

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, October 12, 2011
10:15 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL
COUNCILMAN DARRELL CLARKE
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM K. GREENLEE
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILMAN JAMES KENNEY
COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN

BILL 110633 - An ordinance amending Chapter
10-300 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
"Minors," by amending Section 10-303, entitled
"Unlawful Conduct of Minors," and Section
10-307, entitled "Parental Responsibility for
Minor Children," to provide for earlier curfew
hours for minors, to provide for parental
liability, establishment liability, and for
penalties and enforcement, for violations of
Chapter 10-300 or any expanded curfew under
the Mayor's emergency powers...

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2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Good
3 morning. This is the Committee on Public
4 Safety. I'm Councilman Bill Greenlee.
5 I'm filling in as Chair for the Chair,
6 Councilwoman Miller.

7 We have a quorum with
8 Councilman Jones, Councilman Kenney and
9 Councilwoman Reynolds Brown.

10 Mr. Nesheiwat, will you please
11 read the bill before us today.

12 THE CLERK: Bill 110633, an
13 ordinance amending Chapter 10-300 of The
14 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Minors," by
15 amending Section 10-303, entitled
16 "Unlawful Conduct of Minors," and Section
17 10-307, entitled "Parental Responsibility
18 for Minor Children," to provide for
19 earlier curfew hours for minors, to
20 provide for different curfew hours for
21 additional age groups among minors, and
22 to provide for parental liability,
23 establishment liability, and for
24 penalties and enforcement, for violations
25 of Chapter 10-300 or any expanded curfew

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2 under the Mayor's emergency powers, all
3 under certain terms and conditions.

4 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
5 you.

6 Before we hear from the
7 witnesses, I recognize Councilwoman
8 Reynolds Brown, who would like to make a
9 statement.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you
11 very much, Mr. Chairman.

12 First, let me say thank you to
13 the Administration; namely, to Everett
14 Gillison and all those around the Mayor,
15 who collectively have worked together to
16 again address this persistent problem.

17 Today we're introducing the
18 bill, and the trigger, if you will, using
19 that word poorly, was the flash mobs that
20 we saw again become very present in the
21 lives of residents here in the City of
22 Philadelphia. So it requires us as a
23 government to acknowledge the rise of
24 teen violence, flash mobs and the effects
25 they are having throughout our city.

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2 What we know is that cutting
3 crime amongst young people is going to
4 indeed take the involvement of parents
5 first, parents first, government and
6 faith-based organizations. Can we
7 legislate good parenting? Absolutely
8 not. But when government is required to
9 step in, then we have to if we want to
10 look at and consider preventive measures
11 that indeed help parents do their
12 enormous job anyhow.

13 We understand this is not a
14 silver bullet to resolving this
15 complicated matter impacting children and
16 youth, but it is one requisite necessary
17 if we're going to stem the ugly,
18 pervasive, in-your-face activity called
19 flash mobs.

20 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
22 you, Councilwoman.

23 Any other member would like to
24 say something?

25 (No response.)

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2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Seeing
3 none, our first witness, Deputy Mayor
4 Everett Gillison.

5 (Witnesses approached witness
6 table.)

7 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: With
8 Lieutenant Healy.

9 Good morning.

10 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Good
11 morning. Good morning, Councilman
12 Greenlee, members of the Public Safety
13 Committee. My name is Everett Gillison
14 and I am the Deputy Mayor for Public
15 Safety. Thank you, and specifically to
16 Councilwoman Reynolds Brown, for the
17 opportunity to appear before you today on
18 behalf of the Nutter Administration to
19 offer testimony in support of Bill No.
20 110633, which would amend Chapter 10-300
21 of The Philadelphia Code, relating to the
22 curfew for minors. The bill provides for
23 age-appropriate curfew times for minors
24 that are consistent each day of the week,
25 but continues to provide for earlier

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2 curfew hours during the school year and
3 later times for the summer period. The
4 proposed ordinance also establishes new
5 fines for parental liability for curfew
6 violations during a declared emergency
7 and provides for increased fines for
8 parental liability for curfew violations
9 generally.

10 I think it's fair to say that
11 all of us in this Chamber and indeed
12 across this city were incensed to see
13 images of young people running through
14 the City, committing acts of senseless
15 and intolerable violence. We were
16 equally disheartened to hear of the
17 innocent victims of this violence who
18 were randomly targeted and beaten for no
19 reason. The Administration's response to
20 this conduct was swift, comprehensive and
21 holistic. We increased police patrols in
22 the affected areas.

23 But additionally, the Mayor,
24 utilizing his emergency declaration
25 powers, issued an Executive Order

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imposing a more restrictive curfew. This emergency curfew has extended through the end of the summer and continues to be renewed. All indications are that the modified curfew is having the desired effect. Moreover, we called upon parents and community leaders to get involved and engage with young people. The Youth Commission has been actively involved in creating alternative, safe venues for teens to enjoy themselves. The hours at the City's largest recreation centers were extended to provide safe, supervised recreational activities in the neighborhoods.

I have said all along that this is not a police problem, but we must, however, provide our police officers with the tools they need to help ensure that our young people are safe and that they are not on our city streets causing havoc and creating problems. We need a common-sense approach to curfew, and as such, we have attempted to simplify the

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2 curfew by proposing to establish two
3 times, one for the school year and one an
4 hour later set for the summer. Our
5 proposal eliminates the extended weekend
6 and holiday curfew. In this way,
7 parents, guardians, officers and the kids
8 themselves will be very clear on when it
9 is curfew.

10 Additionally, our proposal
11 acknowledges the realities that older
12 teens should have later curfew from their
13 younger counterparts. Currently, the
14 curfew for teens 13 and 17 is the same.
15 We all know, however, that a 13-year-old
16 and a 17-year-old are not at the same
17 level of maturity. Moreover, the social
18 life, academic life and work life of a
19 17-year-old is dramatically different
20 than that of a 13-year-old, and the
21 curfew law should acknowledge that and
22 reflect those differences. For these
23 reasons, we suggest that the curfew times
24 should vary for three different age
25 groups.

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2 While government is able to do
3 many things to provide safety and
4 security, we cannot do it all. We cannot
5 be parents to the City's children.
6 Learning good behavior and responsibility
7 begins at home. Parents and guardians
8 need to know where their children are,
9 where they are going and who they are
10 going with. For these reasons, we are
11 proposing to increase fines for parents
12 whose children are in violation of the
13 curfew and cause damage to property or
14 are in violation of an emergency curfew
15 order issued by the Mayor.

16 Thank you for the opportunity
17 to testify, and I would be happy to
18 answer any questions from the Committee.

19 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
20 you, Mr. Gillison. I know the members
21 have some questions. If I could throw in
22 two quick first.

23 On the breakdown of age -- and
24 I certainly understand what you're
25 saying, that there's changes in maturity

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2 of ages, but I guess I'm just thinking
3 what if a 14-year-old and a 13-year-old
4 are going somewhere together. How would
5 that be addressed if it's in that
6 in-between time, say 8:30 or something,
7 if you know what I mean?

8 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: The
9 bottom line is that you have to
10 understand what the -- the 13-year-old
11 has different responsibilities than the
12 14-year-old, and the parents are going to
13 have to deal with making that decision up
14 front.

15 I understand that -- the one
16 thing that I will talk about more than
17 anything else is that always remember
18 that discretion is built into what I
19 believe is a good system and that if a
20 police officer should actually come upon
21 the 14-year-old or 13-year-old, we have
22 exercised a huge amount of discretion in
23 this area in the past. We will continue
24 to use common sense, and we will enforce
25 accordingly.

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2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

3 And as far as the discretion -- again,
4 I'm asking these questions just for --

5 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I
6 understand.

7 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: -- to get
8 it defined, because I think what you
9 presented and what Councilwoman Reynolds
10 Brown presented as the reasons make
11 perfect sense. But how about -- because
12 in the description here it says, said
13 minors accompanied by a parent or doing
14 an errand or other legitimate business
15 directed by the minor's parents, engaged
16 in lawful employment, whatever.

17 What about if they're coming
18 from school activities, a game, a play,
19 something like that?

20 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: That
21 actually comes under the "directed by
22 parents," and, therefore, if you're
23 coming from a school play you have been
24 directed by your parent to attend, you
25 will then be able to go through, and all

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2 you would have to do is show the police
3 officer where you were coming from, and
4 usually the School District already has
5 parental slips that accompany persons.

6 These kinds of things are
7 handled. They're handled well. They're
8 already handled well by our Philadelphia
9 police officers. So I don't think that
10 this is anything new that we'll have to
11 deal with.

12 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: So you
13 don't think that there needs to be more
14 defining language in here?

15 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: No, I
16 really don't.

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.
18 All right. Thank you.

19 Councilman Jones and then
20 Councilman Kenney.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
22 Mr. Chairman, and some of the concerns I
23 have you've raised, but a couple of
24 things.

25 One, by way of due diligence in

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2 a manner, because the one thing I've
3 learned in the four years I've been here
4 is that the pendulum swings on an issue.
5 One year ago we're talking about
6 overzealous police actions and whether or
7 not that is appropriate, and now the
8 pendulum has swung in a completely
9 different direction and we're kind of
10 looking at trying to gain a measure of
11 control and consistency among a
12 population, in particular youth and youth
13 violence. So as a legislator, I just
14 want to -- I don't want the highs to be
15 too high and the lows to be overreactive,
16 if you would.

17 So a couple of things. Is
18 there a documentation that has been done
19 on the correlation between youth violence
20 and violation of curfew? Are we working
21 off of something that suggests
22 statistically that if we address this,
23 that violence actually will go down,
24 particularly in the hours of the curfew?

25 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I would

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2 think that there have been many various
3 studies all around the country, but I'm
4 trying to understand whether or not your
5 question is, is there any particular
6 study that would indicate that
7 enforcement of curfew at a certain rate
8 would actually impact violence?

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: I guess
10 better phrased the question would be,
11 have we looked at the instances of young
12 people committing violent acts or crimes
13 beyond curfew hours? Is there anything
14 that we've done to that?

15 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I know
16 that we can actually and we do keep
17 statistics as to who is committing crimes
18 when we obviously catch them or when
19 crime is occurring and who the various
20 suspects are. I know that we have, when
21 individuals unfortunately have been shot
22 who are 16 years of age, 15 years of age,
23 even stray bullets that have hurt very
24 young people who have been out past these
25 suggested times. We would be able to

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2 provide that to the Chair if you would
3 need that.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: That would
5 be important as we start to move this
6 legislation. And I'm sure I'm going to
7 hear from others today in reference to
8 violating civil rights. I need to --
9 other than the feeling I have traveling
10 through the neighborhoods that young
11 people are out there and maybe they
12 should be a little more guided, I want
13 statistics that go along with that that
14 say, Look, 120 crimes were committed and
15 these young people were under the age of
16 what this curfew would impact and,
17 therefore, this is a good measure. So
18 that would be helpful to me and I would
19 assume members of this Committee.

20 The other question I would have
21 is geography based. Is this -- I mean, I
22 remember in our temporary measure it had
23 certain areas, University City, Center
24 City. This is citywide at this point?

25 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: That's

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2 correct.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: That's
4 important to me, because these acts,
5 neighborhoods, communities have had to
6 put up with violence and curfew violators
7 for a very long time and I don't want it
8 to be geography based. If it's a problem
9 in Center City, it's a problem in West
10 Philly. So we want to address the
11 problem that way.

12 You mention activities such as
13 track and field. I've been a track coach
14 where we took kids away and we get back
15 at 10 o'clock, and some of them
16 unfortunately have to drive or take
17 public transportation to get home. And
18 so those activity slips would save a lot
19 of confusion.

20 How do we deal with the issue
21 of -- we make laws all the time. How are
22 we going to approach enforcement on this
23 and where is the increased activity? We
24 used to have curfew centers. We don't
25 have them now. How are we -- if we

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2 increase the activity on enforcement,
3 what is the end game? Where will these
4 young people go? How will this be
5 addressed as opposed to how we did it in
6 the past?

