

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
11/14/2022

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Remote location using Microsoft® Teams
Monday, November 14, 2022
9:05 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR., CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN KENDRA BROOKS
COUNCILWOMAN JAMIE GAUTHIER
COUNCILWOMAN HELEN GYM
COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS

RESOLUTION: 220884

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2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
3 morning, everyone. This is a public
4 hearing on the Committee of Public
5 Safety regarding Resolution No.
6 220884. And before we begin, I'd like
7 to recognize Anthony Glass to read the
8 required announcements.

9 THE CLERK: Thank you,
10 Mr. Chairman.

11 I understand that state law
12 currently requires that the following
13 announcement be made at the beginning
14 of every remote public hearing as
15 follows: Due to the current Public
16 Health Emergency, City Council
17 Committees are currently meeting
18 remotely. We are using Microsoft
19 Teams to make these remote hearings
20 possible.

21 Instructions for how the
22 public may view and offer public
23 testimony at public hearings of
24 Council Committees are included in the
25 public hearing notices that are

1 published in The Daily News, Inquirer
2 and Legal Intelligencer prior to the
3 hearings and can also be found on
4 PHLCouncil.com.

5 Everyone who has been invited
6 to the meeting to testify should be
7 aware that this public hearing is
8 being recorded. Because the hearing
9 is public, participants and viewers
10 have no reasonable expectation of
11 privacy. By continuing to be in the
12 meeting, you are consenting to being
13 recorded.

14 Additionally, prior to
15 Councilman Jones recognizing Members
16 for the questions or commentary they
17 have for the witnesses, I will note
18 for the record at this time they will
19 use the chat feature available in
20 Microsoft Teams to allow Members to
21 signify that they wish to be
22 recognized. In order to comply with
23 the Sunshine Act, the chat feature
24 must only be used for this purpose.
25 Thank you.

1 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
2 Mr. Glass. And now, can we call the
3 roll to establish a quorum. And will
4 Members in attendance please say a few
5 words so that your image can be
6 captured on T.V.

7 THE CLERK: Yes,
8 Mr. Chairman.

9 Councilmember Gauthier.

10 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Good
11 morning, Mr. Chair. Present.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
13 morning.

14 THE CLERK: Councilmember
15 Gym.

16 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Good
17 morning, Mr. Chair. I am present.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
19 morning.

20 THE CLERK: Councilmember
21 Brooks.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Good
23 morning, Mr. Chair. I'm present.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
25 morning, Member Brooks.

1 THE CLERK: Councilmember
2 Thomas.

3 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
4 morning, Mr. Chair. Good morning,
5 colleagues. I'm present.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
7 morning.

8 THE CLERK: Vice-Chairman
9 Johnson.

10 (No response.)

11 THE CLERK: And, Chairman
12 Jones.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: I am
14 present. We have established a
15 quorum. And so, would you now please
16 read the title of the resolution that
17 we are hearing today.

18 THE CLERK: Yes,
19 Mr. Chairman. Resolution No. 220884,
20 authorizing the City Council Committee
21 on Public Safety to hold a public
22 hearing examining the true cost of
23 crime on Philadelphia residents.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.
25 I'd like to say a few words before we

1 get started. And the first thing that
2 comes to my mind is that there was an
3 article that I wrote a long time ago
4 before I was elected, and it talked
5 about a young person who stole a car,
6 and that individual stole a car and we
7 began an exercise to chronicle
8 everyone that was impacted by that
9 crime from the person whose car that
10 was stolen that may have lost a day of
11 work to the individual that arrested
12 the offender and how much they got
13 paid and the uniform that they bought
14 and the equipment from the gun to the
15 bullets, to the handcuffs that were
16 purchased to the person, the turnkey
17 that actually put them into a cell, to
18 the public defender that was assigned
19 to that individual, to the people that
20 actually contracted with the jail or
21 prison that housed the individual, the
22 people that sold the food that the
23 incarcerated individual ate, to the
24 defense attorney, to the prosecutor,
25 to the judge, to the stenographer, to

1 the people that sat on the jury and
2 what they were paid, and we went
3 through a long litany of the economics
4 of crime and its impact. That was the
5 first kind of incentive for this
6 hearing.

7 Second one was Reverend
8 Holston brought me to a block in my
9 District, and I'll never forget how he
10 showed that that block cost all of us
11 \$1 million a year. I'm going to say
12 it again, \$1 million a year because of
13 people that might have been
14 incarcerated, on probation, on parole,
15 people who were victimized by the
16 crime that lost time from work and the
17 true cost of crime that we all pay for
18 and we need to monitor why, not so
19 that we can do more punishment, but
20 that we can understand what it cost us
21 not to solve this problem, but what it
22 cost us if we don't invest early.

23 One another person showed
24 that I think back then the tuition for
25 college tuition at the time at

1 Community College somewhere was in the
2 neighborhood of \$10,000 to \$13,000 a
3 year versus the cost of incarceration
4 which at that time was somewhere in
5 the neighborhood of \$35,000 a year.

6 I have often said in many
7 different hearings and some, almost ad
8 nauseam from some of my members, that
9 if it ain't measured, it ain't
10 managed -- and I went to public school
11 and I know that's broken English --
12 but it makes the point that if we
13 don't look at the cost of crime in its
14 many different aspects, then we cannot
15 begin to manage our budgets
16 effectively to make the proper
17 investments early on that can in the
18 long run save us money to be a penny
19 wise and a pound foolish, it's not the
20 way that we should go.

21 We understand that we can't
22 arrest our way out of these problems,
23 but we can invest our way into some of
24 the solutions that these problems are
25 causing. So what we want to do is

1 take a hard look at the cost centers
2 around criminal activity and what it
3 does to our society.

4 Just simply one-third of our
5 budget -- I'm going to say this,
6 one-third of our budget is spent on
7 public safety, police, fire of course,
8 prisons, courts represent one-third of
9 every dollar that we pay in taxes we
10 expend on public safety for the
11 attempt to make our community safer.

12 So we want to take a look at
13 this so that we can better
14 appropriate, so that we can better
15 invest, so that we can better
16 understand what the true cost of crime
17 is to Philadelphia and its citizens.

18 And with that, are there any
19 other members on the Public Safety
20 Committee who would like to make
21 comments at this time?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Seeing
24 none, Mr. Glass, would you please read
25 the names of the first panel to

1 testify.

2 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, the
3 first panel will be Erica Atwood.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES:

5 Ms. Atwood, how are you?

6 MS. ATWOOD: Good morning,
7 Councilmember. Good morning,
8 everyone. My name is Erica Atwood,
9 Deputy in the Managing Director's
10 Office and Senior Director for the
11 Office of Policy and Strategic
12 Initiatives for Criminal Justice and
13 Public Safety.

14 Before I begin my formal
15 testimony, thank you, Councilmember
16 Jones, for, one, giving me this
17 opportunity to speak on gun violence
18 in Philadelphia on the work of the
19 cluster that I manage, the cost of gun
20 violence in our City, to the
21 individual but also our communities as
22 a whole.

23 CJPS is the City of
24 Philadelphia's coordinating agency for
25 five individual departments that make

1 up the City's nonlaw enforcement
2 response to gun violence. Our agency
3 includes the Office of Violence
4 Prevention, the Office of the Victim
5 Advocates, the Office of Criminal
6 Justice, the Office of Re-entry
7 Partnerships and Time Watch Integrated
8 Services.

9 Prior to my role as Senior
10 Director, I served the City of
11 Philadelphia in developing the City's
12 Roadmap to Safer Communities, our
13 public-health approach to reducing gun
14 violence and making and creating a
15 safe, healthy and hopeful
16 Philadelphia. The Roadmap is our
17 comprehensive plan to establish and
18 implement a gun violence prevention
19 strategy that will reduce the rising
20 gun violence rates.

21 The strategies focused on
22 four central pillars that informed all
23 of our approaches to gun violence in
24 the City, connected and thriving
25 youth, young adults and families

1 coordinated City services and
2 planning, strong community engagement
3 and partnerships to safe and healthier
4 neighborhoods.

5 Our office strives to meet
6 the pillars of the Roadmap by
7 providing social services to
8 communities impacted by gun violence,
9 advocating for changes in policy that
10 result in better outcomes for our
11 communities and coordinating siloed
12 resources to produce better
13 opportunities, and I will add,
14 outcomes for all Philadelphians.

15 Our programs include outreach
16 services for individuals at the most
17 risk of committing or being exposed to
18 gun violence, intervention services
19 for young people already involved in
20 the cycle of violence, re-entry
21 services for individuals returning
22 from the incarceration system, and
23 town watch training for community
24 members interested in becoming more
25 involved in their own neighborhood

1 safety.

2 As someone who stands at the
3 helm of this work, I'm embedded in all
4 elements of the gun violence
5 continuum, from the upstream
6 preventative work to the downstream
7 work focused on intervention, which
8 brings me to the second purpose of
9 today's hearing.

10 Every day our office is faced
11 with the cost of gun violence to
12 individuals, communities in
13 Philadelphia as a whole. As of today,
14 approximately 1600 individuals have
15 been shot in Philadelphia this year
16 and over 450 have lost their lives to
17 gun violence in 2022. This means
18 hundreds of families going to sleep
19 every night without a member or
20 sometimes members of their family.

21 The cost of gun violence in
22 our communities is infinitely complex
23 and nearly immeasurable, but I'm going
24 to try to paint a picture for you.
25 First, I'd like to note that

1 Philadelphia has the third highest
2 poverty rate in the nation. Gun
3 violence is a symptom of this poverty.
4 When people, especially young people
5 whose emotional mental states are
6 still developing, are faced with life
7 or death challenges of extreme
8 poverty, it stands to reason that they
9 may react irrationally or even
10 violently.

11 On an individual family level
12 when a Philadelphian becomes a victim
13 of gun violence or loses a member to
14 gun violence, they can also face
15 financial difficulties that hamstring
16 a family. Some of these challenges
17 face -- some of the challenges facing
18 survivors of gun violence include:
19 First and foremost, a death is
20 immeasurable and an irreplaceable
21 loss. Individuals who lose someone to
22 violence are faced with the reality of
23 trauma, of never being able to see
24 that person again.

25 This trauma can lead to

1 mental health challenges and the
2 possibility of self-harm or harm to
3 others. Hospital visits are costly in
4 the United States, and an emergency
5 room visit for a gun violence incident
6 is no different. In 2022,
7 Philadelphians have been charged over
8 roughly \$267.4 million in hospital
9 fees to date --

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'm sorry.
11 Say that figure again.

12 MS. ATWOOD: Sure.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: In
14 Philadelphia, right?

15 MS. ATWOOD: In 2022,
16 Philadelphians have been charged
17 \$267.4 million in hospital fees to
18 date. Furthermore, families that lose
19 someone to gun violence often have to
20 relocate or become dependent upon
21 assistance to cover potential
22 financial losses such as long-term
23 disability, limitations on mobility,
24 child care for replacing a missing
25 spouse or parent transportation and

1 emotional support.

2 These individual challenges
3 trickle up to the community in the
4 following ways: Communities lose a
5 sense of cohesion and safety due to a
6 new or increased sense of danger.

7 Neighborhoods often experience
8 increased mental wellness challenges
9 as their sense of physical insecurity
10 increases due to violent incidents in
11 their neighborhood. Property value
12 decreases in neighborhoods more
13 vulnerable to gun violence, increasing
14 poverty, financial vulnerability and
15 leading to future incidents of
16 violence.

17 Communities face generational
18 trauma due to years of violence
19 throughout many levels in the family,
20 but gun violence doesn't stay local.
21 It radiates outwards to a greater
22 societal level. Gun violence is an
23 issue that disproportionately impacts
24 communities of color and is therefore
25 an issue of racial justice.

1 Non-hispanic Black
2 Philadelphians and Hispanic
3 Philadelphians generally make up over
4 90 percent of the shooting victims in
5 our City. Our communities are under
6 siege. One of my greatest challenges
7 in this role is reaching media about
8 the work of our office. Too often
9 media reports on violence occurring in
10 community, but it rarely covers the
11 resources available to victims of gun
12 violence.

