

Committee on Finance
April 6, 2021

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Remote location using Microsoft® Teams
Tuesday, April 6, 2021
9:30 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILMAN DEREK S. GREEN, CHAIR
COUNCILMAN BOBBY HENON, VICE-CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
COUNCILMAN ALLAN DOMB
COUNCILWOMAN HELEN GYM
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILMAN DAVID OH
COUNCILWOMAN MARIA D. QUINONES-SANCHEZ

BILL: 210139

1 - - -

2 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Good
3 morning. It's Tuesday, April 6th. This
4 is the Council Committee on Finance.

5 I understand that state law
6 currently requires that the following
7 announcement be made at the beginning of
8 every remote public hearing as follows:

9 Due to the current public health
10 emergency, City Council Committees are
11 currently meeting remotely. We are
12 using Microsoft Teams to make these
13 remote hearings possible.

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

24 Mr. Iannuzzi, will you please
25 call the role to take attendance.

1 Members that are in attendance, please
2 indicate that you are present for
3 today's hearing when your name is
4 called. Also, say a brief passage of
5 prose when responding so that your image
6 will be displayed on screen when you
7 speak.

8 THE CLERK: Councilmember Allan
9 Domb.

10 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Morning,
11 Chairman Green and colleagues and
12 everyone listening.

13 THE CLERK: Councilmember Helen
14 Gym.

15 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Good
16 morning, colleagues. Good morning,
17 Mr. Chair.

18 THE CLERK: Councilmember Bobby
19 Henon.

20 COUNCILMAN HENON: Good
21 morning, Mr. Chairman. And good
22 morning, colleagues.

23 THE CLERK: Councilmember David
24 Oh.

25 COUNCILMAN OH: Good morning,

1 Chairman. Good morning, colleagues.

2 THE CLERK: And, Chair Derek
3 Green.

4 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Good
5 morning. And I would like to thank all
6 my colleagues for being here this
7 morning for today's Finance Committee
8 hearing. Thank you for being present.
9 A quorum of the Committee is present and
10 this hearing is now called to order.
11 This is the public meeting of the
12 Committee on Finance regarding Bill No.
13 210139.

14 Mr. Iannuzzi, will you please
15 read the title of the bill.

16 THE CLERK: Bill No. 210139,
17 amending Chapter 19-500 of The
18 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Taxes and
19 Rents General," by adding required
20 conditions and information for reporting
21 adjustments to taxable income, under
22 certain terms and conditions.

23 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Before we
24 begin to hear testimony from the
25 witnesses we have here for today,

1 everyone who has been invited to the
2 meeting to testify should be aware that
3 this public meeting is being recorded.
4 Because the hearing is public,
5 participants and viewers have no
6 reasonable expectation of privacy. By
7 continuing to be in the meeting, you are
8 consenting to being recorded.

9 Additionally, prior to
10 recognizing Members for the questions or
11 comments they may have for witnesses, I
12 will note for the record at this time
13 that we will use the chat feature
14 available in Microsoft Teams to allow
15 Members to signify that they wish to be
16 recognized. In order to comply with the
17 Sunshine Act, the chat feature must only
18 be used for this purpose.

19 Before I call the first panel
20 on Bill No. 210139, would any of my
21 colleagues on the Finance Committee like
22 to make an opening comment regarding
23 this bill?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Seeing and

1 hearing none, Mr. Iannuzzi, will you
2 please call the first panel of witnesses
3 we have to testify this morning.

4 THE CLERK: Frank Breslin,
5 Revenue Commissioner.

6 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: Good
7 morning.

8 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Good
9 morning, Commissioner Breslin. Please
10 state your name for the record and
11 proceed with your testimony.

12 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: Thank
13 you. Good morning, Chair Green and
14 members of the Committee on Finance.
15 I'm Frank Breslin, Revenue Commissioner
16 and Chief Collections Officer. I'm here
17 today to present testimony on Bill No.
18 210139. This bill provides language
19 necessary to implement fair and
20 efficient procedures for businesses who
21 need to amend their Philadelphia
22 business tax returns as a result of a
23 change to their federal tax return.

