

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Monday, June 12, 2017
10:15 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS, CHAIR
COUNCILMAN DEREK S. GREEN
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM K. GREENLEE
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA
COUNCILMAN AL TAUBENBERGER

BILLS 161111 - An ordinance amending Chapter
9-900 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
"Professions," to add a new Section 9-903,
entitled "Conversion Therapy"...

BILL 170470 - An ordinance amending Title 3 of
The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Air
Management Code"...

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1
2 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good
3 morning. This hearing is called to
4 order. This is a public hearing of the
5 City Council Committee on Public Health
6 and Human Services, and the purpose of
7 this public hearing is to hear testimony
8 on Bill Nos. 161111 and 170470.

9 I want to recognize the
10 presence of a quorum of Committee
11 members. Members of the Committee in
12 attendance are Councilman Derek Green,
13 Councilman Bill Greenlee, and Councilman
14 Al Taubenberger.

15 And if we could now have the
16 Clerk read the title of Bill No. 161111.

17 THE CLERK: Bill No. 161111, an
18 ordinance amending Chapter 9-900 of The
19 Philadelphia Code, entitled
20 "Professions," to add a new Section
21 9-903, entitled "Conversion Therapy,"
22 adding definitions and prohibiting the
23 practice of conversion therapy by mental
24 health providers on patients under 18
25 years of age, under certain terms and

1 6/12/17 - PUBLIC HEALTH - BILL 161111, ETC.
2 conditions.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you
4 very much. And if we could have the
5 Clerk call the first witnesses and panel
6 to testify.

7 THE CLERK: Amber Hikes,
8 Director of LGBT Affairs, City of
9 Philadelphia.

10 (Witness approached witness
11 table.)

12 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good
13 morning, and thank you for being here
14 this morning. Before you begin your
15 testimony, we did want to recognize this
16 is the one-year anniversary of the
17 massacre in Orlando, and we wanted to ask
18 if everyone would just -- if we could
19 just have a moment of silence.

20 (Moment of silence.)

21 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.
22 Thank you for being here. We
23 just wanted to acknowledge that this is a
24 very important topic, and it's actually
25 timely with this conversation we're going

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2 to be having here today on this
3 particular bill, 161111. So if you want
4 to start with your testimony. State your
5 name for the record and begin your
6 testimony.

7 MS. HIKES: Thank you so much.
8 Thank you so much for having me. My name
9 is Amber Hikes and I'm the Executive
10 Director of the Office of LGBT Affairs
11 for the City of Philadelphia.

12 Good morning, Chairwoman Bass
13 and members of the Public Health and
14 Human Services Committee. I am Amber
15 Hikes, the Executive Director of the
16 Mayor's Office of LGBT Affairs. The
17 Office of LGBT Affairs develops
18 priorities for the City on issues
19 including public safety, education,
20 economic development, health and City
21 services, and civil rights regarding
22 LGBTQ Philadelphians.

23 As Executive Director, I
24 develop policy and serve as the principal
25 advisor to Mayor Jim Kenney on issues

1 6/12/17 - PUBLIC HEALTH - BILL 161111, ETC.
2 that affect the LGBTQ community. Thank
3 you to Councilman Squilla for introducing
4 this bill and for the opportunity to
5 support legislation prohibiting the
6 practice of conversion therapy by mental
7 health providers on individuals under the
8 age of 18.

9 Conversion therapy is a hateful
10 and harmful practice that is condemned
11 across the country by mental health and
12 non-profit organizations, as well as
13 government institutions. California,
14 Connecticut, Illinois, New Jersey,
15 Oregon, Vermont, New Mexico, Nevada, and
16 the District of Columbia have all enacted
17 laws that prevent licensed mental health
18 providers from offering conversion
19 therapy to minors, and more than 20
20 states have introduced similar
21 legislation. From a municipal
22 perspective, 18 cities, including
23 Pittsburgh, already have standing bans on
24 conversion therapy for minors.

25 This archaic form of treatment

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2 is based on the abhorrent ideology that
3 same-sex attraction and behavior is a
4 chosen abnormality and is inherently
5 wrong. The belief that same-sex
6 attraction and behavior is in need of
7 treatment is in opposition to the
8 position taken by all major national
9 mental health organizations, including
10 the American Academy of Child and
11 Adolescent Psychiatry, the American
12 Association for Marriage and Family
13 Therapy, the American Counseling
14 Association, the National Association of
15 Social Workers, the American Medical
16 Association, the American Psychiatric
17 Association, the American Psychological
18 Association, and countless others.
19 Same-sex attraction and behavior is not a
20 mental disorder, but undergoing
21 reparative or conversion therapies has
22 the potential to harm youth and can lead
23 to the development of serious mental
24 health disorders.

25 Conversion therapy is not just

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2 dangerous; it can be lethal for our youth
3 and young adults. Research on the issue
4 of family acceptance of LGBTQ youth
5 conducted at San Francisco State
6 University found that highly rejected
7 LGBT young people were eight times as
8 likely to have attempted suicide, six
9 times as likely to report high levels of
10 depression, and more than three times
11 likely to use illegal drugs than young
12 people who do not experience rejection.

13 From a clinical perspective,
14 there is absolutely no evidence that
15 sexual orientation can be altered through
16 therapy and that attempts to do so can be
17 harmful. After nearly 40 years of this
18 harmful practice, there remains no
19 evidence that efforts to alter sexual
20 orientation are effective, beneficial or
21 necessary. In fact, the only evidence
22 suggests that these practices do harm.

23 At its core, conversion and
24 reparative therapy is a rejection of LGBT
25 youth. Indoctrinating youth and young

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2 adults with the belief that same-sex
3 attraction must be eliminated not only
4 increases one's self hatred, but can also
5 lead to depression, hopelessness, guilt,
6 social withdrawal, and suicidality.

7 The Office of LGBT Affairs
8 wholeheartedly supports Bill No. 161111
9 and any measures to protect, affirm, and
10 support LGBTQ youth in Philadelphia.

11 Thank you to Councilman
12 Squilla, Chairwoman Bass, and the members
13 of the Public Health and Human Services
14 Committee for your time and effort
15 addressing this important issue that
16 affects LGBTQ Philadelphians deeply. I
17 appreciate the opportunity to testify,
18 and I'm here to answer questions at this
19 time.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you
21 very much for your testimony.

22 Can you talk a little bit about
23 conversion therapy here in the City of
24 Philadelphia and what, from your
25 knowledge base, is occurring, the

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2 possibilities of what could be occurring
3 if we do not act on this particular piece
4 of legislation, what the potential issues
5 might be further down the road.

6 MS. HIKES: Absolutely. To my
7 knowledge, there have been conversion
8 therapy treatments and therapy centers
9 that have been in Philadelphia in the
10 past, but to my knowledge, I do not know
11 of any that are existing in Philadelphia
12 at this time. I do believe that they
13 have been pushed out of the City, but
14 certainly that is just what I know in
15 terms of the record. There are certainly
16 possibly centers, clinics that are
17 operating underground.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. Good
19 to know. Good to be aware. Thank you
20 very much.

21 Councilman Green.

22 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
23 Madam Chair.

24 Good morning, Ms. Hikes. Thank
25 you for your testimony this morning. I

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2 guess one of my concerns is that some of
3 the entities that engage in certain
4 practices, once they know that the phrase
5 is no longer politically correct, they
6 change the language or the methodology to
7 something different or they cloak it in
8 either a religious therapy or some other
9 perspective. Have you seen that in other
10 jurisdictions where entities that
11 previously were calling their practice
12 conversion therapy now are using some
13 more benign term, but still trying to do
14 the same type of process but doing it
15 different, in the cloak of something
16 different when it's really the same?

17 MS. HIKES: That's exactly
18 right. You're absolutely right.
19 Conversion therapy has a certain
20 connotation to it, so they change the
21 terminology, sometimes using reparative
22 therapy, but always under the cloak of a
23 religious practice, yet reparative
24 therapy, always under the cloak of a
25 religious practice. And that is

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2 particularly damaging because, as the
3 Councilman said, it is exactly the same
4 practice that is being indoctrinated on
5 your youth and our young adults that has
6 the same harming effects, but it's just
7 under a different brand. Absolutely.

8 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And you said
9 reparative therapy, other types of
10 language, and would this bill cover those
11 issues as well if someone were to try to
12 use a more benign language to really do
13 the same thing?

14 MS. HIKES: To my knowledge,
15 the bill covers both conversion and
16 reparative therapies.

17 COUNCILMAN GREEN: The only
18 area of my concern is if it had any type
19 of religious perspective, that would be
20 somewhat beyond the scope of this bill.

21 MS. HIKES: I cannot answer
22 that if it's still -- if it is covered
23 under religious -- some religious
24 jurisdiction. I can't speak to that.

25 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
3 Councilman.

4 Councilman Taubenberger.

5 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Yes.
6 Thank you, Madam Chair.

7 And, Ms. Hikes, thank you very
8 much for your testimony. Very
9 insightful. I do have a question. What
10 would your view be of enforcement of this
11 bill? I mean, who enforces it if you see
12 a problem?

