

1
2 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
3 PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC MEETING
4 BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON STREETS AND SERVICES

5 - - -
6 Room 400 City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, 10/28/99, 10:30 am
- - -

7 BILL NO.'S 990162, 990163, 990164, 990184, 990335,
8 990336, 990426 - Establishing parking regulations.
9 BILL 990452 - Withdrawn at request of sponsor.
10 BILL 990534 - Authorizing Filbert Street
11 Associates, LP, to. . .
12 BILL 990535 - Authorizing revision of lines and
13 grades on a portion of City Plan No. 121. . .
14 BILL 990536 - Authorizing Christopher Ryan. . .
15 BILL 990561 - Establishing a parking regulation.
16 BILL 990567 - Authorizing all-way stop signs. . .
17 BILL 990568 - Authorizing all-way stop signs. . .
18 BILL 990569 - Authorizing all-way stop signs. . .
19 BILL 990571 - Granting permission to Frank Milorey
20 to. . .
21 BILL 990572 - Held at request of sponsor.
22 BILL 990606 - Granting permission to Level 3
23 Communications to. . .
24 BILL 990618 - Authorizing all-way stop signs. . .
25 BILL 990619 - Authorizing all-way stop signs. . .
BILL 990620 and 990621 - Authorizing street name
changes.
BILL 990622 - Establishing a parking regulation.

(Full text of all bills contained herein.)

19 PRESENT: COUNCILMAN FRANK DICICCO, Chairman
20 COUNCILMAN DAVID COHEN
21 COUNCILWOMAN DONNA MILLER
22 COUNCILMAN MICHAEL A. NUTTER
COUNCILMAN DARRYL L. CLARK
COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO

23 - - -
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1 10/28/99 STREETS & SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 I N D E X

3		PAGE
4	BILL NO. 990162 Pat DeCina, Parking Authority.	4
5	BILL NO. 990163 Pat DeCina, Parking Authority.	5
6	BILL NO. 990164 Pat DeCina, Parking Authority.	6
7	BILL NO. 990184 Pat DeCina, Parking Authority.	7
8	BILL NO. 990561 Pat DeCina, Parking Authority.	9
9	BILL NO. 990335 Charles Trainor, Traffic Engineering, Streets	10
10	BILL NO. 990336 Charles Trainor, Traffic Engineering, Streets	12
11	BILL NO. 990462 Charles Trainor, Traffic Engineering, Streets	13
12	BILL NO. 990622 Charles Trainor, Traffic Engineering, Streets	14
13	BILL NO. 990534 John Cunningham, Right-of-Way Manager, Streets	16
14	BILL NO. 990535 Paul Lonie, Survey Bureau Manager, Streets . .	18
15	Mary Soffer, Planning Commission	19
16	David Gifford, Esq.	20
17	M. Presta, President, West Girard Bus. Assoc.	21
18	BILL NO. 990620 Paul Lonie, Survey Bureau Manager, Streets . .	24
19	Paul Deegan, President, PIDC	24
20	BILL NO. 990621 Paul Lonie, Survey Bureau Manager, Streets . .	29
21	Pal Deegan, President, PIDC.	25
22		
23		
24		
25		

1	10/28/99 STREETS & SERVICES COMMITTEE	
2	(Index, cont'd.)	PAGE
3		
4	BILL NO. 990536	
	John Cunningham, Right-of-Way Manager, Streets	30
5	BILL NO. 990571	
	John Cunningham, Right-of-Way Manager, Streets	32
6		
7	BILL NO. 990606	
	John Cunningham, Right-of-Way Manager, Streets	34
8	BILL NO. 990572	
	John Cunningham, Right-of-Way Manager, Streets	36
9	Patricia Woods, Yorktown Resident	37
	Diane Blanden, Private Citizen	43
10	Sarah Austin, Temple Area Resident	47
11	BILL NO. 990567	
	Charles Trainor, Traffic Engineering, Streets	49
12	Bernadette Ampthor, St. Lucy's Parish.	53
	Robert Medlock, St. Lucy's Leadership Council	57
13	Rose Canicci, St. Lucy's Parish.	63
	Josephine Cofone, Private Citizen.	64
14	Irene Madrak, Exec. Dir., No. Lake Comm. Ctr.	65
	Robert Polson, Private Citizen	85
15		
	BILL NO. 990568	
16	Charles Trainor, Traffic Engineering, Streets	95
17	BILL NO. 990569	
	Marilyn Shaffer, Lower Indian Queen Lane Assoc.	98
18	Marjorie Greenfield, East Falls Resident . . .	101
	Charles Trainor, Traffic Engineering, Streets	104
19		
	BILL NO. 990618	
20	Charles Trainor, Traffic Engineering, Streets	128
21	BILL NO. 990619	
	Jim Morris, Private Citizen.	133
22	Charles Trainor, Traffic Engineering, Streets	138
23		
24		
25		

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990162

2 P R O C E E D I N G S

3 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Good morning,
4 everyone. The Committee on Streets and Services
5 is now session. In attendance this morning: to
6 my far left is Councilwoman Miller, Councilmember
7 Cohen, Councilmember Mariano, who's running the
8 controls, and I am Frank DiCicco, and I'm the
9 Chair of this committee.

10 What we will do is, we will read -- we
11 will first do the parking bills because there are
12 about nine of those, and we can get through those
13 quickly. So is there anyone here from the Parking
14 Authority? Come up, please, and the clerk will
15 read the title of the first bill.

16 THE CLERK: Bill No. 990162, an
17 ordinance establishing a parking regulation on
18 Seventh Street, both sides, Christian Street to
19 Carpenter Street.

20 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: State your name
21 for the record.

22 MS. DECINA: Pat DeCina. I'm from the
23 Philadelphia Parking Authority.

24 Bill No. 990162, introduced by
25 Councilman DiCicco by request, this bill

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990164

2 period of at least eight months, with no apparent
3 problems. The Philadelphia Parking Authority
4 recommends favorable consideration of this bill.

5 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Are there any
6 questions for this witness?

7 (No questions.)

8 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Is there anyone
9 else here who wishes to testify for or against
10 this bill?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Hearing none, the
13 clerk will read the title of the next bill.

14 THE CLERK: Bill No. 990164, an
15 ordinance establishing a parking regulation on
16 Clarion Street, west side, Dickinson Street to
17 Tasker Street.

18 MS. DECINA: Bill No. 99164, introduced
19 by Councilman DiCicco, this bill establishes a
20 parking regulation on Clarion Street, west side,
21 Dickinson to Tasker Street.

22 This new regulation has been in effect
23 for a period of at least eight months, with no
24 apparent problems. The Philadelphia Parking
25 Authority recommends favorable consideration of

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990184

2 this bill.

3 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Are there any
4 questions for this witness?

5 (No questions.)

6 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Is there anyone
7 else here who wishes to testify for or against
8 this bill?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Hearing none, the
11 clerk will read the title of the next bill.
12 Before the clerk reads the title of the next bill,
13 let the record reflect that Councilmember Darryl
14 Clarke and Councilmember Rizzo are now in
15 attendance.

16 THE CLERK: Bill No. 990184, an
17 ordinance establishing a parking regulation on
18 York Street, both sides, Jasper Street to Front
19 Street.

20 MS. DECINA: Bill No. 990184,
21 introduced by Councilman DiCicco, this bill
22 establishes a parking regulation on York Street,
23 both sides, Jasper to Front Street.

24 This new regulation has been in effect
25 for a period of eight months. The Philadelphia

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990561

2 Parking Authority recommends favorable
3 consideration of this bill.

4 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Are there any
5 questions for this witness?

6 (No questions.)

7 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Is there anyone
8 else here who wishes to testify for or against
9 this bill?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Hearing none, the
12 clerk will read the title of the next bill.

13 THE CLERK: Bill No. 990335, an
14 ordinance establishing a parking regulation on
15 Rhawn Street, both sides, from Jeans Street to
16 Tabor Road.

17 MS. DECINA: That's not a Philadelphia
18 Parking Authority bill. We only have one more on
19 the second page. That's not the Parking
20 Authority.

21 THE CLERK: Oh, okay, and which one is
22 that?

23 MS. DECINA: That is Bill 990561.

24 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Do you have one,
25 Bill No. 990426?

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990561

2 THE CLERK: No, no. 561, she said, is
3 the only one.

4 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: All right, okay.

5 THE CLERK: Bill No. 990561, an
6 ordinance establishing a parking regulation on
7 Christian Street, both sides, 17th Street to 18th
8 Street.

9 MS. DECINA: Bill No. 990561,
10 introduced by Councilman Kenney, this bill
11 establishes a parking regulation on Christian
12 Street, both sides, 17th to 18th Street.

13 The new regulation has been in effect
14 for a period of at least eight months, with no
15 apparent problems. The Philadelphia Parking
16 Authority recommends favorable consideration of
17 this bill.

18 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Are there any
19 questions for this witness from the committee?

20 (No questions.)

21 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Is there anyone
22 else here who wishes to testify for or against
23 this bill?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Hearing none, the

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990335

2 clerk will read the title of the next bill.

3 And thank you, thank you for your
4 testimony.

5 THE CLERK: Bill No. 990335, an
6 ordinance establishing a parking regulation on
7 Rhawn Street, both sides, from Jeans Street to
8 Tabor road.

9 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Good morning.
10 Please identify yourself for the record.

11 MR. TRAINOR: Good morning, Councilman.
12 Charles Trainor from the Streets Department,
13 Traffic Engineering.

14 With reference to Bill No. 990335
15 proposing to establish a no-truck-parking
16 regulation on the north and south sides of Rhawn
17 Street, from Jeans Street to Tabor Road, the
18 following report is submitted:

19 Rhawn Street is 40 feet wide, two-way,
20 with parking on both sides. In July of this year,
21 Traffic Engineering posted on a trial basis no
22 park-trucking anytime on the north and south sides
23 of the 500 through 1100 blocks of Rhawn Street.
24 This was done in response to a request from
25 Councilman O'Neill on behalf constituents.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990335

2 This regulation has been in effect for
3 several months, without any complaints, to our
4 knowledge. Therefore, the Streets Department has
5 no objection to the proposed ordinance.

6 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Are there any
7 questions for this witness from the committee?

8 (No questions.)

9 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Is there anyone
10 else here who wishes to testify for or against
11 this bill?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Hearing none, the
14 clerk will read the title of the next bill.

15 We'll do all Charlie's bills, right?

16 MR. TRAINOR: I think I've got four or
17 five. We can go with them.

18 THE CLERK: Bill No. 990335, an
19 ordinance establishing a parking regulation on
20 Rhawn Street --

21 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: We just did that.

22 THE CLERK: I'm sorry, I didn't check
23 it off. My apologies.

24 Bill No. 990336, an ordinance
25 establishing a parking regulation on Verree Road,

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990336

2 both sides, from Hartel Street to Ripley Street.

3 MR. TRAINOR: With reference to Bill
4 No. 990336, proposing to establish a no-truck-
5 parking regulation on the east and west sides of
6 Verree Road, from Hartel Street to Ripley Street,
7 the following report is submitted:

8 Verree Road is a 50-foot-wide, two-way
9 street, with parking on both sides. In July of
10 this year, Traffic Engineering posted on a trial
11 basis no truck-parking anytime on the east and
12 west sides of the 7800 and 7900 blocks of Verree
13 Road. This was done in response to a request from
14 Councilman O'Neill on behalf of his constituents.
15 This regulation has been in effect for several
16 months, without any complaints, to our knowledge.
17 Therefore, the Streets Department has no objection
18 to this proposed ordinance.

19 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Are there any
20 questions for this witness from the committee?

21 (No questions.)

22 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Is there anyone
23 else here who wishes to testify for or against the
24 bill?

25 (No response.)

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990462

2 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Hearing none, the
3 clerk will read the title of the next bill.

4 THE CLERK: Bill No. 990462, an
5 ordinance establishing a parking regulation on
6 Susquehanna Road, both sides, from Pine Road to
7 Verree Road.

8 MR. TRAINOR: With reference to Bill
9 No. 990426 proposing to establish a no-truck-
10 parking regulation on the north and south sides of
11 Susquehanna Road, from Pine Road to Verree Road,
12 the following report is submitted:

13 Susquehanna Road is 40 feet wide,
14 two-way, with parking on both sides. In November
15 of this year, Traffic Engineering will post on a
16 trial basis no truck-parking anytime on the north
17 and south sides of the 400 through 700 of
18 suspended Road. This will be done in response to
19 a request from Councilman O'Neill on behalf of his
20 constituents. Traffic Engineering does not
21 anticipate any complaints. Therefore, the Streets
22 Department has no objection to this proposed
23 ordinance.

24 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Are there any
25 questions for this witness from the Committee?

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990662

2 (No questions.)

3 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Is there anyone
4 else here who wishes to testify for or against
5 this bill?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Hearing none, the
8 clerk will read the title of the next bill.

9 THE CLERK: Bill No. 990452 has been
10 withdrawn at the request of the sponsor.

11 Charlie, which is your next bill?

12 MR. TRAINOR: I have one more for
13 parking, which is 990622.

14 THE CLERK: Bill No. 990622, an
15 ordinance establishing a parking regulation on
16 Dunk's Ferry Road, both sides, from Mechanicsville
17 Road to the county line.

18 MR. TRAINOR: With reference to Bill
19 990622, proposing to establish a no- truck-parking
20 regulation -- I'm sorry, a no- parking regulation
21 on the east and west sides of Dunk's Ferry Road,
22 from Mechanicsville north to the City limits, the
23 following report is submitted.

24 Dunk's Ferry is a 22-foot-wide, two-way
25 country road, with parking permitted but not

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990662

2 practiced on both sides. In November of this
3 year, Traffic Engineering will post on a trial
4 basis no parking anytime on the east and west
5 sides of the 12900 blocks of Dunk's Ferry Road.
6 This will be done in response to a request from
7 Councilman O'Neill on behalf of his constituents.
8 Traffic Engineering does not anticipate any
9 complaints. Therefore, the Streets Department has
10 no objection to this proposed ordinance.

11 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you.

12 Are there any questions for this
13 witness from the committee?

14 (No questions.)

15 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Is there anyone
16 else here who wishes to testify for or against
17 this bill?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Hearing none, the
20 clerk will read the title of the next bill.

21 THE CLERK: Bill No. 990534, an
22 ordinance authorizing Filbert Street Associates
23 Limited Partners, 150 North Broad Street,
24 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19102, owner of the
25 property bounded by 12th Street, 13th Street,

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990662
2 Filbert Street, and Cuthbert Street, to construct
3 and maintain various building footings under the
4 abutting footways of Filbert Street and Cuthbert
5 Street, all under certain terms and conditions.

6 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Good morning.
7 Please identify yourself for the record.

8 MR. CUNNINGHAM: Good morning,
9 Councilman. My name is John Cunningham,
10 Right-of-Way Manager for the Department of
11 Streets.

12 Returned herewith his Bill No. 990534,
13 an ordinance authorizing Filbert Street
14 Associates, LP, 150 North Broad Street,
15 Philadelphia, PA, 19102, owner of the property
16 bounded by 12th Street, 13th Street, Filbert
17 Street, and Cuthbert Street, to construct and
18 maintain various building footings under the
19 abutting footways o Filbert Street and Cuthbert
20 Street, all under certain terms and conditions.
21 The Department of Streets has no objection to the
22 passage of this ordinance Bill No. 99053 a an
23 ordinance authorizing the revision of lines and
24 grades on a portion of City Plan No. 121 striking
25 vacating and reserving and placing on the City

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990535

2 Plan a right-of-way for drainage and water main
3 purposes within the lines of Street being stricken
4 from the City Plan vacated under certain terms and
5 conditions.

6 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Are there any
7 questions for this witness from the committee?

8 (No questions.)

9 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Is there anyone
10 else here who wishes to testify for or against
11 this bill?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Hearing none, the
14 clerk will read the title of the next bill.
15 Please identify yourself for the record.

16 THE CLERK: Bill No. 990535, an
17 ordinance authorizing the revision of lines and
18 grades on a portion of City Plan No. 121 by
19 striking and vacating Chang Street from Girard
20 Avenue to Poplar Street, and reserving and placing
21 on the City Plan a right-of-way for drainage
22 purposes and water main purposes within the lines
23 of Chang Street being stricken from the City Plan
24 and vacated by this ordinance, under certain terms
25 and conditions.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990535

2 MR. LONIE: Good morning, Mr.

3 Chairman.

4 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Please identify
5 yourself for the record.

6 MR. LONIE: My name is Paul Lonie,
7 Survey Bureau Manager, and the Streets Department
8 would like to offer the following testimony on
9 Bill No. 990535.

10 This is not an Administration ordinance
11 but an ordinance requested by Mr. Phillip Lick,
12 Esquire, of the Pavilion Suites, No. 621, 261 Old
13 York Road, who represents the 27th and Girard
14 Trust. The purpose of this ordinance is to
15 combine three parcels and eliminate a portion of
16 Chang Street, which borders and separates these
17 parcels, in order to facilitate commercial
18 development.

19 This ordinance is supported by the
20 Department of Streets and is recommended to your
21 committee for favorable action.

22 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you.

23 Are there any questions for this
24 witness from the committee?

25 (No questions.)

