

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA  
COMMITTEE ON PARKS, RECREATION  
AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

- - -

Room 400, City Hall  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Monday, June 1, 2009  
1:30 p.m.

- - -

PRESENT:

COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN, CHAIR  
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL  
COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE  
COUNCILMAN FRANK DiCICCO  
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.  
COUNCILWOMAN MARIA QUINONES-SANCHEZ

BILLS 090098, 090192, 090210, 090327, 090330  
and 090443  
RESOLUTION 090057

- - -

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1  
2 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Good  
3 afternoon. The City Council Committee on  
4 Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs is  
5 now in a public hearing to hear testimony  
6 on the following bills: Bill Nos.  
7 090098, 090192, 090210, 090327, 090330  
8 and 090443. Also, the Committee is  
9 prepared to report out its  
10 recommendations for Resolution No.  
11 090057.

12 Joining us today in this  
13 afternoon's meeting are Councilmembers of  
14 this Committee. To my left, Councilwoman  
15 Maria Quinones-Sanchez, and to my right,  
16 Vice-Chair Councilman Curtis Jones and  
17 Councilman Frank DiCicco.

18 We will now ask the Clerk to  
19 read the title of Resolution 090057.

20 THE CLERK: 090057, resolution  
21 authorizing Council's Committee on Parks,  
22 Recreation and Cultural Affairs to hold  
23 public hearings for applicants seeking  
24 nomination to serve on the Commission on  
25 Parks and Recreation, and further

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2           authorizing the Committee to recommend  
3           for Council's consideration nominations  
4           to be forwarded to the Mayor.

5                   COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Today it  
6           is my absolute pleasure to start this  
7           hearing by announcing the Committee's  
8           recommendations to City Council and the  
9           Mayor for the new Commission on Parks and  
10          Recreation. The record should reflect  
11          that the pool was absolutely amazing.  
12          There were a total of 194 individuals  
13          that this Committee heard from. When we  
14          started down this path, we never, ever  
15          imagined for a second the quality and the  
16          quantity of candidates that care about  
17          serving this city.

18                   You should know that the pool  
19          was wonderfully diverse, and all of the  
20          skill sets, as is stipulated in the  
21          legislation, will be reflected in the  
22          final 25.

23                   So I've been honored, along  
24          with my colleagues, to be a part of this  
25          process, and there's always your staff

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           that but for them, we would not be here.

3           And I would be extremely remiss not to  
4           give a huge thank-you to David Forde and  
5           Hal Fichandler for the important work  
6           they've done in ensuring that we end up  
7           with a final product of 25 that we can  
8           all be extremely proud of.

9                       I'll say again for the record  
10          that we made sure that every single skill  
11          set that was stipulated in the  
12          legislation is reflected in the final 25.  
13          That mattered to us, as well as making  
14          sure that this group of 25 looks like  
15          Philadelphia.

16                       And so they are: Noel Abejo,  
17          Charles Baltimore, Max Berger, Luther  
18          Collins, Andrew Denison, Nancy  
19          Goldenberg, Debra Wolf Goldstein, Jeffrey  
20          Hackett, David Hollenberg, Alexander  
21          "Pete" Hoskins, John B. Kelly, III,  
22          Anthony Langford, Matthew McClure,  
23          Michael McCrea, Leslie Anne Miller, Carla  
24          Puppini, Carol Rice, Carlos Rodriguez,  
25          Wendy Rosen, James Straw, Sarah Clark

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           Stuart, Joseph Syrnick, Ronald Thomas,  
3           Maria Walker and L. Trena Woodson.

4                   The next step is that City  
5           Council will make these formal  
6           recommendations to the Mayor via a  
7           resolution on Thursday, June 4th. The  
8           Mayor will then select nine candidates  
9           from this list to serve on the  
10          Commission.

11                   I cannot emphasize how  
12          encouraged we all are for the future of  
13          our parks, because if you had a chance to  
14          hear the testimony, followed up with the  
15          reading of the application, the passion  
16          was extremely evident. So we're pleased  
17          now to move this process to the next  
18          step, which is the introduction of the  
19          resolution on Thursday, June 4th.

20                   (Applause.)

21                   COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: We will  
22          now ask David to read the title of Bill  
23          No. 090098.

24                   THE CLERK: 090098, an  
25          ordinance renaming and designating the

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2           Fotteral Square Playground as the "James  
3           Young Memorial Playground."

4                   COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Councilman  
5           Clarke is not here to speak, if he would  
6           like, on the bill. So we will now, if we  
7           could, please ask Mr. Leo Dignam, please,  
8           to come to the witness table.

9                   (Witness approached witness  
10          table.)

11                   COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Good  
12          afternoon. If you could please state  
13          your name for the record and proceed with  
14          your testimony.

15                   DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DIGNAM:  
16          Good afternoon, Chairwoman. My name is  
17          Leo Dignam. I'm the Deputy Commissioner  
18          of the Department of Recreation, Program  
19          Division.

20                   COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And please  
21          proceed with your testimony on this bill.

22                   DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DIGNAM: We  
23          are in favor of renaming Fotteral Square  
24          after James Young. It's a small park at  
25          11th and York, and there's been a lot of

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2           improvements made to the park. It was  
3           originally named after a real estate  
4           expert back several decades ago, maybe a  
5           little bit more than that. We found  
6           nobody in the community that was against  
7           renaming it, and we're in favor of this.

8           COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Any  
9           questions for this witness from members  
10          of the Committee?

11          (No response.)

12          COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Anyone  
13          else here to testify on Bill No. 090098?

14          (No response.)

15          COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Very well.  
16          Thank you for your testimony.

17          DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DIGNAM:  
18          Thank you.

19          COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: You're  
20          welcome.

21          We will now move on to Bill No.  
22          090192.

23          THE CLERK: 090192, an  
24          ordinance renaming and designating the  
25          park located at the intersection of

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2           Germantown Avenue, York Street and North  
3           8th Street as the "Danny Boyle Community  
4           Park."

5                   COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you.

6                   Again, Councilman Clarke is not  
7           here to offer testimony on this bill.  
8           Again, we will ask Mr. Leo Dignam to come  
9           forward and anyone else who cares to  
10          testify on Bill No. 090192.

11                   (Witnesses approached witness  
12          table.)

13                   COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Welcome  
14          back.

15                   DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DIGNAM:  
16          Thank you.

17                   COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: State your  
18          name for the record.

19                   DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DIGNAM: My  
20          name is Leo Dignam. I'm Deputy  
21          Commissioner for the Department of  
22          Recreation, Program Division, and we and  
23          the Department of Recreation are in favor  
24          of renaming the park. Actually, the  
25          original name was Vandergrift Park. We

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2           could not find in our vast archives the  
3           reasoning for naming it Vandergrift Park.  
4           And Officer Law has really done a  
5           tremendous job there over the past few  
6           years, in conjunction with our  
7           Maintenance Division, to make major  
8           improvements to that community park. So  
9           we are definitely in favor of renaming it  
10          the Danny Boyle Park.

11                   COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you.

12                   Good afternoon. Please state  
13           your name for the record and you're  
14           welcome to offer testimony.

15                   OFFICER LAW: Police Officer  
16           Anna Mae Law, currently assigned to the  
17           26th District. I'm the Community  
18           Relations Officer there.

19                   In February of 1991, Danny  
20           Boyle was killed as a result of a car  
21           stop at the 2400 block of Germantown  
22           Avenue. The park up until February of  
23           '03 -- I'm sorry; February of '06 was a  
24           nuisance park. It was drug dealers, drug  
25           users, deplorable conditions.