7 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Well,
8 basically the way that we've done it in
9 the past, minus the curfew centers, is
10 that the police officer would be
11 responsible for identifying who the
12 individuals are who were in violation.
13 There is always a discretionary aspect of
14 it that has existed for over 50 years.
15 The officer can choose to either take the
16 person home, which is highly unlikely in
17 this environment, quite frankly, but
18 that's still a discretionary matter. The
19 officer can actually take the person back
20 to the local district. There can be a
21 call that is made, which is what we've
22 been doing under the emergency matter.
23 We have made calls to the parents to come
24 pick the kids up. You have seen on the
25 news, I'm sure, where parents have come

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2 in and basically said, I did not know the
3 person was out there, and thank you very
4 much for doing what you did and giving us
5 an opportunity to straighten out this
6 matter for us personally at home. And,
7 quite frankly, when the kids are not
8 picked up from there, then there
9 sometimes can be referral to the DHS
10 system in order to see whether or not
11 additional resources need to be provided
12 that is already in the system and can be
13 put forward.

14 So it's really -- we are really
15 not changing the system. We are
16 basically trying to make it that the
17 system is going to be enforced uniformly
18 across the City. So we'll still have the
19 same situations going forward that we've
20 always had. It is just a matter of
21 having the police officer placed in the
22 position of trying to do enforcement
23 across the City.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Scenario,
25 and then I'll pass. Other members of the

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2 Committee have some issues.

3 Fifty-eighth and Malvern is a
4 section in the Wynnefield area where
5 tragically a young lady was murdered a
6 couple of days ago. One of the residents
7 on the block talked to me and said,
8 Councilman, we at times have 50 young
9 people out here at night. Obviously all
10 of them can't be painted with a brush to
11 say that they're bad or good or whatever,
12 but they're out there. And so this law
13 would then allow officers to question
14 whether or not they were old enough to be
15 there, which an intended consequence is
16 to move all below-age teenagers to a
17 safer --

18 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON:

19 Environment.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: --

21 environment, which would at least reduce
22 the number of participants in that kind
23 of thing, which would make some of those
24 neighbors on the 5800 block of Malvern
25 happy.

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2 What progressive actions when
3 you stop are you then -- when you have
4 probable cause to stop a young person to
5 question their age, a whole series of
6 things can then ensue, I would imagine,
7 that would deal with issues, illegal
8 weapons. Are they allowed to search
9 them? What are the processes and steps
10 that can be taken once you come into a
11 crowd of 50 young people, you're checking
12 IDs, what can ensue from that?

13 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Well,
14 normally --

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Do you
16 search?

17 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: The
18 bottom line is is that much like it was
19 during and what it's been during the
20 emergency time, we've had officers who
21 have been on South Street, for example.
22 They would see people who appear to be
23 underage. They would just ask them.
24 They would stop them, they'd say, you
25 know, please produce the identification.

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2 If they were found to be underage, most
3 of the time -- and I really do mean most
4 of the time -- the officers directed
5 those kids to go home, not continue
6 walking down east on South Street. Turn
7 around, get on the sub, go back towards
8 Broad, get on it and come back. If the
9 kid persisted, that's the only time they
10 were taken in.

11 There's a statistic that I know
12 Mr. Healy will be able to provide the
13 Chair if you need it, but from January
14 until now, there's been over 10,000 stops
15 by people for curfew investigations, over
16 10,000. We have only issued 200
17 citations, and that's because the
18 officers are looking and saying just
19 basically do what you need to do to stay
20 safe, get home and to do what you have to
21 do.

22 So the officer when he's
23 standing there is actually engaged.
24 There's nothing that impacts the
25 Constitution with that. The issue about

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2 whether or not the officer can use his
3 discretion is well within his rights.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: That's what
5 I get. I'm not trying to make the case
6 for civil liberties. That case can be
7 made somewhere else. What I'm trying to
8 get a better understanding -- and
9 probably people who are listening to this
10 hearing or watching this hearing will
11 probably want to know -- is it the
12 officer's discretion to take it to a
13 search if, for example --

14 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: No. He
15 would have to have articulable facts that
16 would actually demand that he feels that
17 he is in some way -- that he's in danger.
18 You just can't automatically stop
19 somebody and search them.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: That's the
21 question.

22 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: You
23 have to have a reason. And if you're
24 talking to usually people who look to be
25 10, 11, which is when I was on South

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2 Street and we were doing the emergencies
3 and we saw people who were as young as 8,
4 9 and 10 that were walking, you know, it
5 was already 11 o'clock at night, we
6 didn't need to have that. They needed to
7 be home. The officers weren't going up
8 to them, pushing them, frisking them and
9 all that. They directed them, Who are
10 you here with, take this kid and try to
11 get them home, especially if the person
12 they were here with was underage
13 themselves.

14 We didn't want to have to take
15 people in. I keep telling people this is
16 not necessarily a policing issue,
17 although the police are out on the front
18 lines. What we're trying to do is get
19 the parents to take responsibility.
20 That's why this is talking about civil,
21 not criminal, liability. It's civil in
22 nature, not criminal, and what we're
23 trying to make sure is that we move this
24 process so that we can have an
25 opportunity to address this in a holistic

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2 way.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: I just
4 wanted to know if there was a firewall in
5 between the point of are you old enough
6 to be out here and I'm going to pat you
7 down and --

8 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: And
9 it's basically the same firewall that
10 always existed. You have to have an
11 articulable reason to believe that you
12 are in danger before you could actually
13 sit down and place your hands on anybody.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
15 Mr. Chairman.

16 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
17 you, Councilman.

18 And please let the record
19 reflect that Councilwoman Blackwell is
20 present.

21 Councilman Kenney.

22 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you
23 very much, and thank you, Deputy Gillison
24 and Lieutenant Healy. First of all, I
25 want to commend the Administration on

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2 their approach, along with the Family
3 Court and Judge Dougherty, and what you
4 did to get the initial emergency issue
5 under control, because I think you were
6 very forceful and effective in getting
7 that done.

8 One of the things I think --
9 there's two issues that I get concerned
10 about relative to this particular issue,
11 and one is enforcement. When we have a
12 presence after an emergency and we have
13 consistent enforcement, the problem seems
14 to go away or at least subsides, and over
15 time, that then begins to die off a
16 little bit. And each individual -- I've
17 always looked at the Police Department,
18 the real linchpin level is the captain,
19 where that's where the rubber hits the
20 road in the district, and based on what
21 the captain's philosophy of -- his or her
22 philosophy is, whether or not stuff like
23 this gets carried through.

24 When I was -- in the '60s or
25 late '60s, early '70s, curfew in my

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2 neighborhood meant something, and the
3 officers used that opportunity to get by
4 the corner where we were 15 minutes
5 before curfew time and said, Fellas, you
6 know, time's a ticking. When we come
7 back, we're going to start issuing
8 citations or take you in. And that was
9 effective.

10 I think what this bill is doing
11 is terrific, but, again, we've always had
12 it. We're just kind of delineating
13 different age groups. How do we continue
14 to be consistently enforcing this and how
15 do we translate that down to the officer?
16 Because, again, every police officer is
17 different, and most of them are extremely
18 qualified and want to do this job. Some
19 of them, frankly, I've had my own run-ins
20 with folks who don't really care to
21 respond.

22 How do we let them know or make
23 them understand that this is important to
24 keep them safe, to keep the kids safe and
25 to keep the neighborhood calm? How do

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2 you translate that?

3 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I think
4 that -- and thank you, Councilman Kenney,
5 for your question. The issue really does
6 come down to leadership, and I think that
7 you're in an era right now where we have
8 one of the best leaders that we've ever
9 had in the City.

10 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I agree.

11 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: And,
12 second, while I agree with you that it
13 used to be the person that was important
14 was the captain, under this
15 Administration and under Commissioner
16 Ramsey's philosophy, it's really the
17 lieutenant now for the PSA that is
18 responsible for enforcement of all of the
19 various things that we're trying to get
20 done, and it is that lieutenant's and
21 sergeant's leadership. So we are
22 pressing down the responsibility so that
23 the officer really understands that it is
24 his leadership that is going to really
25 make a difference in how this is being

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2 done, how this is being carried out and
3 how you actually provide a modicum of
4 safety in the area, the geographic area
5 you're responsible for.

6 So, yes, the captain. From the
7 inspectors down all the way to the
8 captain is the way that it used to be.
9 We're pushing it down so we can win the
10 hearts and minds of those individuals who
11 are in the force, from the lieutenants,
12 who are really responsible for their
13 smaller area, and the sergeants that have
14 to make sure that the boots on the ground
15 are responsive.

16 So I believe that we are
17 structurally in line with making sure
18 that we will have a structural change in
19 how we do things, and I think that we
20 will be able to produce the statistics
21 one way or the other to see how this goes
22 out and goes forward.

23 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Because I
24 think a lot of times the initial
25 interaction, whether it's a minor or

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2 whether it's an adult, between the
3 officer and the citizen is what sets the
4 tone for whether or not they're going to
5 be respected and be effective or whether
6 or not it's going to be a confrontation
7 or whether something else happens. And
8 when I was young on the corner, certain
9 officers had a way about them that you
10 would want to help them. We had an
11 Officer Roosevelt who used to come to the
12 car and say, Fellas, my sarge is going to
13 kill me if you guys don't get off this
14 corner, and we'd say, All right, Sarge,
15 we're gone, and we'd go.

16 It's kind of that -- and I
17 think what Councilman Jones was getting
18 at was it's not this kind of aggressive
19 thing, it's kind of like, Yo, dude, I
20 mean, you're too young to be outside,
21 let's get moving, get to school tomorrow,
22 that kind of stuff. So I think if that's
23 the approach, then I think it will be
24 effective.

25 The other thing I found a

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2 number of years ago and it stopped
3 during -- it wasn't this Administration.
4 It was the last Administration, where
5 Municipal Court judges were willing to
6 sit in night court or weekend court, and
7 what happened was, the judges got
8 frustrated because the officers weren't
9 bringing anybody in, and they said, Well,
10 I'm not going to sit here from 10 o'clock
11 until 1 o'clock in the morning if you're
12 not bringing anybody in to see me or to
13 come before me.

14 Have you discussed or thought
15 about the reinstitution of that possible
16 night court on a -- I know it's done
17 sporadically where there's a particular
18 problem in a particular neighborhood, but
19 I think having the immediate meeting out
20 of justice in front of a judge that
21 night, with the parent having to get off
22 the couch or out of the bar or out of
23 wherever they're at and come down and
24 deal with this problem face to face with
25 the judge that same evening. Is it

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2 doable or does it make any sense to try
3 to reinstate it?

4 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Right
5 now we don't have the -- I would say that
6 to your question, have I had any
7 discussions with President Judge
8 Neifield? The answer is no. Because we
9 really are trying to put together the
10 structure that is not going to be
11 ad-hocked, and I don't think that given
12 the resources that we currently exist
13 with the economy the way it is, that it
14 would be a good investment for dollars.
15 Obviously we have a very good
16 relationship. It is something that we
17 can talk about, but it is not something
18 that has been placed on the agenda for
19 discussion.

20 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I just
21 throw it out there because I know when it
22 was done and it was done regularly, it
23 was effective. The judges were
24 volunteers. They were happy to be there,
25 but they were unhappy that they were

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2 sitting there with nothing to do. And it
3 seemed to be district by district, kind
4 of this hit and miss as to whether it
5 worked or not.

6 So I would just -- I would ask
7 you to keep considering it, because I do
8 think having that parent with their child
9 before a judge that evening is an
10 effective deterrent to having that happen
11 again.

12 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Okay.

13 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: So that
14 would be helpful. And, again, I do
15 believe police presence -- as you know, I
16 don't like calling them flash mobs,
17 because those poor people are dancing and
18 they're having some fun. I don't know
19 what the term we should call them, but
20 when they were going on and the presence
21 at 15th and Chestnut and at Broad and
22 Walnut, I mean, it was a police presence
23 that stopped that and made it go away at
24 least hopefully forever, but at least for
25 the time being. So I recognize resources

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2 are a problem, but anywhere there's a
3 presence, things seem to calm down.