13 MS. HIKES: Actually, I do not
14 know. I cannot answer that at this time
15 in terms of who would actually enforce
16 this bill.

17 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: I
18 mean, I see the reason for the bill. I
19 will be in support of it, but who
20 really -- if somebody really sees this
21 going on, it's a flagrant violation of
22 what you would consider, who do we call?
23 What do we do? That's really my
24 question.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: If I could,

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2 I would suggest that your office could
3 come up with some guidance for us in
4 terms of who would do enforcement, what
5 enforcement would look like and so forth.

6 MS. HIKES: Absolutely.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So we can
8 work with the proper City agencies to see
9 that through.

10 Councilman.

11 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Just looking
12 at the bill, I mean, it calls for fines,
13 penalties, and also revocation of a
14 commercial activity license as required
15 by Title 19, which more likely that would
16 go to License and Inspection. My only
17 concern is that similar to what we had
18 with the Fair Practices Ordinance, that
19 entity could create a new entity so they
20 can call themselves Philadelphia
21 Conversion Therapy LLC, get fined, and
22 then come up with a new license and call
23 them Philadelphia Restorative Therapy
24 LLC, and that's something that we made an
25 amendment change for the Fair Practices

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2 Ordinance, to change that perspective
3 because of that same issue. I'm not sure
4 if that's something that the sponsor,
5 Councilman Squilla, would think about,
6 but that's one of the concerns I would
7 have, that someone could be fined and
8 have a license ultimately revoked and
9 then start again in a new shop.

10 MS. HIKES: That would be my
11 concern too. The first thing I thought
12 was the Fair Practices Ordinance, but I
13 didn't think it would be able to fall
14 under your current jurisdiction. But
15 you're right, if we can amend something
16 within the FPO, then I think that would
17 be very helpful. And certainly my office
18 will come up with some guidelines around
19 that for sure. We can do that.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Councilman
21 Taubenberger.

22 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: I'm
23 just commenting at this point. There's
24 not a question, but maybe if you can give
25 what your thinking would be.

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2 I actually think in looking at
3 this and particularly the high fine, and
4 I have no objection to that, nor do I
5 have any other objection to the language
6 except who is enforcing it, but I would
7 have to actually say that I'm not certain
8 L&I would be equipped to do this.

9 They're dealing with signs, they're
10 dealing with a lot of other things and
11 not like what is involved in therapy. I
12 would suggest possibly, and talking to my
13 colleagues, maybe the Health Department
14 having some oversight to this.

15 Thank you, Madam Chair.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
17 Councilman.

18 That's something that could be
19 considered, but also I'm thinking the
20 Human Relations Commission. So there's
21 just a lot of things that we need to
22 explore further.

23 Councilman Greenlee.

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Madam
25 Chair, thank you. Just to add to that,

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2 oftentimes once we pass a bill, then the
3 Administration deals with regulations,
4 and I think this would fall into trying
5 to figure out what the regulations are,
6 how to do that. Oftentimes the total
7 enforcement is not defined in the bill.
8 It's worked through with regulations. So
9 thank you.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you
11 very much.

12 Thank you for your testimony.
13 Unless there are any other questions,
14 there doesn't appear to be any, thank you
15 so much for your testimony.

16 If we could have the Clerk call
17 forward the next witnesses.

18 THE CLERK: Dr. Geoffrey
19 Neimark, Department of Behavioral Health
20 and Intellectual disAbility Services,
21 Chief Medical Officer, Community
22 Behavioral Health.

23 (Witness approached witness
24 table.)

25 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good

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2 morning. Please state your name for the
3 record and begin your testimony.

4 DR. NEIMARK: Good morning.

5 I'm Dr. Geoffrey Neimark. I'm the Chief
6 Medical Officer at Community Behavioral
7 Health.

8 Good morning, Chairwoman Cindy
9 Bass and members of the Public Health and
10 Human Services Committee. I'm Geoffrey
11 Neimark, Chief Medical Officer at
12 Community Behavioral Health for the
13 Department of Behavioral Health and
14 Intellectual disAbility Services. Thank
15 you for this opportunity to testify in
16 support of Bill No. 161111, which is an
17 ordinance that was introduced by
18 Councilman Squilla to add Section 9-903
19 to The Philadelphia Code, prohibiting the
20 practice of conversion therapy by mental
21 health providers on individuals under 18
22 years of age.

23 DBHIDS achieves our mission to
24 improve the health status of
25 Philadelphians through an emphasis on

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2 recovery-oriented and resilience-focused
3 behavioral health services. Our goal for
4 these services is to facilitate
5 individuals realizing their goals and
6 attaining the highest quality of life
7 possible. We work with individuals,
8 families, and providers to assure that
9 services are accessible, effective,
10 appropriate, and of high quality. CBH, a
11 component of DBHIDS, is a managed care
12 organization with moral, ethical, and
13 professional obligations to ensure that
14 practices being funded do not cause harm
15 to individuals participating in services.

16 Section 9-903 will protect
17 youth from conversion therapy, a
18 dangerous and discredited practice aimed
19 at changing sexual orientation or gender
20 identity. This amendment will provide
21 clear guidance to providers in the
22 community that conversion therapy is a
23 harmful and unacceptable practice among
24 mental health providers within
25 Philadelphia. Lesbian, gay, bisexual,

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2 and transgender youth who are exposed to
3 conversion therapy are at heightened risk
4 for depression, substance abuse, and
5 suicide. By educating parents and the
6 public about the harmfulness of these
7 practices, this amendment will help
8 improve health outcomes among vulnerable
9 youth.

10 The nation's leading mental
11 health associations, including the
12 American Psychiatric Association, the
13 American Psychological Association, the
14 American Counseling Association, the
15 National Association of Social Workers,
16 the American Academy of Pediatrics, and
17 the American Association for Marriage and
18 Family Therapy, have issued position
19 statements warning about the dangers of
20 these practices.

21 In 2012, the American Academy
22 of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in
23 2012 published an article in their
24 journal, the Journal of the American
25 Academy of Child and Adolescent

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2 Psychiatry, which stated, and I'm
3 quoting, "Clinicians should be aware that
4 there is no evidence that sexual
5 orientation can be altered through
6 therapy, and that attempts to do so may
7 be harmful. There is no imperial
8 evidence adult homosexuality can be
9 prevented if gender non-conforming
10 children are influenced to be more gender
11 conforming. Indeed, there is no
12 medically valid basis for attempting to
13 prevent homosexuality, which is not an
14 illness. On the contrary, such efforts
15 may encourage family rejection and
16 undermine self-esteem, connectedness and
17 caring, which are important protective
18 factors against suicidal ideation and
19 attempts. Given that there is no
20 evidence that efforts to alter sexual
21 orientation are effective, beneficial or
22 necessary, and the possibility that they
23 carry the risk of significant harm, such
24 interventions are contraindicated."

25 DBHIDS fully supports the

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2 aforementioned medical community member
3 organizations' positions on the danger of
4 conversion therapy. Contrary to
5 conversion therapy, DBHIDS recommends the
6 adoption and practices of therapies that
7 provide support or acceptance of LGBT
8 identities, facilitate support or
9 identity exploration, and that address
10 problematic substance use or unsafe
11 sexual practices.

12 On behalf of DBHIDS, I wish to
13 thank Councilman Squilla, Council
14 President Clarke, Chairwoman Cindy Bass,
15 and members of this Committee for your
16 consideration of this critical issue and
17 the opportunity to testify. We look
18 forward to working with Council and other
19 stakeholders as we continue to support
20 our most vulnerable citizens. And I am
21 happy to answer any questions that you
22 might have.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you
24 very much, Doctor, for your testimony. I
25 think it was very comprehensive and

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2 really covered pretty much every question
3 that I thought I was going to have for
4 you. But I just really wanted to
5 highlight one of the things that you said
6 which was in your testimony, that there
7 is no evidence that efforts to alter
8 sexual orientation are effective,
9 beneficial or necessary, and the
10 possibility that they carry the risk of
11 significant harm. And just really how
12 are we as a city continuing to spread
13 that message? How are we -- from your
14 office to our individual Council offices,
15 do you have any particular
16 recommendations in terms of how we can
17 spread that message so that folks can
18 understand where we as a city are?

19 I think that, for the most
20 part, people understand that Philadelphia
21 is really, in my opinion, at the
22 forefront of addressing these sorts of
23 issues and being on top of LGBT issues
24 and that there's a lot of support within
25 our City framework and infrastructure and

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2 government to make sure that people are
3 protected.

4 So is there something in
5 particular that your office is doing, our
6 offices could be doing more, better?

7 DR. NEIMARK: I think it's a
8 great question. Our message has been
9 rather universal in terms of celebrating
10 recovery, resilience, and I think
11 celebrating individual identity. Where I
12 think the opportunity lies is to perhaps
13 focus on some of the more vulnerable or
14 most vulnerable folks. And so I think
15 perhaps specific and targeted messaging,
16 both by our office or in combination with
17 the Department of Health and City
18 Council, reaching out to say the
19 communities involved in this would be
20 helpful. And I think despite the fact
21 that we've created a particular position
22 and section at DBHIDS, I think there are
23 ongoing opportunities to enhance the
24 messaging, and I would be happy to work
25 with members of Council, you

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2 specifically, in terms of enhancing that.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: That would
4 be great. We can probably work with
5 maybe Councilman Squilla's office to
6 continue to find ways to enhance the
7 message.

