

Committee on Appropriations
February 28, 2019

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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, February 28, 2019
9:30 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILWOMAN MARIA D. QUINONES-SANCHEZ, CHAIR
COUNCIL PRESIDENT DARRELL L. CLARKE
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE L. BLACKWELL
COUNCILMAN ALLAN DOMB
COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON
COUNCILMAN DAVID OH

BILL 190006 - An ordinance authorizing transfers in appropriations for Fiscal Year 2019 from the General Fund, certain or all City offices, departments, boards and commissions, the Grants Revenue Fund, certain or all City offices, departments, boards and commissions to the General Fund, certain or all City offices, departments, boards and commissions.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So the
3 Committee on Appropriations will now come
4 to order, having established quorum. To
5 my left, Council President Clarke. To my
6 right, Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell. To
7 her right, Councilman Allan Domb.

8 Will the Clerk read the title
9 of the bill.

10 THE CLERK: Bill No. 190006, an
11 ordinance authorizing transfers in
12 appropriations for Fiscal Year 2019 from
13 the General Fund, certain or all City
14 offices, departments, boards and
15 commissions, the Grants Revenue Fund,
16 certain or all City offices, departments,
17 boards and commissions to the General
18 Fund, departments, boards and
19 commissions.

20 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
21 you.

22 We will begin. Ms. Adams.

23 MS. ADAMS: Good morning, Chair
24 Quinones-Sanchez and members of the
25 Appropriations Committee. My name is

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2 Anna Adams and I serve as Budget Director
3 for the City. With me at the table is
4 Sarah de Wolf, who is Deputy Budget
5 Director.

6 I appear before you today to
7 offer testimony on Bill No. 190006 that
8 provides for a transfer from within the
9 General Fund and from the Grants Revenue
10 Fund to the General Fund.

11 The ordinance is needed to
12 transfer appropriations to various City
13 agencies to address other areas where
14 funds are being realigned or shortages
15 have occurred.

16 In the General Fund, 1.25
17 million to the Managing Director for
18 three programs in support of the recently
19 proposed Gun Violence initiative.
20 500,000 will be used to support an
21 expansion of the Community Crisis
22 Intervention Program; 250,000 for an
23 expansion of the Youth Violence Reduction
24 Program, or YVRP; and 500,000 for
25 targeted community investment grants.

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2 I believe also there's been an
3 amendment to add 132,000 to the Managing
4 Director's Office to support the
5 Municipal ID program.

6 \$715,000 to the Police
7 Department for Operation Pinpoint, a
8 police intelligence program that will
9 support the recently proposed Gun
10 Violence initiative; \$72,000 to the
11 Department of Recreation to support a
12 contract for golf course management; \$2
13 million to the Office of Homeless
14 Services for the rehabilitation of a
15 facility called Beacon House, which will
16 support homeless individuals affected by
17 the opioid crisis; \$200,000 to the
18 Director of Commerce to fund a review of
19 Philadelphia's tax incentives; \$210,750
20 for the purchase of radios at the
21 Sheriff's Office. This amount is fully
22 offset by an internal transfer of the
23 same amount.

24 I respectfully request that you
25 report this bill out of Committee with a

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2 favorable recommendation and I further
3 request that the rules of Council be
4 suspended so as to permit first reading
5 at the next session of Council.

6 I appreciate the opportunity to
7 testify before this Committee this
8 morning. We'll be happy to answer any
9 questions you may have. Additionally,
10 representatives from departments involved
11 with the transfers are available as well.
12 We've submitted written testimony on
13 behalf of those departments.

14 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
15 you.

16 I'm going to start. If we
17 could have someone from Commerce talk a
18 little bit about the business incentive
19 study real quick.

20 MS. ADAMS: And actually also
21 Sarah from my office is also involved in
22 that study, so we can ask her any
23 questions.

24 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So
25 you're calling it the business incentive

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2 study. So tell me, has an RFP been
3 issued? What is the goal of the report,
4 and when will it be available?

5 MS. DE WOLF: Sure. Sarah
6 de Wolf, Deputy Budget Director.

7 An RFP has been issued. We
8 have contracted with a vendor, and the
9 goal of the study is to take a holistic
10 look at our cluster of tax incentive
11 programs and to determine if we need to
12 make any modifications to those programs.

13 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So when
14 you say modifications to the program, one
15 of the biggest hurdles has always been
16 our own internal process. So this
17 consultant will be streamlining?

18 MS. DE WOLF: Yes. That is one
19 of the things that they're looking at, is
20 streamlining the process for applying for
21 tax incentives.

22 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Okay.
23 Could you share scope of services for the
24 contract with the Chair in case anyone
25 wants to make sure anything else -- those

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2 of us who have done some of these tax
3 incentives, B Corp, other stuff, we want
4 to see some of these services utilized.
5 So we're interested in making sure they
6 get some.