4 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I thank
5 you for that. I will also suggest that
6 there has been a lot of community
7 partnerships that we had that we actually
8 activated. Our "I Pledge" partners in
9 the community came forward. And a lot of
10 people knew the people. A lot of people
11 knew the individuals who were out there.
12 I see that you even have a couple of the
13 people that came out and were walking
14 with us. They were out there with us
15 suggesting very, very strongly to the
16 kids that it was time to go home, and the
17 kids respected because they knew who they
18 were. We need to have that kind of
19 alternative and that kind of community
20 presence, because the bottom line is,
21 where there are interested adults, kids
22 really do act the way they're supposed
23 to. It's when we leave them to their own
24 devices that we actually come up with
25 idle hands of the devil's workshop. We

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2 have to make sure that the kids --

3 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I've always
4 believed that. As a matter of fact, the
5 work I've done with Sonny Hill, Sonny
6 Hill always used to say, Kids want
7 discipline, they want structure. They
8 don't want abuse, but they want to know
9 what the rules are and they have to
10 follow them. Once you set those rules
11 and set that tone, you generally have
12 pretty good experience.

13 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON:
14 Absolutely. And Sonny Hill is one of
15 those that I've actually sat down and
16 talked to about how we can be helpful and
17 how we can get kids more into those kinds
18 of programs so we don't have these
19 problems.

20 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: All right.
21 Thank you.

22 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Thank
23 you.

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
25 you, Councilman.

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2 Please let the record reflect
3 that Councilman Clarke, who is a member
4 of this Committee, is present.

5 Any other questions from
6 members of the Committee?

7 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: May I?

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:
9 Councilwoman Blackwell.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
11 you very much.

12 Good morning.

13 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Good
14 morning, Councilwoman.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL:
16 Mr. Deputy Mayor, what do you say to
17 the -- how do you respond to the issue
18 that a lot of people think that those
19 parents who don't want to come, won't
20 come anyway and those who do come are
21 people working two jobs so their kids are
22 out there because they're not able to
23 come and they can't afford it?

24 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I'm
25 trying to understand what the question

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2 is. The question is when they don't come
3 to what?

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: When
5 parents don't respond to these fines.
6 Some are working two jobs who can't and
7 others who are not there anyway or weak
8 family structure, who won't come no
9 matter what.

10 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Well,
11 the good thing about weak family
12 structure is that there are certain
13 resources that are available to help, and
14 sometimes you have to give someone an
15 incentive to actually ask for help that
16 they truly need. The bottom line is is
17 that we have to walk a balance, and the
18 balance is, you can't have and sanction
19 what I would call where your parenting
20 impacts on the rights and basically
21 criminal acts are as a result. There has
22 to be responsibility, and responsibility
23 is where the kids are going to have to
24 deal with not only their parents, but
25 they're going to have to deal ultimately

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2 with the government.

3 We are trying to make sure that
4 the parents understand that if you have a
5 problem, then just ask for help, and we
6 are there to assist you. If you are not
7 reaching out and your kid does something
8 wrong, we just can't countenance because
9 there is a financial issue. My point is
10 is that bring that financial issue to the
11 court, and like everything else, the
12 courts usually end up very understanding.
13 But we need the parents to step up and to
14 understand what the rules are in order to
15 make sure we all can live in safety.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: And I
17 also think that we should -- I know the
18 Mayor had a press conference on it, but
19 that we should -- I think the solution to
20 all of this is always activities, and I
21 think that we need to find a way, coupled
22 with this process if Council agrees, if
23 majority agrees that this is the way we
24 should go, that we give them the
25 information about what's around in their

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2 community --

3 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Oh,
4 absolutely.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: --
6 what's in recreation centers and
7 libraries and parent universities or
8 parent activities. The end all has to be
9 that we have to have positive activities
10 for kids to be engaged in.

11 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: You
12 will never hear -- and, Councilwoman, you
13 know my views quite well. You will
14 always hear me saying that activities are
15 the issue.

16 One thing that I will say,
17 however, is the fact that when we did the
18 assessment of the numbers of activities
19 that were available, we are providing as
20 a city an abundance of activities that at
21 some point there is a responsibility not
22 only on parents to understand that these
23 things are there, but that we -- because
24 we can't force feed people to take their
25 kids to the places that are available.

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2 But from the Y's to the non-profits that
3 are offering alternatives, the City
4 actually stepped up and offered
5 alternatives well into the night. We
6 tried to do everything we could to make
7 sure that people, through publicity and
8 education, were very sensitive to the
9 fact that there is something else to do.

10 I was in community meeting
11 after community meeting talking to people
12 about when someone says, You know, I
13 don't have -- there's nothing for me and
14 my kid to do, and I would then go to them
15 and say, Right around the corner there is
16 an activity. Has your child -- well, he
17 doesn't want to do that.

18 Tell me what your child wants
19 to do. And sometimes the answer was a
20 blank stare. I didn't know that was
21 there.

22 Well, believe me, I'm trying to
23 make it as easy as possible to divert
24 your child, to help your child become
25 engaged in a proactive way, but you

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2 cannot excuse the fact that that doesn't
3 give anybody the right to walk up to
4 somebody, as we had seen, and smack them
5 in the face. You can't have an
6 11-year-old stomping somebody at 10
7 o'clock at night just because, A, it
8 appears to be cool.

9 We are trying to do everything
10 we can to divert that kind of matter. I
11 think that we all can agree that maybe we
12 can try and do more, but we have done
13 quite a bit, and we're going to try and
14 make sure that that's the message that we
15 send.

16 We cannot condone criminal
17 behavior, no matter what, and we want to
18 give alternatives so that people can have
19 and live in safety rather than fear.
20 That's what we are trying to get done.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
22 you. My last comment. I agree with what
23 Jim Kenney said about, you know, telling
24 teenagers, Hey -- because we do that now
25 with night court where we say, Buddy,

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2 move on, you know you can't be drinking
3 out of an open can out here, things like
4 that, and then it's okay. I mean, nobody
5 wants to be stopped by a police officer.
6 And I'm for that. I just think getting a
7 fine up to \$500, people can't pay for
8 basic needs now. And I agree that we
9 need to do something. I just think that
10 we got to really consider what we do in
11 terms of fining people who are already
12 taxed out.

13 Thank you.

14 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Thank
15 you.

16 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
17 you, Councilwoman.

18 Councilwoman Reynolds Brown.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Could you
20 therefore please clarify for us the fine
21 structure, because there are three
22 different interpretations. Could you do
23 that for us?

24 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Sure.
25 The majority of the fine structure comes

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2 down to, there's a fine that is for the
3 child itself in order to make sure that
4 they understand. There's a fine that's
5 for the parent that goes along with it.
6 And the big thing is is that while the
7 fine does say that it is \$500, if it is
8 paid for within a ten-day period, it is
9 really \$75. So even though it says that
10 it shall be a \$500 fine, if you pay
11 within a ten-day period, it's 75.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay.

13 Thank you very much for your answer.

14 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: You're
15 welcome.

16 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:

17 Councilman Jones.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.

19 To the spirit of Councilwoman
20 Blackwell's comments, I think it is
21 important that we as a municipality give
22 the right hand of fellowship or the left
23 hand of punishment, and those offerings
24 should be balanced, if you would. So I
25 agree that we have to do something. We

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2 can't let our young people run amuck.

3 And I do believe that they want some type
4 of structure, but also I hear that there
5 is not enough to do. The reality of that
6 versus the thought of that may be very
7 different, but to bridge that gap, we
8 need more information put out on a
9 website about, you know, youth-related
10 activities and where they are.

11 We can no longer afford to have
12 art at every center, but we should have
13 regionally art in an area that is
14 reasonable for young people to get to, or
15 drama or basketball or other sports. But
16 we have to have a matrix where people can
17 plug into and be able to say that I can
18 get my kid to the Arthur Ashe-Turner
19 tennis program. That's a reasonable bus
20 ride, I can get him there, because that's
21 their interest, versus wrestling versus
22 basketball versus whatever. But that
23 matrix needs to be real clear and with an
24 eye towards geography of young people by
25 way of not gangs but cliques. I tell

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2 people all the time Tuscan is right
3 across the bridge. It is a mile from
4 54th Street, but it might as well be
5 10,000 miles by way of two conflicting
6 neighborhood youth populations.

7 So we have to be kind of
8 conscious of the geography of things.
9 Kids from down University City should be
10 able to come to Tuscan, but that doesn't
11 always work out that way. So we have to
12 kind of put those information pieces out
13 there, both online, both on Twitter, both
14 on wherever people are getting their
15 information so that that rational, Oh,
16 there's nothing to do, can be dispelled.
17 So working with the Recreation
18 Commissioner, I don't know how we
19 increase the information flow, but make
20 it known to people that they can't call
21 you and say, you know -- I know you'll go
22 to a community meeting. They're not
23 going to call you at 10:00 at night and
24 say, Where can I send my kid? But there
25 should be a reference number that

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2 everybody can refer to about a menu of
3 activities that young people can take
4 part in.

5 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I
6 agree.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
9 you, Councilman.

10 Councilman Clarke.

11 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
12 Mr. Chairman.

13 Good morning.

14 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Good
15 morning. How you doing?

16 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: A couple of
17 quick questions, and sorry if it was
18 asked earlier. I just wasn't here. I
19 had some other business to take care of
20 outside of this Chamber.

21 What's the difference -- and I
22 see that there's probably a monetary
23 issue, but what's the difference between
24 this proposal and the old curfew centers
25 that were in place a few years back?

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2 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: The
3 curfew centers that were in existence
4 before the City made a commitment to have
5 Behavioral Health and other social
6 service agencies that were in existence
7 in, I believe it was up to ten, although
8 I might be corrected on that, areas, and
9 police would actually bring the kids
10 directly to those centers and they would
11 be assessed for any particular issues and
12 then left and go -- they would be left
13 there for the first time through. They
14 still had the same -- these rules, except
15 for the tweaks that we are putting in.
16 The rules were the same. They just had a
17 different place to go. And those
18 centers, as a result of the economic
19 matters and other reasons, were taken
20 out.

21 So what we are doing, we're
22 left with the way that it's been for
23 pretty much 50 years, which is you are
24 brought in -- if you are brought in at
25 all -- and statistics that I gave you

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2 mean that the majority of people are not
3 brought in. But those that are are given
4 summaries and/or a CVN. They are into
5 the process, and then they go forward.
6 So that's the main difference between the
7 previous curfew centers when they were in
8 existence and what is in existence right
9 now.

10 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Okay. In
11 your response to some of my colleagues'
12 questions, it sounds as if we, the City,
13 because we're all in this together
14 obviously, understood that this is, one,
15 obviously not a police problem to some
16 respect, but you obviously have to have
17 the police be involved in the early phase
18 of this. But there is an underlying
19 issue, more social as relates to support
20 systems. We know our family structure is
21 not what it used to be; therefore, you
22 don't have people being responsible for
23 their own children, which is a challenge.
24 And I kind of got a sense that you
25 acknowledged that and you were talking

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2 about providing some level of support --
3 you didn't say it in any level of
4 detail -- for that particular child or
5 that family. Am I correct?

6 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: No, I
7 didn't. I mean --

8 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: You did
9 not?

10 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I did
11 not.

12 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: So you
13 didn't say that at all?

14 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: No, no.
15 I did. My response is is that you are
16 correct, I did not suggest what the
17 social services that are there, that
18 those processes through DHS are always
19 there.

20 To the Councilwoman's question,
21 if there is a problem at home and they
22 don't come pick up the child, my response
23 to an earlier question was if the child
24 doesn't get picked up, there's a referral
25 made for an investigation through the

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2 courts to see if there is any additional
3 services that are needed. I did not
4 detail what they were, but, I mean,
5 obviously we know that there's a
6 referral, there's a process that goes
7 through. If the person is deemed in need
8 of services, a child can be deemed, and
9 that's in Judge Dougherty's world. They
10 provide services every day to parents who
11 basically raise their hand and say, I
12 need help. Sometimes you need an
13 incentive to do that, and if this is
14 something that causes an incentive to a
15 parent that says, Hey, look, I just need
16 help, I don't have what is needed and
17 somebody can pay attention, this is a way
18 for them to get the help they need.

19 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Okay. So
20 if you acknowledge that there needs to be
21 some support systems in place, but it
22 sounds like under this proposal it would
23 be on the back end, why wouldn't we
24 simply put that in the front end,
25 understanding that there needs to be

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2 something in place? Is it solely driven
3 by the lack of resources?

4 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Well,
5 what I was suggesting is we already have
6 those supports in place. Those supports
7 are in place. They are active every day.

