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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3

COMMITTEE ON PARKS, RECREATION AND

4

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, November 10, 2009
10:35 a.m.

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PRESENT:

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COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN, CHAIR

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COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.

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COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY

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COUNCILWOMAN MARIA QUINONES-SANCHEZ

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BILL 090776 - An ordinance authorizing the
Commissioner of the Department of Parks and
Recreation, on behalf of the City of
Philadelphia, to enter into a License
Agreement between the City of Philadelphia and
Juniata Golf Foundation...

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BILL 090778 - An ordinance authorizing the
Commissioner of the Department of Parks and
Recreation, on behalf of the City of
Philadelphia, to enter into a license
agreement between the City of Philadelphia and
Impact Services...

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RESOLUTION 090698 - Resolution authorizing the
Council Committee on Parks, Recreation, and
Cultural Affairs to conduct hearings on the
challenges faced by the City's ethnic and
cultural parades...

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V A R A L L O Incorporated
Litigation Support Services
Eleven Penn Center
1835 Market Street, Suite 600
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

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COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Good

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morning. The City Council Committee on

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Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs is

5

now in a public hearing to hear testimony

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on Bill No. 090776 sponsored by

7

Councilwoman Sanchez and Bill No. 090778

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sponsored by Councilman Jones.

9

Committee members in attendance

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this morning are, to my immediate right,

11

Councilmember Curtis Jones, who serves as

12

Vice-Chair of the Committee, Councilman

13

Jim Kenney and Councilwoman Sanchez.

14

I will now ask the Clerk to

15

read the title of Bills 090776 and

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090778.

17

THE CLERK: An ordinance

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authorizing the Commissioner of the

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Department of Parks and Recreation, on

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behalf of the City of Philadelphia, to

21

enter into a License Agreement between

22

the City of Philadelphia and Juniata Golf

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Foundation, under which Juniata Golf

24

Foundation would operate, manage and

25

maintain Juniata Golf Course as a public

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 golf course under certain terms and
3 conditions.

4 Bill No. 090778, an ordinance
5 authorizing the Commissioner of the
6 Department of Parks and Recreation, on
7 behalf of the City of Philadelphia, to
8 enter into a license agreement between
9 the City of Philadelphia and Impact
10 Services Corporation under which Impact
11 Services Corporation would operate,
12 manage and maintain Walnut Lane Golf
13 Course as a public golf course under
14 certain terms and conditions.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Before we
16 call up the first witness on 090776, I
17 want to first ask the Vice-Chair of this
18 Committee if you have any opening
19 comments of any nature. Please.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
21 Madam Chair.

22 The founders of the Park many,
23 many years ago now were wise in their
24 decision to try to create open space for
25 average working citizens for the health

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 and entertainment. Not just for the rich
3 who could afford summer homes, not just
4 for the wealthy who could take two-week
5 vacations, but for average
6 Philadelphians. That was wise then. It
7 is wise now.

8 Our golf courses that we have
9 within the Park system are valued
10 treasures. Although the wealthy are
11 invited, it gives a welcoming environment
12 for all people of all races, of all
13 economic strata, and we should continue
14 that.

15 On September 11th, 2008
16 emotions ran high as golf enthusiasts,
17 community activists and regular folk who
18 were interested in the Walnut Lane Golf
19 Course and its proposed changes gathered
20 in Saul High School to listen to a
21 presentation by Fairmount Park. I was
22 joined in that meeting by Senator Shirley
23 Kitchen and Ward Leader Lou Agre. Many
24 believe the presentation of the golf
25 course would mean its demise, its end,

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 its alteration as an 18-hole golf course,
3 but what it did was pulled people
4 together and we formed a working
5 committee, along with the owners and
6 operators of the golf course, to try to
7 look at feasible ways to keep it open.

8 John MacDonald and a
9 representative of Fairmount Park, Barry
10 Bessler, were present at the first
11 Committee's hearings and offered
12 suggestions to deal with some of the
13 challenges faced by all golf courses in
14 Philadelphia and their operation. This
15 meeting was fruitful in the sense that we
16 came up with recommendations to need to
17 give Impact Services a multi-year lease
18 so that they would not be afraid to make
19 capital improvements, certain
20 improvements that required investment, in
21 that only over time of operation could be
22 retrieved and could be turned into
23 profit.

24 So our committee rallied around
25 the ongoing operation of this golf course

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 and others in the City of Philadelphia,
3 and I believe that this legislation is
4 reasonable, responsible and will
5 ultimately improve the quality of life of
6 people in the City of Philadelphia.

7 Thank you, Madam Chair.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: You're
9 welcome, Mr. Vice-Chair.

10 So that we do not create
11 confusion, Councilman Jones has spoken on
12 Bill No. 090778. So if you could start
13 with that testimony, that would be
14 helpful, Mark Focht.

15 MR. FOCHT: Good morning.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you.

17 MR. FOCHT: Good morning,
18 Chairwoman Reynolds Brown and members of
19 the Committee. My name is Mark Focht. I
20 am the Executive Director of Fairmount
21 Park in the Department of Parks and
22 Recreation, and I am pleased to appear
23 before you today in support of City
24 Council Bill No. 090778, authorizing the
25 City of Philadelphia, through the

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 Department of Parks and Recreation, to
3 enter into a Lease and Operating
4 Agreement with Impact Services
5 Corporation to operate the Walnut Lane
6 Golf Course.

7 Walnut Lane Golf Course is
8 located in the Roxborough section of the
9 City in the Wissahickon Valley Park
10 bounded on the north, east and south by
11 Henry Avenue, on the west by Walnut Lane
12 and Magdalena Street. Impact Services
13 Corporation is a Kensington-based
14 non-profit formed in 1974 that provides
15 highly regarded job training, veteran
16 services, supportive housing, childcare
17 centers and youth programs among its many
18 community-based programs.

