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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON RULES

- - -
Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, October 31, 2000
10:15 a.m.
- - -

BILL 000397 - an ordinance adopting and amendment to
the Articles of Incorporation of the Germantown
Special Services District ...
BILL 000536 - an ordinance amending Title 22 ...
BILL 000541 - an ordinance adopting an amendment to
the Articles of Incorporation of the Frankford
Special Services District ...
Bill 000544 - an ordinance to amend the Philadelphia
Zoning Maps ...
BILL 000601 - an ordinance amending an ordinance
approved December 15, 1969 ...
BILL 000607 - an ordinance amending an ordinance
approved June 13, 1997 ...
BILL 000608 - an ordinance amending an ordinance
approved September 2, 1964 ...

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA, Chair
COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY, Vice Chair
COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE
COUNCILMAN DAVID COHEN
COUNCILMAN FRANK DICICCO
COUNCILMAN MICHAEL A. NUTTER
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL

- - -

VINCENT VARALLO ASSOCIATES, INC.
Registered Professional Reporters
Eleven Penn Center, Suite 600
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 561-2220

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good morning, everyone. I apologize for the delay. This is the public hearing of the Committee on Rules. I would ask Mr. Mezzaroba to please read the title of Bill No. 000608.

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MR. MEZZAROBBA: An ordinance amending an ordinance approved September 2, 1964, as amended, which approved the amended redevelopment proposal of the amended urban renewal plan, and amended relocation plan of the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Philadelphia for the redevelopment of Whitman Urban Renewal Area, by approving the eighth amendment of the redevelopment proposal and of the urban renewal plan which provide, inter alia, for certain changes, namely: acquisition of approximately eight additional properties for future redevelopment; certain land use changes for commercial to residential in the vicinity of Fifth Street and Jackson Street, from residential to commercial at 333 through 357 Cantrell Street and from residential/semi-public to semi-public in the block bounded by Porter Street, Galloway Street, Shunk Street and South Fourth Street; updating the

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2 Property Rehabilitation Standards; and certain
3 expressly designated and provided for imminence of
4 condemnation; all as contained in the eighth amended
5 redevelopment proposal and amended urban renewal
6 plan.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Hopefully,
8 the Administration will be testifying.

9 Mr. Wetzel.

10 (Witness comes forward.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good
12 morning. Kindly identify yourself for the record
13 and proceed with your testimony.

14 MR. WETZEL: Good morning. My name
15 is Herbert Wetzel, and I'm Executive Director of
16 the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority.

17 Madam President and Members of the
18 Committee on Rules, I am Herbert Wetzel and I am
19 the Executive Director of the Redevelopment
20 Authority. I am here to testify today in favor
21 of Bill 000608, which includes the eighth amended
22 Whitman Redevelopment proposal and eighth amended
23 Whitman Urban Renewal Plan. These amendments
24 provide the City with an opportunity to eliminate
25 a long-term blighting influence in the Whitman

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2 neighborhood and provide public support for the
3 development of senior citizens apartment complex.

4 State Representative William F.

5 Keller has requested the Redevelopment Authority
6 acquire seven long-term vacant and blighted lots
7 and one vacant building on the northwest corner
8 of Fifth and Jackson Streets and to convey them
9 along with a Redevelopment Authority owned lot,
10 to a nonprofit redeveloper who will construct a
11 new senior citizens' facility utilizing Federal
12 Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly
13 funds. This development will require a land use
14 change from commercial to residential for one
15 small parcel on the northwest corner of Fifth and
16 Jackson Streets.

17 In addition, since the Whitman Urban
18 Renewal Plan has not been updated for decades,
19 the Redevelopment Authority in conjunction with
20 the City Planning Commission has updated the
21 Whitman Urban Renewal Plan, the Boundary and
22 Activity Map, the Proposed Land Use Map, and the
23 Property Rehabilitation Standards to make them
24 consistent with current conditions, regulations,
25 laws an ordinances.

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2 The Redevelopment Authority believes
3 that the development of this senior citizens'
4 apartment complex and the updating of the Urban
5 Renewal Plan, the maps and the Property
6 Rehabilitation Standards all support a
7 comprehensive plan already underway for the
8 revitalization of the Whitman Urban Renewal Area.

9 On behalf of the Redevelopment
10 Authority, I ask favorable consideration of this
11 matter and respectfully request that Bill No.
12 000608 be added to the First Reading Calendar for
13 your Stated Meeting of November 2nd.

14 Thank you.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

16 State Representative Keller, would
17 you like to add to the testimony?

18 STATE REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: Thank
19 you, Madam President. I would just like to add
20 that as long as I can remember, at least 20, 25
21 years, the property at Fifth and Jackson had been
22 vacant and it's been an eyesore to the
23 neighborhood. With the cooperation of Mr. Wetzel
24 and the RDA and Alan Hussey and Presbyterian
25 Homes, we now have the ability to take that

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2 neighborhood and start redeveloping it.

3 I believe that Section 202 housing at
4 Fifth and Jackson will be the centerpiece of
5 revitalizing the whole neighborhood. That
6 coupled with the ability to take down close to
7 150 abandoned houses will change that
8 neighborhood within a year, I believe.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

10 Can you tell me if the apartments
11 will be subsidized?

12 MR. WETZEL: Yes. I'll let the
13 representative from Presbyterian Homes who will
14 be the nonprofit developer respond to that.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Fine.

16 Please identify yourself for the
17 record.

18 MS. HOVEL: I'm Ellen Hovel, Director
19 of Housing for Presbyterian Homes and Services.
20 In answer to your question, there will be 66
21 one-bedroom apartments for elderly people 62
22 years of age and older.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm sorry,
24 I didn't hear you.

25 MS. HOVEL: There will be 66

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2 apartments for very low-income elderly people.

3 All the apartments will be one bedroom. And

4 there will be a subsidy. The residents will pay

5 30 percent of their monthly income for rent and

6 utilities.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And what

8 age did you say they would be?

9 MS. HOVEL: Sixty-two years of age

10 and older. Ten percent of the units will be

11 modified for persons with disabilities, and those

12 people must also be 62 years of age or older.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: When is it

14 anticipated that construction would start?

15 MS. HOVEL: We will need to apply for

16 construction funding. We will apply to HUD in

17 the funding round beginning in 2001. We expect

18 the amount in approximately February. We will

19 apply or reapply. If we are selected, we would

20 hope to have announcement of our selection by

21 September and construction would start

22 approximately eight to ten months later.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: How long do

24 you anticipate construction would be?

25 MS. HOVEL: Construction would be

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2 approximately a year, although T.M. Ward, our
3 contractor, is noted for bringing things in in
4 approximately 10 months.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Well, I
6 know Presbyterian does a fabulous job and I know
7 that this would be a great asset to that entire
8 community.

9 MS. HOVEL: Thank you.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Any
11 questions from members of the committee?

12 The Chair recognizes Councilman
13 Kenney.

14 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you, Madam
15 Chair. For the record, I'd just like to state a
16 word of thanks to State Representative Keller.
17 During the course of this, Councilman DiCicco and
18 I attended a community meeting. During the
19 course of this project or the process for
20 approval in the neighborhood, it was a very
21 contentious and very misunderstood project. We
22 had a long night in the basement of Our Lady of
23 Mount Carmel School. The three of us, we felt
24 like we were going to be carried out on a rail.
25 But I think as time went on, people in the

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2 neighborhood began to understand that at some
3 point in time they're going to be elderly and
4 they're going to perhaps be up against it
5 financially and that having this kind of
6 opportunity for them to move into a secure, nice
7 facility in their neighborhood really makes a
8 difference. And I think that the cultural and
9 racial mix of this development will be a model
10 for all of the South Philadelphia and all of the
11 City. So I would like to thank State
12 Representative Keller for shepherding this
13 through because, as in the past, some of elected
14 officials would simply go with the will of the
15 hoard and kill a project like this, but he really
16 saw through along with Councilman DiCicco, and
17 I'd like to thank them both. Thank you.

18 STATE REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: I would
19 just like to add that I really do appreciate it.
20 I mean, that night will live in infamy. It was
21 Alan's first encounter with an angry South
22 Philadelphia community group, but without the
23 help of Councilman Kenney and Councilman DiCicco,
24 I don't believe we would have gotten out there
25 that night with the vote that we needed. But the

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2 community did vote that night to approve this
3 project, and with their help, it will make a
4 difference in the neighborhood.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Mr. Keller,
6 I suggest that perhaps you could meet with my
7 state representative and get him some input as to
8 how we can do this in our community.

9 STATE REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: I don't
10 want to give too many secrets away, Madam
11 President.

12 (Laughter.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
14 recognizes Councilman Cohen.

15 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Yes. I was
16 wondering what was the nature of the objections?
17 Because we have an empty building that we've been
18 trying to move in that direction at the corner of
19 16th and Grange in the 17th Ward in Northwest
20 Philadelphia, and the community there seems to
21 feel that a senior citizen development of the
22 kind that you're describing is very good. They
23 point to the fact that that won't include a lot
24 of children. It shouldn't include any children
25 except visitors or maybe an adopted child here

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2 and there.

3 STATE REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: Yes,
4 just visitors.

5 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, what could
6 have been the nature of the objection to that?

7 STATE REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: The
8 objection was just misunderstanding. They did
9 not understand and they -- anything new is, you
10 know, scary to people. I mean, for 25 years it's
11 been an abandoned lot. So we had to take turns
12 because we couldn't do it all at once.
13 Councilman DiCicco was up for a half hour, then
14 Councilman Kenney, then I came in, but we finally
15 made sense.

16 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Congratulations to
17 the three of you.

18 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: I was reminded
19 that I had to live at Second Street quite a few
20 times that night, but I think one of the biggest
21 objection, like in anything we do, it was fear of
22 the unknown. And I think most people had in
23 their mind that it was some sort of a public
24 housing development that was taking place there,
25 and we all know the problems we've had with

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2 public housing and we're trying to change that
3 throughout the City, and they didn't want that
4 repeated in their neighborhood. And I think it
5 was just a question of letting them understand
6 what the project really was all about when the
7 tempers were finally calmed down and they
8 actually listened to what we were talking about,
9 I think they realized that this was something
10 that would be an asset to the neighborhood,
11 getting rid of the vacant lot and providing, as
12 Councilman Kenney said, opportunities for people
13 who may not be of senior status yet but will be
14 in the future and still want to live in the South
15 Philadelphia community.

16 COUNCILMAN COHEN: If they had to pay
17 market-rate rentals, what would the rentals be
18 required?

19 MS. HOVEL: I'm not sure. That would
20 be established by -- the actual rental for the
21 property is a budget-driven figure.

22 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Could you speak
23 right into the microphone?

24 MS. HOVEL: The actual rent for the
25 property, the contract rent, is a budget-driven

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2 figure set by -- approved by HUD. I would
3 suspect it would be 4 to \$600 per month for a
4 one-bedroom unit.

5 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you.

6 MR. WETZEL: I think the key here in
7 terms of rents, as was previously mentioned, if
8 you're on \$400 a month Social Security, only 30
9 percent of that can be taken for the rent
10 essential. So if you had \$400 a month income
11 with some adjusting factors for health care
12 costs, etc., you'd pay 120 a month out of your
13 pocket and the rest is made up with a federal
14 subsidy. So these HUD 202 projects, which there
15 are a number of them in the City, are really
16 essential for seniors whose only income in many
17 cases is not even Social Security, but a form of
18 Social Security known as SSI which is the lowest
19 payment that anyone can receive in the system.
20 And in many cases, these individuals if it
21 weren't for these 202s would be living in very
22 poor conditions.