8 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: But they're
9 in the back end. It's after the child
10 gets taken in and then it moves through
11 the system, and then if it goes to court,
12 then you say to the parent, What's the
13 issue, why aren't you doing whatever.
14 And I understood the old curfew center
15 had those resources in the front end so
16 you can do the assessment early on and
17 hopefully intervene in that child or that
18 family's life so you wouldn't get to the
19 back end; i.e., for \$500 or some
20 additional penalties associated with
21 that.

22 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON:
23 Actually, that's wrong. What happened
24 was is that the police officer brought
25 somebody in. So you were still at the

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2 same point, but you --

3 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: But you
4 brought them into a facility that did the
5 assessment, right?

6 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: That's
7 correct. There was a facility that was
8 established that actually did the
9 assessment. That's correct.

10 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: But we're
11 not doing that here.

12 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: No, we
13 are not doing that.

14 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: That's what
15 I'm saying is the difference. It's the
16 front end versus back end. That
17 assessment under this proposal will be
18 done later on throughout the process.

19 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: If
20 needed, that's correct. Most of those
21 persons did not need it, which is why
22 those resources were in fact left there
23 waiting. And there was no statistical
24 nor was there any assessment that was
25 done that indicated that those things

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2 were being used at the rate that we were
3 spending the dollars.

4 We know that those supports are
5 there. We pay for them every day. DHS
6 does a very good job of doing the
7 assessments. We are trying to get more
8 education out to parents so that they can
9 know that those things are available.

10 But I don't want to confuse the
11 two things. I want to make sure this is
12 a proposal that's dealing with curfew and
13 curfew issues. If people have ways that
14 we need to publicize the help that's out
15 there, that's been out there for over 50
16 years, we will continue to work harder
17 making sure parents understand that they
18 don't have to wait until their child --
19 they don't know where their child is in
20 order to make sure that they understand
21 that there is help available. We are
22 making that help available every day.

23 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Well, with
24 all due respect, Mr. Gillison, I mean, we
25 did have this conversation early on when

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2 the elimination of the curfew centers --

3 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: That's
4 correct.

5 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: We started
6 that discussion, and at the time, my
7 recollection of that conversation had
8 more to do with the police not bringing
9 the individuals to the centers because,
10 one, for whatever reason, it was not a
11 priority; two, there were other issues
12 with respect to inconsistencies in the
13 law. So it wasn't because there was not
14 a need. They just weren't bringing the
15 children to the facilities.

16 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: The
17 discretion was always and remains with
18 the officer to make the determination of
19 whether or not there needs to be a
20 stepped up diversion. That's not
21 available now, but the officers'
22 discretion to respond is still there, and
23 as I cited in the statistics that were
24 provided earlier, over 10,000 folks that
25 have been basically stopped for

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2 investigation on curfew matters and only
3 200 have actually been cited in any way,
4 shape or form. The majority of the
5 people that we are interdicting are
6 basically being told to go home, and
7 that's where they're going.

8 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Okay. With
9 respect to the fine, it says \$500, but if
10 you pay it --

11 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Within
12 a certain time, yeah, it's 75.

13 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Why don't
14 we just say 75, and if you don't pay it,
15 you pay more? I mean, is there a reason?
16 Is it a shock value? I mean, if that
17 is --

18 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: There
19 is a shock value.

20 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: So you say
21 500 and --

22 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Much
23 like a parking ticket, if you look at
24 your parking ticket, if you don't pay
25 within a certain amount of time, it's pay

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2 this or pay the other. So we're saying
3 this is the law.

4 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: So you say
5 the other in this proposal.

6 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I'm
7 saying that when we go out and they say,
8 You know what -- to the parents.
9 Because, remember, this is part of the
10 education package. You know what, if you
11 don't know where your kid is, your kid
12 gets involved in something, it's
13 destructive, whatever, you can be liable
14 for up to \$500.

15 Whoa, whoa, whoa, wait a
16 minute. Okay. I got to figure out where
17 my kid is. Then you get the instruction.
18 The instruction says, that's true, but if
19 you pay within this amount of time, it's
20 75.

21 It gives us an opportunity to
22 educate, educate them in a way that's not
23 only dramatic, but will get people to
24 understand why the law is the way it is,
25 and we also incentivize a nominal payment

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2 in order to make sure that we're getting
3 people to do what we need them to get
4 done, which is to really take control of
5 their kids.

6 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Okay. I
7 understand the shock of \$500.

8 You just mentioned in response
9 to my first question broadening the
10 process or the resources or the
11 advertisement of those resources so
12 people can get some sort of interdiction
13 early on. Is somebody within the
14 Administration or within the City going
15 to follow up on ensuring, if this bill
16 passes either as is or as amended, that
17 there will be a companion approach
18 attached to this bill that broadens the
19 opportunities for people or the knowledge
20 of those opportunities for people to come
21 in and get some support if they have a
22 troubled child or a troubled family?

23 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I will
24 think that --

25 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Sort of

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2 like a campaign. You know, when we do
3 one thing, let's say we're also --

4 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I think
5 that we all struggle with how to connect
6 in relationships with individuals that
7 are out there to all of the resources
8 that are available, and I believe that we
9 all need to kind of figure out whatever
10 way we can to make sure that education is
11 always a priority.

12 So my answer to you is, yes,
13 because I know that we are all struggling
14 with trying to figure out a way to make
15 sure that all of the things that are
16 available are known. Sometimes we do a
17 very good job. Sometimes we don't do as
18 good a job and it's dealt with by the
19 numbers of people that perhaps are -- we
20 get empty seats in certain offerings that
21 happen in the City. It's not just the
22 City that has that problem. I mean, I
23 worked with non-profits that sometimes
24 are out there and they have lots of
25 things that are available and sometimes

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2 you put the call out and only five, ten
3 people show up and you think you've done
4 a good job. We're always trying to get
5 better.

6 So the short answer is, yes,
7 we're going to continue to try to get
8 better as a city and advertising what
9 we're doing and how we're doing it, and
10 we will continue -- we will pledge to
11 continue doing that to make sure that
12 people understand what the resources are
13 and how they can actually take advantage
14 of it just by being a citizen of the City
15 of Philadelphia.

16 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Okay. The
17 reason I ask you, if it's done
18 concurrently, because the \$500 is going
19 to be a shock when people hear that. So
20 maybe having a limited understanding of
21 the availability of resources, limited
22 but an aggressive approach to making that
23 advertisement and making it a part of
24 this announcement, that now this
25 particular curfew program is in place,

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2 but if you have a problem, call this
3 number earlier. So I think the \$500
4 thing, Oh, my God, but also -- you
5 understand what I'm saying?

6 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I do,
7 and I think this --

8 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: If you roll
9 this out in a package, so to speak.

10 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I think
11 that, as you know, my approach has always
12 been balanced. I think that we have
13 always as an Administration tried to be
14 balanced in what we're doing. And you
15 understand that there is always, as
16 Councilman Jones has indicated, there is
17 the left hand and then the right hand,
18 and we're trying always to do that.
19 There's the left hand that gets your
20 attention, but there's still the right
21 hand of fellowship. We believe that, we
22 live that, and to the extent that we are
23 able to do that, that's going to continue
24 to be what I will try and push for,
25 period.

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2 So I agree with you. I think
3 that's something we can do. Yes, this
4 will be out there, but understand, this
5 is something else that we are offering
6 you. And I think that the more we do
7 that, we are trying to make sure that we
8 all exist in a safer city, and if we can
9 provide interested adults, present with
10 kids, we know that we'll have a safer
11 city. Because God knows, we don't need
12 them to be down that wrong path, because
13 all we're doing is creating more victims.
14 We don't need that.

15 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: All right.

16 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
18 you, Councilman.

19 Councilman Kenney.

20 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

21 Deputy Mayor, I've been,
22 because of my age and because of my low
23 tech abilities, I have been meeting with
24 a group of about 20 techie kind of
25 younger folks to talk about issues like

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2 this, not just this but other types of
3 social media issues. And when it comes
4 to promulgating this information, the
5 kids themselves know what the times are.

6 Have we looked at the
7 possibility of partnering with Twitter
8 account folks who have large numbers of
9 kids that are attached to that account,
10 whether it's an athlete, entertainer,
11 record store, radio station, whatever it
12 is that has literally -- like Councilman
13 Jones' Facebook page -- that has
14 literally thousands of people that are
15 attached to it and having them cooperate
16 and trying to send out that half-hour
17 warning on a Tweet. I don't know whether
18 it's Jimmy Rollins' account or Tower
19 Records. I'm sure that there is a
20 heavy-duty list of Twitter accounts that
21 attach to certain things, things that
22 kids are interested in, whether it's a
23 clothing store, that kind of stuff, and
24 ask them to -- I assume it would be
25 nothing for them to send a Tweet. So if

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2 you have one kid who is 14 years old, 15
3 years old that's signed up with seven
4 different Twitter accounts following
5 those folks and they get that
6 bombardment -- or not bombardment, but
7 they get that bing, bing, bing, bing at
8 quarter to 10:00, maybe it would be
9 effective, and it certainly would be fair
10 to them to keep reminding -- if their
11 parents aren't engaged, perhaps some of
12 the folks that are in the media or in the
13 public eye could use those accounts to
14 get those kids more engaged as to what's
15 going on. Just something that occurred
16 to me when we're talking about
17 promulgating the information to kids.

18 I assume we're going to do
19 something with the School District and
20 report cards and in the classroom at the
21 elementary school level where the teacher
22 talks to the kids and hands out the
23 little yellow slips that give the times,
24 those kind of things, but that instant
25 contact -- and I know there's Twitter

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2 accounts and Facebook accounts out there
3 that, I mean, all kinds of kids are
4 involved with.

5 So I would just throw that out
6 there. And I'm going to ask my tech
7 Templars, I call them, to take a look at
8 what makes sense in that regard.

9 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I know
10 that everyone would love to get up and
11 between Lieutenant Healy that says that
12 we actually are partnering with -- PPD
13 has people not only on Twitter, Facebook,
14 but we like that idea. We think that
15 we'll be able to do that. I know that
16 Jordan Harris, who is going to be
17 speaking at some point during his
18 testimony, he knows that I've put the --
19 I've asked that the Youth Commission
20 partner with me over this last month and
21 month and a half to two months in order
22 to make sure that we were reaching the
23 kind of folks that we needed to reach and
24 in the ways that they listen.

25 I know that we have community

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2 partners that I've been working with as a
3 result of this partnership between the
4 Youth Commission and my office where we
5 are utilizing Twitter, Facebook and all
6 that, and even a guy as low tech as me
7 has, from what I understand, a couple of
8 people that are following what I Tweet,
9 if I get the language right, and what I
10 put on my Facebook, people are following
11 where I am, what I'm doing and all that.

12 So we are trying to engage us
13 and engage everyone with the new ways of
14 connecting. And I'll let them answer
15 when they get up here to deal with it,
16 but the answer is both to Councilman
17 Clarke and to you, Councilman Kenney, the
18 answer is yes. We want to engage
19 wherever we can and however we can in
20 order to make sure that we're doing what
21 we need to do to help our kids.

22 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: And I would
23 expect -- again, not to beat this horse,
24 but I would expect that some of the radio
25 stations and other media outlets that

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2 kids are attracted to and listen to I'm
3 sure would cooperate --

4 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Oh,
5 yes.

6 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: -- with
7 that, with that 9:30 Tweet to their list
8 saying, Just be aware, 10 o'clock is
9 coming.

10 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Yeah.
11 We've had some really good partners, and
12 I'm sure that Jordan Harris will talk
13 about some of the people in the radios
14 that have really done well. Our "I
15 Pledge" Campaign has done extremely well
16 with people stepping up, I'm pledging to
17 do something about violence. What are
18 you prepared to do? That tagline has
19 gone viral. That came out as a result of
20 the Youth Commission working with radio
21 stations, with Loraine Ballard Morrill
22 and a lot of others sitting up and taking
23 up and working with us.

24 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: As far as
25 activities are concerned, I do agree with

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2 many of the Councilmembers' comments
3 relative to weekend activities and things
4 of that nature, but from my perspective,
5 just speaking for myself, from Sunday to
6 Thursday night, it's homework or some
7 other school-related activity. I don't
8 necessarily think that we need to be
9 finding places for kids to recreate at 9
10 o'clock at night on a Wednesday night
11 during the school year. Now, summer is
12 different, weekends are different, but
13 school year week nights, it should be
14 homework or a school play or some
15 athletic activity.