24 If adopted, Philadelphia's
25 rules will be consistent with

1 recommended best practices for this
2 common situation, which has been adopted
3 by many states. First and foremost,
4 this bill aims to reduce existing
5 complexities and tax compliance barriers
6 for taxpayers who have been audited by
7 the IRS. When a taxpayer has been
8 audited by the IRS, the federal return
9 can change. In many cases, the taxpayer
10 may also need to amend their Business
11 Income and Receipts or Net Profits Tax
12 returns for the City of Philadelphia for
13 that year.

14 Currently, the trigger for
15 reporting a tax change from a federal
16 audit examination is undefined. This
17 bill clarifies the definition, making it
18 clear when taxpayers must provide
19 updated information to Philadelphia.
20 This bill also extends the reporting
21 deadline from 75 days to 180 days. We
22 believe that this extension provides
23 taxpayers sufficient time to amend or
24 file a previously unfiled return in
25 order to stay compliant.

1 Second, this bill will improve
2 the Department of Revenue's ability to
3 audit and assess previously unreported
4 taxes. Current law makes it difficult
5 for the Department to audit and assess
6 underreported taxes due to a three-year
7 statute of limitations. This bill
8 grants the Department a one-year
9 extension to the current statute of
10 limitations for reporting changes
11 commencing on the date the IRS reports
12 the change to Philadelphia Department of
13 Revenue. Thus, the Department will have
14 more time to assess taxpayers for
15 adjustments arising directly from a
16 change of federal tax return and ensure
17 that everyone is paying their fair
18 share.

19 The Administration supports
20 this bill as originally drafted to make
21 tax compliance easier to follow and
22 enhance the Department's auditing
23 efforts. It is our understanding that
24 an amendment to the bill has been
25 proposed. This amendment adds language

1 affecting the treatment of refunds that
2 can result from changes to a return.
3 The Administration has not yet had a
4 full opportunity to analyze this
5 amendment, but we are hopeful that the
6 sponsor will work with us to address any
7 potential concern before final passage.
8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify
9 and I'm happy to answer any questions.

10 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
11 Mr. Breslin. Can you provide some
12 perspective on how many taxpayers this
13 amendment will be impacted by?

14 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: It's
15 really tough for us to determine that.
16 Because when this happens, taxpayers are
17 supposed to amend their tax return, but
18 there's no indication -- and we then
19 process the amended tax return, but we
20 don't necessarily have an indication
21 that the amended return is a result of
22 an IRS change. But we do know that in
23 2020 we were able to identify 138
24 changes that resulted in about a little
25 over a quarter of a million dollars of

1 additional tax revenue.

2 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And then one
3 of the things that was brought to your
4 attention regarding the proposed
5 amendment that I was discussing that
6 applies to applicability of a refund for
7 a taxpayer, can you speak on that to
8 some perspective?

9 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: Yeah.
10 Well, right now the way refunds work,
11 and this is pretty consistent, is that
12 refunds have a statute of limitations
13 that's based on the payment date. And
14 right now the statute of limitations for
15 Philadelphia is three years, so a
16 taxpayer has three years from the
17 payment date or the payment due date,
18 whichever is later, to file for a
19 refund. So that's a little different
20 than the filing of a tax return. I
21 guess basically the thinking here is
22 that when a taxpayer files a return and
23 makes a payment, they have three years
24 from the date of that payment to file
25 for a refund if for some reason they

1 determined that they overpaid and to
2 some degree that gives a degree of
3 budgetary security to the Department and
4 the City in knowing that after three
5 years has passed from the time of that
6 payment, that that money is not going to
7 be refunded out of our funds.

8 COUNCILMAN GREEN: I'd like to
9 note for the record that we've also been
10 joined by Councilmember Cindy Bass.

11 And I think the question that
12 came up is that my understanding is
13 because there's a three-year statute of
14 limitations in reference to filing a
15 refund but if there's some change to
16 your tax filing and the report of
17 change, that will now entitle someone to
18 have more of a refund, then they should
19 be able to apply for that applicable
20 refund based on this report of change?

21 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: Right,
22 that is what I understand the amendment
23 to say. And as I said, I haven't had a
24 chance to fully vet that yet so we want
25 to take a look at that, understand the

1 implications of it and then work with
2 you, Councilman, to discuss that and
3 come to an agreement.