8 DR. NEIMARK: Might I add one
9 thought from the prior questioning? In
10 terms of the enforcement and I think the
11 questioning around the business license,
12 one way to approach that is to think
13 about targeting the individual's
14 professional license, because that sticks
15 with the individual provider. So if it's
16 a psychiatrist, a licensed clinical
17 social worker, a psychologist, filing
18 complaints with the state licensing board
19 around that would not allow them to just
20 pick up and go from place to place,
21 whereas revocation of a business license
22 would allow them to just incorporate
23 again.

24 It's something to consider, and
25 certainly DBHIDS and my office would be

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2 happy to be part of the operational
3 planning around enforcement of this,
4 because I think it's a critically
5 important question and I think thinking
6 that through would be helpful.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you
8 for that. Thank you so much.

9 Councilman Green and then
10 Councilman Taubenberger.

11 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
12 Madam Chair.

13 Thank you, Dr. Neimark, for
14 your testimony and for providing us a
15 professional perspective from a number of
16 leading mental health associations
17 regarding this concept of conversion
18 therapy. I also thank you for the
19 concept regarding the professional
20 licensure aspect. And I just had a
21 chance to reach out to my staff regarding
22 the Fair Practices Ordinance. Under that
23 ordinance, the Fair Practices Ordinance
24 comes under the Philadelphia Commission
25 on Human Relations, and under the

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2 framework we put together allows for a
3 cease operation of an entity that's
4 engaged in a business that's
5 discriminating against others in the City
6 of Philadelphia. We have the ability to
7 cease their business operations for a
8 period of time.

9 So I think having some
10 possibility of cease operations under
11 this legislation would be good. I think
12 coupling that with your idea of reporting
13 some type of notation to whatever the
14 licensing board at the state level would
15 also be helpful.

16 From your experience at CBH and
17 also working with the Department of
18 Behavioral Health and Intellectual
19 disAbility Services, has there been any
20 type of either regulatory or
21 quasi-judicial process that either CBH
22 has had or the Department has had
23 regarding legislation that could be used
24 as part of this legislation that you're
25 aware of?

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2 DR. NEIMARK: I'm sorry. I
3 didn't hear the part about experience
4 around which --

5 COUNCILMAN GREEN: From your
6 experience at both CBH as well as working
7 with the Department of Behavioral Health
8 and Intellectual disAbility Services,
9 have you seen any scenarios where any of
10 those entities have been placed in a kind
11 of quasi-judicial scenario under current
12 legislation where they're making
13 decisions on a license being removed or a
14 cease operations occurring?

15 DR. NEIMARK: I believe around
16 the pill mill legislation there was an
17 operational plan that involved DBH, CBH
18 in terms of some of the considerations of
19 whether there were problematic
20 prescribing practices going on. So that
21 was -- I believe that may have been
22 legislation introduced by Councilman
23 Squilla as well, but there is a precedent
24 around that.

25 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Right. The

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2 reason I'm saying that, because generally
3 anything we have in Title 9 of the Code
4 dealing with professions, it
5 automatically goes to L&I for any type of
6 fine or business activity license
7 process. I think having another entity
8 like possibly either CBH or the
9 Department of Behavioral Health and
10 Intellectual disAbility Services to
11 provide that quasi-judicial
12 decision-making aspect I think will be
13 helpful, because I think L&I already has
14 a full plate of issues that they deal
15 with, and considering this is dealing
16 with mental health aspects and both of
17 those entities have a very direct
18 knowledge and relationship with mental
19 health, I think it will be probably more
20 apropos for those entities to be in the
21 decision-making process, possibly fining
22 and/or doing some type of cease
23 operations, as well as providing any type
24 of notation to any state regulatory body
25 for people in these license areas.

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2 DR. NEIMARK: I agree. I think
3 there's an opportunity for DBHIDS to be
4 part of the -- integrated into that
5 process and, in particular, to lend
6 expertise on the evaluation of the sorts
7 and types of therapy that may be rendered
8 or under consideration, and that would
9 bring forth a recommendation as to
10 whether this was in fact conversion
11 therapy or not.

12 COUNCILMAN GREEN: All right.
13 Thank you.

14 Thank you, Madam Chair.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.
16 Councilman Taubenberger. Are
17 you good?

18 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Madam
19 Chair, the question was answered by
20 questioning that Councilman Green asked.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Very good.
22 Thank you very much for your
23 testimony.

24 DR. NEIMARK: Thank you.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Can we have

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2 the Clerk call up the last witness to
3 testify.

4 THE CLERK: Jason Landau
5 Goodman, Executive Director, The
6 Pennsylvania Youth Congress.

7 (Witness approached witness
8 table.)

9 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good
10 morning.

11 MR. GOODMAN: Good morning.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Please
13 state your name for the record and begin
14 your testimony.

15 MR. GOODMAN: My name is Jason
16 Landau Goodman.

17 Good morning again,
18 Councilmember Bass, members of the Public
19 Health and Human Services Committee. I
20 am the founding Executive Director of The
21 Pennsylvania Youth Congress. On a
22 personal note, my family is from
23 Philadelphia for five generations and I'm
24 a recent graduate from Penn.

25 The Pennsylvania Youth Congress

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2 is our Commonwealth's first and only
3 statewide lesbian, gay, bisexual,
4 transgender, and queer youth
5 organization. We work to empower young
6 LGBTQ Pennsylvanians through advocacy in
7 local and state government on issues
8 impacting their lives. The elimination
9 of conversion therapy is one of our key
10 policy concerns.

11 We thank you for addressing
12 this critical issue for Philadelphia.
13 Conversion therapy is a barbaric practice
14 that has no place in a civil society.
15 The National Center for Lesbian Rights
16 knows that conversion therapy encompasses
17 aversive conditions such as including
18 harmful physical reactions when exposed
19 to LGBT imagery and a variety of
20 behavioral, cognitive, psychoanalytic,
21 and other practices to change or reduce
22 same-sex attraction or alter a person's
23 gender identity. Conversion therapy of
24 today is a vestige of its predecessors
25 such as institutionalization, forced

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2 castration, and electroconvulsive
3 therapy. As Pittsburgh's City Council
4 President Bruce Kraus, an out gay man,
5 shared before their vote on their
6 ordinance last year, "I look at
7 conversion therapy as a form of soul
8 murder."

9 The practices of conversion
10 therapy are discredited and outright
11 rejected by all leading professional
12 health and mental health associations,
13 including the American Psychological
14 Association, the American Psychiatric
15 Association, and the American Academy of
16 Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. The
17 practice of conversion therapy often
18 leads to devastating outcomes, including
19 a compromised mental health, depleted
20 self-worth, abuse of drugs, and
21 suicidality.

22 Conversion therapy, as you
23 heard, has been banned for minors in
24 eight states and Washington, DC. Nearly
25 two dozen cities have done the same, from

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2 Seattle to Key West. Pittsburgh became
3 the first jurisdiction in Pennsylvania to
4 do so in December of last year when their
5 ordinance was unanimously adopted by
6 their City Council. Philadelphia is
7 poised to join this group of cities in
8 declaring that conversion therapy has no
9 place in our community.

10 General legislation to ban
11 conversion therapy for minors has
12 languished in the Pennsylvania General
13 Assembly for the past several sessions.
14 In 2010, however, the Office of Mental
15 Health and Substance Abuse Services
16 within the Pennsylvania Department of
17 Human Services adopted a policy from the
18 state that they do not endorse or pay for
19 conversion therapy.

20 We know this is real. We have
21 individuals in Pennsylvania and across
22 the country who survived it. They are
23 our friends, and they have resilience
24 that many of us will never know. While
25 we are monitoring a decrease in its

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2 application, it is still legal unless you
3 act. As Philadelphians and as human
4 beings, we consider moving this bill a
5 moral imperative. You will be sending up
6 a beacon to the world that from
7 Philadelphia, you are loved and affirmed
8 for who you are, and efforts to warp your
9 mind against yourself are inhumane and
10 surely against the law. Philadelphia is
11 a city of sibling love, and that is what
12 you are exemplifying in moving this
13 legislation forward.

14 Thank you for looking out for
15 members of our family. The Pennsylvania
16 Youth Congress commends you and
17 Councilman Squilla for your leadership on
18 this issue. We urge you to report this
19 bill from the Public Health and Human
20 Services Committee and approve this
21 critical measure as City Council.

