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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3

PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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- - -
Tuesday, 2/26/02
9:44 a.m.
Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, PA
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PROPOSED FY'03 OPERATION BUDGET, Continued Hearings

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PRESENT: COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA, Chair
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VINCENT VARALLO ASSOCIATES, INC.
Registered Professional Reporters
Eleven Penn Center, Suite 600
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 561-2220

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1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good morning,
3 everyone. This is the continued public hearing of
4 the Committee of the Whole regarding Bill No.
5 020001.

6 Our first witness today is Estelle
7 Richman, the Managing Director.

8 (Witnesses comes forward.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good morning.

10 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Good morning,
11 President Verna and members of Council.

12 I am Estelle Richman, Managing Director
13 of the City of Philadelphia. Today I am here to
14 present testimony on the proposed Managing
15 Director's Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2003
16 and to answer any questions you may have. With me,
17 I have several members of the Managing Director's
18 Office who will be available to answer any
19 questions you may have.

20 The total proposed operating budget for
21 the Managing Director's Office for Fiscal Year 2003
22 is \$20,829,000: 15 million in the General Fund and
23 approximately 5 million in the Grants Fund, a
24 decrease of \$348,000 from Fiscal Year '02 estimated
25 obligations.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 The Fiscal Year '03 General Fund
3 decrease of \$1.8 million is in Class 100, primarily
4 in the Vacant Lot Cleaning Program. The decrease
5 was realized as the most costly initial cleanup
6 activities have been completed contains.

7 The Grants Fund contains an increase of
8 \$1.5 million from Fiscal Year '02 estimated
9 obligations as a result of increases in various
10 ongoing grants: the Metropolitan Medical Strike
11 Team, Municipal Agency Domestic Preparedness,
12 Refugee Targeted Assistance Program, and the Weed
13 and Seed Program.

14 Traditionally, the Managing Director's
15 Office provided oversight, support, and assistance
16 to the 13 operating departments that it directly
17 supervises. Too often, this assistance was
18 delivered on a departmental basis with little
19 coordination on interdepartmental issues. Complex
20 urban problems, including blight, graffiti, crime,
21 homelessness, and the loss of both jobs and
22 residents to the suburbs have demanded that had
23 comprehensive, coordinated initiatives be developed
24 to target a variety of special needs.

25 In the last few years, the Managing

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 Director's Office has broadened its mission in
3 order to assume responsibility for organizing,
4 coordinating, and supervising major departmental
5 programs. An example that we discussed in last
6 year's testimony was the removal the abandoned
7 cars. The following are current examples of
8 coordinated initiatives:

9 • First, Snow Fighting. We have
10 revised the City's snow-fighting plan to plow
11 tertiary neighborhood streets for the first time in
12 the City's history. The goal of this plan is to
13 allow Philadelphians to return to their normal
14 daily activities as quickly as possible and reduce
15 the occasions when the City government would have
16 to be closed due to winter weather.

17 To that end, the Managing Director's
18 Office, the Streets Department, the Office of Fleet
19 Management, in partnership with the Water
20 Department, the Department of Public Property, and
21 the Fairmount Park Commission have developed a
22 snow-fighting plan and delineated new procedures
23 for learning, assembling, and deploying personnel
24 for every type of snowstorm.

25 Both Fairmount Park and the Water

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 Department will make expanded use of the vehicles
3 they have, and will dedicate additional employees
4 for snow removal. For example, the Fairmount Park
5 Commission, traditionally charged with maintaining
6 roadways in and around the park system, has
7 expanded its snow-fighting capacity or scope to
8 include select residential streets in the
9 maintenance of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.
10 Likewise, the Water Department now fully staffs two
11 highway districts, the 5th and 6th during, during
12 significant snowstorms.

13 In addition, the City is leasing two
14 snow-melting machines during Fiscal '02 winter snow
15 season. These melters are set to be deployed in
16 Center City, other neighborhood business corridors,
17 and in areas with extremely narrow streets, and
18 will replace the traditionally more costly lifting
19 operations that would otherwise be employed.