19 An Impact Services subsidiary,
20 the Greater Philadelphia Scholastic Golf
21 Association, operates The First Tee of
22 Philadelphia program at a teaching
23 facility that it constructed at the
24 City's Franklin Delano Roosevelt Golf
25 Course in South Philadelphia. The First

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 Tee is a national organization devoted to
3 improving the lives of young people by
4 providing learning facilities and
5 education programs that promote character
6 development and life-enhancing values
7 through the game of golf. The First Tee
8 of Philadelphia is nationally recognized
9 as one of the top five programs of more
10 than 200 First Tee programs nationwide.
11 John MacDonald, the President of Impact
12 Services Corporation, also serves as the
13 Executive Director of The First Tee of
14 Philadelphia and actively participates in
15 the management of Walnut Lane Golf
16 Course. He has devoted his life to
17 mentoring young people by sharing his
18 knowledge and love of the game of golf.
19 Impact Services has
20 successfully operated the Walnut Lane
21 Golf Course under the terms of
22 back-to-back one-year Lease and Operating
23 Agreements since January 2008. Community
24 golfers, residents, businesses and
25 certainly the staff of the Department of

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 Parks and Recreation and Fairmount Park
3 have been pleased with the operation of
4 the course under Impact Services'
5 management. More than 500 youth
6 participate in The First Tee program, and
7 GolfWorks, an innovative partnership with
8 nearby Saul High School, provides
9 employment and training in golf course
10 management for Saul students. Impact has
11 made improvements to the course,
12 including extensive tree work and
13 restoration of the cart paths and is
14 about to construct a synthetic green for
15 instructing children.

16 The Department of Parks and
17 Recreation would like to offer a
18 long-term lease to Impact Services
19 Corporation in recognition of its sound
20 operation of the golf course and to
21 encourage and enable it to make long-term
22 investments in the course, clubhouse and
23 community programming. The proposed
24 License and Operating Agreement will
25 provide an initial five-year term, with a

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 four-year renewal term to be exercised at
3 the sole discretion of the City. The
4 renewal term will expire on the same date
5 as the City's other golf agreements so
6 that the Department of Parks and
7 Recreation has the flexibility to
8 evaluate and select the best option for
9 managing all six public golf courses
10 moving forward from that point.

11 The agreement will not impose a
12 financial obligation on the City at any
13 time and requires Impact Services to
14 contribute five percent of gross annual
15 revenues to a capital escrow account to
16 fund capital improvements approved by the
17 Department of Parks and Recreation.
18 Under the terms of the agreement, Impact
19 Services will be required to meet
20 annually with the Department of Parks and
21 Recreation to present its business plan.

22 Today I appear before you to
23 pledge the support of the Department of
24 Parks and Recreation staff for this
25 legislation and respectfully ask that

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 City Council and this Committee approve
3 Bill No. 090778.

4 In addition, I request a
5 suspension of the rules so as to permit
6 first reading of this bill at the next
7 session of Council.

8 I would also like to add that
9 I've been handed copies of a letter for
10 members of the Committee from Nancy A.
11 Goldenberg, the Chair of the Commission
12 of Parks and Recreation. As you well
13 know, the legislation that established
14 the Parks and Recreation Commission
15 provide the Commission the opportunity to
16 weigh in on any legislation affecting
17 land use. I have a letter here from
18 Chairwoman Goldenberg strongly supportive
19 of both bills, 090778 for Walnut Lane and
20 090776 for Juniata Golf Course.

21 With that, I would be pleased
22 to answer any questions of the Committee.
23 Thank you very much.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Do you
25 have a copy of the letter that Ms. Nancy

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.

2 Goldenberg has given us? Do you have
3 your own copy?

4 MR. FOCHT: I do, yes.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: For the
6 record, then, put on the record the first
7 paragraph and the last paragraph.

8 MR. FOCHT: Certainly.

9 "The legislation establishing
10 the Commission on Parks and Recreation
11 stipulates that," in quotes,
12 "'immediately upon introduction into
13 Council of any ordinance authorizing the
14 City to acquire, convey or lease to a
15 third party any interest in real estate
16 that includes park or recreation land or
17 facilities, the Chief Clerk of Council
18 shall submit it to the Commission on
19 Parks and Recreation for its
20 recommendation to the Mayor and the
21 Council'".

22 Final paragraph, "We encourage
23 the swift passage of both bills and are
24 happy to have this letter read into the
25 record as testimony at the public hearing

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 on Tuesday, November 10th, 2009. Should
3 you have any questions or need
4 clarification, please don't hesitate to
5 contact me.

6 "Thank you.

7 "Sincerely, Nancy A.

8 Goldenberg, Chair of the Commission on
9 Parks and Recreation."

10 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Terrific.

11 Thank you very much.

12 Councilwoman Sanchez.

13 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
14 you.

15 Thank you, Director Focht. In
16 this agreement both providers would be
17 required to do a five percent annual
18 revenue into an escrow account. Do we
19 have an estimate of what that would be in
20 both cases?

21 MR. FOCHT: Approximately
22 \$25,000 to \$30,000 a year.

23 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ:

24 Twenty-five to 30 each one?

25 MR. FOCHT: Correct, for each

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.

2 course per year.

3 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: How does
4 that compare to our other public ones?

5 MR. FOCHT: It's approximately
6 the same that our other agreement with
7 Billy Casper Golf for the other four golf
8 courses.

9 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: As it
10 relates -- this agreement also says that
11 this fund would be used for expected
12 capital improvements. What has been the
13 investments thus far both from Impact --
14 I'll ask this also of the Golf
15 Foundation, and is there any other
16 projected capital improvements that we
17 are expected to make?