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           I was asked if I can do  
3 anything with the park regarding a plaque  
4 dedication, which was done in May of  
5 2006. Since that time, I have had  
6 fencing replaced, benches replaced, new  
7 lighting, trash collected every week  
8 there. I myself, along with community  
9 service workers, go there weekly and keep  
10 the park -- the park is, I can tell you,  
11 is free of drugs and alcohol. And I'm  
12 supported by many, many members of the  
13 37th Ward, along with the Pentecostal  
14 church and the Evangelist church that's  
15 also located in that intersection. And  
16 we continue to work hard. Some concrete  
17 work has just recently been done, so  
18 we're moving forward.

19           The park is now being used by  
20 the Hartranft Elementary School and Boys  
21 Club almost on a weekly basis, for they  
22 can come out and play and have lunch. So  
23 we have nice gatherings, family  
24 gatherings. Even after mass, people can  
25 come into the park now as a community

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2       park.

3                       So we're asking that it be  
4       named officially the Danny Boyle  
5       Community Park.

6                       COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Any  
7       questions from members of the Committee?

8                       (No response.)

9                       COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: My only  
10      comment would be it certainly sounds like  
11      a community collaborative effort, and  
12      they always make the difference, because  
13      surely government can't do it alone  
14      anymore. So I salute the good work of  
15      that neighboring community.

16                      Anyone else to testify on Bill  
17      No. 090192?

18                      (No response.)

19                      COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: We thank  
20      you both for your testimony.

21                      OFFICER LAW: Thank you.

22                      COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: We will  
23      now ask the Clerk to read the title of  
24      Bill No. 090210.

25                      THE CLERK: 090210, an

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           ordinance renaming and designating the  
3           McAlpin Playground located at 36th and  
4           Aspen Streets as the "Miles Mack  
5           Playground."

6                   COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: We would  
7           like to ask Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell  
8           to offer testimony on this bill.

9                   COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank  
10          you, Madam Chairwoman, and thank you to  
11          members of the Committee for this honor.

12                   I would also like to thank all  
13          the members of his family and community  
14          who are here today as we consider Bill  
15          090210 renaming the McAlpin Playground  
16          located at 36th and Aspen Streets as the  
17          Miles Mack Playground.

18                   In the fall of last year,  
19          McAlpin was the scene of a shootout that  
20          erupted during a basketball tournament of  
21          the X-Tra Miles Developmental Basketball  
22          League founded by Mr. Miles Mack in 2004  
23          to provide a constructive alternative to  
24          youth violence. Miles Mack, 42, was shot  
25          and killed as he tried to shield one of

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           his players from gunfire.

3                     Renaming the playground in his  
4           honor is but a small token of our true  
5           debt to Mr. Mack, who literally gave his  
6           life protecting and caring for  
7           neighborhood youth.

8                     While best known for his work  
9           with the summer basketball league he  
10          founded, Mr. Miles Mack was a respected  
11          role model and pillar of the Mantua  
12          community. On behalf of members of his  
13          family -- and I'm going to ask all those  
14          who are here to stand as I name them,  
15          including his brother Morgan Mack, his  
16          sister Sidney Mack, his parents Michael  
17          and Sandra Mack, as well as Pete Bridges,  
18          James Brown, Keith Duckett, Butch Ellis,  
19          President of MASCO, Mantua Aspen Street  
20          Community Organization. They're all here  
21          to testify to present support in the  
22          renaming of the McAlpin Playground in his  
23          honor.

24                    I extend my heartfelt welcome  
25          and thanks to them for being here, and I

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           offer my sincere conviction that this is  
3           an effort to prove that our community  
4           loss and his losing his life will not be  
5           in vain. As such, we request that the  
6           Committee give favorable consideration to  
7           the legislation renaming McAlpin  
8           Playground the Miles Mack Playground, and  
9           further ask for a suspension of the rules  
10          to allow first reading of this  
11          legislation at our next session of  
12          Council.

13                   Thank you, Madam Chairman,  
14           certainly Councilman DiCicco and  
15           Councilman Jones. Thank you.

16                   COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: You're  
17           very welcome, Council Lady.

18                   Please, we would like to ask  
19           Sandra Mack and Pete Bridges to approach  
20           the witness table.

21                   (Witnesses approached witness  
22           table.)

23                   COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Good  
24           afternoon and welcome to these  
25           proceedings.

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           MS. MACK: Thank you.

3           COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: You're  
4 certainly welcome to state your name for  
5 the record and offer any remarks you  
6 desire.

7           MS. MACK: My name is Sandra  
8 Mack.

9           COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Please  
10 pull the mike closer to you.

11          MS. MACK: My name is Sandra  
12 Mack. I'm Miles Mack's mommy.

13          Miles loved the community of  
14 Mantua and he loved the kids in Mantua.

15          Miles, along with some very  
16 fine other young men from my community,  
17 gave unselfishly to these children,  
18 financially, emotionally.

19          My son loved the kids in  
20 Mantua. They used to come to my house on  
21 Saturday morning, the little ones,  
22 kicking on my door, banging on my door,  
23 Is Miles up in here?

24          I would tell them, Miles does  
25 not live here. I'll call him. And I

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           say, Miles, if you don't come get these  
3           kids.

4                     He'd say, Mommy, you didn't  
5           fuss at them, did you? Because they need  
6           plenty of love and they need to believe  
7           in themselves.

8                     And that's what he believed in.  
9           He lost his life doing what he loved  
10          best, being with those kids.

11                    I thought about them renaming  
12          the playground after Miles, and at first  
13          it wasn't that important, and then I  
14          thought about it. I'd like for the kids,  
15          when they go in the playground, to always  
16          remember that there was a man that loved  
17          them. No matter how bad they were, he  
18          loved them.

19                    Thank you.

20                    COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Please,  
21          good afternoon, sir.

22                    MR. BRIDGES: Yes. Keith  
23          Bridges, former Supervisor of McAlpin  
24          Playground for 27 years.

25                    I first met Miles when he was

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           13 years old. He played on my basketball  
3           team, and we traveled. I know one day we  
4           had a game and he wasn't there, so one of  
5           the players said, You have to go talk to  
6           his mother. And let me tell you  
7           something, this is a great family that he  
8           came from. When I left out of that  
9           house, his mother took me through  
10          something, and I knew right then and  
11          there that he was the right guy.

12                 He came along and he played in  
13          my league. He coached in my league. And  
14          I'll never forget that when I retired, he  
15          put his arm around me, he said,  
16          Mr. Bridges, he said, I'm gonna take the  
17          torch up and I'm gonna keep it going for  
18          you. He said, If anything ever happened  
19          to you, we want to name the playground  
20          after you.

21                 And here we are naming it after  
22          him.

23                 And not only was it about  
24          basketball, like his mother said, him and  
25          his friends, they would every Father's

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           Day -- you should be there. They would  
3           have an affair for all the fathers,  
4           whether they were part of the community  
5           or not. They could come and eat and  
6           share their thoughts. And not only that,  
7           twice during the summer they would feed  
8           the community. The kids that didn't have  
9           nowhere to go, didn't have nothing to  
10          eat, they would feed them. And he would  
11          always take the young men that were the  
12          bad ones. He wouldn't take -- he would  
13          take the bad ones and he would train  
14          them.

15                 And I would say this: I am so  
16          proud of him. I miss him. He was like a  
17          son to me. He come from a good family,  
18          and it's an honor to have me here to  
19          speak the little words I have to say  
20          about him, and it would do the community  
21          a great pleasure by naming the playground  
22          after him. You couldn't pick a better  
23          role model.

24                 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Any  
25          questions or comments from members of

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           this Committee?

3                   (No response.)

4           COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: As someone  
5           who grew up in Mantua, I didn't know him,  
6           I knew of him, and it's huge that young  
7           people -- he never gave up on the young  
8           people in that community. So he's left  
9           us an enormous example to follow.

10                  Be well. Thank you for your  
11           testimony.

12                  MR. BRIDGES: Thank you.

13           COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Leo  
14           Dignam.

15                   (Witness approached witness  
16           table.)