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990535

2 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Do you want to
3 speak on this or --

4 MR. SOFFER: Chairman and members of
5 the committee, my name is Marty Soffer, from the
6 Planning Commission.

7 The purpose of this bill is to remove
8 an unneeded minor street adjacent to a development
9 parcel to permit future commercial development.
10 The City Planning Commission staff reviewed and
11 tentatively approved this action on April 20,
12 1998. Therefore, the staff recommends that Bill
13 No. 990535 be approved.

14 Thank you.

15 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you.

16 Are there any questions for this
17 witness from the committee?

18 (No questions.)

19 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Is there anyone
20 else here who wishes to testify for or against
21 this bill?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Do you guys have
24 anything else? Marty, Paul, do you have anything
25 else?

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990535

2 MR. LONIE: Yeah, 990620 and 621.

3 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Well, while you're
4 there, why don't we do those two, all right?

5 MR. LONIE: I think. . .

6 THE CLERK: Bill No. 990620, an
7 ordinance authorizing -- what?

8 MR. LONIE: I think they want to
9 testify on the previous bill.

10 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Oh, I'm sorry. I
11 apologize.

12 (Unidentified persons approach the
13 witness table.)

14 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: I apologize for
15 that, gentlemen. Please identify yourself for the
16 record.

17 And we're still on Bill No. 990535; is
18 that correct?

19 THE CLERK: Mm-hmm.

20 MR. GIFFORD: Good morning, members of
21 Council. My name is David Gifford. I'm an
22 attorney representing the owner of the property.
23 With me this morning to testify is Mario Presta
24 (ph.), who is president of the local business
25 association for Girard Avenue.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990535

2 MR. PRESTA: Good morning. My name is
3 Mario Presta, and I am the president of West
4 Girard Business Association.

5 We support this project. This project
6 will realize our community residents and they will
7 have employment opportunity in this project.
8 Project will also take away from us this old
9 dinosaur that we have over there on Girard Avenue,
10 it will stimulate growth to their other business.
11 And we did have a different meeting with our other
12 business people over there, and they all support
13 this project. So we will be happy to have that.

14 Thank you.

15 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you.

16 Any questions? Councilmember Clarke?

17 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Yes. Thank you,
18 Mr. Chairman.

19 Mr. Presta, has there ever been any
20 community meetings to talk about your proposed
21 development?

22 MR. PRESTA: Yes, we had those --
23 several community meetings.

24 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: And were there
25 records taken at those meetings?

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990535

2 MR. PRESTA: Yes.

3 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: In what format?

4 MR. PRESTA: Well, every time we doe
5 have a meeting, we have a sign-in sheet from the
6 community.

7 COUNCILWOMAN CLARK: Were there any
8 petitions in support of or letters signed in
9 support of this particular proposed development?

10 MR. PRESTA: Yes, we have.

11 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Okay. You had
12 mentioned earlier that it was a dinosaur on this
13 site currently?

14 MR. PRESTA: Yes, sir.

15 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: And can you tell me
16 for the record, what type of dinosaur was it?

17 (Laughter.)

18 MR. PRESTA: Let me tell you
19 something. I've been there -- staying every day
20 on Girard Avenue over there, and that is the one
21 thing we've been actually praying to go, that
22 building over there -- which has been already
23 vandalized. We already saw yesterday part of the
24 wall falling down, so -- either from one side or
25 the other. I mean, it's -- you could really --

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990535

2 we'd be happy, and I think the community will be
3 happy to tear this building down.

4 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Okay. As a result
5 of that vacancy being there, has it decreased the
6 level of shoppers on Girard Avenue?

7 MR. PRESTA: Absolutely.

8 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: And you anticipate
9 this new development will enhance your ability to
10 --

11 MR. PRESTA: I think it will increase
12 all the -- improve the area, but it also will be
13 improving the other business.

14 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Okay, thank you.

15 MR. PRESTA: You're welcome.

16 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you,
17 gentlemen.

18 Any other questions for these
19 witnesses?

20 (No questions.)

21 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Is there anyone
22 else here who wishes to testify for or against
23 this bill?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Hearing none, the

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990620

2 clerk will read the title of the next bill.

3 THE CLERK: On Page 3, Bill No. 990620,
4 an ordinance authorizing the changing of the name
5 of a portion of Hornig Road from a point
6 approximately 1,000 feet southeast of Kubach Road
7 to Woodhaven to Corney Drive.

8 MR. LONIE: Good morning, Mr. Chairman
9 and members of the committee. My name is Paul
10 Lonie. I'm Survey Bureau Manager and I'm
11 representing the Department of Streets, and the
12 Streets Department would like to offer the
13 following testimony on Bill No. 990620.

14 This is not an Administration ordinance
15 but an ordinance requested by Mr. Paul Deegan,
16 Senior Vice President of PIDC. The purpose of
17 this ordinance is to change the name of a portion
18 of Hornig Road and the Byberry West Industrial
19 Park to Corney Drive.

20 This ordinance is supported by the
21 Department of Streets and is recommended to your
22 committee for favorable action.

23 MR. DEEGAN: Good morning, Mr.
24 Chairman. Paul Deegan, D-E-E-G-A-N, Senior Vice
25 President of PIDC.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990620

2 As Mr. Lonie stated, these are street
3 change names. Really, 620 and 621 are companion
4 ordinances. And both ordinances, they change the
5 name of two streets: one to Byberry East
6 industrial Park, and one to Byberry West
7 Industrial Park, on the other side of Roosevelt
8 Boulevard.

9 Bill No. 990621 has been submitted at
10 the request of the new businesses on Corney Road,
11 who determined that they wanted a street name that
12 reflected their business activities, with a few
13 high-tech companies on there. Compudata is the
14 last company to buy a parcel on that road and
15 start construction. So the companies met among
16 themselves and they decided that "Commerce Way"
17 would be the name of the street that they would
18 like to be located on.

19 But because Corney Road has been named
20 after an old and prominent Northeast family, the
21 District Councilman and PIDC agreed that the name
22 should be preserved somewhere in the industrial
23 parks in the Northeast, so we're changing the name
24 of a portion of Hornig Road on the west side of
25 the boulevard to Corney Way.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990620

2 And I think the testimony's wrong. I
3 think it should be "Corney Way," not "Corney
4 Road"? And that will preserve the name of
5 "Corney" in our industrial parks.

6 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Could you spell
7 that? C-O-R-. . .

8 MR. DEEGAN: C-O-R-N-E-Y. It's a
9 family name of a family who were active developers
10 in the Northeast before World War II. And twenty
11 years ago, when we acquired this property from the
12 State, they had requested, through the District
13 Councilman, that if one of the streets in the
14 industrial park be named after their family, the
15 Corney family.

16 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Okay. We need to
17 change that -- amend it to Corney Way?

18 MR. DEEGAN: Corney Way will be the new
19 street in Byberry West Industrial Park.

20 MR. LONIE: It's written that way in
21 the ordinance. It's our testimony that's flawed.

22 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Okay.

23 MR. DEEGAN: I hope it's my testimony
24 and not the ordinance that's incorrect.

25 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: On the pink, it's

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990620

2 "Corney Drive."

3 MR. LONIE: Right, that's what we
4 want.

5 THE CLERK: We want "Corney Drive," not
6 "Corney Road."

7 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: I thought you said
8 "Corney Way."

9 MR. LONIE: Or whatever.

10 MR. DEEGAN: I think I'm losing my grip
11 on these two bills. It used to be Corney Road;
12 now it's going to be Corney Drive on the west
13 side.

14 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: All right, that's
15 what the ordinance reads.

16 MR. DEEGAN: And it should be Commerce
17 Way, which will be the new street to distinguish
18 it from Commerce Street, which is in Center City.
19 So the Streets Department reviewed it and
20 determined that there wouldn't be any conflict
21 with other street names throughout the city.

22 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: We just wanted to
23 know which way to go, okay.

24 All right, thank you.

25 MR. DEEGAN: I think we're on the right

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990621

2 road now or the right way.

3 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Are there any
4 questions for these witnesses from the committee?

5 (No questions.)

6 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Is there anyone
7 else here who wishes to testify for or against
8 this bill?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Hearing none, the
11 clerk will read the title of the next bill.

12 THE CLERK: Bill No. 990621, an
13 ordinance authorizing the change of Corney Road,
14 from McNulty Road to a dead end northeasterly
15 therefrom to Commerce Way.

16 MR. DEEGAN: I would just ask that my
17 previous testimony be incorporated into the
18 record. Do you have copies of my testimony? I
19 have a number of copies here that --

20 THE CLERK: No, I don't think so.

21 MR. DEEGAN: I'm sorry. I should have
22 handed this out earlier. It may have clarified
23 some of these points.

24 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: All right, thank
25 you.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990621

2 MR. LONIE: Mr. Chairman and members of
3 the committee, my name is Paul Lonie, Survey
4 Bureau Manager in the Streets Department. I would
5 like to offer the following testimony on Bill No.
6 990621:

7 This is not an Administration
8 ordinance, but an ordinance requested by the
9 abutting property owners on the street. The
10 purpose of this ordinance is to change the name of
11 "Corney Road" in the Byberry East Industrial Park
12 to "Commerce Way."

13 This ordinance is supported by the
14 Department of Streets and is recommended to
15 committee for favorable action.

16 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you.

17 Are there any questions for this
18 witness from the committee?

19 (No questions.)

20 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Is there anyone
21 else here who wishes to testify for or against
22 this bill?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Hearing none, the
25 clerk will read the title of the next bill.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990536

2 THE CLERK: Bill No. 990536, an
3 ordinance authorizing Christopher Ryan, owner of
4 the property of 726 North 24th Street,
5 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19121, to construct
6 and maintain various encroachments onto and over
7 the south footway of Meredith Street adjacent to
8 the property 726 North 24th Street, all under
9 certain terms and conditions.

10 MR. CUNNINGHAM: Good morning,
11 Councilman. My name is John Cunningham,
12 Right-of-Way Manager for the Department of
13 Streets.

14 Returned herewith is Bill No. 990536,
15 an ordinance authorizing Christopher Ryan, owner
16 of the property at 726 North 24th Street,
17 Philadelphia, PA, 19121, to construct and maintain
18 various encroachments onto and over the south
19 footway of Meredith Street adjacent to the
20 property at 726 North 24th Street, all under
21 certain terms and conditions.

22 The legal footway of Meredith Street is
23 eight foot wide. These encroachments, which
24 include a Dumpster enclosed by a fence and a
25 vestibule will leave between 4 and 4.5 feet

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990536
2 respectively for pedestrian travel. This is
3 primarily a residential area with relatively low
4 pedestrian travel. Therefore, the Department of
5 Streets has no objection to the passage of this
6 ordinance.

7 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you.

8 Are there any questions for this
9 witness from the committee?

10 (No questions.)

11 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Is there anyone
12 else here who wishes to testify for or against
13 this bill?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Hearing none, the
16 clerk will read the title of the next bill.

17 MR. CUNNINGHAM: I do have three
18 others.

19 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: I apologize, I
20 should have kept them all together.

21 MR. CUNNINGHAM: That's not a problem.

22 THE CLERK: Bill No. 990571, an
23 ordinance granting permission to Frank Milorey,
24 owner of the newsstand located on the northwest
25 corner of 12th and Market Street, to construct,

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990571
2 use, and maintain an electrical conduit and
3 service line and a fiber optic conduit and phone
4 service line in and under 12th and Market Street,
5 for the purposes of supplying electrical service
6 and phone services to his newsstand, under certain
7 terms and conditions.

8 MR. CUNNINGHAM: Good morning,
9 Councilman. My name is John Cunningham,
10 Right-of-Way Manager from the Department of
11 Streets.

12 Returned herewith is Bill No. 990571,
13 an ordinance granting permission to Frank Milorey,
14 owner of a newsstand located at the northwest
15 corner of 12th and Market Streets, to construct,
16 use, and maintain an electrical conduit and
17 service line in and under 12th and Market Streets
18 for the purpose of supplying electrical service
19 and phone service to his newsstand, under certain
20 terms and conditions.

21 This proposal was reviewed and approved
22 by the Department's Committee of Highway
23 Supervisors. Therefore, the Department of Streets
24 has no objection to the passage of this ordinance.

25 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990606

2 Are there any questions for this
3 witness from the committee?

4 (No questions.)

5 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Is there anyone
6 else here who wishes to testify for or against
7 this bill?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Hearing none, the
10 clerk will read the title of the next bill.

11 THE CLERK: Bill No. 990606, an
12 ordinance granting permission to Level 3
13 Communications, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability
14 Company registered to do business in Pennsylvania,
15 and its successors, assigns, and agents, to
16 construct, maintain, and operate, replace and
17 remove a telecommunications system in and under
18 the public rights-of-way and City streets and/or
19 to place such telecommunications system within the
20 existing facilities owned by Bell Atlantic-PA,
21 PECO Energy Company, Southeastern Pennsylvania
22 Transportation Authority, CSX Corporation, Norfolk
23 Southern Consolidated Rail Corporation Shared
24 Assets, or other entity holding a grant pursuant
25 to other City ordinances, all under certain terms

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990606

2 and conditions.

3 MR. CUNNINGHAM: Good morning,
4 Councilman. My name is John Cunningham,
5 Right-of-Way Manager for the Department of
6 Streets.

7 Returned herewith is Bill No. 990606,
8 an ordinance granting permission to Level 3 LLC, a
9 Delaware Limited Liability Company, registered to
10 do business in Pennsylvania, and its successors,
11 assigns, and agents to construct, maintain, and
12 operate, replace, and remove a telecommunications
13 system in and under the public rights of way and
14 City streets, and/or place such telecommunications
15 systems within the existing facilities owned by
16 Bell Atlantic-PA, PECO Energy Company,
17 Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation
18 Authority, CSX Corporation, Norfolk Southern,
19 Consolidated Rail Corporation Shared Assets, or
20 other entity holding a grant pursuant to other
21 City ordinances, all under certain terms and
22 conditions.

23 This is not an Administration ordinance
24 but an ordinance requested by Level 3
25 Communications, Incorporated, located at 2010

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990606
2 Corporate Ridge, Suite 700, McClean, Virginia.
3 The purpose of this ordinance is to construct and
4 maintain a fiber optics network and
5 telecommunications system in and under the public
6 rights-of-way at various locations along their
7 route, as specified in the ordinance.

8 The Department of Streets has no
9 objection to the passage of this ordinance.

10 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you.

11 Are there any questions for this
12 witness from the committee?

13 (No questions.)

14 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Is there anyone
15 else here who wishes to testify for or against
16 this bill?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Hearing none, the
19 clerk will read the title of the next bill.

20 THE CLERK: Bill No. 990572, an
21 ordinance amending Title 11 of the Philadelphia
22 Code relating to streets by amending Chapter
23 11-200, entitled "Openings and Excavations in the
24 Streets," by changing various requirements
25 relating to the granting of permits that entail

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990572
2 closure of City streets, under certain terms and
3 conditions.

4 MR. CUNNINGHAM: Good morning,
5 Councilman. My name's John Cunningham,
6 Right-of-Way Manager for the Department of
7 Streets.

8 Councilman, we are not prepared to give
9 testimony on this bill today. We were under the
10 impression that this bill would be tabled until
11 the next committee until we had a time to review
12 it.

13 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: We'll talk to the
14 sponsor of the bill. Councilmember Clarke?

15 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you.

16 What we're going to do today, we have
17 members from the community who wanted to testify,
18 so I would like to afford them an opportunity to
19 testify on the bill. And at the appropriate time
20 when you're ready to testify on behalf of the
21 Administration, we'll make that available to you,
22 if that's okay with the Chair.

23 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: That would be
24 fine. And with that, would those folks in the
25 audience who wish to testify on this bill please

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990572

2 come forward.

3 (Community members come forward.)

4 MS. WOODS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman
5 and members of the Streets and Services Committee
6 and other Councilmembers who are present.

7 I am Priscilla Woods, from Yorktown, a
8 neighborhood in the North Central Philadelphia
9 community. I'm here today with some of my
10 neighbors to express our support for Bill No.
11 990572 relating to opening and excavations in the
12 streets.

13 I respectfully request that you
14 carefully consider this bill from a perspective of
15 the opportunity to abuse the Department of
16 Streets' liberal policy of granting extensions on
17 permits for construction projects. The measure is
18 particularly significant to our neighborhood that,
19 for the past two years, has had no access to a
20 main northbound thoroughfare. In this instance,
21 the extension process was repeatedly utilized long
22 after the completion of the project for which the
23 original permit was granted.

24 You may recall that during the spring
25 and early summer of this year, representatives

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990572
2 from a coalition of North Central Philadelphia
3 neighborhood groups attended the weekly meetings
4 of this Council in protest to Temple University's
5 fenced and gated close of 13th Street and
6 Montgomery Avenue. We also expressed our outrage
7 that the Department of Streets would continue to
8 grant one extension after another to the
9 institution.

10 It was clear to everyone that the
11 lengthy closure and repeated requests to the
12 Department by the University was a methodical
13 self-serving tactic designed to blatantly
14 disregard and arrogantly attempt to undermine the
15 needs and hopes of the community at large. This
16 was nothing less than a myopic attempt to close a
17 portion of 13th Street permanently, from Cecil B.
18 Moore Avenue to Norris Street, to create a secured
19 green promenade for the exclusive use of the
20 University. It was not necessary, critical, or
21 essential to the completion of a project.