20 During Fiscal Year '02, the City is
21 also pilot of-testing the use of six trucks that
22 will use brine instead of salt as a pre-storm
23 application. As opposed to the conventional rock
24 salt, the less expensive brine can be applied up to
25 24 hours in advance and still function as a bond

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 breaker for snow. If this pilot test proves
3 successful, the replacing with salting operations
4 with brine vehicles could reduce cost and increase
5 the City's effectiveness in fighting snow.

6 • Second, Emergency Management. The
7 Office of Emergency Management, within the Managing
8 Director's Office, is responsible for maintaining
9 and revising the City's Emergency Operations Plan
10 and in coordinating the response of the City
11 operating departments as well as federal, State, and
12 private efforts during emergency situations.

13 To this end, the Office of Emergency
14 Management has and continues to make improvements to
15 the Emergency Operations Center, the EEOC, and the
16 Mobile Command Center, CP1, such as new computer
17 hardware, software, and mapping. This office
18 administers the Hazardous Materials Response fund
19 and the Hazardous Materials Matching Grant Program,
20 as well as various federal and State grant programs
21 under the Weapons of Mass destruction Act and
22 Depending Homeland Security legislation.

23 All of these programs are used to fund the
24 purchase of equipment, supplies, and training for
25 specialized units of the Fire, Police and Health

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 Departments.

3 Today, the City of Philadelphia is as
4 prepared to respond to an attack as any major city
5 in America. The Philadelphia Emergency Operations
6 Plan has been updated every year since its creation
7 in 1987 to address the changing nature of
8 environmental and man-made threats and emergencies
9 to our city. The plan, which is approved by both
10 the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA)
11 and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA),
12 contains established procedures for responding to a
13 variety of emergency situations, including chemical
14 biological, and nuclear events.

15 On September 11th, the Emergency
16 Operations Plan was executed successfully. Within
17 minutes of the first plane hitting the World Trade
18 Center, the EEOC was in partial activation
19 coordinated by the Managing Director's Office and
20 staffed by members of the Police and Fire
21 Departments. When the second plane crashed, the
22 City immediately went into a full activation of the
23 EOC. Within 30 minutes after the full activation,
24 representatives from virtually every City operating
25 department -- PGW, PECO, and SEPTA -- were at their

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 stations in the EOC. The Mayor and the Managing
3 Director were in direct contact with the Chamber of
4 Commerce and other leaders in the business
5 community, the Port Authority, the School District
6 of Philadelphia, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia,
7 and the Philadelphia International Airport. Shortly
8 after the activation of the EEOC, the Police
9 Department deployed additional officers to strategic
10 locations throughout the City, and the Fire
11 Department moved additional emergency medical and
12 firefighting personnel into the Center City area.

13 • The Anti-Graffiti Network develops new
14 aggressive anti-graffiti initiatives and provides a
15 framework for coordinating graffiti-fighting
16 measures across a number of departments,
17 City-related agencies and volunteer organizations,
18 in an effort to promote the beautification of
19 Philadelphia.

20 In Fiscal Year '01, graffiti was removed
21 from 54,000 properties, including street fixtures.
22 Anti-graffiti crews in Fiscal Year '02 and Fiscal
23 Year '03 will clean a total of 70,000 properties
24 each year. The Managing Director's Office of
25 Anti-Graffiti of Voucher Program also distributes

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 vouchers to help neighborhood organizations fight
3 graffiti. In each of Fiscal Year '02 and Fiscal
4 Year '03, the program expects to provide \$68,000 to
5 approximately 375 organizations receiving 6500
6 gallons of paint and 22,000 for related supplies.