7 What's the timeline for the
8 study?

9 MS. DE WOLF: So I think the
10 expected completion date is June 2019.

11 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Any
12 questions from the Committee regarding
13 the Commerce Department or any other --
14 yes.

15 Thank you.

16 The Chair recognizes Councilman
17 Domb.

18 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,
19 Madam Chair.

20 This one is for you, Anna. I
21 was hoping that Rob would be here. I'd
22 ask him this question.

23 MS. ADAMS: I'm afraid he's in
24 another meeting.

25 COUNCILMAN DOMB: So I'm

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2 looking at the PICA report from
3 yesterday, and if I'm reading it
4 correctly, the PICA report says the
5 Fiscal Year 2019 revenues are projected
6 at 4.638 billion and the expenditures are
7 projected at 4.803 billion.

8 MS. ADAMS: That's right.

9 COUNCILMAN DOMB: So it looks
10 like a \$165 million shortfall.

11 MS. ADAMS: That's right,
12 showing the operating deficit.

13 COUNCILMAN DOMB: And then it
14 shows that we'll have a projected fund
15 balance of 222.7 million.

16 MS. ADAMS: That's right.

17 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Will we have
18 to use that money to fund the shortfall?

19 MS. ADAMS: So, no. That's our
20 fund balance. So that's the -- based
21 on -- we finished last year at 368
22 million, if you remember, and so that's
23 the ending fund balance in FY19 after we
24 were showing the operating deficit.

25 COUNCILMAN DOMB: So you

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2 already took that off the old fund
3 balance, the shortfall?

4 MS. ADAMS: Yeah. The fund
5 balance is always a cumulative number.
6 So it's showing what we ended at last
7 year and then what we're spending in the
8 revenues this year, and that's when we
9 get to the 222 projection now.

10 COUNCILMAN DOMB: How come we
11 don't have the requirement of a balanced
12 budget?

13 MS. ADAMS: We're required to
14 have a balanced Five Year Plan, and
15 that's the way it works. So it's like
16 it's based on a balance -- we have to
17 obviously -- we don't show a deficit
18 because we have a positive fund balance.
19 So we do have a positive -- a 222 million
20 fund balance.

21 COUNCILMAN DOMB: So you're
22 saying that last year we finished with
23 368?

24 MS. ADAMS: That's right.

25 COUNCILMAN DOMB: And this year

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2 we'll finish with 222?

3 MS. ADAMS: That's a projection
4 right now.

5 COUNCILMAN DOMB: And those
6 dollars, is a certain amount of those
7 dollars accumulated from the beverage
8 tax?

9 MS. ADAMS: All of the beverage
10 tax revenue comes into the General Fund,
11 and from there, we make our expenditures,
12 yeah. And in FY19, if you just look at
13 kind of the programs supported by the
14 beverage tax, we expect that we will
15 receive more in revenue than we spend in
16 programs this fiscal year, and then in
17 two years' time, that's changed
18 dramatically. So at that point, we're
19 spending more on the programs than we're
20 receiving in the revenues.

21 If you remember, we held back
22 some of -- as we were in litigation over
23 the beverage tax, we held back some of
24 our expenditures until that was resolved.
25 Now that it's resolved, we're now kind of

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2 expanding the programs.

3 COUNCILMAN DOMB: How much
4 money would you say we have accumulated
5 from the delay of whether it's litigation
6 or whatever?

7 MS. ADAMS: It's difficult to
8 tell because we're in the middle of the
9 fiscal year. We can tell how much we
10 didn't spend in '17 and '18. The middle
11 of the fiscal year is tricky because it's
12 all about timing of when you make those
13 payments. So we can show you the
14 projections, the cumulative projections,
15 and I can get back to you at the end of
16 this week with those cumulative
17 projections. I think we actually just
18 had to provide that to a reporter the
19 other day, so we have that data.

20 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Is there a
21 ballpark figure? Like is it 50 million,
22 100 million?

23 MS. ADAMS: I honestly can't
24 remember. I wouldn't want to say
25 without -- I can send it to you exactly.

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2 We have '17, '18 and the expenditures and
3 then the revenues that are associated
4 with it.

5 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you
6 very much.

7 Thank you, Madam Chair.

8 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
9 you.

10 The Chair recognizes Councilman
11 Oh has joined the Committee.

12 Anna, just for the record, at
13 the last Appropriations, you transferred
14 about \$100 million from General Fund to
15 Grants Revenue, and at that time, we
16 talked about that was some of the money
17 that was expected to be spent; is that
18 right? How much was it?

19 MS. ADAMS: Sorry. From Grants
20 Revenue to General Fund?

21 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: No. We
22 moved from General Fund to Grants Revenue
23 in the last Appropriations transfer.

24 MS. ADAMS: I'm not -- I'm
25 sorry. I'm not sure.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Yes.

3 You moved money from General Fund to
4 Grants Revenue, and some of it was based
5 on the idea that it would be expenditures
6 related to beverage tax and other things.

