

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Remote location using Microsoft® Teams
Tuesday, April 11, 2023
10:15 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT DARRELL L. CLARKE, CHAIR
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR., VICE-CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
COUNCILWOMAN JAMIE GAUTHIER
COUNCILWOMAN KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON
COUNCILMAN JIM HARRITY
COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON
COUNCILWOMAN QUETCY M. LOZADA
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILMAN ANTHONY PHILLIPS
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA
COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS
COUNCILWOMAN SHARON VAUGHN

BILLS: 230144, 230145, 230146, 230147,
230148, 230149
RESOLUTION: 230162

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Good morning to everyone. Before we
4 begin the public hearing, I'd like to
5 make the following announcement: Due
6 to the continuing threat to public
7 health of COVID-19, City Council
8 Committees are currently meeting
9 remotely. We are using Microsoft
10 Teams to make these remote hearings
11 possible.

12 Instructions for how the
13 public may view and offer public
14 testimony of Council Committees are
15 included in the public hearing
16 notices that are published in the
17 Daily News, the Inquirer and Legal
18 Intelligencer prior to the hearings
19 and can also be found on
20 PHLCouncil.com. I now note that the
21 hour has come. We've established our
22 quorum.

23 Mr. McDermott, will you please
24 call the roll to take attendance.
25 Members that are in attendance,

1 please indicate that you are present.

2 THE CLERK: Councilmember

3 Bass.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good

5 morning, Mr. President and

6 colleagues. I am present.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

8 Good morning.

9 THE CLERK: Councilmember

10 Brooks.

11 (No response.)

12 THE CLERK: Councilmember

13 Driscoll.

14 (No response.)

15 THE CLERK: Councilmember

16 Gauthier.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Good

18 morning, Council President and

19 colleagues. Present.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

21 Good morning.

22 THE CLERK: Councilmember

23 Gilmore Richardson.

24 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

25 RICHARDSON: Good morning, Council

1 President. Good morning, colleagues.

2 I am present.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Good morning.

5 THE CLERK: Councilmember

6 Harrity.

7 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Morning

8 everybody. I am present.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

10 Good morning.

11 THE CLERK: Councilmember

12 Johnson.

13 (No response.)

14 THE CLERK: Councilmember

15 Jones.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
17 morning, Mr. President, colleagues.

18 I'm present.

19 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Bob, did
20 you hear me? It sounded like I got
21 cut off.

22 THE CLERK: I marked you down
23 for the record. Thank you,
24 Councilman.

25 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank

1 you, Bob.

2 THE CLERK: Councilmember

3 Lozada.

4 (No response.)

5 THE CLERK: Councilmember

6 O'Neill.

7 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Good

8 morning, everyone.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

10 Good morning.

11 THE CLERK: Councilmember

12 Phillips.

13 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Good

14 morning, everyone. Good morning.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

16 Good morning.

17 THE CLERK: Councilmember

18 Squilla.

19 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Good

20 morning, Council President,

21 colleagues. Present.

22 THE CLERK: Councilmember

23 Thomas.

24 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good

25 morning, Council President. Good

1 morning, colleagues. I'm present.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Good morning.

4 THE CLERK: And, Councilmember
5 Vaughn.

6 COUNCILWOMAN VAUGHN: Good
7 morning, everyone.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

9 Good morning. We've established our
10 quorum and the hearing is now called
11 to order. This is the continued
12 public hearing of the Committee of
13 the Whole regarding Bill Nos. 230144,
14 230145, 230146, 230147, 230148,
15 230149 and Resolution No. 230162.

16 Mr. McDermott, please read the
17 titles of the bills and resolution.

18 THE CLERK: Bill No. 230144,
19 an ordinance to adopt a Capital
20 Program for the six Fiscal Years
21 2024-2029 inclusive.

22 Bill No. 230145, an ordinance
23 to adopt a Fiscal 2024 Capital
24 Budget.

25 Bill No. 230146, an ordinance

1 adopting the operating budget for
2 Fiscal Year 2024.

3 Bill No. 230147, an ordinance
4 amending Chapter 19-1500 of The
5 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Wage and
6 Net Profits Taxes," by revising
7 certain tax rates, under certain
8 terms and conditions.

9 Bill No. 230148, an ordinance
10 amending Chapter 19-2800 of The
11 Philadelphia Code, entitled
12 "Pennsylvania Intergovernmental
13 Cooperation Authority Tax on Wages
14 and Net Profits," to provide for the
15 continuation of the tax and to make
16 other conforming changes, all under
17 certain terms and conditions.

18 Bill No. 230149, an ordinance
19 amending Chapter 19-2600 of The
20 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Business
21 Income and Receipts Taxes," by
22 revising certain tax rates, under
23 certain terms and conditions.

24 Bill No. 230162, providing for
25 the approval by the Council of the

1 City of Philadelphia, a revised Five
2 Year Financial Plan for the City of
3 Philadelphia, covering Fiscal Years
4 2024 through 2028 and incorporating
5 revised changes with respect to
6 Fiscal Year 2023, which is to be
7 submitted by the Mayor to the
8 Pennsylvania Intergovernmental
9 Cooperation Authority, pursuant to
10 the intergovernmental cooperation
11 agreement authorized by an ordinance
12 of this Council approved by the Mayor
13 on January 3, 1992, by and between
14 the City and the Authority.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

16 Thank you, Mr. McDermott.

17 Today we continue the public
18 hearing of the Committee of the Whole
19 to consider the bills read by the
20 Clerk that constitute proposed
21 operating and capital spending
22 measures for Fiscal 2024, a Capital
23 Program and a Forward-looking Capital
24 Plan for Fiscal Year 2024 through
25 Fiscal Year 2029.

1 This morning we will hear
2 testimony from the Managing
3 Director's Office and the Police
4 Department. This afternoon we will
5 hear from the Department of
6 Behavioral Health, Public Health and
7 the Office of Homeless Services.

8 Mr. McDermott, the first
9 person to testify today is?

10 THE CLERK: The first person
11 to testify from the Administration is
12 Tumar Alexander, Managing Director.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
14 Good morning, sir. How are you?

15 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
16 Good morning. Good morning,
17 everyone. Good morning, Council
18 President.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
20 Thank you for being with us. Please
21 proceed.

22 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
23 Good morning, President Clarke and
24 members of City Council. I am Tumar
25 Alexander, Managing Director.

1 Joining me today are members of my
2 senior staff and agency directors
3 within the Managing Director's Office
4 as well as Eva Gladstein, First
5 Deputy Managing Director; Mike
6 Carroll, Deputy Managing Director for
7 Transportation, Infrastructure and
8 Sustainability; Joshu Harris, Interim
9 Senior Director of Policy and
10 Strategic Initiatives for Criminal
11 Justice and Public Safety; Mary
12 Horstmann, Deputy Managing Director
13 for Health and Human Services;
14 Orlando Rendon, Deputy Managing
15 Director of Community Services; and
16 Dave Wilson, Deputy Managing Director
17 for General Services, Arts and
18 Events.

19 I am pleased to provide
20 testimony on the Managing Director's
21 Fiscal Year 2024 operating budget. I
22 am proud of the Managing Director's
23 Office efforts over the last year.
24 MDO departments and programs have
25 worked tirelessly to address gun

1 violence plaguing our neighborhoods,
2 created a welcoming city for new
3 arrivals, successfully won \$179
4 million in new transportation
5 infrastructure grants and
6 collaborated to help the City recover
7 from the impacts of the COVID-19
8 pandemic.

9 In the next year -- in the
10 next fiscal year, MDO will continue
11 to step up and work towards our
12 shared goals for a better city. Next
13 fiscal year we will expand our
14 violence prevention programs, improve
15 the quality of life of Philadelphia
16 making sure that every neighborhood
17 has clean and safe streets, continue
18 the historic investment in the City's
19 parks, recreation centers and
20 libraries via the Rebuild program,
21 scale tenant supports like Right to
22 Counsel to level the playing field in
23 Landlord Tenant Court, deepen the
24 citywide response over those
25 epidemics centering our work on the

1 impacts on Black and Brown
2 communities, invest in an equitable
3 and affordable transportation system
4 and much, much more.

5 Residents continue to confront
6 the trauma of gun violence, the
7 overdose epidemic and poverty.

8 Understanding the magnitude of these
9 challenges, we stand committed to
10 resolve them. I will now briefly
11 highlight some of the recent
12 accomplishment and key activities
13 expected in the coming fiscal year:

14 Expanding engagement to reduce
15 violence. From issuing the first
16 rounds of the Community Expansion
17 Grants, building a Ready replication
18 model and launching juvenile
19 assessment center, we are expanding
20 violence prevention services. Next
21 fiscal year MDO will invest \$76
22 million in anti-violence funding to
23 sustain and expand proven programs.
24 Supporting our neighborhoods, from
25 graffiti removal and vacant lots

1 clean-up to providing work
2 opportunities through same-day pay,
3 same-day work and pay, CLIP continues
4 to be of service to the community
5 citywide.

6 In 2022, CLIP cleaned
7 thousands of lots throughout the City
8 with a particular focus in areas of
9 high violence. Next fiscal year we
10 will continue to grow the reach of
11 CLIP to improve the cleanliness of
12 the streets and neighborhoods.

13 Rebuild; Rebuild is building
14 stronger, more welcoming community
15 spaces where Philadelphia residents
16 can learn, play and grow. Rebuild
17 has now completed 14 sites with
18 another 16 prepared for or currently
19 under construction in '22 and
20 community engagement and design
21 process.

22 Strengthen and supports to
23 tenants facing evictions; Health and
24 Human Services continues to
25 collaborate with Planning and

1 Development to provide tenant
2 supports to prevent eviction. In
3 FY23, HHS expanded Right to Counsel
4 to two additional zip codes, 19144
5 and 19134 for a total of four zip
6 codes total.

7 In the FY24 Five Year Plan,
8 the City invested \$29 million in
9 eviction prevention, scaling Right to
10 Counsel and piloted a mobile resource
11 team to address self-help illegal
12 evictions. Respond to the challenge
13 and nature of the overdose epidemic;
14 unintentional overdose of
15 Philadelphia has historically been
16 highest among non-Hispanic White
17 individuals, but now we are seeing an
18 increase of impact in Black and Brown
19 communities.

20 In response, the Opioid
21 Reduction Unit has developed a
22 comprehensive citywide engagement
23 plan to prevent fatal overdoses,
24 targeting outreach in North
25 Philadelphia and expanding harm

1 reduction services citywide and
2 launching mobile methadone clinics
3 citywide.

4 Invest in equitable
5 transportation system; in 2022, OTIS
6 started the Infrastructure Solutions
7 Team which was developed to ensure
8 that projects funded by the
9 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law bill
10 wealth in Black and Brown communities
11 in the City.

12 In this fiscal year, OTIS will
13 continue to focus on equitable
14 transportation system while launching
15 of a two-year pilot of a Zero Fare
16 Transit Program aimed at providing
17 Philadelphians at or below the
18 poverty line with a free SEPTA pass.
19 This is just an example of our work.
20 We are committed to continuing to
21 improve the performances of our
22 operations and resolving our
23 residents most confronting
24 challenges.

25 This concludes my testimony.

1 Thank you for your time and City
2 Council's partnership as we tackle
3 some of the City's most challenging
4 issues. My colleagues and I are
5 happy and ready to take any
6 questions.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

8 Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Alexander.
9 I have a couple of questions before I
10 turn it over to my colleagues. Let
11 me start out with one that we've
12 discussed for the last couple of
13 years, the contribution to the
14 comprehensive approach to dealing
15 with violence in our communities,
16 funding for community grants, the
17 Community Expansion Grant, the
18 Targeted Community Investment Grant.

19 You are asking for 13 million
20 to be allocated for these two
21 programs. Can you give us a snapshot
22 of the benefits and the performance
23 based on the earlier grants that were
24 given in the earlier fiscal years?
25 Do we have a sense of some analysis

1 on how they've actually performed and
2 if we need to change the strategy or
3 not or just enhance in terms of
4 resources the existing entities that
5 are providing the service and expand
6 those groups?

7 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

8 Yeah. Thank you, Council President.
9 I'll start out and then I'll ask
10 Joshu Harris to jump in and kind of
11 help me a little bit. First, I want
12 to thank Council for that historic
13 investment. As you all witnessed and
14 sort of went through with us as we
15 took time to set up those programs
16 and set up a structure to where we
17 got a lot of that money, in
18 particular the CEG program money out
19 on the street to what we call some of
20 the smaller more invested groups, the
21 boots-on-the-ground folks.

22 So out of that program, I
23 believe there was about 31 grantees
24 the first year. I'm sitting here and
25 I'll acknowledge that we had

1 challenges on starting the program
2 up. One of the things we wanted to
3 do is just not build a grant program
4 to just sort of give government or
5 City money to folks, but didn't allow
6 them the investments to sort of help
7 them grow, help them with some of the
8 back-office function supports, help
9 tie them to fiduciaries and other
10 folks who supported this and also
11 have an evaluation process within
12 this grant.

13 So it took us a few months to
14 get that program off the ground.
15 Although it was created last year
16 during the budget process, that
17 program is sort of what I believe I
18 said of the Five Year Plan expanding
19 across fiscal years. So right now
20 those grantees have had an extension
21 to be able to continue their
22 programming throughout the remaining
23 months of this fiscal year, but also
24 into next fiscal year so it can have
25 a few years of implementation and

1 operation.

2 I will say as a whole that
3 program has been very successful in
4 engagement and in recruiting
5 participants to their programs. I
6 think where we can do a little better
7 at for the next cycle is try to tie
8 in some of that collective work,
9 right, and tie it all in to make it
10 be more of a citywide approach.

11 So you have folks and grantees
12 that's doing programs across the City
13 in their various neighborhoods, but
14 how are we being more deliberate and
15 tying it in and bringing them
16 together and making sure that they
17 are doing collaborative work, which
18 we have seen, making sure they're
19 doing more collaborative work, but
20 making sure that we tie it in
21 citywide to whereas this concept of
22 making sure that we can see where
23 these programs are citywide, how we
24 are getting participants to them, and
25 seeing in spaces that we may feel as

1 though in neighborhoods we don't have
2 enough of these programs or enough
3 efforts and how can we help build
4 those and create those programs
5 within those neighborhoods.

6 I would say this year our
7 strategy is rolling over, being able
8 to have folks apply -- current
9 grantees apply for extensions of
10 those grants, if they want to do the
11 same program, opening the program to
12 other grantees who may not have not
13 been successful or knew people who
14 want to apply for the grants, but
15 also existing grantees who may want
16 to do something different than which
17 they applied for the first time,
18 being able to have them, being able
19 to have those folks to have an
20 opportunity to be able to apply.

21 So I think in all we expect
22 this year -- I believe the grant
23 program just opened yesterday for the
24 extensions and for the new grantees.
25 We expect through this fiscal year

1 where current money to be able to
2 award up to 50 grants. But as you
3 know we're in a budget cycle, so if
4 we get more funding, we'll be able to
5 increase those grants.

6 But, Joshu, I don't know if
7 you want to jump in and add anything
8 to Council President's question.

9 MR. HARRIS: Yes, sir. Good
10 morning, Mr. President and Council.
11 A few things about the program as
12 it's gone so far its first year. CEG
13 was designed to address an unmet need
14 that was not being addressed by
15 existing grants programs. If you're
16 going for federal or state dollars,
17 first of all, the grant makers are a
18 lot less close to the community and
19 they also tend to have some fairly
20 onerous compliance requirements.

21 That was when Council
22 advocated successfully to create the
23 micro grants program, Target
24 Community Investment Grants. It was
25 designed to provide an entry point to

1 organizations that were not in many
2 cases going to be able to compete
3 successfully for existing grants.
4 But at the same time, there was a
5 need and there was again a call from
6 Council to fill in the middle between
7 a micro grants program and some of
8 the larger more involved federal and
9 state grants programs, and that's
10 what CEG was designed to do, was to
11 fill in that middle to connect up
12 between a micro grants program and a
13 larger full-fledged grants program.

14 And so, one of the things that
15 we did at the same time that we're
16 putting together a grants program is
17 to also provide supports to these
18 organizations to make sure they were
19 going to be able to develop and grow
20 at the same time that they were
21 implementing these grants. So there
22 were funds set aside to do technical
23 assistance and capacity-building work
24 for these organizations. And the
25 hope is that we're going to see our

1 organizations graduate, so to speak,
2 from this program and go on to do
3 bigger and better things and to
4 really develop some serious
5 sustainability.

6 And so, we do have an
7 independent evaluator. We're
8 expecting to have results from that
9 evaluation later this spring and
10 we're expecting that we'll be able to
11 utilize the insight from that
12 evaluation to make some enhancements
13 to the program as we come into Round
14 2.

15 And Round 2 did just open
16 yesterday. And so, we're in the
17 midst right now of that second
18 iteration of the program, and we're
19 looking forward to making CEG an even
20 better, even more responsive program
21 to the needs of the community.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

23 Thank you. One of the issues and you
24 referenced, Mr. Alexander, earlier in
25 your testimony the support entity

1 because sometimes some of these
2 applications or solicitations from
3 the City of Philadelphia and any
4 government entity can be somewhat
5 onerous, overburdensome in terms of
6 the paperwork. I think didn't we
7 hire some entity that helped
8 organizations start that process
9 and --

10 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

11 Yeah, that's correct.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Who
13 was that and how successful have they
14 been? Because I hear from these
15 various organizations about how
16 challenging it is to even get in the
17 game, so to speak.

18 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

19 Yep. Joshu, you want to talk around
20 the folks who we hired to be
21 fiduciaries and to provide the
22 technical assistance support?

23 MR. HARRIS: I confess I
24 haven't been involved in this aspect
25 of the program. I'm thus far with

1 CEG. As you may know, I've been in
2 this role for only a few months so
3 I'll have to get some fuller
4 information on that.

5 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
6 Yeah, I have it.

7 MR. HARRIS: OKAY.

8 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
9 I think the Scatteredgood Corporation
10 was the folks that was providing the
11 technical assistance. And I believe
12 as it relates to the fiduciaries, the
13 organization was able to pick from a
14 group of around maybe a half a dozen
15 or so. And I can get a list to
16 Council of the names of those
17 organizations and the Scatteredgood
18 information, Council President.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
20 right. Can you have the specific
21 information forwarded to us without
22 exposing any proprietary information?

23 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
24 Yeah, no proprietary information.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: We

1 just want to get a sense of how many
2 people are actually seeking
3 assistance and how successful they
4 were because we hear that --

5 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

6 One of the things we did, Council
7 President, is let folks
8 voluntarily -- we didn't let folks
9 voluntarily take us up on that offer.
10 We made it as a condition of the
11 grants, so all of these folks went
12 through the technical assistance
13 part.

14 And as you know, some groups
15 may have been more advanced than
16 others and may not have needed as
17 much work as others, but all of these
18 folks had to as part of the grant and
19 will be as part of the renewal
20 looking at how they participated in
21 both the technical assistance piece
22 of it and being open to the
23 evaluation, because the evaluation
24 wasn't just folks wanting to look at
25 the program from a paper standpoint,

1 but also wanting to visit these
2 programs as the programming was
3 happening. So it consisted a bunch
4 of field visits from these
5 organizations to the organizations we
6 were funding to see how the program
7 was going as well. We can provide
8 that to the Chair.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
10 right. And one last thing on this
11 and then I'll turn it over. I got a
12 lot of other questions about a lot of
13 other things, and I don't want to be
14 accused of ageism. But how many of
15 these organizations tend to be on the
16 younger side that have received
17 grants?

18 Because a lot of -- I'm just
19 being straight-up. I mean, the
20 ability to communicate with a lot of
21 the individuals when we're looking at
22 according to police statistics 14 to
23 24 or 13 to 24 is the age range where
24 we have real challenges, I'm
25 basically saying are we getting

1 younger individuals or younger
2 organizations involved in these
3 programs? The more peer groups of
4 these individual that find themselves
5 in --

6 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

7 I would say out of the mix of 31, out
8 of the 31 grantees, it's probably a
9 mix of them. Certainly, there are
10 some folks who have been established
11 and have been in this violence
12 prevention space for a while. Not
13 being an ageist myself, some folks
14 who have been in this space since I
15 was running around in high school,
16 right.

17 But there are folks who are
18 running programs who have staff and
19 members of their leadership team or
20 executive team that's also young
21 people. There's young people, and I
22 wish Erica was able to participate
23 today because she would talk about
24 the group of folks who she mentors
25 who is like the -- I don't want to

1 get in trouble for saying any names
2 so I'm going to try to avoid that --

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Yeah.

5 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

6 -- but some of the young folks that's
7 the Pastor Carls of the world or the
8 folks that's running different
9 programs who they've kind of been
10 building up to be able to take
11 advantage of these grants. So I
12 think, Council President, to your
13 question it's a mix.

14 It's a mix of some older, more
15 established folks doing this work but
16 also young people that's doing this
17 work. And what we try to do is try
18 to take them from a space of maybe
19 those folks who's applying for the
20 TCIG program, which was some of the
21 smaller grants because they are folks
22 that work may have been focused on a
23 particular event or activity, but
24 then how do you build up those groups
25 that clearly have the ears to the

1 street, that clearly have those
2 relationships with those young
3 people, right, and are influential
4 with those young people, how do you
5 build them up to be able to
6 participate in that CEG, be able to
7 participate in the CEG piece?

8 So that's on our minds all the
9 time. And it's funny because I
10 just -- I was getting briefed on one
11 of our programs. And one of the
12 things I asked is some folks went out
13 to the Chicago READI program. And
14 one of the organizations we were
15 working with I'm very familiar with
16 that organization, I just asked the
17 people that participated, well, how
18 many young people, did they take some
19 young people on the staff, do they
20 have some folks in their 20s.
21 Because, you know, you know from
22 experience and most of the members on
23 the call and others know these young
24 people we're dealing with now,
25 they're oldheads, per se, where it

1 was my generation we listened to the
2 generation 5, 10 years ahead of us.
3 Now, these folks are listening to
4 folks that are one, two, three, four
5 years ahead of them. So we got to
6 make sure we have the right credible
7 messenger that's reaching this crowd.
8 And that is an important part of this
9 work.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
11 right. And I can get away with
12 asking that question given my age.
13 But it's a certain reality that I
14 mean you need younger people, and I'm
15 glad to see that you all are moving
16 in that direction to encourage and
17 get younger individuals, more peer
18 groups to participate in this
19 program. All right. Thank you.

20 The Chair recognizes
21 Councilwoman Gauthier.

22 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
23 you, Council President.

24 Good morning, Managing
25 Director. I am very concerned about

1 young people and their involvement in
2 gun violence, as I know that other
3 people, many of us on Council are.
4 So I wanted to ask you a few
5 questions about our efforts to deal
6 with that issue.

7 During the Mayor's budget
8 hearing, we learned about a new
9 effort for young people that will be
10 a collaboration between the Office of
11 Children and Families and PPD. And
12 from what I gathered in listening to
13 the testimony, the program will aim
14 to do some predictive analysis,
15 trying to identify maybe young people
16 at risk and then match that with
17 remediating resources and programs.

18 So I wanted to ask some more
19 questions about that new effort.
20 First, can you share how you will
21 collect, analyze and share data about
22 the young people who will be involved
23 in the program and also what data
24 you're collecting? And can you or
25 someone from your team talk about

1 what kind of resources would be
2 provided to the young people?

3 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

4 Yeah. Thank you, Councilwoman. As
5 this is something that OCF is
6 leading, I'm going to ask Deputy
7 Managing Director Mary Horstmann to
8 get in and talk a little bit about
9 it, but I think more of a robust
10 conversation will be for the OCF
11 hearing when Vanessa and her team
12 come to do the presentation.

13 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
14 you.

15 MS. HORSTMANN: Good morning.
16 Mary Horstmann, Deputy Managing
17 Director for Health and Human
18 Services. So thank you so much for
19 the question, Councilmember. This is
20 something we're looking at
21 particularly as we're heading into
22 summer and we're going to do a lot of
23 new programming for youth. And we
24 want to understand the impact of
25 that.

1 So we are working with an
2 outside evaluator to look at who is
3 being targeted by these programs and
4 are they individuals who we see as
5 higher risk in making sure we're
6 getting the resources we need and
7 then understanding the impact of the
8 activities. So are they getting more
9 engaged. Are we seeing them
10 participating at certain levels and
11 then understanding which programs are
12 really effectively meeting the needs
13 that we're seeking to address both
14 from the activities side of things,
15 the connections to peering adults as
16 well as meeting basic needs.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
18 you. I can wait for OCF. But if you
19 can, can you talk about what we would
20 be looking at to determine whether
21 young people are at risk and the
22 types of interventions that we would
23 be looking to connect them to, and
24 also are these interventions and
25 programs that we already have or are

1 these programs that we would need to
2 create?

3 MS. HORSTMANN: So most of
4 these programs we already have, so
5 it's really about providing more
6 opportunity. So we know things that
7 are helping to provide protective
8 factors to youth, so that's active
9 engagement on activities they care
10 about, so whether that's creative
11 endeavors or sports activities or
12 pursuing academics and making sure
13 that they have a venue for that.

14 We know that adult mentorship
15 and peer mentorship is really key, so
16 being able to connect with adults who
17 are peering who will help them work
18 through challenges, who will help
19 them think through if they're
20 experiencing something, what they're
21 struggling with, help them
22 de-escalate that situation and be
23 able to advise them and give them
24 good advice. And that will come in a
25 lot of different contexts.

1 So whether that's a sports
2 program or hanging out at the pool,
3 thinking about those different kinds
4 of activities, whether it's something
5 they do every day so it can be a camp
6 or it could be a drop-in activity
7 that they do a couple of times a
8 week. So we want to make sure we
9 have the variety and the number of
10 slots available so that all the kids
11 who are seeking services can be able
12 to access them as well as kids who
13 might be on the fence about seeking
14 services, we can pull away and then
15 recruit them because they're excited.
16 They're seeing their friends
17 participate in those activities and
18 they can join them.

19 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Okay.
20 And can you talk about how we'll
21 identify young people at risk because
22 I too have this concern? I think
23 youth development in and of itself is
24 a great thing. But I often question
25 whether we are reaching the most

1 at-risk young people and able to sort
2 of redirect them and set them on a
3 different path. So how will we be
4 making that determination?

5 MS. HORSTMANN: So we know
6 that there's a couple of ways that
7 people tend to be identified as
8 highly at risk. So certainly if
9 they've been involved in the juvenile
10 justice system or they have had low
11 attendance at school, that's some of
12 the things that we see as really
13 putting them at a higher risk factor.
14 Those are among the popular we're
15 going to focus on over the summer.

16 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
17 you. And how far away are we from
18 setting up this initiative and being
19 ready for the summer?

20 MS. HORSTMANN: We're very
21 close. So we are going to be doing
22 summer kickoff shortly, so we're
23 working with providers right now to
24 make sure we have slots available for
25 youth this summer.

1 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Great.

2 I look forward to learning more at
3 the OCF hearing.

4 Can you, Managing Director, or
5 anyone else on your team share what
6 other programs targeting youth will
7 be operated out of CJPS either
8 individually or as a part of other
9 existing programs that target youth
10 involved in gun violence?

11 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

12 Yeah. I think in addition to what
13 the work Mary spoke about and the
14 work with OCF, I mean you know about
15 our traditional programs, our GVI
16 program, our READI program is just --
17 I won't use the word ready to launch,
18 but we are actively ready and
19 prepared to be able to go do outreach
20 for participants for that.

21 And then we talked about
22 making sure that we are actively
23 seeking to connect some young people
24 who may not be gang-related so they
25 don't meet the GVI criteria, may not

1 meet the READI criteria, but maybe
2 able to match them to some of the
3 grantees, whether that's the CEG
4 grantees or to the TCIG grantee
5 programs.

6 But I think one of the things
7 that we talked about just really
8 internally last week and actually
9 want to do it as a partnership with
10 the Mayor's Office and with Council
11 is just having a citywide resource
12 fair for all of the programs that we
13 are funding, all of the programs that
14 we know are out there that's
15 existing, having a sort of one-day
16 event at a really big place somewhere
17 in the City on a Saturday where
18 parents and young people could come,
19 whether they're looking for a summer
20 work program, whether they want to
21 get their summer work program, get
22 their work papers done, whether they
23 want to connect to a sports league, a
24 volunteer league, one of the
25 grantees, just having all of that in

1 one space for people to see resources
2 and people to sort of know this is
3 all the things that is available to
4 them.

5 One of the things that just
6 pains me as I see some of the
7 activities with young people, whether
8 it was the activity downtown last
9 week or in South Philly where the
10 carnival was at, we need to do a
11 better job of letting parents know
12 what's available for them, right, and
13 making it easier to access them.

14 I think sometimes you all fund
15 these programs. We all put these
16 programs together, but I think
17 sometimes it would behoove us to
18 think about what's the easiest way to
19 get this stuff and get this
20 information to parents who may not
21 read the newspaper or may not watch
22 us on Channel 64, right, may not read
23 or see everything the Mayor says in a
24 speech about these different things,
25 what's the easiest way -- and may not

1 want to connect to 211, but what's
2 the easiest way we can reach them for
3 them to get access for resources for
4 their teenagers and for their young
5 people because there's a lot of good
6 programs out here. There's a lot of
7 programs doing great work with young
8 people.

9 NOMO just did something on
10 Sunday where they did a free concert
11 where I seen pictures of parents and
12 kids filmed at the Met enjoying
13 themselves on Easter Sunday. That's
14 stuff that we all did as young
15 people, right. And we as a City need
16 to do a better job of funding those
17 programs, but we also need to do a
18 better job of getting it out there
19 and letting parents know these
20 programs exist. So that's the work
21 we hope to continue to do.

22 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
23 Absolutely. Thank you so much. And
24 I have to confess that I'm confused
25 by so many people being confused

1 about what's going on with young
2 people. I think if we can't
3 affirmatively say that we can connect
4 young people with opportunity and fun
5 and support, then we're going to
6 continue to see what we saw in Center
7 City this past week. And so, I look
8 forward to continuing this
9 conversation about how we prepare for
10 the summer so that we can have a
11 different dynamic.

12 Thank you, Council President.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

14 Thank you, Councilwoman.

15 Chair recognizes Councilman
16 Jones.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
18 morning, Mr. President.

19 And good morning,
20 Mr. Alexander.

21 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
22 Good morning, sir.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: I am truly
24 thankful about the elevation of the
25 gun violence and youth advocacy

1 elevation in the discussions here in
2 the budget hearings. I remember
3 annually, President will read back
4 the tapes, we used to say if 300
5 whales washed up on the shore of the
6 Schuylkill, every marine biologist
7 including Jacques Cousteau himself,
8 would come to examine it, until Kathy
9 Gilmore Richardson actually sent me
10 an article about whales washing up on
11 the shore.

12 So I want to thank you and my
13 colleagues for elevating this issue
14 to front and center. It is the first
15 issue you mentioned in your
16 testimony, so thank you for that. I
17 won't ask the questions that were
18 asked before similar to what
19 President Clarke talked about. But
20 what I will do is ask how are we
21 evaluating legacy organizations that
22 are supposed to be providing similar
23 services, interventions that some of
24 the grassroots newer organizations
25 are providing? How are we evaluating

1 them, but made up the same contract
2 for decades and yet have not achieved
3 the results that should be achieved?

4 And I'm talking about not to
5 single one out, but if you think
6 about what the contract is with JEVS,
7 and Ms. Figueroa is old-new
8 leadership for that organization, but
9 how are we comparing apples-to-apples
10 evaluation to see how we might want
11 to offer some changes to do something
12 different to change the outcomes that
13 we've grown overly accustomed to?

14 And the second part so I can
15 get my question out is, we saw 200
16 young people running the streets of
17 Philadelphia jumping on police cars.
18 I am a firm believer similar to what
19 Member Gauthier said, we should
20 provide the right hand of fellowship
21 for young people, give them pathways
22 out of mediocracy and juvenile bad
23 outcomes.

24 However, we also have to make
25 sure we save them from themselves.

1 And I want to know are we ready for
2 this summer by way of our police
3 recruitment and deployment to deal
4 with as the temperatures rise so does
5 the activity?

6 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

7 Thank you. Thank you, Councilmember
8 Jones. Let me start with the last
9 part of your question because it's
10 fresher on my mind, but I wrote down
11 the first part. And the first part
12 is a little more complicated because
13 some of those organizations you
14 mentioned, a lot of them get legacy
15 contracts from places different than
16 MDO, so a lot of those legacy
17 contracts on the prevention side are
18 coming out of the Department of Human
19 Services.

20 But to the latter part of your
21 question are we prepared, I think we
22 are in the process of getting
23 prepared. Our reaction to that
24 incident in Center City was pretty
25 swift and we were able to contain it

1 and be able to make sure those folks
2 got dispersed with very minimum I
3 will say need for arrest. But at the
4 same time it was a concise, forceful
5 response, right.

6 I would say we are prepared,
7 we are prepared for those type of
8 activities. But I don't want the --
9 and I agree with you, I absolutely
10 understand that we need to have a
11 right hand and a left hand in this
12 situation. And parents need to be
13 aware of what their young people are
14 doing and what times they are doing
15 it and where they are, right.

16 Because I don't -- to me even
17 what I saw, I'm just going to tell
18 you what I saw. I'm just saying what
19 I saw as Tumar Alexander was young
20 people who wasn't intent on meeting
21 up and doing something that maybe to
22 them is fun. To us in my time I
23 would meet up down the Gallery or
24 what is now called the Fashion
25 District, but we would go there to

1 see other people, to see other people
2 from different parts of the City,
3 maybe spend the \$5 or \$10 that my mom
4 gave me, maybe not.

5 But it was the same thing, it
6 was about seeing other young people.

7 It wasn't about running around
8 destroying police property or running
9 around being menacing on the streets
10 or doing some of those activities.

11 But I believe, and if my belief is
12 wrong, it's wrong. I believe those
13 aren't the same kids that's in our
14 neighborhoods carrying guns and cause
15 some of the gun violence.

16 So it's for me what kind of
17 prevention and intervention can you
18 give to those young people there who
19 were screaming at us saying maybe
20 they need something to do, maybe they
21 don't like what we have for them to
22 do, right. Maybe they don't see our
23 rec centers as a resource because
24 they don't know the type of
25 programming that's there.

1 Maybe they don't see NOMO or
2 Culture Changing Christians or
3 Treehouse or any of those programs
4 that we want -- or the Lighthouse,
5 any of those programs that we funded,
6 maybe their parents need to know we
7 have some really cool activities
8 that's available for you that you
9 could do where you can be a young
10 person, you can be expressive, you
11 can do the things that have a little
12 fun without being rebellious and
13 causing this havoc, right.

14 I think social media plays a
15 big part of this and how these things
16 take place and how these things
17 happen and a reason for why some of
18 these kids do some of these things,
19 but I think we're prepared. And I
20 know folks that -- police will come
21 up a little later. It was folks
22 calling for curfews in certain areas.

23 If you look at the time that
24 particular situation happened, that
25 particular situation happened at a

1 time where those young people by and
2 large were allowed to be out around
3 that time, right. So I think we got
4 to do a better job in City government
5 on advertising the need for where
6 these programs are, being able to
7 make these programs enticing,
8 especially to teens.

9 We've been having that
10 conversation with you all for a
11 while, right, around -- we have great
12 rec centers, great playgrounds, great
13 libraries for young people, young
14 people take advantage of them. But
15 what are we doing to capture that
16 teen group that for whatever reason
17 it's not cool for them to hang out in
18 the library. How do we make it cool,
19 right.

20 Parks & Rec has its program
21 where they're trying to do this
22 Esports centers in some of their
23 facilities. I think that's a part of
24 it. I think we got to do more things
25 like that to figure out what are you

1 into, what do you like, how can we
2 put that program in a safe space when
3 you're in a safe atmosphere.

4 But I'm also not going to
5 pretend even if we do all of that,
6 there will still be some kids intent
7 on whatever reason or whatever clout
8 chasing that they're doing, that they
9 will go out and want to do those
10 activities we have to be prepared
11 for.

12 Police is coming up. They can
13 talk a little bit more about their
14 recruitment efforts. Certainly you
15 all have just given us some resources
16 to increase those efforts around
17 advertising in particular that just
18 came out of the midyear transfer
19 ordinance.

20 But as you talk about,
21 Councilman, to get to your first part
22 of your question and I am going to
23 piggyback a little bit on Vanessa
24 Garrett Harley and her team's hearing
25 that's comes up around how do we look

1 at the funding at those legacy
2 organizations on the prevention side
3 get and how do we grow.

