and neighborhood-based rental production.

5 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And if I
6 understood VIP's testimony, they are
7 being cut again this year?

8 MS. McCOLLOCH: And now they're
9 not, because their testimony was prepared
10 on the budget that -- the original budget
11 that showed them being cut, but in the
12 amended budget that you have now, their
13 funds have been restored. So they will
14 not be cut.

15 COUNCILMAN GREEN: They will
16 not be cut. Okay.

17 MS. McCOLLOCH: But in
18 fairness, their testimony was based on
19 the budget that showed them being cut.
20 I'm not being critical of them.

21 COUNCILMAN GREEN: No. In
22 terms of sort of priorities and in the
23 context of a homestead exemption, which
24 is of great benefit to low-income
25 property owners, what was -- and having

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2 the additional dollars to spend, does the
3 tangled title situation that VIP is
4 dealing with, was there a discussion of
5 increasing that further so that people
6 could get their homes in their names,
7 qualify for the funds that are available,
8 the extra half million dollars you made
9 available for the Basic System Repair
10 Program, which requires the property be
11 in your name, et cetera? In terms of the
12 priorities you've stated, it seems like
13 there's maybe other things you're trying
14 to achieve, that that maybe is missing.

15 MS. MCCOLLOCH: We didn't have
16 that discussion, but I understand what
17 you're saying. The decision was made to
18 put it into the two what I called core
19 programs, which were Basic Systems Repair
20 and affordable housing production. But
21 VIP does a great job and the tangled
22 title program is a great program.

23 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay. Well,
24 maybe we can discuss that next year.

25 MS. MCCOLLOCH: Mm-hmm.

1 6/6/13 - FINANCE - BILL 130456

2 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Very good.

3 I don't have any further questions.

4 Does anybody else?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Seeing none,
7 anybody else here to testify on this
8 bill?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Seeing none,
11 we will go from the -- we will recess the
12 hearing and go into the public meeting on
13 Bill No. 130456, and I'd ask
14 Councilmember Blackwell to move an
15 amendment to that bill which she has
16 prepared and has been circulated to the
17 Committee.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
19 you, Mr. Chairman. I move that the
20 amendment to Bill No. 130456 that has
21 been circulated and certainly presented
22 to Deb McColloch and members of this
23 Committee, I move that the amendment be
24 adopted.

25 (Duly seconded.)

1 6/6/13 - FINANCE - BILL 130456

2 COUNCILMAN GREEN: It's been
3 moved and seconded that the amendment
4 proposed by Councilmember Blackwell,
5 which amends Section 8 of this Bill No.
6 130456, be amended.

7 All in favor?

8 (Aye.)

9 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Any opposed?
10 (No response.)

11 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Seeing none,
12 the ayes have it.

13 I recognize Councilmember
14 Greenlee to propose the amendment
15 suggested by the Administration.

16 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
17 you, Mr. Chairman. I move for the
18 adoption of the amendment presented by
19 the Administration that has also been
20 distributed be approved.

21 (Duly seconded.)

22 COUNCILMAN GREEN: It's been
23 moved and seconded that the
24 Administration amendments be approved.

25 All in favor?

1 6/6/13 - FINANCE - BILL 130456

2 (Aye.)

3 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Any opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCILMAN GREEN: The ayes

6 have it.

7 Councilmember Greenlee, if you
8 would move the bill as amended.

9 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
10 you, Mr. Chairman. I move that Bill No.
11 130456, as amended, be reported out of
12 this Committee with a favorable
13 recommendation and that the rules of
14 Council be suspended to allow for first
15 reading at our next session of Council.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCILMAN GREEN: It's been
18 moved and seconded that Bill No. 130456
19 as twice amended be reported from this
20 Committee with a favorable recommendation
21 and a suspension of the rules.

22 All in favor?

23 (Aye.)

24 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Any opposed?

25 (No response.)

1 6/6/13 - FINANCE - BILL 130456

2 COUNCILMAN GREEN: The ayes

3 have it.

4 This concludes the meeting on

5 Bill No. 130456.

6 Thank you everybody.

7 (Committee on Finance concluded

8 at 4:45 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
proceedings, evidence and objections are
contained fully and accurately in the
stenographic notes taken by me upon the
foregoing matter, and that this is a true and
correct transcript of same.

MICHELE L. MURPHY
RPR-Notary Public

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direct control and/or supervision of the
certifying reporter.)

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