13 As you can imagine, media
14 reporting solely focused on violent
15 incidents but doesn't provide
16 solutions or options for safety only
17 increases the danger in our
18 neighborhoods and heightens the
19 negative impacts of gun violence that
20 I've already mentioned. Despite all
21 of these challenges, the Criminal
22 Justice and Public Safety cluster
23 continues to work tirelessly on the
24 issue of gun violence.

25 This coming year we're

1 finally poised to launch a READI
2 program, a pilot modeled after a
3 successful violence prevention program
4 in Chicago. READI provides
5 professional services, mental health
6 supports and transitional supports to
7 individuals who have experienced or
8 are at risk of committing violence,
9 but also very resistant to services.

10 I'm excited for this next
11 step in our fight against this
12 epidemic of violence and look forward
13 to reporting out on it in the future.
14 I want to close by highlighting
15 something that I say often in this
16 work. There's no cure for all,
17 there's no cure for gun violence.
18 This problem will not go away
19 overnight. To address gun violence in
20 Philadelphia, we have to take all of
21 our resources, persistence and
22 patience.

23 We have to provide social
24 services that get to the heart of the
25 problem, poverty and the challenges

1 that come from facing financial
2 hardship. This is the highest
3 priority for my cluster and why we
4 developed the Roadmap to Safer
5 Communities in the Kenney
6 Administration.

7 In order for us to do the
8 vital work of meeting our communities
9 most vulnerable to gun violence where
10 they are and providing them with the
11 best services possible, we need to
12 continue the support of all branches
13 of our government. I hope to continue
14 to receive your support and
15 collaboration in the future. Thank
16 you for the opportunity for speaking
17 today, and I'll be happy to respond to
18 any questions.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
20 so much for your testimony. It's so
21 much to unwrap in what you presented.
22 Things that jumped out at me was the
23 actual medical cost, and it's a
24 staggering figure in \$200 million-plus
25 that people are charged with and

1 someone at the end of the day has to
2 pay that bill. So that's number one.

3 The other thing that I
4 remember in other testimonies, when we
5 do this work, we hear things from
6 different sectors. One of the things
7 that I remember that is a cost,
8 someone said and I quote -- and I'm
9 paraphrasing, "When a Black man goes
10 to jail, a Black woman winds up in the
11 shelter."

12 And what did that mean to me
13 was that when someone is incarcerated,
14 they may have been a contributor to
15 rent, they've been a contributor to
16 the household. Sometimes, you know,
17 it wasn't a regular 9:00 to 5:00 job,
18 but it was still a contribution to the
19 maintenance of that household. And
20 when that income is lost due to
21 incarceration, that rent still is due
22 and that cost doesn't get absorbed
23 somewhere else. And that was a
24 pathway to poverty for many single
25 parents with dependent children I

1 remember.

2 So as we start to unfurl
3 this, there are direct costs and
4 indirect costs --

5 MS. ATWOOD: Right, yes.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: -- that we
7 don't quantify in a way to know the
8 true cost, and that's the purpose of
9 this hearing.

10 As we start to look -- and I
11 want to thank you publicly for the
12 work you do. It is not the kind of
13 work where you get awards. You're not
14 going to -- this is the nitty-gritty
15 boots-on-the-ground work, literally
16 boots-on-the-ground work that will not
17 necessarily offer all the answers, but
18 it will damn sure give us more of the
19 questions, and that is as important.

20 I guess one of the other
21 things that you talked about, I don't
22 know if we've ever taken a hard look
23 at the victims and what their costs
24 are when they miss work. In your
25 work, have you ever found any of those

1 figures?

2 MS. ATWOOD: We haven't, but
3 we're -- with the establishment of the
4 Office of the Victim Advocate, we are
5 able to now really focus on them. And
6 the one thing I will say is that I
7 have been really trying to needle in
8 on is often when we talk about or when
9 we meet with survivors, we often meet
10 with the co-victims. We often meet
11 with the mothers, the relatives. But
12 there is a whole demographic of
13 individuals, there are thousands of
14 individuals in this City that have
15 survived being shot that we don't
16 often hear from.

17 They are predominantly young
18 Black men. The figure is 1 in 7 are
19 living with some sort of irrefutable
20 injury, so a paralysis, a colonoscopy
21 bag or something that has changed
22 their lives permanently, and then we
23 really need to calculate that cost
24 when it comes to what is happening in
25 our nursing homes and how they're

1 being populated by young Black men.

2 When we talk about mothers
3 who should be looking to retirement,
4 but they're giving care to their adult
5 children because they can't take care
6 of themselves because they've been a
7 shooting victim, so those are the
8 voices and those are the costs,
9 measurable and otherwise, that we want
10 to begin to lift up so we can address
11 it.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: The Inglis
13 House in my District is one of those
14 facilities where people who have been
15 paralyzed due to gun violence wind up.
16 We need to start, and one of the
17 things that I want the Controller's
18 Office in the future to do is to start
19 to look at a model that truly creates
20 a matrix that has the columns and
21 lines to truly calculate what the
22 impact of that pebble in the middle of
23 the pond rippling out actually does to
24 society.

25 And one of them is, as you

1 mentioned, the cost of disabling an
2 individual from working full-time.
3 Another one of those costs is when
4 people actually -- and I'm looking at
5 the victim side and I'm looking at the
6 perpetrator and/or accused side. All
7 of them are different columns, but
8 they all wind up at the same bottom
9 line of what it costs society. And I
10 want us to start to look at measuring
11 these things that way.

12 And one of them is that when
13 there -- and I want it, as I go
14 through this hearing, I think of more
15 cost centers. What a colloquy when
16 someone takes a plea bargain, there's
17 over 200 things in the -- the judge
18 usually says, and Samantha Williams
19 helps me with this, there are like 200
20 different things that when you plead
21 guilty, you can no longer do once you
22 have pleaded guilty to a felony.

23 MS. ATWOOD: Yes.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: And some
25 of them Wayne -- what's his name, he's

1 going to kill me. Anyway, Wayne in
2 North Philly always tells me that
3 people when they come out even after
4 they serve their time cannot practice
5 whatever craft, licensed, you know,
6 skill that they do because of those
7 kinds of limitations and that has a
8 cost.

9 So if I was a doctor and I
10 got in trouble for a violent act,
11 let's say, you know, I got into it
12 with an irate patient, I could never
13 practice medicine again. And so,
14 those kinds of things have a cost as
15 well.

16 So I'm going to stop and ask
17 any of my fellow Committee members if
18 they have questions for this witness.

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Mr. Glass,
21 do I?

22 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, it
23 does not appear that any Members have
24 any questions at this time.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: I want to

1 thank you, Mr. Glass --

2 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Mr. Chair.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes?

4 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: I have a
5 question in the chat.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: Member
7 Gym.

8 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Yes, thank
9 you so much. Good morning,
10 Ms. Atwood. Thank you so much for
11 your testimony and deeply appreciate
12 the work that the City is doing. I
13 think one of our big investments for
14 the City has been around the Community
15 Crisis Intervention Program. And as
16 you know recently, the evaluation that
17 was conducted on CCIP laid out a
18 number of concerning issues with the
19 program, including difficulty around
20 coordination, a lack of support staff,
21 little involvement with community
22 stakeholders and the lack of clear
23 measurable goals for the program other
24 than the general goal of reducing
25 violence.

1 Can you talk a little bit
2 about how your office is addressing
3 the concerns laid out in the
4 evaluation, and specifically whether
5 your office is developing clear
6 measurable goals right now, what they
7 entail and how you actually will
8 measure them?

9 MS. ATWOOD: Sure. Thank you
10 for that question, Councilmember Gym.
11 And so, with regard to our Community
12 Crisis Intervention Program, it was
13 established in 2018 as a violence
14 interrupter program. What we have
15 done in response to the evaluation --
16 actually let me back up a little bit
17 and say this, while what we perceive
18 from the process evaluation was not
19 necessarily a gold star, what we do
20 realize is that it gets us on the
21 right track.

22 And so, I was asked by a
23 reporter is it a gut punch. No, it's
24 not a gut punch. It gets us on the
25 right track. We have a corrective

1 action plan now. And in that
2 corrective action plan is we are
3 hiring a director internal to the City
4 that will not just rely on the
5 contractor to be chiefly in charge of
6 facilitating the program, but we will
7 have stronger oversight of that
8 program. That position actually
9 should be posted within the next three
10 to four weeks.

11 With the hiring of that
12 position, we will now be able to
13 coordinate now our three providers for
14 this program because we can develop
15 shared outcomes and have a benchmark
16 of measuring on that and we have
17 democratized the work and hired
18 providers that specialize.

19 And so, we've always had
20 Philadelphia Anti-Drug Anti-Violence
21 Network, PAAN. So now we also have
22 Eddie's House in West and Southwest
23 Philadelphia, and we additionally
24 added IDAAY. And so, IDAAY is really
25 going to focus on juveniles. So as we

1 were seeing that uptick, how are we
2 specializing our supports and services
3 for that, how are we utilizing a
4 different geographic approach because
5 of the nuances and personalities of
6 our neighborhood and then how are we
7 across our providers strengthening our
8 training program, really implementing
9 a program for professional development
10 for the outreach workers, building out
11 partnerships with organizations like
12 our Trauma 1 Centers across the City
13 and Community College of Philadelphia
14 to be able to support these violence
15 interrupters.

16 Additionally, we are going to
17 continue to work with our evaluator to
18 really adjust what the impact is for
19 our Community Crisis Intervention
20 Program, so getting that support and
21 developing those benchmarks from a
22 national expert, being informed by
23 local experts and continue to align
24 our interrupter program with others
25 that exist not just locally, but

1 nationally and having -- we have
2 already set a table with our other
3 interrupter models, and Dr. Ruth Abaya
4 has set that table where we are coming
5 together.

6 So you have Temple at the
7 table, you have Presbyterian at the
8 table, you have the City of
9 Philadelphia at the table and others
10 who have violence interrupter programs
11 and how we've been developing not just
12 shared outcomes for the City, but
13 shared outcomes for all communities
14 that have violence interrupter work
15 happening. Does that get at your
16 question?

17 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Yeah, I
18 think this is going to be an ongoing
19 conversation to hold our investments
20 to the standards that I think we need
21 to do, but also most importantly to
22 meet the needs of communities.

23 Another key issue that was
24 raised in the report was the
25 difficulty of staff to quickly provide

1 resources to people they meet to need
2 them. We know that this has long been
3 a problem around access to mental
4 health services, employment and other
5 types of things. So could you talk a
6 little bit about what is being done to
7 coordinate the timely delivery of
8 resources --

9 MS. ATWOOD: Yeah, sure --

10 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: That much
11 of the City's role is about referrals
12 and people cannot make the connection
13 between multiple referrals to multiple
14 different places and to actually
15 getting those resources delivered to
16 them.

17 MS. ATWOOD: Yeah. So part
18 of that is strengthening our case
19 management and our coordination
20 services. The other nuance that I'll
21 say, and this is not an excuse but
22 just a highlight, this evaluation was
23 happening in the midst of COVID. And
24 so, the connections with providers
25 were not there in the way that they

1 are now. And so, we are
2 re-strengthening those relationships
3 we had with behavioral health
4 supports, we had with employers,
5 including those that we have contracts
6 with our Group Violence Intervention
7 Program to ensure we are making that
8 throughline and connection.

9 We are strengthening our
10 opportunities to document and track
11 how we are connecting individuals.
12 And so, innovating the app that we
13 use, ensuring that all of our street
14 outreach workers are trained and fully
15 comfortable with that, ensuring that
16 they are trained on other things in
17 terms of de-escalation, mediation.
18 It's also ensuring that we're actually
19 hiring the right people. Just because
20 you're from the hood doesn't mean you
21 can do this work. And so, we have to
22 make sure that we are having the
23 conversations and really elevating the
24 benchmarks by which we hire folks to
25 do this work.

