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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC PROPERTY AND

4

PUBLIC WORKS

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Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, February 20, 2007
1:20 p.m.

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PRESENT:

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COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE, CHAIR

12

COUNCILMAN WILLIAM GREENLEE

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COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY

14

COUNCILWOMAN JOAN L. KRAJEWSKI

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COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER

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COUNCILMAN JUAN RAMOS

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BILLS 060111, 060895, 060934, 060956, 070004
and 060545

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COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Good

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afternoon. This is the Committee on

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Public Property and Public Works. This

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is a public hearing.

6

Will the Clerk please read the

7

title of the first bill.

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THE CLERK: Bill No. 060956, an

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ordinance naming and designating the

10

Ogontz Branch of the Free Library of

11

Philadelphia, located at 6017 Ogontz

12

Avenue, as the "David Cohen Ogontz Branch

13

of the Free Library of Philadelphia."

14

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Anyone to

15

testify on this bill?

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Let the record reflect we have

17

a quorum: Councilman Kenney, Councilman

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Greenlee, Councilman Ramos and

19

Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller.

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Councilman Bill Greenlee would

21

like to make an opening statement.

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COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

23

you, Mr. Chairman.

24

Very quickly, I just want to

25

note for the record back in 1979, way

1 2/20/07 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 060956, ETC.

2 back when I had a lot more hair and it
3 was all blond, I volunteered for a
4 gentleman named David Cohen for
5 Councilman-at-Large, and probably about
6 the first day I was in there, I heard
7 about these efforts that were already a
8 couple years in the making for a library
9 up in the Ogontz area. It took a while,
10 but he, his wife, Florence, and the
11 members of Ogontz Area Neighbors
12 Association were just diligent, kept at
13 it, and finally it was established. And
14 I can't think of any other building or
15 any other site to honor Councilman Cohen
16 than this particular library. And I'd be
17 remiss if I didn't particularly thank
18 Councilwoman Miller for allowing me to
19 introduce this bill and for co-sponsoring
20 it.

21 Thank you.

22 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
23 Councilman.

24 Please proceed.

25 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:

1 2/20/07 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 060956, ETC.

2 Yes. Good afternoon, Chairman Clarke,
3 members of the Committee on Public
4 Property and Public Works. My name is
5 Joan Schlotterbeck and I am the
6 Commissioner of the City's Public
7 Property Department. I'm here today to
8 testify in support of Bill No. 060956, an
9 ordinance naming and designating the
10 Ogontz Branch of the Free Library of
11 Philadelphia, located at 6017 Ogontz
12 Avenue, as the "David Cohen Ogontz Branch
13 of the Free Library of Philadelphia."

14 This bill will enable the
15 Ogontz Branch of the Free Library to be
16 renamed as the David Cohen Ogontz Branch.

17 Public Property supports this
18 measure and, accordingly, I respectfully
19 ask that Council approve Bill No. 060956.

20 I also ask that the rules be
21 suspended so that the ordinance shall be
22 passed upon the second reading at
23 Council.

24 Thank you.

25 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,

1 2/20/07 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 060956, ETC.
2 Commissioner.

3 MR. SHELKROT: I'm Elliot
4 Shelkrot, the President of the Free
5 Library of Philadelphia, and I too am
6 speaking to support this bill.

7 As was said by Councilman
8 Greenlee, Councilman Cohen was one of the
9 earliest champions of the building of a
10 library on Ogontz Avenue, working for
11 decades to make it a reality, and the
12 adding of his name on this building is
13 certainly fitting and appropriate.

14 Our records show that it was
15 back in 1961 that a community
16 organization first formed to talk about a
17 library on Ogontz Avenue, and it was a
18 long time in coming. In 1987 -- 1997,
19 excuse me, was the official opening day,
20 and in the intervening decades,
21 Councilman Cohen was relentless in
22 working together with community
23 organizations. There was a change of
24 location, there was escalating costs,
25 there was the City's fiscal crisis.

1 2/20/07 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 060956, ETC.

2 In 1989, Councilman Cohen and I
3 visited a library in East St. Louis. It
4 was a library of the style and the kind
5 of library that we now have on Ogontz
6 Avenue. It was a new concept in
7 libraries. It's been used now in cities
8 all over the country, a way to be
9 economical in the building of libraries,
10 save time and energy and also to use the
11 staff very efficiently. And now we have
12 over 500 people a day using that library,
13 34,000 items borrowed in a year, and to
14 name this library in his honor I believe
15 is a wonderful thing for this Council to
16 do.

17 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
18 Mr. Shelkrot.