22 Bill No. 990572 will provide an
23 appropriate and much-needed mechanism for
24 institutions, developers, and contractors to set
25 and adhere to realistic timelines. It will also

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990572

2 foster a heightened consciousness of developers to
3 the impact of their projects on the long-term
4 residents of communities where they do business.
5 Most importantly, the measure will serve as a
6 deterrent to the outright abuse of the policies of
7 a City department.

8 We encourage you to return this bill to
9 the full Council with a favorable recommendation.
10 Thank you.

11 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you.

12 Any questions for this witness from the
13 committee?

14 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Yes, Mr. Chair.

15 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Councilmember
16 Clarke?

17 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Miss Woods, can you
18 tell me what specifically the neighbors have done
19 to attempt to get the street open? Have you
20 talked to the any departments or any elected
21 officials in trying to gain access to that street
22 during the last year or so?

23 MS. WOODS: Yes, we have. We had a
24 letter-writing campaign to the Mayor of the City
25 of Philadelphia. We wrote letters to Mr. Moy, the

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990572
2 Commissioner of the Streets Department. We had
3 conversations with the administration at Temple
4 University. And we've also expressed our concerns
5 and our own aspirations for the community to the
6 5th District, our Council office, and our concerns
7 were supported by the 5th District Councilperson
8 -- at the time, Mr. Street -- and also to your
9 office.

10 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Was that me?

11 MS. WOODS: Yes, sir. Yes, Mr.
12 Clarke. Thank you.

13 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Okay. Have you
14 gotten any responses from those other individuals
15 or institutions?

16 MS. WOODS: No, we have not. We did
17 receive information. We had an ongoing dialogue
18 with the Commissioner's office. Someone there,
19 Wendy, asked for information, would give us
20 information that additional extensions had been
21 granted. Our letters -- I don't think anyone, and
22 these are some of the residents of the community
23 who wrote letters to the Mayor, I don't think any
24 of those letters were acknowledged.

25 The Mayor did invite us very recently

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990572

2 in, and he gave us some information that suggested
3 that if we did not allow the street to be closed,
4 we would be responsible for jobs not coming to
5 Temple University. So. . .

6 And we know that there have been many
7 businesses that have left the City -- Breyer's Ice
8 Cream left, the Navy Yard left. I don't recall
9 seeing where the Mayor actually accused the
10 community of being responsible for those jobs
11 leaving. So that was how we perceived the
12 information that we received from the Mayor
13 recently, but our letters to the Mayor were back
14 during the spring, and we received no response,
15 not even an acknowledgment.

16 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: All right, thank
17 you.

18 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Miss Woods, could
19 you share with us what the response was from the
20 Commissioner of Street was? What was the
21 reasoning they were giving you for the
22 extensions?

23 MS. WOODS: The response from the
24 Community Relations Representative from the
25 Commissioner's office was that there was more work

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990572

2 that needed to be done underground, that steam
3 vents needed to be put in. And I think the last
4 extension, we saw a copy of the letter, and I
5 didn't really see any justification for the
6 continued closing.

7 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: With the District
8 Councilperson's permission, I'd like to, at some
9 point in time, get a copy of the correspondence.

10 And when you mentioned that the
11 representative from the Streets Department
12 indicated that there was additional work that
13 needed to be done -- steam vents and whatever else
14 it was -- did they say that it was not a part of
15 the original contract? Did they indicate whether
16 it was a part of the original contract?

17 MS. WOODS: I don't recall any
18 explanation, that it was something additional or
19 anything like that. I don't recall any of those
20 terms.

21 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: All right, thank
22 you. It would be helpful if you could -- I'd like
23 to see a copy of that correspondence.

24 MS. WOODS: All right.

25 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990572

2 Ma'am, do you wish to testify?

3 MS. WOODS: Excuse me for a second.

4 Councilman, that was a verbal correspondence.

5 This was on the telephone, conversations to the

6 representative, the Community Relations

7 Representative, but there has been some documents

8 that were made available to us that we do have in

9 our --

10 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Okay. I would

11 appreciate it if you would share them with the

12 Chair, please.

13 MS. WOODS: Okay.

14 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Ma'am, do you wish

15 to testify?

16 MS. BLANDEN: Yes. Good morning,

17 Councilman.

18 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Please identify

19 your name for our --

20 MS. BLANDEN: My name is Diane Blanden

21 (ph.), and I am also a member of the community

22 group that has been active to reopen 13th Street

23 at Montgomery through Norris.

24 I just wanted to say that I concur with

25 everything that Miss Woods has said this morning.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990572

2 What we experienced was a blatant misuse of
3 government authority and any type of authority
4 that (unintelligible) to persuade the Streets
5 Department to keep the streets closed throughout
6 the length of time that they had.

7 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you.

8 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: And I have one more
9 question.

10 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Councilmember
11 Clarke?

12 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Mr.
13 Chairman.

14 Miss Woods, Miss Blanden, during the
15 recent extensions, were there any visible evidence
16 of any construction taking place?

17 MS. BLANDEN: No, we didn't see any
18 evidence of construction.

19 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Nothing there
20 taking up -- no excavation activities going on?

21 MS. WOODS: No.

22 (Unintelligible, parties talking over
23 each other.)

24 MS. BLANDEN: The closing of the street
25 actually inconvenienced most -- all of the

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990572
2 neighborhood. We had to travel out of our way to
3 get to our homes. Children had to -- children
4 were in jeopardy by the increased traffic on 11th
5 Street. Children were not able to cross the
6 streets, school-age children. So that -- I don't
7 feel that --

8 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: So it became a
9 public-safety issue.

10 MS. WOODS: It is.

11 MS. BLANDEN: Definitely.

12 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you.

13 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you. Are
14 there any other questions for these witnesses?

15 (No questions.)

16 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Is there anyone
17 else here who wishes to testify for or against the
18 bill?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you. Thank
21 you, ladies.

22 Hearing none, the clerk will read the
23 title of the next bill as it relates to --

24 MS. WOODS: Thank you.

25 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Mr. Cunningham, do

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990572

2 you have anything else to add to the testimony on
3 that last bill?

4 MR. CUNNINGHAM: I'd just like to
5 reiterate what I said earlier, which was that the
6 Commissioner was under the impression that we
7 would not discuss the ordinance at all today
8 because there was time need to do analyze it in
9 depth, and so I just want to say again that we do
10 not want the bill passed until we've had time to
11 analyze it.

12 We would certainly like to say to the
13 people here, however, that we do apologize for
14 that inconvenience, and we are looking at our
15 entire right-of-way management policies to ensure
16 that things like that do not happen in the future.

17 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you. Do you
18 happen to know -- and this is no disrespect to you
19 -- how much more time the Commissioner may need
20 to analyze this problem?

21 MR. CUNNINGHAM: No, I can't answer
22 that, sir.

23 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Okay, thank you.

24 The clerk will read the title of the
25 next bill.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990572

2 THE CLERK: Bill No. 990 -- John, do
3 you have another bill?

4 MR. CUNNINGHAM: Yes, I have one --
5 990452, which was my last one.

6 THE CLERK: That's not on here. That
7 was withdrawn.

8 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: That was
9 withdrawn.

10 MR. CUNNINGHAM: Withdrawn?

11 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Yeah.

12 MR. CUNNINGHAM: Very good.

13 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Yes, ma'am? If
14 you wish to testify, you need to come to the
15 witness table. Is it on this bill?

16 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: It's on the bill
17 that Miss Woods was just talking about. I was
18 just wondering if --

19 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Please, you need
20 to come to the table and identify yourself for the
21 record, ma'am.

22 (Unidentified woman comes forward.)

23 MS. AUSTIN: My name is Sarah Austin.
24 I'm a resident over in the Temple area. My
25 question to this gentleman is, what is that you

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990572

2 would have to analyze? If you built a foundation,
3 don't you think the vents and stuff should have
4 been put in before?

5 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Ma'am, you need to
6 direct your questions to the Chair, and then --

7 MS. AUSTIN: Okay. Well, my question
8 is, if you're building a foundation, if you're
9 putting vents and whatever it is necessary to put
10 into a building, doesn't that have to be put in
11 before you put the top of the building on?

12 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Yeah, I mean, all
13 I can --

14 MS. AUSTIN: It seems like to me, I
15 don't see a reason why this street is still even
16 in question of being closed.

17 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: We need to get
18 that information. I think one of my questions
19 was, as Miss Woods indicated in her testimony,
20 Miss Woods says that the Streets Department, or a
21 representative from the Streets Department,
22 indicated that there was additional work. Now, by
23 "additional," was that work outside the scope of
24 the original contract or was that something that
25 they encountered problems that when the excavation

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 began?

3 So before I can comment on that either
4 way, I would like to see the testimony -- or the
5 correspondence, and we can get into this dialogue
6 later on.

7 MS. AUSTIN: Okay.

8 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you.

9 Is there anyone else here who wishes to
10 testify for or against the bill?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Hearing none, the
13 clerk will read the title of the next bill.

14 Thank you, Mr. Cunningham.

15 THE CLERK: Bill No. 990567, an
16 ordinance authorizing the installation of all-way
17 stop signs at the following intersections on Green
18 Lane: Silverwood Street and Baker Street.

19 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Before the
20 testimony begins, let the record reflect that
21 Councilmember Nutter is here today. Thank you.

22 MR. TRAINOR: Good morning, Councilman
23 and committee. Charles Trainor, of the Streets
24 Department Traffic Engineering.

25 The Department of Streets offers no

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567
2 objection to the passage of Bill No. 990567
3 authorizing the installation of all-way stop signs
4 at the intersection of Green Lane and Silverwood
5 and Green Lane and Baker Street in a manner
6 consistent with PennDOT regulations.

7 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: In a manner
8 consistent with PennDOT regulations. Are you
9 saying that you are going to install these
10 things?

11 MR. TRAINOR: Councilman, I'm saying
12 that we have no objection to the passage of the
13 bill authorizing the signs in a manner consistent
14 with PennDOT regulations.

15 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Councilmember
16 Rizzo?

17 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you.

18 Mr. Trainor, to be more specific, the
19 locations in question, are they all in accordance
20 with PennDOT specifications? And if they are, are
21 the signs going to be installed?

22 MR. TRAINOR: Past studies have shown
23 that they do not justify all-way stop signs.

24 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So you're telling us
25 that you're okay with the legislation, but we're

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 not going to get the stop signs.

3 MR. TRAINOR: If the legislation
4 authorizes the installation of the stop sign in a
5 manner consistent with PennDOT regulations. If we
6 restudy the intersections and they are justified
7 by PennDOT regulations, they would be installed.

8 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I want to ask
9 another question. If the Administration, your
10 commissioner, ordered you or authorized you to
11 install those stop signs, could you do it?

12 MR. TRAINOR: I would say yes.

13 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: But he would say
14 no to City Council.

15 Okay, Councilmember Nutter?

16 I'm sorry. Are you through?

17 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So you're telling me
18 that administratively, the Commissioner could --
19 at what level could you authorize these signs to
20 be installed, at your level?

21 MR. TRAINOR: I would only authorize
22 the signs -- installation if they are consistent
23 with PennDOT regulations.

24 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: But if you were told
25 by the Commissioner of your department to install

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 the signs would, you install them?

3 MR. TRAINOR: I would probably install
4 'em.

5 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you.

6 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: But if City
7 Council authorizes it by way of legislation,
8 you're saying unless you get the approval from
9 your commissioner, you would not install the
10 signs.

11 MR. TRAINOR: That's correct, sir.

12 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Okay, he speaks
13 for the people and we don't, okay.

14 Councilmember Nutter.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Mr.
16 Chairman.

17 What I would like to ask, Mr. Chairman,
18 your indulgence, is, prior to getting into any
19 discussion with Mr. Trainor, I have constituents
20 who are here, who have taken the time to come here
21 this morning, and I'd like them to have an
22 opportunity to make a record based on their views
23 of living in the neighborhood and why they've been
24 so sincere in trying to pursue this issue. And I
25 have been working with them, and that's the result

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 today of the legislation and the public hearing.

3 And so I'd like them to have an
4 opportunity to state on the record their concerns
5 and their issues and why they feel so strongly
6 about this.

7 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you.

8 Ma'am? Or whoever's going to start,
9 please yourself for the record and bring the
10 microphone as closely to you as possible and speak
11 directly into it.

12 MS. AMPTHOR: Okay, is this all right?
13 I want to say good morning first to all of the
14 Councilmen, to Councilman Frank DiCicco, and I
15 want to say good morning to all the boards.

16 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Good morning.

17 MS. AMPTHOR: All the members of the
18 board.

19 All right. My name is Bernadette
20 Ampthor.

21 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Repeat your name
22 again, please.

23 MS. AMPTHOR: My name is Bernadette
24 Ampthor.

25 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: And would you

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 spell that last name.

3 MS. AMPTHOR: A-M-P-T-H-O-R.

4 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you. Just
5 tilt that microphone down a little bit so that you
6 won't have to stretch up. That's it. Thank you.

7 MS. AMPTHOR: Okay. I am a member of
8 St. Lucy's parish, and I am also a member of St.
9 Lucy's Leadership Team. And I live on Wilde
10 Street, located one block off of Green Lane.

11 I believe that these two stop signs,
12 which are being discussed today, at these
13 locations, Green Lane and Baker Street, and also
14 Green Lane and Silverwood Street, would result in
15 decreasing the speed of traffic in this area -- be
16 it trucks or cars on Green Lane as a whole, but
17 particularly at Green Lane and Baker Street, the
18 site of many accidents, including 17 accidents
19 from the period of January to July of 1999,
20 according to the 5th Police District report. I
21 might add that there have been a total of 51
22 accidents from the period of January to July, 1999
23 from Green Lane and Ridge Avenue and Green Lane
24 and Main Street.

25 These stop signs, in my opinion, may

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 also possibly help in lowering the portion of
3 traffic at Green Lane and Main Street, according
4 to the (unintelligible) of the traffic light at
5 the approach of Green Lane Bridge, thus allowing
6 more vehicles to pass onto the bridge at that
7 intersection and alleviate the bottleneck
8 experienced every morning.

9 I believe that these stop signs are
10 needed for the safety of the 225 school children,
11 the many, many seniors who attend church services
12 and various church events.

13 From Manayunk Avenue to Main Street,
14 there are no -- there are currently no stop signs
15 which would slow down traffic. This allows cars
16 and trucks alike coming down the hill to have a
17 free-for-all and to far exceed the school zone
18 speed limit of 15 miles per hour. This is a
19 steep, curvy slope of nearly half a mile.

20 As early as 6 a.m., while walking my
21 dog, I observed cars as driving on a speedway
22 actually in the middle of Green Lane, another
23 free-for-all. If my dog ever broke loose and
24 crossed the street, I know that she would be
25 killed.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 Drivers do not even slow down for the
3 crossing guard in front of St. Lucy's Church and
4 School. And on several occasions, speeding cars
5 have just barely missed an older parishioner, and
6 myself included, while I tried to assist her
7 across Green Lane to attend daily mass.

8 Most recently, on October 20, 1999,
9 shortly after 8:30 p.m., an accident occurred once
10 again at Green Lane and Baker Streets. It was
11 serious enough to have an ambulance summoned.

12 In the early part of this summer, one
13 of our team members, and a long-term parishioner,
14 was hit while driving across Silverwood by a car
15 speeding up Green Lane at the intersection of
16 Green Lane and Silverwood streets. Thankfully,
17 she and her daughter passenger suffered no
18 injuries, but her car was totaled. A stop sign
19 for Green Lane traffic at this intersection could
20 have prevented -- hopefully prevented -- this
21 accident much.

22 I thank you so much for the opportunity
23 of presenting my testimony about the danger of
24 Green Lane traffic.

25 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you. Thank

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 you, ma'am.

3 Is there anyone else who wishes to
4 testify?

5 MR. MEDLOCK: Good morning.

6 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Good morning.

7 Identify yourself for the record, please.

8 MR. MEDLOCK: Good morning, Council.

9 My name is Bob Medlock. I also am a member of St.
10 Lucy's Leadership Council and am a parishioner of
11 St. Lucy's.

12 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Santa Luccia,
13 patron saint of eyesight, or something, isn't it?
14 Thank God you have good eyes; you may have passed
15 that intersection. Thank you.

16 MR. MEDLOCK: This letter -- I've got
17 the pleasure of reading this letter. This is from
18 Mrs. Mary Jo Santore. She is the crossing guard
19 at Green Lane, in front of St. Lucy's School.

20 "I'm writing this letter, not only as a
21 concerned neighbor, but also as a very concerned
22 crossing guard.

23 "First of all, I have lived on Baker
24 Street most of my life, and I never remember as
25 many accidents on Green Lane and Baker Street. I

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 feel that part of the problem is that some of the
3 people coming up Green Lane think they are still
4 on the expressway, and they come up the hill
5 sometimes doing 40, even 50, miles an hour. I
6 don't know if they are even aware that one block
7 up the hill begins a 15-mile-an-hour school zone.
8 The people who live right here in this
9 neighborhood know how bad this corner is and inch
10 their way out of Baker Street, especially when
11 there is a car parked on the corner of Green Lane.