1 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Yeah. You
2 know, during COVID we created the most
3 successful Rent Assistance Eviction
4 Prevention Program that the City, you
5 know, that the country had seen.
6 During COVID, we were able to deliver
7 mutual aid, figure things out. I know
8 that that was a challenging time, but
9 as crisis is about needing it and then
10 trying to figure out how to make sure
11 that we're not fitting individuals
12 into something that we create, but
13 adapting our systems to meet the
14 needs. So I know that that's going to
15 continue to go on.

16 Before the Phase 2 evaluation
17 does come out, however I understand
18 that there will be a Phase 2. What
19 changes are you making to the program
20 based on the issues that are raised in
21 Phase 1 and which ones are you
22 prioritizing?

23 MS. ATWOOD: We're
24 prioritizing hiring a director and in
25 training and professional development

1 of the current workers and increasing
2 the capacity of the program across the
3 City. Those are the things that we
4 know -- we've got to take the training
5 a lot more seriously, and I've
6 expressed that and I've communicated
7 that to my team and the providers, and
8 having someone who at their full-time
9 job to manage this program I think is
10 really critical into making sure that
11 we have the most appropriate
12 oversight, and we are ensuring that
13 our investments are going where they
14 need to go.

15 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Okay.

16 MS. ATWOOD: And we have a
17 full report of how we are going to
18 respond to each of the points that
19 we've put out when we did announce the
20 evaluation about a month ago.

21 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Okay. I
22 just need to emphasize that hiring the
23 executive director cannot be a
24 priority for Phase 2 evaluation. It
25 just can't. It is like basically a

1 responsibility. It is the job. My
2 questions were really about the core
3 questions identified with the
4 evaluation. We are not coordinated.
5 We do not have enough support for
6 staff. That is not necessarily the
7 result of the executive director.

8 It's inconceivable that there
9 isn't a permanent director. But that
10 being said, like I understand how
11 difficult many of these challenges
12 are. I just want to emphasize that my
13 core concerns about the Phase 2
14 evaluation have nothing to do with
15 whether the Administration hires an
16 executive director, and it sounds like
17 it gets the program off the ground.
18 It's got to fundamentally deal with
19 the coordination of services, the
20 ability of significant and strategic
21 support for staff beyond an executive
22 director occupying a seat and the
23 engagement that the community
24 stakeholders that we've got right now.

25 So we will be paying close

1 attention. We want you -- this is a
2 deep investment by our Council. We
3 cannot -- we have already heard, as
4 you know from the Chair, \$1 out of
5 every \$3 is already spent on
6 institutions that we have not gone
7 further in. And CCIP is the unknown
8 part of it, the part that is outside
9 of the traditional measures of dealing
10 with violence that is not solving the
11 issues.

12 And so, we want to know that
13 it has the kind of priority supports,
14 attention and a firm commitment to the
15 outcomes that we desperately believe
16 that we need to have. Otherwise, it
17 won't be \$1 out of \$3. It'll be \$1
18 out of \$2. It'll be so much more, and
19 it's not giving us the outcomes that
20 we need.

21 So CCIP is something that we
22 need a lot of attention to right now
23 because if we can't figure it out
24 through CCIP and other cities have --
25 to be clear, other cities have done

1 this work. You can see the difference
2 that it will make because that's the
3 unknown area and that's why we're so
4 attentive to it.

5 So those are all my
6 questions, Mr. Chair. Thank you very
7 much.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
9 Member Gym, and thank you for the
10 insight.

11 What I take from those
12 questions is that our evaluations, in
13 addition to your own internal
14 evaluation, you let grants for how
15 many different organizations that are
16 "boots on the ground"?

17 MS. ATWOOD: So the Community
18 Expansion grants, we awarded 31
19 grantees. About 29 made it through
20 the program.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: So there
22 are 29 different grants out there that
23 we have to also evaluate, see how much
24 they cost. It's one thing to do good.
25 It's also important to know how much

1 doing good cost so that we can take
2 programs that are doing good and bring
3 them to scale.

4 So if you're doing good in
5 one area but if you could replicate
6 that in another, how do we do that.
7 So that evaluation is a cost
8 evaluation and a deliverables
9 evaluation that we have to begin to
10 do. I think we invested \$145 million
11 last time out of --

12 MS. ATWOOD: That was 163
13 across agencies and across
14 investments.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: And
16 there's going to be an expectation
17 that we do that in a second round.
18 But each time we do that, we should be
19 making cost considerations of return
20 on investment, considerations to say
21 that we like this program but does it
22 meet the outcomes we need, did
23 shootings go down, did crime go down,
24 did murders go down. And to evaluate
25 if we do more of this, will that trend

1 continue. But it doesn't happen if we
2 don't know how much things cost.

3 So in your work, we need to
4 circle back and see how much did good
5 cost us and to be able to quantify
6 that in our budget analysis going
7 forward.

8 MS. ATWOOD: Councilmember,
9 if I may, so a couple things. One,
10 with regard to our Community Crisis
11 Intervention Program, if we don't put
12 some level of consistent oversight on
13 it, what we need, what we know is a
14 priority, who then is really paying
15 attention to it. So I understand that
16 folks have concern about positions.
17 But if there is not oversight, then
18 what.

19 The second thing I will say
20 in regard to our grants, we have
21 launched an evaluation at the same
22 time we began our grants to be able to
23 understand the importance of investing
24 in community-based organizations that
25 have the trust, relationship and

1 familiarity with communities, because
2 often in the same Erica saying, it's
3 something I've heard over the years,
4 those who are closest to the problem
5 are closest to the solution, but also
6 have the least access to resources and
7 power. And so, how do we change that
8 paradigm so we can truly build an
9 ecosystem around vulnerable
10 communities that get out the short and
11 the long-term issues they are
12 experiencing, including gun violence,
13 like quality education, lack of
14 support for behavioral health issues,
15 lack of economic mobility and just
16 general quality-of-life issues.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay. Are
18 there any other questions for
19 Ms. Atwood?

20 (No response.)

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Seeing
22 none, thank you for your testimony.
23 And we will be doing a regular budget
24 process checking back in to be able to
25 evaluate and then re-appropriate and

1 to reinvest and to double-down, if you
2 would, on things that work. Thank you
3 for your testimony.

4 MS. ATWOOD: Thank you.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Mr. Glass,
6 who's our next panelist to testify?

7 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, our
8 second panel is Oren Gur, ADA Deborah
9 Watson-Stokes, Melany Nelson and
10 G. Lamar Stewart from the District
11 Attorney's Office. Thank you.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.
13 Good morning still.

14 MR. STEWART: Good morning.
15 Good morning, Chairman. How are you,
16 sir?

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: You know,
18 one day at a time. I'm so far so
19 good.

20 MR. STEWART: Wonderful.
21 Well, thank you for having us again
22 today. And good morning to all of our
23 colleagues on City Council. I'm
24 joined today by several staff here at
25 the DA's Office to include Assistant

1 District Attorney Erica Rebstock who
2 is the Assistant Chief of the Homicide
3 and Non-Fatal Shootings Unit, joined
4 also by ADA Deb Watson-Stokes who is
5 Senior Advisor on Special Projects as
6 well as Professional Development. We
7 have with us Myra Maxwell, who is our
8 Director of Victim Support Services
9 Division as well as Melany Nelson who
10 is the Director of CARES and ADA Mike
11 Lee will be joining as well on the
12 back end of this conversation and I
13 will be discussing a few points.

14 And --

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Welcome to
16 you all. Good morning.

17 MR. STEWART: Thank you so
18 much. We should be through this
19 presentation about 18 or 19 minutes.
20 So Bria Raynor is sharing the slides
21 today. So, Bria, if you can start
22 with Slide No. 3, which is the
23 emotional toll on victims and
24 survivors impacted by homicide.
25 Melany Nelson will begin.

1 MS. NELSON: Good morning.

2 Thank you so much, G. Lamar,
3 Councilman Jones and Committee. Thank
4 you so much for having us today. It
5 is truly a pleasure for me to be able
6 to speak about the CARES Unit.

7 What is very unique about the
8 CARES Unit is that we are all peer
9 crisis responders. That means that we
10 have all experienced a homicide in our
11 family or with a close loved one.
12 That is so unique with us because we
13 are deployed to crime scenes. And any
14 of you who know me, know I do not ask
15 my staff to do anything that I would
16 not do.

17 All of the CARES responders,
18 including myself, we are deployed to
19 crime scenes throughout the City of
20 Philadelphia from 6:00 a.m. to
21 10:00 p.m., so we are providing crisis
22 support to those mothers, to those
23 fathers, the grandmothers,
24 grandfathers, family members, cousins,
25 neighbors to anyone who was present on

1 a crime scene in the City of
2 Philadelphia again from 6:00 a.m. to
3 10:00 p.m.

4 We are there giving them
5 crisis support, giving them
6 information on how they can make it
7 through the very next day which is so
8 traumatic. And while we're there
9 speaking to these family members,
10 their deceased loved one is still on
11 the scene. The work that we do is
12 extremely heavy. We're working hand-
13 in-hand with the detectives that are
14 on the scene. We're working hand-in-
15 hand with the officers that are on the
16 scene.

17 The very next day the lead
18 responder from the CARES Unit is
19 calling all of those families because
20 sometimes we get those homicides that
21 occur before 6:00 a.m. and after
22 10:00 p.m. But our lead responder is
23 calling all of those families the very
24 next day to let them know the services
25 that we have available for them, and

1 we're going to do after we're walking
2 with them for 45 days, then we're
3 going to do that soft hand-off to the
4 community-based agency that will then
5 walk with them.

6 But while we're walking with
7 these families, these first 45 days is
8 crucial. It is extremely crucial. A
9 lot of these families do not have life
10 insurance for their babies, so we're
11 offering the funeral directors that we
12 know where the money is not an issue
13 and they can't wait to get their money
14 off the back end when filing the claim
15 through victims compensation.

16 We're walking with them when
17 they have to contact the Medical
18 Examiner's Office, because I don't
19 know if you know, but the Medical
20 Examiner's Office's procedure has
21 changed since COVID. They cannot go
22 down to the Medical Examiner's Office
23 and identify their loved one. They
24 have to do that by phone. They may
25 have to do that by email, which a lot

1 of them think this is not empathetic,
2 so we listen to them and we love on
3 them and we offer them the supports
4 that are needed.

5 We are speaking to these
6 families when they can't get in
7 contact with the homicide detective,
8 because they want to know what's going
9 on with their loved one. They want to
10 know has there been any updates in
11 their case and then they will contact
12 us. So not only are we deployed to
13 the crime scenes, we're also at the
14 hospitals. We're at the hospitals
15 where the families are gathered in
16 that room and the doctor is giving
17 that death notification. At that
18 time, we're there to offer crisis
19 support. So we are right there where
20 the loved one finds out that their
21 loved one is no longer with them in
22 this life, which is very heavy work.

23 But I will say that all of my
24 responders, they love what they do.
25 It's not a job. It's a passion for

1 them. We're contacting them by phone.
2 We're doing home visits. We're going
3 out to their house to sit there and
4 speak with them and again love on
5 them. Even during COVID, no
6 interruption. We ask them do you have
7 a porch, do you have a patio where we
8 can sit down and we can speak with you
9 and still offer those face-to-face
10 needs that they have, so we do not
11 miss a beat even though we are in the
12 COVID stage.

13 We want to ensure that
14 everyone gets what they need. And
15 most importantly, we are providing the
16 same services for every single
17 co-homicide survivor, whether it makes
18 the news or not. We provide the same
19 services for everyone who is affected
20 by a homicide.

21 One of our greatest needs is
22 relocation for those mothers who have
23 lost a loved one maybe in her house,
24 maybe in front of her door, but
25 relocation is huge. So the CARES Unit

1 collaborates with the community-based
2 agencies to ensure that all needs are
3 met and then of course, we lean on the
4 other important units within the
5 Philadelphia District Attorney's
6 Office to ensure that safety is first
7 and foremost for the co-homicide
8 survivors. Thank you so much.