7 The Market-Frankford Elevated Train
8 Project, which began in October 2001, has already
9 resulted in graffiti removal at over 850 properties.
10 The second-floor el project is a massive cleanup
11 project that addresses the increasing amount of
12 graffiti vandalism on the second floors of homes and
13 businesses along SEPTA's Market Frankford el train
14 route at a projected annual cost of \$285,000.

15 The Office of Fleet Management has been a
16 crucial partner in this project by providing
17 vehicles and mechanical lifts so that the
18 anti-graffiti crews can remove graffiti from the
19 upper stories of buildings along the
20 Market-Frankford el train route.

21 The Mural Arts Program works closely with
22 the Anti-Graffiti Network to create murals on
23 selected sites that have been cleared of graffiti.

24 The proposed Fiscal Year '03 budget for
25 the Anti-Graffiti Network \$1.2 million, down \$34,000

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 from Fiscal Year '03 estimated obligations.

3 In addition, in July 2001, the City began
4 a Vacant Lot Program to clean all of the City's
5 vacant lots in one year. Through a vacant land
6 survey completed in Fiscal Year '01, the Department
7 of Licenses and Inspections identified 31,000 vacant
8 lots that had become neighborhood eyesores and
9 safety hazards. The goal of the program is to clean
10 all of the vacant lots by July 2002 and establish a
11 follow-up cleaning program that will keep those lots
12 reasonably free of debris.

13 The City will also reclean lots
14 biannually and will work with communities to
15 promote continual lot maintenance. Community
16 caretakers will be elected, and residents and
17 community organizations will be encouraged to adopt
18 a lot as their own to assist with the upkeep.
19 Mural Arts will target suitable sites adjoining
20 newly-cleaned lots for murals.

21 As of July 2002, the Vacant Lot Cleanup
22 Program has cleaned 19.7 thousand lots and removed
23 close to 13,000 tons of debris. The Vacant Lot
24 cleanup Program will be funded through the MDO at a
25 proposed budget of 4.8 million.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 • The Criminal Justice Population
3 Management. With the suspension of the prison
4 population camp in November 1995, the City, in a
5 cooperative effort with the First Judicial
6 District, instituted several alternative procedures
7 to manage population levels.

8 These efforts include implementing new
9 pre-trial release guidelines that tie release to
10 certain objective criteria, constant monitoring of
11 the City's prison population, and encouraging the
12 appropriate use of alternatives to incarceration
13 programs for non-violent offenders such as house
14 arrest, rehabilitation programs, and community
15 service. These programs preserve prison space for
16 those offenders who pose the greatest threat to
17 society, reduce recidivism, and cost significantly
18 less than traditional incarceration.

19 • Special Events. Since the City
20 instituted a special- events policy in May of 1993,
21 the Managing Director's Office has coordinated the
22 City services that make possible events such as
23 parades and festivals. This coordination has
24 rationalized the special-event process, created a
25 mechanism for identifying special-events costs, and

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 allowed the City to charge a fee for City resources
3 used to host events.

4 This policy has been successful in
5 recouping a portion of the money the City spends on
6 these events. Although special-events revenues do
7 not reimburse the City for the full cost of
8 supporting these events, they do help to defray the
9 City's expenditures and allow groups to recognize
10 that the City incurs significant expense to support
11 such events.

12 • Community Life Improvement Program
13 (CLIP). One of our newest integrated programs will
14 be the Community Life Improvement Program (CLIP) as
15 a new prototype initiative of the Managing
16 Director's Office that will combat quality-of-life
17 issues in a timely, effective, and efficient manner
18 through the public education, enforcement, and
19 abatement tailored to the needs of individual
20 Council Districts.

21 CLIP will achieve its goals by combining
22 violation enforcement, abatement efforts, and
23 beautification into one program under the auspices
24 of the MDO.

25 Historically, responsibility for

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 enforcement and abatement and of quality-of-life
3 issues has been scattered throughout numerous
4 departments, with very little coordination and
5 oversight. As the oversight and coordinating agency
6 for the City, the MDO will take a very active role
7 in CLIP.