12 "I don't know when the Streets
13 Department did their survey for how many people
14 travel this intersection, but this is a heavily
15 traveled road. Also, evidently, the figures for
16 the accidents that happen on this corner must be
17 wrong because there already has been at least two
18 to three accidents in a one-week period here. All
19 of the neighbors keep saying, What is it going to
20 take to get an all-way stop sign here? Does
21 someone have to get hurt really bad or maybe even
22 killed?

23 "Well, last Wednesday night, we thought
24 that had happened. I was sitting in my house,
25 which is a half a block down the street from Green

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 Lane on Baker, when around 8:30, I heard this
3 screech, a big bang, and the horn of the car
4 continuously blowing. I pictured in my mind that
5 this must be the big one and said, Dear God,
6 please let the people be all right. In hearing
7 the horn blowing, all I could picture was a person
8 slumped over the car dead. Luckily, the two
9 people involved in this accident were all right.
10 The horn had gotten stuck in the accident. You
11 could really see the relief on everyone's faces
12 when we got to the corner and found the people to
13 be okay.

14 "On a personal experience, I can tell
15 you about the day my daughter was inching her way
16 around the corner since a car was parked and
17 blocking her view. A woman coming up Green Lane
18 blew her horn from Cresson Street, which is one
19 block down, until she hit the side of my
20 daughter's car. Now, if she could blow her horn
21 from one block, would it have been so hard for her
22 to slow down or to stop her car before slamming
23 into my daughter. Just an example of how fast
24 people come up Green Lane, acting as if it was
25 still the expressway.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 "I could go on and on about different
3 people I know that have been involved in accidents
4 on this corner, but I won't because you can get
5 all the information from police records.

6 "As a crossing guard who crosses
7 children at Green Lane and St. David's Street,
8 which is one block up from this intersection, I
9 could safely say there is almost one accident a
10 day that I can see from my corner. I did a
11 personal survey myself one week every morning,
12 from 7:30 a.m. until 8:45 a.m. I counted an
13 average of 820 to 850 cars coming up and going
14 down Green Lane. It just happened that on that
15 Friday, a lot of areas were flooded out because of
16 Hurricane Floyd, and Green Lane was the only way
17 to get the expressway. That morning, I counted
18 1600 cars and then stopped counting. Granted,
19 that was an exceptional day, but there will be
20 others like that when there is another flood or
21 trouble on the highways.

22 "I really feel that the safest thing
23 for everyone is to put up an all-way stop sign at
24 the intersections of Green Lane and Baker Streets,
25 and that this may possibly save someone's life one

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 day.

3 "Another thing I see a lot of being a
4 crossing guard is the 18-wheeler trailers that are
5 traveling up Green Lane. There used to be a sign
6 that said "no through trucks" on the Manayunk
7 Bridge. Construction was started on this bridge,
8 and the sign disappeared. Last week, at 7:30
9 a.m., an 18-wheeler got stuck at Richie Street and
10 Green Lane. I had to try to direct traffic down
11 away from the truck and cross the children at the
12 same time. I had children coming down the street,
13 walking on the pavement where they belong, and now
14 there were cars jumping the curb to avoid hitting
15 the truck and trying to avoid hitting a child
16 walking, where he or she was supposed to be. It
17 was a very dangerous situation.

18 "I called for the police, and when they
19 came, the truck had finally got up the hill a
20 little bit. But from my understanding, they did
21 pull him over and ticket him.

22 "A child walking to school takes the
23 same route every day. They cannot go through side
24 streets when a tractor-trailer's creating a
25 problem. Cars can detour, but children cannot.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 "For the safety of the children, I
3 really hope you pass the ban on tractor-trailers
4 on Green Lane. Also for the good of our
5 neighborhood and for all the people that travel on
6 Green Lane, I hope that you pass this bill,
7 990567, before someone really gets hurt.

8 "I guess now this is in God's hands and
9 yours. I hope that God will be watching over this
10 intersection and help you come to the right
11 decision about putting an all-way sign on Green
12 Lane and Baker Streets.

13 "May God bless us all, especially the
14 children that travel on Green Lane.

15 "Sincerely, Mrs. Mary Jo Santore.".

16 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you. Thank
17 you for your testimony.

18 Are there any other witnesses today
19 that wish to speak?

20 MS. CANICCI: Councilman DiCicco, my
21 name's Rose Canicci (ph.), and I am a member of
22 St. Lucy's parish.

23 I have a letter here written by one of
24 our team members who could not be present because
25 she is a crossing.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 "My name is Linda Adderno (ph.). I am
3 a school crossing guard for the 5th Police
4 District in the Manayunk section of Philadelphia,
5 and am a member of the Manayunk Council Leadership
6 Team. From a crossing guard's perspective, I
7 strongly feel that the implementation of stop
8 signs at the above locations is a grave necessity
9 to ensure the safety of the school children, the
10 pedestrians, drivers, church parishioners, senior
11 citizens, and the community as a whole who must
12 utilize Green Lane on a daily basis.

13 "From compact cars to 53-foot
14 tractor-trailers, this uniquely narrow, hilly,
15 curvy, residential street is very heavily
16 traveled, and in my opinion, at times resembles
17 the Manayunk version of the Atco Speedway due to
18 the complete disregard of its posted speed limits,
19 especially during school hours.

20 "In view of the many recent traffic
21 accident reports investigated and filed on record
22 with the 5th Police District concerning these
23 above-mentioned locations, along with endless
24 Leadership Team studies, community surveys, and
25 various petitions to City government, this request

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 should be considered a no-brainer.

3 "My only hope is that these stop signs
4 will be installed as soon as possible in order to
5 prevent a needless fatality to the staunch
6 neighborhood community. As a uniformed City
7 employee in the Philadelphia Police Department, I
8 thank you for considering my request."

9 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you, ma'am.
10 Anyone else who wishes to testify?

11 MS. COFONE: Good morning, Councilman.
12 My name is Josephine Cofone.

13 "To Councilman Frank DiCicco and City
14 Council: On September 13, 1996, we had a very bad
15 accident at Green Lane and Baker Streets, as have
16 many people. There was a truck parked on the
17 corner of Green Lane, and a young man ran the stop
18 sign coming from Baker Street. Our car was very
19 badly damaged.

20 "When the police came, they or anyone
21 could judge from the scene that the young man,
22 instead of inching his way out of Baker Street,
23 came full force and ran the stop sign.

24 "Two days later, we passed by in a
25 rented car, which our car was in for repairs, and

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 the stop sign was no longer there. Thanks to
3 Sergeant Moore at the 5th District, he had the
4 sign put back up within a short time.

5 "My husband was driving. Due to
6 having a hard condition, I spent the night at
7 Roxborough Memorial Hospital. I cannot understand
8 why the young man was not given a ticket, but the
9 officer at the accident informed me he could not
10 give a ticket because he didn't see it.

11 "There should be no-parking signs at
12 the corner of Green Lane and Baker Streets at
13 least to the middle of that block for this problem
14 not to happen so often as it has.

15 "Hopefully, this will be resolved.
16 Thank you. Anna Stumpo (ph.)"

17 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you. Thank
18 you for your testimony.

19 Yes, ma'am?

20 MS. MADRAK: Good morning, Councilman.
21 My name is Irene Madrak, and I'm the Executive
22 Director of North Lake Community Center, and
23 that's just about a block's distance up the street
24 but on the opposite side from St. Lucy's.

25 Just to give you an idea of the number

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 of kids and the frequency of crossing, the
3 children from St. Lucy's School use our gymnasium
4 for gym classes and cross as a class probably four
5 times a day. The children from St. Lucy's also
6 come to our after-school program.

7 So it is a very busy street. There is
8 quite a bit of speed picked up because there
9 aren't any stop signs for, you know, a long
10 distance. And it really is pretty hairy when kids
11 try to cross the street.

12 We also have children that come in the
13 early evening and after school generally from the
14 neighborhood, and a lot of the kids we serve are
15 the other side of Green Lane. And so there's
16 crossing and it really is the kind of thing where
17 kids stand there and false starts, and it's really
18 an accident waiting to happen.

19 So I just wanted to add that children
20 cross this street all the time, and there is no
21 safe place to cross once the crossing guards are
22 not there.

23 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you.

24 And for me, while I recognize and
25 respect everyone's testimony here, often we get

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567
2 requests for traffic device signals or stop signs
3 at various intersections, but the most compelling
4 testimony today for me is that two crossing guards
5 who we charge with the responsibility of crossing
6 children have made the recommendations, and their
7 they're on behalf of the stop signs, and I think
8 that's something we should not be ignoring,
9 regardless of what the State warrants provide.

10 Councilmember Nutter?

11 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Mr.
12 Chairman. What I would want to ask, with the
13 Chair's indulgence, I've distributed a packet of
14 information. I would ask that this material be
15 included as a part of the record. We'll make sure
16 that the stenographer gets a copy. But I would
17 ask, with the Chair's approval, that the memo that
18 starts with the cover sheet of Bill No. 990567 and
19 the two attached letters be made official a part
20 of this record.

21 Secondly, I would like to inquire of
22 Mr. Trainor about what appears to be some
23 discrepancy between the letter from Mr. Moy and
24 the memo from the 5th District commanding officer
25 at the time, Captain McCarty, to Mr. Moio (ph.)..

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 Mr. Trainor, can you provide any
3 explanation as to the information provided in the
4 letter dated June 25, 1999 from Mr. Moio to Father
5 Sabatini of St. Lucy's, in articulating in Warrant
6 2 that according to police accident records from
7 1990 to December 1998, there were only five
8 reportable accidents. That's in Mr. Moio's
9 letter.

10 But Captain McCarty, in a memo dated
11 August 25, 1999 to Mr. Moio, obviously after Mr.
12 Moio had written his letter to Father Sabatini,
13 makes the report that he has completed a survey of
14 auto accidents reported to police radio on Green
15 Lane and Baker Street for the period of January
16 1999 to July 1999, a six-month period this year,
17 and reports 17 accidents. And for the same time
18 period for the length of Green Lane, from Maine to
19 Ridge, reports 51 accidents in the same six-month
20 time period.

21 Can you please explain the discrepancy
22 between these figures?

23 MR. TRAINOR: Councilman, to the best
24 of our knowledge, as the captain said, he checked
25 the record as to accidents reported to police

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567
2 radio. Those accidents, from what we understand,
3 can be identified as Baker Street and Green Lane,
4 but when a police officer shows up out there, it
5 is not Baker and Green Lane, it is actually --
6 three houses down from that location is where the
7 accident is.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Isn't that still
9 Baker and Green Lane?

10 MR. TRAINOR: It may be on Green Lane,
11 it could be on Baker. It's not part of the -- it
12 is not at the intersection.

13 The accident records that we --

14 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, what's the
15 definition of "an intersection"?

16 MR. TRAINOR: The intersection is as
17 the police officer defines it, and we do go within
18 about 20 feet on either side of it.

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So then what
20 difference does it make if it's three houses up
21 the street then?

22 MR. TRAINOR: That's -- that is up --
23 it is not then an intersection accident. Could be
24 a rear-end accident, it could be an accident that
25 is a fixed object, which could include a parked

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567
2 cars. Those are the types of mid-block accidents.
3 They're not at an accident involving two cars at
4 right angles to each other.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Let me ask you this
6 question, then. Tell me about the four accidents
7 that took place in January of 1999 at Green and
8 Baker. What kind of accidents were they?

9 MR. TRAINOR: Councilman, I cannot
10 answer that. I do not have that information with
11 me.

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. What kind of
13 accidents were the two accidents in February of
14 1999?

15 MR. TRAINOR: Again, Councilman, I have
16 not -- I did not bring any data with me to testify
17 on these bills.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What was the
19 accident in March at Green and Baker, of 1999?

20 MR. TRAINOR: Councilman, again, I
21 cannot answer. I did not bring any data.

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What about April of
23 1999, where there were five accidents? Tell me
24 about those then.

25 MR. TRAINOR: Councilman, again, I

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 cannot answer. I do not have the data with me to
3 determine what they were. In addition to that,
4 the --

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, did Mr. Moio
6 have that --

7 MR. TRAINOR: Councilman, I --

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Did Mr. Moio have
9 that information when he made his determination in
10 his June 25, 1999 letter? Did he know about these
11 accidents?

12 MR. TRAINOR: Councilman, the Traffic
13 Engineering Division does not have accident
14 records from the Police Department past March of
15 1999. We are reviewing accident records through
16 January of 1990 through the last date, which, as I
17 said, just happens to be March 1999.

18 We receive them after they are coded
19 into the police accident system. We do not use
20 the radio call system; we use the actual coding
21 that the Police Department places into the system
22 based on the report of the investigating officer
23 at the scene.

24 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So your testimony
25 is, you are never up to date on what's going on at

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567
2 any particular intersection of about six to eight
3 months, and you disregard whatever police radio
4 says as reported accidents. I think that
5 apparently seems to be a term of art -- "reported
6 accidents to police radio."

7 So as far as you're concerned, the 17
8 accidents that were reported at Green Lane and
9 Baker for the first 7 months of 1999, that's a
10 virtually irrelevant, non-bearing statistic to the
11 Streets Department.

12 MR. TRAINOR: Only the accidents up
13 until March of 1999 are the accidents that we have
14 at the present time. These accidents, as they go
15 through the system, they will be included into our
16 -- at this time, it's a hard-copy database for
17 our use.

18 But what is reported to the Police
19 Department is --

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So then what's the
21 relevance when Mr. Moio writes a letter to Father
22 Sabatini on an issue that is of deep importance to
23 people in the community, and he writes a letter on
24 June 25, 1999 and says: "Warrant 2. Relates to
25 accident experience. Police accident records of 5

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567
2 or more reportable accidents within a 12-month
3 period correctable by a multi-way installation
4 satisfies Warrant 2. According to police accident
5 records from 1990 to December 1998, there were
6 only five reportable accidents."

7 MR. TRAINOR: That is according to --

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: He's writing a
9 letter in June of 1999 and he's talking about a
10 period in 1998 and 8 years prior, but has no
11 relevant information in 1999 that says that there
12 were 17 accidents at or near that intersection.

13 MR. TRAINOR: The accident history for
14 the previous nine years is relevant, it shows what
15 is going on out there. It also shows us what is a
16 report of --

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, I think the
18 previous accident history for the seven-month
19 period from January to July is very relevant also.

20 MR. TRAINOR: Councilman, it also shows
21 us what is a State-reportable accident, which is
22 not necessarily an accident that the police radio
23 room receives.

24 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I have no idea what
25 you just said.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 MR. TRAINOR: The police radio room
3 receives a call regarding an accident. The
4 accident is not necessarily a State-reportable
5 accident.

6 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Could you explain
7 a State-reportable accident?

8 MR. TRAINOR: A State-reportable
9 accident, according to the State Vehicle Code, is
10 an accident where there is an injury, a fatality,
11 or the vehicle cannot move. That is a
12 State-reportable accident, and those are the type
13 of accidents that are used for the study or to
14 justify an all-way stop sign.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So unless a car is
16 totaled in the accident, that's the only accident
17 that really counts.

18 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Or if someone is
19 injured.

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: If you dent my
21 fender, if you bust up my door, if you smash in
22 the back of my vehicle and the gas tank explodes,
23 that's not a reportable accident because maybe you
24 can still move the car. Is that your testimony?

25 MR. TRAINOR: Up until possibly the gas

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 tank exploding, that would be my testimony, yes,
3 sir.

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So two cars have an
5 accident, they smash their fronts together. If
6 they are able to limp away from the scene, that's
7 not a reportable accident. But if one flips over
8 and the other has the roof crushed, that is a
9 reportable accident. And you're telling me that
10 there is a difference between those two in terms
11 of life safety at that particular intersection?

12 MR. TRAINOR: They are the regulations
13 that we have in the state of Pennsylvania. They
14 are also the guidelines provided to the states by
15 the Federal Highway Administration.

16 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, what about
17 common sense and engineering judgment? Where does
18 that fit in in any of this?

19 MR. TRAINOR: Engineering judgment,
20 Councilman, would fit in when we're looking at a
21 angle-type accident or possibly 4 reportable in a
22 12-month period and 4 or 5 non-reportable's.
23 That's the ones that are the fender-benders that
24 are angle type.

25 We are talking about a borderline

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 situation based either on accidents or volume.

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: That's a very
4 interesting term, Mr. Trainor, because according
5 to every letter I've received from the Department,
6 there is nothing known as "a borderline
7 situation." Every letter that I get starts with,
8 At whatever intersection, we are not dealing with
9 a borderline situation. There is nothing in the
10 Department that has ever been described as "a
11 borderline situation."

12 So tell me, what is a borderline
13 situation?

14 MR. TRAINOR: Again, Councilman, it's
15 when we are talking about a situation where we
16 are, from a volume perspective, during the midday
17 peak or midday operation, we are talking about an
18 80 percent of the volume requirement. That would
19 be approximately 160 vehicles and/or pedestrians
20 crossing the main street. That could be a
21 borderline situation.

22 With a number of accidents that are
23 below five, maybe three, that could be considered
24 a borderline situation.

25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: All right, that's

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 all well and good.