4 So I'm not looking at it as an
5 either-or. I'm looking at it as and,
6 because I want to know how do we grow
7 these organizations that we're
8 funding on the CEG side, how do we
9 grow them to become those legacy
10 organizations that's being able to
11 access some of that same amount of
12 funding on the prevention and
13 intervention side.

14 And that's why it's important
15 for us as we're just not here's a
16 grant, go take the grant, go do the
17 great work that you're doing, but let
18 us help your back office function.
19 Let us give you the technical
20 assistance because some of these
21 grants and some of these activities,
22 we want you to be able -- when you
23 have money, you're able to attract
24 more money, right, as an
25 organization.

1 So we want you to be able to
2 say, I have a City of Philadelphia
3 CEG grant, I'm going to now go after
4 this PCCD grant, I'm going to now go
5 after this federal grant, I'm going
6 to now go to philanthropy which
7 should be playing a big part in this
8 to go after some funding.

9 So it's how do we build them
10 up to that same status, but I think
11 the folks from DHS and OCF can talk a
12 little bit in that area about how are
13 they dealing with the legacy
14 organizations that they're funding.
15 But at the same time, they are doing
16 the job in helping us fund some of
17 these organizations.

18 I think you will see folks who
19 receive a CEG grant from us also
20 receive some prevention money from
21 DHS, may also for the first time be
22 receiving some workforce WorkReady
23 money, whether that's Philly Works or
24 through other organizations. But how
25 do you then present those folks to be

1 able to access that funding is a big
2 part of some of the work we're going
3 to try to do.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: So I
5 appreciate your response. One of the
6 things I'm thankful for, you met with
7 one of the group providers and they
8 were nontraditional. They did not
9 have a great back-office operation.
10 But what they could do that none of
11 us that I know of could do was walk
12 into public housing, walk into a gang
13 violence area and be able to put
14 things on freeze to say, don't you
15 move, don't you move, anybody gets
16 hurt, we're holding both of you
17 responsible. I can't walk in those
18 crowds anymore, President Clarke
19 can't do it, but they did.

20 If we matched them up with
21 some of the legacy groups to provide
22 that back-office operation to bring
23 them up to scale, maybe we can really
24 have an impact on what's going on, on
25 the streets. So those measurements,

1 if it ain't measured, it ain't
2 managed. But if people that have
3 legacy contracts can't figure out the
4 difference between Washington Avenue
5 and Washington Lane, maybe it's time
6 for them to get educated like
7 President Clarke said by the younger
8 groups.

9 And I remember Cindy Bass --
10 and I'll close on this -- arguing
11 with the Dis -- well, debating with
12 the District Attorney about that
13 right-hand versus that left-hand
14 approach to dealing with the crime
15 situation. Harrity was also
16 passionately talking about that. So
17 our Members want to do not or, but we
18 do want to do and.

19 Thank you, Mr. President.

20 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank
21 you, Councilmember Johnson.

22 Next up for questions is
23 Councilmember Thomas.

24 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: There we
25 go. Good morning. Sorry about that

1 technical issue. Good morning,
2 Managing Director Alexander. It's
3 always good to see you. Thank you
4 for all you do, sir.

5 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
6 You're welcome, sir. Thank you.

7 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: I wanted
8 to discuss a couple of things on my
9 first round. I'm going to try to get
10 everything in. It depends on how
11 long your answers are. So for me
12 it's interesting to hear us talk
13 about prevention-based initiatives to
14 young people.

15 Last year I was screaming at
16 the top of my lungs about this, and
17 everybody was acting like I was
18 crazy. I've been asking for money
19 for Freedom Schools since I've been a
20 member of City Council. We gave
21 \$100,000 to the Center for Black Male
22 Educators who provide Freedom School
23 sites for K through 2. But since
24 2019 I've asked for \$1 million for
25 Freedom Schools.

1 I've said multiple times if we
2 put one Freedom School in every
3 Councilmanic District, we'll see a
4 huge difference as it relates to how
5 teens are engaged in the program, and
6 yet there's been no money for that.

7 And I know that's not necessarily a
8 Managing Director's Office thing.

9 But any time I get an opportunity to
10 advocate for things that I know that
11 work especially for teenagers, I'm
12 going to go ahead and do that.

13 What is the Managing
14 Director's Office thing is what we
15 did last year for Philly Hoops Month
16 actually working with you, Managing
17 Director Alexander. We were able to
18 get \$100,000 for prevention-based
19 initiatives for the summer of 2023.
20 And while I'm happy about that, my
21 concern is as a person who ran summer
22 programs for years and still does a
23 free camp every summer, I'll have 300
24 kids in my camp this summer, the
25 dollars that's needed for summer

1 programming can't come out of this
2 year's budget, right. That's not
3 realistic.

4 So if we know that we're
5 dealing with issues with our
6 teenagers and we know we cannot put
7 money out of this year's budget to
8 organizations in time for them to
9 have an impact on the summertime,
10 from your expert opinion do you think
11 we are prepared for when the weather
12 breaks? And like you said, we are
13 Philly folks. We know that when the
14 weather breaks, we are more inclined
15 to see young people participate in
16 the negative activity.

17 Have we allocated enough money
18 from transfer ordinances in the fall
19 and previous dollars already granted
20 because this year's budget won't help
21 with this summer? So do you think
22 we're prepared as it relates to our
23 spending in the number of free
24 programs and free services that are
25 out there? Because I don't think we

1 are. That's just my opinion.

2 And I've been meeting with
3 summer providers and I was even at
4 Virtual Community yesterday which has
5 a culinary program with a Saul High
6 School. And Saul High School,
7 they're doing an amazing job over
8 there. But the culinary program,
9 like many other folks who I've talked
10 to already, are asking for money in
11 the summer.

12 So how can we -- and I guess
13 I'm answering my own question by
14 saying it's not enough money. How
15 can we get access to more funds and
16 resources that people can use to
17 prepare for free programming this
18 summer?

19 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
20 Yeah. Thank you, Councilman. And
21 I'm going to be as short-winded as
22 possible with the questions, and I
23 apologize if I was long-winded with
24 some of the answers. But I think the
25 key is are we prepared, yes. Are we

1 concerned, am I concerned or are the
2 leaders on this call concerned about
3 summer activities, about when the
4 weather gets warmer, absolutely.

5 I remarked going home one day
6 I was riding by, it was one of the
7 warm days last week, and every
8 playground and park I rode by was
9 bustling with kids and folks. And I
10 said to the person I was with, I
11 can't even be really happy about it
12 because I'm concerned like what's
13 going to happen, right.

14 So we talked to police and to
15 the Commissioner and her team about
16 making sure that we were expanding
17 patrols around all of our recreation
18 spaces just to make sure that cops
19 are aware of what's going on. We
20 know the weather is good. We know
21 folks are going to use it. And for
22 folks to see that sense of safety by
23 seeing folks that they know, cops are
24 paying attention and folks are paying
25 attention, what's going on. So

1 that's A.

2 B is I don't think we can ever
3 have enough money to be able to fund
4 each and every good program that's
5 out here that's doing work for
6 people. But I think as a part of
7 this process, and I don't want to
8 downplay the historic investment you
9 guys pushed us to do a few years ago
10 on the violence prevention side that
11 we keep doing. That was an enormous,
12 enormous, enormous hit --

13 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Director,
14 I like to think that most of that
15 money went to intervention-based
16 initiatives.

17 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
18 Oh, absolutely. Absolutely.

19 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Yeah.
20 Intervention-based initiatives is
21 what I've been screaming about. And
22 I think we need to allocate -- I
23 mean, I think we need to find a way
24 to set aside a pot of money to deal
25 with emergency situations this

1 summer. I think we need to find a
2 way to be able to, you know, I was
3 meeting the other day with some of
4 our School District folks as well as
5 SEPTA police and the Police
6 Department and we were talking about
7 safe travel for young people to and
8 from school.

9 And the things that Chief
10 Officer Bethel talked about was the
11 Safe Corridor staff that he has and
12 the fact that he can't hire up until
13 September. So I'm saying like, if we
14 were to say, okay, well, let's make
15 some funds available for him to be
16 able to hire up now because we know
17 the weather is about to break, we
18 know the likelihood of somebody being
19 involved in some type of altercation
20 increases significantly. I'm going
21 to just keep pushing that.

22 Let me just say this too
23 before my time runs out. We're
24 talking about making things readily
25 available for young people. I have

1 some issues as it relates to how
2 we're dealing with HR stuff, right.
3 We know 1 out of every 5 jobs right
4 now currently is not filled. I'm
5 wondering similar to what I talked
6 about with pushing these jobs that
7 are available as it relates to
8 government jobs, I'm wondering can we
9 make information available to young
10 people.

11 I love the idea of a fair and
12 a big place, resource fair, telling
13 young people what options they have
14 for the summer. But what about
15 meeting them where they are on their
16 phones. What does it look like for
17 us as a City to pay for digital
18 advertisement so that this
19 information can be right there when
20 they go on TikTok, when they go on
21 YouTube and they see. All they got
22 to do is click on something and find
23 the resources that's available in the
24 City of Philadelphia for them similar
25 to what I recommend as it relates to

1 the hiring crisis that we're dealing
2 with. What are your thoughts?

3 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

4 I think that's a good idea,
5 Councilmember, because we just -- as
6 I was walking into the office today I
7 ran into our HR Director Mike
8 Zaccagni and he was talking about
9 preparing to come up with a plan for
10 utilizing some of the money you all
11 just granted him in the midyear
12 around advertisement for public
13 safety jobs.

14 But you're right, we've got to
15 meet people where they are. Folks
16 watch T.V. a whole different way than
17 we watched T.V. in the past, right.
18 And the key to this stuff is being
19 accessible to the item that we have
20 right in our hands probably 23 hours
21 a day or wearing a smartwatch or
22 whatever. So I agree with you and I
23 think you will see us be a little
24 more attentive and a little more
25 effort on how we do on social media

1 advertisement, how we're doing
2 advertisement that's sort of reaching
3 folks in a direct way of where they
4 work.

5 We all get this and we're in
6 the season to get this stuff, right.
7 But I'm sure you're all on text
8 messages where you'll get certain
9 Senators, and I get it even from
10 folks in Wisconsin that text message
11 me, hey, Tumar, this is Senator X,
12 and I need you to do X, Y and Z.
13 Well, do we -- we should be able to
14 do the same type of programming and
15 put on there and say, hey, Tumar,
16 here's jobs that's available for your
17 young person, right, and here's a
18 link to be able to access it.

19 I do think there's more
20 intentionality of a partnership with
21 our OHR working with the School
22 District and with charter schools
23 directly. So you see a lot of
24 charter schools now and a lot of
25 schools that's doing this end-of-year

1 sort of fear thing. So they
2 acknowledge it. Like, they've got a
3 group of kids that graduated and
4 going to college, but also got a
5 group of kids that's going to
6 graduate and not go to college. So
7 what type of jobs, City jobs in
8 particular, that they have access to
9 coming right out of high school,
10 right.

11 So I believe OHR will be able
12 to talk about that. I think they
13 come up tomorrow. But they'll be
14 able to talk about that. I know
15 they're doing a big one with the
16 Mastery Charter Schools. Mastery's
17 doing a big job fair or what they
18 call a resource fair as well, how to
19 connect kids from 12th grade right
20 into jobs, how to connect kids who
21 recently graduated right into some
22 entry-level City jobs.

23 And one of the things I tell
24 folks about City jobs, the job you
25 come in with don't need to be the job

1 you retire out of, right. So you get
2 in and you get in whatever way you
3 get in, whatever job opportunity you
4 get in. But you never stop looking
5 to grow and move and advance to
6 different departments and enhance
7 your career. And that's something
8 that we got to do more of.

9 But that's something we got to
10 be intentional with, on grabbing
11 folks right now, right. Grabbing
12 folks where we can get them and
13 meeting them where they are and
14 connecting them to that, because
15 we're not going to hire our way out
16 of this vacancy crisis as it relates
17 to employment, because it's not just
18 stuff that's affecting government.

19 I was telling -- every
20 restaurant I go to now the first
21 thing they ask me is you have any
22 young people that want to work, we
23 need dishwashers, we need cooks, we
24 need this, we need that. Everybody's
25 looking for employees. So how are we

1 being intentional on connecting these
2 folks to these jobs and resources.

3 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: It's the
4 era of the Great Resignation. And my
5 time is up. Thank you for all of
6 your answers and looking forward to
7 continuing to working together. I
8 got to come back for a second round
9 because I have a few more questions
10 about some things I've advocated for
11 in the past.

12 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
13 Yes, sir.

14 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: So thank
15 you, Mr. Chair. Thank you,
16 colleagues, for your patience.

17 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:
18 Councilmember Johnson.

19 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank
20 you, Mr. Chairman.

21 Tumar, good to see you as
22 always. Continue to keep up the good
23 work. Just a couple of questions:
24 So I'm going to be advocating in the
25 key areas, a couple of key areas

1 under what I call the Save Our Youth
2 Initiative, and specifically some
3 budget requests I'm going to be
4 looking to advocate for as it relates
5 to supporting our young people.

6 And one particular area is
7 around the Safe Path, Safe Corridors
8 Program under Town Watch, and I see
9 that you're going to be doubling the
10 staff. And so, I wanted to know how
11 much staff will you be doubling the
12 Town Watch Integrated Services
13 training program? Is it in
14 partnership with the Philadelphia
15 School District? Will it also be
16 targeted where there's high crime
17 areas in terms of zip codes for those
18 schools?

19 And then also, can you give me
20 an idea under the Office of Victims
21 Advocate there's a new relocation
22 specialist position, if someone can
23 give us an overview on what that
24 relocation specialist's
25 responsibilities are going to be? I

1 saw that the funding for Victim
2 Support Services was -- it was
3 500,000 last year, last budget cycle.
4 This year it's \$200,000. So I just
5 want to get an idea around that
6 particular cut, and that's pretty
7 much it at this moment.

8 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

9 Thank you, Councilmember. Let me
10 call it up in reverse order. I'm
11 going to ask Derrick Holmes to come
12 up and talk a little bit about
13 relocation and what's that specialist
14 we're looking for, the job search.
15 And then I'll talk a little bit and
16 let Director Anthony Murphy come up
17 and talk a little bit about his
18 expansion.

19 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: And,
20 Tumar, let me back up too. Under the
21 Managing Director's Office, I just
22 want to give a shout-out to again
23 Mr. Anthony Murphy. Every time
24 there's a homicide in South
25 Philadelphia or Southwest through my

1 District, he's always sending out a
2 team to go door-to-door with me.

3 And also, I want to give a
4 shout-out to Adara Combs and her team
5 as well. Every time we're dealing
6 with issues around someone losing
7 their life or a homicide or a
8 shooting that we need information,
9 have no problem reaching out to her
10 as well as Mr. Joshu Harris inside
11 the Office of Violence Prevention
12 just keeping us aware of the policies
13 and procedures that are coming out of
14 that particular office as it relates
15 to us addressing the issue of youth
16 and gun violence.

17 So I just wanted to make sure
18 I give your team their proper due in
19 terms of the work that they're doing
20 on the ground. This is hard work and
21 I just want to acknowledge them for
22 being on top of it.

23 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
24 Thank you, Councilmember. I
25 appreciate that. And I appreciate

1 your work, especially around the
2 Victims Advocate Office. It was
3 something that was much needed and
4 we're happy it's up and running, and
5 we look forward to growing it.

6 But let me call up Idara and
7 then I'll call up Murphy.

8 MS. COMBS: Good morning,
9 Councilmembers. Good morning,
10 Council President. And thank you for
11 that question, Councilmember Johnson.
12 The question as it pertains to the
13 relocation specialist position
14 specifically, I'll get to that but I
15 just want to speak to the relocation
16 program first as a whole.

17 So as it stands, we're still
18 developing the relocation program.
19 But I just want to be clear that as
20 that happens, we are still working
21 diligently in partnership with the
22 Office of Violence Prevention and
23 with our other stakeholders such as
24 PAAN to ensure that those that come
25 to us in need of relocation services

1 are still serviced.

2 Even last week without hiring
3 a relocation specialist, we received
4 word from a community member that
5 there was a need for relocation and
6 we are actively working to ensure
7 that that community member is moved
8 to safety. So I just want to be
9 clear about that so there's no
10 misunderstanding that as we continue
11 to build this program and look for a
12 viable candidate, that we are not
13 standing still as our community is in
14 need.

15 Moving on to the actual
16 position itself, we are actively,
17 diligently seeking a relocation
18 coordinator, is the change in title.
19 We have gone through many interviews.
20 We're still interviewing for that
21 position. But basically the vision
22 for that role is they would be the
23 referral point person internally for
24 those in need of relocation.
25 Meaning, that if let's say one City

1 Councilmember has a community member
2 within your District who is in need
3 of services, they could contact that
4 relocation coordinator.

5 That person would then not
6 only be able to assist them in terms
7 of the resources that we have
8 available, but if there are other
9 resources available within the City
10 let's say through the District
11 Attorney's Office, let's say they're
12 more appropriate for that, we would
13 be able to work in partnership with
14 them.

15 Using that same example the
16 other way, if the District Attorney's
17 Office had a community member that
18 was in need of relocation that didn't
19 fit within their portfolio or their
20 limitations, they would be able to
21 refer to that relocation coordinator
22 as well. That person would then take
23 a holistic approach in assessing what
24 the need is and then making sure that
25 those needs are met, and that can

1 look a lot of different ways.

2 I think there are a lot of --
3 not necessarily within this body, but
4 just within our community a lot of
5 misunderstandings in terms of what
6 relocation means. That can go
7 anywhere from needing to be placed
8 from within a hotel temporarily to
9 needing funds to actually be moved,
10 to needing a deposit for a viable
11 housing resource that's already
12 identified. So assessing what is
13 actually needed, not what we assume
14 is needed and making sure that those
15 needs are met and seeing them
16 through, so within that kind of
17 overview of what the position
18 entails, and again also keeping in
19 mind that we are actively still doing
20 this work without a dedicated staff
21 member.

22 We've looked into ensuring
23 that when community members come to
24 us we already have resources kind of
25 set aside as opposed to just trying

1 to figure it out case-by-case. And
2 what that looks like is trying to
3 find housing, emergency housing in
4 the form of hotel contracts they were
5 already working on in the form of
6 potential leasing opportunities so
7 that way we have secure housing.

8 Contracting with moving
9 companies, so on and so forth that
10 we're currently drafting an RFP for.
11 So we already have things so when
12 they come to us we're not figuring it
13 out with them on a grand scale, but
14 rather figuring out their particular
15 circumstance and making sure that
16 we're addressing that need. So I
17 hope that answered your question,
18 Councilmember Johnson.

19 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON:

20 Ms. Combs.

21 MS. COMBS: Yes.

22 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Just for
23 the record, just clarify for the
24 Members who are on this call because
25 I remember there was a big hearing

1 sponsored by former Councilman David
2 Oh regarding funding for individuals
3 for relocation, individuals whose
4 lives may be in danger. Just
5 clarify for the record -- just
6 clarify the record the type of
7 individuals that may come to the
8 office to utilize the service.

9 And then also, I just want to
10 get clarity real quick on the \$500
11 contract from last budget cycle for
12 victim relocation support services
13 were limited in this budget as well
14 as the \$500,000 for victim services
15 went from \$500,000 last year to only
16 over \$200,000 this year.

17 So I'm kind of getting clarity
18 on if we're in the state of emergency
19 when it comes to gun violence and
20 we've seen 500-plus homicides last
21 year, which are 500 families who have
22 been significantly impacted, I'm
23 trying to get an understanding as to
24 why aren't we increasing the level of
25 support from a funding standpoint as

1 opposed to digressing in terms of the
2 type of funding we're providing in
3 those two particular areas in case I
4 missed some?

5 MS. COMBS: Okay. So to make
6 sure I understand your question
7 correctly, the first portion of your
8 question, in terms of the funds that
9 were already allocated for relocation
10 services, is the question how is that
11 funding being utilized or is that --
12 is that the correct question? I just
13 want to make sure I understand.

14 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: No. The
15 correct question is according to my
16 notes, right, last year it was
17 \$500,000 specifically for Victim
18 Support Services through the Office
19 of Victim Advocate, which this year
20 is only allotted a little over
21 \$200,000. So there was a reduction
22 from 500k to 200k for Victim Support
23 Services, so that's the first part.
24 Why did we go from 500 to 200?

25 And then the second part of

1 that question is there was a \$500,000
2 contract for victim relocation
3 support service, which is limited in
4 this particular budget, so I'm trying
5 to get an understanding where's that
6 500 for victim relocation support
7 services?

8 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

9 Hey, Adara, I'll take the first part
10 of the question because that's around
11 what was around the funding for the
12 office. So, Councilmember, I --

13 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes.

14 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

15 -- think you'll see level funding for
16 the office, so it's not any increase.
17 As a matter of fact, we're growing
18 the office because we're continuing
19 to hire folks. But I think what
20 you've seen was some of that was the
21 start-up costs, whether that was
22 space for certainly staffing, but
23 that stays level across the budget.
24 And then you'll also see an increase
25 as it relates to as we're bringing on

1 more people.

2 Adara can talk a little bit
3 around the funding that we received
4 through I believe one of the transfer
5 ordinances around witness relocation,
6 but that funding was also intentional
7 about not only the Managing Director
8 sort of coordinating those efforts,
9 but some of that funding was also
10 going to some of the partners, some
11 of the community partners that's
12 doing some of this work and who we
13 use to do this work or who we use to
14 get references from around some of
15 these folks who need these services.

16 And I know there is also some
17 effort that Adara and her folks were
18 doing with engaging the District
19 Attorney's Office to help support
20 some of that work from CARES and --
21 you know, help support some of that
22 work from CARES because one of the
23 things you see on witness relocation
24 piece is the funding the District
25 Attorney gets, it's really

1 intentional about how they use that.

2 So person is a witness in a
3 certain crime, willing to testify, I
4 think the intention on the money you
5 all gave us is certainly the
6 intention we've been working with.

7 There is other folks who may not fall
8 in that bucket, but who may be just
9 as much in need of those services.

10 So whether that's us contacting with
11 PAAN and others to sort of relocate
12 folks who, for instance, may not be
13 willing to be a witness, but I got to
14 get this family out of that situation
15 immediately so nothing else hap -- no
16 retaliatory thing happens, so that's
17 a different bucket. And I think we
18 can both coexist in serving those
19 folks.

20 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes.

21 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
22 There certainly probably could be a
23 need for more money on both of those
24 buckets in terms of funds. We'll
25 take the budget as it's presented to

1 us and be able to spend up to the
2 amount that we have.

3 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay.
4 Thank you. That's all I have.

5 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
6 And on the Town Watch question, I'm
7 sorry, we ran a little bit out of
8 time. So on the Town Watch question,
9 we're adding three new community
10 liaisons to help support that work
11 that Murphy's doing around safe
12 corridors. So maybe on another round
13 we could have Murphy pop up and talk
14 about the work that he's doing with
15 the School District and with
16 neighborhoods they're doing that work
17 in.

18 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank
19 you, Mr. Chair. Thank you. That's
20 all I have.

21 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank
22 you, Councilmember.

23 Councilmember Phillips.

24 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Thank
25 you, Chairman Squilla. We appreciate

1 you.

2 For me this topic of youth
3 prevention programming is incredibly
4 important to me because what we know
5 is that the research shows that when
6 young people have a caring and loving
7 adult in their life, it makes a world
8 of a difference in terms of their
9 trajectory.

10 So for me, my questions are
11 stemmed from this understanding. I
12 just want to understand, for all of
13 the violence prevention programs that
14 are in the City of Philadelphia that
15 we're funding, have we worked on
16 developing a serious metric system to
17 really have a better understanding of
18 whether or not these programs are,
19 number one, identifying the students
20 that need to be in these programs? I
21 heard a conversation about this
22 earlier, but are actually identifying
23 the students that absolutely need to
24 be in these programs?

25 Now, I firmly believe every

1 child needs a youth program. Don't
2 get me wrong. I think that's
3 something that's really important.
4 But then there's children who do have
5 chronic absences, do have chronic
6 behavioral issues in schools and we
7 need to make sure that they are in
8 it. What are we doing to make sure
9 that happens?

10 And then also in terms of
11 metrics, are we measuring what the
12 funding for these agencies are
13 receiving? What type of quality
14 results are coming? Are they
15 becoming better leaders? Are they
16 becoming more academically sound?
17 Are they gaining more experiences
18 that they've never seen before as a
19 result of the program? So what are
20 some of the metrics that we have here
21 in place or is that something that
22 needs to be built upon?

23 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
24 Thanks, Councilmember. I'm going to
25 kick it over to Mary Horstmann, my

1 Deputy Managing Director for Health
2 and Human Services to talk a little
3 bit about it. But before she jumps
4 on, I do want to say there is -- so
5 you know there's prevention programs,
6 and a lot of them don't sit or rest
7 within MDO, and there's also
8 intervention programs.

9 So part of it is I believe,
10 like you said, every child needs to
11 be in a program. I think the key is
12 figuring out what program folks need
13 to be in and being able to fit them
14 in the right program and also fit
15 them in a program that's going to be
16 as helpful, right. So a lot of the
17 stuff we've been funding through
18 violence prevention.

19 I think for the most part
20 while some of those providers may
21 also do prevention work, a lot of it
22 is intervention. Some of it will be
23 in a bucket of prevention because,
24 you know. Some of it will be in the
25 bucket of prevention, but a lot of it

1 is around how are we reaching some of
2 the hardest-to-reach young people and
3 in an ideal way try to get to them
4 before they commit any sort of crime
5 or get into gun violence or how are
6 we protecting them from that. But
7 then sort of how are we reaching
8 folks who also may be in that like
9 and how are we trying to help them
10 turn their life around to get out of
11 those prevention projects?

12 But I'll let Mary talk about
13 some of the metrics and the data that
14 we use. And Joshu referenced earlier
15 around the evaluations, in particular
16 around the CEG program. And a little
17 bit later in the spring we'll be
18 having those evaluations up from this
19 first year cohort on how we think
20 those programs have worked and the
21 folks that they've served, but I'll
22 turn it over to Mary.

23 MS. HORSTMANN: Thank you,
24 Tumar. And, Councilmember, thank you
25 so much for your question. I think

1 as Tumar spoke to we are
2 collaborating with the Office of
3 Children and Families to make sure
4 there's positive engagement for youth
5 this summer.

6 So in addition to the summer
7 Out-of-School Time, WorkReady, the
8 rec center programming led by
9 Children and Families, MDO is
10 spearheading key initiatives, really
11 as Tumar spoke to is focused on
12 intervention, so that means expanding
13 community crisis intervention to
14 mediate neighborhood disputes. And
15 so, we have a goal of reducing
16 conflicts among individuals most
17 likely to commit violence by
18 increasing the number of home visits.
19 So we've seen through the evaluation
20 of that program that home visits are
21 an essential element of that program
22 and have measurable impact on
23 de-escalation. And so, being able to
24 expand that element will help
25 contribute to de-escalation citywide.

1 And as the Managing Director
2 spoke to, likewise we just got our
3 evaluation on the Group Violence
4 Intervention program and we saw 30
5 percent reduction in gun violence
6 activities for people who are
7 involved in the program and connected
8 to services. So we're going to also
9 expand that program this summer. And
10 again, this will be targeted at those
11 who are most likely to be involved in
12 gun violence.

13 At the same time we are doing
14 another round of the Target Community
15 Investment Grants, which again is
16 paired with an evaluation strategy,
17 so we are going to be doing those
18 smaller dollar grants to grassroots
19 organizations to do mentorship, job
20 readiness, career development,
21 vocational training, educational
22 workshops, trauma supports and then
23 other activities like films, music
24 production, fitness, community
25 clean-ups.

1 We're also going to be doing
2 more of our community outreach, so
3 we're doing 20 sessions this summer
4 of pop-up events focused on
5 partnerships and youth activity. So
6 Criminal Justice Public Safety is
7 utilizing second Saturday to
8 spotlight youth leader
9 community-based organizations and
10 bring awareness.

11 So there's a series this
12 summer to September that we can share
13 with you. But what I think you can
14 hear from us is I think there is an
15 approach to the prevention side,
16 thinking about as we spoke about
17 individuals who are more at risk,
18 whether they've been involved in the
19 Juvenile Justice Center, do they have
20 low attendance in school that we want
21 to target, but also thinking about
22 the programs that we evaluated and
23 learned from those and continue to
24 evaluate that.

25 So we will also be having the

1 results of our Community Expansion
2 Grant evaluations. So depending on
3 the program, the metrics will look
4 different and it's because the tools
5 are different. So we can give you
6 more detail. We can provide to the
7 Chair a more detailed look at what
8 the specific outputs and outcomes we
9 look to review through evaluations,
10 but it's specific to the programs
11 that we deploy.

12 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Thank
13 you. And I just also want to get a
14 better understanding of how are we
15 reaching the students that we would
16 like to have participate in these
17 programs? Because one of the things
18 that I've been greatly concerned
19 about is how do you -- are we
20 knocking on doors? Are we making
21 sure that parents are greatly aware
22 of these particular programs and
23 resources for our young people?

24 One of things I'm hoping that
25 we can add to our budget is something

1 that we do where we have like foot
2 soldiers where people are willing to
3 kind of put resources in people's
4 doors, mailers, whatever that may be,
5 to make sure that folks know about
6 this. And then specifically, working
7 with our schools where our principals
8 know who our children are that really
9 need them -- I'm finishing up.

10 Making sure that those kids are
11 heavily influenced to join these
12 programs is really important. So
13 that's where I'm really trying to get
14 at.

15 I just think these programs
16 are important and we just got to make
17 sure because what happened the other
18 day in the City was unacceptable, and
19 we got to find a way to kind of
20 address young people not having
21 anything to do and that's just
22 something important, and have people
23 that's going to be around them.

24 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
25 I agree, Councilmember. And just to

1 answer the last part of your
2 question, I think most of these
3 problems probably use a bunch of
4 different metrics on how they recruit
5 their participants or young students.
6 So I'm not sure if folks are doing
7 door-to-door.

8 I know some of their
9 outreaches do social media just
10 because I'm on it and I kind of see
11 it a lot. What are some of our
12 programs, I know some of our programs
13 go out to actual corners and try to
14 entice folks, give them word about
15 the program and then try to entice
16 them to be participants in the
17 problem, even going so far as to
18 doing stipends for young people that
19 will join these programs.

20 So I think it's various ways
21 we can do it. But as we talked about
22 with Councilmember Thomas, we can
23 certainly look at different ways in
24 helping to support that work because
25 I just think there is kind of the no

1 wrongdoer method, right, whatever you
2 get in at, we should be having folks
3 that have the knowledge, will have
4 information about all of the
5 programs, all of the programs that's
6 out there.

7 I think we can also do a more
8 robust job on also publicizing the
9 211 hotline that Council was really
10 instrumental in helping us fund and
11 get up and started and having that be
12 a resource where folks are calling or
13 going to, but they've done some
14 social media advertising. We've
15 certainly put it in every -- I think
16 we believe we did it in the water
17 bill to every resident to sort of let
18 that be known and try to add that
19 tagline to a lot of things we put
20 out, whether it's germane to violence
21 or not. It's coming from the City.
22 Just so folks know that's a resource
23 to use, that's a resource we can
24 build up. So we can continue using
25 all of those methods for how we do

1 outreach to get folks to know the
2 programs that's going on, on the
3 intervention side. But then also,
4 being intentional on the prevention
5 side and tying that in.

6 And certainly, your thought
7 about engaging with the schools is
8 something that we should already be
9 doing. But if not, we should be
10 doing to kind of help them
11 identify -- when they identify those
12 folks to us, us sort of taking those
13 methods and being able to get those
14 young people in a program like
15 Community Crisis Intervention
16 Program -- I'm going to be real
17 brief, I know you're running out of
18 time. Community Crisis Intervention
19 Program, a component of that is
20 trying to connect. They do work with
21 schools. They respond to incidents
22 that happened in and around schools,
23 but also having them connect those
24 folks back to those youth
25 organizations for kind of referrals

1 as well, so thank you.

2 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Thank
3 you, Managing Director.

4 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you
5 very much, Councilmember.

6 Councilmember Harrity.

7 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Hey,
8 Tumar. How are you?

9 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
10 Morning, sir.

11 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: I only
12 have a couple of quick questions. It
13 has to do with the salaries. I'm
14 just trying to figure this out here.
15 I'm looking at where the average
16 exempt staff employee makes \$68,000.
17 The average minority makes 63,902 and
18 the average White makes 76,756 and
19 female 73,793.

20 Why is there such a
21 discrepancy in the pay of minorities
22 for our exempt employees that doesn't
23 actually even match up to the average
24 of an exempt employee? You know, I'm
25 just trying to understand this.

1 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

2 Absolutely, and let me try to help
3 you understand that. I think one of
4 the things we are really unique with
5 is our CLIP program, our Community
6 Life Improvement Program, also runs
7 out of the Managing Director's
8 Office, so we really run the gamut,
9 right.

10 So on the low end we have
11 laborers, right. And on the high
12 end, we got -- I don't want to say
13 folks like me, but on the high end we
14 got the deputy managing directors and
15 those folks. So that discrepancy
16 with us may look different than each
17 and every other department.

18 One of the things we've tried
19 to be really intentional about,
20 especially with the raise review
21 process that the Mayor's Office has
22 sort of instituted around I want to
23 say 18 months ago, we've been really
24 consistent on trying to raise up that
25 lower salary base to make sure we're

1 giving these folks a living wage.

2 So I believe the CLIP program
3 and probably the laborers, the crew
4 chiefs and we have some other folks,
5 some clerks and some other folks who
6 are on that lower pay scale through
7 each of these processes and I believe
8 it's been three within those 18
9 months we've tried to raise those
10 salaries and give them increases and
11 match that with the compression and
12 make sure it's supervisors and the
13 above.

14 But that lower scale in which
15 you see dragged down is mostly from
16 some of those entry-level
17 opportunities we offer for that. And
18 I'm proud of that. I just want to
19 say I'm proud that we have those
20 workers. I'm proud that we have that
21 work because -- and those are exempt
22 employees, right. And that's a
23 little different from civil service
24 because that's the programs that
25 we're able to put some of these

1 people in, young people in particular
2 who want to change their life, and
3 that's a program that we're able to
4 put them in to start, right.

5 So when you heard me a couple
6 of moments ago say that the City job
7 you come into don't necessarily need
8 to be the City job you retire out of,
9 that's what I'm thinking of. A
10 person can come in, they can be a
11 laborer and they're coming in the
12 program and they can work their way
13 to go into sanitation, become a civil
14 service. They can work their way up,
15 you know.

16 We've had folks graduate out
17 of that program and gone on to L&I
18 and be inspectors. We've had folks
19 gone on to other departments and do
20 semi-skilled laborer jobs. One of
21 the things I tell folks who I see and
22 interact with who reference I want to
23 get in with the City, I want a CLIP
24 job. I say we can get you in there
25 if you got a work ethic, but I don't

1 want you to stay there. I want you
2 to be able to build yourself up and
3 grow.

4 Now, it's certainly folks who
5 we see will stay there and we've
6 actually had an opportunity because I
7 guess we've been at this for a little
8 while now in terms of CLIP. And at
9 we've seen works, you know, Tommy
10 Conway has seen folks retire out of
11 those positions, you know, retire out
12 of those positions, be able to get in
13 the DROP program and all of that.
14 But that discrepancy is really
15 because of the gamut of the positions
16 that we run, being from the laborer
17 all the way up to some of the higher
18 level positions.

19 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Okay.
20 What's the minimum salary for
21 actually, say, laborers and CLIP
22 program?

23 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
24 Yeah. I believe we rose it up to
25 around 37.5 now for entry-level

1 laborers. Tommy, correct me if I'm
2 wrong on that, sir.

3 MR. CONWAY: It's 37. So it's
4 about \$19 an hour is the starting
5 salary.

6 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Okay. I
7 like it. And I'm glad that you're
8 bringing people in, Tumar, and giving
9 them a chance and, Tommy, to advance.
10 I know you two both worked your way
11 up through the ranks too so that's
12 really nice to give back like that
13 and just to prove that people can
14 work their way up through the ranks,
15 you know what I mean. You can make a
16 living doing this working your way
17 up, so thank you.

18 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
19 And it's a career. It's a sustaining
20 career for folks, right.

21 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Exactly.

22 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
23 And being able to support their
24 family. And we're proud of that.
25 We're proud of that work, and thank

1 you for asking that question.

2 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: I'm good.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 You're good? Thank you. Thank you,
5 Councilman.