17           DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DIGNAM:  
18           Leo Dignam, Deputy Commissioner for the  
19           Department of Recreation.

20                  The City of Philadelphia lost a  
21           great volunteer in Mr. Mack. After Pete  
22           Bridges left, he retired a couple years  
23           ago, he was really a mainstay and great  
24           supporter of our programs and did a  
25           tremendous job in that neighborhood, and

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           we wholeheartedly support the renaming of  
3           McAlpin Playground the Miles Mack  
4           Playground.

5                   COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you  
6           for your testimony.

7                   Anyone else here to speak on  
8           Bill No. 090210?

9                   (No response.)

10                  COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: We will  
11          now ask the Clerk to read the title of  
12          Bill No. 090327.

13                  THE CLERK: 090327, an  
14          ordinance authorizing the President of  
15          the Fairmount Park Commission and the  
16          Executive Director of Fairmount Park, on  
17          behalf of the City of Philadelphia, to  
18          enter into a Master Lease providing for  
19          the lease by the City to the Philadelphia  
20          Authority for Industrial Development of  
21          the Northwestern Equestrian Facility in  
22          Fairmount Park, under which PAID will be  
23          required to enter into an agreement  
24          pursuant to which PAID will sublease the  
25          property to the Northwestern Stables,

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           Inc. for the occupation, operation,

3           maintenance and management of the

4           Facility, all under certain provisions.

5                   COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you.

6                   If we could please ask Mark

7           Focht, Fairmount Park, to move to the

8           witness table.

9                   (Witness approached witness  
10          table.)

11                  COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Good

12          afternoon.

13                  MR. FOCHT: Good afternoon,

14          Councilwoman, members of the Committee.

15          My name is Mark Focht and I am the

16          Executive Director of Fairmount Park, and

17          I am pleased to appear before you today,

18          on behalf of the staff of Fairmount Park,

19          in support of Council Bill No. 090327,

20          which authorizes the City of Philadelphia

21          through Fairmount Park to enter into a

22          lease with the Philadelphia Authority for

23          Industrial Development for the

24          Northwestern Equestrian Facility,

25          pursuant to which PAID would sublease the

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2           facility to Northwestern Stables, Inc.

3                   Northwestern Stables is  
4           situated at the northwestern edge of  
5           Wissahickon Valley Park, at Germantown  
6           and Northwestern Avenues, and serves as a  
7           gateway to the Park. Northwestern  
8           Stables, Inc. has held a year-to-year  
9           lease on the property with the City and  
10          Fairmount Park since April 1st, 1993. In  
11          2006, the organization went through a  
12          transition, which resulted in the  
13          formation of an engaged, proactive Board  
14          of Directors and professional management  
15          of the stables. Park staff has worked  
16          closely with the new leadership since  
17          that time.

18                   In exchange for achieving a  
19          number of milestones contained in a 2007  
20          agreement, the Park agreed to consider a  
21          longer-term lease for the facility.  
22          Northwestern Stables, Inc. did achieve  
23          and, in many cases, exceed these  
24          milestones. Park staff and Northwestern  
25          Board members discussed the terms of a

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2           long-term lease over the months, and the  
3           document before you today was approved by  
4           the Fairmount Park Commission on April  
5           8th, 2009.

6                     An example of these milestones  
7           include creation of a management plan,  
8           revision to the organization's management  
9           structure, an increased maintenance  
10          commitment to improve the facilities and  
11          an expanded range of program offerings to  
12          enhance its interactions with the  
13          Philadelphia community. By offering  
14          below-cost or no-cost rates to the Police  
15          Athletic League and Department of  
16          Recreation, to name just two  
17          organizations, Northwestern provides  
18          equestrian experiences to urban children  
19          who may not otherwise receive such an  
20          opportunity. Citizens also have the  
21          opportunity to participate in lessons,  
22          summer camps, tours of the stables and  
23          various other programs.

24                     In 2008 and concluding in the  
25          last several months of 2009, Fairmount

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           Park invested over \$950,000 in City  
3           capital funds for a sensitive  
4           restoration, stabilization and system  
5           upgrades to the 1928 historic barn.  
6           Northwestern Stables, Inc. recently  
7           completed a privately funded repainting  
8           of the interior of the historic barn, a  
9           significant improvement valued at  
10          \$40,000.

11                       This long-term lease is  
12          intended to reward the organization for  
13          the sound operation of Northwestern  
14          Stables and to enable them to raise  
15          additional revenue and grants to support  
16          the capital, maintenance and programming  
17          needs of the facility.

18                       Under the five-year sublease  
19          with PAID, Northwestern Stables, Inc. is  
20          fully responsible for the operation,  
21          management and repair of this equestrian  
22          facility. The sublease also has a  
23          five-year option to renew, which is at  
24          the City's discretion. The sublease and  
25          lease will not impose a financial

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2           obligation on the City at any time,  
3           except for tree pruning and grass mowing.  
4           This is consistent with Fairmount Park's  
5           policies to support programming that  
6           benefit the Park and community and our  
7           constituents while relieving the City of  
8           financial obligation.

9                       Therefore, today I appear  
10          before you to pledge the support of  
11          Fairmount Park staff for this legislation  
12          and respectfully ask that City Council  
13          approve Bill No. 090327.

14                      In addition, I ask that the  
15          rules be suspended so that the ordinance  
16          may be passed upon the second reading at  
17          Council.

18                      Thank you. I'd be very pleased  
19          to answer any questions you may have  
20          concerning this matter.

21                      COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Any  
22          questions from members of this Committee?

23                      Councilman Curtis Jones.

24                      COUNCILMAN JONES: No; just a  
25          statement, that Northwestern Stables

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           being in the 4th Councilmanic District, I  
3           never cease to be amazed as to the look  
4           on people's faces whenever we would go up  
5           to the stable and they would be in a  
6           state of disbelief that something so  
7           beautiful could be in the heart of an  
8           inner city community. And it just is  
9           important that we maintain that kind of  
10          presence there and that the facility  
11          continue to get the kind of support that  
12          it needs to be an asset to the City of  
13          Philadelphia. And I'm just glad that  
14          we're continuing in a multi-year lease to  
15          give people a degree of confidence to  
16          invest capital and to make it a beautiful  
17          facility.

18                       MR. FOCHT: Thank you,  
19          Councilman.

20                       COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.

21                       Thank you, Madam Chair.

22                       COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you  
23          very much.

24                       MR. FOCHT: Thank you.

25                       COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: If we

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2           could please ask Anne-Marie Corner,  
3           President of the Board of Directors for  
4           Northwestern Stables, to please come to  
5           the witness table.

6                     (Witnesses approached witness  
7           table.)

8                     COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Good  
9           afternoon.

10                    MS. CORNER: Good afternoon.

11                    COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Please  
12           state your name for the record and  
13           proceed with your testimony.

14                    MS. CORNER: My name is  
15           Anne-Marie Corner and I'm the President  
16           of Northwestern Stables.

17                    I'm pleased to appear before  
18           you today on behalf of the Stables in  
19           support of Council Bill No. 090327 to  
20           award the lease for Northwestern  
21           Equestrian Facility to Northwestern  
22           Stables, Inc.

23                    Northwestern Stables is a  
24           community organization that has been in  
25           existence since 1993. Most recently, the

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           organization has undergone some changes  
3           that have resulted in a better-run  
4           operation, improved programming for the  
5           community and financial stability.

6                     In 2006 and 7, a new Board was  
7           constituted with a new mandate to improve  
8           the quality of the programs offered, to  
9           offer more community events, outreach and  
10          summer programs, to start a building  
11          improvement program and to put the  
12          organization on a better financial  
13          footing.

