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## COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

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## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND

4

## HUMAN SERVICES

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Room 400, City Hall  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Thursday, February 21, 2008  
2:20 p.m.

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## PRESENT:

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COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO, CHAIR

12

COUNCILMAN WILLIAM GREENLEE

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COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY

COUNCILWOMAN MARIA QUINONES-SANCHEZ

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COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.

COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER

15

COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.

COUNCILMAN DARRELL CLARKE

COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL

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RESOLUTION 080139 - Resolution authorizing the  
Council Committee on Public Health and Human  
Services to hold hearings to investigate the  
City funding and operational changes of  
Philadelphia Safe and Sound and its impact on  
the delivery of social services in  
Philadelphia.

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V A R A L L O Incorporated

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Litigation Support Services

Eleven Penn Center

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1835 Market Street, Suite 600

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

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215.561.2220 215.567.2670

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COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Good

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afternoon. I see we are here this

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afternoon for a very spirited discussion.

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We welcome you all here this afternoon to

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the Committee on Public Health and Human

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Services to discuss Resolution No.

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080139.

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We ask the Clerk to please read

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the resolution.

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THE CLERK: Resolution

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authorizing the Council Committee on

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Public Health and Human Services to hold

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hearings to investigate the City funding

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and operational changes of Philadelphia

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Safe and Sound and its impact on the

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delivery of social services in

18

Philadelphia.

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COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you

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very much.

21

This hearing is based on a

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resolution. Some of our Councilmembers

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were here this morning for a hearing that

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lasted from 10:00 until about 15 minutes

25

ago and will return, but let me recognize

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           that we have Councilwoman Maria  
3           Quinones-Sanchez, Councilman James  
4           Kenney, and Councilman Greenlee is here  
5           in his seat. As other Councilmembers  
6           come, we will recognize them, but also  
7           know that the Councilmembers can hear  
8           this testimony in their offices, over  
9           television and also over the intercom  
10          box.

11                       We thank you all for coming out  
12          this afternoon. We know this is a very  
13          serious matter for all of you, and we  
14          want you to know that we believe the  
15          children are Philadelphia's most  
16          impressionable and vulnerable population.  
17          Children are a segment of our society to  
18          which I have always stressed the  
19          importance of providing the best services  
20          for their growth and development.

21                       In this regard, we must take  
22          into careful consideration all decisions  
23          that impact their livelihood. To know  
24          that one child at any given moment is  
25          being neglected, taken for granted or

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           simply not challenged is not just  
3           troubling to me or the members of this  
4           Council, but it is detrimental to this  
5           entire City. It is especially  
6           disheartening to know that in the wake of  
7           unforeseeable economic times, we are left  
8           to question whether services, especially  
9           geared towards the health, safety and  
10          well-being of the City's children and  
11          youth, were allocated and managed in the  
12          best interest of children.

13                   Today, in this context, the  
14          Committee on Public Health and Human  
15          Services is holding this hearing to  
16          investigate City funding and operational  
17          changes of Philadelphia Safe and Sound  
18          and its impact on the delivery of social  
19          services in Philadelphia. Further, we  
20          will examine how funding was allocated,  
21          reduced or eliminated to various social  
22          service providers in the areas of  
23          truancy, after-school and parenting  
24          programs by Philadelphia Safe and Sound.

25                   As the City's principal

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           oversight body, it is City Council's duty  
3           to investigate the total scope and nature  
4           of this issue and to take any action  
5           necessary to ensure that City funds which  
6           are being used to provide services to our  
7           children are being used in a sound  
8           operational and fiscally responsible  
9           manner.

10                       From this perspective, we take  
11           our oversight role seriously, and we will  
12           always endeavor to make sure that the  
13           best interests of our children are  
14           protected and efforts to provide for our  
15           children are delivered in the most  
16           efficient way possible.

17                       That is just a brief statement.  
18           We're here today to look at the  
19           operational aspect of Safe and Sound.  
20           We're not here to point fingers or to  
21           embarrass anyone. It's really to have a  
22           fact-finding discussion about the program  
23           as it exists and hopefully, if it is  
24           continued, how is the best way to make  
25           the services better for all that receive

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           services from that program.

3                       So to that end, I open the  
4           floor for comments from any members of  
5           the Council.

6                       Let me recognize Councilman  
7           Goode, who has joined us this afternoon.

8                       The first witness today -- and  
9           we're going to take them in panels, and  
10          we hope that you all will make your  
11          testimony brief. We know all of you run  
12          great programs, none like it in the  
13          world. We don't want you to tell us that  
14          all day. We want you to tell us that in  
15          a couple of minutes, how great you are  
16          and the services you do provide to the  
17          citizens and to the children of the City  
18          of Philadelphia, but we hope you will be  
19          brief in your testimony.

20                      We will call on the agencies  
21          first so that we can get a sense from  
22          them of what's going on, what will  
23          hopefully happen in the future, and then  
24          we'll have the providers come forth and  
25          make their presentations.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                   The Chair calls on Arthur  
3           Evans, Acting Commissioner of the  
4           Department of Human Services; Richard  
5           Gold of the Office of Children, Youth and  
6           Families of the Department of Public  
7           Welfare.

8                   And we see that Donnie Schwarz  
9           is here, who is our new Health  
10          Commissioner, but you have a more  
11          extensive title.

12                   (Witnesses approached witness  
13          table.)

14                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you  
15          very much. Good afternoon.

16                   DR. EVANS: Good afternoon.

17                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Would you  
18          state your name for the record, please,  
19          and proceed with your testimony.

20                   DR. EVANS: I'm Dr. Arthur C.  
21          Evans, Jr., Acting Commissioner for the  
22          Department of Human Services and Director  
23          of the Department of Behavioral Health  
24          and Mental Retardation Services, and I am  
25          here to present testimony pursuant to

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           Resolution 080139, which authorizes this  
3           Committee to hold hearings to investigate  
4           the City funding and operational changes  
5           of Philadelphia Safe and Sound and its  
6           impact on the delivery of social services  
7           in Philadelphia.

8                       On February 1, 2008,  
9           Philadelphia Safe and Sound sent letters  
10          to providers notifying them of funding  
11          reductions effective March 1, 2008. The  
12          Administration appreciates this  
13          opportunity to provide you with our  
14          understanding of the background of this  
15          action taken by Safe and Sound.

16                     In early 2006, the City  
17          Department of Human Services submitted  
18          the City's FY08 Needs-Based Budget to the  
19          Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department  
20          of Public Welfare. This proposal  
21          included an increase in funding for  
22          prevention programming for children and  
23          youth by almost \$264 million over the  
24          FY2007 Needs-Based Budget.

25                     In its February 14, 2007



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           response to this proposal, the Department  
3           of Public Welfare stated, and I quote,  
4           "The adjustment is denied based on the  
5           request not being supported by data  
6           provided nor evidence-based  
7           documentation. The Department will only  
8           participate in expenditures or activities  
9           which are necessary and justifiable for  
10          program operation," unquote.

11                       This was followed on April 30,  
12          2007 by a revised letter regarding  
13          Philadelphia's state allocation for the  
14          Needs-Based Budget, which included no  
15          dollars for the Violence Prevention  
16          Initiative.

17                       Then in June 2007, the PICA  
18          Board refused to accept the increase in  
19          the overall DHS budget that included at  
20          this time about \$70 million of new  
21          spending on prevention services. In  
22          response to this, Mayor Street reduced  
23          the amount budgeted for prevention  
24          services.

25                       As Council is aware, throughout

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           the spring of last year, the Street  
3           Administration and City Council discussed  
4           the appropriate amount of support for  
5           Philadelphia Safe and Sound, ultimately  
6           leading Council to approve the FY2008 DHS  
7           budget with \$54 million for Philadelphia  
8           Safe and Sound programs on June 22, 2007,  
9           in keeping with DPW and PICA's direction.  
10          This represented a ten percent increase  
11          from the FY07 budget, a 59 percent  
12          increase over the FY06 budget and a 125  
13          percent increase over the FY05 budget.

14                       In July 2007, Mayor Street  
15          directed DHS to increase Philadelphia  
16          Safe and Sound's budget to \$75 million,  
17          \$21 million more than the amount the City  
18          and State approved in its budgets and \$21  
19          million more than the City's approved  
20          Five-Year Plan. An award letter was sent  
21          to Philadelphia Safe and Sound at that  
22          time and was followed by an executed City  
23          contract on August 6, 2007.

24                       On July 3rd, I was directed by  
25          Mayor Street to write to DPW Secretary

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           Richman to notify her that the City had  
3           appealed DPW's rejection of the funding  
4           of violence prevention programs. On  
5           August 21, 2008 (sic), Secretary Richman  
6           responded, and I quote, "DPW does not  
7           have and will not approve the use of  
8           state funds for reimbursement of these  
9           services. Therefore, if the City is  
10          proceeding with these expanded or new  
11          services, please be aware that there are  
12          no allocated state funds for  
13          reimbursement of these services,"  
14          unquote.

15                       On August 27, 2007, the FY2008  
16          Target Budget was submitted. It included  
17          \$74.9 million in General Fund dollars for  
18          Philadelphia Safe and Sound. During this  
19          period, at the direction of the  
20          Administration, Safe and Sound sent award  
21          letters totalling \$18 million for  
22          after-school programs and an additional  
23          \$18 million for Beacon programs and  
24          issued a request for proposals from  
25          providers for additional after-school

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           programming, with an implementation date  
3           of September 2007. On October 3rd and  
4           4th, 2007, Safe and Sound sent award  
5           letters totalling \$1.8 million for five  
6           more Beacon programs.

7                     At the same time, on October  
8           4th, the Administration requested a \$34  
9           million transfer ordinance for the  
10          Department of Human Services, including  
11          an additional \$21 million for Safe and  
12          Sound. This ordinance was never  
13          introduced.

14                    On November 29, 2007, the  
15          Administration resubmitted the transfer  
16          ordinances, including the \$21 million for  
17          Philadelphia Safe and Sound, and again,  
18          the transfer ordinances were not  
19          introduced in Council.

20                    With it clear that no action  
21          was to be taken by Council on transfer  
22          ordinances, the City Budget Office did  
23          not allow further expenditures for Safe  
24          and Sound without a source of funds. As  
25          a result, on December 18, 2007, Mayor

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           Street directed DHS to send suspension  
3           notices to 200 foster care, emergency  
4           shelter and other youth services  
5           providers indicating that their contracts  
6           for FY08 would end on April 30, 2008, two  
7           months before the end of the fiscal year,  
8           in order to eliminate the \$34 million  
9           deficit in the DHS budget.

10                   On January 7, 2008, the Nutter  
11           Administration took office and began to  
12           address the need to restore the funding  
13           in these programs.

14                   At the same time, Philadelphia  
15           Safe and Sound indicated that it had  
16           already made commitments for \$9 million  
17           of the additional \$21 million that the  
18           Administration had sought. Many of the  
19           programs above the budgeted \$54 million  
20           had been newly established. Safe and  
21           Sound was directed by DHS to produce a  
22           plan to reduce its expenditures for the  
23           fiscal year to the budgeted \$54 million  
24           level.

25                   At the same time, the

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           Commonwealth notified the Nutter  
3           Administration of its intent to audit the  
4           finances and programs of Safe and Sound  
5           in order to provide clean and reliable  
6           information on Safe and Sound's operation  
7           during the past two years. This review  
8           is scheduled to be completed within the  
9           next six weeks.

10                   On February 1, 2008, letters  
11           were prepared and mailed by Safe and  
12           Sound. Members of the Nutter  
13           Administration met with City Council, the  
14           press and providers to let them know  
15           about the intended reductions in excess  
16           capacity in order to bring the budget for  
17           Safe and Sound back in line with the  
18           Council-approved budget.

19                   Within days, it became apparent  
20           to us that we could not be assured that  
21           based on the data that we had from Safe  
22           and Sound that children's access to  
23           after-school programs would be preserved.  
24           Additionally, several members of City  
25           Council helped us to understand some of

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           the after-school programs, as they served  
3           unique populations like language minority  
4           children or children from neighborhoods  
5           where it wasn't safe to travel even a few  
6           blocks from a different program. We also  
7           believe that the programmatic cuts made  
8           by Safe and Sound did not include what we  
9           felt were adequate savings in the  
10          administrative expenses.

11                       As we could not be assured that  
12          children's interests were being  
13          adequately protected in the process, we  
14          have directed Safe and Sound to stop all  
15          cuts to after-school programs, preserving  
16          after-school both in general and in  
17          Beacon schools. We have also asked that  
18          the AVR program, curfew centers and the  
19          FAST programs be preserved. We have  
20          discussed this approach with Safe and  
21          Sound and believe that with their own  
22          economizing this can be done within a  
23          budget of \$58 million. The excess of \$4  
24          million would be made up through  
25          eliminating plan spending on new

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           prevention activities within DHS per the  
3           original budget passed by Council in June  
4           of 2007.

5                       Continued funding for other  
6           Safe and Sound programs will come from  
7           savings within Philadelphia Safe and  
8           Sound's budget, particularly their  
9           administrative costs. If the  
10          Administration is satisfied with Safe and  
11          Sound -- if the Administration is  
12          satisfied that Safe and Sound has made  
13          the reductions and additional funds  
14          remain necessary to operate after-school  
15          programs and other targeted programs, the  
16          Administration will work with Council to  
17          locate additional funding to ensure the  
18          continuation of these programs.

19                      I thank you for this  
20          opportunity to testify, and this  
21          concludes my testimony, and I'd be  
22          pleased to answer any questions that you  
23          might have.

24                      COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you  
25          very much.



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                   Is there anyone else going to  
3           testify or they're here for support?

4           Mr. Gold, are you going to testify?

5                   MR. GOLD: Yes. Good  
6           afternoon, Councilwoman Tasco and members  
7           of City Council's Committee on Public  
8           Health and Human Services. My name is  
9           Richard Gold. I'm the Deputy Secretary  
10          for the Pennsylvania Department of Public  
11          Welfare's Office of Children, Youth and  
12          Families. This office is responsible for  
13          licensing and supervising all county  
14          children and youth agencies, including  
15          the Philadelphia Department of Human  
16          Services, and allocating and monitoring  
17          the state funds for prevention services  
18          through the state statutory annual  
19          Needs-Based Budget process. I'm here to  
20          present testimony on Resolution No.  
21          080139, which authorizes this Committee  
22          to hold hearings to investigate the City  
23          funding and operational changes of  
24          Philadelphia Safe and Sound and its  
25          impact on the delivery of social services

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           in Philadelphia. I am here on behalf of  
3           Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare  
4           Secretary Estelle Richman, who could not  
5           attend this hearing due to a scheduling  
6           conflict and meetings in western  
7           Pennsylvania that could not be  
8           rescheduled.

9                         In conjunction with the Nutter  
10          Administration, the Department of Public  
11          Welfare agreed to conduct a program  
12          evaluation of Philadelphia Safe and  
13          Sound. Yesterday, February 20th, I held  
14          the initial meeting at Philadelphia Safe  
15          and Sound to introduce the Department's  
16          contractor, Public Financial Management,  
17          which will perform this intensive,  
18          comprehensive and expedited program  
19          evaluation of the non-profit corporation.

20                        The scope of the program  
21          evaluation includes, but is not limited  
22          to, the following broad categories of  
23          review: First, a review of the  
24          programmatic and fiscal management of  
25          Philadelphia Safe and Sound for the last

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           two fiscal years, as well as the current  
3           fiscal year. The program evaluation will  
4           assess the effectiveness of the current  
5           array of programs and services being  
6           provided by Safe and Sound. It will  
7           document all program and administrative  
8           expenditures. Furthermore, the  
9           evaluation will establish the actual and  
10          expected utilization of the social  
11          services and programs and the capacity of  
12          each service and program.

13                       Second, the comprehensive  
14          program evaluation will review  
15          Philadelphia Safe and Sound's program  
16          procurement process and its management of  
17          all of its subcontracts. This will  
18          include reviewing all written agreements  
19          between Safe and Sound and its  
20          subcontracted-provided agencies to ensure  
21          that the written agreements clearly  
22          establish the delivery of the requested  
23          services in the most efficient and  
24          effective financial manner. The program  
25          review will study Philadelphia Safe and

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           Sound's standards and practices for  
3           selecting and reimbursing such  
4           subcontractors and assure that such  
5           practices are in compliance, if not in  
6           the letter of the City of Philadelphia's  
7           contract reform policies, but in the  
8           spirit.

9                     DPW will also determine Safe  
10          and Sound's capacity to monitor the  
11          programmatic and fiscal compliance by its  
12          subcontractors. This will include a  
13          review of the existence and usage of Safe  
14          and Sound's internal financial controls.  
15          Last, the program evaluation will  
16          establish Philadelphia Safe and Sound's  
17          overhead and administrative allocations  
18          to determine the reasonableness of such  
19          costs in light of today's industry  
20          standards.

21                    Third, the evaluation will  
22          review Philadelphia Safe and Sound's  
23          planning and program management  
24          procedures and methodologies to determine  
25          program and service priorities. This

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           will include the review of demographic  
3           information about children and youth  
4           receiving services through Safe and Sound  
5           and compare such information with the  
6           Philadelphia Department of Human  
7           Services' child abuse, child neglect and  
8           juvenile justice indicators and  
9           prevalence. This will ensure that the  
10          programs selected by Safe and Sound are  
11          in sync with the highest areas of child  
12          abuse, child neglect and juvenile crime  
13          and that the funds are being used to  
14          effectuate the greatest impact for the  
15          safety, permanence and well-being of  
16          children, youth and families in  
17          Philadelphia.

18                   In addition, DPW will review  
19          the planning, management and  
20          decision-making process of Philadelphia  
21          Safe and Sound's management and staff and  
22          the involvement of its Board of Directors  
23          in the agency's policy development,  
24          oversight of subcontractors, and  
25          fundraising efforts and success.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                       Last, the program evaluation  
3 shall examine Philadelphia Safe and  
4 Sound's program performance evaluation  
5 capacity, targeting the agency's  
6 performance and the effectiveness of its  
7 programs.

8                       Thank you very much for the  
9 opportunity to testify. This concludes  
10 my testimony, and I'm available for any  
11 questions.

12                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you  
13 very much.

14                      Is there anyone else to  
15 testify?

16                      (No response.)

17                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Dr. Evans,  
18 in your testimony on Page 3 at the top,  
19 "During the period, at the direction of  
20 the Street Administration, Safe and Sound  
21 sent award letters totalling \$18 million  
22 for after-school programs and an  
23 additional \$18 million for Beacon  
24 programs."

25                      Would this be for new Beacon

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           programs?

3                     DR. EVANS: I believe that was  
4           for five new ones.

5                     COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: It was for  
6           five new Beacon programs?

7                     DR. EVANS: That's correct.

8                     COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Again, at  
9           the bottom, the last paragraph, you talk  
10          about DHS, "as a result, on December 18,  
11          2007, Mayor Street directed DHS to send  
12          suspension notices to 200 foster care,  
13          emergency shelter."

14                    Now, these are contracts that  
15          the Department of Human Services have  
16          with the provider?

17                    DR. EVANS: That's correct.

18                    COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: So these  
19          are not programs that are run by Safe and  
20          Sound?

21                    DR. EVANS: That's correct.

22                    COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: So he was  
23          asking you to send suspension notices to  
24          programs that are funded by DHS?

25                    DR. EVANS: That's correct.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Out of  
3 your budget?

4                   DR. EVANS: That's correct.

5                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: The budget  
6 had been approved for these services for  
7 2008, right?

8                   DR. EVANS: That's correct.

9                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: And so did  
10 you do that?

11                  DR. EVANS: I'm sorry?

12                  COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Did you  
13 send the notices?

14                  DR. EVANS: We did send the  
15 notices.

16                  COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Did you  
17 have any discussion with him about  
18 whether these notices should be sent?

19                  DR. EVANS: Well, the strategy  
20 that the Administration took at the end,  
21 in my testimony I talk about the  
22 Administration making attempts to acquire  
23 the additional dollars for not only the  
24 prevention programs that were within Safe  
25 and Sound, but there were other things



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           that the Administration was trying to  
3           pursue through the \$34 million transfer  
4           ordinance. When that did not happen, it  
5           left the Department with a large deficit,  
6           \$34 million, because this spending had  
7           already begun to happen within  
8           Philadelphia Safe and Sound. The  
9           Administration was then faced with two  
10          choices since it did not have the  
11          appropriation at that point, and what the  
12          Administration -- one solution was to cut  
13          programs. The other was to do what the  
14          Administration did, which was to  
15          essentially suspend the last two months  
16          of those contracts, which would bring the  
17          agency's budget back into line.

18                 No one believed at that point  
19          that those programs would not be funded  
20          through the end of the year. It was a  
21          matter of how they would be funded. And  
22          the current Administration came in and  
23          relatively quickly began addressing that  
24          issue, and the way that the current  
25          Administration approached that was to

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           look at where the increase spending was,  
3           which was in Philadelphia Safe and  
4           Sound's budget. We directed them to  
5           reduce their budget, and as a result,  
6           that has brought us here today in terms  
7           of the decisions that were made about how  
8           those reductions should happen.

9                   COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: You  
10          weren't there a long period of time, so  
11          could you -- maybe you know this answer,  
12          maybe you don't. How much of the DHS  
13          budget for services for foster care,  
14          emergency shelter and other services were  
15          diverted to Safe and Sound?

16                   DR. EVANS: Well, no dollars  
17          were actually diverted. Again, the  
18          suspension letters essentially were an  
19          accounting strategy. The theory is this:  
20          If you have \$100 million that you're  
21          going to spend over a year and -- well,  
22          let's make it easy for easy math. Say  
23          \$12 million, and you're spending a  
24          million dollars a month. Essentially  
25          what happened was, the Administration

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           said, Okay, we don't have \$12 million,  
3           because two million of that is in  
4           prevention. So what we're going to do is  
5           to change the contracts so that those  
6           providers who have the 12 million  
7           contracts would now only have \$10 million  
8           contracts, which would bring the budget  
9           back into line. But no dollars were ever  
10          moved from child protection services to  
11          prevention services. It was only an  
12          accounting strategy.

13                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Let me  
14           recognize Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller  
15           who has joined us, and the Chair  
16           recognizes Councilwoman Maria Sanchez.

17                   COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Let me  
18           understand the sequence of events. What  
19           you're saying is when we made a strategic  
20           decision to suspend contracts, how were  
21           those providers going to cover those two  
22           months?

23                   DR. EVANS: The providers were  
24           going -- it was known at the time that  
25           the City did not have the money for the

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           additional expenditures in prevention and  
3           the only way -- there were only two ways  
4           that you could pay for those  
5           expenditures, either get more money or  
6           make cuts elsewhere. The Administration  
7           tried to get more money through the  
8           transfer ordinance and then appealed that  
9           to the State. When that didn't work,  
10          essentially what the Administration did  
11          was to cut the current contracts,  
12          understanding that the next  
13          Administration would have to deal with  
14          the issue of the last two months of those  
15          contracts.

16                 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: That  
17           action then leads us to being legally in  
18           non-compliance with providing services to  
19           some kids that we're legally responsible  
20           for; did it not?

21                 DR. EVANS: Well, the  
22           Department never got to that point  
23           because --

24                 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: My  
25           question is, we did that, understanding

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           that we would be in non-compliance

3           legally. That's what I want to know.

4                     DR. EVANS: That's true. That  
5           is very true.

6                     COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank  
7           you.

8                     COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: What is  
9           the contractual process between DHS --  
10          you have to forgive me. I'm really  
11          trying to deal with this flu, so I'm a  
12          little kind of groggy today. I don't  
13          feel good -- with Safe and Sound?

14                    DR. EVANS: I'm sorry?

15                    COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: What is  
16          the contractual process between DHS and  
17          Safe and Sound?

18                    DR. EVANS: In what?

19                    COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Well, I  
20          guess I'm asking the question. They were  
21          told they were going to get \$21 million.  
22          They proceeded to spend the money, but  
23          did you have a signed contract with them?

24                    DR. EVANS: We did have a  
25          conformed contract with them. A letter

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           was first sent increasing their budget to  
3           \$75 million and then their contract was  
4           amended to \$75 million, approximately.

5                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Mr. Gold,  
6           now, you're here from the Department of  
7           Public Welfare and you're responsible for  
8           licensing and supervising all county  
9           children and youth agencies, including  
10          Department of Human Services and blah,  
11          blah, blah. Let me ask you a question  
12          now that you're going to do this -- is  
13          this going to be an audit?

14                   MR. GOLD: It is not,  
15          Councilwoman. It's more extensive than  
16          an audit. It's an entire program  
17          evaluation. So it will include both the  
18          monetary review as well as the programs.

19                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Would you  
20          have done this without this issue being  
21          raised about the contract, no contract,  
22          the funding and the lack of funding or  
23          the request from Mayor Nutter? What is  
24          your oversight role here?

25                   MR. GOLD: Our oversight role

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           is twofold. Number one, we oversee the  
3           Department of Human Services, and,  
4           second, approximately 90 percent of all  
5           prevention service funding comes from the  
6           state. So in a contract of \$50 million,  
7           about 90 percent of that is state funds  
8           that go to the Department of Human  
9           Services and then to a provider. So we  
10          have a great interest in making sure that  
11          our money is being spent in an  
12          appropriate and effective manner.

13                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Have you  
14           done an evaluation of this program in the  
15           past?

16                   MR. GOLD: No.

17                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: So now  
18           we're going to do a comprehensive  
19           evaluation and you're going to evaluate  
20           all the programs that's being funded by  
21           Safe and Sound?

22                   MR. GOLD: Yes.

23                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: How long  
24           do you think that's going to take?

25                   MR. GOLD: Initially we expect

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           to have our initial findings by March  
3           19th. So we're expecting our contractor,  
4           Public Financial Management, to be in  
5           Safe and Sound by tomorrow with a list of  
6           information that they've already prepared  
7           and start reviewing the information as  
8           soon as possible, recognizing the urgent  
9           nature of the problem.

10                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Given the  
11           number of programs that are funded by  
12           Safe and Sound, how do you plan to  
13           interview or evaluate all of those  
14           programs by March 19th?

15                   MR. GOLD: That's the reason --

16                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: What is  
17           the process?

18                   MR. GOLD: That's the reason,  
19           Councilwoman, that we've employed a  
20           contractor to do it. They have the staff  
21           that's necessary, and the State is going  
22           to pay for the evaluation.

23                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Who will  
24           determine the criteria for evaluation?

25                   MR. GOLD: DPW in cooperation



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           with the City.

3                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: I again  
4           ask you at what point in this program's  
5           operation would you have done an  
6           extensive evaluation to see if DPW's  
7           money was being well spent?

8                   MR. GOLD: Whenever money is  
9           being taken from placement services for  
10          children already in the custody and  
11          control of the City of Philadelphia to be  
12          spent on prevention services, that raised  
13          great concern for the Department.

14                  COUNCILMAN GOODE: Point of  
15          information.

16                  MR. GOLD: Especially since  
17          right now the Department of Human  
18          Services is on its second provisional  
19          license.

20                  COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: But Safe  
21          and Sound has been in operation since  
22          when?

23                  DR. EVANS: I think it's '97.

24                  COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: 1997? And  
25          this is ten years later, and you haven't

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           done any evaluation of the program?

3                     MR. GOLD: No.

4                     COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Council  
5           recognizes Councilman Goode.

6                     COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,  
7           Madam Chair.

8                     Mr. Gold, the City made an  
9           additional request for social service  
10          funding; is that correct?

11                    MR. GOLD: Yes.

12                    COUNCILMAN GOODE: And was it  
13          known to the State that that money was  
14          for Safe and Sound, part or most of it?

15                    MR. GOLD: Yes.

16                    COUNCILMAN GOODE: And so the  
17          State made a decision not to fund City  
18          Council at that level -- fund --

19                    MR. GOLD: Safe and Sound?

20                    COUNCILMAN GOODE: Safe and  
21          Sound at that level?

22                    MR. GOLD: Yes, Councilman. We  
23          made that decision in both Fiscal Year  
24          '06, '07 and for next year.

25                    COUNCILMAN GOODE: And the

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           State was aware of the City's actions in  
3           terms of moving forward with the contract  
4           for Safe and Sound?

5                       MR. GOLD: Yes.

6                       COUNCILMAN GOODE: So the State  
7           was fully aware that the City was  
8           intending to spend an additional \$21  
9           million, allowed the City to go into  
10          contract with Safe and Sound and then  
11          consider it to be a crisis later on?

12                      MR. GOLD: No, Councilman, we  
13          did not approve that. If anything, we  
14          said that they should not and that they  
15          can't use state funds to fund that.

16                      COUNCILMAN GOODE: My question  
17          was, were you aware of the process as it  
18          was taking place?

19                      MR. GOLD: Through letters from  
20          the Commissioner, yes.

21                      COUNCILMAN GOODE: And so it  
22          was not actually a crisis that caused you  
23          to do an analysis, because, in essence,  
24          it wasn't a crisis. You watched all this  
25          unfold, and while it may be the City made

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           a decision that you did not agree with,  
3           as you said, you have a responsibility as  
4           a monitoring entity to be involved in the  
5           total process. So it appears to probably  
6           some members of the Committee as well as  
7           the public that what happened is that the  
8           State may be justifying its decision not  
9           to give the City more money for social  
10          service funding by actually deciding to  
11          do this first-time analysis.

12                   MR. GOLD: That's not the  
13          reason we're doing the first-time  
14          analysis.

15                   COUNCILMAN GOODE: So at any  
16          point at which you were tracking this  
17          process, knowing the City wanted to spend  
18          this extra money, knowing the City was  
19          going to contract with Safe and Sound for  
20          this extra money, you did not intervene  
21          at that point and decide that it needed  
22          to be reviewed at that point, did you?

23                   MR. GOLD: We did not.

24                   COUNCILMAN GOODE: That's kind  
25          of curious to us.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                     Dr. Evans, this is a no-bid  
3 contract?

4                     DR. EVANS: That's correct.

5                     COUNCILMAN GOODE: And so  
6 through the new procedures, it had to be  
7 posted?

8                     DR. EVANS: I'm sorry?

9                     COUNCILMAN GOODE: The request  
10 for proposal had to be posted?

11                    DR. EVANS: Request for  
12 proposal for -- I'm sorry. For what?

13                    COUNCILMAN GOODE: For the  
14 no-bid contract.

15                    DR. EVANS: No. Well, the City  
16 has been contracting with Safe and Sound  
17 for several years, actually before I even  
18 came to Philadelphia. What happened last  
19 year was that that contract, as with many  
20 social services contracts, was continued,  
21 and as I testified earlier, the last  
22 Administration increased that contract by  
23 an additional \$21 million.

24                    COUNCILMAN GOODE: So this  
25 no-bid contract was not posted?

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                   DR. EVANS: That's correct, and  
3 I don't think that at the time it was  
4 required to be posted.

5                   COUNCILMAN GOODE: So there was  
6 no competition or no other providers  
7 considered?

8                   DR. EVANS: That's correct.

9                   COUNCILMAN GOODE: At what  
10 point did Safe and Sound, if ever, decide  
11 they needed more than \$54 million?

12                   DR. EVANS: Safe and Sound  
13 didn't make that decision. The  
14 Administration decided that it wanted to  
15 do more in terms of after-school  
16 programs, youth violence programs, and  
17 the Administration pursued -- attempted  
18 to pursue additional funding that would  
19 have gone to Safe and Sound for those  
20 activities.

21                   COUNCILMAN GOODE: So it was  
22 the Administration's decision to change  
23 the contract?

24                   DR. EVANS: That's correct.

25                   COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you  
3           very much.

4                   Councilwoman Sanchez.

5                   COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Just to  
6           clarify what the Councilman was asking,  
7           at no point when we issued a letter to  
8           our providers that we were going to stop  
9           their funding to ten years, which  
10          triggered a non-compliance, according to  
11          Dr. Evans, at no point was the State  
12          involved in that at that point? Because  
13          we were in non-compliance.