23 STATE REPRESENTATIVE KELLER:

24 Councilman, what we found is people are
25 house-rich but cash-poor, and some of the people

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2 in the neighborhood, they don't have enough
3 income to sustain the house they're in. If they
4 go to a 202 housing project, they will be living
5 in a brand-new apartment and it will be cheaper
6 than living in their house and letting it fall
7 down around them. And I think, just like
8 everything else, it will take a while to catch
9 on. But once people understand what this program
10 will do and what this 202 housing project
11 entails -- and they can take equity out of their
12 house; it doesn't even count. They can sell
13 their home and hold onto the equity in their
14 home, give it to their grandchildren and do
15 whatever they want with it and still qualify to
16 move into the project. It is a great project and
17 I think will go a long way in helping the
18 neighborhood.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: So it
20 really doesn't matter what a senior has in the
21 bank, you merely go by their monthly income?

22 MS. HOVEL: We take into
23 consideration the income from the assets in
24 calculating the interest from the assets, in
25 calculating the 30 percent.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

3 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you, Madam
4 Chair.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

6 Are there any other questions from
7 members of the committee?

8 (No further questions.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Mr. Wetzel?

10 MR. WETZEL: Just for the record, the
11 map of the urban renewal area, Jeff Brown is the
12 project manager with the Redevelopment Authority
13 is there with the map that defines the
14 boundaries. And the spot up in the corner there
15 is the area inside the urban renewal area which
16 will be condemned and conveyed for this project.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

18 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Madam President?

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
20 recognizes Councilman Cohen.

21 COUNCILMAN COHEN: If I may just
22 recommend to Mr. Wetzel that he look at that 16th
23 and Grange Street. I understand there's been
24 some initial contact with the Redevelopment
25 Authority. It's an old building that has, I

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2 think, 22 apartments. But we understand for
3 senior citizen purposes, it would be refashioned
4 to 30. It's a building that we're -- it's a very
5 important corner, 16th and Grange, the outside
6 structure is excellent but it's been vacant for
7 about 10 years. Apparently, no private-venture
8 person has been able to put together a plan, and
9 this looks wonderful for senior citizens. We'd
10 like to follow up and maybe have a second model
11 senior citizen development of this kind.

12 STATE REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: Mr.
13 Wetzel will get right on that as soon as we get
14 this approved.

15 (Laughter.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
17 recognizes Councilman Clarke.

18 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Madam
19 Chair. Madam Chair, I wouldn't be properly
20 representing the constituents of the Fifth
21 District if I didn't ask Mr. Wetzel to also look
22 at 15th and Susquehanna. We have a site there
23 also.

24 MR. WETZEL: 15th and Susquehanna?

25 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: 15th and

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2 Susquehanna.

3 MR. WETZEL: All right, 16th and
4 Grange; 15th and Susquehanna.

5 COUNCILMAN COHEN: 16th and Grange,
6 G-R-A-N-G-E, two blocks north of Olney Avenue.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Is this the
8 time to put our bid in, because I have a
9 location, too.

10 (Laughter.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Is there
12 anyone else to testify on this bill?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.
15 Thank you very much for your testimony.

16 I would ask Mr. Mezzaroba to please
17 read the title of Bill No. 000601.

18 MR. MEZZAROBA: An ordinance amending
19 an ordinance approved December 15, 1969, as
20 amended, which approved the redevelopment
21 proposal, the urban renewal plan and relocation
22 plan of the Redevelopment Authority of the City
23 of Philadelphia for the redevelopment of Grays
24 Ferry Urban Renewal Area, by approving the tenth
25 amendment of the redevelopment proposal and the

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2 urban renewal plan, which provide, inter alia,
3 for certain changes, namely: the acquisition of
4 approximately three additional properties as well
5 as the former railroad rights-of-way on the south
6 side of Grays Ferry Avenue between 34th Street
7 and 36th Street as all contained in the 10th
8 amendment of the redevelopment proposal and the
9 10th amendment to the urban renewal plan.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Again,
11 Mr. Wetzel?

12 MR. WETZEL: Madam President and
13 members of the Committee on Rules, I am Herbert
14 Wetzel, Executive Director of the Redevelopment
15 Authority of the City of Philadelphia. And I'm
16 here today to testify in favor of Bill No.
17 000601, which includes the 10th amended Grays
18 Ferry redevelopment proposal and the 10th amended
19 Grays Ferry urban renewal plan.

20 These amendments provide the City
21 with a unique opportunity to retain a major
22 industrial employer and a significant number of
23 jobs in the City and to eliminate some blighted
24 properties as well.

25 The City's Commerce Department has

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2 requested the Redevelopment Authority acquire the
3 blighted properties identified as 3600 Grays
4 Ferry Avenue.

5 Mr. Brown has a map, and on that map,
6 the red area is the area that's under acquisition
7 and has identified these properties as 3600 Grays
8 Ferry Avenue, the former railroad right-of-way on
9 the south side of Grays Ferry Avenue between 34th
10 Street and 36th Street for future commercial and
11 industrial reuse. The elimination of these
12 blighted properties will help retain
13 Philadelphia's DuPont's Marshall Laboratory
14 facility which is located across Grays Ferry
15 Avenue from these properties and has a work force
16 of almost 400 employees.

17 The Redevelopment Authority is not
18 proposing to acquire any residential or occupied
19 properties in this section of Grays Ferry.

20 In addition, the Redevelopment
21 Authority also intends to acquire the last two
22 vacant buildings on the 2700 block of Sears
23 Street, being 2725 and 2731 Sears Street, to be
24 rehabilitated by the Philadelphia Housing
25 Development Corporation for single-family home

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2 ownership.

3 The Redevelopment Authority believes
4 that the acquisition of all of these properties
5 supports a comprehensive plan already underway
6 for the revitalization of the Greys Ferry Urban
7 Renewal Area.

8 The Redevelopment Authority and OHCD
9 thanks City Council for its support for these
10 developments. And I'm prepared to answer any
11 questions you may have regarding them.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Mr. Wetzel,
13 it's my understanding that there have been
14 community meetings on this issue and there's no
15 objection; is that true?

16 MR. WETZEL: I'm not aware of that
17 myself. The Commerce Department is here and PHDC
18 is here, and they can possibly answer those
19 questions for you.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: All right.

21 MR. EDELSTEIN: Madam President and
22 members of the Rules Committee, if I could just
23 read some testimony and then I'd be more than
24 happy to answer your question; is that
25 appropriate?

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Yes, that's
3 fine. Do we have copies of your testimony?

4 MR. EDELSTEIN: We did provide them
5 to Mr. Mezzaroba prior to the meeting.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Please
7 proceed.

8 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Madam, may I the
9 Chair to ask all the witnesses to speak directly
10 into the microphone.

11 MR. EDELSTEIN: Absolutely. I'm
12 sorry, Councilman Cohen.

13 My name is John Edelstein, a manager
14 of Brownfield Development for the City of
15 Philadelphia. I am testifying today in lieu of
16 the Director of Commerce, James J. Curato. He is
17 in a meeting and I know he does intend on coming.
18 Unfortunately, he seems to be unavoidably
19 detained.

20 Madam President and Members of the
21 Rules Committee, I am John Edelstein, manager of
22 Brownfield Development for the City's Department
23 of Commerce and I'm here to offer testimony on
24 Bill No. 000601. This bill would authorize the
25 Redevelopment Authority to act on behalf of the

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2 Commerce Department to condemn the property known
3 as 3600 Grays Ferry Avenue along with its related
4 rail rights. The condemnation of this property
5 will serve three ends: One, 3600 Grays Ferry
6 Avenue is contiguous to the sites known as
7 Celotex and TOBAR, which the Department of
8 Commerce has acquired through the auspices of
9 PAID for the construction of a distribution
10 facility by Federal Express employing
11 approximately 170 people. The condemnation of
12 3600 Grays Ferry Avenue will complete the site
13 assembled by the Commerce Department for this
14 development.

15 Two, the Schuylkill River front
16 portion of 3600 Grays Ferry Avenue will be
17 retained by the City. This stretch of the
18 riverfront will link with the riverfront portion
19 of the Celotex site, to which the City is
20 retaining title, and the riverfront portion of
21 another adjacent site, the former Oscar Meyer
22 facility, to which the City is gaining title
23 through a settlement with Waste Management. This
24 linkage is a critical component in the
25 development after recreational trail running

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2 along the east bank of the Schuylkill River.

3 Three, this condemnation is a part of
4 a retention strategy for the Marshall Labs
5 Facility of the DuPont Corporation, which is
6 located catty-corner from 3600 Grays Ferry
7 Avenue. Actually, on that map it shows it
8 directly across.

9 The Department of Commerce is
10 committed to cleaning up this stretch the Grays
11 Ferry Avenue for the benefit of DuPont, its new
12 neighbor Federal Express, and the residents of
13 the Forgotten Bottom community of Grays Ferry.

14 I respectfully request the approval
15 of this bill, and thank you for your
16 consideration of this request.

17 Madam President, to answer your
18 previous question, the Commerce Department has
19 met with the members of the community several
20 times. This is a very large and complicated
21 project. It's going to bring significant change
22 to this community, which we feel to be positive,
23 but at the request of your office we did meet
24 with members identified by your office and their
25 support has been unequivocal. They're actually

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2 very excited about this development.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

4 And I do recall that several years ago there was
5 some fear that DuPont would move if in fact the
6 City did not address the blight problem across
7 the street from 3600 Grays Ferry.

8 MR. Edelstein: This is still the
9 case, Madam President. One of the properties
10 that is being acquired by the City through PAID
11 is currently owned by a demolitions contractor.
12 He has been allowed to store his waste on this
13 property directly across from DuPont because the
14 variance was grandfathered in when we acquired
15 the property. This has been a serious sore spot
16 for DuPont and they've been following this
17 development with a great deal of interest. And I
18 believe that once this development is
19 successfully completed, which will be shortly,
20 DuPont will be thrilled.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: When do you
22 anticipate that FedEx would start construction?

23 MR. Edelstein: I anticipate Federal
24 Express is going to start construction in
25 January. The slated opening for this facility is

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2 August 1, 2001. Federal Express understands that
3 the hard construction season in the northeast
4 usually starts in the beginning of March, so they
5 have allowed themselves some time for permitting,
6 but I know they want to start as quickly as
7 possible. We anticipate closing with Federal
8 Express on November 15th.

9 I'd also like to make the point that
10 these were seriously contaminated properties.
11 The City of Philadelphia has been working to
12 clean these properties up for the benefit of the
13 community. We have done so and are in the midst
14 of doing so and we've been keeping the community
15 fully apprised of our progress.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

17 Mr. Magro (ph.). Good morning.

18 MR. MAGRO: Good morning, Madam
19 President and Members of the Rules Committee. My
20 name is Michael Magro, and I am the deputy
21 director for construction and development at the
22 Philadelphia Housing Development Corporation, and
23 I am here this morning to testify on behalf Bill
24 000601, known as 10th amended redevelopment
25 proposal for the Grays Ferry Urban Renewal Area.