6 Chair recognizes Councilwoman
7 Lozada.

8 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Good
9 morning. Good morning. I'd like to
10 thank my colleagues for the line of
11 questions that they've had this
12 morning. Many of them were some of
13 my very same concerns, but I'd like
14 to draw my attention or turn my
15 attention to the opioid response, MDO
16 Alexander, that your team has been
17 working on and that I'm extremely
18 grateful for. I want to recognize
19 Tom Conway and his CLIP team for all
20 of the work that they do over there
21 in the Kensington, Harrowgate
22 community every day and Pam Ramos for
23 her presence in the community
24 consistently.

25 My question to you is along

1 the lines of what Councilman Jones
2 was referring to, which is the
3 funding grants and the legacy funding
4 that you mentioned earlier. I don't
5 know or I didn't hear, I might have
6 missed, I might have walked away and
7 missed your response regarding how
8 these programs are measured, right.

9 Is there a process by which
10 you all measure what these folks are
11 committed to delivering consistently?
12 And is there also a process for if we
13 realize at some point that these
14 folks have received funding and
15 hasn't been able to deliver, is there
16 a mechanism in place for us to say,
17 okay, these funds need to be
18 reallocated to someone else? And how
19 do we provide the necessary supports
20 for people who receive the funding,
21 right, and had every intention to
22 want to do the work but realize that
23 it was far behind their immediate
24 capacity?

25 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

1 Councilwoman, thank you for that
2 question. When Councilman Jones
3 referenced that question, a lot of it
4 was around the legacy prevention
5 provider, so I kind of couched that
6 on the side of OCF and DHS because
7 that's the folks that deal with that.
8 I think we talked a little bit about
9 the methodology we used around the
10 anti-violence grants and some of our
11 other grants that we fund here out of
12 MDO. I think those metrics change as
13 it relate to the type of program that
14 you're running.

15 You talked about some of the
16 work that we're doing in Kensington
17 with those folks and some of those
18 methods are really different than the
19 metrics that we use to say for anti-
20 violence or for that other work. But
21 I think that's always the -- it's
22 always the hard part on how you're
23 looking at a grantee. And the hard
24 part is picking them out. The hard
25 part is understanding the value of

1 their work, understanding the
2 challenges of the environments that
3 they're working in and then trying to
4 work with them.

5 So I don't think you ever see
6 on any grant program us sort of
7 looking at an evaluation, seeing an
8 issue and kicking folks out right
9 away. Now, certainly if you're not
10 delivering the program that you told
11 us you were delivering, that's
12 grounds to sort of expel those folks
13 right away. I think for the most
14 part we try to take those
15 organizations that may be struggling,
16 look at what they're doing, look at
17 the problems they have and try to
18 offer them resources and give them a
19 correction plan to build up.

20 I can't talk about that like
21 as it relates to folks who may have
22 been receiving funding for 10 or so,
23 15 or so years because a lot of the
24 stuff that we've been doing has been
25 some newer stuff we've been doing

1 within the last three to five years.
2 But I would think I would put that
3 standard on any grantee we will be
4 funding up, giving them a moment to
5 correct themselves in a correction
6 plan before just handing the grant
7 out, because there are all types of
8 challenges that may have went into
9 why our program may be working or may
10 not be working.

11 As it relates particularly to
12 the Overdose Reduction Unit, let me
13 call up Noelle Foizen to talk a
14 little bit about some of those
15 projects and some of the grants
16 that's been involved in that. As you
17 know from your work not only as a
18 Councilmember but from some of your
19 life work is that some of the stuff
20 we've been trying to do there is sort
21 of engage the community and ask the
22 community what should we be funding
23 down there, what type of programs we
24 should be funding.

25 So if you're talking about

1 some of those packages we put
2 together with both City funding and
3 with some of the opioid settlement
4 funding and let that community
5 dictate what programs we should be
6 funding, what activities we should be
7 funding and having some of them sit
8 on boards where they're actually
9 reviewing and judging some of these
10 grant applications to look at that
11 work and be able to say this person
12 or this organization should be
13 getting this grant for this type.

14 So, Noelle, I don't know if
15 you want to expand a little bit on
16 that.

17 MS. FOIZEN: Hi, everybody.
18 Good morning. I'm Noelle Foizen.
19 I'm the Director of the Opioid
20 Response Unit. I want to just say at
21 the top it's always hard to measure
22 drug prevention. And so, we look to
23 measure the engagement around our
24 programs.

25 And so, one program that we're

1 really proud of in the Kensington
2 community is the Kensington Community
3 Resilience Fund. So that's the
4 participatory grant-making model
5 where the actual residents are
6 deciding who are the recipients of
7 the grants. We're in our third round
8 of that. We're really proud of that.
9 We built up a lot of skills and
10 buy-in in the community around that.

11 We did recently from the
12 opioid settlement dollars launch the
13 Overdose Prevention and Community
14 Healing Fund, which is a new grant
15 program that we just started.
16 There's two granting levels for that.
17 There was one, a capacity-building
18 grant for 20,000 and then a program
19 grant for 100,000. We're in the
20 process of finalizing those decisions
21 around those grants. But the
22 granting decisions are being made by
23 a community granting group.

24 And so, for the Kensington
25 area it was specifically people that

1 live and work in the Kensington
2 community are deciding which programs
3 are going to get funded. And so, we
4 will absolutely do an evaluation of
5 the program moving forward and
6 incorporate all lessons learned into
7 that.

8 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
9 you for that. And then you mentioned
10 the opioid prevention funding. Those
11 groups that are receiving the
12 funding, are those groups that have
13 historically provided opioid
14 prevention services in the community
15 or are they new groups that are
16 coming in?

17 MS. FOIZEN: I'll have to get
18 back to you on that one. I know that
19 the intention was groups that have
20 been serving that community and have
21 been trusted in that community. And
22 so, I know that was the intent of it.
23 So I can get back to you. I can
24 follow up with you on that.

25 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: I

1 appreciate that. I think trust and
2 knowing the community that they're
3 serving is extremely important,
4 right. But I also want to ensure
5 that we are not continuing to fund
6 programs for grantees for services
7 that they should have already been
8 providing, that they've received
9 dollars for services and we're not
10 going to continue to fund them and
11 not receive those services. So
12 measuring their deliverables,
13 creating benchmarks and ensuring that
14 services are actually being received
15 and fought on the ground is extremely
16 important to me.

17 And then, Tumar, you mentioned
18 earlier that it's getting warmer.
19 Everyone is concerned about the
20 ability of community residents to be
21 able to use their parks and
22 recreation centers, their library
23 spaces. You all know that we have
24 McPherson Square that is a library,
25 there's a playspace. I think CLIP

1 does an amazing job on a regular
2 basis to try to keep it safe for
3 children and families to be able to
4 use it and play in.

5 What is the plan? Is there a
6 plan for us that -- is there a
7 strategy for us to be able to make
8 that space safe for community
9 residents to be able to come into as
10 the weather gets warmer?

11 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
12 Thanks, Councilwoman. I'm glad
13 Noelle is still on the screen. I'll
14 let her respond to that. I will say
15 that Noelle shared with me a good
16 Easter video from I think one of the
17 community leaders there of an Easter
18 egg hunt out there on McPherson
19 Square. And it was like I felt like
20 a kid again to be honest, but I think
21 that worked.

22 And that's a collective work.
23 You know, you all thank CLIP and CLIP
24 certainly does a whole lot. But as a
25 collective work with a bunch of City

1 agencies with all of the partners in
2 Kensington, Harrowgate and that
3 community with the Advisory Board and
4 certainly with your office and
5 Councilmember Harrity and
6 Councilmember Squilla's office,
7 that's not something I'm going to
8 take credit for.

9 That's a real collective work
10 that's been years in the making, and
11 it really only comes from constantly
12 communicating with each other,
13 talking about the challenges, us
14 sometimes putting the plan together,
15 going back, taking that plan off the
16 wall and doing something different
17 and adhering to some of the
18 challenges that we see on the ground,
19 so kind of proud from that Easter egg
20 hunt video. But I'll let Noelle talk
21 a little bit around what we're doing
22 with Parks & Rec and others around
23 that activity in that particular
24 area.

25 MS. FOIZEN: Yes. Thank you

1 for that question. And so, since
2 last spring there's been really close
3 coordination between Parks & Rec
4 department rangers and the Police
5 Department to really look at kind of
6 resetting the norms in all the park
7 spaces in the Kensington area. And
8 so, there's been a real focus
9 assuring that there's no open drug
10 use, enforcing the curfew, making
11 sure there's no encampments forming
12 in the parks, so they're working
13 together around that.

14 And then also there's been a
15 whole activation piece that we've
16 been working on. And so, last summer
17 it was really led by Parks & Rec.
18 But since then, there's been a lot of
19 community organizations that have
20 sort of seen the work that has gone
21 there and has seen the opportunity of
22 having positive activations in
23 McPherson Square and coming to the
24 table with us to work on the plan
25 moving forward.

1 And so, since last summer we
2 had a ton of great activations in the
3 park last summer and then we also had
4 additional activations, fall, winter.
5 We have a great schedule coming up
6 this spring and again a super robust
7 program this summer. So there's
8 great partnership I'd say across
9 public safety and looking at trying
10 to make sure that we're able to
11 create these safe spaces for kids and
12 families to enjoy the Kensington
13 area.

14 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
15 Thanks, Noelle.

16 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: The call
17 dropped, but I appreciate your
18 response. I want to commend Sharon
19 Farrell and her group for such an
20 amazing event for the Easter egg hunt
21 because that really is who Harrowgate
22 is, right. That space really brought
23 Harrowgate families and Kensington
24 families together in a green space,
25 which is what it's supposed to look

1 like, right. They're supposed to be
2 taking advantage of those spaces.

3 My hope is we can do the same
4 for the McPherson Square library area
5 and that together we can come up with
6 a strategy where that space becomes a
7 safe place for those community
8 residents to be able to enjoy. I
9 think I'll hold onto the next round
10 for further questions. Thank you so
11 much.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
13 Thank you. Thank you, Councilwoman.

14 Councilwoman, I had one
15 question. Were they like real eggs
16 or were they the new plastic eggs
17 with candy inside of them?

18 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Now, we
19 would have been in trouble if they
20 were real eggs. They were plastic
21 eggs filled with candy.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I'm
23 just wondering. I remember that
24 transition.

25 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

1 Council President, some folks
2 actually do -- some of the ritzier
3 folks, I haven't been to one of these
4 myself, I'm just going to say it, but
5 some folks do the plastic eggs with a
6 dollar bill in it so --

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Oh,
8 my God.

9 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
10 -- if anybody hear about those, I
11 want to get an invite next year to
12 participate.

13 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: I'd like
14 that too.

15 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
16 Along with the candy.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
18 Well, that was awesome. Yeah, it's
19 good that kids are allowed to be
20 kids. You really need to be able to
21 do that. Thank you so much,
22 Councilwoman.

23 Chair recognizes Councilwoman
24 Gilmore Richardson.

25 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

1 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you so
2 much, Council President.

3 And thank you, Mr. Managing
4 Director. I also wanted to start by
5 giving kudos to Tom Conway because I
6 heard folks talking about him and his
7 team over at CLIP. He's just been a
8 stellar professional to work with
9 back to my days as a Constituent
10 Services Representative in
11 government. So I just wanted to say
12 thank you so much for your team and
13 for all of your great work.

14 I wanted to start off,
15 Mr. Managing Director, we're talking
16 about the Office of Sustainability.
17 How do you believe the Managing
18 Director's Office works to really
19 uplift the work of the Office of
20 Sustainability and prioritize climate
21 resiliency and environmental justice
22 throughout all of the departments
23 that you oversee and that are in your
24 wheelhouse? And what is your role
25 with ensuring that all of the City

1 departments that are under your
2 purview participate in the Climate
3 Change and Environmental Justice
4 Interagency Working Group?

5 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

6 Thank you. Thank you, Councilwoman,
7 for that. I think one of the main
8 things I see my role and myself as is
9 being that support and advocate in a
10 way, but also holding the departments
11 and holding the organizations to task
12 on the work that we promised folks
13 that we would do. But the main thing
14 is to be the support for the office,
15 right.

16 So when advocating for
17 resources, when folks are being
18 creative about trying to find
19 resources, when folks need resources
20 or funding that may or may not be in
21 the budget, making some of those hard
22 decisions around when an organization
23 if you want to just reference
24 sustainability, others come to us for
25 things that may not be in that

1 budget, maybe looking at some things
2 we may be underspending in other
3 categories and making that decision
4 to say let's prioritize this work and
5 be able to support.

6 I'm real proud of that work
7 that Saleem and the predecessor prior
8 to him have done with that work,
9 especially with that relationship
10 they've had on some of our more
11 challenging issues. So when you look
12 at the flooding that we've
13 experienced in Eastwick, that
14 relationship they created to be that
15 convener for that community and
16 bringing together all of the City
17 government resources, state
18 government and now federal government
19 resources to look at how do we
20 support and address that issue.
21 Those folks were on first-name basis
22 with Saleem and his staff. So that
23 was just a testament to the work that
24 that office has done.

25 I would say -- and this is an

1 opportunity for me to call up Deputy
2 Managing Director Mike Carroll who
3 oversees the operation to talk about
4 it. But it's really for us providing
5 that support, Councilwoman. And the
6 one thing I will say up top is that
7 all of us, right, all of us or any
8 department in government, none of us
9 will sit here and tell you we have
10 absolutely every bit of resources and
11 funding that we need to get a job
12 done.

13 But what we will tell you is
14 that we take the resources that's
15 given to us and we try to do our best
16 job to deliver those services. And
17 being in this seat and in this
18 position, I'm one of the ones who
19 then got to go and make those -- and
20 holler and scream a little bit and
21 just work collaboratively. It's not
22 hollering and screaming. It's more
23 of a collaborative effort with our
24 folks to see how can we increase
25 those resources and how can we

1 adequately sort of come support some
2 of these challenges.

3 But as it relates to bringing
4 all of the departments to the table
5 on the climate justice and that sort
6 of work, there's not apprehension
7 from our departments around
8 participating and understanding the
9 value. I think one of the things we
10 do upfront and have to do is explain
11 to the department why this is a
12 priority for us and then be able to
13 give them this is where this fits in,
14 because folks may believe every time
15 I pick up the phone and I call and
16 I'm yelling or screaming or I'm just
17 asking about something, I don't
18 necessarily want that issue to jump
19 to the top of the charts in the
20 department. I want to make the
21 department aware of it. I certainly
22 want it resolved. But there's a lot
23 of priorities we put on them. So the
24 challenges for us as leaders is
25 helping them shift through and making

1 sure they have the resources to be
2 able to address those.

3 But, Mike, I wanted you to
4 have an opportunity because you work
5 closest with that cluster and office,
6 to have an opportunity to add into
7 that.

8 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

9 RICHARDSON: And really quick before
10 Mike starts, I just wanted to thank
11 you for mentioning the federal work
12 that is happening because you know
13 that the Office of Sustainability,
14 they are engaged in an important
15 planning effort regarding the Lower
16 South and they're doing some really
17 important work on place-based
18 initiatives, particularly in Eastwick
19 that you mentioned.

20 And I want to thank my
21 colleague Councilmember Johnson for
22 all of his partnership and for the
23 partnership of his staff, but this is
24 really crucial environmental justice
25 and climate resiliency work for the

1 City of Philadelphia. And it's
2 really unprecedented sort of the
3 level of engagement that we currently
4 have with the federal government and
5 we've worked really closely with the
6 administrators at the EPA, as I'm a
7 member of the local Government
8 Advisory Committee for the EPA, I'm
9 the only person from Philadelphia,
10 the only official from the
11 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, so I'm
12 really seeking to utilize this
13 opportunity as an opportunity for the
14 City of Philadelphia.

15 And the real reason why I
16 brought it up is because I guess in
17 the testimony and in the notes it
18 states that the Administration is
19 spending 202,000 per year on the
20 EJAC. But in the Five Year Plan,
21 that information does not match. It
22 appears to be a cut in the Class 200
23 funds for the Office of
24 Sustainability.

25 And in addition to that, a

1 private foundation has offered the
2 City a 2-to-1 matching fund program
3 to expand on all of that work to
4 launch Community Resiliency Grant
5 programs. And so, I wanted to bring
6 that up and get it on the record
7 because we do have a unique
8 opportunity currently with the
9 support and help of the federal
10 officials and also of the foundation
11 to help us get additional dollars
12 into the City of Philadelphia.

13 So I just wanted someone to be
14 able to explain that to me, that the
15 202,000 per year for EJAC is not
16 aligned with what is listed in the
17 budget detail for the Office of
18 Sustainability in order for us to
19 maximize that 2-to-1 matching
20 opportunity from the foundation and
21 support from the government.

22 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
23 Yeah. Councilwoman, thank you for
24 that. I think one of the things you
25 see it has been past practices that

1 when things get added in the Council
2 caucus process or when things get
3 added through the caucus process,
4 those things don't necessarily get
5 annualized over the Five Year Plan,
6 so they're added sort of each year
7 through each of the processes.

8 I believe that's what some of
9 this reduction is, but I'm going to
10 go back and check and be able to
11 provide a written response for that
12 because I'm also being told that some
13 of that also might have been a
14 one-time grant or a grant that
15 expired. So we'll go back and I'll
16 make sure I provide a written
17 response to that particular question.

18 But, Mike, I know you wanted
19 to jump in on this as well.

20 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, I'm sorry.
21 I first want to -- Michael Carroll,
22 Deputy Managing Director for the
23 Office of Transportation,
24 Infrastructure and Sustainability. I
25 want to thank you, Councilmember

1 Gilmore Richardson, for your
2 leadership on all of these issues,
3 especially all the work you do to
4 represent the interests of the City
5 of Philadelphia in state and national
6 forum.

7 With respect to the cut, it's
8 about money that came to
9 Sustainability to actually fund work
10 that the Philadelphia Energy
11 Authority is doing, so that was a
12 one-time passthrough type payment so
13 that they can start to pursue
14 Inflation Reduction Act funding.

15 So if there's a need in the
16 future for us to look for some
17 resources to do that, we will put
18 together some sort of ask in the
19 normal budget process. But that's
20 why you see a cut. It's not a
21 reduction in the EJ fund. And the EJ
22 staff is fully funded and that's now
23 going to be the baseline moving
24 forward.

25 If I can just take one more

1 minute, I wanted to emphasize some of
2 the points the Managing Director was
3 making. I think we recognize the
4 tremendous work that the Office of
5 Sustainability does, but we also know
6 to have the impact they need to
7 leverage their resources through
8 other departments. And I think we've
9 done a really good job doing that.

10 I appreciate you recognizing
11 the work around the Lower South. The
12 Streets Department, Water Department,
13 the Airport are all involved in that
14 work in some way. We've got a great
15 partnership with stakeholders like
16 PennDot. The stadium district's
17 involved. We're looking to have more
18 conversations even with Delaware
19 County. So that type of work
20 involves a lot of cover, for lack of
21 a better word, that the Managing
22 Director and folks from the Mayor's
23 Administration have helped us obtain.
24 And so, we want to keep doing that.

25 And then in doing that, pursue

1 federal funds so that we can actually
2 resource more of the work. So again,
3 your partnership along those lines
4 and partnership around the whole
5 Administration is really helpful to
6 make that a success.

7 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

8 RICHARDSON: Sure. Well, I just want
9 to thank you too, Mike Carroll, for
10 all of your work and you walked right
11 into a few of the additional
12 questions I have regarding some
13 staffing investments around the
14 Bipartisan Infrastructure law and
15 then also IRA. So I'll come back on
16 the second round to respect the
17 clock. But I wanted to ask about
18 that as well.

19 Thank you, Council President.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

21 Thank you, Councilwoman.

22 Chair recognizes Councilwoman
23 Gauthier.

24 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
25 you, Council President.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

2 You're welcome.

3 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: My
4 next question is about block parties.
5 So since we're coming up on
6 summertime, I wanted to touch on this
7 issue for a bit. Block parties are a
8 time-honored tradition that makes
9 Philly Philly, but in the area I
10 represent many times block parties
11 are denied by the police department
12 because of criminal activity or a
13 problem block.

14 There was reporting showing
15 that this happens most in West and
16 North Philadelphia due to levels of
17 gun violence in these areas. And
18 police captains have a lot of
19 discretion over whether block parties
20 are allowed or disallowed. So I've
21 worked with captains that have
22 relented after a denial, but also
23 with captains that take a very
24 conservative approach.

25 And I know that we are all

1 concerned about gun violence, very
2 concerned, but the practice of
3 denying blocks block parties seems
4 very counterproductive to me. It was
5 seen that having blocks where people
6 are connecting with one another and
7 having fun and getting to know each
8 other as neighbors actually makes us
9 more safe.

10 It also seems like a pretty
11 unfair burden to place on an
12 individual police captain that they
13 have to personally approve or
14 disapprove block events happening
15 within their areas. And I also think
16 that it adds to the sentiment in many
17 communities of color that they are
18 overpoliced. It's quite literally
19 turning the PPD into the fun police.

20 And so, I have a few questions
21 about this practice: One, Managing
22 Director, do you think the practice
23 of outlawing block parties in certain
24 areas is making us safer? And what
25 data do you have that backs that up?

1 Secondly, what recourse should
2 residents have when their application
3 is denied for any particular reason,
4 but especially if the application is
5 denied because of criminal activity
6 or alleged violence in the area? And
7 under what circumstances would MDO do
8 away with this practice of having the
9 police department approve or
10 disapprove block parties?

11 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

12 Thank you, Councilmember. Thank you
13 for referencing this issue. Being a
14 lifelong Philadelphian, I do
15 understand the traditional block
16 parties and how sacred it is to
17 everyone, including my own mother and
18 her neighbors who forcefully make me
19 turn their block party petition in.

20 One of the things I will say,
21 I know I've seen some media stuff
22 that generated I want to say last
23 summer particularly around your
24 District. I do think this somewhat
25 is an unfair burden on the police. I

1 do think that's somewhat of an unfair
2 burden to put on the District
3 captains.

4 But one of the things I do
5 know it's just not the District
6 captains in this conversation. I
7 know they also got to report up their
8 reasoning to their inspectors and
9 then to the chiefs. I think for us
10 we probably need to work on a policy
11 to put up a more transparent appeal
12 policy for when folks get this
13 message.

14 I think part of the concern is
15 with somewhat limited resources those
16 folks and those captains and those
17 folks who are on the ground in the
18 District are really concerned about
19 how they can keep that activity safe
20 for all of the residents to
21 participate in. I've certainly been
22 involved in several conversations to
23 where a permit may have been denied
24 and then the person requested an
25 appeal on it, and in some instances

1 have appealed on my own to that
2 District captain or to that inspector
3 and asked, my question is always what
4 was the reason and why, if that was
5 accurate or what they're seeing as
6 knowing their district and knowing
7 the crime trends in that district or
8 it's certainly have been times where
9 I've gotten back this is a notorious
10 drug block, we've made X number of
11 arrests on this block within the last
12 few months, our concerns is X, right.

13 But I agree, I do think it's
14 counterproductive. I don't think we
15 should not have block parties because
16 the block isn't safe. I think we
17 should be working on ways on how can
18 we work with that sort of active
19 block captain because we know that
20 person is active or that group is
21 active. How can we work with them to
22 ensure the safety on that block and
23 how could it be a partnership, so
24 that's certainly some of the
25 conversations we need to have.

1 And it's one of the things
2 that's been on my mind before I took
3 this job as Managing Director. I'll
4 be honest, I've never had an
5 opportunity to be able to address it.
6 I certainly had one-off conversations
7 with both Streets Departments and
8 Police Department around it.

9 I'll make a commitment that we
10 will work together on a process that
11 sort of adds in an appeals piece and
12 look at a process to where folks, A,
13 understand it and then folks can feel
14 like they're actively, you know,
15 we're actively taking consultation
16 the need to have these sort of
17 situations and parties. And that may
18 include putting more eyes than just
19 the Police and Streets Department on
20 these permits, right.

21 Certainly, those District
22 captains and those District
23 supervisors know what's going on in
24 that neighborhood. Certainly the
25 block captains who's making the

1 requests know. But I think at the
2 end of the day, all of us want, the
3 goal is for folks to have fun, for
4 folks to connect with their neighbors
5 and for folks to be safe, right. So
6 that's our goal. I think we can all
7 work together and sort of come up
8 with ways to make that a better
9 system.

10 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Yeah.
11 I look forward to that for this year
12 having more transparency on this
13 issue, having a way of recourse for
14 people on blocks. But over time, I
15 also look forward to moving this out
16 of the hands of PPD. And I respect
17 PPD, they're doing obviously a very
18 valuable public safety function.

19 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
20 And it's actually on our Office of
21 Criminal Justice program. So
22 actually put it in some of their
23 internal diversity equity inclusion
24 work as one of their work streams if
25 they work on as well, so it is

1 something that's actively being
2 worked on.

3 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
4 you so much. Looking forward to
5 talking more.

6 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
7 Thank you, Councilwoman. And thank
8 you for raising that issue. I
9 appreciate it.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
11 Thank you. Thank you, Councilwoman.
12 Managing Director, the
13 Councilwoman brings up an interesting
14 point. Actually in parts of my
15 Councilmanic District we have a
16 different set of challenges around
17 Temple University. And I can recall
18 when the police department first got
19 engaged in this process around the
20 university. It was that students
21 were getting permits for block
22 parties in neighborhoods and
23 particularly where there was a
24 significant number of students on
25 those blocks.

1 They got the application.

2 They submitted it and they ended up
3 turning it into concerts in the
4 middle of a residential community.

5 And in that particular instance, it
6 is a challenge and who makes that
7 decision.

8 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

9 Absolutely, and it needs to be
10 balanced in that approach.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: So
12 it would be interesting to see what
13 level of strategies you have for that
14 because it can -- some of these
15 things can be problematic depending
16 on the neighborhood and who the
17 applicant is for the particular block
18 party. Thank you.

19 Chair recognizes Councilman
20 Thomas.

21 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
22 Council President. Thank you,
23 colleagues.

24 A couple of things: We
25 definitely got to get the block party

1 thing situated because I don't want
2 to answer that question, so please
3 figure that out. In 2020, Managing
4 Director Alexander, when I was first
5 sworn in, I became the Chair of the
6 Streets Committee and of course we go
7 into a pandemic and it creates a lot
8 of problems.

9 And one of the problems that
10 the pandemic created that we're not
11 talking about enough is the hit-and-
12 run crisis. The hit-and-run crisis
13 really went on steroids in 2020.
14 Even right now it's not as bad as it
15 was in 2020, but it's still bad. And
16 when we had a conversation back then
17 to examine what we were dealing with
18 as it related to hit-and-runs, we
19 came across two solutions that we
20 talked about implementing as it
21 relates to addressing hit-and-runs.

22 The first one was investment
23 in infrastructure. And this is I
24 believe for you guys, comes under
25 your the Roadmap to Safer

1 Communities -- no, no, that's not it.
2 I apologize. It's the infrastructure
3 investment dollars that went into I
4 believe OTIS. And the second thing
5 we talked about was the hit-and-run
6 technology that the police department
7 said they need.

8 Captain Overwise specifically
9 testified to the importance of
10 getting the technology needed to be
11 able to collect the proper amount of
12 evidence when the hit-and-run takes
13 place. So in the 2021 budget, I
14 remember negotiating for the Managing
15 Director's Office to get the
16 technology that was needed to be able
17 to collect evidence when hit-and-runs
18 take place.

19 I'm wondering where we are as
20 it relates to the technology
21 surrounding hit-and-runs. And how
22 are we doing with the infrastructure
23 dollar investments that we talked
24 about as it relates to I believe the
25 number was 12 percent of roads that

1 produce 80 percent of the car
2 accidents? So I'm wondering if we
3 can get an update on where we are on
4 those two things.

5 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

6 Will do, sir. So Mike just popped on
7 the screen. I believe he can talk to
8 the Vision Zero work. I just want to
9 agree with you, that has been --
10 pedestrian safety and pedestrian
11 death as it relates to vehicles has
12 been an issue that we've seen since
13 the pandemic.

14 I remember at some portion of
15 2020 when we were on shutdown and I
16 think folks used that opportunity to
17 think because the streets were a
18 little emptier they were just driving
19 as if it was a raceway all across the
20 City and it was like one moment to
21 where I was actually taken aback by
22 it on one instance. So that work and
23 the work that Mike and Chris do
24 around Vision Zero is very important.

25 Since PPD is on, I'm probably

1 going to see if Deputy Commissioner
2 Krista Dahl-Campbell can talk a
3 little bit about the technology. But
4 that technology was procured for the
5 department, Councilmember. And I
6 know they're using it to help
7 recreate some of these electronically
8 and laserly, be able to recreate some
9 of these accident scenes in terms of
10 helping them with their
11 investigation.

12 Mike, you want to start out
13 the conversation and then we'll have
14 PPD answer particularly around the
15 technology for the Crash
16 Investigation Unit Division.

17 MR. CARROLL: (Muted).

18 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
19 Mike, you're on mute, sir.

20 MR. CARROLL: I'm sorry about
21 that. Yeah. Thank you,
22 Councilmember. So I might defer for
23 some specifics to Chris Puchalsky,
24 but I'll say that we feel like we're
25 starting to turn the corner a little

1 bit as some of the projects that we
2 are doing on our high energy network
3 are coming online. And that's the
4 name, the high energy network that we
5 use to refer to that 12 percent of
6 streets where --

7 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you.

8 MR. CARROLL: -- the
9 overwhelming majority of crashes take
10 place, whether they are hits that
11 have people run or whether they are
12 crashes where people do actually
13 stick around. We want to avoid the
14 hit part as much as possible. We're
15 gratified that what we see in the
16 early indications is that these
17 projects are effective, but we need
18 to do much more.

19 So the other good news I guess
20 I would say is that we're having a
21 tremendous success rate in getting
22 federal infrastructure funding. One
23 of the things that Council should
24 know is that because the City of
25 Philadelphia already had a Vision

1 Zero action plan, we were eligible
2 for construction funds, not planning
3 funds, but construction funds as part
4 of the safe streets for all programs
5 that was stood up by the United
6 States Department of Transportation,
7 and we got a little less than a month
8 ago a \$30 million grant in order to
9 do construction projects on high
10 energy network to start to address
11 these things.

12 So we have a few of those
13 projects in design, so we hope we
14 will be able to move some of that
15 through in the next fiscal year here
16 and get some of that stuff done, but
17 it is a long-term proposition. We're
18 grateful. We've done very well in
19 all of our federal requests.

20 I think we've exceeded about
21 \$200 million in federal funds that
22 have come in, in the last year. And
23 one of the reasons why we're so
24 successful is because we're always
25 able to emphasize two things that are

1 very important to the Biden
2 Administration. One is traffic
3 safety and the other one is racial
4 equity. And so, these things are the
5 future that we're looking at, but we
6 still have a lot of work to do as far
7 as where we're at, and we understand
8 that.

9 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: I hope
10 that bell was because it's time to be
11 done with that particular question.
12 The seven minutes must have got cut
13 fast. I'll --

14 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
15 Councilman, really fast can I ask
16 Krista Dahl-Campbell to sort of just
17 confirm the technology that CID
18 procured and is using right now to
19 your first part of your question?

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DAHL-
21 CAMPBELL: Sure. Good afternoon,
22 Councilman and everyone on the call.
23 I'm Krista Dahl-Campbell. I'm the
24 Deputy Commissioner of Organizational
25 Services. So FARO 3D scanning

1 systems were procured by PPD's OSS
2 for crash investigations, so the
3 Forensic Science Unit did put it in
4 so it is being used by the Crash
5 Investigation Unit as well as the
6 Crime Scene Unit. So I'm sure
7 Director Garvey could speak to how
8 effective it is, but it is in place.

9 It took a while to get it
10 because of procurement issues but
11 they are using it now. And it has
12 been a useful tool to document scenes
13 and for reconstruction, so it
14 definitely has had a positive impact.
15 If there's any direct question you
16 have on its implementation, I can
17 pass it over to both Deputy Vanore or
18 Director Garvey.

19 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Don't get
20 me in trouble. I'll wait until we go
21 into the Police round and save that
22 for a little victory lap for us to do
23 as a win that we all got together.
24 And as I close out, let me just say
25 this because this is really

1 important. Before we get into the
2 police department, I'm going to call
3 a couple of families who I know who
4 lost loved ones in the City of
5 Philadelphia who have used the death
6 of their loved ones to advocate for
7 things like that through technology
8 and other things as it relates to
9 infrastructure investment to give the
10 life of their loved ones purpose. So
11 just so you know, sometimes the small
12 things we do go a long way for the
13 constituents in the City of
14 Philadelphia.

15 Council President, I'll stop
16 right there. I already did two
17 rounds and I'll submit my remaining
18 questions for the Managing Director
19 Office's in writing. And, Managing
20 Director Tumar and the entire team
21 over at the Managing Director's
22 Office, I just want to say thank you.

23 And please don't forget my
24 request to make some money available
25 for emergencies in the summer. I'm

1 very, very concerned about making
2 sure that we have dollars and
3 resources available to people who
4 really want to provide quality
5 programming for our children and that
6 includes my idea about a Sports Fund
7 that's similar to the Cultural Fund.

8 Thank you, Council President.
9 Thank you, colleagues.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

11 Thank you, Councilman. Thank you for
12 that good work.

13 Chair recognizes Councilwoman
14 Gilmore Richardson.

15 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

16 RICHARDSON: Thank you again, Council
17 President.

18 I wanted to just circle back
19 to one additional question I had and
20 I will submit the remainder of my
21 questions for the record in addition
22 to the questions I have for and about
23 the Office of Sustainability.

24 But, Mr. Managing Director, I
25 wanted to find out how your office is

1 working to create more collaboration
2 between the Department of Human
3 Services, the Philadelphia Police
4 Department, the Office of Violence
5 Prevention and the Office of Children
6 and Families to ensure that our
7 Community Evening Resource Centers
8 are being fully utilized not only by
9 the community, but in the way of its
10 intended purpose relative to getting
11 young people to the CERC. So we know
12 they can come voluntarily and/or
13 involuntary.

14 So I wanted to know based on
15 some of the conversation that was had
16 earlier in recognizing some of the
17 things that we've seen happen over
18 the last couple of weekends how are
19 you all using the updated curfew that
20 this body passed as a part of the
21 violence prevention strategy and sort
22 of your overall strategy and how are
23 you all working to sort of create a
24 summer strategy that will engage
25 young people, not just in the CERCs

1 in work and education, sports, as my
2 colleague Councilmember Thomas stated
3 and community-based programming that
4 will go on all day, seven days a
5 week, how are we sort of marketing
6 these efforts and how are we ensuring
7 that the centers are actually being
8 utilized? What is the sort of
9 collaboration that happens from a
10 government perspective internally?

11 And I know we, based on the
12 legislation are supposed to receive
13 specific updates. And I will ask PPD
14 about the updated curfew numbers,
15 particularly by division. But how
16 are you all working to ensure that
17 that cross-collaboration is happening
18 internally from a City government
19 perspective?

20 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

21 Thank you, Councilwoman. I'm going
22 to start off and do a little bit of
23 comments up top and then maybe kick
24 it over to Mary Horstmann. But that
25 relationship between MDO, OCF, DHS I

1 think is probably as strong as it's
2 been in probably a long time.

3 Certainly, those leaders, Kim
4 Ali, the Commissioner of Department
5 of Human Services; Vanessa Garrett
6 Harley, our Deputy Mayor for Children
7 and Youth, that relationship is
8 strong just because of the connection
9 of her being over here, probably us
10 talking a couple of times a day every
11 day. But in particular on that
12 summer table that she chairs around
13 summer programming, there's a couple
14 of folks from MDO at that table in
15 addition to the departments that's
16 sitting at that table, in particular
17 Police. But there's other
18 departments that's at that table from
19 MDO that participates, so our
20 violence prevention folks, so Erica
21 and her team sits at that table, Mary
22 Horstmann, our Deputy Managing
23 Director for Health and Human
24 Services sat at that table when she
25 was our Policy Director and also sits

1 at her table in her current role.

2 So a lot of times we go back
3 and forth with the support on the
4 summer programming. Sometimes where
5 they can't find funding, their money
6 that we utilize in particular from
7 the violence prevention funding that
8 I will fund for programming over
9 there and for work that's happening
10 over there just to talk a little bit
11 about that, like the initiative that
12 we're doing with the pools this year.

13 Last year Parks & Rec did a
14 couple. They did something in some
15 of the Kensington communities where
16 they took two pools and sort of gave
17 it the look of a beach club, and we
18 were sitting on one of these meetings
19 and they were showing pictures and I
20 talked about how good that looked.
21 And I said I was willing to fund
22 through Violence Prevention money
23 that we can do this in some of our
24 high violence areas and can we do it
25 in 12 to 13 sites within those zones

1 that we've set up and police and
2 Pinpoint to be able to do that. So
3 that's something you're going to see
4 this summer. That's a collaborative
5 work.