14                  MR. GOLD: We only learned of  
15          the letters after the fact, Councilwoman.

16                  COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: And that  
17          didn't trigger an investigation?

18                  MR. GOLD: It triggered  
19          extensive discussions with the Department  
20          of Human Services beginning in November,  
21          late November.

22                  COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Did the  
23          State at any point correspond with the  
24          City and say, You're in non-compliance  
25          legal? I mean, we were already on

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           provisional licensing as it was, so we  
3           were already kind of on people's radars.

4                       MR. GOLD: We have  
5           approximately weekly meetings between my  
6           office and Human Services, so that it was  
7           a topic of conversation between the two  
8           governmental bodies almost on a weekly  
9           basis.

10                      COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: And what  
11           was the position in those conversations?

12                      MR. GOLD: That the unilateral  
13           decision to take money from existing  
14           contracts for placement services to start  
15           new programs elsewhere was unacceptable.

16                      COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: And that  
17           at any point did the State correspond  
18           with the City formally and advise them  
19           that we were in non-compliance?

20                      MR. GOLD: No.

21                      COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Can you  
22           answer why not?

23                      MR. GOLD: Again, due to the  
24           frequency of these discussions, it's a  
25           work in progress.



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                   COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: DHS's  
3 budget is \$870 million, of which the  
4 State funds --

5                   DR. EVANS: 670.

6                   COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: \$670  
7 million, of which you fund 90 percent?

8                   MR. GOLD: Ninety percent of  
9 in-home services. It's a different  
10 formula for each type of service.

11                   COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: How much  
12 of DHS's budget is state budget,  
13 pass-through money? How much of DHS's  
14 budget is state money?

15                   MR. GOLD: Approximately \$400  
16 million.

17                   COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So you  
18 have oversight of \$400 million in the  
19 department that's on a provisional  
20 license. They trigger a legal  
21 non-compliance and you resolve it through  
22 conversations, and at no point --

23                   MR. GOLD: The legal  
24 non-compliance would really be between  
25 Philadelphia DHS and Safe and Sound, not

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           Philadelphia and the Department of Human  
3           Services.

4                   COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: But we  
5           were taking funds from --

6                   MR. GOLD: Our position was,  
7           regardless of the letters, funding had to  
8           continue in May and June for those  
9           services.

10                   COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: But you  
11          never put that in writing?

12                   MR. GOLD: No.

13                   COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank  
14          you.

15                   COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: At the end  
16          of the day, when your evaluation is  
17          completed, what are you looking for in  
18          terms of outcome?

19                   MR. GOLD: We have asked the  
20          Public Financial Management to give us  
21          their recommendations as to the strengths  
22          and weaknesses of the agency to make sure  
23          that our funds are being spent  
24          accordingly. We expect that report to be  
25          public information and shared, obviously,

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           with the City, as well as the general  
3           public.

4                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: At the end  
5           of the day, when the evaluation of the  
6           various programs is completed and  
7           programs may be recommended to be  
8           suspended, how does an agency appeal that  
9           decision?

10                   MR. GOLD: Our communication  
11           would be with the City. We have no  
12           contractual relationship with Safe and  
13           Sound.

14                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: So the  
15           evaluation is done and what happens to  
16           the evaluation?

17                   MR. GOLD: We share that with  
18           the City and we work with the City to  
19           hopefully implement the recommendations  
20           of the evaluation.

21                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: The  
22           program is ten years old and you've never  
23           done an evaluation. What do you plan to  
24           do in the future?

25                   MR. GOLD: Councilwoman Tasco,

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           Safe and Sound is not a licensed agency  
3           that we go -- for foster care agencies  
4           and other types of placement agencies,  
5           the Office of Children and Youth on an  
6           annual basis reviews and inspects that  
7           agency according to our regulations.  
8           With the programs monitored and operated  
9           under Safe and Sound, it's not licensed  
10          by the Office of Children, Youth and  
11          Families. So our ability to either give  
12          a full license or provisional license  
13          doesn't exist. Our relationship is with  
14          the City's Department of Human Services  
15          as to how our funds are being expended  
16          and whether or not our funds are properly  
17          being spent for the safety, well-being  
18          and permanence of the children of  
19          Philadelphia.

20                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: So why do  
21                   you do an evaluation and not the  
22                   Department of Human Services?

23                   MR. GOLD: That decision was  
24                   made between the State and the City that  
25                   we would contract and pay for that

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           evaluation.

3                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: It seems  
4           to me that a more independent audit would  
5           be better.

6                   MR. GOLD: We have a great deal  
7           of confidence in the integrity of the  
8           Public Financial Management.

9                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: I'm not  
10          questioning Public Financial Management.  
11          I know them. It's just that the  
12          jurisdiction of who is doing the  
13          evaluation or who is asking for the  
14          evaluation seems to be -- might have been  
15          better by DHS to do that.

16                   Any other questions?

17                   Councilwoman Miller.

18                   COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Hi.

19          Thank you, Madam Chair.

20                   Good afternoon.

21                   DR. EVANS: Good afternoon.

22                   MR. GOLD: Good afternoon.

23                   COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: My  
24          question concerns the status of the  
25          contracts and award letters of those

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           agencies that were originally cut and  
3           services restored, and I know that some  
4           of the first information that we heard  
5           said that those agencies did not have --  
6           like some of the after-school programs  
7           did not have an award letter, did not  
8           have a contract. Do they have those now  
9           or will they be getting them? What's  
10          going to happen with that?

11                   DR. EVANS: They should get  
12          them. I know that the Director of Safe  
13          and Sound, the CEO, is going to testify  
14          later on, and she would know precisely  
15          what the status of that is right now.

16                   COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Because  
17          that seemed to be somewhat of a high  
18          level of concern and I just didn't want  
19          the lack of a contract, the lack of an  
20          award letter to spur the not funding of  
21          those services again.

22                   DR. EVANS: The Administration  
23          has made a very strong commitment and  
24          made it very clear that it is important  
25          to maintain the funding for those

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           services. So to the degree that  
3           providers don't have that in concrete  
4           terms, a letter or contract, we will make  
5           sure that they do.

6                   COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: All  
7           right. Good. And I, too, just had a  
8           question about why the State was going to  
9           be the evaluator of an agency. I think  
10          Safe and Sound is a non-profit, correct?

11                   MR. GOLD: Correct.

12                   COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: That's  
13          contracted with the City. So I would  
14          actually think, too, that the City would  
15          be the evaluator and not the State, but  
16          however. If you're paying for it, since  
17          they say we don't have any money, that's  
18          great, as long as it gets done. Okay.  
19          Thank you.

20                   MR. GOLD: Thank you.

21                   COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank  
22          you, Madam Chair.

23                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: I'm going  
24          to say this with caution, and my  
25          information may not be correct, but the

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           Executive Director of Safe and Sound is a  
3           former employee of the Department of  
4           Welfare?

5                       MR. GOLD: Yes.

6                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: What was  
7           her title?

8                       MR. GOLD: Anne Shenberger was  
9           the Regional Director for the Southeast  
10          Regional Office of Children, Youth and  
11          Families.

12                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: That's  
13          your office, right?

14                      MR. GOLD: Correct.

15                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you  
16          very much.

17                      DR. EVANS: Councilwoman Tasco,  
18          I wanted to just make real clear along  
19          Councilwoman Sanchez's comments about  
20          non-compliance, at no time did the  
21          Department not fund mandated services.  
22          At no time was there ever intent not to  
23          fund those services. And the suspension  
24          letter that was drafted was drafted by  
25          the City's Law Department. So while it



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           may appear from the letter that there was  
3           a potential for that to happen, I can  
4           tell you that that just could not have  
5           happened. A lot of the services were  
6           things like residential services where  
7           children were in residence, and so there  
8           was no realistic threat that those  
9           services wouldn't have been funded,  
10          certainly not on my watch.

11                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you  
12           very much.

13                   And my last comment was not to  
14           cast any dispersion on Ms. Shenberger.  
15           She's a fine lady. It's just that we  
16           have to let people know that there's a  
17           lot of connections here with this whole  
18           situation and probably the lack of  
19           oversight goes back to those  
20           relationships.

21                   MR. GOLD: No insult taken.

22                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you.  
23                   (Applause.)

24                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: The next  
25           panel will be Ms. Anne Shenberger and

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           Ernest Jones.

3                       (Witnesses approached witness  
4           table.)

5                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0:   Good  
6           afternoon.

7                       MR. JONES:   Good afternoon,  
8           Madam Chairwoman.   Please forgive my  
9           voice.   I am fighting a cold.

10                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0:   Join the  
11           pack.   I've been sick all week.

12                      MR. JONES:   And I should be  
13           home in bed.

14                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0:   This  
15           hearing was very important, so I  
16           struggled out today to be here, and I  
17           thank all of you who have been suffering  
18           from whatever is going around in the City  
19           to come out today to participate in the  
20           hearing.   I'm not my feisty self because  
21           I'm sick.

22                      So now, Mr. Jones, would you  
23           like to -- are you going to testify  
24           first?

25                      MR. JONES:   I am going to

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           testify first, followed by Anne  
3           Shenberger.

4                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0:   Okay.  
5           Thank you.

6                       MR. JONES:   And let me begin by  
7           again saying good afternoon to you, Madam  
8           Chairwoman and the other members of City  
9           Council who are here today.   My name is  
10          Ernest Jones and I am the Chairman of the  
11          Board of Philadelphia Safe and Sound,  
12          which is a volunteer position and it's a  
13          position I've held since the year 2000.  
14          Seated to my left is Anne Shenberger,  
15          President and CEO of Safe and Sound, and  
16          Anne was hired in January of 2006.

17                      Thank you for the opportunity  
18          to appear before you today.

19                      A cutback in program funding  
20          that has been very troubling for all  
21          concerned was the immediate situation  
22          that triggered this hearing, but we also  
23          know that there are ongoing questions and  
24          even misconceptions about Philadelphia  
25          Safe and Sound that we are eager to

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           answer.

3                     Our organization is not  
4           perfect. We are open to fair criticism  
5           and suggestions for improvements. We  
6           know that we must be accountable to our  
7           many stakeholders, state and local  
8           taxpayers, elected officials, service  
9           providers and the children and families  
10          who depend on us. We also believe that  
11          we have built a strong record of quality  
12          performance that deserves to be better  
13          known. So we appreciate the opportunity  
14          to provide information today to let the  
15          sun shine in and ultimately to turn our  
16          collective attention to what matters  
17          most: The well-being of Philadelphia's  
18          children and youth.

19                    Because I have been with Safe  
20          and Sound almost from the start, I would  
21          like to begin with some history about our  
22          organization. I believe that is helpful  
23          to know where we've come from so we can  
24          assess our performance and determine the  
25          directions in which we should go.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2                   Safe and Sound was launched in  
3           1997 with a multi-year Urban Health  
4           Initiative grant from the prestigious  
5           Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.  
6           Philadelphia competed for this grant by  
7           responding to Robert Wood Johnson's  
8           invitation to cities across the country  
9           to explore the possibilities of  
10          developing an initiative to create  
11          programs and take actions to foster the  
12          health, safety and well-being of the  
13          City's children. Mayor Rendell's  
14          Administration, led by Health  
15          Commissioner Estelle Richman, now  
16          Secretary of the Department of Public  
17          Welfare, and Human Services Commissioner  
18          Joan Reeves convened a diverse group of  
19          community leaders to develop ideas and  
20          plans for the new initiative. The result  
21          was a winning proposal, selected as one  
22          of only five in the nation, to establish  
23          Philadelphia Safe and Sound.  
24                   The initiative was not  
25          established as a separate organization.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           Rather, it was set up under the oversight  
3           of Philadelphia City government, and the  
4           City was the actual grant recipient. The  
5           original intent of Philadelphia Safe and  
6           Sound, therefore, was and remains to  
7           operate as a partner to local government,  
8           applying its independent capabilities and  
9           expertise to improve systems and services  
10          aimed at strengthening the health and  
11          welfare of our City's children.

12                         In 2000, Safe and Sound  
13          obtained its separate 501(c)(3)  
14          non-profit certification from the  
15          Internal Revenue Service. At that time,  
16          the Board of Directors was formed, and we  
17          were fortunate to have a knowledgeable,  
18          committed and representative group from  
19          both business and the non-profit arena  
20          willing and able to set the policies and  
21          guide the organization's direction and  
22          growth. Nearly half of our current Board  
23          members were recruited since  
24          Ms. Shenberger became CEO.

25                         And if you will indulge me, I'd

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           like to read the names of our Board  
3           members. They include the Honorable  
4           Lillian Harrison Ransom, who is a judge  
5           of the Court of Common Pleas; Patricia  
6           DeCarlo, who is Executive Director of  
7           Norris Square; Michael Karp, who is  
8           President of University City Housing;  
9           David Allen, who is an Assistant  
10          Professor at St. Joseph's University;  
11          John Chin, who is Executive Director of  
12          the Philadelphia Chinatown Development  
13          Corporation; Walter Clayton, who is  
14          President of Garner Holdings Company;  
15          Paul DiLorenzo, who has extensive  
16          experience with child welfare issues,  
17          currently works for the Casey Family  
18          Services; Robert Listenbee, who is the  
19          Chief of the Juvenile Unit at the Public  
20          Defender's Office; Edward McBride from  
21          Local 98 of the International Brotherhood  
22          of Electrical Workers; Tom McKenna, who  
23          works at the University of Pennsylvania;  
24          Bernadette Mulligan, who is Director of  
25          Community Relations at AmeriChoice of

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           Pennsylvania; Jan Shaeffer, who is  
3           Executive Director of St. Joseph's Fund  
4           for Children; and Michael Pearson, who is  
5           the CEO at Union Packing Company;  
6           Lorraine Ballard Morrill, who is a News  
7           and Community Affairs Director at Clear  
8           Channel; Vincent Thompson, a former  
9           reporter and someone who worked with  
10          Councilman Ramos; and Leonard Caldwell,  
11          who is a former CoreStates Executive.

12                   We remain interested in adding  
13          leaders who will further strengthen our  
14          complement and broaden our skills and  
15          perspective.

16                   Similarly, Safe and Sound has  
17          benefited from qualified professional  
18          staff. The initial search committee  
19          under Mayor Rendell selected Naomi Post  
20          Street, an experienced attorney and child  
21          advocate, to head Safe and Sound. We all  
22          know that this selection created a public  
23          cloud and political legacy for Safe and  
24          Sound. Nevertheless, under Mrs. Street's  
25          leadership, Safe and Sound got off to a



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           good start, developing its signature  
3           research products, the Children's Report  
4           Card and the Children's Budget,  
5           conducting a corporate fundraising  
6           campaign and collaborating with City  
7           government and other agencies to launch  
8           valuable programs, including after-school  
9           and Beacon centers and the Youth Violence  
10          Reduction Partnership. The Robert Wood  
11          Johnson Foundation followed its initial  
12          four-year grant with another financial  
13          commitment, signaling its satisfaction  
14          and confidence in the performance of Safe  
15          and Sound.

16                   Naomi Post Street left  
17          Philadelphia Safe and Sound six years  
18          ago, in 2002. Today's leadership team  
19          headed by Anne Shenberger, a 30-year  
20          veteran of child advocacy and social  
21          service management with the Pennsylvania  
22          Department of Public Welfare, has the  
23          experience and skills needed to run a  
24          top-notch organization. It is time to  
25          recognize a new day at Philadelphia Safe

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           and Sound.

3                       The Board of Safe and Sound  
4           takes its fiduciary responsibilities very  
5           seriously. Our numbers are closely  
6           reviewed by the City and over the years  
7           our auditor, Mitchell and Titus, has  
8           issued clean audits, including the most  
9           recent one. Those audits are available  
10          to the Committee and we'll make those  
11          available if you wish to see them.

12                      Safe and Sound is continually  
13          reviewing its policies and practices to  
14          foster responsive and responsible  
15          financial management. We understand that  
16          the Commonwealth's Department of Public  
17          Welfare intends to conduct a new audit  
18          and the City Administration will be  
19          sending in an assessment team. We  
20          welcome both.

21                      Our financial affairs are  
22          conducted with competence, candor and  
23          communication between the Board and  
24          staff. We operate in a complex and often  
25          uncertain financial atmosphere inherent

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           in the public sector budget process.  
3           Safe and Sound must adhere to the  
4           priorities and processes of each City  
5           Administration, balancing them with the  
6           capacity of the organization to deliver  
7           what is required of us.

8                     The \$21 million budget addition  
9           that brings us here today was one of  
10          those difficult and complex situations.  
11          It is important to set the record  
12          straight as to precisely what transpired,  
13          not to blame others or absolve Safe and  
14          Sound, but to help you understand the  
15          dynamics of the past several months and  
16          possibly suggest procedures that could  
17          avoid future occurrences.

18                    For over a year now, Safe and  
19          Sound has been dealing with the conflicts  
20          and consequences brought about by the  
21          previous Administration's directive to  
22          gear up for a significant expansion of  
23          anti-truancy and violence prevention  
24          programs in FY08. These priorities were  
25          well publicized. Even though the State

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           Department of Public Welfare denied the  
3           City's request for increased funds to  
4           support these services, in August of last  
5           year, Safe and Sound was provided with a  
6           signed, fully authorized contract for \$75  
7           million, incorporating the \$21 million  
8           increase and, therefore, was obligated to  
9           begin fulfilling the requirements of the  
10          budget of that contract.

11                       In October, when City Council  
12          did not act on a transfer ordinance to  
13          appropriate the additional dollars, Safe  
14          and Sound issued a letter to its  
15          providers advising them of the budget  
16          situation and suggesting that they  
17          evaluate expenditures and possible  
18          actions to be taken. Safe and Sound put  
19          a hold on filling budgeted positions.  
20          Through December, Safe and Sound  
21          submitted multiple revised budgets and  
22          contingency scenarios to accommodate the  
23          actual amount of available funds, the  
24          lower amount, but the City Administration  
25          did not accept them and instead

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           instructed Safe and Sound not to curtail  
3           programs or lay off staff.

4                     Although Mayor Nutter has now  
5           announced his intention to reinstate the  
6           programs, Anne will describe in more  
7           detail the steps that Safe and Sound took  
8           to identify, recommend and implement  
9           program and administrative cuts since  
10          being informed last month that the  
11          additional monies would not be  
12          forthcoming.

13                    We are well aware that the new  
14          Mayor and City Council were put in a very  
15          difficult situation, squeezed between  
16          raised expectations and insufficient  
17          funds. Our community providers, Safe and  
18          Sound itself and, most important, the  
19          children and families we serve were  
20          caught in this squeeze as well. We were  
21          motivated only by a desire to expand  
22          services for children and youth. Now it  
23          is important for us to work together to  
24          provide continuity of services and avoid  
25          future disruption.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                       Safe and Sound's annual  
3       budgeting process always has had its  
4       share of uncertainties and challenges,  
5       but this experience has made us even more  
6       cautious and vigilant.

7                       While addressing immediate  
8       problems, it is also important that we  
9       collectively and cooperatively focus on  
10      the future for the good of our kids.  
11      Beyond the budget, Safe and Sound is  
12      eager to work cooperatively with the City  
13      government and other community  
14      organizations to develop the best  
15      possible approaches to meeting the needs  
16      of children and families.

17                      Safe and Sound has much to  
18      offer in the way of research and program  
19      development, contract management, program  
20      evaluation, a system of provider support  
21      and access to national networks. Yet,  
22      its role as a support organization to  
23      City government is not unique.  
24      Departments rely frequently on the good  
25      work and assistance of other partner and

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           intermediary organizations, such as the  
3           Philadelphia Health Management  
4           Corporation, PMHCC, the Greater  
5           Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition and  
6           others in the City who add value to the  
7           process.

8                       It is important for City  
9           Council and others to fully understand  
10          that Safe and Sound is not given a pot of  
11          money to do whatever it wants to with it.  
12          In fact, Safe and Sound allocates the  
13          money into programs as directed by the  
14          Department of Human Services. The vast  
15          majority of money is then forwarded to  
16          provider organizations. Our job is to  
17          provide appropriate oversight, program  
18          management, support and evaluation. Put  
19          another way, the current situation we  
20          find ourselves in is not because there is  
21          a Safe and Sound or any other fiscal  
22          intermediary. This problem would exist  
23          regardless, because the Administration's  
24          directives would have been carried out  
25          directly by DHS.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                   We believe that Safe and Sound  
3           has provided value over the years by  
4           providing programmatic oversight and  
5           support and objectively evaluating the  
6           effectiveness of programs. It is our  
7           hope and commitment to do everything  
8           within our power to make the  
9           controversies that have surrounded Safe  
10          and Sound become old news so that we can  
11          provide even more value.

12                   But much more important than  
13          the standing of Safe and Sound is the  
14          standing of Philadelphia's children. We  
15          all should be proud that Philadelphia has  
16          built a network of constructive violence  
17          prevention and youth development programs  
18          that have brought our City national  
19          recognition and made a difference in the  
20          safety and well-being of children and  
21          teens. As we all know, much work remains  
22          to be done. So we will be pleased to  
23          answer your questions about Safe and  
24          Sound to the best of our ability today  
25          and provide all of the information you



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           seek. Afterwards, I hope that together  
3           we can focus on fulfilling our  
4           commitments and aspirations for young  
5           people and determine how Philadelphia  
6           will go forward to provide the highest  
7           quality services cost effectively with  
8           the least disruption and greatest  
9           accountability.

10                   Thank you, and now Anne will  
11           pick up.

12                   MS. SHENBERGER: Thank you,  
13           Ernie.

14                   Good afternoon, Majority Leader  
15           and Chairwoman Tasco, Committee members  
16           and other members of City Council. I am  
17           Anne Shenberger, the President and CEO of  
18           Philadelphia Safe and Sound. I thank our  
19           Board Chairman, Ernie Jones, and the  
20           other members of our Board who are here  
21           today and those who weren't able to make  
22           it for their presence, support and  
23           leadership of our organization today and  
24           every day.

25                   Following the background

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           presented by Ernie, my testimony will  
3           explain more specifically what Safe and  
4           Sound does and how we do it. I will, of  
5           course, focus on the detail of the  
6           current budget situation, how we arrived  
7           in the predicament of needing to cut back  
8           programs and the steps we have taken to  
9           meet the lower budget target.

10                   Given the events earlier this  
11           week, we are happy that Mayor Nutter has  
12           stated his intention to restore what we  
13           believe are essential programs for  
14           children and families. I will also say  
15           that we sincerely regret the confusion  
16           and the anxiety that's been created over  
17           the past several weeks for our providers,  
18           parents and children. We know that the  
19           problem has generated complaints and  
20           calls to Council, as well as to the new  
21           Administration.

22                   Before getting into the nuts  
23           and bolts of our organization, please  
24           allow me to tell you briefly about myself  
25           and about the members of our staff.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                   I am a graduate of Gettysburg  
3           College and earned a Master of Social  
4           Work degree from Bryn Mawr College. I  
5           enjoyed a 30-year career advocating for  
6           children and youth and improving services  
7           and systems in the fields of juvenile  
8           justice and child welfare with the  
9           Pennsylvania Department of Public  
10          Welfare, leaving as Director of the  
11          Southeast Regional Office of Children,  
12          Youth and Families in 2006. I was eager  
13          and honored to be chosen to lead Safe and  
14          Sound because of the important role it  
15          plays and its record of quality work and  
16          its potential to be even better.

17                   Since coming to Safe and Sound,  
18          I have focused on developing a talented  
19          and dedicated staff to improve financial  
20          management and administrative processes,  
21          upgrade program services, to make better  
22          use of our research capabilities and to  
23          engage in effective communication,  
24          coordination and collaboration with City  
25          government and other partners. The

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           members of our staff have the  
3           qualifications and the commitment for  
4           Safe and Sound to excel.

5                       The breadth and depth of skills  
6           and experience embedded in our staff team  
7           is required by the complexity and  
8           diversity of the work that Safe and Sound  
9           does and is reflected in the performance  
10          that we deliver. Safe and Sound's core  
11          activities are program development,  
12          project management, contract management  
13          and support, research and evaluation, and  
14          policy and advocacy. We are, in short, a  
15          resource for government, community  
16          organizations, citizens, all of those  
17          interested in advancing the well-being of  
18          Philadelphia's children and youth.

19                      Safe and Sound has been in on  
20          the ground floor, operating often in  
21          collaboration with City government and  
22          other non-profits, using local data and  
23          national research and knowledge to  
24          pinpoint the needs of children and youth  
25          and to craft programmatic solutions to

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           address them. This is how the Youth  
3           Violence Reduction Partnership, the  
4           Adolescent Violence Reduction  
5           Partnership, the Beacon centers, the  
6           Recreation Department's teen centers and  
7           the Childcare Facilities Fund were born.  
8           We also have served government by  
9           staffing child-related initiatives such  
10          as the Blue Ribbon Commission on  
11          Children's Behavioral Health, and we've  
12          managed child and safety-related events  
13          such as the Children's Summits.

14                 We've also been asked to manage  
15          major projects such as working with the  
16          former Department of Social Services to  
17          develop DSS-CARES, the Division of Social  
18          Services Cross Agency Response for  
19          Effective Services. That's a mouthful.  
20          But it means an integrated data and case  
21          management system that would assist  
22          people working across departments with  
23          the same families, managing contracts for  
24          14 community-based parent truant officer  
25          providers and hiring 400 parent truant

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           officers. We've developed the request  
3           for proposal and manage the contracts for  
4           11 curfew centers.

5                       Safe and Sound's research and  
6           evaluation capabilities are especially  
7           strong and fill a need for  
8           information-driven decision-making and  
9           action. We have created a data warehouse  
10          called the Centralized Data Repository  
11          that pulls together and analyzes data  
12          from a variety of sources, including the  
13          Police Department, the Department of  
14          Human Services, the Census Bureau and the  
15          School District. With extensive  
16          statistical and mapping capabilities,  
17          Safe and Sound helps elected officials,  
18          City agencies, educational institutions  
19          and non-profit organizations to improve  
20          services, achieve policy reforms,  
21          communicate more persuasively and secure  
22          funding for valuable programs.

23                      The slide on the top of Page 7  
24          shows the types of data that are included  
25          in the data warehouse. On the left shows

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           the different types of geographic areas  
3           that we can analyze from zip codes, to  
4           the Empowerment Zone, to City Council  
5           districts. The middle column shows the  
6           program resources that we have in the  
7           database so that we can plot those  
8           programs in the geographic areas. And on  
9           the right are the person-specific types  
10          of information that we have.

11                 We publish and disseminate our  
12          findings in accessible formats, including  
13          research and policy briefs, program  
14          evaluations, geo-coded maps. We recently  
15          completed a project at the request of the  
16          Department of Human Services for Police  
17          Commissioner Ramsey and his new crime  
18          initiative, and we also have our core  
19          products of the annual Children's Report  
20          Card, the Community Report Cards and the  
21          Children's Budget. We're grateful to  
22          City Council for your unanimous vote last  
23          year to institutionalize the production  
24          of these documents.

25                 I want to describe for you in

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           some detail the work that Safe and Sound  
3           does to manage City-funded programs and  
4           to support service providers in the  
5           community. This is really the heart and  
6           soul of our organization, because it  
7           directly touches the lives of so many  
8           children and families. It is our mutual  
9           concern for these providers and children  
10          that is the focus of today's inquiry.

11                   All of the programs that Safe  
12          and Sound oversees or monitors were  
13          initiated to respond to data indicating  
14          that children and other community members  
15          were at risk of committing violence or  
16          being victimized or engaging in unhealthy  
17          or unwise behaviors. Our key programs  
18          are after-school; Beacon programs; Youth  
19          Violence Reduction Partnership;  
20          Adolescent Violence Reduction  
21          Partnership; the parent truant officers;  
22          curfew centers; Families and Schools  
23          Together, or the FAST program; Real  
24          Everyday Alternative Choices and Help,  
25          the REACH program, which is a Saturday



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           anti-truancy program. And each of those  
3           on the slides of Page 10 and 11 have a  
4           brief description of what the service is,  
5           which I won't read.

6                       We apply objective criteria  
7           when we go about selecting the  
8           after-school and Beacon program providers  
9           and the locations for the programs. We  
10          make these decisions based on a  
11          competitive selection process. To  
12          determine the location of programs, we  
13          identify high-crime neighborhoods within  
14          the City. Then we look at the high-crime  
15          areas by age, focusing on the under 17  
16          age group, by increases and decreases in  
17          Part 1 Major Crime committed by  
18          juveniles, and then depending on the  
19          focus of the program, we look at the  
20          incidence of child abuse and neglect  
21          across the City.

22                      Once these areas are  
23          identified, we analyze the U.S. Census  
24          data to identify areas where there are  
25          large concentrations of youth, and we

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           look at community resources that are  
3           youth focused to identify high-crime  
4           neighborhoods that have large  
5           concentrations of youth but few services.

6                       So all of this information is  
7           synthesized so that we can place our new  
8           programs in high-need, low-resource  
9           areas. Once the geographic areas are  
10          identified, an open RFP process is  
11          launched to select new service providers.  
12          Staff teams review and score proposals.  
13          For those services such as the curfew  
14          centers and the Adolescent Violence  
15          Reduction Partnership, we also partner  
16          with the Department of Human Services,  
17          and their staff are included in our  
18          proposal review teams.

19                      The program elements that we  
20          look at are the agency's organizational  
21          capacity and the quality of the service  
22          program they propose, their ability to  
23          engage the community, and the quality and  
24          the efficiency of their budgets. The  
25          programs are then ranked, with awards

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           going to the highest ranked providers.

3                       But our work goes beyond simply  
4           issuing contracts and monitoring contract  
5           compliance. This is most apparent with  
6           the after-school initiative, which Safe  
7           and Sound began managing in 2001. We are  
8           dedicated to serving children and  
9           families with best practices, which means  
10          we take steps to stay on top of national  
11          trends. We set standards to provide  
12          regular feedback, and we support  
13          activities that will foster the highest  
14          quality programs. Recently, we  
15          instituted PCAPS, the Provider Contract  
16          Attendance, Payment and Performance  
17          System, which is a mouthful. This system  
18          captures information that enables  
19          providers to manage their programs more  
20          efficiently and accurately and provides  
21          Safe and Sound with accurate financial  
22          and programmatic oversight information.

23                       We have set regular curricular  
24          requirements for after-school programs in  
25          the field of literacy and violence

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           prevention which foster quality and  
3           provide a means for a better evaluation.  
4           Providers participate in a comprehensive  
5           professional development program which  
6           Safe and Sound offers in partnership with  
7           the United Way. We know that programs  
8           are not useful unless parents can access  
9           them, so Safe and Sound has developed an  
10          online program finder and a live parent  
11          assistance line to support families in  
12          searching for quality after-school  
13          services.

14                   The results of our efforts  
15           speak for themselves. Our after-school  
16           programs do help keep kids out of the  
17           system. As you know, after-school  
18           programs were created to address crime  
19           during those hours. And our data show  
20           that delinquency and arrest rates for  
21           participation in the Safe and Sound  
22           network of after-school programs in  
23           2006-2007 were lower than the citywide  
24           rates for youth. For every additional  
25           year of after-school attendance, youth

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           are 25 percent less likely to be  
3           arrested. Dependent care placement rates  
4           are also lower than the citywide rates.  
5           For every additional year of after-school  
6           attendance, youth were ten percent less  
7           likely to enter dependent care placement.

8                       Likewise, Safe and Sound gets  
9           very high marks from providers and from  
10          parents. More than 90 percent of parents  
11          surveyed last year expressed satisfaction  
12          with the program attended by their  
13          children. Eighty one percent of  
14          providers thought Safe and Sound was  
15          doing a good to excellent job of  
16          partnering with their agency to provide  
17          quality after-school programs.

18                      It's also very important to  
19          note that 81 percent of the budget of  
20          Safe and Sound goes directly out to  
21          community-based providers to run programs  
22          for children. Another 14 percent of our  
23          funding is used to monitor programs for  
24          quality assurance and contract  
25          compliance, to provide technical

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           assistance to the sites so as to  
3           facilitate the delivery of best  
4           practices, and developmentally  
5           appropriate services, to conduct the  
6           research that's needed to evaluate the  
7           programs and to produce the Report Cards.

