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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3

JOINT COMMITTEES ON TECHNOLOGY AND

4

INFORMATION SERVICES AND PUBLIC

5

PROPERTY AND PUBLIC WORKS

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Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, March 30, 2006
4:15 p.m.

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PRESENT:

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COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL

13

COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE

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COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER

15

COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN

16

COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO

17

BILL 060160 - An ordinance for the purpose of
creating a citywide wireless broadband
Internet access system, to bridge the digital
divide, to increase the efficiency and reduce
costs of government...

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V A R A L L O Incorporated

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Litigation Support Services

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COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Can I have your attention, please. We're ready to rock and roll and light up the board.

This is the continued hearing from March 10th of the joint Committees on Technology and Information Systems and Public Property and Public Works. Chairman of Public Property, Darrell Clarke, is here. Vice-Chair of Technology, who is going to eventually be chairing most of this meeting and who requested it, and I congratulate her for that. Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown wanted a separate hearing late in the day for public testimony only. So this is basically the Councilwoman's hearing. Councilman Rizzo, who sat through the entire hearing on six hours on March 10th, is here. And I'd like to get started.

We have a list of somewhere around 19 witnesses that have been already supplied to the Councilwoman's office. Anyone else who would like to

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2 testify that's not sure they're on the
3 list or would like to get added and knows
4 they're not on the list, Joe Meade --
5 Joe, could you raise your hand -- from
6 Councilwoman Reynolds Brown's staff will
7 be adding names to the list as we go
8 along.

9 We just ask you one thing, one
10 rule here. If you have prepared
11 testimony, please submit it and
12 summarize, if you can. If you don't have
13 prepared testimony, please be as brief as
14 possible.

15 And with that, I'll turn the
16 mike over to Councilwoman Blondell
17 Reynolds Brown and let her begin calling
18 the list of witnesses.

19 The Committee will be in recess
20 until Monday, April 3rd at 11 o'clock,
21 which has already been advertised, when
22 the Administration will be back again,
23 and hopefully there won't be too many
24 more of those kind of hearings, but
25 everyone is welcome to that as well.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,
3 Mr. Chairman.

4 Good afternoon. As Chairman
5 O'Neill indicated, we specifically
6 requested a hearing for public testimony
7 to give those of us who work 9:00 to 5:00
8 an opportunity to come down, register
9 their comments, recommendations,
10 suggestions, sentiments about this major
11 unprecedented public policy. So therein
12 lies the reason. We need to make sure we
13 have an opportunity for citizens who
14 cannot get here during normal work hours.

15 With that, we will bring up the
16 first panel, and they are as follows.
17 Forgive me if I butcher your name. Team
18 Children.com, Robert Toporek, please come
19 forward. You will be joined by Ed
20 Schwartz, Institute for Civil Values, and
21 a private citizen, Faye Deckter. Please
22 come to the witness table.

23 Forgive me. I see also here a
24 fourth member of this panel, Closed
25 Networks, represented by Tom Christie.

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2 Please come to the witness table.

3 Please proceed, Team
4 Children.com, and pronounce your full
5 name for our stenographer.

6 SPEAKER: Team Children is not
7 here.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you
9 very, very much. Therein, we'll move to
10 Institute for Civic Values, Ed Schwartz.

11 Good afternoon.

12 MR. SCHWARTZ: Good afternoon.
13 Thank you, Councilwoman. It is good to
14 be here as always, and I'll just start by
15 making a short comment.

16 I believe Councilman O'Neill
17 was the only one who was here. You may
18 recall that I brought a computer to City
19 Council in that table, first to do it,
20 and after my colleagues saw what I was
21 doing with it, within four months
22 everybody had one, and I helped install
23 Ann Verna's software. So I've been
24 around the horn on this. That's 1984.

25 I want to make five points

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2 related to this about Wireless
3 Philadelphia to kind of get this started.
4 First, I think Wireless Philadelphia is
5 about the City of Philadelphia, the
6 entire City. In my judgment, it is a
7 project that makes a major step in moving
8 from the manufacturing economy of the
9 past to the global information economy of
10 the future. We are ahead in this case of
11 the curve, and we are recognized
12 worldwide for being ahead of the curve.

13 The excitement that has greeted
14 this project all over the country and the
15 world, ranging from activists, to the
16 Wall Street Journal, to Squawk Box, a
17 business show where Mayor Rizzo -- sorry;
18 Mayor Street appeared three days after
19 the announcement, is unparalleled really
20 in any economic development venture that
21 I can remember in the last 30, 35 years
22 in Philadelphia that I've been here, and
23 I think we ought to think about that.
24 For the first time, we have managed to
25 set the pace and this project will set

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2 the pace for the economic future of the
3 City.

4 Secondly, it's important to
5 understand and remember that this is an
6 infrastructure project. We're not
7 setting up a business here. We are in
8 fact authorizing a non-profit corporation
9 and a company called EarthLink to put
10 antennae all over the City on various
11 City-owned poles. It's an infrastructure
12 project. And it's no different from what
13 City Council did in the 1980s when I was
14 here in authorizing a group of cable
15 companies to do precisely that to provide
16 cable television, but there is an
17 important difference between what's going
18 on here and what went on then, because we
19 authorize companies to set up their
20 antennae and then to have a virtual
21 monopoly on the offering of cable service
22 within those districts. What this
23 project is doing is keeping, in effect,
24 the authority over these antennae in the
25 hands of the non-profit group and

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2 EarthLink that is required to provide
3 open source access to this network by
4 every computer company and ISP that wants
5 to use it.

6 Some people have said that this
7 is stifling competition. As I see it,
8 this is creating and stimulating
9 competition by opening the door to a
10 large number of groups that might not
11 have the resources to set up the whole
12 wireless network of Philadelphia, but
13 could become content providers on such a
14 network if it were provided.

15 Third, in creating a
16 non-profit, Wireless Philadelphia, we
17 have created an organization in the City
18 whose function and purpose and mission
19 will be to bridge the digital divide.
20 There's been too much emphasis on looking
21 simply at the network and then bridging
22 the digital divide as if that's the only
23 thing going on. It's not. What you got
24 is an organization where people are going
25 to get up and say, What am I doing today

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2 to bridge the digital divide? And that's
3 an organization that can raise foundation
4 money, money from other levels of
5 government, money from other kinds of
6 projects and for them, and I predict to
7 you that when this thing is finally
8 established, you're going to see
9 foundations and other governments flock
10 to give this support.

11 This is a hot project and they
12 want to be part of it, and that's really
13 important. There's never been a
14 corporation like that in Philadelphia.
15 The closest that we came to it was the
16 Liberty Network that helped the Institute
17 for the Study of Civic Values and I get
18 into business back in the 1990s that had
19 no support from the City of Philadelphia
20 whatsoever.

21 Wireless Philadelphia, in my
22 view, offers terrific benefits to small
23 business, and I'm going to give you a
24 little example. There's a fellow named
25 Greg Williams who runs a little bookstore

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2 called Walk a Crooked Mile out of the
3 Mount Airy Train Station across the
4 street from where I live. He does it
5 right out of this train station.

6 Now, there's no way you can
7 make enough money in a bookstore at the
8 Mount Airy Train Station just by selling
9 books there. So how does he survive?
10 Well, he's on the Internet. And there
11 are two or three rare book networks on
12 the Internet that permits him to sell his
13 books all over the world. So the
14 Internet is making it possible for this
15 micro business to sit there at the Mount
16 Airy Train Station and serve us as well
17 as there.

18 By doing this and creating this
19 City-wide, we make it possible for any
20 small, big, whatever -- but the small
21 business is the one being left out -- to
22 be located anywhere and sell whatever
23 they're selling everywhere, and that's a
24 huge opportunity. I've seen that operate
25 in other parts of the country. It needs

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2 to operate here.

3 Wireless Philadelphia, needless
4 to say, offers terrific benefits to the
5 neighborhoods, and I would define them in
6 every way. We've seen in fact what's
7 happened in Norris Square and in Belmont
8 where the People's Emergency Center and
9 Strawberry Mansion in some of the areas
10 around Project HOME that are pioneering
11 and providing access to low-income people
12 to the Internet.

13 The Institute at this point,
14 even ten years ago, was running the
15 biggest, and still is, access point for
16 block captains and civic activists to get
17 information that they need and to connect
18 with public agencies and elected
19 officials and get resources that are
20 important to their development.

21 But we are only right now
22 touching part of the City of
23 Philadelphia, and I'm not talking about
24 geographically. Wireless Philadelphia
25 creates a context in which it becomes

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2 appropriate for every civic activist,
3 every block captain, every member of Town
4 Watch, every human service group to be on
5 the Internet connecting with each other,
6 connecting with the places that need to
7 give them support.

8 These are the five reasons that
9 I think it's really critical that we move
10 forward with this project. And I do
11 understand that City Council on a project
12 of this magnitude has to perform due
13 diligence, which is what you're doing,
14 but once you do that, move forward.

15 In the 1980s when I was here,
16 City Council approved a Convention Center
17 where there was massive public
18 opposition, where we had to move 300
19 existing businesses out of Center City
20 into some other part of the City because
21 they were in the location where we built
22 the Convention Center, and we did it
23 because it made sense, and it's worked.

24 There's massive public support
25 for this project, minimal opposition.

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2 Nobody has to be moved out of the way.

3 Quite the opposite. Wireless

4 Philadelphia empowers people and empowers

5 businesses and empowers ultimately all of

6 us who work in government and related to

7 it.

8 So I'm pleased to have a chance

9 to be here. I was pleased to be part of

10 the planning committee for this project,

11 and I am very, very excited about the

12 fact that Philadelphia, for the first

13 time since I've been doing this over the

14 last 15, 20 years, has jumped ahead of

15 the curve for the first time and set an

16 example that really cities all over the

17 United States are now scrambling to

18 imitate.

19 Thank you.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,

21 Ed Schwartz. I do have a couple of

22 follow-up questions, but procedure will

23 be, we will hear from the entire panel

24 and then members of this Committee will

25 pose questions.

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2 Please, Ms. Faye Deckter with
3 the Historic City Gardens.

4 MS. DECKTER: May I stand up,
5 because the desk is --

6 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Whatever
7 is comfortable for you.

8 MS. DECKTER: My name is Faye
9 Deckter. I have been a long-term
10 consultant in marketing market research
11 with 30 professional consulting projects
12 in the telecommunications industry. I
13 produced two documents, one on the health
14 and safety of electromagnetic and
15 radiofrequency radiation and another on
16 that topic, historic preservation and
17 potential public policy impact.

18 In 2000, I founded an
19 organization called Historic City
20 Gardens. This is a City-wide
21 horticultural project. We currently have
22 a database of 200 volunteers.

23 Last summer, we worked on five
24 gardens in the Brewerytown section. Our
25 goal is the establishment of a unique

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2 community-based historical botanical
3 garden at Lemon Hill and Porter's House
4 properties in Fairmount Park.

5 Just a little background.
6 Lemon Hill and Porter's House properties
7 are some of the most historically
8 horticulturally significant properties in
9 the United States. At one time, these
10 properties were part of William Penn's
11 Springettsbury Estate, which, to the best
12 of my knowledge, had the first documented
13 greenhouse on the continent. They also
14 were owned by Robert Morris, signer of
15 the Declaration of Independence and the
16 Constitution, who created gardens and a
17 magnificent greenhouse once considered
18 the best on the continent.

19 If I may show you, this is a
20 picture that was done by Woodstock just
21 post Robert Morris time. This is the
22 historic greenhouse. You can see that.
23 It's almost larger than the mansion.

24 Robert Morris also was one of
25 the founders of the first agricultural

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2 societies in the nation. Lemon Hill and
3 Porter's House properties were the first
4 properties to become our Fairmount Park.

5 Upon the founding of Fairmount
6 Park, John Price Wetherill said, Health
7 and cheerful spirits and the welfare of
8 our children are of more importance than
9 money.

10 Our project became involved in
11 the topic of electromagnetic and
12 radiofrequency radiation in April of 2002
13 after noticing a cell phone tower being
14 erected across from the Zoo. This led me
15 to write a letter to the Daily News
16 questioning its safety. From there, I
17 began investigating the safety of
18 existing and emerging technologies.