18 MR. FOCHT: You will hear
19 testimony from both John MacDonald and
20 Bob Wheeler, both of whom can speak to
21 the investments they have made. We
22 constantly have conversations with both
23 the leadership at both courses to
24 identify the capital needs, such as I
25 mentioned tree work that had been done at

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 Walnut Lane, and it's kind of, just as
3 with any capital venture, it's a rotating
4 list, an ongoing list of capital projects
5 that are identified by the operator,
6 they're vetted with Park staff, that are
7 approved design-wise by Parks and
8 Recreation staff and then implemented by
9 the operator.

10 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Okay.
11 So all capital improvements, outside of
12 what's available at this escrow, is going
13 to be the sole responsibility of the
14 providers?

15 MR. FOCHT: Correct.

16 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: And
17 they're in agreement with that? Well,
18 we'll hear from them.

19 MR. FOCHT: You'll hear from
20 them, but I believe they're in agreement
21 with that, yes.

22 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Is there
23 any other major capital stuff related to
24 either one of these two ballparks that we
25 should be aware of? Because this is a

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 long-term agreement, which is great
3 because it provides some sustainability
4 for them and some planning, but I just
5 want to make sure that if there's any
6 major outstanding ticket items that we
7 haven't addressed, that we're aware of
8 them going into this arrangement.

9 MR. FOCHT: Well, as Councilman
10 Jones referenced, we have now completed
11 master plans for both courses. You were
12 involved in that for the Juniata Course.
13 After we get past this point of getting
14 the legislation in place, we will sit
15 with both operators, look at the master
16 plans and determine what we collectively
17 think is feasible and doable to implement
18 out of both master plans. That will
19 develop kind of a capital program moving
20 forward over the nine years, five to nine
21 years of the agreement.

22 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Okay.
23 And you will share that with us --

24 MR. FOCHT: Of course.

25 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: -- so

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 that we're aware where the agreements are
3 and where potential disagreements are?

4 MR. FOCHT: Of course.
5 Absolutely.

6 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
7 you.

8 MR. FOCHT: Thank you.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Any other
10 questions for this witness?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay.
13 Thank you very much.

14 MR. FOCHT: Thank you.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Please
16 stay tuned for the second.

17 If we could please now call a
18 panel for Bill No. 090778. That would
19 include John MacDonald, President and CEO
20 of Impact Services, James Lammendola,
21 neighborhood resident, and Susan Nye,
22 neighborhood resident. Please come to
23 the witness table.

24 (Witnesses approached witness
25 table.)

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.

2 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Good
3 morning. We'll start with John
4 MacDonald, President and CEO of Impact
5 Services.

6 MR. MacDONALD: Thank you,
7 Councilwoman Brown and the Committee
8 members. I am John MacDonald. I'm the
9 President and the CEO of Impact Services
10 Corporation, and I'm pleased to appear
11 before you today in support of Council
12 Bill No. 090778, authorizing the City of
13 Philadelphia, through the Department of
14 Parks and Recreation, to enter into a
15 License and Operating Agreement with
16 Impact Services Corporation to operate
17 the Walnut Lane Golf Course.

18 Impact Services Corporation
19 employs 124 individuals full time and is
20 currently in the 35th year of operation,
21 with our corporate offices located at
22 Kensington and Allegheny. Our 501(c)(3)
23 non-profit corporation offers a variety
24 of employment training programs, placing
25 more than 20,000 individuals into work.

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.

2 We manage four business associations with
3 roughly 1,000 members. We operate a
4 specialized Earn Center for pregnant
5 mothers hoping to leave the welfare
6 rolls. We operate an award-winning
7 reentry program assisting individuals
8 returning to the community from prison.
9 And our Homeless Veterans Program serving
10 dual- and triple-diagnosed individuals,
11 many returning from Iraq and Afghanistan,
12 is the only one of its kind in the United
13 States. In addition, we provide
14 supportive housing, youth programs,
15 community leadership activities that will
16 strengthen our neighborhood. We assist
17 businesses on commercial strips with
18 facade improvements, streetscapes,
19 marketing and growth, and we operate our
20 own enterprises. In 2008, our revenues
21 exceeded \$9 million.

22 The Greater Philadelphia
23 Scholastic Golf Association is a
24 subsidiary of Impact Services and
25 operates The First Tee of Philadelphia

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 national youth development program built
3 on a platform of golf. We are currently
4 in our sixth year of operating this
5 program. It started in a
6 state-of-the-art teaching facility we
7 built on the grounds of the City's
8 Franklin D. Roosevelt Golf Course next to
9 the clubhouse. Our mission: To impact
10 the lives of young people by providing
11 learning facilities and educational
12 programs that promote character
13 development and life-enhancing values
14 through the game of golf. The President
15 and CEO of The First Tee is Joe Louis
16 Barrow, Jr., son of the great Joe Louis,
17 world heavyweight boxing champion. This
18 past year The First Tee of Philadelphia
19 was honored by the National Office
20 receiving the Chairman's Award. I am
21 proud to serve as Executive Director of
22 The First Tee Philadelphia utilizing my
23 lifetime of experience in golf. I was a
24 caddy at age 8, worked on the grounds
25 crew at age 14, and during high school, I

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 worked in the pro shop. I played on the
3 golf team at Northeast High School,
4 earned a scholarship to play golf at
5 Temple, turned pro after graduation and
6 then became the golf coach at Temple
7 University for three decades. All of
8 this happened in my life because a member
9 of Melrose Country Club went out of his
10 way to give an 8-year-old his very first
11 golf club after caddying for him one day.
12 Through The First Tee we're trying to
13 change the lives by offering a similar
14 opportunity to thousands of children in
15 Philadelphia.