14                    Throughout 2007 and since, the  
15          current management and Board have worked  
16          closely with the Fairmount Park  
17          Commission and now believe that the barn  
18          operates at its optimal use and capacity.

19                    Our current operations comprise  
20          three main areas: The lesson program,  
21          boarding and summer programs. The lesson  
22          program runs six days a week year round  
23          and has approximately 75 to 100 riders  
24          participating each week. The majority of  
25          these riders are children. We teach

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           English hunt seat riding, learning to  
3           walk, trot, canter and jump a horse, as  
4           well as grooming and horsemanship. Our  
5           riders compete at local horse shows, and  
6           we've had several champions over the  
7           years. Our lessons last approximately  
8           two hours, and we encourage  
9           responsibility, good horsemanship. And  
10          we have 15 horses that are used in our  
11          lesson program.

12                 Our second major activity is  
13          horse boarding. The boarder barn has  
14          capacity for around 22 horses. We  
15          currently have 14 at Northwestern,  
16          because we've limited the number of  
17          horses while the repairs were going on to  
18          the building.

19                 Board is \$500 a month and  
20          includes full service, feeding twice  
21          daily, hay, fresh water, clean bedding,  
22          turnout, blanket service and other  
23          amenities, and we have a 24-hour  
24          on-the-premises manager.

25                 And our third major activity

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           are our riding camps. Our main camp is  
3           youth riding camp, a full-day camp that  
4           runs daily for six weeks in the summer.  
5           Camp includes riding instruction, arts  
6           and crafts, water activities, and it's  
7           been sold out every year that we've  
8           offered it. One hundred and eight  
9           children participated in the youth riding  
10          camp last year.

11                       But we also offer two community  
12          camp programs that are provided free of  
13          charge. The first is the Police Athletic  
14          League camp that runs for two weeks in  
15          the summer while children through Police  
16          Athletic League come to learn to ride,  
17          understand how horses live and feed, and  
18          learn the basics of horse care.

19                       The second camp, also offered  
20          free, is the City of Philadelphia  
21          Recreation Department mini camp where  
22          children come to watch riding  
23          demonstrations, groom and feed horses,  
24          and learn about their behavior.

25                       Last year and the year before,

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           more than 100 children from the City of  
3           Philadelphia participated in these two  
4           community camps, and we expect the same  
5           number this year.

6                     PAL and Rec camps are staffed  
7           by our instructors and by volunteers and  
8           serve an important role in bringing young  
9           people out of the City for an invaluable  
10          experience with horses.

11                    In addition to these three main  
12          activities, we also run a number of  
13          community events, including a horse show,  
14          attended by riders not only from our barn  
15          but from other barns in the Fairmount  
16          Park system. We host the Wissahickon Day  
17          Parade. We host an annual winter bazaar  
18          with pony and carriage rides. We host  
19          visits from Brownie troops, classrooms  
20          and other groups. We participate in the  
21          Chestnut Hill festivals, and we've  
22          occasionally taken horses to community  
23          events.

24                    Our barn would not be the  
25          unique and wonderful place it is without

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           an army of volunteers, some of whom have  
3           come here today. And in addition to the  
4           time donated by our volunteers, including  
5           our Executive Director, who works full  
6           time for half pay, we're grateful to  
7           parents, boarders and riders for the many  
8           hours they spend improving the barn. We  
9           host clean-up days in spring and fall,  
10          where last year over 60 volunteers  
11          cleared the grounds at the barn and in  
12          Harper's Meadow. Volunteers have cleaned  
13          and repaired the gutters, painted the  
14          lesson barn, repaired and renovated the  
15          camp room, fixed paddocks and done  
16          innumerable repairs.

17                 In 2007, we raised \$14,000 for  
18          the replacement of the footing in the  
19          indoor ring. The old sand was removed.  
20          The base was fixed and regraded, and new  
21          dust-free footing was trucked in. This  
22          was a significant improvement for the  
23          comfort of horses and the safety of  
24          riders.

25                 We also renovated the camp room

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2           at a cost of \$4,000, fixing gutters and  
3           windows, removing damaged flooring, and  
4           painting and decorating the camp room.  
5           Additionally, we've replaced walls in  
6           wash stalls, fixed stalls and enlarged  
7           the main turnout paddock.

8                     Currently, we've just completed  
9           the painting of the interior of the  
10          historic boarder barn at a value of  
11          \$40,000, and we raised the funds and  
12          donations necessary to do this ourselves.

13                    So in conclusion, I'd like to  
14          reiterate that we have a committed and  
15          skilled Board that has experience in  
16          running businesses, both for-profit and  
17          not-for-profit, with significant  
18          experience with horses, and this has  
19          brought about good governance and an  
20          improvement in the programs offered at  
21          the barn. We've developed a strong cadre  
22          of community and riding programs that  
23          reach a wide and diverse group of  
24          participants, and we have a wonderful  
25          core of boarders, riders and parents who

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2           enthusiastically support everything  
3           that's going on at Northwestern Stables.

4                     Thank you for your time today.  
5                     COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: You are  
6           welcome. We thank you for your  
7           testimony.

8                     Any questions for this witness?  
9                     (No response.)

10                    COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Good  
11           afternoon. Please state your name for  
12           the record and proceed with your  
13           testimony.

14                    MS. TAVERNA: My name is Lauren  
15           Taverna. My daughter Carly has been part  
16           of the lesson program for almost nine  
17           years now. She started riding at  
18           Northwestern when she was eight years  
19           old. After six years, we got her horse  
20           Lulu. She is used in the lesson program,  
21           and that helps offset the costs of owning  
22           a horse, which is something that  
23           Northwestern does to encourage the  
24           responsibility of horse-riding.

25                    Three years ago when we got our

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           horse -- we're also a boarder and a  
3           lesson rider. From the day -- from the  
4           first day that we went to the barn, we  
5           loved it. Everyone was extremely nice  
6           and helpful. Carly and I have made  
7           friends, including the staff, riders and  
8           the other parents. We're like a family.  
9           We all look out for each other and for  
10          our horses.

11                    When we had our lesson show and  
12          our fall fundraiser, everyone helps out.  
13          You never need to look very far for  
14          someone to lend a hand. It's a great  
15          feeling that we all feel like part of  
16          Northwestern community, and the barn  
17          would not be such a good place without  
18          everyone helping each other.

19                    For the past few years, I have  
20          been helping out with the summer camps.  
21          It's great to see how the children come  
22          in at camp loving being around the horses  
23          and enjoying learning all that they can.  
24          It's especially wonderful to see the kids  
25          from PAL, the Police Athletic League,

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           come in and experience something that  
3           they might not have been able to do  
4           otherwise. These are children who have  
5           rarely seen horses, let alone ride on  
6           them, and it's a wonderful feeling to see  
7           these children grooming horses, feeding  
8           them, learning the basics of riding.

9                     At Northwestern, we feel like a  
10          family, a big community. We are helping  
11          each other. We love the riding program,  
12          and we all support the fundraisers. We  
13          feel that we each have a part to play in  
14          helping children understand the joys of  
15          caring for the horses and the lifelong  
16          lessons that come with that.

17                    COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you  
18          for your testimony.

19                    Any questions for these  
20          witnesses?

21                    (No response.)

22                    COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,  
23          ladies.

24                    Anyone else here to testify on  
25          Bill No. 090327?

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           (No response.)

3           COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: We will  
4 now ask the Clerk to read the title of  
5 Bill No. 090330.

6           THE CLERK: 090330, an  
7 ordinance authorizing the President of  
8 the Fairmount Park Commission and the  
9 Executive Director of Fairmount Park, on  
10 behalf of the City, to enter into a  
11 Master Lease providing for the lease by  
12 the City to the Philadelphia Authority  
13 for Industrial Development of a portion  
14 of the west corner of Arch Street, 16th  
15 Street and Benjamin Franklin Parkway, and  
16 under which PAID will be required to  
17 enter into an agreement pursuant to which  
18 PAID will sublease the property to The  
19 Philadelphia Holocaust Remembrance  
20 Foundation, Inc. for the development,  
21 construction and operation of an  
22 educational facility and memorial park to  
23 foster remembrance and understanding of  
24 the Holocaust, all under certain  
25 provisions.