8 The Managing Director's Operation
9 Coordinator will directly oversee and coordinate a
10 variety of City agencies and department employees
11 that have been assigned to CLIP, including Licenses
12 and Inspections and the Streets Department. The
13 Operation Coordinator will also be responsible for
14 coordinating efforts with business associations,
15 community organizations, and Councilmembers to
16 ensure support of this aggressive plan.

17 • Comprehensive and Coordinated Social
18 Services. The Division of Social Services within
19 the Managing Director's Office was created in Fiscal
20 Year '01 by Mayor John Street to improve the quality
21 of social services provided to the residents of
22 Philadelphia. The mission of the Division of Social
23 Services is to more effectively anticipate, plan
24 for, and respond to the health and social needs of
25 Philadelphia's children, adults, and families

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 through a more integrated and a coordinated system
3 of services.

4 Included in Social Services are the
5 Department of Public health, the Department of Human
6 Resources, Behavioral Health, and Mental Retardation
7 Services, the Philadelphia Prison System, the
8 Department of Recreation, the Office of Emergency
9 Shelter and Services.

10 In addition, the following commissions and
11 offices work closely will work closely with Social
12 Services: the Mayor's Office of Community Services,
13 the Mayor's Commission on Aging, the Mayor's
14 Commission on People with Disabilities, the Mayor's
15 Office of Health and Fitness, the Mayor's Office of
16 Faith-Based initiatives, and Philadelphia Safe and
17 Sound.

18 One method by which we hope to better
19 integrate services is through development of an
20 integrated case-management system. The goal of this
21 system is to ensure that services are provided
22 without duplication and with a high degree of
23 coordination among departments.

24 The case-management system, as it exists
25 now, is such that if one or more members of a family

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 receive services from more than one social-service
3 agency, there will be often more than one case
4 manager involved. In some of those incidences, one
5 case manager may not be aware of another case
6 manager's involvement and would develop a treatment
7 service plan that does not incorporate or, in the
8 worst case scenario, contradicts the issues being
9 addressed by another social-service entity.

10 In an integrated case-management model, a
11 lead case manager will be identified to work with
12 the other case managers involved to coordinate all
13 of the services that an individual or family might
14 need, be it housing, mental health, or
15 substance-abuse services, prenatal, child care, or
16 job training.

17 A central component of integrated case
18 management is an integrated database system that
19 will allow case managers to access relevant client
20 data from all involved City systems. Currently,
21 each social-service department has its own data
22 system that operates independently of each other,
23 making it difficult to obtain all of the information
24 needed to effectively service an individual or
25 family.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 We are currently working on the first
3 phase of an integrated database. Integrated case
4 management and integrated data management are
5 long-term investments and systems change, and will
6 be rolled out in phases as the model is developed,
7 reviewed, and refined over the course of several
8 years.

9 In addition, Social Services will focus
10 on several other collaborative efforts in the next
11 year that aim to improve the effectiveness and
12 responsiveness of our services. These include: a
13 DHS and BHS initiative to reduce the number of
14 children sent to out-of-state residential treatment
15 facilities; the David Olds Project, a collaborative
16 initiative between DHS and the Department of Public
17 Health, which provides home-based nursing to
18 low-income women who are pregnant with their first
19 child; and the Medical Home Project, which is
20 another shared initiative between the Department of
21 Human Services and the Department of Public health
22 that utilizes health care centers to provide
23 primary-care services to children in protective
24 custody who do not have health insurance or a
25 regular health provider.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 Research has shown that the non-school
3 hours between 2 and 8 p.m. are the peak times for
4 youths to commit crimes or become victims of crime,
5 use drugs, drink, and engage in other negative
6 behaviors. Philadelphia is home to approximately
7 260,000 children in grades 1 through 12, about
8 100,000 of whom do not have access to after-school
9 or youth-development activities.