16 In January of 2008, Impact was
17 given a one-year lease to operate the
18 Walnut Lane Golf Course, which was
19 renewed for another year in January of
20 2009. We upgraded the cart fleet,
21 offering 50 two-year-old golf courses to
22 the golfing public. We have aerated the
23 fairways, tees and greens as well as
24 over-seeded all others. We've cut down
25 dead and dangerous trees and started new

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 plantings. We installed a practice net
3 for golfers to loosen up prior to teeing
4 off. We added staff to the facility.
5 David Smith, the Class "A" PGA golf
6 professional, directs The First Tee
7 program at Walnut Lane Golf Course. The
8 pro shop merchandise offerings have been
9 expanded. Students from the Saul High
10 School have been employed each summer in
11 our GolfWorks program. Just under 500
12 children from 30 organizations have been
13 involved in the TFT program representing
14 schools, community centers, golf
15 organizations, churches and special needs
16 programs, including the Pennsylvania
17 School for the Deaf, the Mid-Atlantic
18 Blind Golfers, the Northern Home for Boys
19 and North Light Community Center.
20 Volunteers have donated over 2,500 hours
21 of assistance to The First Tee program.
22 We created a teaching area for the youth,
23 which we hope to expand for the future.
24 We are striving for a greener facility by
25 reducing our insecticide spray program by

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 over 60 percent by changing to a green
3 pesticide. The product does not carry
4 any signal words of caution, creating a
5 safer environment for our customers,
6 youth participants and wildlife.

7 As a result of our efforts, the
8 facility is supported by the United
9 States Golf Association, the Professional
10 Golf Association, the Ladies Professional
11 Golf Association, the Golf Association of
12 Philadelphia and the World Golf
13 Foundation. The number of rounds in 2009
14 has increased to 19,344 through November
15 the 6th. Roughly 485 rounds at the \$5
16 rate for youth is a new Walnut Lane Golf
17 Course offering.

18 And, finally, we have assembled
19 a skilled staff that has bought into the
20 vision of youth programming that can
21 change lives while providing the best
22 conditioned public golf course in the
23 City.

24 Humbly, I ask for your support
25 passing City Council Bill 090778.

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.

2 Thanks, and I'd be happy to
3 answer questions.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay.

5 Thank you for your testimony.

6 I'm going to have colleagues
7 pose questions to this witness directly
8 and then we'll move to the other members
9 of our panel.

10 Councilman Jim Kenney.

11 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you
12 very much, Madam Chair.

13 I just want to just for the
14 record comment. As a South Philadelphia
15 resident, I have been very much aware of
16 the work of The First Tee down at what we
17 call The Lakes, but it's Franklin
18 Roosevelt Park. As a matter of fact, I
19 played many years there. I'm still not
20 very good, but I still enjoy playing.
21 But the number of children and the
22 diversity of children that this
23 organization has touched is just
24 astounding, because I think for many,
25 many years, I guess until Tiger Woods

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 burst on the scene, there was a
3 perception that golf was not a sport for
4 anyone other than white men. And we knew
5 that's not the case and obviously not the
6 case, and I think the more children that
7 we allow, both male, female, black,
8 white, whatever ethnic group, exposure to
9 this sport, it not only gives them
10 another outlet, another way of
11 understanding how to behave and how to
12 grow up in the society, but it opens
13 doors for them, future doors, in high
14 school scholarships, college scholarships
15 and, most importantly, business
16 opportunities once they're in the working
17 world, because a lot of work gets done
18 and a lot of the contracts get approved
19 and dealt with on a golf course, and the
20 more people we get, more diversity on
21 those courses making those deals, the
22 better off we'll all be.

23 So I just want to thank you for
24 not only the work that Impact does in
25 every area of social work and social

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 mission, but this in particular is
3 important I think because it knocked down
4 a wall that needed to be knocked down,
5 and those kids are going to -- the
6 numbers of kids and the types of kids are
7 going to expand exponentially the more
8 opportunities they have throughout our
9 system to get a golf club in their hand
10 and get someone to teach them how to use
11 it. So I just want to thank you for all
12 your work.

13 MR. MacDONALD: Thank you very
14 much.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN:
16 Councilwoman Sanchez.

17 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
18 you.

19 Thank you, John, for all the
20 work that you do. I just wanted to kind
21 of ask you the same questions I had asked
22 of the Director in terms of this
23 agreement calling on the contribution to
24 the capital improvement and ensuring that
25 there has been a discussion around future

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 capital improvements and that you're
3 satisfied with the interaction between
4 Fairmount Park and Impact Services as it
5 relates to that.

6 MR. MacDONALD: Yes. It became
7 really important for us, because the
8 program in South Philadelphia was
9 expanding so much, to have a facility
10 that we could control the play of youth
11 when they got to the point when they'd be
12 on the course. It really took the
13 pressure off of the other public golf
14 courses for the kids, and we went into
15 this with our eyes open.

16 The buildings are in difficult
17 repair. I had an architect out there
18 this morning actually, and, you know,
19 there's roof issues, there's a lot of
20 issues with the golf course. Hopefully
21 we can assist the Park system as a result
22 of our non-profit status to bring some
23 additional resources into the facility to
24 help take care of some of these major
25 expenses.

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.

2 One of the things that I am a
3 little fearful of -- and thank you for
4 asking the question -- is just the green
5 issues. Tanks are underground and, you
6 know, I have no idea how folks have
7 addressed that, although EPA, we've
8 talked with them and had them out and
9 we've run the test and had consultants
10 come in and look at the tanks. And you
11 just -- it's one of those things you just
12 kind of cross your fingers and hope that
13 you're good.

14 But I know the Park system has
15 undertaken a program to put tanks above
16 ground. I don't know what that costs. I
17 know we just did that down at FDR, just
18 last week actually.