4 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And to my
5 colleagues, this is language that was
6 brought to my attention within the past
7 day, so we're having ongoing
8 conversations with both Law and Revenue
9 about making this amendment possible.
10 So the goal for today's hearing would be
11 to vote the bill out of Committee as
12 originally proposed and then work with
13 the Law Department and the Department of
14 Revenue on a combination to meet the
15 goals of the amendment and amend the
16 bill while the bill is on our Council
17 calendar.

18 Are there any questions for
19 Mr. Breslin from any members of Council?

20 (No response.)

21 COUNCILMAN GREEN: I'm
22 surprised that no one has any in-depth
23 tax questions for Mr. Breslin. Any
24 Section 1031 questions?

25 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: We do have

1 in-depth tax questions, Mr. Chair, but
2 not on this particular issue.

3 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: Thank
4 you.

5 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Mr. Breslin,
6 since I do have you here and
7 Councilmember Gym actually somewhat
8 opened the door, I'm curious a little
9 bit regarding collections that we're
10 seeing right now. We're getting ready
11 for the budget on April 15th. If you
12 can kind of give a perspective on that
13 and where we are compared to last year
14 now that we're one year into the
15 pandemic and business activity thus
16 seems to be improving as well as
17 individual activity, so if you can give
18 a little perspective from what --

19 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: Sure, I
20 can give some general perspective. I
21 wasn't prepared so I don't have any --

22 COUNCILMAN GREEN: I
23 understand.

24 COMMISSIONER BERLIN: --
25 information right in front of me. But

1 certainly, some of the taxes have been
2 severely hit, Amusement Tax, Liquor Tax,
3 Parking Tax. And we're seeing some
4 recovery there but albeit slow, and
5 that's going to take a while.

6 Parking Tax, for example, a lot
7 of that income comes from -- the big
8 three areas are Center City, sporting
9 events and special events down at the
10 stadiums and the airport. So we know
11 with people working remotely, with
12 travel being limited and just starting
13 to resume some sporting events with
14 spectators, that's taking a while and
15 that will continue to take a while, and
16 we're seeing some recovery with Liquor
17 Tax.

18 Wage Tax, we're watching really
19 closely. The concern there is the
20 working remotely and how that is
21 affecting -- nonresidents working
22 remotely and how that is affecting our
23 Wage Tax. Right now we're seeing the
24 impact of that. It's still a little
25 early to tell because we're right in the

1 height of tax season where taxpayers are
2 filing for their refunds. So if a
3 nonresident of Philadelphia was working
4 remotely and their employer continued to
5 withhold Wage Tax, and we're talking
6 about last year for 2020, they're
7 entitled to file a claim for refund, and
8 that generally gets done at the time
9 that they file their taxes. If they
10 have a preparer, the preparer would do
11 that. So we're seeing the volume of
12 those come in now and we're processing
13 them and we're tracking them.

14 Right now I think we're
15 trending towards the budget estimate.
16 Budget Bureau has revised estimates and
17 I think we're on estimate. We're
18 watching that really closely. The other
19 tax that we're watching very closely
20 right now, and it's really too early to
21 tell, is the Business Income and
22 Receipts Tax. Again, we're right at
23 our height of filing so those returns
24 are coming in now and we're processing
25 them and we're watching payments.

1 We're at a situation where now
2 we watch payments almost daily and watch
3 revenues. They seem to be holding, but
4 it's way too early to tell because those
5 returns will be coming in over the next
6 month or two and we have an extended
7 deadline until May 17th, so it will take
8 even a little longer to tell this year.
9 So that's kind of the summary of where
10 we're at. We're watching closely.

11 I think some of the taxes, the
12 taxes are reacting somewhat as expected.
13 And I think the Budget Bureau has done a
14 good job with estimating and we'll just
15 continue to monitor very closely,
16 especially the Wage Tax and the BIRT
17 over the next couple of months.

18 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.
19 And then you just made a statement -- I
20 just want to make sure I understand this
21 for the record -- that consistent with
22 federal tax due date which was pushed
23 back to May 17th, we've also pushed back
24 various City taxes to May 17th like we
25 did last year and those taxes would be

1 which ones?