19 In regard to plants, the
20 research of Dr. Wolfgang Volkrodt, a
21 retired Siemens engineer, attributed the
22 deforestation of the German, Swiss and
23 Austrian forests to electromagnetic
24 radiation. His conclusion was supported
25 by Dr. Ehrlich Hertoff's research on the

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2 damage to forest sectors near burned
3 Switzerland.

4 Additionally, according to
5 Professor of Biology at the University of
6 Vermont, Bernard Heinrich, radiofrequency
7 and electromagnetic absorption
8 dramatically affects survival mechanisms
9 and mortality rates of insects.

10 Raymond Kasevich in a public
11 speech on the effects of electromagnetic
12 fields on the environment refer to
13 studies demonstrating retarded
14 development of 65 percent of bird chicks.
15 Birds, bees and butterflies are all
16 necessary for pollination. More research
17 is needed.

18 However, please understand that
19 historic, exotic and rare plants, which
20 would be present at our botanical garden
21 that's set to get national attention and
22 bring millions of dollars into the City
23 of Philadelphia, simply may not be able
24 to take this level of radiation.

25 There is a precedence by the

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2 FCC in a ruling against a cell phone
3 tower company at a national historic
4 conservation site. We request the City
5 of Philadelphia work with our project for
6 the removal of all cell towers and
7 antennae in the range of Lemon Hill and
8 Porter's House properties under historic
9 preservation laws. Under no
10 circumstances should WiFi technology be
11 placed at or near Lemon Hill or Porter's
12 House properties.

13 Additionally, implications for
14 humans: The current federal guidelines
15 for radiofrequency radiation are based on
16 thermal effects, not lower level
17 non-thermal effects. What that means,
18 folks, is that when they were
19 establishing the guidelines, everybody
20 knew that heating of cells was dangerous,
21 but they didn't really know the effects
22 at lower levels.

23 A growing number of studies,
24 including five epidemiological studies,
25 demonstrate negative biological effects

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2 at non-thermal levels below the current
3 U.S. guidelines. According to an op-ed
4 written for Litchfield, Connecticut
5 County Times by Blake Levitt, a noted
6 science writer, included in who is who in
7 science and engineering and who is who in
8 the world, these negative biological
9 effects -- please. Excuse me. Excuse
10 me. I've done two years of work on this.
11 Could you please.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Forgive
13 me. I was conferring with the Chairman
14 of this Committee. That's why there's --

15 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: I'd like
16 to tell you that when we do this, we can
17 talk to each other and listen.

18 MS. DECKTER: Maybe I'm not
19 familiar.

20 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: I can
21 assure you of that.

22 MS. DECKTER: Okay.

23 -- (continued) who has been
24 included in who is who in science and
25 engineering and who is who in the world,

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2 these negative biological effects based
3 on non-thermal effects range from
4 cancers, immune system suppression,
5 learning deficits, sleep disorders,
6 neurological disorders, skin rashes,
7 heart palpitation, diabetes, blood
8 disorders, hypertension, et cetera.
9 Others have also included in this list
10 effect on the blood barrier of the brain,
11 which holds out toxins, efflux of calcium
12 from cells, including from the heart, and
13 effects on sex drive and impact on
14 asthma. However, one might wonder why
15 some studies show no effects, and that's
16 yet another speech.

17 The telecommunication industry
18 continues to say that we are safe.
19 Nevertheless, it is important to note
20 that due to the lack of funding, only
21 under rare instances does the FCC monitor
22 radiation levels for safety despite many
23 co-located installations, and the FCC, as
24 they will readily tell you, is not a
25 health organization.

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2 At present, no internationally
3 accepted standards exist. In fact, the
4 United States standards allow for
5 exposures 100 times greater than Russia,
6 Switzerland and some eastern European
7 countries. Many countries continue to
8 call for precautionary principle
9 regarding this technology, including the
10 UK, as noted in the most recent Stewart
11 Report of 2005. The 1998 Wingspread
12 Conference on Precautionary Principle
13 held in Racine, Wisconsin considers
14 precautionary principle as such: When an
15 activity raises threats of harm to human
16 health or the environment, precautionary
17 measures should be taken, even if some
18 cause-and-effect relationships are not
19 fully established scientifically. Say
20 that again. Even if not fully
21 established scientifically.

22 And I continue. In this
23 context, the proponent of an activity,
24 and in this case it's the
25 telecommunications industry, rather than

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2 the public should bear the burden of
3 proof.

4 The process of applying the
5 precautionary principle must be open,
6 informed and democratic and must include
7 potentially affected parties. It must
8 also involve an examination of the full
9 range of alternatives, including no
10 action.

11 Councilmen and women, 3,000
12 physicians worldwide have signed the
13 Interdisciplinary Association for
14 Environmental Medicine's Freeburger
15 appeal. This appeal notes increased
16 appearance of severe and chronic diseases
17 among patients near high frequency
18 microwave radiation and that these
19 long-term diseases and afflictions
20 improve or disappear upon reduction or
21 elimination of this radiation from the
22 patient's environment.

23 Other appeals put forth by
24 scientists have included the Vienna EMF
25 resolution of 1998, the Catania, Italy

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2 resolution of 2002 and, most recently,
3 the Helsinki appeal of 2005.

4 Councilmen and Councilwomen, I
5 am worried about our children, who may be
6 more affected by this radiation, whose
7 cells and nervous systems are developing
8 and whose heads may absorb more
9 radiation. Current standards are based
10 on an average male's height and weight,
11 plus safety margins. They do not
12 consider children, women, pregnant women,
13 the elderly or the infirm and their
14 physiologies.

15 I am concerned also because, to
16 the best of my knowledge, Philadelphia
17 has not been a leader in the research of
18 electromagnetic and radiofrequency
19 technology. This is another company from
20 another city who wants to come in and put
21 this here. We have not been a leader.
22 Have we even produced one study on its
23 health and safety? As far as I know, not
24 a one. I am concerned that the health
25 and safety studies have not adequately

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2 been reviewed. Even the City's Project
3 Manager for wireless is not familiar with
4 them.

5 To the best of my knowledge,
6 the hundreds of articles on the growing
7 condition called electro hypersensitivity
8 recognized by the World Health
9 Organization have not been compiled,
10 analyzed and considered here.

11 Dr. Magda Havas of the
12 Environmental and Resource Studies of
13 Trent University, Ontario, Canada in a
14 document prepared for Mayor Tom Barrett
15 and City Aldermen from Milwaukee
16 regarding WiFi tells us that electro
17 hypersensitivity symptoms include
18 cognitive distance in regard to memory,
19 concentration, problem solving, balance,
20 dizziness and vertigo, facial flushing,
21 skin rash, chest pressure, rapid
22 heartbeat, depression, anxiety,
23 irritability, frustration, temper,
24 fatigue, poor sleep, body aches,
25 headaches, ringing in the ears and is

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2 consistent with chronic fatigue and
3 fibromyalgia.

4 The World Health Organization's
5 international seminar and working group
6 on EMF -- that's electromagnetic
7 fields -- hypersensitivity in Prague in
8 October 2004 purported that persons
9 affected by electro hypersensitivity,
10 their exposures are generally several
11 orders of magnitude under the limits of
12 internationally accepted standards. This
13 condition already has been recognized in
14 Sweden and the UK. So already we are
15 seeing symptoms and we are yet to know
16 what the long-range effects of this
17 technology is.

18 So, in short, Councilmen and
19 Councilwomen, I feel we are rushing to
20 implementation when we would be much
21 better served by Philadelphia mounting a
22 scientific campaign spearheaded by the
23 Franklin Institute, the Academy of
24 Natural Sciences and the College of
25 Physicians utilizing scientists who have

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2 no stake in the outcome from multiple
3 disciplines from our universities,
4 biology, botany, horticulture,
5 physiology, physics and engineering
6 departments, from the research facilities
7 of our medical schools and hospitals and
8 from the University of Pennsylvania's
9 Veterinary School.

10 The studies in regard to health
11 and safety should be led by scientists
12 from the living sciences, such as
13 biology, rather than the hard sciences,
14 like physics and engineering, and should
15 be jointly funded by industry and
16 independent sources. In this way, we can
17 ensure that this technology introduced to
18 the public is safe. In this way, we
19 could dignify both William Penn and
20 Benjamin Franklin.

21 As Benjamin Franklin once said,
22 an ounce of prevention is worth a pound
23 of cure.

24 Thank you.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,

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2 Ms. Deckter, of the Historic City
3 Gardens.

4 Please, Mr. Tom Christie of
5 Closed Networks.

6 MR. CHRISTIE: Good afternoon.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Good
8 afternoon.

9 MR. CHRISTIE: My name is Tom
10 Christie. I work with Closed Networks.
11 I'm joined today by Ed Veal, who is the
12 President of our company and also our
13 CTO.

14 We're located on 525 South
15 Fourth Street in Philadelphia. Closed
16 Networks already provides wireless
17 broadband Internet services to
18 residential and small business customers
19 in a 50-square mile area of Philadelphia.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN:
21 Mr. Christie, let me rudely interrupt you
22 and pose a question here. How many pages
23 of testimony?

24 MR. CHRISTIE: Just four.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And you're

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2 going to read all four pages?

3 MR. CHRISTIE: Yes. Is that
4 okay?

5 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay.
6 I'll restate the rules after you finish.
7 Go ahead.

8 MR. CHRISTIE: We're a small
9 but growing privately held company
10 headquartered in Philadelphia. We're
11 committed to an economically successful
12 and vibrant City. I'm here to testify
13 about the proposed contracts with
14 EarthLink to provide wireless broadband
15 access to Philadelphia.

16 We believe Wireless
17 Philadelphia has made great strides in
18 the arrangements it has made with
19 EarthLink. By keeping ownership and
20 responsibility for the wireless network
21 infrastructure in the hands of EarthLink,
22 Wireless Philadelphia can focus on the
23 critical task of providing training and
24 equipment to the less fortunate residents
25 in Philadelphia. But we're still

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2 concerned that EarthLink's network
3 doesn't actually bridge the digital
4 divide. In fact, in a few years, the
5 plan as published will make it
6 substantially wider.

7 Data access speeds in the
8 wireless space are doubling approximately
9 every two years, and the standard today
10 is about seven megabits per second. In
11 the two years it's going to take
12 EarthLink to build and commence service
13 across the City, the standard is more
14 likely to be 14 megabits a second. At
15 that time, the EarthLink network will be
16 one megabit per second, substantially
17 below what other networks will be able to
18 offer.

19 To give some idea of speeds,
20 that will take about nine seconds on
21 EarthLink's network to load a digital
22 image across the Internet compared to
23 about six seconds with cable modem and
24 five seconds on our network. That's
25 going to get worse with time.

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2 The proposed contract contains
3 no material obligation for EarthLink to
4 ever upgrade the network. Typically,
5 contracts require equipment upgrades and
6 technology upgrades every five to eight
7 years. This is a serious deficiency in
8 the contract.

9 There are also dozens, maybe
10 even hundreds, of networks in operation
11 in the City already using the identical
12 spectrum that's proposed by EarthLink.
13 For that reason, we see no way that the
14 service proposed by EarthLink can be
15 delivered using the equipment and
16 installation plans specified in the
17 contract. The proposed EarthLink network
18 will create interference with all of
19 these networks and other wireless
20 equipment deployed in the City.

21 Despite our best efforts to
22 contact Wireless Philadelphia and
23 EarthLink about this problem, they have
24 ignored us. They know full well that
25 there's not a tried and tested technical

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2 solution to this problem. If they're to
3 honor their contractual commitments, they
4 cannot ignore it.

5 Closed Networks is only one of
6 many entities using the same spectrum as
7 EarthLink. Interference in the
8 unlicensed wireless spectrum -- that's
9 the spectrum for which the FCC does not
10 grant a license to operators -- is widely
11 known and understood, and I'm submitting
12 for the record a major article on the
13 subject that appeared in The Economist
14 this month.