8                       So you can see in the pie chart  
9           the administrative costs that are  
10          attributable to the agency's operation  
11          are about five percent. Therefore, over  
12          95 percent of our funding from DHS is  
13          allocated for direct services and program  
14          support.

15                      Financial management of Safe  
16          and Sound is a complex enterprise owing  
17          to our numerous programs, the large  
18          number of contractors, and the high  
19          volume of invoices and other financial  
20          transactions. In order to assure that  
21          both Safe and Sound and our primary  
22          funder, the City, have the same  
23          understanding of the progress of each  
24          year's contracted scope of work and each  
25          year's expenditures and revenues, a

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           committee was established several years  
3           ago. The committee includes  
4           executive-level budget staff from the  
5           Managing Director's Office, DHS and Safe  
6           and Sound, as well as key programmatic  
7           staff from DHS and Safe and Sound. It  
8           meets monthly to review each line of the  
9           City designated Safe and Sound  
10          performance report and to assess  
11          estimated versus actual expenditures so  
12          that the most effective use can be made  
13          of the funds allotted. The most recent  
14          meeting was held February 12, 2008. This  
15          process has enabled both the City and  
16          Safe and Sound to be on the same page  
17          with respect to all of the programs  
18          funded under the current contract. In  
19          addition to these monthly meetings, Safe  
20          and Sound has met weekly with program  
21          executives within the City in order to  
22          assure that the programmatic direction  
23          being taken was based on mutual agreement  
24          and partnership.

25                           Through this type of

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           face-to-face collaboration, the City has  
3           provided clarification on its expenditure  
4           expectations as well as raised any  
5           concerns that would need to be addressed  
6           by Safe and Sound financial staff. Over  
7           the past two years, Safe and Sound has  
8           made a number of improvements in its  
9           financial operations to both improve our  
10          performance and to be more responsive to  
11          the City's needs for both information and  
12          accuracy in the financial information we  
13          provide. We are continuing to make  
14          improvements in this area.

15                       Whereas Safe and Sound was  
16          launched with primarily foundation  
17          funding and early on captured significant  
18          federal and corporate, at this point in  
19          time our budget is comprised of nearly  
20          all funding through DHS. Other resources  
21          come from City departments, foundations,  
22          businesses and individuals. This  
23          allocation is consistent with our role as  
24          a support and intermediary for the City.  
25          Nevertheless, I have moved to renew and



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           step up Safe and Sound's external  
3           development efforts to generate more  
4           funds to complement and supplement  
5           City-sponsored initiatives. We are  
6           currently competing for a major federal  
7           grant and have our sights set on other  
8           targets. We are also interested in  
9           collaborating with the City to raise  
10          local funds to support the  
11          Administration's priorities for safety  
12          and youth development.

13                   Our overall budget has grown  
14          over the past three years from 34 million  
15          in Fiscal '06 to 50 million in Fiscal '07  
16          to 75 million that was initially  
17          contracted for in Fiscal '08. With the  
18          growth in budget amount came a  
19          corresponding growth in programming.

20                   Our Board Chair has already  
21          summarized how the budget problem that  
22          prompted this hearing occurred. Simply  
23          put, the previous Administration wanted  
24          to expand anti-truancy, after-school and  
25          other prevention programs and allocated

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           funds that were not ultimately available  
3           for this purpose. Despite Safe and  
4           Sound's multiple efforts to submit lower  
5           budgets, we received in August a contract  
6           signed by the Budget Office and the Law  
7           Department for \$75 million containing a  
8           scope of work that included the expanded  
9           programs. On the strength of the City's  
10          previous funding record, the  
11          Administration's urging to proceed apace  
12          and the contract provided, Safe and Sound  
13          acted to begin implementing the new  
14          initiatives, such as contracting with  
15          community agencies to hire 400 parent  
16          truant officers to work on behalf of the  
17          City in partnership with the School  
18          District. We were advised by the former  
19          Administration that a transfer ordinance  
20          would be passed. When that did not  
21          happen, we immediately wrote to all  
22          providers describing the tenuous funding  
23          situation and notifying them that Safe  
24          and Sound was assessing internal  
25          management actions it might take and

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           urging that they do the same. In fact,  
3           Safe and Sound put a hold on filling  
4           budgeted positions. Since then, we have  
5           also laid off employees. Our total  
6           savings with respect to those actions are  
7           1.4 million annually. Up until the end  
8           of the Street Administration, Safe and  
9           Sound submitted revised budgets, but was  
10          told not to initiate any program  
11          cutbacks.

12                       Upon first being notified by  
13          Mayor Nutter's Administration on January  
14          23, 2008 that a budget cut of 21 million  
15          would be required, Safe and Sound  
16          prepared recommendations for a reduced  
17          budget to be effective March 1. We  
18          undertook this task with extreme care,  
19          knowing that any actions in this  
20          direction, however necessary, would  
21          inflict great pain and hardship on the  
22          affected provider agencies, employees and  
23          program participants. Expenditure  
24          projections were carefully reviewed and a  
25          process developed to make program

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           reduction recommendations to meet the  
3           budget target. All new programs that  
4           were funded as part of the expansion  
5           effort for after school were proposed for  
6           elimination. But because it is so far  
7           into the budget year, existing programs  
8           also had to be included in the assessment  
9           for reduction and elimination.

10                   The criteria used to assess  
11           programs were as follows: We looked at  
12           the utilization of the programs. We  
13           looked at the qualitative performance as  
14           assessed by the Safe and Sound staff who  
15           work with the providers. We looked at  
16           the results of the School-Age Childcare  
17           Environmental Rating Scale, which is a  
18           nationally validated scale used to assess  
19           the quality of after-school programs, and  
20           looked at the geographic distribution of  
21           the programs that might be eliminated.

22                   Significant cuts in Safe and  
23           Sound's organization and operations were  
24           part of the recommended budget cuts. In  
25           fact, we made a 30 percent reduction in

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           authorized positions. These cuts include  
3           research, program management and support,  
4           and reduction of administration within  
5           the organization.

6                       We are well aware that this  
7           situation is causing serious disruption  
8           for providers, children and families, and  
9           Safe and Sound is doing whatever it can  
10          to minimize the inevitable hardship. We  
11          established a policy of responding to all  
12          provider calls within 24 hours and  
13          providing guidance and technical  
14          assistance to everyone who called. We  
15          also worked to assist providers in  
16          identifying alternate after-school  
17          programs located within a half mile  
18          radius of each reduced or eliminated  
19          program, and looked into identifying any  
20          capacity that might be available in those  
21          programs. We contacted the Childcare  
22          Information Services office and asked for  
23          their assistance in helping families  
24          locate programs. We provided subsidy  
25          information and applications to all who

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           called. We encouraged providers and  
3           others to utilize our program finder and  
4           live phone assistance line. In addition,  
5           we have acted upon suggestions made by  
6           Council during my meetings with you over  
7           the past several weeks. We are open to  
8           any other suggestions that you may have  
9           in this regard.

10                   As our Chairman said, as  
11           troubled as we are by the current  
12           situation, we are also focused on the  
13           future. We want to be able to work  
14           together to improve systems and programs,  
15           to capitalize on the resources,  
16           knowledge, talents and commitment that  
17           City government, other community partners  
18           and Safe and Sound can bring to the table  
19           to realize our vision for a safer and  
20           healthier childhood for every  
21           Philadelphian.

22                   Thank you for listening, and we  
23           will be happy to respond to your  
24           questions.

25                   COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           very much for your testimony. I  
3           appreciate it.

4                       (Applause.)

5                       MS. SHENBERGER: Thank you up  
6           there. I hope that was God.

7                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: You're  
8           going to be fine. Thank you. Thank you  
9           for your testimony. It certainly gave us  
10          a real strong history of Philadelphia  
11          Safe and Sound, and I tell you, I do  
12          appreciate the Report Cards that we get  
13          each year and particularly the way you do  
14          them by the zip codes, which is very  
15          helpful to us in our councilmanic  
16          districts.

17                      You may have stated this in  
18          your testimony, but, Mr. Jones, according  
19          to your testimony, Philadelphia Safe and  
20          Sound was started with private foundation  
21          dollars in 1997 and became a federal  
22          tax-exempt non-profit in 2000.  
23          Currently, approximately 98 percent of  
24          your budget comes from the City. What is  
25          your private funding and your future

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           development program, and what happened to  
3           the Robert Wood Johnson dollars? Was  
4           that for a limited period of time?

5                   COUNCILMAN JONES: It was  
6           initially a ten-year period when it  
7           started, and it went away. It went up to  
8           four years. They gave us another four  
9           years at a reduced amount each year until  
10          it went away.

11                   We actually have conducted two  
12          major fundraising campaigns, one about  
13          five to six years ago before Anne came,  
14          and was able to raise, I think, \$2, \$3  
15          million. We've just recently developed a  
16          new fundraising plan that we're going  
17          to -- as Anne indicated, we're going  
18          after some federal dollars and other  
19          private dollars from foundations.

20                   The problem we have encountered  
21          is that when we go to anybody and ask  
22          them for funding and they see our balance  
23          sheet or statement of activities of \$75  
24          million or \$50 million or \$30 million, it  
25          is very, very difficult to get them or to



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           convince them that they should fund Safe  
3           and Sound. So it's been an ongoing  
4           problem.

5                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Have you  
6           made the case that as the contractual  
7           provider with the City, that the money  
8           from the City is pretty much a  
9           pass-through?

10                   MR. JONES: Yes. We have  
11          definitely tried that. And I think,  
12          again, we have a development personnel,  
13          just named the person recently, and I  
14          think we'll do a lot better. We just  
15          have not focused perhaps enough on the  
16          last four, five years on doing that  
17          development.

18                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Are there  
19          any City staff serving on your Board?

20                   MR. JONES: City?

21                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Anybody  
22          who works for the City on your Board?

23                   MR. JONES: Not currently. I'm  
24          trying to see. When Safe and Sound was  
25          first started, it was all City. They

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           were all City employees. Secretary  
3           Richman served on the Board for a while  
4           up until a couple of years ago. But we  
5           currently do not have any City employees.

6                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: What role  
7           does the Board play in the evaluation of  
8           the programs that you fund?

9                   MR. JONES: The Board meets  
10          quarterly, although in the last four,  
11          five months it's probably been more like  
12          one and a half times a month, given all  
13          that's been going on. We receive  
14          periodic reports from Anne as to the  
15          quality of the programs. We get a  
16          complete explanation of what the programs  
17          consist of.

18                   We don't as a Board go in and  
19          actually try to measure ourselves the  
20          success or failure of any of the  
21          programs. We do ask, I think, the right  
22          questions and think we do get sufficient  
23          information from the staff, but we don't  
24          do a hands-on evaluation.

25                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: In its

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           current relationship with the City, does  
3           Safe and Sound submit proposals to DHS?  
4           Are all contractual services between Safe  
5           and Sound and the City based on a  
6           specific request from DHS?

7                     MR. JONES: Anne, you want to  
8           take that?

9                     MS. SHENBERGER: Yes.

10                    In the monthly meetings that we  
11           have with the City Budget and Program  
12           staff, we review -- those meetings are  
13           used to define the scope of work for each  
14           of the contracts that we have each year,  
15           and then every month we review that scope  
16           of work and where we are both in terms of  
17           the programmatic implementation as well  
18           as the financial expenditures. We  
19           provide very extensive information on the  
20           expenditures. We provide a specific  
21           provider-by-provider list of payments and  
22           tracking related to the invoices that  
23           providers submit.

24                    So all of the things that we've  
25           done with respect to starting the curfew

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           centers, hiring the parent truant  
3           officers, taking over the youth worker  
4           portion of the Adolescent Violence  
5           Reduction Partnership were all done at  
6           the request of the City.

7                     MR. JONES: Yeah. I just want  
8           to underscore, we don't prepare a  
9           proposal and submit it to the City and  
10          say, Fund this. It generally works the  
11          other way around. They decide what  
12          activities they want Safe and Sound to  
13          engage in in the upcoming fiscal year,  
14          put a dollar figure on it and say this  
15          is -- and I might add, this has caused  
16          some consternation among Board members,  
17          because some Board members do not like  
18          this process, felt that we were simply  
19          taking what the City was throwing our way  
20          without full regard as to its implication  
21          to Safe and Sound and its original  
22          mission. I took the position, however,  
23          that we're there to help the  
24          Administration. It was founded to do  
25          that, and I feel unless it's illegal or

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           it is something completely out of our  
3           mission, if the Administration says, We  
4           want you to handle this for us next year,  
5           we will, and we have done that.

6                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: So do you  
7           see yourself as a quasi-City agency?

8                   MR. JONES: I don't. I mean,  
9           we --

10                  COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: You  
11          weren't there, Ms. Shenberger.

12                  You were there.

13                  When the organization was set  
14          up, you had the City -- I'm not  
15          criticizing. I'm just trying to be  
16          clear.

17                  The City needed a 501(c)(3) to  
18          manage the program, so they set up Safe  
19          and Sound so that the money could flow to  
20          them and they could contract out rather  
21          than going through DHS to run these  
22          programs, which are basically  
23          programmatic activity.

24                  MR. JONES: Yes. That's  
25          correct.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: That's  
3 what you really do, right?

4                   MR. JONES: Yeah, but when you  
5 use the word "quasi" government, I think  
6 we just worked on a mission statement,  
7 and I think out of that process came the  
8 statement that we are an independent  
9 501(c)(3) organization. So we don't view  
10 ourselves as -- we view ourselves as an  
11 intermediary, an organization that helps  
12 the City, but we are certainly not part  
13 of City government.

14                  COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Well, you  
15 might be better off as a quasi-City  
16 agency, because then you're going to open  
17 yourself up to competitive bidding for  
18 the program.

19                  MR. JONES: Right.

20                  COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Because  
21 you're a 501(c)(3), and now the contracts  
22 have to be competitively bid. So you  
23 might want to determine what you want to  
24 be.

25                  I have some questions for

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           Ms. Shenberger.

3                       COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Go

4           ahead.

5                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: You go

6           ahead.

7                       COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I wanted  
8           some clarification going back to some of  
9           the questions that I made to the previous  
10          panel.

11                      During this whole discussion  
12          around an increase of over 100 percent in  
13          your budget, it was very public both  
14          Council's objections to the allocation.  
15          I'm assuming and -- not assuming, but in  
16          the previous panel, they talked about the  
17          discussions that happened periodically  
18          and the fact that we were entering  
19          non-compliance on the City's part, and  
20          since we're partners in this, what was  
21          the discussion at your Board around  
22          accepting money that publicly Mayor-elect  
23          Nutter had said he would question, and I  
24          think at one point he even cautioned Safe  
25          and Sound in taking? What was the

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           discussion at the Board level at that  
3           time?

4                       MR. JONES: To be honest with  
5           you, it wasn't until recently that I knew  
6           or found out that the money was to be  
7           taken from protective services, the 14  
8           million you're talking about. What we  
9           knew when the City said --

10                      COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: It was  
11           supposed to be taken from what?

12                      MR. JONES: From the protective  
13           services -- is that the right  
14           terminology -- program. I found that out  
15           recently.

16                      The discussions at the Board  
17           level consisted of, We know we got 54  
18           million. And we kept asking Anne, Is it  
19           more than that? If not, let's just make  
20           a budget for the 54 million.

21                      Anne says, No, the City wants  
22           us to do 75. And when she produced to us  
23           the \$75 million budget signed by the  
24           City, it sort of made it a moot issue.

25                      But I'll tell you, I don't



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           recall any discussions at the Board  
3           level -- let me back up for a minute.

4                     There was a discussion at the  
5           beginning when we were asking where is  
6           the additional money coming from, and  
7           there were some groups that we thought,  
8           some Board members thought, were going to  
9           get cut out as a result of that. It  
10          wasn't these groups that we're talking  
11          about now. At least that wasn't my  
12          understanding. But then we were assured,  
13          and one Board member asked Anne to make  
14          sure that that was not going to happen,  
15          because if that were the case, he would  
16          vote not to take the money.

17                    Anne talked them, and they  
18          assured her the money was not being taken  
19          out of these groups. So the Board voted.  
20          But we didn't know the specifics of the  
21          14 million at the Board level.

22                    COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Did you  
23          want to add something to that, Anne?

24                    MS. SHENBERGER: Well, I just  
25          want to echo what Ernie said. I didn't

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           know until I heard from providers that a  
3           letter had been sent out to the foster  
4           care providers.

5                       COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I guess  
6           my question is, since September, there  
7           was some discussions around this increase  
8           of budget of over 100 percent. There was  
9           a lot of contention. Council took public  
10          positions, very public positions, in  
11          saying that they would not authorize the  
12          appropriations, for the money to be  
13          moved. You knew the Mayor was going to  
14          the State. You knew the State was not  
15          approving the money based on our needs  
16          assessment criteria. Mayor-elect Nutter  
17          is saying he has some questions about it,  
18          he would hope that the Administration did  
19          not move forward.

20                     All of this stuff was happening  
21          in the public venue, but you still  
22          proceeded to entertain the --

23                     MR. JONES: No. That's not  
24          what we did. We went back to them. Anne  
25          went back to them and said, Given all of

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           this, let's get the budget down to 54 and  
3           let's do the cuts now. The City said,  
4           No, don't do that.

5                     I mean, we actually -- but let  
6           me just say this: I've entered into  
7           contracts, over 100, in my professional  
8           life. I have never questioned the City.  
9           If they said you've got X number of  
10          dollars for a contract and they give you  
11          a contract, I figure it's up to them to  
12          decide where the money is going to come  
13          from. But given the uncertainty of the  
14          money -- and I kept telling Anne, Don't  
15          spend money we don't have -- she went  
16          back to the City and said, Let's get it  
17          down to the 54, and they said, No, you  
18          keep it up at 75 and we've got a transfer  
19          ordinance going that they thought was  
20          going to go through.

21                    COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Who were  
22          you in conversation with?

23                    MS. SHENBERGER: The people  
24          that we dealt with at the City went all  
25          the way up to the Mayor's Office. So at

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           all levels, at the DHS Commissioner  
3           level, at the DHS budget level, at the  
4           Managing Director's level. And when the  
5           initial -- just to give you sort of the  
6           parallel chronology to what Dr. Evans  
7           talked about, we sort of had a chronology  
8           parallel to theirs. We submitted several  
9           budgets in May that were consistent with  
10          the \$54 million allocation that we  
11          understood we had, and, in fact, we did  
12          get an award letter for that amount  
13          initially, and after submitting several  
14          budgets and options to the  
15          Administration, they rejected all of them  
16          and decided -- and asked us to do a scope  
17          of work in a budget for the 75 million,  
18          which we did, and we got an amended award  
19          letter in July and a signed contract in  
20          August. And then as the situation  
21          started to unfold with the transfer  
22          ordinance, I was in communication with  
23          Ernie and the Board. When the transfer  
24          ordinance initially was not introduced,  
25          that's when we sent a letter out to our

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           providers suggesting that all might not  
3           be well and that they would be  
4           well-advised to look at their own  
5           spending, that Council had not introduced  
6           the ordinance, that it did affect funding  
7           that had been designated for us. And we  
8           began then the internal belt-tightening.

9                     At the same time, I sent that  
10          letter to the Managing Director asking  
11          for direction in terms of whether we  
12          should curtail any of our activities, and  
13          again received direction to continue and  
14          to begin programs, to continue to issue  
15          award letters. Again, we submitted three  
16          or four different budgets between October  
17          and the beginning of December, all of  
18          which were also rejected.

19                    COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ:  
20          Councilwoman Tasco referred earlier about  
21          members of your Board, and I notice that  
22          you have some providers that are also on  
23          your Board, and part of the problem with  
24          all of this is this image thing, and,  
25          unfortunately, the great work gets caught

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           up in the imaging. Do you not find that  
3           a problem, that some of the people that  
4           are on your Board are also receiving  
5           money?

6                       MR. JONES: We have a conflict  
7           of interest policy. There are two, John  
8           Chin from the Philadelphia Chinatown  
9           Development Corporation and Patricia  
10          DeCarlo from Norris Square. They do not  
11          participate in any of the deliberations  
12          as it relates to their program. In fact,  
13          one of them was on the hit list -- two of  
14          them to be eliminated.

15                      So, I mean, I think the Board  
16          is -- and I hope they're not here right  
17          now, but, I mean, we recognize the  
18          appearance of a conflict and I think we  
19          go out of our way to avoid that, but,  
20          again, in our bylaws, we have a provision  
21          that says -- because this is a child  
22          welfare agency, to really get the best  
23          thinking, you're going to wind up getting  
24          people who do this day in and day out,  
25          and that's why we have them on the Board.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           They both are good Board members and they  
3           contribute a lot to the organization.

4                       COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: You talk  
5           about your budget. You say that only  
6           five percent is administrative, although  
7           some of the folks that you contract are  
8           also umbrella organizations for on the  
9           ground. So what part of their  
10          on-the-ground budget is reflected?  
11          Because you contract with several  
12          organizations, the Archdiocese, the  
13          Congresos, who are also umbrella  
14          organizations. What percentage of your  
15          contractor budgets go to administrative  
16          costs versus services?

17                      MS. SHENBERGER: We have an  
18          administrative cost standard, but I would  
19          need to get back to you to make sure I'm  
20          being accurate on what the standard  
21          percentage is.

22                      COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: You  
23          don't have a range around?

24                      MS. SHENBERGER: We do. We do,  
25          but I don't want to tell you that I know

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           that off the top of my head. I think I  
3           do, but I want to make sure.

4                   COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: In all  
5           these discussions going back to the  
6           previous panel, were you part of the  
7           discussions with the Department of State,  
8           Department of Welfare?

9                   MS. SHENBERGER: No.

10                   COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Was  
11          there any interaction at any point by  
12          Safe and Sound with the State based on  
13          their denials for needs assessment?

14                   MS. SHENBERGER: No.

15                   COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: At any  
16          point during all of this stuff that's  
17          going on, was Safe and Sound -- when they  
18          were contracting with the contractors  
19          from the beginning -- your fiscal year  
20          for your contractors run from when to  
21          when?

22                   MS. SHENBERGER: July to June.

23                   COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Very  
24          efficiently.

25                   Are we that efficient in all



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           departments?

3                       Very efficiently you got your  
4           award letter. At what point did your  
5           contract start with your providers?

6                       MS. SHENBERGER: Depending on  
7           the different type of provider. I  
8           actually have a list here, which I can  
9           provide for you.

10                      COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: What I  
11           want to know, when all of this stuff is  
12           transpiring with Council not approving  
13           the ordinance, when you issued those  
14           contracts, at any point did you amend any  
15           of those budgets for your providers?

16                      MS. SHENBERGER: We actually  
17           held a number of those contracts  
18           because --

19                      COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So when  
20           you issued --

21                      MS. SHENBERGER: We issued the  
22           award letter and then we held the  
23           contract.

24                      COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: When you  
25           issued the contract to the provider and

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           you knew this was not going on, were they  
3           notified in writing that there was no --  
4           that the Council had not approved the  
5           appropriation?

6                       MS. SHENBERGER: Yes.

7                       COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: And that  
8           there would be funding problems?

9                       MS. SHENBERGER: I have copies  
10          of the letters, which I can give to the  
11          Committee. The letters say that the  
12          transfer ordinance was not introduced and  
13          there may be funding problems, that  
14          currently we have a fully executed  
15          contract with the City. The City has not  
16          instructed us to reduce or eliminate any  
17          programs at this time, and that we will  
18          monitor the situation with the City  
19          closely and update them as we get more  
20          information.

21                      COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: When you  
22          began the process of cutting back, how  
23          was that handled? Were the providers  
24          brought in and discussed around their  
25          cuts? Did you give an opportunity for

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           the providers to --

3                     MS. SHENBERGER: No.

4                     COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: -- give  
5           recommendations?

6                     MS. SHENBERGER: We were asked  
7           to provide a revised budget within a  
8           week. So it was -- it would have been  
9           very problematic for us to actually have  
10          the time. I think that that would have  
11          been -- obviously the preferable process  
12          would have been more deliberative.

13                    COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: When you  
14          issued letters informing providers that  
15          there might be cuts, at any point did you  
16          say to them, If this came to a halt  
17          January 7, 2008 when the new  
18          Administration came in, do we have a plan  
19          of action? Did those conversations  
20          happen with providers?

21                    MS. SHENBERGER: Not in that  
22          context, no, because we were continuing  
23          to submit those revised lower budgets,  
24          which were continuing to be rejected.

25                    MR. JONES: There was a meeting

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           at some time with the providers.

3                   MS. SHENBERGER: Yes. We did  
4           meet with providers and tell them  
5           directly that we had concerns, but we did  
6           not use the language you just used. We  
7           used -- we said beware --

8                   COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So we  
9           never gave them, the contractees, what is  
10          contingency plans if January 7, 2008 --  
11          since the Mayor-elect had already said  
12          that he has some concerns, we never said,  
13          What's your contingency plan?

14                   MS. SHENBERGER: Right.

15                   COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So they  
16          were never prepared?

17                   MS. SHENBERGER: Only to the  
18          extent that we suggested to them that  
19          they would take the same actions that we  
20          were taking, to review their costs and to  
21          be frugal about their decision-making.

22                   COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So when  
23          you made some recommendations on the  
24          cuts -- because you're saying back in  
25          September you were making provisions for

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           a \$54 million budget?

3                   MS. SHENBERGER: Right.

4                   COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: And that  
5           wasn't shared with providers around how  
6           you scale back in case that doesn't  
7           happen. When you made your reductions,  
8           was that based on your initial \$54  
9           million budget?

10                   MS. SHENBERGER: No, no,  
11           because so much time had elapsed. Our  
12           original submissions would have been much  
13           less drastic, because they all had  
14           implementation dates that were either  
15           full fiscal year or even six months.  
16           Several of the budgets that we submitted  
17           would have had some cutback starting in  
18           January. So when we got the information  
19           that we needed a new budget, we needed to  
20           achieve a certain target level and could  
21           only start March 1st, because we needed  
22           to give 30 days' notice. So we had to  
23           make -- the decision-making criteria were  
24           quite different.

25                   COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: When you

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           developed your criteria for resubmission  
3           of this reduced budget, what were some of  
4           the factors that you were looking at?

5                       MS. SHENBERGER: We were  
6           looking at the extent to which the  
7           agencies' allotted slots were used, was a  
8           significant factor, as well as the  
9           results of the quality assessment, the  
10          SACERS scores, as well as the qualitative  
11          assessment of our staff that worked with  
12          the providers, and then the geography.

13                      COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Several  
14          of the contractors had several programs.

15                      MS. SHENBERGER: Right.

16                      COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So in  
17          some cases -- and I'll speak specifically  
18          to the ones in my councilmanic district  
19          that I'm aware of.

20                      When you had somebody who had a  
21          Beacon, somebody who had a curfew and  
22          potentially had PTO, in that analysis,  
23          did you figure what the financial impact  
24          would be so that if you're eliminating a  
25          program, you're not taking out the core

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           and then they can't provide the other two  
3           programs? Was any of that taken into  
4           account?

5                       MS. SHENBERGER: We tried to  
6           look at that, but in terms of the amount  
7           of time that we had to make the  
8           assessments and to produce a budget, a  
9           week is a challenge. So we would have  
10          preferred to have had more time and we  
11          would have really preferred to have been  
12          able to sit down both with the  
13          Administration and with our providers,  
14          because I think that had we been able to  
15          sit down with the providers, we would  
16          have gotten much -- we have a very good  
17          relationship with our providers and I  
18          think we would have gotten some very good  
19          advice from them had we had the time to  
20          be able to do it.

21                     MR. JONES: I would just add on  
22          that point, when we finally got word from  
23          the current Administration that there was  
24          no more money, the Board got together on  
25          a Saturday. We gave up half of our day

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           on a Saturday to have Anne go over in  
3           mundane detail the criteria she used for  
4           eliminating different programs. And I  
5           can tell you, the Board -- there was not  
6           unanimity on the Board as to whether or  
7           not that was the best way of doing it.  
8           Some people argued that you ought to put  
9           it where the greatest need is, regardless  
10          of how well the program is doing. There  
11          was some that said we want the most  
12          effective programs.

13                       There's no easy way to do that,  
14           and as Anne said, if we had more time, we  
15           probably could have involved the  
16           providers in a different way, but we were  
17           told to get a budget together.

18                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: In a  
19           letter dated July 2nd, which is real  
20           fast -- I'm telling you, I never saw  
21           anybody else work that fast -- from  
22           Dr. Evans, it states that the allocation  
23           of 75 million to Safe and Sound is  
24           contingent on availability of City and/or  
25           State funding. What did you understand



1 2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2 that to mean?

3 MS. SHENBERGER: That's their  
4 standard award letter. So it's the same  
5 award letter that's issued every year.

6 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: And you  
7 passed that same letter on to the  
8 providers?

9 MR. JONES: Yes. They're told  
10 that it's subject to the availability of  
11 funding.

12 MS. SHENBERGER: Right.

13 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: But this  
14 time you got tricked.

15 MR. JONES: Yes.

16 MS. SHENBERGER: That's right.  
17 That's right.

18 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Who told  
19 you to receive provider services when you  
20 knew the funding was not available?

21 MS. SHENBERGER: That came from  
22 both the Finance Office and the Managing  
23 Director's Office.

24 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Who was  
25 the Managing Director?

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                   MS. SHENBERGER: Loree Jones.

3                   COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: I guess  
4           you answered the next question. It says  
5           why did you proceed with funding  
6           commitments without having the funding.  
7           Because?

8                   MS. SHENBERGER: Well, one,  
9           because our contract has two signatures  
10          from the Budget Office on it that clearly  
11          say that the funding is appropriated and  
12          encumbered. So one is because of those  
13          two signatures. And the other is because  
14          we were directed to do so.

15                  And, again, I think in Ernie's  
16          testimony, the issue is, to some extent,  
17          ours, because we have the contract, but  
18          the Administration would have ordered  
19          those services be delivered whether we  
20          were the conduit or not. So it wouldn't  
21          have changed the financial situation that  
22          providers are in right now, because the  
23          Administration wanted to deliver the  
24          service.

25                  COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: It seems

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           that you really, based on your experience  
3           of working with the City Administration,  
4           you had not had any problems in the past,  
5           so you didn't see that there was any  
6           problem this time --

7                       MS. SHENBERGER: That's  
8           correct.

9                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: -- with  
10          that?

11                      Let me ask you a question. I  
12          think Councilwoman Sanchez asked it.  
13          Going back to if you really had the \$54  
14          million and you knew that was your  
15          budget, then you wouldn't have sent  
16          letters asking for new Beacon programs;  
17          everybody would have received the same  
18          funding for the same programmatic  
19          activities that they had?

20                      MS. SHENBERGER: Right.

21                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: But based  
22          on the letter stating you were going to  
23          get \$75 million, you proceeded to allow  
24          for the providers to implement -- or see  
25          to increase their budget, expand their

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           programs and then set up new programs?

3                       MS. SHENBERGER: That's  
4           correct.

5                       MR. JONES: But the difference  
6           in that is, we didn't just decide that  
7           with the extra \$21 million we could  
8           decide on our own what it was going to be  
9           spent on, as if we wanted to build a  
10          house. We could not have done that.  
11          With the extra \$21 million came very  
12          specific instructions from DHS as to how  
13          you spend it. They wanted these number  
14          of Beacons schools increased and the  
15          other sort of -- FAST program, the other  
16          services.

17                      So, again, the point I want to  
18          make is, we don't get money. I mean,  
19          they don't just dump money in our lap and  
20          say, Go spend it. The money and funding  
21          come with very specific instructions,  
22          almost sometimes on what staff you need  
23          to oversee the programs, and this comes  
24          from DHS. So we're not a loose cannon  
25          out there just running around.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Were you  
3           ever told which programs to fund  
4           specifically?

