

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON PARKS, RECREATION
AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, May 29, 2013
11:15 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS, CHAIR
COUNCILMAN BOBBY HENON
COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILMAN DAVID OH
COUNCILWOMAN MARIA D. QUINONES-SANCHEZ
COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN
COUNCILMAN JAMES KENNEY

BILL 130015 - An ordinance renaming and designating Conshohocken Windemere Park, located at 3910 Conshohocken Avenue, as Woodside Park.

BILL 130359 - An ordinance amending Title 15 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Parks and Recreation," Chapter 15-500, entitled "Libraries," by requiring the imposition of fines by the Free Library of Philadelphia for the loss or late return of borrowed materials for all patrons including adults and children...

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COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good morning. Good morning. This hearing is called to order. This is a public hearing of the City Council Committee on Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. The purpose of this public hearing is to hear testimony on Bills No. 130015 and 130359.

I want to recognize the presence of a quorum of Committee members, and members in attendance today are Councilman Curtis Jones, Councilman David Oh, and Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown.

And I just want to ask before we start, does anyone have any opening remarks? Councilman Jones, Oh?

COUNCILMAN JONES: No, Madam Chair.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: No opening remarks? Thank you very much.

So we're going to ask the Clerk to now read the title of Bill No. 130015.

THE CLERK: Bill No. 130015, an

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 ordinance renaming and designating
3 Conshohocken Windemere Park, located at
4 3910 Conshohocken Avenue, as Woodside
5 Park.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And we're
7 going to ask our first panel to come
8 forward to testify, and that will be
9 Commissioner Susan Slawson, First Deputy
10 Commissioner for Programs with the
11 Department of Parks and Recreation, and
12 also we're going to ask Ms. Gail Young,
13 President of the Wynnefield Heights Civic
14 Association to also join her.

15 (Witnesses approached witness
16 table.)

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good
18 morning.

19 (Good morning.)

20 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Please
21 state your name for the record and
22 proceed with your testimony,
23 Commissioner.

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SLAWSON:
25 Good morning. Susan Slawson, First

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.

2 Deputy Commissioner of Parks and
3 Recreation.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Please
5 begin your testimony.

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SLAWSON:
7 Good morning, Councilwoman Bass and
8 members of the Committee. My name is
9 Susan Slawson, First Deputy Commissioner
10 of Programs with the Philadelphia
11 Department of Parks and Recreation. It
12 is a pleasure to be here with you today.

13 I appear before you to present
14 testimony in support of Bill No. 130015,
15 renaming and designating Conshohocken
16 Windemere Park, located at 3910
17 Conshohocken Avenue, as Woodside Park.

18 The present day location of
19 Conshohocken Windemere Park is at 3910
20 Conshohocken Avenue, situated between
21 West Country Club Drive to the east and
22 the ground of AM radio station WHAT
23 located at 3930 through 3940 Conshohocken
24 Avenue to the west. The current name is
25 solely based on its location at the

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 intersection of Conshohocken Avenue and
3 the former, now stricken, Windemere
4 Avenue, which formed the western boundary
5 of the parcel at one time, but now
6 appears to be the driveway for the radio
7 station. The park is partially located
8 on the former grounds of the Philadelphia
9 Country Club founded in 1890.

10 And so we stand here today
11 representing Parks and Recreation
12 supporting the change of name.

13 Thank you for this opportunity
14 to discuss this important issue with you
15 today, and I look forward to any
16 questions you may have.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you
18 very much.

19 We're going to hold the
20 questions until after your testimony, if
21 you want to state your name for the
22 record and begin.

23 MS. YOUNG: Yes. Good morning.
24 My name is Gail Young and I am the
25 President of the Wynnefield Heights Civic

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.

2 Association, which is actually located
3 where the park is. And I'd like to say
4 good morning, honorable members of the
5 Philadelphia City Council. Today I'm
6 here to talk to you about the
7 Conshohocken Windemere Park. We've
8 worked tirelessly for the last 10 to 12
9 years renovating and updating and
10 revitalizing this park. We started with
11 Mayor Michael Nutter when he was our
12 Councilman, which was quite some time
13 ago, and he was the first one to come in
14 and to actually help us to renovate and
15 update one of our play areas.

16 Since then, we have moved on.
17 We have a whole plan. It's called the
18 Conshohocken Windemere Revitalization
19 Plan, but I guess we'll be hopefully
20 changing that name to Woodside Park
21 Revitalization Plan. And we've added
22 quite a few additions to the park. We're
23 in the fourth phase of eight different
24 phases, and we come to you today to ask
25 you to approve us changing the name of

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 the park from Conshohocken Windemere Park
3 to Woodside Park. We chose the name
4 Woodside Park for its historical value.
5 Many years ago, there was an amusement
6 park in that area that was open from 1897
7 to 1955, and it was called Woodside Park.
8 Probably no one in this room has attended
9 Woodside Park, but I know many of our
10 parents and our grandparents had lots of
11 fun at Woodside Park. And now that we've
12 revitalized the park -- and I'm sorry.
13 I'm off script from my testimony.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: That's
15 okay.

16 MS. YOUNG: -- (continued) we
17 would like to change the name of it. We
18 would welcome everyone in City Council
19 and across the City to come out and to
20 join us at Woodside Park.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Very good.
22 Thank you.

23 MS. YOUNG: Thank you.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Are there
25 any questions for this panel or comments?

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.

2 The Chair recognizes Councilman
3 Curtis Jones.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
5 Madam Chair. I just want to say that
6 great parks happen only because of great
7 coalitions and community groups that
8 support it. Whether it's a cleanup,
9 whether it's a security issue, whether
10 it's a fallen tree, whether it's a
11 request for additional funding over and
12 over and over and over again that comes
13 from them, it is what makes the park
14 work. And one of the things that I
15 observed there was a melting pot of
16 different cultures, different age groups,
17 different demographics that all come
18 there and have that park in common,
19 whether they're on the walking track or
20 whether they're playing basketball. And
21 so it is a welcoming park, and I want to
22 thank the Commissioner and the community
23 group for being so vigilant and working
24 to continue to make that a great park,
25 and I support this particular ordinance.

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.

2 Thank you.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
4 Councilman.

5 Anyone else want to make any
6 comments?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: All right.
9 Is there anyone else here to testify in
10 support of this bill -- or testify on
11 this bill?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Seeing that
14 there's no one, thank you very much for
15 your testimony, ladies.

16 MS. YOUNG: Thank you very
17 much.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: That
19 concludes testimony on Bill No. 130015.

20 And can we have the Clerk now
21 read the title of Bill No. 130359.

22 THE CLERK: Bill No. 130359, an
23 ordinance amending Title 15 of The
24 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Parks and
25 Recreation," Chapter 15-500, entitled

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 "Libraries," by requiring the imposition
3 of fines by the Free Library of
4 Philadelphia for the loss or late return
5 of borrowed materials for all patrons
6 including adults and children, and the
7 Free Library of Philadelphia to spend the
8 net revenues from such fines collected by
9 children for the benefit enhancing
10 technology and youth specific
11 programming.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I want to
13 note that Councilman Oh will be offering
14 an amendment to this bill. The amendment
15 has been circulated to members of the
16 Committee. Copies of the amendment can
17 be found on the table to my left. And
18 I'm going to call up the first panel now
19 to testify, and that will be Mr. Robert
20 C. Heim, Chair, Board of Trustees for the
21 Free Library of Philadelphia, and also
22 Dr. Joseph McPeak, Associate Director of
23 the Free Library.

24 (Witnesses approached witness
25 table.)

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.

2 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And before
3 you begin your testimony -- feel free to
4 have a seat -- Councilman Oh would like
5 to make an opening statement.

6 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very
7 much, Madam Chair.

8 Gentlemen and ladies, welcome
9 to the hearing. I appreciate your
10 attendance, and I want to clarify the
11 issue that we will be addressing today.

12 The bill that I have proposed
13 states that reasonable fines, as
14 determined by the Library, will be
15 collected for late materials, that they
16 will include adult and children, and that
17 the money collected will be used for
18 improvement of technology in branch
19 libraries and for the enhancement of
20 children programs in branch libraries.

21 As I understand it now and look
22 forward to your testimony, last year
23 \$400,000 in late fees were collected,
24 70,000 being attributed to children's
25 materials. Three years prior, about

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 \$700,000 were collected in late fees, and
3 I am going to guess about \$100,000 to
4 \$120,000 would have been attributed to
5 children's materials. You can correct me
6 if I'm wrong. You'll have time for that.
7 That is a yearly amount of money that is
8 attributed to late materials.

9 Currently, materials are lent
10 to anyone who is a member of the Free
11 Library, child or adult, and they can
12 borrow this material for three weeks.
13 They are able to renew the borrowing of
14 this material, but if they are late, they
15 are charged 5 cents per day for up to 40
16 days, and they can take out material up
17 to -- well, a maximum fine, I'm sorry, of
18 \$2 per book or material, other than I
19 believe DVDs, which is a dollar, but in
20 any case, a maximum of \$20 -- a maximum
21 of \$2 for any material, and then it
22 depends on how much material they've
23 taken out.

