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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, June 1, 2006
9:40 a.m.

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PRESENT:

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA

COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL

COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE

11

COUNCILMAN FRANK DiCICCO

COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.

12

COUNCILMAN JACK KELLY

COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY

13

COUNCILWOMAN JOAN L. KRAJEWSKI

COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER

14

COUNCILMAN MICHAEL A. NUTTER

COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL

15

COUNCILMAN JUAN RAMOS

COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN

16

COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO

COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO

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BILL 060007 - An ordinance amending Chapter
19-1500 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
"Wage and Net Profits Tax," by deleting
19 certain special tax provisions and related
definitions and rates, all under certain terms
20 and conditions.

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good morning, everyone. This is the public hearing of the Committee of the Whole regarding Bill No. 060007, and I would ask Mr. McPherson to please read the title of the bill.

MR. MCPHERSON: An ordinance amending Chapter 19-1500 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Wage and Net Profits Tax," by deleting certain special tax provisions and related definitions and rates, all under certain terms and conditions.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: We did have very extensive public hearings on this bill sometime ago and I note that we have approximately 12 witnesses that would like to testify. We do have another public hearing scheduled after this and then, of course, we have our Council session today.

So at this point, I would like to ask every one of the witnesses if they could please condense their remarks to

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2 three minutes. If you can't say it in
3 three minutes, in my view, it's just not
4 worth saying.

5 Are we having someone from the
6 Administration testify? Is someone from
7 the Administration here to testify?

8 Good morning. Please identify
9 yourself for the record and proceed with
10 your testimony.

11 MR. MCNEELEY: Good morning,
12 Council President. My name is Sean
13 McNeeley. I'm the Director of Policy for
14 the City of Philadelphia.

15 We're waiting on Joyce
16 Wilkerson, Chief of Staff. She should be
17 on her way up, but I'll begin with our
18 remarks in the meantime.

19 With me here today are Dianne
20 Reed, Budget Director, and Nancy
21 Kammerdeiner, Revenue Commissioner.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good
23 morning.

24 MR. MCNEELEY: We appear before
25 you today -- here she comes, if you could

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2 Bill No. 060007 as amended is enacted.

3 If Bill No. 060007 with the proposed
4 amendment is not enacted, the revenue
5 estimates in the proposed FY07 to '11
6 Plan would have to be reduced by \$46.8
7 million, which, based upon discussions
8 with PICA, would likely result in the
9 Plan being considered imbalanced in FY10
10 and '11 and, therefore, rejected.

11 At this time, we do not have
12 alternative scenarios prepared for
13 balancing the Plan, and based on the
14 magnitude of this potential shortfall,
15 such alternative scenarios may require
16 tax increases or operating budget
17 reductions by Council or line item vetoes
18 by the Mayor in order to meet with PICA
19 approval.

20 Current law calls for sharply
21 accelerating wage tax relief even without
22 considering projected additional wage tax
23 relief through state reform. Legislation
24 passed in 2004 scheduled the bulk of this
25 additional relief beginning in 2010,

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2 after the Five-Year period that was
3 relevant at that time. These laws are
4 now increasingly impacting our ability to
5 balance our Plan. The combination of
6 accelerating annual wage tax rate
7 reductions scheduled after 2009 and the
8 phase-in of the low-income wage tax
9 credit are projected to reduce wage tax
10 revenue by ten percent in only two years.
11 Taken together, between 2009 and 2015,
12 these two laws are projected to eliminate
13 30 percent of the City's wage tax
14 collections, the source of the majority
15 of the City's tax and discretionary
16 revenue, without any plan to offset the
17 loss of collections.

18 The combined revenue reduction
19 from wage tax relief currently scheduled
20 in law is projected to be over \$130
21 million in FY10 and '11 alone, increasing
22 to 670 million from FY10 to FY15, and
23 that schedule of reductions is set forth
24 in my testimony.

25 Please note that the annual

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2 wage tax relief reductions now in law, as
3 well as accelerated rate reductions that
4 would follow from state-wide tax relief,
5 benefit low-income Philadelphians at
6 least as much as other residents and
7 workers since the flat wage tax is a
8 regressive tax.

9 Our estimates of the impact of
10 the refunds passed are based on 2003 tax
11 year information provided by the
12 Pennsylvania Department of Revenue. This
13 is the most recent data available from
14 the State on the Tax Back/Tax Forgiveness
15 program, which forms the basis of the
16 eligibility of the City's
17 refund/forgiveness program. However,
18 since the State expanded eligibility for
19 the program in 2004 by increasing the
20 value of dependent exemptions and
21 considering that the wage tax base used
22 to produce these estimates was an
23 outdated base from the FY05 to '09
24 Five-Year Plan, the impact estimate is
25 actually conservative and does not

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2 reflect the true revenue risk to the City
3 from this program.

4 It's been suggested that our
5 impact estimates are overstated because
6 fewer eligible workers would apply for
7 the City's refund than for the
8 Commonwealth's. We continue to believe
9 that our impact estimate is valid and
10 perhaps even conservative considering the
11 City's wage tax is significantly higher
12 than the State personal income tax, that
13 the tax forgiveness program is not a new
14 concept, but a longstanding one that over
15 150,000 Philadelphia taxpayers are
16 familiar with, and that the eligibility
17 standards for the wage tax base used for
18 the impact estimations are outdated and
19 understate the potential exposure by
20 millions of dollars.

21 Finally, the Administration's
22 estimates of low-income refunds and
23 forgiveness as proposed in Bill No.
24 020092 and 030163 and enacted through
25 Bill No. 040397 were developed in

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2 cooperation with the Controller's Office
3 using agreed-upon methodology and have
4 been previously accepted by PICA. PICA
5 staff is now, after discussions with both
6 the City's Budget Office and the
7 Controller's Office, PICA staff estimates
8 that this bill would further reduce City
9 revenues from 150 to 160 million over the
10 Five-Year Plan period. PICA staff does
11 not believe these monies are available.
12 Should this bill be enacted prior to the
13 approval of the Five-Year Plan by PICA,
14 PICA staff would recommend rejection of
15 the Five-Year Plan.