6 But I'll have Mary talk about
7 more of the collaborative work. And
8 I think as you reference, police can
9 talk about in particular the work
10 they're doing with the resource
11 centers and young people were getting
12 there. I will tell you on that
13 incident that happened last week in
14 Center City, Kim Ali was on the phone
15 with myself and with one of the
16 Deputy Police Commissioners. We were
17 kind of giving them the heads-up,
18 this is what's going on. You should
19 alert the resource centers because
20 they may see an influx of folks
21 coming there tonight, and was able to
22 kind of keep them constantly
23 communicating with them on what was
24 going on, not only from a resource
25 center perspective but also from a

1 juvenile justice services perspective
2 as well, because all of that stuff
3 ties in.

4 So the crowding is there. The
5 work about how we're doing with the
6 resource center, the stuff we're
7 doing with police and the MDO with
8 the juvenile access center, all of
9 that work sort of tie into those
10 folks at that table.

11 So, Mary, I don't know if you
12 want to talk a little bit about some
13 of that work and some of that
14 collaborative effort.

15 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
16 RICHARDSON: That will be great. And
17 before Mary starts, I just wanted to
18 reiterate my request from the
19 original first budget hearing, the
20 first budget hearing, relative to a
21 document or a booklet that puts
22 together all of the resources that
23 will be available for young people
24 for this summer. If you can put a QR
25 code on the front, that will be great

1 because they all have a smartphone.

2 Because I will tell you even
3 as someone who has worked in City
4 government for a very long time as a
5 staffer and has helped with
6 constituent services, it is very
7 difficult for me to navigate some of
8 those websites on phila.gov. And I
9 think I'm pretty technology savvy.

10 And it's very hard to find the
11 programs that are available when
12 you're looking for a certain subset.

13 So I'll give you an example.
14 If I'm looking for a summer program
15 for my 6-year-old or for my 8-year-
16 old, it's really hard to find. It's
17 difficult to even navigate the
18 website in that way. So my request,
19 and I'll reiterate it before Mary
20 begins, is if we can get a listing of
21 everything that is available from
22 every City department, whether it's
23 PPR, DHS, whoever it's coming from,
24 Office of Violence Prevention, just
25 put all of that together in one space

1 and place.

2 And even if they break it down
3 by police division, that will be
4 helpful because we know we have the
5 two additional CERC centers that are
6 coming online in the Northeast
7 Division and also in the East
8 Division by June is what we were
9 told. So if we can get all of that
10 information in one space and place,
11 that will be exceedingly helpful
12 because also I think for us members,
13 we will better understand how to
14 resource some of these other
15 activities that may need additional
16 resources to stay open a couple more
17 hours.

18 It's not helpful for parents
19 who work for a program to be open
20 from 9:00 to 3:00 and then you still
21 have to pay extra for aftercare in a
22 city where we know a lot of families
23 and parents are resource-strapped.
24 And so, we want young people to
25 participate in these opportunities,

1 but we have to make it readily
2 available to them and make the
3 information available and make it
4 where Council can invest in the
5 opportunities that young people will
6 need to be a part of that need to
7 stay open late.

8 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

9 We can collaboratively put that
10 together, Councilwoman. We'll work
11 on that.

12 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

13 RICHARDSON: Okay. Thanks.

14 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

15 Mary.

16 MS. HORSTMANN: Yeah. I don't
17 have a lot to add, but I want to
18 thank the Councilwoman for her
19 leadership on this particular issue.
20 And as you spoke to, Managing
21 Director and the Councilmember, this
22 is really about building a system.
23 And so, I think with your guidance we
24 created the Community Evening
25 Resource Centers in areas throughout

1 the City to make it easier for you to
2 get connected, for parents to pick up
3 their child, for police to be able to
4 connect them to services immediately
5 and not have that sort of time
6 friction created.

7 So really when we think about
8 how do we strengthen that work, it's
9 really thinking about how are we
10 diverting youth who were likely to
11 end up at the PJJSC to the evening
12 resource centers, getting them the
13 resources that they need, getting
14 them connected to programming over
15 the medium and long-term that's
16 recurring, so that they don't end up
17 back in the centers.

18 So one of the things we're
19 doing is if youth are diverted from
20 the PJJSC to the Juvenile Assessment
21 Center, then using the evening
22 resource centers as another tool in
23 that tool kit to be able to connect
24 them to services. So again, thinking
25 about how we think about high- and

1 medium-risk youth, what's the
2 services that they need and really
3 working closely with DHS and the
4 Office of Children and Families to
5 make sure those services are being
6 located at Community Resource
7 Centers.

8 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

9 RICHARDSON: Okay. I heard the bell
10 and I want to respect the clock. I
11 will reserve the balance of my
12 questions and submit them in writing.
13 But I'm really interested in this,
14 particularly for this summer, based
15 on what we've seen. And also,
16 recognizing it's going to be 85
17 degrees Wednesday, Thursday and
18 Friday. And if we don't have it
19 together, you will get what you
20 always have, which is what we saw
21 last week and the week before. So we
22 really have to be on top of it and
23 doing our part, but I'll reserve the
24 balance of my questions and I'll wait
25 for the Police Department. Thank you

1 very much.

2 And thank you, Mr. President.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Thank you. Thank you Council Lady.

5 I think that's all we have for
6 the MDO today. But obviously there
7 will be some callbacks. Before we
8 leave the MDO, I'd just like to ask
9 if the CLIP, Tommy's folks, if you
10 have it available, categorized in
11 terms of the locations of deployment.

12 I know a significant part is
13 in response to 311 calls, which I
14 don't frankly speaking like because
15 it leaves people that don't call 311
16 without services, but that's another
17 story for another time. And at some
18 point, I don't know if it will be
19 while I'm still here, but we will
20 figure out a way to consolidate all
21 vacant lot treatment programs and not
22 just be responsive to 311.

23 But can you give me the
24 locations of the deployment over the
25 last year, calendar year from CLIP

1 across the City of Philadelphia?

2 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

3 We can absolutely get that to you,
4 Council President.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
6 right.

7 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

8 And I do want to say it's not only --
9 it's 311 plus this other method that
10 we receive complaints that we work on
11 as well. So we can absolutely
12 forward that information to you, sir.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

14 Yeah, I know. It's a call from the
15 Councilman on Saturday morning, and
16 all that I know. But I'm just
17 saying --

18 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

19 No --

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: --

21 look, seriously I've been talking to
22 you all about this and everybody
23 says, you're right, and this
24 proactive approach to lots, vacant
25 lot treatments in neighborhoods

1 versus just simply responding because
2 somebody's calling and saying it's a
3 problem. And being able to utilize
4 PHS, being able to use same day pay
5 and have all of these various
6 entities working together, taking out
7 grids like we used to do in the old
8 days.

9 We would grid an area. We
10 would go through and have treatment.
11 You remember that -- what was the
12 name of that, Tumar? You were a
13 youngster back in.

14 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
15 It was NTI, sir.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: No,
17 Partners for Progress.

18 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
19 So I came in on NTI, but I got -- I'm
20 not going to say I got hazed. But I
21 got trained by Tommy and Oliver and
22 other folks who were partners for
23 Partner for Progress Veterans. I
24 didn't say on the record I got hazed.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

1 Remember that, all of the City
2 services came in the neighborhood,
3 right, and you did this
4 systematically across the City of
5 Philadelphia in every part. And it
6 was just so remarkable and the buy-in
7 from people, but we got away from
8 that when we got into this 311 thing.
9 But that was all about somebody
10 trying to prove that 311 was the way
11 to go, and it is. But it's not the
12 only way to go.

13 But anyway, that probably
14 won't be done during my tenure. But
15 hopefully, my colleagues that
16 continue to be here keep pushing the
17 Partners for Progress. I'm going to
18 get some information on that so
19 people will see how good that
20 actually functions. But if you get
21 me, in the meantime forward to us the
22 deployments of CLIP over the
23 last year, that will be helpful.

24 MR. CONWAY: Mr. President, we
25 have been targeting the PRSC areas,

1 the pinpoint areas. We cleaned about
2 6,000 vacant lots in there out of the
3 14,000 that we did citywide. And
4 that's where our fencing program is
5 going. And then I think it was like
6 250 fences were done last year. And
7 this year we will probably do over
8 300 fences, and the majority of them
9 are in the PRC area. Same thing
10 with -- so it's like Partners for
11 Progress, sort of. I know what
12 you're saying.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You
14 remember it was awesome. And the
15 elected officials would actually come
16 out, right. It was awesome. Anyway,
17 just forward it when you get it
18 together in writing. I'd like to see
19 the deployment across the City.

20 MR. CONWAY: Okay.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
22 Thank you. And thank you, Managing
23 Director, and your team --

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Excuse me,
25 Mr. President.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I'm
2 sorry. Chair recognizes Councilman
3 Jones.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
5 so much, Mr. President. I'll be
6 brief with one question.

7 What is the City's -- if we
8 all agree that poverty is the primary
9 source of some of the violence we see
10 in the City of Philadelphia, some of
11 the mischief we see among our young
12 people, can you have Mr. Little maybe
13 or even Eva Gladstein articulate the
14 City's anti-poverty efforts?

15 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
16 I'll call on -- let me call on
17 Mr. Little. I saw him on camera
18 earlier. And then we call on Eva if
19 we need her to close out on it.
20 Thank you, Councilmember Jones.

21 (No response.)

22 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
23 Mitch, you're on mute, although your
24 computer doesn't say it's on mute.

25 Councilmember, let me switch

1 up the order while Mitch takes care
2 of the technical difficulties. Let
3 me have Mary Horstmann jump in first
4 and then I'll have Mitch close out.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.

6 MS. HORSTMANN: Hi,
7 Councilmember. Thank you so much for
8 the question. So I think we've been
9 really focused on thinking about how
10 as you said violence intersects with
11 poverty. And as an Administration,
12 we've been committed to our anti-
13 poverty strategy and we have seen the
14 poverty rate really go down. We're
15 at a 15-year low and we continue to
16 make investments in low-income
17 households, cushioning residents
18 against the broader effects of
19 economic instability.

20 So in addition to the things
21 you see outside of the MDO budget
22 like new PreK seats, \$282 million for
23 the School District, making sure that
24 the youth have free Internet through
25 our PHLConnected and things like the

1 Catto Scholarship. We're also
2 thinking about how we invest at MDO
3 in programs like Same Day Work and
4 Pay, which will provide -- in the
5 last year provided over 1400
6 participants with jobs in the
7 community. And as the Managing
8 Director spoke to, it's also a
9 pathway to City employment. A lot of
10 those jobs are at CLIP or Mural Arts
11 and then they are able to transition
12 to permanent positions within City
13 government.

14 The \$31 million investment in
15 the Zero Fare Transit Program will be
16 able to serve 25,000 residents at or
17 near the poverty level. And in
18 addition, we're going to be putting
19 in 1.3 million in stipends for
20 participants in the Group Violence
21 Intervention program as well as have
22 \$5 million to clear criminal justice
23 debts which we know are a significant
24 barrier to individuals being able to
25 access jobs. And that's on top of

1 the 29 million we're going to
2 investing in eviction prevention,
3 including expanding right to counsel
4 to guarantee free legal assistance
5 for individuals in four zip codes who
6 are experiencing eviction
7 proceedings.

8 So that's just a sample of
9 some of the things that we are really
10 focused on in terms of ways that we
11 are going to combat poverty this
12 year, but we can send you a complete
13 list of the things that we are
14 pushing to be able to address the
15 poverty issue.

16 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
17 Mitch, is your sound working now,
18 sir?

19 MR. LITTLE: Can you hear me
20 now?

21 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
22 Yes, sir. Thank you.

23 MR. LITTLE: Good afternoon,
24 Council President, Councilmembers.
25 Mitch Little, Office of Community

1 Empower and Opportunity. Like Mary
2 shared, I think that poverty
3 alleviation is certainly a priority
4 for this Administration and shared
5 how both Managing Director and other
6 parts, specifically Children and
7 Families are addressing the poverty
8 issue.

9 For CO's role, CO is the
10 City's anti-poverty agency allowed to
11 connect residents with CSBG formula
12 funding, and that's like federal
13 intervention at the local level. And
14 so, what we saw with expanded CTC and
15 EITC was life-changing, right. We
16 saw a 43 percent nationally reduction
17 of child poverty. It requires those
18 type of federal interventions to play
19 out locally. And so, we're super
20 excited about the infrastructure
21 package and equitable sort of
22 approaches to infrastructure here in
23 the City.

24 For CO, we connected over
25 11,000 community members to more than

1 \$28 million in federal and state
2 refunds. Our BenePhilly program,
3 which is one of our most popular
4 programs since its inception, we've
5 connected 150,000 Philadelphians to
6 over \$1.6 billion in benefit access.
7 We stood up our Consumer Protection
8 Task Force in partnership with law
9 and the Treasurer's Office. We can't
10 do our work without really targeted
11 investment and the ability to nurture
12 and manage good relationships both
13 inside and outside of government.

14 And so, this body had a
15 hearing around the practices of MV
16 Realty as an example, which targeted
17 500 residents, mostly Black and Brown
18 and elderly with predatory practices
19 attaching a 40-year lien on houses up
20 to 3 percent of the house's value if
21 they decided to make any type of
22 transaction with that home, and we
23 interceded along with local and
24 statewide partners to bring that to
25 light, continue to educate, inform

1 residents about these practices and
2 also connect residents to support.

3 Our Financial Empowerment
4 Centers since 2013 helped folks save
5 through one-on-one counseling over
6 \$3.6 million and reduced debt by \$17
7 million. And so, really keeping
8 dollars in the pockets of
9 Philadelphians but also looking at
10 where the disparity to target our
11 resources, often times low-income
12 Black and Brown single-led
13 households, some of the most
14 vulnerable households in the City, to
15 provide some protection and support
16 for Philadelphians. So that's just
17 an example of the work that we've
18 been doing. And we've been able to
19 do that with consistent support from
20 the Administration.

21 Shout-out to Managing
22 Director, Eva Gladstein to be able to
23 manage those relationships. We
24 partner with over 250 community-based
25 organizations throughout the City,

1 whether that's our Eviction Task
2 Force work or our housing security
3 work coming out of our Eviction Task
4 Force or our place-based work
5 connecting with eds and meds and
6 civics in the promise zone to really
7 think about how we agree upon how we
8 change outcomes for Philadelphians
9 and move in the same direction over a
10 period of time.

11 So some of these are like
12 10-year initiatives because change
13 requires time, and it requires that
14 consistency around who's really
15 putting in that work and really
16 bringing some of these ideas to
17 fruition. So just as a brief example
18 of the work that we've been engaged
19 in over the last 10 years.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: So first of
21 all, Mr. Little, I have watched the
22 evolution of your agency go to mocks
23 to CEO. President Clarke will tell
24 you I once asked the agency how do
25 people become poor, what is the

1 pathway out of poverty. And for the
2 first time I actually understand a
3 strategy that has quantitatively
4 worked to reduce the poverty level in
5 the City of Philadelphia.

6 And I would say this to my
7 fellow members of Council. We are
8 sleeping on CEO and the work that
9 they do. They are the conduit to
10 many of the successful anti-poverty
11 programs either direct service or
12 indirect funding of those services,
13 and I can't say enough about you.
14 I'm not going to hold my colleagues
15 up.

16 But I am going to warn you.
17 I'm going to call you back so that
18 you have an elongated presentation
19 because I don't think people truly
20 understand from eliminating debt in
21 prisons, you eliminated the
22 concessions, the fees and fines that
23 were up at the prisons, to what you
24 do for thousands of people below the
25 poverty line that are now not leaving

1 money on the table.

2 Allan Domb used to every
3 budget cycle talk about we leave too
4 much federal state money on the
5 table, and CEO is helping a lot of
6 poor people picking it off the table.
7 So thank you for what you guys do and
8 your team.

9 MR. LITTLE: Thank you,
10 Councilmember. I will say that it
11 is -- we appreciate your support. I
12 will say and I won't speak for the
13 Managing Director, but for guys who
14 were born and raised in Philadelphia
15 who come from let's say meager
16 beginnings, it's a honor and duty to
17 do this on behalf of Philadelphians
18 because we understand what it's like.
19 We understand the struggle of waking
20 up every day and not to have and go
21 out there and try to get one way or
22 another.

23 And as a young person, a lot
24 like the young people that you all
25 were talking about earlier today,

1 there is pathway out. You can be
2 sitting here, right here, if only you
3 hold on, stay true and connect to
4 services and caring adults to make
5 your way out. We are living examples
6 of that. Thank you, sir.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
8 Mr. Chair.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You
10 good?

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'm good.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
13 right. Thank you. Thank you very
14 much.

15 Mr. Managing Director, thank
16 you very much, sir, you and your
17 team.

18 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
19 Thank you, Council President.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And
21 is the Deputy Police Commissioner
22 available and ready? Deputy
23 Commissioner Stanford, you're good?

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:
25 Yes, sir.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: How
2 are you doing, my friend?

3 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:
4 I'm good. And yourself?

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
6 Hey, I'm blessed. Never had a bad
7 day in most of my life, you know.
8 All right. We're going to proceed.
9 You can start your testimony.

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:
11 Okay. Good afternoon, Council
12 President and distinguished members
13 of City Council. My name is John
14 Stanford. I am the First Deputy
15 Commissioner of the Philadelphia
16 Police Department. It is an honor to
17 testify before you today on behalf of
18 Police Commissioner Danielle Outlaw
19 who is unable to be present today.
20 Thank you for this opportunity to
21 discuss the status of policing here
22 in Philadelphia.

23 Please allow me to introduce
24 the other members of the
25 Commissioner's executive team who are

1 joining me today. Krista Dahl-
2 Campbell, who is the Deputy
3 Commissioner of Organizational
4 Services; James Kelly, who is the
5 Deputy Commissioner of Patrol
6 Operations; Frank Vanore, Deputy
7 Commissioner of Investigations; Robin
8 Wimberly, Deputy Commissioner of the
9 Office of Professional
10 Responsibility; Blake Norton, Chief
11 Strategy Office; Joel Dales; Deputy
12 Commissioner of Special Operations;
13 Leslie Marant, Chief Diversity,
14 Equity and Inclusion Officer; Mike
15 Garvey, Director of the Office of
16 Forensic Science; Elka Battle-
17 Murillo, Director of Strategic
18 Communications; Staff Inspector
19 Francis Healy, Special Advisor to the
20 Police Commissioner; Dr. Nicole
21 Smith-Kea, Executive in Residence
22 and other esteemed PPD personnel are
23 here to respond if called upon.

24 With that, let me just give
25 you a quick overview of our plans for

1 the Fiscal Year of 2024. The FY24
2 proposed General Fund allocation
3 funds the Police Department at 6,380
4 uniform officers. The total FY24
5 operating budget is estimated to
6 increase over the FY23 current
7 projection by approximately \$55.7
8 million.

9 The FY24 proposed General Fund
10 allocation in Class 100 is increased
11 to account for contractually
12 obligated pay raises as well as
13 approved raises for exempt positions
14 and the transfer of 75 police
15 communication dispatchers from the
16 MDO along with the addition of 49
17 civilian positions at the Office of
18 Forensic Science.

19 Class 200 is increasing to
20 cover the cost of PPD recruitment
21 with a diversity, equity and
22 inclusion focus, the transfer of
23 training from the Managing Director's
24 Office and the inflation increases
25 for existing services and purchases.

1 With that being said, we have
2 submitted our testimony and we are
3 here to answer any questions that you
4 may have. Therefore, I will turn it
5 back over to you, Council President,
6 to begin.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
8 Okay. Commissioner, can you hear me?
9 I'm sorry.

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:
11 Yes, sir. I can hear you.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
13 Okay. I'm sorry. My computer is
14 acting up. Here we go. Okay. Thank
15 you so much and we appreciate what
16 you do. Seems like things are
17 improving somewhat, fingers always
18 crossed. Let me get into a couple of
19 things. I just want to first of all
20 congratulate you on being the First
21 Deputy, congratulate the team for
22 continuing.

23 We're getting ready to
24 release, and I don't know to what
25 degree but you've been involved, this

1 whole issue around vacancies among
2 the police and all other municipal
3 government. We've actually done an
4 announcement, still a whole lot of
5 jobs and we'll be rolling out the
6 work product of the Special
7 Committee.

8 And we actually had Captain
9 McCoy, I think you know, was a member
10 of the Special Committee to talk
11 about attraction and retention. And
12 then in your role, and actually I
13 talked to the Commissioner about
14 this, can you tell me what the
15 challenges are in terms of getting
16 people to be a police officer,
17 particularly in today's time from
18 your perspective and the challenges
19 of keeping individuals once they
20 become police officers because my
21 understanding is we're being poached
22 quite aggressively by surrounding
23 townships, counties, other states?

24 I mean, Orlando's offering a
25 crazy package, big ol' billboards on

1 76 showing somebody with the sun and
2 the beach. It's kind of hard to
3 compete with that, particularly on a
4 32-degree day in the City of
5 Philadelphia. Can you just kind of
6 tell me from your perspective some of
7 the challenges that we have, one,
8 convincing people and, two, keeping
9 people on the force, which is an
10 understandably challenging job? But
11 I'm assuming to do this, it has to be
12 about the heart. It can't be about
13 other things.

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:

15 You're absolutely right, sir. So
16 we're down about 850 officers or so.
17 And as you stated, it's a constant
18 challenge for us, and we're doing a
19 lot around recruitment. And I'll
20 turn it over to Deputy Dahl-Campbell
21 to give some of that in a moment.

22 But again, you see the
23 challenges, right? Coming out of the
24 past few years where quite frankly
25 police haven't been the most popular

1 profession, right. And so, that has
2 started to shift slightly coming out
3 of civil unrest and just some trying
4 times.

5 And to be quite blunt, some of
6 the issues and challenges that our
7 women face every day makes it a
8 little bit of a challenge to entice
9 more people to come into this
10 profession. And again, not just
11 something Philadelphians are
12 experiencing, but it's something that
13 I think you've seen across the
14 country.

15 With all that being said,
16 we're working with every entity that
17 we possibly can to try to entice more
18 individuals. I even see when we put
19 out the postings for open
20 recruitment, you, yourself, will
21 tweet out some of that information.
22 And again, I would encourage every
23 Councilmember to do the same because
24 this is an us problem, right, in
25 trying to make sure that we recruit

1 enough individuals to police our City
2 in a safe as possible manner.

3 With that being said, I'll
4 turn it over to Deputy Dahl-Campbell
5 to go into some more specifics as to
6 what our Recruitment Unit is doing in
7 an effort to try to capture more
8 individuals into this profession and
9 wanting to join, specifically
10 Philadelphia Police Department.

11 Deputy Dahl-Campbell.

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DAHL-
13 CAMPBELL: Good afternoon. Thank you
14 for the question. Not to reiterate
15 what the First Deputy just said, but
16 we appreciate whenever we have
17 support, especially from City Council
18 for retweeting or putting out the
19 information for when we have our
20 hiring drives.

21 We've been working hard.
22 We've changed some personnel at
23 recruitment with the intention of
24 just looking to reinvigorate and have
25 some of our most dynamic folks in

1 that unit to look to make sure that
2 we can bring in more interested
3 parties. So we're focused on having
4 more people apply, so that is part of
5 our marketing campaign which Director
6 Battle-Murillo can speak to. But we
7 do have a media and marketing
8 campaign that we're working to get
9 started. We've selected and have a
10 contract out, but we're looking to
11 get that started.

12 To speak to Councilman Thomas'
13 point, making sure we're on social
14 media, that we are in television and
15 that we're attracting individuals,
16 billboards as well. So making sure
17 we have more people apply. And then
18 we're looking to have applicant
19 tracking software within this
20 calendar year to be able to track our
21 folks and make more contact with
22 them.

23 The Recruitment Unit now has
24 increased engagement so they reach
25 out via email to all individuals that

1 apply to make sure that they know
2 they are, in fact, in our pipeline
3 and that we absolutely want them to
4 join our department. So we want to
5 get them from the application process
6 to come out to our open house. And
7 from there, they have to go through a
8 physical and also a reading
9 comprehension test.

10 So the Recruit and Background
11 Unit has looked to engage and have
12 links for individuals to practice
13 different tests to help prepare them
14 for the reading exam as well as they
15 offer dates and times to meet to help
16 prepare them if they're struggling
17 for the physical portion of it, so
18 that we can get people as prepared as
19 possible and we can get them past
20 that. And the more applicants and
21 the more folks that will get through
22 that process, ultimately the more
23 people we can have start our police
24 academy.

25 So we currently have 63

1 recruits in the police academy. We
2 are looking to have an open drive
3 again in May and another class starts
4 in June. So recruitment is
5 definitely something that we're
6 focused on and are looking to
7 continually increase our numbers.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

9 Okay. You referenced the Academy.
10 So I read a document that talked
11 about given the restraints, so to
12 speak, of the Academy if you were in
13 a position to recruit and you're
14 saying 63, what's the capacity? Is
15 it like 100 or what's the capacity of
16 the Academy?

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DAHL-

18 CAMPBELL: Absolutely. We can have
19 over 100 in there at any given time.
20 It's just getting classes together.
21 The last several classes have been in
22 the 30s because we don't want to hold
23 up a class either to wait for more
24 candidates. So we want to be able to
25 get people through and not have them

1 wait. We don't want to lose them in
2 the process. But we do have the
3 capacity to train more.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
5 right. So that's not the issue
6 because I was told that even if we
7 matched out on the capacity in terms
8 of the Academy given the attrition
9 and given being poached by other
10 townships, we still wouldn't keep
11 pace with the need.

12 So on the backside of the
13 earlier question, what do you think
14 we need to do to keep our police
15 officers here once we get them
16 because we got this double-edged
17 sword, we're not getting enough
18 coming in, and when we do get them
19 coming in, they leave for different
20 reasons?

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DAHL-
22 CAMPBELL: Council President, you
23 know, that's a very good question and
24 one we've been definitely discussing
25 amongst ourselves. One of the things

1 we wanted to focus on that
2 Commissioner Outlaw definitely wants
3 to focus on is the health and
4 wellness of the men and women that
5 work for the department.

6 So we want to expand our
7 health and wellness. We have our
8 employee assistance program. We're
9 looking to have a more robust peer
10 support program and we're looking at
11 different things that townships have
12 that may be enticing our folks. So a
13 lot of townships work an alternate
14 schedule where they work 10- and
15 12-hour days, which gives them more
16 time off.

17 Policing is a stressful job,
18 so to be able to have time away to
19 decompress, that interests a lot of
20 officers that we've talked to. So we
21 recently had a study that we put out
22 department-wide to see if there would
23 be interest in an alternate schedule
24 for us to pilot in a division to see
25 how it would work. But we want to

1 look at those types of programs to
2 see if that would help officers keep
3 health and wellness and keep morale
4 up, and that will compete with some
5 of what the outside departments in
6 the area are doing.

7 It's difficult for us to
8 compete with the salary of some of
9 the smaller townships. They max out
10 at -- like Bensalem maxes out I
11 believe at 137, which is far above
12 what we max out at. But it's a
13 smaller department. It's a different
14 type of police department, so it's
15 hard for us to compete with that
16 salary, but we could compete in other
17 ways, which is we want to make sure
18 that we continue to showcase the
19 things that we do have, which is the
20 ability to move up in this
21 department. You can test and become
22 a supervisor. And a lot of other
23 locations that's difficult to do.

24 We also have a wide variety of
25 units. So if you're interested in

1 being a K-9 officer or working in
2 Crime Scene Unit or a vast variety of
3 other locations, we have that ability
4 here. So to make sure we sell all
5 the things that this department does
6 have. It's a great job, so we just
7 want to make sure that the men and
8 women on this job know the different
9 things that they have available to
10 them as well as looking to as I said
11 have a more robust health and
12 wellness unit and also look at things
13 like schedule to see if that would
14 help keep officers from looking at
15 other departments and staying with
16 us.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

18 Okay. So I'm going to ask this
19 question and I know the answer is
20 going to be both. To some degree
21 limited resources but I always
22 believe if you really want to do
23 something, you can find the money.
24 Should we focus more on recruitment
25 or should we focus more on retention

1 or should we try to do both equally,
2 understanding you have a set level of
3 resources?

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DAHL -

5 CAMPBELL: I mean, honestly I do
6 think we can do both. I think with
7 this new marketing strategy and the
8 money and energy that the City's
9 investing, I think that that will
10 really help with recruitment. And
11 then we have to focus on health and
12 wellness and our officers to deal
13 with retention, so I really do
14 believe if we focus on those areas.

15 We also heard that we're going
16 to have the funding to be able to do
17 the police cadet program. And I
18 really think that will help as well.
19 If we are able to have that program
20 to be an in-between our police
21 explorers and the age you have to be
22 just a little over 20 to be able to
23 start the Academy so that you're 21
24 when you graduate, to be able to have
25 that stopgap at that time, where we

1 could have them employed and working
2 and we don't lose them to another
3 entity, whether it be a different
4 career, a township or the military to
5 try to keep them. So I think these
6 different initiatives that we're
7 looking into executing can actually
8 help with both.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

10 Thank you. Thank you, Deputy.

11 First Deputy Stanford, can you
12 forward to us, and I know that you
13 all are involved in terms of camera
14 placement across the City of
15 Philadelphia, a grid that shows where
16 the cameras, particularly the
17 realtime cameras that go to the DVIC
18 across the City of Philadelphia?

19 And I'm just trying to get a
20 sense -- and obviously, I represent
21 the 22nd Police District that
22 continues to be in that top three
23 unfortunately. But I don't see the
24 level of camera deployment that I'm
25 seeing in other parts of the City, so

1 I would like to see the statistics on
2 where these programs are deployed
3 across the City of Philadelphia.

4 And I don't think it's a
5 secret. You can see them. They're
6 visible. I'm just trying to make
7 sure we got an equal distribution and
8 based on crime stats and based on
9 challenges that we have in those
10 areas.

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:

12 Yes, sir, we can provide that
13 information. Typically we try to
14 look at placing cameras in the areas
15 that mirror our Pinpoint locations
16 and Pinpoint grids. There's where we
17 have the some of the violent areas.
18 But I'll get that information to you
19 as to the specific locations that we
20 have.

21 We have a total of City
22 cameras themselves, City feeds, 1648
23 feeds that are coming in addition to
24 SEPTA, some of our other partners,
25 UPenn, where we have access to

1 multiple different cameras throughout
2 the City, but we can get that
3 information to you.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

5 Thank you. I appreciate that. Okay.
6 I'm going to relinquish the mic for a
7 moment.

8 Chair recognizes Councilwoman
9 Lozada.

10 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Yeah.
11 Good afternoon. Thank you so much
12 for your testimony. I have several
13 questions. We have heard over the
14 last few weeks from different people,
15 including the District Attorney, I
16 believe it was last week or right
17 before the break. And as you know, I
18 mean I think I've had the
19 conversation with you, I've had the
20 conversation with Commissioner Outlaw
21 about the fact that we are losing
22 businesses in our community as a
23 result of retail theft.

24 The District Attorney in his
25 testimony mentioned that part of the

1 issues that we are experiencing is
2 the fact that the police department
3 isn't make arrests. That's
4 concerning to us because places like
5 pharmacies and small convenient
6 stores, Family Dollars, Dollar
7 Generals in our community are
8 essential to community seniors,
9 single moms, people that don't have
10 the capacity or ability to be able to
11 drive from Point A to Point B, and
12 many of them are leaving. That means
13 that jobs are also leaving our
14 community.

15 And so, can you tell us if
16 this is accurate, right, or is retail
17 theft something that police ignore?
18 If it is not, what is the number of
19 arrests that were made as it relates
20 to retail theft in 2022 and compared
21 to 2023? And what is the -- I'm
22 going to ask all of my questions now,
23 and then you can kind of figure out
24 how we -- because they're a little
25 bit all over the place.

1 You guys also in the
2 Kensington footprint created a
3 strategy that you all refer to as
4 Pinpoint. Can you give us an update
5 on the successes and challenges of
6 Pinpoint, specifically in the
7 Kensington area in the 24th, 25th
8 areas?

9 And then if I still have time
10 and if I don't, that's fine, I can
11 take it to the second round, but can
12 you take me through the process of
13 when an officer witnesses someone
14 injecting themselves with a needle
15 what happens, where do you take them,
16 where do you go?

17 And of course I asked that
18 because of the whole opioid epidemic
19 crisis that we are experiencing in
20 our neighborhood, right, community
21 residents are frustrated and
22 concerned because these things are
23 against the law, right.

24 It is illegal to be in
25 possession of an illegal substance.

1 It is illegal to inject yourself or
2 use an illegal substance in the
3 community. And often times the
4 perception is that it is being
5 ignored by officers that are within
6 viewing distance of the activity.

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:

8 Good afternoon, ma'am. So I'll start
9 with your retail theft question and
10 I'm going to shift it over to Deputy
11 Commissioner Frank Vanore. But just
12 to give you some background, retail
13 theft for 2022, we have 1,532
14 arrests. So far for 2023, 461.

15 But again, I'm going to let
16 Deputy Vanore into the details as to
17 what happens with those retail
18 arrests and that process.

19 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
20 you.

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER VANORE:

22 Good afternoon, Councilwoman. I just
23 want to clear up a couple of
24 misunderstandings I think that are
25 out there when it comes to retail

1 theft and what the police do. So our
2 policy and the state statute kind of
3 mirror each other.

4 So when the first offense is
5 had and it's less than \$150, that
6 turns out to be a summary offense.
7 If there's a second offense and it's
8 under \$150, meaning the same person
9 is arrested again for retail theft,
10 that raises it up in the state
11 statute and in our policy to a
12 misdemeanor to second degree.

13 And then it steps up the first
14 or the second. If it's over 150,
15 that then becomes a misdemeanor of
16 the first degree. And the third
17 regardless of the value is a felony
18 of the third degree. If it involves
19 a firearm or a motor vehicle, it's
20 automatically a felony of the third
21 degree.

22 So when my detectives get a
23 retail theft when an officer brings
24 someone in for retail theft, the
25 first thing they have to do to tell

1 if any of those things are happening
2 is we fingerprint and photograph the
3 person. If it's turns out to be \$150
4 and it's a first offense, it should
5 be a summary handed down to them.
6 And then anything following that, we
7 type up our arrest report to say this
8 should be a misdemeanor.

9 Now, what's happening on the
10 other end is anything because of the
11 policy that occurs now in the current
12 administration in the DA's Office,
13 anything under \$500 gets
14 automatically sent back as a case
15 that it's downgraded to a summary.
16 So that person and there are examples
17 of people that are arrested 60-plus
18 times. If they kept it under \$500,
19 meaning they stole something worth
20 \$200 multiple times, that's always a
21 summary offense. And they
22 immediately get that sent over to our
23 booking station, they sign and they
24 leave the station.

25 The frustration is some of

1 those same people return to the same
2 business within a few short hours and
3 are re-offend, so I know we're in a
4 process in Center City of trying to
5 interdict this working with the DA's
6 Office to try to identify those
7 prolific offenders and try to add
8 cases together so that we can bump
9 those to at least a misdemeanor, so
10 we can have some court jurisdiction
11 over this.

12 Just to give you some idea,
13 out of the 1532 that Deputy Stanford
14 spoke about, 74 percent of them in
15 2022 were downgraded to summary
16 offenses. And so far this year we've
17 had about 461 and about 319 of them
18 were downgraded. So that is
19 something that is out of our hands.
20 We cannot do anything about it. The
21 officers are arresting when it's
22 applicable. We are investigating and
23 we are guided by the charging
24 procedures that occur.

25 I'll turn things back over to

1 Deputy Stanford to explain what's
2 going on in the narcotic angle.

3 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:

4 Thank you. And so, as it relates to
5 Operation Pinpoint, so as you know
6 earlier in the year we redeployed
7 focusing on four core areas that
8 represent 43 percent of the violent
9 crime in the area. And,
10 Councilperson Lozada, as you said the
11 24th and 25th Districts were two of
12 those districts that were included in
13 that process.

14 So far this year we've seen a
15 33 percent in homicides in the 24th
16 District and an 8 percent decrease in
17 homicides in 25th District. And as
18 far as shootings, we have seen a 47
19 percent increase in shootings in the
20 24th District, an 11 percent increase
21 in shootings in the 25th which again
22 they're slightly up 6 more shootings
23 than what they had this time last
24 year. But overall the Division
25 itself in East is down 16 percent in

1 homicides, down 22 percent in
2 shooting incidents and down 27
3 percent in shooting victims.