7 MS. ADAMS: So I think we had
8 some money in a set-aside and that we're
9 now sort of releasing some of those funds
10 from the set-aside, yes. And then in our
11 previous transfer, we also put some money
12 in a budget stabilization reserve, 20
13 million. That's also shown in here. We
14 haven't yet made that payment because we
15 are waiting an ability to do that, but we
16 have it shown that that money is going
17 into the budget stabilization reserve.
18 So that's included within that 222
19 million, yes.

20 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Okay.

21 Thank you.

22 I'm going to have -- can
23 someone come in and talk a little bit
24 about Beacon House? Has Liz got here
25 yet? Oh, there she goes.

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2 (Witness approached witness
3 table.)

4 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
5 you, Liz, for all the information. I'll
6 make sure to share it with the rest of
7 the team.

8 Just for the record, I wanted
9 to talk a little around Beacon House and
10 the timeline, the development partner
11 timeline, and the service provider, if
12 you could for the record.

13 MS. HERSH: Yes. I'd be happy
14 to. Thank you for the opportunity.

15 Beacon House, the architectural
16 drawings are done.

17 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Pull the
18 mic up a little bit for Councilwoman.

19 MS. HERSH: Sure. These chairs
20 are a little small -- I mean, a little
21 big. I feel small.

22 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Your
23 name for the record too, Liz.

24 MS. HERSH: I'm Liz Hersh. I'm
25 the Director of the City's Office of

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2 Homeless Services.

3 Talking about Beacon House,
4 Beacon House is currently an unoccupied,
5 underutilized building on the Temple
6 Episcopal campus, and we're proposing to
7 convert it to a low-barrier shelter with
8 24-hour services nested in the Temple
9 Episcopal Healthcare campus, which we
10 think is a very good use. It will also
11 enable us to move Prevention Point
12 respite off of Kensington Avenue, which
13 we believe will be very beneficial for
14 the commercial development of Kensington.

15 The contractor that we will be
16 working with is HACE, which is right
17 across the street, which means that the
18 rehab money and the jobs will all be
19 local in the -- directed to the
20 Kensington community. HACE has over 20
21 years' experience in doing this kind of
22 project. It's a gut rehab.

23 The architectural drawings have
24 been completed. As soon as the funds are
25 available, they're ready to go. We

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2 believe it will be about a five-month
3 construction process.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: It's a
5 lot now?

6 MS. HERSH: Excuse me?

7 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: It's a
8 building. It's a vacant building.

9 So you're saying five months.
10 So expected opening, what, September,
11 October for the next winter?

12 MS. HERSH: Our original hope
13 was summer. I think realistically we're
14 probably talking about early fall; late
15 summer, early fall.

16 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Okay.
17 Any questions related?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: All
20 right. And then, finally, Violence
21 Prevention, just for the record.

22 (Witness approached witness
23 table.)

24 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Managing
25 Director Vanessa Garrett, Councilwoman

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2 Blackwell said she'll get you later.

3 MS. GARRETT-HARLEY: Good
4 morning, for the record.

5 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Good
6 morning. Just real quickly, speak to the
7 Roadmap to Safer Communities and what
8 this initial investment will do.

9 MS. GARRETT-HARLEY: So the
10 Roadmap to Safer Communities is the
11 violence prevention strategy that the
12 Mayor has adopted that we have put forth
13 from the Office of Violence Prevention,
14 working in conjunction with the City of
15 Philadelphia Police Department as well as
16 other City agencies.

17 This appropriation that we are
18 asking for today will allow us to get
19 started and to continue the work that's
20 already being done. Frankly, it's
21 already started, but to expand certain
22 programs that are already in place. The
23 YVRP, Youth Violence Reduction
24 Partnership, would be expanded. There's
25 a \$250,000 ask to that program. We want

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2 to be able to expand in all areas. That
3 is a program that is identified for those
4 at highest risk of violence. They have
5 already been identified as either being
6 at the highest risk of either killing or
7 being killed, and they are on
8 court-ordered supervision. So that's
9 done -- it's a very intensified kind of
10 supervision program done in partnership
11 with the probation officers, the courts,
12 and a number of other criminal justice
13 partners.

14 We want to make sure that we
15 expand. There are certain districts that
16 we are not in, and sometimes the, I
17 guess, offenders, we say, are savvy and
18 they like to move into those districts,
19 because not everybody wants that
20 intensity level of supervision and we'd
21 like to be able to move into other
22 districts.

23 Also, the Community Crisis
24 Intervention Program is a program that we
25 started in July of 2018. I like to call

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it boots on the ground, where we actually have folks in the communities. They are what we call credible messengers, because they are people from the community. Many of them have what we call lived experience and they are able to sort of communicate and talk to the younger people or others who may be involved in some of the violence in a way that I may not be able to get through to them or you may not be able to get through to them. We've asked for \$500,000 to expand that program.