5                   MS. SHENBERGER: You mean in  
6           terms of which agencies?

7                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Yes.

8                   MS. SHENBERGER: In terms of  
9           the curfew centers, the way that RFP was  
10          issued, we issued the RFP and a joint  
11          group reviewed the proposals, and then  
12          the final decisions were made by DHS, and  
13          they notified us of their final  
14          selection. So in that case, yes, we were  
15          told which providers.

16                  COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I have a  
17          question related to the curfew centers.  
18          In the case -- because I notice that in  
19          the last six months, there were lines  
20          that were redrawn because there was  
21          additional money available, and I want to  
22          talk specifically to the case of  
23          Lighthouse that began the program in the  
24          second round and had a very effective  
25          program in their boundary lines, and then

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           the boundary lines were changed. And the  
3           reason I bring this up is because it has  
4           an issue with if they're not meeting  
5           their numbers. So they went from serving  
6           the district that they physically lived  
7           in to serving two districts that they  
8           physically don't live in, and this  
9           happened within months of when all this  
10          stuff was going on with additional  
11          funding to accommodate new providers. So  
12          we took agencies who spent a lot of time  
13          setting this up and, because we wanted to  
14          redraw the lines, gave them another  
15          territory that then they have to start  
16          from scratch from stakeholders, and then  
17          we go back and we cut them because they  
18          don't have numbers. I mean, who was  
19          involved in some of those discussions?

20                   MS. SHENBERGER: Those  
21          discussions were primarily conducted  
22          within DHS and between DHS and ourselves,  
23          but in terms of the driver, I guess, of  
24          the curfew policy-making is with DHS.

25                   COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Who from

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           DHS was making those decisions  
3           specifically?

4                       MS. SHENBERGER: The Curfew  
5           Manager is a guy named Ron George, and  
6           he, up until the Administration changed,  
7           worked very closely with the Managing  
8           Director's Office and the Division of  
9           Social Services and then also obviously  
10          with us.

11                      COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I think  
12          it will be important if they can stay  
13          around as we hear from the providers just  
14          in case we have some additional questions  
15          that might arise.

16                      MS. SHENBERGER: Sure.

17                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: I just  
18          made a little snide comment, Mr. Jones,  
19          on your testimony on Page 4. You say the  
20          21 million budget addition that brings us  
21          here today was one of those difficult and  
22          complex situations. It is important to  
23          set the record straight as to precisely  
24          what transpired, not to blame others or  
25          absolve Safe and Sound, but to help you

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           understand the dynamics of the past  
3           several months and possibly suggest  
4           procedures that could avoid future  
5           occurrence. And my snide comment is,  
6           don't trust outgoing Mayors.

7                     Thank you. Would you stay  
8           around?

9                     MS. SHENBERGER: Sure.

10                    MR. JONES: Actually, Anne will  
11           stay around --

12                    COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Don't  
13           trust outgoing Mayors.

14                    MR. JONES: Thank you.

15                    MS. SHENBERGER: Thank you.

16                    COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you.

17                    I often wondered the comments  
18           that were made at a curfew center opening  
19           in my district, one of the few  
20           programmatic activities I attended with  
21           the former Mayor, he kept saying that  
22           Councilwoman Miller and Councilwoman  
23           Tasco would not let these curfew centers  
24           close, and I think he understood clearly  
25           what he was doing with the \$21 million.



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                       Next we have Margaret Zukoski,  
3       Diane Cornman-Levy. Are you here?

4                       (Witnesses approached witness  
5       table.)

6                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Good  
7       afternoon. Would you state your name for  
8       the record, please.

9                       MS. ZUKOSKI: I am Margaret  
10      Zukoski.

11                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: You may  
12      proceed.

13                      And then we'll let you  
14      introduce yourself, ma'am, and proceed  
15      with yours.

16                      MS. ZUKOSKI: Good afternoon  
17      again. I am Margaret Zukoski and I am  
18      pleased to offer testimony to the Public  
19      Health and Human Services Committee today  
20      as the Associate Director of the  
21      Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth  
22      and Family Services, a statewide  
23      membership association of private  
24      providers of services to children, youth  
25      and families. Again, we thank

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           Councilwoman Tasco and members of the  
3           Committee for convening this hearing.

4                       I would also like to take this  
5           opportunity to thank the Administration  
6           for restoring some of the cuts and  
7           programs like the Beacons, curfew,  
8           after-school and Adolescent Violence  
9           Reduction Partnership, which were put  
10          into place on February 1st.

11                      Providers support efforts to  
12          ensure that public dollars are used  
13          efficiently and effectively in the  
14          delivery of services. The Pennsylvania  
15          Council represents more than 130  
16          providers of child welfare, juvenile  
17          justice and prevention services. In  
18          total, our member agencies employ 20,000  
19          Pennsylvanians.

20                      The majority of our member  
21          agencies serve Philadelphia children,  
22          youth and families through purchase of  
23          service agreements with the Philadelphia  
24          Department of Youth and Services directly  
25          and its intermediaries, like Philadelphia

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           Safe and Sound.

3                     Our member agencies deliver a  
4           broad array of services, including  
5           high-end services for children and  
6           families involved with the child welfare  
7           system, those children who have been  
8           abused and neglected or placed in foster  
9           care, group home and residential  
10          facilities, as well as youth in the  
11          juvenile justice system. Many of our  
12          member agencies also have as part of  
13          their primary mission the delivery of  
14          services aimed at supporting children and  
15          families at risk for involvement with the  
16          child welfare and juvenile justice  
17          systems through the delivery of  
18          prevention services. These providers are  
19          keeping Philadelphia children safe in  
20          after-school programs, safe by keeping  
21          them off the streets. They're supporting  
22          permanency in families and ensuring the  
23          overall well-being and health of our  
24          children.

25                    Today, I would like to address

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           three points relevant to recent events:  
3           The role of private providers in the  
4           delivery of prevention services, concerns  
5           that the private provider community has  
6           about the notification and response to  
7           funding concerns, and, finally, make some  
8           suggestions for how we can move ahead to  
9           ensure that we have a comprehensive  
10          system of prevention services to support  
11          our City's most vulnerable children and  
12          families. We cannot take our eyes off  
13          the next funding year beginning July 1,  
14          2008.

15                       Since the year 2000,  
16          Philadelphia has been in the forefront in  
17          our state of delivering prevention  
18          services through contracts with private  
19          providers. It should be noted, however,  
20          that for decades preceding the creation  
21          and expansion of publicly funded  
22          prevention services, providers recognized  
23          the value of these services and were  
24          delivering them with private dollars.  
25          Because there was no overarching plan or

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           support for services, there was an  
3           absence of consistent programs throughout  
4           the City. Some neighborhoods were  
5           fortunate to have programs; others not.

6                       With the commitment of public  
7           dollars, services were expanded and  
8           targeted to the City's neediest  
9           neighborhoods and their children. With  
10          these dollars, providers were afforded  
11          access to evidence-based programs,  
12          technical assistance and training.  
13          Family and children now access programs  
14          that were well resourced based on best  
15          practice and were expected to deliver  
16          defined outcomes. Citywide programs have  
17          stemmed youth violence, truancy and kept  
18          kids safe.

19                      Even with the advent of public  
20          support, however, private providers  
21          continued to contribute both funding and  
22          in-kind services to support programming.  
23          For example, the curfew centers provide  
24          space at no cost for the City program,  
25          and Beacon programs contribute at least

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           15 percent of program costs. Private  
3           contributions to services, although  
4           significant, are seldom, if ever,  
5           acknowledged.

6                       I'd like to talk now about  
7           providers' experiences with the recent  
8           cuts. There are a number of providers  
9           here who will speak in much more detail  
10          and more eloquently about the impact on  
11          children and families with regard to the  
12          cuts.

13                     Private providers first became  
14          aware of potential funding shortages last  
15          year in August when they became aware  
16          that the transfer order of \$34 million,  
17          20 million of which was designated for  
18          Safe and Sound funding, was not going to  
19          be forthcoming. They asked questions  
20          about this and did receive a letter from  
21          Safe and Sound indicating that they  
22          should be cautious and look for  
23          cost-saving methods within their own  
24          agencies.

25                     In December, providers of

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           mandated services, over 200 of them,  
3           received letters from the Department of  
4           Human Services, suspension notices,  
5           advising them that they would have to  
6           because of funding shortages terminate  
7           mandated services to almost 14,000  
8           children receiving these services as of  
9           April 30, 2008. Although this has been  
10          characterized by the City as an  
11          accounting artifact, this did not provide  
12          providers in our system with the  
13          confidence that the City could move  
14          forward to protect its children.

15                 Providers have not been privy  
16          to the internal conversations and  
17          dialogues that you have heard about today  
18          between Safe and Sound and DHS and the  
19          City Administration. Although we asked  
20          questions, we were often met with few  
21          answers and no good responses. When  
22          information finally became available, it  
23          did not come from DHS, the City or Safe  
24          and Sound, but from a news report that  
25          appeared in the February 1st edition of

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           the Philadelphia Inquirer.

3                       Families and children who rely  
4           on these services, Beacon, after-school,  
5           parent truant officers and the AVRP  
6           program and staff working in these  
7           programs, read about the cuts and  
8           terminations of programs in the morning  
9           edition of the Philadelphia Inquirer on  
10          the way to their jobs. Private provider  
11          administrators were faced with distraught  
12          families and staff asking about whether  
13          services they relied on would be  
14          available, would they have jobs. The  
15          provider administrators could not answer  
16          the questions, because they themselves  
17          heard about the cuts and terminations at  
18          the same time in the Philadelphia  
19          Inquirer.

20                      In the late afternoon of  
21          February 1st, DHS convened a meeting of  
22          the affected providers. They were  
23          brought together and heard for the first  
24          time about the situation that resulted in  
25          the cuts facing them. Even then, on



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           February 1st, at 3:30 in the afternoon --  
3           it was a Friday afternoon -- providers  
4           had not received any definitive  
5           information regarding who was cut, to  
6           what degree they were cut. Providers  
7           were told letters were in the mail --

8                       COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Excuse  
9           me. You're saying February of 2008?

10                      MS. ZUKOSKI: Yes.

11                      (Applause.)

12                      MS. ZUKOSKI: Providers were  
13           told by City leaders that the letters to  
14           their individual agencies detailing the  
15           degree of their cuts were in the mail.  
16           That was not true. Late Friday evening,  
17           February 1st, and early Saturday morning,  
18           February 2nd, providers received faxes  
19           telling them what the degree of the cut  
20           was to their agency. When they finally  
21           arrived, many providers had questions  
22           based on unclear and conflicting  
23           information in the letters.

24                      In the week following the  
25           announcements, we struggled to get clear

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           information about the impact of the cuts.  
3           Providers wanted to ensure that when they  
4           were laying off staff and informing  
5           families, that they had correct and  
6           accurate information.

7                       Providers, when they did  
8           receive information, began laying off  
9           staff and telling families about the  
10          closing. However, the information has  
11          been shifting. Last Monday, February  
12          11th, providers were alerted that the  
13          AVRP program Youth Worker component was  
14          not going to be cut as they were  
15          originally told. Providers heard this  
16          from DHS, not Philadelphia Safe and  
17          Sound. And when they tried to get clear  
18          direction again about the scope of the  
19          cut, they are still waiting for that  
20          information.

21                      This past Friday, before the  
22          long weekend began, rumors began to  
23          surface that other programs would be  
24          preserved. Although welcomed news, it  
25          was not confirmed. Providers who had not

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           already done so were giving layoff  
3           notices to staff on Friday to meet the  
4           March 1st deadline for program closing  
5           and downsizing.

6                       When we finally did hear that  
7           rollbacks in the cuts were forthcoming,  
8           once again, it did not come from the  
9           City, DHS or Safe and Sound. We learned  
10          about it through press releases.

11                      We're still waiting to receive  
12          letters relevant to the rollbacks in the  
13          cuts. Providers are reluctant to rescind  
14          layoff notices because they, to date,  
15          still do not have accurate information  
16          with regard to the degree that their  
17          programs are being preserved.

18                      (Applause.)

19                      MS. ZUKOSKI: I just heard  
20          within the last 15 minutes that providers  
21          are receiving voicemails and text  
22          messages from the DHS staff asking them  
23          to look at making cuts in their AVR  
24          center-based programs and to get the  
25          information to DHS by Sunday. This is

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           pretty consistent with how information  
3           has come to the provider community over  
4           the past several weeks.

5                       We, the provider community, we,  
6           those who are responsible for delivering  
7           direct services, those who are living in  
8           the community, serving the families and  
9           children, ask one simple thing. We ask  
10          that we be part of the planning and  
11          decision-making process, that we be  
12          provided with accurate and timely  
13          information.

14                       (Applause.)

15                      MS. ZUKOSKI: We have felt  
16          caught in the middle of what we  
17          characterize, frankly, as a political  
18          battle, with no access to reliable  
19          information on which to act.

20                       (Applause.)

21                      MS. ZUKOSKI: As a result,  
22          consumers have lost confidence in our  
23          commitment, and experienced and qualified  
24          staff are leaving our programs. Who  
25          would stay? They're frustrated and

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           disillusioned with our City.

3                     You will hear more from our  
4           providers about the difficulty of  
5           recruiting and retaining qualified staff.  
6           Programs are being restored. Will we  
7           have the staff to man them at this point?

8                     We face huge challenges filling  
9           jobs. We will face huge challenges  
10          filling these jobs when funding for the  
11          next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008  
12          is still so undetermined.

13                    I would like to make some  
14          suggestions about how the City should  
15          proceed as we work our way through this  
16          current dilemma, and I want to reiterate  
17          that while providers are supporting and  
18          making every effort to keep their  
19          programs going through the end of the  
20          year, we have to keep our eye on what is  
21          going to happen to prevention services  
22          beginning July 1, 2008.

23                    You heard Dr. Evans reference  
24          the Needs-Based Plan and Budget process,  
25          and I would like to talk about that a

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           little bit here, as this will form the  
3           basis for funding in the next few fiscal  
4           years.

5                       In 1991, the Commonwealth  
6           enacted Act 30, which established a  
7           funding mechanism for county children and  
8           youth agencies based upon their  
9           identified financial needs and certified  
10          by DPW. Act 30 of 1991 created a process  
11          that was intended to provide adequate  
12          funding to meet the wildly differing  
13          needs of Pennsylvania's 67-county  
14          children and youth agencies in an  
15          equitable manner using consistent  
16          standards. Each county children and  
17          youth agency, including DHS, is required  
18          annually to submit a Needs-Based Plan and  
19          Budget to the DPW Office of Children,  
20          Youth and Families. The plan includes a  
21          funding request for the following fiscal  
22          year in which it is submitted, as well as  
23          a request for any changes in the current  
24          fiscal year. It is intended that this  
25          document accurately reflect the needs of

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           each county and be a product of a  
3           collaborative county planning process  
4           involving children and youth, juvenile  
5           court and Council. The act also requires  
6           that community input be actively  
7           solicited and incorporated into the  
8           process.

9                     The total DPW certified amount  
10          for all the counties is the basis for  
11          figures presented to the budget, to the  
12          Governor for the state budget. Each  
13          county is required to make its plan and  
14          budget available for public review and  
15          comment before submission.

16                    For the past two years, the  
17          Needs-Based Plan and Budget process in  
18          Philadelphia has fallen far short of the  
19          legislative intent. Provider and  
20          community input has not been solicited or  
21          incorporated in a meaningful way. In  
22          July 2006 and again in July 2007, plans  
23          were submitted for public review without  
24          the budget information attached. In July  
25          2006, after public comment was given, the

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           plan was significantly revised behind  
3           closed doors, not incorporating public  
4           comment, and submitted to DPW. In July  
5           2007, once again, a plan was made  
6           available for public comment without the  
7           budget attached. Comment is  
8           significantly limited when information  
9           about how public dollars will be  
10          distributed is not available.

11                     There has been no transparency  
12          in the system. And as we heard earlier  
13          from Richard Gold and Dr. Evans, DPW did  
14          not fully fund or appropriate the dollars  
15          necessary to support the prevention  
16          programming. It was based on the  
17          Needs-Based Plan and Budget submitted in  
18          these past years that we see ourselves  
19          here today.

20                     As the City and DHS look ahead  
21          to the upcoming fiscal year and the next  
22          fiscal year, Pennsylvania Council  
23          recommends that consumers and providers  
24          be included in this planning process in a  
25          meaningful and thoughtful way. We must



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           begin to look at how prevention services  
3           will continue to operate in Philadelphia.  
4           We are quickly approaching the new fiscal  
5           year, and this discussion about the  
6           scope, funding and management of  
7           prevention programs cannot be delayed.

8                         DHS is relying on a  
9           comprehensive system of prevention  
10          services as part of its redesign of  
11          in-home protective service and the  
12          alternative response system. Before  
13          plans to redesign DHS's children and  
14          youth component can proceed, the  
15          prevention services system must be  
16          secured.

17                        While the City continues to  
18          focus on Philadelphia Safe and Sound and  
19          its role as an intermediary, we urge you  
20          that the City does not lose sight of the  
21          bigger picture and include the provider  
22          community and consumers of services in  
23          planning efforts.

24                        This concludes my testimony.  
25          Thank you very much.

2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

serving as an incubator for creating new approaches.

Since 1906, the Federation has

5           worked with its affiliate agencies to  
6           improve the lives of hundreds of  
7           thousands of children, youth, adults and  
8           families. Many of these community-based  
9           centers, some of whom you will be hearing  
10          from today, have served multiple  
11          generations of families. Collectively,  
12          our member agencies have well over 500  
13          years of direct services to children and  
14          families in Philadelphia.

15                 Currently, our network is  
16          composed of 15 affiliate community-based  
17          settlement houses that collectively  
18          provide services to more than 100,000  
19          children, youth and families per year in  
20          45 economically challenged neighborhoods  
21          throughout Philadelphia. Programs and  
22          activities include, but are not limited  
23          to, parenting classes, out-of-school  
24          youth development activities, summer  
25          camps, adult education classes, domestic

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           violence prevention programs, senior  
3           centers, emergency assistance, family  
4           center, case management, intensive  
5           behavior wellness, workforce development  
6           and professional development for those  
7           who work with youth.

8                       Today, I would like to speak on  
9           behalf of our network -- and, again,  
10          you're going to hear more from some of  
11          our affiliate members -- about the  
12          financial and social impact that the  
13          Philadelphia Safe and Sound cuts has had  
14          on the Federation and our affiliate  
15          agencies. I would also like to address  
16          the manner in which the agencies were  
17          informed about these budget cuts.

18                      In terms of financial impact,  
19          the budget cuts have resulted in a loss  
20          of more than \$1.5 million of revenue for  
21          six of our affiliate agencies, as best as  
22          we understand it. One of these agencies  
23          alone has lost over \$600,000 of revenue.  
24          That translated into 25 individuals  
25          losing their jobs and more than 300

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           individuals losing services.

3                     Another member agency lost just  
4           under \$600,000 of revenue, resulting in  
5           26 individuals losing their jobs, and  
6           they have already been notified of their  
7           jobs being terminated. We still don't  
8           know the impact of how many children and  
9           youth have lost services, because there's  
10          still unclear information about the  
11          amount of budget, how much money is being  
12          cut at this point.

13                    For the Federation, we lost a  
14          significant amount of funding for our  
15          youth development training program that  
16          allows for the professional development  
17          of youth workers, many of whom are in  
18          great need of research-based training  
19          that improves their effectiveness in  
20          youth development practice. Research has  
21          shown that youth workers who are not  
22          properly trained to work with youth are  
23          not only often ineffective but often  
24          cause more harm to youth with respect to  
25          their emotional and social development.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           The funds that we receive through  
3           Philadelphia Safe and Sound, which was  
4           originally from DHS, were supporting this  
5           professional development training  
6           program. We are now no longer able to  
7           provide that training.

8                       During a time of escalating  
9           rates, of poor health, depression,  
10          suicide, high school dropouts, truancy  
11          and functional illiteracy among youth  
12          across our City and nation, cutting funds  
13          for prevention -- and I would rather call  
14          it investment in our youth -- has a  
15          potentially devastating impact on the  
16          lives of thousands of children, youth and  
17          families.

18                      (Applause.)

19                      MS. CORNMAN-LEVY: Thank you.

20                      With respect to the social  
21          impact of these cuts, receiving notices  
22          in the midst of the school year and the  
23          providers' fiscal year has resulted in  
24          turmoil and anxiety within the agencies  
25          and for those receiving services. In

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           addition, many children and families our  
3           affiliate members serve have been  
4           emotionally hurt due to violence in their  
5           lives. As such, building trusts with  
6           those we serve is critical to helping  
7           those heal and for building healthy  
8           communities. Cutting services to them  
9           without much notice or without any  
10          back-up plan is not only cruel, but  
11          potentially devastating to the emotional  
12          well-being of the individual and the  
13          health of the community. By cutting  
14          services, we are sending another message  
15          to those who have been hurt many times  
16          that we do not value them, that they are  
17          dispensable and that they do not belong.  
18          These acts feed into despair --

19                               (Applause.)

20                       MS. CORNMAN-LEVY: -- and  
21           hopelessness that many youth and families  
22           feel, ultimately resulting in greater  
23           violence.

24                       For those affiliate agencies  
25           that lost funding, they're doing their

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           best to keep programs open, because they  
3           are deeply committed to serving the  
4           needs. They are doing this by cutting  
5           supplies, assigning more youth to each  
6           youth worker, and using volunteers who  
7           have no experience working with youth.  
8           This results in compromising the quality  
9           of their programs and increasing the risk  
10          of burnout and turnover among their  
11          staff, which you just heard. We are  
12          losing a lot of good staff.

13                       We should not and cannot afford  
14          to keep asking the health and human  
15          service providers to do more with less,  
16          as the needs of those they serve continue  
17          to increase in both number and  
18          complexity.

19                       With respect to how we were  
20          notified about the budget cuts, I must  
21          admit that the process was disorganized,  
22          disrespectful and deeply confusing. The  
23          Federation and its six affiliate agencies  
24          received notices via fax from  
25          Philadelphia Safe and Sound on February



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           1st at around 12:00 p.m. Many of the  
3           letters, including the one addressed to  
4           me, had wrong addresses, incorrect  
5           spellings of names, and vague or no  
6           information about how much money was  
7           going to be cut. With no clear or  
8           accurate information from Philadelphia  
9           Safe and Sound, our affiliate agencies  
10          were left hanging with unanswered  
11          questions. As such, they could not make  
12          any plans for the immediate future and  
13          could not answer the many questions that  
14          children, youth and families were asking  
15          them.

16                   It is now February 21st, and  
17           the questions are still unanswered, as  
18           you just heard. Frankly, I think this is  
19           inexcusable. If funders expect service  
20           providers to be transparent, then the  
21           City administrators and others need to be  
22           transparent, too.

23                   With respect to what criteria  
24           Philadelphia Safe and Sound used to  
25           determine which program services would be

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           cut, Anne Shenberger responded with, We  
3           cut those programs that were either not  
4           functioning at full capacity and/or were  
5           located in the vicinity of another  
6           organization that provided similar  
7           programs.

8                     Out of the 11 programs that  
9           were either terminated or received less  
10          funding amongst our affiliate members,  
11          ten programs were functioning at full  
12          capacity and five programs had a waiting  
13          list of people to join their programs.

14                    For the affiliate agency in  
15          which cuts resulted in a loss of 300  
16          individuals losing services, there were  
17          no other programs in the vicinity that  
18          could accommodate those children and  
19          youth. As such, families were and  
20          continue to scramble to find a place for  
21          the children to go after school.

22                    So my question about the  
23          decision-making process remains. What  
24          was their source of data with respect to  
25          identifying those programs that were cut

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           or received less funding? From our  
3           experience, the data was either grossly  
4           inaccurate or the decision-making process  
5           was capricious.

6                       My final comment has to do with  
7           the notion that funding is no longer  
8           there to support these programs and  
9           services. From our perspective, this  
10          does not make sense. Many of the  
11          programs that lost funding were  
12          originally funded by DHS. The allocated  
13          funds were transferred to Philadelphia  
14          Safe and Sound in May and June of 2007.  
15          On October 30, 2007, we received a letter  
16          from Anne Shenberger stating that  
17          organizations that were originally  
18          receiving fundings from DHS for Fiscal  
19          Year 2008 -- I'm sorry. Anne Shenberger  
20          sent a letter to organizations that were  
21          originally receiving funds from DHS for  
22          Fiscal Year 2008 that Philadelphia Safe  
23          and Sound had signed a contract from DHS  
24          for Fiscal Year 2008. In the letter she  
25          wrote, The contract is sufficient to

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           support the operation and management of  
3           existing programs.

4                       The Federation programs that  
5           were terminated -- and ours and others in  
6           some of our affiliate agencies were  
7           existing programs, as were many of the  
8           programs that were cut among our member  
9           agencies. If this is the case, then why  
10          is there suddenly not enough funds to  
11          support these existing programs for  
12          Fiscal Year 2008 if the funds were merely  
13          transferred to and from Philadelphia Safe  
14          and Sound? Where did the money go?

15                      So I hope that this testimony  
16          provides you with a better understanding  
17          of the impact Philadelphia Safe and Sound  
18          cuts have had on the service providers  
19          and the many children, youth and families  
20          who benefit from these services. I hope  
21          that our questions are answered quickly.  
22          I hope that the money will be quickly  
23          restored to providers as soon as  
24          possible.

25                      Speaking of that, we received a

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           letter from DHS stating that we were  
3           getting our funding back. I talked to  
4           our affiliate agencies. They haven't  
5           heard anything yet.

6                       I hope we all learn from this  
7           incident that communication between City  
8           officials, funders, service providers  
9           needs to be timely, clear, open and  
10          honest.

11                     As we move forward as a city,  
12          we need to invest in the people in our  
13          city by investing in organizations that  
14          are accountable, reliable, transparent  
15          and effective. I have great faith that  
16          the new Administration will ensure that  
17          no child and no family is truly left  
18          without essential care services.

19                     Thank you very much, and this  
20          is the end of my testimony.

21                     (Applause.)

22                     COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: The Chair  
23          recognizes Councilwoman Sanchez.

24                     COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: For both  
25          of you, you're both providers and receive

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           funding. How much of your funding was  
3           cut? What percentage of your budget?

4                   MS. ZUKOSKI: The Pennsylvania  
5           Council is a membership organization. We  
6           do not receive any funding from  
7           Philadelphia Safe and Sound.

8                   COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: And you  
9           don't have an assessment of what your  
10          provider organizations were cut?

11                  MS. ZUKOSKI: Because the  
12          information with regard to the degree of  
13          the cuts, the confusing information, the  
14          inaccurate information, we have not been  
15          able to secure definitive information  
16          about the dollar amount. It's changing  
17          day to day.

18                  MS. CORNMAN-LEVY: We are in  
19          the same situation. I can tell you right  
20          now they've been told with the letters it  
21          was about \$1.6 million collectively. For  
22          a couple of these agencies it was a large  
23          percentage. But, again, the information  
24          is changing, it's not accurate, so we  
25          can't even give you accurate information

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           at this time.

3                   MS. ZUKOSKI: For example, we  
4           have one member agency who received a  
5           letter indicating that there was a cut in  
6           the number of slots for an after-school  
7           program, but the dollar amount for their  
8           contract was raised. This was the  
9           confusing and conflicting information  
10          that we're trying to get answers for.

11                   COUNCILWOMAN TASCO:  
12          Ms. Shenberger -- is she still here? We  
13          asked her to stay because there might be  
14          questions.

15                   Would you stay? We're going to  
16          proceed with further testimony.

17                   Ms. Zukoski, you talked about  
18          Act 30 and you're saying that the county  
19          has to present a Needs-Based Budget?

20                   MS. ZUKOSKI: Needs-Based Plan  
21          and Budget. It's under state statute.  
22          Every county children and youth agency in  
23          the state, all 67 of them, submit a plan  
24          and budget on an annual basis to DPW.  
25          It's based on their identified need for

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           services that the State determines the  
3           level of funding, what they're going to  
4           fund, and presents a budget, the total  
5           budget, to the Governor.

6                   COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you.

7                   COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I have  
8           one more question related to that. So  
9           what you're saying is that in the past --  
10          because I know there have been some  
11          issues with DHS, and obviously the  
12          leadership transition and instability  
13          hasn't helped. In the past, providers  
14          have not been part of the development  
15          process of our needs assessment --

16                   MS. ZUKOSKI: Correct.

17                   COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: -- going  
18          to the state?

19                   MS. ZUKOSKI: Correct. Not in  
20          a meaningful way. We are -- and the  
21          Pennsylvania Council annually provides  
22          comments on the Needs-Based Plan and  
23          Budget at a public hearing hosted by DHS.  
24          In the past two years, we had to comment  
25          on a plan without any budget attached.



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           The budget was released later and  
3           submitted to the state without any public  
4           comment.

5                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: So since  
6           1991, you haven't had any community  
7           input --

8                       MS. ZUKOSKI: Pardon me?

9                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: -- in a  
10          meaningful way?

11                      MS. ZUKOSKI: I can only speak  
12          to my tenure in the City, and I would say  
13          at least going back eight years, there  
14          has not been a meaningful and  
15          collaborative effort with the City to  
16          engage, I believe, consumers and  
17          providers of services who are on the  
18          ground, who are delivering services, who  
19          have a wealth of knowledge and expertise  
20          that they could share with the City.  
21          There has not been a meaningful dialogue  
22          with the City to inform the plan.

23                      COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: And  
24          you've been aware that up to about last  
25          year we were turning away between \$60 and

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           \$80 million in preventive money that was  
3           unused?

4                       MS. ZUKOSKI: Yes.

5                       COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank  
6           you.

7                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you.

8                       Ms. Shenberger, would you come  
9           back to the table, please.

10                      (Witness approached witness  
11           table.)

12                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Some  
13           questions have been raised relative to  
14           the insufficient communications about the  
15           cuts, what would be cut, why the cuts.  
16           You may have heard the questions that  
17           were raised. Could you respond to that,  
18           please?

19                      MS. SHENBERGER: I didn't hear  
20           the specific questions, but I can say  
21           that given the time frame that we had to  
22           prepare the budget and notify providers,  
23           I can fully understand their concern  
24           about the lack of communication and the  
25           need to sit down and talk about what the

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           letter said. So it certainly was not an  
3           optimum process and not one we would want  
4           to repeat if we had the opportunity. It  
5           should have been a much more deliberative  
6           process and involve the providers and  
7           others who had knowledge of the  
8           communities in a much more direct way,  
9           but given the time frame that we had to  
10          work in, it was extremely challenging,  
11          and then once the budget recommendations  
12          had been decided upon, then the request  
13          for notification of providers was  
14          immediate. So we were really operating  
15          under a lot of time constraints, and  
16          that's one of the reasons that we wanted  
17          to be responsive to providers, because we  
18          expected lots and lots of questions once  
19          the letters went out, and we're still --  
20          we've scheduled meetings with providers.  
21          Our executive staff had a call list of  
22          providers to make sure that everyone got  
23          a phone call to make sure they got the  
24          letter, to see if they had any questions  
25          about it, to offer a meeting, because we

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           knew it wasn't an optimum process.

3                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0:   How many  
4           providers do you have, approximately?

5                   MS. SHENBERGER:   We have -- it  
6           depends on how you phrase the question,  
7           because we have over 200 programs, but we  
8           have about 100 different providers, but  
9           for this process, we sent out over 300  
10          letters.

11                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0:   To all of  
12          the programmatic --

13                   MS. SHENBERGER:   Because  
14          individual providers might have more than  
15          one program.   So all told, we sent out  
16          over 300 letters.   So some providers got  
17          four or five letters because they had  
18          four or five programs, which then I think  
19          added further to the confusion, because  
20          they were trying to sort out what does  
21          the letter mean.

22                   There were three different  
23          template letters.   One was very clear,  
24          your program needs to close March 1st.  
25          But then there were two others, one of

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           which was a slot reduction and one of  
3           which was just a budget reduction with  
4           the same slot numbers. So imagine  
5           yourself being an agency that provides  
6           five different services contracted  
7           through Safe and Sound and getting a  
8           variety of these letters for different  
9           sites saying slightly different things,  
10          because the impact on each site might  
11          have been different.