4 So certainty, our presence
5 there is having an impact. Again,
6 you can't have a victory parade at
7 this point of the year. But we are
8 confident that we're moving in a
9 positive direction to see some of
10 those numbers continue to drive down.
11 As it relates to narcotics arrest in
12 those areas as well, they're up 102
13 percent with narcotic arrests for
14 buyers in that area and up 35 percent
15 for sellers in that area. So it's a
16 lot of work being done to combat the
17 gun violence and the drug issue
18 that's occurring, particularly in
19 East Division as we see it right now.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
21 Councilwoman --

22 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: I
23 appreciate that. Thank you so much
24 just one more follow-up question: As
25 a whole, can you tell me how many

1 arrests as a whole in the City were
2 made in 2022 compared to 2023? How
3 many of them were charged and how
4 many (inaudible) have there been?

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:

6 Again, I'll tap to Frank. I don't
7 know if you have readily available in
8 front of you, overall arrests. If
9 not, we can get that to you.

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER VANORE:

11 Yeah. That's something that I would
12 have to research through our booking
13 system and our court system, but I
14 can certainly provide that.

15 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: I think
16 it's important to know, right. We
17 continue to hear a narrative of
18 police is not arresting, police is
19 present but they're ignoring what is
20 happening on the ground. It's
21 important for us to be able to stop
22 pointing the finger. We need to come
23 together and figure out how do we
24 bring relief to the City, and in my
25 case to the community that sees you

1 all there but don't believe that the
2 work is happening.

3 And so, I'd like to know how
4 many arrests are happening in my
5 District compared to other
6 neighborhoods? And if you guys are
7 doing the work, then how many of
8 those arrests are being declined when
9 they get to the charging unit?

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:
11 We will get that information for you,
12 ma'am.

13 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
14 you.

15 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:
16 And just to follow up on your other
17 question regarding if someone is
18 utilizing narcotics when we arrive,
19 again it can go in two directions.
20 Either we call for a medic unit as
21 that person may be in need of some
22 type of medical attention and the
23 other would be arrest.

24 And so, I'm told that if the
25 needle itself is the only narcotic

1 that they have on them, then the
2 process that we are faced with at
3 this point is that the contents of
4 the needle have to be tested prior to
5 them being charged with anything. If
6 they are in possession with other
7 narcotics, then they will be
8 processed in the regular way in terms
9 of a narcotic possession. So just to
10 give you that answer as well.

11 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Yeah.
12 But I think we need to figure out how
13 we bring commonsense back into the
14 game, right. You know that if you're
15 sitting on Kensington Avenue, you're
16 sitting on the step or you're sitting
17 at the train station where there are
18 another 60 or 70 people leaning over,
19 they are not ingesting anything else
20 other than an illegal substance. And
21 so, how do we figure this out.

22 We have to do something
23 different than what we've done in the
24 past. The Kensington, Harrowgate
25 community deserve that and we need to

1 continue to fight and push for it and
2 I know that it's frustrating. But
3 we're going to have to continue to
4 ask those questions until someone
5 understands that there has to be a
6 different process and that we have to
7 work together as public safety and
8 representatives of people.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

10 Thank you. Thank you, Councilwoman.

11 Deputy, before I call on
12 Councilwoman Vaughn, do you have
13 those similar statistics for 27th?
14 You referenced the 24th and 25th in
15 terms of reduction.

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:

17 I do. In terms of the 22nd District
18 being one of the Pinpoint areas,
19 we've done some extensive focus on,
20 as far as homicides we're down 11
21 percent in the 22nd District and
22 shootings down 18 percent. So again,
23 that has been one of the four places
24 that we have put some additional
25 resources and have put some

1 additional focus in trying to combat
2 some of the gun violence.

3 So again, too early to
4 celebrate and still too many lives
5 being lost and too many lives being
6 impacted again to have that mindset.
7 But it's just a matter of again we
8 see that we're moving in a positive
9 direction, and that's what we'll
10 continue to do.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

12 Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Deputy.

13 Chair recognizes Councilwoman
14 Vaughn.

15 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

16 RICHARDSON: CP --

17 COUNCILWOMAN VAUGHN: Good
18 afternoon --

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

20 Councilwoman --

21 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

22 RICHARDSON: I apologize to
23 Councilmember Vaughn. I'm willing to
24 acquiesce to Councilmember Vaughn,
25 but I was first in the queue for PPD,

1 so if I can be recognized after
2 Councilmember Vaughn.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Yeah. Okay.

5 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

6 RICHARDSON: Thank you.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
8 right. No problem. It wasn't my
9 fault. But, no, all right. We'll
10 correct that.

11 Councilwoman Vaughn.

12 COUNCILWOMAN VAUGHN: Oh, am I
13 on or is --

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

15 You're on, yes.

16 COUNCILWOMAN VAUGHN: Okay.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

18 Councilwoman Gilmore Richardson, you
19 know --

20 COUNCILWOMAN VAUGHN: Okay.

21 Thank you. Thank you very much and
22 good afternoon everyone. As you all
23 know, Jimmy, Lozada and myself are
24 very much interested in what's going
25 to happen with this opioid situation.

1 But my question is who is responsible
2 to remove or assume custody of a
3 homeless person who poses a threat to
4 themselves or others?

5 My office recently had to deal
6 with a constituent in West
7 Philadelphia who was reported to be
8 homeless and living across the street
9 on a vacant property on the porch.
10 He is defecating on the property,
11 urinating in empty bottles and
12 throwing them around the neighborhood
13 which of course is causing a
14 horrendous smell on the block. This
15 is going to get worse as it gets
16 warmer. And they have called the
17 police and reported him to 311 on
18 numerous occasions, only to be told
19 there is nothing they can do about
20 it.

21 The man's brother lives on the
22 block and threw him out because of
23 his behavior. But because no one can
24 enforce him to get help, he continues
25 to stay around the neighborhood which

1 is causing a lot of frustration for
2 the neighbors when he tries to get
3 rid of his feces and things like
4 that.

5 We just need to be able to
6 tell this person that some relief is
7 on the way and where it is coming
8 from.

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:

10 Good afternoon, ma'am. I'm going
11 to -- we implemented a Behavioral
12 Health Unit. The end of last year we
13 were working in that. And we have
14 Chief Inspector Mike Cram is on who
15 has been very instrumental in putting
16 together that unit and working
17 tirelessly to get it off the ground
18 earlier this year. So I'm going to
19 flip it over to him to give some
20 background information on some of
21 those types of incidents that they
22 have already experienced and what
23 they have done.

24 Chief Cram.

25 MR. CRAM: Thank you, sir.

1 Good afternoon, Council. Chief
2 Inspector Mike Cram. I run our
3 Special Operations Bureau. So we
4 started the Behavioral Health Unit
5 about a little over two years ago.
6 We started it as a pilot program in
7 East Division.

8 And basically what it did is
9 it's part police officers and mental
10 health clinicians in the car. We
11 expanded it in December where it
12 became a formalized unit. So now we
13 started small, right. It's still
14 kind of in experimental mode. We
15 started in December and we have four
16 teams generally out there on day work
17 patrol, consisting of two police
18 officers and a mental health
19 clinician. And they're also follow-
20 up teams too.

21 So while we'll do the initial
22 engagement through our partners at
23 Merakey, Elwyn and Department of
24 Behavioral Health and then we'll send
25 follow-up teams up to make sure that

1 individuals are getting treatment.
2 On top of that we also expanded the
3 Police-Assisted Diversion, which was
4 real small in East Division. It just
5 went citywide as of last week.

6 So for cases like this,
7 Councilwoman, now if you can just
8 give me the address, what I'll do is
9 I'll send a behavioral health team
10 out there. They'll make contact with
11 the man and work on getting help for
12 him. We just did one up in Olney on
13 Monday. It was a tip we got on
14 Sunday. And by Monday morning, we
15 had already gotten the individual
16 into some treatment.

17 And the best part about this
18 is we do the follow-up, right. So
19 it's just not a fire and forget
20 thing. It's these teams will
21 constantly stay in contact with the
22 individual, help him, help the
23 family. You name it. It's a
24 one-stop shop with our partners. So
25 you can just throw it in the chat or

1 email it to me and I will take care
2 of that.

3 COUNCILWOMAN VAUGHN: Thank
4 you. And --

5 MR. CRAM: Overall just in
6 these short couple of months that
7 they've been in existence, a little
8 over 90 days, already 276 contacts
9 where they're helping people get into
10 treatment and just get into services,
11 get into drug and alcohol treatment.
12 So it's been a really great endeavor,
13 yes.

14 COUNCILWOMAN VAUGHN:
15 Wonderful. All right. Just give me
16 your email address.

17 MR. CRAM: I will, ma'am.
18 I'll throw it in the chat, if that's
19 okay?

20 COUNCILWOMAN VAUGHN: Okay. I
21 don't think we can put information in
22 the chat. Just --

23 MR. CRAM: I'm email you
24 directly then.

25 COUNCILWOMAN VAUGHN: Okay.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. CRAM: You're welcome.

3 And pending any further questions,

4 I'm on here if you need me, sir.

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:

6 Thanks, Mike. Appreciate you.

7 MR. CRAM: No problem.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

9 Thank you.

10 Chair recognizes Councilwoman

11 Gilmore Richardson. Sorry,

12 Councilwoman.

13 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

14 RICHARDSON: Thank you, Council

15 President. And no problem.

16 Appreciate it. Thank you so much.

17 And thank you, First Deputy

18 Stanford, for your work. I remember

19 working with you back to your 19th

20 District days when you were our

21 captain in the 19th, and just thank

22 you to your team particularly, and

23 I'm not going to name names, but

24 particularly Dales who has really

25 worked very closely with us over the

1 last three years on a number of
2 initiatives.

3 I really don't know what I
4 would personally do without Dales. I
5 have to give him a special shout-out,
6 and also to the old captains and
7 welcome all the new captains, but
8 particularly in the 17th, the 19th
9 and the 22nd because I was able to do
10 ride-alongs in those areas between
11 the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m.
12 And they were certainly very, very
13 helpful for some of the legislation
14 that I worked on.

15 You all know that I care
16 deeply about the enforcement around
17 the drug paraphernalia stores that
18 have popped up in this City, and I
19 have several questions regarding
20 those locations and how we can better
21 sort of rearrange staffing to ensure
22 that the police department has a
23 complement as a part of the Nuisance
24 Business Task Force.

25 But in addition to that, I

1 wanted to talk about the curfew.
2 Now, recognizing some of the
3 incidents that we faced over the last
4 couple of weeks did not happen during
5 the time of the curfews, I want to be
6 very clear that I am aware of that
7 and I recognize that, but I am
8 getting inundated, inundated with
9 calls, social media posts, text
10 messages, people stopping me in the
11 street regarding curfew enforcement
12 in the City of Philadelphia.

13 So I wanted to know if you
14 could talk about what the police
15 department's overall strategy is that
16 you can publicly discuss relative to
17 curfew enforcement. How are you
18 always enforcing the curfew, how are
19 you all collaborating with DHS and
20 with the Community Evening Resource
21 Centers to sort of take a
22 preventative approach to curfew
23 enforcement, how are you all training
24 the police officers to interact with
25 young people and what is the plan

1 from your department's perspective to
2 address the typical uptick of sort of
3 I'll call it nuisance behaviors that
4 we see when school is out for the
5 summer, and particularly around those
6 incidents that we saw over the last
7 couple of weeks because we do a
8 remedy in place?

9 There's four CERC centers open
10 in four different police divisions
11 with two additional centers slated to
12 open in the last two police
13 divisions. So I really wanted to
14 focus in and hone in on curfews
15 specifically, and if you can give us
16 data and information on this hearing
17 regarding the enforcement.

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:
19 Good afternoon, ma'am. So for
20 curfews for 2022 -- first, thank you
21 for acknowledging our personnel and
22 the work that they are doing. It's
23 greatly appreciated. As it relates
24 to 2022 with our curfews we were
25 2,174 for the City, which was 177

1 increase from 2021.

2 And then so far this year,
3 we're at 535 curfews which is up 2
4 percent from this time last year, so
5 it's definitely something that we are
6 continuing to enforce and to instruct
7 our men and women when curfews apply
8 to enforce that, even so much as now
9 with the increase in some of the
10 centers that gives us the ability to
11 be able to have an additional
12 resource available as opposed to if
13 their parents are not available or if
14 we aren't able to transport home or
15 no one is home, it gives us the
16 ability to now take them some place
17 that's safe and that would offer the
18 resources that in many times many of
19 the young people need.

20 As it relates to what we are
21 trying to do, we've met with the DA's
22 Office around juveniles. We met
23 Deputy Mayor Vanessa Garrett Harley
24 and her team a few weeks ago and we
25 will again be looking to do some

1 additional meetings. My office
2 reached out to NOMO and YEAH Philly
3 in order to again bring in the
4 juvenile perspective. Sometimes
5 that's often left out.

6 When we as City officials try
7 to bring resolutions to some of these
8 issues, sometimes we forget the
9 people that are a part of the issue
10 itself. And so, that's going to be
11 an effort to bring them to the table
12 as well as getting out the
13 information around our Police
14 Athletic Leagues. The Explorers
15 program, we just did the summer
16 kickoff for the City, highlighting
17 all of those different resources.

18 And you brought up a point on
19 the first session that was really
20 good in the sense of making sure that
21 we are aware, not just that the
22 public is aware, but that we as
23 police officials and as City
24 government employees are aware of all
25 of the resources that we have

1 available in our City.

2 And so, as a part of that push
3 we will be inviting Deputy Mayor
4 Garrett Harley and her team to a
5 meeting with our commanders so that
6 our commanders know what these
7 programs are, how they are offered so
8 that information can be pushed down
9 to their lieutenants, sergeants and
10 officers that are out on the street.

11 So that's just some of the
12 things that we're working to do.
13 We're also looking at overall --
14 again, when you look at the City, you
15 have as far as juveniles and youth
16 about 350,000 juveniles in the City.
17 And in that age group that we see
18 some of the issues is usually between
19 that 12 and 17 years of age which
20 makes up about 117,000 young people.

21 So when you get down to this,
22 looking at when you have 200, 300,
23 400 juveniles collectively at any
24 part throughout our City, it's really
25 less than a half percent, really less

1 than a quarter of percent of all of
2 the juveniles in that age group are
3 in a location and perhaps getting
4 involved in activity they shouldn't
5 be.

6 The question is are they
7 involved in, engaged in criminal
8 activity, are they involved in this
9 nuisance behavior. And so, for us
10 it's identifying the difference
11 between the two as well as looking at
12 again those individuals that are part
13 of violent crime, that's the issue
14 that we need to use a forceful hand
15 in terms of being able to have a firm
16 hand, not a forceful, but a firm hand
17 of being able to collaborate with our
18 enforcement team, working with the
19 probation department, seeing if there
20 are any additional warrants that are
21 pending, those type of things to
22 ensure that we're getting the kids
23 off the street that are involved in
24 the carjackings, the shootings.
25 That's one issue.

1 The kids that need some place
2 to go, need something to do, well,
3 that's another issue. And to me
4 addressing those issues are very
5 different. And so, many of those
6 kids, making sure they have the
7 resources and are aware of them. And
8 then if there's a situation where we
9 insist to get them there, then we
10 will.

11 There are also -- at some
12 point we probably need to have more
13 of a conversation as to police's
14 involvement and role, because the
15 fear that often places among our men
16 and women is engaging some of these
17 young people, right, and having a
18 situation go bad as a result of a
19 curfew. And so, I think it's having
20 more of that conversation as to what
21 is the long-term strategy and policy
22 for not just this department, but
23 this City as it relates to juveniles
24 I think is key, especially in this
25 time where so many things happen in

1 an instance and it's not intended to
2 be that way. But the outcome still
3 can be very bad, right.

4 And so, we're trying to still
5 enforce curfews where we can, but
6 also being mindful that sometimes it
7 may not be the easiest of processes
8 when you involve juveniles and some
9 of our officers. And so, we are
10 trying to increase training in that
11 area of dealing with juveniles just
12 to make that process a little
13 smoother.

14 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

15 RICHARDSON: Okay. Well, I
16 appreciate the response. I just want
17 to be very clear that with the recent
18 staffing changes that have occurred
19 my team has sent out a letter to
20 every single new captain and those
21 that remain regarding the Community
22 Evening Resource Centers so we can
23 get the word out, because we know
24 young people can go there voluntarily
25 and some will go there involuntarily

1 if they're in violation of the
2 curfew.

3 But I do think to your point
4 it's important to talk to the other
5 organizations, like you mentioned
6 NOMO and YEAH Philly, and if it's an
7 opportunity for us to support
8 organizations like that to sort of
9 maybe expand their hours so that they
10 could also take in the young people.
11 I think we need to sort of be aware
12 of the folks that you all partner
13 with in certain divisions so that we
14 understand how to resource that work
15 because they could be another spot in
16 addition to a PAL center or a rec
17 center or a CERC center to take a
18 young person.

19 The difference with the CERC
20 center is that there's transportation
21 to take the young people home and
22 they're open until 2:00 a.m. And so,
23 I really want to underscore the fact
24 that we will now have six, because
25 the complaint we heard last year, the

1 year before was that you don't have a
2 CERC center in every single division,
3 so we can't expect an officer to come
4 down from let's just say to the 35th
5 all the way down to the 19th or the
6 18th, right. So now, we've addressed
7 that issue. We'll have six up and
8 running, one in every single police
9 division so it's not far.

10 But I just need to understand
11 sort of the commitment around the
12 enforcement of this and ensuring that
13 the young people get there. I'm
14 going to honor the clock and I'll
15 circle back on Round 2 relative to
16 the drug paraphernalia stores and the
17 Nuisance Business Task Force. Thank
18 you.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

20 Thank you, Councilwoman.

21 Chair recognizes Councilwoman
22 Gauthier.

23 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
24 you, Council President.

25 I have some questions around

1 forensics. Several months ago under
2 the leadership of Majority Leader
3 Jones several of us went to visit the
4 City's forensics lab to learn about
5 what happens there on a day-to-day
6 basis, and it was really fascinating
7 to understand what happens at the lab
8 and also to hear about how we have an
9 esteemed in a highly skilled
10 operation nationally, but it also
11 came through really clearly that we
12 don't have the capacity that we need.

13 And I could be misremembering,
14 but I think it was said that we're
15 able to handle -- we have about a
16 third of the capacity that we would
17 really need in terms of being able to
18 bring forensics technology to our
19 ability to clear more of these cases.

20 And so, regarding the
21 improvements to be made to the Office
22 of Forensic Science, can you detail
23 the timeline for the opening of the
24 new forensics lab as well as the
25 hiring of the 49 budgeted-civilian

1 positions within the Office of
2 Forensic Science? And can you talk
3 about how the proposed allocation for
4 FY24 will decrease the current
5 forensic backlog and help us to clear
6 more cases in the City?

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:

8 Yes, ma'am. Good afternoon. I am
9 going to call on Director Mike Garvey
10 as he has been working again
11 tirelessly to try to move all those
12 things forward with the Office of
13 Forensic Science.

14 So, Mike, jump right on in
15 please.

16 MR. GARVEY: Absolutely, sir.
17 Great questions. And you were spot-
18 on with everything you learned during
19 our tour. We are currently about
20 one-third of the size that we need
21 based on the volume coming in. We
22 are one of the most high-end labs in
23 our country in terms of the volume of
24 cases we put out.

25 So the question obviously is

1 clearly how do we meet the need
2 that's coming in. We are currently
3 working with Public Property right
4 now. Hopefully within the next
5 several weeks they will put out the
6 RFP for the new building. Based on
7 the responses to that RFP, we will
8 know what type of building are they
9 going to choose. Will it be one that
10 we're going to build ground up. Is
11 it going to be one that we're going
12 to move into.

13 Once we know that answer, then
14 we'll actually be able to answer the
15 other question, which is how long
16 will this take. Obviously, if it's
17 something that we can move into
18 faster, we get in more quickly. If
19 it's something we have to build
20 ground up, that's going to take more
21 time. However, what we are doing
22 with some of the \$25 million grant
23 not only are we doing the 48 hires
24 right now, actively hiring right now
25 because we have that room in our

1 current building, so we have been
2 posting several jobs over the last
3 couple months.

4 We will continue over the next
5 several months doing two things:
6 One, try to get qualified forensic
7 scientists from another laboratory to
8 move here. That's a bigger
9 challenge, but that's the preferable
10 one because then we don't have to
11 spend one to two years training the
12 person to be an expert. Where we
13 cannot hire someone who's already
14 qualified, we will be hiring new
15 trainees, people right out of
16 college, who will take about a year
17 or two to train.

18 What we are looking at is as
19 we're hiring the people that we can
20 fit in here is how do we make the
21 best use of that \$25 million grant
22 which is planning for an extra 100 to
23 120 new people once we get into the
24 new building. We obviously have to
25 balance people and space, but we are

1 looking at plans knowing that our
2 training program takes one to two
3 years. Can we find space where we
4 can begin to hire those extra hundred
5 people, put them through the training
6 program so that when we're closer to
7 the new building, we would be able to
8 move in and not have to start from
9 scratch then. So those are the
10 current plans where we're at. We
11 will know much more once the RFP goes
12 out.

13 In terms of what else we are
14 doing is wherever we can, we're
15 buying technologies that make us be
16 able to speed up our processes. So
17 in some cases where you saw DNA
18 testing where people have to manually
19 transfer DNA from one tube to the
20 next, some of the money from I
21 believe it was FY23 was used to buy
22 automation where rather than a person
23 doing it, we buy an instrument that
24 can transfer things from hundreds of
25 tubes rather than someone doing it

1 one at a time.

2 All of this goes towards the
3 idea of as we can work cases as they
4 come in, we produce leads faster.

5 And the more leads we produce, the
6 more cases we close. And hopefully
7 closing cases before the person
8 commits their third, fourth, fifth
9 crime. Hopefully, I answered all
10 parts of your question. I'm sorry if
11 I missed anything.

12 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
13 you. Just two follow-ups: When you
14 say that we're going to look for
15 people in forensic science from other
16 parts of the country, are there
17 particular areas that we would be
18 looking at because they tend to have
19 more highly-skilled people?

20 And then secondly, I know it
21 might be hard to do. But is there
22 any way to make a prediction on if we
23 are able to expand our capacity, how
24 it would lend to an increase in
25 closed cases?

1 MR. GARVEY: Sure. So Part 1
2 is we are basically -- when we
3 advertise now, we're working with
4 Human Resources to do things that we
5 previously may not have done, which
6 is advertise this across the whole
7 country to every crime lab in the
8 country basically targeting people
9 that may want to move to this general
10 area.

11 If you were in a laboratory
12 right now and you're a good employee,
13 we absolutely want you here now so
14 that we can get our cases worked. So
15 we are actively looking at not just
16 regional, we are targeting them of
17 course, but across the whole country.
18 In terms of what will this do for
19 closing cases, well, basically we can
20 already see over the last five years
21 as we've been trying to increase
22 what's the capacity that we can work,
23 what we've seen is every time we
24 increase the number of cases that
25 we're able to analyze, we increase

1 other things such as people -- which
2 I also have to bring up, someone that
3 may have been excluded. We exclude
4 people earlier, so people that did
5 not do a crime are excluded earlier,
6 but we also see leads for these cases
7 increase. With every productivity we
8 do, the leads increase even more. So
9 this will just keep going if we can
10 work evidence as it comes in.

11 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
12 you so much.

13 MR. GARVEY: You're welcome.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

15 Thank you, Councilwoman.

16 Chair recognizes Councilman
17 Thomas.

18 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
19 afternoon, Council President. Good
20 afternoon, colleagues.

21 Let me take a couple moments
22 before I start just to, first of all,
23 I want to wish Commissioner Outlaw a
24 healthy recovery. We know she was in
25 an accident and our condolences are

1 with her. And I just want to wish
2 her the best, especially getting hurt
3 in the line of duty.

4 I also want to just take a
5 minute to thank of course Inspector
6 Healy who was the person that worked
7 with us throughout the course of the
8 Driving Equality work. Captain
9 Massey who's my captain in the 35th
10 Police District, Deputy Commissioner
11 Dales who I probably call every time
12 I don't have an answer to a question,
13 and then I also want to thank, and if
14 I'm wrong in the title I do
15 apologize, Deputy Commissioner Kelly,
16 who actually joined a very important
17 call that we had earlier this week as
18 it relates to school safety.

19 One of the things that we
20 talked about was bringing together
21 school police, SEPTA, the School
22 District, the School Board along with
23 my office to talk about what can we
24 do to figure out how can we keep
25 young people safe on the way to

1 school between the hours of 7:30 and
2 about 9:00 as well as on the way home
3 from school between the hours of 3:00
4 and 5:00, because we know that as the
5 weather breaks and as we see crime
6 decreasing in every age besides our
7 children, we have to be proactive and
8 innovative as it relates to
9 solutions. So I just want to thank
10 all of those folks involved in the
11 police department for working with my
12 office on a number of different
13 issues and just to let you know that
14 you are very much appreciated.

15 I have a couple questions and
16 I'm hoping to get them all in, in
17 this round. My first question is
18 around Driving Equality. I mentioned
19 Inspector Healy earlier. We were
20 privileged enough to have a working
21 group to come up with the
22 legislation. And one of the things
23 that came with the Driving Equality
24 legislation was legislation that
25 required some level of data to be

1 reported based on traffic stops.

2 When we last spoke, that data
3 was not -- I mean, the technology
4 that was needed to communicate that
5 data was not yet available. I'm
6 wondering where are we with the
7 technology that's needed to be
8 purchased in order to report the data
9 that the driving equality legislation
10 requires?

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:

12 Good afternoon, sir. And thank you
13 for acknowledging our folks for the
14 work they're doing. I'm going to
15 turn this over to Inspector Healy so
16 that he can give you the update as to
17 where we are with --

18 (Background interruption.)

19 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

20 Councilmember Jones, you got to mute
21 yourself.

22 Inspector, I'm sorry.

23 INSPECTOR HEALY: No problem,
24 sir. Thank you, Councilman. You're
25 correct, the issue is the overlay

1 between Driving Equality bill as well
2 as the requirements under the Bailey
3 settlement agreement, that we all
4 capture the same data. The Driving
5 Equality bill required us to capture
6 some additional data. When we first
7 wanted to do this, we were looking to
8 revamp the entire Bailey database,
9 which is called our 75-48A database,
10 and it's really what we want to do in
11 the long run.

12 But what we couldn't do with
13 the existing data management system
14 we have now, it could not absorb the
15 intensity or the breadth of our
16 existing 48A system. So what we did
17 is we made the tweaks that were
18 necessary to accommodate the Driving
19 Equality bill and they were put in
20 place in January of this year. So
21 the data capturing the
22 differentiation between the primary,
23 secondary as well as the type of
24 contraband that's recovered on stops
25 is now in the database.

1 So what I'll do is I'll go
2 back since January, we don't have a
3 lot of data except only from January,
4 but I'll pull what we have and I'll
5 share that with you. And moving
6 forward, we'll share it on a more
7 regular basis. And what we're
8 looking to do is make sure that the
9 Open Philly data that has all the car
10 stop data is updated to include those
11 additional new fields that were
12 required as a result of your bill.
13 So we are collecting the data now.
14 The system was updated.

15 We still need to do it an
16 overhaul, a larger overhaul, but we
17 didn't want to delay captioning the
18 information required under your
19 ordinance. So it's now out there
20 within the 48A system and the
21 officers are required to push in the
22 information as it stands right now.

23 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: That's
24 amazing. Thank you, Inspector Healy.
25 We appreciate it. That's great news.

1 Let me move on to hopefully more good
2 news. We have discussed in other
3 budget hearings the technology that's
4 needed for hit-and-runs and we are
5 aware that you now have that
6 technology.

7 Is there any data that we can
8 report now that we have that
9 technology? When we first looked at
10 hit-and-runs, the data was alarming
11 as it relates to the arrest rate,
12 charge rate, things of that capacity.
13 Now that we have this new technology
14 is there any data that we can point
15 to be able to show the improvements
16 that we've seen in our ability to
17 solve hit-and-runs based on the
18 technology we now have?

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:
20 Yes, sir. I'm going to call Deputy
21 Vanore who oversees the Crash
22 Investigation Division.

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER VANORE:
24 Sure. So thank you, Councilman.
25 Back when Captain Overwise testified

1 about that technology that we wanted
2 to buy, we did purchase it. It cost
3 over \$73,000. And last December all
4 the members of Crash Investigation
5 were trained on the technology. Now,
6 that is a focused laser scanner. It
7 does 2D, 3D crime scenes. It helps
8 us depict exactly what happened in
9 the crash and it helps them in their
10 investigation. It helps them when
11 they collect video, what angles the
12 cars were at.

13 And just so you know, last
14 year alone there were 35 hit-and-run
15 deaths in Philadelphia. And that's
16 28 percent of all our fatal crashes.
17 That's up from '21 and 2020. In '21
18 it was 16 percent. In 2020 it was 20
19 percent. So we're constantly trying
20 to solve these cases. Our solve rate
21 is going over 35 percent right now.
22 They continue to work last year's
23 cases.

24 We often offer a reward in
25 many of those cases with the help of

1 the Managing Director to try to get
2 tips and figure out not only the car
3 involved but who was operating that
4 car so we can make an arrest.

5 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: I thought
6 that's -- look at this, more good
7 news. That's good to hear. Thank
8 you. Very much appreciate it. Let
9 me move into the next phase of my
10 questions. Let's talk about the
11 homicide clearance rate. Clearly, we
12 have significant issues as it relates
13 to homicides and our clearance rate
14 isn't necessarily where we want it to
15 be.

16 Communicate to us what our
17 clearance rate is currently as it
18 relates to homicides, and talk to us
19 a little bit about what is the plan
20 outside of forensics. I know we're
21 investing significantly in forensics.
22 I know we're down a lot of police
23 officers so I'm sure that that's part
24 of some of the issues that we're
25 facing as it relates to our homicide

1 clearance rate. But where are we as
2 it relates to those numbers? And
3 what support systems do you need?

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:

5 So again, I'll bring in Deputy Vanore
6 here. But just so you know, in terms
7 of year-to-date our clearance rate is
8 64 percent which is up from 48
9 percent for this --

10 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Oh, that's
11 up significantly.

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:

13 -- same time last year. Yes, up
14 significantly. And so, Deputy Vanore
15 can speak to some of the work that
16 our homicide investigators are doing
17 to get some of those clearances. But
18 it is trending in a good direction
19 and we hope to continue that process.

20 Deputy Vanore.

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER VANORE:

22 Yes. So, Councilman, in early 2022
23 the Police Commissioner created the
24 Shooting Investigation Group. They
25 handle all the nonfatal shootings.

1 They co-locate with Homicide. So now
2 we got a very large group. It's
3 almost 200 people down in that room
4 who work really an intelligent-led
5 investigative process. And that
6 process is really helping us not only
7 in homicides, but on our nonfatal
8 shootings.

9 A lot of what we're doing, and
10 you've seen it in the media in cases
11 that were highly publicized but we do
12 it all the time in the Roxborough
13 case, in the case of the homicide
14 along South Street, we're not only
15 using forensics and we're not only
16 using our ballistic, our NIBIN
17 technology, we're using all the other
18 technologies that we have available
19 to us that we could delve into,
20 video, cell phone technology and
21 we're putting that together in an
22 investigative process to really in
23 some cases replace the witness.

24 The witness is no longer --
25 it'd be great to have somebody push

1 us in the right direction. Many
2 cases we get a tip. But for the DA
3 to prosecute these cases, he's got to
4 have that case solid whether that
5 witness is available or not. And in
6 many times the way these young
7 investigators are investigating,
8 using technology, using forensics to
9 collaborate everything we have, I
10 think it's helping us increase the
11 clearance rate, it's helping our
12 speed of our investigations. Because
13 as you know, it's not like TV. I
14 mean, the forensics even though
15 Director Garvey said we're pulling it
16 very quickly, it doesn't happen over
17 the course of the commercial like it
18 does on TV. It takes time and it
19 takes a lot of people hours. The men
20 and women in Homicide do everything
21 they can to get to that evidence
22 quickly, submit it so that we could
23 push the investigations forward.

24 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you.
25 I do have three more questions.

1 Council President, do you want me to
2 save it for a second round? I think
3 I heard the bell. I'm not sure.

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Well, if I
6 don't hear anything, let me jump into
7 the fake tag issues. There are a lot
8 of issues that we're seeing as it
9 relates to the fake tags like -- I
10 thought I heard that bell. I'll get
11 this question in real quick and then
12 I'll wait until the next round for
13 the other two.

14 Fake tags, fake license
15 plates, (inaudible) as it relates to
16 that. I'm wondering where we are
17 with addressing the fake license
18 plates. There's no secret that we
19 talked to elected officials up and
20 down the East Coast. We're not the
21 only city that's dealing with the
22 fake license plate, fake tag issue.

23 I'm wondering where are we
24 with that. I know you guys don't
25 have the license plate scanners. I

1 think at one time we were told that
2 it was only -- I don't want to give
3 numbers out, but it wasn't an
4 adequate number. So what's the plan
5 and what are we doing around fake
6 tags and what resources do you need
7 from City Council to aggressively
8 address the fake tag crisis that
9 we're facing not just in
10 Philadelphia, but up and down the
11 East Coast? And then I'll queue in
12 for a second round.

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:

14 So again, Deputy Vanore, I don't know
15 if you want to jump in and provide
16 some of the work that Major Crimes is
17 doing around some of those issues.
18 You certainly can.

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER VANORE:

20 Sure. Our Major Crimes Auto Squad
21 which is really funded by the
22 insurance companies that put together
23 a grant each year, they do everything
24 they can to not only find and cite
25 these individuals, but also if they

1 have a fake tag, train the officers
2 within patrol through their auto
3 squad, they put out a periodic patrol
4 alerts showing them what the tags
5 look like and if they spot this
6 particular tag, it's not legitimate.

7 So it's very difficult because
8 some of them are very good and they
9 would fool the average person. But
10 we do everything we can to not only
11 educate but identify them, and
12 they're plain clothes unit. They're
13 out on the street constantly. I hear
14 them when I'm on my way to work in
15 the very early hours of the morning
16 6:00, 7 o'clock and they're finding
17 those vehicles and identifying them
18 very quickly.

19 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: I'll come
20 back for a second round of questions
21 just around specific number of
22 arrests and things like that related
23 to fake tags.

24 Thank you, Council President.
25 Thank you, colleagues.

1 THE CLERK: The Clerk

2 recognizes Councilman Jones.

3 (No response.)

4 THE CLERK: If not Councilman

5 Jones, Councilman Harrity.

6 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Hello,

7 everyone. How are you?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Can you

10 hear me?

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:

12 I can hear you, Councilman.

13 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Okay.

14 Good. My first question -- hello,

15 Deputy Chief, how are you? My first

16 question is what other recruitment

17 methods is the department using to

18 increase staffing levels? How does

19 officers' pay compare with other

20 cities? And does the department

21 offer any kind of bonuses for new

22 hires?

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:

24 Good afternoon again, Councilman. So

25 before I pitch it over to Deputy

1 Dahl-Campbell, yeah, we do offer a
2 signing bonus of \$2,000 to new
3 recruits. And again, I'll let her
4 get into some of the efforts that we
5 are moving forward with as it relates
6 to recruitment. And even so much as
7 what we've seen around the country
8 comparing some of the dollar amounts
9 that are being offered in terms of
10 pay and benefits and things of that
11 nature.

12 Deputy Dahl-Campbell.

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DAHL-

14 CAMPBELL: Good afternoon,
15 Councilman. So, yes, the Recruitment
16 Unit is looking to engage. Obviously
17 social media is a big factor so we've
18 been reaching targeted zip codes and
19 areas that we haven't had the highest
20 number of applicants come from. So
21 we're trying to reach out to those
22 zip codes more through Facebook ads,
23 Twitter and getting more traction in
24 social media as well as we're going
25 to be starting very shortly a

1 professional LinkedIn just to attract
2 those individuals as well.

3 The Recruitment Unit has made
4 four visits just this fiscal year at
5 HBCU college visits, and we've had
6 increased engagement with applicants,
7 just making sure we have more touch
8 points with them to keep them engaged
9 in our process and bring them on.

10 And in terms of your question on how
11 we relate nationally salary-wise,
12 when it comes to other major cities
13 we're very close.

14 We're around the same as NYPD,
15 LAPD, Dallas, so we're very similar
16 in salary to other large cities.
17 Now, local townships our salary is
18 under theirs. So when we see
19 officers leaving to go to West
20 Chester or Hatfield or Abington, some
21 of those salaries are in fact higher
22 than ours. But nationally, other
23 large local or excuse me other large
24 departments we do have a similar
25 salary.

1 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Yeah.
2 I'm just concerned with these other
3 big cities trying to poach our
4 prospective applicants. You know, I
5 don't know if any of you have seen
6 the billboards on 95 that say become
7 a Miami police officer, starting
8 salary of \$79,000 a year, live on the
9 beach, \$20,000 signing bonus. And we
10 start out in the Academy at what,
11 about 59?