16 I would be happy to answer any
17 questions you have, and I'd like to offer
18 the amendments. My understanding is the
19 amendments have previously been
20 circulated to members of Council.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
22 you.

23 The Chair recognizes Councilman
24 Nutter.

25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you,

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2 Madam Chair.

3 Good morning, Ms. Wilkerson.

4 MS. WILKERSON: Good morning.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: First, a
6 couple things in your testimony.

7 On Page 2, could you give a
8 little bit more information about --
9 there's a bullet point, the Tax Back/Tax
10 Forgiveness program. Can you tell us a
11 little bit more about that?

12 MS. WILKERSON: Mr. McNeeley
13 can talk about the State program.

14 MR. MCNEELEY: The eligibility
15 guidelines for the City's program --

16 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I'm sorry.
17 Can you identify yourself?

18 MR. MCNEELEY: I'm sorry?

19 MS. WILKERSON: Identify
20 yourself.

21 MR. MCNEELEY: I already did.
22 Sean McNeeley, Director of Policy for the
23 City.

24 The City's refund forgiveness
25 program is based on the State's Tax

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2 Back/Tax Forgiveness program, and our
3 estimates are based on the numbers we've
4 gotten from the State on participation in
5 that program.

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I'm sorry.
7 I was asking you, what is this program?
8 I was asking for details on the program.

9 MR. MCNEELEY: It's a program
10 where you file your income tax return.
11 You file a supplementary schedule. If
12 you're at a low-income level --

13 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: File your
14 income tax return with whom?

15 MR. MCNEELEY: With the State.
16 You file your annual income tax return
17 with the Commonwealth. You file a
18 supplementary schedule claiming the tax
19 back/tax forgiveness based on a sliding
20 scale of your income and how many
21 dependents you have. Based on that
22 sliding scale, you get a refund. If you
23 paid, you might get a credit.

24 The Revenue Commissioner can
25 elaborate. And the numbers indicated

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2 here are actually a little low.

3 According to the 2003 tax year data, over
4 160,000 Philadelphia filers applied for
5 tax back or tax forgiveness out of about
6 450,000 total Philadelphian filers.

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And this is
8 something you do as a part of your filing
9 of your State income tax?

10 MR. McNEELEY: That's right.

11 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So you
12 already have a form that you have to send
13 back to the State?

14 MR. McNEELEY: Yes.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Is it a
16 separate schedule? Do you check a box?

17 MR. McNEELEY: It's a separate
18 schedule, yes.

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Revenue
20 Commissioner is going to hurt herself.

21 MS. KAMMERDEINER: It's a
22 separate schedule, because you have to
23 provide income information for your
24 entire household and indicate that you
25 fit the guidelines. There's a sliding

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2 scale. You can get 100 percent
3 forgiveness or it can gradually decrease
4 to ten percent forgiveness depending upon
5 your income and the number of members in
6 your household. There's so much in terms
7 of eligibility for one taxpayer, a
8 taxpayer and spouse, and then each
9 dependent is also a separate dollar
10 amount in terms of how much income you
11 can have and still be forgiven from the
12 PIT.

13 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And when
14 did that program go into effect?

15 MS. KAMMERDEINER: It's been
16 around for a while. I know it's at least
17 ten years. We'd have to go back and
18 check.

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I
20 understand.

21 MS. KAMMERDEINER: But it's
22 been around for a while, and the
23 participation has been increasing, and
24 the State from time to time has increased
25 the dollar amounts for the taxpayer and

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2 particularly for dependents. And so you
3 end up with a situation where depending
4 on how many dependents you have -- you
5 can have a relatively high income and
6 still have some forgiveness under the
7 program.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And the
9 last question, I think, on the testimony,
10 Ms. Wilkerson, at the bottom of the same
11 page, you mention the Administration's
12 impact estimates for low-income refunds
13 and forgiveness as proposed in Bill No.
14 020092. I don't recall Bill 92 having
15 anything to do with low-income refunds or
16 forgiveness.

17 MS. KAMMERDEINER: I think
18 those were the earlier versions of the
19 bill that ultimately passed as 040397.
20 There were two bills that had hearings
21 and were, I believe, approved by Council,
22 vetoed by the Mayor and veto was not
23 overridden before the one that actually
24 was enacted, and those should be the bill
25 numbers of those earlier versions.

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2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I'm sorry.
3 My recollection is that Councilman Cohen
4 had one bill, and I think Bill 92 was the
5 wage tax bill.

6 MS. KAMMERDEINER: I remember
7 testifying on three different iterations
8 of the same legislation. They changed
9 the years of implementation slightly as
10 time passed, but it was essentially the
11 same legislation.

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: We may have
13 different recollections.

14 So how many other cities have
15 programs like the one proposed here?

16 MS. WILKERSON: I don't know.

17 MS. KAMMERDEINER: I don't know
18 of any.

19 MR. MCNEELEY: We looked at
20 this a few years ago. As you know, we
21 talked about, over the years in the tax
22 debates, relatively few local
23 jurisdictions have local income or wage
24 taxes in the first place, so your sample
25 is pretty small, but my recollection is

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2 that New York City might have a local
3 program like this, but jurisdictions in
4 Ohio, Maryland and Michigan that have
5 local income taxes I think do not.

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay.

7 And the --

8 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: San
9 Francisco and Denver.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: San
11 Francisco and Denver. Councilman Kenney
12 mentioned San Francisco and Denver.

13 Do we know anything about their
14 programs?

15 MR. MCNEELEY: No, and I
16 actually didn't recall that San Francisco
17 has a local income tax.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So the \$47
19 million for FY10 and '11, that's the cost
20 estimate on this?

21 MS. WILKERSON: Yes.

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And that
23 assumes what rate of participation?

24 MS. KAMMERDEINER: Our numbers
25 were based on the State's numbers, so

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2 they were based on participation of
3 essentially the same number of
4 households. Given that our wage tax is
5 nearly double the Pennsylvania income tax
6 and you're already dealing with a
7 population that's attune to applying for
8 such a refund, I think they would have a
9 great deal of incentive to apply for ours
10 as well.