9 MR. STEWART: Thank you,
10 Ms. Melany. Next, we'll have Reverend
11 Myra Maxwell to talk more in-depth
12 regarding our Relocation Program.
13 Next slide, please.

14 (No response.)

15 MR. STEWART: Myra, are you
16 there? I need you to unmute.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: As you
18 find your next person to testify, can
19 you tell us in this process the cost?
20 We want to kind of focus -- I know the
21 good work. I've been involved, and
22 many of our members on this Committee
23 have been there when those services
24 are utilized and needed at a crime
25 scene, at a homicide. But also, what

1 does it cost to provide that? We want
2 to drill down on, you know, there's an
3 emotional cost, but there are actual
4 costs involved too.

5 MS. NELSON: So if you speak
6 about the emotional cost, the
7 beautiful part about what the
8 community base offers that all
9 services are free, what CARES offers
10 is free. And please forgive me, I
11 forgot to mention therapy. Therapy is
12 huge. But the CARES Unit has a
13 partnership with ABP, and we're able
14 to provide free therapy with them,
15 which again therapy is huge.

16 A lot of the community-based
17 agencies throughout the City of
18 Philadelphia has a waiting list, and
19 then sometimes you have those
20 co-homicide survivors that may utilize
21 therapy through their health
22 insurance. I'm not sure about that
23 cost, but the therapy cost, they can
24 be reimbursed through Victims
25 Compensation.

1 As you know, they can be
2 reimbursed for up to \$6500. You and I
3 know that's not enough to bury a loved
4 one. We do have some family members
5 that have a Janazah, that \$6500 will
6 cover that. But some other funerals,
7 the funeral cost goes well over \$6500.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: So you
9 touched on an interesting point of
10 cost. So a lot of people don't even
11 calculate the fact that when someone
12 dies, there's a funeral and when
13 there's a crime scene, it has to be
14 cleaned up. And we had in another
15 hearing talked about how much, oh,
16 God, to clean a crime scene actually
17 cost, and we don't factor those things
18 in.

19 When someone commits a crime,
20 when someone dies, there is a cost to
21 a funeral, there's a cost to that
22 crime scene, and we want to create a
23 model, and I would only think that the
24 Controller's Office would be utilized
25 to be able to kind of keep track of

1 these costs and their direct, some of
2 them, and then their indirect costs.

3 Like you mentioned the
4 counseling, that counseling is free to
5 people who are victims of crime, but
6 someone at the end of the day has to
7 pay for it.

8 MS. NELSON: That's correct.
9 That is correct. And I will say this,
10 Councilman. When you spoke about
11 crime scene cleanup, through Victim's
12 Compensation, they can be reimbursed
13 for up to \$500 for a crime scene, and
14 through PCCD they've added a vehicle.
15 Before a vehicle wasn't included in
16 those charges. It was just a home.

17 But, Councilman, the issue is
18 reimbursement. People don't have that
19 money upfront to be reimbursed. The
20 beautiful part about the CARES Unit
21 and our responders and how we work so
22 hard, we try to find those resources
23 for people who are not in it just for
24 the money. We try to find those
25 resources for people who are in it

1 because they're empathetic, because
2 they love people and they know that if
3 we're working with this family, they
4 will get their money on the back end.
5 So we do have a resource for crime
6 scene cleanup.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: So I mean,
8 I'm just trying to -- so keep in mind
9 in this hearing, we're not evaluating
10 what is good. We're trying to
11 evaluate how much good cost and to
12 say I -- what you do is priceless.
13 Let me say that again. What you do to
14 a grieving family, for a grieving
15 family is priceless, but there is a
16 cost, and we have to kind of start in
17 society figuring out what those costs
18 are and how to reinvest more in
19 certain aspects of it and kind of
20 redirect in other aspects of it. And
21 that's the hard part of this work.
22 That's the hard part of this work.

23 MR. STEWART: Councilmember,
24 we have up next Myra Maxwell who will
25 talk a little bit about relocation,

1 and I think this is an area
2 particularly around victim support
3 that you and other Councilmembers have
4 raised many questions. And certainly,
5 there's a cost there. Mike Lee and I
6 will kind of really hamper down on
7 some of that later on.

8 But if I could yield to Myra
9 Maxwell, and then we'll go on to one
10 other area because we have Erica
11 Rebstock who is on with us. She's
12 currently in the courtroom right now
13 and going to do her presentation from
14 the courtroom, as our attorneys are
15 working all morning trying to seek
16 justice for victims of crime.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Please
18 proceed.

19 MR. STEWART: Myra.

20 MS. MAXWELL: Good morning,
21 Councilmembers. To speak a little bit
22 about our Relocation Program, as you
23 know our Relocation Program has two
24 functions which is listed, relocate
25 witnesses that are impacted by

1 intimidation. We actually are there
2 to remove our families from any
3 imminent or perceived danger, which
4 means, imminent means threatened,
5 intimidated by the perpetrator or
6 their family members or others that
7 have something to do with the crime,
8 but also perceive those who may live
9 in the same communities as the
10 perpetrators or the families and are
11 being intimidated or have a potential
12 to be intimidated.

13 The process, of course we
14 have to make sure that all of those
15 families file for police reports
16 because we work directly with our
17 police department, and we receive
18 referrals from the police department
19 as well as our prosecutors will refer
20 to our program to make sure that their
21 victims, witnesses and the families
22 are safe.

23 It is very imperative because
24 we have to make sure that we're
25 ensuring their safety to the best of

1 our ability because they are actually
2 those who are testifying in many of
3 our court cases against the
4 perpetrators of crime. Currently, we
5 receive approximately five or more
6 referrals per week, so our team is
7 actually working both day and night.

8 They are on the clock around
9 the clock. They are working around
10 the clock because when we get calls
11 for immediate danger, then we have to
12 act quickly to make sure that our
13 families or our witnesses are moved
14 out of the aim, the danger zones, and
15 making sure that they are taken to
16 safety which means that of course when
17 we're removing families immediately,
18 there are often times families may not
19 have the ability to move in with
20 another family member, which means
21 that we have to provide hotel costs
22 for them.

23 With hotel costs, of course
24 if you have to provide more than one
25 room because they may have multiple

1 family members, especially the
2 children, we want to make sure our
3 children are safe. We make sure that
4 there are more rooms that we need to
5 get, two, maybe three rooms. We try
6 to accommodate those things.

7 Also, we have to make sure
8 that we are not -- oh, they're fed.
9 They have to eat. People have to eat,
10 so we're supporting making sure that
11 they're able to eat. They may not
12 have resources available where they're
13 able to feed themselves while they're
14 in the Relocation Program.

15 The great thing about this
16 program is that we do have staff that
17 are there, they are available. And
18 where they're moving, they're actually
19 making certain that these families are
20 receiving the same type of care that
21 they would receive if they were
22 actually in their own homes, so we are
23 really supporting them thoroughly.

24 We know that the current
25 funding for the AG's Office is

1 approximately \$1.2 million. However,
2 Philadelphia being a large county of
3 course, we are really the ones that
4 are using most of their budget. And
5 then of course, our City funding which
6 has been over time \$260,000 per year,
7 and we are very grateful for any
8 additional funding that we have
9 received to support this program. Of
10 course, the cost again includes hotel
11 stays, parking, transportation to and
12 from, especially if they have to go to
13 and from court, and also to make sure
14 that we are supporting them of course.
15 As the crime has upticked in
16 Philadelphia, we have had increased
17 referrals for relocation.

18 Our funded support would also
19 help -- of course additional funding
20 support would help us to include
21 housing specialists to work alongside
22 of those who are already serving and
23 relocating these families. Our
24 housing specialists then provide case
25 management, which will assist with the

1 longer-term support for our families
2 to receive stabilized housing.

3 So we do not want to have
4 people that are in our Relocation
5 Program unfortunately going out of the
6 program and still are not able to
7 sustain housing. We want to make sure
8 that they have stabilized housing. So
9 in order to do that, we would
10 absolutely want to include case
11 managers or housing specialists to
12 assist with that process.

13 We can never assume that
14 families are able to navigate systems,
15 because we find that many of our
16 families unfortunately are not
17 educated. They don't have the
18 capacity. Some of them may have maybe
19 even a 6th grade education level, so
20 we have to make sure that they're able
21 to navigate these systems because they
22 have other challenges.

23 We may have to also include
24 the fact that they are not able to go
25 through the process without some

1 additional support, which is
2 important. Again, we want to make
3 sure that we are not now creating
4 people that will become homeless later
5 on and unfortunately have to return to
6 the program. We want to make sure
7 that they will have secure housing in
8 the long term.

9 So again, this is really
10 important to all of us to make sure
11 that these things are in place to
12 support these families, and with that
13 of course there comes costs. So we
14 hope to increase and include services
15 and supports in our Relocation
16 Program, again as the need is greater
17 and the referrals are absolutely
18 increasing.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: So let me
20 interject real quick. What level do
21 we consider witness relocation? At
22 what level in the continuum of crime
23 does it warrant someone being
24 relocated? Is that a shooting? Is
25 that a homicide?

1 MS. MAXWELL: It is all of
2 the above. We locate folks for our
3 non-fatals as well as our homicide
4 co-survivors. We certainly look out
5 for of course the children because we
6 have to relocate families. So often
7 times there is a number of people.
8 And even thinking about if the person
9 who is a witness or a victim or
10 survivor, sometimes they have family
11 members that are elderly that they
12 care for, so not only do we have to
13 relocate the children, we also may
14 have to relocate the elderly person in
15 which they are providing care for.

16 So if there's any threat
17 imposed, whether it's a shooting,
18 whether it's a homicide or whether
19 it's other circumstances, we make sure
20 that these families are well taken
21 care of. It could be stabbings. It
22 could be other threats. But if there
23 are threats of danger, we certainly
24 want to make sure that they're
25 relocated and getting them to safety.

1 The only way that we won't
2 relocate, Councilmember, is if they
3 have maybe a murder conviction or if
4 they are a sex offender. So I have to
5 just say that sometimes we have to
6 look into the background too, because
7 sometimes there are people -- not to
8 say that it can't be done, but to say
9 that if we have certain things,
10 there's certain criteria that we have
11 to adhere to through of course our
12 Attorney General's Office. And we
13 have more flexibility with our DA
14 funding as well, so we're able to do a
15 little bit more.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: So what
17 I'm trying to get on the record is how
18 much demand in a given fiscal year is
19 there for witness relocation or
20 relocation?

21 MS. MAXWELL: Unfortunately,
22 when I mentioned five per week, five
23 referrals, and that's potentially five
24 per week, for the most part we are
25 relocating the majority of these

1 people to safety. Even if they're
2 already in public housing, we are
3 actually helping them to get in other
4 safe areas outside of the danger zone,
5 so relocation is happening constantly.

6 And most of the referrals
7 because they are coming from our
8 police department, so we have
9 documentation on the record that there
10 is some form of intimidation occurring
11 for that family.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: So last
13 year, how many requests for relocation
14 were there?

15 MS. MAXWELL: Councilmember,
16 I think that they're going to address
17 that in some of the other slides, if
18 I'm correct.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: Very well.

20 MR. STEWART: What I can
21 share with you, Councilmember, as my
22 colleague Myra Maxwell mentioned, we
23 receive \$260,000 annually from City
24 Council. That comes through the
25 Managing Director's Office to our

1 office. Now, we did get an increase.
2 DA Krasner made a request through our
3 Finance Unit. We asked for additional
4 funds. We received that in February,
5 but we weren't able to -- we requested
6 it at the end of last year. We didn't
7 receive it until February, and we
8 weren't able to exhaust those funds
9 because we had to use it by June. But
10 I will share with you that for FY2021
11 out of the \$260,000, we spent
12 \$259,717.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: So hear my
14 question: In a given year --

15 MR. STEWART: Yes.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: -- how
17 many people knock on the door and say,
18 I need to be relocated. Not how much
19 you've spent because I know we didn't
20 give you enough. Where is the demand?
21 How many cases do we have that require
22 relocation that we sometimes can't pay
23 for?