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DAHL -
13 CAMPBELL: Yes.

14 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: They're
15 starting at 79 and they're also
16 giving a \$20,000 signing bonus. I
17 just don't know how we compete with
18 that by giving \$2,000 signing
19 bonuses. I mean, it's a great start
20 and I'm glad to see that we're doing
21 something to try and make it happen.
22 I'd like to see some of those
23 salaries increase and would be happy
24 to talk to you guys about how we make
25 that happen. Like to stay

1 competitive and keep people in the
2 City of Philadelphia, especially our
3 police officers because there's a lot
4 of people in Philadelphia that don't
5 really feel safe anymore, and we need
6 to try to get a handle on that. So I
7 appreciate that.

8 In what areas can the
9 department use civilian employees
10 other than analysts, particularly in
11 like outreach and intervention
12 groups?

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DAHL-
14 CAMPBELL: So I don't know if the
15 First Deputy wants to start to take
16 this to --

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:
18 Yeah, I'll jump in. So in terms of
19 civilian personnel, in terms of we
20 are looking at that within the
21 department, obviously -- and I can
22 tap CSO Norton to explain a little
23 bit more as to the award around
24 civilian personnel, what we can hire,
25 what we have the ability to hire, but

1 we are assessing throughout the
2 department, what places, units where
3 we could utilize professional staff
4 to fill some of those positions or to
5 build out some of those positions
6 where we don't necessarily have to
7 use our resources in the form of
8 uniform personnel.

9 And so, that's something we
10 are looking at. But again, if CSO
11 Norton is on, she can jump in and
12 provide any additional information.

13 MS. NORTON: Thank you very
14 much, First Deputy Stanford. I'm
15 happy to talk a little bit about the
16 recent FOP award that we worked
17 through the collective bargaining
18 process last year in December of 2021
19 and April 2022. The City had
20 notified the FOP of its intent to
21 engage in nonbargaining unit
22 personnel to perform work that had
23 been previously performed by FOP
24 bargaining unit members.

25 We prepared a series of jobs

1 that we thought would be acceptable
2 to the FOP in terms of adding
3 civilian workforce, not replacing
4 officers, and we convened a panel
5 August 25, 2022 to do an interest
6 arbitration hearing, and we won the
7 award on 11/15/2022.

8 And so, what the award allowed
9 us to do was hire certain staff
10 positions with employees that were
11 civilian that could work alongside
12 FOP collective bargaining members.
13 We could free up officers to focus on
14 more public safety tasks, and the
15 arbitration allowed us to add
16 civilians but to not transfer sworn
17 personnel out of the units.

18 The positions that we looked
19 at that were awarded in this
20 collective bargaining process were
21 the body worn camera technicians,
22 forensic positions that Director
23 Garvey (inaudible) specifically. We
24 also looked at the graphic arts
25 department and audio visual in the

1 PPD that's run out of our
2 organizational communications.

3 And, Director Garvey, can I
4 point to you to talk a little bit
5 about the positions that you're
6 currently hiring for that are
7 resulted under this award.

8 MR. GARVEY: Absolutely. So
9 basically when you look at some of
10 the challenges we've had, right, when
11 we're talking about jobs that we
12 cannot fill, four great examples,
13 Crime Scene Unit. Typically Crime
14 Scene works every homicide scene we
15 have. It normally has about 32
16 people to process scenes 365 days per
17 year. As of the end of last year, we
18 were down to about 15, half of the
19 unit. But Crime Scene Unit was
20 traditionally a fully sworn unit.

21 Now, do you need to be sworn
22 to process a crime scene? No. It
23 does not mean that those people are
24 doing the work the wrong way.
25 They're actually doing a very great

1 job. However, when we have shortages
2 everywhere, we couldn't transfer
3 people in. But what we do know is
4 you don't have to be sworn to process
5 crime scenes, so we are now in the
6 process of hiring people that will
7 come in, that will have the right
8 training to process crime scenes.

9 And that way we can keep sworn
10 officers doing roles that only they
11 can do and we can fill jobs that
12 otherwise were going just empty for
13 way too long.

14 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Thank
15 you. That was great. I appreciate
16 that.

17 MR. GARVEY: You're welcome.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: Are you
19 done, Member Harrity?

20 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: I am.
21 Thank you.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.
23 Member Lozada, you are up next.

24 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Yes. I
25 just have a really quick follow-up

1 question. We've just spoke a little
2 bit about the shortages. I know that
3 in -- I think every budget cycle the
4 question about IOD is asked. My
5 question is the last time we spoke or
6 the last budget hearings Commissioner
7 Outlaw spoke a little bit about IOD
8 and getting it under control,
9 figuring out who was abusing it and
10 who wasn't it, who really needed to
11 be out on IOD.

12 Can you tell me where we are
13 as it relates to the number of
14 officers that are on IOD, how it
15 impacts police services and the 911
16 response? And before you do that,
17 I'd also like to just send my prayers
18 to Commissioner Outlaw and pray for
19 her quick recovery.

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:
21 Thank you very much, ma'am. So in
22 terms of IOD, we're actually seeing a
23 little bit of a reduction in those
24 numbers. And so, that's a good sign
25 that we have officers that are

1 returning to work. This time last
2 year we were close to 600 officers
3 being out in IOD status. At this
4 point, we're around 378. So again,
5 not the greatest, but the numbers are
6 starting to go down. And each month
7 we've kind of seen that reducing.
8 And so, that is a good sign.

9 In terms of the impact, it
10 absolutely has an impact on policing.
11 And so, we look at the men and women
12 that are out there coming to work
13 each and every day. This affects
14 them, right, in terms of the
15 pressures that are on them to do
16 even more so because they have fellow
17 officers that aren't at work. And
18 again, that doesn't mean that
19 everybody that is in IOD status is
20 abusing it, but we have seen in the
21 past where there are some individuals
22 that have abused that.

23 And so, we constantly work on
24 terms of trying to manage that. But
25 obviously, yes, getting more officers

1 back will definitely help as it
2 relates to our response, as it
3 relates to having additional staffing
4 available to us out on the street,
5 particularly in patrol. And so,
6 that's why we've made some of the
7 adjustments with some of our
8 administrative personnel putting them
9 out on the street in terms of trying
10 to beef up the numbers to support not
11 only the communities, but also our
12 men and women that are here every day
13 and that are answering the calls.
14 And so, again we are very mindful of
15 that. We do what we can within our
16 power as it relates to that.

17 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: And so,
18 what I'm hearing is that there are
19 mechanisms in place now that prevent
20 the abuse of IOD?

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:
22 I'm not going to say that can prevent
23 it completely. There are still
24 people that are going to find the
25 loopholes and the areas to abuse

1 anything in life, right. But we do
2 have mechanisms that we try to
3 enforce in terms of ensuring that
4 folks are returning back from their
5 appointments, submitting the
6 paperwork in a timely fashion so that
7 we can make sure that that stuff is
8 being updated.

9 If there is an indication that
10 someone is committing a false claim
11 or a fake injury, so to speak, then
12 we again work through either Internal
13 Affairs where we need to as well as
14 the City agencies to again Risk
15 Management in order to ensure that we
16 are addressing that. So, yes, we are
17 utilizing the mechanisms that are in
18 place. Again, I would love to say
19 with 100 percent certainty we're able
20 to stop it, but that's just not
21 realistic unfortunately.

22 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:
23 Appreciate that. Thank you.

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:
25 Thank you.

1 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: I'm
2 good.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
4 Member Lozada.

5 Chair recognizes Member Bass.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
7 Mr. Chairman.

8 Good afternoon. How are you?

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:
10 Good afternoon, ma'am. How are you?

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I'm doing
12 very well. Thank you. So let me
13 first start out by saying a big thank
14 you to you and all of your colleagues
15 at the Philadelphia Police Department
16 for the hard work that you do. I
17 want to give a particular shout-out
18 to those that I work with on a
19 regular basis up here in the
20 Northwest, and that is Captain -- or
21 excuse me, Inspector Nick Smith and
22 my Captains Massey, Busa and
23 Richardson from the 14th, 35th and
24 39th Districts, who all do a
25 fantastic job, and also the community

1 relationships officers.

2 I really shouldn't name names
3 because I know I'm going to forget
4 someone, but I really just really
5 wanted to say I thank you for being
6 so responsive and for the great
7 relationship that we've cultivated
8 over the years. And I think that
9 there's more of that to come. We
10 work so hard to improve community
11 relations with the Philadelphia
12 Police Department and a lot of
13 neighborhoods that are challenging.
14 And so, we can only accomplish that
15 by working together. So I just
16 really wanted to say thank you for
17 that.

18 Really quickly, because a lot
19 of what I wanted to ask has already
20 been covered, but I do want to go
21 back to what was mentioned earlier
22 around the Crime Scene Unit, and I
23 wanted to make sure I had those
24 numbers right, that there were
25 normally 35 members of the unit and

1 that they were now down to about 15;
2 is that accurate? Is that what I
3 heard?

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:
5 So again, Mike Garvey, that's what
6 you presented, yes?

7 MR. GARVEY: Yes.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.
9 Okay. And so, that unit covers
10 things such as homicides and other
11 major crimes, correct, such as
12 carjackings and things of that sort?

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:
14 Yes, they do.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. And
16 so, when we're thinking about how do
17 we get back to that number, I know
18 obviously it's a personnel matter.
19 And I heard you mention that steps
20 were being taken so that people don't
21 have to be certified to be in the
22 Crime Scene Unit. But I guess I'm
23 wondering also beyond that are there
24 additional needs that are needed for
25 the Crime Scene Unit? Because I

1 think most people's concerns are
2 around the major crimes, homicides,
3 carjackings, things like that. So
4 are there other needs beyond
5 personnel that maybe we should
6 highlight here?

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:

8 So just before I turn it over to
9 Mike, I just want to also just bring
10 a little clarification in the sense
11 that that's the Crime Scene Unit.
12 Our investigators are also trained in
13 processing scenes that cover the
14 gamut of crime. Even so much as we
15 have officers that also know how to
16 conduct a a level of print training
17 and things of those nature.

18 So if someone has a
19 residential burglary, we have
20 officers that can respond that are
21 out on the street that can pull
22 latent prints and things of that
23 nature. So again, I just wanted to
24 bring clarity that although the unit
25 itself has seen a decrease in staff,

1 we still have the ability across the
2 board to process those crimes outside
3 of the homicides and shootings, but
4 I'll turn it over to Mike if you want
5 to add anything additional.

6 MR. GARVEY: That was actually
7 one of the points that I was going to
8 add in. So we obviously do training
9 so that others can process scenes.
10 In terms of what else does the Crime
11 Scene Unit need other than the people
12 that we are currently hiring, the
13 actual crime scene posting closed
14 about a week past, so we should be
15 seeing people come in for a test and
16 then we will move forward with hiring
17 people.

18 The other thing that we're
19 doing with \$23 is hiring a -- not
20 hiring, purchasing a new larger crime
21 scene truck. We have crime scene
22 trucks for your normal crime scenes.
23 But what we're seeing and with the
24 new technologies we are bringing in
25 crime scenes are getting more

1 complicated.

2 So one of the things that
3 we're going to be purchasing is a
4 larger crime scene truck that will
5 only go out to major scenes where
6 there's multiple casings or multiple
7 scenes, so that some of the
8 processing can be done outside at the
9 scene, but this will be a truck that
10 we'll actually be able to go into to
11 do some of the prep work to speed up
12 that process for when we're doing the
13 collection at the scene to get the
14 evidence back here to be analyzed.

15 The other thing that was
16 already purchased is something that
17 we call a crime pad. This is
18 technology helping us do our job.
19 Rather than taking handwritten notes,
20 we're in the process right now of
21 bringing online a crime pad where a
22 crime scene will be able to enter the
23 evidence into the crime pad. It will
24 sync back here so that we will know
25 what evidence is coming in, what

1 needs to be analyzed. So all of a
2 sudden again working smarter rather
3 than harder.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Right.

5 MR. GARVEY: And then the
6 final thing of course gets back to
7 what I always talk about is the new
8 building. One of the things we're
9 looking into again, waiting for an
10 RFP, seeing how much everything will
11 cost, whether we would be able to do
12 it, but one of the essential things
13 that we would like to add to crime
14 scene is the capability to have a
15 proper space to process cars, trucks.

16 So right now when a car gets,
17 you know, whether there's blood on
18 it, whether there's holes in it and
19 it has to be processed for prints and
20 other things like that, we don't have
21 a controlled area to process that.
22 If possible in the new site, we would
23 have a proper area to process all of
24 these cars.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: What new

1 site would that be?

2 MR. GARVEY: That would be the
3 new site that we're working with
4 Public Property to put out an RFP and
5 then move everything we have here
6 into a new larger place, which right
7 now I can't tell you where it will be
8 because we're waiting for the RFP.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Sure
10 that's fine. You know it's funny. I
11 thought we had enough space for
12 everything at Callowhill or somebody
13 sold us a Brooklyn Bridge.

14 Okay. Well, listen -- okay.
15 Well, I think that that's really
16 important to make sure we have a
17 space to process automobiles. But I
18 did have one other question just
19 going backwards to something you said
20 about crime scenes being more
21 complicated.

22 When you say more complicated,
23 and I'm not trying to be a detective
24 or do police work, but I guess I
25 don't really understand why it is

1 more complicated unless it's a
2 confluence of different things that
3 are happening that weren't happening
4 in the past. Why is it more
5 complicated?

6 MR. GARVEY: Sure. Great
7 question. It's really more
8 complicated for a couple of reasons:
9 One, we're seeing more fire cartridge
10 cases than we've ever had before.
11 There's more shootings but not just
12 that there's more shootings, people
13 are shooting more. So what we're
14 seeing is a lot more fire cartridge
15 cases than what we previously had.
16 That's one reason. But quite frankly
17 that wouldn't make the scene so much
18 more complicated, right. It would
19 just make it more, you know, there's
20 more there to process.

21 What's really made scenes more
22 complicated is every time we advance
23 the technology and it works, then
24 people expect it and want it more and
25 we want to do it because we could

1 potentially solve more cases. So
2 when we start thinking 10 years ago
3 what we would have collected DNA
4 from, it wouldn't have been that many
5 items other than the blood stains and
6 other things like that.

7 But today we consider numerous
8 items that we would have never
9 considered before. So now all of a
10 sudden how you process that scene,
11 how you handle the items, how you
12 package the items, which items you
13 would collect today that you wouldn't
14 previously is more complicated
15 because the science permits us to
16 answer more of the questions.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Got it.
18 Got it. And, Mr. Chairman, I know
19 that the bell has rung, but can I ask
20 one more? I think I'm the last one.
21 If I could just ask one other
22 question --

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Go ahead.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: -- and,
25 that is, as you're processing these

1 crime scenes, and I don't know if
2 this question was already asked, but
3 one of the things I noticed is that
4 all of the surrounding counties are
5 now starting to think about using
6 some sort of a bullet analysis, and
7 that's something our office had been
8 working on for quite some time. And
9 I know we spoke to some officials
10 within the Philadelphia Police
11 Department about that.

12 Are we looking at bullet
13 analysis as well as our suburban
14 counterparts are?

15 MR. GARVEY: So I'm pretty
16 sure I'm clear on the general
17 technology you're talking about.
18 We've been using more testing for
19 crime guns than any of the counties
20 anywhere near us. We've actually had
21 people come in from all over the
22 country to see how we process crime
23 guns and the evidence at scenes. So
24 we are using the current capabilities
25 and even more capabilities that many

1 people have right now for any of that
2 crime gun evidence to try to link
3 that gun to various shootings, but
4 not only link the shootings to the
5 same gun, but now also link people to
6 the evidence.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Yes.

8 MR. GARVEY: So absolutely,
9 yes.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.

11 That's something that our office had
12 been working on and looking at and
13 trying to figure out for quite some
14 time, and we know it's very
15 complicated and we know that there
16 are gun enthusiasts who feel like it
17 could be somewhat of a violation.
18 But I think it would give the police
19 department a head start or even a
20 starting point if you consider a
21 bullet that's shot through a gun to
22 be almost like a fingerprint because
23 each one is as individual as a
24 fingerprint.

25 And so, knowing likely that

1 that information and that data exists
2 somewhere, trying to find a way to
3 incorporate it into processing these
4 crime scenes and what needs to happen
5 to solve crimes, I think it's just
6 something as we develop our
7 technology as we look to get some of
8 the bigger crime scene analysis
9 vehicles that'll come out and process
10 onsite, that that's something that
11 we're going to incorporate.

12 And the only other thing I
13 just wanted to add, Mr. Chairman, is
14 that I wanted to also thank the
15 department, and particularly Deputy
16 Commissioner Dale's for being such a
17 resource when it comes to our anti-
18 crime anti-violence initiative, which
19 is around ensuring that we're
20 checking what's in the possession of
21 the young people in our home.

22 We have a phrase that we've
23 coined, What do you do when the
24 shooter lives with you. And I see
25 Councilmember Jones is head-nodding.

1 And I'm going to say when we go out
2 and we talk about this, we get a lot
3 of those same reactions. We get a
4 lot of head nods and a lot of people,
5 it immediately resonates because
6 people understand exactly what we're
7 talking about.

8 Those guns are in the homes of
9 mom, dad, aunt, uncle, foster mom,
10 foster parent, grandparent, whoever
11 they're living with. These guns are
12 in someone's home. And so, we have a
13 campaign going on now called Flip a
14 Mattress Friday. We want folks to go
15 through, flip that mattress over, see
16 what's going on under there, check
17 that room and just make sure that
18 we're keeping the young people under
19 our care safe, we're keeping the
20 larger community safe, we're keeping
21 them out of harm's way and away from
22 foolishness.

23 And Deputy Commissioner Dales
24 and your entire team has been
25 extremely helpful in that. So I just

1 say thank you.

2 Thank you, M. Chairman.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
4 Member Bass. Flip a mattress Friday,
5 I'm going to remember that --

6 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Flip a
7 mattress Friday.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: There you
9 go. Real quick, and I'm the last one
10 before, you know. I thank my Members
11 for joining me up at the Police
12 Academy. Member Driscoll and Member
13 O'Neill went up there and they
14 actually used some of the simulators.
15 We were able to observe the training
16 for high speed pursuit.

17 We were able to look at your
18 simulators by way of actual
19 confrontation at a shooting or a
20 robbery, and I'm just glad we did not
21 tape or record Member Driscoll's
22 reaction. That's all I'll -- I'll
23 leave it there. But what we
24 discovered was certain repairs under
25 capital that needed to be done up

1 there. The berm removal of the lead
2 from the backstop at the shooting
3 range, some in my opinion minor
4 repairs in the facilities that are
5 actually -- so we rushed during the
6 appropriations transfer ordinance to
7 give some assistance.

8 Have you been notified that
9 that assistance to do those repairs,
10 to do those removals is on the way?

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:
12 I will turn this over to Deputy Dahl-
13 Campbell. I'll call on her to answer
14 that one. There she is.

15 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DAHL-
16 CAMPBELL: Good afternoon,
17 Councilman. So we have a list of
18 capital projects and they're
19 certainly on it for the firing range,
20 the gun berm. It's definitely one of
21 the projects that is listed. We have
22 a few others. It sort of goes in the
23 order of need.

24 So with the 39th District,
25 that's in need of building repairs or

1 maybe even a new facility. The 14th
2 also is in need of renovations and
3 there's current work still being done
4 to renovate the 15th District. So
5 there's ongoing projects, but it is
6 listed as one of the projects that
7 we're certainly looking to update and
8 get complete.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: Well,
10 that's good. We wanted to put that
11 on the record. We kind of knew, but
12 as what you can see from our Members,
13 supporting our police, keeping us
14 safe and having a fair justice system
15 isn't an or. It's an and.

16 And we appreciate what you do.
17 Deputy Stanford is an alumni of the
18 19th District, and he spent a lot of
19 time there and helped us to mitigate
20 a lot of things. So some stuff I'm
21 just not going to say. Just know I
22 appreciate it. And so, as we move
23 forward with this and looking at what
24 we have to do to fill those 800
25 openings, whatever we can do, please

1 let us know because it's an and, not
2 an or. So thank you for your
3 testimony. We appreciate you and
4 keep up the good work.

5 And I was thoroughly impressed
6 with Member Isaiah Thomas's hit-and-
7 run equipment update and some of his
8 driving equity progress. So he has
9 been on it like a laser beam to deal
10 with that duality. And so, thank you
11 guys and thank you. And our prayers
12 are with the Commissioner.

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:
14 Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman.
15 Appreciate it.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay. We
17 will take a 20-minute break so that
18 the stenographer can take a break.
19 And so, we will reconvene at ten of
20 3:00. Thank you all.

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STANFORD:
22 Thank you.

23 (Brief recess.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
25 Thank you. We are reconvening this

1 morning's budget testimony for the
2 FY24 budget. This afternoon we will
3 be hearing from Behavioral Health,
4 Health Department and Office of
5 Homeless Services.

6 And to start off our testimony
7 today, Mr. McDermott, who do we have
8 first up to testify?

9 THE CLERK: Dr. Jill Bowen,
10 Department of Behavioral Health.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
12 Good afternoon. Dr. Bowen, you're
13 on.

14 DR. BOWEN: Good afternoon,
15 President Clark and members of City
16 Council. I am Dr. Jill Bowen,
17 Commissioner of the Department of
18 Behavioral Health and Intellectual
19 Disability Services, DBHIDS. Joining
20 me today are Dr. Tierra Pritchett,
21 Deputy Commissioner, who oversees the
22 Division of Administration, Finance
23 and Quality; and Dr. Sosunmolu
24 Shoyinka, Chief Medical Officer for
25 DBHIDS. I am pleased to provide

1 testimony for the Department of
2 Behavioral Health and Intellectual
3 Disability Services Fiscal Year 2024
4 budget.

5 The Department of Behavioral
6 Health and Intellectual Disability
7 Services envisions a Philadelphia
8 where every individual can achieve
9 health, well-being and self-
10 determination. The mission of DBHIDS
11 is to educate, strengthen and serve
12 individuals and communities so that
13 all Philadelphians can thrive.

14 The Department of Behavioral
15 Health and Intellectual Disability
16 Services oversees a network of nearly
17 200 providers and community-based
18 organizations who are responsible for
19 serving children, youth adults and
20 families in Philadelphia with
21 behavioral health challenges and/or
22 intellectual disabilities and acts as
23 a safety net for the people of
24 Philadelphia.

25 DBHIDS makes every effort to

1 ensure Philadelphians have access to
2 treatment, supports and services.
3 Philadelphians are impacted by
4 multiple layers of trauma. Those
5 traumas result from a range of
6 circumstances, including violence,
7 poverty, the substance use crisis and
8 larger societal context such as
9 current and historical racism,
10 political unrest and the lingering
11 impacts of the pandemic.

12 The pandemic highlighted
13 pre-existing health disparities,
14 particularly in Black and Brown
15 communities, and we saw how much more
16 we need to do to ensure equal access
17 and culturally competent services for
18 all Philadelphians.

19 Often it's the lack of
20 adequate housing, food and economic
21 opportunities. The social
22 determinants and drivers of health
23 that contribute to the behavioral
24 health challenges people we serve
25 experience. We also know that

1 depression, anxiety and suicidal
2 ideation are all on the rise, and we
3 track the demand for the multitude of
4 services we provide.

5 These challenges are complex
6 and are often interconnected. When I
7 became Commissioner a little over two
8 years ago, I set forth the
9 Department's priorities to address
10 trauma, achieve equity and engage
11 community, what we call TEC, T-E-C,
12 as the vision through which we align
13 all of our work.

14 In doing this, we are
15 implementing approaches to transform
16 our system, looking at existing
17 policies and practices working
18 closely with community to ensure
19 alignment with TEC as together we
20 work through a recommendations-to-
21 action approach, with the goal to
22 transform operations to be trauma-
23 responsive, trauma-informed and
24 trauma-mitigating and transform
25 systems to reduce behavioral health

1 disparities and promote racial equity
2 amongst BIPOC communities and to
3 transform systems to engage, empower
4 and integrate community, including
5 the wisdom of the community into
6 program development and operations at
7 every level of our work.

8 We support a multitude of
9 trauma-focused programs that address
10 trauma at the individual and
11 community levels through multiple
12 modalities. In 2022 we launched an
13 external stakeholder learning
14 collaborative that convenes over 100
15 stakeholders, which includes people
16 with lived experience, families with
17 lived experience, scholars,
18 community-based organizations,
19 providers, advocates and others from
20 the community who set forth
21 recommendations that DBHIDS has begun
22 implementing and will continue to
23 implement over the next 24 months.

24 The subcommittees of this body
25 engage in a thoughtful conversation

1 around how to integrate fragmented
2 programs into a systemic hole, how to
3 make it easier for people to access
4 information about those programs and
5 to better understand how they flow
6 together as a systemic response.

7 Critical to this work is to
8 ensure social determinants of health
9 are a significant part of the efforts
10 to address the multiple layers of
11 trauma faced by Philadelphians every
12 day. The five subcommittees at which
13 the recommendations to action arise
14 are: Traumas related to violence,
15 traumas related to children and
16 families, prolonged trauma, trauma
17 related to secondary stress and
18 defragging the system or decreasing
19 silos.

20 These recommendations to
21 action have been developed into a
22 comprehensive trauma response plan.
23 Through the Committees and our boots-
24 on-the-ground work, we have created
25 and contributed over 3,000 trauma

1 cards door-to-door for adults and for
2 children they have been distributed
3 public libraries and health centers,
4 through the help of City Council,
5 through PlayStreets and online. We
6 have produced public service
7 announcements through radio,
8 television, posted on newsstands
9 throughout the City and at music
10 venues to get the word out to all
11 Philadelphians that behavioral health
12 crisis services are available and
13 accessible to everyone through 988.

14 We hosted our inaugural TEC
15 conference on March 24th with over
16 400 participants. The TEC conference
17 highlighted the amazing work of
18 thought leaders from community-based
19 organizations across the City,
20 focusing on trauma, emphasizing
21 equity and service delivery for all
22 Philadelphians and ensuring that in
23 every aspect of our work we are
24 engaging community voices.

25 This conference serves as a

1 kickoff to continue these
2 conversations within neighborhoods
3 through roundtable discussions now
4 being planned. With awareness and
5 great concern that we are only seeing
6 the tip of the iceberg, our children
7 are struggling. As a result, DBHIDS
8 has structured a reboot of the
9 Children's Behavioral Health cabinet.
10 Priority areas have been identified
11 in each of three tiers: Prevention,
12 early intervention and treatment.

13 Tier 1, social media impact on
14 children's mental health. Tier 2,
15 enhancement of STEP or the Support
16 Team for Educational Partnership to
17 expand to all schools. Expansion of
18 DBT which is dialectical behavioral
19 therapy, a form of cognitive
20 behavioral therapy that helps in the
21 development of healthy ways to cope
22 with stress and has been helpful for
23 those struggling with intense
24 emotions.

25 The focus areas of these

1 subcommittees incorporating the
2 successful recommendations to action
3 approach of the external stakeholders
4 learning collaborative is to move
5 this work to implementation as
6 quickly as possible. With the
7 support of City Council, we have
8 significantly expanded the
9 Philadelphia Crisis Line and built
10 24/7 regionalized community mobile
11 crisis response teams that are the
12 Philadelphia model and is
13 preliminarily reflecting positive
14 outcomes.

15 We are monitoring, working
16 with the providers and have posted
17 these outcomes publicly at
18 dbhids.org/988. We are continuing to
19 develop this website with feedback
20 from the community. The media
21 coverage about the model has been
22 quite positive. The crisis 2.0
23 framework includes an array of crisis
24 services aimed at providing immediate
25 crisis stabilization, de-escalation

1 and behavioral health assessments
2 that acknowledge and address social
3 determinants of health as well as
4 crisis resolution within the
5 community.

6 Philadelphia was lauded as a
7 model city for 988 by the Biden
8 Administration, whose senior federal
9 and state leaders came to
10 Philadelphia for the 988 kickoff in
11 summer of 2022. We have just stood
12 up the first Crisis Intervention
13 Support team aimed at providing up to
14 six weeks of continuing support for
15 those whose crises are more
16 challenging, with a goal of
17 preventing re-emergence of the crisis
18 and continue to develop our
19 technology platform, Care Traffic
20 Control.

21 Additionally, a fifth Crisis
22 Response Center or CRC expansion in
23 West Philadelphia is due to open this
24 summer 2023, and the procurement of
25 the first adult behavioral health

1 urgent care center in development.
2 DBHIDS will continue to be a
3 solution-focused trusted partner and
4 safety net for the City of
5 Philadelphia.

6 The goal is to create a
7 Philadelphia model that aligns with
8 the priorities of TEC, reducing
9 systemic trauma, creating greater
10 equity and fully engaging the
11 community. DBHIDS aims to blanket
12 the City with trauma supports in an
13 effort to alleviate the many ways
14 that chronic trauma is manifesting
15 itself as a response to gun violence,
16 the pandemic and a variety of social
17 determinants of behavioral health,
18 including trauma from generations of
19 systemic racism and discrimination.

20 Some of the examples of this
21 approach includes the network of
22 neighbors composed of community
23 members trained to support and lead
24 responses to stress, trauma, loss,
25 violence within their own

1 communities. Through our engaging
2 Males of Color Initiative, DBHIDS
3 developed the film TRIGGER in
4 collaboration with First Person Arts.
5 TRIGGER's a highly powerful film that
6 focuses on the personal stories of
7 people in Philadelphia impacted by
8 the trauma of gun violence.

9 DBHIDS has sponsored several
10 screenings of TRIGGER at various
11 locations throughout the City and
12 will have more schedules across
13 communities throughout the year. We
14 will be issuing invitations shortly
15 from members of City Council to join
16 us at a screening. The screenings
17 include a talkback and panel
18 discussion and behavioral health
19 professionals, resources and supports
20 are onsite for those needing
21 assistance during the screening and
22 to connect to ongoing supports.

23 The film has so far reached
24 well over 700 people and we expect
25 that reach to be over 1200 by the end

1 of this year '23. DBHIDS's efforts
2 to blanket the City with trauma
3 supports includes increased efforts
4 in developing and implementing
5 innovative strategies to address
6 substance use disorder in
7 Philadelphia. Substance use is a
8 crisis in Philadelphia with rising
9 overdose death rates and traumatic
10 experiences for those with substance
11 use disorder as well as for community
12 members.

13 DBHIDS works closely with City
14 partners and external stakeholders in
15 responding to the substance use
16 crisis by expanding warm handoffs to
17 resources and recovery supports,
18 expanding medication-assisted
19 treatment, expanding on-the-ground
20 assessments, increasing residential
21 bed capacity, increasing ASAM Level 4
22 complex care capacity with innovative
23 approaches, to the integration of
24 wound care and substance use
25 rehabilitation, especially in light

1 of the horrific wounds being
2 experienced from Xylazine, which has
3 been increasingly present in the drug
4 supply.

5 DBHIDS has helped to stand up
6 the first licensed wound care van in
7 the Commonwealth and is developing a
8 procurement for the first mobile
9 methadone van in Philadelphia.

10 Mobile units are intended to engage
11 people where they are, provide
12 assessment and treatment and
13 encourage people to come in for
14 treatment and services as they work
15 to ultimately achieve long-term
16 recovery. DBHIDS is committed to the
17 behavioral health and wellness of all
18 Philadelphians from innovative
19 programs in early intervention
20 through exciting new models in
21 addressing the physical and
22 behavioral health of seniors to the
23 integration of mental health and
24 intellectual disability services
25 through whole person care for those

1 with both mental health and
2 intellectual disability challenges.

3 We appreciate the ongoing
4 support of Council and the
5 opportunity to highlight the work of
6 DBHIDS. My colleagues and I are
7 happy to respond to questions at this
8 time. Thank you.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

10 Thank you. Thank you, Doctor. Thank
11 you very much. Just have a couple of
12 questions budget-related. In your
13 FY24 budget, you show 84 of 344, 345
14 budgeted positions as vacant
15 comparable to some degree to pretty
16 much all of the City departments.
17 Can you tell us how that level of
18 vacancy has impacted your ability to
19 do your work and what you're doing to
20 potentially fill that gap?

21 DR. BOWEN: We are looking
22 very strategically at the positions
23 and working to see how we can expand
24 some positions and reduce other
25 positions to be as efficient as

1 possible but also to prioritize.
2 Everything that we do now aligns with
3 the vision of TEC, so we are being
4 really strategic about which
5 positions we need to prioritize,
6 shifting over some funding to create
7 positions that are more marketable,
8 especially in the high priority areas
9 and to try to do as much outreach as
10 possible to encourage people to come
11 and work for us.

12 The same problem exists with
13 our provider network. So some of the
14 strategies that we have incorporated
15 internally we're also incorporating
16 externally. There's a whole array of
17 approaches that we're taking.
18 Everything from producing a video,
19 that is why I do this work to try to
20 encourage people to either stay in
21 the current positions or be attracted
22 to coming in.

23 We set up the first practicum,
24 clinical practicum connector and what
25 we did was we brought different

1 programs with the students or the
2 interns who were in social work
3 positions, for example, which is one
4 of our most critical positions. And
5 we introduced the students to the
6 idea of working in public behavioral
7 health. And if they get the bug, the
8 goal is to have them not just step in
9 and be helpful by filling positions
10 while they're in training, whether
11 they're in fellowships or
12 internships, but also to then
13 retain -- the goal is to retain those
14 folks.

15 We've looked at different
16 positions that are particularly at
17 risk. And we looked at whether they
18 were being supported in terms of
19 their educational goals. So by
20 looking at recruitment and trying to
21 reach out in ways that we had not
22 reached out before.

23 By the way, our folks who move
24 on, we haven't had a lot of people
25 just leave. We've had people retire

1 and we've had people take
2 advancement. And many of the people
3 who advance from DBHIDS stay within
4 the City system. So, yes, we
5 struggle like everybody else. But we
6 also are very happy when people are
7 succeeding and moving forward for
8 those reasons and not just kind of
9 stepping out of the field.

10 And then we are really looking
11 at next gen to really try to
12 encourage folks to come in and look
13 for those innovative ways to connect
14 up with current schools like social
15 work schools, nursing schools, et
16 cetera, to try to encourage them to
17 come in now as I say in a way that
18 would be helpful.

19 With the provider network,
20 we're looking also at a systemic sort
21 of approach to a business. To think
22 in terms of business and how working
23 as a system and sharing some of the
24 ways in which people can access the
25 services might be able to help

1 alleviate some of the challenges
2 around the vacancies.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Okay. You referenced the colleges
5 and universities. Shouldn't that be
6 a significant feeder system too?

7 DR. BOWEN: So it's really
8 interesting. So it tends to be a
9 significant feeder, but we also are
10 trying to attract people -- first, we
11 want to make sure that people are
12 still attracted to it that have in
13 the past been attracted to it. But
14 we also want to attract people who
15 would not think that, oh, when I grow
16 up, I want to be in public behavioral
17 health. And sometimes that is a
18 minority population.

19 We also want to think of what
20 the barriers are to coming in for
21 internship as well, so we're looking
22 to provide stipends and support for
23 people to come in. For some people
24 it's very hard to do a training and
25 also hold down a job and also, you

1 know, have other responsibilities.
2 So depending on what your
3 circumstances are we're trying to
4 make it as easy as possible and bring
5 down any barriers to coming in, in
6 terms of training approaches.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
8 right. Well, I didn't grow up
9 thinking I'd be a politician, but I
10 ended up being one. So I understand
11 that.

12 Question, with respect to the
13 performance measures listed in your
14 testimony, employee participation in
15 the wellness activity, in FY22 you
16 had like 576. And this year is
17 dropping the target less than 250.
18 Is there a reason?

19 DR. BOWEN: A couple of
20 different reasons for that. One is
21 that a lot of that was virtual last
22 year, so you had a lot more
23 participants because everybody can
24 just get on, right. And this year
25 we've been trying to do some more

1 inperson experiences. So I think
2 that that probably accounts for most
3 of it.

4 We do have a Wellness Unit
5 embedded in DBHIDS and they do a lot
6 of really interesting approaches.
7 Also, our diversity equity inclusion
8 is a lot of engagement as well. So
9 just some of the possible reasons for
10 that. Also, we do a wellness
11 newsletter and we do a wellness week.
12 And so, I think people are getting a
13 lot of that wellness activity in a
14 couple of different ways.