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2 In 1998 PHDC in cooperation with the
3 Kings Village Community Association rehabilitated
4 36 houses on the 2700 hundred block of Sears
5 Street and the 21 homes using funds provided by
6 the City's Office of Housing and Community
7 Development and administrated by the
8 Redevelopment Authority. As part of that
9 rehabilitation process, PHDC combined 32
10 properties into 16 double-wide homes. This
11 innovative construction technique was not the
12 first time PHDC used it, but on this scale it
13 earned PHDC, the architect, Colin Dawson; and the
14 contractor, Semniatic Construction, Incorporated,
15 the 1999 Preservation Award from the Preservation
16 Alliance for Greater Philadelphia. However, two
17 structures located at 2725 and 2731 Sears Street
18 were subsequently abandoned and one was
19 fire-damaged. Bill 000601 will permit the
20 Redevelopment Authority to complete condemnation
21 process for these two properties. PHDC will
22 rehabilitate these properties to the same
23 standard as the original project with funds
24 provided and administered by OHCD and the
25 Redevelopment Authority, respectively.

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2 PHDC is, therefore, respectfully
3 requesting that the Rules Committee favorably
4 consider Bill 000601 for Redevelopment Authority.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: When would
6 you start the rehabilitation of the two
7 properties on Sears Street?

8 MR. MAGRO: We would probably not
9 start -- we haven't begun the bid process yes, so
10 we would probably start construction late spring,
11 early summer of next year.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are they
13 two-bedroom homes?

14 MR. MAGRO: These are two-bedroom
15 homes, Madam President.

16 Now, one thing we did differently is
17 that asked the architect to widen, if he could,
18 the bedrooms and also we added a half bath on
19 first floor to make them more attractive and
20 marketable.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.
22 Any questions from members of the
23 committee?

24 (No questions.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Do we have

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2 anyone else to testify on this bill?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you,
5 gentlemen. Seeing no one else to testify on Bill
6 000601, I would ask Mr. Mezzaroba to please read
7 Bill No. 000607.

8 THE MEZZAROBA: An ordinance amending
9 an ordinance approved June 13, 1997, as amended,
10 which approved of the redevelopment proposal, the
11 urban renewal plan and the relocation plan of the
12 Redevelopment Authority of the City of
13 Philadelphia for the redevelopment of the New
14 Kensington-Fishtown Urban Renewal Area, by
15 approving the second amendment of the
16 redevelopment proposal, the second amendment to
17 the urban renewal plan, and the second amendment
18 of the relocation plan which provided, inter
19 alia, for certain additional land acquisition of
20 approximately 64 properties, and provision of
21 certain relocations services, as required by law.

22 (Witness comes forward.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Mr. Wetzel?

24 MR. WETZEL: Madam President and
25 members of the Committee on Rules, I'm Herbert

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2 Wetzell, Executive Director of the Redevelopment
3 Authority of the City of Philadelphia. I am here
4 today to speak in support of Bill No. 000607
5 which would authorize the second amended
6 redevelopment proposal and the second amend urban
7 renewal plan for the New Kensington and Fishtown
8 Redevelopment Area. New Kensington and Fishtown
9 Urban Renewal Area.

10 The urban renewal plan would provide
11 for the acquisition of a total of 64 vacant lots,
12 no relocation or demolition activities are
13 required. The parcels in this condemnation will
14 be disposed as side yards, parking areas,
15 recreation areas, and supplemental open space to
16 neighboring property owners in the community.
17 This is Phase 3 of the New Kensington Open Space
18 Management Program. This bill is consistent with
19 the plan for the New Kensington and Fishtown
20 Urban Renewal Area. It would enhance community
21 development in the area.

22 On behalf of the Redevelopment
23 Authority, I ask favorable consideration of this
24 matter and respectfully request Bill No. 000607
25 be added to the First-Reading Calendar for your

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2 Stated Meeting on November 2nd.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

4 Good morning. Please identify
5 yourself for the record.

6 MS. SALTZMAN: Good morning, Madam
7 President and members of the Rules Committee.
8 I'm Sandy Saltzman, I'm the executive director of
9 New Kensington Community Development Corporation.
10 I've brought with me today a number of residents
11 who are in the process of trying to get this
12 vacant land.

13 This program has made a big
14 difference in our community by taking what has
15 been blighted, vacant, trash-strewn land, turned
16 it over to the adjacent homeowner, put the land
17 back on the tax rolls and have given the adjacent
18 homeowner a place that they can expand their
19 living conditions. So we would request that you
20 pass this bill. Thank you.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

22 And I would like the record to
23 reflect that there are approximately 30 residents
24 who are present.

25 Would you say 30?

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2 MS. SALTZMAN: Yes, exactly. All of
3 them couldn't come because of work.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you
5 so much and thank you all for coming in.

6 Are there any questions from members
7 of the committee on this bill?

8 (No questions.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Do we have
10 anyone else to testify?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you
13 again for coming in. I appreciate it.

14 MS. SALTZMAN: Thank you very much.

15 MR. WETZEL: Thank you.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Since
17 there's no one else to testify on this bill, I
18 suggest we go right down the list.

19 Would you please read the title of
20 000397?

21 MR. MEZZAROBA: Bill 000397, an
22 ordinance adopting an amendment to the Articles
23 of Incorporation of the Germantown Special
24 Services District of Philadelphia to extend the
25 term of that Authority, all under certain terms

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2 and conditions.

3 (Witnesses come forward.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good
5 morning.

6 MS. Wynn: Good morning, Council
7 President.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Please
9 identify yourself for the record and proceed with
10 your testimony.

11 MS. Wynn: Good morning, Council
12 President Verna. My name is --

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: I'm sorry.
14 Why don't you wait just a moment.

15 If you're leaving, please leave so
16 quietly. We're still in a public hearing.

17 Please proceed.

18 MS. Wynn: Good morning, Council
19 President Verna.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good
21 morning.

22 MS. Wynn: My name is Clorise Wynn
23 from the City of Philadelphia Commerce
24 Department. With me I have Michael Moore who is
25 the Executive Director of the Germantown Special

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2 Services District and I also have Leroy Simmons
3 with me with me from Germantown Special Services.

4 Council President Verna and fellow
5 Councilmembers, my name is Clorise Wynn, and I
6 represent the Commerce Department for the City of
7 Philadelphia. I am here today to testify on Bill
8 000397, an ordinance adopting an amendment to the
9 Articles of Incorporation of the Germantown
10 Special Services District of Philadelphia to
11 extend the term that authority.

12 This bill will amend the Articles of
13 Incorporation of the Germantown Special Services
14 District of Philadelphia so that the term on the
15 authority is extended until December 31, 2025.

16 I have no objections to the passage
17 of this bill.

18 Thank you for your time, and I will
19 answer any questions.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you,
21 Mr. Moore, do you want to testify?

22 MR. MOORE: Yes, Madam President.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Please do
24 so.

25 MR. MOORE: Thank you. Good morning,

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2 Madam President and members of Council.

3 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Good morning.

4 MR. MOORE: Bear with me because I
5 left my glasses in my car.

6 Oh, thank you very much.

7 In the late spring of 1996, the
8 Germantown Special Services District was given
9 the following charge by the Philadelphia City
10 Council: Aid in redevelopment of the Central
11 Germantown's Business Corridor. This call
12 demonstrated a new spirit of cooperation between
13 City government and the community. Through this
14 endeavor, the objective was and still is to
15 improve the overall economy of the City by
16 improving the economic conditions in one of
17 Philadelphia's many neighborhood business
18 districts.

19 The Germantown Special Services
20 District was created to do produce a
21 comprehensive program that would help rebuild the
22 economic and physical fabric of the business
23 community, thus creating an atmosphere which is
24 conducive to the development of new and existing
25 businesses. Since 1996, this has been

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2 accomplished by the implementation and management
3 of our Sidewalk Maintenance Program and the
4 mobilization of community-based organizations,
5 businesses, property owners, residents and City
6 government.

7 In our first attempt at a complete
8 analysis of the issues facing the GSSD, we were
9 compelled to come to grips with the complexity of
10 Central Germantown in itself. In the first year,
11 GSSD presented few measurable objectives. Our
12 main concern was the process of adjustment and
13 initiation. It was not difficult, however, for
14 us to initiate our primary task, which was to
15 launch our Sidewalk Maintenance Program. But in
16 the years that followed, we were able to zero in
17 on the larger scope of what we were about, which
18 is to evaluate and set up a host of
19 service-oriented initiatives that would benefit
20 both our property owners and merchants.

21 In past decade, the Central
22 Germantown Business District's only criterion for
23 success appeared to be the quantity of businesses
24 and consumers, without regard to other critical
25 issues as a quality of such, that is the

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2 appearance of the district and whether those
3 current businesses actually supported the many
4 needs of the cultural and economically diverse
5 community. If, as districts such as ours, a
6 change of attitude and actions does not occur,
7 then those businesses as well as the community
8 may be hurt rather than be helped in the long
9 run.

10 Basically what I wanted to say is
11 that the goal of GSSD is to make Germantown a
12 favored place above others and a community where
13 enterprises and people desire to relocate. We
14 aim to prevent business from leaving this area,
15 hence retain jobs. Furthermore, we aim to help
16 existing businesses expand and grow. The GSSD
17 would like to attract new enterprises and
18 encourage entrepreneurs within the community.

19 Furthermore, we have also enjoyed
20 successes in the area of crime prevention by
21 formulating an ongoing relationship with the 14th
22 Police District to coordinate crime prevention
23 tactics. One project in particular was to step
24 up police patrol in the district by funding a
25 bike patrol. Another was the closure of two

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2 abandoned properties which were in the district
3 itself that were used as crack houses. Through
4 our combined efforts, open air alcohol
5 consumption, graffiti and truant loitering all
6 have decreased significantly. And I'd also like
7 to add that I've been attending the
8 Commissioner's COMPSTAT meetings monthly and I'm
9 proud to say that the 14th District had the
10 lowest crime rate in the past three months
11 citywide.

12 The GSSD also acts as liaison between
13 the business community and City government and
14 have accepted responsibility as watchdog for
15 business districts with respect to zoning issues.

16 As stated previously, through hard
17 work we have been successful to date in attempts
18 to improve Central Germantown; however, this is
19 not the time to celebrate. The GSSD has with the
20 revitalization of the Central Germantown Business
21 District is still in its infant stages and
22 requires our full attention and nurturing. Our
23 successes can only come through time and with the
24 increased involvement from City government and
25 the property owners we serve. As we go into the

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2 future, we have in front of us many challenges
3 and a great deal of hard work. We are committed
4 to the successes of the GSSD and the business
5 district and we look forward to taking on the
6 responsibility of making Germantown a favored
7 hub, the hub of the Northwest, and ultimately the
8 gem of Philadelphia. Everyone must participate
9 in the growth and development process of the
10 Special Service District. We must do so by fully
11 understanding all of the components of the
12 process and the potential benefits to all of us.
13 It will be this kind of a unified concerted and
14 cooperative effort that will make Central
15 Germantown realize its full potential, therefore,
16 prospering in the coming decades.

17 I strongly suggest City Council help
18 us build a stronger Germantown by reauthorizing
19 the GSSD and extending its life for the next 20
20 years. Thank you.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: Thank you.
22 Would this gentleman also like to testify? I'm
23 sorry, I didn't hear your name. Do you care to
24 testify?

25 MR. SIMMONS: Yes. My name is Leroy

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2 Simmons, Madam President and Committee on Rules.

3 I am coming in support of this bill 000397 and
4 I'm coming as a resident of the Germantown area
5 and a business owner for the last 20 years, and
6 I'm also the Executive Director of the Central
7 Germantown Council working with many other
8 neighbor organizations to help with the
9 revitalization of Central Germantown.