24 The modest fees are relative, I
25 understand. That means if someone is

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 poor and they cannot afford, if they've
3 lost the material, if they've lost the
4 book, if they had the book for two years
5 and they want to return it, I understand
6 it is up to the Library to waive any fees
7 based on the inability of the person or
8 family to pay. That already exists, and
9 it certainly would exist in this bill.

10 The issue that I am looking for
11 primarily is this, because I do
12 understand about poverty and a desire --
13 which I applaud your efforts to try to
14 bring more kids, particularly those who
15 are poor, back to the library, but it
16 seems to me that the people who are
17 paying this \$70,000, for example, are
18 people like myself, who understand that
19 when my daughter takes out material and
20 it's late, that we're going to pay a
21 fine. It's not a very big fine. We
22 don't complain about it. We're happy to
23 pay it. We pay it, and that amounts to
24 70,000 per year, 70,000 to 100,000 per
25 year. Why would the Library not collect

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 this money from people who are not
3 complaining about it when we on Council
4 are challenged to replace the funding of
5 the Library ultimately \$7.3 million in
6 annual funding or some number thereof
7 with the choice of either raising more
8 taxes, which includes taxes upon people
9 who are poor and unemployed, or taking
10 money from existing programs, of which
11 there just isn't enough money to go
12 around.

13 The link that I look for is, I
14 could understand if you said we will not
15 collect fees from poor families or poor
16 kids, poor adults, poor children, but if
17 you blanketly do not take the late fees
18 from anyone who is a child borrower who
19 can afford to pay, explain to me how that
20 encourages kids who are poor to go to the
21 library.

22 I will make the secondary point
23 that the last time I used the library in
24 any consistent basis was in law school.
25 This is before computers. You know,

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.

2 Mr. Heim will appreciate this. There may
3 be one volume for 60 people, and we have
4 material that we have to read and return.
5 In fact, those materials you usually
6 can't take out of the library. But the
7 privilege of having access to material,
8 respecting that material, some of it not
9 easily replaced because it's old, taking
10 it out and returning it is a habit we all
11 learned at the Free Library, to take out
12 material, to be conscious of it, to
13 return it so that others may use it.

14 The secondary point that I make
15 is that the important lesson that the
16 Library has provided so many people is to
17 value resources, to go to a place where
18 you could find reference material. In my
19 day, you could use a wet copier, which
20 you could not get a copy anywhere else,
21 and there was a person who knew how to
22 provide guidance in finding material,
23 usually not find it for you but just say
24 start here, look at this. Today with
25 Google, kids can simply go on Google,

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 punch up a few words. They don't think
3 they need a reference person. I don't
4 know if they think they need a library
5 with what's available either at home or
6 at a friend's home.

7 The Library, it seems to me,
8 could use more money, not only additional
9 funds from our city to upgrade its
10 technology and its programs, but also
11 even this amount of money to bring into
12 neighborhoods things that you won't find
13 unfortunately in their schools or
14 anywhere else, and I have mentioned, for
15 example, 3D printers that print
16 three-dimensional objects that can cost
17 as low as \$5,000, a standard model at
18 NextFab \$20,000. And so if you forego
19 this amount of money on a yearly basis
20 and do not use the money to enhance the
21 technology, to attract children to a
22 place where they see technology they
23 could never find in their school or their
24 neighborhoods, how will this better serve
25 bringing kids to the library?

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.

2 Thank you.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
4 Councilman.

5 Before we proceed, I do want to
6 acknowledge the presence of Councilman
7 Bobby Henon on the Committee who has
8 joined us. Thank you, Councilman.

9 And if you want to begin your
10 testimony, that will be great. If you
11 want to start with your name and then
12 proceed.

13 MR. HEIM: Yes. I am Robert
14 Heim. Councilwoman Bass and members of
15 the Committee on Parks, Recreation and
16 Cultural Affairs, I am Chair of the Board
17 of Trustees and speaking on behalf of the
18 Trustees of the Free Library of
19 Philadelphia. Joining me is Dr. Joseph
20 McPeak, Associate Director of the Free
21 Library, and we're pleased to appear
22 before you this morning to discuss
23 Council Bill No. 130359 requiring the
24 imposition and collection of overdue
25 fines on children 11 years of age and

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 under. We have serious concerns about
3 the efficacy, impact, and both short- and
4 long-term implications of this bill, and
5 we strongly encourage the Committee to
6 reject it.

7 Before going further, I want to
8 commend Councilman David Oh for being
9 concerned about teaching children to be
10 responsible about how they handle their
11 affairs. Responsibility is an important
12 lesson for children, and children need to
13 learn these lessons, and this decision by
14 the Library and by the Board of Trustees
15 with regard to children's fines has taken
16 that into consideration. We thought
17 about it and we considered it. But like
18 so many other issues respecting children,
19 especially poor children, children at
20 risk, children in disadvantaged
21 circumstances, there has to be a balance
22 when considering how best to approach the
23 child and issues concerning the child.
24 The Library's policy strives to strike
25 that balance.

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2 It has been the experience of
3 our neighborhood librarians -- and, by
4 the way, the Trustees don't adopt these
5 policies just off the top of our head.
6 We talk to the neighborhood librarians
7 and we talk to the children's librarians
8 in the neighborhood libraries, and those
9 neighborhood libraries are of great
10 concern to the Trustees. We worry about
11 them all the time.

12 So we talked to the children's
13 librarians. We got input from the
14 librarians, who are the front line forces
15 in our neighborhoods, and what we learned
16 is that young children between the ages
17 of 8 and 11 especially are saddled with
18 many responsibilities in the
19 circumstances in which they live. Some
20 struggle for a place to do their
21 homework, and they find refuge in the
22 neighborhood library. Some have the
23 responsibility for caring for themselves
24 entirely -- these are 8- to 11-year-old
25 kids -- after school, and some of these

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.

2 8- to 11-year-old kids actually care for
3 their younger siblings while a single
4 parent works. Unfortunately -- and I
5 know you know this better than any of
6 us -- poverty abounds still in many of
7 our neighborhoods despite the best
8 efforts of this Council and this
9 Administration to work that problem.
10 Over one-quarter of our city's population
11 have incomes below the federal
12 government's poverty line. Simply having
13 enough to eat before going to school is
14 an issue for too many of our children.
15 And for many, books and reading books is
16 a pathway. To put it in terms of the
17 Library's mission statement, having
18 access to books advances literacy, guides
19 learning, and inspires curiosity among
20 these impressionable children.

21 The Free Library's Board of
22 Trustees made the decision to eliminate
23 fines on children's materials borrowed on
24 children's cards to ensure that every
25 child in the City has unfettered access

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 to the Library and its resources. We
3 know that if we can encourage a love of
4 reading at a young age, chances of
5 success for that child are that much
6 better. Nine, 10 and 11-year-olds, those
7 who can read on their own, are
8 particularly impressionable and
9 particularly vulnerable, and we know that
10 once they become teens, if they are not
11 readers, the likelihood that we can draw
12 them back to the library is slim. It is
13 essential that we turn them into lifelong
14 readers when they are demonstrating an
15 interest in learning and in bettering
16 themselves. We don't, by any means or
17 any measure, want to cut these kids off
18 from reading. We want to do everything
19 in our power to encourage it.

20 Before making this change, as I
21 said earlier, we consulted with the
22 neighborhood librarians and the
23 children's librarians. Their firsthand
24 experience led them to recommend the
25 removal of fines because it represents,

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 in their judgment -- and they know better
3 than any of us -- a significant barrier
4 to reading and literacy. We were led to
5 understand that frequently children are
6 late returning books for no fault of
7 their own. Responsibilities at home or
8 the inability of a parent or guardian to
9 take a child to the library at a time
10 when his or her books are due and in
11 neighborhoods where the child should be
12 accompanied can cause an overdue
13 situation. There are a myriad of other
14 reasons beyond the child's control, and
15 once a fine is in place and the child is
16 unable to take out a book, it is no easy
17 task for the child to produce even a
18 small amount of money, a small amount of
19 money to pay a fine. As a result,
20 because of poverty or other circumstances
21 in which the child lives, the library
22 loses a young reader, but, more
23 importantly or just as importantly, the
24 young reader loses the ability gained
25 through books to see that there is a big

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 and better world available to him or her,
3 and that is a loss for all of us to
4 share.

5 I am of the firm belief that we
6 have to instill in our children at this
7 crucial age, 7 to 11, that despite the
8 circumstances -- despite their
9 circumstances, not everything is stacked
10 against them and that they do have a
11 chance and that they do have a future.
12 If we do not, it's a great loss for the
13 City. And visits to the library to take
14 out books can be a decisive turning point
15 in a child's life. I can say that from
16 personal experience. It was in mine, and
17 I grew up in the City.