16 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I agree
17 with you 100 percent. The one thing I've
18 always asked someone that tells me they
19 have nothing to do is, I guess you're a
20 straight A student?

21 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Good.
22 Thank you.

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
24 you, Councilman.

25 Any other questions?

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2 (No response.)

3 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Just one
4 quick point. If you could just repeat,
5 because early on in Councilman Jones'
6 question you quoted statistics as far as
7 number of stops and number of actions
8 taken. Could you make that clear again
9 just so I understand it and everybody
10 understands it.

11 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Total
12 stops is 10,205, of which 209 were
13 actually given citations.

14 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: So it
15 kind of backs up the question I had and
16 others had about the discretion that the
17 police are using.

18 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON:
19 Absolutely.

20 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I think
21 that's very important. So thank you.
22 And I hope you gentlemen can stay
23 because --

24 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I was
25 hoping that maybe Lieutenant Healy will

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2 be able to stay.

3 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: That's
4 fine.

5 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I'm
6 actually due at a conference in
7 Washington. I actually came up from
8 there in order to go back down, and it's
9 dealing with juvenile justice issues and
10 I really would like to go back.

11 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

12 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: So I
13 will excuse myself, if you don't mind.

14 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: That's
15 fine. It's just that there may be other
16 issues come up during the testimony, but
17 if Lieutenant Healy can stay, that's
18 fine.

19 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: That
20 will be great.

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you
22 both very much.

23 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Thank
24 you very much.

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: The next

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2 panel that I have here to testify is
3 Jeffrey Nadel, if I'm pronouncing that
4 right, or Nadel and Mary Catherine Roper
5 from the ACLU. Is she here?

6 Oh, there you are. If you both
7 could approach the table.

8 (Witnesses approached witness
9 table.)

10 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Jeffrey,
11 I have your name down here first, so if
12 you could just identify yourself for the
13 record and proceed, and then Ms. Roper.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: Could you
15 state your name for the record and begin
16 testifying.

17 MR. NADEL: Honorable members
18 of the community, thank you so much for
19 the opportunity. My name is Jeffrey
20 Nadel. I'm the Vice-President of the
21 National Youth Rights Association and the
22 President of the National Youth Rights
23 Association of Philadelphia.

24 We all strive for the same
25 goal. We want a safe city to call home.

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2 We want streets on which children can
3 freely play. We want businesses that can
4 operate without fear of theft or
5 vandalism, businesses that can prosper
6 and enrich all of our lives. We want a
7 city that will live up to the colossal
8 legacy of liberty and greatness left by
9 our founding fathers on this very ground.
10 So what we need to figure out is how to
11 do it.

12 What should inform our
13 decision? What should inform our
14 decision as a community? I think we can
15 agree that science and research should
16 play its part in helping us to understand
17 what works and what doesn't. Our
18 Constitution and the legacy of freedom
19 bestowed upon us by our forebears, that
20 too must play a central part. The voices
21 within this city from each and every
22 corner of this great city should have
23 their say as well.

24 We face the issue of
25 Philadelphia's curfew and the proposed

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2 extension to it. Let's look at the
3 science. Study after study has shown
4 that curfews don't work. They simply do
5 not reduce crime perpetrated by young
6 people. They do not reduce the
7 victimization of young people. At the
8 very best, they simply move it from
9 neighborhood to neighborhood. Surely
10 that cannot be what we desire.

11 You've all received copies of
12 four studies that speak to this very
13 point. And a thorough review of all
14 relevant studies reveals a consensus
15 conclusion among academics that curfews
16 do not achieve their stated goals. In
17 fact, this curfew imposes an undue burden
18 on the City's businesses as well.

19 I've always believed that in
20 order to be sure that we are traveling in
21 the right direction, we should look to
22 the past. The sagacious dictates of our
23 founding fathers in the form of the
24 United States Constitution as it has been
25 interpreted by the Supreme Court, young

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2 people have constitutional rights, and
3 curfews clearly violate them. You all
4 have copies of the caselaw to support
5 that.

6 The proposed extension of this
7 curfew will do nothing but make it more
8 burdensome for young people and
9 businesses alike, all the while hampering
10 effective policing, not enhancing it.

11 Let's make this city safe.
12 Let's make it the best it can be. But
13 let us follow in the footsteps in the
14 tradition of the greats before us. Let
15 us heed the message of the empirical
16 facts in front of us, and let us include
17 young people in this mission, not exclude
18 them. There is no surer way to create a
19 relationship of hostility and distrust
20 between the City leaders, law enforcement
21 and young people than to exclude them
22 from the discussion altogether and
23 enforce a heavy-handed law against them
24 without their consent. We can do this.
25 We can. But my message, the researchers'

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2 message, the message of the United States
3 Supreme Court is that a curfew is not the
4 way to do it.

5 Thank you all very much for the
6 opportunity to address you. I'm open to
7 any questions that you might have, and
8 I'd love the opportunity to speak with
9 you all, should any further questions
10 come up.

11 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
12 you. Let's hear from Ms. Roper and then
13 if we have questions for either, we can
14 proceed from there.

15 Ms. Roper.

16 MS. ROPER: Good morning.
17 Thank you for allowing me to testify. I
18 am Mary Catherine Roper, senior staff
19 attorney with the ACLU of Pennsylvania.

20 The American Civil Liberties
21 Union of Pennsylvania urges the Council
22 to reject this bill because it is
23 unnecessary, unnecessarily complicated
24 and burdensome, and almost certainly
25 unconstitutional. This bill would make

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2 it a crime punishable by up to a \$500
3 fine for teenagers to be in any public
4 place, including a restaurant or a movie
5 theatre or a pharmacy, including on
6 weekends, after a curfew that could be as
7 early as 8:00 p.m. in the evening, unless
8 they are accompanied by a parent or can
9 prove to an officer's satisfaction that
10 they are out with the permission of their
11 parents or on their way to work.

12 A police officer cannot tell
13 from a distance whether a particular
14 young person is 14 or 16. She cannot
15 tell from a distance whether a particular
16 young person is 17 or 18. And certainly
17 can't tell whether any of those young
18 people is on an errand for a parent or is
19 out with permission or is on the way to
20 or from employment. So the only way for
21 this bill to be enforced is for the
22 police to stop every teen they see,
23 starting at 8:00 p.m. in the evening,
24 demand identification and interrogate
25 them about where they are going and why.

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2 And just a word off script here
3 about the discretion that Deputy
4 Commissioner Gillison talks about. An
5 officer certainly has discretion not to
6 arrest a young person, to send a young
7 person home. The officer also has
8 discretion to not believe the young
9 person that he or she is out with
10 permission, to believe a note is a
11 forgery. Many young people don't even
12 carry ID. How this is going to be
13 enforced is really going to be about teen
14 by teen interrogations by officers, and
15 that is the scary thing. It is
16 unnecessary. We do not have a wave of
17 teen crime in this city. We had some
18 months back a handful of incidents, all
19 of which were before the hours in this
20 curfew, in which teens committed crimes.
21 Those incidents were called flash mobs,
22 even when they only involved a handful of
23 teens and were hyped unbelievably by the
24 media. To extrapolate from that to this
25 bill is to punish every teen in this city

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2 for the actions of a very small number.

3 This bill does not distinguish
4 between the teen going to the library,
5 which is open until 9 o'clock many nights
6 of the week, the teen going to a movie on
7 a date, going to a church group meeting
8 or going to a political meeting.

9 Sunday night at about 8:55 in
10 the evening, ten or so teens were
11 arrested coming out of the subway at 15th
12 and Market across the street from an
13 historic demonstration that is supported
14 by the City.

15 We have other tools to deal
16 with unruly crowds and with people who
17 commit crimes like vandalism, theft or
18 assault. Increasing the number of police
19 stops of youth who are not engaged in any
20 illegal activity not only damages the
21 relationship between police and youth in
22 the communities, but also diverts
23 policing resources from actual crime.
24 Parents are better equipped than police
25 or the City bureaucracy to determine the

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2 appropriate curfews and take into account
3 individual circumstances.

4 And I will note that the police
5 of this city do not have the best record
6 of even-handed enforcement of the laws.
7 It has been less than a year since the
8 ACLU and the firm of Kairys Rudovsky
9 Messing and Feinberg brought suit against
10 the City because of excessive police use
11 of investigative detentions. Since then,
12 we have settled with the City and have
13 been working with the Police Department
14 to create practices and protocols that
15 focus police attention on criminal
16 conduct rather than on focusing that
17 attention on the identity of people who
18 have the misfortune to live, work and
19 visit in high-crime neighborhoods. This
20 bill would be a huge step backward in
21 that effort.

22 And, finally, City Council
23 should not adopt this bill because it is
24 almost certainly unconstitutional. It is
25 far more restrictive than any curfew we

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2 have seen litigated and much more
3 restrictive than many such ordinances
4 that have been struck down across the
5 country. If passed, it will invite
6 litigation.

7 This is, quite simply, the
8 wrong approach. We urge the Council to
9 reject it. And, of course, I'd be happy
10 to answer any questions you have.

11 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
12 you. If I could start. I think there
13 will be other questions, too.

14 Ms. Roper, I think you heard in
15 my question and other members' questions
16 to Deputy Mayor Gillison, he pointed out,
17 which I thought -- and that's why I asked
18 him to repeat at the end of his
19 testimony. I think there were over
20 10,000 stops, but only 209 arrests. Does
21 that -- how do you feel that that speaks
22 to the discretion, which I think was --
23 you brought up and a number of us brought
24 up, that it's not like the police are
25 hauling off everybody that they stop.

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2 MS. ROPER: In fact, the police
3 are stopping and questioning everyone
4 they see. It's the 10,000 stops that are
5 just as much of a problem as the 200
6 citations issued.

7 Our history in this city of who
8 gets stopped by the police is very
9 clearly demonstrated by statistics. I
10 don't think it's going to be different in
11 enforcement of the curfew.

12 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.
13 And I hear you and, you know, you talk
14 about the media over-hyping things, and
15 I'm not going to say that doesn't happen,
16 but in all fairness, aren't you kind of
17 under-hyping this? I mean, there have
18 been problems in this city. I mean, the
19 incidents in Center City that got the
20 publicity, aren't they just part of it?
21 For example, I hear a lot from newsstand
22 owners how they are hassled a lot by
23 groups of teens that go around. In other
24 parts of the City, not Center City, there
25 have been incidents by teens in the early

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2 to mid evening.

3 So where I agree you don't want
4 to over-hype, it seems like, with all due
5 respect, you're kind of understating it
6 like it's not that big a deal, We do not
7 have a wave of teen crime in the City, a
8 handful of incidents.

9 I don't know --

10 MS. ROPER: We --

11 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Hold on.

12 I don't know if you want to tell that guy
13 that got stomped at 15th and Sansom that
14 it's not that big a deal.

15 MS. ROPER: I didn't say that
16 teen crime isn't a big deal. I said we
17 don't have --

18 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Well, you
19 said we don't have a big wave.

20 MS. ROPER: Excuse me. May I
21 respond?

22 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Yeah.

23 MS. ROPER: I did not say teen
24 crime isn't a big deal. I said we don't
25 have a wave. We don't have an increase

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2 of teen crime in the City. We have other
3 ways of addressing crimes that happen,
4 whether they are by groups of teens or
5 other people. There are assaults all
6 over the City. Heaven knows that what we
7 need is effective policing that's
8 addressed at people who are engaged in
9 criminal conduct, not police attention
10 directed to everyone under 20. That is
11 my problem with this, which is rather
12 than asking police to focus on
13 indications of criminal activity, we're
14 asking people to go around trying to
15 figure out how old people are.

16 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: But
17 haven't -- but there have been --
18 wouldn't you call them a number of
19 incidents that have resulted from teens,
20 particularly teens in large groups?

21 MS. ROPER: Certainly there
22 have been crimes that resulted from teens
23 in small groups and in large groups.
24 There have been many crimes that result
25 from adults in large groups and small

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2 groups, but we don't suggest that we're
3 going to keep everyone between the age of
4 20 and 30 inside between the hours of
5 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

6 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

7 All right. I just think -- and I hear
8 what you're saying. And if you heard the
9 first question I asked, I asked about the
10 discretion and the concern with
11 understanding the kids can be out there
12 for legitimate reasons, but, again, with
13 all due respect, I think you're
14 understating the problem. So I think
15 there's a middle ground here that we can
16 reach.