11 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I can
12 understand that, but they obviously can't
13 do it on a State form, and no one files a
14 tax form as individuals with the City of
15 Philadelphia because, of course, our wage
16 tax is taken directly out of our pay. So
17 how would you propose to implement this
18 program and how would people apply?

19 MS. KAMMERDEINER: I have to be
20 honest and say that with its
21 implementation so many years out, it's
22 something that we haven't done full
23 planning on. The expectation is that,
24 first off, we would be getting files from
25 the State of those who are eligible. We

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2 wouldn't otherwise know which households
3 were eligible for the forgiveness
4 program, and I would expect that
5 something would be developed using that
6 information. And from there, I really
7 can't say because we haven't tried to
8 develop the full plan on it with so many
9 years until it actually would take place.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So at the
11 moment, it's fair to say there is no
12 implementation plan, we don't really know
13 how this is going to work. Would you
14 anticipate getting files from the State
15 and then, what, sending everyone a letter
16 and saying that you might be eligible
17 and, therefore, you should apply?

18 MS. KAMMERDEINER: I'm really
19 not sure how that would go.

20 MS. WILKERSON: That would be
21 the logical way of doing that.

22 MS. KAMMERDEINER: And it may
23 actually be that with verification from
24 the State and W-2 information in terms of
25 how much wage tax was withheld, that we

22 MS. WILKERSON: She didn't
23 testify there's no -- we do have a way of
24 identifying people. One of the things
25 that the City has done over the years is

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2 worked closely with the State, and so we
3 exchange filing information. We probably
4 have an unusually accurate way of
5 identifying people. These are people who
6 are actively filing taxes. We would be
7 reaching out to those people. We do that
8 because we want people to know about the
9 benefit, but also because it's something
10 that would end up being efficient for us.

11 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I
12 understand. So out of the four things
13 that I mentioned, we do have the ability
14 to identify. Leave the other three
15 things on the table. Is there any
16 scenario under which you think that
17 participation could be less, if not
18 significantly less, at least at the
19 start, for a brand new program that we at
20 the moment don't know how we're going to
21 implement?

22 MS. KAMMERDEINER: Any program
23 that is new has a phase-in time period,
24 so the scenario you're identifying
25 certainly could happen, but with a lot of

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2 lead time for putting it together and
3 with working with the State -- and I
4 already have an informal agreement with
5 them that they would share those files
6 with us -- that would have to be
7 developed and put into a formal program,
8 but as we would do that, we would
9 identify and determine how the process
10 would work. And I think with the kind of
11 lead time we're looking at, there would
12 be some drop-off, but probably not
13 significant drop-off. I would expect
14 most of it would be people who moved and
15 we couldn't locate more so than that they
16 wouldn't be applying for it. And in
17 those cases, they would still have a
18 potential of getting that at a later
19 date.

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: This is
21 absolutely my last question. I know the
22 first bill was, of course, to repeal this
23 bill. I'll assume that a calculation was
24 made that that might not be possible. So
25 next step, just push it back. The third

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2 alternative, of course, is just reducing
3 the rates.

4 Was there any discussion or
5 thought given to that?

6 MS. WILKERSON: No. When we
7 look at the Five-Year Financial Plan, we
8 don't see a way of funding anything
9 substantial at all. We have substantial
10 risks in our Five-Year Financial Plan
11 already. We don't have wage increases
12 for some of the out years. We don't have
13 all the potential pension costs in the
14 out years. And so it occurred to us
15 prudent when we were putting the Plan
16 together in January that we can't afford
17 it over the long term, that we proposed
18 the repeal of the bill. There was not
19 support for that and so we proposed that
20 it simply be moved back as opposed to
21 reducing the magnitude of the --

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So it comes
23 down to after we did our budget last week
24 and we took some stuff out, put some
25 stuff back and kind of made everybody

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2 happy about that, but that at the end, in
3 the \$3.6 billion budget, we're left with
4 the last thing to do is to push back or
5 eliminate for some period of time the tax
6 cut for low-income people.

7 MS. WILKERSON: That, and
8 there's also a proposal to increase the
9 parking fines and some of the parking
10 tickets. As you know, we've been in an
11 ongoing dispute with the Parking
12 Authority about money that we claim is
13 due that we haven't received since the
14 takeover of the Parking Authority.

15 In order to balance the
16 Five-Year Financial Plan, we're also
17 proposing that those fines and fees be
18 increased, and are working trying to
19 secure a commitment from the Parking
20 Authority that additional revenue
21 generated would go to the City. It's all
22 a part of an effort to close gaps in the
23 Five-Year Financial Plan.

24 So this is not a Plan that's a
25 wash in cash. We're having to identify

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2 members of Council. My name is Stan
3 Shapiro and I am testifying today as
4 Second Vice-Chair of Neighborhood
5 Networks, a City-wide group seeking to
6 raise issues of equity and justice to the
7 forefront of public and political
8 discourse in our City.

9 Other witnesses will speak
10 today about the minimal impact that
11 enactment of Bill 060007 would have on
12 any fiscal concerns of the City. But
13 even if Councilman Cohen's family tax
14 forgiveness program would cause a fiscal
15 problem, it should still not be delayed
16 or repealed.

17 First, we should be clear.
18 Delay amounts to virtual repeal. Once it
19 is established that budget issues can be
20 routinely eased by postponing this
21 program, doing so will become as ordinary
22 a part of Council's calendar as adoption
23 of School District taxes. A seven-year
24 delay in starting a program which has a
25 six-year phase-in is no program at all.

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2 But why would Council choose
3 this, of all the tax cut programs it has
4 enacted over the past decade for repeal?
5 Early and often in the debates over
6 earlier wage and business tax cuts,
7 advocates have claimed that these tax
8 cuts would never cause problems with the
9 budget, because if they did, these cuts
10 would simply be repealed. So now we do
11 have an apparent problem and the one tax
12 cut that is being targeted for repeal is
13 the only one that focuses its benefits on
14 people who most need a tax cut,
15 including, of course, those small
16 business owners who pay the net profits
17 tax.