2 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: That's
3 the Business Income and Receipts Tax,
4 the Net Profits Tax, the School Income
5 Tax and the Earnings Tax. They're
6 usually kind of companion taxes to the
7 federal tax when a taxpayer goes to
8 their income tax preparer or their tax
9 professional. They get prepared at the
10 same time, so we didn't want to create a
11 hardship for taxpayers in having to try
12 to prepare the City returns for us at an
13 earlier due date than their federal tax
14 return.

15 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And I see my
16 colleague Councilmember Gym has a
17 question.

18 And just to conclude, we really
19 won't have a perspective on how we're
20 doing until probably the end of the
21 first quarter of 2022, because it does
22 seem like a number of businesses and
23 others are starting to have a return but
24 probably a more robust return happening
25 some time in September after Labor Day

1 both for schools as well as businesses.
2 By then, we will have had a significant
3 amount of vaccinations. Everyone that
4 would have wanted to receive a
5 vaccination should have been able to
6 receive one by then. Those that had
7 some kind of vaccine hesitancy,
8 hopefully that will have subsided.

9 And then after getting through
10 the last quarter of 2021 and then as we
11 go into the end of the first quarter of
12 2022, we will be able to get a better
13 sense of what type of return and
14 increase, especially on the areas that
15 you talked about, the Nonresident Wage
16 Tax, the BIRT as well as Parking and
17 Amusement Taxes. Thank you,
18 Commissioner Breslin.

19 Councilmember Gym.

20 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Yes. And I
21 just want to keep this very brief
22 because we can talk for a while I'm sure
23 about the situation for the City going
24 forward. But a very quick question
25 because it has been brought up to me by

1 a number of people who have been
2 informed that they are receiving what I
3 was told were sort of preemptive refunds
4 for work if they lived outside the City
5 from 2020. I think that's how it was
6 presented to me.

7 And one of the questions that
8 was asked was whether the City is
9 allowed to give people an option about
10 if they want to either claim their
11 refund or if we're allowed to figure out
12 any other ways to re -- I want to say
13 this responsibly, but to be able to let
14 people know that this is entitled to
15 them of course, but is it conveyed to
16 individuals that there's an option to
17 either not claim the refund if they
18 choose to support the City or whether
19 there's a place where they could
20 redirect it if they so chose or whether
21 the City's even allowed to do that?

22 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: That's
23 interesting. I think what you're asking
24 is if people would rather allow the
25 refund to remain with the City, is that

1 allowable. It's up to the discretion of
2 the taxpayer to file for the refund, so
3 they can choose not to and that happens.

4 Anecdotally, I know that
5 there's taxpayers and whether the amount
6 of money just isn't significant enough
7 or they just for whatever personal
8 reason, choose not to apply for the
9 refund, they can do that. And then
10 certainly, they can choose to take their
11 refund and donate it back to the City.
12 That's not something that happens
13 through the Revenue Department though.
14 But I know that there was initiative I
15 think for contributions to the School
16 District a few years ago. And I don't
17 know if those still exist, but certainly
18 taxpayers could do that.

19 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: So anyone
20 who received a refund check who lived
21 outside of the City would have had to
22 proactively file for that refund for
23 that specific purpose or they would have
24 filed the City tax returns and then -- I
25 mean, are they conscious of it?

1 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: Yes.

2 The --

3 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: I guess this
4 individual was surprised that they
5 received a significant sum, would have
6 preferred not to, was asking inquiries
7 about what they can do.

8 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: Yeah.

9 The taxpayer would have to choose to
10 file for a refund. We don't have a
11 Philadelphia personal income tax filing
12 requirement, so the wage taxes are
13 withheld by the employer and submitted
14 to the City. If the employee feels that
15 it was withheld improperly, then they
16 file for the refund. So that happens at
17 the employee level and they have to kind
18 of willfully and proactively choose to
19 file a refund petition with the
20 Department of Revenue that we would then
21 process.

22 The only other way that it
23 takes place in the situation where the
24 taxpayer doesn't do anything to get that
25 money would be in the situation where

1 the employer chose to stop
2 withholding --

3 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: So there was
4 a third party?

5 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: -- the
6 tax. So, yes, that's the third party.
7 Otherwise, the employee has to file a
8 refund petition with us.

9 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: This is a
10 much longer conversation. I'm sure
11 we'll have it at some later time, but I
12 do appreciate that quick information and
13 may follow up with you separately.