10 We really are very pleased with the
11 GSSD and the help that we've gotten from the GSSD
12 in growth and development of the businesses
13 district. In general, the businesses have been
14 very responsive. They've characterized the GSSD
15 as a help to them. The businesses asked that the
16 area be clean and safe, and the GSSD has acted
17 that way.

18 I have a representative letter or a
19 couple representative letters from business
20 owners in the area and I'd like to read them into
21 the record. One is from the 5847 through 71
22 Associates, Inc., a business in Germantown and it
23 reads: "President Verna and honorable
24 Councilmembers, this letter is in support of
25 continuation of the Germantown Special Services

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2 District. Our company owns a large property at
3 the corner of Germantown and Haines Street. Over
4 the past several years, the GSSD contributed to
5 the appearance and cleanliness of the area around
6 our building through regular collection of street
7 trash, cleaning sidewalks and buildings and
8 general upgrading of the area. This part of
9 Germantown is enjoying a small comeback, and as
10 responsible property owners, we hope to see that
11 continue. We believe that the GSSD has
12 contributed greatly to the turnaround and hope to
13 see their funding continue. Thank you for your
14 support."

15 And this is from Marsha should I have
16 let the managing partner of 5847 through you 71
17 Associates, Inc.

18 Another one is coming from Midas
19 Muffler Auto Service Experts. "As a business and
20 property owner in Germantown for 20 years, I
21 would like to express my feelings of the
22 importance of GSSD. The presence of GSSD has
23 made the business district a much cleaner and
24 safer place for community to shop. My impression
25 of GSSD workers is that they are dedicated,

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2 courteous, and hard working.

3 "I as much as anyone would like to
4 reduce business expense, but this is one expense
5 that is necessary. I feel that the value of my
6 business would deteriorate without the presence
7 of the GSSD program.

8 "If you or anyone has any questions,
9 I could be reached at the above telephone
10 number."

11 I'll leave this letter for you.

12 I just received one, and it's to the
13 Members of Council from Larry Simmons,
14 Administrative Assistant for State Representative
15 John Meyers. He says, "President Ann Verna and
16 Honorable Councilmembers: This letter is a
17 request for the continuation of the Germantown
18 Special Services District.

19 "Our office has received numerous
20 phone calls concerning the appreciation of the
21 work being done by GSSD. Along with the general
22 daily cleanings and trash collections, the
23 addition of the power cleaning has enhanced the
24 overall appearance of the Germantown Business
25 District. Under the direction of Executive

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2 Director Michael Moore, these improvements has
3 helped to turn around the Business District and
4 reduced the number of vacant properties.

5 "We support the GSSD and support them
6 in their continuation here in Central Germantown.
7 Thank you for your consideration and assistance
8 in this matter." Signed Larry Simmons,
9 Administrative Assistant to Representative John
10 Meyers.

11 We also have -- there's a serendipity
12 of the GSSD which many people don't factor in.
13 The people who are actually doing the work that
14 have contracts to clean the streets are people
15 from the YMCA residential program, and this is a
16 letter from Judith Jenkins, the program director
17 of the residential program. And she says, "I'm
18 writing on behalf of the Y residents who have
19 greatly benefitted from the GSSD program. The Y
20 residential program houses men in transition in
21 their lives, including drug addicts and
22 alcoholics in the recovery process. These are
23 men who have lost way for whatever reason and
24 need support to become productive again. Some of
25 them are from places that most people are afraid

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2 to mention. The GSSD has given a large majority
3 of these men the opportunity to develop work
4 experience, earn a living and feel good about
5 themselves again. One of the unseen benefits of
6 GSSD street sweeping project for the residents is
7 that they can go to their families now and say
8 that they have a job. They want their families
9 to begin to believe in them again, and they are
10 very proud of their ability to show the level of
11 responsibility that has been missing. Not a lot
12 of employers would take the chance on these men.
13 The community benefits through cleaner streets
14 and more customers coming to the business
15 corridor and our residents take pride in the fact
16 that the GSSD has given them a chance. Thank you
17 so much for giving these men a wonderful
18 opportunity."

19 Finally, I have a letter from the
20 Germantown Friends School. On of the
21 serendipities of this program is that it's a
22 community building program. And it's just a
23 thank you to Mr. Michael Moore from Germantown
24 Friends School for hosting a group 10th graders
25 who helped and participated in the cleaning of

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2 Kenyon Street and they are thankful to be able to
3 be involved and they're thankful for the work
4 that's being done by the GSSD and they hope that
5 it continues in the future.

6 We have others, but this is a
7 representation of how people feel in the
8 community.

9 Thank you very much.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.
11 Leroy, may I request that we be given copies of
12 the letters that you have just read?

13 MR. SIMMONS: Yes.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

15 Mr. Vaughn, you would like to
16 testify?

17 MR. VAUGHN: Yes. Thank you, Council
18 President.

19 On behalf of Councilwoman Donna Reed
20 Miller, as her Chief of Staff she asked that I
21 come here today and put on the record her
22 unconditional support of this bill, and I would
23 like to say that we are very familiar with both
24 GSSD as well as Central Germantown Council, the
25 entity responsible for the target business area

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2 in our district. We are totally supportive of
3 this amendment. The program there is quite well,
4 is ran in a way that everyone here will be
5 extremely proud of, and she wanted me in her
6 absence to let you know and the committee know
7 that we are unconditionally supportive of this
8 amendment and thanks for this opportunity to talk
9 to you today. Thank you.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you
11 so much.

12 May I just ask one question? When
13 will the present contract expire?

14 MR. MOORE: The present contract?

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: That you're
16 working under.

17 MR. MOORE: Through the YMCA?

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Mm-hmm.
19 For the entire district.

20 MR. MOORE: Our contract expires --

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: I beg your
22 pardon?

23 MR. MOORE: I believe May of 2000?

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: 2000?

25 MR. MOORE: No, 2001, excuse me.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Oh, thank
3 you. Thank you very much.

4 MR. Moore: Thank you.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Are there
6 any questions from members of the committee?

7 The Chair recognizes Councilman
8 Clarke.

9 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Madam
10 Chair.

11 What are the boundaries of the
12 district?

13 MR. Moore: The boundaries of the
14 district we have 14 square blocks from Cheltenham
15 Avenue from west to east from Bacon Street to
16 Morris Street. Germantown Avenue which is a
17 small area smaller than Cheltenham Avenue,
18 obviously, from Schoolhouse Lane to Haines. We
19 also go from Wayne Avenue, which is from
20 Rittenhouse to Maplewood Avenue. And we have the
21 Maplewood Mall in that area. So we have about 14
22 square blocks.

23 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: And you have a
24 substantial number of residential properties in
25 that district?

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2 MR. MOORE: Not really. I believe we
3 have about five residential properties.

4 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: In the entire
5 district?

6 MR. MOORE: In the entire district,
7 yes.

8 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: And the
9 residential properties do not have additional
10 taxes added as a result?

11 MR. MOORE: No. Basically they're
12 waived. If they pay, they pay on a voluntary
13 basis.

14 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: How many
15 employees do you have?

16 MR. MOORE: We have ten employees.

17 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you.

18 MR. MOORE: Thank you.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

20 Any other questions from members of
21 the committee?

22 (No further questions.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Miss Wynn,
24 why don't you stay at the table since you have
25 another bill and we'll consider that next.

1 10/31/00 - RULES - BILL NO. 000541

2 Would Mr. Mezzaroba please read the
3 title of 000541?

4 MR. MEZZAROBA: An ordinance adopting
5 an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of
6 the Frankford Special Services District of
7 Philadelphia to extend the term that have
8 authority, all under certain terms and
9 conditions.

10 (Witness comes forward.)

11 MS. WYNN: Council President Verna,
12 fellow Councilmembers, I'm here today to testify
13 on Bill 000541, an ordinance adopting an
14 amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of the
15 Frankford Special Services District of
16 Philadelphia to extend the term of that
17 authority. This bill will amend the Articles of
18 Incorporation of the Frankford Special Services
19 District of Philadelphia so that the term of the
20 authority is extended until December 31, 2005.

21 I have no objections to the passage
22 of this bill. Thank you for your time. I'll
23 answer any questions that you might have.

24 We also have testifying Jim Nulty
25 (ph.), who is the board president and property

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2 owner, George Temples who's the vice president
3 and a property owner, Kate Clark is executive
4 director of Frankford United Neighbors, Gilbert
5 Schobert, a board member and a property owner,
6 Steve Culbertson is executive director of
7 Frankford Group Ministries, CDC. I also have
8 here with me Sloan Folks, who's the director of
9 Economic Development of Frankford Group Ministry,
10 CDC.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

12 Good morning.

13 MR. FOLKS: Good morning. My name is
14 Sloan Folks. I am the director of economic
15 development for the Community Development
16 Corporation of Frankford Group Ministries. We
17 manage the day-to-day operations of the Frankford
18 Special Services District. I am going to be
19 reading into the record a letter from a board
20 member who was unable to attend the meeting
21 today, and after that I'll be able to answer any
22 questions that you have.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

24 MR. FOLKS: "Testimony to the Council
25 of the City of Philadelphia in favor of the

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2 Frankford Special Services District by Dr. Harry
3 Kaplan.

4 "Good morning members of the
5 Philadelphia City Council Committee on Rules. My
6 name is Dr. Harry Kaplan and I'm a property owner
7 at 1550 Pratt Street. I'm a member of the
8 Bridge/Pratt Business and Professional
9 Association as well as a member of the Board of
10 Directors of the Frankford Special Service
11 District. I have been involved in the Frankford
12 Special Services District since its inception
13 five years ago. The following items are a
14 summation of the direct benefits to the Frankford
15 community through the creation and operation of
16 the Frankford Special Service District.

17 "Number one, Dramatic Improvement in
18 Cleanliness and Appearance. Sidewalk cleaning is
19 performed six days a week, ten hours a day, and
20 52 weeks a year. Cleaners focus on busy areas
21 such as the Bridge/Pratt elevated terminal. All
22 of the sidewalks within the district are
23 pressure-washed and cleaned at least once a
24 month. The high pressure cleaning technique
25 removes embedded materials and facilitates

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2 improved sidewalk maintenance. The district has
3 established a strong relationship with the
4 Philadelphia Department of Streets. They assist
5 us with the removal of litter and debris from
6 receptacles at the end of the day. With our
7 equipment, we have great flexibility in
8 developing a systemic method for graffiti removal
9 within the district. We have also been effective
10 in large-scale cleaning efforts such as vacant
11 lots and abandoned tire roundups.

12 "Improvement in Public Safety and
13 Security. The Frankford Safety Ambassador
14 Program utilizes a uniformed staff of full and
15 part-time personnel that patrol the area within
16 the boundaries of the Frankford Special Services
17 District. They are a visual presence only, and
18 act as the eyes and the ears of the Philadelphia
19 and SEPTA police. They also work to improve the
20 communication and cooperation between these
21 police departments and the business owners. The
22 ambassadors work directly with the police through
23 training at the police academy to develop
24 strategies to reduce opportunity of crime in
25 businesses within the Frankford Special Services

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2 District. The ambassadors offer information and
3 assistance to pedestrians and shoppers along
4 Frankford Avenue. The ambassadors are also
5 trained in emergency first aid and CPR. They are
6 equipped with two-way wireless radios which
7 connect them directly with each other and
8 emergency services.