19 So that's my only fear. I
20 mean, we want to make this the best place
21 we can possibly make it for the folks
22 that play as well as the kids that are
23 going to be there learning the game of
24 golf and the nine core values of The
25 First Tee. So, you know, we cross our

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 fingers that we'll be able to raise the
3 money, and hopefully it will be a
4 facility that the City will be really
5 proud of.

6 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Well,
7 we're hopeful, and as I expressed to
8 Director Mark, as soon as you come up
9 with a capital plan, it's important that
10 we're aware of it. Obviously from the
11 perspective of trying to be supportive,
12 we appreciate this kind of unique
13 collaboration, and I do want to recognize
14 Mark's willingness to work with both of
15 the groups to make this happen, to make
16 it work. It is an unusual situation from
17 a private provider to a non-profit, and
18 we want it to be very successful, because
19 we want you to do your work and we also
20 want to be helpful. And it's important
21 that as the capital plan is developed,
22 that we have those conversations so that
23 those could become priorities for all of
24 us, because I think sometimes if we know
25 what short-term investments would lead to

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 long-term savings and sometimes we need
3 to put them at the forefront, and we
4 count on you to put that in our forefront
5 so that we can make it a priority in our
6 work here.

7 So thank you.

8 MR. MacDONALD: Thank you very
9 much.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Councilman
11 Jones.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: I too echo
13 your great works up there and seeing
14 young people swing their little hearts
15 out that probably could golf circles
16 around me that you've been able to train.
17 It was interesting that when the issue
18 first came up, probably the concept of
19 shrinking the golf course, we had a
20 packed auditorium of people that were
21 concerned golfers, community residents,
22 people who just walk the course just for
23 quiet enjoyment. How has that translated
24 into friends of the golf course kind of
25 helping out with the long-term goals of

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.

2 keeping that place sustainable, and how
3 does that translate?

4 MR. MacDONALD: Well, I think
5 the one obvious is the increase in play,
6 but I think since the kids have been
7 there, the volunteers have really
8 increased tremendously, and at the same
9 time, I've heard folks say that the golf
10 course now has a soul.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: Enough said
12 from me. Let's keep its heartbeat going.
13 My point is that too often we come out
14 when there's something bad about to
15 happen, but it's important to come out
16 also to make good things happen, and now
17 that the golf course has a soul, let's
18 keep its heartbeat alive.

19 MR. MacDONALD: Thank you.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
21 Madam Chair.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: My closing
23 comment on this particular resolution is
24 that Councilman Kenney's remarks really
25 need to be underscored and put into bold

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 letters. He's known of your work over
3 the years. I've learned of your work and
4 gotten to know your work over the last
5 six weeks, and I always look to see what
6 is the level of commitment, of outreach
7 to creating a diverse workforce; in this
8 case, young people, because it matters in
9 today's environment, and to know that
10 you're providing not -- these young
11 people won't be lucky, but you're
12 creating -- the awareness leads to
13 exposure. Preparation, that leads to
14 opportunity. You're giving exposure and
15 opportunity to learn an entirely
16 different world.

17 So please continue the reach of
18 your outreach, both wide and deep, and
19 the expectation is that the numbers will
20 exponentially grow now that you're at the
21 Walnut Lane area. Congratulations on
22 your good work.

23 MR. MacDONALD: Thank you so
24 much.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: If we

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 could hear from James, and I'm going to
3 have you pronounce your last name for me.

4 MR. LAMMENDOLA: Councilwoman,
5 you did it right the first time. It's
6 James Lammendola.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you
8 very, very much. Neighborhood resident
9 of Walnut Lane. Please proceed with your
10 testimony.

11 MR. LAMMENDOLA: My name is
12 James M. Lammendola and I am delighted to
13 appear before the Council Committee today
14 in support of Council Bill 090778,
15 authorizing the City of Philadelphia,
16 through the Department of Parks and
17 Recreation, to enter into a Lease and
18 Operating Agreement with Impact Services
19 Corporation to operate the Walnut Lane
20 Golf Course.

21 I have been a Roxborough
22 resident since 1985. I am a Professor at
23 Temple University Fox School of Business
24 and teach real estate law and business
25 ethics, among other courses, to both

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 undergraduates and MBA students. I was
3 in private legal practice in Center City
4 Philadelphia for approximately 19 years.
5 I have been a baseball coach in the
6 Roxborough-based 21st Ward Junior
7 Baseball League since 1998. I also serve
8 as the Community Representative of the
9 21st Ward Athletic Association, which
10 oversees all of the many athletic
11 organizations and programs which
12 primarily serve Manayunk, Wissahickon,
13 East Falls and Roxborough.

14 I was asked to serve on the
15 Committee that Councilperson Jones
16 established to examine the Land Use and
17 Feasibility Study commissioned by the
18 Fairmount Park Commission that outlined
19 possible changes to the use of the Walnut
20 Lane Golf Course. At these meetings,
21 both the perceived merits and
22 deficiencies of the study were examined.
23 The Committee was united in its stance in
24 thinking that many of the proposals,
25 which included converting Walnut Lane

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 into a nine-hole golf course, together
3 with the possibility of constructing
4 either an amphitheater, roller skate
5 arena, restaurant and relocating John
6 Boyce Baseball Field, were not in the
7 best interest of the neighborhood and the
8 City. I participated in the Committee
9 activities because I perceived two
10 matters of importance to my city were
11 threatened. A significant recreational
12 activity that benefited the middle class
13 and open space were threatened.

14 I have never played golf in my
15 life and probably never will, but I am
16 convinced that the best use of the Walnut
17 Lane Golf Course is as an 18-hole golf
18 course, and the proposed Lease Agreement
19 with Impact Services Corporation, which I
20 have reviewed, serves the best interest
21 of the City, the adult golfing public and
22 the children of our city that Impact
23 Services caters to through its youth
24 programs. Public golf courses, just as
25 libraries, parks and playgrounds, are

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 part of the fabric of life that makes
3 big-city living more than a walk through
4 concrete, brick and asphalt.