17 MS. ROPER: And I appreciate
18 that. And let me just be clear. I'm not
19 saying that teens don't commit crimes.
20 Teens and adults commit crimes. I'm
21 saying the effective way to fight crime
22 is to focus on criminal behavior and not
23 on simply the identity of who is on the
24 streets. We've had that issue, right?
25 We brought that lawsuit, because we

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2 showed from statistics, and obviously
3 that was settled, it was not litigated,
4 but we've already made the point that our
5 police sometimes focus on the identity of
6 people rather than what they are doing,
7 and that is not effective policing.

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

9 Thank you.

10 Councilman Jones.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
12 Mr. Chairman. I was just getting ready
13 to ask my colleague Councilwoman
14 Blackwell the current census of young
15 people in the Youth Study Center, and I
16 think it's a little over 350-some-odd
17 young people. And what's the size of the
18 center being built in your district?
19 What's the capacity? Do you remember
20 that offhand?

21 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: You
22 mean these children that are coming from
23 your district to mine?

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes. Yes.
25 How many of them is it?

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2 MS. ROPER: I'm not getting in
3 the middle of that.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: It's close
5 to 400 or so at capacity.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: That's
7 exactly right.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: So there is
9 crime in the City of Philadelphia, number
10 one.

11 Number two, I applaud what you
12 represent, which is freedom of speech,
13 constitutional rights of citizens. That
14 is the balance that we have to have. The
15 reason I asked Deputy Mayor Gillison for
16 statistical data to support why this
17 curfew was necessary, it was in
18 anticipation of this type of questioning
19 of it.

20 So it is important for him to
21 quantify why we need this curfew. And
22 the reason I say that is, the ink wasn't
23 dry on my certification of being elected
24 to me being a part of -- being knocked on
25 the door, having to go out to 54th and

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2 Upland Way, which is the killing field in
3 Wynnefield, and to stand over a body of a
4 young man that was killed. He and his
5 brother, who was maybe 14 at the time,
6 were out at 1:00 in the morning standing
7 on the corner. And I can't help but
8 think if that curfew was in effect, would
9 that have changed the situation. I don't
10 know it. I don't expect you to know it.
11 But these are questions this body has to
12 struggle with.

13 I will go back tonight to a
14 vigil about the young lady that was
15 murdered, 31-year-old, in the middle of a
16 crossfire between two young groups of --
17 I call them young thundercats. If you
18 ever watched cartoons, you would know
19 what I meant to the reference. But the
20 point is, they murdered her.

21 The vigil last night, the
22 neighbor said, why are there 50 young
23 people standing on the corner at this
24 time of night? And I have to answer them
25 as an elected official. I understand

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2 their constitutional rights, but there's
3 also public safety involved, and that's
4 why this is in front of this Committee.

5 So I want you to understand
6 that 30 years ago, I probably would have
7 been throwing rocks at this bill. Today
8 as a citizen, a taxpayer and three blocks
9 from where that murder occurred -- and I
10 won't ask you on the record where you
11 live.

12 MS. ROPER: I'll tell you. I
13 live in Mantua. I'm quite familiar
14 with --

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: All right.

16 Where do you live?

17 MR. NADEL: University City.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: So you got
19 skin in the game.

20 MS. ROPER: Yes.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: You have
22 skin in the game, so, therefore, I
23 respect that. The point of it is, I have
24 to tell that neighbor what we are doing
25 to help make them safe. Because that

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2 lady, all she did, her crime was putting
3 those kids in a car getting ready to take
4 them home and wound up in the crossfire.

5 So I have to balance with civil
6 liberties and the constitutional right to
7 live and to live without being murdered
8 in the streets. So that's why we're
9 debating this.

10 MS. ROPER: Councilman, I think
11 that you're talking about neighborhoods
12 that have been crying out for additional
13 police resources and additional police
14 support for quite a while. That support
15 should come and it should be aimed at the
16 sources of crime and the sources of
17 violence. Police officers are trained to
18 look for the signs of criminal activity,
19 to anticipate criminal activity, to do
20 investigations to find the sources of
21 criminal activity. That is where their
22 time should be going, not checking the
23 ID's of 16-year-olds.

24 MR. NADEL: And, Councilman
25 Jones, I think you made two really

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2 important points. Obviously they're
3 incredibly tragic instances of violence.
4 The fact of the matter is that if you
5 have a criminal intent on committing a
6 violent act, a curfew is not going to
7 deter that person. And I think you asked
8 an incredibly crucial question of the
9 Deputy Mayor when you asked what are the
10 studies out there, what are the
11 statistics out there, and his response
12 was that I'm sure there are a lot of
13 national studies out there. But I've
14 read the studies and I furnished copies,
15 and there are a lot of studies out there,
16 and the consensus among virtually all of
17 them is that curfews, they don't reduce
18 crime, they don't reduce victimization.
19 They don't help and they don't achieve
20 their stated goals.

21 So we do need to look at the
22 problem, and effective policing is
23 important and increased police presence
24 is important, and several members of the
25 Committee and the Deputy Mayor mentioned

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2 that when there is increased police
3 presence, that's what prevents crime.
4 But singling out a group of people solely
5 because of their age and targeting them
6 for that reason in what has to be an
7 arbitrary and rather inaccurate fashion,
8 because a lot of these people don't have
9 licenses on them, police discretion, but
10 often that turns into arbitrary policing,
11 it's a big problem. So I really
12 appreciate those questions, and I want to
13 just let you know that we can answer them
14 and --

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: I want you
16 to understand that this body -- I
17 remember your testimony when we sat here
18 for six hours to talk about overly
19 zealous, aggressive police action. So we
20 get that part. The pendulum swings in a
21 different direction when I stand on the
22 corner at a prayer vigil of someone who
23 has been murdered. And it is our job to
24 take your valued testimony and quantified
25 statistical analysis as to this impact of

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2 curfews, but to weigh it out in a way
3 that kind of creates safety hopefully,
4 fairness definitely and deals with the
5 problem at hand, which is there is crime
6 in those communities, whether it's Mantua
7 or West Philly. I believe between our
8 two respective police districts, the 19th
9 and the 16th and I believe you have the
10 18th?

11 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Yes.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Those are
13 high-crime areas, and I need to quantify
14 from Deputy Mayor Gillison how many of
15 those perpetrators are young people in
16 violation of what would be an
17 unconstitutional, based on your
18 testimony, curfew. And we need to look
19 at that, and if that's the case, if we
20 can remove 25 targets off of that corner
21 at 58th and Malvern, I'd like to do that.

22 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
23 you, Councilman.

24 Councilwoman Blackwell.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank

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2 you, Mr. Chairman. I represent neighbors
3 in the 12th, 16th, 18th and 19th. So I
4 have four police districts. And, in
5 fact, living in Mantua and Penn bring up
6 some other important issues, which is we
7 have three or four police forces, how
8 this legislation affects them, because
9 there are many police forces, especially
10 in many of those areas.

11 And I'm reminded -- I heard
12 Ms. Roper talk about being in a maybe
13 distressed neighborhood and seemingly
14 being singled out. I'm reminded of many
15 years ago when I was in the subway with
16 SEPTA Police. It was the SEPTA Police
17 who then called the Philadelphia Police,
18 who handcuffed me and locked me up for
19 feeding homeless people. Some people
20 don't like you to feed homeless people;
21 some do. So it was their opportunity,
22 some misguided individuals, who thought
23 they could stop me from feeding homeless
24 people by arresting me. Obviously they
25 couldn't do that then and they can't do

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2 it now.

3 But my point is that I think we
4 do have to be very careful.

5 I'll join you at 58th and
6 Malvern for that candlelight vigil
7 tonight and come back downtown for our
8 meeting with the Mayor's Commission on
9 African and Caribbean Immigrant Affairs.

10 I went to a town meeting just
11 last week with Southwest that deals a lot
12 with the 12th. We're having a meeting
13 with Mothers in Charge at Saint Jude's
14 Baptist Church I guess next week. And so
15 we're all trying to do what we can to
16 create forums and opportunities for the
17 community to be involved.

18 And having said all of that, I
19 still believe that there are many parts
20 of this legislation that are not clear
21 and that may not be fair and that need
22 clarification before we're ready to move
23 on and take away civil liberties. You
24 know, the right to be free is part of
25 what we are as Americans and part of what

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2 people have fought for, from women to
3 minorities, all of us have fought for
4 from the beginning of time, and I guard
5 those freedoms very carefully. And so I
6 think we have to be very, very careful to
7 ensure that we answer all the questions
8 that surround this issue so that we're
9 being as fair as we possibly can before
10 we pass legislation taking away civil
11 rights.

12 Thank you.

13 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
14 you, Councilwoman.

15 And if I could just, not to
16 belabor the point -- we have other
17 witnesses, so I don't want to go too
18 long. But let me just start, I guess.
19 The general theory I'm thinking about
20 under this, I mean, governmental bodies
21 all the time put regulations in against
22 all kind of people, businesses,
23 individuals, whatever. Oftentimes it's
24 based on a history of a problem there.
25 It doesn't mean every one of that group

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2 is a problem, but a certain percentage
3 has become a problem. And I guess that's
4 where, Ms. Roper, I just kind of disagree
5 when you use the word it only involved a
6 handful of teens. It's a little more
7 than a handful that's a problem out
8 there. I'm not saying every teen is.
9 I'm not saying the majority is. But I
10 guess the question is, are there enough
11 to justify taking further action or
12 further regulations against the whole
13 group. I mean, that's what it breaks
14 down to. I personally think there has
15 been. You obviously don't think there
16 is. But, I mean, I think that's what it
17 comes down to. I think there is enough
18 evidence, not just the couple things that
19 have gotten the most publicity, but
20 incidents like Councilman Jones talks
21 about, and we all can give our stories.
22 That's why I think we need further
23 regulations, because there have been
24 enough of a group of people, in this case
25 teens, who have been a problem that we

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2 have to take further action, further
3 regulations.

4 MS. ROPER: Well, and our
5 position is not that you shouldn't do
6 something, but that you should do
7 something that is directed at people who
8 are behaving like troublemakers, not do
9 something aimed at millions of young
10 people. I mean, if you're going to ask
11 what is more efficient, it's more
12 efficient to use your police skills and
13 go after people who look to be causing
14 trouble, who are near trouble, et cetera.
15 That's what police are trained to do,
16 rather than starting to check ID's of
17 literally millions of people.

18 I would just -- and I
19 understand that you need to move on.
20 Councilman Jones, I would be as
21 interested as you, I promise you, as
22 seeing whatever statistics the City does
23 have about youth crime.

24 MR. NADEL: And, Councilman
25 Greenlee, I think you bring up a very

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2 good point, and the information that I
3 would want to introduce is that the vast
4 majority of murders are committed by
5 individuals over the age of 18. The vast
6 majority of drug use is done by
7 individuals over 18.

8 So, yes, there are serious
9 problems out there, but we're not going
10 to apply a curfew to 20- to 30-year-olds
11 or 30- to 40-year-olds, and the reason is
12 because we find it antithetical to the
13 ideas that serve as the foundation of
14 this country and our heritage.

15 So there are issues that need
16 to be addressed, and that's incredibly
17 important, but, you know, the curfew is
18 just not the effective way to go about
19 doing that.

20 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay. We
21 respectfully disagree on that, but
22 Councilwoman Brown.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: We do
24 respectfully disagree. I've resisted as
25 much as I can. There are a number of

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2 challenges, I guess, I would take with
3 both of your testimony, and so one is,
4 you make the presumption that all parents
5 are doing the right thing. One reason
6 why we're even in this discussion is
7 because there are too many of our parents
8 not doing where they should be. And the
9 second one -- and there are several
10 others -- I will be pleased to sit with
11 you in the presence of Family Court
12 judges who every single day have to make
13 awful decisions about children 18 years
14 and under in this town. Judge Kevin
15 Dougherty ad Judge Lori Dumas and all of
16 those that occupy 1801 Vine Street, we
17 have a whole industry devoted to getting
18 young people back on the right track,
19 because things like curfew tools and
20 others are not in place to help parents.
21 Not to penalize parents, but to help
22 parents who end up having incorrigible
23 young people.

24 Thank you for your testimony.

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

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2 you.