12                        So it was not an optimum  
13          process all the way around, and we would  
14          hope that as we go forward, we're able to  
15          sit down more deliberatively with the  
16          Administration and make sure that we're  
17          all clear on what the budget is that  
18          we're implementing and how it impacts on  
19          the providers and that we do have  
20          sufficient time to make sure that people  
21          are properly notified in a respectful  
22          way.

23                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: I may have  
24          misheard Ms. Zukoski. It seemed to me  
25          that she said most of the communication

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           came from DHS.

3                     Did you say that most of the  
4           correspondence you --

5                     COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: She  
6           actually said the paper.

7                     COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Well, the  
8           paper.

9                     MS. SHENBERGER: Right. And  
10          that was another complicating fact that I  
11          think neither the City nor we had any  
12          control over, that there was information  
13          that got out to the media ahead of any of  
14          the meetings with the providers, which  
15          was very problematic.

16                    COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Was it too  
17          difficult or too confusing to have sort  
18          of a meeting of all the providers to give  
19          an explanation or would that have been  
20          too confrontational?

21                    MS. SHENBERGER: I think that  
22          it would be helpful, but almost as soon  
23          as the letters went out, then the  
24          discussion about what the impact was and  
25          the discussion with Councilmembers

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           started. So now at this point, if we had  
3           a meeting with all providers, I'm not  
4           sure what specifically we could tell  
5           them, because we need to get clarity on  
6           what the revised City position is. So  
7           things have just been moving very  
8           rapidly.

9                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: So you  
10          don't know yet what's going to happen?

11                  MS. SHENBERGER: Right. We  
12          don't yet have a revised award letter  
13          from the City.

14                  COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Well,  
15          you --

16                  COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Do you  
17          have a range? I mean, in all these  
18          discussions on Tuesday, the Mayor made an  
19          announcement. Were you given a range of  
20          a budget allocation?

21                  MS. SHENBERGER: Well, we got a  
22          phone call from the DHS budget staff  
23          saying this is the number that you're  
24          going to get in an award letter, but what  
25          it's for specifically in terms of the

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           number of slots to be restored, the  
3           actual total budget line item amounts for  
4           AVRP and the curfew centers, we don't  
5           have that kind of detail.

6                   COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: What is  
7           that number?

8                   MS. SHENBERGER: The number  
9           that we received was 57.9 million.

10                  COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: So you  
11           still have to --

12                  COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: My  
13           understanding was that the  
14           Administration, when this whole chaos  
15           started, the Administration asked Safe  
16           and Sound for recommendations on cuts.  
17           What were the recommendations that you  
18           had made as it relates to going back  
19           potentially to the 54?

20                  MS. SHENBERGER: Many of those  
21           recommendations are what the providers  
22           received, but we also went back to our  
23           evaluation process and there were some  
24           additional recommendations that we made  
25           that the City did not accept, and one of



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           those is one that came out in the  
3           newspaper ahead of time and that was  
4           regarding the curfew centers. And one of  
5           the issues with the curfew centers had to  
6           do with the fact that for a number of  
7           them there are a number of days where  
8           there are no kids being picked up, so  
9           that the utilization of the centers is  
10          not as high as had been predicted. So  
11          that was one suggestion that we thought  
12          the City would want to consider in terms  
13          of the expenditure versus the number of  
14          kids being picked up. And there are  
15          issues with the availability of police to  
16          be able to have the time to pick the kids  
17          up, and I think that was their choice,  
18          was that with more attention on the  
19          police side, that the centers themselves  
20          would be more effective. They'd get more  
21          kids because the police would be picking  
22          more kids up.

23                   COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Are  
24           those centers where I mentioned earlier  
25           we redrew the lines on them like two

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           months ago?

3                     MS. SHENBERGER: Right. This  
4           evaluation was done before that.

5                     COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: So when  
6           you were working on a \$54 million budget  
7           and everybody was going along with the 54  
8           million and then you were told you were  
9           going to get 21 million and letters went  
10          out to the providers that there will be  
11          additional money coming in and then you  
12          funded new schools, were you asking --  
13          I'm trying to get this in my head. If  
14          you had a \$54 million budget here and  
15          people sort of expanded, did you ask them  
16          to cut back their expansions and let's  
17          get back to the 54 million?

18                    MS. SHENBERGER: In most cases,  
19          that -- in the after-school programs,  
20          that's what we did. We recommended in  
21          this most recent revision that the  
22          expansion of after-school programs be  
23          closed March 1st, because some of them  
24          were slow in getting started and we felt  
25          that the impact there would be less

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           severe.

3                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: What about  
4           the new Beacon schools?

5                   MS. SHENBERGER: The new  
6           Beacons, what we did with those was, we  
7           ranked all 40 Beacons according to the  
8           criteria that I talked about earlier,  
9           whether they were expansion or existing,  
10          and looked at those that ranked in the  
11          bottom ten based on the utilization and  
12          the SACERS scores, the geography and the  
13          internal assessment of their  
14          administrative capacity.

15                  COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: So a  
16          Beacon school that had been open for a  
17          long period of time could find itself  
18          closed?

19                  MS. SHENBERGER: The  
20          utilization is a significant factor,  
21          because if we're paying for kids and  
22          families to use slots where the  
23          utilization is less than 60 percent, then  
24          the research shows that kids need to be  
25          going to programs more than once a week

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           and consistently over a period of years  
3           to achieve an impact that's positive on  
4           their behavior and their academic  
5           performance. So the number of kids who  
6           use the slots is really an important  
7           criteria. So that was weighed very  
8           heavily. So a program that had been in  
9           existence for a long time but only had  
10          maybe 20 percent utilization would be  
11          more at risk for being closed than a new  
12          program that was up at 80 or 90 percent  
13          utilization already.

14                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: But for  
15           the cuts, though, they would have  
16           remained open?

17                   MS. SHENBERGER: Right.

18                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Well, at  
19           some point, I think maybe you want to get  
20           together with some of the -- the two  
21           ladies who testified who offered  
22           testimony regarding communication. I  
23           think that needs to be better improved --

24                   MS. SHENBERGER: Yes.

25                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: -- so that

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           people understand what's happening to  
3           them.

4                       MS. SHENBERGER: Sure. And  
5           they are absolutely right in that.

6                       COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Now, I  
7           noticed that from the Mayor's fact sheet  
8           from his testimony on Tuesday that you've  
9           been asked to look at your salaries and  
10          benefits of your organization. Have you  
11          done that? I mean, what would the impact  
12          be on your salaries, your staffing?

13                      MS. SHENBERGER: Well, we did  
14          reduce our -- I actually have that  
15          information in my cheat sheet, so I can  
16          provide that to you. But we had a  
17          budgeted staff in the \$75 million budget  
18          of about 103 positions and as of today,  
19          we have 73. So that's in my testimony.  
20          I talked about what we did is a  
21          belt-tightening process. And we laid off  
22          a number of people at the beginning of  
23          February as well.

24                      So with respect to the actual  
25          salaries and benefits when I first came

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           to the organization, I engaged a  
3           compensation firm to do a salary study  
4           and establish a compensation plan for the  
5           organization. So we implemented that in  
6           the fall of 2006, the fall and winter of  
7           2006. So we've had a compensation plan  
8           that's based on industry standards since  
9           that time.

10                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Also in  
11           this fact sheet -- maybe you can answer  
12           if you want to -- the Nutter  
13           Administration's FY08 actions announced  
14           February 19th hold children harmless  
15           while directing Philadelphia Safe and  
16           Sound to reduce its administrative  
17           budget, preserving all after-school  
18           programs, including Beacon after-school  
19           programs, preserving all curfew centers,  
20           preserving FAST, truancy and parenting  
21           programs, preserving AVRIP services,  
22           directing of Safe and Sound to identify  
23           additional savings elsewhere in its  
24           budget, particularly in administration so  
25           as to maximize services for children,

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           administration seeking funding sources  
3           elsewhere in DHS, installing a City  
4           monitor with Safe and Sound to monitor  
5           its use of City funds, and preserving  
6           foster care and protective services for  
7           14,000 children and youth by restoring  
8           200 contracts cut by the Street  
9           Administration, to provide Safe and Sound  
10          with funding above the level approved by  
11          City Council and the State.

12                       Now, what do you think about  
13          that?

14                      MS. SHENBERGER: Well, that's a  
15          mouthful to comment on. So we're looking  
16          forward to sitting down with the  
17          Administration and making sure that we're  
18          both on the same page in terms of the  
19          restorations and what they'll cost, and  
20          certainly we will be looking at our own  
21          costs to see where else we can reduce  
22          them as well.

23                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Well,  
24          that's not for you to answer. I mean,  
25          because you can't answer it. That's the

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           Mayor's promised commitment to these  
3           actions. So based on this, I would not  
4           send out any other announcements until  
5           you had a discussion to see --

6                       MS. SHENBERGER: That's right.

7                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: -- how all  
8           of this is going to take place, because  
9           it further exacerbates all of the pain  
10          and anxiety that the providers are  
11          experiencing at this time.

12                      MS. SHENBERGER: Exactly.

13                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: So  
14          hopefully --

15                      MS. SHENBERGER: Hopefully that  
16          will take place soon.

17                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you.

18                      COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I'm  
19          going to add one thing to that that's not  
20          on here where I'm in disagreement with  
21          the Administration, and that is of the  
22          PTOs, because in all these discussions --  
23          and I'm sure we have some testimony from  
24          PTOs -- I have a big concern around how  
25          we lay off 300 parents that we've engaged



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           in our school-based prevention program.

3                       (Applause.)

4                       COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So that  
5           if the number is 57.9 million, or  
6           whatever it is, that we really look at  
7           how do we reduce things in a way so that  
8           we can preserve what we can until at  
9           least June 1st, almost at the end of the  
10          school year, but that we also look at  
11          what is going to happen next year and  
12          that we, again, impact that needs  
13          assessment program.

14                      But I will put on the record  
15          that I will continue to push the  
16          Administration to revisit the PTO  
17          situation in a way just like we've done  
18          with the kids. And while I understand  
19          that the focus is the kids, these are  
20          parents of those kids. So it's still --

21                      (Applause.)

22                      COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: --  
23          having an impact on their families.

24                      MS. SHENBERGER: Sure.

25                      COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Okay.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           Would you still stay around?

3                   MS. SHENBERGER: Yeah. I will  
4           be around. If I'm not here, I'll be out  
5           in the hallway.

6                   COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you.

7                   The Chair calls on Mr. David  
8           Fattah and Tracey Gordon.

9                   (Witnesses approached witness  
10          table.)

11                  COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Tracey,  
12          you're familiar with this process. You  
13          come at 10:00. You stay until 6:00.

14                  MS. GORDON: Yup. And I'm  
15          going to do ten minutes on this.

16                  Good afternoon, Councilwoman  
17          Tasco. Thank you for holding these  
18          meetings, and welcome and good afternoon  
19          to you, Councilwoman Sanchez.

20                  I just want to comment that if  
21          we can't trust a Mayor, whether he's  
22          incoming or outgoing, then we elected  
23          him, he was the Chief Executive Officer  
24          of the City, and I would wonder why he's  
25          not here testifying, along with his

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           Managing Director.

3                       I'm not here representing any  
4           particular group. I'm coming here as a  
5           parent, a parent who was born and raised  
6           in Philadelphia and, unfortunately, when  
7           I was married, I was in a very abusive  
8           relationship and had to leave, and  
9           without the support services that I got  
10          from the City, I would not have been able  
11          to take my four children to a safe haven,  
12          go back and get my college degree from  
13          both Community and Temple with honors  
14          and --

15                       (Applause.)

16                       MS. GORDON: -- not to mention  
17          be comfortable working a 9:00 to 5:00,  
18          knowing that my children, who all were at  
19          the time ten and under -- I had an infant  
20          at one point and that had to go to a  
21          provider, and I was very, very, very  
22          leery about leaving my kids, because I  
23          was his housewife and, you know, I have  
24          certain dietary rules and certain things  
25          that I want my kids to be exposed to, and

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           in this environment where you don't  
3           know -- volunteers is one thing, but when  
4           people are working around my children or  
5           anybody's child or grandchild, I want  
6           them to have a criminal background check  
7           and I want them to have child abuse  
8           clearance and I don't want them to be  
9           pedophiles and all that kind of stuff.

10                   This is a serious -- this is a  
11           blemish on the City of Philadelphia.  
12           This is a contradiction to Mayor Nutter's  
13           campaign that he wanted us to restore  
14           safety in our neighborhoods and he wanted  
15           to graduate more kids. When you suspend  
16           300 truancy programs -- and you know for  
17           a fact that this was the first year that  
18           I ever received a letter that told me  
19           that, Your son was absent on this day and  
20           we didn't get a note. My kids are hardly  
21           ever absent and I had to think, because  
22           I'm like when was he absent, and that was  
23           as a result of this truancy program and  
24           the partnership with the School District  
25           of Philadelphia.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                           (Applause.)

3                   MS. GORDON: And I think -- to  
4 fund parks is great and to fund  
5 recreation is great, but when you don't  
6 fund for a parent -- a lot of us are  
7 single parents, male or females, and a  
8 lot of us are struggling to work from day  
9 to day. A lot of us got to take two  
10 jobs. You cannot be efficient on your  
11 job when you don't know where your child  
12 is.

13                           (Applause.)

14                   MS. GORDON: And \$21 million is  
15 21 cents when it compares to the safety  
16 of our children.

17                           (Applause.)

18                   MS. GORDON: I'm a community  
19 leader as well. Okay? Studies will tell  
20 you -- we don't have to do no more  
21 studies. Between the times of 3 o'clock  
22 and 6 o'clock is when our children  
23 between the ages of 8 and 17 are  
24 introduced to drugs, pre-marital sex,  
25 crime. That's a study that's been done.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           You go over the Youth Study Center and  
3           most of the kids, I will guarantee you,  
4           that are in Youth Study Center have never  
5           had the chance to be in a program that  
6           after-school programs provide, and for us  
7           to be dillydallying over \$21 million, it  
8           is a disgrace.

9                       (Applause.)

10                    MS. GORDON: It is a disgrace.  
11           And I took off from my job and I wrote a  
12           letter, and I know they say I have a big  
13           mouth, but I'm going to continue to have  
14           a big mouth, because how in the world  
15           could you tell a parent that they got  
16           until March the 1st to find an  
17           after-school program? How in the world  
18           are you going to tell --

19                    (Applause.)

20                    MS. GORDON: By the way, I've  
21           worked for one of the subsidiaries of  
22           Safe and Sound and I do believe -- this  
23           is my own opinion -- that it must be like  
24           a personal vendetta, because Safe and  
25           Sound always was synonymous with Naomi

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           Street, and it never -- when you say Safe  
3           and Sound, let's talk about the good  
4           things. I worked for -- I ran an  
5           after-school program. In one week, one  
6           week, I recruited 100 and had to turn  
7           almost 50 to 100 families away. I was  
8           over capacity, but I said we were going  
9           to make this work. And this was in  
10          Southwest Philadelphia. I have Hispanic  
11          families that was in that program. The  
12          parents could not even speak English from  
13          Dominican Republic who would bring their  
14          little kids to me, and I would have a  
15          six-year-old translate to their mother  
16          and the mother translated back to their  
17          child, because they needed a safe haven,  
18          because they had come here from Dominican  
19          Republic, come to work and they didn't  
20          have to worry about an after-school  
21          program because the after-school program  
22          was in the school that they attended  
23          until 6 o'clock. And not only that, not  
24          only that, we fed -- we not only fed  
25          those kids, they partnership with

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           programs like Spirit Puppet where they  
3           came in and taught the third and fourth  
4           graders not only how to write a play,  
5           produce a play, direct a play, they  
6           created their own super sized puppets and  
7           performed the play and performed it for  
8           the Paul Robeson months later to preserve  
9           those -- we had Drexel University coming  
10          there and teach those children and bring  
11          their families in and teach them what to  
12          eat and what not to eat. These programs  
13          are good, and this was all for free.

14                   The public school system every  
15          other week, half a day or -- you can't  
16          take those many days off at work and  
17          then --

18                   (Applause.)

19                   MS. GORDON: -- the  
20          Administration is going to tell Welfare  
21          to Work, you get off welfare because  
22          we're tired of you on welfare. Well,  
23          those Welfare to Work mothers have  
24          children and somebody got to take care of  
25          those children. And the programs -- and



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           the applications that we have -- by the  
3           way, I had 100 people signed up. It's  
4           this thick. Them parents filled them  
5           out. I had the lady that was Hispanic  
6           couldn't even read it. I had the  
7           six-year-old sit there and translate the  
8           entire -- because they needed those  
9           programs.

10                   So for us to be dillydallying  
11           around here for \$21 million is a sad  
12           blemish. And as far as the  
13           Administration goes -- and we welcome it,  
14           a new day, a new way, whatever. You know  
15           what I mean? How in the world are you  
16           going to have people graduating when the  
17           parents don't even know where they kids  
18           is?

19                   And I'm telling you, I'm a  
20           community -- I'm in my community every  
21           day. I look out my window. I'm the  
22           noosy neighbor. The kids that don't go  
23           to after-school programs in my community  
24           are the ones that are either now in jail  
25           or now they're getting out of jail and

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           saying, Ms. Tracey, I'm trying to do the  
3           right thing. The kids that had  
4           supervision, whether the supervision was  
5           your mother said, You better not leave  
6           out this house until I come home, or they  
7           had them in music programs, those are the  
8           kids on my block that are now in college,  
9           graduating from college.

10                   So \$21 million is chump change  
11           compared to what we need in these  
12           programs, and it is really a shame.

13                   (Applause.)

14                   COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you  
15           very much.

16                   MS. GORDON: It is a shame.

17                   And then lastly I will say, we  
18           got one of the worst graduation rates in  
19           the country. The City of Brotherly Love,  
20           the worst graduation. And we're going to  
21           suspend the truancy program. The truancy  
22           program, then parents was going out in  
23           bad neighborhoods, knocking on them  
24           doors, you know, taking a chance of being  
25           assaulted by the children. The parents

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           who may be on drugs or knew they was  
3           wrong, maybe the kid wasn't going to  
4           school because they was being abused.

5                       And we are in the beginning  
6           stages of a serious Blood/Crip gang  
7           problem, and we better get more  
8           after-school problems, because we are  
9           getting ready to get just like Los  
10          Angeles is and just like Trenton is right  
11          now. And I just ask you, Councilwoman  
12          Tasco and every Councilperson that's  
13          here, \$21 million is 21 cents when it  
14          compares to what our kids need. This is  
15          crazy. And Mayor Nutter, as educated as  
16          he is -- he has a daughter, Olivia. She  
17          the one that put him on the map with that  
18          commercial. She has. She put him on the  
19          map.

20                       (Applause.)

21                       MS. GORDON: That girl, I bet  
22          you she in an after-school program. And  
23          from what I heard, that she got on the  
24          bus and went to her mother's job and was  
25          with her mother. How many of y'all can

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           bring your kids to your job and sit them  
3           there until you get off work?

4                     It's unfair, and we need to  
5           just stop playing these games. And that  
6           lady gave some statistics. How come we  
7           sent back money -- we should have never  
8           sent a cent back to DPW. That's a  
9           blemish on the community. That's a  
10          blemish on the City of Brotherly Love.  
11          And we need -- and, yes, he had to  
12          reverse that. He had to reverse that  
13          because he knew that the people that he  
14          doing the most damage on is the ones that  
15          was voting for him. It's a shame.

16                     (Applause.)

17                     COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you  
18          very much.

19                     MS. GORDON: I don't mean to  
20          holler at y'all, but I'm passionate about  
21          this. And I will for the record say my  
22          kids are grown, so that it ain't about  
23          Tracey's little kids. My youngest is 16  
24          and he finds after school things to do.  
25          He had to go outside the county to do it,

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           but I'm working on that in my district.  
3           He had to go to Yeadon to find a  
4           basketball, because my district is having  
5           some problems.

6                       But the bottom line is, one  
7           graduated from college, one a year and a  
8           half in college, one just got out of a  
9           school and now she's in a program,  
10          somewhat like a Safe and Sound, that has  
11          not only given her a stipend, but given  
12          her money if she completes it every year  
13          to further her education. This program  
14          is a jewel. We should not run it in the  
15          ground.

16                       (Applause.)

17                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you  
18          very much.

19                       Mr. Fattah?

20                       Thank you very much for your  
21          testimony, Ms. Gordon.

22                       MR. FATTAH: Good afternoon.

23                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Good  
24          afternoon.

25                       MR. FATTAH: Thank you, Sister.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                   I'm going to spare you that.  
3       Don't get nervous. Giving honor to God.  
4       I really appreciate you having this  
5       hearing, Ms. Tasco.

6                   Lady Sanchez, I think you just  
7       got elected here. We're glad to see you  
8       down here. I haven't been down here in a  
9       while.

10                  My good friend, Curtis Jones,  
11       Jr., and his crew. And I kind of  
12       predicted -- of course, Ms. Blackwell.

13                  The new crew came, it's going  
14       to getting a little bit more exciting  
15       down here. I haven't been disappointed,  
16       because this is indeed a passionate  
17       issue.

18                  I'm from the House of Umoja.  
19       For those of you who do not know, the  
20       House of Umoja has three basic functions  
21       as we see them. One is that we have a  
22       residential situation for young people.  
23       We have had this situation for some time.  
24       We have 15 young men that we have gotten  
25       and we try to encourage to go to school.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           We call it our truancy prevention  
3           program.

4                       The other thing the House of  
5           Umoja does is that we deal with conflicts  
6           and we try to stop violence in the  
7           neighborhood and violence in the schools.  
8           In terms of the neighborhood, we've been  
9           very fortunate. We were able to resolve  
10          some serious conflicts in the last three  
11          or four years. We've added some groups  
12          in our neighborhood so that the schools  
13          could move a lot more easily.

14                      The other thing we do, we have  
15          about 13 schools that we look and take  
16          care of. We have people working there,  
17          and I work -- and some of them what they  
18          call is emergency response, and I'm going  
19          to talk a little bit about that before I  
20          leave, if I have the opportunity.

21                      But I can understand how you  
22          feel. I really can. For example, this  
23          thing called a suspension letter, it's  
24          kind of like a school suspension, but  
25          usually if we get a suspension, there's a

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           reason to it, you did something or you  
3           didn't do something, bingo here it go. I  
4           remember very clearly that we got such a  
5           letter and it was around Christmastime.  
6           These letters came around Christmastime  
7           to about 200 providers such as myself who  
8           take care of children. Now, usually  
9           around Christmastime you expect a  
10          Christmas card.

11                       Now, I've been sitting here  
12          today. My mind has been blown to hear  
13          that this letter was mainly some type of  
14          accounting malfunction like they had at  
15          the Super Bowl, only nobody said, Excuse  
16          me, here's your money back, we was just  
17          jiving, don't panic, Dave.

18                       But the main thing I'd like to  
19          say to you before I leave is, one, I  
20          think that somebody owes some folks an  
21          apology and some children for sending out  
22          such a letter around Christmastime, and  
23          that should be dealt with.

24                       Secondly, I'd like to testify  
25          on behalf of Sayre High School. Sayre



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           has a Beacon program in its high school  
3           and we've been able to use that in terms  
4           of the gathering place in the midst of  
5           situations where kids have been killed.  
6           A year ago from today a child was killed  
7           trying to get to Sayre School, and he  
8           also had a gun laying next to him. We  
9           went into Sayre and talked to the  
10          children and were able to get this  
11          resolved.

12                       One of the things we did, we  
13          had two serious meetings. Councilwoman  
14          Blackwell was kind enough to be at one.  
15          We started a Safe Corridors in one, and  
16          we asked the Beacon program and the Home  
17          and School Association if they could just  
18          get one of the groups to that meeting  
19          that have been shooting around the  
20          school, we think perhaps we would  
21          convince them to stop and maybe our  
22          children could get in and out that school  
23          without further bloodshed. This was  
24          accomplished.

25                       We went to these kids a year

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           ago today, on February the 29th, the last  
3           day of Black History Month. The kids at  
4           Sayre University, at Sayre -- it's now a  
5           high school, excuse me, not a university,  
6           but they act that way -- signed this  
7           document. This is called an Imani  
8           Pledge. "Whereas, in 1974, the youth in  
9           the City of Philadelphia took the bold  
10          step to ensure that following generations  
11          would not have to experience the  
12          self-destruction and agony of gang  
13          warfare. We honor them for this and for  
14          keeping their word.

15                 "Whereas, inasmuch as our  
16          ancestors, parents, teachers, caregivers,  
17          elder community members and others that  
18          have shed blood that we might acquire an  
19          education, we give our word to refrain  
20          from fighting during school, after school  
21          and inside of school, and we encourage  
22          those that we know to do the same.

23                 "Whereas, we too are a proud  
24          generation and we want to succeed.

25                 "On this day, I" -- and they

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           sign their name -- "sign this document to  
3           let it be known wherever it needs to be  
4           known that I care deeply about our  
5           community and will do all in my power to  
6           return us to our traditional greatness.

7                       "Let my word be my bond."

8                       And we're going to send a copy  
9           of this to people that like to send  
10          suspension letters.

11                      And I'd like to commend the  
12          children that are here today and young  
13          folks. It's our thing here today we want  
14          to promote the welfare, safety and your  
15          aspirations. It's good that you're here  
16          to see and begin to get your lessons in  
17          life to find out that this is no easy  
18          job.

19                      I'd like to thank you for this  
20          opportunity. If you want to see this and  
21          sign this and send it to us, we have a  
22          festival once a year. Over 5,000 young  
23          people have been involved with this  
24          process, and we would like to give you  
25          the credit you deserve for helping to try

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           to make this City safer and that we can  
3           move forward in peace and prosperity.

4                     Thank you very much.

5                     (Applause.)

6                     MS. WEISS: Good afternoon.

7                     COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Please  
8           state your name for the record and  
9           proceed with your testimony.

10                    MS. WEISS: I'll do that.

11                    COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Please.  
12           Thank you very much.

13                    MS. WEISS: Thank you,  
14           Councilwoman, members of Council. I'm  
15           Cheryl Weiss. I'm the Executive Director  
16           of Diversified Community Services. We're  
17           based in Point Breeze, Councilmanic  
18           District No. 2. We have several  
19           contracts with Safe and Sound that  
20           include a Beacon at the Vare Middle  
21           School, various after-school programs in  
22           public schools and the Adolescent  
23           Violence Reduction Partnership. So at  
24           any given time, we're serving about 450  
25           kids on a day.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                   I want to applaud the City  
3       Administration for restoring the funding  
4       for the after-school programs, but at  
5       this moment, it is at best difficult to  
6       know what this means since we've had no  
7       communication. Prior to the Mayor's  
8       announcement, we sustained cuts as  
9       follows: We lost the truancy prevention  
10      program that's been referenced that was  
11      across the board. We lost an  
12      after-school program for at least 30 kids  
13      at our new social service center. We  
14      took a \$20,000 budget cut in our Beacon  
15      program, and I just found out this  
16      morning that another one of our programs  
17      has about \$9,000 left, which means that I  
18      will close it down, throw 40 kids out and  
19      lay off five staff.

20                   The point here is that if I  
21      seem a little uncertain, I am. This  
22      entire process has been managed  
23      abysmally. There's been no single point  
24      of contact or communication. The  
25      notification that we've received has

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           been, at best, contradictory. One day I  
3           have a program; the next day I don't. I  
4           run a business, albeit a non-profit one,  
5           and I need to be able to run my operation  
6           in a rational way.

7                        To underscore that point, just  
8           now, about an hour ago, although this is  
9           not related to Safe and Sound, we are  
10          finding out that the Department of Human  
11          Services on the community-based  
12          prevention side is e-mailing around to  
13          directors and others to find out how I  
14          can make cuts in a program by Sunday. I  
15          have a signed contract with the City of  
16          Philadelphia. That's an outrage to me.  
17          And I agree with the woman before me. I  
18          have a letter from the City of  
19          Philadelphia. I think that should be  
20          good enough and not have to make cuts  
21          like this.

22                       Let me also respond to this  
23          notion or the comment referencing the  
24          letter that Safe and Sound sent out in  
25          mid-October. I received a copy of that

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           letter, and the letter was quite  
3           specific. It said if you are opening up  
4           new programs or expansion programs, you  
5           might be skating on thin ice.

6                     The programs I'm referring to  
7           here are not new. I've had them for five  
8           years. We started the curfew center, my  
9           agency. We were the first ever. One day  
10          it's here; the next day it's gone. I  
11          think it's back, but today I'm told it  
12          may be gone again.

13                    So we need some rationality  
14          here. We're running services. And the  
15          impact on our families as well as our  
16          workforce is really great.

17                    And let me just make this one  
18          other point about the use of the basis  
19          upon which decisions were made. There's  
20          been reference to something called the  
21          SACERS. It's referred to -- what it  
22          means is School-Age Children's  
23          Environmental Rating Scale, and all that  
24          is is a scale by which to evaluate a  
25          program. We were told, all of us who

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           received funding, contracts with Safe and  
3           Sound, that when the SACERS score, an  
4           assessment tool, would be administered in  
5           May of the past spring, 2007, this would  
6           be used as a base, an opportunity for all  
7           of us to improve our programs. Well, you  
8           know what, Councilwoman? I didn't get  
9           the results of my SACERS scores until  
10          mid-December. How in goodness sakes was  
11          I going to make any kind of improvement  
12          in my programs if I'm just finding out  
13          about it in mid-December? And it's on  
14          that basis that --

15                               (Applause.)

16                               MS. WEISS: -- cuts were made.  
17          That's not right. That's not fair.

18                               So as we move forward, I would  
19          ask the new Administration and City  
20          Council newly configured that you involve  
21          us and members of the community in  
22          planning. Those of us who have been  
23          doing this work, toiling in the vineyard,  
24          we've got years and years of experience  
25          and knowledge to be shared, and this



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           process could have been managed a great  
3           deal better had we been involved from the  
4           get-go.

5                       Thank you.

6                       (Applause.)

7                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Let me  
8           just ask you a question.

9                       Up until this point with this  
10          scenario, what was your relationship and  
11          what was the relationship with Safe and  
12          Sound with your program?

13                      MS. WEISS: What was our  
14          relationship?

15                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Yes. The  
16          service they provided, the communication,  
17          what was the quality of communication and  
18          information that you received from the  
19          program?

20                      MS. WEISS: I would say over  
21          time the level of communication with Safe  
22          and Sound, quite frankly, has improved.  
23          From when we were first involved, I don't  
24          know, five years ago, the communication  
25          was very irregular and spotty. Now at

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           this point, I'm almost overwhelmed with  
3           communication on an ongoing basis. I  
4           mean, we get all kinds of letters,  
5           e-mails and so forth.

6                       With respect to this particular  
7           process, the communication has been, at  
8           best, confusing, and I think, as Anne  
9           Shenberger pointed out, if you're not  
10          reading those letters really carefully  
11          and looking at the templates, well, I  
12          mean, given that I have seven different  
13          contracts, I got seven different letters.  
14          You know, I had Pile A, maybe, yes, no.  
15          I mean, it was difficult to sort out.  
16          But, in general, the communication with  
17          Safe and Sound has been certainly  
18          adequate.

19                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you.

20                      Good afternoon, Mr. Amato.

21                      MR. AMATO: Good afternoon and  
22           thank you for this opportunity to speak  
23           to you today. My name is Jim Amato,  
24           Deputy Secretary for Catholic Social  
25           Services.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                   Catholic Social Services

3           currently operates ten Beacon programs in  
4           Archdiocesan elementary schools and three  
5           after-school programs through a contract  
6           with Philadelphia Safe and Sound. The  
7           Beacon programs were implemented over the  
8           past 15 months and were very well  
9           received and attended by the parents and  
10          children that we serve. The February  
11          announcement of the drastic reduction in  
12          funding for our Beacons and after-school  
13          program jeopardized after-school services  
14          for 370 children and 403 adolescents.