5 By any objective standard, it
6 appears that the almost three-year
7 management of the course by Impact
8 Services has been a boon to the course
9 and its players. John MacDonald,
10 President of Impact Services Corporation
11 and Executive Director of First Tee of
12 Philadelphia, appeared before the Walnut
13 Lane Committee and explained his vision
14 for the golf course and how the golf
15 course was operated in 2007-8. Mark
16 Focht, Director of Fairmount Park
17 Department of Parks and Recreation, has
18 already addressed the nuts and bolts of
19 how the City would continue to benefit
20 from Impact Services' stewardship of
21 Walnut Lane Golf Course.

22 The preservation of the Walnut
23 Lane Golf Course as an 18-hole golf
24 course is critical to the community.
25 Although the proposed lease issue is

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 before Council today, there are also two
3 larger issues at stake - the status of
4 Walnut Lane Golf Course as an 18-hole
5 public golf course and as a significant
6 parcel of open space in the City of
7 Philadelphia.

8 A public golf course serves the
9 middle class and aspiring middle class
10 who are not able to golf at a private
11 country club because of financial
12 constraints. Take away a public golf
13 course and you diminish the City. I can
14 no more envision Philadelphia without the
15 Walnut Lane Golf Course than I can
16 envision Philadelphia without its public
17 ball fields and playgrounds. This lease
18 serves to further the goal of serving the
19 middle class, whose tax contributions are
20 the grease that drives any big city.

21 The Walnut Lane Golf Course
22 abuts a large portion of the Wissahickon
23 Valley that borders the environmentally
24 sensitive Forbidden Drive. Over the
25 recent decades, there has been a tendency

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 to chip away at the areas where the Park
3 begins, such as areas bordering on the
4 Houston meadow and at the lower end of
5 Summit Avenue. There has also been
6 significant development in the past 20
7 years in areas away from the Park,
8 including Hunters Point, the homes on
9 Spring Lane and the condominiums near
10 Saul High School. Roughly 26 acres of
11 the Schuylkill Valley Nature Center has
12 been recently sold. There was even talk
13 a few years ago of developing the
14 reservoir on Port Royal Avenue, which is
15 a significant bird sanctuary.

16 A well-managed Walnut Lane Golf
17 Course will serve as a buffer, at least
18 in the short term, against the loss of
19 more open space in Roxborough as well as
20 preserving an important recreational
21 outlet for many of our residents. And
22 I'd like to emphasize, including the
23 children.

24 Thank you for your anticipated
25 support of this bill.

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.

2 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you
3 for your testimony.

4 Any questions for this witness?

5 Councilwoman Sanchez.

6 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: No
7 questions.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you
9 very much.

10 Please, Ms. Susan Nye.

11 MS. NYE: Thank you very much.
12 Good morning.

13 Chairwoman Reynolds and
14 Committee members, my name is Susan Nye
15 and I am a 13-year resident in the area
16 adjacent to the Walnut Lane Golf Course.
17 I am here today to support a License and
18 Operating Agreement for an initial
19 five-year term to Impact Services,
20 present operators of the facility.

21 As a resident of the area, I
22 both observe and use the golf course.
23 While spring, summer and fall are the
24 primary golf seasons, the course is used
25 year round. On any sunny day, one can

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 see golfers, young and old, men and
3 women, playing the course. As a golfer I
4 have played on the course numerous times
5 and have been impressed with the care and
6 attention given to the fairways and
7 greens these past few years. Most of
8 all, however, I have been impressed with
9 the efforts to attract young boys and
10 girls to the sport of golf and to the
11 course. Many of our public and parochial
12 high school golf teams practice and
13 compete on the Walnut Lane Course, and
14 the Public League Championships were held
15 there as well.

16 As a former physical educator,
17 golf coach and Philadelphia middle school
18 principal who retired in 2004, I am
19 constantly aware of and am looking for
20 opportunities for our students to
21 participate in the life of the community.
22 I have been impressed with The First Tee
23 program brought in this year by Director
24 John MacDonald. First Tee is endorsed by
25 the PGA and provides golf instruction to

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 school students in conjunction with their
3 regular physical education classes. I
4 saw groups of kids learning golf skills
5 at Walnut Lane and went to meet Dave
6 Smith, the Program Director. I learned
7 that in just this year -- and this is
8 since March -- over 425 students in more
9 than 30 schools and centers participated
10 in the program. Some schools include
11 Wagner Middle School, Hill-Freedman
12 Middle School, Pennsylvania School for
13 the Deaf, Northern Home for Boys, Roman
14 and Little Flower High Schools.
15 Mr. Smith plans to increase the number of
16 schools, provided there is a multi-year
17 commitment, because he understands that
18 it takes time to develop a stable program
19 that can expand and succeed.

20 I'd like to say too that the
21 schools also need to plan for budgeting,
22 curriculum and scheduling, and in many
23 cases, they also need time to procure
24 funding necessary to have this program in
25 their schools.

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.

2 The Walnut Lane Golf Course is
3 a tremendous asset to the Northwest
4 section of Philadelphia and serves an
5 amazingly diverse population of
6 residents. At a time when people are
7 looking for peace, tranquility and places
8 to play golf or just walk with their
9 friends and family, Walnut Lane provides
10 this opportunity.

11 I personally want to thank
12 Councilman Jones for his interest and
13 support of this particular golf course
14 and our neighborhood, and I ask that the
15 Committee approve Bill 090778.

16 Thank you for your time.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you
18 for your testimony.

19 Have you had a chance to reduce
20 to writing your recommendation you
21 mentioned regarding what the schools
22 should be doing so that they can be more
23 adequately prepared for what The First
24 Tee is offering?