18 To single out this one tax
19 program as the one to sacrifice would
20 simply be unconscionable. Last week
21 Council passed a tax cut that would
22 benefit all businesses, including Sunoco,
23 Comcast and large law firms, and do
24 nothing for struggling working families.
25 The Mayor made no complaint that that cut

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2 would create a hole in the Five-Year
3 Plan. But that cut is even more likely
4 to cause a problem in the budget than the
5 working families cut, since it requires
6 no special paperwork to take advantage of
7 it.

8 If it passes this legislation,
9 Council will be stating its belief that,
10 A, simple fairness doesn't count, and, B,
11 putting money in the pockets of regular
12 people has no beneficial economic impact.
13 Neither of these ideas is defensible.
14 Please send a message to the citizens of
15 this City that they do count by defeating
16 Bill 060007.

17 Thanks for the opportunity to
18 testify.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. SHAPIRO: Marc Stier is
21 here with me from Neighborhood Networks
22 and will add his comments.

23 MR. STIER: Thank you,
24 President Verna, members of Council.

25 It seems to me the key issue

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2 before us today is not whether the
3 working family wage tax rebate is a good
4 idea or not or even whether the City can
5 afford it over the long term. These
6 issues are important, and I would
7 encourage Council to consider them at
8 some time, but it hardly makes sense to
9 be discussing the benefits and costs of
10 the program that under current law is not
11 going to go into effect for three years
12 in the last couple of weeks of the
13 Council's yearly session.

14 No. The reason we're here
15 today is because the Administration
16 claims that a delay in the wage tax
17 rebate is necessary if the City is to
18 propose a balanced Five-Year Plan. And
19 the City claims that they will save \$47
20 million in the last two years of the
21 Five-Year Plan by delaying the wage tax
22 rebate.

23 I've studied this claim very
24 carefully in the last few days, and given
25 what I've learned, I believe the

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2 Administration's projected savings from
3 delaying the wage tax rebate are very
4 problematic. I should add that there are
5 a lot of uncertainties in the world of
6 social science. An old teacher of mine
7 once said, Predictions are hard,
8 especially about the future.

9 And I'm sure the Administration
10 did the best it could in coming up with
11 their projections, but I think they're
12 fundamentally mistaken in one way. They
13 assume that pretty much 100 percent of
14 those eligible for the wage tax rebate
15 will in fact know about the program and
16 then fill out the forms correctly to
17 claim their rebate. For a number of
18 reasons, this seems very unlikely.

19 First, we know that in
20 Philadelphia only 78 percent of those
21 eligible for the federal earned income
22 tax credit actually file an income tax
23 return to claim it.

24 Second, we have the experience
25 of two other cities in the country that

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2 have enacted programs very similar to
3 this. In 2002, Denver introduced a local
4 EITC, and in 2005, San Francisco
5 introduced a working families tax credit.
6 However, in San Francisco, only 37
7 percent of those eligible for the program
8 actually filed for it, and in Denver, the
9 figure is actually lower. Only 17
10 percent of the people eligible for the
11 program actually filed for it.

12 For a couple of reasons, I
13 think our experience is like to be much
14 closer to that of Denver than of San
15 Francisco. First, Philadelphians tend to
16 file for the federal EITC at lower rates
17 than they do in San Francisco or Denver.

18 Secondly, the San Francisco
19 program was accompanied by a massive
20 public relations campaign that was partly
21 privately funded by the H&R Block
22 company.

23 Third, neither Denver nor San
24 Francisco programs were phased in over
25 six years.

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2 The Administration claims that
3 because of the high rebate levels, people
4 have an incentive to file for the rebate,
5 but, in fact, that incentive in the first
6 couple years, the years under
7 consideration in this Five-Year Budget
8 Plan, is very low because the rebate is
9 phased in very slowly.

10 It seems to me that the most
11 likely scenario is that only 20 percent
12 of the people eligible for this benefit
13 will file for it, which means the
14 projected savings will not be \$47
15 million, but \$10 million.

16 One more comment, if I may.

17 I know the Administration says
18 they want to be conservative, and I think
19 that's a good idea, but if we're going to
20 have worst-case scenario planning, then
21 shouldn't we build into this budget,
22 Five-Year Plan, money to rebuild this
23 building in case a terrorist bombs it?
24 Because, frankly, the likelihood of that
25 happening is far greater than the

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2 likelihood of the Administration's
3 projections being accurate.

4 Thank you.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:

6 You're welcome.

7 Our next witness.

8 McPHERSON: Is a panel.

9 Jonathan Stein and Sister Mary Scullion.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
11 you, gentlemen.

12 Good morning, Sister. Please
13 identify yourself for the record and
14 proceed with your testimony.

15 SISTER SCULLION: I'm Sister
16 Mary Scullion from Project HOME, and I'm
17 going to see that Jonathan goes before
18 me, because I'm just going to say a
19 sentence or two.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Very
21 well.

22 Mr. Stein.

23 MR. STEIN: Yes. Good morning,
24 Council President Verna and
25 Councilmembers. I'm Jonathan Stein,

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2 general counsel at Community Legal
3 Services.

4 The working families wage tax
5 rebate ordinance that is a law -- this is
6 not a proposal; this is a law that will
7 take effect in 2009 -- is not only a
8 rebate for the working poor, but also,
9 like Pennsylvania's tax forgiveness
10 program, is also for working-class and
11 middle-income families, something that is
12 not well understood.

13 It also will have an impact in
14 lowering the net profits tax, which is
15 key to the wage tax, and, therefore,
16 unincorporated businesses, mom and pop
17 stores in your neighborhoods as
18 Councilpeople will also be beneficially
19 impacted. These are all your
20 constituents.

21 The many compromises that
22 finally won support of the veto-approved
23 Council majority has already delayed its
24 effective implementation to Fiscal Year
25 2010 and then gradually implementing it

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2 in other cities like Denver and San
3 Francisco and the federal EITC
4 experience, and that's been around for 30
5 years, shows that especially with an
6 entirely new program, if I may have
7 another minute, which one must
8 affirmatively apply for will have a
9 take-up rate of no more than 20 percent
10 for this program. That means less than
11 \$10 million, not 47 million, will be the
12 realistic cost in the outer years of
13 2010, 2011. Ten million or less is a
14 mere rounding era when you're talking
15 about a \$15 billion Five-Year Plan. And
16 as every veteran lawmaker in this Chamber
17 knows, there are 101 ways to, quote,
18 balance the Five-Year Plan and a balance
19 that shouldn't be done directly on the
20 wallets of working families and small
21 businesses in the City.