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2                   (Witness approached witness  
3 table.)

4                   COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you.  
5 Thank you very much.

6                   Mark Focht, Fairmount Park.

7                   MR. FOCHT: Good afternoon  
8 again. Mark Focht, Executive Director of  
9 Fairmount Park. I am pleased to appear  
10 before you today, on behalf of the staff  
11 of Fairmount Park, in full support of  
12 Council Bill No. 090330.

13                   In 1964, the City of  
14 Philadelphia became the first city in  
15 North America to erect a public memorial  
16 to the Holocaust. The memorial stands at  
17 the west side of the intersection of Arch  
18 Street, 16th Street and the Benjamin  
19 Franklin Parkway. The memorial consists  
20 chiefly of a moving sculpture by Nathan  
21 Rappoport, titled "Monument to the Six  
22 Million Jewish Martyrs." At the time the  
23 City created the memorial, the Holocaust  
24 was still fresh in the memory of  
25 survivors, liberators, relatives of the

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2       victims and everyone who lived in America  
3       during the Holocaust.

4           Forty-five years have passed  
5       since Philadelphia dedicated its  
6       Holocaust Memorial, and 64 years have  
7       passed since the end of the Holocaust.  
8       Many survivors and liberators, who bore  
9       witness to the atrocities of the  
10      Holocaust, have since passed away. The  
11      sons and daughters of survivors and  
12      liberators are also growing old. New  
13      generations of Philadelphians have been  
14      born, whose only knowledge of the  
15      Holocaust may be what they learned in a  
16      brief session of a class, or even less  
17      than that. Tragically, since the end of  
18      the Holocaust, the world has witnessed  
19      more genocide, as if the lessons of the  
20      Holocaust have been entirely lost.

21           About two years ago, the  
22      Philadelphia Holocaust Remembrance  
23      Foundation approached Fairmount Park with  
24      a proposal to construct a new and  
25      expanded Holocaust Memorial at the site

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2           of the current memorial. The  
3           Foundation's plans were to create a  
4           memorial that will honor the victims of  
5           the Holocaust and perpetuate memory of  
6           the Holocaust. Fairmount Park fully and  
7           completely embraces this proposal.

8                     Initially, the Remembrance  
9           Foundation envisioned a plaza where  
10          individuals and groups could quietly  
11          contemplate the Holocaust. Last year,  
12          Remembrance Foundation officials proposed  
13          a more ambitious project. The plan, as  
14          currently envisioned, is to construct a  
15          building with educational programs to  
16          promote more active learning. The  
17          Foundation has retained the  
18          world-renowned architect Moshe Safdie to  
19          design the building. The exterior design  
20          of the building will be subject to prior  
21          approval of Fairmount Park and, of  
22          course, approval by the Philadelphia Art  
23          Commission.

24                    Remembrance Foundation  
25          officials have said they will invest a

6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

substantial amount to construct, program and maintain the new building. As currently envisioned, the facility will be about two stories tall, which includes one story below grade, and will use a portion of the space underneath the sidewalk in the public right-of-way to maximize use of its site. The Foundation will operate and maintain the building and plaza solely as its own cost. The new building would be controlled by the Remembrance Foundation, but its programs would be open to everyone. The building would occupy most of the raised, planted area in the triangular slice of land at Arch, 16th and the Parkway. The Remembrance Foundation would also improve the open plaza area around the Monument to Six Million Jewish Martyrs. The plaza would be open to the public. Fairmount Park would seek to adopt regulations to preserve the memorial as a solemn place of learning, remembrance and contemplation. The proposed regulations

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2           are attached as an exhibit to Bill No.  
3           090330.

4                     The Remembrance Foundation  
5           would have the right to use the open  
6           plaza area up to 30 times each year to  
7           hold events that promote remembrance of  
8           the Holocaust, including the annual  
9           Holocaust Memorial observation. Other  
10          groups could use the plaza, subject to  
11          any regulations that Fairmount Park  
12          adopts regarding it.

13                    The terms of the agreement  
14          would be 40 years, and the Remembrance  
15          Foundation would have the ability to  
16          renew the term for an additional 40  
17          years. The document before you today was  
18          approved by the Fairmount Park Commission  
19          on April 8th, 2009.

20                    Finally, besides being an  
21          important addition to Philadelphia's  
22          cultural resources, I believe that the  
23          proposed building will be a sterling  
24          addition to the Parkway/Museums District,  
25          one of the City's most vital cultural

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2           corridors.

3                       Therefore, I appear before you  
4           today to pledge the full support of  
5           Fairmount Park staff for this legislation  
6           and respectively ask that City Council  
7           approve Bill No. 090330.

8                       In addition, I ask that the  
9           rules be suspended so that the ordinance  
10          may be passed upon the second reading at  
11          Council.

12                      Thank you, and I would  
13          certainly be pleased to answer any  
14          questions regarding this matter.

15                      COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Mark  
16          Focht, as you well know with all matters  
17          that come before City Council,  
18          irregardless of the scale of the  
19          transaction, a number of Councilmembers  
20          have consistent questions around MBE/WBE  
21          participation.

22                      What has been the role, if any,  
23          of the Fairmount Park Commission with  
24          this interest?

25                      MR. FOCHT: You will hear in a

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2           moment from the Foundation officials,  
3           which have developed an EOE, which they  
4           would like to present as part of their  
5           testimony as attachment to the  
6           legislation.

7                   COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: So  
8           Fairmount Park has not had those kind of  
9           discussions with --

10                   MR. FOCHT: I'm sorry,  
11           Councilwoman. What you will hear is the  
12           results of our conversations with the  
13           Foundation. And it's their document,  
14           it's their commitment to the EOE, so they  
15           would like to present it to you.

16                   COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Very well.  
17           Okay, then.

18                   Any questions from members of  
19           the Committee for Mr. Mark Focht  
20           regarding the Philadelphia Holocaust  
21           Remembrance Foundation?

22                   (No response.)

23                   COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Very well.  
24           Thank you.

25                   MR. FOCHT: Thank you.

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: If we  
3 could please ask Harvey Sternberg to  
4 please approach the witness table.

5           (Witnesses approached witness  
6 table.)

7           COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Good  
8 afternoon. Welcome to these proceedings.

9           MR. STERNBERG: Good afternoon,  
10 Councilmembers. Thank you.

11           COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: You're  
12 welcome. Please state your name for the  
13 record and you're welcome to proceed with  
14 your testimony.

15           MR. STERNBERG: My name is  
16 Harvey Sternberg. I'm here as a  
17 volunteer and a Board member of the  
18 Philadelphia Holocaust Remembrance  
19 Foundation.

20           We thank Mr. Focht for his  
21 statement, and we have very brief  
22 remarks, comments in addition as solace.

23           PHRF is dedicated to honoring  
24 survivors of the Holocaust and the memory  
25 of those who perished.

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           A new technology-rich  
3           educational facility is planned at the  
4           location of the Monument on the Parkway  
5           at the intersection of 16th Street and  
6           Arch Street. The Monument will remain in  
7           its original location on the corner.

8           The expanded site is a small,  
9           irregularly shaped quarter acre,  
10          currently elevated and unavailable to  
11          pedestrians, adjacent to the Verizon  
12          switching facilities.

13          The building is planned as an  
14          experiential audio video center for  
15          enlightenment regarding the Holocaust,  
16          genocide, human rights and tolerance.

17          The Foundation recognizes the  
18          prominence and importance of this  
19          location and has accordingly engaged the  
20          services of a world-class architect,  
21          Moshe Safdie, to develop the building  
22          design.