18 As I said earlier, the Trustees
19 wanted to strike a balance between
20 providing access to our Library's books
21 for these children, but still encouraging
22 personal responsibility. The balance we
23 struck was not to absolve children of
24 responsibility for returning the
25 materials they borrow. Children still

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 need to return their books before they
3 are allowed to borrow more. So let me
4 say that again. They have to return
5 their books before they can take out
6 another. In this way, we made sure that
7 there are still consequences for not
8 complying with the Library's rules. It
9 is simply no longer a financial penalty,
10 a financial means of enforcement. We've
11 also consulted our peers and learned that
12 other urban libraries are adopting
13 similar policies, and you're going to
14 hear from Dr. Mattleman, but one of the
15 great libraries of this country -- I'd
16 like to think that we are one of the
17 great libraries of this country, but one
18 of the great libraries of this country
19 that adopted the same policy as ours is
20 the New York Public Library.

21 It's critical that all of us
22 pull together to help our young people.
23 I don't need to tell you how unacceptably
24 high this city's dropout rate is, how
25 high our city's illiteracy rate is and

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 the challenges that this School District
3 faces. You all know that better than I.
4 But all of us - parents, schools,
5 community, and recreation centers and the
6 54 neighborhood libraries - have to work
7 together to help our children. The Free
8 Library's role is to break down the
9 barriers to reading, setting young people
10 on a path to better school performance
11 and lifetime learning.

12 We very much at the Library
13 deeply appreciate the support that we
14 receive from City Council. All of you
15 have been great, and we really mean that.
16 While we have lost funding during the
17 recent economic crisis, we know that you
18 understand our work and that you work
19 with us as best you can. Needless to
20 say, we would welcome additional dollars.
21 We always would welcome additional
22 dollars. However, we don't think it's
23 the right way to proceed to attempt to
24 restore some measure, some very, very
25 small measure of the budget cuts that

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 we've lost in these last four years, by
3 imposing fines on children, who these are
4 children who have demonstrated an
5 interest in the library. These are kids
6 that want to take out books. So if it's
7 an average of \$70,000 a year that we've
8 lost -- and I think Dr. McPeak will tell
9 you that number is going down -- it's a
10 small price to pay to ensure that the
11 City's young people have access to the
12 library and a chance at future success.

13 So while I appreciate very much
14 Councilman Oh's motivation and his
15 thoughts about personal responsibility
16 and about funding, I nonetheless think
17 that the better part of wisdom here is to
18 do what New York has done, to what the
19 Trustees think is the right thing to do
20 for our kids in these neighborhoods, to
21 keep the larger goal in mind, and I think
22 we all know what the larger goal is,
23 which is our kids' future, our children's
24 future. And so I ask Council not to let
25 this bill go forward.

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.

2 I'm happy to answer questions,
3 and Dr. McPeak, who knows all the
4 statistics and the numbers, all of that
5 better than I, is also available to
6 answer questions.

7 Thank you very much.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you
9 for your testimony. And we're going to
10 hear now from Dr. McPeak, if you want to
11 begin with your name.

12 DR. McPEAK: I'm just here to
13 answer questions. I support entirely the
14 testimony of our Chair and I'm here to
15 provide data.

16 I can add one source of
17 motivation for our doing this which maybe
18 has not come out. Our registrations for
19 children since beginning of Fiscal Year
20 2009 has dropped 50 percent. We have
21 data regarding delinquencies; that is,
22 cards that have fines in neighborhoods.
23 It is indeed our poorer neighborhoods
24 that have fines on their cards. Right
25 now anywhere from greater than 30, 30 to

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 35 percent of our children in
3 neighborhoods, North Philadelphia,
4 Nicetown, Frankford, which is Juniata
5 Park, the numbers are high and it just
6 looks like that trend is going to
7 continue.

8 If indeed -- and which is how
9 we use the majority of our fine money
10 now -- if indeed it is to support
11 children's programs or for losing
12 children, then what's the purpose? So
13 really we are looking, as Chairman Robert
14 Heim said, we're looking really to
15 encourage reading. That's what we're all
16 about. So that's the numbers that
17 shocked us, and that's why we're taking
18 the action that we're taking.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.
20 Well, thank you very much.

21 Any questions from the panel?
22 Councilwoman Brown.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Good
24 morning, everyone. Good morning. Let me
25 thank you for your very -- you sound like

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 an educator, let's just start there, and
3 spoke eloquently to why we as adults have
4 to do the stretch when we are working
5 with young people who end up in
6 circumstances that they had no control
7 over. I also appreciate the data,
8 because data drives decisions, and to
9 hear now that there's been a 50 percent
10 drop in registration is alarming. And so
11 I would be curious to know -- and this is
12 a rhetorical question -- what might
13 happen depending upon the outcome of this
14 bill with registration once this new
15 policy goes into play.

16 When did you anticipate the
17 implementation of this new policy?

18 MR. HEIM: July 1st.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: July 1,
20 the beginning of the new fiscal year.

21 And now to the sponsor of the
22 bill for clarity on the record,
23 Councilman Oh, so that I better
24 understand this, you're now -- clarify
25 the bill for me with the amendment. Let

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.

2 me not try to interpret it.

3 COUNCILMAN OH: The bill, as it
4 was written prior to the amendment,
5 talked about taking funds from the
6 children's fine to be used for children's
7 programs in branch libraries as well as
8 technology improvements in branch
9 libraries. However, a portion of the
10 bill that is the whereas simply stated
11 that all fines would be used for
12 children's programs and technology
13 improvements, and it was intended to be
14 only that portion of children's fines.
15 So as opposed to \$70,000 being put in a
16 separate account to be used for branch
17 libraries, children's programs, and
18 technology improvements, it would have
19 taken the entire \$400,000, which we
20 debated whether that should or shouldn't
21 be the case. But, you know, 50 percent
22 of that money, 200,000 goes to the
23 General Fund, 200,000 goes to the
24 Library, 35,000 you could apportion --
25 someone is shaking their head, but this

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2 is information that we received, that a
3 portion of that money, about half -- and
4 someone is nodding yes -- goes to the
5 General Fund and half of that money goes
6 to the Library. Our bill would basically
7 say the City would get none of that
8 money, that all of the money collected
9 from children's fines would go to the
10 library branches for children's programs.
11 If the City General Fund does not want
12 the money, then they should not have it.
13 It should go to the children's programs.

14 That's my bill.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay. And
16 I did hear you say that the City of New
17 York City has adopted this new policy?

18 MR. HEIM: That's right,
19 Councilwoman. New York City Public
20 Library adopted this. They issued a
21 statement that said that they were very
22 concerned that -- and I'm quoting -- kids
23 might be afraid or ashamed because they
24 are delinquent with the library. And
25 that's one of the reasons they adopted

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2 this program. There are others, other
3 urban libraries that have done the same
4 thing for the same reasons.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay. And
6 the practice with New York City went into
7 effect when? Do you have any idea?

8 MR. HEIM: I don't know the
9 date. I just know that they issued a
10 release on this, but I can provide that
11 to you, Councilwoman.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay,
13 then. Thank you for your testimony.
14 Thank you.

15 MR. HEIM: Thank you.

16 COUNCILMAN OH: I'll have a
17 point of information to help you provide
18 information to the Councilwoman. My
19 understanding is that when New York City
20 library system looked at the fines of
21 children, it amounted to \$2 million.
22 Therefore, New York City's library system
23 waived all \$2 million so that the fees
24 were waived, no one had to pay that.
25 However, if you go to their website, they

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2 still have the same policies as before.
3 If you are late, you pay a fee. There
4 are five other jurisdictions in the
5 United States, including San Francisco,
6 Tulsa, Oklahoma, and a couple other
7 jurisdictions, that are enacting for the
8 same reasons stated here today policies
9 that would have relief for children,
10 though I don't know the details of them.
11 But I know that New York continues to
12 collect fines, although it waived the \$2
13 million in fines that were on the books.

14 DR. McPEAK: So we don't know
15 the outcome, but they did waive it?

16 COUNCILMAN OH: True. These
17 are kind of in motion, yes.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you
19 very much, Councilman.

20 Councilman Jones, you had a
21 comment?

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes. Thank
23 you, Madam Chair. And I want to
24 recognize that our colleague Councilman
25 Oh is one of the Council leadership that

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2 has spent a great deal of time trying to
3 find money, trying to find money for the
4 budget deficit, trying to find money for
5 our teeter-totter situation with our
6 public schools, and so I respect him.
7 Even last year, you helped find the
8 doughnut tire that would get us to the
9 point where we are today by way of
10 financing. And although it was debt, we
11 still kept the kindergarten open, the
12 schools open.

13 So I respect him a great deal
14 for that diligence and trying to find
15 resources for it. However, as we start
16 to look at some of the implications and
17 some of the unintended consequences of a
18 decision like this, you have to take into
19 account that we are closing 23 public
20 schools this year. Many public schools
21 do not have libraries. Many of our
22 children use libraries as their study
23 hall, as their place of finding and doing
24 homework. Many of the libraries in my
25 district I've gone into and saw uniformed

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2 children using those libraries.