22 Finally, let me say that the
23 working families wage tax rebate should
24 be viewed as one of the most historic and
25 proudest achievements of this City

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2 Council in Philadelphia City history.
3 The law injects for the first time -- and
4 it is a law now, it's not a proposal.
5 This law injects for the first time a
6 measure of progressive equity into the
7 wage tax. It honors the legacy of the
8 late Councilman --

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. STEIN: It honors the
11 legacy of the late Councilman David
12 Cohen, who was eulogized not very long
13 ago in this very Chamber. And the rebate
14 will also complement other economic
15 growth stimuli set in motion by this
16 Council.

17 A vote to support this
18 amendment this morning will take away a
19 rebate that your constituents already
20 have in law. The proposed amendment is
21 both unnecessary and grossly unfair to
22 your constituents. Your constituents
23 will expect you to vote no against this
24 amendment, and I thank you for hearing my
25 statement this morning.

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2 Here's Sister Mary Scullion.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
4 you, Mr. Stein.

5 Sister.

6 SISTER SCULLION: Thank you,
7 Council President. It's great to be here
8 this morning, and the reason that I'm
9 here on behalf of this bill is because so
10 many people we see in neighborhoods that
11 are really struggling, low income,
12 moderate income, working families,
13 property taxes are rising, housing costs
14 are rising, utility costs are rising,
15 healthcare costs are rising and people
16 are just being hit in every single
17 direction, and I think to recognize that
18 so many of our citizens are really under
19 serious economic pressures, that this
20 bill would be a real statement to the
21 working-class folks of our City and also
22 that we see it as an effort to prevent
23 homelessness. People just don't have
24 enough money to pay their bills today,
25 and sooner or later that can translate

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2 into homelessness.

3 So we see this as an effort by
4 the Council to help us and to help our
5 citizens prevent homelessness and put
6 more money in people's pockets that need
7 it to meet the increasing costs that
8 people need today to live.

9 Thank you.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
11 you, Sister.

12 (Applause.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are
14 there any questions or comments of
15 members of the Committee of these
16 witnesses?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
19 you very much.

20 MR. McPHERSON: The next
21 witness is Sherrie Cohen.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And
23 after Sherrie Cohen would be?

24 MR. McPHERSON: Pedro
25 Rodriguez.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

3 Mr. Rodriguez, would you please join

4 Ms. Cohen at the witness table.

5 Good morning, Ms. Cohen.

6 Please identify yourself for the record.

7 MS. COHEN: Yes. Hi, Council
8 President Anna Verna, members of Council.

9 I have a statement to distribute, and I
10 would also like to distribute an op-ed
11 that appeared in today's Daily News.
12 That's related as well.

13 My name is Sherrie Cohen and,
14 as you know, I'm the daughter of the late
15 Councilman David Cohen.

16 I come to urge you, don't let
17 this bill out of Committee today. You
18 supported my father in passing this
19 legislation because you believed it was
20 the right thing to do. It was the right
21 thing to do because residents of
22 Philadelphia who would benefit from this
23 law are important to you and you knew you
24 could help them and you did.

25 It was still the right thing to

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2 do when you voted overwhelming to
3 override the Mayor's veto. And this past
4 January when the Mayor announced he
5 wanted to repeal the law so soon after my
6 father's death, many of you were appalled
7 and you reaffirmed your support of this
8 law.

9 It is still the right thing to
10 do today. Why delay the law now?
11 Because my father is not here to remind
12 you that it is the right thing to do?
13 Because I am here and I will remind you
14 why you passed this law and why you
15 should not compromise it away.

16 As my father said, the federal
17 government provides a tax credit to the
18 working poor. Our state government does
19 the same. Philadelphia, a city with a
20 democratic Mayor and democratic City
21 Council, should at least provide the same
22 help to our working families. The law
23 gives to those who work hard only to earn
24 a low wage. It imparts dignity to work.

25 Under our State Constitution,

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2 Pennsylvania cannot tax the working poor,
3 working class, middle class and upper
4 class at different rates. The only way
5 to achieve some tax equity is through the
6 credit you passed, a targeted tax credit,
7 targeted to the ones who need it the
8 most. For example, a working family with
9 two children and income of up to \$32,000
10 will get a full refund of their City wage
11 taxes, once the refund kicks in, which
12 under current law is not even until 2014.

13 Plus, working families spend
14 their money to pay for necessary bills,
15 like gas and electricity, and in their
16 neighborhoods and in our City. These
17 refund checks will make a difference to
18 our City's families and all of our City's
19 neighborhoods.

20 Don't fool yourselves. The
21 people of this City will not be fooled.
22 Delaying this law, which is not even
23 scheduled to take effect until 2010, is
24 tantamount to a repeal.

25 You know this law is one of my

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2 father's last major legislative
3 achievements. It was a triumph for tax
4 equity and justice, a victory for working
5 families. Do not destroy it. It will
6 help create a more equitable Philadelphia
7 if only you allow it to take effect.

8 Vote no on the amendment today.
9 Vote no in the memory of my father. Vote
10 no for all the people you represent who
11 will benefit from it. Vote no for a more
12 just Philadelphia.

13 Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
16 you very much. Sherrie, is your mother
17 in the audience?

18 MS. COHEN: I'm sorry. She was
19 not able to come today.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Okay.
21 Thank you.

22 Are there any questions of
23 Ms. Cohen?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

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2 Seeing none, thank you very much for

3 coming in to testify.

4 MS. COHEN: Thank you.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Is

6 Mr. Rodriguez here?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. McPHERSON: Gloria Gard?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Is

11 Gloria Gard here?

12 (No response.)

13 MR. McPHERSON: Representatives

14 from SEIU.