9 "Dramatic Reduction in Crime During
10 Business Hours. The Frankford Special Services
11 District has worked exceptionally hard to change
12 the perception of the Frankford Business District
13 as a dark, dirty and unsafe place, although in
14 most situations, perception is not the reality.
15 The Frankford Special Services District requested
16 that a report be prepared by the Philadelphia
17 Police Department's Crime Analysis and Mapping
18 Section to track Part 1 crime statistics in 1998,
19 1999, and the first quarter of 2000. Part 1
20 major crimes include robberies, robberies with
21 guns, residential burglaries, commercial
22 burglaries, stolen vehicles, theft from vehicles,
23 and homicides. This report illustrated an
24 overall reduction in Part 1 major crimes of 35
25 percent, with commercial burglaries down 60.71

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2 percent and robberies down 17.95 percent.

3 Furthermore, this report which tracked crime
4 statistics 100 yards beyond the boundaries of the
5 district, approximately a block and a half, Part
6 1 major crimes were down an average of 19.43
7 percent.

8 "For these stated reasons, we urge
9 the Rules Committee of the City Council of
10 Philadelphia to favorably support the legislation
11 extending the life of the Frankford Special
12 Services District. Thank you."

13 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: Thank you.

14 The Chair recognizes Mr. Allen from
15 Councilman Mariano's office.

16 MR. ALLEN: Thank you, Madam
17 President. We just have a brief statement that
18 we're going to enter into the record. I'm just
19 going to state briefly for the record that the
20 Councilman supports unequivocally the Special
21 Services District and looks forward to another
22 five years.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.
24 Thank you so much.

25 MS. WYNN: Council President, we have

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2 Mr. Nulty who's the Board president.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

4 Good morning.

5 MR. NULTY: Madam President and
6 members of City Council, good morning. My name
7 is Jim Nulty. I am the owner of the Nulty
8 Funeral Home on the corner of Frankford Avenue
9 and Church Street and presently serve as
10 president of the Board of Directors of the
11 Frankford Special Services District.

12 My business was started in 1888 by my
13 great-grandfather who later served as Democratic
14 State Senator from that district. And no, I have
15 never entertained any thought of following in his
16 footsteps except as a funeral director.

17 In 1993, 100 residents of Frankford
18 with the help of the Frankford Group Ministry led
19 by Reverend John Shull (ph.), all sharing a
20 vision for the revitalization of the vibrant
21 productive and historic neighborhood they had
22 once known, composed a plan consisting of 48
23 different strategies which became known as the
24 Frankford Plan. Twenty-seven of the these
25 strategies have been implemented are now being

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2 utilized in Frankford. One of the most
3 successful of these strategies has been the
4 Special Services District begun in 1996 with the
5 help of people like Dr. Irving Smiler, Dr. Harry
6 Kaplan, Timothy J. Savage, Esquire, Paul Levy in
7 the Center City Special Service District whose
8 support in providing manpower and technical
9 assistance was invaluable, and many others as
10 well as corporate assistance provided by
11 Frankford Hospital, without which, Frankford
12 Safety Ambassador Program could not exist.

13 The Frankford Special Service
14 District represents a commitment by our
15 neighborhood to maintain a clean and safe
16 environment for our families and businesses.
17 Since the district's inception, streets which
18 were formerly strewn with litter are now cleaned
19 every day by employees in uniforms. The
20 appearance of Frankford Avenue has been greatly
21 enhanced by the power washings performed by these
22 men and women. Our safety ambassador program
23 provides uniformed personnel prominently
24 patrolling our streets, all equipped with radios
25 who offer security and knowledgeable information

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2 to anyone who requests it.

3 In short, the Frankford Special
4 Services District has gone far in advancing the
5 strategies formulated by the originators of the
6 Frankford Plan. It is an integral part of the
7 Frankford Plan which has in its relatively short
8 existence proven what can be accomplished by a
9 group of private citizens with the help of the
10 City. It is vital to the survival of our
11 neighborhood that the Frankford Special Services
12 District be continued for an additional five-year
13 term so that the work it has gun may not only
14 continue, but progress further.

15 It is respectfully requested that
16 City Council recognize the achievements already
17 effected and grant to us the legal authority to
18 keep the Frankford Special Services District in
19 operation for another five years.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. WYNN: Madam President, we also
22 have Mr. George Temples, who is the vice
23 president.

24 MR. TEMPLES: Madam President and
25 gentlemen Council, I am a relatively newcomer to

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2 the Frankford area. I bought a home there in
3 1993 and, of course, have lived there
4 continuously since then. One of the attractions
5 to the Frankford area for me was the architecture
6 of some of the buildings there that date back for
7 over a century, buildings that are not duplicated
8 anywhere else. I spent 20 years living in
9 Colonial Village, which is in Wayne, and I found
10 nothing this that would compare with what I have
11 found in Frankford.

12 The oldest Friends School in the
13 United States is in Frankford. It is
14 approximately four blocks from where I live. It
15 is three and a half blocks from Frankford Avenue.

16 The Historical Society of Frankford,
17 which is within walking distance, perhaps five
18 minutes of where I live, was a historical society
19 when Frankford was a borough before it became
20 part of the political being of the City of
21 Philadelphia. One of the churches on Frankford
22 Avenue today is celebrating its 190th
23 anniversary.

24 All of these things are now being
25 brought back to life by meaningful, interested

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2 residents of Frankford who do not want to leave
3 the area and who feel that all of this valuable
4 history and background requires that it be
5 sustained for future generations.

6 When I bought my home in Frankford,
7 there was a vacant building across the street.
8 Young people expressing themselves would cover it
9 with graffiti. Over the weekend, the
10 neighborhoods would come out with fresh paint and
11 paint over all of the graffiti. Citizens working
12 on their own without civic support are limited in
13 what they can do. The Frankford Special Services
14 District has provided this support since 1996.
15 As Mr. Nulty has already observed, the Frankford
16 Special Services District is implementing many of
17 the logistical objectives of the Frankford Plan,
18 which was adopted in 1993.

19 Frankford Avenue itself, which was
20 rapidly becoming a place that nobody really cared
21 about nor a place where anybody would want to be
22 seen, has been slowly turning around now through
23 new businesses, through completely new capital
24 involvement, and as a matter of fact, the Special
25 Services District has provided the opportunity to

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2 these business people to come in and repaint
3 their stores in a conforming manner at the
4 expense of the district. It's an outreach
5 program which has had great success. It has
6 rekindled the spirit of what used to be a very
7 large industrial and financial area of our City.

8 Even at this time, Frankford is by no
9 means an accomplished area in terms of those
10 objectives. However, with the additional support
11 by the reaffirmation of this authorization
12 requested here, we believe that Frankford will
13 continue to grow and improve and make
14 contributions to the City of Philadelphia. I
15 would like to observe, for example, that the
16 Frankford Hospital which supports the Special
17 Services District, we hold out of our meetings
18 there, they contribute substantial sums of money
19 to our well-being is now a part of the Thomas
20 Jefferson Hospital System. And the very large
21 Pratt Bridge terminus of the Frankford L is going
22 to revitalize in a very different way and attract
23 people to come into Frankford who will then come
24 into the City of Philadelphia in a matter of 15
25 minutes, maybe 20 minutes at most. What is

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2 happening there is a mini revolution. In some
3 ways, it's a neighborhood miracle. We need your
4 help.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you
6 very much.

7 MR. TEMPLES: And we would appreciate
8 having it.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you
10 so very much.

11 Do we have anyone else to testify on
12 this bill?

13 MS. WYNN: Yes, Madam President. We
14 have Kate Clark who is the executive director of
15 Frankford United Neighbors.

16 MS. CLARK: Good morning, Madam
17 President and members of the Rules Committee. My
18 name is Kate Clark. I'm the executive director
19 of Frankford United Neighbors Community
20 Development Corporation, also the president of
21 the Frankford Plan 2000. My testimony is short.

22 When the Frankford Plan was
23 established in 1993, the Frankford Special
24 Service District became part of the Frankford
25 Plan. As we enter the second phase of the

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2 Frankford Plan 2000, it is imperative that we
3 keep the Frankford Special Service District as
4 part of the Frankford Plan 2000. It has been
5 wonderful in our community keeping our streets
6 clean, safe. Our safety ambassadors have been
7 doing a wonderful job, henceforth, giving
8 Frankford the name that we like to claim that we
9 are Frankford-friendly. So therefore, I am here
10 today to ask the members of the Philadelphia City
11 Council to support and reauthorize the Frankford
12 Special Service District for another five years.
13 Thank you.

14 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: Thank you.

15 Do we have someone else to testify on
16 this bill?

17 MS. WYNN: Yes, Madam President. We
18 have Steve Culbertson who is executive director
19 of Frankford Group Ministries, CDC.

20 MR. CULBERTSON: My name is Steve
21 Culbertson. I'm the executive director of the
22 Community Development Corporation of Frankford
23 Group Ministry, and good things are happening in
24 Frankford. We hope you authorize this bill and
25 I'd love to have you come up visit us in

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2 Frankford. Things are changing there.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you
4 so much.

5 MS. Wynn: Madam President, lastly we
6 have Mr. Gilbert Schobert who is a board member
7 and property owner.

8 MR. SCHOBERT: Madam President and
9 members of Council, it's a pleasure to be here
10 this morning. I am a resident, born here in
11 Philadelphia. I have a funeral home up in the
12 Frankford section also, just a block away from
13 Frankford Hospital, and I have been in business
14 over 45 years. And Special Services District has
15 improved Frankford Avenue very greatly. People
16 coming into our funeral home mention the fact
17 that Frankford has completely changed in the way
18 that the streets are kept, and we appreciate your
19 interest in this matter.

20 Thank you.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

22 MS. Wynn: Madam President, we're
23 done. And members of Council, we thank you for
24 your time. That's it.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: I just

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2 wanted to ask you one question. There is no need
3 to suspend rules on the two bills that you
4 testified on today?

5 MS. WYNN: No.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

7 MS. WYNN: Mm-hmm.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you
9 all for coming in.

10 MS. WYNN: Thank you.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Mr.

12 Mezzaroba, please read the title of Bill
13 No. 000536.

14 MR. MEZZAROBA: Bill 000536, an
15 ordinance amending Title 22 of the Philadelphia
16 Code entitled, "City of Philadelphia Public
17 Employees Retirement Code," to provide that
18 police officers injured as a result of performing
19 heroic action in the line of duty are exempted
20 from the earned income offset applied to members
21 receiving service-connected disability benefits,
22 and amending the amount of offset with respect to
23 other police officers, all under certain terms
24 and conditions.

25 (Witnesses come forward.)

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Mr.

3 Herkness, before you start to testify, please do
4 not leave the room until you see me.

5 MR. HERKNESS: Sure, sure.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thanks.

7 Please identify yourself for the
8 record and proceed with your testimony.

9 MR. HERKNESS: Good morning. My name
10 is Joe Herkness the executive director of the
11 Board of Pensions and Retirement, and with me is
12 Phil Grob (ph.), who is director of the City of
13 Philadelphia's Labor Relations Department.

14 This is Council ordinance -- there's
15 a typo in the testimony. We missed a zero.
16 000536. Good morning, Madam President and
17 members of the Rules Committee. I'm appearing on
18 behalf of Director of Finance, Miss Janice Davis,
19 to offer testimony in support of Bill 000536.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Excuse me.
21 Before you continue, where is the typo?

22 MR. HERKNESS: The typo is 000536,
23 it's with two zeroes.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Okay, thank
25 you.