15 Typically, before deploying a
16 wireless network, the vendor will carry
17 out Spectrum Utilization Tests. These
18 provide the basis for designing and
19 engineering the network to deliver the
20 required performance. Such tests should
21 be required as a pre-condition to any
22 contract. We believe that until
23 EarthLink has demonstrated it can resolve
24 these interoperability issues, the
25 Council should defer action on these

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2 relevant contracts, and once a
3 technologically sound solution is
4 developed, it should formally be
5 incorporated into the contracts.

6 Here's a bit about our
7 business. We've been in operation for
8 about three years. We're headquartered
9 here in Philadelphia. Within the next
10 three years, we plan to employ more than
11 60 staff in the center of the City.
12 Currently half of our staff resides in
13 the City, and we expect that ratio to
14 grow. We make and will continue to make
15 substantial contribution to the City
16 economy. We'll be contributing more than
17 \$160,000 annually in City wage taxes as
18 we grow.

19 No matter what the City decides
20 to do with the EarthLink contract, we're
21 prepared to pay Wireless Philadelphia \$2
22 a month for any customer referred to
23 Closed Networks by Wireless Philadelphia.
24 That represents ten percent of each
25 monthly contract. Unlike EarthLink, we

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2 would not cap the amount we would
3 contribute to Wireless Philadelphia.

4 Closed Networks wants the
5 City's WiFi initiative to succeed. As
6 currently structured, it won't deliver
7 the promised results. It will not
8 provide Wireless Philadelphia with the
9 revenue stream to repay its loan, and
10 more importantly, it will fail to assist
11 underprivileged residents to climb up the
12 digital broadband ladder.

13 Thanks for this opportunity to
14 testify. The article that I've attached
15 is a very good article explaining the
16 pros and cons and some of the potential
17 pitfalls of wireless networking, things
18 that need to be addressed and in a manner
19 that can be readily understood by
20 virtually anybody.

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

23 Any questions, comments from
24 members of the Committee?

25 (No response.)

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2 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Mr. Ed
3 Schwartz, you said that you believe
4 foundations will, and I quote, "flock to
5 give support to the digital divide
6 component of this unprecedented
7 initiative." Briefly explain why you
8 believe that.

9 MR. SCHWARTZ: I think that
10 there has been some interest in general
11 in foundations over the last two decades
12 in bridging the digital divide. This
13 project already has attracted support,
14 for example, from Hewlett Packard, which
15 showed up at Norris Square last year,
16 last summer and put computers all over
17 the Norris Square Park. Intel has
18 contributed to it. And I read the
19 foundation journals and whatever because
20 it's necessary to my own work, and
21 there's a lot of interest in this and
22 there's been a lot of discussion about
23 it.

24 Often a foundation doesn't
25 really know how to go about doing

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2 something because they don't know whether
3 it's going to work and what the center of
4 action will be, but Wireless Philadelphia
5 creates a non-profit corporation that
6 wakes up in the morning and asks, What's
7 in the public interest? That's the core
8 of this. And all other discussions about
9 the particulars of a contract or even the
10 environmental issues can then be debated
11 and constructed by this kind of
12 cooperation in relation to the public
13 interest. And unless there is that, the
14 public interest will never be the primary
15 consideration in making any decision, and
16 I think foundations and other levels of
17 government are going to see that. And
18 you will see as soon as this thing is
19 allowed to move forward, I think you're
20 going to see some examples of what I'm
21 talking about.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Your
23 second observation you made is that you
24 believe it will create competition.
25 Briefly explain why you believe that.

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2 MR. SCHWARTZ: Well, EarthLink
3 was not really a factor in the City's
4 economy at all. Now suddenly they're a
5 major player. EarthLink is in fact using
6 a similar role in these kind of municipal
7 wireless networks as its own strategy to
8 survive in this new era of broadband
9 access. So they weren't a player at all.

10 At night, I watch, as I think
11 we all do, the battle of Comcast versus
12 Verizon for this stuff. I've never heard
13 of this company as a matter of -- despite
14 how busy I've been in this area.
15 Wireless Philadelphia has suddenly given
16 this company an opportunity to get
17 enormous visibility and explain to all of
18 us the work that they're doing.

19 And so by creating an
20 open-access structure for signing up for
21 the network and placing the
22 responsibility of building the network in
23 essentially one hand, not 30, I think you
24 make it possible for companies that
25 otherwise would not necessarily be known

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2 or be able to be in this game to compete.
3 Otherwise, it will be just one or two
4 major companies that will dominate the
5 entire field and no one else will be able
6 to get in.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay,
8 then. Thank you for your testimony.

9 MR. SCHWARTZ: Thank you.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: One
11 question for Mr. Christie. You state on
12 the last page of your testimony, the last
13 paragraph, which says, "It will fail to
14 assist underprivileged residents to climb
15 up the digital broadband ladder."
16 Briefly explain why you believe that.

17 MR. CHRISTIE: If you look at
18 how people connect to the Internet, and
19 it's all about how you connect to the
20 Internet, and how you do it in a way that
21 makes it both fun and adds value to your
22 life, when you look at connecting to the
23 Internet one megabit per second compared
24 to seven megabits per second, if you're a
25 child downloading or uploading

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2 information onto the Internet, it takes
3 longer. So you're at a disadvantage. If
4 you look at the bookstore that
5 Mr. Schwartz was talking about, being
6 able to have data-rich information that
7 people can upload and download from your
8 shop makes that experience much better.
9 It makes your website more attractive to
10 people who use it. So that's the key
11 difference.

12 So if you're in an area where
13 you can only access the Internet one
14 megabit per second compared to being in
15 an area where you have a seven-megabit or
16 a 14-megabit-per-second service, you're
17 going to get a much richer experience.
18 You're going to have a much better
19 product offering.

20 If you got a bookstore
21 connected at one megabit compared to a
22 bookstore connected at 14 megabits, more
23 people will visit the 14 megabit site.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: At the end
25 of the day, what matters more, given a

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2 low-income or moderate-income citizen who
3 has no access to the Internet, what
4 matters more, some access or the speed to
5 which they get access to a different
6 alternative? At the bottom line, at the
7 end of the day, what matters more?

8 MR. CHRISTIE: I think what
9 matters more is economics. There's been
10 lots of studies looking at connections to
11 the Internet, and what drives it is the
12 actual economics of the cost of the
13 connection.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And for
15 those who have no economics, what matters
16 more?

17 MR. CHRISTIE: I agree, the
18 basic connection.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you
20 very much for your testimony.

21 And then, finally, Ms. Deckter,
22 if I had to summarize your testimony in
23 one word, do you support this initiative
24 or not, in one word?

25 MS. DECKTER: No. I don't

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2 think we've done our homework.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay. And
4 I thank you very, very much. You more
5 than --

6 MS. DECKTER: We haven't done
7 our homework here and we're not leaders
8 here. We have another company coming in
9 and putting this on us, and if it goes
10 wrong, we're stuck with it. Why aren't
11 they doing it in Atlanta --

12 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN:
13 Ms. Deckter?

14 MS. DECKTER: Why aren't they
15 doing it --

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Ms.
17 Deckter, I thank you very, very much for
18 your testimony where you, in a very
19 comprehensive fashion, laid out your
20 position. I just wanted to be clear on
21 where I believe your position was. I
22 thank you very, very much for your
23 testimony.

24 MS. DECKTER: May I explain one
25 other thing?

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2 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Let me say
3 this: We have 25 citizens who are here
4 to participate and another 25 here who
5 are here to listen. We have to give them
6 the courtesy and an opportunity as well
7 to register their opinion. So I'd be
8 happy to have a side-bar with you after I
9 get through this testifier list. Thank
10 you very much.

11 MS. DECKTER: Okay. Thank you.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Next up
13 will be Panel No. 2, Pat Renzulli, who is
14 the Chief Information Officer for the
15 School District of Philadelphia; Kate
16 Leader, teacher with Grover Elementary
17 School; Jay Cohen, who is the Parent
18 Outreach Manager for the School District
19 of Philadelphia; and Edison Freire,
20 F-R-E-I-R-E, with the School District of
21 Philadelphia Workforce Development.

22 Please, joining this panel will
23 be Corey Robinson of the People's
24 Emergency Center.

25 Let me just state, if I will,

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2 what the procedures are and what the
3 rules are. We have 25 persons we want to
4 hear from. If your testimony is more
5 than two typewritten pages, then you must
6 summarize, or else you'll force me to
7 interrupt you. Are we clear? Thank you
8 very, very much.

9 Okay. Please proceed.

10 MS. RENZULLI: Thank you,
11 Councilwoman Brown. And I think you'll
12 find each of us, our testimonies are very
13 brief for the reasons that you cited.

14 I am not here to provide more
15 testimony. I had been here at the prior
16 Council and talked about the reasons why
17 the School District supports this effort.
18 On behalf of the School District and the
19 90,000 families that we support, we
20 believe this to be a very critical
21 project, as we've made it a very critical
22 part of our strategy to deliver
23 information to our families to further
24 engage them in the education of their
25 children and have closer community ties.

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2 So that said, my purpose is
3 really to introduce my colleagues who
4 have different perspectives as they
5 participate in the efforts to engage our
6 families, and each of them are in support
7 of the criticality of this as well.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: I thank
9 you.

10 State your name for the record
11 and proceed with your testimony.

12 MR. COHEN: Hi. My name is Jay
13 Cohen. I am the Parent Outreach Manager
14 for Educational Technology in the School
15 District of Philadelphia. I am also the
16 proud parent of two daughters in the
17 Philadelphia public school system that
18 have -- and I'm proud to say that they're
19 in the School District and they're in
20 Philadelphia.

21 Concerning the City's wireless
22 program, there are two things that I know
23 for sure. One is that if you increase
24 the amount of Internet access existing in
25 families in the City and you work with

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2 the School District of Philadelphia, you
3 will dramatically increase student
4 educational achievement.

5 The other thing that I know for
6 sure is that if you give Internet access
7 to families or provide more Internet
8 access to families around the City, you
9 will find that parents and families will
10 start helping themselves and helping each
11 other. I know this because I led a U.S.
12 Department of Education project called
13 the Education Connection Project at WHYY
14 Public Television. The project studied
15 how computers and Internet access in
16 homes could be used to improve
17 educational performance.

18 The result of this project was
19 that in only one year's time we saw more
20 than a 30 percent increase in mathematics
21 achievement, as compared to a control
22 group that did not have Internet access
23 in their homes. I feel that this is
24 important because I don't know how many
25 times it's been stated that it will

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2 definitely increase academic achievement.

3 The other thing that may be
4 even more important than academic
5 achievement is that after working with 12
6 classrooms of students and over 500
7 families, I saw and the teachers in the
8 project saw a cultural change that when
9 you provided Internet access to families,
10 they started helping each other and
11 helping themselves more than any
12 individual institution could do, more
13 than I could do from WHYY or the School
14 District or the City.

15 So I'm counting on the City and
16 the School District in working together
17 to get Internet access to families,
18 because if the School District and the
19 City can work together, then I can do my
20 job and work with families as the Parent
21 Outreach Coordinator to make sure that
22 the families know that they can work
23 together and do more than either of those
24 institutions.

25 So I want to just briefly say

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2 the five areas that have already started
3 in the School District in helping parents
4 help themselves.

5 The first area is that we're
6 actively working with parents to find
7 good deals on computer equipment. Right
8 now we are able to offer parents a used
9 computer, a quality used computer, for
10 \$150. But parents are going to find
11 better deals than that, and I want them
12 to talk to each other. That's why we
13 found the second area, which is list
14 serves. We're creating a list serve that
15 parents can use to talk to each other.
16 When they find good deals on Internet
17 access or computers, they can share with
18 other parents. And so there's a list
19 serve that we're creating.

20 No. 3, we're creating a
21 telephone help line that involves parent
22 volunteers taking messages from other
23 parents all over the district, and the
24 parent volunteers can pick up the
25 messages via a web-based interface. Of

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2 course, you can't do that unless there's
3 Internet access all over the City.

4 Fourth, computer support. I'm
5 working with an organization called
6 Non-Profit Technology Resources, which I
7 think you've heard from in the past, with
8 a "Bring Your Computer - Ask a Question"
9 workshop. This program helps people fix
10 their own computer for only a nominal
11 fee. Again, it's about letting parents
12 help themselves.