15                  The notice did not provide  
16          appropriate time for transition planning,  
17          so suffice it to say, that we were  
18          tremendously relieved to hear that the  
19          funding even for the after-school  
20          programs was restored. Although this is  
21          good news, we are now in the process of  
22          laying off staff in the four Beacon  
23          programs where funding is being reduced.  
24          We have not received confirmation from  
25          Safe and Sound regarding the funding

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           level for the remainder of this fiscal  
3           year. Beyond that, we are uncertain as  
4           to what next fiscal year will mean for  
5           the children and families we serve.

6                       Again, we were pleased with the  
7           Mayor's announcement on Tuesday that the  
8           after-school programs and our Beacons  
9           will continue, as this is vital for the  
10          communities, children and parents and  
11          schools. With that, we need to know the  
12          specific funding level for current  
13          programs. Also, changes of this scope  
14          require provider input, as we are in  
15          daily contact with the communities,  
16          families and children served and are  
17          positioned to provide critical advice as  
18          to what programs need to be maintained.

19                      Thank you for your time and  
20          attention.

21                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you  
22          very much for your testimony.

23                      (Applause.)

24                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: And thank  
25          you for waiting. I appreciate it. Nice

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           to see you again.

3                   COUNCILMAN JONES: Excuse me.

4           Madam Chairman?

5                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Yes.

6                   COUNCILMAN JONES: If I may,  
7           before they go.

8                   First of all, to everyone who  
9           spoke thus far and who are about to  
10          speak, thank you for your endurance. I  
11          know how long this hearing has been.

12                  And to you, Madam Chairwoman,  
13          you have stamina that I'm impressed with.

14                  COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: I'm just  
15          numb.

16                  COUNCILMAN JONES: Cheryl, I've  
17          worked with you in another life and I  
18          know you to be a quantitative person,  
19          I'll put it that way. And I won't call  
20          you a bean counter, but you were in the  
21          Finance Department and you know your  
22          stuff when it comes to measurement.

23                  My theory is, if it ain't  
24          measured, it ain't managed. So it is a  
25          theory that says that if you can quantify

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           certain things and you can cost account  
3           certain things, you see the benefit of  
4           certain things.

5                     Now, if I understand these  
6           fundings correctly -- and I just checked  
7           with people smarter than myself -- that  
8           we're doing the Beacon centers and the  
9           after-school programs in the truancy  
10          centers, right?

11                    MS. WEISS: Curfew.

12                    COUNCILMAN JONES: Curfew  
13          centers. Now, if we talk about measuring  
14          that, have we quantified -- and I read  
15          the Report Cards that are produced.  
16          We're quantifying what the after-school  
17          programs mean in terms of educational  
18          attainment and grade performance and all  
19          of the different measurements there,  
20          right?

21                    MS. WEISS: Is your question,  
22          Councilman, are there outcome measures  
23          for these various programs?

24                    COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes.

25                    MS. WEISS: Yes and no. Yes

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           and no. In some cases -- this is my  
3           opinion. Our curfew center, for example,  
4           we've been up the longest. We've been  
5           running for about a year and a half, and  
6           at least based on the data that I have  
7           seen from the Police Department, the  
8           level of crime in the 17th Police  
9           Precinct has dropped from a high of about  
10          18 percent now to about three percent.  
11          Now, that's not to say that -- and for  
12          other reasons, that in addition to the  
13          curfew center, the other curfew centers,  
14          some of them have only been open for  
15          about six months or seven months and  
16          others have just started as recently as  
17          November. So the data isn't there.

18                       In the case of after-school  
19          programs, I can tell you that at least  
20          for us, given the level of staff that we  
21          can employ, we're not really boosting  
22          children's academic performance. I would  
23          not want to go on record saying that, but  
24          what I can say is that in our  
25          neighborhood, which is really one of the

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           most violent in the City, we provide a  
3           safe place for kids to go, that they've  
4           got a safe place, that mom or dad or both  
5           know that their child comes to my place,  
6           that I have a staff in place who have  
7           been cleared, that they're engaged in  
8           productive activities. Does it play out  
9           that I'm going to improve their reading  
10          scores? You know, they're with me 12  
11          hours a week. I don't know that I can  
12          prove that to you, but I do think it  
13          makes a difference in the neighborhood.  
14          I think the neighborhood is safer. It's  
15          less chaotic. I mean, all of those  
16          things taken together make for a better  
17          place.

18                   COUNCILMAN JONES: Sure. I  
19           asked you that because what would be  
20           helpful for me and I believe this Council  
21           and Administration is that 24 percent of  
22           the City's budget is represented in the  
23           judicial process, the police force and  
24           its prisons, 24 percent of the budget.  
25           If we look at what prevention does,



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           prevention does, and you cost it out --  
3           and I'm almost trying to draw it out of  
4           you to say that an ounce of prevention is  
5           worth a pound of cure. If we are paying  
6           \$31,000 annually to incarcerate an  
7           individual annually and the people who  
8           build and plan for prisons know that if a  
9           child in the inner city cannot read up to  
10          grade level at the age of -- at the  
11          fourth grade level, they can predict how  
12          many prison cells to build, that it seems  
13          to me retro-engineering that we can make  
14          a case for --

15                               (Applause.)

16                               MS. WEISS: Right.

17                               COUNCILMAN JONES: And when I  
18          worked in the Finance Department, you  
19          were more quantitative than I, but I  
20          would love to see a model on over time,  
21          over time how we impact that through  
22          various programs like this.

23                               When a kid can read, he can  
24          work. When a kid can work, he doesn't  
25          have to steal. I have yet to meet a

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           \$50,000 a year armed robber, you know.  
3           So I want to --

4                       MS. WEISS: That's true.

5                       COUNCILMAN JONES: I want to  
6           try to over time quantify.

7                       Finally, I would say this, that  
8           after-school programs -- and I've dealt  
9           in economic development most of my adult  
10          life, but before that, I came from the  
11          House of Umoja's Boys Town, which is the  
12          first after-school program I had the  
13          misfortune of and fortune of having to be  
14          in.

15                      My point to you is this, that  
16          we have to measure things differently  
17          today. We have to show what prevention  
18          actually does at the end product and  
19          outcome of other budgets that we have to  
20          assume. So if we can do that, if I can  
21          urge financial people like yourself to  
22          kind of plan on those kinds of models, I  
23          think we can argue a lot more effectively  
24          for the effectiveness of some of these  
25          programs. Even if you can't quantify the

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           grade amount, if you can quantify the  
3           fact that that person is in an  
4           after-school program, they're not in the  
5           dangerous hours of crime for juveniles,  
6           then that's a measurement.

7                       MS. WEISS: Oh, absolutely, and  
8           I think that we can certainly produce  
9           that kind of measurement and outcome  
10          based on cost, because if its \$31,000 to  
11          put a person in jail, I mean, you know, I  
12          can take care of a kid in an after-school  
13          program for 1,500 and keep that kid out  
14          of a detention facility and then on to an  
15          adult prison. So I'd be happy to do  
16          that.

17                      MR. AMATO: I would just add  
18          very quickly, we know at this moment of  
19          time, at 5:35 on a Thursday evening, that  
20          literally hundreds of parents are picking  
21          up children at Catholic elementary Beacon  
22          schools who have their homework done, who  
23          have been fed a nutritious snack and have  
24          enjoyed their peers and their parents  
25          have been able to work. Measurement is

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           important. I think that speaks for  
3           itself.

4                       (Applause.)

5                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you.  
6           Thank you both for your testimony. We  
7           appreciate it very much.

8                       Cheryl, nice seeing you again.

9                       MS. WEISS: Thank you,  
10          Councilwoman.

11                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: We've been  
12          around a long time, haven't we?

13                      MS. WEISS: Oh, gosh, yeah.  
14          Thank you.

15                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: I'm glad  
16          to see you're still working in the  
17          community.

18                      We next have William Harris,  
19          Brenda Blair, Gesu Beacon. Susan Hicks,  
20          Michael Fagan, Belinda Harrison, Katrina  
21          McCoy from the REDI-Harrison Beacon.

22                      Are you all here?

23                      (Witnesses approached witness  
24          table.)

25                      UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Not

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           everyone.

3                   COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: We'll

4           entertain those people who are here.

5                   The next group will be Pat

6           Hines and Shelah Harper.

7                   We again ask you all, please,

8           to summarize your testimony.

9                   Thank you.

10                  MS. HICKS: Good afternoon,

11       Councilwoman Tasco and Councilwoman

12       Quinones-Sanchez. My name is Susan

13       Hicks. I am the Site Director of the

14       REDI-Harrison Beacon program located in

15       the heart of North Philadelphia. We are

16       in a high-need, low-resource area.

17       However, our program has been slated to

18       be cut by March the 1st.

19                  Over the past six years, we

20       have serviced over 679 youth. Currently,

21       we have 112 youth enrolled, of which --

22                  COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Just a

23       moment.

24                  Could we ask you to please take

25       your conversations to the hall, please.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           Thank you.

3                       Go ahead.

4                       MS. HICKS: Of which 95 attend  
5           on a daily basis.

6                       Data-wise, with our Beacon  
7           being shut down, it would affect over 300  
8           people because of the fact that these are  
9           the families. And we did a data  
10          collection to determine all the families  
11          that were involved, including staff, and  
12          that comes to about 300 people within a  
13          five-block radius.

14                      At the REDI-Harrison Beacon, we  
15          are the only service for elementary-aged  
16          students that's located in that area.  
17          Other area Beacons do not have programs  
18          designed for elementary school ages, from  
19          ages 5 to 11, nor the properly trained  
20          staff with this population.

21                      The closure of the  
22          REDI-Harrison Beacon will directly create  
23          after-school childcare issues for over 75  
24          families, many with working parents whom  
25          rely upon the REDI-Harrison Beacon as a

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           resource for affordable after-school  
3           programming. No other alternative exists  
4           within our community.

5                         REDI-Harrison employs  
6           qualitative curriculum. REDI-Harrison  
7           Beacon offers a wide variety of  
8           programming geared towards ages 5 to 11  
9           years old. All programs are conducted by  
10          our consultants, and we have teachers  
11          that are constantly in training for  
12          professional development. To date, the  
13          REDI-Harrison Beacon contracts over five  
14          different consultants annually.

15                        REDI-Harrison Beacon is located  
16          inside the Harrison Elementary School.  
17          The majority of our youth attend the  
18          Harrison Elementary School, thus parents  
19          don't have to worry about transporting  
20          youth from school to an after-school  
21          program. Parents don't have to worry  
22          about youth traveling the dangerous  
23          streets of North Philadelphia to get to  
24          an after-school program. Parents don't  
25          have to worry about youth going to empty

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           homes while parents are working.

3                       We have in-class disciplinary  
4           problems. Our in-class disciplinary  
5           problems are minimized due to the  
6           partnership between our Beacon staff and  
7           the Philadelphia school teachers.  
8           REDI-Harrison Beacon staff provides  
9           direct support to the District academic  
10          curriculum. REDI-Harrison Beacon staff  
11          provides direct support on site, and we  
12          reinforce what the teachers do during the  
13          day and basically the overall academic  
14          curriculum of the Philadelphia School  
15          District.

16                      Harrison teachers testify that  
17          Beacon attendees' grades and behavior  
18          improve dramatically after being enrolled  
19          in our Beacon program. REDI-Harrison  
20          Beacon's attendance and participation  
21          levels are overwhelming. REDI-Harrison  
22          Beacon enjoys an attendance rate of 90  
23          percent since inception. We have tripled  
24          since 2003, and we foresee that even  
25          tripling more over the next three years.



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           We currently have a waiting list in two  
3           of our areas, for the kindergarten  
4           students and also for our -- we call them  
5           red, green, blue, gold families. For our  
6           gold family, we also have a waiting list.

7                     We are a grassroots program in  
8           North Philadelphia. REDI-Harrison's  
9           family-oriented approach encourages  
10          participation of the entire family. Many  
11          activities, especially the summer's end  
12          performance, are attended by parents,  
13          grandparents and great grandparents.

14                    REDI-Harrison Beacon is staffed  
15          by community residents. So with a cut of  
16          our Beacon program, we're not only  
17          affecting the children, but a large  
18          portion of our staff live right there in  
19          the community.

20                    REDI-Harrison partners are the  
21          following people and organizations from  
22          the immediate community: State  
23          Representative W. Curtis Brown -- I'm  
24          sorry; W. Curtis --

25                    COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thomas.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                   MS. HICKS: Thomas. Thank you.

3           Is one of our partners. Thank you.

4           Also, the Althea Gibson Community and

5           Tennis Center. We partner with them, the

6           11th Street Health Center, Christ

7           Memorial Baptist Church. And I just

8           wanted to run through very briefly the

9           programs that we offer at the

10          REDI-Harrison Beacon program. We have

11          homework help; scientific-based reading

12          program with Achieve 3,000; academic

13          achievement games; organized sports; rap

14          sessions; theatre training; public

15          speaking; choir training; tennis; graphic

16          arts; fitness center; girls lacrosse

17          program, which is pending funding;

18          healthy eating/healthy lifestyles; field

19          trips; special events; summer camp. And

20          we have several consultants: Hollow

21          Joe-Joe, the Rouse Company, the Academy

22          of Fine Arts. And we were until recently

23          servicing through the REACH truancy

24          program.

25                   Thank you very much.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you  
3           very much.

4                   State your name. What is your  
5           name?

6                   MS. McCOY: Katrina McCoy.

7                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Okay,  
8           Katrina. You want to talk about  
9           REDI-Harrison also?

10                   MS. McCOY: Yes. I just want  
11           to say that I'm a single parent of one  
12           daughter, who is ten, and she goes to  
13           Harrison Elementary and Beacon program,  
14           and I feel like while I'm at work, I  
15           don't want to have to worry about where  
16           my daughter is. I don't want her to have  
17           to go somewhere else. I like where she  
18           is. You know, I get there sometimes like  
19           at 5:30 and whatever they're doing,  
20           learning, whatever, I have to sit and  
21           wait, because I don't want to interrupt  
22           her learning. And she loves it, and I  
23           love it. And it's like she's the air I  
24           breathe and I don't want to worry while  
25           I'm work what she's doing and if she's

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           all right and -- I'm sorry.

3                   COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: That's all  
4           right. Go ahead.

5                   MS. MCCOY: Y'all just  
6           shouldn't cut the program, because  
7           children should come first, you know.  
8           They should find funding for it and just  
9           cut something else that's not as  
10          important as our children. Because my  
11          daughter is everything to me, and I'm  
12          sure the parents feel the same way about  
13          theirs. And I just don't want to have to  
14          worry about that. I have other stuff I  
15          have to worry about besides my daughter  
16          wandering the streets trying to get home,  
17          there's a shootout or whatever. People  
18          that don't have (unintelligible) acting  
19          crazy. I like the fact that when she's  
20          at the Beacon program, it's like she's  
21          with her aunties and uncles, you know.  
22          Everybody is a family. They know my  
23          first name, they know her. I come in  
24          there, everybody telling me, China did  
25          this, China did that. You know, they

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           look out for our kids, and if you cut it,  
3           that's not good at all, you know.

4                       Thanks.

5                       COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you  
6           very much.

7                       (Applause.)

8                       MR. BARKLEY: Good afternoon,  
9           Majority Leader and Committee Chairman  
10          Tasco, as well as Councilwoman Sanchez.  
11          My name is Daryll Barkley and I am the  
12          President and CEO for the Junior MBA  
13          Platinum All-Stars Program under the  
14          National Basketball Association. My  
15          organization was contracted by the  
16          REDI-Harrison Beacon Center, as well as  
17          the Norris Square Beacon Center to  
18          provide a violence reduction basketball  
19          program in communities where violence was  
20          at a high level.

21                      I appreciate the opportunity to  
22          appear before you today, and I'm going to  
23          keep it very brief. I just want to place  
24          on the record that during Mayor Nutter's  
25          campaign, he declared a new day. When he

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           took oath to office, he declared a new  
3           way. Indeed, it is a new day, but a sad  
4           way and a sad day any time thousands of  
5           school-aged children that attend these  
6           Beacon centers and after-school programs  
7           are threatened by a budget issue. It  
8           threatens the livelihood of our children,  
9           our parents, the workforce, the employees  
10          that come to work faithfully every day to  
11          provide services to these children.

12                   At his first budget address,  
13          the Mayor stated that his Administration  
14          would focus on customer service; that is,  
15          providing quality services to  
16          Philadelphia citizens, the  
17          Administration's customers. At a press  
18          conference yesterday, the Mayor stated  
19          that he would restore funding to  
20          after-school programs. I would truly  
21          hope that this becomes a reality.  
22          Providers, parents, children and  
23          employees are counting on this.

24                   This budget issue is not just  
25          playing with numbers. It's playing with

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           lives, lives of our children, our City's  
3           most vulnerable constituents.

4                       (Applause.)

5                       MR. BARKLEY: And I encourage  
6           Council, our elected officials -- we have  
7           to remember, they were elected to serve  
8           the citizens of the City of Philadelphia.  
9           This issue is indeed an entire City  
10          crisis, and I urge Congress, I urge City  
11          Council, our Philadelphia elected  
12          officials, State Representatives,  
13          Senators, anyone with the power to step  
14          in this situation and take control of  
15          this pathetic situation. Our children  
16          should not be left to not having a Beacon  
17          center or after-school program.

18                      I'm hearing that the Beacon  
19          programs are being restored, but they're  
20          only being restored from 3:00 to 6:00  
21          p.m. Well, the foundation was built back  
22          in 2001 for these Beacons to operate an  
23          after-school and a family preservation  
24          component. When you have a house, a  
25          house is built on a foundation. If a car

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           runs into that house and damages one  
3           percent or ten percent of that  
4           foundation, that house is destroyed.  
5           Well, with these Beacon centers and  
6           after-school programs, if you cut the  
7           budget, if you take out of that budget,  
8           if you cut the services that's being  
9           provided, then you're damaging that  
10          foundation, and you will not get the  
11          results that these programs have proven  
12          to be effective.

13                       Thank you.

14                       (Applause.)

15                       COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you  
16           all so very much for your passionate  
17           testimony. We appreciate your taking  
18           time to come down. We appreciate your  
19           mother for speaking up for your child and  
20           for all the children in the Beacon  
21           programs and for your bravery, because I  
22           could see that you were a little nervous,  
23           but we thank you so much.

24                       I remember my son was a  
25           latchkey son, so I would have loved to



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           have had a Beacon program when I was a  
3           young mother. That was a long time ago,  
4           though. But thank you.

5                       (Applause.)

6                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Yes.

7           Next?

8                       MS. WILLIAMS: Hello. My name  
9           is Ianna Williams and I attend Freire  
10          Charter School and I also --

11                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: You have  
12          to speak a little slower because we have  
13          old ears.

14                      MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. My name  
15          is Ianna Williams and I attend Freire  
16          Charter School. I also attend after  
17          school the Beacon REDI-Harrison program,  
18          and Beacon has done a lot for me. I come  
19          every day after school. They help me  
20          with my homework. They also -- excuse  
21          me. They also --

22                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Take your  
23          time.

24                      MS. WILLIAMS: They made a  
25          Youth Council. They made us jobs for

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           people that was old enough in the green  
3           group. I'm in the green group, and they  
4           made us jobs. We work with -- I work  
5           with small kids and -- in another group I  
6           work with small kids.

7                       Also, I believe that if you  
8           took away the Beacon program, that it's  
9           going to be more teenage pregnancies and  
10          more boys in jail or dead. After school  
11          we come there so we could be off the  
12          streets, and we feel safe in Beacon, and  
13          we just -- they have a basketball team  
14          for the boys and they come every day.  
15          Some of them come every day. They come  
16          for practice. Ms. Yolanda and Mr. Webb,  
17          they help us with our homework. That's  
18          the employees of Beacon. They help us  
19          with our homework. Anything we need,  
20          they give it to us. And I think that if  
21          you took it away, that we will have  
22          nothing to do after school and we would  
23          just be getting into stuff that we don't  
24          need to get into after school. If you  
25          took it away, we won't have nothing to

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           do.

3                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you  
4           very much for your testimony.

5                   (Applause.)

6                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: We thank  
7           you all very much. But we trust that the  
8           Mayor made his commitment on Tuesday to  
9           make the children whole, and we served on  
10          City Council for 15 years with Councilman  
11          Nutter, now Mayor Nutter. We don't have  
12          a sense that he doesn't tell the truth.  
13          He seems to be a fairly honest, decent  
14          person. So we'll criticize if it doesn't  
15          happen. Let's give a positive let's-go  
16          with this.

17                   Okay. We have here William  
18          Mackey and gang, Shelah Harper, community  
19          activist. And is Tracey Scott, Josh  
20          Howard and Shinika St. Cyr here?  
21          Everybody is here. Okay.

22                   (Witnesses approached witness  
23          table.)

24                   MR. MACKEY: Hi.

25                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Be brief.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                   MR. MACKEY: Thank you. First  
3 I want to say thanks for giving us the  
4 opportunity, City Wide Youth Agency, to  
5 present. It's good to see some friends,  
6 new friends on Council, Councilman Jones,  
7 who have been out to our program many  
8 times, and other Councilpeople that know  
9 our program.

10                   I guess about ten years ago,  
11 City Wide Youth Agency was one of the  
12 original members. When the Robert Wood  
13 Johnson Foundation came out, they visited  
14 our program for our health division. And  
15 it's sad to say when former Mayor John  
16 Street was the Council President, City  
17 Wide had a lot of good days, but when he  
18 became the Mayor, we just don't know what  
19 happened. My organization went up and  
20 down, up and down, and we're in a crisis  
21 right now. And I hate to say this,  
22 because I was always a loyal person in  
23 North Philadelphia, even though we had  
24 kids -- young people that come from  
25 around the City, but I think sometimes

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           Safe and Sound getting confused and I  
3           think Safe and Sound sometimes stand for  
4           PMP, power, money and policy. And I  
5           think Safe and Sound needs to make a  
6           decision. If they're going to be a  
7           policy organization, a power broker  
8           organization or a service provider.  
9           Because if you mix all the roles  
10          together, you really in competition with  
11          the community-based organizations.

12                       We would like to have seen Safe  
13          and Sound just -- youth approach was a  
14          lot different. I think the system they  
15          have in place for youth organizations to  
16          have accountability, it's probably good,  
17          but I think Safe and Sound have its roles  
18          confused.

19                       As it relates to City Wide --  
20          and I get direct to City Wide -- we have  
21          no staff right now. Some of these young  
22          people that's in here left my program to  
23          go join other programs.

24                       We started -- last year we was  
25          under DHS. Our contract left DHS and

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           went to Safe and Sound. Right now we  
3           have a contract for \$160,000 for 12  
4           months to pay for staff, insurance,  
5           students, internships, mentoring,  
6           tutoring, rent, phones. Who could do it?  
7           And I wrote them several times. It's in  
8           the package. And it's a detailed,  
9           comprehensive proposal that they had me  
10          to redo. That's in there. I think they  
11          really designed me to set up to fail.

12                   On the left-hand side of my  
13          package that I presented is our summer  
14          program when we was finishing our funding  
15          with DHS, pictures, outcomes, success.  
16          On the right-hand side, you see where our  
17          fiscal agent document that he cannot --  
18          he have to shut us down. He can no  
19          longer pay nothing.

20                   We got two staff people. I got  
21          a maintenance person that does the  
22          maintenance, the intake, the phone calls,  
23          the press release and all. He's a hell  
24          of an environmental guy. And I have one  
25          office manager. We have no other staff.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           We get some students. We have nothing to  
3           offer to them.

4                       I'm not on payroll there. I  
5           haven't received a full salary from City  
6           Wide in two years. And a couple of years  
7           ago it was in the newspaper that I had  
8           some issues with Safe and Sound. I was  
9           one of the ones that spoke up about Safe  
10          and Sound.

11                     Let me say this to you -- and I  
12          know you got a little time and I want to  
13          give you some real facts -- if you take a  
14          quarter million students, a quarter  
15          million young people right now, how many  
16          you think have accessibility to guns? 25  
17          percent? So what's that 40,000 kids  
18          right now got accessibility to guns?  
19          Let's be real. How many have  
20          accessibility to narcotics? 25 percent?  
21          So you see right now at quarter to 6:00  
22          today that we possibly have 40,000 kids  
23          that could get a gun and use narcotics.  
24          So that, with some good rap music, is  
25          probably good ingredients for violence.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           That's why you not going to ever get rid  
3           of the violence, because I believe -- and  
4           I'll close with this -- if you are  
5           elected with a district and you have a  
6           street list, you know who is registered  
7           to vote in your area, who is eligible to  
8           vote. When you get funded by an  
9           organization, you should be given a youth  
10          list. No organization should be given  
11          funds without a mandate and a constituent  
12          service list.

13                       We proposed -- we came in  
14          Council. We proposed to the Street  
15          Administration to create a resource card,  
16          a card like a driver license, like the  
17          school swipe card. Put DHS on that card,  
18          put SEPTA on that card, put the  
19          Recreation on that card, put the Police  
20          on that card, and make it a resource card  
21          and the youth -- and a library card. No,  
22          Mr. Mackey. Then I find out they spent  
23          60 million trying to duplicate it and  
24          never get it off the ground, Safe and  
25          Sound. Then I find out -- we've been



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           Project REACH since y'all knew me. They  
3           got a Project REACH at Safe and Sound.  
4           What is it? I got a twin?

5                     I close: I didn't really come  
6           here to bash Safe and Sound, but after  
7           hearing some of these stories and stuff  
8           in here, our plan is comprehensive here.  
9           Our work is in here, what we do. And let  
10          me just end with one more end.

11                    When City Wide is funded, no  
12          one in this City can keep up with us.  
13          You see my kids on the news every week.  
14          You see my kids in the White House. You  
15          see them in the state house. You don't  
16          see them in the courthouse. My kids be  
17          all over doing stuff. We do mock trials.  
18          We do anything -- Mr. Green's sister was  
19          our first health intern. She a doctor.  
20          She a doctor. I can pull our records out  
21          and show where people came through my  
22          program, that it's doctors and lawyers  
23          and in the professional fields right now.  
24          I got some students right now that I have  
25          to pay for out of my pocket, and I don't

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           have a paycheck. So I scramble every  
3           day, pulling resources together. We got  
4           evicted out of a building we was in for  
5           12 years, and it's painful now, and it's  
6           wrong. And if you play political  
7           football with kids, you going to lose  
8           every time, and that's what we doing.

9                           (Applause.)

10                   MR. MACKEY: The level of money  
11           that we spending on kids filling up, it  
12           should be a national model. Philadelphia  
13           should be the safest place to walk with  
14           young people.

15                   Young people is not getting  
16           discipline. They don't know respect, and  
17           you're going to tell me you spend all  
18           these millions of dollars on young people  
19           and you don't have no real safe street to  
20           walk down with them?

21                   Have a good day.

22                   If you do not address the youth  
23           issue soon and empower youth people --  
24           you have to empower young people. You  
25           can have all the fancy degrees you want,

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           but when you step down 17th and  
3           Jefferson, if your name ain't William  
4           Mackey, you might get cracked across your  
5           head, and I'm being real to you.

6                        (Applause.)

7                       MR. MACKEY: You can't do what  
8           I do on 17th and Jefferson, and I can't  
9           do what you do in your classroom. Don't  
10          do my job and I won't do yours. But  
11          somebody better start doing a job,  
12          because these young people is going to  
13          take this City over.

14                      Thank you. Have a good  
15          evening.

16                      (Applause.)

17                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you  
18          very much.

19                      MR. MACKEY: I have one student  
20          of mine who has been part of this to  
21          speak briefly.

22                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Oh, sure.

23                      MS. ADOS: Hi. My name is  
24          Tempest Ados. I go to Thurgood Marshall  
25          Elementary. I've been going to City Wide

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           since the summertime, and I really like  
3           it. It's really fun. I work as an  
4           intern there also. I answer the phone, I  
5           fax papers. And I really think it's fun,  
6           and when I graduate from high school, I  
7           want to be a psychiatrist, but if I don't  
8           have nowhere to go after school, it's  
9           like my future is not going to work,  
10          because like I'm learning some of my  
11          business skills from there and stuff like  
12          that. So I think if I don't have nowhere  
13          to go, like my future won't work out  
14          right.

15                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you.  
16          You said you're Thurgood Marshall?

17                   MS. ADOS: Yes.

18                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Yes.  
19          That's one of the good Beacon schools in  
20          my district. Thank you.

21                   MR. MACKEY: Thank you.

22                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you,  
23          Mr. Mackey.

24                   MR. MACKEY: Stand up, you  
25          guys, just briefly.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                   That's some of my other young  
3           people.

4                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Why don't  
5           you tell us where you're from, which  
6           school?

7                   What's your name and where are  
8           you from?

9                   MR. WHITE: I'm Khian White, an  
10          honor student for William Penn High  
11          School.

12                  MR. JONES: My name Shamire  
13          Jones. I go to William Penn High.

14                  MS. GOODRIDGE: My name Nysshell  
15          Goodridge. I go to --

16                  COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: I haven't  
17          heard a word you said.

18                  MS. GOODRIDGE: My name Nysshell  
19          Goodridge. I go to William Penn High.

20                  COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Good.  
21          Thank you so much for coming in.

22                  Thank you, Mr. Mackey.

23                  (Applause.)

24                  COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Ms.  
25          Harper?

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                   MS. HARPER: Good evening,  
3 Councilwoman Tasco.

4                   COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: How you  
5 doing?

6                   MS. HARPER: Very happy. Thank  
7 you for having us here for these  
8 hearings. I'm really happy to hear that  
9 we have reinstated those slots for the  
10 AVRП and the Beacon after-school  
11 programs. That's my understanding. It  
12 seems like I'm hearing a mixture of  
13 people talking about like they're begging  
14 for the thing to maintain, but it is  
15 going to be maintained, and they might  
16 not know that.

17                  COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Well,  
18 we've been talking about communication  
19 today and some problems with  
20 communicating with the providers, and we  
21 trust that within the next day or so that  
22 the message is clear as to what's going  
23 on.

24                   It all evolved very quickly. I  
25 believe that DHS and Safe and Sound have

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           to get together and kind of figure out  
3           what's going to happen and let the  
4           providers know what's going on.

5                       MS. HARPER: And the people  
6           know, because I'm hearing them speak as  
7           if they don't understand that a lot of it  
8           has been reinstituted and it's going to  
9           be okay, even though, quite frankly, I  
10          think it's approximately 6,000 slots in  
11          terms of after school and Beacon. It's  
12          not enough. I mean, you know, we're  
13          getting ready to move into the next phase  
14          of budgeting for the upcoming year and  
15          we're going to run into the same kinds of  
16          issues, where are we going to get the  
17          additional.

18                     One of the things that I think  
19          that really needs to happen is, they need  
20          to designate somebody within the Safe and  
21          Sound structure to consistently be  
22          looking for additional funding sources.  
23          Right now it appears that the City  
24          carries the majority of the burden. Once  
25          they lost whatever initial foundation

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           funding, there has to be somebody within  
3           that structure consistently going after  
4           federal, private and whatever other  
5           funds.

6                       Secondly, there's this argument  
7           that I've observed between -- not an  
8           argument. It's a conflict, quiet  
9           conflict, between DHS and Safe and Sound  
10          over these prevention funds. There are  
11          some people within DHS and they want it  
12          out, because -- they want it out of Safe  
13          and Sound's hands so that they can get  
14          those funds back.

15                      There's a political battle  
16          that's going on internally. It's almost  
17          like any time you take a City agency,  
18          take those funds, give it to a private  
19          agency, there's going to be a battle for  
20          that funds, and as a result, it's almost  
21          like I'm observing in DHS there are  
22          people that really don't necessarily want  
23          Safe and Sound to work and there's people  
24          within Safe and Sound that are not  
25          wanting DHS to work. That battle with



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           the middle of our children in it needs to  
3           stop.