19 JUDGE COHEN: Mr. Chairman and
20 the great members of City Council who are
21 on this Committee, I'm Denis Cohen. I
22 am, I guess, the second son, second child
23 of Councilman Cohen, and I want to thank
24 everyone here for the resolution, and I
25 want to especially thank on behalf of the

1 2/20/07 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 060956, ETC.

2 family Councilman Greenlee for
3 introducing this resolution. We very
4 much appreciate it.

5 As has been stated, this
6 library meant an awful lot to both my dad
7 and my mom, and I remember we talked
8 about having a library for years and
9 years and years. This was a major topic
10 in our family about having a library. I
11 know my dad and mom spent enormous
12 amounts of time and they were
13 instrumental in that community
14 organization, Ogontz Area Neighbors
15 Association.

16 When I was running for judge in
17 2001, almost probably nothing more made
18 my dad proud than when he took me to the
19 library to introduce me to all the people
20 and had me shake hands on one Saturday
21 morning or afternoon.

22 So, again, on behalf of the
23 family, we thank Councilman Greenlee and
24 this whole committee for this resolution.
25 Thank you again.

1 2/20/07 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 060956, ETC.

2 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you.

3 Are there any questions of
4 members of the Committee of these
5 witnesses?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: There being
8 none, thank you very much.

9 JUDGE COHEN: Thank you very
10 much.

11 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: At the
12 request of the sponsor, Bill No. 060895
13 will be withdrawn.

14 Will the Clerk please read the
15 title of the next bill.

16 THE CLERK: Bill No. 070004, an
17 ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of
18 Public Property, on behalf of the City of
19 Philadelphia, to purchase from the School
20 District of Philadelphia, for nominal
21 consideration, certain tracts of land
22 with buildings and improvements thereon,
23 known as 4000 through 10 Germantown
24 Avenue located on the west side of
25 Germantown Avenue, and to execute and

1 2/20/07 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 060956, ETC.

2 deliver to the Philadelphia Authority for
3 Industrial Development, for nominal
4 consideration, a deed conveying fee
5 simple title to these properties for
6 further conveyance to the Triumph Baptist
7 Church for nominal consideration.

8 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:

9 Good afternoon, Chairman Clarke and
10 members of the Public Property and Public
11 Works Committee. My name is Joan
12 Schlotterbeck. I'm the Commissioner of
13 Public Property. I'm here today to
14 testify in support of Bill No. 070004, an
15 ordinance authorizing me as the
16 Commissioner, on behalf of the City, to
17 purchase from the School District, for
18 nominal consideration, certain tracts of
19 land with buildings and improvements
20 thereon, known as 4000 to 4010 Germantown
21 Avenue located on the west side of
22 Germantown Avenue, and to execute and
23 deliver to the Philadelphia Authority for
24 Industrial Development, PAID, for nominal
25 consideration, a deed conveying fee

1 2/20/07 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 060956, ETC.

2 simple title to the properties for
3 further conveyance to the Triumph Baptist
4 Church for nominal consideration.

5 This bill will enable the City
6 to acquire this property from the School
7 District and transfer it to the church
8 via PAID, and this property will be used
9 for church-related purposes.

10 The Department supports this
11 measure and, accordingly, I respectfully
12 ask that Council approve Bill No. 070004.

13 I also ask that the rules be
14 suspended so that the ordinance may be
15 passed upon the second reading at
16 Council.

17 Thank you.

18 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:

20 I'm joined here by the Pastor of the
21 Triumph Baptist Church.

22 I'm sorry. Your name again?

23 PASTOR HALL: James Hall.

24 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: We all know
25 Pastor Hall.

1 2/20/07 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 060956, ETC.

2 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:

3 Oh, you do?

4 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Absolutely.

5 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:

6 I'm sorry. I didn't. Nice to meet you.

7 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Councilman
8 Kenney.

9 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I just have
10 a technical question, not about the
11 project but about the transfer of the
12 land. Why does it have to go from the
13 School District to us, then to Triumph?
14 It can't go directly from the School
15 District to Triumph, or is there some
16 kind of tax benefit or something that
17 relates?

18 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK: We
19 can do it both ways. In this particular
20 instance, we decided to do it this way.
21 In other words, it can go directly, or in
22 a lot of times it's expeditious for us to
23 take it and then transfer it over.

24 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Now, since
25 the school takeover, since the SRC

1 2/20/07 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 060956, ETC.

2 inception, do we own the buildings or
3 does the SRC own the buildings, the
4 School District buildings? I know
5 they're responsible for the running of
6 the District, but I knew in the past when
7 we had a school Board, they were kind of
8 the Board's buildings but the City's
9 building. So I'm wondering what their
10 status is.