Some of the expansions for both YVRP and CCIP will include adding a social worker to be able to assist with linking these young people to needed resources as well as a full-time employment specialist.

As a significant part of the violence prevention strategy, the Roadmap for Safer Communities is about not just the policing, but trying to get to the root causes of why this violence is

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2 occurring and people are involved. Our
3 target population in that is ages 16 to
4 34, young men and -- young boys and men
5 of color, predominantly as African
6 American, who are both the victims and
7 the perpetrators of the crime as we see
8 it. And so these are very targeted
9 interventions, trying to hit that
10 targeted population.

11 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Who are
12 the partners on this? Are we going to be
13 doing in-house or are we going to
14 continue to work with external partners?

15 MS. GARRETT-HARLEY: So YVRP
16 and CCIP are both conducted by PAAN, has
17 the contract for them, and it will be an
18 expansion of that. There is oversight
19 from the Office of Violence Prevention in
20 terms of those programs.

21 We also asked for an additional
22 \$500,000 for what we call targeted
23 community investment grants. Some folks
24 might call them micro grants. Because we
25 have recognized that we certainly can't

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2 do this work without the help of the
3 community and others. There are many in
4 the community who have already invested
5 in and are doing good work, but they're
6 not necessarily receiving resources from
7 the City. It will allow an opportunity
8 to give some of the smaller vendors or
9 smaller community groups an opportunity
10 to get some support from the City without
11 them being able to having to navigate the
12 very intensive contracting process at the
13 City.

14 So we actually have an RFP
15 posted for fiduciary. Once that person
16 is selected, we will make the selections
17 for who gets the grants, and then we will
18 be able to continue working in
19 partnership with those community groups.

20 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So there
21 will be a criteria. Is there a max
22 grant? What are the ranges that you're
23 looking at for these?

24 MS. GARRETT-HARLEY: So we
25 initially were thinking about ranges

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2 starting anywhere as low as 500 to 1,000.
3 They may have to be up just a little bit
4 just for intensity purposes, but the
5 highest being about 20,000.

6 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Okay.

7 MS. GARRETT-HARLEY: In order
8 to reach a larger number of people.

9 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: All
10 right. Thank you.

11 Any questions?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ:
14 Operation Pinpoint, how does that layer
15 into this?

16 MS. GARRETT-HARLEY: So
17 Operation Pinpoint is the violence
18 reduction and prevention strategy that
19 the Police Department has. It's an
20 integral part of the Roadmap for Safer
21 Communities. We are actually overlaid
22 with Operation Pinpoint and sort of use
23 them, and what that does is using their
24 intelligence, also community policing and
25 a number of other factors, including

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2 bringing on more analysts so that we can
3 analyze the data that we're getting and
4 be able to determine where best to
5 allocate your resources and where best to
6 target. We overlay that with all of the
7 other social services type initiatives
8 that we've put in. And so we sort of
9 follow Operation Pinpoint. That area is
10 targeted, and as the Police do whatever
11 it is they need to do, we want to be able
12 to come in and sort of undergird the
13 community to provide whatever services
14 they need, whether that's trauma care,
15 whether that's -- we know additional
16 jobs, some workforce readiness programs,
17 that type of thing, but it is kind of one
18 of the central components of the plan.

19 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So I'm
20 going to put you on the spot here a
21 little bit. So Kensington, behavior,
22 lawlessness in the street. Where are we
23 around what, if anything, we're willing
24 to do differently from a public safety
25 perspective?

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2 MS. GARRETT-HARLEY: For
3 Kensington specifically?

4 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Yes.

5 MS. GARRETT-HARLEY: We have
6 been doing some meetings with other
7 criminal justice partners, including the
8 Attorney General, District Attorney, as
9 well as the United States Attorneys and
10 that office to see how we all work very
11 collaboratively around some targeted
12 public safety initiatives in that area.
13 So we understand and are very focused on
14 that. It is a key component of the
15 Philadelphia Resiliency Project, and one
16 of the missionaries of that is also
17 overseen by me and my staff, working in
18 conjunction with both School District,
19 Police Department, SEPTA Police, and
20 others.

21 (Witnesses approached witness
22 table.)

23 MS. GARRETT-HARLEY: So my
24 friends here have come to help me with
25 the question.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So

3 there's a lot of quality of life issues.

4 And, look, you guys know how much I work

5 with my captains over there and how much

6 I appreciate it, but there's still a lot

7 of quality of life issues that

8 unfortunately don't always get addressed

9 as quickly. What, if anything, different

10 are we going to do about folks loitering?

11 I mean, as effective as the closure of

12 the encampments has been, you still have

13 700 people occupying the neighborhood.

14 What, if anything, differently are we

15 instructing police officials to do?

16 At a meeting at McPherson, the

17 question was asked of the Mayor at that

18 time about when people are utilizing

19 paraphernalia, having openly shot up.