10 The Mayor's Children Investment
11 Strategy Initiative aims to dramatically increase
12 funding to support a citywide expansion of services
13 to those children and youth who currently do not
14 have access to after-school or youth-development
15 activities. A total of 100 programs were funded in
16 2001, adding 3500 additional participant slots in
17 youth-development programs.

18 At an average cost of \$450,000 each, we
19 will also be opening 11 Beacon schools throughout
20 the City this year. Based on similar research-
21 based programs in New York and San Francisco, the
22 Beacon model calls for the development of
23 school-based community centers which will be open
24 evenings and weekends to provide a broad range of
25 activities to children and youth and their

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 families.

3 Higher expectations for accountability
4 from the Mayor, citizens, private funders, the State
5 and federal government reinforce the importance of
6 understanding what programs are intended to
7 accomplish and measuring what they achieve. As part
8 of Social Services' ongoing commitment to promote
9 positive consumer outcomes, all social-services
10 departments have defined and begun to measure the
11 quality and effectiveness of services. Staff have
12 begun, and will continue, to use this data to
13 develop more effective policies and programs and to
14 better target services.

15 Performance measurement is an integral
16 part of the integrated case management system.
17 Staff from all social-services departments have met
18 over the past few months to define the outcome for
19 consumers being served by the system. These
20 outcomes in turn are driving the development of new
21 service-delivery models and tools. Data on consumer
22 outcomes will be collected to measure progress and
23 assist in refining the service-delivery model.

24 Information from a performance-measurement
25 system can help departments to make course

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 corrections and better allocate resources.
3 Development of departmental capacity to utilize data
4 on a routine basis is critical, and we will continue
5 to support department staff in enhancing their
6 capacity to measure and use data throughout the next
7 year.

8 As part of our ongoing commitment to
9 deliver effective services, Social Services will
10 implement a system of performance-based contracting
11 over the next five years in order to ensure that
12 contractors providing services that meet the City's
13 standards and promote desired consumer outcomes. A
14 partnership between the City and its many
15 service-providers is critical in order to achieve
16 success for consumers who receive services.

17 During Fiscal Year '02, social-service
18 departments are meeting with contracted providers to
19 develop outcome language for inclusion in Fiscal
20 Year '03 contracts. Provider and staff
21 responsibilities are being redefined to focus on
22 consumer success, not just service-delivery process.
23 Most departments have held orientation sessions for
24 providers, and staff are working together to define
25 what outcomes the City will purchase. Information

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 of these outcomes will be part of providers' routine
3 reporting, and will be used to target technical-
4 assistance efforts, match providers with consumers,
5 and assist the City where best to invest its funds.

6 This concludes my testimony, and I'm now
7 available for any questions you might have.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you
9 very much.

10 You state in your testimony that your
11 Class 100 is decreasing by approximately
12 \$1.8 million primarily in the Vacant Lot Cleaning
13 Program. You also state that it was primarily --
14 that the decrease was realized as a part of the
15 costly initial cleanup activities which have been
16 completed.

17 Once the demolition activities of NTI
18 program start, there will be hundreds m,if not
19 thousands, of additional lots that have to be
20 maintained. How do you ensure that the vacant lots
21 stay clean, and how do we have sufficient resources
22 to keep them clean? And I think in your testimony,
23 you also said that they would be cleaned on a
24 biannual basis?

25 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Right. At this

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 point, we have put a lot of effort into cleaning
3 31,000 lots in one year. It is our assumption that
4 we will not again have to do that many lots in one
5 year, that most of these lots, we're working with
6 communities, we're working to make them gardens,
7 we're putting murals, we're putting a variety of
8 things on many of these lots so that we will not
9 ever have to do 31,000.

10 So the manpower to do that many in one
11 year --

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: But if we're
13 going to be doing demolition, aren't we going to
14 have that many more vacant lots?