3 As a child, my first book I
4 read was "Green Eggs and Ham," and I read
5 it, Madam Chair, at a public library, and
6 I was one of those children that probably
7 if not for my mother's diligence,
8 father's diligence to get me back and
9 forth, I would have been in trouble with
10 a fine.

11 There are correlating evidence
12 that Councilman Johnson often points to
13 that if you cannot read in certain areas
14 by the time you're in fourth grade up to
15 par, then planners know how many prisons
16 to build for those young men at the time
17 of 18. So, therefore, as I start to look
18 at the opportunity cost of losing some
19 revenue versus losing some children, I'm
20 going to lose revenue every time, and I
21 would not try to disincentivize young
22 people going to look at libraries like
23 this.

24 I understand that the goal of
25 this is to provide more resources for the

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2 Library. We need to find other ways to
3 do that other than our most vulnerable
4 being put in a situation where they have
5 to choose between sometimes reading a
6 book or finding a fresh vegetable or, in
7 many neighborhoods, running across a gun.
8 So I'm going to err on the side of
9 caution, Madam Chair, and be opposed to
10 this bill.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.
12 Thank you very much for your comments.

13 Councilman Oh.

14 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very
15 much. I respect everybody's opinions,
16 and I do appreciate the fine work that
17 the Free Library does. We'll have a
18 disagreement on this issue, and I'll
19 state it clearly. I agree with
20 everything that was said, and then I will
21 talk about my responsibilities on
22 Council.

23 My responsibilities on Council
24 is to see that we get every dollar that
25 we can to appropriate to those good

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2 purposes, but we have not enough dollars
3 in the City. We're trying desperately
4 not to raise taxes either upon businesses
5 or upon families and allocate the funds.
6 What we look for is how do we find in
7 particular people who are okay with or
8 even happy to pay with those things that
9 they particularly care for or that they
10 feel that they should pay.

11 I agree to everything that you
12 said. The issue for me, however, is
13 still this: When you no longer collect a
14 late fee from my daughter that I pay,
15 that my wife pays and we're happy to pay,
16 it does not help fund the Free Library.
17 There are a lot of people like me who can
18 afford to pay the fines we do. I have no
19 opposition. I encourage any program that
20 you have or that your Library would care
21 to implement that would alleviate the
22 poor from any type of burdens. It's not
23 clear to me, I'm doubtful that children
24 do not come to the library because they
25 may have to pay 5 cents a day after three

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 weeks.

3 So the issue for me will be
4 this, as it is my responsibility to
5 provide oversight over the funding issues
6 responsibly for this city, and 70,000 a
7 year is a large lift for me, as it should
8 be for anyone in public service. If it
9 were 70,000 in membership fees, I would
10 have no problems with waiving it or
11 getting rid of it, but my understanding
12 is that the Library itself and its
13 librarians have the option to take into
14 account the inability of children or
15 adults even to pay or if they had a good
16 reason why they lost material and to
17 waive the fees. If they don't have it,
18 we certainly should provide it. I do not
19 understand the logic in achieving your
20 goal in having lawyers and doctors and
21 business people and CEOs who can afford
22 to pay a \$20 or \$30 fee to discontinue
23 that when it amounts to \$70,000 a year,
24 which in my world is a lot of money.

25 Thank you.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
3 Councilman.

4 I do want to acknowledge that
5 we have been joined by Councilman
6 Kenyatta Johnson and also Councilwoman
7 Maria Quinones-Sanchez, and I know that
8 Councilwoman Sanchez also had a comment.

9 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
10 you. Good morning. Do you have for the
11 record the data -- you talked about that
12 there was a drop-off of 50 percent
13 participation. Do you have data by
14 Council district?

15 DR. McPEAK: I have it by zip
16 code.

17 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: You have
18 it by zip code?

19 DR. McPEAK: So we could see if
20 we could construct that. Some zip codes
21 overlap councilmanic districts, so it
22 might be a little bit difficult.

23 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Can that
24 be turned into the Chair for the record?
25 Can you please submit that data for the

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 record?

3 DR. McPEAK: Yes. Yes, we
4 will.

5 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I think
6 that's important, because while, again,
7 we all want to make sure that whatever
8 revenue is out there we can capture, I
9 will say that my own son for a year did
10 not turn in a book, and I couldn't get
11 him to the library. And I kept asking
12 him to go to the library, which is
13 Kensington Library, block and a half,
14 wonderful little branch in Kensington.
15 And he finally acknowledged to me that he
16 had a fine, and I quickly made him pay
17 the \$30, I think it was, to go to the
18 library.

19 So I do think that for
20 children, I think very early on,
21 particularly poor children -- in the case
22 of my son, it came from his allowance --
23 particularly poor children to
24 psychologically have a debt and feel that
25 they do not have access to something

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2 because they can't pay for a debt, given
3 all of the other challenges they have,
4 particularly in districts like mine --
5 and I'm sure your data will prove that
6 most of those children are in
7 districts -- in the district that I
8 serve -- is a hard one.

9 So while I too also want to
10 support my colleague in revenue in terms
11 of us being responsible and accountable,
12 I think the data will bear out that this
13 is not the type of policy where there
14 is money to get. I just came from a
15 meeting with Tom Knudsen and we were
16 talking about all of the revenue options
17 that exist on the table. We have this
18 conversation as we debate AVI and where
19 is the money, and there's clearly people
20 who could pay more and should pay more
21 and others who we classify, particularly
22 the working poor, that the debt gets so
23 high, that psychologically they just
24 quit. And so I don't want any of the
25 children that I represent to feel that

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2 way. And if my own son, who knew he had
3 the money, avoided going to the library,
4 I could just imagine a poor child who has
5 to make other types of decisions, and for
6 that, I will also not be voting for this.

7 Thank you.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
9 Councilwoman.

10 Councilman Johnson, did you
11 have a comment?

12 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
13 Madam Chair. I just had a couple of
14 questions. Excuse my tardiness. I
15 arrived a little late, so I'm still going
16 through the testimony, but I just wanted
17 to get some of the fine points.

18 I'm a strong supporter of our
19 neighborhood libraries. They have always
20 served as safe havens, similar to what
21 Councilman Jones said, of individuals
22 like myself, rather in elementary school,
23 junior high school, as well as in high
24 school. That's where we studied. That's
25 where we spent most of our time after

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2 school, at Queen Memorial Library and
3 also the library at Broad and Morris --
4 no; Point Breeze Library and Queen
5 Memorial Library -- Queen Memorial
6 Library and the library at Broad and
7 Morris. But nevertheless, I just wanted
8 to get some clarity, because I did raise
9 an eyebrow when I recognized that the new
10 system that was being proposed was
11 eliminating fines for individuals who
12 keep the book longer than they're
13 supposed to. So I just wanted to go
14 back.

15 Are you correlating because a
16 young person have a fine the decrease in
17 registration in libraries throughout the
18 City of Philadelphia?

19 DR. McPEAK: Yes. Yes. That's
20 correct.

21 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: So if you
22 could provide based upon zip codes and/or
23 councilmanic district what that looks
24 like so I can really see how it has an
25 impact in my own individual district.

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2 The other question and/or
3 statement is, is there currently a system
4 in place where the librarian can use a
5 level of discretion and they can say --

6 DR. McPEAK: Yes.

7 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: -- Okay,
8 this is an extreme circumstance? Mom
9 comes with the child, dad comes with the
10 child, say, Listen, we lost the book, we
11 really don't have the money to pay, I
12 still want my child to still have the
13 opportunity to come in, participate in
14 the library activities. Is there
15 discretion?

16 DR. McPEAK: Well, you can
17 always participate in library activities.
18 If you have a fine, you just can't check
19 out a book.

20 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: You just
21 can't check out a book.

22 DR. McPEAK: That's right. You
23 just can't check out a book.

24 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: So the
25 fine eliminates the individual --

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2 DR. McPEAK: So the fine
3 eliminates the ability for someone to
4 check out a book simply -- in terms of --
5 yes, branch librarians have the ability
6 to waive, but it's considered as an
7 exception. There's not like a needs
8 test. If you think that through, you
9 understand how complicated that could be.
10 I mean, we have poverty in every
11 neighborhood of the City, I believe.

12 MR. HEIM: Administratively
13 it's a very, very difficult thing to
14 manage.

15 DR. McPEAK: But certainly they
16 have discretion.

17 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: And
18 another part of that is, has there been
19 any studies that actually looked at the
20 decrease in library participation from
21 young people based upon the Internet?
22 Because I know as a kid, I normally went
23 to the library for Dewey Decimal library
24 system and also Britannica Encyclopedias,
25 but now I just go at a click of a button,

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2 kind of eliminates -- to be quite frank,
3 it kind of eliminates the need for me to
4 either have to go to the library -- and I
5 understand the whole concept of the
6 digital divide.