20 What, if anything, are we going to be

21 doing different in the next few months?

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER:

23 Good morning, Councilwoman. Christine

24 Coulter for the Police Department. Good

25 morning, Appropriations Committee. Thank

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2 you.

3 The Police Department evolves
4 with this problem, just like every other
5 City agency, and I'm not going to lie,
6 it's a challenge. I mean, we every day
7 are faced with new challenges and new
8 information, but it's never lost on us
9 the impact that it's having on the
10 residents that live there. It's really
11 not. We hear, I guess, probably at the
12 same level or different -- the same
13 complaints and the same challenges you
14 have, and I know that we talk, all of our
15 commanders, and those little inroads, we
16 make some and then we take steps back
17 because something else evolves or
18 emerges.

19 But you have the commitment of
20 the Police Department that we will work
21 as hard as we can to bring back those
22 conditions in the neighborhood that make
23 it fair for the people that live there
24 while still respecting the Constitution
25 and the laws that we're faced with at the

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2 same time.

3 MS. GARRETT-HARLEY: I'd also
4 like to add we are working on a citywide
5 encampment policy. It has not been
6 rolled out, but it will be rolled out we
7 are anticipating in the next few weeks
8 that will address loitering specifically,
9 so citywide, not just Kensington, and
10 we'll have some more specific acts and
11 instructions around that.

12 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Where do
13 you see that direction? You folks know
14 how frustrated I am, right? Not at you
15 guys; just the whole situation. Where do
16 you see us moving in a direction -- I
17 know the whole issue of loitering, people
18 allowed to hang out, but, again, the
19 situation in Kensington is more to the
20 extreme. Is there a middle ground here?

21 MS. GARRETT-HARLEY: Well, the
22 other thing that we're trying to do and
23 specifically in Kensington but we'll use
24 other places is the Police-Assisted
25 Diversion program, PAD, that we put into

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2 place and have expanded since we put it
3 into place in Kensington, because what it
4 does is try to address these kind of
5 quality of life issues by giving the
6 Police another avenue besides just the
7 arrest format, but being able to actually
8 refer these individuals for treatment.
9 And we get them into treatment, and
10 hopefully that will address the root
11 cause of why they're out there in the
12 beginning and then eventually lessen the
13 numbers if we are able to provide that
14 treatment. So we have expanded the
15 Police-Assisted Diversion program.

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER:

17 Councilwoman, I think that expansion will
18 really help. I mean, the success in
19 North Division and North Central with the
20 PAD, we have very few people
21 re-offending, people who are taking
22 advantage of the services there. And
23 that's the ultimate goal, to not remove
24 them for the day, but to put them on a
25 path where they're not going to become a

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2 persistent problem. And we've seen good
3 results, and moving into East Division I
4 think is an obvious step to try to
5 address some of the folks and then work
6 on the ones that we haven't reached in
7 that manner. But I think the success of
8 the program elsewhere where we piloted it
9 lends itself that East Division is a
10 natural next target.

11 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Tumar,
12 you want to add anything?

13 MR. ALEXANDER: I mean, so one
14 of the -- Liz just reminded me that from
15 our last point-in-time count that we did
16 January, the actual numbers look like in
17 Kensington now has come down to about 245
18 people in the street. So I think that's
19 the reflection of a lot of the work that
20 you all have been helping us out with
21 through Project Resiliency and all of the
22 partners that's sort of sitting in the
23 room, some of the folks who are not in
24 the room. So we're consciously working
25 on that, and like Deputy Commissioner

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2 Coulter said and Vanessa, you know,
3 you're talking about PAD and you're
4 talking about we've been experimenting
5 down there putting social service
6 outreach workers going with Police like
7 in tandem to sort of try to address some
8 of these issues. So we're trying to be
9 creative and responsive at the same time.

10 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So in
11 three months, what do I see at Kensington
12 and Allegheny?

13 MR. ALEXANDER: I think in
14 three months you see sort of some of what
15 you're seeing now, a better Kensington
16 and Allegheny, right? So we've attacked
17 the physical infrastructure there by
18 trying to light it up. We're talking
19 about putting cameras out there soon. I
20 think you're seeing somewhat of a relief
21 down there, but clearly not enough.

22 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: The
23 lights are amazing.

24 MR. ALEXANDER: Thank you for
25 that. Clearly not enough physical relief

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2 down there as relates to the people, but
3 I think you'll see us continuously
4 working on that to get that back to
5 normal, right?

6 So you talked about how to tie
7 it all in. If you look at the Beacon
8 House, one of the things the Beacon House
9 does when we get it up and running is for
10 us to be able to move that navigation
11 center off of the Avenue, off of the
12 business corridor and being able to put
13 it in this facility, and that will sort
14 of help. I think if you're talking about
15 Prevention Point starting to move to a
16 24-hour program and at their site, that's
17 also helping, right? So all of this
18 stuff is sort of working in tandem to
19 show you that relief, to show the
20 community that relief.