25 MS. NYE: I'm sorry?

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.

2 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Have you
3 considered putting in writing -- you
4 stipulate in your testimony that the
5 schools should be doing X, Y, Z.

6 MS. NYE: I will be happy to do
7 that as an addendum.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: I think
9 that would be very important if we want
10 the schools to do more, do what they can.
11 You can't hold anyone responsible for
12 that which we haven't brought to their
13 attention. I'm sure, given the fact that
14 you live and breathe this effort, having
15 been a member of the system, they would
16 pay attention to that letter.

17 MS. NYE: I'd be happy to do
18 that.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Any other
20 questions for this witness?

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Anyone
23 else here to testify on Bill No. 090778?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Well, we

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 want to thank all of you for your
3 testimony and for your obvious enthusiasm
4 for what lies ahead for The First Tee.

5 And, Mr. MacDonald, let me just
6 commend you again on your remarkable
7 outreach. That's not easy to do ever,
8 and when you reach deep and reach wide,
9 it should not go unnoticed. Thank you
10 very much.

11 MR. MacDONALD: Thank you.

12 MS. NYE: Thank you.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Now if we
14 could hear testimony on Bill No. 090776,
15 starting with our Executive Director
16 again for Fairmount Park, Department of
17 Parks and Recreation, Mark Focht.

18 (Witness approached witness
19 table.)

20 MR. FOCHT: Again, good
21 morning, Chairwoman Reynolds Brown and
22 members of the Committee. I'm Mark
23 Focht, the Executive Director of
24 Fairmount Park in the Department of Parks
25 and Recreation. I am pleased to appear

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 before you today in support of City
3 Council Bill 090776, authorizing the City
4 of Philadelphia, through the Department
5 of Parks and Recreation, to enter into a
6 License and Operating Agreement with the
7 Juniata Golf Foundation to operate the
8 Juniata Golf Course.

9 Juniata Golf Course is located
10 in the Juniata Park section of the City
11 in Tacony Creek Park and bounded on the
12 north and west by the Tacony/Frankford
13 Creek and on the south by Cayuga Street
14 and on the east by Castor Avenue. The
15 Juniata Golf Foundation is a non-profit
16 corporation formed in 2007 solely for the
17 purpose of operating Juniata Golf Course
18 for the benefit of the community. The
19 Foundation has successfully operated the
20 golf course under the terms of
21 back-to-back one-year Lease and Operating
22 Agreements since January 2008. Robert
23 Wheeler, Executive Director of the
24 Juniata Golf Foundation, is a native of
25 Juniata Park and a retired Philadelphia

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 police officer. Bob has been involved in
3 managing Juniata Golf Course since 1990.

4 Department of Parks and
5 Recreation staff, golfers and community
6 residents and businesses have been
7 pleased with the operation of the Juniata
8 Golf Course under the Juniata Golf
9 Foundation's management. The Foundation
10 has made significant improvements to the
11 course, including restoring greens and
12 cart paths, repairing bridges, renovating
13 the clubhouse and providing new
14 landscaping. It has also increased the
15 course's round of play and increased the
16 number of community and youth golf
17 programs, providing Junior Golf Camp and
18 PAL Golf Camp, among other programs.

19 The Department of Parks and
20 Recreation would like to offer a
21 long-term lease to the Juniata Golf
22 Foundation to reward it for its sound
23 operation and care of the golf course and
24 to encourage it to make strategic
25 long-term investments in the course,

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 clubhouse and community programming. The
3 proposed Lease and Operating Agreement
4 will provide an initial five-year term,
5 with a four-year renewal term to be
6 exercised at the sole discretion of the
7 City. The renewal term will expire the
8 same date as the City's other golf course
9 agreements so that the Department of
10 Parks and Recreation has the flexibility
11 to evaluate and select the best option
12 for managing all six public golf courses
13 concurrently.

14 The agreement will not impose a
15 financial obligation on the City at any
16 time and requires the Foundation to
17 contribute five percent of annual gross
18 revenues to a capital escrow account to
19 fund capital improvements approved by the
20 Department of Parks and Recreation.
21 Under the terms of the agreement, the
22 Foundation will be required to meet
23 annually with the Department of Parks and
24 Recreation to present its business plan.

25 Today I appear before you to

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 pledge the support of the Department of
3 Parks and Recreation for this legislation
4 and respectfully ask that this Committee
5 and City Council approve Bill No. 090776.

6 In addition, I request a
7 suspension of the rules so as to permit
8 first reading of this bill at the next
9 session of Council.

10 Thank you. I'd be very pleased
11 to answer any questions concerning this
12 matter.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you
14 for your testimony.

15 Any questions for this witness?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay,
18 then. We thank you for your testimony.

19 MR. FOCHT: Thank you again.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And if we
21 could please ask Bob Wheeler, operator
22 for Golf Foundation, to please come
23 forward and offer your testimony.

24 (Witness approached witness
25 table.)

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.

2 MR. WHEELER: Good morning,
3 Council. Thank you for having me here
4 this morning. My name is Bob Wheeler.
5 Like Mark said, I'm a retired police
6 officer. I started working at Juniata
7 approximately 20 years ago part time. In
8 the last five years I've been there as a
9 General Manager, and the last two years
10 as the General Manager and the Executive
11 Director of the Juniata Golf Foundation.

12 When we took it over about two
13 years ago, the course wasn't in great
14 shape. We didn't have a clubhouse. We
15 had port-a-potties, which was not a good
16 situation. And in the last two years,
17 we've accomplished a tremendous amount of
18 work, along with the unions who have come
19 in and really helped us out. We built a
20 pro shop. We built banquet facilities.
21 And we have bathrooms now, and we've
22 improved the course tremendously. Our
23 greens are as good as anybody's around,
24 even as good as the private courses. Our
25 fairway is in tremendous shape. And I

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 think that's a reflection on the rounds
3 that we're doing now. Two years ago we
4 did around 12,000 rounds. Presently
5 we're doing 15,000 rounds right now. So
6 in the process, we've done about 45
7 fundraisers for different people,
8 tournaments. We're very popular in that
9 area.