7 DR. McPEAK: There you go.

8 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: But hear
9 me out, though. I don't buy into it that
10 much because I do meet a certain level of
11 young people in high poverty areas who
12 can hook up to the Internet based upon
13 Playstation and/or Xbox. And so I know
14 for a fact -- and on your phone. And so
15 Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, there are
16 thousands of young people throughout the
17 City of Philadelphia that are utilizing
18 social media and using either through
19 their smartphones to access information,
20 including my nieces and nephews, and so I
21 want to know, have there ever been any
22 correlation between the decrease in
23 library activity and social media?

24 DR. McPEAK: Actually, library
25 activity has not decreased, A, and in

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2 terms of the digital divide, we are still
3 experiencing heavy computer use inside
4 the library. And I welcome you to visit
5 any neighborhood library and you will see
6 the computers full. So that would --
7 I'll just say that having just visited 20
8 branches within the past three weeks,
9 it's really exciting to see that.

10 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: And I'm
11 not saying that that's not the case. I'm
12 just trying to really grasp my head
13 around we're eliminating -- and I'm not
14 making this about dollars and cents, but
15 one part of the concept of responsibility
16 that comes along with this as well, not
17 being overly responsible but, you know,
18 responsibility. So what happens when you
19 keep the book? You just -- I took two
20 books, three books, four books, I don't
21 take them back.

22 DR. McPEAK: If you don't take
23 them back, you cannot check out again.

24 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: All right.
25 That's the issue.

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2 DR. McPEAK: That element of
3 responsibility remains.

4 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: So you
5 take away the fine, but at the end of the
6 day, you just can't come get a book
7 anymore.

8 DR. McPEAK: That's correct, if
9 you don't return the book.

10 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: How long
11 are you banned for? Because these are
12 the same kids that they couldn't pay for
13 it. They can't pay for it, right? So
14 they can't take out another book, but now
15 they're banned for how long from ever
16 getting a chance to get a book again?
17 Because now we're taking the money out of
18 it. Now the money is off the table,
19 right? And I teach my nieces and nephews
20 to be responsible. You take out a book,
21 you take that book back, because I don't
22 want them growing up in a world where
23 they think things are free and they start
24 abusing resources that's available to
25 them for free, with no type of penalty or

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2 accountability for them being responsible
3 young adults. So are you banned for
4 life?

5 DR. McPEAK: Let me try to turn
6 your question in the direction where I
7 think this policy will go, and San
8 Francisco is a lesson for this. San
9 Francisco has been doing this for years,
10 and when they originally did this, I
11 think it was two or three years after
12 they did -- they did an impact study to
13 see what the impact would be in terms of
14 return rate and loss, and actually return
15 rate got -- loss got better. It had zero
16 impact on return rate, but loss got
17 better because now -- and this was the
18 thinking behind it. Now the kids aren't
19 fearful of having to pay a fine, so if
20 the children's librarian says, Look, you
21 can't check something out unless you
22 bring the book back, the children's
23 librarian has a greater influence on that
24 child than they will to say to that
25 child, Hey, look, you can't come back

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2 unless you pay me 50 cents, a dollar, \$2,
3 whatever.

4 So this is a lesson we've
5 learned from San Francisco, and our hope
6 is we'll learn the same lesson here in
7 Philadelphia.

8 MR. HEIM: Or put another way,
9 a child who may be embarrassed because he
10 or she doesn't have the money, an
11 8-year-old child, to pay a fine, and so
12 doesn't bring the book back or the books
13 back because they're afraid. So now they
14 know if they just bring the books back,
15 they can take some more books out, and it
16 encourages them to bring the books back.
17 And I would urge Council to consider that
18 these children's librarians, they are
19 dedicated, wonderful, devoted people in
20 these libraries, and they're the ones who
21 have come to us and said please do this.

22 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay.

23 MR. HEIM: And I think they're
24 the experts, and you should take that
25 into consideration when you're thinking

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 about who's saying what do we need to do
3 to keep our kids coming. You know, if
4 you think about it, \$70,000, if two kids
5 in every branch library stay as readers
6 because of this program, this policy, a
7 hundred kids, a hundred Philadelphia kids
8 stay as readers, only two, hundred kids
9 stay as readers that might not have
10 stayed as readers, what a great thing for
11 this city and the future of those kids.
12 It's worth \$70,000.

13 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay. All
14 right. And I'll wrap up on this.
15 Listen, I also support the Friends of the
16 Free Library, our library system. I
17 think it's great that we were able to
18 save our libraries from reducing their
19 hours prior to me coming to City Council.
20 I remember that movement as well. I just
21 think at least at this particular time,
22 we're all in the mind state of really
23 looking at all the dollars sitting on the
24 table, and I don't want to reduce it to
25 just that level, but that's kind of the

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 situation that we're in, because we're up
3 against either raising your real estate
4 taxes for schools, U&O taxes for schools,
5 you got people talking about the
6 possibility of eliminating other type of
7 incentives. And so it just opened my
8 eyes when I said, Okay, we're going to
9 eliminate certain fees coming in at this
10 particular time. And it's not to
11 diminish -- I'm all for making sure all
12 of my young people can read and write and
13 be educated. I'm 110 percent in support
14 of it. It's just an eye opener when we
15 talk about eliminating certain fees, but
16 also making sure that we also teach them
17 responsibility.

18 I wasn't born with a silver
19 spoon in my mouth, first-generation
20 college graduate, but I have a respect
21 and appreciation for being responsible
22 just by how hard it was for me to pull
23 myself up by the bootstraps and become a
24 young man that I am today. And so I'm
25 always balancing making sure that we

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 instill those type of responsibility and
3 accountability measures in our young
4 people so they don't take things for
5 granted.

6 But I look forward to seeing
7 the numbers that you provide just based
8 upon districts that can better inform me
9 in this process. But thank you very much
10 for your work as well.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you
12 very much.

13 Councilwoman Brown has a brief
14 comment.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Yes. To
16 go to the sponsors of the bill, the tenor
17 of his -- the spirit of the bill, I would
18 ask the leadership and the faculty and
19 staff at the Library that we explore
20 other ways where we can indeed instill
21 responsibility in the process of
22 returning books, so that we don't throw
23 this entire discussion out the window and
24 seek to find a happy medium if we can and
25 instituting this new practice, not

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 presuming the outcome of the bill, while
3 we honor our role as adults and help
4 young people understand that there really
5 is a duty in returning books as well. So
6 it's rhetorical for now, but it's
7 something that can be taken up at the
8 board level at another time.

9 MR. HEIM: The Trustees are
10 very mindful of that and will remain
11 mindful of that.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
14 Councilwoman. That's an excellent point.

15 I do want to acknowledge we've
16 been joined by Councilman Jim Kenney.

17 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I'm early.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Oh, you're
19 early for the -- okay. No; just take
20 credit that you're here.

21 And Councilman Oh, I'm sorry,
22 has one additional comment.

23 COUNCILMAN OH: So I will have
24 a final comment. We will agree to
25 differ. I think everybody has the kids

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 and the Library at its best interest. At
3 the end of the day, the reduction of
4 \$70,000 that would go to children's
5 programming to improve the libraries to
6 make them more attractive -- there's a
7 brand new library in Virginia, brand new
8 library that kids don't go to, and it's
9 not because of the new building. It's
10 because they have Facebook to socialize
11 with. They don't need to go to the
12 library. They have computers. They have
13 other things. What has been attractive
14 for these kids historically has been the
15 amount of information, the
16 state-of-the-art technology, if you will
17 call that that, by which they could
18 obtain information, the gadgets in the
19 library. I am for more funding for the
20 libraries to bring our libraries up to
21 that level. The issue of adult
22 responsibility is also important to
23 setting example for the kids.

24 I have no contradiction on
25 trying to provide access to kids who may

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 be poor. At the end of the day, my
3 colleague Councilwoman Maria
4 Quinones-Sanchez paid that \$30. It
5 didn't break her back. That \$30 is part
6 of the 70,000. If you distinguish kids,
7 children who are unable to afford to pay
8 fines and won't come to the library, then
9 I would encourage you to consider adults,
10 ex-offenders, other persons, unemployed,
11 who may not go to the library for other
12 reasons. In other words, the policy
13 issue that we're going to at the end of
14 the day disagree on is that if you can
15 identify that the reason why these
16 children or the families do not pay the
17 late fees is because they are unable to
18 as opposed to unwilling, whereas I am
19 willing and happy to pay fines as long as
20 my daughter's books are late, and I think
21 there's a lot of people in our city, when
22 you prevent us from paying those fines,
23 now I put on my Councilman hat and have
24 to go find \$70,000 from our citizens,
25 either from money that would have gone

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 into after-school programs, music
3 programs, parks and rec, and there are a
4 lot of programs in our city that could
5 use just \$5,000 even in one hit or a
6 year.