3 Now, tell me this, we've had testimony
4 from a half a dozen people, we have accident
5 reports from the Police Department -- whether
6 they're reportable in your world or not, these
7 things actually do happen, we didn't make them
8 up.

9 If kids are crossing the street four or
10 five times a day, younger people, older people, a
11 lot of people, what is the Department's response
12 to the traffic safety issues out on Green Lane?
13 And what do you guys propose to do?

14 MR. TRAINOR: We have already placed
15 continental crosswalks at both Silverwood and at
16 St. David's where the school crossing is. The
17 school crossing not at Baker. We have made
18 recommendations for the enforcement, and we would
19 be glad to extend the corner clearances on the
20 south -- parking clearances on the south side of
21 Green Lane to increase the sight distance on Green
22 Lane, for vehicles coming up Green Lane.

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And what is the
24 solution to the speed of the traffic on Green
25 Lane?

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 MR. TRAINOR: The solution to the speed
3 of traffic on Green Lane is --

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Kids and other
5 people should not have to virtually take their
6 lives into their hands every day as they try to
7 get back and forth across the street.

8 MR. TRAINOR: The solution to the --

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And the 5th
10 District, as you well know, like every other
11 police district in this city, is not going to post
12 a uniformed police officer out there to watch cars
13 go by every day. They have a couple other things
14 that they need to do with themselves.

15 MR. TRAINOR: Councilman, I'm sorry.
16 That is the answer. The enforcement of the speed
17 limit --

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: No, it is not the
19 answer.

20 MR. TRAINOR: -- for both the 25 posted
21 speed limit and the 15 school speed limit that is
22 out there, not a speed-control device.

23 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Councilman Nutter,
24 could I ask a question at this moment?

25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Sure.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: You talk about the
3 setbacks, you talk about identifying the
4 crosswalks and things. What is it that the
5 Philadelphia Streets Department is so worried
6 about if they would put in a stop sign, a four-way
7 stop sign at this intersection? What is it that
8 you're so concerned about?

9 You have all this testimony, you have
10 police reports, you have citizens testifying about
11 the problems there. And I know we have rules and
12 regulations and all that stuff, but what are you
13 worried about?

14 If we put the stop sign in and say, The
15 hell with the warrants and what the State is, this
16 is what the citizens of Philadelphia want, this is
17 what the Councilperson who represents the district
18 wants. It is police reports, not just John Doe
19 who says, Hey, I think you should have a stop sign
20 there. You have police reports, you have
21 testimony from two crossing guards.

22 Put the damn stop sign in, Charlie.
23 What is it that you're worried about will happen
24 to you or Commissioner Moy if you don't put the
25 stop sign in? I can't get through to you guys

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 yet.

3 MR. TRAINOR: Councilman --

4 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: I don't comprehend
5 this. Is it a lawsuit? The hell with the
6 lawsuit. We'll take that lawsuit.

7 MR. TRAINOR: Councilman, putting in an
8 unjustified stop sign is --

9 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Forget the
10 justifying -- we're justifying it in this room
11 today, Charlie. Put the stop sign in.

12 You think the State's going to send
13 down an inspector to go look at every intersection
14 in the City of Philadelphia and say, The stop sign
15 wasn't warranted here, Philadelphia, lawsuit.

16 Let them sue us. Put the stop sign in,
17 Charlie.

18 MR. TRAINOR: Councilman --

19 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Excuse me,
20 Charlie. Put the stop sign in. Let's stop
21 negotiating these things day in and day out and
22 wasting everyone's time. I got a lot of things to
23 do today -- I have constituent phone calls,
24 probably 40 of them waiting for me. And you're
25 going to sit here tell me that the taxpayers and

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 the elected officials in this city don't have as
3 much say as your commissioner. He's appointed.
4 We're elected by these people.

5 Put the stop signs in and let's get on
6 with it, Charlie. Forget those State warrants,
7 and if the lawsuit comes and you get sued, I will
8 personally get an attorney to represent you free
9 of charge.

10 This is four years of this stuff. I've
11 been conducting these meetings and I get the same
12 stuff day in and day out. It's ridiculous.

13 Councilman Nutter, are you finished
14 yet?

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Mr. Chairman, I
16 deeply appreciate your comments and your support
17 on this particular issue. I think that many of us
18 are just very, very frustrated by this.

19 It is, if not actually, it is almost
20 embarrassing that we find ourselves in a situation
21 where I have to ask and contact my constituents
22 who have asked for something that we is necessary
23 and justified. We have public testimony on a lot
24 of different things, and sometimes people really
25 do need to come in. We just find ourselves in the

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 bizarre situation that we've recently begun this
3 process of dealing with traffic signals and
4 installation by way of bills and ordinances, and
5 some of have been passed, and subsequently action
6 has been taken.

7 I believe that the citizens of this
8 city deserve better and shouldn't have to go
9 through this particular process. I appreciate
10 them coming down here today. It's a good group.
11 We have other people who are here. And they have
12 tried to work with us and to work with the
13 department. The Mayor's Office has indicated
14 their great interest in this whole issue and their
15 support to have something for the folks who are
16 here and others to follow.

17 So I mean, I can't -- I mean, I've
18 received a response -- I don't think I got an
19 answer, but I got a response to the question that
20 I laid out, and the material is included as a part
21 of the record. I would certainly implore the
22 committee to take the appropriate action under
23 these circumstances.

24 So I'm concluded on this particular
25 bill, and thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you.

3 Councilmember Rizzo?

4 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Mr.
5 Chairman.

6 Mr. Trainor, could you please provide
7 to the Chair the installation records of four-way
8 all-direction stop signs for the last 24 months
9 and identify that the warrants have been made on
10 every installation of all-way stop signs in the
11 City of Philadelphia.

12 And I'm asking you directly, every
13 four-way stop sign, all-way stop sign that's been
14 installed in the last 24 months, have they all met
15 the criteria of PennDOT? Have there been any
16 exceptions made? Have you gotten a phone call
17 from the Mayor's Office? Have you gotten a call
18 from the Streets Department from the Streets
19 Commissioner's office and said, Charlie, like
20 Councilman DiCicco just said put an all-way stop
21 sign up. Has every one met the criteria by
22 PennDOT for the last 24 months?

23 MR. TRAINOR: I will provide that.

24 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Answer the question.

25 MR. TRAINOR: I will provide that list

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 to the Councilman.

3 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Answer the question.

4 MR. TRAINOR: I will provide the list
5 of locations and the warrants that were met, sir.

6 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Has any all-way stop
7 sign been put up that you know of that hasn't met
8 the warrant, the criteria?

9 MR. TRAINOR: Yes.

10 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you.

11 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Could I ask where
12 that request came from?

13 MR. TRAINOR: From you.

14 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you.

15 I'm asking you again, on behalf of the
16 sponsor of the bill, put a four-way stop sign at
17 this location.

18 Thank you.

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

21 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Is there anyone
22 else who wishes to testify?

23 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Could I say
24 something?

25 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Yes, sir. Please

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 approach the witness table.

3 MR. POLSON: Yes. My name is Robert
4 Polson (ph.).. I want to apologize first to this
5 body. I wasn't apprised of these problems during
6 the -- I guess after the a.m. hours. I do
7 apologize for not knowing what was going on.

8 But I'm just here mainly for Green Lane
9 since it's three, maybe four years now since they
10 did the bridge work. And it's been nothing but
11 chaos 'cause nobody wants to put it back to normal
12 where it was.

13 And Councilman Nutter is my councilman,
14 and I think the body right here can help us out.
15 We need help up there -- not just the stop signs.
16 I agree with this, and I do apologize to them
17 again.

18 There's more than 2,000 cars that go
19 through Green Lane Bridge in the morning. I know
20 it's not a part of this --

21 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: I don't want to
22 cut you short, but --

23 MR. POLSON: But please can I just say
24 -- I go to civic groups and I get turned off. We
25 get promises. Jablonski's (ph.) not here, he

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567
2 moved out and Moy took over. He says, We're going
3 to pave Green Lane for you, then we'll re-mark
4 everything, and that was before school started
5 that didn't happen. We got ruts, we got holes,
6 and you got to come down there slow; otherwise,
7 your car can get thrown into the other traffic or
8 onto the pavement. I know this I drive it every
9 day, and it's a.m. and p.m. It stinks, it's
10 terrible.
11 We got to do something for the Manayunk
12 people that live there, not for the people that
13 come into the restaurants and stuff like that.
14 The residents are being -- how would you say
15 this? "Raped," I guess, is the word. Maybe not.
16 Shortchanged. Whatever.
17 Really, this is a problem. And I know
18 it's been worked but we're not getting nowhere
19 with it, and has to be looked at it. Really,
20 somebody has to look at it and do something. Stop
21 signs are needed for the kids -- that's the
22 biggest thing. And I know Mary Jo and I know
23 Josephine here.
24 Again, I do apologize. I'm sorry, I
25 didn't know the whole thing about this, but I came

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 down from Green Lane, and we need help. Please,
3 somebody look at it.

4 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you.

5 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Mr. Chairman, could
6 I just follow up on something Councilman?

7 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Yes.

8 Councilmember Rizzo?

9 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Again to Mr.
10 Trainor, I think there's another situation that we
11 can resolve easily, and it might be working with
12 Councilman Nutter's office on this.

13 But it's the issue of the truck
14 traffic. When I approach that -- when I go over
15 the Green Lane Bridge from the expressway, I see a
16 small sign that says "Trucks," and the arrow
17 points both east and west on Main Street. To me,
18 that is not adequate because it's just not big
19 enough. There is apparently a sign, you heard
20 earlier, that was there prior to the
21 construction. That's been removed.

22 Do you know, Mr. Trainor, are trucks
23 prohibited from traversing Green Lane from Maine
24 if they want to make it up to Ridge? Isn't that
25 something you can fix quickly? If already that is

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 a prohibition, can't we just order signage to
3 replace the one that once existed?

4 MR. TRAINOR: As far as we know, our
5 records indicate that trucks were never
6 prohibited. What we had out there at Maine and
7 Green Lane was a warning sign. It was a
8 yellow-and-black sign informing trucks of the hill
9 and basically directing them north or south for
10 Main Street -- on Main Street.

11 We have subsequently, because of the
12 construction of railroad bridge, or the
13 rehabilitation of the railroad bridge, we have
14 replaced that sign, and I believe we placed
15 another sign actually on the Green Lane Bridge. I
16 think we now have two -- one west of Main Street
17 and one right at the intersection.

18 These signs have been supplemented with
19 the grade of the street to show that it's the 12
20 percent grade.

21 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Right, 12 percent.

22 MR. TRAINOR: In addition to that, we
23 have that particular sign -- it may not be at
24 Ridge Avenue. It's within the stretch from Ridge
25 to Maine for the westbound traffic. I'm not sure

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 which -- it may be at Manayunk Avenue, I'm not
3 sure.

4 We've also placed, and we are placing,
5 green-and-white directional signs for I-76, and
6 we're taking 'em up in a different manner from
7 Ridge Avenue. So we've got a sign for northbound
8 Ridge at Green Lane that's directing trucks, or
9 directing anybody really, north on Ridge Avenue to
10 pick up 76.

11 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Now, you say that
12 trucks have never been prohibited from Green Lane,
13 from using Green Lane, and I don't know how long
14 ago Traffic Engineering looked at that, but they
15 were the days when we had a maximum length of a
16 vehicle. Could I ask that that be revisited to
17 see if -- could you explain what it would take to
18 prohibit trucks?

19 Because, Charlie, I don't know if you
20 have ever used that roadway. You don't want to be
21 coming in the opposite direction of an articulated
22 vehicle on Green Lane when one's coming the other
23 direction. It is absolutely scary, even if you're
24 an extremely skilled driver.

25 What does it take to prohibit trucks on

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 Green Lane?

3 MR. TRAINOR: Part of the biggest thing
4 that is required is, where do you send 'em? Where
5 do you send the trucks and where are you putting
6 the trucks, what street, to get basically from the
7 Riverside up the hill to Ridge Avenue? There
8 aren't that many movements with a direct
9 connection from, if you will, Main Street north.
10 And each one of those streets -- and I can think
11 of -- is it Leverington and Sherry's Lane, they
12 also have residences and homes on 'em. They've
13 got parked cars on 'em. So you've got the same
14 situation. You may not have a steeper grade,
15 you've got a grade. Don't have the winding
16 roadway, as you do on Green Lane.

17 So it's a question of where you're
18 sending them to, or how do you direct them now up
19 to Ridge Avenue and what pops up over there.
20 Right now, we've given them a choice of which way
21 to go. We're sending them north on -- we make the
22 recommendation based on 12 percent grade that they
23 go north or south on Ridge Avenue.

24 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Could you -- if
25 you're suggesting that they go north-south, could

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567

2 you prohibit them and require them to go
3 north-south?

4 MR. TRAINOR: We could post, I believe,
5 again a green-and-white sign, which is not
6 necessarily a regulatory sign; it's a directional
7 sign and post it as a truck route.

8 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Would you do that?

9 MR. TRAINOR: If someone tells us what
10 truck route they want us to take these things
11 through, I think we can post it, based on that.

12 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Well, you're the
13 Traffic -- the Sanitation Division on Domino Lane,
14 I believe, has a process to keep their big trucks
15 out of the residential area. I mean, I'm not a
16 traffic engineer, but it's a no-brainer to send
17 them over Umbria Street and up Domino lane.

18 MR. TRAINOR: In actuality, Councilman,
19 Umbria Street, and I don't know where this came
20 from, this predates my 1973 start in Traffic
21 Engineering. I believe Umbria Street, at
22 Leverington, prohibits trucks at night. So. . .

23 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Yeah. Because the
24 trash trucks were rumbling through there at all
25 hours of the night when that incinerator was an

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990567
2 active incinerator. Now it's shut down and it's
3 signs as usual. I always wonder when I drive
4 through the city and I see sign that says "Deaf
5 Child," that they might already be dead and
6 buried. You know, they could be 70 years old, 80
7 years old by now.

8 MR. TRAINOR: On the Main Street end,
9 if Councilman Nutter wishes, we will post a truck
10 routing with green-and-white signs to use
11 Leverington Avenue.

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: We'll have a
13 discussion with the St. Lucy's Leadership Team
14 about that and on any other issues out there, but
15 I think the issue for today is what the folks came
16 down here for. And, again, I would ask for the
17 City's support on that particular report.

18 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you.

19 One other thing, Mr. Trainor. I
20 apologize for the tone of my voice. We've had
21 several shouting discussions over the four years
22 I've been here.

23 And I understand your position, I
24 understand the pecking order at the Department of
25 Streets, and you do have to answer. Regardless of

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990568

2 what the warrants are and your interpretation of
3 the PennDOT codes, you do have to answer to the
4 Commissioner. And with all due respect from you,
5 I believe in the future, when we have these
6 issues, that I'm going to ask the Commissioner to
7 come down to testify. Because, as you said, in
8 the end, it's what he says what you will do.

9 So, again, I apologize for the tone of
10 my voice, but the Commissioner will be the person
11 who will be attending these hearings when it comes
12 to issues such as this. Thank you.

13 And thank you all for coming.

14 Will the clerk please read the title of
15 the next bill.

16 THE CLERK: Bill No. 990568, an
17 ordinance authorizing the installation of all-way
18 stop signs at the intersection of 65th Street and
19 Lansdowne Avenue.

20 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Councilmember
21 Nutter?

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Mr.
23 Chairman. To the best of my knowledge, there is
24 no one to testify in person on Bill 990568, but I
25 would, again, with the Chair's approval, like to

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990568

2 put forward a package of letters that are attached
3 to the cover sheet of 990568 and ask that they be
4 entered into the record as if they were read.

5 Those letters are from Mr. Barry
6 Drossner the principal of Cassidy School; Miss
7 Armita Sims, who is the Overbrook Cluster Leader;
8 and a resident, Miss Nancy Stone, at 842 North
9 56th Street.

10 The issues at this intersection involve
11 -- Cassidy School is within one-half block of
12 this intersection. There many children crossing
13 the street, there's a large traffic volume of cars
14 and trucks, poor sight lines. It's reported that
15 there are no traffic controls on Lansdowne Avenue
16 between 66th and 63rd, and that there was a child
17 hit by a car at this intersection last year, and
18 also an accident between a school bus and a car.

19 I don't have -- the one thing I believe
20 I do not have is a letter, at least in my
21 possession, from the Streets Department. We
22 actually do have a letter from the Streets
23 Department; I just don't have it in my possession
24 at this time.

25 I don't have any particular questions

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990568

2 for Mr. Trainor. Quite honestly, we might end up
3 in the same discussion that we just had on the
4 previous bill.

5 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: I think we can
6 just get the testimony from the Streets Department
7 and move on from there. Thank you.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Yes. Thank you.

9 MR. TRAINOR: Thank you, Councilman.

10 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you. Mr.
11 Trainor.

12 MR. TRAINOR: The Department of Streets
13 offers no objection to the passage of Bill No.
14 990568 authorizing the installation of all-way
15 stop signs at the intersection of 65th Street and
16 Lansdowne Avenue in a manner consistent with
17 PennDOT regulations.

18 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you.