22 Thank you. I'm happy to answer
23 any questions.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you
25 very much for your testimony and for all

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2 of the work that you do, and I'm really
3 encouraged that The Pennsylvania Youth
4 Congress exists and for the work that you
5 do and also that as I see it, this is the
6 group that's really going to carry the
7 torch to make sure that conversion
8 therapy is extinguished, not just in
9 Philadelphia and in Pennsylvania but
10 nationally, internationally, that this is
11 something that will not be accepted in
12 the future. And I think that it's
13 certainly much more of a common thinking
14 among your membership, younger
15 generation, that conversion therapy is
16 problematic and has to go. And so I just
17 really want to thank you for the work
18 that you're doing and continuing to do on
19 this very important issue.

20 Councilman Green.

21 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
22 Madam Chair.

23 Good morning. Thank you for
24 your testimony. You spoke about the
25 legislation banning conversion therapy

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2 languishing in the Pennsylvania General
3 Assembly. Can you give some more context
4 to that and maybe provide some
5 information on who have been some of the
6 sponsors of legislation to ban conversion
7 therapy and what the current status is on
8 any of those bills.

9 MR. GOODMAN: Sure. So the
10 past, I believe it's, three sessions,
11 legislation has been introduced in the
12 House and the Senate. I believe Senator
13 Farnese has been involved in one of those
14 bills, and a number of Philadelphians are
15 co-sponsors of those bills.

16 The legislation has not been
17 moved out of its committee. We don't
18 necessarily see a path forward until we
19 have more support. We're still working
20 on basic non-discrimination. We may see
21 movement from that through guidance in
22 the Pennsylvania Human Relations
23 Commission, which may lead to us being
24 able to figure out additional regulations
25 through the state.

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2 In New York state, the way they
3 banned conversion therapy for minors was
4 through a regulation. So with
5 Philadelphia and Pittsburgh leading the
6 way, perhaps we can see movement from the
7 state level, but OMHSAS, as I mentioned,
8 the State Department of Human Services,
9 has prohibited state money from their
10 office being used for this conversion
11 therapy.

12 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So you
13 raised something interesting about a
14 strategy using an executive branch doing
15 regulation. Is there an ability -- well,
16 going back to the New York process where
17 you used regulatory authority to
18 eliminate this practice, is there an
19 ability for the state to, I guess -- I'm
20 not sure if that's the Health Department
21 or another state licensing entity -- to
22 make a decision that they're not going to
23 provide a license to those who practice
24 conversion therapy?

25 MR. GOODMAN: I gather that may

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2 be a possibility, but I am not sure how
3 that would play out at the state level,
4 but we can get back to you. We can see
5 at the City level too.

6 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Yeah. Well,
7 the challenge right now is that Governor
8 Wolf has proposed merging a number of
9 agencies together and so that's right now
10 taking up a lot of time, but I would urge
11 your organization, your leadership and
12 maybe working with Senator Farnese to
13 think of an executive process. There may
14 be a way that you can restrict someone's
15 license if they're engaging in this type
16 of practice.

17 MR. GOODMAN: And I believe
18 Pennsylvania state government would look
19 to Philadelphia for how your regulations
20 would play out too. So I think it will
21 all complement each other.

22 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
24 Councilman.

25 And if there are no additional

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2 questions, thank you so much for your
3 testimony this morning.

4 MR. GOODMAN: Thank you.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Is there
6 anyone else here to testify on Bill No.
7 161111?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. And
10 seeing none, if we can have the Clerk
11 read the title of the next bill.

12 THE CLERK: Bill No. 170470, an
13 ordinance amending Title 3 of The
14 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Air
15 Management Code," by amending Chapter
16 3-200 thereof, entitled "Prohibited
17 Conduct," to add a new section
18 prohibiting the cutting of rubber tires
19 by any person, under certain terms and
20 conditions.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And can we
22 have the Clerk please call the first name
23 of the panel to testify.

24 THE CLERK: Kass Sellasie,
25 Director, AMS, Philadelphia Department of

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2 Health.

3 (Witnesses approached witness
4 table.)

5 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good
6 morning.

7 MR. SELLASSIE: Good morning.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Please
9 state your name for the record and begin
10 your testimony.

11 MR. SELLASSIE: Good morning,
12 Chairwoman Bass and members of the
13 Committee on Public Health and Human
14 Services. My name is Kass Sellassie.
15 I'm the Director of the Philadelphia
16 Department of Public Health's Air
17 Management Services, known as AMS. AMS
18 is the local air pollution control agency
19 for the City of Philadelphia. AMS's
20 mission is to protect the health and
21 quality of life of the Philadelphians
22 from the adverse effects of air
23 pollution. To this end, AMS is empowered
24 to enforce federal, state, and city
25 regulation and pollution standards within

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2 Philadelphia.

3 Thank you for inviting me to
4 testify in regard to Bill No. 170470,
5 which proposes to amend Title 3 of The
6 Philadelphia Code, Chapter 3-200, to add
7 a new section that prohibits cutting,
8 tearing or otherwise dismembering a
9 rubber tire for any purpose, unless the
10 activity is conducted within a completely
11 enclosed building.

12 It is the understanding of AMS
13 that the intent of the bill is to prevent
14 smoke, odors or other air emissions from
15 such activities from negatively impacting
16 the public or the environment. AMS
17 certainly supports what we understand to
18 be the goal of this proposed legislation.

19 However, AMS believes that
20 these goals are already addressed by the
21 existing Title 3 known as the Air
22 Management Code, the regulations passed
23 by the City's Air Pollution Control Board
24 and existing state law which AMS also
25 enforces. Thus there does not seem to be

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2 a need for this legislation.

3 It is the mission of AMS to
4 protect and improve the lives of all
5 Philadelphians through the enforcement of
6 federal, state, and local air pollution
7 laws and regulations. If there is a
8 particular air pollution nuisance or
9 problem that needs to be addressed in the
10 City, AMS is willing to work with City
11 Council or anyone else to address the
12 problem.

13 Thank you for your attention.
14 AMS staff Keith Lemchak, Pat O'Neill, and
15 I will now be happy to answer any
16 questions that you might have.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.

18 And Pat O'Neill is?

19 MR. SELLASSIE: He's from the
20 old department and he's --

21 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And?

22 MR. LEMCHAK: Keith Lemchak.

23 MR. SELLASSIE: Keith Lemchak
24 is enforcement.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Very good.

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2 Any questions?

3 Councilman Greenlee.

4 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
5 you, Madam Chair.

6 Just quickly, sir, you said
7 that there does not seem to be a need for
8 this legislation, but there's nothing in
9 the legislation that is contradictory to
10 City regulations, right?

11 MR. SELLASSIE: There is not
12 entirely, but we already implement and
13 enforce the AMS code, which is Section
14 3-201.

15 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I
16 understand.

17 MR. SELLASSIE: Also about this
18 one, and we have also Title 5 -- I mean,
19 Regulation 5 and others. So it's not
20 contradictory, but the only problem for
21 this one is it adds cost to the facility
22 because --

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: It adds
24 what? I'm sorry.

25 MR. SELLASSIE: It is a small

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2 facility, this one.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Small
4 facility.

5 MR. SELLASSIE: Yeah, facility.

6 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: You're
7 saying it adds?

8 MR. SELLASSIE: Adds costs for
9 the facility to build. That is the only
10 difference for this one. We don't need
11 additional regulation or even -- the
12 contradiction is somewhere like add cost
13 unnecessary and we have other regulation.

14 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I get
15 what you're saying, but I assume the
16 sponsor is trying to -- has been alerted
17 of a problem and he's just trying to
18 emphasize this.

19 So if it doesn't contradict
20 anything, I guess I don't see the
21 problem. That's just my opinion.

22 Anyway, thank you, Madam Chair.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Right.
24 Thank you, Councilman.

25 And quick question just

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2 following up on Councilman Greenlee's
3 question. Are you aware or have you had
4 a conversation with Councilman Squilla?

5 MR. SELLASSIE: Yes.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So you are
7 aware of his particular concerns?

8 MR. SELLASSIE: Yes. Last year
9 in March 2016, I was with him in his
10 office, five of us. So we discuss about
11 the issues.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So I'm
13 assuming that he came to Air Management
14 to address a problem that could not be
15 adequately addressed by Air Management
16 and that's the reasoning for this
17 particular piece of legislation.

18 MR. SELLASSIE: Yeah. Here's
19 what I am suggesting. For example, this
20 is particularly for tire shredding
21 facility. So now there are a lot of
22 technology out. The only problem this
23 raise a question is they're using saw to
24 cut tires. So they extract the steel
25 from the wire -- from the tire, so they

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2 recycle it. But there are other options.

3 Instead of putting regulation ahead, we

4 can use some new technology, like

5 extracting. It doesn't create any smoke

6 or odor or anything. So if someone use

7 that technology and we have implemented

8 this regulation, so it is a big cost,

9 because what about those people who

10 install this new technology, which has no

11 smoke, no odor.

12 So Councilman Squilla problem
13 is, there is smoke and odor from the tire
14 shredding. So if we use a new

15 technology, there's no shredding, like

16 cutting. So the problem is only saw. So

17 we have to avoid that one. We can work

18 with the facility, with the Councilman

19 how to proceed without any nuisance or

20 any air pollution.