13 So the fifth and final area is
14 the online resources. We're going all
15 over the School District to tell parents
16 about online programs, especially
17 licensed by the District for parents of
18 the District. These programs will allow
19 parents and students to look at their
20 grades, take online classes, search for
21 educational information and find online
22 educational activities specifically
23 geared to their own child's abilities.

24 There's more, but the point is
25 this, that parents having access to

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2 technology and information will help them
3 help themselves and each other. So if
4 you do a search on Google, you'll see
5 that Philadelphia has already been
6 mentioned as the blog capital of the U.S.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: As the
8 what captain?

9 MR. COHEN: Blog. It's a web
10 blog. And Wireless Philadelphia has
11 already had a positive impact by bringing
12 people and organizations together. If we
13 do Wireless Philadelphia right, the
14 changes that we see will be historic and
15 beneficial for our children, our families
16 and our City.

17 Thank you.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you
19 for your testimony.

20 Please state your name for the
21 record.

22 MS. LEADER: My name is Kate
23 Leader and I am a teacher in one of the
24 schools in the School District of
25 Philadelphia, Grover Washington Middle

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2 School. I'm also very involved in the
3 community surrounding my school as a
4 member of the Board for the Fisher Park
5 Community Alliance and some other things
6 that are centralized to that location.

7 Much of what I wanted to share
8 has been briefly touched on, but I'd just
9 like to reiterate that the academic
10 achievement and the impact of having this
11 technology on our students in our school
12 system, there's nothing that I can equate
13 this event to. I've watched in my own
14 classroom as my students have used
15 actively on a daily basis the system that
16 was briefly described that does allow me
17 as a teacher to differentiate and
18 individualize instruction. Students of
19 mine that have access to computers from
20 home can continue to work on their
21 weaknesses, the things that they need to
22 work towards getting at reaching
23 proficiency. And we all know that
24 there's a lot going on in the District,
25 and this does nothing but support the

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2 kids. It's the missing link in terms of
3 parent and teacher communication. It
4 allows parents to really see what their
5 child is doing in terms of tests and
6 seeing it in realtime.

7 So I can't even begin to
8 express how important having this
9 technology in place would be for the
10 children of the School District.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you.

12 Please, sir, state your name
13 for the record.

14 MS. ANAS'SAN: I would like to
15 give you copies.

16 MS. RENZULLI: Councilwoman
17 Brown, I failed to mention Bessy Anas'san
18 is substituting for Edison Freire.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Very well.

20 Proceed with your testimony.

21 MS. ANAS'SAN: Like was
22 mentioned, I'm speaking on behalf of
23 Edison Freire, who is the Manager of the
24 Digital Service Fellows and the Computer
25 Support Specialist Initiative with the

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2 School District of Philadelphia and
3 communities in schools.

4 Briefly, the Digital Service
5 Fellows program was designed to provide
6 just in time technical computer support
7 to schools and communities in
8 Philadelphia. In the last three years,
9 the Digital Service Fellows, which is the
10 apprenticeship, it's like the
11 entry-level -- they're mentored by
12 computer technicians in the School
13 District in all the regions. And the
14 Computer Support Specialists, which is
15 the senior position, they are mainly
16 graduates from the Digital Service
17 Fellows program hired by one school to be
18 full-time technology director.

19 They've grown to be 50 members,
20 50 members strong and 50 members of
21 inspiring young people who are giving
22 back to their communities in an
23 incredible win-win situation. The
24 mission is to create workforce
25 opportunities for youth, as well as

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2 opportunities to use the IT skills to
3 build communities. We've collaborated
4 with Philadelphia organizations to
5 provide tech support in their events in
6 the past, like the Anti-Violence
7 Conference.

8 Because of the educational
9 certification trainings received and in
10 progress, our team is shaping itself to
11 be able to work with upcoming City-wide
12 projects. In fact, we are planning to
13 implement a new Wireless and Cyber
14 Security Certification Program at the
15 Community College of Philadelphia in
16 collaboration with the Department of
17 Community and Economic Development so
18 that we're prepared. So we're creating a
19 new program for our members.

20 When it comes to technological
21 advancements like Wireless Philadelphia,
22 the troubleshooting and trainings come
23 into the picture. So the Digital Service
24 Fellows and the Computer Support
25 Specialists are committing to support

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2 Wireless Philadelphia, because our goal
3 is to bridge the digital divide.

4 With the Wireless Philadelphia
5 project in place, countless jobs and new
6 business prospects will be available,
7 plus senior Computer Support Specialist
8 members can create IT companies to
9 support the wireless infrastructure and
10 serve neighborhood families.

11 So by providing free wireless,
12 it won't automatically bridge the digital
13 divide, because many people are
14 interested but few are able to
15 understand. So when you empower
16 children, youth, adults and businesses,
17 you're going to form a community within
18 Philadelphia. And so that's embracing
19 technology to rebuild Philadelphia's
20 communities.

21 So after completing the Digital
22 Service Fellows program, I was hired as a
23 Computer Support Specialist at Hunter
24 Elementary School, where each classroom
25 has an interactive White Board that

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2 connects the students and the teachers to
3 an online curriculum. Since I started
4 with technology through an after-school
5 program at Olney High School, I continue
6 to have after-school programs for youth.
7 Currently, I'm having a Computer College,
8 which is pretty much like Digital's
9 Miracles Project, every student is able
10 to build their own machine and take it
11 home, and Young Movie Makers Academy
12 where they learn basics about moving
13 making and make their own.

14 Three friends and I our own
15 business to provide affordable
16 multi-media services to Philadelphia,
17 like video and web design. As a young
18 businesswoman, I feel ready and as a
19 Philadelphia citizen minority, I feel
20 excited about Wireless Philadelphia,
21 because it will connect and enhance my
22 business, the schools, families and the
23 City.

24 Thank you.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you

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2 for your testimony.

3 Please state your name for the
4 record and proceed with your testimony.

5 I do not have a copy. Is it two pages?

6 MR. ROBINSON: Yeah, but it's
7 not going to be two pages.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you
9 very much.

10 MR. ROBINSON: Good afternoon,
11 City Council. I'm Corey Robinson,
12 Digital Inclusion Manager for People's
13 Emergency Center. I'm actually giving
14 the testimony on behalf of Gloria Guard,
15 our President.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Surely.

17 MR. ROBINSON: In February
18 2003, People's Emergency Center Community
19 Development Corporation began the Digital
20 Inclusion Program, which is designed to
21 increase the technology literacy of
22 low-income families and increase their
23 access to relevant human service
24 information and tools. When families are
25 connected to the Internet through

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2 personal computers, they use their
3 resources to pursue educational
4 opportunities, search for employment,
5 identify readiness programs and help
6 their children with homework.

7 Through partnering with United
8 Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania Teaming
9 for Technology, T4T, and Philadelphia
10 Neighborhood Development Collaborative,
11 PNDC, AchieveAbility and One Economy,
12 People's Emergency Center Community
13 Development Corporation has offered the
14 Digital Inclusion Program to over 170
15 people.

16 The Digital Inclusion Program
17 uses a four-pronged strategy to advance
18 technology literacy.

19 Part 1, computer distribution
20 and wireless access. PECCDC sells
21 affordable recycled computers for \$120
22 and provides wireless access for \$5 a
23 month for the trial and initial year.

24 Point 2, training.
25 Participants learn how to operate

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2 computers, use e-mail, navigate through
3 the Internet and are introduced to Word
4 and Excel applications.

5 Point 3, content. Through our
6 partnership with One Economy,
7 participants use this one-stop resource
8 center, which provides links to
9 government, social services and local
10 community-based resources.

11 Point 4, technical support.
12 PECCDC provides ongoing technical support
13 to our participants.

14 By providing service, training
15 and technical support, as well as
16 increasing access to electronic
17 information and distributing computers,
18 the Digital Inclusion Program builds
19 self-reliance and strengthening
20 opportunities for advancement. Due to
21 the success of this innovative program,
22 the Mayor's Office of Information Systems
23 recently selected PECCDC's Digital
24 Inclusion Program and neighborhood to be
25 part of the pilot for the City's wireless

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2 program.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you
4 for your testimony.

5 Mr. Cohen, you say that if this
6 is done right, it will be a wonderful
7 thing. So if you had to ID two essential
8 factors that would help it being done
9 right, what would they be?

10 MR. COHEN: I can think of one
11 immediate thing, and that's that the
12 School District needs and other
13 educational organizations need to take
14 advantage and actually have to integrate
15 it into the curriculum, the use of the
16 Internet access at home. And I think
17 that on some level, it's already -- as
18 far as the Wireless Philadelphia is
19 concerned, it may already being done
20 right, because it's already driven down
21 prices. And as you decrease prices
22 around the City for Internet access, I
23 think you also allow parents to at least
24 get on board for the first time.

25 So I think it's already started

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2 to create more competition.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: So back to
4 your initial statement, your first
5 criteria, the digital divide is the big
6 picture bridge, but if we want to be
7 serious about making sure that happens,
8 then you're recommending that there be
9 some integration, was the word you used,
10 of making sure parents at home know how
11 to manipulate.

12 MR. COHEN: Absolutely.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And make
14 that a part of the curriculum, because
15 then you really are talking about
16 bridging the digital divide with
17 different generations.

18 MR. COHEN: Yes. And also in
19 the community centers. I think that
20 that's important, not to overlook the
21 actual community centers and recognize
22 that they should be integrating this
23 resource into their curriculum.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: So as an
25 example or analogy, to multiply

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2 exponentially the work that's being done
3 by the People's Emergency Center.

4 MR. COHEN: Yes. Yes.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you
6 all very, very much for your testimony.

7 Panel No. 3, Kris Berger, Chief
8 Growth Officer with Computers for Youth;
9 Shelton Mercer, Director of DVAEYC
10 Computer Solutions; Wayne Lutz, President
11 of Tech Access Pennsylvania; Herbert E.
12 Sharp with the Liquor and Bill Licenses
13 Bought and Sold; Etienne Phipps.

14 SPEAKER: I don't think Shelton
15 is here yet, and Etienne has an
16 appointment, so could she join your
17 panel?

18 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Shelton is
19 actually not up next. I wanted to
20 accommodate Dr. Etienne Phipps.

21 Thank you for your presence and
22 we'll proceed with your testimony. State
23 your name for the record.

24 MR. SHARP: My name is Herbert
25 Sharp. I'm here as an individual.

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2 However, I am a volunteer for Non-Profit
3 Technology Resources. I do not speak for
4 them, but I heard their name mentioned in
5 the testimony a few minutes ago.

6 Non-Profit Technology Resources
7 is a company which operates basically
8 with the help of volunteers who refurnish
9 computers that are donated to Non-Profit,
10 and they, in turn, see that these
11 computers go to persons who are sponsored
12 by non-profits to schools, to churches
13 that are non-profits, and given
14 instruction in the use of the computer,
15 both from a mechanical standpoint and
16 operational standpoint.

17 Now I speak for myself. I am
18 personally a desktop operator. I do not
19 have a laptop. I am very seriously
20 interested in wireless. I would like to
21 point out that Philadelphia is a
22 university city, many universities, and
23 most of the universities require that
24 their students have laptops. It's an
25 essential today.

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2 I would also like to point out
3 that I am aware that City Council has a
4 balancing act. I am aware that the
5 Internet service providers, such as
6 Comcast, Verizon and many others, have a
7 stake in Philadelphia, both from a
8 standpoint of the space they occupy, of
9 the rents that they pay, of the people
10 that they employ and of the taxes that
11 are generated by these non-profits.

12 I am also aware that we have a
13 lot of low-income people in Philadelphia
14 who cannot afford the ever-increasing
15 costs of Internet provider services. I
16 understand that the wireless has been
17 activated as an experiment and that there
18 are areas in Philadelphia where wireless
19 is actively used.

20 Now, I think that it's
21 important to note that these students and
22 the people of Philadelphia are the
23 electors who have elected Council to
24 represent them. I think Council has a
25 more important duty to the electors of

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2 Philadelphia, to low-income people, to
3 the students who are voters and who will
4 soon be voters to represent them, as well
5 as look to the interests of the
6 commercial organizations.

