COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, May 26, 2011
9:50 a.m.

PRESENT:
COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA
COUNCILMAN DARRELL CLARKE
COUNCILMAN FRANK DiCICCO
COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.
COUNCILMAN BILL GREEN
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM K. GREENLEE
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILMAN JAMES KENNEY
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN
COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO, JR.
COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO

RESOLUTIONS 110403, 110404, 110405, 110406, 110407, 110408, 110409 and 110410

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good morning, everyone. This is a public hearing of the Committee of the Whole.

I would ask Mr. McPherson to please read the titles of the resolutions before us this morning.

MR. McPHERSON: Resolution 110403, reappointing Allan Domb to the Board of Directors of the Center City District.

Resolution 110440, appointing Linda Ann Galante to the Board of Directors of the Center City District.

Resolution 110405, appointing Jerry Sweeney to the Board of Directors of the Center City District.

Resolution 110406, appointing David Campoli to the Board of Directors of the Center City District.

Resolution 110407, appointing Romona Riscoe Benson to the Board of Directors of the Center City District.

Resolution 110408, reappointing Edward Goldberg to the Board of Directors

of the Center City District.

Resolution 110409, reappointing John Connors to the Board of Directors of the Center City District.

Resolution 110410, reappointing Ronald Bowlan to the Board of Directors of the Center City District.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

Do we have any of the candidates present that would like to speak? If so, please approach the witness table.

(Witnesses approached witness table.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good morning. Welcome.

MR. LEVY: Good morning, Council President. My name is Paul Levy. I'm President of the Center City District, and we're joined this morning by at least two of the new nominees who are here. There are several more people in line -- three of the nominees. Thank

you. So we have with us Romona Riscoe Benson, Linda Galante and Dave Campoli.

So if you want to just quickly introduce yourself.

MS. RISCOE BENSON: Good morning, Madam President and members of Council. I'm Romona Riscoe Benson, President and CEO of the African American Museum in Philadelphia. We're located at 701 Arch Street in the historic district of our wonderful city, and I'm proud to let you know that we are celebrating our 35th anniversary this year.

We welcome over 60,000 visitors each year and we employ 25 people at the Museum. We are proud to be here, and I am proud to be asked to serve on the Board of the Center City District.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

MR. CAMPOLI: Good morning, Madam President --

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good morning.

MR. CAMPOLI: -- Council. My name is Dave Campoli. I am Vice-President for CommonWealth REIT, the largest Center City office building landlord in Philadelphia. We own Centre Square, Mellon Bank Center, 1600 Market, Glaxo's headquarters, as well as 1525 Locust.

We are extremely proud and have big-time supporters of Center City District, and I am extremely proud to be asked to be on the Board.

Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

MS. GALANTE: Good morning.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good morning.

MS. GALANTE: My name is Linda Galante. I'm a partner at the law firm of Stradley Ronon Stevens and Young, which has been a law firm in Philadelphia since 1926. Our headquarters are in Philadelphia, 2005 Market Street. We

have 263 employees and partners in Philadelphia, more outside of Philadelphia, but that is our main area obviously.

I am very honored to have been asked to sit on the Center City District and look forward to it, if you so deem it appropriate.

Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you. Good luck to you.

Are there any questions from members of the Committee of any of the nominees?

The Chair recognizes Councilman DiCicco.

COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: I'm sorry. I was distracted, but you're going to speak? I'll wait -- everybody is done? I apologize.

These resolutions, we're asking for consideration? I wasn't paying attention, Madam President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: No.

I thought you would want to be --

COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: No questions from me. Sorry. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You're welcome.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Madam President?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Madam President?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Brown.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you, Madam President. I'd like to offer one comment and one observation.

I am always encouraged when we see leadership in our city running major organizations, in this case Paul Levy, who has done extraordinary things and really changed the face of the Parkway, but I'm thrilled when I see leadership moves to select and elect Board members who look like Philadelphia. So to see

that there are women and women of color now moving and may indeed already be in place with this organization, it's a woeful reminder that it's possible if leadership makes a decision to do that.

So to the leadership and Paul Levy and Councilman DiCicco, who made some of these recommendations, thank you.

Thank you, Madam President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

Any other questions or comments from members of the Committee?

(No response.)

MR. LEVY: Thank you. Just a comment at this moment. If you approve this, 22 percent of our Board members will be African American and 13 percent will be women.

Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

This will conclude the public hearing. We will now go into our public

meeting.

The Chair recognizes Councilman DiCicco regarding Resolution 110403.

COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: I move for the adoption.

(Duly seconded.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I think we want to report them out with a favorable recommendation.

COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: I move that the resolutions will be reported out of Committee with a favorable recommendation.

(Duly seconded.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: All in favor will say aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The ayes have it and the motion carries.

Again, the Chair recognizes Councilman DiCicco regarding Resolution

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110404.

COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Madam President, point of order. Could we not do them all?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: We can. 110404, 110405, 110406, 110407, 110408, 110409, 110410.

COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: I would move that the resolutions that have just been read into the record be reported out of this Committee with a favorable recommendation.

(Duly seconded.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: All in favor will indicate by saying aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The ayes have it and the motion carries.

Thank you.

(Committee of the Whole concluded at 10:00 a.m.)

CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the proceedings, evidence and objections are contained fully and accurately in the stenographic notes taken by me upon the foregoing matter on May 26, 2011, and that this is a true and correct transcript of same.

MICHELE L. MURPHY

RPR-Notary Public

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