21 MR. O'NEILL: Councilwoman, if
22 I may, I think part of the objection at
23 least is that as far as Air Management is
24 aware, there's only one facility where
25 there's been an alleged problem and no

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2 place else in the City. And so it's sort
3 of -- not exactly a spot zoning, but it's
4 kind of -- it's a legislative change for
5 one -- what amounts to one facility as
6 opposed to an industry problem which AMS
7 has not come across. And if there's a
8 problem at one location, AMS has the
9 authority already because of smoke, odor
10 requirements, prohibitions against open
11 burning, et cetera, that as long as we
12 can find the problem, we can confront it,
13 and AMS is ready to do that.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. I'm
15 just -- I'm going to move on. I don't
16 want to belabor the point, but I assume
17 that, again, the Councilman reached out
18 and tried to resolve this before
19 introducing new legislation to do it and
20 wasn't able to do so and that's why we're
21 here at this point. And I also would
22 imagine that for all of the -- for most
23 of the work that Air Management does,
24 most of it is a one off, just a very --
25 is someone doing something different,

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2 unusual that could be problematic. I
3 don't assume that -- it's not like these
4 are almost like fast food restaurants.
5 Like these are, like I said earlier, one
6 off's where you have one person doing one
7 thing that is compromising air quality,
8 and, again, I'm assuming that that's why
9 the Councilman felt the need to introduce
10 this legislation.

11 But anyway, Councilman
12 Taubenberger.

13 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Thank
14 you, Madam Chair, and this goes back to
15 Mr. Sellassie, and I think the panel
16 actually started talking about it. So I
17 get this right, you're essentially saying
18 that this piece of legislation really has
19 to deal with only one operator; is that
20 correct?

21 MR. SELLASSIE: Yes, sir.

22 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: And
23 where is that operator?

24 MR. SELLASSIE: Twenty --

25 MR. O'NEILL: It's in

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2 Kensington.

3 MR. SELLASSIE: 2609 [sic] --

4 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Well,
5 give me an address.

6 MR. SELLASSIE: 2609 Silver
7 Street.

8 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER:
9 Excuse me?

10 MR. SELLASSIE: 2609 Silver
11 Street.

12 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: 2609?
13 MR. SELLASSIE: 2609 Silver
14 Street.

15 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Silva
16 Street?

17 MR. SELLASSIE: Yeah, Silver
18 Street.

19 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER:
20 That's the only thing I have.

21 How do you spell that?

22 MR. O'NEILL: It's 2069 Silver
23 Street.

24 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER:
25 Silver?

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2 MR. O'NEILL: Like the metal,
3 yeah.

4 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Like
5 the metal, okay. Got it.

6 Madam Chair, thank you.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
8 Councilman.

9 Councilman Green.

10 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
11 Madam Chair.

12 I had a chance to read
13 Ms. Geer's testimony, who will be
14 testifying after this panel. And so my
15 understanding from what you're saying is
16 that this is the only location in the
17 City where they're cutting tires that's
18 in this close proximity to residents?

19 MR. SELLASSIE: Right.

20 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So there are
21 other locations in the City of
22 Philadelphia where they're cutting tires,
23 correct?

24 MR. SELLASSIE: Yes, sir.

25 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And so when

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2 they cut tires, because of the metal mesh
3 in the tire and using a saw that's doing
4 that, that's causing the smoke?

5 MR. SELLASSIE: Yes, sir.

6 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And then the
7 other areas where the cutting of tires
8 occurs, those are primarily industrial
9 I-3 locations, probably Southwest
10 Philadelphia or other parts of industrial
11 locations, correct?

12 MR. SELLASSIE: Yeah, that's in
13 industrial locations.

14 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So what is
15 your solution to Ms. Geer's problem
16 considering that this is a location,
17 which obviously for whatever reason has a
18 business in a location that I'm
19 presumed -- what's the zoning
20 classification of this property on Silver
21 Street?

22 MR. SELLASSIE: It's industrial
23 zoned.

24 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So it's
25 industrial zoned.

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2 MR. SELLASSIE: And also
3 residential zoned.

4 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So it's
5 zoned industrial classification, but its
6 location is in close proximity to
7 residential properties?

8 MR. SELLASSIE: Yeah, it is
9 around 100 yards from residential.

10 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So it's
11 probably been there a long time?

12 MR. SELLASSIE: Yeah. There
13 are row houses around that one.

14 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So within
15 the current code, what they're doing is
16 legal, but it's still causing for smoke
17 and impacting the quality of life of Ms.
18 Geer and other residents on the 2000
19 block of East Somerset. So what's your
20 proposal to resolve this issue if you're
21 saying that this legislation is not
22 needed?

23 MR. SELLASSIE: Yeah. As I
24 said, we enforce smoke and odor. There's
25 another regulation. So that second one

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2 is we have to discuss with the facility
3 and the Councilman office, because there
4 is another solution. The solution one is
5 we avoid using saw, because that is the
6 one that creates smoke and maybe
7 smoldering smoke. So instead of that
8 one, there are new technology they have
9 already, like cutting. If they cut,
10 there is no smoke. It is a mesh and it
11 will cut like within seconds. So when
12 they use the saw and outside the office
13 area, which is near to the residential,
14 that creates problem to the neighbors or
15 to the residents.

16 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So you're
17 saying that there's new technology that's
18 available and that using a saw to cut is
19 no longer needed and that would eliminate
20 the smoke?

21 MR. SELLASSIE: Yes. That's
22 what we do.

23 COUNCILMAN GREEN: However, has
24 the business owner -- I mean, you said
25 you currently have legislation and

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2 regulations under the Code that can be
3 used to, I guess, encourage the business
4 owner to use new technology, but that has
5 not occurred as of yet. So how do you
6 reconcile the issue that you have
7 residents who are still dealing with
8 smoke and noise in their community and
9 your response to this legislation is that
10 we have existing regulations to address
11 that, but nothing has changed?

12 MR. SELLASSIE: It will change,
13 Councilman, because even it is industrial
14 zone, they have rights to have that
15 business, but there is also another
16 regulation, which is air pollution
17 regulation. So they have to comply with
18 that air pollution regulation.

19 COUNCILMAN GREEN: I understand
20 that they have to comply with the air
21 pollution regulation, but what steps from
22 an enforcement perspective have you taken
23 in reference to the pollution that's been
24 occurring with the smoke that's basically
25 going on for some time with this business

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2 using the current technology to cut
3 tires?

4 MR. SELLASSIE: But for the
5 record, they have two types of technology
6 using.

7 COUNCILMAN GREEN: The question
8 is not about the type of technology. The
9 question is that they're currently using
10 an older technology which is causing air
11 pollution and impacting the neighbors,
12 and you're saying that this legislation
13 is not needed, but you can use existing
14 air pollution legislation and regulations
15 to address it. My question is, how have
16 you done that so far to convince this
17 business owner to stop polluting the air
18 and impacting the quality of life of the
19 residents on Somerset?

20 MR. SELLASSIE: I think two
21 question. They are using two technology.
22 That's what I'm trying to tell you. One
23 is saw. The other is cutting, the new
24 technology. They have two on the site.
25 So they have to avoid the saw, but using

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2 the new technology, which is cutting of
3 tires inside the building, they have
4 already.

5 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So --

6 MR. SELLASSIE: So we avoid
7 that one. The saw they don't have to use
8 anymore, because it emits emission,
9 smoke, and odor.

10 COUNCILMAN GREEN: I
11 understand. So you're saying that this
12 business has both technologies, the older
13 and the new technology?

14 MR. SELLASSIE: Right.

15 COUNCILMAN GREEN: But
16 obviously they're still using the older
17 technology and it's still causing quality
18 of life issues to the neighbors. So what
19 are you doing to basically use the
20 current legislation and regulations to
21 stop air pollution to basically stop them
22 using the old technology and impacting
23 the neighbors from a quality of life
24 perspective?

25 MR. SELLASSIE: That's good

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2 question. So we have --- AMS has
3 authority. We can write work order.

4 COUNCILMAN GREEN: You're
5 saying we can as in the future.

6 MR. SELLASSIE: We can write
7 work order.

8 COUNCILMAN GREEN: But you're
9 saying we can, we will. Those are in the
10 future. What have you done in the past
11 considering this is not a new issue?

12 MR. SELLASSIE: We did actually
13 19 inspection, for example. Here is the
14 problem, Councilman: When we did 19
15 inspection, they call us, the neighbors.
16 When we get there, when we got there, so
17 they don't have any activities, all 19
18 times.

19 The facility is very small
20 facility and I said one in Philadelphia.
21 That is only one. So they have tires
22 like ten a day or sometimes they don't
23 have any tires. So it is not like
24 stockpile that they have --

25 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So let me

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2 give you some perspective. I've worked
3 for a District Councilperson in the past,
4 and when we've had issues with a specific
5 business or individual engaged in a
6 certain pattern, we normally provided
7 information to Air Management saying that
8 usually on this time of day, this is when
9 they are cutting tires or doing some type
10 of activity.