23          The design will be a dignified  
24          and compelling tribute, worthy of the  
25          subject matter, well suited to the

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           high-profile location on the Parkway and  
3           respectful of the Park and its visible  
4           openness.

5                     Approval of any structure must  
6           proceed through all appropriate City of  
7           Philadelphia agencies, including, but not  
8           limited to, the Planning Commission, the  
9           Art Commission and City Licenses and  
10          Inspection.

11                    The project and programming are  
12          intended as a destination from our own  
13          neighborhoods and from around the world.

14                    The Foundation will work with  
15          the Philadelphia School District and  
16          other school districts and universities  
17          to ensure that appropriate educational  
18          materials reach students now and in the  
19          future.

20                    With dynamic and changeable  
21          audio video content, meaningful lessons  
22          will be presented to students, families,  
23          tourists, corporations and government  
24          agencies.

25                    Collaboration has begun with a

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           number of local and national  
3           organizations, including Steven  
4           Spielberg's Shoah Foundation, that are  
5           dedicated to combatting prejudice by  
6           teaching tolerance and humanity.

7                     The Foundation's facility will  
8           complement its distinguished neighbors in  
9           the Parkway/Museum District and provide  
10          another venue to contribute to the  
11          collective draw for visitors.

12                    No funding will be requested or  
13          required from the City of Philadelphia.

14                    The Foundation has created an  
15          Equal Opportunity Plan for the project,  
16          with the advice and assistance of  
17          Councilman Clarke's office. The project  
18          will be environmentally sound and energy  
19          efficient, with LEED certification for  
20          the building and green areas for the  
21          public. And we have a copy of the draft  
22          EOP with us that we'd like to offer into  
23          evidence today as well.

24                    Thank you.

25                    COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           very much for your testimony.

3                     We'll hear from Joan Stern.

4                     MS. STERN: Respectfully,  
5           members of the Committee, I am not here  
6           to offer formal testimony. I serve as  
7           counsel to the Foundation, and I'm just  
8           here to answer any technical questions  
9           you might have.

10                    COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And as a  
11           matter of record, Councilman Clarke's  
12           office has been intimately involved in  
13           the development of the plan?

14                    MS. STERN: Yes.

15                    COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: As a  
16           matter of practice, we typically ask the  
17           District Councilperson that is  
18           representing that enterprise to put  
19           comments on the record, so I want to  
20           extend that same opportunity.

21                    Councilman Clarke.

22                    COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,  
23           Madam Chair.

24                    Good afternoon. We actually  
25           were reviewing the Equal Opportunity Plan

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2       as you spoke to look at some of the  
3       reflections of the numbers, and I  
4       understand it is comparable to the Sister  
5       Cities project that was referred,  
6       proposed as recently as maybe this week.

7           MS. STERN: That's correct.  
8       That was the template.

9           COUNCILMAN CLARKE: I'm a  
10      little -- on the professional services  
11      side, I probably need to have a little  
12      more detailed conversation, because those  
13      numbers are in single digits. So I'd  
14      like to get a better sense of why those  
15      numbers are not -- why they are in single  
16      digits. But on the construction side,  
17      they're pretty decent numbers. So we're  
18      hoping that you can reach those goals and  
19      obviously will be prepared to be  
20      supportive in any way, shape or form. I  
21      know the City's OEO office will be very  
22      supportive in identifying those  
23      applicants or those construction-related  
24      activities that can be in the position to  
25      provide opportunities.

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2                   I want to say that I'm excited  
3       about the prospects of having this  
4       project in such a prominent location.  
5       We're looking forward to moving online.  
6       I always like to say that this is the  
7       best Council district in the City of  
8       Philadelphia. It's second only to the  
9       Council districts that all of you live  
10      in.

11                  I'll just make sure I take care  
12      of our politics.

13                  So I just want to say, Madam  
14      Chair, I'm very excited about the  
15      possibility and the prospects of getting  
16      this done in a timely way. So thank you.  
17      Thank you for your support.

18                  COUNCILWOMAN BROWN:  
19      Absolutely.

20                  And while we recognize that the  
21      City is not contributing financially to  
22      it, we've just learned the hard way here  
23      that if we don't ask the questions on the  
24      front end, many come with good intent,  
25      but it's ultimately work product,

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2 documents, that show the intended  
3 purpose.

4           Let me commend you on the  
5 collaboration with the Philadelphia  
6 public school system and knowing that has  
7 value at the door of the launch of this  
8 project. It's extremely important. And  
9 I would suggest that you also, as you  
10 grow your community outreach, look to  
11 charter schools as well, because they too  
12 can benefit from knowing about this  
13 important history.

14           So thank you both for your  
15 testimony.

16           Any other questions from  
17 members of this Committee?

18           (No response.)

19           COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: We thank  
20 you very much, and congratulations on  
21 this first step.

22           MR. STERNBERG: Thank you.

23           COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: We'd now  
24 like to ask the Clerk to please read the  
25 title of Bill No. 090443.

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           THE CLERK: 090443, an  
3 ordinance authorizing the Executive  
4 Director of Fairmount Park Commission,  
5 the Recreation Commissioner, the Public  
6 Property Commissioner and the Director of  
7 Commerce to execute an amendment to the  
8 lease dated November 1st, 1993, between  
9 the City and the Philadelphia Authority  
10 for Industrial Development ('PAID'),  
11 authorized by Bill No. 505 of 1993, and  
12 under which PAID entered into a sublease  
13 with the Fairmount Park Historic  
14 Preservation Trust, Inc. (the 'Trust'),  
15 under which, in turn, from time to time,  
16 the Trust has entered into sub-subleases  
17 with third parties who have restored  
18 historic houses and other properties in  
19 Fairmount Park in exchange for long-term  
20 leases, under certain provisions.

21           COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you  
22 very much.

23           (Witness approached witness  
24 table.)

25           COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Mr. Mark

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           Focht, please proceed with your  
3           testimony.

4                       MR. FOCHT: Good afternoon  
5           again. Mark Focht, Executive Director of  
6           Fairmount Park. I am pleased to appear  
7           before you today, on behalf of the staff  
8           of Fairmount Park, in full support of  
9           Council Bill No. 090443.

10                      Part of the mission of  
11           Fairmount Park is the preservation of the  
12           historic houses and other historic  
13           properties within the Fairmount Park  
14           system. The historic facilities in the  
15           Fairmount Park system are an invaluable  
16           legacy to the people of Philadelphia and  
17           the nation.

18                      Unfortunately, it can be  
19           extremely expensive to preserve historic  
20           properties. There are more than 200  
21           historic structures within the Fairmount  
22           Park system. Altogether, the  
23           preservation needs of those historic  
24           properties would overwhelm the City's  
25           budgetary resources. For that reason, in

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2           1993, the City, City Council and  
3           Fairmount Park officials developed a  
4           program that make a list of historic  
5           properties in the Fairmount Park system  
6           available for lease. Specifically, a  
7           private organization can lease a historic  
8           property in Fairmount Park in exchange  
9           for investing significant funds to  
10          restore and maintain the property. The  
11          legal documents that implemented this  
12          program were authorized by Bill 505 in  
13          1993.

14                   Under Bill 505, the City signed  
15          a lease agreement with the Philadelphia  
16          Authority for Industrial Development,  
17          PAID, which signed a sublease with the  
18          Fairmount Park Historic Preservation  
19          Trust, Inc. Under that agreement, the  
20          Preservation Trust has entered into  
21          sub-subleases with private organizations  
22          which, subsequent to passage of the  
23          initial legislation in 1993, have spent  
24          millions of dollars to restore historic  
25          properties in the park.

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2                   I would like to give you just  
3 one example of how this works.