21 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I still
22 think we need to push that a little bit
23 more. The transit stations are still
24 unacceptable.

25 MR. ALEXANDER: Understood.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ:

3 Particularly around just trash, the
4 loitering. I think us putting up the
5 lights is helpful, but I think I'd like
6 to see more presence on their behalf
7 also.

8 MR. ALEXANDER: Understood.

9 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
10 you. Thank you, everyone.

11 Any other questions? Sorry.
12 Councilman Domb.

13 COUNCILMAN DOMB: I just have a
14 general question. Do we have any kind of
15 program where we actually can measure
16 where the people are coming from in
17 Kensington or in other areas? Because I
18 hear a lot of stories that they're not
19 from Philadelphia.

20 (Witness approached witness
21 table.)

22 MS. HERSH: Hi. We hear that
23 also. The data from the outreach workers
24 and the survey by Public Health showed
25 that most people are from Philadelphia.

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2 I think -- and then the people who -- and
3 most people, either they are born and
4 bred in Philadelphia or they've been in
5 Philadelphia for an extended period of
6 time. So there certainly are those
7 people who come and stay from out of
8 town, but it's a small minority,
9 according to several data sources that
10 we've been able to track down. I think
11 it just makes good print, so --

12 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I will
13 continue to disagree on this point. This
14 is a self-identifying process and so
15 people -- I think Liz is right. People
16 have grown up in Philly, moved to the
17 suburbs, and they're back, and they still
18 consider themselves -- people in South
19 Jersey consider themselves Eagles fans as
20 part of Philadelphia. That does not make
21 them a City of Philadelphia resident. So
22 this is a point I'll continue to
23 disagree.

24 COUNCILMAN DOMB: I will say
25 this: I did an informal study myself. I

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2 approached five homeless people, mostly
3 Center City and one other area. Four of
4 the five were from South Jersey. So I
5 think that there are people coming in
6 from outside the area. One of them is at
7 19th and Walnut who lays on a grate and
8 he's from South Jersey, he told me. But
9 I do think people are coming in from
10 outside, and then it becomes our burden,
11 which isn't fair to the taxpayers of the
12 City. And so I don't know how we fix
13 that, but it just doesn't seem fair that
14 people from outside, they bring them in
15 here and then we have to pay for
16 everything.

17 MS. HERSH: Yeah. I think all
18 these things are true. There are
19 certainly people who come from other
20 places. With the treatment system, we do
21 go back to the county of origin and try
22 to get them to pick up the tab. That is
23 happening for sure, and people do --
24 people come to Philly for all kinds of
25 reasons, but unfortunately a big part of

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2 the problem is also homegrown.

3 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. I have
4 one other question I wanted to just throw
5 out. Since I've been trying to be
6 supportive of Councilwoman Sanchez's
7 problem in her district, I see that
8 Kensington Avenue is basically destroyed.
9 I'm using a strong word. But from Lehigh
10 to Allegheny, those businesses have been
11 destroyed by what's going on in that
12 neighborhood, and I know that Center City
13 has a program where the Center City
14 District, with a police officer and I
15 think a social worker, approach people on
16 the street and try to get them help and
17 get them into care. Would it make
18 sense -- this may not be your question,
19 Liz. It might be Tumar's question.
20 Would it make sense for the City to fund
21 a special services district, since we
22 allowed this to occur, from Lehigh to
23 Allegheny or whatever the boundary is in
24 order bring this neighborhood back and
25 revive business in that area? I could

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2 argue that the cost of that special
3 services district will revitalize that
4 neighborhood and bring in more tax
5 revenue in the long run and change the
6 lifestyle that's going on there.

7 MS. HERSH: I can't speak to
8 the special services district
9 specifically, but I think one thing that
10 you have made clear and where we've seen
11 the Councilwoman's leadership is that we
12 have to do both the law enforcement and
13 addressing the homelessness and the
14 economic development, and I think our
15 goal in trying to reduce the number of
16 people on the street was to clear the
17 decks so that the economic development
18 could take hold. And so that has really
19 been -- we have to have a two-pronged
20 strategy. One was to stop the bleeding
21 and the other is to grow the local
22 community economic and housing
23 development to improve the quality of
24 life.

25 COUNCILMAN DOMB: I understand

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2 that, but I think we, meaning the City,
3 allowed this to happen because we didn't
4 stop it when it started. It's like
5 graffiti. If you don't take off the
6 first graffiti sign, it exponentially
7 gets worse, and that's what happened
8 here.

9 So I'm just throwing that out
10 to -- I don't know if it's you, Anna, or
11 Tumar. We should look at that, because
12 we need to bring that area back.