19 Are there any questions for the
20 witness?

21 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Not to be ever
22 accused of looking a gift horse in the mouth, but
23 what exactly does that mean when you add in the
24 provision "in accordance with. . ." -- are you
25 putting in stop signs?

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990568

2 MR. TRAINOR: Councilman, if the
3 intersection if warrants a stop sign in accordance
4 with PennDOT regulations, we will install an
5 all-way stop sign.

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. So your
7 testimony is not actually that you're going to do
8 it.

9 MR. TRAINOR: Right.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Your testimony is
11 that you're going to study it, and if it complies,
12 you will do it. If it doesn't, you won't,
13 notwithstanding the existence of Bill No. 990568,
14 or the passage of Bill No. 990568.

15 MR. TRAINOR: Yes, yes.

16 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right. That's what
17 I thought. Okay.

18 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Councilmember, I
19 think you're engaged in conversation on the prior
20 bill, which was the same testimony, and that's how
21 we got into this debate.

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Yes, absolutely.
23 Thank you.

24 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you.
25 Are there any questions for this

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990569

2 witness?

3 (No questions.)

4 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Is there anyone
5 else here who wishes to testify for or against
6 this bill?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Hearing none, the
9 clerk will read the title of the next bill.

10 THE CLERK: Bill No. 990569, an
11 ordinance authorizing the installation of all-way
12 stop signs at the following intersections on
13 Indian Queen Lane: Haywood, Krail, Wiehle, and
14 Vaux Street.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Very good. Mr.
16 Chairman?

17 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Councilmember
18 Nutter?

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

21 There are members of the community who
22 have stepped up to the witness table, and I'd
23 like, again, with your indulgence to give them the
24 opportunity to be heard.

25 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990569

2 Good morning. Please identify yourself
3 for the record.

4 MS. SHAFFER: Thank you. Good morning,
5 Mr. Chairman and members of the committee and
6 Councilpeople. My name is Marilyn Shaffer. I
7 represent the Lower Indian Queen Lane Neighbors
8 Association, which includes Indian Queen Lane,
9 Wiehle Street, Krail Street, and Haywood.

10 For three or four years now, we have
11 been trying to alleviate the traffic problem at
12 Indian Queen Lane and Wiehle. There have been
13 many accidents and countless near-accidents -- and
14 I was going to say mysteriously absent from police
15 records, or unsubstantiated by the police, but our
16 previous discussion shows that, obviously, these
17 accidents weren't a State-reportable accident.

18 However, I do have several examples of
19 accidents that I would like to tell you about that
20 have happened at this location. One of my
21 neighbors skidded on the ice several years ago and
22 didn't make the turn and smashed into my father's
23 car. He asked that the repairs not be reported to
24 the police because he didn't want it on the
25 insurance record, so that was done -- so that's

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990569

2 why that one wasn't on the police record.

3 There was a bad bicycle accident
4 wherein a bicyclist was hit while coming out of
5 Wiehle. He was in a coma. He was -- it was a
6 hit-and-run accident and he was left for dead, he
7 was left for dead. Some of the neighbors found
8 him lying in the street, called the ambulance, and
9 he was in a coma for two months. He is now all
10 right. However, it doesn't mitigate the -- that
11 accident.

12 Just on Monday night, a large moving
13 van ripped off the front side of a parked car from
14 the rear window forward. The car was parked right
15 past this curve, it's a blind curve, it's a
16 dangerous curve.

17 Finally, this year, the Traffic
18 Division came out for a public peripatetic
19 meeting, and they were besieged by angry neighbors
20 at Indian Queen and Wiehle. They finally put up a
21 "Children Crossing" sign, a "Blind Intersection"
22 sign, curve chevrons and a 25-mile-an-hour sign.

23 This intersection has the Old Academy
24 Players, where hundreds of subscribers park their
25 car and go across the street to attend the play

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990569

2 where Grace Kelly got her start. It's the only
3 pedestrian entrance to the McDivitt playground,
4 where hundreds of children from East Falls go to
5 play summer and winter.

6 The elderly live on the street, as well
7 as the elderly who attend the two churches on the
8 street on Sunday and for church meetings, are all
9 endangered.

10 I spoke to a traffic official only
11 yesterday who said that they could only post 25 or
12 35-mile-an-hour signs because I mentioned to him
13 that I thought the 25-mile-an-hour sign was still
14 too fast. And he said that they could only post
15 the 25 or 35. I informed him that there was a
16 20-mile-per-hour sign on the Mayor's street, where
17 there is a much less dangerous curve, and he
18 suggested that the police should be out there to
19 get the speeders, and then he informed me that, of
20 course, the budget cuts in the City made it
21 impossible for the police to be out there to
22 control speed.

23 And I -- and he also told me that the
24 reason that the Streets Department won't easily go
25 along with it is that when a stop sign is put up

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990569

2 that doesn't meet the PennDOT regulations, the
3 Streets Department has to pay for that Streets
4 sign. If the stop sign meets the regulations,
5 then the Streets Department only pays for 5
6 percent of the cost, with PennDOT picking up the
7 rest. Well, I informed him that I pay my taxes
8 and that I wanted some of those taxes to go to put
9 a street sign on my block.

10 So I ask you, please, a stop sign will
11 prevent further accidents, further injuries.
12 Please pass our request.

13 Thank you very much.

14 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you.

15 Good morning, good morning.

16 MS. GREENFIELD: Good morning. My name
17 is Marjorie Greenfield. I am a resident of East
18 Falls, a vice president of East Falls Community
19 Council, and I chair the Zoning and Land Use
20 Committee.

21 I appear before you today on behalf of
22 all of the residents of East Falls. It is true
23 that we've been trying to work with the Streets
24 Department. In some areas they're responsive; in
25 this area, they have not been responsive in regard

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990569

2 to the stop signs.

3 I speak on behalf of the people who use
4 and who live on Indian Queen from the top to the
5 bottom and the adjoining streets, which include
6 Haywood and Vaux, Krail and Wiehle.

7 I speak on behalf of the many, many
8 children who go to McDivitt and live in the
9 neighborhood and the elderly who live there and
10 who use the streets, the people who patronize the
11 theater there and the new restaurant on the corner
12 of Krail and Indian Queen.

13 This street is a through-street. It
14 runs all the way down to Ridge from Henry Avenue.
15 It is used in the morning as a major thoroughfare,
16 despite the fact that it is narrow, curvy, and has
17 parking on both sides of the street. It is a
18 deadly place to drive. People do not obey the
19 traffic signs. We know we're not going to get a
20 policeman out there to control traffic. And the
21 only way you're going to slow it down is to put in
22 stop signs that we've asked for.

23 We know there have been many accidents
24 there where either because people don't want to
25 wait for the police or because of other reasons,

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990569

2 they don't get into the books. That is not a
3 reason not to put the signs there.

4 This community needs those signs. We
5 need to discourage the use of that street by
6 commuters. There are other wider streets where it
7 is more appropriate to have through-traffic. We
8 need to protect the children. We shouldn't have
9 to fight for four years to get a playground sign.
10 We shouldn't have to fight to get any kind of
11 traffic control on that street.

12 It's just the disregard of the needs of
13 the community and an inflexibility which has
14 generally been demonstrated by the Streets
15 Department, except when it is convenient. And we
16 don't have any politicians who are living on that
17 street, but I don't think that's a reason not to
18 take care of this neighborhood. In other areas of
19 the neighborhood, we've gotten a little better
20 treatment, but that street is a disaster area.
21 And we don't need somebody killed there before
22 something happens.

23 Now, I would like to know from the
24 Streets Department, and I would appreciate your
25 asking whether, in fact, what Miss Shaffer was

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990569

2 told is actually true, about the payment for the
3 stop signs.

4 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: I'm sorry, I
5 didn't hear the last part.

6 MS. GREENFIELD: Well, somebody told
7 her yesterday that if you comply -- if they do
8 things within the warrants from the State, that
9 the State pays most of the cost of the sign; and
10 that if it is not within the warrant, the City
11 pays for it. And I'd like to know whether that's
12 true or not.

13 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Mr. Trainor, you
14 heard the question. I'm not familiar with that.

15 MR. TRAINOR: Councilman, I'm not sure.
16 The way it was quoted, it is not true. The cost
17 of the traffic-control devices are borne by the
18 City of Philadelphia.

19 Confusion can run into play when we
20 start talking about federal aid programs and
21 federal aid-funded projects, whether they are new
22 reconstructions or whether they are resurfacing.
23 If it's new reconstruction, which, includes
24 traffic-control device upgrading, the federal
25 government, through the State of Pennsylvania,

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990569

2 picks up 75, 80 percent of the tab, depending on
3 the particular bill. If it is a resurfacing
4 contract that we are using federal funds for
5 traffic-control devices, specifically stop signs,
6 they have to be justified before that street is
7 resurfaced using federal funds.

8 So there's some confusion. It could
9 very well be within my unit, but I will --

10 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: I can understand
11 that. Would a street that is a State highway,
12 would that impact on whose responsibility or where
13 the cost would lie?

14 MR. TRAINOR: The traffic-control
15 devices are the responsibility of the City,
16 whether it is a State highway surface street, or
17 whether it is a non-State highway surface street.

18 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Do we get
19 reimbursed if it is either one of those from the
20 State?

21 MR. TRAINOR: We do not get reimbursed
22 directly from the State for those devices. Part
23 of the Liquid Fuel Tax, State Liquid Fuel, and I
24 believe, County Liquid Fuel Tax money is budgeted
25 to the Traffic Engineering Unit.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990569

2 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Okay. I can
3 understand the confusion because I'm still a
4 little confused after that explanation. No
5 disrespect the way you explained it, but State
6 warrants and so forth, okay.

7 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Councilman, can I
8 ask a question?

9 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Councilmember
10 Rizzo?

11 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: There was a period
12 of time, I believe, in the early '90s, maybe
13 later, that numerous traffic signals were removed
14 throughout the City and replaced with stop signs,
15 either all-way or just one way, I'm not sure
16 exactly what the scenario was there. There was a
17 significant savings, both for electric energy and
18 also on maintenance, of those electrified
19 intersection traffic-control devices.

20 Have all of those -- have any of those
21 traffic signals been reinstalled because they were
22 really, truly needed?

23 MR. TRAINOR: Councilman, the
24 Intersection Conversion Program was initiated by
25 the Streets Department, number one, for a safety

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990569
2 perspective. The traffic signals that we wanted
3 to convert to either an all-way stop sign or
4 conventional stop sign did not meet the warrants
5 for signals, and our studies over the years where
6 we have converted a couple, almost a thousand, I
7 think, intersections over 14 years, showed that we
8 could expect a 50 percent reduction across the
9 board when we convert signals.

10 There are a few locations that, after
11 the conversion and after a few years of operation,
12 it was determined that we did not decrease safety
13 or increase safety, that we were having accidents
14 out there, and we did reinstall some of the
15 signals -- only a few, many only a handful.

16 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So it's not a given
17 that every traffic signal that was removed was
18 replaced with a four-way stop sign. 'Cause I know
19 one I'm thinking of right now that just turned out
20 to be a two-way stop sign after the traffic signal
21 was removed.

22 MR. TRAINOR: We converted
23 approximately 180 intersections, and I believe it
24 was done back in 1993. I believe there were a few
25 non-all-way stop locations. Where they were and

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990569

2 how many there are, I don't recollect, but there
3 were a few that went back to --

4 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: My point: all of
5 those conversions to either all-way or two-way met
6 PennDOT's warrants to go backwards. In my
7 opinion, it's gone backwards.

8 I understand what you're saying about
9 how four-way stop signs control all the traffic
10 and, hopefully, bring all cars to a stop at an
11 intersection where a traffic signal doesn't do
12 that. But every one of those locations where an
13 electrified signal was removed, it had to meet a
14 warrant for a stop sign or an all-way stop sign?
15 Or was that a given, that if it had a traffic
16 signal, that it automatically met that warrant?

17 MR. TRAINOR: It was more of a given to
18 bring it down to an all-way stop, except in
19 specific locations. And, again, I can't
20 specifically -- I don't remember the specific
21 locations that we went to conventional.

22 But in the majority of the cases, the
23 intersections that we were converting had an ADT
24 of 5,000 on the main street, and the balance of
25 traffic between the two, between the main street

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990569

2 and the cross street, were quite close together.
3 They weren't equal. The main street was still
4 higher, but it was a pretty close match from the
5 hourly perspective of volumes. And we felt that
6 from a safety perspective, going from a signal
7 down to the all-way, which we had documented
8 reduced accidents across the board -- it reduced
9 the number reduced, it the severity, all types of
10 accidents at that intersection specifically. But
11 within the database, I believe there was a 50
12 percent reduction across the board. And that's
13 when we went to the all-way.

14 There's another thing. As a part of
15 the warrants, we only refer our letters to really
16 two of the warrants for the all-way. One is the
17 volume and the other one is the accident. The
18 first actual warrant, I believe, for an all-way is
19 if a traffic signal is justified, it meets the
20 PennDOT warrants for a traffic signal, you can put
21 an all-way in as you are waiting to put the
22 traffic signal in.

23 Now, there's a -- we normally don't do
24 that because usually we're looking at that on a
25 signalized corridor, and you don't want to put an

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990569

2 all-way in the middle of a signalized corridor,
3 especially if it's a coordinator corridor.

4 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Well, a tremendous
5 amount of money was obviously realized by doing
6 this number of conversions that you've said?

7 MR. TRAINOR: It was less than a \$1,000
8 a year per intersection, sir.

9 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Including the
10 electric energy?

11 MR. TRAINOR: Yes, sir.

12 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Again, I just want
13 to end this by going back to what Councilman
14 DiCicco said.

15 What's the real deal here? Is it
16 money, is it just -- I don't want to use this
17 word, but I can't think of a better one. Is it
18 "engineering ego"? Why can't we just deal with
19 these situations because we're talking -- what
20 does it cost your department to install a four-way
21 stop sign?

22 MS. SHAFFER: Or a two-way stop sign?

23 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Or a two-way, half
24 of it?

25 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: On average? I

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990569

2 mean, if there's a four-way --

3 MR. TRAINOR: In order to install an
4 all-way stop, which basically would require us to
5 install two to four signs, assuming that the other
6 cross street already has their signs, we're
7 talking in the vicinity of \$300 to \$500 -- I don't
8 have the specific figures.

9 The problem is not cost, Councilman.
10 It is -- and I don't want to use the term
11 "engineering ego," but --

12 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Well, I couldn't
13 think of a better word.

14 MR. TRAINOR: It is engineering, sir,
15 it is engineering, that the traffic,
16 transportation, engineering industry has
17 recognized that there is a threshold for
18 installing traffic-control, intersection-control
19 devices. That if you install the device prior to
20 meeting that threshold, you've actually decreased
21 safety and decreased the efficiency of movement of
22 traffic.

23 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: But how can you -- I
24 hear where you're coming from, and I respect your
25 profession, but how can you -- if we slow the

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990569

2 traffic down a bit and we lessen the possibility
3 of an intersection accident, it's hard for me to
4 believe that we're here today.

5 I used the same words at this meeting
6 when I went up to St. Lucy's. I was embarrassed
7 to have to go and sit through that meeting,
8 hearing people asking for a four-way stop sign. I
9 just can't understand why Commissioner Moy is
10 playing hardball on this and not just installing
11 these stop signs, Charlie. I mean, it's just
12 beyond me to --

13 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Well, in future
14 meetings, Commissioner Moy will be here to answer
15 those questions directly, and you will no longer
16 be considered "Dr. No." He will be "Dr. No." You
17 will lose your title, Charlie.

18 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: And I think that's
19 only fair. You know, you work for the
20 Commissioner and you have to follow your
21 directives, and I expect you to do that. But he
22 can -- like you said earlier, he can change this
23 in a stroke of a pen.

24 I'm sorry. Thank you.

25 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you, ma'am.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990569

2 Yes?

3 MS. SHAFFER: I'd like to add a letter,
4 a fourth example of an accident. I had this woman
5 write the letter. She couldn't be here today.

6 "My name is Mimi Trin (ph.), and I'm a
7 third- year medical student at MCP Hahnemann
8 School of Medicine. I'm writing this letter to
9 talk about an accident I was involved in a few
10 months ago.

11 "I live on a street called Wiehle
12 Street, which is a small street that forms a
13 T-intersection with a larger street called Indian
14 Queen Lane.

15 "This past April, I was in a car
16 accident as I was leaving my street to turn left
17 onto Indian Queen Lane. I had come to a complete
18 stop, looked left, then right, and then proceeded
19 to turn left, when a car came speeding around the
20 bend and collided into the side of my car. The
21 front axle and door were destroyed and required
22 close to \$4,000 to repair.

23 "Having to go through the process of
24 repairing my car was incredibly frustrating and
25 stressful. However, I'm thankful that the only

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990569

2 damage done was to my vehicle and nothing else.

3 The accident could have been a lot worse. Had the
4 car been going any faster or had it not hit the
5 front part of my car, but instead gone directly to
6 the driver's door, I could have been killed.

7 "The intersection at Wiehle and Indian
8 Queen Lane is an extremely dangerous one, and
9 although you would think that people driving down
10 Indian Lane would be more careful and drive more
11 slowly because it curves at various points, this
12 is not always the case. I witness drivers
13 speeding down the street on a daily basis, even
14 with blind intersections approaching. There
15 really needs to be a more effective way of slowing
16 down traffic on Indian Queen Lane to make it safer
17 for those who drive it every day."