15 MR. CONWAY: My name's Thomas Conway,
16 Deputy Managing Director for the City.

17 I believe that once we do the initial
18 cleaning and removing the 13,000 tons of debris,
19 the amount of debris or whatever we're going to
20 remove is going to be a lot less. Um...

21 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: We will be
22 working with the NTI group to stay on top of the
23 lots we've already done and work with them
24 around -- within their initiative around what
25 happens as lots and demolition continue to occur.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 This one was in addition to NTI, as you know, as
3 opposed to initially part of it.

4 So we will continue -- right now, in
5 fact, as we clean lots, if a lot becomes -- I don't
6 want to say "trashed." If a lot has debris that
7 reoccurs in it, we try to follow up pretty quickly
8 just to maintain the presence of those lots, and we
9 will continue to do that so that, again, we will
10 never be going into the depth or to the scope that
11 we've had to do this one year.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Right. And
13 in the budget for FY '02, you had over \$3 million
14 for temporary and seasonal employees.

15 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: That's right.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And that has
17 been cut --

18 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Right.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: -- by
20 \$1.8 million.

21 Also, on Schedule 200, Page 33-79, I
22 notice that you have repair and maintenance
23 charges, and you have an additional \$60,000 there.

24 Can you give us some explanation on
25 that, please.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I'm sorry, what
3 page number is that again?

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: 33-79, and I
5 believe it's line 260.

6 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Those dollars
7 are for tree-trimming and stump removal.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Okay. In
9 your testimony, you mention about 8500 dead trees?

10 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Right.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Street trees
12 that you plan to apparently remove.

13 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: These are --

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And you
15 indicate that 4300 dangerous trees will be removed
16 annually. Once the backlog is reduced, funding
17 will be reduced and shifted into an ongrowing
18 program for planting and pruning.

19 Now, will that be put under contract,
20 or will the Fairmount Park employees be removing
21 the trees?

22 MR. CONWAY: The majority of the work
23 is going to be through contracts.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Okay. And
25 when remove the trees, they're not just going to

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 remove them to a, stump I hope.

3 MR. CONWAY: No. What they do is, they
4 have a stump grinder machine that takes the stump
5 out of the ground, but it is an additional crew
6 that does that.

7 The initial pruning and removal of a
8 tree is one crew, and then a stump-grinder crew
9 basically comes out and removes the stump.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Okay,
11 Miss Richmond, you mentioned the Office
12 of Emergency Management in your testimony. Can you
13 tell us how much additional funds are included in
14 the FY '03 for security and security-related
15 expenses?

16 And please tell us how you will be
17 proposing to secure City Hall, and when do you
18 intend starting the implementation of the plan?

19 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Go ahead.

20 MR. NUCCI: Madam President, I'm Mike
21 Nucci. I'm the Emergency Management Director for
22 the City.

23 Right now, we have a stream of funds
24 that come through the Justice Department through
25 the State to a Southeastern Pennsylvania task

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 force.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: How much did
4 that stream amount to?

5 MR. NUCCI: Right now, it's about
6 \$127,000 a year. That does not include any
7 anticipated monies that are going to come through
8 the Homeland Security Act, which haven't been
9 passed by Congress yet.

10 Additionally, we have gotten in the
11 past few years 300,000 from the Defense Department
12 for personal-protection equipment and detection
13 equipment for police and fire, and 500,000 from the
14 U.S. Public Health Service to establish a
15 metropolitan medical response system, which
16 basically is the pharmaceuticals and the
17 decontamination equipment to do a large body of
18 people that were exposed to a chemical attack.

19 Additionally -- and I'm sure you'll
20 hear this from the Health Commissioner -- another
21 \$200,000 for the planning -- and this is again from
22 the U.S. Public Health Service for planning a
23 surveillance system for disease control for
24 bioterrorism.