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Madam

17 President, Gloria Gard did submit

18 testimony, which certainly we ask to be

19 included in the record for her statement.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Very

21 well.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank

23 you.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank

25 you.

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2 MR. MCPHERSON: Representatives
3 from Local 1776.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good
5 morning, sir. Please identify yourself
6 for the record and proceed with your
7 testimony.

8 MR. MCGROGEN: Good morning.
9 My name is Don McGrogen. I am a
10 representative of the United Food and
11 Commercial Workers, Local 1776. I am
12 here on behalf of Wendell Young, IV, who
13 was unable to attend today. I do not
14 have a prepared statement, so I will be
15 brief.

16 As many of you know, we
17 represent approximately 9,000 people who
18 live and work in the City of Philadelphia
19 and their families. I'm here to strongly
20 urge Council to continue to support the
21 bill that was passed here in City
22 Council. Many of the people that we
23 represent in some cases are folks who
24 have been displaced from other employment
25 and are working as part-time clerks at

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2 Acme, Shop Rite, Super Fresh, Strauss
3 Discount Auto. And I don't have to
4 explain to the people in this room what
5 folks are up against today with the
6 rising costs of gasoline and everything
7 else that we're faced with today.

8 This is an important piece of
9 legislation that will directly impact
10 many of the folks that we represent in
11 the retail industry. A lot of these jobs
12 in the retail industry are part time.

13 So I strongly urge you. I know
14 that Wendell Young has sent a letter to
15 all members of City Council earlier in
16 May. If you do not have that letter, I
17 can provide one to you, but strongly urge
18 your continued support of David Cohen's
19 legislation.

20 Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Our
23 next witness.

24 MR. MCPHERSON: Sydelle Zove.

25 MS. ZOVE: I have some

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2 materials I'd like some help
3 distributing, please.

4 Good morning. My name is
5 Sydelle Zove and I'm a policy analyst and
6 advocate with PathWaysPA.

7 Thank you, Council President
8 Verna and Councilmembers, for giving me a
9 few minutes to talk about the critical
10 need to support our low-wage working
11 neighbors.

12 This year, PathWaysPA will
13 serve 4,000 low-income women and their
14 children in Philadelphia and Delaware
15 Counties. Across the State of
16 Pennsylvania PathWays is best known for
17 The Self-Sufficiency Standard, which is
18 just being released in its fifth edition.
19 I have given each of you a copy and would
20 like to draw your attention to the table
21 on Page 67. If you would please turn to
22 Page 67.

23 As you can see from the table
24 at the top of that page, a Philadelphia
25 family consisting of one adult and one

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2 pre-school aged child requires an annual
3 income of \$33,635 to get by. No fancy
4 vacations, no car, no eating out, just a
5 two-bedroom apartment with heat, food on
6 the table, safe child care and car fare
7 to get to the job. That works out to a
8 wage of just under \$16 per hour, far
9 beyond the reach of many, far more than
10 the wage of most low-income
11 Philadelphians.

12 Tax breaks for low-wage workers
13 function as a work support, and the
14 dollars that go back into their pockets
15 circulate many times over in the local
16 economy.

17 On April 4, 2006, PathWaysPA
18 sent each of you a letter urging that you
19 stand firm against any attempt to repeal
20 the wage tax rebate, and now the debate
21 has shifted. Councilmembers Rizzo,
22 Nutter and Kenney graciously responded to
23 that letter and each acknowledged the
24 importance of this modest tax break, but
25 that's not good enough for Philadelphia's

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2 low-wage workers.

3 As we wrote in April, leaders
4 with vision must take a stand in support
5 of justice for the vulnerable among us.
6 Where there is a will, there is a way.
7 On behalf of low-wage Philadelphia
8 families, PathWays urges each of you to
9 search your souls and those thick budget
10 documents and find a way to keep this
11 ordinance on course for implementation as
12 approved for Year 2010.

13 Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. MCPHERSON: The next
16 witness is Joseph Powell.

17 MR. POWELL: My name is Joseph
18 Powell. I'm a concerned citizen. I have
19 been for a long time. And I came up with
20 this that you see on the comparative
21 overview of the proposed systems where
22 you're going to the full value system in
23 my letter to the Mayor dated July 21st of
24 2000. It was to overcome the Board of
25 Revision's constant putting on the

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2 record, getting the Law Department to
3 back them that the assessed value is
4 equal to market value, which is a lie,
5 and that they continue doing that. And
6 so anyway, I came up with this proposed
7 system so they can convert -- instead of
8 the eight percent tax rate, it's 1.9
9 percent.

10 And it's interesting that I
11 sent -- every member of City Council
12 received this exhibit and the only
13 response I had was from the
14 Pennsylvania -- from a James Lombardo,
15 Executive Director on behalf of Governor
16 Ridge, who recognized the importance of
17 what was being said. Not one member of
18 City Council ever responded to anything
19 sent to them, hand-delivered to their
20 office.

21 I'm bringing up a website,
22 because three minutes isn't enough to
23 deal with government for we the people,
24 and we're not getting it. And the
25 website will be coming up this month.

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2 And I'd also like to know what happened
3 to the -- why didn't City officials
4 comply with the Item 7 of the May 10,
5 1981 consent decree that suggested there
6 be a homestead exemption for all
7 taxpayers?

8 And the other thing is, if
9 someone has a \$2 million condo and a
10 homeowner in the Northeast, let's say,
11 has a \$100,000 home, delaying the tax
12 increase for the condo owner is
13 inequitable. You're not going to be --
14 the rest of the taxpayers will not get
15 the benefit of the higher downtown values
16 if you're going to delay taxing them.

17 You don't have to collect it
18 right away. You can charge them the tax
19 and let it build up in their account, so
20 when they sell the property, they collect
21 it at a -- they'd have to pay a modest
22 interest rate.

23 But anyway, I have a lot more
24 to say about this. You'll find it on my
25 website.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

3 Mr. Powell, I'm sorry. First of all, I
4 think your testimony is not relative to
5 the bill before us. Your time is up, and
6 I would ask you to please come to some
7 closure on your testimony.

8 Are you finished?

9 MR. POWELL: Yes. Yes. I'll
10 say what I have to say on my website.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
12 you.