11 So are you just only coming
12 after the calls you're receiving from the
13 neighbors or have you worked with the
14 neighbors to find out what's the pattern
15 of cutting tires and when they cut tires
16 to make sure that you're maximizing the
17 neighbors' time and your time and you're
18 coming at a time when they generally are
19 cutting tires? Is that early in the
20 morning, in the afternoon, in the
21 evening? Not just responding to the 19
22 calls and coming after the call and then
23 they're not cutting tires anymore.

24 MR. SELLASSIE: Councilman,
25 yes, you are right. Sometimes when we

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2 get there, they might be done. So what
3 we have -- we have another operations
4 type, which is we call surveillance. So
5 that -- now, what is the future, to
6 answer your question, I will assign --

7 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So you're
8 saying going forward you're going to now
9 do surveillance, but after 19 times, the
10 thought of doing surveillance didn't come
11 up?

12 MR. SELLASSIE: No, no. We
13 didn't have that many inspectors at that
14 time. We were shortage of inspector
15 because of the budget. Now we hire four
16 inspectors, four inspectors additional.
17 So those new inspectors, we assign that
18 location. Like, for example, carbon
19 monoxide we give priority. Anything
20 happen, we go. So I will give this one,
21 this facility, a priority so that
22 inspector will be there every day.
23 That's my plan until we resolve. But
24 between that --

25 COUNCILMAN GREEN: That's not

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2 an efficient use of time. To me what
3 probably would have made more sense is
4 after you received, let's say, the
5 eighth, ninth or tenth call, to maybe
6 work with the neighbors to try to find
7 out what's the usual time that they are
8 cutting tires, and then you can designate
9 someone to come out at that time period
10 when there's a pattern, so that way,
11 you're maximizing your office's time as
12 well as the neighbors' time as opposed to
13 just now after 19 calls having someone
14 come out to spend all day waiting for
15 them to cut tires.

16 MR. SELLASSIE: I mean, we did
17 all those.

18 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Well, you
19 haven't done all those. You're now doing
20 it in the future. This is about a
21 resource management perspective and a
22 quality of life, customer engagement
23 process. I mean, it's not that
24 complicated.

25 MR. SELLASSIE: I will give to

1 6/12/17 - PUBLIC HEALTH - BILL 161111, ETC.

2 the head --

3 COUNCILMAN GREEN: You have a
4 limited amount of resources. The
5 neighbors have complained for a number of
6 calls and complaints. It's a matter of
7 someone using some perspective to say
8 when do they generally cut tires, so that
9 way, we can have someone there at that
10 time period. Now, you may not be able to
11 catch it every time, but I would think
12 the neighbors have developed a pattern,
13 because they called you 19 times. It's
14 probably more than 19 times that cutting
15 tires have occurred. So most businesses
16 have a general pattern of operations, and
17 that will be more efficient for your time
18 as well as the neighbors to get this
19 issue resolved.

20 MR. LEMCHAK: Councilman,
21 you're correct, but we've done
22 surveillance, talked to the complainant
23 to get the time when it happens, but it's
24 so short and infrequent that we're unable
25 to observe the actual cutting.

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2 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay. Now
3 that makes more sense, because they only
4 have a small number of tires of ten at a
5 time, that by the time --

6 MR. LEMCHAK: By the time
7 someone gets out there, even to address
8 that, we've set up random times --

9 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Random
10 checks?

11 MR. LEMCHAK: -- based upon the
12 time that we're given.

13 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay.

14 MR. SELLASSIE: Also, if
15 necessary, we can install camera. I
16 mean, we did it in the past year in
17 downtown here.

18 COUNCILMAN GREEN: That's
19 another concept that maybe should have
20 come up earlier before now, installing
21 cameras, but that's something you're
22 planning on doing. And so what is the
23 penalties if you install cameras and find
24 them cutting tires and causing air
25 pollution? What are the penalties for

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2 that that's different than this

3 legislation?

4 MR. SELLASSIE: The penalty is,
5 the first one I think \$300. Then if
6 there's a second time, we do 500. It
7 will go up 1,000, but if they continue,
8 so we'll take them to court. That's why
9 the Law Department we have respond. So
10 that's the procedure we do.

11 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So under the
12 air pollution portion of the Code, first
13 fine is 300, then 500, and then after
14 that, cease operations?

15 MR. SELLASSIE: After that, we
16 take them to the court. We give to the
17 Law Department.

18 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Right. At
19 that point, Mr. O'Neill, is that cease
20 operations?

21 MR. O'NEILL: AMS doesn't have
22 the authority unless there's an actual
23 health hazard occurring to issue a cease
24 operations the way L&I does. They can
25 issue an order and that can include

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2 stopping the action if they sort of have
3 an actual health -- if they can verify
4 there's a health risk, but that's kind of
5 unusual.

6 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So Air
7 Management can't cease operations?

8 MR. O'NEILL: When you think of
9 a cease order the way L&I issues a cease
10 order, they don't have that authority.

11 COUNCILMAN GREEN: But air
12 pollution is not a significant level of
13 public safety for a health risk to force
14 cease operations?

15 MR. O'NEILL: Well, you can
16 have an air pollution nuisance that is
17 not a significant health risk.

18 COUNCILMAN GREEN: I understand
19 that, but I would say within that same
20 construct, if someone had a significant
21 air pollution, that would be a public
22 safety matter --

23 MR. O'NEILL: Yes. We could
24 go -- we would go in and get a TRO if we
25 needed to.

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2 COUNCILMAN GREEN: But through
3 AMS, you couldn't get a cease operation;
4 you only could do a TRO?

5 MR. O'NEILL: We can issue an
6 order from the Health Commissioner, but
7 it's not the same thing as a cease
8 operations order the way L&I does it.

9 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay. But
10 don't you think at the highest level of
11 Air Management that if you have a
12 significant pollution event, that should
13 be a level where a cease operations
14 should occur?

15 MR. O'NEILL: Yes.

16 COUNCILMAN GREEN: That seems
17 like a gap in the Code.

18 MR. O'NEILL: I mean, nothing
19 has been documented here --

20 COUNCILMAN GREEN: You have
21 different levels. I understand different
22 levels of air pollution. That's a little
23 bit different than this conversation, but
24 still at some point, I would think that
25 if you have a significant air pollution

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2 matter, you should have the ability to do
3 cease operation, because that is a public
4 safety matter causing a health risk.

5 MR. O'NEILL: And AMS can have
6 an order issued through the Health
7 Commissioner that would effectively do
8 that.

9 COUNCILMAN GREEN: All right.

10 Thank you, Madam Chair.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
12 Councilman.

13 Councilman Taubenberger.

14 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Thank
15 you. Thank you very much.

16 I was able to Google the
17 location of this, and we're going to hear
18 some testimony, which I'm very anxious to
19 hear from Mrs. Geer, but in your
20 estimation -- a couple things. How many
21 employees work there?

22 MR. SELLASSIE: Good question.
23 I myself visited that facility on May
24 9th, 2017. There are like two or three.

25 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Two

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2 people?

3 MR. SELLASSIE: Yeah. That's
4 what I saw there. And one is -- he
5 mentioned his history. I mean, he was
6 like a homeless, one of the employees
7 there, and he has a chance to work at the
8 facility so he improve his life and
9 everything. So people like that, two,
10 three people. It is not a big facility.
11 It's a small one.

12 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: I
13 understand, but if they're causing bad
14 air for constituents, it's not a good
15 thing. At this point, I'm going to wait
16 to hear with Mrs. Geer. So you've
17 answered the question that I needed.

18 MR. SELLASSIE: Sure.

19 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Thank
20 you, Madam Chair.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
22 Councilman.

23 Thank you for your testimony.

24 MR. SELLASSIE: Thank you.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And if we

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2 could have the Clerk call the next
3 witness to testify.

4 THE CLERK: Genevieve Geer.

5 (Witness approached witness
6 table.)

7 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good
8 morning.

9 MS. GEER: Good morning.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Please
11 state your name for the record and begin
12 your testimony.

13 MS. GEER: Genevieve Geer.

14 Should I start?

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Yes.

16 MS. GEER: My husband and I
17 live at 2060 East Somerset Street in the
18 Kensington section of Philadelphia.
19 Within a five-block radius, we are
20 surrounded by three different scrap
21 yards. Our property backs up against
22 Philadelphia Scrap Metal, as do about 24
23 other homes.

24 Within the first month of
25 moving in, we discovered that about every

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2 other day, sometimes many days in a row,
3 the sound of a loud saw could be heard
4 and the air would become thick with an
5 acrid burning smell and clouds of smoke
6 would waft into our yard and the
7 surrounding yards.

8 My first reaction was to call
9 the Fire Department whenever it happened,
10 because clearly something was on fire.
11 Sometimes I would call twice in a day. I
12 began writing e-mails to Councilman
13 Squilla and discussing with neighbors how
14 long this had been going on. The word on
15 the block is that this had been happening
16 for all the years Philadelphia Scrap
17 Metal has been at the location, at least
18 ten years.

19 It soon became apparent that
20 the Fire Department could not help
21 because they cannot give out violations.
22 I was sent along to Air Management. I
23 began calling them with complaints in the
24 latter part of 2013.