7 So we will disagree, and for
8 this issue's sake, I think all of it has
9 been discussed and I think we're prepared
10 to vote on it and act in our city's best
11 interest.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
13 Councilman.

14 Okay. Seeing that there are no
15 other questions for these witnesses, we
16 are going to ask our next panel to come
17 forward, and that would be Marciene
18 Mattleman from the Free Library Board of
19 Directors; Ms. Nancy Kolb, Free Library
20 Board of Trustees; and Sheila O'Steen
21 from the children's -- children's
22 librarian from the Richmond branch.

23 (Witnesses approached witness
24 table.)

25 DR. MATTLEMAN: Good morning.

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.

2 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good
3 morning. We are going to ask, if you
4 wouldn't mind, summarizing your
5 testimony. We are up against the clock
6 for another hearing that's due to start
7 ten minutes ago. Thank you.

8 DR. MATTLEMAN: It's nice to be
9 here, Councilwoman --

10 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Start with
11 your name.

12 DR. MATTLEMAN: -- Bass and
13 members of the Committee. I'm
14 Dr. Marciene Mattleman. I'm here today
15 to share with you some of my experiences
16 with the Library. I'm a Foundation Board
17 member, former Chair and member of the
18 Board of Trustees.

19 I've also had the good fortune
20 of working with children over the City
21 for many years, having been the founding
22 director of five non-profit initiatives.
23 My husband says I can't keep a job.
24 However, they're all still thriving and
25 they're all aimed at broadening options

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 and opportunities for low-income people.
3 The Mayor's Commission on Literacy,
4 Philadelphia Futures, Philadelphia Reads
5 among them. Formerly I was a professor
6 at Temple, training teachers to teach
7 reading and language arts.

8 Currently I'm President of
9 ASAP, After School Activities
10 Partnerships, providing enrichment for
11 kids, keeping them safe in what police
12 have identified as being the most
13 dangerous for young people.

14 I'm still called the Reading
15 Lady from an Inquirer article when a
16 woman approached me in then Wanamaker's
17 and said, I have a reading problem with
18 my child.

19 For more than a dozen years,
20 I've been the education reporter, and I
21 still am, on KYW News Radio. My
22 broadcasts mostly have to do with
23 achievement and lots of them on reading.

24 Second to schools, there's no
25 question that the Free Library is the

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 largest, most integral institution
3 providing unlimited access to free
4 educational materials and programs for
5 kids from the time they can hold the book
6 and thereafter, critical services like
7 LEAP, the after school program, which is
8 an educational supplement and a safe
9 haven for 70,000 kids, summer reading,
10 which helps students maintain vital
11 reading levels when they're not in
12 school.

13 It's well documented that
14 students who don't read over the summer,
15 it takes them four months to return to
16 grade level. A recent report by the
17 Annie E. Casey Foundation found that
18 students who don't read proficiently by
19 third grade are four times more likely to
20 leave school without a diploma when
21 compared to professional readers --
22 proficient readers. Excuse me.

23 Avoiding the summer slump by
24 providing unlimited access to books and
25 the Internet is one of the most important

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 ways to ensure kids to become strong and
3 engaged citizens, members of our
4 community. According to the Commonwealth
5 Foundation latest data, four out of five
6 of the City kids are not proficient in
7 reading. The Library takes the role as
8 an education partner very seriously.

9 I'm going to quickly tell you a
10 story about Amelia. Amelia was a
11 toddler, barely able to talk, who started
12 coming to the library every Saturday with
13 her father and her older sister Eleanor.
14 Eleanor was old enough to read. She went
15 off by her own, but dad always read with
16 Amelia. For years the girls came to the
17 library with their father, and eventually
18 little by little, Amelia began to sound
19 out words and read. Finally, one day
20 Amelia came right out of the children's
21 department announcing today was the day
22 she could get her first library card.

23 Dad talked Amelia through the
24 process, showing her how to take books at
25 the desk, present her card. Amelia,

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 whose eyes barely reached the counter,
3 followed her dad's prompts and says, I'd
4 like to check out these books, please,
5 and then raised her arms in triumph and
6 yelled, I can get to read whatever I
7 want.

8 It's a wonderful story.

9 Wouldn't it be great if all our
10 children had the same opportunity to read
11 whenever they want, wherever they want,
12 all for free? Not to impose barriers on
13 children, who in Philadelphia often have
14 to struggle so much to stay safe and to
15 stay fed.

16 Philadelphia has the highest
17 poverty rate of the ten largest cities
18 nationally, with large numbers of people
19 living below the poverty level.
20 Yesterday we checked, \$22,031 for a
21 family of four and then 11.9 percent of
22 the people in the City, 200,000 people,
23 in deep poverty living at \$11,700 for a
24 family, 200,000 of our neighbors.

25 Research findings show that we

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 can expect children who don't read well
3 by the end of third grade, 75 percent
4 will be poor readers by the end of 12th
5 grade, if they're still in school. We
6 need to do everything possible to ensure
7 kids to read well, encourage reading, and
8 provide access to books.

9 Let's not punish children who
10 are unable to pay fines. Removing fines
11 on materials can only open doors and
12 raise a child's excitement about reading
13 and learning. Other cities have taken
14 the lead, New York, San Francisco,
15 Milwaukee. Let's not take a chance of a
16 New York Times story about Philadelphia
17 foreclosing books to poor kids.

18 Thank you.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.
20 Thank you for your testimony.

21 You want to proceed? Please
22 state your name first for the record and
23 then begin with your testimony.

24 MS. O'STEEN: Sure. Hi. My
25 name is Sheila O'Steen and I am a

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 children's librarian. I'm currently
3 working at the Richmond branch library.
4 I've also worked at the Cecil B. Moore
5 library, the Rodriguez library, Olney,
6 East Falls, and I've provided coverage
7 for every North Philly branch, and I'm
8 here in support of a fine free card,
9 because I think that you'll be
10 hard-pressed to actually collect those
11 fines, at least from the kids that I
12 know. I don't even see them paying.
13 Some of them can't even pay the 25 cents
14 per page to print out their homework
15 project. And where I have worked, a lot
16 of the parents aren't even involved. I
17 get the kids who come in after school,
18 and their parents aren't there. We're
19 the ones who are there. And we do teach
20 them responsibility with the library
21 card. We always try to get those items
22 back. That's part of my job. I try to
23 teach them that you have to return the
24 items. And I think it would be a really
25 good idea to not have the fines.

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.

2 For example, I kind of made a
3 little deal yesterday with one of my
4 9-year-olds. He has to take out books
5 because the School District of
6 Philadelphia summer reading list just
7 came out. So he has to take -- he has to
8 get a summer reading book. He also wants
9 to check out other books. I think he has
10 about \$10, \$12 in fines. And I said,
11 Find me 50 cents, find me any quarter you
12 can, whatever, if it's under your bed,
13 bring it in, and we'll start working with
14 you and we'll allow you to take out
15 materials.

16 So it's hard for these kids.
17 They don't have the money to pay the
18 fines, and their parents aren't there,
19 and everything comes in late. And
20 another thing is, a lot of the fines get
21 out of control because of the DVD fines,
22 because they're a dollar a day. You have
23 seven days to rent your DVD. So if that
24 comes in late, even though we tell them
25 you have to get this back, it comes in

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 late, and that's a dollar a day. It goes
3 up to \$10. They take out three, there's
4 \$30, and they'll never be able to pay
5 that down.

6 I do feel like if I have to
7 enforce the fines, then I'll lose them.
8 And like I said, I do let them check
9 things out even if they do have fines.
10 These are my everyday kids. These are
11 the ones who need to get that school
12 project done, and I let them take the
13 book out. They do bring them back.

14 I do feel that what I do, I do
15 positively affect children's lives by
16 instilling the love of reading. And
17 reading can take them to another world
18 outside of the neighborhood, and I am
19 their constant. I'm the one who is there
20 all of the time for them. And I let them
21 know that they're worth something.

22 I grew up in the City. I'm
23 from the City, and I feel I understand
24 what the challenges that these kids face.

25 And if you have any questions,

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.

2 please feel free to ask.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you

4 very much.

5 The Chair recognizes Councilman

6 Oh.

7 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you,

8 Madam Chairman.

9 I certainly applaud your

10 wonderful heart and the good work that

11 you do. It is in your discretion not to

12 collect the fines from kids who are poor?

13 You have no discretion over that?

14 MS. O'STEEN: We are not

15 supposed to let anybody check out

16 materials if they owe more than \$5 in

17 fines. That is the policy.

18 COUNCILMAN OH: That is the

19 policy of the Library?

20 MS. O'STEEN: I can only waive

21 a fine -- it really has to be a

22 hard-pressed story. We're not allowed to

23 just waive fines.

24 COUNCILMAN OH: Okay. But if

25 the Library, the Board and its Trustees,

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 gave you the power to waive fines at any
3 time to your discretion, you would
4 happily do that; would you not?