14 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: Yeah.
15 Happy to discuss that offline with you,
16 if you would like.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Thank you.
18 Thank you very much.

19 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Now
20 recognize Councilmember Domb.

21 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,
22 Chairman Green.

23 And good morning, Commissioner
24 Breslin. Just two quick questions:
25 Real Estate Tax collection, this was our

1 first year of no discount. How did we
2 do on collections for the end of March
3 this year versus last year?

4 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: I don't
5 want to give you -- I mean, we're so
6 close to the deadline, only a week in
7 and money's still coming in and being
8 processed because there's a little delay
9 as it comes in and gets process through
10 some of the online processes so we're
11 still tallying everything up. But the
12 early indication, and I'll just say
13 right now is it looks good considering
14 everything that the citizens have been
15 through in the past year and we'll know
16 more in a week or so.

17 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. Great.
18 And the second question -- just a quick
19 response is fine -- the Wage Tax bill
20 that this Council passed last January,
21 have we started to see people apply for
22 their Wage Tax refunds? This is for
23 people making less than a certain amount
24 of income.

25 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: Yes,

1 we've started to see those refunds come
2 in, those refund petitions come in.
3 Because of what we just talked about
4 with the Wage Tax refunds, our volume of
5 Wage Tax refunds is really large this
6 year so we're working through that and
7 staying current on that. We try to turn
8 refunds in around eight weeks.

9 My point there is I don't have
10 a tally on the number because they would
11 be in with all of the other refund
12 petitions. But as we track things, I
13 can take a look and see if we have a
14 number and a comparison, but I don't
15 have that for you right now.

16 COUNCILMAN DOMB: And last
17 question: How do people know to
18 qualify, like a family of four that
19 makes less than 30,000 a year, how do
20 they know to qualify for that refund?

21 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: We do a
22 lot through our communications team.
23 That's been a challenge through the
24 pandemic because our most effective
25 communications, especially for those

1 groups, are in person. We've worked
2 closely with Council to do those
3 inperson communication events that have
4 been highly successful. We haven't been
5 able to do those over the past year, so
6 we've pivoted and we're using every
7 other means that we can to get the word
8 out there. We're working through tax
9 professionals. We're working through
10 social media. We're working through
11 text and emails where we have that kind
12 of information for taxpayers, so we're
13 doing everything we can to try to get
14 the word out there. But as you know and
15 other Councilpeople, as champions for
16 the EITC program, even when there's
17 significant money out there that
18 taxpayers are entitled to, it's really a
19 challenge to get that communication out,
20 so we do our best. And the other thing
21 that we've found, and it's kind of a
22 known fact, is that the most effective
23 communication comes through partnerships
24 with trusted organizations, whether that
25 be City Council, whether that be

1 faith-based groups, other community
2 groups. That is our best way. Those
3 partnerships are highly effective and
4 they've been a challenge to do those
5 kinds of events. So we're really going
6 to be doing our best and hope that as we
7 get into that time frame that the Chair
8 talked about as we come out of this
9 pandemic, that we can resume those
10 inperson events again and get people
11 enrolled. But this has been a
12 challenging year and it's probably a
13 year where a lot of people need that
14 money more than ever so we really want
15 to get it in the hands of taxpayers, but
16 it is a challenge.

17 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you. I
18 know the EITC and Wage Tax refund for
19 lower income this year more than any
20 year as you said is crucial to get it to
21 them, so thank you and thank your
22 department for your great work.

23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
25 Councilmember Domb.

1 I'd like to recognize
2 Councilmember Bass for a question.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
4 Mr. Chairman.

5 Good morning, Commissioner.

6 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: Good
7 morning.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Just a
9 couple of questions for you on the Wage
10 Tax refund, just following up on my
11 colleague's question. And I just wanted
12 to go over the communications regarding
13 refunds. I remember when we did the
14 Homestead Exemption, which we wanted to
15 make sure folks knew about that they had
16 an opportunity to get out here and apply
17 for the Homestead Exemption. There was
18 like a mapping overlay that the City did
19 so that we knew exactly what areas
20 needed to be pinpointed and what areas
21 were responding in an appropriate
22 fashion to make sure that they got the
23 refund.