24 MR. STEWART: Certainly. We
25 can get those numbers. And I'll ask

1 our Victim Support Services Division
2 to provide those specific numbers as
3 to how many families we relocated as
4 far as the number over the last, you
5 know, year, two or five years. We can
6 get those specific numbers to you in
7 an expeditious fashion. Because
8 again, that varies. One family we may
9 be relocating 20 people. One
10 family --

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yeah. So
12 that's the kind of thing we can
13 quantify.

14 MR. STEWART: Certainly. So
15 we will get those specific numbers to
16 you here in the next few days, and
17 I'll ask our Victim Support Services
18 Division to begin to work on that.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: So what
20 would be helpful is if you said out
21 of -- I know how much money we
22 allocated and I know how much you
23 spent, that's fine. How many people
24 knocked on the door and said, move me
25 off of this block. And then what is

1 the average cost of that move, not in
2 every case, but what is the average
3 cost to provide that service to a
4 victim or a witness.

5 MR. STEWART: Understood.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: We're
7 trying to put our arms around the true
8 cost of this. And then the question I
9 would have is how does that correlate
10 to your closure rate? If I could move
11 more people that want to be witnesses
12 that would be willing to testify on
13 these cases, then maybe we could get
14 some justice.

15 MR. STEWART: Understood the
16 request.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: All too
18 often in our budgeting, how much did I
19 give you, how much did I spend, but
20 not what the demand was -- well, not
21 what we should have allocated for you.

22 MR. STEWART: Certainly.
23 We'll get those numbers to you,
24 Councilmember, here in the next
25 several days.

1 MS. MAXWELL: Thank you.

2 MR. STEWART: Just the last
3 portion of our presentation, we
4 have -- and if you can skip slides,
5 Bria. Let's go over to our
6 prosecution overview. And ADA Erica
7 Rebstock, who is the Assistant Chief
8 of the DAO's Homicide and Non-Fatal
9 Shooting Unit is present.

10 MS. REBSTOCK: Hi. Good
11 morning, everyone. Can you hear me
12 okay?

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes.
14 State your name for the record and
15 begin with your testimony, please.

16 MS. REBSTOCK: Yes. Good
17 morning. My name is Assistant
18 District Attorney Rebstock, and I just
19 thank you all for your time today and
20 for the introduction by G. Lamar
21 Stewart. I am here in the courthouse
22 in the CJC in the anteroom. So please
23 if you lose my connection, let me know
24 and I'll turn off my camera.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: You're

1 multi-tasking. Thank you.

2 MS. REBSTOCK: Yes, of
3 course. We currently have 26 DAs in
4 our Homicide and Non-Fatal Shooting
5 Unit. We prosecute all homicides and
6 any case where a shooting victim was
7 hit by a bullet for the DA's Office.
8 We will be going down to 25 ADAs, as
9 one of our attorneys is retiring in
10 January of 2023.

11 So that number of currently
12 26 going to 25 includes three
13 supervisors, myself, our Chief of the
14 Unit Joanne Pescatore and our Second
15 Assistant Chief Bob Foster. So in
16 terms of my DAs where we're primarily
17 assigning cases, that number is going
18 to go currently from 23, excluding the
19 supervisors, down to 22 as of January.
20 And our current caseload is
21 approximately 1100 open cases. It's
22 almost an even split 550 homicides,
23 550 non-fatal shootings, and we are
24 all on trial constantly. However,
25 despite the ability to resolve some

1 cases, we're trying them. We're
2 actively, you know, working on pleas.
3 We're resolving them and they're
4 constantly coming in, new arrests and
5 new charges, so those numbers are
6 holding steady despite the fact that
7 we're all currently on trial.

8 I, myself, have a jury
9 deliberating right now in a different
10 courtroom, so does at least one of my
11 other colleagues. So those are the
12 numbers that we have. And we would
13 also like the Councilmembers to
14 consider that in addition to our
15 cases, which break down to about 50 to
16 60 cases per ADA, we have at all times
17 two attorneys that are on-call 24
18 hours a day, seven days a week, and
19 that is to exclusively review warrant
20 searches and arrest for homicides and
21 to review charges to potential
22 charges, to decide to decline charges
23 or what to charge for newly charged
24 homicides.

25 There's one on-call position

1 that's exclusively for vehicular
2 homicides, and that ADA works with the
3 Accident Investigation Division. And
4 then the other position rotates one
5 week at a time Friday at 5:00 p.m.
6 until the next Friday at 5:00 p.m.,
7 where that attorney is on-call for all
8 other types of murder and that is in
9 addition to and not instead of their
10 regular court load. So in other
11 words, they're in court all day, they
12 finish their job at the office, they
13 start on-call at 5:00 that Friday.
14 They're on-call throughout the weekend
15 24 hours and throughout the week 24
16 hours. And so, that's another
17 rotation that we have. It's not a
18 separate position. It is absorbed by
19 the current staff we have in our unit.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: So I guess
21 what I'm looking for is that algebraic
22 equation that says that if I have a
23 shooting, the average shooting, court
24 time is X and it costs our
25 department -- to do a plea, it usually

1 cost this much to prosecute. And if
2 it ends in a plea agreement, it costs
3 this much. If I have to go to trial
4 for a shooting or a murder case, the
5 average time it takes to do that is Y
6 and it's longer, it costs this much,
7 if that makes sense.

8 I know how many cases per ADA
9 has to do. What I'd like is a
10 breakdown, and not today, but I want
11 you to think about how much does a
12 murder case cost. And somebody has
13 this number. And the reason I know is
14 because when we start to do plea
15 agreements, there's a reason, time and
16 cost. And so, that's why that is the
17 preferred outcome at times for a case.
18 Let's play it out, let's get it moved
19 on.

20 But how much when somebody
21 says, no, I want to go to trial, how
22 long does that average murder trial
23 take and how much does it cost.
24 Somebody has that number.

25 MS. REBSTOCK: Yes. And I

1 would defer to G. Lamar, to our staff
2 for the financial number. But I would
3 ask for consideration, whenever we get
4 that number and what it is, is that
5 there is a difference that we have
6 with a small subset of cases where a
7 defendant wants to resolve the case
8 quickly by plea and that thereby the
9 attorney is freed up because they're
10 working on the plea negotiations early
11 in the case and it's resolved. They
12 can set it aside and move on to the
13 next case versus a very much more
14 common scenario we have, which is
15 where the plea might take place the
16 day of jury selection, so that
17 attorney's worked on the case for a
18 year and is prepared to go to trial or
19 the last week before because the judge
20 will do a final colloquy, especially
21 for our 1st degree murder cases,
22 saying to the defendant if you lose,
23 it's a mandatory life sentence, are
24 you sure you don't want the offer
25 you've been saying for the past 11

1 months you don't want, and I'll give
2 you more time to talk to your attorney
3 about it, and then they accept it. So
4 just to keep that in mind as well as a
5 distinction between a quick, for lack
6 of a better term, guilty plea and ones
7 that might take the same trial prep
8 right up until the last minute.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: That is
10 helpful, and here's why I say that:
11 When I first took on the task of
12 Criminal Justice Reform Committee,
13 President Clarke gave me that
14 assignment, the courts gave me and you
15 and your department, the DA gave me a
16 seven-page-long possible outcomes. I
17 never forgot that accordion-style
18 sheet of from the time of arrest to
19 the time of a plea to the time of a
20 sentence. It just had seven different
21 pages of possible outcomes.

22 But what it did not have was
23 how much those off-ramps at each
24 juncture cost us, if that makes sense.

25 MS. REBSTOCK: Yes.

1 COUNCILMAN JONES: That we
2 don't know is it cheaper, and I know
3 it is, if somebody takes that year and
4 doesn't complete that trial, that has
5 a different cost to it. And what I'm
6 hoping to do and the reason for these
7 hearings is to be able to create or
8 charge someone to create a model that
9 really truly tracks what it costs not
10 only internal departments like the
11 Defender's Association, the District
12 Attorney's, the courts, but society.
13 And it's a heck of an economic model,
14 but it's one worth doing so that we
15 can better invest where we need to.

16 I see you, G. Lamar, with
17 that confused look on your face but --

18 MR. STEWART: I'm with you.
19 I'm taking notes, sir. That's all.
20 I'm taking notes.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay. All
22 right. Is that the end of your
23 presentation?

24 MS. REBSTOCK: Well, I just
25 wanted to make myself available for

1 any questions. But, yes, I would just
2 give a concluding remark if I may,
3 that our attorneys in our unit who are
4 here and who have this heavy caseload,
5 they are completely dedicated. They
6 want to be here. They take pride in
7 their work. They take pride in the
8 quality of the prosecution and with
9 that empathetic and compassionate
10 relationship that they build with the
11 families, with collaborating with law
12 enforcement. And we're just hoping to
13 retain them and to keep it competitive
14 with other offers that may be coming
15 in.

16 Because the positive of the
17 volume and the accelerated paths,
18 shall we say, is that in a shorter
19 amount of time you're gaining a lot
20 more trial experience. So these
21 attorneys who were in the units
22 throughout our office in the Trial
23 Division, and particularly in this
24 unit, they are handling every type of
25 case. They're making on-call

1 decisions. They're making court
2 decisions. They're trying every type
3 of bench trial, jury trial, pre-trial
4 motions, post-trial motions,
5 sentencings and they're really
6 valuable additions to the prosecution
7 of these violent cases for the City.

8 And so, we just appreciate
9 any consideration of all the testimony
10 that I've given today, and thank you
11 very much for your time.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
13 for your testimony and thank you for
14 taking the time to multi-task. While
15 you're doing the people's business in
16 the courtroom, you're also doing the
17 people's business in City Council
18 hearings. Thank you. Thank you for
19 your testimony.

20 Are there any questions from
21 members of the Committee?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Mr. Glass.

24 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, at
25 this time there are no questions in

1 the chat.

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
3 G. Lamar. I think we don't have all
4 the answers, but I think you've heard
5 more of the questions that we need to
6 think about. And as we move towards
7 our budget hearings, I really want us
8 to kind of take into account how
9 many -- I know what we gave you money
10 for, for relocation, but how much did
11 that do to deal with the demand and if
12 we could have given you more
13 relocation money, did that mean we
14 would have had more witnesses that
15 were available and would that mean
16 that more trials would have been
17 concluded with witnesses and justice
18 be done. So one affects the other.

19 I remember that there was a
20 murder in North Philly where the
21 people, the victim, the perpetrators
22 lived a block and a half from each
23 other and they shared the same
24 convenience store. And when they
25 looked out their door, they could see

1 down to that convenience store and it
2 was a cat-and-mouse game to try to
3 avoid the people that they were going
4 to have to testify against.

5 That kind of situation often
6 makes people reluctant to even get
7 involved as a witness, to get involved
8 as a person who would have to testify
9 against folks in the neighborhood and
10 then have to come back to that same
11 neighborhood to live. So these are
12 important factors in justice.

13 MR. STEWART: Certainly
14 understood and I certainly agree with
15 you, Councilmember. And,
16 Mr. Chairman, we'll get those numbers
17 to you, particularly from our Victim
18 Support Services Division around
19 relocations. I will have that to you
20 and your team hopefully by close of
21 business this week.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: And also,
23 the answer to the question how much
24 does a plea to a shooting case cost
25 versus a shooting case that goes to

1 trial or the same for a murder case
2 and how long do they last and how much
3 do they actually cost. Those kinds of
4 quantifying cost centers allow us to
5 know where we are and what your true
6 budget needs to be.

7 MR. LEE: Good morning,
8 Chairman --

9 MR. STEWART: We have ADA
10 Mike Lee on. I think he wants to give
11 a couple of remarks.

12 MR. LEE: I just wanted to
13 respond to your last question,
14 Councilmember, and --

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: State your
16 name for the record.

17 MR. LEE: Good morning again.
18 Mike Lee, Chief of Staff for the
19 District Attorney's Office, and thank
20 you for calling this very important
21 hearing and including the District
22 Attorney's Office as we try to work
23 through this solution together.