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2 MR. HERKNESS: This legislation
3 amends Section 22-401 of the Public Employees
4 Retirement Code titled Service-Connected
5 Disability Retirement Benefits. The bill
6 implements through ordinance of City Council
7 certain sections of the Pennsylvania Act 111
8 Interest Arbitration Award between the City of
9 Philadelphia and the Fraternal Order of Police
10 Lodge 5 that was effective in July of 1996.

11 The ordinance reduces the present
12 outside income offset to a retired police
13 officer's service-connected disability benefit
14 from the present \$1 for every \$2 of gainful
15 employment outside of the City of Philadelphia to
16 \$1 for every \$3 of that gainful employment. In
17 addition, Bill 000536 institutes a maximum age of
18 65 for the purposes of this section, after which
19 this offset or reduction ceases.

20 Bill 000536 also creates a new
21 section titled Hero Exemption. This section is
22 also in compliance with the same Act 111
23 Arbitration Award alluded to earlier. This
24 paragraph allows the exemption from gainful
25 employment awarded to a service-connected

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2 disability for a police officer awarded a
3 service-connected disability where the Board of
4 Pensions finds that the disability resulted from
5 the violent conduct of a third party that was
6 directed towards the officer or a member of the
7 public or as an immediate result of performing
8 other heroic actions in an emergency situation.

9 Madam President, it is very important
10 that the City of Philadelphia be in compliance
11 with the Act 11 Arbitration Award and Bill 000536
12 achieves this goal. Both the Administration and
13 the Board of Trustees of the Pension System
14 support Bill 000536 and recommend its passage.

15 That completes my testimony and we'd
16 be happy to answer any questions. Thank you.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.
18 Are you testifying, sir?

19 MR. GROB: No, I'm just here to
20 answer questions.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: You
22 indicated that the Arbitration Award between the
23 City of Philadelphia and the FOP Lodge No. 5 is
24 affective in July of '96.

25 MR. HERKNESS: Yes, ma'am.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Why is it
3 taking so long to come to Council to address this
4 issue?

5 MR. HERKNESS: The bill -- this piece
6 of the arbitration that dealt with the Fraternal
7 Order of Police was also part of the Council
8 ordinance that was submitted that included
9 amendments to the firefighters' contract also
10 from a similar arbitration award. That piece
11 implemented Bill 589, which is Pension Reform
12 Act, and it was relatively controversial. It was
13 tabled once, possibly twice, and was put on hold
14 by the Administration, the previous
15 Administration, and it never came up to Council
16 hearing again. It has been a point of contention
17 between the City of Philadelphia and the
18 Fraternal Order of Police for a few years now.
19 There's been return to at least two arbitrators
20 to discuss the issue and there was an August 11th
21 award on a grievance having to do with the
22 failure to implement the Act 111 award that
23 basically set up agreement between the City, the
24 Board of Pensions and that we would put into
25 action, at least the beginning of the award, and

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2 then the Administration would as soon as possible
3 present to the City Council a call for an
4 ordinance to comply with the Fraternal Order of
5 Police, the FOP's piece of that previous bill.
6 The firefighters has still remained
7 unimplemented, so to speak. So by carving out
8 the FOP, we dealt with the FOP's issue. And
9 along with the hero exemption to the offset,
10 we've set a process at the Board of Pensions on
11 how we're going to approach each application.
12 That has been completed. We have a framework on
13 how we're going to handle it. The next step
14 would be passage of this bill, which would put
15 the arbitration in place retroactively I believe
16 to '96, maybe even to '93. I would defer the
17 Bill on the language of that Act 111.

18 MR. GROB: '96.

19 MR. HERKNESS: '96.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm sorry?

21 MR. GROB: It's retroactive to 1996,
22 July 1, 1996.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: When can
24 payment be expected and what is the cost of such
25 payments to the fund?

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2 MR. HERKNESS: When can payment --

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Be

4 expected? If we're going to have this

5 retroactively to 1996.

6 MR. HERKNESS: Oh, I see what you

7 mean. There are approximately -- I'm sorry.

8 There are approximately 85 officers presently on

9 the service-connected disability who are subject

10 to the present ordinance, which is an offset of

11 \$1 for every \$2 of outside employment and for

12 their entire lifetime. This puts a cap on that

13 offset at age 65 and reduces the offset from \$1

14 for every \$2 of outside employment to \$1 to every

15 \$3.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: I'm sorry,

17 you're going to have to clarify your statement.

18 MR. HERKNESS: Okay.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Because I

20 don't think we -- I don't think we quite

21 understand exactly what you said. Do you mind

22 trying to elaborate a little more clearly on

23 that?

24 MR. HERKNESS: Okay. Maybe I can

25 help if I can go back to the beginning. The

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2 Pension Reform Act 589 put an offset on any

3 service-connected disability earnings outside of

4 the City of Philadelphia of \$1 for every \$2 on a

5 police officer's pension and the police officer

6 would be subject to that offset for his entire

7 life. The other AFSCME District Council 47 and

8 33 are subject to it to age 65 and they're offset

9 is \$1 for every \$3 of outside income. The Act

10 111 arbitration of 1996 was awarded -- the FOP

11 was awarded a reduction in the offset from \$1 for

12 every \$2 to \$1 for every \$3. So rather than if

13 you make \$100 on outside, rather cutting it by

14 \$50 you now would -- this bill would reduce it by

15 \$33. So it's a decrease in the reduction, and

16 they capped the reduction at age 65. So a police

17 officer no longer would be subject to the

18 reduction on outside earnings after age 65 if

19 this bill is passed. That was the language from

20 the Act 111 arbitration.

21 In addition, there is a separate new

22 section called Hero Exemption where the

23 circumstances of the employee's disability can

24 cause the offset to be taken away. In other

25 words, for instance, if an officer was shot in

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2 the line of duty and became disabled, that would
3 be a relatively easy decision. That officer
4 would most likely not be subject to the offset.
5 Each case would then become a fingerprint. The
6 Board of Pensions has set up a mechanism now
7 where we review the facts of the disability, the
8 facts of the case that caused the disability, and
9 a decision is made by the Board -- this is as per
10 the arbitration -- to either maintain the offset
11 or grant a hero exemption to the employee based
12 on the facts of his or her individual case, then
13 they would not be subject to the offset at all.

14 There are 85 officers that we will
15 now review their cases, retired officers. We
16 will then review each and every one of those 85
17 cases, make a hero exemption determination yes or
18 no. And then prospectively each case, each
19 service-connected disability that comes to the
20 Board, if the disability is awarded, the Board
21 would then make an additional decision on whether
22 or not the facts of the case would qualify the
23 officer for a hero exemptions and then he or she
24 would not be subject to the income offset of
25 their disability benefit.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Let me try
3 to rephrase my question. I believe that you have
4 testified that this bill implements an
5 arbitration award that dates back to July of '96.

6 MR. Herkness: Yes, ma'am.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Since this
8 is the case, will the pension fund be making
9 retroactive adjustments to the pensions of those
10 affected by the ordinance? True, false, 50/50,
11 whatever? I still don't quite understand.

12 MR. Herkness: The answer to that is
13 possibly each one of the 85 or so
14 service-connected disabilities will be reviewed
15 by the Board and be granted a hero exemption or
16 not. There are presently there are only three
17 employees who are subject who are paying an
18 offset service-connected disabilities, police
19 officers. Their cases will be reviewed first.
20 We've agreed with the FOP to review their cases
21 first after passage of this ordinance. Their
22 cases would -- they're subject to an offset.

23 Let's say their offset is they make
24 10,000 a year and their offset is \$5,000. The
25 facts of their disability will be reviewed. If

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2 they are granted a hero exemption, then that
3 offset would cease and it would cease retroactive
4 to the date of their disability. If that 5,000
5 was to be returned to them, the way we would do
6 it would be to work it prospectively on their
7 future pensions or to grant them a increase in
8 their pension, you know, immediately. We haven't
9 worked out that specific detail. We expect that
10 of those 85, there will be several that will
11 qualify for hero exemption. The FOP believes it.
12 It's only a ball park that it will probably be
13 about 30, ball park. And there'd be, obvious,
14 some arguments about some of them that will be in
15 gray areas.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: In your
17 testimony you also testified that in addition,
18 this bill institutes a maximum age of 65. What
19 was the maximum age prior to this bill?

20 MR. HERKNESS: Lifetime. It was a
21 lifetime offset on the police officer's
22 service-connected disability benefit if there was
23 outside earnings. So this bill implements the
24 language of the arbitration that caps the offset
25 at age 65.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are there
3 any questions from members of the committee?

4 The Chair recognizes Councilman
5 O'Neill.

6 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Madam Chair,
7 I'll yield.

8 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: The Chair
9 recognizes Councilman Nutter.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
11 Chair. I have two questions. One is on this
12 particular bill the other is somewhat related,
13 but I don't want to mix the two questions so I'll
14 wait until the end for the second one.

15 On this particular bill, maybe I
16 missed the explanation. I thought I heard the
17 President ask why it was -- I guess why it had
18 taken so long for this to type of bill given that
19 there had been this interest arbitration award
20 back in July of '96. If I missed the answer, I
21 apologize, but could you give me a short version
22 of it?

23 MR. HERKNESS: Sure. The original
24 bill also included the firefighters' arbitration
25 that had a different impact on the firefighters'

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2 contract. The FOP and the firefighters were
3 combined in the previous bill. It implemented
4 pension reform for the firefighters' contract,
5 basically reducing their benefit, but it
6 increased benefits for the Fraternal Order of
7 Police. That bill has not made it through the
8 legislative process and the FOP has -- it's been
9 a bone of contention for a long, long time. They
10 have gone back to arbitrators and there's
11 actually an award, a grievance award in August
12 that asked for a certain process for
13 implementation for their piece of the previous
14 bill.

15 So the Act 111 arbitration for the
16 firefighters in that particular year has never
17 been implemented. This is the Act 111
18 arbitration for the Fraternal Order of Police.
19 They were previously together; they are now
20 carved out and this is the FOP piece.

21 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So you're saying
22 that back in '96 or '96 going into '97?

23 MR. GROB: February of '97 it was
24 first introduced.

25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: In February of

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2 '97 you tried to combine the interest arbitration
3 award results out of the '96 contract
4 negotiations?

5 MR. GROB: Out of '93 and the '96.

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. And what
7 happened to the bill from '97?

8 MR. HERKNESS: The --

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Did it get
10 introduced?

11 MR. HERKNESS: The first time it was
12 postponed. It wasn't a quorum and it was
13 postponed, tabled. And then my information from
14 our Law Department and our counsel was that the
15 Administration some time early in the fall asked
16 for the bill to be held for rhyme or reason.

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: The fall of '97?

18 MR. HERKNESS: Yes, sir. And that's
19 the last time the bill ever -- that particular
20 bill was ever close to a hearing, to my
21 understanding.

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So it never had a
23 hearing?

24 MR. HERKNESS: No, it never had a
25 hearing.

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2 MR. GROB: It was scheduled twice but
3 it's never had a hearing.

4 MR. HERKNESS: Right.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. Thank you.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
7 recognizes Councilman O'Neill.

8 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Mr. Herkness, it
9 seems like this is a good bill for the FOP from
10 what you've described. It was not so good for
11 the firefighters, but now that you split off,
12 this was the good part that the FOP liked.

13 MR. HERKNESS: Absolutely.

14 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: I have not heard
15 from the FOP. They're not here today I don't
16 think.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: No.

18 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: It's unusual
19 when something is good for the FOP or anybody
20 like the FOP for them not to tell us. Is there
21 something we're missing here?