4                   The Psychoanalytical Center of  
5 Philadelphia is a non-profit organization  
6 which sub-subleases Rockland Mansion in  
7 East Fairmount Park. Since 2002, the  
8 Center has invested more than \$1 million  
9 to restore this magnificent historic  
10 mansion. The Center also maintains the  
11 mansion and its surrounding grounds. The  
12 Center's occupancy under the agreement  
13 authorized by Bill 505 has restored  
14 Rockland Mansion, saved the City millions  
15 of dollars in restoration and maintenance  
16 costs, and kept the mansion and its  
17 grounds available for visitation and  
18 enjoyment by the citizens of  
19 Philadelphia.

20                   The terms of the original  
21 agreement authorized by Bill 505 is 1993  
22 to 2033. While 2033 is still 24 years  
23 from now, Trust Board and its staff have  
24 identified that this 24-year window is a  
25 detriment to finalizing agreements with

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2           potential tenants. Many tenants would  
3           consider investing substantial funding to  
4           restore a historic property but, in  
5           exchange, need terms longer than 24 years  
6           to amortize their investment. The City's  
7           gap financing program offered through the  
8           Commerce Department requires leases of no  
9           less than 30 years. Therefore, with the  
10          Trust only authorized by the 1993  
11          agreement to offer leases until 2033, any  
12          organization interested in investing in a  
13          Park property today cannot take advantage  
14          of the City's own gap financing program  
15          because of the 30 years versus the 24  
16          years that the Trust can currently offer.

17                 In addition, it sometimes takes  
18          several years to develop architectural  
19          plans and secure financing, which can  
20          further reduce the amount of real time  
21          under any existing agreement that a new  
22          tenant can amortize its investment while  
23          restoring a Park property.

24                 For that reason, the  
25          Preservation Trust has asked the City to

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2       extend the term of the agreements to  
3       2055. This extension was approved by the  
4       Fairmount Park Commission on April 13th,  
5       2005.

6           To be clear, no site on the  
7       property list is actually sub-subleased  
8       by the Preservation Trust unless and  
9       until the Trust designates the property  
10      for a particular use or subtenant and  
11      Fairmount Park approves that designation.  
12      Under Bill 505, the Preservation Trust  
13      has five years to designate a historic  
14      property for sublease. The original  
15      designation period was five years. It  
16      was extended for two more five-year  
17      periods, but the last of those extensions  
18      has expired. The bill before you today  
19      would give the Preservation Trust an  
20      additional ten years to designate  
21      additional historic facilities in the  
22      Fairmount Park system for lease.

23           Also, you should be aware that  
24      under Bill 505 of 1993, the President of  
25      City Council is authorized to approve

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2       amendments to the agreements authorized  
3       by the bill if those changes would not  
4       increase the City's obligation under the  
5       agreement or reduce the benefits to the  
6       City under the agreements. If the City  
7       Council President believes that a  
8       proposed amendment would make a material  
9       change in the deal, the City Council  
10      President can refer the proposed change  
11      to the full City Council for its  
12      approval. That is indeed what City  
13      Council President Verna has done in  
14      determining that this proposed extension  
15      of the agreement terms and extension of  
16      the designation period requires full City  
17      Council approval.

18                I believe the proposed  
19      extension of the agreement term and the  
20      designation period will enable Fairmount  
21      Park, working through the Historic  
22      Preservation Trust, to continue to  
23      develop lease arrangements for our  
24      historic properties throughout the  
25      Fairmount Park system that preserves and

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2       restores these properties, saves the City  
3       money and keeps the property available to  
4       the citizens.

5           Therefore, I appear before you  
6       today to pledge the full support of  
7       Fairmount Park staff for this legislation  
8       and respectfully ask City Council  
9       approval of Bill No. 090443.

10          In addition, I ask that the  
11       rules be suspended so that the ordinance  
12       may be passed upon the second reading at  
13       Council.

14          Thank you. I'd be very pleased  
15       to answer any questions you have  
16       concerning this matter.

17          COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Any  
18       questions for this witness?

19               (No response.)

20          COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Very well,  
21       Mark Focht. We thank you very much for  
22       your testimony.

23          MR. FOCHT: Thank you very  
24       much.

25          COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Let's

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2           please ask Lucy Strackhouse, Executive  
3           Director, Fairmount Park Historic  
4           Preservation Trust, to approach the  
5           witness table.

6                     (Witness approached witness  
7           table.)

8                     MS. STRACKHOUSE: Good  
9           afternoon, Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds  
10          Brown and Committee. Thank you for the  
11          opportunity to provide testimony today.

12                    The Fairmount Park Historic  
13          Preservation Trust traces its origin back  
14          to discussions that began in the late  
15          1980s in regards to solving the  
16          overwhelming issues with restoration and  
17          adaptive reuse of over 200 structures in  
18          Fairmount Park. The Fairmount Park  
19          Commission hired Urban Partners, Jackson  
20          and Kine, the Philadelphia Historic  
21          Preservation Corporation to report on the  
22          potential applicability of adaptive reuse  
23          of buildings in Fairmount Park. The  
24          report concluded that a new  
25          public-private partnership was needed to

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2           manage and attract investment to these  
3           buildings.

4                     In 1992, Philadelphia City  
5           Council acted on these recommendations by  
6           passing Bill 505, with an original master  
7           leased list of 43 properties. Seed  
8           capital was provided by the William Penn  
9           Foundation, the Stockton Rush Bartol  
10          Foundation, the Pew Charitable Trusts,  
11          and the Trust was officially incorporated  
12          in 1992.

13                    The mission of the Trust, a  
14          non-profit organization, is to provide  
15          leadership, technical assistance and  
16          advocacy to preserve, develop and manage  
17          historic properties and other cultural  
18          resources in Philadelphia's Fairmount  
19          Park. The Trust began to market historic  
20          properties and offer assistance to  
21          stewardship organizations throughout the  
22          Park. One of the first leases signed in  
23          1997 was with the Cancer Wellness  
24          Community and the Susan B. Morgan  
25          Foundation for Ridgeland Mansion. In

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2           return to a long-term lease, the Cancer  
3           Wellness Center invested more than \$1  
4           million in capital improvements and  
5           restored the mansion and adjacent barn  
6           for use as a counseling center.

7                     In the 1990s, the Trust  
8           instituted an architectural conservation  
9           program to fulfill a need for qualified  
10          restoration work on all historic Park  
11          properties. We work with stewardship  
12          organizations throughout the Park and  
13          offer services such as project  
14          management, masonry and wood  
15          conservation, graffiti removal and  
16          preservation consulting.

17                    Today, the Trust manages 12  
18          long-term leases and over 30 historic  
19          structures. Some examples of our  
20          long-term leases are the Fox Chase Farm  
21          with the School District of Philadelphia,  
22          the Friends of the Wissahickon and the  
23          Valley Green Inn, and Centennial Cafe at  
24          Ohio House, with Ohio House Partners.  
25          One of our most recent projects is the

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2           adaptive reuse and leasing of Bathey  
3           House in East Falls, which is on South  
4           Ferry Road, and that will be used as a  
5           cafe and it will also provide public  
6           bathrooms and it will be a recreational  
7           rental outlet. We're hoping to see that  
8           open within the next six months.

9                       Since 1992, the Trust has  
10          secured or provided the vehicle for  
11          investment into Fairmount Park of well  
12          over \$10 million.

13                      Thank you. I'm happy to answer  
14          any questions.

15                      COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Please  
16          tell me, how long have you served in the  
17          capacity as Executive Director of the  
18          Fairmount Park?

19                      MS. STRACKHOUSE: I have been  
20          Executive Director since September of  
21          2006 and was Interim for the six months  
22          prior to that.

23                      COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you.  
24                      Councilman Jones.

25                      COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes, Madam

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           Chair. We were able to steal her away  
3           from Canada and get her to come down.