24 And to your last question
25 about what would the difference be

1 between a plea and a trial, it's
2 negligible because so much of the
3 fiscal cost is in the discovery and
4 the analysis of evidence and witness
5 preparation and things like that, so
6 there would be some things like
7 transportation costs or an expert
8 testifying again as to what we already
9 paid them to prepare in a report, but
10 we'll gladly get that information to
11 you. But I just wanted to temper some
12 of the expectation that there would be
13 a tremendous amount of fiscal saving
14 to a guilty plea, and that's why
15 there's so much importance in our
16 continued investment into the caseload
17 and the technology so that we can help
18 better understand the cost of our
19 decision-making both in terms of
20 economics and outcomes in terms of
21 making sure we're actually helping
22 people change their behavior, but also
23 in terms of our own performance
24 measurements so that we know that what
25 we're doing is measured and right.

1 So thank you again for the
2 opportunity to allow us to speak. And
3 I just wanted to touch very briefly on
4 that particular cost piece. Thank
5 you.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
7 Mr. Lee. But in the holding cost of
8 an individual that might take two
9 years for a murder trial, that's a
10 cost consideration. So let's look at
11 it. We'll take a look at it and see
12 what it truly cost, and I appreciate
13 your cooperation.

14 MR. STEWART: Thank you,
15 Mr. Chairman.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.
17 Mr. Glass.

18 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, it
19 does not appear that there are any
20 questions in the chat. So Keisha
21 Hudson, Chief Defender of the
22 Philadelphia Defender Association will
23 be our third panel.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.
25 Ms. Hudson.

1 MS. HUDSON: Good morning,
2 Councilmember Jones. Can you hear me?

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes, I
4 can.

5 MS. HUDSON: Thank you.
6 Keisha Hudson --

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: Please
8 begin your testimony and thank you for
9 your patience.

10 MS. HUDSON: Keisha Hudson,
11 Chief Defender at the Defender
12 Association of Philadelphia. On
13 behalf of the staff and Board of
14 Directors of the Defender Association,
15 I want to thank the members of the
16 City Council's Committee on Public
17 Safety for inviting us to testify
18 about the hidden costs of crime to
19 Philadelphia residents.

20 We know that there are some
21 who have openly questioned the value
22 of public defenders' thoughts on gun
23 violence and public safety,
24 particularly as it relates to economic
25 impact. But because we represent a

1 majority of those accused of gun
2 crimes in the City, we have a unique
3 and invaluable perspective on the
4 factors that lead some of our clients
5 to take actions that unfortunately
6 lead them to our office.

7 And while we know the problem
8 has impacted business and allocation
9 of City resources, our office spends a
10 great deal of time examining the
11 direct economic impact on the
12 residents of neighborhoods where our
13 clients come from. I've stated this
14 previously, but I think this is a data
15 point that is so critical for this
16 conversation and for our solutions
17 here.

18 Over 80 percent of our
19 clients, over 80 percent of our
20 clients accused of gun violent crimes
21 are victims of violent crimes
22 themselves, are victims of violence.
23 So right away we need to dispel the
24 notion that the current gun violence
25 crisis is made up of static groups of

1 victims and perpetrators.

2 The reality is today's
3 witness for the prosecution may well
4 be tomorrow's defendant when it comes
5 to gun crimes. In other words, nearly
6 everyone is a victim of gun violence.
7 We need to bear this in mind as we
8 examine the economic consequences of
9 this crisis. As you might expect, it
10 is our position that our current
11 carceral system of justice with its
12 emphasis on warrior policing and
13 detention has never and will never be
14 the solution.

15 In fact, if we're talking
16 about economic impact, there's a
17 mountain of research to suggest that
18 these tactics are exacerbating
19 economic destabilization in the
20 communities where they are most often
21 used. For decades in Philadelphia,
22 traditional law enforcement practices
23 and racialized mass incarceration has
24 had a disproportionate negative impact
25 on relatively small sections of the

1 City, predominantly in poor Black and
2 Brown communities.

3 In communities vulnerable to
4 violence, there are numerous factors
5 that contribute to individuals
6 becoming even more likely to
7 participate in or be the victim of
8 violence. These include disruption of
9 the family unit. The City of
10 Philadelphia currently leads the
11 nation in the placement of Black and
12 Brown children outside of the home.
13 We lead the nation in that statistic.

14 Economic and housing
15 instability and school disengagement,
16 not only do these factors have the
17 biggest impact on children, they have
18 long-term consequences for them as
19 individuals and members of the larger
20 society. They're often both cause and
21 consequences of incarceration. Even
22 relatively brief periods of pre-trial
23 detention where presumptively innocent
24 people are held prior to their trial
25 have enormous impact on the clients we

1 serve and their families.

2 Per the court's research and

3 data analysis funded by MacArthur

4 Initiative, 30 percent of the jail

5 population in September of 2022 were

6 their pre-trial. They had no

7 detainers. They were there simply

8 because they could not afford bail.

9 Jail stays of three days or more, even

10 if the charges are ultimately

11 dismissed or the client is found not

12 guilty, are linked to poorer life

13 outcomes. The inability to secure

14 pre-trial release is linked to further

15 entanglement with the legal system for

16 up to two years after the initial

17 arrest. This is because many of our

18 clients are already living right at

19 the brink of economic collapse.

20 For example, the mass

21 incarceration of men has contributed

22 to an equally devastating eviction

23 crisis. Families become unable to

24 afford housing due to the loss of the

25 incarcerated person's income. It

1 leads one researcher to conclude that
2 poor Black men were locked up and poor
3 Black women were locked out. That's
4 just one example. Criminal records --

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: That's
6 where I got that quote from. Now, I
7 know where I got the quote from. I
8 will pen it to you now.

9 MS. HUDSON: That's just one
10 example. Criminal records also place
11 barriers between people and
12 opportunities for employment and
13 education, which puts them and their
14 families in a nearly insurmountable
15 economic disadvantage. Improving the
16 fiscal outlooks for our most
17 vulnerable neighborhoods will require
18 us to completely rethink the role our
19 justice system plays in the lives of
20 those who come in contact with it.
21 And while no single public entity or
22 system can save our economy, every
23 stakeholder should reflect on their
24 own practices to see what they can do
25 to affect positive change.

1 Shortly, the Defender
2 Association will be sharing its own
3 gun violence policy where we outline
4 some of the causes and conditions of
5 violence, but we're also offering the
6 result of our own internal analysis
7 and ways to plan to improve our
8 practice to better serve our clients
9 and communities.

10 These improvements include
11 changes to our representation model to
12 stay in better contact with our
13 clients. I'm proud that just recently
14 our Children and Youth Justice Unit
15 has moved to vertical representation.
16 Our youngest clients now have one
17 attorney from the start to the end of
18 their case. We want to embed victim
19 services. We want to increase social
20 service support in our office.

21 I mentioned the earlier data
22 about our clients who have themselves
23 been victims of violence or trauma or
24 have been removed from their family
25 home at an early age and placed in

1 foster care or who age out of the
2 foster care system and have nowhere to
3 go. These are the clients we see
4 arrested and charged for adult crimes,
5 including gun violence. So we want to
6 provide more dedicated social service
7 support.

8 Our clients need wraparound
9 services. And as public defenders who
10 sometimes spend a year, there are two
11 or three working on their case, if we
12 can provide those dedicated wrap-
13 around social service supports, our
14 clients will do better. Many of our
15 clients are going to come home. And
16 so, what will they come home to if we
17 do not also work with the community to
18 ensure that when they are released, we
19 can minimize barriers to re-entry.
20 And I'm proud of the work that our
21 staff currently does in getting into
22 the communities and working with the
23 community partners, communities where
24 our clients live.

25 Again, individual agencies

1 acting alone won't stem the tide of
2 violence. The justice system does
3 have a role to play, but it was
4 designed to address criminogenic
5 behavior only after a crime has been
6 committed. We can't expect to rely
7 solely on law enforcement and our
8 court system to break that cycle.

9 The Defender is committed to
10 working with our justice system
11 partners, community organizations,
12 elected officials, citizens to
13 holistically address the social and
14 economic causes and impacts of gun
15 violence on our City. Thank you again
16 for this opportunity to share our
17 thoughts and insights on this
18 important issue. That concludes my
19 testimony, Councilmember.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
21 so much for your testimony and thank
22 you for you and your department, your
23 team's involvement in the 100 Shooter
24 Review which we presented, and your
25 input in that regard showed how the

1 continuum of criminal justice impact
2 did by those individuals you defend.

3 Some of the things that came
4 out of it that we were able to glean
5 that you saw young people as juveniles
6 that you could have predicted and said
7 with a little bit of intervention, we
8 could prevent them from becoming the
9 adult defendant in future cases, and
10 that many times those individuals
11 raised their hand and said, help, I
12 need assistance, I have problems that
13 are going to result in me being an
14 offender, and we ignored them as a
15 society. So I want to thank you for
16 that.

17 And one of the things that
18 your department also illustrates that
19 when an individual who is accused sits
20 in jail, there is an economic cost.

21 MS. HUDSON: That's correct,
22 Councilmember.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: And your
24 quote was -- give it to me again. I
25 butchered it in the beginning of this

1 statement.

2 MS. HUDSON: I'll just remind
3 Council about the data point that as
4 of September 2022, 30 percent of the
5 people currently in the Philadelphia
6 prison system are there just on bail
7 and after three days, there's a poorer
8 outcome because many of these people
9 may have had employment, they are
10 often the ones who are paying the rent
11 to maintain housing. They're often
12 sometimes the only source of a
13 family's economic support and after
14 three days, those consequences start
15 to mount. And it leads to an eviction
16 crisis and the quote -- and I quoted
17 here, "Poor black men were locked up
18 and poor Black women were locked out."

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: And that
20 rippling effect of the economics of
21 crime or the accusation of being
22 accused of crime have wide-reaching
23 effects, that it's difficult to model
24 economically, but we need to kind of
25 struggle with a model that shows cause

1 and effect of things in our society,
2 and those reoccurring costs that we
3 don't see often because some of them
4 are direct and some of them are
5 indirect. And we really need to kind
6 of use that in a way to say where we
7 should invest, where we should place
8 greater resources to prevent some of
9 the negative outcomes.

10 If you follow what we learned
11 from you, that young people in foster
12 care have a disproportionate poorer
13 outcome, that they wind up without
14 services, they wind up sometimes
15 running afoul of the law
16 disproportionate to some of the young
17 people that don't go through that
18 system. If that is true, then if we
19 invest a little more on the front end,
20 we can save a lot more on the back
21 end.

22 So those kinds of budget
23 decisions need to be made based on
24 quantifying costs, short-term and
25 long-term. And so, that's the purpose

1 of this hearing.

2 MS. HUDSON: Yes.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: And I
4 wanted to thank you for what your
5 department does. And people --
6 listen, Bill Greenlee, my former
7 colleague, was a big fan along with
8 Derek Green --

9 MS. HUDSON: Yes.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: -- and I
11 remember us going over there and we
12 actually spent a day with your
13 department. We had no idea -- I had,
14 let me take that back, I had no idea
15 how much your department does, from
16 custody cases, being an advocate for
17 those young people, being a public
18 defender of the accused to advocating
19 for things like the removal of
20 automatic life sentences for juvenile
21 offenders.

22 I mean, I can go on and on
23 about what your department has done
24 with the limited amount of funding we
25 give you, I'll say that again, with

1 the limited amount of funding we give
2 you and the benefit that you give to
3 all of us. And so, I want to thank
4 you for that. But as we start to move
5 towards budget, your department, the
6 Defender's Association of Courts,
7 usually give us pretty good budget
8 presentations --

9 MS. HUDSON: Yes, we do.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: And we're
11 going to -- and you spend your time --

12 MS. HUDSON: We come with our
13 data and our asks.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: And with
15 your asks. But this year, I want to
16 pay particular attention to what
17 things cost. And I don't think we
18 spend enough time on that so that we
19 can truly appropriate to the need, not
20 just to the column in line, but to the
21 demand. And so, I look forward. I
22 literally -- I've been here long
23 enough to geek out on certain
24 departments and I pay attention to
25 their presentation, and yours is one

1 of them.