25 The Air Management Department

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2 in Philadelphia is woefully underfunded.

3 With just two or now four enforcement

4 officers for the entire City, it can take

5 up to a full day for them to get to the

6 site, in which time the offending

7 material can be removed. And what

8 finally became clear is that the way in

9 which the tires were being ignited is

10 legal under Philadelphia Code.

11 Cutting tires: The smoke

12 generated by this scrap yard is created

13 from a practice of cutting the tires in

14 half with a power saw so that they can be

15 more easily stacked inside a container

16 truck to ship off to wherever they have

17 been sold to. The U shape maximizes the

18 packing space within the container truck,

19 thus making the scrap yard money.

20 When the tires are cut with the

21 saw, the metal mesh that is embedded

22 within the tire heats up and ignites the

23 tire from within. The tire begins to

24 spew large quantities of smoke that goes

25 into the air of our neighborhood. I have

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2 been able to make two videos of the
3 process, the most recent one on June 2nd,
4 and am happy to e-mail that along to
5 anybody who would like to see this.

6 Some notes on the smoke of
7 burned tires: There are over 2 gallons
8 of petroleum and oil in one tire. Each
9 tire contains chemicals, including
10 chlorine, styrene, butadiene, and more
11 than 20 different heavy metals. These
12 heavy metals, like lead, chromium,
13 cadmium, and mercury, don't burn away,
14 but are released into the atmosphere as
15 fragment ash.

16 Dioxin is a by-product of burnt
17 chlorine and, once released into the air,
18 travels far and wide, settling on soil,
19 water, and plants miles away. Dioxin has
20 been shown to be responsible for
21 reproductive impairments and an increased
22 risk of diabetes.

23 The chemicals from tire burning
24 once in the soil remain active for up to
25 200 days. Small particulates released by

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2 burning tires worsen asthma.

3 Breast milk contaminated by the
4 heavy metal particles released from
5 burning tires transfers from a nursing
6 mother to her baby.

7 Then, finally, fine carbon
8 particles have been found to cause excess
9 mortality and hospitalizations for heart
10 disease and cancer by the American
11 Academy of Pediatrics' Committee on
12 Environmental Health.

13 I have had comments over the
14 past five years that I should have known
15 better than to buy a house near a scrap
16 yard. I didn't know better because I
17 assumed that laws were in place to
18 protect the health of myself, my family,
19 and my neighbors. I ask that this
20 ordinance be put through to move us
21 toward a greener, healthier future for
22 all Philadelphians.

23 These are third-world standards
24 that can easily be brought up to
25 first-world standards by our efforts

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2 today.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Well, thank
4 you very much for your testimony. I
5 think it's been very comprehensive.

6 And Councilman Taubenberger.

7 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: I at
8 some point would like, if you would,
9 release that to the Chair to see those
10 videos.

11 MS. GEER: How would you like
12 me to do that?

13 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: We
14 can just e-mail them.

15 MS. GEER: I'll send them
16 along. Is a drop box okay?

17 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER:
18 Whatever Councilwoman's technology has.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: We'll
20 figure it out.

21 MS. GEER: I'll talk to Angela.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: We'll
23 figure it out for you.

24 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: We'll
25 figure it out.

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2 Now, just so I have this
3 correct, the company that was described,
4 is that basically a two-person operation
5 as you've seen it?

6 MS. GEER: It looks like maybe
7 there's one owner and three or four --
8 the employees seem to change, so I'm not
9 really sure any given time. I have
10 videos with one guy alone in the scrap
11 yard and then three guys. It's a smaller
12 operation.

13 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: And
14 have you complained to them directly as
15 well?

16 MS. GEER: Yes. I've
17 complained to them. I've complained to
18 everyone, L&I, Councilman Squilla. Poor
19 Councilman Squilla. Yeah.

20 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: And
21 how long have you lived there?

22 MS. GEER: Five years.

23 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Okay.

24 Madam Chair, thank you.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,

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2 Councilman.

3 Councilman Green.

4 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
5 Madam Chair.

6 Ms. Geer, thank you for your
7 testimony this morning.

8 What has been your response you
9 received from the owners of the business
10 when you've addressed them?

11 MS. GEER: I mean, it's like
12 I'm like a nuisance on their yard, like
13 it's a joke, just like go away.

14 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And what are
15 their hours of operation based on your
16 observations?

17 MS. GEER: I think it's 8:00 to
18 4:00 or 5:00, something like that.

19 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Is there any
20 specific time from your -- I know you
21 said you've made videotapes. How were
22 you able to compile those videotapes of
23 the cutting?

24 MS. GEER: You can hear the saw
25 go off and then you see the smoke. So

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2 you know to go around, but it's usually
3 morning is their usual thing and also
4 rainy days. They really like rainy days
5 because it keeps the smoke low, which I
6 guess is a nice thing for us, but...

7 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And so
8 generally you've seen -- so the two
9 videotapes that you made were both in the
10 mornings?

11 MS. GEER: Yes.

12 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And were
13 they like 8 o'clock, first thing in the
14 morning, 10 o'clock, 11 o'clock?

15 MS. GEER: I think one of them
16 might have been -- I don't actually know,
17 but I do know they were both early
18 morning, because it would have been like
19 when I was headed out. I hear it and I
20 just swing by.

21 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And do they
22 tend to do the cutting more early part of
23 the week, toward the end of the week?

24 MS. GEER: It's totally
25 haphazard.

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2 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Totally
3 haphazard, okay. But definitely the
4 mornings throughout the week generally?

5 MS. GEER: For the most part.
6 I mean, it can go for a while or it can
7 be just an hour. The length of time
8 varies.

9 COUNCILMAN GREEN: But what's
10 been the average shortest length of time?

11 MS. GEER: The shortest I would
12 say is an hour.

13 COUNCILMAN GREEN: An hour?

14 MS. GEER: Yeah.

15 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And then
16 longest you've seen?

17 MS. GEER: It will go -- it
18 will start and go through a whole day,
19 like maybe they got a bunch in or
20 something. So it will stop and go, but
21 it usually doesn't go past 2 o'clock in
22 the afternoon.

23 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So possibly
24 8:00 or 9:00 until about 10 o'clock or --

25 MS. GEER: I would go until

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2 11:00. I'd say between 8:00 and 11:00

3 would probably be --

4 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And then
5 sometimes until about 2:00 p.m. possibly?

6 MS. GEER: Yes.

7 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And so
8 what's been your interaction with the
9 City from the Air Management?

10 MS. GEER: So I began calling
11 them in the latter part of 2013. At
12 first, they were helpful. And then there
13 was a dramatic shift, and I'm not really
14 sure if staff changed or what happened
15 within the Department. There was a
16 dramatic shift. I had heard different
17 things that Air Management was sort of
18 done talking to me about this issue.

19 And I'd also like to note here
20 just as an aside that there are many
21 people who live in that area who called
22 Air Management long before I was there
23 about this issue, but they are done with
24 it. They're just -- they think this is
25 just how it's going to be. They think

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2 there's nothing that can be done, because
3 nobody has taken action about this. And
4 then I've finally kind of given up in the
5 past, I would say, six or seven months,
6 since last summer, and just been
7 basically just badgering Councilman
8 Squilla to help me with this problem,
9 because Air Management just -- they get
10 there so late, and they really just don't
11 seem to take it seriously. They think
12 that -- I don't even understand the
13 reasoning. It's an Air Management
14 Department thing. I don't understand the
15 resistance to managing the air at all.

16 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And so when
17 you've called Air Management, how long a
18 time period has Air Management generally
19 come to the site, from your
20 understanding?

21 MS. GEER: From my guess -- I
22 usually call them because I open the back
23 door and I hear and I smell and
24 everything. So I'm usually calling them
25 on my way out. My general impression is

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2 that they come within two hours, but I
3 know that a few times where I haven't
4 been going out it's been almost an entire
5 day. Especially in the very beginning
6 back in 2013, it would be about a day.
7 And, again, I haven't really been
8 utilizing them in the past six or seven
9 months.

10 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And from six
11 or seven months prior, have you seen any
12 Air Management staff there to do any
13 surveillance or information --

14 MS. GEER: No. I mean, in all
15 reality, they can't surveil. Up until
16 recently there was only two rotating air
17 enforcement officers for all of
18 Philadelphia, and they don't just manage
19 pollution. It's also sound. And so they
20 can't surveil.

21 COUNCILMAN GREEN: That was
22 actually my next question. Have you
23 reported any sound issues in reference to
24 the air pollution as well?

25 MS. GEER: I haven't. It just

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2 came to me recently. I'm like, oh,
3 that's also annoying. I was just so
4 concerned with the air, it's the smell --
5 I mean, it's burning rubber. So that's
6 sort of what I've been focused on, but
7 the sound is awful too.

8 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay. All
9 right. Thank you for your testimony and
10 taking time out of your day to come here
11 this morning.