13 MS. HERSH: We are definitely
14 looking at the replication of the Center
15 City pilot, because it was very
16 effective. So we are looking at that.
17 That's on the schedule to evaluate and,
18 at the same time, to do more intensive
19 commercial development and economic
20 development, as I said, that the
21 Councilwoman has taken a real leadership
22 role in.

23 COUNCILMAN DOMB: You're not
24 going to get any commercial business to
25 go into that corridor right now until you

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2 fix this problem.

3 MS. HERSH: We are in 100
4 percent agreement with you, and that's
5 why we are working so hard to try and
6 address this situation.

7 COUNCILMAN DOMB: So what I'm
8 suggesting is we use the tool of funding
9 a service district in that area in order
10 to bring it back.

11 MR. ALEXANDER: Councilman, I
12 think we hear you. We'll talk to the
13 Commerce Department. I know they have
14 some investment on that corridor with
15 Impact Services, I believe, that does
16 cleaning. I know it maybe is a part -- I
17 think there's increased investment coming
18 soon. I don't want to prelude that
19 message, but we hear you and we agree.

20 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you
21 very much. Thank you.

22 Thank you, Madam Chair.

23 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
24 you. Yeah. We have been working with
25 our partners on the ground, and I think

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2 we have a handle of how much it costs.

3 The issue of who is going to pay for it
4 and how do we leverage it, and that's why
5 I keep bringing up SEPTA, because
6 ultimately they're moving 30,000 of their
7 customers through the middle of that and
8 they have a responsibility to it.

9 The Chair recognizes Councilman
10 Oh.

11 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very
12 much. I apologize. I got allergies, so
13 my voice is pretty shot.

14 So I just wanted to say, not
15 that anybody necessarily is going to
16 agree with me on this, but I do find it
17 difficult to have two contradictory
18 policies. One is tolerating crime and
19 the other is trying to address crime
20 simultaneously.

21 Many of the problems in that
22 area have to do with drug addiction, drug
23 sales, and getting money to support a
24 habit, including prostitution and other
25 things, and trying to service people

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2 without resolving their drug addiction
3 and helping them when they're ready has
4 invited many people to see Philadelphia
5 as tolerant and welcoming. And I believe
6 that the Police Department at least on
7 the ground has expressed a frustration
8 with trying to deal with quality of life
9 crimes, because they don't believe that
10 the prosecutor's office is going to
11 prosecute. And so these very different
12 contradictory policies and putting more
13 and more money into servicing more and
14 more people coming in to use drugs and
15 live or visit Philadelphia, I just don't
16 see how we will put all this money in
17 there without making the neighborhood
18 worse.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. ALEXANDER: Thank you,
21 Councilman, for your remarks. I
22 certainly can't talk on behalf of the
23 local prosecutor's office, but I think as
24 a part of this effort, we're taking a
25 holistic approach to it. So you see

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2 reduction of crime is one of our tenets
3 and one of our missionaries through this
4 project. We have been coordinating with
5 state, federal, and local prosecutors and
6 law enforcement officers, talking about
7 how do we attack the supply, how do we
8 attack the demand.

9 So for us, it's a holistic
10 approach. I don't think we're turning a
11 blind eye to any enforcement issues to
12 any sort of crime or anything that's
13 going on there, but we're taking a truly
14 holistic approach to the whole project.

15 COUNCILMAN OH: So I do
16 appreciate that. I'll just say that
17 among the issues that Councilwoman
18 Sanchez is dealing with is not just
19 prostitution. Drug gangs tell
20 neighborhood kids, tonight don't be on
21 the street, there's going to be a
22 shootout. They just tell them, tonight
23 we're going to have a shootout here.
24 Because one drug gang is going to take on
25 another drug gang.

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2 MR. ALEXANDER: And we're
3 fighting that, right, and this Kensington
4 has two particular pinpoint district
5 areas. I think you've seen a big DEA
6 enforce -- DEA, State Attorney General
7 bust just in this neighborhood. There's
8 been at least two or three since we've
9 been up and running, some of which
10 start -- the investigation clearly has
11 started prior to us standing up this
12 project. So we're supporting that. And
13 the meeting that I reference is, we just
14 had a meeting with all of those partners
15 and say, how can we as a city support you
16 more on these efforts, how can we help
17 you reduce the limit and the amount of
18 time it takes to do these investigations,
19 and how can -- once you do these
20 investigations, once you bust these drug
21 groups, how can we then step in with City
22 services with the Police support to make
23 sure we maintain that block, right?

24 So if you look at the most
25 recent Attorney General announcement, so

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2 on that block, one of the measures that
3 they're using is that a week after that,
4 they rode up and down that block. Police
5 is holding that block. We're doing
6 quality of life services, cleaning and
7 sealing properties on that block, right,
8 trying to fence the vacant lots, but
9 you're also seeing the neighbors take
10 control of that block, and kids are out
11 playing where they may not have been
12 playing, and that's something the
13 Councilwoman has really directed us how
14 do we holistically attack this. And we
15 have been. I can't say -- we have more
16 to do, right, and that's something we
17 readily admit and that's something we
18 task these partners at the table to help
19 us with.