22 MR. HERKNESS: I don't think so.
23 There was FOP representation at the arbitration
24 award, the grievance award in August that set up
25 a process, and the Administration agreed to push

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2 the FOP piece, create a process to address the
3 retroactive applications and also to present the
4 bill to Council and ask for a hearing. And the
5 City has done that, and I think the FOP is
6 certainly monitoring it. The attorney for the
7 FOP, Mr. Jennings, was at that arbitration and he
8 has been kept abreast of the process and the
9 movement of this part of the Act 111 arbitration.
10 It's only my opinion, I think they're totally
11 satisfied with the progress since it's just about
12 the framework that we laid out we thought was
13 possible in August of this year. We said, Here's
14 what we can do and here's what we will do. And
15 the Board created a subcommittee of which there's
16 the FOP representative from the Board is on that
17 subcommittee.

18 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Who is that?

19 MR. HERKNESS: Serena Tenant (ph.).

20 And that subcommittee is dealing with the process
21 anticipating passage on, okay, how are we going
22 to approach implementation and examining the
23 cases of all of the 85 officers who are presently
24 eligible for the hero exemption if this bill
25 passes. We have sent letters out to them and

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2 notified them of the bill being presented to
3 Council. If the bill passes, we have asked them
4 to contact us. And so we agreed to do this at
5 the grievance arbitration in August. We have
6 complied. I think the FOP -- my opinion, I
7 believe the FOP is happy with the progress. And
8 my in my experience, if they weren't, there would
9 be people here.

10 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Did you ask them
11 for a letter of support?

12 MR. GROB: We sent a copy of the
13 proposed ordinance to them. They called us back
14 and had no problem. We did not get a letter of
15 support.

16 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: They called you
17 back and said they had no problems?

18 MR. GROB: Yes.

19 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Do you know who
20 that was?

21 MR. GROB: Mr. Jennings.

22 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Mr. Jenkins.

23 MR. GROB: Jennings, Tom Jennings.

24 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: You mentioned
25 that -- the hero exemption, does that come out of

1 10/31/00 - RULES - BILL NO. 000536

2 the language of the '96 award?

3 MR. GROB: Yes, sir.

4 MR. HERKNESS: Yes, sir.

5 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: So you start
6 with the service-connected pool and we reduce it
7 to whatever the hero exemption would be under
8 this scenario. Can you give me an example of
9 someone who would be service-connected and one
10 who would be a hero exemption and one who would
11 not.

12 MR. HERKNESS: Well, obviously, a
13 gunshot would be one. If someone was injured in
14 other duties as a police officer, possibly a
15 fall, possibly a car accident, arm slammed with,
16 you know, the back door of the patrol wagon and
17 damages, shattered wrists or something like that,
18 they would most likely not qualify for a hero
19 exemption. Obviously, they're the extremes, and
20 as the facts of the case is, they will come
21 toward the middle. There will probably be some
22 controversy. Our law department has told us that
23 a hero exemption decision by the Board is
24 appealable to court to say, you know, they should
25 receive the hero exemption although the

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2 arbitration does say that the decision will be
3 left up to the Board of Pensions. However, every
4 decision by the Board can be appealable to the
5 Court the Common Pleas.

6 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Is it different
7 or similar set of criteria that would be used for
8 this exemption that's used for the hero
9 scholarship awards for those?

10 MR. HERKNESS: I would defer to Bill.
11 I really don't know the answer to that.

12 MR. GROB: I don't think it was ever
13 designed to be that way.

14 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: It wasn't?

15 MR. GROB: It was not.

16 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Okay. So
17 someone could get the hero's exemption or the
18 disability but not necessarily be in the hero
19 scholarship pool for educational benefits and
20 things.

21 MR. GROB: Yes.

22 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: You mentioned
23 there are 85 out there or 80?

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: 85.

25 MR. HERKNESS: Yeah, there's about 85

1 10/31/00 - RULES - BILL NO. 000536

2 this month.

3 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: You mentioned
4 that three would be reviewed right away because
5 they are getting the offset.

6 MR. HERKNESS: Yeah, they're subject
7 to the offset.

8 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Why are the 82
9 not? That's what I'm trying to find out.

10 MR. HERKNESS: They have not reported
11 outside gainful employment on their -- the
12 process is they submit a copy of their 1040 and
13 we go to Line 7A; and if there's gainful
14 employment, they submit W2s and we offset that.
15 They are required to submit them annually and we
16 review that. There's only three or four. I
17 think there's three that are subject to an
18 offset, the service-connected police officers.

19 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: So right now the
20 offset is if, let's say, you make 30,000 in their
21 outside job. Their pension is reduced by 15,000
22 today.

23 MR. HERKNESS: That's correct.

24 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: It would be
25 reduced by 10,000 if this passed.

1 10/31/00 - RULES - BILL NO. 000536

2 MR. HERKNESS: Correct.

3 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Five thousand
4 dollar benefit to the retired officer?

5 MR. HERKNESS: Correct.

6 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Thank you.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

8 Any other questions from members of
9 the committee?

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
11 Chair.

12 Mr. Herkness, on a somewhat unrelated
13 matter, but since you are here and it is a
14 pension issue, the question was raised with me
15 with regard to pension issues and health and
16 welfare benefits and a number of other provisions
17 for when we have a uniformed employee who is
18 killed on the job and everything that's kind of
19 in the package that happens with that
20 individual's family versus what happens in a
21 situation if a non-uniformed employee is killed
22 while on the job. I've experienced that,
23 unfortunately, a couple of years ago. There was
24 a person in the Streets Department, one of my
25 constituents, was killed on the job. Generally,

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2 the non-uniformed employees, I think, have a
3 relative expectation of a less dangerous work
4 environment than the uniformed employees. I
5 think that's a given, and there is absolutely no
6 complaint or criticism about what the uniformed
7 officers get because of the nature of their jobs.
8 What I would like to ask you to do, and we can
9 have some subsequent conversation, is if you can
10 take a look at and maybe prepare a matrix for the
11 committee of any of the similarities or
12 distinctions between the benefits, whether it's
13 health an welfare or pension hero provisions and
14 the like, in a comparison between a uniformed
15 employee killed on the job versus a non-uniformed
16 employee killed on the job. Whether they fell
17 somewhere, a truck ran into them or whether they
18 were shot while on the job.

19 MR. HERKNESS: Sure.

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I'm really just
21 trying to respond to a constituent who has,
22 unfortunately, experience that level of distress
23 in their family life. And if you could help me
24 with that, I'd greatly appreciate it.

25 MR. HERKNESS: Surely.

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2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

4 The Chair recognizes Councilman
5 Cohen.

6 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Does the pension
7 laws in Philadelphia or Pennsylvania ever cover
8 any health and welfare benefits? I heard
9 Councilman Nutter's question.

10 MR. HERKNESS: Our benefits in
11 Pennsylvania, the State has health benefits. I
12 think they might connect back to the General
13 Fund. In the City of Philadelphia, there is a
14 civil service reg and negotiated labor agreements
15 that provide health and welfare benefits for
16 retirees. The costs of those benefits are not
17 paid by the pension system, they're paid by the
18 General Fund of the City of Philadelphia.
19 However, the pension system administers the
20 benefit to the extent that we say a member of a
21 labor organization or a labor organization's
22 group is qualified and eligible to receive the
23 benefit, those monies are then forwarded to the
24 individual organization. The employees who are
25 not represented by a labor organization are

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2 administered by the Board of Pensions an
3 Retirement. The bill for that benefit is paid by
4 the General Fund.

5 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Could you give me
6 an example of this administration by the Pension
7 Board of a -- I didn't get quite the distinction.
8 Somebody not in the union, say, who gets certain
9 kind of -- what kind of benefits would that be?

10 MR. HERKNESS: Well, each one can be
11 different. There's five years. Recent labor
12 organization agreements, there's five years of
13 retirement benefits that are awarded to the
14 employees. I don't know if that was granted to
15 the non-uniformed -- to non-represented
16 employees. The health and welfare benefits are
17 administered by the individual labor
18 organizations on behalf of the retirees. The
19 City of Philadelphia simply forwards the dollars
20 that is negotiated on a per-month, per-employee
21 basis. We administer -- basically, we say the
22 employee is eligible for the benefit, then
23 finance sends the money for that employee on a
24 monthly basis to the labor organization. If the
25 employee is a non-represented employee, then the

1 10/31/00 - RULES - BILL NO. 000536

2 Board of Pensions and Retirement administers that
3 benefit from its offices.

4 COUNCILMAN COHEN: What do you mean
5 you administer --

6 MR. HERKNESS: Well, we say you're
7 eligible, we then send you the packets and you
8 make choices with our employees.

9 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Rather than having
10 the City do it?

11 MR. HERKNESS: Correct.

12 COUNCILMAN COHEN: The ordinary where
13 the City administers the personnel department
14 sends out the packets?

15 MR. HERKNESS: Right.

16 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Is that kind of a
17 limit of what you do?

18 MR. HERKNESS: Yes, sir.

19 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Is there anything
20 in the law which would prevent a City ordinance
21 providing for payments from the pension fund for
22 health and welfare benefits of any kind? Are you
23 familiar with that?

24 MR. HERKNESS: Yes, I am. That was
25 looked at during the recodification when we

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2 looked at the two separate ordinances and then
3 they combined them for the old plan and the new
4 plan. I would defer to our tax attorneys at
5 Blank Rome. However, my recollection was that
6 payments for health and welfare benefits and
7 payments for monthly pension annuity should not
8 be commingled in a defined benefit plan.

9 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I'm sorry, I'm not
10 getting what you're saying.

11 MR. HERKNESS: You shouldn't pay for
12 both of them from the pension fund. And our
13 situation in Philadelphia is that we do not.
14 Although we might handle the paperwork, the
15 General Fund of the City of Philadelphia pays the
16 vendors.

17 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Is this anything
18 that you know of in the law that requires that
19 separation?

20 MR. HERKNESS: My recollection,
21 Councilman, was that it's an IRS code when they
22 were certifying the board or certifying the
23 pension fund as being in compliance with all of
24 the various federal tax and state regulations.
25 And this was done during the same time period

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2 that we were rewriting the ordinance and making
3 it year-friendly so to speak. But I would defer
4 to them again to review that again and answer
5 specifically. But that's my recollection around
6 the health and welfare because there was a
7 particular request.

8 COUNCILMAN COHEN: You referred to
9 the law firm of Blank and Rome?

10 MR. HERKNESS: Well, we had an
11 outside tax attorney advising the Board and the
12 Law Department when the committee was doing the
13 recodification of the pension ordinance in the
14 years previous to January '99.

15 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Are they still in
16 existence or was that just for that particular
17 purpose?

18 MR. HERKNESS: I'm sorry?

19 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Is that system
20 still in effect, this advisory group?

21 MR. HERKNESS: No, that committee was
22 a committee of pension personnel, City Council
23 personnel, and the Law Department for the
24 purposes of putting the recodification together
25 that disbanded once the legislation was passed in

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2 January of 1999. But we can easily -- the
3 attorney is on retention on what I call a time
4 and material. You know, if we have a tax
5 question that Law wants to farm out, then we
6 call -- the gentleman's name is John Nixon at
7 Blank Rome. We'd be glad to have that reviewed
8 for you again on that particular topic and give
9 the committee an answer on that.

10 COUNCILMAN COHEN: All right, thank
11 you.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.
13 Are there any other questions?