13 MR. McPHERSON: Rosalind
14 Spigel.

15 MS. SPIGEL: Thank you very
16 much. I have copies.

17 Good morning, Council
18 President, Councilmembers. Thank you
19 very much for this opportunity. My name
20 is Rosalind Spigel and I'm presenting
21 this testimony on behalf of the
22 Philadelphia Jewish Labor Committee.

23 This is my fourth appearance
24 over the years to present testimony in
25 support of wage tax relief for

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2 Philadelphia's working poor. In previous
3 testimony, I admitted to some frustration
4 with the City for making low-wage workers
5 wait yet again for these wage tax cuts.
6 As an organization, the Philadelphia
7 Jewish Labor Committee understood the
8 need for the Administration to plan for
9 the bill's implementation. The wait
10 until now 2010 seemed a reasonable amount
11 of time for City Council and the Mayor to
12 prepare for the implementation of this
13 tax relief measure. Perhaps a little too
14 reasonable.

15 Then, as now, legislation
16 making our wage tax more progressive is
17 long overdue. Wage tax relief for
18 low-wage workers would put money into the
19 pockets of incremental amounts over a
20 six-year period. This legislation is
21 even more significant now since the
22 minimum wage hasn't been raised since
23 1997. In addition, the this long overdue
24 break for the working poor would help
25 redress the horribly regressive tax

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2 structure that now exists.

3 Instead of taxing people and
4 dequalifying for government programs and
5 transfer payments, you would be doing
6 something to have more low-wage workers
7 receive a wage that would help them at
8 least to get up to, if not up over, the
9 poverty line. Neighborhood business and
10 the Philadelphia economy would also
11 benefit, because those extra dollars
12 would be spent right in our
13 neighborhoods.

14 After taking into account the
15 benefits to Philadelphia's economy, the
16 cost to the City would be neutral. As
17 Jonathan Stein cited, this projection is
18 based on the results of state and federal
19 programs which exempt low-wage workers
20 from state and federal income tax.

21 I would also like to say that
22 there are many other cities that have a
23 higher minimum wage than we do.

24 Now the Council has set itself
25 a choice between tax relief for working

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2 families or yet another tax cut for
3 business. How is this a choice when
4 you've already made the decision and
5 obligated yourself to it? Since you've
6 already made the decision about tax
7 relief, why not delay the latest set of
8 business tax cuts until 2013?

9 Before concluding, I would like
10 to add that the Philadelphia Jewish Labor
11 Committee is opposed to spending City
12 revenues on business tax cuts not only
13 because it imperils this wage tax relief,
14 but also because it further threatens
15 City services and the pensions of workers
16 who provide those services.

17 The Philadelphia Jewish Labor
18 Committee favors these small tax cuts to
19 the wage tax and urges Council to
20 implement them as legislated.

21 Thank you very much for your
22 time.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

24 You're welcome.

25 (Applause.)

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
3 you.

4 Our next witness.

5 MR. MCPHERSON: Pam Africa.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good
7 morning. Please identify yourself for
8 the record and proceed with your
9 testimony.

10 MS. AFRICA: Pamela Africa.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You
12 can be seated.

13 MS. AFRICA: My name is Pamela
14 Africa. I'm Minister of Confrontation
15 for the MOVE organization and I'm the
16 President of the International Concerned
17 Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

18 The reason why I asked to speak
19 here today -- I'll wait until you're
20 finished.

21 The reason why I asked to speak
22 here today is because last week when we
23 were holding a press conference in front
24 of the Fraternal Order of Police office
25 behind the fact that Congresswoman

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2 Allyson Schwartz and Congressman Michael
3 Fitzpatrick had asked for a resolution
4 stopping the naming of a street in Saint
5 Denis on behalf of Mumia -- I have no
6 problem with anybody putting resolutions
7 on the floor or legislations on the
8 floor, but this is dealing with a man's
9 life. And I know that it's before
10 anybody making a decision. When you're
11 dealing with a person's life, you should
12 hear both sides.

13 So I'm saying Mr. Kelly,
14 Councilman Kelly, addressed this floor
15 last week and asked people to uphold that
16 resolution on Legislative 407 that
17 Congressman Schwartz and Mr. Fitzpatrick
18 had. I'm here asking for --

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

20 Excuse me, please. I think I'm giving
21 you an awful lot of latitude. I don't
22 think that -- just a moment, please. I
23 don't think that your testimony that
24 you're giving has anything to do with the
25 bill that we are presently considering.

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2 MS. AFRICA: Well, I just put
3 my name down to speak. I didn't know
4 that you were dealing with a certain
5 subject.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: We
7 are presently considering legislation,
8 and what you're referring to has
9 absolutely nothing to do with the
10 legislation before us.

11 MS. AFRICA: Well, you're right
12 about that, but at the same time, since
13 you had me here, maybe I can come back
14 next week and we can deal with this
15 issue.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Pam,
17 I think you got your message across. I
18 think your message has been heard, but I
19 will reiterate that your testimony has
20 nothing to do with the legislation that's
21 before us presently.

22 Thank you very much.

23 MS. AFRICA: Excuse me. Will I
24 be able to come back next week and --
25 explain to me how do I get on the floor

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2 in order with this situation? Because
3 we're talking about a murder, a
4 conspiracy to commit murder here. I need
5 you to tell me, Councilwoman Verna, what
6 is it that I do as a citizen here.
7 Because everything that happened here
8 wasn't fair at all. You're going to
9 present one side. And we're talking
10 about a man's life. And I'm very much
11 concerned about what's happening here as
12 well, too. I'd like to get up and move
13 from here, but I need to know from you,
14 what is it that I do? I don't want to be
15 disruptive or anything, but my brother's
16 life is on the line.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: We
18 are not the judicial system.

19 MS. AFRICA: No. You're City
20 Council. You was a judicial system when
21 Mr. Kennedy brought -- Kelly brought the
22 resolution on the floor.

23 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: That's
24 Kelly over there.

25 MS. AFRICA: Which one is

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2 Kelly? Which one is Kelly?