2 Mr. Glass, is there anybody
3 who has any questions for this
4 witness?

5 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman,
6 there are no questions in the chat.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: So thank
8 you for your testimony. We'll be
9 looking forward to those costs
10 analysis that your department so
11 graphically provides every year.

12 MS. HUDSON: Thank you,
13 Councilmember, and thank you again for
14 inviting us to testify today and we
15 will be prepared this budget season
16 with the costs. Thank you so much.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
18 so much.

19 Mr. Glass, who's our next
20 witness to testify?

21 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, our
22 next panel will be Nick Hand from the
23 Controller's Office.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Are you
25 connected? There he is.

1 MR. HAND: Good morning.

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good

3 after -- is it morning still?

4 MR. HAND: It is still

5 morning, yes.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good

7 morning.

8 MR. HAND: Good morning.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you

10 for providing testimony on behalf of

11 the department. State your name and

12 begin your testimony, please.

13 MR. HAND: Yes, of course.

14 My name is Nick Hand, Senior Director

15 for the Finance Policy and Data Unit

16 in the Office of the City Controller.

17 Once again, thank you for having me

18 here today to provide testimony about

19 this important topic, the cost of

20 crime on Philadelphia residents.

21 In October 2019, the

22 Controller's Office released a report

23 on the impact of homicides on property

24 values in the City of Philadelphia.

25 In 2018, Philadelphia had the highest

1 per capita homicide rate of any of the
2 top 10 largest cities and was on track
3 to match or surpass 2018's total again
4 in 2019.

5 At the time, Philadelphia's
6 homicide rate was increasing while
7 other large cities were seeing drastic
8 declines. And it's important to note
9 as the report does and as we've
10 discussed today, the vast majority of
11 homicides in Philadelphia are
12 committed using a gun, and the
13 population most affected by this gun
14 violence in Philadelphia is young
15 Black men.

16 And as the financial watchdog
17 for the City, the Controller's Office
18 wanted to examine the impact of
19 homicides and gun violence through a
20 financial lens. The report did not
21 seek to quantify the human impact of a
22 murder, which is difficult to
23 quantify, but instead focused on
24 property values in the City.

25 The report chose to examine

1 housing values as an update to a 2012
2 study by the Center for American
3 Progress that looked at the cost of
4 reducing violent crime, and that study
5 identified lost property tax revenue
6 as the single largest source of
7 potential savings for municipalities
8 if violent crime levels were reduced.

9 The Controller's Office study
10 analyzed all homicides, so more than
11 4,100 homicides and more than 220,000
12 residential property sales that
13 occurred in Philadelphia between the
14 years of 2006 and 2018. And by
15 analyzing homicides and sales that
16 occurred nearby to each other and also
17 within a short time frame of each
18 other, the analysis was able to use a
19 statistical model to isolate the
20 effect of homicide on housing prices
21 in their immediate neighborhood of the
22 homicide.

23 And the analysis found that
24 homicides have a sizable effect on
25 nearby sale prices. Each homicide

1 lowers the sale price of a home by
2 about 2.3 percent in the immediate
3 neighborhood. Therefore, a reduction
4 of one homicide would then be
5 associated with a corresponding 2.3
6 percent increase in sale prices.

7 And at the time the analysis
8 was conducted when the City was
9 experiencing about 350 homicides
10 annually, the report found that
11 reducing homicides by 10 percent would
12 result in an increase of about \$13
13 million in property tax revenue for
14 the City in one year. And if the
15 number of homicides were decreased 10
16 percent annually for five years, the
17 effect on the housing prices would
18 compound leading to a net increase in
19 property tax revenue of \$114 million.

20 Additionally, our report
21 highlighted the secondary economic
22 effects of reducing homicides,
23 including reducing economic divestment
24 in areas experiencing higher levels of
25 gun violence, job losses, depopulation

1 in the most disadvantaged
2 neighborhoods in the City, all of
3 which have an effect and an impact on
4 Philadelphia's tax base.

5 To support our analysis, the
6 Controller's Office sought input and
7 review from experts in violence
8 reduction and statistical modeling.

9 Our full reports as well as the data
10 and software that was used in the
11 analysis is available on our website.

12 Thank you for your time. This
13 concludes my testimony. I'm happy to
14 address any questions.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: So this is
16 meant as a term of endearment. You
17 are the geeks that I seek. And the
18 reason I say that is because I think
19 your department is most able to do
20 modelings that can kind of -- a lot of
21 these departments are so busy doing
22 the day-to-day work that they cannot
23 take the time to analyze the data to
24 show the impacts that aren't directly
25 associated with their department.

1 So there was a scene in a
2 series called The Wire where crime was
3 allowed to happen in an area that they
4 wanted to gentrify and take over and,
5 you know, move poor people out, and
6 that the property values went down so
7 low that developers, speculators were
8 able to buy them.

9 Well, what your report kind
10 of shows is fiction is stranger than
11 fact in the sense that there is a
12 direct correlation between where
13 someone wants to live and the violence
14 rate in that neighborhood. And I
15 think that is what your data showed;
16 is that right?

17 MR. HAND: That is right,
18 yes. And I'm familiar with that
19 scene, and that's correct.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: The other
21 thing that I would say is that the gun
22 violence and violence and crime in the
23 inner city has risen to the point
24 where the business community is paying
25 attention, and they're paying

1 attention because it impacts tourism,
2 it impacts -- I remember a Senator
3 friend of mine said that there was a
4 Villanova game that one of his
5 Senators from out West wanted to go,
6 but they weren't familiar with
7 Philadelphia and the suburbs and said,
8 I don't want to go to the Villanova
9 game because of the violence in
10 Philadelphia.

11 Well, if you know
12 Philadelphia, you know Villanova is
13 detached a bit and you're not going to
14 run into some of the day-to-day
15 problems that Philadelphians might
16 face in Villanova. But if you're from
17 another part of the state, another
18 part of the country, when you read the
19 headlines, when you see the
20 statistics, you might not want to go
21 to inner city Philadelphia for your
22 family reunion or your different
23 retreats that you might have, which
24 are colleagues in the medical field
25 because of this stereotype of what

1 public safety is based on that and it
2 has an economic impact on our City.

3 So what I'm asking is, is
4 there a way that the Controller's
5 Office can expand that modeling to
6 take into account some of the rippling
7 effects economically of crime and the
8 cost of it, both direct and indirect
9 cost of crime? Could there be a model
10 developed to kind of track it a little
11 better?

12 MR. HAND: Yeah. It's a good
13 question and it's something that we
14 would have to look into a little bit
15 more. I think one of the reasons we
16 looked at property values is because
17 it was one of the most concrete
18 effects of crime in terms of things
19 you can measure, right. And we noted,
20 you know, as you said, there are a
21 number of other secondary effects,
22 disinvestments, job and economic
23 impacts. So it would require some
24 additional discussion on our end to
25 see if that's something that would be

1 feasible. It's --

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: So when
3 you think about what was testified
4 today that we don't truly have a sense
5 of what a homicide case cost, we
6 should know that, and on average and
7 mean, median and mode. How much does
8 it cost when that kid pulls that
9 trigger, what does that rippling
10 effect do. If we look at visitation,
11 how many conventions we may get or may
12 not get based on the perception of
13 Philadelphia's crime situation. We
14 need to start monitoring that cost.

15 And so, we could go on and on
16 as to the lost wages and things like
17 that, that we can actually tangibly
18 track and begin to put a price tag on.
19 And I don't want to do it to shame any
20 of us, to point fingers at any of us,
21 but to point towards investments,
22 budgets that we should make
23 investments in that says, all right,
24 this seems to work, but it's, you
25 know.

1 I mean, when we start talking
2 about Ms. Atwood's testimony in the 50
3 or so boots-on-the-grounds
4 organizations, somebody has to drop a
5 model where it says that we put \$1
6 million into this zip code, \$1 million
7 worth of resources, crime went down
8 exponentially because of that
9 investment, let's make more of that
10 investment. We put \$1 million over
11 here in something else and it didn't
12 work, so we need to adjust our budget
13 investment because of it.

14 And if it -- and again, I use
15 broken English -- if it ain't
16 measured, it ain't managed. We can't
17 keep throwing money at things without
18 measuring it, so that we know what the
19 return on our investment is.

20 MR. HAND: I know --

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: So you are
22 the geeks that we seek.

23 MR. HAND: Yeah. I know I
24 completely agree with that. And I
25 think one of the other takeaways from

1 the report was that with this sort of
2 preventive investment that you would
3 make in terms of violence reduction
4 because of the wide-reaching effects
5 and impact that these things, these
6 programs should pay for themselves and
7 they should have a reinforcing effect
8 where you're able to lower violence,
9 but also do it in a way where there's
10 a strong return on investment
11 financially if you're just looking at
12 the financials. I --

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Think
14 about what you just said. If I reduce
15 crime from 20 homicides in a zip code
16 and a homicide case costs X amount of
17 dollars, that's a savings that can be
18 reinvested into that program, and
19 there is then cause and effect. And I
20 think we really need to look at the
21 science of what we're doing as well as
22 the emotional investment in what we
23 do.

24 And I'll put it this way, we
25 want to do good, but we always must

1 know how much doing good cost, and
2 that's where you guys come in.

3 Are there any questions from
4 other members of this Committee?

5 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman,
6 there are no questions in the chat.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: So thank
8 you for your testimony and stay tuned.
9 I'm going to really set up a time to
10 meet with you guys to talk about a
11 model that can track what the true
12 cost of crime and the reduction of
13 violence can mean to our City.

14 MR. HAND: Great. Looking
15 forward to it. Thank you.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
17 for your testimony.

18 Mr. Glass.

19 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman,
20 that concludes our panel for this
21 meeting today. The only thing we have
22 left is public comment.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Who do we
24 have in public comment?

25 THE CLERK: Our first speaker

1 for public comment is Judith Robinson.

2 COUNCILMAN JONES:

3 Ms. Robinson, are you there? Are you
4 connected?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCILMAN JONES:

7 Ms. Robinson?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: Who's our
10 next person to testify on public
11 comment?

12 THE CLERK: She was our only
13 testifier. I believe Modesto said he
14 was connecting her. If she is not
15 here, then that con --

16 MS. ROBINSON: Good morning.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Hi,
18 Ms. Robinson.

19 MS. ROBINSON: Good morning.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
21 so much for your patience.

22 MS. ROBINSON: Yes.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Would you
24 like to begin your testimony?

25 MS. ROBINSON: Yes.

1 COUNCILMAN JONES: State your
2 name and begin your testimony.

3 MS. ROBINSON: Oh, good
4 morning.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
6 morning.

7 MS. ROBINSON: Queen Judith
8 Robinson here to testify on the
9 Committee of Public Safety on 220884.
10 Wow, the true cost of crime. I want
11 to state these statistics that I just
12 got this morning. And I'm not sure if
13 Councilman Isaiah Thomas is on this
14 Committee --

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes, he
16 is.

17 MS. ROBINSON: All right. So
18 when I asked for statistics, I know
19 what I would be asking for and what I
20 would find, so sending me --
21 Councilman Jones and Samantha Williams
22 and others did such a Herculean job on
23 the last 100 crimes is different than
24 the violent crimes at service
25 stations, and this is recent history.

1 So last year we know we had
2 562 homicides. And I'm going to say
3 this as a grandmother, mostly Black
4 people, okay. I'm not happy at all.
5 So it's no way you can count the
6 amount of trauma and impact to just
7 one person, okay. You couldn't even
8 calculate it for me, but I'm going try
9 to be cogent and calm and respectful.

10 So carjackings has
11 quadrupled, okay, in 2022. 69
12 gunpoint robberies in 2022. 17
13 non-fatal shooting victims, and this
14 has really increased tremendously
15 since 2018. So when we talk about
16 impact, you know, which ways -- how
17 much impact are we talking about. Who
18 and what, that's just at service
19 stations, okay.