7 I think that wireless is
8 essential. I think that if Philadelphia
9 does not follow the lead of other
10 municipalities that have instituted
11 wireless, that we're going to be left
12 behind.

13 I am appalled at the absence of
14 the Councilmen at this meeting. I would
15 like to see the hands raised of any
16 Councilmen that are here so I know how
17 many people are interested in this
18 wireless situation. Please raise your
19 hands.

20 (Councilwoman Brown raises her
21 hand.)

22 MR. SHARP: So that these
23 people who have come here to be
24 represented and to point out their views
25 are talking to one Councilperson. I hope

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2 that there are aides of the Councilmen
3 who are also present who will bring the
4 message to the Councilmen who vote.

5 Thank you.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Mr. Sharp,
7 will you be able to stay to hear the
8 other members of your panel or do you
9 have to rush out?

10 MR. SHARP: Excuse me. I don't
11 hear too well.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: It's not a
13 problem.

14 Will you be able to stay to
15 hear the other members of the panel? If
16 not, I'd simply like to comment on the --

17 MR. SHARP: Yes, I can stay.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Please
19 allow the members of --

20 MR. SHARP: I'll wait until
21 everybody is through.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Please,
23 and then I'd simply like to comment on
24 your testimony.

25 MR. SHARP: Thank you.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: You're
3 welcome.

4 Please, sir.

5 MR. LUTZ: My name is Wayne
6 Lutz. I'm the President of Tech Access
7 PA, which is a non-profit charity. I
8 founded this charity about a year and a
9 half ago, and we were incorporated for
10 the expressed purpose of helping people
11 specifically in the area of the City that
12 I'm involved with right now, which is
13 Olney, to close the digital divide.

14 Initially our focus was
15 hardware. Our idea was to do what a lot
16 of other people are doing, and some of
17 them are represented here tonight, to
18 help lower income families get computers
19 in their homes by refurbishing old
20 computers and machines, taking donations,
21 things of that nature.

22 We very quickly learned that
23 the real interest in -- computers are
24 easy to come by. If somebody really
25 wants a computer, there are all kinds of

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2 ways to get one. The real intense
3 interest was in education and support.

4 As it happens, the building
5 that houses my non-profit, Tech Access,
6 which is St. Paul's Lutheran Church in
7 Olney, also happens to be directly and
8 literally in the shadow of the Olney
9 pilot program for Wireless Philadelphia.
10 It was just at the same time that we
11 started to get underway and build our
12 computer lab that the wireless pilot
13 program came to be last summer. We had
14 that big roll-out there on the streets of
15 Olney and Fifth Street. It was a very
16 hot day. And it turned out to be a real
17 boom.

18 I'm glad to be able to testify
19 tonight because I can tell you from hard
20 experience and from direct experience
21 with the people who I work with that the
22 Wireless Philadelphia initiative most
23 certainly does benefit directly the
24 people who most need it, underprivileged
25 people.

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2 Olney happens to be one of the
3 most diverse areas of the City in terms
4 of ethnicities, nationalities,
5 socioeconomic status, and the people
6 there, I have found, are intensely
7 interested in the existence of Wireless
8 Philadelphia, and they really -- those
9 who are not already on board really want
10 to get on board. And what we're doing
11 is, we've developed ways to teach them
12 how to do that.

13 We're giving classes to people,
14 daytime classes, evening classes, on
15 how -- right now we're concentrating on
16 very basic Internet classes, teaching
17 people -- some of whom have computers at
18 home, but don't really use them. Maybe
19 the kids use them. Others who have never
20 touched a mouse before -- how to use a
21 personal computer and then, more
22 importantly, how to get onto the Internet
23 and access and research the incredible
24 sea of resources that are available to
25 people through the Internet.

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2 The existence of the Wireless
3 Philadelphia network over our heads right
4 now allows a lot of people to do that who
5 otherwise don't have any access.

6 I took a little antennae and I
7 put it in the bell tower of the church
8 and I ran wires throughout the church,
9 and using overlapping access points, the
10 entire building is now wired for Internet
11 because of Wireless Philadelphia.

12 We house Lutheran Children and
13 Family Services in that building, which
14 is a huge social service agency. We have
15 used the Wireless Philadelphia connection
16 to train foster care workers. They have
17 laptops that they can take out and take
18 into the homes of their clients for data
19 entry and data transfer using the
20 Internet where it's available, which
21 right now is not very much. We have
22 trained after-school workers. Lutheran
23 Children and Family Services has a large
24 after-school program. I've trained 50
25 people on how to use their laptops, to

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2 access content for the kids that they
3 work with after school using the laptops,
4 those who have access to wireless
5 Internet where they are.

6 I have trained immigrants,
7 refugees, victims of torture, just plain
8 people who -- a lot of senior citizens,
9 by the way. There's a lot of interest
10 among senior citizens in the Internet.
11 We're teaching them how to stay in
12 contact with their family members. We're
13 teaching them how to access healthcare
14 information and other social service
15 information and how to print greeting
16 cards. Just the interest is incredible.

17 Without the Wireless
18 Philadelphia network, we wouldn't be
19 anywhere near as close to doing what
20 we've done as we are right now.

21 I've seen the faces of the
22 people who have come through my classes.
23 To date, since October when we really
24 started, I built a classroom out of
25 nothing, out of donated computers, and I

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2 put them together and I patched them, I
3 cannibalized them. We now have 14
4 stations and a projector where we put
5 people through this basic computer class.
6 We've now graduated 70 people. These are
7 people who have used the wireless network
8 to get their own e-mail addresses through
9 the Olney portal page that was developed
10 by Ninth Wave Media, and we developed our
11 curriculum because of the existence of
12 the wireless pilot program. The final
13 two entire classes of our curriculum are
14 devoted specifically to wireless Internet
15 in general and Wireless Philadelphia in
16 particular, teaching people how to access
17 the network, what kind of equipment they
18 need and the benefits of the network to
19 them, what they're going to be able to do
20 if they don't already live in Olney, what
21 they're going to be able to do when the
22 umbrella finally does come over their
23 heads wherever they may be in
24 Philadelphia.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you

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2 very, very much for your testimony, sir.

3 Please, complete the panel.

4 MS. BERGER: Hi. My name is
5 Kris Berger. Thank you so much for
6 having me here today. I'm really pleased
7 to make remarks.

8 I represent Computers for
9 Youth, a national non-profit organization
10 based in New York City. We are dedicated
11 to closing the learning gap between
12 low-income children and the more affluent
13 peers by improving their learning
14 environment at home and connecting their
15 learning to the classroom. We train
16 parents, families, students, teachers in
17 schools to work together to improve
18 educational outcomes and achievement, and
19 we, like Jay Cohen spoke about earlier,
20 believe it's critical to really raising
21 achievement for the students who really
22 need that most.

23 Our methods is that we partner
24 with middle schools in high-need areas to
25 provide every sixth-grade student and

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2 their families with a free home computer,
3 along with training, high-quality
4 educational software, initial Internet
5 access, ongoing technical support,
6 follow-up workshops and more.

7 We believe the Wireless
8 Philadelphia initiative is incredibly
9 valuable because of what it can mean for
10 low-income families and because of the
11 opportunity it presents for every
12 Philadelphia resident to cross the
13 digital divide. It is for this reason
14 that we're here today.

15 Last September, my colleague,
16 Elisabeth Stock, Computer for Youth's
17 Founder and President, mentioned that CFY
18 was actively looking for cities where we
19 might work to expand technology access
20 and to bring our model to, and we've been
21 following with great interest what's been
22 happening here in Philadelphia. On
23 behalf of my entire staff and my entire
24 colleagues at CFY, we are actually
25 pleased to announce that after talking

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2 with many, many cities, we've decided
3 that Philadelphia should and will be our
4 first expansion site.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Well, we
6 thank you.

7 MS. BERGER: You're welcome.

8 We are inspired by Wireless
9 Philadelphia's commitment; in fact, the
10 whole City's commitment, to digital
11 inclusion and to what we've observed as
12 the City-wide commitment to creatively
13 putting technology to use for the public
14 good. We've seen the commitment of the
15 School District of Philadelphia. We've
16 seen the commitment of the Mayor's office
17 and the Wireless Philadelphia Board.
18 We've seen the commitment in the
19 non-profit community and in nearly
20 everyone we've spoken with, and we feel
21 that we are among friends here.

22 Starting this June, we are
23 going to work with approximately 200
24 sixth-grade students and their families.
25 Each will receive a Computers for Youth

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2 home computer loaded with educational
3 software. Each will attend a half-day
4 training and then receive ongoing
5 technical support. And looking ahead, we
6 truly hope to serve many more
7 Philadelphia students and families in the
8 years to come.

9 What difference will this make?
10 We actually know that our program will
11 have positive outcomes for Philadelphia
12 students. We know that parents will
13 become better learning partners for their
14 children and students will work harder in
15 school and do better in school, and we
16 know this because since 1999 and when we
17 were founded in New York City, we made
18 the commitment to use research to really
19 prove what we do and to prove what we've
20 seen.

21 We look forward to working here
22 in Philadelphia to ensure that the CFY
23 program advances and enhances School
24 District priorities like mentioned
25 before, such as enabling all parents to

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2 access their children's academic
3 achievement information online, provide
4 students and families with access to
5 high-quality online enrichment material
6 and enabling students to gain the skills
7 and knowledge they need to succeed in
8 today's workforce.

9 What we know about our
10 research -- I want to just tell you a
11 couple of things before I close -- is
12 that we do know that our program has a
13 consistent impact on students. Looking
14 at our data from the last academic year,
15 we found that more than 80 percent of
16 students indicated that having a home
17 computer helps them do better in school.
18 More than 70 percent report that having a
19 home computer helps them feel more
20 confident.

21 And since student reports are
22 not the entire story, we have been able
23 to show a direct statistical relationship
24 between home computer, trying harder in
25 school, meaning student motivation, and

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2 actually doing better in school as
3 measured by their teachers and their
4 tests.

5 What does this mean? Students
6 that receive home computers through our
7 program try harder in school and their
8 efforts pay off. Their teachers rate
9 their efforts that their performance has
10 improved.

11 We are thrilled to begin our
12 work with Philadelphia students and
13 families and excited at the opportunity
14 at hand. We believe that Philadelphia is
15 serious about making sure that all of its
16 citizens can enjoy the benefits of the
17 digital age and we are eager to help make
18 your incredible vision a reality.

19 Thank you.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you
21 for your testimony. Thank you very much.

22 Are you testifying?

23 DR. PHIPPS: Yes, I am.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Please,
25 move to the witness table.

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2 DR. PHIPPS: Good evening. My
3 name is Etienne Phipps. I'm from Albert
4 Einstein Healthcare Network. I'm very
5 pleased to be here. We are very excited
6 about the Philadelphia WiFi project.

7 Albert Einstein Healthcare
8 Network is a multi-facility network. Our
9 primary flagship is located at Broad and
10 Olney, and we serve a multi-cultural
11 community. Twenty-five percent are in
12 the poverty level. And we are very
13 supportive of this idea of bridging the
14 digital divide through the WiFi project.

15 I'm also the founding Director
16 of the Einstein Center for Urban Health
17 Policy and Research. We are an applied
18 research and demonstration program center
19 that is focused on issues of urban
20 health, and one of the areas that we do
21 work in is the digital divide, and I'd
22 just like to tell you briefly about one
23 of our projects.

24 Obviously the ability to access
25 the Internet for patients is a major

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2 benefit in terms of promoting patient
3 autonomy. We hear the word
4 "empowerment," but really increasing the
5 knowledge and skill level of patients to
6 be able to interact effectively with
7 their doctors. And one of our projects
8 is called Health on the Web. As has been
9 mentioned, it's very important that
10 individuals know just the basics about
11 how to get onto the Internet, and we've
12 done some pilot work and some preliminary
13 group projects to try to teach people
14 just the basics about what is a mouse,
15 what is a keyboard, like my colleague
16 here is talking about, just the easy,
17 kind of how do you get onto the Internet.

18 From that, we developed a
19 series of four modules to teach people
20 how to search for health information on
21 the web.