3 Oh, this one. Well, this is
4 what I'm saying. This man going to put a
5 resolution on the floor to support
6 something that he have no background
7 with, and then people going to vote on
8 it. This concerns a man's life. Without
9 hearing the other side. That's all I
10 want. I want due process. I want what's
11 fair. I understand where I'm at. That's
12 all I'm asking for, fairness.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
14 you. Thank you very much.

15 Do we have anyone else to
16 testify on the bill before us?

17 Please approach the witness
18 table.

19 Good morning.

20 MR. CARNEY: Good morning,
21 Council President Verna and members of
22 City Council. My name is Tim Carney.
23 I'm a democratic party candidate for
24 state representative in the 172nd
25 District in Northeast Philadelphia, which

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2 is made up by parts of Fox Chase,
3 Bustleton, Mayfair, Academy Gardens,
4 Holmesburg, Lexington Park and Winchester
5 Park.

6 Two years ago I ran for office
7 and I got about 7,000 votes, and I'm here
8 representing a lot of those people and a
9 lot of the people that I met going door
10 to door, and I'd like to just highlight
11 three of those people who would benefit
12 by the Cohen tax-back program, and I
13 would urge City Council to leave it in
14 place and have it start at the earlier
15 date the way it's legislated right now.

16 One person that I met makes
17 \$6.15 an hour who works on the third
18 shift at the Hess Gas Station at Grant
19 and Krewstown Road. They don't make
20 enough money working 40 hours full time
21 to meet the standard that the young lady
22 set out from PathWays.

23 Another person that I met
24 campaigning works in the Shop Rite that's
25 right across the street from where I

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2 live. The person works part time, about
3 20 hours, fits exactly the type of person
4 that was mentioned by the gentleman from
5 the United Food and Commercial Workers
6 Union, who doesn't make enough money to
7 keep body and soul together and can't
8 afford to pay the wage tax, and it's the
9 kind of working person that Councilman
10 Cohen's bill was designed to protect.

11 And the third person that I'd
12 like to mention is a person who's working
13 30 to 40 hours at Wawa on Oxford Avenue
14 in Fox Chase week after week after week
15 at under \$8 an hour -- I think maybe now
16 it's up to \$8.50 an hour -- working to
17 pay almost all the bills in their
18 household. And this is the low-income
19 working type of person of which there's
20 so many in Northeast Philadelphia that
21 clearly will benefit by having this Cohen
22 tax-back program left in place and
23 starting in 2010.

24 Thank you very much for the
25 time, and I congratulate this City

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2 Council, because unlike the body to which
3 I'm running for, you hold hearings on
4 bills and the public has a chance to
5 speak.

6 Thank you.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

8 You're welcome.

9 (Applause.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Do we
11 have anyone else to testify on this bill?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Do we
14 have anyone else to testify on this bill?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

17 Seeing none, immediately after we
18 consider this bill, we will have a Rules
19 Committee hearing, and I would suggest
20 that anyone in the audience who wishes to
21 testify on the bills before us for the
22 Rules Committee please give your name to
23 Sharon Ortiz, who is back here.

24 This concludes our public
25 hearing. We will now go into our public

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2 meeting.

3 The Chair recognizes

4 Councilwoman Blackwell.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank

6 you, Madam President. I move that the

7 amendment for this bill be adopted.

8 (Duly seconded.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It

10 has been moved and seconded that the

11 amendment as proposed be adopted.

12 All in favor will please

13 indicate by saying aye.

14 (Aye.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those

16 opposed?

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: No.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The

19 record will indicate that Councilman

20 Nutter voted in the negative. All other

21 members voted in the affirmative.

22 Again, the Chair recognizes

23 Councilwoman Blackwell.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank

25 you, Madam President. I move that Bill

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2 060007 as amended be reported out of
3 Committee with a favorable recommendation
4 and also that the rules be suspended so
5 as to permit first reading at our next
6 session of Council.

7 (Duly seconded.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It
9 has been moved and seconded that Bill No.
10 060007 be reported out of Committee with
11 a favorable recommendation as amended;
12 further, that the rules of Council be
13 suspended so as to permit first reading
14 at our next session of Council.

15 All in favor will say aye.

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
18 opposed?

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: No.

20 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: No.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: We
22 will have a roll call vote.

23 MR. McPHERSON: Councilwoman
24 Blackwell.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Aye.

1 6/1/06 - WHOLE - BILL 060007
2 MR. McPHERSON: Councilman
3 Clarke.
4 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Aye.
5 MR. McPHERSON: Councilman
6 DiCicco.
7 (No response.)
8 MR. McPHERSON: Councilman
9 Goode.
10 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Nay.
11 MR. McPHERSON: Councilman
12 Kelly.
13 COUNCILMAN KELLY: Aye.
14 MR. McPHERSON: Councilman
15 Kenney.
16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: No.
17 MR. McPHERSON: Councilwoman
18 Krajewski.
19 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Aye.
20 MR. McPHERSON: Councilwoman
21 Miller.
22 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Aye.
23 MR. McPHERSON: Councilman
24 Nutter.
25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: No.

1 6/1/06 - WHOLE - BILL 060007
2 MR. McPHERSON: Councilman
3 O'Neill.
4 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.
5 MR. McPHERSON: Councilman
6 Ramos.
7 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Aye.
8 MR. McPHERSON: Councilwoman
9 Reynolds Brown.
10 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Aye.
11 MR. McPHERSON: Councilman
12 Rizzo.
13 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Aye.
14 MR. McPHERSON: Councilwoman
15 Tasco.
16 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Aye.
17 MR. McPHERSON: Council
18 President Verna.
19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Aye.
20 MR. McPHERSON: The ayes are
21 ten; the nays are four.
22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: So
23 the motion passes, and that will conclude
24 our public hearing and meeting. I thank
25 you all very much for your patience.

1 6/1/06 - WHOLE - BILL 060007

2 And, again, I would reiterate anyone that
3 wants to testify on the Rules Committee
4 hearings to please give your name to
5 Ms. Ortiz.

6 Thank you very much.

7 (Committee of the Whole
8 adjourned at 10:45 a.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 June 1, 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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