11 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK: To
12 be perfectly frank, I don't know the
13 answer. I can find out.

14 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Again, I'm
15 totally supportive of the transfer. I'm
16 just curious as to why the School
17 District to PAID, then PAID to Triumph.

18 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Councilman,
19 I've actually had occasion to deal with
20 some school transfers recently since the
21 SRC has taken over, and my understanding
22 is that the property is still designated
23 as it was prior to the SRC as School
24 District property.

25 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I see.

1 2/20/07 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 060956, ETC.

2 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: But any
3 conveyance requires the authorization of
4 the SRC.

5 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: And then
6 the approval of PAID?

7 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Then the
8 approval, correct.

9 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: All right.
10 Thank you.

11 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you.
12 Anyone else to testify?

13 MR. KELLY: Good afternoon,
14 Councilman. My name is Fran Kelly. I'm
15 here on behalf of the School District to
16 show support for this project.

17 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
18 Mr. Kelly. We know you also.

19 Let the record reflect that
20 Councilwoman Joan Krajewski has joined
21 the Committee.

22 Councilwoman Miller.

23 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank
24 you, Mr. Chair.

25 I just want to say that I am in

1 2/20/07 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 060956, ETC.

2 total support of this bill and that this
3 will actually -- this building is
4 actually vacant, empty and it's not being
5 used. So for Triumph Church and whatnot
6 to put it back into use is something very
7 positive for that neighborhood. So I
8 just want to state that for the record.

9 Thank you.

10 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
11 Councilwoman.

12 Pastor Hall.

13 PASTOR HALL: Well, let me
14 express my appreciation to Councilwoman
15 Miller for kind of spearheading and
16 running this for us and
17 Mrs. Schlotterbeck for the support that
18 she's giving, and all of you, thank you
19 so much, of the Committee from City
20 Council, for your support.

21 The Triumph Church is one of
22 the vibrant organizations in that area,
23 which Ms. Miller is our Council Lady, and
24 the property that we're asking you for
25 connects to the parking lot and the

1 2/20/07 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 060956, ETC.

2 property we own already. We are there
3 now. We were at 16th and Wingohocking.
4 We outgrew that, and now we're at
5 Germantown and Hunting Park, and this
6 property will be an asset to the church
7 and the community. Thank you so much for
8 it.

9 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
10 Pastor.

11 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank
12 you.

13 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Any
14 questions of these witnesses by members
15 of the Committee?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: There being
18 none, thank you very much for your
19 testimony.

20 PASTOR HALL: Thank you.

21 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Clerk,
22 please read the title of the next bill.

23 THE CLERK: Bill No. 060934, an
24 ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of
25 Public Property to execute and deliver to

1 2/20/07 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 060956, ETC.

2 the Philadelphia Authority for Industrial
3 Development, for nominal consideration, a
4 deed conveying fee simple title to a
5 certain tract of City-owned land with
6 buildings and improvements thereon,
7 situate at 1716 through 32 Frankford
8 Avenue, for further conveyance at fair
9 market value.

10 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Please
11 proceed.

12 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:
13 Good afternoon, Chairman Clarke and
14 members of the Public Works and Public
15 Property Committee. My name is Joan
16 Schlotterbeck. I'm the Commissioner of
17 Public Property. I'm here today to
18 testify in support of Bill No. 060934, an
19 ordinance authorizing me as the
20 Commissioner to execute and deliver to
21 PAID, for nominal consideration, a deed
22 conveying simple title to a certain tract
23 of City-owned land with buildings and
24 improvements thereon, situated 1716 to
25 1732 Frankford Avenue in the City of

1 2/20/07 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 060956, ETC.

2 Philadelphia, for further conveyance at
3 fair market value.

4 This bill will enable the City
5 to convey this property to PAID for
6 further conveyance to the developer, with
7 the net proceeds being deposited into the
8 General Fund.

9 This property was acquired by
10 the City in 1963 and it's currently used
11 as a parking lot.

12 The Department supports this
13 measure and, accordingly, I respectfully
14 ask that Council approve Bill No. 060934.

15 I also ask that the rules be
16 suspended so that the ordinance may be
17 passed upon the second reading at
18 Council.

19 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you.
20 I just want to clarify. Do you know if
21 this property is in Councilman Savage's
22 district?

23 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:
24 Yes.

25 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: It is on

1 2/20/07 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 060956, ETC.

2 the other side?

3 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK: It
4 is.

5 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: All right.
6 Thank you.

7 Any questions of this witness
8 on this bill?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Anyone else
11 to testify on this bill?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: There being
14 none, will the Clerk please read the
15 title of the next bill.