22 As you probably know, there's
23 quite a lot of erroneous and even
24 dangerous health-related information that
25 people can access if they don't know what

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2 they're doing, and so our instructional
3 interactive program, which is on the
4 Internet, teaches people how to search,
5 how to assess health sites for quality
6 information using standardized criteria.
7 And what we have done with Health on the
8 Web has been to also use physicians to
9 help screen and recommend certain
10 websites that are of particular interest
11 to our patient population, and right now
12 those are diabetes Type 1 and 2, asthma,
13 prenatal care and pregnancy. So there
14 are a series of websites that we feel
15 comfortable telling patients to access
16 for additional information.

17 In addition to teaching
18 patients how to get onto the Internet,
19 there are quite a few exciting areas that
20 we see being more possible with the
21 Philadelphia WiFi, and that includes one
22 of the emerging areas of telemarketing.
23 And, for example, in the area of
24 diabetes, we're looking to see whether or
25 not we can pilot some programs that will

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2 allow patients who have diabetes to do
3 home monitoring and to allow both the
4 input and the receipt of data regarding
5 their glucose levels to help monitor
6 patients who have trouble with diabetes.

7 So we are very excited about
8 seeing the capability of teaching
9 patients of all ages how to use the
10 Internet to improve their healthcare.

11 Thank you.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Very
13 exciting. Thank you for your testimony.

14 Let me commend the important
15 work you're doing in Olney as just one
16 small example of what it could mean at
17 the end of the day with this initiative,
18 and as a former teacher, I'm extremely
19 excited, really excited, when I hear the
20 work that you all are doing in New York
21 City.

22 Please tell me who the 600
23 lucky kids that will be in the program
24 this summer? How did you identify them?

25 MS. BERGER: I will be able to

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2 let you know specifically in about a
3 week. We're actually still talking with
4 Jay and other folks at the School
5 District to make sure that we have a
6 great group of kids.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: I would
8 ask that you forward to the Chair of both
9 Committees who those schools are so that
10 we know the young people that are
11 being -- they're lucky to have this kind
12 of opportunity.

13 MS. BERGER: Absolutely, and we
14 hope that there will be many more in the
15 future.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: To
17 Mr. Sharp, let me thank you, first of
18 all, for your testimony, and allow me to
19 say on behalf of my colleagues, a lack of
20 absence does not mean lack of interest.
21 We have what are called -- not boom boxes
22 but voice boxes in our offices that allow
23 us to hear testimony even when we're not
24 here. So if we're not on the committee,
25 we can still tune in and hear what is

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2 happening down here on the floor. So you
3 should be aware of that.

4 And then, secondly, we're
5 actually competing against a major event
6 being hosted by the Greater Philadelphia
7 Chamber of Commerce.

8 So I say again, their lack of
9 absence does not mean lack of interest.
10 This is our second of a series of public
11 hearings that we'll be having, and it was
12 my request and expectation that we have a
13 public hearing for public testimony in
14 the evening to accommodate folk who
15 simply can't get here during the day.

16 MR. SHARP: Thank you, and I
17 understand. I did mention that I hope
18 that the administrative assistants of the
19 various Councilmen that are present would
20 carry the messages from the people who
21 are testifying, because I understand that
22 the Councilmen can't be present here at
23 all times, but they're represented by
24 aides.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN:

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2 Absolutely.

3 MR. SHARP: I might also
4 mention to you that it is very important
5 to understand that you are representing
6 the people of Philadelphia, that the
7 people of Philadelphia expect you to
8 represent them to the best of their
9 interest and not to the interest of the
10 commercial enterprises, whom I also
11 mentioned are important to consider.
12 Please think of the young children
13 growing up who are becoming computer
14 literate, those who have laptops, those
15 who are outside. Laptops are the big
16 coming thing.

17 Please understand that you're
18 disseminating information to thousands of
19 people at one time by benefiting from
20 wireless and the use of the laptops to
21 pick up the wireless at low or no cost to
22 them. There might even be cost to them
23 in the end. They're going to have to
24 watch a lot of advertising, because
25 they're getting it free, but somehow it

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2 has to be paid for. Thank you.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Well, I
4 have to comment. I appreciate you for
5 being a voice for kids. So often in
6 these proceedings no one is speaking up
7 for children, who are ultimately going to
8 be either positively or negatively
9 affected by the decisions we make here.
10 It's a delicate balance between looking
11 out for children and citizens and seniors
12 who don't have access and yet being
13 responsible and sensitive to the
14 corporate members of our City who have an
15 important role as well. So it's a
16 delicate balance that we have to strike
17 on this side of the table.

18 So let me thank you for your
19 testimony. Thank you all very, very
20 much.

21 The next panel, Panel No. 4,
22 Judy Youn, the Career Development
23 Director for the Korean Community
24 Development Center; Howard Bilofsky,
25 Ph.D., Board Chair with the Mount Airy

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2 Community Computer Center; Beverly Harper
3 of Germantown Settlement; Linda
4 Waters-Richardson, President of the
5 Uptown Entertainment and Development
6 Corporation. Please move to the witness
7 table.

8 SPEAKER: I guess Judy Youn
9 couldn't make it today, so she sent
10 written testimony, which I'm handing you.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: I thank
12 you very much.

13 Good afternoon, everyone. I
14 thought I saw Linda -- oh, wonderful;
15 Linda Waters-Richardson, the President of
16 the Uptown Entertainment District. Thank
17 you very much.

18 Good afternoon. Have a seat.

19 Mr. Sharp, allow me to state
20 one other thing for the record. The
21 beauty of this process is that all
22 members of Council get copies of
23 testimony. We have a transcriber. For
24 those who are not in the building at all,
25 we can always request copies of

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2 testimony. So there are a number of
3 check points, if you will, to make sure
4 that Councilmembers are in touch and
5 informed about these proceedings.

6 So thanks again.

7 Please proceed. State your
8 name for the record, and we will start
9 first with Mount Airy Community Computer
10 Center. Good afternoon.

11 DR. BILOFSKY: Good afternoon.
12 My name is Howard Bilofsky. I want to
13 thank the Councilwoman for holding these
14 meetings and for this opportunity to
15 offer testimony in support of
16 Philadelphia's innovative and
17 forward-looking WiFi initiative.

18 You do have my testimony. It's
19 three pages, but I won't read it all.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you.

21 DR. BILOFSKY: I'm privileged
22 to chair the Board of the Mount Airy
23 Community Computer Center, whose mission
24 is to close the digital divide between
25 advantaged and disadvantaged citizens.

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2 We believe our mission is, at its core, a
3 fundamental issue of social justice.

4 I'm also on the Board of the
5 West Mount Airy Neighbors.

6 Professionally, I'm a Senior
7 Fellow in computer science and
8 bioinformatics at the University of
9 Pennsylvania, recently retired from
10 GlaxoSmithKline. I spent over three
11 decades helping all sorts of people to
12 use computers in order to make a positive
13 difference in their lives. This
14 experience is relevant here, I think, for
15 a number of reasons.

16 First, I can appreciate the
17 challenges of this new WiFi initiative,
18 but even more so, I can appreciate the
19 potential positive impact for individual
20 citizens.

21 And, second, in my recent
22 travels as a consultant across the U.S.
23 and in Europe, I've been pleasantly
24 surprised by how awareness of the WiFi
25 initiative has grown amongst high tech

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2 professionals and everyday people and how
3 it's enhancing Philadelphia's image as an
4 innovative, visionary, concerned and
5 energetic city, in the best spirit of Ben
6 Franklin on his 300th birthday.

7 But, more importantly, I'm here
8 because of my commitment to the Mount
9 Airy Community Computer Center, which we
10 call by the acronym MACCC, M-A-C-C-C.
11 The commitment stems from my long
12 interest in making the benefits of the
13 digital age, which many of us take for
14 granted, available to all citizens.

15 This afternoon I'd like to
16 speak briefly about three related issues:
17 Some of the important work that MACCC
18 does in Northwest Philly, why we think
19 this WiFi initiative is so important, and
20 why we look forward to working with
21 Wireless Philadelphia.

22 MACCC was formed in 1998. We
23 operate two technology centers, one in
24 Germantown and one in Mount Airy. We
25 serve multiple constituencies as we seek

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2 to close the digital divide. We are not
3 aware of any other technology center in
4 the Northwest that provides the same
5 range of opportunities for disadvantaged
6 citizens.

7 Since June of 2005, we have
8 worked with ex-offenders from the
9 Philadelphia Prison System and their
10 school-age children and families to
11 provide computer training and to raise
12 their awareness of how computers can help
13 them and their families survive and live
14 better lives. Upon completion of our
15 program, a new computer and printer are
16 installed in the family's home.

17 In August 2005, we completed
18 our first training contract with Center
19 in the Park, a strong and vibrant
20 Northwest agency serving older adults.
21 We're now preparing a second larger
22 training program.

23 We've just completed an
24 eight-week training program with Interim
25 House, a Germantown non-profit halfway

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2 house serving women in recovery. A new
3 program will begin shortly.

4 And in April, we'll begin our
5 first ever project with home-schooled
6 students and their parents. We also work
7 with Mount Airy Learning Tree, business
8 associations and the faith-based
9 community.

10 Older adults, ex-offenders,
11 students, women in recovery, children,
12 our constituents are many and diverse
13 just like our neighborhood.

14 We continue to learn much from
15 our work. I would underscore just two
16 learnings here that bear directly on the
17 future and our potential involvement with
18 Wireless Philadelphia.

19 First, there's a recognized
20 need; in fact, a hunger, amongst our less
21 advantaged neighbors to be included in
22 our new digital world.

23 Secondly, whatever this new
24 WiFi experiment can do to make computers,
25 the Internet and, more importantly,

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2 computer education and awareness
3 available will be most enthusiastically
4 received by our citizens.

5 From MACCC's perspective in
6 working with less advantaged citizens,
7 moving forward on the WiFi initiative
8 could not be more timely. Just a year
9 ago, the Brookings Institute reported
10 that low-income households in
11 Philadelphia are particularly hurt by
12 lack of basic market and financial
13 information available on the Internet to
14 those of us on the privileged side of the
15 digital divide. As a result, the poor
16 pay more, as much as thousands of dollars
17 a year, for basic goods and services,
18 such as insurance, loans, autos,
19 appliances, furniture. And this gap is
20 exacerbated because of their lack of
21 knowledge, time and access, which also
22 makes it harder for them to deal with the
23 complexities of the system, such as
24 managing their money, repairing their
25 credit ratings and knowing their rights

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2 and benefits.

3 We have witnessed firsthand how
4 the computer can become a significant
5 source of empowerment. We've seen older
6 adults get excited as they access
7 critical health information. We've seen
8 students smiling proudly at showing off
9 their first graphics creations to their
10 parents. We've seen ex-offenders gaining
11 confidence in preparing for the job
12 market. We've seen job seekers
13 confidently navigating complex,
14 hopelessly complex, online application
15 forms required even for minimum-wage jobs
16 in our neighborhoods. We've seen
17 elementary school children, using a
18 program called First in Math, improving
19 their math skills because they were able
20 to learn at their own pace outside the
21 classroom.

22 Finally, MACCC looks forward to
23 the day, soon we hope, when WiFi will be
24 rolled out. We've been encouraged in our
25 discussions with the WiFi consulting

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2 staff who have clearly articulated the
3 Wireless Philadelphia inclusion strategy,
4 which is both forward-looking and
5 neighborhood-sensitive and fully in tune
6 with our own experience and future
7 strategy.

8 The strong and fundamental
9 values of the inclusion strategy will
10 position Wireless Philadelphia to work
11 effectively throughout the City with a
12 diversity of groups and institutions. We
13 at MACCC applaud the Mayor, this Council
14 and all who have worked so hard to
15 develop the WiFi initiative. We look
16 forward to being a partner with Wireless
17 Philadelphia in the Northwest.

18 And, of course, we want to
19 extend an invitation to you and all of
20 your colleagues to visit us in the
21 Northwest and see what bridging the
22 digital divide is all about in our view.

23 Thank you for your time and
24 attention.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you

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2 very, very much for your testimony. Your
3 enthusiasm is clear. We thank you.

4 Please state your name for the
5 record and proceed with your testimony.

6 MS. HARPER: Beverly Harper,
7 and I'm from Germantown Settlement. Good
8 afternoon.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Good
10 afternoon.