4                       Thirdly, high-paid staff  
5           members, consultants that are on books  
6           for five years, not knowing whether  
7           they're productive or not, those kinds of  
8           things in comparison to the dollars  
9           that's needed to spend for children has  
10          to definitely be taken a look at.

11                      Secondly, another issue, the  
12          diversity of the staff, the  
13          diversification. When you walk into  
14          those offices -- at one point it was at  
15          Broad and Lehigh when they first started.  
16          Now they're down in some high-rent  
17          district, 18th and Market. I mean, you  
18          know, the offices are beautiful, but I  
19          think that there are some areas like  
20          high-paid consultants, high-paid  
21          staffing, high rent, all those things  
22          need to clearly be taken a look at. If  
23          it's a matter of balancing it out on the  
24          backs of children who lose slots, then  
25          it's not acceptable.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                       (Applause.)

3                       MS. HARPER: Another thing that  
4           I've noticed is the providers. We do  
5           work -- I'm the founder of a small  
6           foundation. We're just starting, maybe  
7           for the last two years, A.J. Adams - Save  
8           Our Children Foundation. We contract  
9           with a number of Beacons. We contract  
10          with a number of AVRP programs. And I  
11          have observed what's been going on over  
12          the last two months since the Mayor has  
13          come into place, and everybody kind of  
14          knew, well, he really doesn't like Safe  
15          and Sound because he really didn't like  
16          the process in which they got it bid. In  
17          the midst of it, it's been horrible. The  
18          providers haven't been getting paid and  
19          they're suffering severe cash flow  
20          problems. And I've heard stuff coming  
21          from different people today talking about  
22          monies and staff being lost, and I'm  
23          really concerned about the quality of the  
24          program.

25                      I think that generally, I think

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           this was an excellent idea in terms of  
3           having these hearings, and I think that  
4           around children, there needs to be an  
5           annual type of dialogue between children,  
6           institutions that serve children, whether  
7           it's health, welfare, education, CODAP.  
8           I mean, there's no communication.  
9           Everybody has got this turf, and this  
10          turf should be our children, not money.  
11                    The prevention focus, I mean, I  
12          think it's wonderful. The after-school  
13          programs, I mean, it does cut down on --  
14          substance abuse prevention. It cuts down  
15          on crime, it cuts down on teen pregnancy  
16          and everything that children get into  
17          after school when there's nobody  
18          supervising and there's no structured  
19          activity. I mean, it eliminates, it  
20          reduces all of that, but there's so many  
21          other areas of prevention. I'm quite --  
22          I'm not certain who is actually dealing  
23          with it. At one point, CODAP used to  
24          have a substance abuse prevention  
25          component. Last I knew, they had one

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           staff member. That was about ten years  
3           ago, and then they cut that staff member.  
4           The School District has some programs.  
5           DARE has some programs, but, I mean,  
6           we're only talking about maybe ten police  
7           officers around the City.

8                     The prevention, substance abuse  
9           effort has really got to be bumped up,  
10          the issue of being able to reach out to  
11          young mothers, parenting mothers, young  
12          teenage moms. They're the same ones that  
13          are being shown in these statistics of  
14          low birth weight babies and high infant  
15          mortality rates. I mean, all of those  
16          kinds of things need to be incorporated  
17          into our after-school programming. Doing  
18          homework, but not really necessarily  
19          teaching and training, because I don't  
20          think -- I mean, like it's homework time,  
21          but, quite frankly, my observations have  
22          been we're just kind of pretty much  
23          steering you. We're not necessarily  
24          reinforcing you.

25                    I think the Councilman over

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           here said something about results,  
3           outcomes of tutoring, whether or not it's  
4           working. I mean, no, you just can't have  
5           a body in place that's sitting down  
6           supervising a child doing its homework.  
7           Yes, that's a wonderful thing, but at the  
8           same time, you have to have a quality --  
9           a program that's going to actually be  
10          measurable in terms of some outcomes with  
11          children. There's things that maybe they  
12          don't understand while they're in the  
13          classroom that through the quality of a  
14          Beacon program or after-school program,  
15          you have specialists in there, not --  
16          this whole thing seems to be about money,  
17          quite frankly, the debate between DHS and  
18          Safe and Sound and any of these other  
19          organizations that serve children, and I  
20          just -- I'm here to say I've been in  
21          health and human services now for 30  
22          years. I co-chair the Child Welfare  
23          Advisory Board, and I've started this  
24          foundation, and I'm just deeply  
25          concerned.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                   I'm so happy to see that we  
3           have so many children in here in support  
4           of these Beacon, after-school programs.

5                   So basically I have everything  
6           in writing and I have a bunch of things,  
7           suggestions for prevention in the future  
8           that I'm just going to give to you, but  
9           thank you. I just wanted to say that.

10                   Thank you.

11                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you.

12                   In the Mayor's message the  
13           other day, he plans to put a City monitor  
14           with Safe and Sound to monitor the use of  
15           City funding, City funds. As we  
16           understand the testimony today, the  
17           applicants apply to the Safe and Sound  
18           for programmatic activities, so the  
19           programmatic content is based on what the  
20           applicants provide to the program. I  
21           don't think they set the standard of what  
22           the program should be, but they look at  
23           the overall program to see if it's  
24           fundable. So when you get to the quality  
25           of programmatic activity, that goes to

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           the providers doing that, and certainly  
3           some guidance from DHS or Safe and Sound  
4           might be helpful. But we appreciate your  
5           testimony.

6                       MS. HARPER: And likewise on  
7           that issue, quantity I notice seems to be  
8           what is the objective. I've seen  
9           programs lose people or get rid of people  
10          as a result because they can't get the  
11          numbers. Oh, we need to have 25 children  
12          in this program and if we don't have 25  
13          children in this program, then it's no  
14          good. No. There has to be a combination  
15          of -- if you have 20 children and you're  
16          not making the mark of 25, that has to be  
17          a criterion of looking at quality. And I  
18          don't really know how that's assessed,  
19          and I think that's something that we  
20          might want to also take a look at.

21                      So thank you for your time.

22                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you.  
23                      (Applause.)

24                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you  
25                      all very much.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                   Good afternoon.

3                   MS. SCOTT: Good evening.

4                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Good  
5 evening.

6                   MS. SCOTT: I wanted to say  
7 good afternoon, but unfortunately I had  
8 to say good evening. My name is Tracey  
9 Scott. I'm the Assistant Principal at  
10 Tanner G. Duckrey Elementary School in  
11 North Philly, 1501 West Diamond Street.  
12 I'm going to make my speech very brief,  
13 very brief, because I am late for a  
14 meeting.

15                   But to sit here for the past  
16 five hours really shows me a lot how  
17 parents must feel. I'm away from my  
18 school for the majority of the day, and  
19 to know that -- I know there's other  
20 people there, but just to worry that my  
21 children are in a safe place, that the  
22 people are there, the people are helping  
23 them, that they are not being accosted or  
24 they are being hurt or being beat up,  
25 it's a just thing that needs to continue



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           on.

3                       We have had the after-school  
4           program as well as the summer program at  
5           our school for over eight years, and  
6           although I've only been there two years,  
7           it has been a very important part of our  
8           school. It has allowed only 70 children  
9           really to be provided with services,  
10          which there are another 30 who are not  
11          being provided. It's a small amount, but  
12          those children are being provided and the  
13          parents of those children are able to  
14          work and do other things so they can  
15          provide for their families.

16                      As an administrator, you always  
17          want to have people in your building who  
18          are going to improve your school, and the  
19          education work people at our school have  
20          done that, and although -- and the one  
21          thing that concerns me with this whole  
22          process is the timing of it. And I  
23          understand that we might be on different  
24          budgetary constraints or timelines, but  
25          to tell us February 1st you will not have

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           an after-school program February 29th is  
3           really a concern for us, and we really  
4           need to just at least have this to  
5           continue out through the year.

6                       As a taxpayer, yes, I do want  
7           to know where the funds are going,  
8           because I am heavily taxed as a single  
9           person, and the money is out there, and I  
10          know that the money is coming from my  
11          paycheck back into the budget of  
12          Philadelphia. And I do want people to be  
13          accountable of what they're spending it  
14          on, who they're spending it on and if  
15          it's a worthwhile program, but at this  
16          point in time, my main concern are what  
17          are my 70 children going to do when this  
18          program ends on February 29th. So that  
19          is my concern. That is what I wanted to  
20          say.

21                      I want everyone to have a good  
22          evening, and thank you for your time.

23                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you  
24          for your time.

25                      (Applause.)

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                   MS. ST. CYR: My name is  
3           Shinika St. Cyr. I run the after-school  
4           program at Tanner Duckrey Elementary  
5           School and we were one of those that were  
6           affected by the budget cuts. I'm an  
7           AmeriCorp member and I've been there for  
8           the past two years serving the community  
9           in and around Tanner Duckrey School. I  
10          also live there. And I know the impact  
11          that the after-school program has on  
12          these students. It's one thing because I  
13          run the after-school program to say,  
14          Well, I know the impact that this has on  
15          my students. However, thinking about  
16          those 70 children and families who  
17          wouldn't have services being absorbed  
18          into other places in the community,  
19          that's all well and good, but there are  
20          really no other places for these 70 kids  
21          to be absorbed.

22                   The majority of my parents  
23          work. The majority of them need these  
24          services. Some of my parents can't read  
25          to help the kids with homework after

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           school, and they send their kids to this  
3           program and appreciate it. And even as  
4           they were saying, that the funds are  
5           being restored, my fear is that even  
6           though the funds are being restored, it  
7           won't be restored to the point where I  
8           can still house 70 kids in my building.  
9           I'll be able to house maybe 30 or 40.  
10          What are the other kids going to do that  
11          I have to turn away? Where are they  
12          going to go? Because there's nowhere  
13          else in the neighborhood for them to go.

14                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you.

15                   MR. HOWARD: Good evening,  
16          Council. My name is Joshua Howard. I'm  
17          a junior at Robert Vaux High School and  
18          I'm a proud participant in the Vaux  
19          Beacon. Beacon has helped me and my  
20          peers build job skills, create resumes  
21          and help us obtain summer jobs. We learn  
22          what to wear on interviews and how to  
23          present ourselves and in which manner to  
24          speak.

25                   The Beacon also helps us in our

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           community by having various after-school  
3           programs. There's the Spiral Q program  
4           for the younger children. You have Youth  
5           Council and many more for the older  
6           children.

7                       In the summer, we also do  
8           neighborhood clean-ups when we  
9           voluntarily clean up the lots, and we  
10          have a community block party. There's a  
11          big block party for families and anyone  
12          who is around the neighborhood, and it's  
13          free, and it's time for everyone to  
14          celebrate.

15                      We also join a peace walk such  
16          as the Legs Against Arms that was held  
17          April of 2007. Without the Beacon  
18          program, we wouldn't have been involved  
19          in that many positive things.

20                      Thank you for your time, and I  
21          would like to present you with our  
22          petition of 405 signatures from the Vaux  
23          community supporters for keeping the  
24          Beacon open.

25                      COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           very much.

3                       (Applause.)

4                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you  
5           very much. You have a petition. Thank  
6           you.

7                       MS. HARRIS: I think we should  
8           sing Ebony and Ivory first. We need to  
9           entertain people. We've been here a long  
10          time.

11                      Good evening. My name is  
12          Patricia Harris. I am the Program  
13          Director of the ECS Beacon Center,  
14          serving the Feltonville community for  
15          five years and nine months and counting,  
16          the last of the original Beacon Directors  
17          standing still here.

18                      I want to talk about what a  
19          quality Beacon center can do for the City  
20          of Philadelphia and urge the City to keep  
21          our future first and continue this  
22          important initiative beyond June 30th.

23                      A quality Beacon center can  
24          identify children with behavioral and  
25          mental health challenges and direct the

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           parent toward quality services to ensure  
3           the Philadelphia Compact and School  
4           District's goals and objectives are  
5           accomplished. The center can restore  
6           community ownership by rallying for  
7           restoration of libraries, because  
8           illiteracy is the nucleus of crime.

9                     And these are just some of the  
10          things that we have experienced as a  
11          result of having a Beacon center for  
12          almost six years.

13                    The centers actually take the  
14          most vulnerable youth being raised by  
15          grandparents, single parents and give  
16          them an opportunity to stabilize the  
17          family unit plagued by abandonment,  
18          poverty and drug use and provide them  
19          necessary resources to address anger  
20          issues that could lead to the ongoing  
21          violence being experienced in the City.

22                    Beacon centers can develop  
23          positive relationships with reputable --  
24          and I do mean reputable, because there  
25          are some challenges in that area --

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           reputable organizations to ensure that  
3           services reach a larger portion of the  
4           population. The Home and School  
5           Association can join monthly family  
6           activities to ensure that valuable  
7           information necessary for children and  
8           youth is available to parents to meet  
9           academic goals.

10                   When a Beacon youth development  
11           center -- because we can't continue to be  
12           compared to a recreation center. We are  
13           not in the business of providing a place  
14           for young people just to play recreation.  
15           We are a development center -- identifies  
16           children and youth strengths and family  
17           strengths and nurtures those abilities,  
18           City of Philadelphia is proactively  
19           addressing illiteracy, crime and violence  
20           for the sustainability of the new crime  
21           plan.

22                   I have a compilation of  
23           positive outcomes achieved by the ECS  
24           Beacon Center over the past several years  
25           here today to support my claims, because



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           I believe actions speak louder than  
3           words.

4                       I have driven almost 150,000  
5           miles, donated my expertise to United Way  
6           to assist in the necessary  
7           capacity-building to make the model  
8           stronger for the Feltonville community  
9           and the City of Philadelphia. To make  
10          the same -- I'm asking the City of  
11          Philadelphia to make the same level of  
12          commitment by incorporating the Beacon  
13          model into the behavioral health, crime  
14          and economic goals for the new  
15          Administration.

16                      Thank you so much for allowing  
17          me to speak. And I forgot to mention  
18          that when they cut the REACH program,  
19          that was a devastation to families that  
20          continuously go under the radar of not  
21          being served. Our first month of being  
22          open last February, we served a family  
23          who hadn't had electricity in three  
24          years. So why was truancy an issue?

25                      So we have seen so many

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           challenges that families can't address on  
3           their own addressed through the REACH  
4           program.

5                       And also when you mention that  
6           there's going to be a special prosecutor  
7           put at Safe and Sound to monitor Safe and  
8           Sound, I'm not here as anyone's advocate,  
9           but I've seen a lot over almost six  
10          years. So I ask, who is going to be  
11          monitoring the providers that  
12          continuously are misusing these funds  
13          that Safe and Sound has rightfully given  
14          them to provide a service, thinking that  
15          they're going to do the right thing? And  
16          I've been a whistle-blower and contacted  
17          Safe and Sound over a six-year period  
18          when I found out that centers were  
19          charging enormous fees, when my program  
20          has been serving the same -- using the  
21          same budget for six years and hasn't  
22          charged yet. This will be the first  
23          summer that we might have to charge, if  
24          we are in existence. But that's my  
25          challenge, is that where is the

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           accountability for the providers that  
3           have also supported all of these issues  
4           that we're facing at this time.

5                       Thank you.

6                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you  
7           very much.

8                       MR. COGAN: My name is Peter  
9           Cogan and welcome the opportunity to say  
10          a few words.

11                      People have been -- I've been  
12          at Children's Aid Society. We have two  
13          offices in Montgomery County and three in  
14          Philadelphia, three neighborhood centers,  
15          one in Ogontz connected to 25 schools,  
16          Frankford Family Support Services and the  
17          Logan-Olney Family Support Services. And  
18          people have been far more eloquent than I  
19          could be, especially the parents. They  
20          really bring us all down to what's really  
21          important, and I welcome that.

22                      I'd like to just say a -- give  
23          you a flavor of the parent truancy  
24          officer program, which will be  
25          eliminated, 25 people, almost all

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           parents. Just give you a flavor of that.

3                       We looked at the records just  
4           for December and January, December of '07  
5           and January of '08. We visited 311  
6           families. This is basically out of the  
7           Logan-Olney section. The success rate  
8           was 86 percent, meaning that a parent  
9           truancy officer got to actually speak to  
10          a parent or guardian of the referred  
11          families. So 86 percent of the 311. In  
12          many cases, this required many attempts,  
13          but the result was that the family got a  
14          face-to-face visit. Fourteen could not  
15          speak -- we could not speak with, who  
16          were mostly incorrect addresses, phone  
17          numbers or people who had moved.  
18          Nineteen percent of the successful  
19          visits, they revealed an error in the  
20          school record-keeping. In these cases,  
21          the PTO or the family contacts the school  
22          and the issue gets resolved.

23                      Thirty-six percent of the  
24          successful visits resulted in the  
25          designation that would go somewhere along

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           the lines of this: The parent guardian  
3           agrees to improve attendance. Typical  
4           issues that fall into this category  
5           include parents not realizing that  
6           kindergarten was important, a child not  
7           wanting to go to school or needing to be  
8           home to take care of another child and  
9           not realizing they really shouldn't do  
10          that, the parent not knowing that their  
11          child was not in school.

12                    Another 33 percent of the  
13           successful visits resulted in this  
14           designation: The parent or guardian  
15           agreed to send in excuse notices for past  
16           or future absences. These were families  
17           who had forgotten or had never realized  
18           that they really needed to send in notes  
19           when their children were out sick. They  
20           didn't think that was really necessary.

21                    That's just a little flavor.  
22           It's the beginning if you can catch these  
23           situations in truancy. We got a serious  
24           truancy problem. These folks work 12, 15  
25           hours a week. They visit in the evening.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           They visit on the weekend. It's a  
3           part-time job. They're not making oodles  
4           of money, but they're doing a very nice  
5           job, I think, in getting more kids  
6           connected to school, and I would hope in  
7           the mess that we're in that -- and I feel  
8           confident that you'll keep -- the bottom  
9           line is that the agency is not the  
10          important thing. The important thing are  
11          kids, the families and the neighborhoods  
12          that they are living in. We want to be  
13          an asset in those neighborhoods as  
14          Children's Aid and we want to build up  
15          other assets in that community.

16                       Thank you for your time.

17                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you  
18                      very much. And since that's my area, we  
19                      need to talk.

20                      MR. COGAN: Okay.

21                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you.

22                      MR. COGAN: Thank you.

23                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you  
24                      both for your testimony. Thank you for  
25                      your hard work and your commitment to the

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           program.

3                       We have Cory Bowman and Carol  
4           Goertzel.

5                       MS. LOSIER: Rita Axelroth will  
6           be joining this panel.

7                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: That will  
8           be good. Thank you, Sharon, for doing  
9           what you're doing, because it's moving it  
10          along. Thank you very much.

11                      MS. GOERTZEL: I'm Carol  
12          Goertzel. I am the CEO of PathWays PA  
13          and I would say good afternoon, but it is  
14          good evening.

15                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: And you're  
16          going to be brief.

17                      MS. GOERTZEL: Yeah, we're  
18          going to be brief.

19                      As some of you know, we provide  
20          services to about 5,000 individuals a  
21          year, and we have truancy intervention  
22          and prevention programs in Marian Tasco's  
23          area. We work with altogether about 500  
24          youth through the Adolescent Violence --  
25          the AVR0 center-based and the truancy

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           court program. We also run the EPIC,  
3           which is the community-based program, and  
4           run a program called School and Family  
5           Together for five- to ten-year-olds where  
6           we have worked with like a five-year-old  
7           who walks out of school and the school  
8           calls us. We bring them back. We find  
9           out what's going on. An eight-year-old  
10          who self abuses, we're called in. We go  
11          in the school. We sit in the classroom.  
12          So we work with all these programs.

13                 Our funding is not being cut  
14          right now, because we are funded directly  
15          by DHS for all of our prevention  
16          services. I'm here because of my fear  
17          that this is the beginning of a cut in  
18          services that really do prevent kids  
19          entering DHS. And the e-mail that was  
20          referred to earlier that I have on my  
21          little BlackBerry that says, Call me  
22          right away at DHS because your  
23          center-based program is about to be cut  
24          or is threatened to be cut if we don't  
25          hear from you now, because we have to



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           make this decision Sunday, that that is  
3           an e-mail that I received about 4 o'clock  
4           this afternoon, and my fear is that  
5           they're taking the money and, okay, now  
6           they'll have the youth workers, but now  
7           there won't be any center for kids to go  
8           to.

9                        So I'm really fearful for  
10          Philadelphia's kids, because we have kids  
11          who are truant from school, we have kids  
12          who are dealing with violence, we have  
13          girls who are very at risk. I would say  
14          90 percent of the girls we work with have  
15          endured sex abuse. And after-school and  
16          violence reduction programs, we have  
17          Project Peace, which is a teen parent  
18          program. We work with kids all over the  
19          City who are threatened with homelessness  
20          and with being in the streets to make  
21          money for their kids, and we intervene in  
22          that. All of those are DHS prevention  
23          programs, and they are really important.

24                       We do the mentoring at the  
25          Achieving Independence Center, which is

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           also prevention for girls and for boys,  
3           and we match them with mentors either at  
4           Temple or in the community or in a  
5           university. That's also part of  
6           prevention.

7                       And what I'm here to do is to  
8           really plead with you not to have them  
9           play with prevention programs so that  
10          they give back to this and then take from  
11          this, and who loses are Philadelphia's  
12          vulnerable kids, which are our concern  
13          and which are everybody's concern,  
14          because we want them to have a future.  
15          And we all could give you many examples  
16          of kids who succeeded, kids who stayed in  
17          school where we have negotiated the  
18          propensity to violence by teaching them  
19          to negotiate, teaching kids to talk to  
20          each other. We've looked at the problems  
21          that they're facing and we work with it  
22          so that when they get out in the  
23          community, when they leave school, we can  
24          bring them back. When they're at risk of  
25          leaving school, we can intervene. And

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           the intervention before they enter the  
3           DHS system as an indicated case is really  
4           important.

5                       We run SCO services for about  
6           165 families and our specialty, so to  
7           speak, is sex abuse. We want to  
8           intervene with kids before they're  
9           dealing in ages 5, 6, 10, 14 and 15 with  
10          continued sex abuse. If we can find that  
11          out before it's indicated through knowing  
12          the kids and knowing the families and  
13          having the families make changes and  
14          having the kids feel strong, that's what  
15          we need to do with prevention.

16                      So I'm just here from Pathways  
17          PA to, I guess, talk and to plead with  
18          you to understand the importance of  
19          prevention, ask all of us to give you our  
20          figures, because we can do that, to let  
21          you know the success. And the programs  
22          in the communities are having an impact  
23          and need not to be cut and played with.  
24          There have to be other resources so that  
25          kids can succeed.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                   And I'll just say, you know we  
3           do the self-sufficiency standard for  
4           Pennsylvania and Philadelphia every other  
5           year, and 42 percent of the working  
6           families in Philadelphia earn under 200  
7           percent of the poverty level, which is  
8           under \$40,000 or \$41,000 a year for a  
9           family of four. These families cannot  
10          afford to pay for childcare. They cannot  
11          afford to pay for after-school care.  
12          They can barely afford their utilities.

13                   So we need to keep that in mind  
14          also as we're looking at what we need to  
15          support so our families can be working  
16          and our kids can be safe and we can  
17          intervene whether there's already a  
18          problem or there's a problem about to  
19          happen.

20                   I just want to thank you very  
21          much for having these hearings.

22                   (Applause.)

23                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you  
24          for coming down to testify. We hear your  
25          message and we hope to pass that along.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           And Ms. Shenberger is here and  
3           Dr. Schwarz is here. They hear your  
4           testimony, so they know what the issues  
5           are that are being raised today.

6                       MS. GOERTZEL: Thank you.

7                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Mr. --

8                       MR. BOWER: Good evening. My  
9           name is Chris Bower. I'm the Director of  
10          Community Schools at the University of  
11          Pennsylvania. I'm sitting in for my  
12          boss, Cory Bowman, who couldn't be with  
13          us today. And he handed off a pretty  
14          extensive testimony, but I'm going to  
15          give you all the Reader's Digest version  
16          real quick.

17                      COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Cliff  
18          notes.

19                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: You're  
20          preaching to the choir.

21                      MR. BOWER: I think the theme  
22          of his testimony was about how  
23          Philadelphia can become a national leader  
24          in what we call community schools.  
25          Penn's Netter Center for Community

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           Partnerships, which is the department  
3           that Cory and I work at and who manages  
4           several Safe and Sound grants, Beacons  
5           and ASIs, has been working over the last  
6           two decades, together with community  
7           partners, to create university-assisted  
8           community schools that are centers of  
9           education and engagement and that provide  
10          a range of services for students, their  
11          parents and other community members.

12                 Looking through his testimony,  
13          I think the big theme about what he  
14          wanted to say today is in kind of a  
15          different paradigm, I think, than what  
16          we've heard so far. It's about how these  
17          grants and these services can be  
18          capacity-building and how we can leverage  
19          other resources from the community, from  
20          eds and meds, from corporations, et  
21          cetera, to really effect change, to  
22          aggregate and integrate services and  
23          funding to effect change in our  
24          communities.

25                 So Philadelphia through its

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           combination of promising partnership  
3           programs, as well as its model for  
4           integrated administration of multiple  
5           funding streams, could become a national  
6           leader in the movement to support the  
7           educational, health, safety, employment  
8           and social service needs of the entire  
9           community through community schools.

10                   Funding provided through the  
11           fiscal intermediary of Safe and Sound has  
12           played an important role in developing  
13           and supporting these efforts.

14                   This community school strategy  
15           assumes that like colleges and  
16           universities, public schools can function  
17           as environment-changing institutions and  
18           could become the strategic centers of  
19           broad-based partnerships that genuinely  
20           engage and coordinate a wide variety of  
21           community organizations and institutions.  
22           For us, the most salient institution is  
23           the universities here in Philadelphia.

24                   Some of the key notions to  
25           highlight about our funding from Safe and

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           Sound is that, first, it's been used to  
3           leverage substantial additional resources  
4           from the school, from across the  
5           community and from the University of  
6           Pennsylvania.

7                       I'm kind of the operations guy.  
8           Using those dollars on the ground to  
9           build the coordinating support where we  
10          can partner with other organizations,  
11          where we can bring in med students and  
12          nursing students to provide healthcare  
13          services in the schools, et cetera, is  
14          critical. Those coordinating dollars to  
15          build the infrastructures, to manage  
16          schools during out-of-school time, the  
17          payoff is just huge. It's about tenfold  
18          in terms of in-kind resources and things  
19          like that. But obviously the  
20          universities themselves and other  
21          organizations that can provide these  
22          types of in-kind resources aren't going  
23          to provide those coordinating and  
24          infrastructure dollars or programmatic  
25          dollars themselves.



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                       Secondly, it's been used to  
3       create a comprehensive program that  
4       addressed community education, safety,  
5       health and other needs, because  
6       comprehensive neighborhood-based programs  
7       are necessary to address the multiple and  
8       interrelated needs of our communities.

9                       Thirdly, it's been used to  
10      create long-term partnerships that  
11      support the core missions and goals of  
12      the partners.

13                      And, lastly, it necessarily  
14      comes from multiple sources,  
15      demonstrating the need for an innovative  
16      intermediary organization that can  
17      integrate multiple funding streams and  
18      the need for an organization specifically  
19      designed to support comprehensive  
20      neighborhood-based programming, like Safe  
21      and Sound.

22                      Our largest community school  
23      site is Sayre High School in West  
24      Philadelphia. We've been honored with a  
25      few different awards from the Coalition

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           for Community Schools. We won the  
3           National Award for Excellence, and Safe  
4           and Sound unveiled their Report Card  
5           there this year. And some of the key  
6           components of that include comprehensive  
7           after-school programs for K through 12  
8           six days a week, summers until 8:30 at  
9           night and community-wide programming as  
10          well.

11                       But I think, again, just  
12          harking back on the theme about how these  
13          dollars can be used to leverage  
14          additional resources, the funds that Safe  
15          and Sound have provided the University,  
16          specifically at Sayre, has enabled us to  
17          leverage additional resources that  
18          include a comprehensive school-day  
19          program that include Penn faculty and  
20          staff and students working across the  
21          University, working with Sayre's over 800  
22          students through new and existing  
23          courses, internships, academically-based  
24          community service courses at the  
25          University, service learning and

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           community problem-solving approaches.

3                     Most significantly, because of  
4           the dollars that we were given through  
5           Safe and Sound, we were able to apply  
6           several times and finally were awarded  
7           dollars to start a health center. So we  
8           renovated an entire wing of Sayre High  
9           School and converted it into a health  
10          center. This school-based community  
11          health clinic serves students and  
12          community members regardless of insurance  
13          or ability to pay. Sayre students play  
14          leading roles with the Community Advisory  
15          Board and the ongoing development of that  
16          program. And the health center has  
17          leveraged over \$1.2 million in  
18          construction and renovation donations  
19          from Penn and opened its doors to the  
20          permanent facility in September 2007. It  
21          is expected that the health center will  
22          have over 2,000 users by the end of 2008.

23                     That pretty much concludes my  
24          testimony.

25                     COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: What we'd

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           like for you to do -- do you have copies  
3           of that testimony?

4                       MR. BOWER: I believe your  
5           documentarians have them.

6                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: The copies  
7           will be made part of the record. Your  
8           entire testimony will be there. And it's  
9           something you might want to share with  
10          other providers so that you all have the  
11          resources to do a little workshop with  
12          other providers to help them understand  
13          what you're doing and probably follow  
14          your model.

15                      MR. BOWER: Absolutely. Thanks  
16          for the opportunity.

17                      COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Yes?

18                      MS. AXELROTH: My name is Rita  
19          Axelroth and I'm a member of the  
20          Coalition for Community Schools. Today  
21          I'm representing Martin Blank, who is the  
22          Director of the Coalition for Community  
23          Schools in DC, who regrets that he can't  
24          be here today to deliver this testimony.

25                      I'm going to be speaking very

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           briefly today on the role of  
3           intermediaries such as Philadelphia Safe  
4           and Sound and the critical position that  
5           they play in providing these services to  
6           our families and children.

7                       In the past decade, the  
8           Coalition for Community Schools has grown  
9           from seven partner organizations to more  
10          than 150. Through our partners, we have  
11          promoted the development of community  
12          schools across the country.

13                     From Chicago's 110 community  
14          schools to Portland, Oregon where 55 of  
15          150 schools are community schools to the  
16          outskirts of Seattle where the 2,640  
17          students of the Tukwila, Washington  
18          School District all attend community  
19          schools, the number of district-wide  
20          initiatives has rapidly expanded in the  
21          last ten years.

22                     These community schools serve  
23          as both a place and a set of partnerships  
24          that bring together the school and other  
25          community resources. Schools become hubs

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           for the neighborhood in which an  
3           integrated focus on academic, health and  
4           social services, youth and community  
5           development and community engagement  
6           leads to improved student learning,  
7           stronger families and healthier  
8           communities.

9                       Evidence is mounting that  
10          students in community schools not only  
11          improve academically, but that other  
12          factors important to student success such  
13          as family, school and community outcomes  
14          are also improving.

15                     Leaders in our nation's schools  
16          and communities are working together  
17          across the boundaries of education,  
18          government and public-private and  
19          community-based agencies to create  
20          community schools. The community schools  
21          profiled in this testimony, which I don't  
22          have time to run through their profiles,  
23          illustrate how cross-boundary leadership  
24          helps community schools move from pilot  
25          projects to large-scale community-wide

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           education reform strategies.

3                     It is clear that where these  
4           initiatives have been sustained and  
5           expanded, leaders consistently and  
6           intentionally do at least four things to  
7           embed their vision in the hearts, minds  
8           and budgets of their communities. One,  
9           they develop and implement a sustainable  
10          financing strategy. Two, they transform  
11          policies and practices through technical  
12          assistance and professional development.  
13          Three, they focus on data and stories to  
14          show accountability for results. And,  
15          four, they pursue a public engagement  
16          strategy to build public will. These are  
17          particularly important roles to be played  
18          by intermediaries.