24 Are we doing things like that
25 as well? I just wanted to ask if that's

1 something that we're looking at so that
2 we know where the gaps are in terms of
3 who we think would qualify and who's
4 actually applying.

5 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: Yeah.
6 It's probably a little bit more
7 challenging with the Wage Tax refund
8 than with the Homestead because the
9 Homestead obviously is property-based.
10 And so, that makes it easier for us to
11 identify. We can do kind of the overlay
12 of where we think properties are
13 owner-occupied and then we can look at
14 the level of participation for the
15 Homestead in those neighborhoods, and
16 where we see a gap, try to get people on
17 the streets and in those neighborhoods
18 and it's a simple -- well, I'll say
19 simple. It's a fairly simple
20 application process so it's easier to
21 get people enrolled.

22 Here we're dealing with
23 confidential data. It's fairly --
24 although we try to make this process as
25 simple as possible knowing the numbers

1 of people that would qualify this year,
2 it's certainly more complex. And as I
3 said, we're trying to do our best to get
4 out there and get the word out, there's
5 certainly some challenges this year.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And I agree
7 with you, it probably is a little more
8 challenging than the Homestead Exemption
9 because the Homestead Exemption is
10 stationary, so to speak, and the Wage
11 Tax refund can be transient, people move
12 around. But I just think when I heard
13 you mention that communications included
14 things like social media in light of
15 COVID, it makes me wince just a little
16 bit because I know that our target
17 population often isn't on social media
18 and doesn't have access to the Internet,
19 and that's something that we
20 continuously try to drive home to
21 decision-makers here in the City, but we
22 lose a lot of people when we rely on the
23 Internet access and social media to try
24 to reach populations that are in need
25 and would qualify for programs like

1 this.

2 So I just really want to make
3 sure that we're keeping that in mind and
4 that we really got to do something
5 different and bold, something very
6 different than what we've been doing to
7 try to reach those target populations.

8 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: I think
9 we're aligned there. And as Council
10 knows, prepandemic our Communications
11 team did over 300 live events in a year.
12 Many of their evenings and weekends
13 right out in the community and we know
14 that's how we're most effective, and
15 that's what we want to get back to doing
16 as soon as that is safe.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Has there
18 been any conversation or thought about
19 going in particular areas going
20 door-to-door or is that something not
21 really that you think Revenue could do?

22 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: Not --
23 two things there. One, I don't know
24 that it would be safe yet for our
25 staff --

1 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Sure, not
2 this second, but I'm just --

3 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: -- to do
4 that. Yeah, but we have done
5 door-to-door and we actually did a study
6 of that, an academic study of it. And
7 what we found was door-to-door was very
8 effective for Homestead and it was the
9 only program that it was effective for.
10 When we get into any of the programs
11 that we tried to do it where the
12 information was confidential, then it
13 was a real challenge and it proved
14 ineffective going door-to-door. But it
15 was very effective for the Homestead so
16 that kind of highlights the difference
17 in how we have to address some of these
18 programs.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. And
20 in closing, I just want to clarify when
21 I say door-to-door, I don't actually
22 mean people going door-to-door and
23 trying to talk to somebody at their
24 front door about their personal
25 financial business. I mean actually

1 just leaving information, lit-dropping,
2 if you will, about this is a program and
3 spreading the word. So that's what I
4 mean by door-to-door.

5 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN:
6 Understood. I was taking it more
7 literally because we actually have done
8 door-to-door.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: No, I'm not
10 going to discuss my personal financial
11 business with somebody who just shows up
12 at my front door, so I agree. So I just
13 really wanted to emphasize that the
14 social media thing, I think we just need
15 to look a little bit deeper than that,
16 especially in light of COVID.

17 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank
18 you, Commissioner.

19 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: You're
20 welcome.

21 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
22 Councilmember Bass.

23 Are there any other questions
24 from members of the Committee?

25 COUNCILMAN JONES:

1 Mr. Chairman.

2 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Yes.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: I just want
4 to be for the record logged on that I'm
5 here.

6 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank
7 you.

8 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
9 Thank you, Mr. Chairman --

10 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Are there
11 any other --

12 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
13 Yes.

14 COUNCILMAN GREEN:
15 Councilwoman --

16 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
17 Councilmember Sanchez. I want to let
18 folks know that I'm also here for the
19 record. Thank you.