11 MS. HARPER: I have submitted a
12 five-page testimony for you to read. My
13 remarks will be just an enhancement of
14 that.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: I thank
16 you.

17 MS. HARPER: One of the things
18 that I would like to say most importantly
19 is that most people in Philadelphia have
20 heard of the Settlement before. We offer
21 a wide range of intergenerational
22 programs for youth through seniors. Part
23 of what we do or some of the things of
24 what we do are dealing with the elderly.

25 We are presently entering into

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2 a contract with IBM that will be web
3 adaptation technology, which will help
4 our elders learn how to use the computer,
5 but it will enhance the screen and the
6 voice tones in the computer and it will
7 help them to use the mouse less often.
8 So for those people who are arthritic,
9 this is crucial for them.

10 We also service AIDS residents.
11 They need to have this initiative passed
12 in order to help them to get medical
13 information to make better informed
14 medical decisions.

15 It will enhance a myriad of our
16 programs. We see this as basically an
17 elastic band to stretch those taxpayer
18 dollars that are already in play.

19 Most of our programs are state
20 and federally funded, so this is just
21 another way to stretch that dollar and to
22 make it support the families that we
23 serve. And we do serve over 120,000
24 families in Northwest Philadelphia.

25 Thank you very much.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you
3 for your testimony. We have been further
4 enlightened on why this makes good public
5 policy.

6 MS. HARPER: It does.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: That's a
8 very biased statement I'll say for the
9 record.

10 Please proceed with your
11 testimony.

12 MS. WATERS-RICHARDSON: Good
13 afternoon. My name is Linda
14 Waters-Richardson and I'm the President
15 of the Uptown Entertainment and
16 Development Corporation. I'm going to
17 briefly talk about the work of our
18 organization, describe the community and
19 make some recommendations on the
20 legislation, proposed legislation.

21 The Uptown Entertainment and
22 Development Corporation is a 501(c)(3)
23 community development corporation located
24 at 2227 North Broad Street. Our programs
25 consist of community planning, youth

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2 training, art and culture entertainment.

3 Our largest project to date is the
4 renovation of the historic Uptown Theatre
5 to be utilized as a technology and
6 entertainment center.

7 Our community represents a
8 2.2-mile area within the boundaries of
9 West Susquehanna to West Lehigh, from
10 13th to 19th Streets. The population is
11 8,646.

12 In describing the terminology
13 "digital divide," we have to look at what
14 those communities really look like. The
15 median income is \$15,308, compared with
16 the City's \$30,746 and the Commonwealth's
17 \$40,106. Forty-four percent are living
18 below the poverty level. There is a two
19 percent college graduation rate, compared
20 with 18 percent City-wide and 22 percent
21 state-wide.

22 The neighborhood has commercial
23 assets located off the Broad Street
24 subway line. The Uptown Theatre is one
25 of the historic assets in the area, and

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2 when completed, the Theatre renovation
3 and the community revitalization efforts
4 will produce 200 jobs for the community.

5 The City's proposed program to
6 offer reduced cost WiFi capabilities and
7 due to its height, the Uptown Theatre is
8 an ideal Internet hub. The Uptown
9 Theatre could also be used as a signal
10 transfer unit to extend the wireless
11 network into our area.

12 Through its technology center
13 programs, the Uptown also provides
14 computer literacy classes, access to
15 e-commerce, and provide an economic
16 stimulus to inspire educational and
17 economic opportunities that low-cost
18 wireless Internet service represents.

19 This can be accomplished and
20 all that has been talked about this
21 afternoon in terms of what we think is a
22 real positive move if the City of
23 Philadelphia, partners such as my
24 organization, and EarthLink provide
25 necessary structural agreements that

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2 truly will make this a success. We must
3 have strategies and benchmarks with the
4 legislation that ensures low-cost access
5 to Wireless Philadelphia. I hope that
6 City Council takes into consideration the
7 goals, guidelines and implementation
8 programs to make this an opportunity
9 truly for those that we serve.

10 Thank you.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: You're
12 welcome.

13 I thank all of you for your
14 testimony.

15 One, Dr. Bilofsky, you've
16 spoken to the beauty of this for women in
17 shelters. Beverly Harper has given us a
18 profile of patients, including AIDS
19 patients, who can benefit, and Linda
20 Waters-Richardson has presented a profile
21 of the low and moderate-income citizen
22 who can benefit from this initiative.

23 So we thank you for your
24 enlightening testimony, and I would
25 encourage you to seize the moment and

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2 connect now, if you have not already,
3 with members of EarthLink and WiFi
4 Philadelphia that are here. Thank you
5 very, very much.

6 Next up, Aimee Kosta, Project
7 Manager for Greater Philadelphia Cares;
8 Kimberly Davis with the Greater
9 Philadelphia Cares Volunteer; Rebecca
10 Sapolsky, Technology Program Coordinator
11 with the Caring People Alliance; Dr. --
12 this doctor is the Associate Professor of
13 MIS with the Department of Management for
14 Drexel University, and you can tell us
15 your name when you come to the witness
16 table. Then we have the remaining two
17 testifiers, Media Tank and Action Without
18 Borders, Broadcaster. You'll be up next
19 following this panel.

20 Good afternoon.

21 SPEAKER: I just wanted to let
22 you know that Aimee Kosta couldn't make
23 it, but that Kimberly Davis will talk
24 about Philadelphia Cares and her work
25 there.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Very well.

3 SPEAKER: And Dr. Murugan also
4 couldn't make it. I'm sorry. He was on
5 an early list of mine. He's going to be
6 working with us hopefully to develop some
7 metrics and measuring techniques. So
8 that will come later.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Very well.

10 Well, then Joshua Breitbart of
11 Media Tank, if you could join the other
12 witnesses here, and Chantee Lans
13 Sturtevant, Action Without Borders,
14 Broadcaster. Please come to the witness
15 table.

16 I want to thank you all. If
17 you have testimony, please present it.
18 If it's more than three pages, please
19 summarize. And we ask you to proceed.
20 Please.

21 MS. DAVIS: Good evening.

22 Thanks for having me. My name is
23 Kimberly Davis. I've been in the
24 information technology industry for about
25 ten years. I'm an SAP consultant during

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2 the day, but --

3 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: As a what
4 consultant?

5 MS. DAVIS: SAP, it's
6 enterprise-wide software for Fortune 500
7 companies.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: I see.

9 MS. DAVIS: Not quite as
10 fulfilling as what I do in my free time,
11 which is volunteer with Philadelphia
12 Cares.

13 Philadelphia Cares is
14 Philadelphia's number one volunteer
15 organization, boasting a 14,000 member
16 base and having a very large presence
17 within the Philadelphia community.

18 I'm a Project Leader for
19 Philadelphia Cares in their digital
20 inclusion initiative, and we share the
21 initiative of Philadelphia Wireless.
22 It's challenging when we work with these
23 economically challenged folks who get
24 this box, this machine that we help
25 refurbish and provide to them for free.

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2 I think in the back of our minds while
3 we're there, we know that they need more,
4 and pretty much what I wanted to say
5 today has already been said, so what I
6 want to stress is that I think
7 Philadelphia Wireless has it right in
8 that they're not just providing nodes or
9 Internet access, but they actually, if
10 you read through the documentation,
11 they've got a plan. They've got a plan
12 with training, with citizen workshops,
13 the hardware. It's not just access to
14 the Internet. It's the whole education
15 and plan that Philadelphia Wireless
16 project is providing. It's something
17 that Philadelphia Cares can't provide on
18 its own or that Wayne might not be able
19 to provide on his own, but with all of us
20 non-profits and volunteers with the same
21 agenda working together, the plan that
22 Philadelphia Wireless is putting forward
23 with its all-encompassing initiative,
24 again training, hardware, citizen
25 engagement, it would just be a great way

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2 to move forward together.

3 Thank you.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Do you
5 have written testimony?

6 MS. DAVIS: I do.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: We'd love
8 to have it. Thank you very much.

9 MS. DAVIS: Sure.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Please
11 proceed. State your name for the record.

12 MS. SAPOLSKY: My name is
13 Rebecca Sapolsky. I'm the Technology
14 Program Coordinator for Caring People
15 Alliance.

16 As we all know, I think
17 everybody here understands the importance
18 of wireless access within Philadelphia,
19 getting the technology to people, showing
20 them how to use it and showing them how
21 to master it and integrate it into their
22 lives. And I have personally seen the
23 impact the digital divide can have on any
24 age range, from 5 years old to 80 years
25 old. I've seen children and teens unable

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2 to compete at school because they do not
3 have access at home. I have seen adults
4 unable to get quality jobs because of
5 lack of training and limited job hunting
6 because of lack of Internet access. I've
7 also seen older adults who cannot access
8 vital info such as healthcare or
9 communicate with family members far away
10 because they do not have access to
11 Internet.

12 So I'm very excited and I know
13 my organization, Caring People Alliance,
14 is very excited about affordable and
15 integrated Internet access for everyone,
16 because it is our mission to bridge the
17 digital divide in South Philadelphia,
18 West Philadelphia and North Philadelphia
19 where our three community centers are
20 located.

21 I think the one issue that has
22 not been raised here today has been
23 safety, Internet safety. And when I talk
24 about Internet safety, I talk about two
25 different things. I talk about

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2 technology safety, which is anti-virus
3 software, anti-spyware, anti-adware,
4 protecting our computers at home and in
5 schools and in businesses, protecting the
6 actual hardware. But, more importantly,
7 I talk about personal safety, educating
8 adults and especially children about how
9 to stay safe on the Internet.

10 We work with the Boys and Girls
11 Club of America, and they have a
12 wonderful program called NetSmartz, which
13 it's a fun little interactive tool to
14 teach children how to keep their personal
15 information safe and yet still have fun
16 and still learn something from the
17 Internet.

18 Boys and Girls Club has a few
19 facts. They say that 45 percent of
20 children in the United States, more than
21 30 million of these younger than 18, use
22 the Internet. It is important for
23 parents and educators to know that the
24 wonderful new technologies associated
25 with the Internet can also introduce new

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2 dangers for children. Accessing the
3 Internet creates a link with millions of
4 people and is like posting information in
5 any public place.

6 Unfortunately, there are people
7 who use the Internet for selfish purposes
8 or to do illegal and malicious things,
9 such as child pornography, online
10 stalking, sexual predation and cyber
11 bullying.

12 It is important to approach
13 this new technology with safety in mind.
14 Because of the trusting nature of most
15 children, they do not understand that the
16 person on the Internet is like a stranger
17 on the street and could be lying to them
18 about their age or their photos,
19 attempting to get them to meet them
20 outside of their home or school and
21 potentially do harm.

22 As a member of Boys and Girls
23 Club, we do employ this NetSmartz
24 technology in each of our centers. We
25 teach the children how to enhance their

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2 ability to recognize dangers on the
3 Internet, enhance their ability to
4 understand that people they first meet on
5 the Internet should never be considered
6 their friend, encourage children of
7 reported victimization to a trusted
8 adult, such as a member of our community
9 center or a parent or guardian, support
10 and enhance community education efforts
11 and increase communication between adults
12 and children about online safety.

13 And if anybody has followed the
14 news in the past few months, I think
15 people are aware of the problems that
16 have been shown with My Space and other
17 online blogging tools where children will
18 post a lot of information and photos
19 about themselves and people are able to
20 follow them home, follow them to their
21 schools and abduct them.

22 I have personally seen the
23 results of NetSmartz in the children that
24 I teach. Several have followed the
25 correct procedures when encountering

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2 inappropriate content, such as photos or
3 language, by shutting off the monitor and
4 informing myself or another trusted
5 adult.

6 This program could easily be
7 assimilated into the schools and
8 communities through the four NetSmartz
9 assemblies geared for youth in grades K
10 through 2, youth in grades 3 through 6,
11 middle school and high school and parents
12 and community members.

13 I have access to and reviewed
14 these assemblies. They are a fun and
15 interactive way to engage youth and
16 adults into learning about the rules of
17 Internet safety. And I hope that our
18 organization, Caring People Alliance, can
19 help with this not only education about
20 the Internet and enhancement, enrichment
21 of the Internet, but also to inform
22 people about the dangers and to keep our
23 kids very safe.