15 So I wasn't particularly
16 concerned about that. But you see
17 that with a lot of the virtual
18 trainings we've done as well, once we
19 start to go back, you're going, you
20 know. And we've thought about that,
21 so we're trying to be hybrid with our
22 approaches.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
24 Okay. My last question, before
25 prepandemic there was this discussion

1 about to some degree merging some of
2 the activities that the City of
3 Philadelphia had that the School
4 District actually had. It was
5 somewhat redundant in terms of some
6 of the services we provided for
7 children and families and similarly
8 on the School District.

9 And I believe there was a
10 conversation of the City of
11 Philadelphia providing those services
12 forming a partnership with the
13 Philadelphia School District to both
14 be more efficient, but more
15 importantly to save money. Like, why
16 do we have two entities providing a
17 similar level of support,
18 particularly around trauma-related
19 activities given what's been going
20 on?

21 What's the relationship with
22 the Philadelphia School District and
23 the children and the families,
24 particularly around trauma-related
25 activities?

1 DR. BOWEN: So there is a
2 tremendous amount of work that DBHIDS
3 does with the School District. It's
4 absolutely a partnership. I've sat
5 down with Dr. Watlington. I mean,
6 this is a real collaboration in terms
7 of the kind of work, it's absolutely
8 necessary. You heard me speak in my
9 testimony about the kids being in
10 crisis, and they absolutely are.

11 So it's not really about I
12 think duplicative. I think it's
13 different. The work that we do is we
14 are embedded in the schools for Tier
15 3. The IBHS, the Intensive
16 Behavioral Health Services, is
17 something different than what the
18 School District actually provides,
19 and it's for the kids that are
20 identified in the school as really
21 struggling and needing that Tier 3 or
22 that kind of intensive treatment
23 approach, but having it available in
24 the schools.

25 That approach is also one

1 that's in the communities, so it's
2 community school and home approach
3 primarily in the schools. And
4 there's a lot of training that's
5 going on to make sure that the
6 treatment, the evidence-based
7 treatment, is trauma-focused,
8 specifically trauma-focused CBT,
9 which is the gold standard. So that
10 is not something that's duplicated by
11 the supportive work that the School
12 District does.

13 The School District does have
14 capacity to provide behavioral health
15 supports, especially at the Tier 1
16 universal level and to some degree at
17 the Tier 2 level. STEP is a perfect
18 example of sort of a partnership
19 between DBHIDS. That program is a
20 Tier 2 program. It's in 21 schools
21 right now. In testimony I also
22 mentioned the desire to bring that up
23 to every school.

24 We helped develop it together
25 with the School District and it is

1 actually -- the School District for
2 the first time is actually a
3 provider. And the people that
4 they've hired to do that in those 21
5 schools can bill for those services.
6 This is the first year that that
7 billing has been possible. They've
8 gotten licensed and they bill
9 Community Behavioral Health. So they
10 essentially have this ongoing
11 relationship and they now have a
12 sustainable source of funding.

13 We with the help of the state
14 provided the last few years of
15 funding to stand it up. Now that
16 it's stood up and billable, that's
17 just the perfect way to create
18 models, make sure they're effective
19 and scale them up. This is a really
20 good example of that.

21 So I would call the
22 relationship between DBHIDS and the
23 School District more of a
24 collaboration and partnership than
25 sort of an overlapping of services.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

2 Thank you.

3 Chair recognizes Councilwoman
4 Gauthier.

5 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
6 you, Council President.

7 And good afternoon, Dr. Bowen.
8 Hi. How are you?

9 DR. BOWEN: I'm well.

10 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: I want
11 to start by thanking you and your
12 team for just the critical work that
13 you do. It is absolutely vital for
14 the health of our City. I have some
15 questions about mobile crisis units.
16 Last year you anticipated full
17 implementation of Community Mobile
18 Crisis Response teams by the end of
19 2022 with the four providers
20 operating between 15 to 20 teams
21 across the region and across the day,
22 evening, overnight and weekend
23 shifts. Was this accomplished?

24 DR. BOWEN: Mostly it was
25 accomplished. We feel very, very

1 good about what we've accomplished.
2 We are 24/7. We do have four
3 providers active. Two of them are
4 fully staffed. I think this is what
5 you're getting -- two of them are
6 fully staffed 24/7 around the clock.
7 Actually we have three teams and a
8 bridge team.

9 One of them is mostly -- the
10 third one is mostly 24/7. They have
11 a couple of challenges around like
12 weekend, evenings. And the other one
13 is still pretty active, but has a few
14 more holes in some of the harder-to-
15 fill time slots, which might be --
16 but we can cover the whole City.
17 Because we are centrally dispatching
18 through the Philadelphia Crisis Line,
19 if calls come in, we are able to
20 provide 24/7 citywide regardless of
21 whether it's in the region. So we
22 are working to get to that. But we
23 have 100 percent stood up the
24 Philadelphia model of the Community
25 Mobile Crisis Response team.

1 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: That's
2 wonderful. And thank you so much for
3 that. Can you just clarify how many
4 teams we have operating all together?

5 DR. BOWEN: So it's four per
6 provider.

7 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Okay.

8 DR. BOWEN: Right, so it's
9 like 4 times 4 is 16, and you'll have
10 a couple of holes in there. So it's
11 probably more like 14 while the other
12 teams get finalized. And they're
13 working very, very hard to fill those
14 positions. And they've actually had
15 a fair amount of success I have to
16 say considering the -- I mean, people
17 want to do this. I think it's
18 innovative. It's exciting and they
19 are interested in doing it.

20 And we did -- if you haven't
21 seen the Inquirer article where the
22 journalists went out with the
23 Community Mobile Crisis team and did
24 a ride-along, it was incredible.
25 Because what they experienced was

1 when we talk about the Philadelphia
2 model, we mean having people who are
3 members of the community or really
4 are familiar with the community that
5 they're serving. And what happened
6 along that ride was an individual who
7 was in distress and the members of
8 the response, the CMCRT, were able to
9 say, oh, look, we're passing by the
10 high school I went to or, hey, I go
11 to that church, and the person
12 immediately calmed down and engaged
13 and it happened in front of the
14 journalist. And I said, this is
15 working.

16 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
17 you so much. That is incredible
18 progress and incredible work. I'm
19 going to run you through my next
20 questions so that I don't run against
21 time. So next, do you have any
22 information about the outcomes of
23 both the co-responder teams and the
24 mobile crisis teams? What efforts
25 have we made to raise public

1 awareness of the availability of
2 nonpolice mobile crisis units and how
3 do we know those efforts are working?
4 And lastly, how many calls were
5 shifted to the Philadelphia Crisis
6 Line from 911 in 2021 and 2022?

7 DR. BOWEN: Okay. So I have
8 all of this data. Just give me a
9 second to find it. Okay. Let me
10 grab what I've got first here. So
11 from January 2022 to February 2023,
12 983 calls were shifted from 911 to
13 988, but it's actually
14 underrepresenting because we now have
15 Philadelphia Crisis Line workers
16 embedded at 911. They are actually
17 in the 911 Radio room.

18 So in addition to the calls
19 that we're checking here, the 983,
20 what happens in that room in real
21 time is that the Philadelphia Crisis
22 Line workers can take those calls and
23 kind of ship them in real time, so
24 we're working to try and get that
25 information onto our spreadsheet,

1 right. And as I said --

2 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: If you
3 can follow up with the calls
4 diverted, but also how many calls
5 were handled in the 911 call center.
6 That's pretty valuable. Thank you.

7 DR. BOWEN: Right, it's really
8 valuable. We're also tracking -- so
9 community engagement is one of our
10 requirements. Just let me pull this
11 up quickly so I can give you the
12 exact number. But by far 80 percent
13 of the calls are either resolved in
14 the community, that's 64 percent of
15 them, or voluntary evaluation, that's
16 16 percent of them. And that was one
17 of our real goals.

18 And then we have done some
19 satisfaction surveys. And we have
20 found that 72 percent of responders
21 strongly agreed that between a
22 consumer that (inaudible) that it was
23 helpful, okay. That 72 percent
24 responded strongly agreed, and
25 another 4.5 percent somewhat agreed,

1 so if you put that together, that the
2 mobile crisis team was helpful and
3 informative. Also, 78 percent said
4 that the response time had met their
5 needs, but we have a problem with the
6 response time. I'll talk to you
7 about that in a minute. And then 75
8 percent of participants rated their
9 overall satisfaction with services
10 that were provided as a 5 out of 5.
11 So satisfaction by the people
12 receiving, and also that they got the
13 information that they needed and they
14 got help. These are also along with
15 resolving in the community are some
16 of our goals, as far as making sure
17 the people know about it.

18 In addition to the information
19 I just gave you, it is available at
20 dbhids.org/988 to make it transparent
21 for people to be able to see this
22 data themselves, and we're actually
23 making a better web page that's even
24 nicer. This is just we wanted to get
25 it out as quickly as possible. Also

1 988, I've done two PSAs. One through
2 ABC. Another one through NBC. The
3 ABC one is running. The NBC one will
4 be running soon.

5 We also have posters up at
6 newsstands around the City. We've
7 done several radio interviews. We've
8 done traffic and weather together
9 brought to you by dbhids.org/988. So
10 we've done quite a bit of effort to
11 get the word out. In addition, we
12 have hired Little Giant with the help
13 of Scattergood, and they are doing a
14 neighborhood-by-neighborhood-by-
15 neighborhood focus group work so that
16 the messaging is done in a way that's
17 most best received by the people in
18 different neighborhoods, because we
19 know not everybody processes in the
20 same way, not everybody speaks the
21 same language. And all of those
22 things are critically important so
23 that everybody really gets the
24 message.

25 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: And

1 have we seen a correlation between
2 the advertising and the engagement
3 that we're doing and a knowledge in
4 the community that mobile crisis
5 units are available to them? And
6 then could you touch on the response
7 time issue?

8 DR. BOWEN: Okay. So we don't
9 have that feedback yet because we're
10 just running the PSAs and getting
11 things out, so we will have to get
12 that information about how people are
13 responding to that, although I get a
14 lot of comments like, oh, I saw that,
15 that was good, that kind of thing.

16 The response time, our goal is
17 30 minutes. In the field, that's the
18 best that's been seen, but we want
19 the best for Philadelphia. So we
20 understand that's not easy, but we
21 also understand that we are a little
22 over an hour now. So it was an hour
23 I think at the last -- it's been an
24 hour and eight minutes. Now, it's an
25 hour and seven, so it's a little bit

1 over what is okay for us as far as
2 we're concerned for Philadelphia.
3 And so, that is presenting a little
4 bit of a challenge for us, especially
5 during the hire volume times.

6 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: And
7 what's the plan to sort of reduce
8 those response signs?

9 DR. BOWEN: Yeah. So we have
10 thought about putting additional
11 bridge teams on during those
12 difficult times. We would need
13 funding for that. We've looked at
14 the things like how long does it take
15 to get somewhere, how much is it when
16 a team has to go to a different
17 region, is that throwing it off. So
18 we don't have a set answer yet, but
19 we do think it has to do with the
20 particular times when it's highest
21 volume.

22 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
23 you so much. I may come back around
24 on the second round.

25 DR. BOWEN: Okay. Thank you.

1 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

2 Thanks, Council President.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Thank you, Councilwoman.

5 Chair recognizes Councilman
6 Harrity.

7 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Hello,
8 Council President. Hello,
9 colleagues.

10 Hello, Commissioner Bowen. My
11 questions are actually for the Health
12 Commissioner, Commissioner Bettigole,
13 if that's possible.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
15 Commissioner, are you on?

16 DR. BETTIGOLE: I am here.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
18 Sure. Go ahead, Council --

19 DR. BETTIGOLE: Although I'm
20 also scheduled next, so I don't know
21 how you would like to do this.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
23 We'll jump in. We bend the rules
24 every now and then.

25 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: I only

1 have a quick couple of questions and
2 get you out. So what I'd like to
3 know is, is there a plan for the
4 areas that are most affected by the
5 opioid crisis like Kensington and
6 South Philadelphia? Does that plan
7 include safe injection sites? And
8 did you sign a letter or a court
9 document in favor of safe injection
10 sites for the challenge that's going
11 on right now?

12 DR. BETTIGOLE: So the plan
13 for dealing with opioid overdoses as
14 well as other types of overdoses is
15 really citywide. We are focusing
16 both on Kensington and also in South
17 Philly, but increasingly in North and
18 West Philly where we're seeing rising
19 levels of overdose to deaths. And
20 we're doing a combination.

21 We are trying to get
22 information to people so that they
23 understand that Fentanyl and Xylazine
24 are in many of our drugs at this
25 point, trying to get Fentanyl test

1 strips and Xylazine test strips out
2 to people so that they can take
3 action to protect themselves. Part
4 of the problem is that many people
5 who use stimulants may not realize
6 that those stimulants can have
7 Fentanyl in them. And so, a lot of
8 people are dying of an overdose. We
9 think not necessarily anticipating
10 that they would be taking the
11 Fentanyl.

12 So we're also working on best
13 practices for Xylazine withdrawal
14 because that's something that's
15 stopping a lot of people from seeking
16 treatment. They're afraid of the
17 withdrawal symptoms. And so, they
18 stay away from treatment programs. I
19 I've lost your second question. I'm
20 sorry.

21 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: My second
22 question was does the plan include
23 safe injection sites and the third
24 question was did you sign a letter in
25 support of safe injection sites for

1 the current legal process that's
2 going on now?

3 MS. GLADSTEIN: If I could
4 jump in, Councilman. Eva Gladstein,
5 First Deputy Managing Director. The
6 City of Philadelphia did file amicus
7 briefs previously on behalf of both
8 the Mayor and the Health
9 Commissioner. That process was prior
10 to this Health Commissioner. I'm not
11 sure if this Health Commissioner was
12 included in I think we filed twice,
13 and I know you did previously talk to
14 the City solicitors so they could
15 provide more information because they
16 filed on behalf of the Mayor and the
17 Health Commissioner at that time.

18 With regard to plans for
19 overdose prevention centers, I think
20 you're aware as we've read in the
21 newspaper that there's a mediation
22 process going forward, and the City
23 has been clear that we would not
24 establish any without there being a
25 legal pathway to establish those.

1 And I know that Councilmembers
2 previously had concerns about their
3 role if that were to occur. And I
4 will just say that we would certainly
5 if there was a legal pathway
6 established, first of all, we don't
7 know if that will happen. Secondly,
8 if it were to happen, we don't know
9 when, but we would certainly consult
10 with Councilmembers, particularly
11 District Councilmembers in terms of
12 citing community engagement, how to
13 meet with residents, what the
14 concerns were and how to mitigate any
15 concerns, but we are not at that
16 point in this process at all.

17 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Okay.
18 But you are supporting efforts to
19 bring safe injection sites to
20 Philadelphia; is that correct?

21 MS. GLADSTEIN: We have stated
22 our support for a number of years
23 now, and we've also stated that we
24 would not support anything that did
25 not have a legal pathway, that is

1 correct.

2 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: What
3 about a community pathway? What do
4 we do about our residents who are
5 anxiously waiting an announcement on
6 what you guys are going to do? I
7 mean, to me safe injection sites
8 basically is that we're throwing our
9 hands up and saying, you know what,
10 we don't know what to do, go ahead,
11 shoot up whatever, we're going to
12 just make sure you don't die, you
13 know.

14 I'm just trying to figure out
15 how you guys could come out in
16 support of something of that
17 magnitude without consulting us and
18 the legislature and also without
19 having buy-in from the communities
20 which it's going to affect? I think
21 you guys got an idea and you're
22 running with it, but for me it just
23 seems like you're giving up.

24 Treatment has always got to be
25 the first and most important thing

1 because just because they're being
2 kept alive does not mean they have a
3 life, does not mean they're going to
4 be a part of society. And what the
5 main goal has got to be to get these
6 poor people into recovery so that
7 they can actually have a life.

8 And I'm very upset. I'm very
9 angry that you guys are trying to go
10 around us and go around the community
11 and just do whatever you guys want.
12 And now that I know that the Mayor's
13 in on it too, that just makes it that
14 more upsetting for me.

15 MS. GLADSTEIN: Councilman, if
16 I could, I hear what you're saying.
17 I want to say that we all agree that
18 helping people get into treatment and
19 recovery, which is often a very
20 cyclical process is our highest
21 priority. It is not just about
22 keeping people alive, but it is
23 helping them stay alive and access
24 services and treatment, however they
25 may be able to connect with it. This

1 is something that the City has
2 researched pretty extensively --

3 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Yeah, so
4 have I. Sorry to cut you off.

5 MS. GLADSTEIN: That's okay.

6 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: In
7 Canada, only 4 percent of people even
8 ask about recovery who are going into
9 these safe injection sites. In New
10 York, it's only 1 percent. What are
11 you going to do to try to push why --
12 I mean, I don't get it. I'm not for
13 this anyway and I'm going to fight
14 this to the end. But I just wanted
15 to get it on the record that you guys
16 are in support of it. And I'm going
17 to let you go because I don't want to
18 say things that are not nice. And
19 I'm at that point so I'm going to try
20 to hold myself. But this is
21 definitely not over.

22 MS. GLADSTEIN: I appreciate
23 that. And I just want to say we will
24 not go around Councilpeople. We will
25 be consulting if this were to occur

1 or be a legal possibility and --

2 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: I can't
3 hear you.

4 MS. GLADSTEIN: Absolutely.
5 We would talk to the Councilpeople
6 about their -- to get their advice --

7 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Well, you
8 know, it was an illegal possibility
9 until the people appealed it. We did
10 fight this. We did win in the Third
11 Circuit Court. And now, you're --
12 not you, but the people who are
13 appealing it now are appealing it on
14 religious grounds, which is just
15 ridiculous to me. I don't remember
16 anywhere in the Bible, and I read it
17 fairly often, where it says in the
18 Commandments or anything like thou
19 shalt shoot up, you know.

20 For me it's just saying that
21 we're giving up, we don't have any
22 idea how to handle this. And if
23 that's the case, then maybe we need
24 to get new people that can actually
25 have other ideas on how to get these

1 people into recovery. That's all I
2 got to say.

3 Thank you, Council President.

4 MS. GLADSTEIN: Thank you,
5 Councilman.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
7 Thank you, Councilman. Dr. Bowen,
8 thank you for your patience.

9 Next up, Councilman Jones.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
11 Mr. President.

12 And I look forward to Member
13 Harrity, Member Lozada and Member
14 Squilla's deep dive into a Kensington
15 solution. I hear his passion about
16 the current status quo and understand
17 that he really wants some movement,
18 some thought given to this and more
19 importantly, some action taken by it.

20 So, folks, if you feel as
21 though he is passionate, it's because
22 he is. This is a lived experience
23 for him. This is a neighborhood in
24 which he lives. And so, he deals
25 with it every day. So I just want to

1 on his behalf say that he is showing
2 a great amount of restraint in kind
3 of settling that passion. And so, I
4 get why he is a bit unnerved about
5 the status quo.

6 My questions are slightly
7 different and it's on behavioral
8 health. I have not once but several
9 times had constituents come to my
10 office and say, Councilman, I don't
11 know what to do with my child.
12 Councilman, they are in crisis.
13 Councilman, I am in fear of my child.
14 Councilman, my child has put hands on
15 me. And in that process, they have
16 attempted to what is called, and you
17 can give me a definition of it, 302
18 them.

19 And in that process on both
20 ends of it, we're a little bit
21 frustrated. They were frustrated by
22 what are the levels and standards by
23 which someone who is exhibiting
24 crisis and can be 302'd. And as
25 important, if they present a danger

1 to themselves or others, what is that
2 level of expectation and engagement.
3 And then on the other end, where do
4 they go, how are they treated and
5 when they're released, what is the
6 process for their release and
7 notification of the people that are
8 living in fear.

9 And it's a hard thing to deal
10 with loving something you fear,
11 whether it's their child or their
12 spouse. I can't imagine how that
13 impacts their well-being. So if you
14 could give me a sense of what a 302
15 is, what the processes are, and who
16 and how are people engaged to deal
17 with that matter?

18 DR. BOWEN: So thank you for
19 the question, Councilmember. So much
20 distress to be challenged with a
21 situation like that for everybody,
22 for the person who's in distress,
23 child particularly, for an adult as
24 well in behavioral health crisis, for
25 the family who's also impacted so

1 strongly by these crises.

2 The 302 process is an
3 involuntary commitment process. It's
4 a process that has somebody committed
5 to a behavioral health hospital
6 setting against their will. It's a
7 legal decision that's made with the
8 input by the psychiatrist, but it has
9 certain criteria that have to be
10 abided by.

11 And there are folks who do get
12 frustrated with the 302 situation
13 because when someone is brought in
14 for a 302, adult or child, they are
15 evaluated. And they're evaluated and
16 it might be that the evaluation does
17 not meet the criteria for commitment
18 or the individual's current situation
19 has calmed so much that they don't
20 meet the criteria.

21 What is supposed to happen is
22 a noncommitted but still active plan
23 to engage the person in treatment,
24 and the family as well in treatment
25 should happen at that point. Keep in

1 mind that we are trying to make it as
2 easy for people to know what to do in
3 that moment when they're not sure
4 what to do. Calling Council is great
5 because you're all really helpful,
6 but you can also call the
7 Philadelphia Crisis Line, like call
8 988 if you're in that kind of
9 distress.

10 It is actually the
11 Philadelphia Crisis Line that can
12 help you also figure out whether
13 that's a 302 scenario and also if you
14 have questions but it's not
15 necessarily at that crisis point.
16 Also, we're trying to make it easy
17 for people to know what to do when
18 they're in that situation. So it's
19 888-545-2600. But that's when you're
20 in the middle of it and you go, I
21 don't know what to do, my kid is X, Y
22 and Z or I don't know what to do, my
23 loved one and family member is X, Y
24 and Z. You can call and ask
25 questions and get all those answers.

1 The crisis line is when they're in
2 distress.

3 Now, to some of the specifics
4 of your question about criteria and
5 all, I'm going to ask Dr. Shoyinka,
6 our Chief Medical Officer to just
7 chime in for a moment to clarify some
8 of my more general statements that I
9 made.

10 Dr Shoyinka.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.

12 DR. SHOYINKA: (Muted).

13 DR. BOWEN: You're on mute.

14 DR. SHOYINKA: Good afternoon,
15 Councilmembers.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
17 afternoon.

18 DR. SHOYINKA: How are you
19 doing? Pleased to be here with you.
20 Let me say first of all that --

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: State your
22 name for the record for the
23 stenographer.

24 DR. SHOYINKA: Pardon me. My
25 name is Dr. Sosunmolu Shoyinka. I'm

1 the Chief Medical Officer for DBHIDS.

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.

3 DR. SHOYINKA: Let me lead by
4 saying Dr. Bowen's recommendation is
5 the one that is entirely accurate
6 because of the complexity of these
7 situations and the many factors
8 involved, it's best to lead by
9 calling the Philadelphia Crisis Line
10 not only would that individual or the
11 family member have access to trained
12 counselors who can help to
13 de-escalate the situation in the
14 moment and/or dispatch a mobile team
15 to the site. They can do either of
16 those things is what I meant to say.

17 Now, the criteria for a 302
18 really rests on the idea of
19 imminence, imminent danger, which
20 could include inability to care for
21 self. The individual -- the one
22 additional consideration is that
23 often there's 302s served by the
24 Philadelphia Police Department here
25 in the City of Philadelphia and they

1 have a period of time to serve that
2 302, so that adds to the complexity
3 of the situation. Meaning, that
4 sometimes by the time the 302 is
5 served or arrives and that person is
6 identified and found, the crisis is
7 over and they no longer need to be
8 placed under an involuntary
9 commitment order for treatment.

10 And so, again I'll circle that
11 back to the earlier comment that was
12 made by the Commissioner. In those
13 situations it's probably best to call
14 988 or the Philadelphia Crisis Line
15 first.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: So I want
17 to yield the mic, but my last comment
18 on this and hopefully there'll be an
19 answer, is how long is that
20 evaluation process and what does it
21 entail? And then when the crisis
22 seemingly subsides because, you know,
23 people get well, they get worse, they
24 change, it's not a static situation.
25 When violence occurs and let's say

1 they get a protection order, before
2 they are released shouldn't there be
3 at least some discussion on where are
4 you going, how are you going to get
5 there, who are you going to live with
6 because you can't live with the
7 person that now has a protection
8 order, is there any discussion in
9 that? And is there notification that
10 the individual that was 302'd is now
11 released?

12 DR. SHOYINKA: Dr. Bowen,
13 would you like me to answer that?

14 DR. BOWEN: You can answer
15 that, and then I'll just follow up
16 because I have some thoughts as well.

17 DR. SHOYINKA: Okay. So I'll
18 ask you to repeat your first
19 question, sir. But let me answer
20 your second question. The short
21 answer to whether or not families
22 should be notified is, yes, they
23 should. The wrinkle there is that in
24 our system through the HIPAA
25 regulations have often been

1 interpreted to mean that families or
2 other persons cannot be contacted
3 with that information, so it's
4 unfortunately the case that many
5 individuals get released and just
6 show up on the doorstep of their
7 family, so to speak.

8 And when there's a concern
9 about danger to the other persons,
10 there are standards in the mental
11 health field that require that those
12 individuals be contacted directly if
13 the parameters are met. So I know
14 that's a bit more complex than what
15 you asked but --

16 DR. BOWEN: So I'll follow up
17 from that if you're okay,
18 Dr. Shoyinka, just because it gave me
19 a thought. So the way it's supposed
20 to work is that the treatment teams
21 do support the families, especially
22 you started the conversation around a
23 child, so the family obviously would
24 be involved in the treatment.

25 If it's a grown child or an

1 adult, that comes to the kind of
2 things that Dr. Shoyinka was talking
3 about. But we have a whole array of
4 supports for kids and parents. We
5 have a really robust continuum. It
6 doesn't necessarily have to rise to
7 the level of commitment at a hospital
8 for there to be intensive treatment
9 provided to family, to parents, to
10 individuals.

11 We have caregiver support. We
12 have Philly Voices Families have the
13 ability to do a whole array of -- we
14 have urgent care centers on the
15 children's side, which is another
16 wonderful option. If it hasn't risen
17 to a crisis but it's not just a
18 regular day, you may want to bring
19 your child to an urgent care center,
20 so there's actually a really robust
21 continuum of options to support a
22 family, a child who is struggling
23 with the kinds of things you're
24 talking about, which are real
25 behavioral manifestations that would

1 probably benefit tremendously from an
2 intervention.

3 But again, if you're in a
4 crisis, you can have access to the
5 full continuum by calling 988, having
6 them make the assessment, figuring
7 out if it's not commitment level, it
8 doesn't mean it's not all of these
9 other levels that are available to
10 intervene. And it's not at that
11 level, but you still have a million
12 questions about what am I supposed to
13 do in a situation like that.

14 If you do call 888-545-2600,
15 they can talk with you about the
16 supports for families, the supports
17 for the individual and that whole
18 array is one of the things about
19 Philadelphia's behavioral health
20 system that we need to really
21 continue to elevate for people
22 because there is so much more than
23 people think, and that's why we're
24 trying to make it as easy as possible
25 to get access into the system and

1 then have all of these options
2 available depending on what your
3 situation is.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: I want to
5 pass the mic, but I would love to
6 offer, particularly City Council
7 staff with some orientation about
8 those options, those list of things
9 that can be done because there is
10 nothing more, how do I say, nothing
11 more catching you flatfooted --

12 DR. BOWEN: Distressing --

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yeah,
14 that's a better word.

15 DR. BOWEN: Upsetting,
16 painful.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Even for
18 elected officials. When someone says
19 my child is out of control, help me.
20 And gain, those numbers are important
21 and those processes to understand are
22 important, and I think there is that
23 kind of training, exposure needed not
24 only to those people in distress, but
25 the families that are placed in

1 crisis because of it.

2 DR. BOWEN: I agree. And the
3 whole point of making 988 so easy, so
4 accessible for anyone, if you or a
5 family member are in a crisis, to
6 call. You're going to get a bunch of
7 really helpful people who are going
8 to answer that phone and really
9 provide you with those kinds of
10 support. So we really, really
11 encourage people to use 988.

12 We've built out a much better
13 behavioral health crisis system that
14 existed a couple of years ago. And
15 so, we really do want people to know
16 that it's there and available. And I
17 want to hark back to one of your
18 comments, which was a bit about
19 social determinants and where is that
20 in this mix. We have built it and
21 embedded it into this. So for 988
22 and for PCL Line and for our mobile
23 crisis response, they will be
24 checking on those things as well.

25 We also have a lot of

1 materials we've distributed to City
2 Council, but we're going to check and
3 make sure that everybody has all of
4 our up-to-date information because
5 that's good to distribute for people
6 to know. When they're not in a
7 crisis, you still need to know so
8 that you're not struggling at that
9 moment with I don't know what to do.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
11 so much.

12 Thank you, Mr. President.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
14 Thank you, Councilman.

15 Chair recognizes Councilwoman
16 Lozada.

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
19 Councilwoman.

20 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: I'm
21 sorry. I'm good. I heard some of
22 the responses in the conversation.
23 Thank you.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Oh,
25 you're good, Councilwoman. Okay.

1 Thank you.

2 I think, Councilwoman
3 Gauthier, you wanted to come back for
4 a second round, another round of
5 questions?

6 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Yes, I
7 have questions for OHS. Is that
8 appropriate now?

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Oh,
10 for OHS. So we're good. Okay.

11 Dr. Bowen, get out of here
12 while you can.

13 DR. BOWEN: Thank you all. I
14 appreciate you all very much.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
16 Thank you. Thank you for your work.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Bye,
18 Dr. Bowen.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: We
20 appreciate it. Thank you so much.

21 Next up we have the Department
22 of Public Health. And up to testify
23 his Dr. Bettigole, my partner in
24 dealing with COVID.

25 DR. BETTIGOLE: Okay if I go

1 ahead and start?

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Thank you. Yes. Doctor, please you
4 can proceed.

5 DR. BETTIGOLE: Great. Thank
6 you. So good afternoon, President
7 Clarke and members of City Council.
8 I'm Dr Cheryl Bettigole, Health
9 Commissioner. Joining me today are
10 Deputy Commissioners Dr. Frank
11 Franklin and Dr. Palak Raval-Nelson
12 and Ryan Taylor, Chief Operating
13 Officer. I'm pleased to provide
14 testimony on the Department of Public
15 Health's Fiscal Year 2024 operating
16 budget.

17 The Fiscal Year '24 budget
18 will continue to support our mission
19 to protect and promote the health of
20 all Philadelphians and to provide a
21 safety net for people who are
22 disproportionately impacted by
23 societal factors that limit their
24 access to health care and other
25 resources necessary for optimal

1 health.

2 You have my full written
3 testimony so I'll summarize. The
4 proposed Fiscal Year 2024 General
5 Fund budget totals \$143,736,320, a
6 decrease of \$16,848,542 from Fiscal
7 Year 2023 estimated obligation
8 levels. This decrease is due to the
9 closure of the Philadelphia Nursing
10 Home, PNH. Funding for non-PNH
11 functions increases allowing critical
12 public health programs to grow.

13 The department is requesting
14 1,081 budgeted positions for Fiscal
15 '24, an increase of 13 positions over
16 Fiscal '23. The increase is
17 attributed to hiring additional staff
18 for the Medical Examiner's Office and
19 restoring the numbers of our urban
20 health policy fellows to two per
21 year.

22 I do want to note that several
23 of our contracts with minority-owned
24 firms are still in the conformance
25 process, making our OEO participation

1 numbers appear much lower than they
2 are. We are committed to continuing
3 to diversify our contracts, and
4 particularly to contracting with
5 minority and women-owned businesses
6 located in Philadelphia whenever
7 possible.

8 As we emerge from the
9 pandemic, the Health Department has
10 worked to strengthen and expand other
11 important areas of our public health
12 work while continuing to provide
13 pandemic-related services over the
14 past year. We've put together a new
15 strategic plan, focusing on both
16 equity-focused work to address the
17 major causes of death and disability
18 in the City and the need to address
19 workforce recruitment and retention
20 through initiatives that focus on
21 well-being, professional development
22 and pipeline and advancement
23 opportunities to build a diverse
24 staff and fill vacancies.

25 The Mayor's Fiscal '24

1 proposed budget includes increased
2 funding for a range of important
3 public health priorities, including
4 infant and maternal mortality, gun
5 violence and overdose prevention and
6 the building of two desperately-
7 needed health centers in the Lower
8 Northeast.

9 The new health centers would
10 fill a void that has prevented tens
11 of thousands of Philadelphians in an
12 increasingly diverse area of our City
13 from receiving timely potentially
14 life-saving care. As Council
15 considers this budget, I ask you to
16 take a few minutes to remember all of
17 those who've lost their lives or seen
18 them altered forever because of that
19 void but also to celebrate that we
20 come here together with a path
21 forward to change the future for so
22 many residents who will need these
23 services in the coming years.

24 This is truly a historic
25 moment. I also want to take this

1 opportunity to remember Dr. Thomas
2 Story, who led our City health
3 centers for many years and who
4 believed deeply in the mission of the
5 health centers to be a place where
6 high quality care is delivered with
7 compassion, dedication and in the
8 language of each patient. Tom would
9 have been so incredibly happy to see
10 these projects finally move forward
11 after years and years of effort.

12 Key highlights from the past
13 year include the launch of the Philly
14 Joy Bank, our new basic income
15 support pilot program for pregnant
16 people in the areas of our City with
17 the highest rates of very low birth
18 weight, developed through our
19 Community Action Network, which is a
20 multi-sector collective impact effort
21 aimed to reduce racial disparities in
22 infant mortality. Our Doula program
23 has served more than 100 pregnant
24 people with substance use disorder,
25 helping to keep them safe during

1 pregnancy and the postpartum period.

2 Our free Pacify telelactation
3 app has served over 5,000 new
4 families over its first year, and our
5 Safe Sleep program has distributed
6 more than 1100 free pack-and-play
7 cribs as part of our efforts to
8 reduce sudden unexplained infant
9 death syndrome.

10 Our City health centers
11 renewed their patient-centered
12 medical home recognition with
13 behavioral health services
14 distinction for all sites in June of
15 2022, a mark of clinical excellence,
16 and completed more than 315,000
17 patient visits in Fiscal '22.

18 PDPH staff worked with OIT to
19 create an online primary care finder
20 tool available at
21 phila.gov/primarycare to help
22 Philadelphians access free and
23 low-cost primary care services. Our
24 COVID containment staff distributed
25 more than 350,000 over-the-counter

1 COVID-19 tests to community groups
2 and individuals to help ensure access
3 to testing.

4 And our homeless outreach
5 program has held 107 vaccine clinics
6 and given nearly 3,000 doses of
7 vaccines, including shots against
8 COVID-19, Mpox and Hepatitis A. Our
9 public health laboratory used grant
10 funding to create a whole gene
11 sequencing laboratory, enabling us to
12 detect new COVID-19 variants and
13 opening the possibility of sequencing
14 in the future for other viruses.

15 Environmental health services created
16 educational videos about regulatory
17 compliance for child care and food
18 establishments and worked with L&I to
19 fully implement the lead
20 certification law for all rental
21 units. Our Division of Substance Use
22 Prevention and Harm Reduction
23 distributed more than 60,000 doses of
24 Naloxone and trained more than 2,300
25 people in overdose recognition and

1 Naloxone administration.

2 We continue to work to recruit
3 and retain a talented diverse staff
4 of public health professionals.

5 While vacancies continue to be a
6 challenge, we have succeeded in
7 obtaining a workforce grant from the
8 Centers for Disease Control to help
9 strengthen our recruitment and
10 retention efforts and to develop
11 programs to build workplace well-
12 being based on a model created by the
13 surgeon general.

14 I would be remiss if I did not
15 take this moment to thank and to
16 celebrate the tremendous hard work,
17 dedication and expertise of our
18 public health staff who have worked
19 so very hard to keep our City safe
20 and healthy in unbelievably difficult
21 conditions these past few years.

22 They are truly public health heroes.

23 I thank you, Council President
24 and members of the Council, for your
25 continuing support of public health

1 in Philadelphia and I'll be happy to
2 answer any questions.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Thank you. Thank you, Commissioner.

5 I had a question about the nursing
6 home. I saw in your budget testimony
7 you talked about a decrease in terms
8 of funding directly related to the
9 nursing home closing. There's an
10 interesting level of interest in the
11 nursing home from all kinds of
12 different people, developers, some
13 public service agencies.

14 So let me understand, we've
15 had a multi-year contract because I
16 believe the building is owned by the
17 state; am I correct?