16 THE CLERK: Bill No. 060545, an
17 ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of
18 Public Property, on behalf of the City of
19 Philadelphia, to grant to the owner of
20 3201 South 74th Street an easement across
21 a portion of a certain parcel of land
22 adjacent to 70th Street.

23 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:
24 Good afternoon, Chairman Clarke and
25 members of the Public Property and Public

1 2/20/07 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 060956, ETC.

2 Works Committee. My name is Joan
3 Schlotterbeck. I'm Commissioner of
4 Public Property. I'm here today
5 testifying in support of Bill No. 060545,
6 an ordinance authorizing me as the
7 Commissioner, on behalf of the City, to
8 grant the owner of 3201 South 74th Street
9 an easement across a portion of a certain
10 tract adjacent to 70th Street.

11 This bill will enable the City
12 to convey this easement to the U.S.
13 Postal Office for construction of an exit
14 from their 74th Street facility. The
15 Postal Service will incur any costs
16 resulting from the driveway exit.

17 The Streets Department has
18 estimated the cost to be \$60,000. This
19 egress will alleviate traffic congestion
20 from Postal vehicles entering the
21 roadway.

22 The Public Property Department
23 supports this measure and, accordingly, I
24 respectfully ask that Council approve
25 Bill No. 060545.

1 2/20/07 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 060956, ETC.

2 I also ask the rules be
3 suspended so that the ordinance may be
4 passed upon the second reading at
5 Council.

6 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you.

7 Any questions of this witness
8 by members of the Committee?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Any other
11 witnesses on this bill?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: There being
14 none, thank you.

15 Let the record reflect that
16 Bill No. 060111, which was scheduled for
17 today, will be postponed. It will be
18 held at 3:00 p.m. March 19th.

19 This concludes the public
20 hearing. We'll now go into the public
21 meeting.

22 Councilman Ramos, can you
23 please give me a motion on Bill 060934.

24 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Thank you,
25 Mr. Chairman. I move that Bill No.

1 2/20/07 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 060956, ETC.

2 060934 be reported out of Committee with
3 a favorable recommendation. I further
4 move that the rules of Council be
5 suspended to permit first reading of this
6 bill at our next Council meeting.

7 (Duly seconded.)

8 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: All in
9 favor?

10 (Aye.)

11 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Those
12 opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: The ayes
15 have it. Bill 060934 is reported out of
16 Committee with a favorable
17 recommendation, with a rules suspension.

18 Councilman Greenlee, can I
19 please hear a motion on Bill No. 060956.

20 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
21 you, Mr. Chairman. I move that Bill
22 060956 be reported out of this Committee
23 with a favorable recommendation and that
24 the rules of Council be suspended to
25 allow for first reading at the next

1 2/20/07 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 060956, ETC.

2 session of Council.

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: It being
5 moved and seconded, all those in favor?

6 (Aye.)

7 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: The ayes
10 have it. Bill 060956 is reported out of
11 Committee with a favorable
12 recommendation, with a request for rules
13 suspension to allow reading at the next
14 session.

15 Councilman Kenney, can I please
16 ask for a motion on Bill 070004.

17 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you,
18 Mr. Chairman. I move that Bill No.
19 070004 be reported out of this Committee
20 favorably and a request made for rules
21 suspension to allow first reading at our
22 next Council session.

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Moved and
25 seconded. Those in favor?

1 2/20/07 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 060956, ETC.

2 (Aye.)

3 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Those

4 opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: The ayes

7 have it. Bill 070004 is reported out of

8 the Committee with a favorable

9 recommendation and a rules suspension to

10 allow reading at the next session of

11 Council.

12 Councilwoman Krajewski, I ask

13 for a motion on Bill 060545.

14 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank

15 you. I move that Bill 060545 be reported

16 out of this Committee with a favorable

17 recommendation, with a suspension of

18 rules so as to permit first reading at

19 the next session of Council.

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: It being

22 moved and seconded, those in favor?

23 (Aye.)

24 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Those

25 opposed?

1 2/20/07 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 060956, ETC.

2 (No response.)

3 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: The ayes
4 have it. Bill 060545 is reported out of
5 the Committee with a favorable
6 recommendation, with a rules suspension
7 as to allow reading at the next session
8 of Council.

9 This concludes the public
10 meeting on the Committee of Public
11 Property and Public Works. Thank you
12 very much.

13 (Committee on Public Property
14 and Public Works adjourned at 1:40 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that the

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proceedings, evidence and objections are

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contained fully and accurately in the

6

stenographic notes taken by me upon the

7

foregoing matter on February 20, 2007, and

8

that this is a true and correct transcript of

9

same.

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MICHELE L. MURPHY

17

RPR-Notary Public

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