3 Thank you for being here.

4 Thank you for your testimony.

5 MS. ROPER: Thank you.

6 MR. NADEL: Thank you.

7 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: My next
8 panel -- and I want to make sure who is
9 here before I call them. I have five
10 other people on my list. Oh, I'm sorry.
11 Is Jordan here? Jordan, I was told you
12 weren't going to testify, but then you
13 maybe wanted to add a couple points to at
14 least what Councilman Kenney said. So
15 I'm sorry.

16 (Witness approached witness
17 table.)

18 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Identify
19 yourself and proceed with what you'd like
20 to say.

21 MR. JORDAN HARRIS: Jordan
22 Harris, Executive Director for the
23 Philadelphia Youth Commission.

24 Councilman, the Commission is
25 going to provide their written testimony

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2 on the issue. Because this is such a big
3 issue pertaining to young people, the
4 Commission has actually sought to reach
5 even outside of the Commissioners to talk
6 with additional young people to get a
7 consensus on how young people throughout
8 our city feel about this issue, and they
9 will be providing written testimony on
10 that.

11 I did want to respond. When
12 Deputy Mayor Gillison was being
13 questioned, there were certain issues
14 that he said that we would be able to
15 cover, and I didn't want the day to pass
16 without us addressing those issues.

17 What the Youth Commission was
18 able to do, working with Deputy Mayor
19 Gillison this summer, was kick off an
20 initiative that we called a Teen Safe
21 Zone Initiative. And what we basically
22 did was, we provided young people with
23 positive opportunities at night on the
24 weekend throughout the City. We did this
25 for three weekends right after the Mayor

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2 lowered the curfew temporarily. We were
3 able to provide those kind of services.
4 We were able to engage more than a
5 thousand young people over those three
6 weeks.

7 Our marketing tool -- and this
8 goes directly to what Councilman Kenney
9 was saying. Our marketing tools were
10 strictly Facebook, Twitter and text
11 messaging. There was no -- there were
12 no, you know, handing out of flyers. We
13 had flyers produced, but all that we
14 really did was utilize Facebook, Twitter
15 and text messaging. And why that's
16 important is, we wholeheartedly believe
17 that while the curfew and enforcement is
18 important, that providing a comprehensive
19 plan for young people and what young
20 people can do throughout our city on the
21 weekend and at nights, we believe that
22 that is clearly why we didn't see any
23 more incidents like we have in the past.

24 For example, our first event
25 where we had more than 500 young people

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2 at the Erie Lanes Bowling Alley, more
3 than 500 young people, was put together
4 via a Twitter, Facebook and text
5 messaging campaign in two days. In two
6 days, 500 young people responded, because
7 we were using the modes and the medians
8 that the young people respond to.

9 There was a report that a young
10 lady was stabbed at our event. That was
11 not true. The incident happened several
12 blocks away, and it happened between
13 young people that knew each other. The
14 reason why I bring that up is because
15 according to the Police Commissioner, the
16 young man that took part in that event
17 was actually a young man who had been
18 cited for being in one of the flash mob
19 altercations a year prior.

20 Why that is important is that
21 that shows us that the marketing tools
22 that we were using were getting directly
23 to the young people that had taken part
24 in some of the non-positive activities
25 that happened down on South Street and

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2 downtown.

3 So while the Commission will
4 put in writing our full testimony, we
5 wanted to make it clear that we are
6 utilizing and we have been working with
7 Deputy Mayor Gillison, we have been
8 working with the Administration to
9 utilize social media to reach out to our
10 young people, and that if we are serious
11 about addressing the issue of youth
12 violence, it must come from us seriously
13 appropriating the funds to provide a
14 comprehensive plan of what young people
15 can do on the weekends and at night.

16 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: We
17 certainly agree that it's -- and I think
18 we've all said this in different ways.
19 This is not just about enforcement and
20 not just about police. And I certainly
21 congratulate you -- I'm sure everybody
22 does -- on the work you've done. And we
23 obviously need positive environments for
24 young people too, and you're helping
25 provide that. Thank you.

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2 Councilman Jones.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'd echo
4 that. This Youth Commission has taken on
5 a whole new life under you. We
6 appreciate, us old heads, appreciate
7 getting some insight as to the changes,
8 generational changes, the way we
9 communicate, the way young people
10 interact. We would be clueless without
11 some of the inputs from organizations
12 like yours.

13 But I'm going to have to put
14 you on the spot. This legislation -- I
15 understand we need more money for
16 recreation and engagement, positive
17 engagement activities, but this
18 legislation before us today, not as Chair
19 of the Commission, but as an individual
20 who has the finger on the pulse of young
21 people, should we pass this today?

22 MR. JORDAN HARRIS: How about
23 we do this: How about Fernando Jones,
24 who is actually Chair of the Commission,
25 come up and -- hold up. Hear me out,

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2 Councilman. He's a young man. He's
3 younger than me. We're going to prepare
4 our official testimony, but if you want
5 off the cuff how you feel, I think that
6 Fernando, who was -- Fernando, you 22?

7 MR. JONES: Three.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: I want to
9 know about Fernando too. He can come up.
10 I asked you. Jordan, I asked you.

11 MR. JORDAN HARRIS: My personal
12 opinion is that there needs to be
13 stability, there needs to be discipline,
14 and that needs to be enforced in the
15 City, and young people need to know where
16 that line is. I think realistically when
17 I was 18 years old, I heard there was a
18 curfew. I had never been stopped for a
19 curfew, and because I had never been
20 stopped for a curfew, I really didn't
21 even think about the curfew. I think
22 what you saw was enforcement of the
23 curfew. And you can't assume that young
24 people just know that there's a curfew in
25 place if the law isn't enforced. So if

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2 I, a 16-year-old, can roam the street at
3 12:30, regardless of the parent factor,
4 because I mean that is a part of this,
5 but regardless of the parent factor, if I
6 can roam the street at 12:30 and no one
7 say anything to me, then I'm going to
8 automatically assume that the curfew is a
9 joke. And I'm going to be honest with
10 you. When I was 14, 15, nobody really --
11 my mother was my curfew, not the City,
12 and that's because there really wasn't
13 that heavy enforcement. So I think you
14 did see heavy enforcement of the curfew,
15 and I think that's one of the things that
16 made a difference, because young people
17 got the message that there's a curfew.

18 So if this legislation is to
19 pass, I think the message will still be
20 clear that young people understand that
21 there is a curfew in place and that
22 that's something --

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: He
24 answered like a budding politician.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yeah, I

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2 know.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And the
4 short answer to the question is what?

5 MR. JORDAN HARRIS: My short
6 answer is, yes, there needs to be a
7 curfew.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay.
9 Thank you very much.

10 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
11 you.

12 Fernando.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: We're going
14 to let you off. That's as close as we're
15 going to get.

16 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Fernando,
17 would you like to add something? Just
18 identify yourself for the record, please.

19 MR. JONES: Fernando Jones,
20 Chairperson of the Youth Commission.

21 I don't want to really
22 associate myself specifically with the
23 Commission. I think it's more important
24 as a personal view how I view the curfew.
25 But working with the Commission, I do

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2 have access to speak to youth in the City
3 as well as my peers on the Commission,
4 and we all agree with having a curfew.
5 We think that over the summer, it worked
6 out effectively.

7 At the same time, there's
8 always going to be dissenting ideas about
9 any kind of legislation that comes up,
10 and some of those concerns that came up
11 were the fact that I think -- I believe
12 in the old law, the hours were extended
13 on the weekends, and maybe you might say
14 that those are the times that crime might
15 happen more, but from the youth that I
16 talked to, for several of them, they feel
17 that they have that time during the week.
18 Follow the curfew, go home early, but the
19 weekends are the only real time to
20 actually do anything, whether it's going
21 to the movies or just hanging out.

22 Another concern was the fact
23 that this new bill separates
24 13-year-olds, 14- and 15-year-olds, 16-
25 and 17-year-olds, and one of the concerns

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2 was that all those age groups are in high
3 school at the same time, and the fact of
4 the matter is that some freshmen are
5 friends with seniors, some sophomores are
6 friends with juniors, and some people
7 were concerned that they won't be able to
8 hang out with their friends because of
9 the hour difference.

10 So one of the possible
11 solutions to that was to maybe create
12 some kind of medium to allow -- maybe
13 have like 30 minutes of crossover time
14 where the younger people could hang out
15 with the older kids or something.

16 And some of the Commissioners
17 pointed out that, like Jordan keeps
18 saying, we need a comprehensive plan.
19 The curfew alone won't solve anything,
20 and I totally agree with that. Like he
21 said, we were doing the Teen Safe Zones
22 over the summer, but even that alone I
23 don't think will solve the problem. You
24 can't expect the entire city to come to
25 Erie Lanes. Like what is everyone else

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2 going to do? And I think it's really
3 important for government entities and
4 non-government entities to advocate,
5 promote or even create opportunities for
6 kids to do stuff at nighttime.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: I want to
8 echo and thank you, Mr. Jordan, and you,
9 Mr. Jones, for your input. This is
10 important for us. I mean, we're not just
11 sitting here not hearing you. You have a
12 responsibility to convey to us what we
13 need to know. And so I appreciate the
14 work you do. I heard you with my good
15 ear about also providing resources so
16 that we don't just suppress young people,
17 but we engage young people to do positive
18 activities.

19 MR. JORDAN HARRIS: And one
20 thing I will say, Councilman, is that we
21 have been working with Commissioner Sue
22 Slawson and Deputy Mayor DiBerardinis
23 about recreation. While I agree with
24 what Deputy Mayor Gillison said, there
25 are activities, but what we have to be

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2 sure that we do is make sure that those
3 activities that we're spending money on
4 are the activities that young people want
5 to do. There's no sense of us having the
6 activities if there aren't activities.

7 So I will say that there has
8 been collaboration on how to get out and
9 aggressively engage young people to find
10 out in 2011 what those activities are,
11 because those activities may be
12 different. And one of the things that I
13 know that a lot of young people have even
14 said is that sometimes we do too much
15 activities, because sometimes it's not
16 even about the activities. It's just
17 about providing the space where they can
18 come and go. I mean, if you watched
19 Friends on TV, they went into the coffee
20 house and just relaxed. It really wasn't
21 an activity. So just like adults like to
22 have places where they can go and just
23 relax and talk, young people like the
24 same thing. So it doesn't always have to
25 be a structured activity, but sometimes

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2 it could just be a safe environment where
3 I can come and just be a young person.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: Can I charge
5 you guys with a task as well by way of
6 the left hand of punishment, which this
7 may be, but the right hand of fellowship,
8 which recreation and education and
9 engagement is. We need to kind of get a
10 better sense of what -- for example, in
11 my district I had no idea that skateboard
12 parks would be that popular. I had no
13 idea. I do now. We had one in one area
14 and another area said, No, we have to
15 have one as well. I'm thinking
16 traditional basketball courts or hockey
17 rinks. No, they wanted skateboard parks.

18 So those kind of activities in
19 a regional perspective that provide safe
20 havens for people as opposed to crossing
21 boundaries that sometimes we don't know
22 exist. So if we could work with the
23 Recreation Department and work with
24 District Councilpeople to kind of say,
25 Hey, Councilman, you're going to need not

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2 one skateboard park but two, because
3 there's a conflict here, even though,
4 yes, we should ignore tribalism and
5 things like that in neighborhoods, but if
6 you ignore it, it has an ugly way of
7 presenting itself in the worst way.

8 So if you can guide us a little
9 bit on those kinds of issues as to when
10 we make expenditures for recreation, that
11 this recreation center and this
12 recreation center are very vastly
13 different, and so those kinds of inputs
14 would be helpful.

15 MR. JORDAN HARRIS: We've
16 started the conversation with
17 Commissioner Slawson. They've been
18 extremely supportive, and I think that
19 it's something that we definitely look
20 forward to making sure that we can do,
21 and we'll work closely with all of the
22 different District Councilpeople and even
23 the Councillors-at-large that have a
24 concern over what's going on in different
25 neighborhoods. We would love to do that.

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2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
3 you.