24 Thank you.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you

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2 for your testimony. Do you have a
3 written copy of your testimony that talks
4 about NetSmartz?

5 MS. SAPOLSKY: Yes, I do.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay. If
7 you would please make sure we get that.

8 MS. SAPOLSKY: I will.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Good
10 evening. Please state your name for the
11 record.

12 MR. BREITBART: Thank you for
13 this opportunity to read my written
14 comments into the record.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: You're
16 welcome.

17 MR. BREITBART: My name is
18 Joshua Breitbart. I am the
19 Communications Director for Media Tank,
20 which is a small non-profit that is
21 dedicated to working for a more
22 democratic media here in Philadelphia.

23 I come before you humbly. We
24 do not have a massive membership base
25 that we can use to swing elections. We

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2 do not provide direct service to anyone.
3 But we are vigilant watchdogs of the
4 media, both local and national. We look
5 beyond the content of the news and
6 entertainment to see the structure of the
7 media: Who owns it, who profits from it,
8 who is served by it and who is shut out
9 of it, and I bring that perspective to
10 you today.

11 I want to thank the Mayor,
12 Ms. Neff, Ms. Robinson and Mr. Pew for
13 the tremendous vision and energy they
14 have brought to this venture. I have
15 great respect for everyone involved and
16 for all of the people that have come
17 before this Committee today and on the
18 10th to speak about the great potential
19 of Wireless Philadelphia. I, too, am
20 excited about the possibilities of a
21 Philadelphia with tens of thousands more
22 residents connected to the Internet and
23 to each other.

24 The deal that Wireless
25 Philadelphia has struck with EarthLink is

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2 the envy of our peers across the country
3 looking at potential wireless networks in
4 their cities. Sidney Levy, Program
5 Director for San Francisco's Media
6 Alliance, wrote an op-ed for the San
7 Francisco Chronicle and said, "Philly's
8 provisions for digital inclusion set the
9 baseline for what San Francisco
10 communities must get out of any citywide
11 wireless initiative."

12 However, I have concerns about
13 this deal, and I would like to share them
14 with you today at this important juncture
15 in the Wireless Philadelphia project and
16 in the future of our City.

17 Here's the second part of
18 Mr. Levy's statement about his city's
19 projects: "To our disappointment,
20 EarthLink's joint proposal with Google in
21 San Francisco does not include a digital
22 inclusion fund."

23 I think EarthLink is a good
24 company. I have been a customer of
25 theirs on and off since 1999. They stood

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2 up to the FBI's malicious and invasive
3 Carnivore system in 2000. But they are a
4 for-profit corporation, and if you do the
5 math, considering that Wireless
6 Philadelphia expects their five percent
7 to total \$1 million and EarthLink expects
8 to spend \$22 million on building and
9 maintaining the network, EarthLink stands
10 to make more than \$150 million out of
11 this deal in the first ten years. And
12 with the five-year renewal options, it
13 seems that you're actually signing
14 essentially a 20-year deal for the
15 lampposts.

16 At the last hearing on the
17 10th, Mr. Pew disclosed a complicated
18 arrangement between EarthLink and
19 Wireless Philadelphia whereby Wireless
20 Philadelphia would cover half of
21 EarthLink's PECO bill, up to half of
22 their digital inclusion revenue.
23 Personally, I've lived in a house with
24 roommates before and I know how
25 complicated it can be to divide up a

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2 utility bill, but that particular deal
3 seems like sleight of hand to me. If
4 half of the five percent from EarthLink
5 is going back to EarthLink, they should
6 call it two and a half percent.

7 With that remaining two and a
8 half percent, Wireless Philadelphia has
9 agreed to be the local publicity arm for
10 EarthLink. They have agreed to raise
11 awareness about this new service. This
12 venture aims to provide service primarily
13 to people who cannot currently afford
14 broadband access, poor folks. And these
15 agents of the City and all of these
16 non-profit organizations, some of whom
17 you've heard from today, are rolling a
18 bandwagon through the streets saying get
19 on board.

20 What if EarthLink
21 underperforms? What if the wireless
22 network doesn't work? What if EarthLink
23 finds it makes much more money off of the
24 fewer wealthy downtown customers with a
25 laptop than it does off of the households

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2 in Kensington with refurbished desktop
3 computers?

4 As I told the Philadelphia
5 Inquirer when this deal was announced,
6 "What's not clear is how the people of
7 Philadelphia are going to be able to hold
8 their communications providers
9 accountable. We have a hard enough time
10 doing it with Comcast, with whom the City
11 has a direct contract. It's not clear
12 how Wireless Philadelphia is accountable
13 to the City government or to the voters
14 of Philadelphia."

15 My concerns were only
16 heightened by Ms. Neff's response that
17 was published in that article. According
18 to the article, "Neff said the inherent
19 competitiveness of Internet service would
20 assure that the non-profit was
21 responsive."

22 Maybe that will be enough. It
23 certainly is helpful that the network is
24 open access so we will be able to have
25 multiple Internet service providers. It

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2 certainly benefits us, as Chairman
3 O'Neill pointed out at the last hearing,
4 that EarthLink's business plan and
5 reputation are tied to the success of
6 this particular pilot project. But I do
7 not like to be told to trust market
8 forces with something as critical as our
9 communications infrastructure.

10 I understand that there are
11 service-level agreements in the contract
12 between Wireless Philadelphia and
13 EarthLink, but does Wireless Philadelphia
14 have the teeth to enforce those
15 agreements? Wireless Philadelphia plans
16 to raise funds from private and corporate
17 donors. How will that impact their
18 oversight position?

19 I recognize that I may be
20 painting a doom's day scenario, but these
21 are valid questions that need to be
22 addressed. Media Tank is very protective
23 of our community's human right to
24 communication and we will point out
25 whenever we see that at risk. So far

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2 with this wireless plan, we have been
3 given pep rallies in place of oversight.

4 I should say that I think this
5 Committee did an excellent job
6 questioning the relevant dealmakers on
7 March 10th when this measure was first
8 brought before the Council, but right now
9 is the most responsive you can ever
10 expect them all to be. After you pass
11 this measure, you will have your pulpit
12 and you'll have the indirect budgetary
13 oversight of the office of the CIO, which
14 influences but does not control Wireless
15 Philadelphia. But the deal will be done.

16 Wireless Philadelphia has said
17 it plans to establish a citizen advisory
18 board. That is good, but limited. I am
19 told that Comcast has a local advisory
20 board, but I spent a week on the phone
21 and never found out who was on it or what
22 their role is.

23 City Council should establish a
24 true Citizen Oversight Board for all of
25 our local communications networks.

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2 Practically speaking, I understand that
3 the City may not want to fund such a
4 thing, but a Citizen Oversight Board for
5 Communications that was directly
6 accountable to the people of
7 Philadelphia, that had power of subpoena
8 or otherwise had access to critical
9 business information, that had the
10 authority to hold regular public hearings
11 throughout the City, that could advise
12 City Council when appropriate, and that
13 could serve as a megaphone for the needs
14 of all of the City's residents would help
15 ensure that the potential of this project
16 and of this great City is fully realized.

17 Thank you for your time this
18 afternoon and for your critical attention
19 to this amazing and innovative project
20 and particularly for holding an evening
21 hearing for people to speak at. Thank
22 you.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Well, I
24 want to thank all of you for your
25 testimony. It's clear that one common

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2 thread is that of the varying layers of
3 ways in which we can bridge the digital
4 divide. I would say that your testimony
5 comes at a ripe, R-I-P-E, time. The
6 questions you've raised are thoughtful,
7 provocative, yet valid, and you can count
8 on them being walked through or talked
9 through going forward.

10 So we want to thank everyone
11 for coming and being able to stay. Know
12 that the testimony will be carefully
13 reviewed, and questions that have been
14 raised will be heard again by the
15 stakeholders and the leaders on the front
16 end of this unprecedented initiative.

17 So I want to thank Dianah Neff
18 and her staff, Mr. Bright and his team,
19 as well as the EarthLink representative,
20 for coming and staying.

21 Are we done?

22 SPEAKER: No. We do have
23 Proyecto Sinfros Clases (ph).

24 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: That's a
25 new one.

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2 SPEAKER: Well, yes. They're
3 on the late list, but we have an entire
4 class trip of radio broadcasters.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay.

6 SPEAKER: But only one speaker.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: That we
8 can handle.

9 Quickly move to the witness
10 table, whoever is going to represent.

11 SPEAKER: One speaker with
12 company, her students.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Media
14 Tank, did you provide us with copies of
15 your testimony?

16 MR. BREITBART: Yes, I did.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay,
18 then. Thank you very, very much.

19 Good evening, young people.
20 The procedure is that you will state your
21 name for the record and then we will give
22 each one of you two minutes to share with
23 us your perspective about Wireless
24 Philadelphia and the Internet. Is that
25 understood?

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2 MS. LANS: Yes.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Hello?

4 Say yes.

5 MS. LANS: Yes.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: So state
7 your name for the record and proceed with
8 what is called your testimony. You have
9 two minutes. Please.

10 MS. LANS: My name is Chantee
11 Lans, and I'm one of the instructors for
12 Youth Radio Project. It's a class
13 offered by a non-profit organization
14 called Open Borders Project. It's
15 located on 6th and Venango in North
16 Philadelphia, the Kensington area. And
17 the class has been going on since October
18 of last year, and the focus of the class
19 is to produce a radio show and have it
20 streaming through the Internet. It gives
21 the students an opportunity, ages 12 to
22 17, junior high and high school students,
23 the opportunity to learn how to write
24 scripts, write lyrics to songs.

25 It's an after-school program.

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2 It's free. And they get to produce it,
3 and right now we're in the process of
4 learning how to stream it on the
5 Internet.

6 Wireless Philly comes into play
7 because it would give the students more
8 exposure, and it's also something that
9 they could learn more about on the
10 technological side.

11 Sitting next to me is Miguel
12 and Luis. They're brothers. They're
13 from Venezuela. They were born there,
14 and they're living in Philadelphia right
15 now. They're kind of shy, but if they
16 could just tell a little bit about the
17 project and what goes on. It will just
18 be brief.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Sure.
20 We'd be remiss not to give you gentlemen
21 a chance to speak. Please pull the mike
22 towards you, and if you will push the red
23 button, give us your full name and then
24 tell us why you like what you do related
25 to the Internet and Wireless Philadelphia

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2 in three paragraphs.

3 LUIS HERNANDEZ: My name is
4 Luis Hernandez and I'm from Youth Radio
5 Project.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Talk
7 louder.

8 LUIS HERNANDEZ: And what we
9 really do in Youth Radio is write
10 scripts. We make music shows. We also
11 learn how to record and edit information.
12 We also record our own music shows, and
13 we also have talk shows, hosting, and
14 they also teach us about how to be a talk
15 show host and stuff.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Well,
17 thank you very, very much.

18 LUIS HERNANDEZ: You're
19 welcome.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And your
21 name, young man?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: You have
24 to tell us your name.

25 We cannot hear you. Full name.

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2 (No response.)

3 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Help him
4 out, big brother.

5 Your full name is? Give us
6 your first and last name.

7 MIGUEL HERNANDEZ: My name is
8 Miguel Hernandez.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you
10 very, very much for coming. Your
11 presence indicates that you care about
12 this issue, and we salute young people
13 who step forward to voice your opinion.
14 We want to thank you very, very much.
15 Good afternoon, gentlemen.

16 LUIS HERNANDEZ: Thank you.

17 MS. LANS: Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: This
20 concludes the hearing for public
21 testimony on Bill No. 060160. We are
22 recessed, with reconvening of the joint
23 Committees on Technology and Information
24 Services this Monday, April 3rd, 11
25 o'clock a.m.

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2 Thank you all very, very much.

3 (Joint Committees on Technology

4 and Information Services and Public

5 Property and Public Works adjourned at

6 6:10 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that the

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proceedings, evidence and objections are

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contained fully and accurately in the

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stenographic notes taken by me upon the

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foregoing matter on March 30, 2006, and that

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this is a true and correct transcript of same.

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MICHELE L. MURPHY

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RPR-Notary Public

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