12 MS. GEER: Thank you very much.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
14 Councilman.

15 And I want to acknowledge
16 Councilman Mark Squilla.

17 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you.
18 Thank you, Madam Chair. I apologize for
19 being late to the hearing, I think two
20 important bills that were before you.

21 On this note, though, thank you
22 for coming in and testifying.

23 Actually, it was her idea when
24 we talked about coming up with a way to
25 try to stop that, and when we did -- Air

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2 Management has been responsive in all,
3 but they're saying that it's really
4 nothing they could do. There is no law
5 that prevents it. They go out there, and
6 usually by the time they get out there,
7 it's already done.

8 What we thought, that if there
9 was a law saying you cannot cut the tires
10 and burn the tires, then they would have
11 to find another way to do this, whether
12 taking the tires off the rim mechanically
13 and then feeding them out to wherever
14 they need to go. I didn't know how that
15 would be a detriment to that business.

16 So as the quality of life for
17 the surrounding neighbors, it's bad
18 enough you have to put up with everything
19 else with the yard there and why should
20 we have to put up with this part of it.
21 So it was actually Genevieve's idea to
22 come up with that, and I really -- I
23 thought it was a good idea, and said
24 let's try it.

25 I guess you heard before her

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2 that the Administration doesn't think
3 it's, I guess, something that's
4 enforceable or be harder to enforce, but
5 I still think it's something that we need
6 to look into and sort of there's no rhyme
7 or reason why we would have that as a
8 legal way to perform business. And so I
9 would ask the Chair and the Committee if
10 you would consider at least moving the
11 bill out and go from there.

12 So thank you.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
14 Councilman.

15 Councilman Green.

16 COUNCILMAN GREEN: One other
17 quick question. Thank you, Councilman
18 Squilla, for that background.

19 Ms. Geer, have you noticed them
20 cutting from your observation where
21 you've not seen smoke?

22 MS. GEER: No. There's always
23 smoke. There's no way to cut a tire that
24 way that you don't get smoke. There
25 might be an extraction process. But if

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2 there is a new technology, then it won't
3 matter if we pass this bill to them or
4 not, so we should just pass it.

5 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.

6 MS. GEER: Yeah.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you
8 so much for your testimony today.

9 MS. GEER: Thank you all for
10 hearing me.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Is there
12 anyone else here to testify on this bill?
13 Yes.

14 (Witness approached witness
15 table.)

16 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Madam
17 Chair, just also my support for the
18 conversion therapy bill, I just wanted to
19 put on the record that we support that
20 and appreciate the Committee's help.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
22 Councilman.

23 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good
25 morning.

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2 MS. FEARY: Good morning.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Please
4 state your name for the record and begin
5 your testimony.

6 MS. FEARY: Amanda Feary (ph).
7 Let me introduce myself. I'm one of the
8 Steering Committee members of the
9 neighborhood group the Somerset Neighbors
10 for Better Living, of which Genevieve is
11 also a member, and we're a community
12 group that's been active in that area for
13 about, I'd say, seven or eight years.

14 So I want to paint you a little
15 bit more of a picture of the neighborhood
16 that might answer a couple of questions
17 that were brought up, and I'd also like
18 to give you two reasons that this would
19 be a really good bill to have passed.

20 So we've had a community group
21 for the past seven or eight years, and
22 it's an RCO, it's a non-profit, and we
23 work to give the residents of our
24 neighborhood more of a voice. So you
25 probably know that there are a lot of

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2 vacant industrial properties in many
3 parts of Philadelphia, and that
4 definitely describes our area. We also
5 have a lot of residential properties, and
6 as those vacant properties, those
7 industrial properties, like people
8 realize they're never going to be turned
9 back into factories, the other residences
10 and the industry have really grown closer
11 together.

12 We actually went through a
13 zoning remapping process recently. So
14 many of the properties that we talked
15 about, the scrap yards, while they are
16 zoned for heavy industrial right now,
17 we've asked that if they were to be
18 relicensed in the future, that they be a
19 lighter form of industry. So we are
20 asking to have that heavy industry moved
21 out of our neighborhood because of its
22 negative impact on our residents. So
23 we're actually advocating to create that.

24 So the two reasons I think it
25 would be really good to have this bill

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2 passed is, if you listen, there's a lot
3 of nuisances and a lot of often downright
4 illegal behavior. I used to pass by one
5 of the three scrap yards in our
6 neighborhood on a daily basis on my
7 commute, and you'd have illegal things
8 like dumpsters and trucks idling out in
9 the -- like out in the street, and it
10 would take the residents calling over and
11 over and over again, and finally L&I
12 would come out. So it's like even for
13 illegal violations, it would take a lot
14 of work. And this burning -- the burning
15 of tires, the cutting of tires business,
16 like I could smell it every time I rode
17 by. Sometimes it was clearly happening
18 right then, sometimes it was not. But
19 imagine how frustrating it is to have to
20 call 20 times to get action on an illegal
21 thing, but imagine having that poor
22 quality of air and you find out that
23 actually it's completely legal to do
24 that.

25 So it's really important that

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2 we pass this, because it is actually very
3 toxic to like ride through. And if this
4 law is not passed or this is not passed,
5 then we as residents just have no
6 recourse to call it into L&I.

7 And, secondly, I disagree that
8 it is only one problem scrap yard. I
9 have passed by at least two or three that
10 have been doing this, and I'd like to
11 remind you that we are not the only
12 neighborhood where industry and
13 residences are moving closer together.
14 And I have personally seen the Somerset
15 Neighbors area start to find a voice.
16 It's a lower income area. So I believe
17 that ten years ago, these problems were
18 still there, but residents very much felt
19 disempowered to do anything about it. So
20 as other areas in Philadelphia find their
21 voice, I'd like to think that they too
22 will start to push out against this, but
23 right now there are probably many
24 communities that suffer from these issues
25 and just feel like there's nothing to be

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2 done.

3 So by putting this into a law,
4 our neighborhood will be able to get
5 something done about the burning tire
6 smoke, which currently is completely
7 legal, and also I think that it will help
8 serve other communities when they are
9 trying to do this same thing.

10 Thank you.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Well, thank
12 you very much for your testimony.

13 Any questions?

14 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Yes.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Councilman
16 Greenlee.

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Madam
18 Chair, I'm glad the witness brought that
19 up, because I know it was brought out
20 earlier. This is like about one
21 property, and even if it was one
22 property, that's enough to pass the law,
23 but I doubt very seriously if there isn't
24 some place else in the City of
25 Philadelphia doing the same thing or

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2 maybe tomorrow one will pop up.

3 So, I mean, to me this is easy.

4 You pass the bill.

5 Thank you.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.

7 Thank you very much for your testimony.

8 Is there anyone else here to
9 testify on Bill No. 170470?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And if not,
12 that concludes the public hearing on Bill
13 No. 161111 and 170470.

14 We will now go into a public
15 meeting to consider the action to be
16 taken on these bills, and I want to
17 recognize Councilmember Bill Greenlee for
18 a motion on Bill No. 161111.

19 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
20 you, Madam Chair. I move that Bill No.
21 161111 be reported out of this Committee
22 with a favorable recommendation and that
23 the rules of Council be suspended to
24 allow for first reading at our next
25 session of Council.

1 6/12/17 - PUBLIC HEALTH - BILL 161111, ETC.

2 (Duly seconded.)

3 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: It's been
4 moved and properly seconded that Bill No.
5 161111 will be reported from this
6 Committee with a favorable recommendation
7 and further moved that the rules of
8 Council be suspended to permit first
9 reading of this bill at the next session
10 of Council.

11 All of those in favor of this
12 motion signify by saying aye.

13 (Aye.)

14 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: All of
15 those opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: The ayes
18 have it and the motion carries, and Bill
19 No. 161111 will be reported from this
20 Committee with a favorable
21 recommendation, with a request that the
22 rules of Council be suspended to permit
23 first reading at the next session of
24 Council.

25 I now want to recognize

1 6/12/17 - PUBLIC HEALTH - BILL 161111, ETC.

2 Councilman Bill Greenlee again for a
3 motion on Bill No. 170470.

4 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
5 you, Madam Chair. I move that Bill No.
6 170470 be reported out of this Committee
7 with a favorable recommendation and that
8 the rules of Council be suspended to
9 allow for first reading at our next
10 session of Council.

11 (Duly seconded.)

12 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: It's been
13 moved and properly seconded that Bill No.
14 170470 be reported from this Committee
15 with a favorable recommendation and
16 further moved that the rules of Council
17 be suspended to permit first reading of
18 this bill at the next session of Council.

19 All of those in favor of this
20 motion signify by saying aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Any
23 opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: The ayes

1 6/12/17 - PUBLIC HEALTH - BILL 161111, ETC.
2 have it and the motion carries. Bill No.
3 170470 will be reported from this
4 Committee with a favorable
5 recommendation, with a request that the
6 rules of Council be suspended to permit
7 first reading at the next session of
8 Council.

9 That concludes the business of
10 this Committee. Thank you.

11 (Committee on Public Health and
12 Human Services concluded at 11:30 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

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

MICHELE L. MURPHY
RPR-Notary Public

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direct control and/or supervision of the
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