4 Councilwoman Brown.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: We do need
6 to thank you both for your important
7 testimony and insight, because you bring
8 a perspective not represented at this
9 table here. And I will put on the record
10 that it was the work of my office that
11 created the Youth Commission --

12 MR. JORDAN HARRIS: Yes, ma'am.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: -- last
14 term, number one.

15 Number two, so that we're not
16 recreating the wheel, you should know
17 that the former Rec Commissioner and the
18 current Rec Commissioner actually started
19 what you're advising us to do, and the
20 input from the former Rec Commissioner
21 was to have what are called teen centers,
22 and they were -- the capital investments
23 were made into rec centers around the
24 City to create a space just the way you
25 described, where teens can just hang out,

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2 watch videos and do what young people do
3 when you're just hanging out off the
4 streets but in a safe environment.

5 So to underscore what
6 Councilman Jones has already suggested,
7 we would urge you to continue those
8 discussions and advise, because you're
9 really advising the department heads how
10 best we can better serve young people in
11 the City. So the work that you do is
12 important.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. JORDAN HARRIS: Thank you.

15 MR. JONES: Thank you.

16 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I just
17 want to add, I certainly agree, what you
18 said is very valuable in us putting all
19 this together, because you guys much
20 understand it. I think we were out on
21 the corners a few years ago, so we might
22 not be right on top of it these days.

23 Thank you both very much.

24 Right now I have five more
25 people listed. I don't know if they're

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2 all here. And let me just add, I don't
3 want to cut off or cut down on anybody's
4 testimony, but we do have to have this
5 room available for another event in a
6 little bit. So if I could just throw
7 that out there.

8 I have Bobby Williams, who I
9 know is here. Mr. Williams, hi. If you
10 could come up.

11 Anthony Murphy of Town Watch.
12 I didn't see him. Is there anybody here
13 representing Town Watch? No? Okay.

14 Mike Harris. Mike, if you
15 could come up also.

16 I see Ms. Johnson, Mothers in
17 Charge. Come up. And I just have South
18 Philly Town Watch. Is there anybody --

19 MR. MANFRED: Bella Vista Town
20 Watch.

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.
22 It's down here as South Philly. If you
23 want to come up. Just sit in one of
24 these chairs right behind here so we can
25 keep it moving as quickly as possible.

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2 (Witnesses approached witness
3 table.)

4 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Whoever
5 would like to start.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Good morning,
7 Councilman.

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Ms.
9 Johnson, please.

10 MS. JOHNSON: Good morning.
11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify
12 this morning.

13 Very important hearing, very
14 important testimony, because our children
15 are our future, and we've got to really
16 work hard for them.

17 On behalf of Mothers in Charge,
18 its Founder and Executive Director of an
19 organization whose mission since its
20 conception in 2003 has been to reduce the
21 number of violent acts in our community
22 and provide support, education on
23 violence prevention to children, families
24 and the community. Mothers in Charge is
25 comprised of impassioned mothers,

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2 grandmothers, aunts and sisters who are
3 committed to working toward the goal of
4 saving lives. We desire to live and
5 deserve to live in an environment that is
6 safe. Mothers in Charge is working
7 towards the goal of making a positive
8 difference in our community.

9 Mothers in Charge deals with
10 the devastating numbers of shootings and
11 homicides of many of our young people
12 that are involved in crime every day. We
13 understand while Bill No. 110633 is not a
14 cure-all, it is a first step and a major
15 step in keeping our youth and our
16 communities and city safe.

17 Our organization is committed
18 to do all that we can possibly do to
19 combat violence. Mothers in Charge
20 believes also we have a serious message
21 to deliver to mothers of young people
22 that are ignoring the curfew. We hope to
23 have an opportunity to speak with the
24 youth and mothers who would ignore this
25 curfew.

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2 We recently hosted a community
3 forum with standing-room only titled "Go
4 Get Your Kid," an opportunity to give
5 parents a voice, but also more important,
6 we had over 25 organizations there to
7 provide support and information for
8 parents who are looking for support for
9 young people. And children really do
10 want and need serious structure and rules
11 in their lives for their safety. Our
12 main goal is that mothers don't continue
13 to join our organization because they've
14 lost a son, a daughter or loved one to
15 violence, and we don't want to continue
16 to see juveniles housed at Philadelphia
17 Industrial Correctional Center or the
18 Youth Study Center because of bad choices
19 and decisions.

20 So, yes, whatever we can do as
21 an organization to support the amendments
22 that are contained in Bill No. 110633,
23 Mothers in Charge pledges our support,
24 but also to support the children.

25 Thank you for providing me the

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2 opportunity to testify, and I'll be happy
3 to answer any questions. If there could
4 be given an opportunity once again to be
5 concerned with the children's whereabouts
6 on any given day, I am sure that most of
7 the women in our organization would
8 choose an extended curfew to help save a
9 life.

10 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
11 you, Ms. Johnson. I appreciate it very
12 much, and thank you for all you do and
13 your organization does.

14 I don't know if anybody will
15 have any question, but why don't we hear
16 from everyone, and then if there's
17 questions, it might be for generally.

18 Mr. Harris.

19 MR. MIKE HARRIS: Good morning,
20 Councilman Greenlee. My name is Mike
21 Harris. I am the Director of Field
22 Operations for the Philadelphia
23 Anti-Drug/Anti-Violence Network. Our
24 agency has been in existence now for the
25 past 22 years, and prior to that, we were

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2 better known as the Crisis Intervention
3 Network.

4 We are here to try to also
5 stand to support Bill 110633. As all of
6 us have seen firsthand or watched the
7 news on TV or heard it on the radio, we
8 were very disturbed and terrified by the
9 actions and behavior of some of our youth
10 which were displayed on our streets this
11 past summer. Most of the youth that were
12 involved were under the curfew age. I
13 believe that the approach to amend and to
14 pass the bill will be a step in the right
15 direction for the climate and safety,
16 first for our youth but also for the
17 future of our city and other great
18 citizens that live here.

19 But let me also say this, that
20 I also recognize that government alone is
21 not the final answer and government alone
22 cannot resolve this problem alone, but I
23 also know that this is a step in the
24 right direction.

25 But I say in closing, together

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2 we can make a difference in the lives and
3 especially of our youth, who are our most
4 valuable resource in our city. So I
5 thank you very much.

6 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
7 you, Mr. Harris. Also thank you for all
8 the work your organization does.

9 Mr. Williams, good to see you.
10 I usually see you in my office. Good to
11 see you here. You can identify yourself
12 for the record and proceed.

13 MR. WILLIAMS: My name is Bobby
14 Williams. I'm a community activist
15 almost 58 years, and so sitting here
16 today listening, God bless all the things
17 that this young man is saying and this
18 young lady.

19 I didn't hear one time the law
20 loitering. We know that that is the
21 oldest law in the United States. Here in
22 this city, we also have the blue laws.
23 All of this is before the curfew laws.
24 So I'm also in support of whatever it is
25 that you're going to do.

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2 Also, we want to also offer
3 solutions. I've heard conversation here
4 about kids don't have anything to do,
5 give them this and give them that.
6 Everything start at home. We have to
7 understand that everybody do not come
8 from where everybody come from. So I
9 heard here today was said it was a
10 playground or a center right around the
11 corner, but they didn't know it, and
12 that's very true throughout this whole
13 City of Philadelphia. We have provided a
14 lot of the things. I heard 1801 Vine
15 Street. It brung my mind to Saint Gabe,
16 Glen Mills.

17 We have so many tools already
18 that we, parents, kids, do not take -- we
19 do not go to those places to get the help
20 that we need. We do not listen. So we
21 want to offer a lot of solutions. One of
22 them, the first one would be that we
23 would start cleaning up where we live,
24 block by block, individual by individual,
25 whether or not you own your home, whether

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2 or not you're in an apartment, whether or
3 not you're buying a home. We believe
4 that that's what we should do. We
5 believe that that would help curb some of
6 the flash mobs. We believe it would cut
7 down on a lot of the crime.

8 Also, we believe spiritually
9 that we should do the moral expect, as a
10 lot of us do. We have to come about
11 doing those things.

12 And I just want to thank you
13 for this time today, and we about the
14 solution part. We support the bill 100
15 percent. Thank you.

16 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
17 you, Mr. Williams. Thank you for coming
18 down.

19 Sir, if you'd like to come
20 forward in one of those seats.

21 Is there anyone else here to
22 testify on this bill?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.
25 Great.

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2 You'll be our wrap-up act
3 there. If you could identify yourself
4 for the record.

5 MR. MANFRED: My name is Fred
6 Manfred. I'm with the Bella Vista Town
7 Watch organization, secretary there.

8 We are here to support the
9 curfew. We want to support it
10 unanimously. In fact, last night I
11 attended a PSA-1 meeting within the
12 Hawthorne neighborhood. There were
13 30-some neighbors in attendance, all who
14 energetically supported the curfew. We
15 have seen a very positive result from the
16 curfew, particularly along our section of
17 South Street. There's been far less
18 grouping and ponding of youth. And I
19 don't even say teenagers, because we have
20 seen it younger than teenagers. And we
21 have seen more of our neighbors coming
22 out. We've seen young professionals. We
23 have seen families strolling along South
24 Street taking advantage of the commerce.

25 So we are just here to support

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2 the curfew.

3 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And let
4 me just ask you, sir, based on kind of
5 the question I asked of Ms. Roper. It's
6 my position there has been enough
7 problems with young people,
8 unfortunately. Obviously it's not all
9 young people, but you live in that area.
10 Have you seen what -- I mean, it's
11 obviously not a small amount, right? I
12 mean, you've seen a sizable amount of
13 young people that unfortunately have
14 caused some problems.

15 MR. MANFRED: And young people
16 themselves, it's not the problem. The
17 problem is the sense of aimlessness. I
18 mean, you can sense that they're just not
19 there for an objective. They're not
20 there to participate in our restaurants
21 or those kinds of things. They're just
22 grouping and ponding and, therefore,
23 keeping others, like myself, away from
24 the South Street area.

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I got

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2 you. Thank you very much, sir.

3 MR. MANFRED: Thank you.

4 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Again, no
5 one else here to testify on this bill?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
8 you. That will conclude our public
9 hearing, and in just a few minutes, we
10 will go -- hopefully just about a
11 minute -- we'll go to the public meeting.
12 Thank you. Thank you all for being here
13 and for your attendance.

14 (Pause.)

15 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: It's now
16 good afternoon. Thank you for waiting.
17 Sorry for the delay. We have a quorum
18 for our meeting, including Council
19 President Verna, and I would recognize
20 Councilwoman Reynolds Brown regarding an
21 amendment to this bill.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Yes,
23 Mr. Chairman. In response to a number of
24 legitimate concerns raised by members of
25 this Committee, we're offering an

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2 amendment, and I will be brief. We are
3 amending the language that says "shall be
4 a fine not to exceed \$500" to "may be a
5 fine not to exceed \$500." And we're
6 changing the number of days that an
7 individual or parent will receive a
8 letter. We're changing that from ten
9 days to give parents 30 days to respond
10 to a violation, and we are adding
11 language that seeks or provides a sunset
12 provision. "The changes to The
13 Philadelphia Code, as authorized by this
14 ordinance, shall lapse on December 15,
15 2013," Mr. Chairman. So I move that the
16 bill be amended.

17 (Duly seconded.)

18 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: It's been
19 moved and seconded that the bill be
20 amended.

21 All in favor say aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Hearing

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2 none, the bill is amended.

3 Again, Councilwoman Reynolds
4 Brown.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Yes,
6 Mr. Chairman. I move that Bill No.
7 110633, as amended, be reported out of
8 Committee with a favorable recommendation
9 and further move that the rules of
10 Council be suspended so to permit first
11 reading.

12 (Duly seconded.)

13 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: It's been
14 moved and seconded.

15 All in favor please say aye.

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Hearing
20 none, Bill No. 110633, as amended,
21 reported out of this Committee with a
22 favorable recommendation with a rules
23 suspension.

24 That concludes the business
25 before this Committee. Thank you all

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2 very much for your attendance and your
3 participation.

4 Thank you.

5 (Committee on Public Safety
6 concluded at 12:20 p.m.)

7 - - -

1
2 CERTIFICATE

3 I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
4 proceedings, evidence and objections are
5 contained fully and accurately in the
6 stenographic notes taken by me upon the
7 foregoing matter on October 12, 2011, and that
8 this is a true and correct transcript of same.

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12
13 -----
14 MICHELE L. MURPHY
15 RPR-Notary Public
16
17
18

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20 transcript does not apply to any reproduction
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