20 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you as
21 well.

22 Any other additional questions
23 from members of the Committee?

24 I see Councilmember Domb is raising his
25 actual hand, not his virtual hand.

1 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,
2 Mr. Chair.

3 I just have a quick comment for
4 Commissioner Breslin. I don't know if
5 we did this already, but when we sent
6 out the Real Estate Tax bills, is it
7 possible to put a notice -- and this is
8 in the line of questioning to my
9 colleagues. Is it possible to put a
10 notice in there that says, notice to
11 help you pay your Real Estate Tax bill,
12 you may qualify for EITC, Wage Tax,
13 OOPA, LOOP, et cetera, put all the
14 programs in there to help pay the Real
15 Estate Tax bill; is that a possibility?

16 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: Sure.
17 We have utilized stuffers in the past.
18 We've utilized stuffers within Real
19 Estate Tax bills and within our water
20 bills as well, and that's a good
21 methodology for reaching taxpayers.

22 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you
23 very much.

24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.

1 Seeing no additional questions from
2 members of this Committee, I want to
3 thank you, Commissioner Breslin, for
4 being here and testifying this morning.

5 Are there any other members of
6 the public that wish to testify on this
7 Bill No. 210139?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.
10 With there being no further questions
11 from members of the Committee and no
12 other witnesses to testify, I will ask
13 for those who have been here, which is
14 Mr. Breslin, if you can leave the public
15 hearing so we can go into the public
16 meeting.

17 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: Yes.
18 Thank you.

19 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.
20 And we'll pause briefly as Mr. Breslin
21 leaves the public hearing so we can go
22 into our public meeting.

23 This concludes the public
24 hearing of this Committee. We will now
25 go into a public meeting to consider

1 action we're taking on the bill before
2 this Committee today.

3 Mr. Iannuzzi, will you please
4 call the roll to take attendance. And
5 Members who are here, please indicate
6 that you are present when your name is
7 called to say a few words when
8 responding so that we can make sure that
9 your image is displayed on screen when
10 you speak.

11 THE CLERK: Councilmember Cindy
12 Bass.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good
14 morning. I am present. Thank you very
15 much, Mr. Chairman.

16 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.

17 THE CLERK: Councilmember Allan
18 Domb.

19 COUNCILMAN DOMB: I'm present.

20 THE CLERK: Councilmember Helen
21 Gym.

22 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Present.

23 THE CLERK: Councilmember Bobby
24 Henon.

25 COUNCILMAN HENON: I am

1 present, Mr. Chairman.

2 THE CLERK: Councilmember
3 Curtis Jones, Jr.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
5 morning, Mr. Chair, members of the
6 Committee and the public. I'm present.

7 THE CLERK: Councilmember David
8 Oh.

9 COUNCILMAN OH: I'm present.

10 THE CLERK: Councilmember Maria
11 Quinones-Sanchez.

12 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
13 Buenos dias. Buenos dias. I am
14 present.

15 THE CLERK: And, Chair Derek
16 Green.

17 COUNCILMAN GREEN: I am
18 present. And thank you to my
19 colleagues, members of the Finance
20 Committee. We will now go into our
21 public meeting.

22 The Chair would now like to
23 recognize Councilmember Bobby Henon for
24 a motion for Bill No. 210139.

25 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,

1 Mr. Chair. And I thank you.

2 I move that Bill No. 210139 be
3 reported from this Committee with a
4 favorable recommendation and further
5 move that the rules of Council be
6 suspended to permit the first reading of
7 this bill at our next session of
8 Council.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: Second.

10 COUNCILMAN GREEN: It's been
11 seconded by Councilmember Curtis Jones.
12 This bill has been moved and properly
13 seconded that Bill No. 210139 be
14 approved.

15 All those in favor of the
16 motion will signify by saying aye.

17 (Aye.)

18 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Those
19 opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 COUNCILMAN GREEN: The ayes
22 have it and the motion carries and has
23 been approved for our next reading of
24 Council.

25 With that, that concludes the

1 business before the Finance Committee
2 today. I want to thank all of my
3 colleagues for their attendance for
4 today's hearing.

5 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you.

6 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.

7 Have a great day.

8 (Committee on Finance concluded
9 at 10:10 a.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 C. CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

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

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