5 MS. O'STEEN: Yeah.

6 COUNCILMAN OH: And if I came
7 in and paid a \$30 fine, myself making
8 enough money to do that, and you could
9 use that money to enhance your programs,
10 you would happily take my money, I hope?

11 MS. O'STEEN: I would think
12 they would.

13 COUNCILMAN OH: I would be
14 happy to give it to you. And that is
15 really the crux of the issue. It's not
16 taking money from people who can't afford
17 it, but the question of why we will not
18 take money from people who can afford it.
19 But, you know, we differ, but I
20 understand that your testimony is about
21 your personal experience.

22 MS. O'STEEN: It is.

23 COUNCILMAN OH: And I
24 appreciate the good work that you do.

25 MS. O'STEEN: Thank you.

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.

2 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
4 Councilman.

5 If you'd like to state your
6 name for the record and proceed with your
7 testimony.

8 MS. KOLB: I'm Nancy Kolb,
9 President Emeritus of Please Touch
10 Museum. It's great to be back in City
11 Council Chambers. It's been a long time.
12 I'm also on the Board of Trustees of the
13 Free Library of Philadelphia, because I
14 love the City and I particularly love
15 children.

16 It's unfortunate -- you'll
17 notice I don't have any notes. Those of
18 you that know me well know that I rarely
19 have notes, and if I have, I never pay
20 any attention to them.

21 It is extremely important that
22 we as grownups do whatever we can to
23 foster a lifelong love of learning. The
24 illiteracy rate in Philadelphia is
25 climbing. The children 11 and under are

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.

2 the solution to that problem.

3 I understand -- it troubles me
4 that this has become about the money, not
5 about the children. The reason I'm here
6 is because of the children. It is -- the
7 younger child is familiar with the
8 library, is familiar with museums.

9 Please Touch Museum does not charge any
10 Philadelphia school child regardless of
11 where they're in school or where they are
12 from. We do not arbitrate who is poor
13 and who is not, because I think that's a
14 burden to put on an individual at the
15 library that's very difficult. Because
16 it would -- never mind. I'm not going
17 there.

18 This is an issue that I
19 understand the problems that the City of
20 Philadelphia is facing financially right
21 now, the School District is facing, but
22 let's solve that problem by getting the
23 people who want to pay the fines to
24 become donors to the Free Library of
25 Philadelphia Foundation, not necessarily

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 collecting fines from people who cannot
3 afford it.

4 Thank you.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And thank
6 you for your testimony.

7 Are there any questions from
8 the panel?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you
11 very much for your testimony.

12 Is there anyone else to testify
13 on behalf of this bill?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: No? Okay.
16 This now concludes the public hearing of
17 the Committee on Parks, Recreation and
18 Cultural Affairs.

19 We will now go into our public
20 meeting shortly.

21 MS. DOUGHERTY: Excuse me?

22 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I
23 apologize. Are you here to testify for
24 the bill?

25 MS. DOUGHERTY: Yes, ma'am.

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.

2 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Please come
3 forward. Thank you.

4 (Witnesses approached witness
5 table.)

6 MS. DOUGHERTY: Thank you,
7 members of the Committee.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Please
9 state your name for the record.

10 MS. DOUGHERTY: I will. My
11 name is Amy Dougherty and I am the
12 Director of the Friends of the Free
13 Library of Philadelphia. Joining me here
14 is Tessa Renshaw, Friends of the Free
15 Library's Manager of Community Outreach.
16 And please bear with me. I have a little
17 bit of dyslexia, so I'm not the greatest
18 reader, but I'm going to do my best.

19 Since 1973, Friends have been
20 an independent, charitable, non-profit
21 agency whose mission is to steward and
22 support equitable library services for
23 all Philadelphians, young and old, rich
24 and poor. For 40 years, we have been
25 proud to be the voice of library patrons

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 throughout the City. Our 50 friends
3 group members volunteer to raise
4 awareness and funds for educational and
5 cultural programs and books and other
6 materials for their neighborhood
7 libraries.

8 First, I would like to say that
9 we, the Friends of the Free Library of
10 Philadelphia staff and Board of
11 Directors, are not, nor have ever been,
12 in favor of Bill 130359 and we continue
13 to be in opposition to it. Our reasons
14 are many and are similar to those
15 expressed by Robert Heim and Dr. McPeak
16 and others.

17 Let me begin with this. While
18 we appreciate Councilman David Oh and the
19 majority of City Council who support and
20 understand how vital library services are
21 to citizens, this ordinance suggests that
22 children should take responsibility and
23 accept the consequences of their actions
24 or absence of actions, in this case not
25 paying library fines. So I respectfully

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 ask the members of this Committee and of
3 the entire City Council to consider the
4 consequences of their actions or
5 inaction.

6 In FY 2009, the Free Library's
7 City budget was cut by 20 percent, or
8 \$7.5 million. The Free Library's book
9 budget was cut in half by 50 percent, and
10 library staffing was reduced by 125.
11 Following that, in FY10, FY11, FY12, FY13
12 City budgets, the Free Library's
13 operating budget remained flat. No more
14 money for books --

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Excuse me
16 for one moment.

17 MS. DOUGHERTY: No more money
18 to -- I will get to it, please.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: No, no. I
20 just want to interrupt you for one
21 second, because we need this side to be a
22 little bit quieter, please, because we
23 can't hear the testimony. Thank you very
24 much.

25 MS. DOUGHERTY: Sorry.

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.

2 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: That's all
3 right.

4 MS. DOUGHERTY: No more money
5 for books, no more money to rectify the
6 unscheduled branch closures due to
7 bare-bone staffing, no more money to get
8 back to six-day-per-week service for
9 Philadelphians. Similarly, no more money
10 to hire staff for sufficient library
11 programs such as reading and computer
12 literacy classes for a population in
13 which about 50 percent of your
14 constituents face illiterate issues or
15 cannot read at all.

16 There are consequences to your
17 actions of not restoring the Library's
18 budget for five years, and it is time to
19 do that. Let's begin with \$3 million
20 restoration for FY14. Three million
21 instead of 1 million will get us
22 six-day-per-week libraries in every
23 neighborhood, not just a chosen few.
24 Money for fining our children will not --
25 money from fining our children will not

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 fill this gap, nor should it. But you
3 and members of City Council can.

4 Philadelphia is behind the
5 national curve on servicing its
6 population with free information and
7 knowledge-based resources, job readiness,
8 and literacy, et cetera, on weekends and
9 during the evening when most people are
10 able to get to their libraries.
11 Philadelphia is also behind the curve on
12 the issue of fines. Many U.S. library
13 systems no longer fine children.

14 In reference to Bill 130359, I
15 will be brief before turning it over to
16 Tessa Renshaw who, through the Friends
17 Readers or Leaders program in Kensington
18 and North Philadelphia, works directly
19 with at-risk youth who are often unable
20 to take out books and who may be barred
21 from using library computers due to
22 fines.

23 While in actuality Bill 130359
24 seeks to amend The Philadelphia Code on
25 library fines, it does not specify

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 children's fines. However, the first
3 four paragraphs of the ordinance make
4 reference to the Library's change in
5 policy with respect to fining children.

6 In addition to the fact that we
7 cannot and should not increase the Free
8 Library's budget on the backs of our poor
9 children, \$70,000 worth of fines will not
10 solve the Free Library's current
11 shortfalls.

12 A word about these children.
13 They are the children whose families are
14 among the more than 25 percent of
15 Philadelphians living in poverty.
16 Furthermore, they are the children who
17 attend schools without libraries. They
18 are the children who show up at school
19 hungry. They are the children with no or
20 severely limited access to computers in
21 schools. They are the children who do
22 not have computers or books at home.
23 They are the children who face violent
24 crime and gun violence daily outside
25 their front doors. They are the children

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 who bury their relatives and friends.
3 They are the children who face
4 illiteracy, drug use, and violence at
5 home. They are the children who walk
6 past drug dealers and users on their way
7 to school and their libraries and back.
8 They are the children whose parents are
9 incarcerated. They are the children who
10 do not show up on their first day of
11 school ready to read and who will,
12 therefore, begin school already behind
13 and most likely stay behind. They are
14 the children who face such unimaginable
15 odds to get to their library that only
16 the most determined or gifted will ever
17 get there. They are the children who
18 grow up and often choose crime in part
19 due to illiteracy and lack of other
20 choices. They are the children who take
21 care of their younger siblings. They are
22 our children and our future.

23 Members of this Committee, I
24 respectfully suggest that it is our
25 responsibility to lower the obstacles and

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 playing field for our at-risk children
3 and not increase the obstacles of any of
4 our at-risk or poor children or adults
5 who are on the road to successful life
6 despite overwhelming odds. And we are so
7 aware the road to success very often
8 begins with those childhood trips to
9 libraries.