14 (No further questions.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Mr.
16 Herkness, I know this only dates back to 1996, so
17 my question to you is, are you asking for a
18 suspension of the rules on this bill?

19 MR. HERKNESS: Yes, Madam Chair.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.
21 Do we have anyone else to testify on
22 this bill?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Seeing
25 none, I would ask Mr. McPherson to please read

1 10/31/00 - RULES - BILL NO. 000544

2 the title of Bill No. 000544.

3 MR. MCPHERSON: Bill 000544, an
4 ordinance to amend the Philadelphia Zoning Maps
5 by change the zoning designation of certain areas
6 of land located within an area bounded by
7 Lancaster Avenue, 56th Street, Haddington Street
8 and 57th Street.

9 (Witnesses come forward.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: Good
11 morning. Please identify yourself for the record
12 and proceed with your testimony.

13 MR. LOMBARDO: Good morning, Council
14 President Verna and members of the Rules
15 Committee. My name is Richard Lombardo, Director
16 of Project Planning for the City Planning
17 Commission here to testify today on behalf of
18 Bill 000544. In the interest of time, and I'm
19 sure you're all worn out, I'll depart from the
20 testimony and say that I'm here to -- this bill
21 would seek of rezone approximately three acres of
22 land, Lancaster Avenue from Class G Industrial to
23 partly class -- I'm sorry. Partly Class G2
24 Industrial, partly Class R9 Residential, partly
25 C2 Commercial, a single classification of C3

1 10/31/00 - RULES - BILL NO. 000544

2 Commercial, approximately three acres of land
3 between 56th, 57th Street, Haddington Street, the
4 south side of Lancaster Avenue.

5 The purpose of this bill is to allow
6 the owner of the property, Mr. David Groverman,
7 to redevelop this former industrial property as a
8 commercial property.

9 Back earlier this year, the Planning
10 Commission in conjunction with the District
11 Councilperson and the area residents and area
12 businesses did a Lancaster Avenue study, a
13 strategy for corridor revitalization. An
14 important part of that revitalization is the
15 taking of this derelict industrial property --
16 not derelict, but this former industrial property
17 and turning it into a commercial use. This bill
18 which was introduced by Councilman Nutter would
19 further that aim.

20 The Commission had seen this item a
21 number of times in different venues, streets
22 bills, the Lancaster study. We haven't
23 considered this particular bill. It's on our
24 agenda for tomorrow as a previous policy item,
25 which means there won't be any discussion of it.

1 10/31/00 - RULES - BILL NO. 000544

2 The Commission will be asked to approve it in
3 accordance with previous actions of the
4 Commission. That's our my testimony.

5 Mr. Groverman and his attorney are
6 here. I don't know if they have anything they
7 want to say or answer your questions, and I'm
8 available to answer any questions.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you. Thank
10 you, Mr. Lombardo.

11 Let me just put on the record for the
12 Chair and my colleagues, this particular parcel
13 is virtually dead-center to a larger
14 revitalization strategy for Lancaster Avenue. I
15 believe it is critical to the Lancaster Avenue
16 revitalization project. We've had some meetings
17 with the Planning Commission and other community
18 people about it. I fully and overwhelming
19 support this particular bill and look forward to
20 this project getting underway as well as it being
21 the generator for other redevelopment activities
22 on Lancaster Avenue. Thank you, Mr. Lombardo.

23 MR. POLLOCK: Members of the
24 Committee, President Verna, my name is Stephen
25 Pollock. I represent Mr. David Groverman of

1 10/31/00 - RULES - BILL NO. 000544

2 Grover Properties. Mr. Groverman's over by the
3 board. I just want to give you a view of the
4 existing warehouse structure that's about 200,000
5 square foot. What we will be doing is renovating
6 this, tearing down a portion so that after it's
7 done, what you will be facing is a shopping
8 center that will have about 110,000 square feet.
9 We feel it will generate about 100 jobs. We will
10 be keeping about half the structure, so that we
11 will be using this facility. Mr. Groverman has
12 met with the Carol Park community, the Overbrook
13 Farms community, and also the Overbrook
14 Neighborhood Council, and we believe that they
15 have submitted letters to Councilman Nutter to
16 show their support.

17 We had previously come before Council
18 back in 1997 and Council had passed an ordinance,
19 Bill 970399, which I have copies, which allows --
20 and we will be back again with this one. To
21 square off the property and take a triangular
22 piece of Lancaster Avenue to give us a
23 squared-off property that will give better site
24 lines for Lancaster Avenue as well as provide
25 additional parking space.

1 10/31/00 - RULES - BILL NO. 000544

2 I do have, just briefly, a location
3 map, a zoning map, and a subject site plan that
4 shows you this triangular piece and a copy of the
5 previous ordinance for Members of Council we
6 could add to the record.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You don't
8 have to get up; someone will pick it up.

9 MR. POLLOCK: Okay. We were delayed
10 in 1997 due to some site conditions that we've
11 finally worked out. That's why we are back now
12 at this time in the process.

13 The site plan that I have refers back
14 to the ordinance that was previously passed that
15 shows the triangular piece. That ordinance will
16 be making its way through, but we are still in
17 negotiations to finalize a water and sewer
18 easement location with the City Water Department
19 and Streets Department.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

21 Are there any questions from members
22 of the committee?

23 (No questions.)

24 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: No questions.

25 MR. POLLOCK: Thank you.

1 10/31/00 - RULES - BILL NO. 000544

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Do we have
3 anyone else to testify on this bill?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you
6 very much.

7 MR. POLLOCK: Thank you very much.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This
9 concludes the public hearing.

10 Mr. Lombardo, is there a need for a
11 suspension of the rules? I'm sorry I didn't hear
12 you.

13 MR. POLLOCK: Yes. If we could, it
14 would be fine. We have another companion bill
15 which is still making it's way through --

16 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Just say yes.
17 Mr. Pollock, say yes.

18 MR. POLLOCK: Yes.

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you.

20 MR. POLLOCK: I defer to the
21 Councilman.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This
23 concludes the public hearing.

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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
PUBLIC MEETING
COMMITTEE ON RULES

- - -
Tuesday, October 31, 2000
- - -

Public Meeting conducted by the
Committee on Rules, held in Room 401, City Hall,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on the above date, to
consider action on the following:
BILLS 000397, 000536, 000541, 000544,
000601, 000607, 000708

- - -

PRESENT:
COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA, Chair
COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY, Vice Chair
COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE
COUNCILMAN DAVID COHEN
COUNCILMAN FRANK DICICCO
COUNCILMAN MICHAEL A. NUTTER
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL

- - -

1 10/31/00 - RULES - PUBLIC MEETING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: We will now
3 go into our public meeting, and the Chair
4 recognizes Councilman Clarke regarding Bill
5 000397.

6 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Madam
7 Chair. Madam Chair, I make a motion that Bill
8 000397 be reported out with a favorable
9 recommendation.

10 (Duly seconded.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It has been
12 moved seconded that Bill No. 000397 be reported
13 out of committee with a favorable recommendation.

14 All in favor will signify by saying
15 aye.

16 Those opposed?

17 The ayes have it and the motion is
18 carried.

19 The Chair recognizes Councilman
20 O'Neill regarding Bill No. 000536.

21 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Madam Chair, I
22 move that Bill No. 000536 be reported out of this
23 committee with a favorable recommendation and a
24 recommendation that the rules of Council be
25 suspended to allow first reading at our next

1 10/31/00 - RULES - PUBLIC MEETING

2 Council meeting.

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It's been
5 moved and seconded that Bill No. 000536 be
6 referred out of committee with a favorable
7 recommendation, also a recommendation that the
8 rules of Council be suspended so as to permit
9 first reading at our next public meeting.

10 All in favor will signify by saying
11 aye.

12 Those opposed?

13 The ayes have it and the motion is
14 carried.

15 The Chair recognizes Councilman
16 DiCicco regarding Bill No. 000541.

17 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you, Madam
18 President. I move that Bill No. 000541 be
19 reported out of committee with a favorable
20 recommendation.

21 (Duly seconded.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
23 moved and seconded that Bill No. 000541 be
24 reported out of committee with a favorable
25 recommendation.

1 10/31/00 - RULES - PUBLIC MEETING

2 All in favor will signify by saying
3 aye.

4 Those opposed?

5 The ayes have it and the motion is
6 carried.

7 The Chair recognizes Councilman
8 Nutter regarding Bill No. 000544.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
10 Chair.

11 I move that Bill No. 000544 be
12 reported out of this committee with a favorable
13 recommendation and a further recommendation that
14 the rules of Council be suspended so as to permit
15 first reading at our next session.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
18 moved and seconded that Bill No. 000544 be
19 reported out of committee with favorable
20 recommendation, also a recommendation that the
21 rules of Council be suspended so as to permit
22 first reading at our next Council session.

23 All in favor will signify by saying
24 aye.

25 Those opposed?

1 10/31/00 - RULES - PUBLIC MEETING

2 The ayes have it and the motion is
3 carried.

4 The Chair recognizes Councilman
5 Clarke regarding Bill No. 000601.

6 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Madam
7 Chair. Madam Chair, I move that Bill 000601 be
8 reported out with a favorable recommendation and
9 that the rules of Council be suspended as to
10 allow first reading on the next calendar.

11 (Duly seconded.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It has been
13 moved and seconded that Bill No. 000601 be
14 reported out of committee with a favorable
15 recommendation, also a recommendation that the
16 rules of Council be suspended so as to permit
17 first reading at our next Council session.

18 All in favor will signify by saying
19 aye.

20 Those opposed?

21 The ayes have it and the motion is
22 carried.

23 The Chair recognizes Councilman
24 O'Neill regarding Bill No. 000607.

25 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Madam Chair, I

1 10/31/00 - RULES - PUBLIC MEETING

2 move that Bill No. 000607 be reported out of this
3 committee also a recommendation, also a
4 recommendation that the rules of Council be
5 suspended to allow first reading at our next
6 meeting.

7 (Duly seconded.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It's been
9 moved and seconded that Bill No. 000607 be
10 reported out of committee with a favorable
11 recommendation, also a recommendation that the
12 rules of Council be suspended so as to permit
13 first reading at our next Council session.

14 All in favor will signify by saying
15 aye.

16 Those opposed, nay.

17 The ayes have it and the motion is
18 carried.

19 The Chair recognizes Councilman
20 Nutter regarding Bill No. 000608.

21 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Madam Chair, I
22 move that Bill No. 000608 be reported out of this
23 committee with a favorable recommendation, a
24 further recommendation that the rules of Council
25 be suspended so as to permit first reading at our

1 10/31/00 - RULES - PUBLIC MEETING

2 next session.

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It's been
5 moved and properly seconded that Bill No. 000608
6 be reported out of committee with a favorable
7 recommendation, also a recommendation that the
8 rules of Council be suspended so as to permit
9 first reading at our next session.

10 All those in favor will signify by
11 saying aye.

12 Those opposed?

13 The ayes have it and the motion is
14 carried.

15 This concludes the public meeting of
16 the Committee on Rules. Thank you all very much.

17 (Adjourned at 12:20 p.m.)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

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4 I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing
5 proceedings of the Council of the City of
6 Philadelphia of October 31, 2000, were reported
7 fully and accurately by me, and that this is a
8 correct transcript of same.

9

10

11

12 RE: COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON RULES

13 BILL NO.'S 000397, 000536, 000541, 000544,
14 000601, 000607, 000608

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21 _____,

22 JOSEPHINE CARDILLO,

23 Registered Professional Reporter

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25