4                     And I just want to thank you  
5           for some 16 months ago taking me on a  
6           tour of some of the facilities within the  
7           Park, and I discovered that the  
8           Rittenhouse was where the first paper  
9           mill was and the Bathey House and its  
10          rich history, the Ohio House, which is a  
11          part of the Centennial District, which is  
12          in the 4th District, which has celebrated  
13          over a million visitors to come through.

14                    So we're real happy to have you  
15          as a part of that, and support your  
16          efforts to keep those facilities as  
17          hidden treasures, and we're going to make  
18          sure that more people discover them. And  
19          we look forward to working with you on  
20          that.

21                   MS. STRACKHOUSE: Thank you.

22                   COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: I've had  
23          the good fortune to serve as a Board  
24          member prior to your arrival, which is  
25          why I raised the question. So let me

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           salute you for the important work that  
3           you all continue to do. It's wonderful.

4                     MS. STRACKHOUSE: Thank you.

5                     COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you  
6           very much.

7                     Any other questions for this  
8           witness?

9                     (No response.)

10                    COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Very well.  
11           This concludes our public hearing and we  
12           will now move into our public meeting.

13                    Councilman Clarke, could I  
14           please have a motion on Bill No. 090098.

15                    COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,  
16           Madam Chair.

17                    Madam Chair, I move that Bill  
18           No. 090098 be reported out of Committee  
19           with a favorable recommendation and  
20           request for a rules suspension as to  
21           allow reading at the next session of  
22           Council.

23                    (Duly seconded.)

24                    COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Bill No.  
25           090098 has been moved and properly

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2           seconded.

3                   All in favor say aye.

4                   (Aye.)

5                   COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: All  
6           opposed?

7                   (No response.)

8                   COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Therefore,  
9           Bill No. 090098 will be reported out of  
10          this Committee with a favorable  
11          recommendation and a further  
12          recommendation that the rules of Council  
13          be suspended to allow first reading at  
14          our next scheduled Council meeting.

15                  I would like to ask Councilman  
16          Clarke to please make a motion on Bill  
17          No. 090192.

18                  COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,  
19          Madam Chair. I move that Bill No. 090192  
20          be reported out of Committee with a  
21          favorable recommendation and with a rules  
22          suspension as to allow reading at the  
23          next session of Council.

24                  (Duly seconded.)

25                  COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Bill No.

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2           090192 has been moved and properly  
3           seconded.

4                   All in favor say aye.

5                   (Aye.)

6                   COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: All  
7           opposed?

8                   (No response.)

9                   COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Therefore,  
10          Bill No. 090192 -- the bill is approved.  
11          Thank you. Therefore, Bill No. 090192  
12          has been moved out of Committee with a  
13          favorable recommendation and further  
14          moved that the rules of Council be  
15          suspended so as to permit first reading  
16          at the next scheduled session of City  
17          Council.

18                   I'm going to ask Councilman  
19          DiCicco to please make a motion on Bill  
20          No. 090210, with a suspension of the  
21          rules.

22                   COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Thank you,  
23          Madam Chair. I move that Bill No. 090210  
24          be reported out of this Committee with a  
25          favorable recommendation and that the

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2           rules of Council be suspended so as to  
3           permit first reading at our next regular  
4           session of City Council.

5                   COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you.  
6           Is there a second?

7                   (Duly seconded.)

8                   COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Bill No.  
9           090210 has been moved and properly  
10          seconded.

11                  All in favor say aye.

12                  (Aye.)

13                  COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: All  
14          opposed?

15                  (No response.)

16                  COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: The bill  
17          is approved. Therefore, Bill No. 090210  
18          will be reported out of this Committee  
19          with a favorable recommendation and  
20          further moved that the rules of Council  
21          be suspended so as to permit first  
22          reading.

23                  We will now ask Councilman  
24          Curtis Jones to please make a motion on  
25          Bill No. 090327.

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,  
3       Madam Chairman. I move that Bill No.  
4       090327 be reported out of the Committee  
5       with a favorable recommendation and the  
6       rules of Council be suspended to permit  
7       first reading in the next scheduled  
8       Council meeting.

9           (Duly seconded.)

10          COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: This bill  
11       has been moved and seconded.

12          All in favor say aye.

13          (Aye.)

14          COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: All  
15       opposed?

16          (No response.)

17          COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: The bill  
18       is approved. Bill No. 090327 will be  
19       reported out of this Committee with a  
20       favorable recommendation and further  
21       moved that the rules of Council be  
22       suspended so as to allow first reading at  
23       our next scheduled Council session.

24          I would now like to ask  
25       Councilman Clarke to please make a motion

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.  
2           on Bill No. 090330, with a suspension of  
3           the rules.

4                   COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,  
5           Madam Chair. I move that Bill No. 090330  
6           be reported out of Committee with a  
7           favorable recommendation, with rules  
8           suspension as to allow reading at the  
9           next session of Council.

10                   (Duly seconded.)

11                   COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Bill No.  
12           090330 has been moved and properly  
13           seconded.

14                   All in favor say aye.

15                   (Aye.)

16                   COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: All  
17           opposed?

18                   (No response.)

19                   COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Bill No.  
20           090330 will be reported out of this  
21           Committee with a favorable recommendation  
22           and a further recommendation that the  
23           rules of Council be suspended so as to  
24           permit first reading at the next  
25           scheduled session of City Council.

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           I'd like to ask Councilman  
3 Clarke to please make a motion on Bill  
4 No. 090443.

5           COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,  
6 Madam Chair. I move that Bill 090443 be  
7 reported out of Committee with a  
8 favorable recommendation and a request  
9 for rules suspension as to allow reading  
10 at the next session of Council.

11           (Duly seconded.)

12           COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: The bill  
13 has been moved and seconded. Bill No.  
14 090443 will be moved out of this  
15 Committee with a favorable recommendation  
16 and a further recommendation that the  
17 rules of Council be suspended so as to  
18 permit first reading at our next  
19 scheduled session of City Council.

20           All in favor say aye.

21           (Aye.)

22           COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: All  
23 opposed?

24           (No response.)

25           COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: The bill

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2           is approved.

3                   Councilman Jones, could I have  
4           a motion on Resolution 090057 reporting  
5           the Committee's recommendations for the  
6           Parks and Recreation Commission.

7                   COUNCILMAN JONES: I move for  
8           the adoption of the resolution.

9                   (Duly seconded.)

10                  COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: 09 --

11                  COUNCILMAN JONES: 090057. I  
12           move for the adoption of the report with  
13           a favorable recommendation.

14                  COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Resolution  
15           090057 has been moved and properly  
16           seconded.

17                  All in favor say aye.

18                  (Aye.)

19                  COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: All  
20           opposed?

21                  (No response.)

22                  COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Resolution  
23           090057 has been reported out of this  
24           Committee with a favorable  
25           recommendation.

1           6/1/09 - PARKS - BILL 090098, etc.

2                   This concludes the meeting of  
3       the City Council Committee on Recreation,  
4       Parks and Cultural Affairs.

5                   Thank you for your attendance.

6                   (Committee on Parks, Recreation  
7       and Cultural Affairs concluded at 2:35  
8       p.m.)

9                               - - -

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1  
2 CERTIFICATE

3 I HEREBY CERTIFY that the  
4 proceedings, evidence and objections are  
5 contained fully and accurately in the  
6 stenographic notes taken by me upon the  
7 foregoing matter on June 1, 2009, and that  
8 this is a true and correct transcript of same.

9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14 \_\_\_\_\_  
15 MICHELE L. MURPHY

16 RPR-Notary Public  
17  
18

19 (The foregoing certification of this  
20 transcript does not apply to any reproduction  
21 of the same by any means, unless under the  
22 direct control and/or supervision of the  
23 certifying reporter.)  
24  
25