20 COUNCILMAN OH: All right.

21 Thank you very much.

22 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
23 you.

24 The Chair recognizes Councilman
25 Kenyatta Johnson has joined the

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2 Committee.

3 If there are no other questions
4 from our witnesses -- Councilman Kenyatta
5 Johnson.

6 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Good
7 morning, everyone.

8 MS. ADAMS: Good morning.

9 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I think
10 this is definitely a step in the right
11 direction. I did have some questions
12 regarding an update on specifically how
13 the funds will be used regarding violence
14 prevention and what we call
15 boots-on-the-ground organizations. I do
16 commend Vanessa and her team for stepping
17 up to the plate and doing a comprehensive
18 plan regarding the Roadmap to Safer
19 Communities and, most importantly, I'm
20 glad that we didn't leave out the law
21 enforcement component in terms of
22 Operation Pinpoint.

23 I've been to several community
24 organizations' meetings in the
25 neighborhood, primarily with the 17th

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2 Police District and my staff with the
3 12th Police District, and the community
4 is excited, because it's been a while
5 since we've seen that type of
6 collaborative effort between the
7 Philadelphia Police Department and
8 neighborhood community organizations and
9 residents strategically looking at not
10 only how we get guns off the street, but
11 holistically address a lot of quality of
12 life issues. And so I do commend the
13 Administration for stepping up to the
14 plate and not only providing a plan, but
15 putting the dollars and resources on the
16 table so we can address what I consider
17 one of the number one issues here in the
18 City of Philadelphia, and that's youth
19 violence, specifically gun violence.

20 MS. GARRETT-HARLEY: So thank
21 you for those comments, Councilman. With
22 regards to your question as to targeted
23 community investment grants or some folks
24 call them micro grants, we are asking for
25 today \$500,000 to be allocated there. We

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2 currently have an RFP posted for a
3 fiduciary. To be honest, we had one
4 posted before, but the response that we
5 got, we did not get anyone who really had
6 the financial experience or the
7 infrastructure to do it. We have
8 reposted. We have held a pre-proposal
9 bidding meeting, and we got better
10 results. So we will be making that
11 selection very soon. The proposals are
12 due by March 11th, and then we anticipate
13 that we will have made the selection of
14 who that fiduciary is by March 22nd.

15 Once that is in place, we can
16 begin to move the very small applications
17 for the community groups, and we'll be
18 surely advertising in the community,
19 letting them know that it's time to apply
20 for those funds.

21 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you
22 very much. The last question, can you
23 give us an overview on what the next
24 budget request will be as we prepare for
25 our budget cycle in June?

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2 MS. GARRETT-HARLEY: I actually
3 can't give you any specific dollar
4 amounts. We certainly know what our ask
5 will be. They very much mirror the
6 Philadelphia Roadmap for Safer
7 Communities, those recommendations that
8 we have in there, but I don't have the
9 specific budget allocations as of yet.

10 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay.
11 Thank you very much.

12 MS. GARRETT-HARLEY: Thank you.

13 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
14 you. Thank you again.

15 So the Committee -- if there
16 are no other questions, anyone here else
17 to testify on Bill 190006?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Seeing
20 none, the Committee on Appropriations
21 will conclude its hearing and go into our
22 public meeting.

23 The Chair will ask Councilman
24 Domb for a motion on the amendment.

25 By the way, for the record, I

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2 want to thank the Administration for its
3 willingness to do this amendment to allow
4 the Municipal ID to get additional
5 resources it needs for its launch. So
6 thank you very much.

7 And with that, Councilman Domb,
8 can I have a motion on the amendment.

9 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,
10 Madam Chairwoman. I move that the
11 amendment to Bill No. 190006 be adopted.

12 (Duly seconded.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: All
14 those in favor?

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Any
17 opposition?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Seeing
20 none, the amendment to Bill 190006 has
21 been adopted.

22 Councilman Domb, can I get a
23 motion on the amended 190006 with a rules
24 suspension.

25 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,

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2 Madam Chairwoman. I move that Bill No.
3 190006, as amended, be reported from this
4 Committee with a favorable recommendation
5 and further move that the rules of
6 Council be suspended to permit first
7 reading of this bill at the next session
8 of Council.

9 (Duly seconded.)

10 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: All
11 those in favor?

12 (Aye.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Any
14 opposition?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Seeing
17 none, Bill No. 190006, as amended, will
18 be moved out of this Committee with a
19 favorable recommendation and further
20 moved that the Council rules be suspended
21 to permit first reading at our next
22 public session.

23 Thank you, everyone.

24 (Committee on Appropriations
25 concluded at 10:05 a.m.)

CERTIFICATE

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

MICHELE L. MURPHY
RPR-Notary Public

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