18 And I might say, to those two walk it
19 every day.

20 "Does it not become a problem until
21 somebody gets seriously hurt or even killed? A
22 simple stop sign on Indian Queen Lane at its
23 intersection with Wiehle Street would make a
24 tremendous difference and would not hinder the
25 traffic flow in any way, while making the streets

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990569

2 much safer to drive on.

3 "Please don't wait until it's too late
4 to save someone's life. This is a simple way to
5 prevent a serious accident before it happens.

6 "Thank you for your time. Sincerely,
7 Mimi Trin."

8 And I'd like to give you this to put in
9 the deposition.

10 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: The clerk will
11 take it. Okay, thank you.

12 MS. SHAFFER: And only one sign needs
13 to be put in there, not two or four.

14 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Okay, thank you.

15 Any questions for this witness?
16 Councilmember Rizzo?

17 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Just a quick
18 question of Charlie Trainor.

19 I know this is not why we're here, but
20 speed bumps, we talked about that a long time ago,
21 some variation of a device that will at least
22 indicate or slow vehicular traffic. We talked
23 about the legality of it, the lack of --

24 Are we allowed to do anything on our
25 city streets that can slow traffic? 'Cause I'm

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990569

2 all over the suburbs -- Montgomery County --
3 they're all over the place. The rippled asphalt
4 that really gets your attention, especially going
5 into a curve, that lets you know to let up a
6 little bit because --

7 MR. TRAINOR: Councilman, you --

8 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Go ahead, Charlie.

9 MR. TRAINOR: Councilman, you just
10 described two distinct devices. And I'll start
11 with the first one you referred to, which is speed
12 bumps, with a B.

13 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Right.

14 MR. TRAINOR: I'm going to change that
15 to speed "humps." Nobody uses speed bumps except
16 in a parking lot. The speed bump is a lower,
17 longer device.

18 We have investigated into them. They
19 do run into some problems. We have not started a
20 program for their installation. Part of the
21 problems that we run into -- and it's not
22 situational in Indian Queen Lane. We have streets
23 that have driveways, and you don't want to put a
24 speed hump on either side where the driveway is.
25 We've got streets that have parking on both

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990569
2 traffic, approximately double the thickness of
3 what is going down for a stop bar, and do you that
4 three feet on center for about three or four of
5 them, and then you do it another 200 feet down the
6 street. We are investigating that now. As I say,
7 we are looking into running a test at a specific
8 location.

9 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Well, don't you
10 think that when we have a problem at a particular
11 intersection, that the community would like to
12 have four-way stop signs or some other traffic
13 control device, that that would be an opportune
14 time to do a test? Because I think you'd get
15 community cooperation even if they were a bit
16 noisy, they'd rather hear the noise of a rumble
17 strip than a horn that's --

18 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: No, no.

19 MR. TRAINOR: Well, I'm not too sure if
20 they want to hear the noise of a rumble strip.

21 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: But what I'm getting
22 at is that there are probably some locations in
23 the city that these can be utilized, without an
24 impact on the --

25 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: If I can interject

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990569

2 for a minute. We had, in the other committee that
3 I'm not the Chair of -- I Was Vice chair at the
4 time of the Transportation Committee a little over
5 a year ago, and we did have some of these
6 discussions. And I'm under the impression that we
7 may have had a hump or something like that in
8 place.

9 But are you telling us, Charlie, that
10 we're going to be doing something? At least any
11 prediction as to when, what the time is?

12 MR. TRAINOR: That I can't answer.

13 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: All right.

14 MR. TRAINOR: I know I requested
15 specific data to be collected at a specific
16 location. I don't want to give it out yet.

17 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: All right. But
18 when you're ready to do it, if you can let the
19 Chair know, I'd appreciate it. Thank you.

20 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: That would be great.

21 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you.

23 Any other questions? Yes ma'am.

24 MS. GREENFIELD: You know, this
25 engineering that says we can't put in a speed bump

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990569

2 because it will interfere with parking, it sort of
3 sounds to me like what they tried to do with the
4 law, which is an area of which I'm a little more
5 familiar. You know, it's called "plain
6 language." And in this case, I think it's called
7 "common sense."

8 And you don't need a speed bump that
9 runs from curb to curb. It can be in the portion
10 of the road where the cars are, because the cars
11 that are parked along that street at least are
12 parked there all the time, and you don't need
13 speed bumps that go all the way to the edge of the
14 curb in order to prevent someone from going around
15 it.

16 But the bottom line here is common
17 sense and flexibility and responsiveness to
18 obvious needs, and you don't need to be a traffic
19 engineer if you go out on that street in the
20 morning during rush hour and see what happens, and
21 at night and see what happens. It's common
22 sense. There's too much traffic and it goes too
23 fast on a very narrow, curving street, with a lot
24 of kids, dense housing, dense population, and
25 commercial establishments. It just doesn't make

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990569

2 any sense -- not to mention the railroad crossing
3 and the hospital, which is up off the hill above
4 us, which produces more traffic.

5 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Could I suggest,
6 with the District Councilperson and Traffic
7 Engineering that you consider being one of their
8 test areas?

9 MS. GREENFIELD: Well, we would have to
10 talk to the neighbors.

11 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: They need to.

12 MS. GREENFIELD: 'Cause it's the kind of
13 thing neighbors want to know about. They're very
14 sensitive on this.

15 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: The committee
16 needs to work that out with the District
17 Councilman.

18 MS. GREENFIELD: We'd be happy to work
19 it out, we'd be happy to have the neighbors come
20 together and talk and find out about this.

21 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you for
22 testimony.

23 MS. GREENFIELD: Thank you.

24 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Yes, ma'am?

25 MS. SHAFFER: We've been coming

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990569

2 together to talk about it for three or four
3 years. We just want a stop sign.

4 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: I understand that.

5 MS. SHAFFER: That's true, in the
6 meantime.

7 MS. GREENFIELD: I don't want to be
8 tested on a rumble strip.

9 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: And I understand
10 that and I'm not suggesting that you opt for the
11 test as opposed to the stop signs.

12 You have a very capable District
13 Councilperson here. You understood, you heard the
14 testimony here today. We are basically put in a
15 position where people think we're not responding,
16 and it's basically because of some procedure or
17 some laws that say we can't do it. We need to get
18 past that. I think "common sense" is the
19 operative word here.

20 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Right.

21 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: We're actually
22 looking into with Senator Fumo and we have some
23 folks in Harrisburg that are looking to see if we
24 can relax what the State requirements are and let
25 cities take more or of a responsibility or have

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990569

2 the ability to do these things without having to
3 deal with State regulations, because every
4 community has different needs.

5 And in this case, we don't get that
6 many requests, and that's why I get to that
7 frustration level. There are some folks who, it
8 could be debateable whether they're reasonable or
9 unreasonable, but I think the testimony today as
10 it relates to these intersections was very
11 compelling, that police reports and other
12 documentation support the need for it. Regardless
13 of what the State warrants, provides or allows
14 for, we as a city need to have the ability to make
15 those decisions at the city level and not worry
16 about what the State level is saying. So there's
17 a number of things we're working on.

18 Councilman Nutter?

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

21 First I'd like to thank my two
22 constituents for coming down today, and they
23 represent a whole host of people in the Indian
24 Queen Lane area as well as the larger East Falls
25 community. Again, similar to the St. Lucy's

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990569

2 Leadership Team, this is a group of folks who have
3 had numerous meetings about these issues, I've
4 participated in them. There have been numerous
5 site visits out to the location, and Mr. Trainor
6 and other Streets Department personnel have come
7 on a couple of occasions, as well as the Police
8 Department and others.

9 This is a very serious situation in a
10 narrow street where it's fairly densely
11 populated. There have been some suggestions and
12 recommendations made to address some of the
13 issues, so I don't want this record to reflect
14 that there have not been some efforts made by the
15 Streets Department. I think some new signage will
16 go up in a couple of areas, but they are not stop
17 signs, it has more to be with some parking, X-in-
18 a-box issues and things like that.

19 But, again, this issue has been going
20 on for sometime. We find ourselves again in the
21 unique and unusual position of having to come to
22 this level of action. And I would implore the
23 committee to look favorably upon this piece of
24 legislation and the others in recognition of the
25 good work that the community has put forward,

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990569

2 their time and their effort in coming down here
3 today, but also the numerous meetings that have
4 taken place out in the neighborhood. And I'm just
5 pleased to have been a part of those activities,
6 and I support them wholeheartedly.

7 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you,
8 Councilman.

9 Any other questions for these
10 witnesses?

11 (No questions.)

12 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Is there anyone
13 else here who wishes to testify for or against
14 this bill?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Hearing none, the
17 clerk --

18 MR. TRAINOR: Councilman, I didn't read
19 it, but you've got a copy.

20 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Well, read it in
21 anyway. You won't be trouble with Larry.

22 MR. TRAINOR: The Department of Streets
23 offers no objection to the passage of Bill No.
24 990569 authorizing the installation of all-way
25 stop signs at the following intersections in a

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990569

2 manner consistent with PennDOT regulations:

3 Indian Queen Lane and Haywood Street, Indian Queen
4 Lane and Krail Street, Indian Queen Lane and Welsh
5 (sic) Street, Indian Queen and Wolf Street.

6 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you.

7 Yes, ma'am. Please identify yourself
8 for record again.

9 MS. SHAFFER: My name is Marilyn
10 Shaffer, I'm with the Lower Indian Queen Lane
11 Association.

12 I'm sorry, Mr. Trainor. Did you leave
13 out Wiehle Street? Or did you mispronounce it?

14 MR. TRAINOR: I mispronounced it.

15 MS. SHAFFER: Oh. It's a very weird
16 spelling. Thank you.

17 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you.

18 MS. GREENFIELD: Thank you.

19 MS. SHAFFER: Thank you very much.

20 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: The clerk will
21 read the title of the next bill.

22 THE CLERK: Bill No. 990618, an
23 ordinance authorizing the installation of all-way
24 stop signs at the following intersections on
25 Valley Avenue: Hagner Street and Wigard Avenue.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990618

2 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Mr. Trainor?

3 Councilman Nutter?

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Mr.
5 Chair.

6 For the situation of Valley Avenue at
7 Hagner and Wigard, there are no residents here to
8 testify with regard to this particular bill, but I
9 would also ask if the material's being handed out
10 attached to a cover sheet with Bill No. 990618 to
11 be entered into the record as if those materials
12 were read. They represent letters -- I'm sorry,
13 petitions, numerous petitions signed by the
14 residents of Valley Avenue.

15 It's a long-term issue. This is one of
16 those situations where there were signs, a
17 repaving took place some number of years ago, and
18 the signs were removed as a part of that process.
19 This is one of these federal highway use of funds,
20 adherence to a higher standard of regulations.
21 You only get the street done if we use these funds
22 for the repaving, and then you get what goes along
23 with it, which is, apparently, signs coming down.

24 The issues on Valley Avenue are: there
25 are many children, school bus stops, a blind curb,

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990618

2 poor sight lines, and speeding.

3 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you. Mr.
4 Trainor?

5 MR. TRAINOR: Charles Trainor, Streets
6 Department, Traffic Engineering.

7 The Department of Streets offers no
8 objection to the passage of Bill No. 990618
9 authorizing the installation of all-way stop signs
10 at Valley Avenue and Hagner Street and Valley
11 Avenue and Wigard Avenue in a manner consistent
12 with PennDOT regulations.

13 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you.
14 Councilmember Rizzo?

15 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Just a quick
16 question, Mr. Trainor. Could you connect repaving
17 and signage? I can't get it.

18 MR. TRAINOR: The funding for the
19 repaving of Valley Avenue in this case and for a
20 number of other streets in the City of
21 Philadelphia is from the federal government.
22 These streets happen to be on the Federal Aid
23 Route system. They are city streets not -- they
24 are state highways and city streets that make up
25 the federal aid system.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990618

2 The Streets Department back in, I
3 believe, 1979, through the legislation of the
4 Federal Highway Administration, we were able to
5 use federal money for resurfacing on these streets
6 as long as federal guidelines, federal
7 regulations, state regulations were followed.

8 The all-way stop locations that were on
9 those streets needed to be reviewed prior to the
10 resurfacing. They needed to be reviewed to
11 justify the installations. If we have a study, a
12 previous study from back in the '60s, late '60s,
13 early '70s, that justified them based on the
14 standards, we could keep 'em. If we could not, we
15 would have to restudy 'em and justify 'em. And in
16 this case, these two do not justify 'em.

17 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: One of the things I
18 would suggest, coming from the utility company,
19 you have an arrangement with PECO Energy where
20 you're allowed to attach certain devices to their
21 wood utility poles. It's one of the few cities in
22 the United States that allows that, and that is a
23 significant savings to the Streets Department
24 being able to attach a speed limit sign.

25 But one thing that I've noticed is that

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990618

2 there are a tremendous amount of signs missing
3 that were once in place that are support to
4 traffic control -- speed limit signs, a yellow
5 caution sign that was put up. I believe there was
6 a program many years ago for dangerous curves,
7 that a lot of those signs have been removed.

8 What do we do? Do we do an audit to go
9 back? Or do we just have to wait for somebody to
10 call a Councilperson to say that there's no speed
11 limit signs anymore because a truck knocked 'em
12 down? I just see a tremendous amount of signage
13 picked up by the Streets Department from
14 knock-downs and I rarely ever see them replaced.
15 I see people take signs down because they want a
16 park in their neighborhood and there's just a
17 vacant pole, and the sign's never replaced.

18 MR. TRAINOR: We are doing a preventive
19 maintenance sweep involving our investigators
20 where they are driving the intersections and
21 driving the streets twice a year.

22 We do not have, though, a specific
23 inventory showing where the sign is on the street
24 or any street. So their it's knowledge and their
25 experience if something is missing, other than a

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990618

2 phone call, to determine what was there.

3 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So you're telling me
4 that if I came over and I wanted to see what was
5 in the 8900 block of Germantown Avenue, you
6 couldn't show me a print that showed every piece
7 of signage that was installed there? You couldn't
8 see four speed limit signs, no parking here to the
9 corner? In other words, we're not to the point
10 where we actually have an inventory on a piece of
11 paper that you could roll out on that table and
12 show us every sign?

13 MR. TRAINOR: No, Councilman.

14 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Wow.

15 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Maybe we can do
16 this on another date.

17 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Yeah. Thank you.

18 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Any other
19 questions for this witness?

20 (No questions.)

21 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Is there any other
22 anyone else here who wishes to testify for or
23 against the bill?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Hearing none, the

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990619

2 clerk will read the title of the next bill.

3 THE CLERK: Bill No. 990619, an
4 ordinance authorizing the installation of all-way
5 stop signs at the following intersections on
6 Houghton Street: Roxborough Avenue and Walnut
7 Lane.

8 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Councilman
9 Nutter?

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: (Inaudible, off
11 mike). . . Mr. Morris is here. He's been a --
12 well, he's lived in the area for a little while,
13 and maybe he'll share with you how long he's been
14 there.

15 The issues at this location are traffic
16 volume, poor sight lines, speeding, and the fact
17 that there were stop signs at this location which,
18 we believe, were taken down as a part of a
19 repaving project. So. . .

20 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Proceed, sir.
21 Would you please state your name for the record.

22 MR. MORRIS: My name is Jim Morris, and
23 I live right on the corner of Roxborough Avenue
24 and Houghton Street. I've lived there, this
25 January the 4th coming up, 50 years. I'm 73 years

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990619

2 old. I was a professional chauffeur and bodyguard
3 for three presidents of a major company, and I
4 drove Mr. Rizzo's father.

5 I have complained about this
6 intersection being a speed, a drag strip, from
7 Henry Avenue to Ridge Avenue. There are people
8 passing at that intersection, my guess at those
9 speeds going by, were at least 60 miles an hour.
10 Buses stop on that corner to pick up kids, to take
11 'em to private schools and to City schools.
12 Right on the corner.

13 Old folks go across, not top end of the
14 teenage groups like me, but older folks go across
15 these streets.

16 (Laughter.)

17 MR. MORRIS: And I worry about 'em. I
18 sit there, I sit in my garage. I have what I call
19 a playpen, a two-and-a-half-car garage that I have
20 right on my property, and I see these cars. I sit
21 there and watch 'em, and I'm just waiting. We've
22 had plenty of accidents.

23 Mr. Nutter has been a big help. He has
24 a secretary by the name of Arlene in our area. We
25 complained, I complained, and we started this

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990619

2 about a year and a half ago. She wrote a lovely
3 letter to whomever it was supposed to go. That
4 answer that came back was so ridiculous, I told my
5 wife it's a lost cause, it's lost. They're not
6 even going to listen to me, why should they listen
7 to me? They don't listen to anybody else.

8 Then three or five days ago, I got a
9 call from Arlene and she said Mr. Nutter is
10 addressing this and he's hitting 'em with it.
11 Would you go down with 'em? I said I sure will,
12 and here I am.

13 I have told you what I saw, that people
14 coming from north to south on Houghton Street
15 cannot see out on Roxborough Avenue. And Arlene
16 is one of those people. She lives down on one of
17 those streets, and she comes out and she's
18 concerned.

