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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3

PUBLIC HEARING

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COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, April 14, 2005
1:22 p.m.

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BILL 041079 - An ordinance amending various
provisions of The Philadelphia Code...

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PRESENT:

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COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL, Chair

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA

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COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.

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COUNCILMAN RICHARD MARIANO

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COUNCILMAN FRANK DICICCO

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V A R A L L O Incorporated

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I N D E X

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OTIS HAIGLER, JR., L&I.....	4

1 04/14/05 - FINANCE - BILL 041079

2 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Good

3 afternoon. A quorum being present, to my left
4 the PRESIDENT, President Anna Verna,
5 Councilman DiCicco coming in, Councilman
6 Mariano, Councilman Goode. So there is a
7 quorum and we are happy to convene the Finance
8 hearing with regard to Bill No. 041079.

9 We'll ask the Clerk to read the
10 title of the bill.

11 THE CLERK: Bill No. 040079, an
12 ordinance amending various provisions of the
13 Philadelphia Code, including: Section 1-109,
14 entitled "Fines and Penalties"; Section A-504,
15 entitled "Stop Work Order", Section A-505,
16 entitled "Cease Operations Order"; Chapter 6
17 of the Philadelphia Administrative Code,
18 entitled "Penalties"; Title 6, entitled
19 "Health Code," including Section 6-103,
20 entitled "Penalties and Cease Operations
21 Orders"; and Title 9, entitled "Regulation of
22 Businesses Trades and Professions," including
23 Section 9-601, entitled "Garages, Parking
24 Lots, Sales Lots and Sales Showrooms," Motor
25 Fuels," and Section 9-1004, entitled

1 04/14/05 - FINANCE - BILL 041079
2 "Contractors", by increasing the maximum
3 penalties for violations of various provisions
4 of The Philadelphia Code; and making related
5 technical changes; all under certain terms and
6 conditions.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
8 very much. We would like to call on Mr. Otis
9 Haigler, Director of Legislative Affairs for
10 L&I.

11 Welcome, and please make your
12 presentation.

13 MR. HAIGLER: Thank you,
14 Councilwoman Blackwell.

15 Good day, Councilwoman Blackwell and
16 Members of the Committee. I am Otis Haigler,
17 Jr., Director of Legislative Affairs for the
18 Department of Licenses and Inspections.
19 Today, I'm here to provide testimony on Bill
20 041079, which if enacted will increase the
21 fines imposed for certain violations of the
22 Philadelphia Code for a maximum of either
23 \$1,000 or \$2,000, depending on the offense
24 classification for the violation.

25 This ordinance has been introduced

1 04/14/05 - FINANCE - BILL 041079
2 in Council as a result of the actions taken by
3 the General Assembly and Governor Rendell
4 through passage and enactment of Act 193 on
5 November 30, 2004. Act 193 granted authority
6 to the City of Philadelphia to raise the
7 maximum fines imposed in Municipal Court for
8 code violations from the current \$300 to
9 \$2,000. This increase in code enforcement
10 fines is significant in that it is the first
11 increase to have taken place since 1949.
12 Additionally, in accordance with Act 193, the
13 \$1,000 and 2,000 maximum will not go into
14 effect immediately but will be reached in \$400
15 annual increments until the maximum has been
16 achieved.

17 The Department believes that the
18 imposition of fines at this new level will act
19 as a deterrent to continued and reoccurring
20 violations of the Philadelphia Code and
21 enhance its efforts to effectively address
22 concerns related to public safety. The
23 category of violations chosen for inclusion in
24 Bill 041079 is representative of those which
25 have had a significant impact on the safety of

1 04/14/05 - FINANCE - BILL 041079
2 persons who live in, work in, or visit certain
3 building occupancies or impact on consumer
4 protection matters that have been brought to
5 our attention and have been raised frequently
6 by the public.

7 Also, the list of violations in Bill
8 041079 is only the first step to address some
9 of those concerns, and updates to this list
10 maybe forthcoming in the future through
11 amendments to the penalties sections of topic
12 specific code sections or to the provisions of
13 this ordinance once implementation and
14 enforcement has begun.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to
16 provide the Department's testimony on this
17 important matter. I'll be happy to answer any
18 questions at this time.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
20 very much.

21 Are there questions from Members of
22 the Committee.

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Seeing
25 none, this will conclude the public hearing

1 04/14/05 - FINANCE - BILL 041079

2 section part of the meeting, and we will enter
3 into the formal stated meeting.

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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

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PUBLIC MEETING

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COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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Thursday, April 14, 2005

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Public meeting conducted by the
Committee on FINANCE, held in Room 400, City
Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on the above
date, to consider action on the following:

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BILL 041079.

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PRESENT:

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COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL, Chair

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA

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COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.

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COUNCILMAN RICHARD MARIANO

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COUNCILMAN FRANK DICICCO

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1 04/14/05 - FINANCE - PUBLIC MEETING

2 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I will ask
3 Councilman Goode for a motion with regard to
4 Bill No. 041079.

5 Do you need a suspension of the
6 Rules, Mr. Haigler?

7 MR. HAIGLER: We will request a
8 suspension of the Rules. Thank you.

9 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you, Madam
10 Chair. I move that Bill 041079 be reported
11 out of Committee with favorable
12 recommendation, and a further recommendation
13 that Rules of Council be suspended so as to
14 permit first reading at our next Council
15 session.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: It is moved
18 and seconded that Bill No. 041079 be reported
19 out of Committee with a favorable
20 recommendation, also a recommendation for
21 suspension of the Rules.

22 All in favor say aye.

23 (Aye.)

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Opposed?

25 (No response.)

1 04/14/05 - FINANCE - PUBLIC MEETING

2 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: The ayes
3 have it.

4 That will conclude our hearing and
5 it passes.

6 Thank you very much, Mr. Haigler.
7 Thank you Members of the Committee.

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RE: COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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Lisa C. Bradley, RPR

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