20 So I want to say the bill
21 regarding driving issues, and I
22 stopped calculating all the numbers in
23 my head, so you all figure it out, you
24 got more staff to help, you know what
25 I'm talking about. That driving while

1 Black or whatever it's called should
2 be repealed, okay, so we could get
3 some of this mess under control.

4 So there's no -- you don't
5 have a calculator big enough to
6 calculate the impact, the
7 psychological warfare. Our seniors --
8 and I don't know if they're telling
9 you all this, but I'm here to tell
10 you -- are afraid to go out in the
11 daytime, afraid to be out in open
12 spaces. You know, they're claiming
13 crimes that didn't happen yet, so
14 that's like in their heads based on
15 the conditions in our community.

16 I was at a forum on Saturday
17 about tourism. How are we going to
18 invite people to our City in 2023 or
19 2026, murder and mayhem all around,
20 come on. So solutions, because I like
21 to be solution-oriented. Let's start
22 with firearms, tracing them. How are
23 they getting in the hands of our
24 children.

25 I saw the report about the

1 former deputy sheriff. I know you all
2 have been pretty quiet about that.
3 You know, when I say trace the
4 firearms, that's what we were talking
5 about. And they were able to trace
6 them right away because of what
7 happened in Roxborough at Roxborough
8 High, unfortunate situation. We can't
9 allow these things to fester and then
10 things like that happen.

11 So let's start with our
12 children. That's already illegal. We
13 don't have to create another law, not
14 one other law to get a firearm --
15 who's responsible for that? ATF, FBI,
16 whoever. You know, people keep asking
17 about the National Guard. They only
18 protect property. Let's get to the
19 bottom of it. Who is responsible for
20 firearms and children? Children,
21 okay, because that's what we're
22 working with here.

23 Anyone under 18 is already
24 the law in Pennsylvania, so let's not,
25 you know, change the professional

1 licensing laws, but you all can't get
2 to the laws that's already on the
3 books. I see some racism in crime-
4 fighting because if children of
5 another persuasion, color, were
6 running around with firearms,
7 something would be done immediately
8 and we know that. So let's do
9 something about it.

10 I'm up here in the 22nd
11 District. Please can I get some of
12 you At-large people's attention up
13 here to what's going on in this 22nd
14 District. Meetings here, meetings
15 there, new captain, blah, blah, blah,
16 but we still are mixed up in between.
17 You know, it's a lot going on. We
18 need some of your attention up here to
19 help our Council President out.
20 Figure this out since we can't seem to
21 figure things out, you know.

22 We got PAL centers up here.
23 We want them all programmed. You know
24 what I even want, there's some
25 radicals, let me go with the

1 sovereign, the policing, detectives,
2 we need more detectives, more crime-
3 fighters, more cyber intelligence, all
4 of that. I am saying all of that
5 because we have a lot of opportunities
6 here in North Philly.

7 I'm near Temple University.
8 We're near Hahnemann Center. We got
9 all these centers and spaces where we
10 could coordinate programming. Every
11 BID, opportunity, zone, et cetera,
12 PHA, all this money could be directed
13 in prevention, okay. Very much
14 opportunities here.

15 So once we have all these
16 opportunities which we can expand even
17 more, Temple University, all the rest
18 of them giving out all kinds of
19 opportunities to get your diploma,
20 from top to bottom training of all
21 kinds. Then we want the police to do
22 their jobs, the DA to do their jobs.
23 Everybody, all the folks grabbing
24 dollars, do your job, let's see some
25 improvement.

1 I'm even going to come up
2 with something real radical because a
3 lot of these crimes are economics.
4 You all are giving away so much money
5 just spending money like you don't
6 understand penny-pinching, like we all
7 were rich or something. You know, we
8 can just blow \$1 million here and
9 there and get no return on investment.

10 So since these crimes are
11 mostly economic, why don't you all
12 take \$1 million, find these criminals
13 and give them direct cash. Maybe that
14 will slow them down. Has anybody ever
15 come up with that idea? If so, let me
16 know more about it. Maybe we can all
17 put our heads together and see how we
18 could do this. Because if we're
19 squandering millions of dollars over
20 all this period of time, since I go
21 all the way back paying even attention
22 to the money since a blueprint for a
23 Safer Philadelphia, that's billions
24 now, billions, off the head of a child
25 that we said it would never happen

1 again. And here we are now fast-
2 forward to the future billions later
3 with children with firearms, people
4 scared of little ole children.
5 Teenagers running around with massive
6 firearms, and we need to know what the
7 hell is going on, trace them firearms,
8 find out who's giving children
9 firearms. Let's see, let's see, put
10 the names up. We got one so far. I'm
11 sure that's not the only one. Let's
12 find out what's going on. Allegedly,
13 allegedly, but they got them
14 red-handed so, you know, what are we
15 talking about here.

16 So look, let's talk about how
17 these guns are getting in the hands of
18 these children. Let's talk about
19 economics, every BID, Broad Street
20 BID, every PHA shovel-ready project,
21 every opportunity zone is a chance to
22 include Black people, Black youth.
23 Train them, work their behinds and
24 they'll go home and rest instead of
25 giving them a gun having them shoot up

1 our neighborhood and having our
2 seniors afraid.

3 There's no way you all can
4 calculate that impact. We're in a
5 psychological warfare trauma. Get it
6 together. You all got the power or
7 get out the way. Otherwise, y'all
8 scary. If you all would sit down
9 there in them seats and keep seeing
10 this mess going on and maybe some of
11 you who know of a better solution and
12 you're not making it happen or moving
13 out the way and let somebody else get
14 it done because it's not -- this is a
15 Black problem here. Mostly Black
16 people killing each other with illegal
17 guns given to them by some nefarious
18 situation. That's my testimony for
19 today. Thank you all very much for
20 hearing me out.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
22 for your testimony and insight. It
23 was a quote that said "The best
24 solution for gun violence is a job,"
25 and it's to your point of trying to

1 get the offenders to figure a better
2 way to provide for themselves that
3 maybe create an incentive for them not
4 to be so engaged in the street life.
5 It is a job, something we should take
6 a harder look at. And thank you for
7 your testimony.

8 Mr. Glass.

9 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, we
10 have no one else for public comment
11 today.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: So this
13 concludes the business of --

14 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:
15 Mr. Chair.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes,
17 Mr. Thomas -- Member Thomas. Yes, how
18 are you? Did you want to comment?

19 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Yes. I
20 didn't put it in the chat feature. I
21 apologize. I first wanted to thank
22 you for your leadership on this issue,
23 and thank you to all the panels who
24 came and testified this morning. I
25 think we got some more valuable

1 information as it relates to the
2 fiscal side of the violence problem
3 that we're facing in the City of
4 Philadelphia.

5 In working with you and other
6 members of Council, we've been trying
7 to tackle this and while we may be
8 putting forth maximum effort, we still
9 know we have work to do as it relates
10 to addressing a crime in the City of
11 Philadelphia.

12 But I did want to just take a
13 moment to talk for a brief second
14 about the Driving Equality legislation
15 just to be able to provide some
16 clarity real quick before we end the
17 hearing today. The first thing is
18 around carjackings. So you and I
19 actually were together last week when
20 we met with some folks who talked to
21 us a little bit around issues with
22 carjackings here in the City of
23 Philadelphia. And I don't want to go
24 in-depth because the information
25 wasn't the best news, but we were able

1 to hear why we see so many repeat
2 offenders as it relates to some of the
3 carjacking issues that we have in the
4 City of Philadelphia.

5 Outside of that just for
6 clarity purposes, while Driving
7 Equality was essentially passed in
8 2021, what I think a lot of people
9 don't realize is that Driving Equality
10 wasn't implemented into law until
11 2022. So similar to what the witness
12 who talked about Driving Equality
13 testified about, we've seen a huge
14 spike in carjackings in the City of
15 Philadelphia, but that spike started
16 prior to the implementation of Driving
17 Equality.

18 I also wanted to make sure
19 that we were clear for the record that
20 stolen cars can still be pulled over.
21 Tinted-window cars can still be pulled
22 over. People who commit motor vehicle
23 violations that are a public safety
24 hazard like speeding or running a stop
25 sign or turning the wrong way or

1 anything else that could put people in
2 a position where it could create a
3 certain danger, those cars can be
4 pulled over.

5 We agree that there are more
6 guns in the hands of children than
7 what we've ever seen. And when you
8 look at the impact that the Internet
9 and social media is having on our
10 young people, especially after being
11 home for a couple years, when you look
12 at this idea of ghost guns, think
13 about what it means now, not just to
14 be able to get access to a gun easily,
15 but to get access to a gun that's
16 untraceable has completely changed the
17 issue of crime and criminal justice as
18 it relates to the circumstances that
19 we're dealing with.

20 So at the end of the day, one
21 of the things I always say is we can't
22 use 1990 solutions to solve 2022
23 problems. At the end of the day, if
24 we all agree that we have more
25 children involved in this stuff than

1 what we've ever seen in recent
2 history, I don't know why we feel like
3 pulling more people over will put us
4 in a position to be able to address
5 these crimes.

6 We listened to problems as it
7 relates to cameras. We listened to
8 issues as it relates to the courts.
9 We listened to issues as it relates to
10 enforcement. We know that we have a
11 gamut of problems as it relates to the
12 crime that we have in the City of
13 Philadelphia. And today we got a
14 better look and a better lens at the
15 cost and the fiscal side of it. So
16 the work continues.

17 I know we're all passionate
18 and concerned about the issue that
19 we're facing. But I just don't want
20 us to take steps backward and create
21 some ill-advised consequences because
22 we're passionate about what we're
23 going through right now.

24 So thank you, Mr. Chair. I
25 appreciate you. I appreciate your

1 leadership, and I look forward to
2 continuing to work with you and my
3 colleagues to do the best that we can
4 to address the crime in the City of
5 Philadelphia.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: So, Member
7 Thomas, I appreciate your comments
8 just now. And I want to say for the
9 record that I watch how you equally
10 say that we want to do crime
11 prevention, but not at the expense of
12 criminal justice reform and to be able
13 to create that balance so that there
14 is a fairness to it. I appreciate
15 your effort.

16 Every time when we get a
17 little piece of information that we
18 add to our repertoire of solutions,
19 but the meeting that we won't talk
20 about in this hearing where we
21 in-depth learned some things about the
22 carjacking situation in Philadelphia
23 and the fact that some of the
24 offenders are getting younger and more
25 violent also has a ripple effect to

1 the fact that poverty is a part of it,
2 that some of these young people live
3 in the cars that they're carjacking,
4 that some of these people that are
5 doing the offenses have not been given
6 certain opportunities.

7 They live in that car, they
8 go and get a white T-shirt, change
9 their clothes and that's how they live
10 their day. So you cannot look at the
11 cause without looking at the effect,
12 look at the effect without looking at
13 the cause. And we're going to
14 continue to work and we have to
15 quantify what the results are to see
16 how much things and doing good and how
17 much doing good cost, because we have
18 to make some serious decisions in the
19 next fiscal budget about things we
20 want to expand and things that we need
21 to alter to create capacity to do
22 things that are effective, and that's
23 the work. That's the work that we
24 have. And I look forward to doing it
25 with you and the members of this

1 Committee.

2 Are there any other people to
3 testify, Mr. Glass?

4 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman,
5 there's no one else in the chat who
6 wishes to be recognized.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: So that
8 concludes the work of the Public
9 Safety Committee for today dealing
10 with Resolution No. -- what was that,
11 220884. Was that it, Mr. Glass?

12 THE CLERK: Yes,
13 Mr. Chairman, 220884.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.
15 Thank you for that. Thank you to all
16 those who came to testify today.

17 Ms. Brooks -- Member Brooks,
18 did you want to --

19 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: No, I
20 don't have any comments. Thank you so
21 much for this hearing.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Well,
23 thank you for listening and taking the
24 time. All right. Thank you, and
25 everybody have a good day and be safe.

1 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
2 you, Mr. Chair. Thank you,
3 colleagues.

4 (Committee on Public Safety
5 concluded at 11:08 a.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

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