10 We all have library stories.
11 Instead of us taking responsibility for
12 our children and youth, Bill 130359 is a
13 Catch 22, a (unintelligible) rejection of
14 what we responsible adults serving the
15 City and its citizens know we should be
16 doing. That is, opening our library
17 doors more, not less, for everyone, rich
18 and poor. Why make our librarians the
19 arbiters of who are the have's and who
20 are the have not's? We are going to ask
21 our librarians to say, Oh, this one is
22 rich, he has to pay; this one is poor, he
23 doesn't have to pay.

24 I would like now to turn to a
25 true story of one of our children. Here

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 to tell us about Alex, age 11, who lives
3 across the street from Kensington's
4 McPherson Square library, is Tessa
5 Renshaw.

6 MS. RENSHAW: Hi. I'm Tessa
7 Renshaw, the Community Outreach Manager
8 for the Friends of the Free Library of
9 Philadelphia. Thank you for having me.

10 Councilman Oh, thank you for
11 opening up a conversation that I think
12 needs to be had in our city to find
13 progressive ways to make our libraries
14 more functionable and usable, and I do
15 respect you putting forth this bill,
16 although I do think that there are other
17 ways to go around some of the instances
18 that you have suggested.

19 To start out, I work in a
20 program called Readers or Leaders. I do
21 different programs in at-risk communities
22 after school with youth consistently
23 through the school year, and I've been
24 doing it -- this is my second year. At
25 McPherson Square library we have had

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 hurdles and jumped through hoops just to
3 make it safe to access the library
4 itself. We found success in the
5 beginning of the school year to allow
6 those children to be able to walk into
7 the library, period.

8 After doing that, I began to
9 form relationships with kids in the
10 community and understanding the realities
11 of what their life and their worlds are.
12 I recently had a program that was
13 implemented at the library with an
14 organization called MIMIC, Men in Motion
15 in the Community. During those programs,
16 we identified certain issues that
17 assimilated to this community and what
18 their needs were, and during that time,
19 we did tell the children, You wear two
20 backpacks to school. One of them is
21 filled with books and the other is filled
22 with everything else that they are
23 dealing with, when a lot of children only
24 wear one. That's their -- that's just in
25 the morning.

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.

2 So in identifying the
3 relationships, we began to look further
4 into what the usage of their library
5 really was and found that fines were
6 really a part of the problem of why they
7 weren't entering the library anymore.
8 But once they formed relationships with
9 me and members of MIMIC, they wanted to
10 come back into the library, because we
11 were going in and they wanted to come
12 with us. And at that time, this
13 relationship formed to understand that we
14 can't get a book because we have fines.
15 We all kind of looked at each other and
16 saw that there was an opportunity for
17 something to change here, because they
18 needed to be in that library for multiple
19 reasons. But in identifying that this
20 one program brought them back in, we kind
21 of wanted to have the conversation opened
22 with the Library itself and assimilate to
23 what the community needs. That's a big
24 thing for neighborhood branches.

25 Paying the fines is one way to

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 do it. Me wanting to grab my credit card
3 and pay it for them was one way of
4 wanting to make sure it was taken care
5 of, but another one was the thought of
6 sweat equity, sweat equity, making it
7 possible for them to work it off in some
8 other positive way. There could be
9 drives. There could be days where if you
10 bring back the materials you have,
11 everything would be -- so this
12 conversation was being tossed around. So
13 in that doing -- Alex, one of the
14 children, he couldn't gain access to the
15 books that he needed. We were able to
16 help him get his fines paid off, and then
17 he established a new relationship with
18 the library that he had not established
19 and lived on this square since he was
20 born. He started wanting to come in more
21 and more. And I have his report card
22 right here from his first marking period
23 to what his report card was this past
24 parking period, and it is a 360 from what
25 he has accomplished, straight D's to A,

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.

2 B, and C's, and that's because he doesn't
3 play outside anymore. He comes in after
4 school, does his homework, and has the
5 ability to succeed and thrive and feels
6 okay to be there. And I just wanted to
7 get that message of how important that is
8 for these children, to feel it is their
9 home, not somewhere they want to fear.

10 Thank you.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you
12 very much for your testimony. Very good
13 information.

14 The Chair recognizes Councilman
15 Jones.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: That was the
17 quote of the day, two bookbags, and I
18 think that was the most profound.
19 Everybody was substantive, but the most
20 profound statement is so very true for
21 poor children that go to school with
22 books, but burdens of everyday life. So
23 thank you.

24 MS. DOUGHERTY: I told you she
25 was better than me.

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.

2 MS. RENSHAW: I stole that from
3 MIMIC. I want to give that all to them,
4 Ed Desimore.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.
6 The Chair recognizes Councilman
7 Oh.

8 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very
9 much. I appreciate your work at
10 McPherson. I would invite you at 4
11 o'clock to the event that we're having
12 there with Councilwoman Maria
13 Quinones-Sanchez and Councilman Squilla
14 with Rock Ministries' boxing exhibition
15 and the Alma Jazz, Latin jazz band in
16 exactly what you said, an effort to bring
17 kids back to the library to understand
18 the importance that there is more than
19 just books in that building. But I think
20 your efforts as being a person who cares
21 in that building is most important. That
22 library needs more resources, and I agree
23 with you not from poor kids or poor
24 families, but certainly more resources at
25 a time when we cannot find resources to

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.
2 provide for schools and for kids and for
3 the poor. It is about money, because
4 there's not enough of it to provide for
5 the things that all these people need,
6 and that includes the programs at the
7 Library.

8 We will differ. I appreciate
9 your appreciation of my efforts to oddly
10 fund the Library that is not popular.
11 Funded not from the poor but from wealthy
12 and well-to-do people like myself who are
13 happy to provide \$70,000 and provide a
14 lesson to my daughter.

15 We will have a vote. I don't
16 expect to prevail in this issue, but as a
17 Councilperson whose my responsibility to
18 try to find the dollars to fund
19 everything from our firefighters to our
20 schools to our after-school programs, I
21 think it is critical that adults look at
22 what their actions will do and not
23 imagine what they will do. Money counts
24 in funding the Library.

25 Thank you.

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.

2 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
3 Councilman Oh.

4 Thank you for your testimony.

5 Is there anyone else here to
6 testify on behalf of this bill?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Seeing
9 none, this now concludes the public
10 hearing of the Committee on Parks,
11 Recreation and Cultural Affairs, and we
12 will now go into our public meeting
13 shortly. Thank you.

14 (Brief pause.)

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: The Chair
16 now recognizes Councilmember Jones for a
17 motion on Bill No. 130015.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
19 Madam Chair. I move that Bill No. 130015
20 be reported out of this Committee with a
21 favorable recommendation and the rules of
22 Council be suspended, thus permitting
23 first reading at our next session of
24 Council.

25 (Duly seconded.)

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.

2 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: It has been
3 moved and properly seconded that Bill No.
4 130015 be reported from this Committee
5 with a favorable recommendation and
6 further moved that the rules of Council
7 be suspended as to permit first reading
8 at the next scheduled session of City
9 Council.

10 All those in favor say aye?
11 (Aye.)

12 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Those
13 opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: The motion
16 carries, and Bill No. 130015 will be
17 reported from this Committee with a
18 favorable recommendation with a request
19 that the rules of Council be suspended to
20 permit first reading at the next session
21 of Council.

22 And the Chair now recognizes
23 Councilmember Oh for a motion on Bill No.
24 130359.

25 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you,

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.

2 Madam Chair. I offer an amendment to
3 Bill No. 130359, which I have properly
4 circulated. I move for Bill No. 130359
5 to be amended as proposed.

6 (Duly seconded.)

7 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: It has been
8 moved and properly seconded that Bill No.
9 130359 be amended as proposed.

10 All those in favor say aye.

11 (Aye.)

12 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Those
13 opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: The motion
16 carries and Bill No. 130359 is amended.

17 The Chair now recognizes
18 Councilmember Jones for a motion on Bill
19 No. 130359.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
21 Madam Chair. I move that Bill No. 130359
22 be reported out of this Committee, as
23 amended, without a favorable
24 recommendation, the rules of Council be
25 suspended to allow first reading of this

1 5/29/13 - PARKS - BILL 130015, etc.

2 bill at our next session of Council.

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. It
5 has been moved and properly seconded that
6 Bill No. 130359, as amended, be reported
7 from this Committee without favorable
8 recommendation and further moved that the
9 rules of Council be suspended as to
10 permit first reading at the next
11 scheduled session of City Council.

12 All those in favor say aye.

13 COUNCILMAN OH: Aye.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Those
15 opposed?

16 (No.)

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And the
18 motion fails.

19 With that, the business of this
20 Committee is concluded.

21 Thank you.

22 (Committee on Parks, Recreation
23 and Cultural Affairs concluded at 12:40
24 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
proceedings, evidence and objections are
contained fully and accurately in the
stenographic notes taken by me upon the
foregoing matter, and that this is a true and
correct transcript of same.

MICHELE L. MURPHY
RPR-Notary Public

(The foregoing certification of this
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of the same by any means, unless under the
direct control and/or supervision of the
certifying reporter.)

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