10 Our two main goals is to work
11 with the community and also to improve
12 the golf course. I think we've
13 accomplished that, or at least we're on
14 our way of doing that as improving the
15 golf course, like I said. But as far as
16 reaching out to the community, we have
17 Police Athletic League that comes there
18 all summer. We have the Variety Club
19 that does an after-school program. We've
20 hired eight other students, high school
21 students, to work there during the
22 summer. We have four high school teams
23 that play there and we don't charge them
24 anything. They come here, and, actually,
25 if you're on the golf team, you can play

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 all year round. We give them that
3 benefit. And they all come back and they
4 contribute and help us out.

5 As far as financially, we
6 weren't doing that great about two years
7 ago. This year we've improved, I say,
8 probably by about \$120,000 that we did
9 two years ago. So we're on our way.

10 As far as capital improvements
11 that we're talking about with Maria
12 Sanchez, we probably put in about \$80,000
13 to \$100,000 into the course this year.
14 We did it by putting in the clubhouse and
15 the pro shop, and we're going to put an
16 extension on our building too for the
17 cart path.

18 So what I'm saying to you now
19 is that we have a lot of people that come
20 there. It's a family atmosphere. I
21 think everybody really enjoys it now, and
22 we're asking that you would approve the
23 bill so we could continue our good work.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN:
25 Councilwoman Sanchez.

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.

2 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
3 you.

4 I want to thank you for all
5 your work. I think it's important as we
6 talk about capital, the fact that you've
7 gotten so much community support and
8 in-kind, I think it's important that we
9 document that, because I think that
10 there's a lot of value to the labor
11 that's been donated to the facility.

12 MR. WHEELER: Without a doubt.

13 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: We want
14 to make sure we quantify a part of the
15 Foundation.

16 And then moving forward, again,
17 once Fairmount Park and you as a provider
18 kind of agree on what those capital
19 improvements, it's important that we're
20 aware of those so that we could try to be
21 as helpful as we possibly can.

22 MR. WHEELER: Okay.

23 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
24 you.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 very much, Mr. Wheeler. To you and the
3 other neighborhood residents, the
4 volunteer work that you give up is a
5 woeful reminder that government can no
6 longer do it alone, and you really do
7 exemplify what Margaret Mead talks about,
8 and, that is, that never doubt that a few
9 committed citizens can change the world.

10 MR. WHEELER: I agree a hundred
11 percent.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: That is
13 the only thing that has ever happened.
14 So volunteers are the difference, and we
15 thank you for the value you're bringing
16 back to your immediate community.

17 MR. WHEELER: Thank you.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you
19 for your testimony.

20 MR. WHEELER: Okay. Thank you.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Anyone
22 else to testify on Bill No. 090776?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: That
25 concludes testimony on Bills No. 090776

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 and 090778.

3 This concludes the public
4 hearing on the Committee on Parks,
5 Recreation and Cultural Affairs, and we
6 will now go into a public meeting.

7 I would like to ask
8 Councilwoman Sanchez for a motion on Bill
9 No. 090776.

10 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
11 you, Madam Chair. I move that Bill
12 090776 be moved out of Committee with a
13 favorable recommendation and that the
14 rules of Council be suspended to allow
15 first reading at our next session.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: All in
18 favor say aye.

19 (Aye.)

20 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: All
21 opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: The ayes
24 have it. Seeing none, the bill has been
25 properly moved and seconded and,

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.
2 furthermore, the rules of Council have
3 been suspended so as to permit first
4 reading at the next scheduled session for
5 Bill No. 090776.

6 I will now ask the sponsor of
7 the bill, Councilman Curtis Jones, for a
8 motion on Bill No. 090778.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
10 Madam Chair. I move that Bill No. 090778
11 be reported out of Committee with a
12 favorable recommendation and a request
13 that the rules of Council be suspended,
14 thus allowing first reading at our next
15 Council session.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you
17 very much.

18 Is there a second?

19 (Duly seconded.)

20 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN:

21 Councilwoman Sanchez seconded the bill.

22 All in favor say aye.

23 (Aye.)

24 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: All
25 opposed?

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.

2 (No response.)

3 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Seeing
4 none, this bill has been properly moved
5 and seconded and, furthermore, the rules
6 of Council have been suspended so as to
7 permit first reading at the next
8 scheduled session of City Council.

9 Councilwoman Sanchez has a
10 comment on Resolution No. 090698 for the
11 record.

12 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
13 you, Madam Chair.

14 I wanted to advise folks that
15 Resolution 090698 will be heard at a
16 future meeting of the Recreation
17 Committee on December 8th at 10 o'clock.
18 At that time, we will discuss the issue
19 regarding the ethnic parades, in case
20 anyone came in here expecting that
21 discussion. We are working with the
22 Administration in preparation for that
23 and expect to have a full discussion on
24 the ethnic parades on December the 8th at
25 10:00 a.m.

1 11/10/09 - PARKS - BILL 090776, etc.

2 Thank you, Madam Chair.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: You're
4 welcome, Councilwoman Sanchez.

5 That concludes this hearing.

6 We want to thank everyone for their
7 testimony and your presence. Have a good
8 morning.

9 (Committee on Parks, Recreation
10 and Cultural Affairs concluded at 11:20
11 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that the

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foregoing matter on November 10, 2009, and

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that this is a true and correct transcript of

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MICHELE L. MURPHY

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RPR-Notary Public

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