18 DR. BETTIGOLE: Yeah. So it's
19 owned by the state. We rent it for a
20 dollar and we have a 50-year lease
21 through 2026.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

23 Okay. Oh, 2026 is the expiration?

24 DR. BETTIGOLE: Is the
25 expiration. I mean, presumably there

1 might be some ability to renew but
2 we're no longer running a nursing
3 home there, so we need to work this
4 out with the state.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Okay. So if there is an agreement
7 because I know that there are
8 multiple people aggressively
9 marketing the site. Well, the
10 ability for the City to terminate the
11 agreement is based on the state
12 authorization? How does that work?
13 Say, for instance, I know of a couple
14 people, they want it, they want to do
15 various things. I mean, interesting
16 community meetings over there. How
17 does that work? Do we say, okay,
18 we're out of the contractual
19 relationship if they want to sell it
20 tomorrow?

21 DR. BETTIGOLE: So we would
22 have to work it out with the state.
23 The Department of Public Properties
24 would need to be involved. So in
25 terms of -- we're not running a

1 nursing home there, but in terms of
2 how the rest of that gets worked out,
3 I think DPP -- and I may bring Eva
4 into this for just a second if you
5 don't mind or Marian.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

7 Yeah. I think we still have
8 employees in there. I see City cars
9 sitting in there from time to time.

10 MS. GLADSTEIN: There are some
11 other uses going on there right now,
12 and the City is looking until 2026 at
13 some potential uses on an emergency
14 or whatever basis, but we've
15 indicated to the state that presuming
16 a compatible other user who would
17 allow us to continue to use it from
18 time to time while they were planning
19 the redevelopment, we would be okay
20 with its transfer. So we've
21 communicated directly with the
22 secretary of GSA at the state about
23 that.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

25 Okay. All right. So in terms of the

1 closure, what alternative locations
2 have we used for the clientele, the
3 patients that were in the nursing
4 home? I know a lot of people there
5 for a lot of years. How did you
6 transition to another location?

7 DR. BETTIGOLE: So we did a
8 very intensive process, including
9 bringing in a consultant to help
10 support to make sure that families
11 were offered a choice of locations
12 and were able to find something that
13 met their and their loved ones'
14 needs. We did a lengthy closure. So
15 we started that process in June
16 extended through the 28th of October
17 and were able to find places for all
18 the residents except for a few who
19 transitioned to the community at
20 their own wish.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
22 Okay. That's a good one there.
23 Okay. How are we doing generally? I
24 notice how we don't even ask about
25 COVID anymore. People -- it's almost

1 like it doesn't exist. Actually --

2 DR. BETTIGOLE: I'm so used to
3 having that conversation.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: --
5 what happens when May -- what's the
6 date when the federal --

7 DR. BETTIGOLE: When the
8 emergency ends?

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
10 Yeah.

11 DR. BETTIGOLE: My biggest
12 worry when the emergency ends is
13 about Medicaid. You know, I think
14 that's our greatest vulnerability I
15 mean in Philly but also nationally.
16 We have a lot of people in
17 Philadelphia who are covered on
18 Medicaid. We have a lot of people
19 who don't necessarily read easily.

20 We're trying our best to do an
21 all-hands-on-deck communication to
22 people about what they need to do to
23 update their information, encompass
24 what they need to do if they do
25 accidentally get terminated, to

1 provide all sorts of support. The
2 new Administration in Harrisburg is
3 working very hard under Acting
4 Secretary Arkoosh to support that
5 effort as well. There's still a
6 worry that people are going to lose
7 their coverage. I think we're going
8 to be in a scramble for the next
9 year.

10 I think we've had a chance to
11 see a little window into what it
12 might be like to have not universal
13 coverage because we never got all the
14 way there, but to have better
15 coverage and we want to keep that as
16 much as possible. But I'm much more
17 worried about that. With COVID, we
18 have at least for now a supply of
19 vaccines, supply of medications. We
20 will do what we can there. That will
21 eventually be something we'll be
22 worrying about in terms of supplies,
23 but more immediately it's Medicaid.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
25 Yeah. Right. That's when all of the

1 COVID/American Recovery Plan money
2 runs out. We all have to figure out
3 what we have to do across the board.
4 I know we have some deadlines looming
5 sooner than later. I guess you all
6 are internally in the City of
7 Philadelphia having discussions about
8 some backstops or what we could
9 potentially do locally or with other
10 opportunities from other federal
11 state government?

12 DR. BETTIGOLE: Yeah,
13 certainly for Medicaid we're trying
14 to do as much outreach as we can,
15 including working with Philly Counts
16 and our community health worker
17 program there, lots of other partners
18 to try to get information to people.

19 Internally you know we have a
20 lot of staff who are funded on COVID
21 grant dollars. We also have a lot of
22 vacancies. So a piece of the work of
23 our workforce grant through CDC is to
24 try to matchmake. To what extent
25 we're able to move people who are

1 hired on COVID into positions that
2 are open that they want that are our
3 civil service positions, I think that
4 would be ideal.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
6 right. Okay. Well, thank you, Doc.

7 Chair recognizes Councilwoman
8 Lozada I think had a comment, a
9 question. Councilwoman --

10 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Yes,
11 question and comment. First, I'd
12 like to thank Dr. Bettigole for all
13 of the work that she's done not only
14 in support of me but in support of
15 community-based organizations like
16 Esperanza and providing access to
17 community residents across the City
18 but also and very specifically here
19 in the 7th Council District. I am
20 eternally grateful and I know that
21 many of my community residents are
22 and don't have access to you, right,
23 to be able to tell you how grateful
24 they are of you and all of your team
25 that consistently showed up and

1 provided the necessary access to us
2 as a community.

3 My question is many people
4 walk around and they don't think
5 COVID exists anymore, right. There's
6 not a COVID scare. Can you tell us
7 where we are as it relates to COVID?
8 I still have staff members that
9 report testing COVID-positive and are
10 out for a week or more.

11 We have community residents
12 who are consistently asking for
13 tests. Where are we? Should we
14 continue to be concerned? Are there
15 still fatalities that we don't hear
16 about? Where are we as a city?

17 DR. BETTIGOLE: So things are
18 better than they've been since I
19 would say last May. We're still
20 seeing significant levels of COVID
21 passed in the City. It's still out
22 there. It's probably going to be out
23 there for the next several years.
24 We're still seeing some
25 hospitalizations, but many fewer than

1 we were even two or three months
2 back. So things are very slowly
3 getting better. That doesn't mean
4 we're out of the woods and people
5 should forget all caution.

6 So I would still recommend
7 that people wear a mask if they're in
8 a crowded public place. If they're
9 on the bus, if they're going to a
10 mall, somewhere where the yield for
11 being unmasked is not assigned. And
12 what I mean by that is if you're
13 having dinner with friends and
14 family, you don't want to wear a
15 mask. If you're on the bus you
16 probably don't care that much, so
17 then put the mask on there. So that
18 gives you at least lower risk.

19 We do want to make sure that
20 people who are high risk have gotten
21 their boosters and that continues to
22 be important, and that they remember
23 that there are medications out there
24 if they do get COVID that need to be
25 taken fairly soon after infection to

1 be effective, but that can very
2 effectively prevent hospitalization
3 and death.

4 And the other thing is if
5 you're going to be visiting with
6 somebody who is vulnerable either
7 because they're elderly or they're
8 immunosuppressed, they're on cancer
9 therapy, do a test. We do have
10 tests. We have a lot of tests. Our
11 community distribution program is
12 still active.

13 If any of the Councilmembers'
14 offices would like information on
15 that, please let me know. We're
16 happy to get that to you. We have I
17 think 250,000 tests in stock and we
18 can get more. So we want to make
19 sure that anyone in the City who
20 needs access to those tests can get
21 it.

22 Insurers are still covering
23 tests through May 11th and I would
24 encourage people to access them
25 through their insurance if they have

1 coverage and kind of get a little
2 stockpile so you have a few on hand
3 in case you need them. So things are
4 better. I think that the need for
5 people to socialize and to be with
6 each other is very real as well. So
7 I'm not telling people not to be
8 around other people. But just some
9 level of caution is still in order.

10 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Awesome.
11 Thank you so much for that update. I
12 also had an opportunity when I first
13 arrived in Council to visit the
14 morgue, and I met with some of the
15 employees there who talked about the
16 stresses that they experienced
17 through COVID and having to be
18 frontline workers and having to show
19 up every day. And with the increase
20 of violence and fatalities as a
21 result of violence, there's more
22 work. But the number of staffing
23 doesn't increase.

24 And so, can you tell us if in
25 this budget you have made way, you

1 have talked to the folks that
2 sometimes we don't talk about, right.
3 We don't talk about those folks that
4 work in the morgue and what their
5 needs are. They talked about
6 staffing shortages. They talked
7 about equipment shortages. They
8 talked about something that I can't
9 get over and I think about all the
10 time, which is the ashes of people
11 that are still sitting there because
12 families couldn't afford a decent
13 burial or the ashes of individuals
14 who are sitting on shelves as a
15 result of never being claimed.

16 What do we do? Is there a
17 way, can we do something to be able
18 to give those people a decent burial?
19 So this is a budget that does invest
20 in our Medical Examiner's Office. It
21 increases staff there and we've
22 already started the hiring process
23 for those positions.

24 And thank you by the way for
25 flagging this. One of the -- we have

1 a lot of staff who have worked harder
2 than any human being should work.
3 And one of the effects of the
4 increase in homicides and drug
5 overdoses has been a huge increase in
6 work for our Medical Examiner's
7 Office. We have people working
8 overtime. We've had mandatory
9 overtime at periods that's just
10 brutal on people. And then somebody
11 leaves and then we have more
12 overtime. So the hiring the
13 additional physicians have been
14 really key. And Dr. DiAngelo who's
15 our new Chief Medical Examiner has
16 been a good advocate for the
17 department -- for the division
18 rather. And so, those positions got
19 approved and the hiring has -- some
20 of the positions have already been
21 hired for. People are in training
22 and then the others are going to be
23 hired moving forward. They can only
24 train a certain number at a time.

25 In terms of the burials,

1 that's one of the things that I also
2 found out about when I started, that
3 we had people who hadn't been buried,
4 just --

5 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: They're
6 sitting on shelves.

7 DR. BETTIGOLE: Yeah. So we
8 do have money identified for that.
9 We're also -- and you'll hear from
10 Liz Hersh soon with Homeless
11 Services. Liz has helped to organize
12 this, but we are doing another
13 homeless burial funeral event and the
14 Health Department is contributing to
15 that as well. We want people -- it's
16 a last moment of dignity and we
17 should give that to people.

18 And by the way, I also -- this
19 is unrelated to the MEO. But I
20 should also thank you for your
21 tremendous partnership in helping us
22 get people vaccinated in your
23 neighborhood.

24 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
25 you. Thank you. And then one last

1 thing, one last request that I think
2 is a very simple request, and I hope
3 that we can get it done for them very
4 quickly or fairly quickly. Often
5 times when families come to identify
6 their family members or their loved
7 ones remains, they come into the
8 building that is in the same building
9 as the police department.

10 And so, the Medical Examiner's
11 Office often times is confused or
12 associated with the police department
13 building. And they get a lot of heat
14 for it. And so, they have asked for
15 me to advocate for the sign on the
16 door just to say Medical Examiner
17 Department of Public Health. Can we
18 do that? I think it's simple. I
19 don't know how difficult that is, but
20 can we do something like that? And
21 should I be talking to you about this
22 or the department of what is it,
23 Greenwald's office.

24 DR. BETTIGOLE: DPP --

25 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Public

1 Property.

2 DR. BETTIGOLE: I think we
3 were working on a sign because they
4 had raised this as well, the MEO.
5 We'll follow up on this, but we'll
6 figure it out. I want to make sure I
7 understand exactly what the community
8 members are saying, and then we'll
9 figure it out.

10 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: They
11 just want to be able to identify the
12 Medical Examiner's Office as an
13 office that is under the authority of
14 the Department of Public Health and
15 not associated with the Philadelphia
16 Police Department.

17 DR. BETTIGOLE: Yes. I think
18 this came up and I think we were
19 trying -- I mean, we have to go
20 through DPP to do it, but I think
21 that there is somebody working on
22 this, but I'll double check on the
23 status. Thank you for raising that.

24 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
25 you.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

2 Thank you, Councilwoman.

3 Chair recognizes Councilman
4 Jones.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
6 Mr. President.

7 Thank you, Member Lozada, for
8 caring about those details that means
9 so much to people that are doing
10 their jobs. Commissioner, I just
11 want to thank you -- I want to thank
12 you for all you have done, and your
13 department, your team.

14 I take us back to three years
15 ago when we were living in fear, when
16 we were not able to truly define
17 what --

18 (Background interruption.)

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: Gail.
20 Gail.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Can
22 some folks mute themselves please.
23 Can you please go on mute if you're
24 not speaking. Thank you.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: I remember

1 when we were looking at our mail,
2 leaving it out for two days so that
3 it would decontaminate. We were
4 washing our produce and our items
5 from the grocery store. I remember
6 us not wanting to walk on the other
7 side of the street from each other.

8 But one of the things that I
9 thank you for is that you led us
10 through facts, not fear. Your
11 department led us through with facts
12 as you were able to determine them.
13 You gave that information to
14 President Clarke, to leadership so
15 that we could distribute it to
16 members and get it out to the
17 community.

18 We dealt with health
19 disparities by way of testing. We
20 dealt with health disparities with
21 you by way of shots in arms. And I
22 remember all through that process
23 being proud. At the federal level,
24 it was Fauci. At the local level it
25 was you guys. So thank you for that.

1 I remember in my District when
2 we have the -- maybe other than
3 O'Neill we have the largest number of
4 senior facilities and naturally
5 occurring retirement communities such
6 as high-rise apartments that have a
7 lot of seniors in them, and we had a
8 weekly roundtable meeting and started
9 to look at the needs of their -- and
10 as well as institutions like Belmont
11 Behavioral Health. PCOM got involved
12 and we all realized that we had a
13 shortage of PPEs. And the Health
14 Department stepped up to the plate to
15 give places like Simpson House and
16 Inglis House, those kind of PPEs, not
17 just for doctors but for the people
18 changing the bedpans.

19 And I just can't tell you how
20 thankful we in the 4th District are
21 for you. I remember you and your
22 department doing and developing the
23 Aardvark, which is probably parked
24 now. But I remember that being a
25 beacon of hope rolling up to rec

1 centers and testing people, long
2 lines of people uncertain about
3 whether or not they had COVID and the
4 feeling of relief that was felt when
5 they left and realized that it was
6 negative. So y'all ain't perfect --

7 DR. BETTIGOLE: We know.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: Neither are
9 we. But I couldn't think of a better
10 department to go through that
11 uncertainty with than the Health
12 Department, so thank you. That's all
13 I got to say.

14 DR. BETTIGOLE: Thank you very
15 much.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES:
17 Mr. President.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
19 Thank you, Councilman.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
22 Commissioner, I don't see any other
23 questions for this witness. Let me
24 make sure. All right. So thank you.
25 Thank you for your service, thank you

1 for your team, thanks for all you do
2 for the citizens of the City of
3 Philadelphia in helping keep us safe.

4 I really appreciate it. Thank you.

5 DR. BETTIGOLE: Thank you for
6 the partnership.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And
8 next up we will have our last
9 department, the Office of Homeless
10 Services. And we will have Ms. Liz
11 Hersh.

12 Ms. Hersh, are you ready?

13 MS. HERSH: Ready. Thank you.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

15 Let's rock and --

16 MS. HERSH: Good afternoon,
17 Council President Clarke and members
18 of City Council. I'm Liz Hersh. I'm
19 the Director of the City's Office of
20 Homeless Services. Joining me today
21 are David Holloman, Chief of Staff;
22 Indira Aye-Potter, who's Deputy Chief
23 of Staff; Peter Curran, Deputy
24 Director for Finance Contracts and
25 Asset Management; Mary Beth Gonzalez,

1 Deputy Director for Policy Planning
2 and Performance; and Roberta
3 Cancellier, Deputy Director for
4 Housing Services.

5 You all have my full testimony
6 so I will be brief. I also sent you
7 each a copy of our annual report,
8 which gives highlights of numbers,
9 dollar spent, stories from Fiscal
10 Year 2022. So you have that in your
11 inbox if you would want some
12 additional information.

13 First of all, I want to thank
14 all of you in Council for your
15 support of the Office of Homeless
16 Services. You have truly been
17 partners to the Office of Homeless
18 Services, invested in us, believed in
19 us and that has made a difference.
20 And we have seen in many cities
21 across the country where homelessness
22 has been criminalized, and that has
23 not happened in Philadelphia. We are
24 truly a place where we exercise
25 compassion and love.

1 We're still firm in having the
2 rules of civility, but we understand
3 that nobody wants to be homeless and
4 that we need a shelter system because
5 shelters save lives. But what the
6 real solution to homelessness is
7 deeply affordable housing. As a
8 result of these investments in our
9 community, as operationalized through
10 are more than 70 not-for-profit,
11 social services and homeless service
12 providers. We have actually seen the
13 number of people experiencing
14 homelessness go down.

15 We've seen a reduction in '22
16 by 22 percent of people who are
17 unsheltered and 42 percent of
18 families, and this is based on our
19 annual Point-in-Time Count.
20 Nonetheless, still too many people do
21 touch the homeless system and
22 experience periods of homelessness or
23 experience chronic homelessness and
24 are on the street.

25 So while we appreciate and

1 value the affordable housing, the
2 deeply affordable housing that we've
3 been able to provide for people, we
4 also recognize that there is still so
5 much work to be done. As you're well
6 aware, the mission of the Office of
7 Homeless Services is to make
8 homelessness rare, brief and
9 non-recurring in Philadelphia.

10 I want to just briefly
11 highlight some of the kinds of
12 innovative programs that we have
13 pioneered through our network of
14 homeless service providers and that
15 we will invest in going forward in
16 the coming year with the additional
17 dollars that are allocated to us if
18 they are approved.

19 Shared housing, we love shared
20 housing. Most of us live with
21 roommates at one point or another in
22 our lives. And yet if people get a
23 federal subsidy like a housing choice
24 voucher, public housing, they are
25 prohibited from having a roommate

1 living with an unrelated adult. We
2 don't think that that's a great idea.
3 We think that people ought to be able
4 to have roommates.

5 So we've been working in
6 partnership with the Housing
7 Authority to rehab long vacant
8 scattered site units for roommates to
9 live together as well as for large
10 families, and those units are
11 permanently affordable. We're
12 providing housing for college
13 students who would otherwise be
14 homeless. The City has made such a
15 large investment in Community College
16 and Catto scholars. But without
17 assistance, we have still so many
18 young people, young adults, who are
19 unable to attend college and take
20 advantage of the life-changing
21 opportunity that higher education
22 provides. And so, we're piloting
23 housing programs for young adults
24 experiencing homelessness who are in
25 college.

1 It's become clear to us with
2 the graying of the homeless
3 population that more and more people
4 experiencing homelessness need
5 assistance with activities of daily
6 living. And while we accepted over
7 1100 referrals from hospitals last
8 year, we still do see people who are
9 homeless and need help with going to
10 the bathroom, getting in and out of a
11 wheelchair, managing their
12 medication. They don't need
13 hospitalization, but they do need
14 help with those basic activities.

15 And so, we are piloting with
16 the Public Health Management
17 Corporation, a medical respite that
18 offers additional beds where people
19 can get assistance with those ADLs.
20 Where we have piloted for several
21 years and are expanding Shallow Rent,
22 many of the people who experience
23 homelessness have a very limited
24 income of maybe \$800 or \$900 a month.
25 Imagine trying to find an apartment

1 on that amount of money. It's just
2 not possible without a subsidy.

3 Our Shallow Rent program has
4 enabled them to pay a fixed low rent
5 of \$200, work with landlords. We
6 provide a backstop to the landlord,
7 reduce turnover and mitigate their
8 risk, and we've seen that program be
9 tremendously successful in preventing
10 the cycling through of homelessness
11 among people who have disabilities.

12 And our PEACE program, which
13 is helping people who are fragile,
14 elderly get into a situation that's
15 least restrictive for them where
16 their needs can be met. And we're
17 also really excited by two brand new
18 initiatives one is our Landlord
19 Gateway. Through Ebony Williams, our
20 Director of Landlord Affairs, won a
21 competitive grant to establish a
22 one-stop shop that has brought
23 together 16 city and public agencies,
24 so the private rental market owners
25 can take advantage of City programs.

1 Right now if you go to the
2 City's website as a property owner
3 and you want to do something to help
4 with the affordable housing crisis or
5 homelessness, it's very hard to
6 navigate. But once the Landlord
7 Gateway is launched, there will be
8 not just only a one-stop shop, but it
9 will help landlords, it will help
10 have navigational support to access a
11 wide range of programs that are
12 available so that they can be part of
13 the solution.

14 And finally, we're very
15 excited that we have our youth
16 homelessness demonstration project.
17 This is an \$8.8 million grant from
18 the federal government that we won
19 competitively. We will be submitting
20 our coordinated community plan in
21 just a few weeks. This entire
22 process has been led by youth and
23 young adults.

24 It's just amazing when given
25 the opportunity for leadership and

1 we're paying them for their
2 participation, the solutions that
3 they have come up with to help not
4 just themselves but others in the
5 community. Once our plan is
6 approved, then we will be putting
7 those funds on the street, putting
8 out an RFP and putting that money out
9 there to try and reduce homelessness
10 among youth and young adults. So
11 I'll stop there and entertain any
12 questions that you may have. Thank
13 you very much.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

15 Thank you. Thank you for your
16 testimony. I had a couple questions.
17 It may be a little interesting. So I
18 remember couple years ago actually
19 when we had a number of current
20 Mayoral candidates in this body, one
21 in particular they were talking about
22 tiny houses. And the tiny house
23 conversation I think was in
24 conjunction with some ability to
25 solve homelessness. And I actually

1 think it was a request for proposal
2 or there were some sites identified.
3 Did that go anywhere or do you recall
4 that conversation about the tiny
5 houses?

6 MS. HERSH: Yes.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
8 Whatever happened?

9 MS. HERSH: Well, we're
10 experiencing how challenging it is to
11 try something new, but we are
12 persevering. Yes, absolutely.
13 Moving forward, there's two tiny
14 house projects in process. The one
15 that I think we will break ground
16 this year will be for 29 10-by-12,
17 what are basically detached bedrooms
18 where people can live who are exiting
19 homelessness. It'll be up on State
20 Road. It will have a shared kitchen
21 and bathrooms.

22 Through that RFP process that
23 you rightly recollect, we selected
24 Sanctuary Village. They have raised
25 money, significant money, to put

1 the -- they'll basically prefab units
2 and we are working out laying the
3 groundwork. We need sidewalks and
4 electric. And they'll be on these
5 sort of giant rollers. So it's a
6 temporary project. We don't have a
7 long-term plan because it is new.
8 Councilmember Driscoll has been
9 extremely supportive.

10 The other will be in
11 Councilmember Gauthier's District.
12 That will be 30 little units that are
13 slightly bigger. I believe they're
14 500 to 600 square feet, and they've
15 been working through the competitive
16 process under the auspices of
17 Planning and Development, and that
18 will be longer-term housing for I
19 believe also prioritizing older
20 adults. So, yes, they're moving
21 forward. But we had to wait for the
22 International Building Code to
23 change. There's all kinds of
24 interesting zoning and construction
25 challenges that we're working

1 through, but we're moving forward and
2 we're optimistic. It's going to
3 happen.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

5 Okay. All right. Won't be surprised
6 if you see it pop up in the Mayoral
7 commercial, right, as a solution,
8 right.

9 All right. Another
10 interesting thing, it's reality-based
11 but it's not discussed. I don't know
12 how you would be involved. So in our
13 neighborhoods, in some of these
14 neighborhoods we have significant
15 challenges with some of the youth
16 that are involved in negative
17 activity, did drugs or some other
18 aspects.

19 My understanding is that
20 there's a lot of these young people
21 that are actually homeless. I know
22 of a number of locations in my
23 Council District and I'm assuming in
24 Councilman Jones' District and others
25 where literally as an example of

1 Susquehanna Avenue over in Strawberry
2 Mansion, it was an abandoned house,
3 the house wasn't open, it was boarded
4 up, and the young folks said, you
5 know what, we're going in, we're
6 going to take over the house. And
7 they live there because they had
8 nowhere else to live. They couldn't
9 live with the family members or
10 whatever circumstances happened to
11 cause them to be homeless. Are you
12 aware of the homeless nature of those
13 type of individuals? Has that ever
14 been brought to your attention?
15 Because I see we're looking at
16 different types of homelessness. And
17 in your presentation you talk about
18 homelessness for different categories
19 of individuals.

20 MS. HERSH: Yes, we are
21 painfully aware of this situation.
22 It's heartbreaking because when
23 you're young, you're hopeful, you're
24 resilient, you're still growing and
25 that's really the moment to interrupt

1 that cycle of homelessness. We do
2 have a youth homeless outreach team
3 that comes out of Valley Youth House.
4 It's called Synergy.

5 And so, if you're aware of
6 young people who are homeless, you
7 can call the regular homeless hotline
8 or I can get the number for Synergy
9 for you, and they do have a number of
10 young people who themselves have
11 experienced homelessness who go out.
12 One of the differences between young
13 adults and older adults in
14 experiencing homelessness is the
15 hiding and the shame.

16 We hear from the young adults
17 in our Young Adult Leadership
18 Committee who are driving the
19 planning process that I mentioned
20 earlier, is that they pretend and
21 they try to pass, so they may be
22 going to school every day but not
23 telling anybody what their
24 circumstances are and just trying to
25 get by.

1 And so, one of the reasons
2 we're so excited about this YHDP
3 grant is that it will make a dent.
4 There will be more emergency housing
5 and more services for young people.
6 The other thing about the young
7 adults is -- there's a couple things.
8 They want adults to take care of
9 them. They tell us we want you to
10 ask us if we're okay. We want you to
11 notice if we're not okay and we want
12 you to reach out. They don't want to
13 have to be the adults who ask for
14 help all the time. They want us to
15 still take care of them, which as you
16 know if you have young adult
17 children, it's a tricky business, but
18 that's what they tell us.

19 So we want to have -- the
20 other thing is they need more. They
21 need more help. They need that long
22 runway to get education, to get
23 money, to figure out if they have a
24 behavioral health situation to
25 reconcile with family. And so, we're

1 looking at more robust kinds of
2 services and they want to work. They
3 want to have family-sustaining jobs.

4 And so, that's the way our
5 community coordinated plan is
6 evolving, is to try and do a better
7 job of giving them more of what they
8 want so that they don't have to live
9 in an abandoned house. So they have
10 a lifeline and a better prospect for
11 a better future.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
13 right. So this population, and I'm
14 glad that you know about it, not glad
15 that it exists, but that you are
16 aware of the challenge in this
17 particular category of individuals.
18 And the reality is it's a -- I
19 suspect that they will not entertain
20 the traditional outreach or try to
21 get information off the traditional
22 sources.

23 So have you ever given any
24 thought since you do understand it is
25 an issue to working with the

1 individuals that we provide these
2 grants to? We have a number of
3 individuals that are out there,
4 that's kind of where I got it from,
5 that are reaching out and interacting
6 with the young people that have
7 challenges in life dealing with
8 violence prevention, that they can be
9 armed with the information that as
10 they talk to them and find out that
11 they don't have it -- these people
12 don't have anywhere to live, right.

13 Do you have any interaction or
14 can you have some interaction with
15 those groups that are out there in
16 the street on a consistent basis?

17 MS. HERSH: Absolutely. Our
18 coordinated community plan has
19 engaged the Mayor's Office of
20 Children and Families. We are
21 working with all of the violence
22 prevention groups as well to try and
23 weave that all together. But if any
24 of you know of groups or individuals
25 who may not know about our services,

1 we would love to be connected with
2 them so that we can do a better job
3 of weaving this all together and
4 having a helping hand.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Okay.

7 MR. HOLLOMAN: So, Council
8 President -- good afternoon, Council
9 President. So one of the issues that
10 you talked about in your --

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

12 Just state your name for the record.

13 MR. HOLLOMAN: Good afternoon.
14 David Holloman, Chief of Staff for
15 the Office of Homeless Services.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

17 Thank you.

18 MR. HOLLOMAN: So one of the
19 issues that we want to work with is a
20 group like Mel Wells out of One Day
21 At A Time. Like those neighborhoods,
22 like I'm a native of North Philly, so
23 you have kids that are coming in
24 these houses that may have been of
25 their grandmom and having groups of

1 kids that come in there. Back in the
2 day we used to call them abandonium
3 where kids would come into. It is
4 important that we get trusted
5 messengers like NOMO, like Mel Wells
6 who got the bike BMX group. Part of
7 that initiative -- I see Beth
8 Gonzalez on here who's been really
9 tremendous in helping coordinate the
10 drafting plan -- was to get out to a
11 diverse group of people who are in
12 those neighborhoods to do that
13 outreach because they're not going to
14 come to your traditional legacy
15 providers that they don't trust, they
16 don't see. So it's going to be very
17 important to do that outreach with
18 community groups like NOMO, like
19 ManUpPHL with Solomon and then who's
20 in those schools, and like Mel and
21 them who does those BMX to really
22 identify where they're at deep into
23 those communities and how we get
24 outreach to them. And they have to
25 be someone that looks like them

1 that's almost in that peer group too.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Okay.

4 MS. GONZALEZ: One thing I'd
5 like to add, Beth Gonzalez, Deputy
6 Director at OHS, in addition to that
7 we're also working with those
8 organizations with the School
9 District of Philadelphia with their
10 COVID, the ESSER funds, and we have
11 somebody who's been hired and is
12 going to be embedded in OHS for two
13 years and working with the School
14 District so we can look at anybody
15 who's potentially truant or not
16 connected to the community and the
17 school and also experiencing
18 homelessness or at risk to make sure
19 we connect them to those
20 organizations to then make sure they
21 get the supports they need as well.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

23 Great. Okay. It's good to hear.

24 I'm glad I asked that question. All
25 right. Well, thank you.

1 Chair recognize Councilman
2 Jones.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
4 Mr. President. I'm glad you asked
5 that question too because it is the
6 one I want to expand upon.

7 A credible messenger that is a
8 professional in the hierarchy of DHS
9 and CUAs mentioned to me that there
10 is an office or facility that young
11 people actually get to stay in. It
12 is an office where they receive some
13 service. They can get a meal there,
14 they can get showers, but there is no
15 ability to force them to stay so they
16 come and go as they please.

17 I was told that this
18 particular population, not trying to
19 stereotype anybody, but they are of a
20 transient homeless status and were a
21 major part of what we saw downtown
22 with those 200 young people on Market
23 Street. Further, I was told that
24 that population may have come into
25 contact not only with DHS but with

1 the law, some of them, not
2 necessarily in a convicted way, but
3 are also a part of influencers of
4 other young people that may not be
5 homeless, but may not want to follow
6 guidelines of curfews and things like
7 that, so they I hear leave out of
8 that facility and then go down to
9 Delaware Avenue and engage in all
10 kinds of things. I'll leave it at
11 that. But are you familiar with them
12 and do you intervene with them?

13 MR. HOLLOMAN: So I think --

14 MS. HERSH: That is not an OHS
15 facility. We do coordinate quite
16 closely with the Department of Human
17 Services with young people who are
18 experiencing homelessness and who are
19 known to the DHS system, but we don't
20 run that program specifically. That
21 would be a DHS facility.

22 Dave, were you going to add
23 something to that?

24 MR. HOLLOMAN: Yeah. The only
25 thing I was going to say about that

1 we can't speak to exact to say who
2 those kids were that came downtown
3 last week in Center City to
4 innervate, interfere. There are
5 facilities like truancy programs
6 where kids get brought to for after
7 school or missing school that go down
8 there, so we can't speak to an exact
9 of who those kids were identified
10 with.

11 I think one of the things that
12 we have to be mindful of is that
13 social media, how that drives trends
14 and where it drives kids too. I
15 think one of the things that we're
16 doing with our youth development,
17 working on our youth group, is really
18 trying to understand them from a
19 social media perspective, how do we
20 engage them, how do we communicate
21 with them, and just to inform them
22 about the programs that we do have
23 that are positive that they can get
24 involved in. But we can't really --
25 I think like Liz indicated, we can't

1 really speak to saying those kids
2 were part of our system or not.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: No, I'm
4 not -- I was particular in my choice
5 of words not to say they were all
6 anyone's kids. They could be my
7 grandkids. The point is that there
8 is a central point of folk that are
9 in that particular office space that
10 are homeless, that I would hope that
11 your department could work with their
12 department to solve that. They've
13 learned how to adapt to their
14 situation, get the services and then
15 leave out and wind up a part of folk
16 that may have homes, and young
17 people -- but they are also a group
18 that needs our services.

19 So what I'm encouraging us to
20 do is if we know where they are, then
21 maybe we can move those services to
22 them, and you're not going to
23 convince everybody but you may
24 convince some of them to seek out
25 those services because it is

1 frightening for me to think of them
2 in that vulnerable situation.

3 Many of them wind up being
4 exploited, put it to you that way --

5 MR. HOLLOMAN: You're
6 absolutely right.

7 MS. GONZALEZ: Yeah. We're
8 hoping through the YHDP because the
9 youth are driving the decision,
10 they're driving program design,
11 they're driving the housing projects,
12 that we'll be able to engage those
13 folks based on what their needs are,
14 and we have an evaluation arm to
15 those projects designs as well, so
16 they'll be part of that process as
17 well.

18 So we're really hoping that
19 not only will this bring in
20 potentially up to 175 new units for
21 youth within our community, but then
22 also they can actually design what
23 that is so that we can engage them
24 and bring them in.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: So my final

1 question I'm going to shift from
2 young people to -- I didn't hear in
3 your presentation, is the census of
4 homeless in Philadelphia going up,
5 down or flatlined?

6 MS. HERSH: It's been going
7 down.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: To what
9 degree?

10 MS. HERSH: It's gone down by
11 22 percent. Well, at the peak in --
12 and this is according to the Point-
13 in-Time Count. But at our peak in
14 2018 during really at the peak of
15 the -- early on in the opioid crisis
16 we were at about "1100 unsheltered."
17 Now, we're down at about just a
18 little over "700 unsheltered."

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: So how does
20 that compare for -- that's good news,
21 great news, underscore, and let's
22 make sure the stenographer has that.
23 How do we compare to places like San
24 Diego and San Francisco?

25 MS. HERSH: Our numbers, we

1 have historically had the lowest
2 number of people who are unsheltered
3 among the major cities. Major city
4 being defined as over 1 million
5 people. One of the things even
6 though our rents are going up, one of
7 the great predictors of higher rates
8 of homelessness other than really
9 nice weather like San Diego has is
10 high rents. And because our rents
11 are still -- we're not in the
12 extremely high category like LA, San
13 Francisco, Seattle, Portland, our
14 numbers have stayed down. It's still
15 too many. I never want to make it
16 seem like, you know, we're not taking
17 a victory lap here. We still have
18 too many people, especially Black and
19 Brown people who are experiencing
20 homelessness.

21 But given the robustness of
22 our service system, the investment of
23 the City in the real solutions that
24 is deeply affordable long-term care,
25 long-term housing, other kinds of

1 homeless outreach we do, the
2 partnership with the Department of
3 Behavioral Health and Intellectual
4 Disabilities with the Housing
5 Authority, our numbers are -- when
6 the rest of the country was trending
7 up, we were trending down.

8 So I would say we know what
9 works here, and I'm not just talking
10 about the Office of Homeless Services
11 but the City as a whole, City
12 Council, the Administration, and we
13 have made smart strategic investments
14 and they have made a huge difference
15 and are continuing every day to make
16 a huge difference in the lives of
17 many, many Philadelphians. And
18 that's why we come to work every day.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: Well, Liz,
20 I remember your first day, and you've
21 come a long way since then. And when
22 you start talking about 22 percent
23 reductions in homelessness, that's a
24 job well done. And thank you and
25 your team.

1 MS. HERSH: Thank you.

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
3 Mr. President.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

5 Thank you, Councilman. We do not
6 have any additional questions for you
7 at this time. But as always, please
8 be prepared for a callback during
9 this interesting time also known as
10 the FY24 budget process. I want to
11 thank you. Thank you and continue to
12 do the work you do to help those most
13 challenged citizens in the City of
14 Philadelphia without the support of
15 many, particularly government. There
16 will be no hands out for those
17 individuals to give them a hands up.
18 Well, thank you. Thank you again for
19 your testimony.

20 MS. HERSH: Thank you.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

22 There being no additional questions
23 from members of the Committee, this
24 Committee will stand in recess until
25 Wednesday, April 12th at 10:00 a.m.,

1 at which time we will reconvene in
2 the remote manner using Microsoft
3 Teams. Thank you all very much.
4 Please be safe.

5 (Committee of the Whole
6 concluded at 5:20 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, hereby certify that the
proceedings and evidence noted are contained
fully and accurately in the stenographic
notes taken by me in the foregoing matter,
and this is a correct transcript of the
same.

TANEHA CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

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