19 There's a bus stop sign on Roxborough
20 Avenue going west and that's-- you can't even tell
21 what it is. And they can't even pull in there
22 because there's cars parked from there to the
23 corner. Then when you come out, going southbound,
24 you can't see down there. Here comes a guy 50, 60
25 miles an hour. You come out and you hit the

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990619

2 brakes and you're hit. And it's happened many
3 times where they ended up into my
4 (unintelligible). Excuse me.

5 They went into this lady's property,
6 through the two other ones and tore up and ended
7 up in the mud. And this is why we would like to
8 have an all-way, which is a three-way stop sign
9 put there, if possible.

10 Can I read her letter?

11 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Yes, you can.

12 MR. MORRIS: "To who it may concern:

13 This letter is in reference to the urgent need for
14 stop signs for the corner of Roxborough Avenue and
15 Houghton Street.

16 "I moved into the neighborhood in
17 1991. There have been numerous accidents and
18 near-fatal misses. At least a hundred times a
19 day, you hear screeching of tires and horns
20 blaring. Cars are traveling up and down
21 Roxborough Avenue, driving entirely too fast.
22 They never abide by the speed limit. Cars and
23 people who are trying to cross over Roxborough
24 Avenue on Houghton Street take their lives into
25 their own hands each time. There are too many

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990619

2 near-misses.

3 "It is difficult for school children
4 to cross each morning and afternoon. The elderly
5 people in the neighborhood cannot cross because of
6 the cars speeding along. Sooner or later, there's
7 going to be a fatal accident.

8 "Two years ago, in the morning, a truck
9 tried to cross over Roxborough Avenue, when it
10 swerved and almost hit a UPS truck. It jumped the
11 curb, hit a fence, knocked down, crossed my lawn
12 and went through two more before it stuck in the
13 mud.

14 "Normally, there are at least three to
15 five children playing in the front of our homes.
16 My daughter is one of them. Thank goodness she
17 was sitting in my living room, eating breakfast.
18 If it had been a half an hour later, there could
19 have been a tragedy.

20 "There is a definite need for stop
21 signs on the corners. We also need a 'Do Not
22 Enter' sign on the corner of Houghton Rector
23 Street. People drive down Rector Street past the
24 hospital and make a left turn onto Houghton
25 Street, which is a one-way, going the wrong way.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990619

2 Going the wrong way up Houghton Street, adding to
3 the problem on Roxborough Avenue and Houghton
4 Street. The cars come flying past our houses,
5 going way too fast in the wrong direction.

6 "Thank you for your cooperation in
7 this matter. If you need additional information
8 concerning this urgent matter, please contact me
9 at 215-482-3628. I do have pictures documenting
10 the truck accident if you need them.

11 "Sincerely, Denise Christianson."

12 And then on this sheet here, my wife
13 and Mrs. Christianson got a whole bunch of people
14 to sign this. A lot of them are working, a lot of
15 them are teaching school and doing other jobs that
16 couldn't come down here with me today. I've tried
17 for a week to get some, but I've got names,
18 addresses, phone numbers.

19 Thank you.

20 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: We understand
21 that, sir, and we thank you for your testimony and
22 thank you for your patience in being here today.
23 And I believe that in the end, Councilman Nutter
24 will come through, and you will have the stop
25 signs that you're looking forward to having

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - 990619

2 installed in that location.

3 Are any other questions for this
4 witness?

5 Councilmember Nutter.

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Mr.
7 Chairman.

8 This is not a question again, but I
9 again just want to thank Mr. Morris for coming
10 down today. We greatly appreciate your taking the
11 time to share with us your experience at that
12 corner. We appreciate your 50 years at the
13 location and we wish you many more. Thank you
14 very much. Thanks for coming.

15 MR. MORRIS: Thank you.

16 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you, sir.

17 Mr. Trainor?

18 MR. TRAINOR: The Department of Streets
19 offers no objection to the passage of Bill No.
20 990619 authorizing the installation of all-way
21 stop signs at Houghton Street and Roxborough
22 Avenue and at Houghton Street and Walnut Lane and
23 in a manner that's consistent with PennDOT
24 regulations.

25 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - Pub. Meeting

2 Any questions?

3 (No questions.)

4 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: This concludes the
5 public hearing on the Committee of Street and
6 Services. We'll take a two-minute recess. We're
7 waiting for a quorum so we can vote the bills out
8 of committee. Thank you.

9 (Short break taken.)

10 - - -

11 (Proceedings resume.)

12 - - -

13 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: We will now move
14 into our public meeting.

15 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
16 Cohen for a motion on Bill No. 990162.

17 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. Chairman, I move
18 that Bill No. 990162 be reported out of committee
19 with a favorable recommendation and with a request
20 for a suspension of the rules.

21 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: It's been properly
22 moved and seconded that Bill No. 990162 be
23 reported out of this committees with a favorable
24 recommendation and that the rules of Council be
25 suspended.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - Pub. Meeting

2 All those in favor will signify by
3 saying aye.

4 Then any?

5 The ayes have it, and the bill is
6 approved.

7 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
8 Cohen for a motion on Bill No. 990163.

9 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. Chairman, I move
10 that Bill No. 990163 be reported out of committee
11 with a favorable recommendation and with a request
12 for the suspension of rules to permit first
13 reading.

14 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: It's been properly
15 moved and seconded that Bill No. 990163 be
16 reported out of committee with a favorable
17 recommendation and that the rules of Council be
18 suspended.

19 All those in favor of the motion will
20 signify by saying aye.

21 Those opposed?

22 The bill is approved.

23 The Chair recognizes Councilman Cohen
24 for a motion on Bill No. 990164.

25 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. Chairman, I move

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - Pub. Meeting
2 that Bill No. 990164 be reported out of committee
3 with a favorable recommendation and with a request
4 for a suspension of rules for first reading.

5 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: It's been properly
6 moved and seconded that Bill No. 990184 be
7 reported out of -- I jumped of myself, I'm sorry.

8 It's been properly moved and seconded
9 that Bill No. 990164 be reported out of committee
10 with a favorable recommendation and that the rules
11 of Council be suspended.

12 All those in favor will signify by
13 saying aye.

14 The bill is approved.

15 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
16 Cohen for a motion on Bill No. 990184.

17 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. Chairman, I move
18 that Bill No. 990184 be reported out of committee
19 with a favorable recommendation and with a request
20 for a suspension of the rules to permit first
21 reading.

22 (Duly seconded.)

23 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: It's been properly
24 moved and seconded that Bill No. 990184 be
25 reported out of committee with a favorable

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - Pub. Meeting
2 recommendation and that the rules of Council be
3 suspended.

4 All those in favor will signify by
5 saying aye.

6 Those opposed?

7 The ayes have it, and the bill is
8 approved.

9 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
10 Cohen for a motion on Bill No. 990335.

11 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. Chairman, I move
12 that Bill No. 990335 be reported out of committee
13 with a favorable recommendation and with a request
14 for a suspension of the rules to permit first
15 reading at the next session of Council.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: It's been properly
18 moved and seconded that Bill No. 990335 be
19 reported out of committee with a favorable
20 recommendation and that the rules be suspended.

21 All those in favor, signify by saying
22 aye?

23 Those opposed?

24 The ayes have it, and the bill is
25 approved.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - Pub. Meeting

2 The Chair recognizes Councilman Cohen
3 for a motion on Bill No. 990336.

4 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. Chairman, I move
5 that Bill No. 990336 be reported out with a
6 favorable recommendation and with a request for
7 suspension of the rules to permit first reading at
8 the next Council session.

9 (Duly seconded.)

10 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: It's been properly
11 moved and seconded that Bill No. 990336 be
12 reported out of committee with a favorable
13 recommendation and that the rules of Council be
14 suspended.

15 All those in favor of the bill, signify
16 by saying aye?

17 Those opposed?

18 The bill is approved.

19 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
20 Cohen for a motion on Bill No. 990426.

21 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. Chairman, I move
22 that Bill No. 990426 be reported out with a
23 favorable recommendation and with a request for
24 suspension of rules to permit first reading at the
25 next Council session.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - Pub. Meeting

2 (Duly seconded.)

3 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: It's been properly
4 moved and seconded that Bill No. 990426 be
5 reported out of committee with a favorable
6 recommendation and that the rules of Council be
7 suspended.

8 All those in favor of the bill will
9 signify aye?

10 Those opposed?

11 The bill is approved.

12 Bill No. 990452 has been withdrawn at
13 the request of the sponsor.

14 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
15 Cohen for a motion on Bill No. 990534.

16 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. Chairman, I move
17 that Bill No. 990534 be reported out with a
18 favorable recommendation and with a request for
19 suspension of the rules to permit first reading at
20 the next Council meeting.

21 (Duly seconded.)

22 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: It has been
23 properly moved and seconded that Bill No. 990534
24 be reported out of committee with a favorable
25 recommendation and that the rules of Council be

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - Pub. Meeting
2 suspended.

3 All those in favor will signify by
4 saying aye?

5 Those opposed?

6 The bill is approved.

7 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
8 Cohen for a motion on Bill No. 9905345.

9 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. Chairman, I move
10 that Bill No. 990535 be reported out with a
11 favorable recommendation and with a request for
12 suspension of the rules to permit first reading at
13 the next Council session.

14 (Duly seconded.)

15 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: It has been
16 properly moved and seconded that Bill No. 990535
17 be reported out of committee with a favorable
18 recommendation and that the rules of Council be
19 suspended.

20 All those in favor will signify by
21 saying aye?

22 Those opposed?

23 The bill is approved.

24 The Chair recognizes Councilman Cohen
25 for a motion on Bill No. 990536.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - Pub. Meeting

2 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. Chairman, I move
3 that Bill No. 990536 be reported out of committee
4 with a favorable recommendation and with a request
5 for suspension of rules to permit first reading at
6 next Council session.

7 (Duly seconded.)

8 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: It's been properly
9 moved and seconded that Bill No. 990536 be
10 reported out of committee with a favorable
11 recommendation and that the rules of Council be
12 suspended.

13 All those in favor, signify by saying
14 aye?

15 Those opposed?

16 The bill is approved.

17 The Chair recognizes Councilman Cohen
18 for a motion on Bill No. 990561.

19 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. Chairman, I move
20 that Bill No. 990561 be reported out with a
21 favorable recommendation and with a request for
22 suspension of the rules to permit first reading at
23 the next session of Council.

24 (Duly seconded.)

25 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: It's been properly

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - Pub. Meeting

2 moved and seconded that Bill No. 990561 be
3 reported out of committee with a favorable
4 recommendation and that the rules of Council be
5 suspended.

6 All those in favor, signify by saying
7 aye?

8 Those opposed?

9 The bill is approved.

10 The Chair recognizes Councilman Cohen
11 for a motion on Bill No. 990572.

12 I'm sorry. The Chair recognizes
13 Councilmember Cohen for a motion Bill No. 990567.

14 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. Chairman, I move
15 that Bill No. 990567 be reported out with a
16 favorable recommendation and with a request for a
17 suspension of the rules to permit first reading at
18 the next Council session.

19 (Duly seconded.)

20 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: It has been
21 properly moved and seconded that Bill No. 990567
22 be reported out of committee with a favorable
23 recommendation and that the of Council be rules
24 suspended.

25 All those in favor will signify by

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - Pub. Meeting

2 saying aye?

3 Those opposed?

4 The bill is approved.

5 The Chair recognizes Councilmember

6 Cohen for a motion on Bill No. 990568.

7 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. Chairman, I move
8 that Bill No. 990568 be reported out of committee
9 with a favorable recommendation and with a request
10 for a suspension of the rules to permit first
11 reading at our next Council session.

12 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: It has been
13 properly moved and seconded that Bill No. 990568
14 be reported out of committee with a favorable
15 recommendation and that the rules of Council be
16 suspended.

17 All those in favor will signify by
18 saying aye? Those opposed?

19 The bill is approved.

20 The Chair recognizes Councilman Cohen
21 for a motion on Bill No. 990569.

22 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. Chairman, I move
23 that Bill No. 990569 be reported out of committee
24 with a favorable recommendation and with a request
25 for suspension of rules to permit first reading at

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - Pub. Meeting

2 the next Council session.

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: It's been properly
5 moved and seconded that Bill No. 990569 be
6 reported out of committee with a favorable
7 recommendation and that the rules of Council be
8 suspended.

9 All those in favor, signify by saying
10 aye?

11 Those opposed?

12 The bill is approved.

13 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
14 Cohen for a motion on Bill No. 990571.

15 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. Chairman, I move
16 that Bill No. 990571 be reported out of committee
17 with a favorable recommendation and with a request
18 for suspension of rules to permit first reading at
19 the next Council session.

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: It's been properly
22 moved and seconded that Bill No. 990571 be
23 reported out of committee with a favorable
24 recommendation and that the rules of Council be
25 suspended.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - Pub. Meeting

2 All those in favor will signify by
3 saying aye?

4 Those opposed?

5 The bill is approved.

6 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
7 Clarke for a motion on Bill No. 990572.

8 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Mr.
9 Chairman. I make a motion that Bill No. 990572 be
10 held.

11 (Duly seconded.)

12 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: It's been properly
13 moved and seconded that Bill No. 990572 be held at
14 the request of the sponsor. The bill will be
15 held.

16 The Chair recognizes Councilman Cohen
17 for motion on Bill No. 990606.

18 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. Chairman, I move
19 that Bill No. 990606 be reported out of committee
20 with a favorable recommendation and with a request
21 for a suspension of the rules to permit first
22 reading at the next Council session.

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: It's been properly
25 moved and seconded that Bill No. 990606 be

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - Pub. Meeting
2 reported out of committee with a favorable
3 recommendation and that the rules of Council be
4 suspended.

5 All those in favor will signify by
6 saying aye?

7 Those opposed?

8 The bill is approved.

9 The Chair recognizes Councilman Cohen
10 for a motion on Bill No. 990618.

11 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. Chairman, I move
12 that Bill No. 990618 be reported out of committee
13 with a favorable recommendation and with a request
14 for a suspension of the rules to permit first
15 reading at the next Council session.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: It's been properly
18 moved and seconded that Bill No. 990618 be
19 reported out of committee with a favorable
20 recommendation and that the rules of Council be
21 suspended.

22 All those in favor, signify by saying
23 aye.

24 Those opposed?

25 The bill is approve.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - Pub. Meeting

2 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
3 Cohen for a motion on Bill No. 990619.

4 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. Chairman, I move
5 that Bill No. 990619 be reported out of committee
6 with a favorable and with a request for a
7 suspension of the rules to permit first reading at
8 our next Council session.

9 (Duly seconded.)

10 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: It has been
11 properly moved and seconded that Bill No. 990619
12 be reported out of committee with a favorable
13 recommendation and that the rules of Council be
14 suspended.

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

17 Those opposed?

18 The bill is approved.

19 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
20 Cohen for a motion on Bill No. 990620.

21 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. Chairman, I move
22 that Bill No. 990620 be reported out of committee
23 with a favorable recommendation and with a request
24 for a suspension of the rules to permit first
25 reading at our next Council session.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - Pub. Meeting

2 (Duly seconded.)

3 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: It has been
4 properly moved and seconded that Bill No. 990620
5 be reported out of committee with a favorable
6 recommendation and that the rules of Council be
7 suspended.

8 All those in favor will signify by
9 saying aye.

10 Those opposed?

11 The bill passes.

12 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
13 Cohen for a motion on Bill No. 990621.

14 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. Chairman, I move
15 that Bill No. 990621 be reported out of committee
16 with a favorable recommendation and with a request
17 for a suspension of the rules to permit first
18 reading at our next City Council session.

19 (Duly seconded.)

20 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: It has been
21 properly moved and seconded that Bill No. 990621
22 be reported out of committee with a favorable
23 recommendation and that the rules of Council be
24 suspended.

25 All those in favor will signify by

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - Pub. Meeting

2 saying aye.

3 Those opposed?

4 The bill is approved.

5 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
6 Cohen for a motion on the last and final bill,
7 Bill No. 990622.

8 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. Chairman, I move
9 that Bill No. 990622 be reported out of committee
10 with a favorable recommendation and with a request
11 for a suspension of the rules to permit first
12 reading at the next session of Council.

13 (Duly seconded.)

14 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: It has been
15 properly moved and seconded that Bill No. 990622
16 be reported out of committee with a favorable
17 recommendation and that the rules of Council be
18 suspended.

19 All those in favor will signify by
20 saying aye.

21 Those opposed?

22 The bill is approved.

23 Thank you all for being here. This
24 concludes the public meeting of the Committee on
25 Streets and Services. Thank you.

1 10/28/99 STREETS & SVCS. - Pub. Meeting

2 (Adjourned at 1:00 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing
proceedings of the Council of the City of
Philadelphia of Thursday, October 28, 1999, were
reported fully and accurately by me, and that this
is a correct transcript of same.

RE: COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON STREETS AND SERVICES

BILL NO.'S 990162, 990163, 990164, 990184,
990335, 990426, 990452, 990534, 990535,
990536, 990561, 990567, 990568, 990569,
990571, 990572, 990608. 990618, 990619,
990620, 990621, 990622

_____,
JOSEPHINE CARDILLO,
Registered Professional Reporter