19                    Intermediaries are often  
20          entities that have direct access to  
21          top-level leaders and their policy  
22          discussions, as well as a connection to  
23          school and community organizations. They  
24          connect the vision and authority of  
25          top-level leaders to community residents'

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           concerns, assets and energy. These  
3           leaders in the middle help build the  
4           organizational infrastructure, the  
5           personnel, policies, services and  
6           facilities needed to implement and  
7           sustain community school initiatives.  
8           These individuals can be housed in a  
9           variety of different organizations.  
10          Clearly, where these individuals are  
11          housed is less important than their  
12          having the support of all of the key  
13          community stakeholders for their work.  
14                    These intermediaries, as  
15          leaders in the middle, can help bridge  
16          the diverse cultures and expectations of  
17          schools, government, community-based  
18          organizations and other groups. Across  
19          organizations, intermediaries keep open  
20          the lines of communication among  
21          top-level advocates and ensure that busy  
22          leaders stay focused on sustaining and  
23          expanding the community school  
24          initiative. They often serve as  
25          translators, increasing the visibility of



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           organizations accustomed to operating  
3           without public scrutiny. By reaching out  
4           to people at all levels and incorporating  
5           concepts from various disciplines,  
6           leaders in the middle help bring parties  
7           together, overcome implementation  
8           barriers and increase the trust necessary  
9           for effective collaboration.

10                   Philadelphia is a unique case.  
11           In this City, there are many pieces of a  
12           comprehensive citywide community school  
13           strategy, from numerous after-school  
14           initiatives to community health centers  
15           to the University of Pennsylvania's  
16           involvement in University-assisted  
17           community schools. However, what is  
18           critically needed at this moment is a  
19           comprehensive approach and vision for how  
20           the different stakeholders can work  
21           together to make Philadelphia's young  
22           people succeed. The community school  
23           offers such an approach and vision. In  
24           pursuing this vision, local stakeholders  
25           need to both make better use of existing

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           resources and at the same time to deepen  
3           their investments in our young people and  
4           our communities.

5                     Philadelphia will become a  
6           national leader -- as my friend Mr.  
7           Bowman said, Mr. Bower representing Mr.  
8           Bowman, Philadelphia will become a  
9           national leader in building a citywide  
10          community school strategy if the school  
11          system, faith-based institutions, higher  
12          education, community-based organizations,  
13          health and human service agencies,  
14          unions, business and the City government  
15          come together behind what must be our  
16          most important goal, preparing our  
17          children as successful and productive  
18          citizens, families and community members.

19                    Thank you for your time,  
20          Councilwoman Tasco.

21                    COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you  
22          very much.

23                    (Applause.)

24                    COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you  
25          all for your testimony. We have two more

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           panels, and then if you haven't signed  
3           up, this is the last call.

4                   MS. GOERTZEL: Thank you for  
5           your patience and time.

6                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: We have  
7           Ms. Pat DeCarlo of Norris Square, Martha  
8           Sierra of Aspira, and Ariel Arnau of the  
9           Lighthouse, and we're going to call up  
10          Ms. Sheila Henry, who is a parent truant  
11          officer, in that order.

12                  MS. DeCARLO: And I also want  
13          to bring apologies from Congreso, because  
14          the young lady who was here had to go,  
15          Sybill, had to go and pick up her child.

16                  COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: And we're  
17          going to ask you to be brief. We know  
18          all about the programs. You're preaching  
19          to the choir.

20                  MS. DeCARLO: So you already  
21          have a copy of this.

22                  COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Yes.

23                  MS. DeCARLO: But I wanted you  
24          to know that I'm here today speaking both  
25          as a provider and as a Board member of

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           Safe and Sound, and so for those who  
3           continue to think that there is a  
4           conflict of interest and somehow some  
5           favoritism within that organization, let  
6           me tell you that the Safe and Sound  
7           Beacon Center that Norris Square Civic  
8           Association runs at Hunter School was  
9           closed along with the others. And so  
10          knowing that Safe and Sound truly makes  
11          its decisions based on data and outcomes,  
12          I was upset, but I said it is what it is.  
13          They were told to cut \$20 million. They  
14          cut \$20 million the best way they can in  
15          a very short time. Let's see the  
16          numbers, and the numbers speak for  
17          themselves. And providers, sometimes we  
18          don't like to accept the numbers, but  
19          they are what they are.

20                 We, unfortunately, made a  
21          mistake this year, my mistake. I decided  
22          to take the after-school Beacon program  
23          and focus it, rather than the kinder to  
24          fourth grade that it had been before, to  
25          focus it on fifth, sixth and seventh

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           grade, because I read that those kids who  
3           don't do well in sixth grade will  
4           eventually drop, and I told the staff,  
5           You know what, the other program can do  
6           kinder to this, we're going to focus on  
7           those kids. And they're the tough kids  
8           to recruit and they're the kids to keep,  
9           because mommy brings a kindergarten,  
10          first, second and third grade and they  
11          stay there, but somebody who is in sixth  
12          grade -- (witness speaking Spanish) --  
13          they make their own decisions and they  
14          leave and they come when they please. So  
15          they're a very tough crowd to have. So  
16          as a result of that, our attendance this  
17          particular year was very low. We  
18          suffered the consequences. It's okay.  
19          I'm a big girl.

20                 This lady who just spoke, I  
21          think we really need to listen. The  
22          investment and infrastructure that Safe  
23          and Sound represents for the City of  
24          Philadelphia is invaluable. It would be  
25          a crying shame, irrespective of the

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           providers, that in the midst of this  
3           debacle we ended up throwing away what is  
4           clearly a very valuable institution and  
5           too for this City for something that  
6           small to undertake to coordinate, train,  
7           monitor, support all those different  
8           programs -- and let me tell you, they  
9           come, they show, they count. When we had  
10          our accident last year, they came. What  
11          do you need? Were it the government,  
12          sorry. The government would come in and  
13          say, What you do wrong, right? There's a  
14          different attitude, and they're excellent  
15          at what they do.

16                       Can it be improved?  
17          Absolutely. Anybody who can't improve  
18          doesn't mean to be in this business. But  
19          we really need to be careful that we  
20          don't throw the baby with the bath water.

21                       Last, but not least, what we  
22          have is one Mayor who was going to push  
23          his programs before he left, come hell or  
24          high water, and we now have a new Mayor  
25          who is going to cut his programs, come

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           hell or high water. (Witness speaking  
3           Spanish.)

4                       So I ask the ladies in City  
5           Council to please use reason -- she can  
6           explain to you what I said -- that we use  
7           the reason that women have, the  
8           reasonableness and the patience that we  
9           have to make this issue end. It is an  
10          issue of needing \$20 million. I don't  
11          care where you cut. Somebody else is  
12          going to be affected, particularly  
13          because it ends in June, and when someone  
14          said, by the way, we want to know what  
15          happens after June also.

16                      So it is a deficit. Take the  
17          bull by the horns, figure it out and pass  
18          the \$20 million deficit that needs to be  
19          covered. So somebody will say, no,  
20          because Street will win. (Witness  
21          speaking Spanish.) But I ask, I beg the  
22          ladies in City Council, no disrespect to  
23          the gentleman who is here -- oh, he left.

24                      COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: They're  
25          listening.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                   MS. DeCARLO: That you all  
3           figure it out, that you do the right  
4           thing and you fund these programs.  
5           Otherwise, we will continue to be getting  
6           these e-mails about this got cut, that  
7           got done, the other. It is unfortunate  
8           that we have chosen to communicate the  
9           way we've chosen to communicate and press  
10          conferences. I really hope that it  
11          changes. It can't continue.

12                   One last thing, little secret  
13          that I'll share with you. There's state  
14          funding for programs that are licensed by  
15          DPW. They're a pain to get licensed.  
16          DPW is very tough. Both of our programs  
17          are licensed, McKinley and Hunter. It  
18          takes a lot to get them licensed, but we  
19          did it.

20                   If you're licensed, working  
21          parents can then apply to CCIS, which is  
22          a different state fund, for their  
23          after-school program up to year 13. Why  
24          hasn't Norris Square done that? Well,  
25          because when all the after-school



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           programs are free and you try to charge,

3           people say -- (witness speaking

4           Spanish) -- Why are you charging?

5                       Now with this cut, somebody

6           needs to figure out how you set up a

7           system that there's a program for working

8           parents so they can enroll. They do a

9           co-pay. And there's a program, the same

10          program, but it's a different kind of

11          funding that goes for parents who do not

12          work but still need those kind of

13          services.

14                       Thank you for your attention.

15                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Who did

16          you get your e-mail from?

17                       MS. DeCARLO: DHS.

18                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0:

19          Ms. Shenberger, who is sending out the

20          e-mails? Are you? You don't know? You

21          don't know who -- so DHS is sending out

22          the notices?

23                       MS. SHENBERGER: I guess.

24                       MS. DeCARLO: Can I explain

25          why? Because they're not the bad guys.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           The Mayor told them to cut their funding.  
3           Now, they don't cut funding by going to a  
4           machine and printing money. They go to  
5           the providers and they say, How much you  
6           spent? Don't spend any more. We're  
7           going to cut.

8                        So that's why I'm saying, this  
9           is crazy. So he told DHS to cut their  
10          funding, like he told Safe and Sound to  
11          cut their funding. And I know this is  
12          simplistic. Come on, guys. Like the  
13          lady said, do the right thing, pass the  
14          \$20 million --

15                      COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I'm  
16          going to address you in your Safe and  
17          Sound capacity, Patricia. The fact of  
18          the matter is -- and as I said to the  
19          Safe and Sound folks here, we -- at least  
20          my responsibility and Marian's is, we  
21          don't want to shoot the victim to get to  
22          the perpetrator. And, clearly, we did  
23          not do due diligence on this. In the  
24          Safe and Sound capacity, it was very,  
25          very clear to me that this Council and

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           this Mayor-elect did not approve this.

3                       So we will try to do as much as  
4           we can to restore programs, but I want  
5           the adults in this scenario to accept  
6           some responsibility. We will take ours  
7           and we will take our hits, but the fact  
8           that we moved forward when we knew the  
9           City was in non-compliance and the State  
10          knew, so there's enough blame to go  
11          around, but as we move forward -- because  
12          I agree, the discussion should be what  
13          happens next year. Then the reason for  
14          these hearings is, what weren't we doing  
15          that we could have done to avoid this,  
16          the fact that the State never triggered  
17          something when they knew the City was  
18          acting in a way that was in  
19          non-compliance legally.

20                      So, again, we can argue this  
21          point. Our point is -- and I think our  
22          position has been clear, both  
23          Councilwoman Tasco and myself in  
24          proposing this resolution -- is, we do  
25          want to know the good things. We all

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           know everything is not perfect, but we  
3           all have to take some responsibility.  
4           I'm taking the heat and the e-mails for  
5           decisions that I had nothing to do with,  
6           but I'm here saying, I understand that I  
7           do not want those kids caught up in this  
8           tension that we created through a  
9           bureaucracy that we created that is not  
10          the only one that exists in this City.

11                               (Applause.)

12                       COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So I  
13          want to be real clear that our goal is to  
14          get the services on the ground. But,  
15          clearly, between the State, the City and  
16          even our umbrella organizations and in  
17          this case Safe and Sound, we could have  
18          done a better job at managing this chaos.

19                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Well, they  
20          were trusting.

21                       MS. DeCARLO: You know, you get  
22          a contract that says it's a done deal,  
23          here it is, go more forward, and you keep  
24          saying -- (witness speaking Spanish) --  
25          more forward.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: I've come  
3           to the conclusion that you were trusting  
4           because based on past practice,  
5           everything came through, and at the end  
6           of the day, there was someone who wanted  
7           to leave a legacy and just bulldozed  
8           through the whole process, without any  
9           consideration of the chaos it would  
10          create, or maybe knew the chaos would be  
11          created.

12                   MS. DeCARLO: I don't think so.

13                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Oh, I  
14          believe so. And anyway --

15                   MS. DeCARLO: That's why I say,  
16          ladies, resolve the chaos. You can do  
17          it. I am convinced you have the capacity  
18          to do that.

19                   COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: I think as  
20          I listen to this testimony today and  
21          listen to all of the scenarios, I just  
22          think it was intentional. I'm sorry.  
23          That's my personal feeling, and I will  
24          always have that feeling, knowing the  
25          perpetrator.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                   Let me stop that, because it's  
3           unprofessional.

4                   MS. DeCARLO: My daddy used to  
5           say two wrongs don't make one right.  
6           That's the problem.

7                   COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you  
8           very much.

9                   MS. DeCARLO: Thank you.

10                  MS. SIERRA: Good evening,  
11           Madam Chairwoman and Councilwoman  
12           Sanchez. My name is Martha Sierra and  
13           I'm speaking to you on behalf of Aspira  
14           Incorporated Pennsylvania and its parent  
15           truancy program.

16                  Although I completely  
17           understand the necessity for the review  
18           and audit of impacting and fiscal  
19           decisions made by the prior  
20           Administration for the use of City funds  
21           as well as make changes, if necessary,  
22           but I'm here to remind everyone that the  
23           decision made to cut not has only  
24           impacted a much-needed service as a  
25           parent truancy officer, but the loss of

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           revenues for 25 of our employees and 83  
3           members of their families.

4                     During its operation, which is  
5           ours, our program not only visited 1,500  
6           homes for the purpose of reducing truancy  
7           and violence, they also made 493  
8           referrals to families in the communities  
9           and the schools we served. If it wasn't  
10          for us, for example, visiting Ms. Sorada  
11          Green about her child's attendance  
12          record, Ms. Green wouldn't have found out  
13          or become aware that the notes that she  
14          had been sending to school were not being  
15          accepted. As a result, our parent  
16          truancy officer informed her the steps  
17          that she needed to take in order to avoid  
18          unwarranted visits and future involvement  
19          with DHS and Truancy Court.

20                    Additionally, our PTO provided  
21          her with the food and clothing referral  
22          she needed to one of the emergency  
23          cupboards, as well as provide access to  
24          our computer lab so that can she work on  
25          her resume.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                   This is an example in our  
3           community how we work and how we've been  
4           working and training our employees, which  
5           are actually parents teaching parents in  
6           the community, about the education law,  
7           about the things that they have to do to  
8           give themselves a voice.

9                   Another example was when two of  
10          our PTOs came and made a home visit and  
11          discovered that three children, ages 2, 4  
12          and 10, were left alone. Our PTOs  
13          reacted quickly and called the  
14          supervisor, who then in turn called the  
15          cops and DHS. If it wasn't for that,  
16          that mother wouldn't have received the  
17          support being a young mother herself and  
18          understanding what she was doing was  
19          wrong. We probably wouldn't have been  
20          able to find that incident.

21                  Again, we took the steps. The  
22          parent truancy officers are the initial  
23          individuals that come out to visit the  
24          homes. We know that the schools have the  
25          responsibilities, but one individual in



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           one school has over 1,300 on the average  
3           to take care of. So when we can come in  
4           and give them that additional support and  
5           visit those homes, we're giving them the  
6           opportunity to address potential issues  
7           in the future. Instead of seeing them in  
8           Truancy Court, as a supervisor of Truancy  
9           Court, I see them day in, day out dealing  
10          with children ages fifth grade all the  
11          way up to high school and wondering where  
12          did it go wrong. If they had addressed  
13          those in the earlier-on stages at eight  
14          days versus 43 days, we probably wouldn't  
15          have had many of the problems involved  
16          today.

17                 I can bring up an incident in  
18          terms of briefly us seeing a child who  
19          was arrested recently because of being  
20          involved in a robbery, but that was done  
21          through Truancy Court. Again, that would  
22          have been an incident avoided had they  
23          been involved or addressed earlier on in  
24          after school, as well as a parent truancy  
25          officer continued to be able to visit

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           that home and give them the referrals  
3           necessary.

4                         In closing, Madam Chairwoman  
5           and members of the Council, I just want  
6           you to consider not only our 25 parent  
7           truancy officers and their 83 members,  
8           but the 300 other PTOs and their family  
9           members that have been impacted by these  
10          cuts. It's not giving them a cut, but  
11          also forcing them back into the possible  
12          welfare system, something that we've been  
13          trying to work so hard to get them off of  
14          and become self-sufficient.

15                        (Applause.)

16                        COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you.

17                        Yes?

18                        MR. ARNAU: Good evening. My  
19          name is Ariel Arnau and I have the honor  
20          and pleasure of serving as Director of  
21          Youth Services for the Lighthouse. For  
22          the previous two and a half years, I had  
23          the pleasure of learning management under  
24          Reverend Catherine Bowers serving in the  
25          capacity as Director of their Frankford

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           Beacon. I know that Reverend Bowers was  
3           here earlier.

4                       I've come to give you guys some  
5           good news. Philadelphia Safe and Sound's  
6           2007 Report Card reported that the  
7           average school attendance rate was  
8           approximately 87.4 percent. The students  
9           that we service in our ASI after-school  
10          program, which is a Safe and Sound-funded  
11          program that attends Sheppard Elementary,  
12          on average have a 97 percent school  
13          attendance rate. Their interaction with  
14          our staff and with the various resources  
15          that we've been able to bring in, in  
16          combination with our meetings with  
17          parents, have been able to increase  
18          school attendance rates. And I don't  
19          think that I need to stand on an egg  
20          crate and preach to anyone here about how  
21          important school attendance is.

22                      In addition, our curfew center,  
23          the Lighthouse East Curfew Center, was  
24          the second curfew center started in the  
25          City and it was the first one north of

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           Market Street. We had the pleasure of  
3           working with the 24th and 25th Police  
4           Districts. In the ten months where we  
5           had -- we worked with the 24th and 25th  
6           Police Districts, we served over 500 kids  
7           that violated curfew. Now, if you do the  
8           math over a ten-month period, that's 50  
9           kids per month that we were working with.  
10          That's 50 kids that were taken off the  
11          street, 50 kids that were placed in  
12          somewhere safe, that were fed, that were  
13          protected, and 50 families that were  
14          served in combination with behavioral  
15          health.

16                   I think it would be a crime and  
17          a travesty if these services, these very  
18          necessary services, would experience a  
19          reduction of any kind, whether it's  
20          monetary, whether it's in terms of  
21          technical assistance, whether it's in  
22          terms of other resources that providers  
23          such as -- community partners such as  
24          Safe and Sound have been able to provide.

25                   I've heard the testimony of

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           other people who have come up here who  
3           have stated that they have received  
4           letters and faxes and have been invited  
5           to meetings. I applaud those members,  
6           because we at the Lighthouse did not  
7           receive any such communication. I'd like  
8           to be able to tell you, Well, this is how  
9           much we were cut, this is how many people  
10          we've had to lay off. I don't have that  
11          data for you, because I have yet to  
12          receive an official communication from  
13          Safe and Sound. Does that mean we're  
14          going to get cut? I have no idea. I  
15          have no clue.

16                 I found out about the meeting  
17          with providers that Safe and Sound had at  
18          the Aspira Gala from a colleague of mine.  
19          An interesting way to find out about a  
20          very important meeting.

21                 I would urge City Council to  
22          consider not just what I've said, but  
23          what every person that has come through  
24          here and that has stayed here six hours  
25          plus, along with you guys, of course. I

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           mean, I don't know how you guys do it, to  
3           be honest with you, and I give you guys a  
4           lot of credit, because I'm 31 and I'm  
5           fidgeting here with lack of patience.

6                       COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Stamina.

7                       MR. ARNAU: Yeah. So I give  
8           you guys credit for the stamina that you  
9           guys have in dealing with this. And I  
10          know that it can't be easy fielding a lot  
11          of angry phone calls from parents and  
12          concerned phone calls from various  
13          community members. But I would urge you  
14          guys to find ways to continue funding and  
15          to seek additional ways to support Safe  
16          and Sound with their communication with  
17          their providers, because I think it is  
18          going to take a collective effort of not  
19          only the providers, not only the middle  
20          men, the Safe and Sounds of the world,  
21          but it's really going to take a  
22          collective effort from parents, children,  
23          City government working together to try  
24          and not only fill this gap but improve  
25          the quality of service that we are able

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           to provide.

3                       So thank you very much for your  
4           time.

5                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you  
6           very much. We appreciate it. Thank you  
7           for coming.

8                       (Applause.)

9                       COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Ms. Henry,  
10          are you ready? You've been here all day.  
11          You can't leave at the last minute and  
12          not testify.

13                      MS. HENRY: Good evening,  
14          ladies. My name is Sheila Henry.  
15          Councilwoman, I've been here since 7:30  
16          this morning. As of tomorrow will be my  
17          last day as a PTO, and I really enjoyed  
18          the job, because I was great at it and it  
19          gave me an opportunity to talk to single  
20          parents, and a lot of times when you go  
21          to the door, the parents need someone to  
22          be like the liaison between them and the  
23          school. And it was like an eye opener,  
24          because it doesn't have to be based on  
25          poverty stricken, because the areas that

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           I was going to, their homes was fabulous,  
3           but they just didn't send them notes for  
4           their children to go to school. But they  
5           still needed someone to talk to and to  
6           let them be aware of what's going on in  
7           society itself.

8                     And with that note, ladies,  
9           think about all the PTOs and everybody  
10          when you do the budget, and tell the  
11          Mayor, yes, I voted for him and keep up  
12          the work that he trying to do and with  
13          y'all help. God bless you.

14                    COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you  
15          so much for your testimony.

16                    (Applause.)

17                    MS. HENRY: Good night.

18                    COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Good  
19          night. Thank you.

20                    Good afternoon.

21                    MR. SENG: Good evening.

22                    COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Good  
23          evening. I'm sorry. I'm still in a time  
24          warp.

25                    MR. SENG: Good evening,



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           Councilwoman Marian Tasco and  
3           Councilmember. I want to thank for the  
4           opportunity to speak today. My name is  
5           David Seng. I'm the Director of  
6           Operation of United Community. I'm going  
7           to keep it brief, because I know that  
8           time is getting late.

9                       COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Excuse me  
10           one moment. I don't want to cut you off,  
11           but our reporter said she has to leave at  
12           7:15. So please summarize your  
13           testimony.

14                      MR. SENG: Okay.

15                      COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you.

16                      MR. SENG: With the Mayor's  
17           direction to cut \$21 million, what I want  
18           to do is, I want to talk the effect.  
19           This is not just the \$21 million. We're  
20           talking about our children's lives.  
21           Cutting prevention program will affect  
22           many things. If the Mayor's priority is  
23           about crime prevention, I think cutting  
24           prevention program meaning it's not  
25           investing in our kid future.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                   I understand there's a need to  
3 focus on outcome measures and how funds  
4 being spent on prevention that will aid  
5 the development of our City. This is the  
6 financial responsibility to match with  
7 the outcome. I think it's a good thing,  
8 but there are more than just dollar and  
9 cents.

10                   At United Community we had to  
11 let go 25 to 30 employee because of the  
12 budget cut. And let me remind you also,  
13 these employee are the PT0, and they  
14 don't make that much money. They go out  
15 to the homes and visit the kids and  
16 making sure that their attendance record  
17 is improved. As you know, truancy is the  
18 leading cause of behavior that lead to  
19 other adverse behavior.

20                   So I'm going to get to the  
21 conclusion, is that I hope that this  
22 program will be restored and continue to  
23 invest in our children future so that we  
24 all share the vision of making  
25 Philadelphia as the first class city.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                       So I thank you for your time.

3                       (Applause.)

4                       SISTER JANE: I'm Sister Jane.

5           I'm from Visitation School in Philly, and

6           first of all, I'd like to thank you. I

7           definitely don't want to be a City

8           Council person.

9                       We have two issues, I guess, I  
10          would like to talk about, is our Beacon,  
11          which is 180 children and it was shut and  
12          now it's open. We are a school that 80  
13          percent are below poverty level. We're  
14          multi-lingual. We're multi-cultural. We  
15          have 180 children. This has been a great  
16          Godsend to our families and to our  
17          children.

18                       We also have from Variety an  
19          autism support program that's going to be  
20          closed. It only works with three  
21          children, but it works with three very  
22          special children, with very special needs  
23          that are going to grow and become a major  
24          issue in our society. So I'm concerned  
25          about that program also.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                       We were told we were restored  
3           and our parents were calling the school  
4           today all excited. You know, We're  
5           restored, yeah, yeah. And all I can  
6           think is, we're restored for 75 clots and  
7           we have 180 children, you know. They  
8           think this is going to go on the way it  
9           was, and it just isn't.

10                      I also think that we are most  
11           willing to get rid of the school rent,  
12           because the school is being paid rent.  
13           The utilities, we'll be willing to pay  
14           for them through the school. Myself and  
15           the principal will be most willing to  
16           help the Administration so that we can  
17           have less administrative staff and we  
18           could assist with that in-kind service  
19           type thing, but we need to know what's  
20           going on. We have one week left to let  
21           parents know what's going to happen to  
22           them as of March and if they need to  
23           bring money, et cetera.

24                      So we're grateful for the  
25           restoration, but we really need some help

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           with what to do with the other hundred,  
3           and we've got one week.

4                       So thank you, and please help  
5           us. And Alyssa is one of ours.

6                       MS. VALEZ: Good evening,  
7           everyone. My name is Alyssa Valez. I am  
8           a sixth grader at Visitation BVM School.  
9           I attend the Beacon program at Visitation  
10          BVM every day and the after-school  
11          program and the family preservation  
12          program. During the after-school  
13          program, I get help with my homework,  
14          computer lessons and art class. I also  
15          participate in a computer program,  
16          Achieve 3,000, that helps me with my  
17          reading level.

18                      After we have done our  
19          homework, we have time to have fun with  
20          our friends. We walk, we talk, we play  
21          video games, we go to the gym for  
22          exercise and, in good weather, to the  
23          playground for fresh air.

24                      The after-school program comes  
25          to an end at 6:00. At that time, the

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           family preservation program takes over.  
3           On Mondays and Fridays from 6:00 to 7:00  
4           I attend a photography class. I learn  
5           how to take pictures and edit them using  
6           photo shop. On Tuesdays and Thursdays I  
7           participate in hip-hop. I love doing  
8           both of these things.

9                     The Beacon program has allowed  
10          me to improve in my school work while  
11          also giving me the authority to have fun  
12          with my friends in a safe and fun  
13          environment. Without this help, many  
14          authorities will be closed to me and my  
15          friends.

16                    I want to thank you for the  
17          authority that you have provided for me  
18          and others in the past year, and I hope  
19          that you will allow our Beacon and other  
20          Beacons to remain open.

21                    Thank you, everyone, for  
22          listening to me today.

23                    (Applause.)

24                    COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you  
25          very much.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                   MS. PATH: Good evening. My  
3           name is Carrie Path. I'm with the South  
4           Philadelphia Junior Stakeholder, and I'm  
5           here to support the reinstatement of the  
6           programs for our youth.

7                   MS. BECKHAM: Thank you for the  
8           opportunity to speak today. My name is  
9           Brianna Beckham.

10                   As high school students and  
11           Beacon participants, we are here to speak  
12           on the behalf of many students in our  
13           program with the help of EPOP, which is  
14           the Eastern Pennsylvania Organizing  
15           Project. I know that firsthand  
16           cancelling programs like ours will leave  
17           more of us on the street without  
18           productive things to do. For lack of  
19           productive activities will open the door  
20           to crime, dropping out of high school and  
21           drug use. These realities make it  
22           important not only for us but for all  
23           Philadelphians.

24                   MS. HENDERSON: Hi. I'm  
25           Dominique Henderson.

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2                   In addition to that, many more  
3           parents who cannot afford other  
4           activities will have more to worry about  
5           knowing where their children are not  
6           supervised. Cutting programs like the  
7           Beacon will also open the door to many  
8           more high school dropouts, which is on  
9           the agenda for Mayor Michael Nutter.

10                   MS. MAXWELL: Hello. My name  
11           is Dara Maxwell.

12                   The Beacon program has become a  
13           regular routine for many of us that  
14           should not be disrupted under any  
15           circumstances. It is not fair for us to  
16           take away programs that we are benefiting  
17           from. They are programs that keep all of  
18           us safe. They give us resources like  
19           tutoring that we otherwise will not be  
20           able to receive.

21                   While we all thank you for  
22           reinstating the programs into June, it is  
23           still not enough. We need programs over  
24           the summer, where there is less  
25           structured time for youth and when things



1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           like the murder rates spike.

3                     Thank you.

4                     (Applause.)

5                     COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you  
6           all so much for coming. And I think we  
7           have one last testifier and she's from my  
8           district.

9                     UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank  
10          you, Councilwoman Tasco and to  
11          Councilwoman Sanchez. I just have two  
12          quick things that I wanted to say before  
13          leaving. I have been here since the  
14          hearings have started and I listened  
15          attentively. I didn't come with a desire  
16          to speak. I really wanted to hear, but  
17          if I could just say these two things, I  
18          would appreciate it.

19                    One is that I believe that as a  
20          provider in the Mount Airy section of the  
21          City of Philadelphia and one that has  
22          been partaking of children's investment  
23          strategies now for the last, I believe,  
24          eight years or so, that we are finding  
25          ourselves caught in a position wherein we

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           have no real advocacy for us as  
3           providers. DHS has its agenda.  
4           Philadelphia Safe and Sound has its  
5           agenda. And we as providers have a whole  
6           different kind of thing that we're  
7           looking at.

8                        So I'd like to suggest maybe  
9           that if we could find a way wherein  
10          providers can be heard more often by  
11          entities like yourself. I'm not looking  
12          for hearings, but I am looking for some  
13          outlet wherein we can be heard and not  
14          penalized for being heard, first.

15                      And, secondly, that I do  
16          believe that when we put all of our eggs  
17          in one basket and when that basket  
18          breaks, we have a serious problem. And  
19          we had a -- there was a point wherein we  
20          had Philadelphia Safe and Sound, we had  
21          PHMC and we had United Way all working  
22          this one pie. Now it's just one entity  
23          where they are collectively doing  
24          everything in-house, and it kind of gives  
25          us no "out." Even if we had PHMC when we

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           had that, we had some kind of other  
3           fiscal management that would hear us.  
4           When we had United Way, we had some  
5           program management that would hear us.  
6           Now we just have the one entity that is  
7           doing its own thing, and we're kind of  
8           being jockeyed along, and I think that  
9           that's something that maybe you can find  
10          a way to help us with.

11                       Thank you.

12                      COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you  
13           for your comments. We appreciate those  
14           comments, and certainly Ms. Shenberger is  
15           here and Dr. Schwarz, our new Health  
16           Commissioner, is here, and they have  
17           heard the testimonies of all the  
18           participants today.

19                      I will close this hearing with  
20           the charge to them to, one, find a better  
21           way to communicate what's going on to  
22           these organizations. I mean, there's  
23           total confusion here. And certainly I  
24           think you all need to move very quickly  
25           to figure out what's going to be

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139

2           restored, what's not going to be  
3           restored, and that is communicated, too.  
4           And I think the one theme we heard today  
5           was better communication, better  
6           communication, and certainly a voice for  
7           the providers so that they can let you  
8           know what's paining them and find some  
9           resolution to their problems.

10                       We certainly thank you for your  
11           testimony today, for coming in. I think  
12           we're all better informed as to the Safe  
13           and Sound program. There's still a lot  
14           of questions between their interaction  
15           between DHS and Safe and Sound, and we  
16           will further explore that during the  
17           budget process. But during this crisis,  
18           we charge you to try and figure out a way  
19           how you can quickly help, if we can help,  
20           to solve the issue of how we're going to  
21           restore these programs, what programs are  
22           going to be restored, and that message  
23           gets out very quickly to the community.

24                       Thank you. This meeting will  
25           be adjourned to the call of the Chair. I

1           2/21/08 - PUBLIC HEALTH - RES. 080139  
2           want to thank my colleague, Councilwoman  
3           Sanchez, who has hung in here with me  
4           today. She's like my old buddy,  
5           Councilwoman Ortiz. It used to be the  
6           two of us in here on social service  
7           issues. It's been an informative  
8           afternoon, and I thank you all for  
9           coming.

10                       Thank you.

11                       (Committee on Public Health and  
12           Human Services adjourned at 7:20 p.m.)

13                       - - -

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MICHELE L. MURPHY

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