25 Right now, I wish I could tell you

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 more, but we don't know what's going to be passed
3 by Congress and how that money's going to come,
4 whether it's going to come through the states or a
5 portion of it through the states and some of it
6 director to the cities.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Well, how
8 much do we have in the budget for FY '03 for
9 security and security-related expenses? And I'd
10 like to know what is being proposed to secure City
11 Hall.

12 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: The City Hall
13 activity, some of of it has begun, and I believe in
14 the transfer-ordinance testimony by Rick Tustin,
15 who's with the Capital Budget Office, stated that
16 as soon as we have the transfer ordinance, we can
17 pick up on the rest of the activities that have
18 been planned.

19 I can get you those exact numbers if
20 you --

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I would like
22 to know what the plan is, please, and when you
23 anticipate the implementation of the plan.

24 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Okay, I will be
25 able to get to you the plan, the cost of the plan,

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 and the implementation schedule.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

4 Who will be appointed as the operations
5 coordinator of the Community Life Improvement
6 Program?

7 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Tommy Conway,
8 who was just at the table, is the operations
9 manager for the CLIP Program.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Will you be
11 targeting certain Council districts, or will this
12 be a citywide program?

13 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: We are
14 prototyping this as a start, and we're looking at
15 Councilmatic District 6 to start and see how it
16 works before we can determine whether or not it's
17 an effective way to work, and then branch out in
18 appropriate areas from there.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: How many
20 people will be assigned to this program?

21 MR. CONWAY: Initially, approximately
22 30 people, and they'll be recruited from existing
23 agencies such as the the Anti-Graffiti Network and
24 the Vacant Lot Program.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: What

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 additional resources will be needed?

3 MR. CONWAY: One of the major
4 additional resources will be the acquisition of
5 vehicles. Due to the City's aging fleet, we are
6 acquiring, I believe, approximately 15 new vehicles
7 for that.

8 And, again, the people in the Vacant
9 Lot Program right now, we're going to transfer some
10 of them over for employees of the new CLIP Program,
11 so this way, we're going to try and eliminate a
12 massive hiring program for this.

13 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: The intention
14 was not to hire new staff, to use staff in th
15 departments to sort of do some reorganization, and
16 it's only redirecting some dollars within Fleet.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Did I
18 understand you to say that we're going to have to
19 purchase vehicles? Did you say that?

20 MR. CONWAY: Yes, correct.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Okay. Have
22 those figures been included in the budget?

23 MR. CONWAY: The figures for the new
24 vehicles are going to come out of this year's
25 budget.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Okay.

3 Miss Richman, you mentioned that in FY '03, an
4 additional \$10 million has been committed for
5 after-school, youth development, and Beacon
6 Programs. Where is the \$10 million budgeted and
7 what is its funding sources?

8 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: The dollars for
9 the after-school program are TANF dollars coming
10 from the State that were applied for last year and
11 this year through the needs-based budgeting process
12 with DPW with the Department of Human Services

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: What
14 departments and their locations will be funded with
15 these funds?

16 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: The 11 Beacon
17 Programs have been identified. I believe we have a
18 list with us; if not, we will make sure you get it.

19 We went through a request-for-proposal
20 process to identify the 11 sites that were
21 selected. These are major agencies. One of the
22 qualifications is that the agency had to have a
23 sufficient budget to be able to manage this kind of
24 program. They're all school-based, and they needed
25 to be broad enough to be more than just an

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 after-school program, but to really function as a
3 school community program within those -- within
4 those areas.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

6 I have other questions, but at this
7 time, I would recognize Councilwoman Tasco.

8 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you.

9 Good morning.

10 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Good morning.

11 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: I'd like to go
12 back to the Community Life Improvement Program.
13 Could you tell me how long you plan to run this
14 program as a pilot and when do you see it expanding
15 to other districts?

16 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Since we haven't
17 begun it yet, I can't exactly tell you how long. I
18 think we want to get a sense of the kinds of things
19 we're going to see, the kinds of problems, and how
20 long it begins to work with that neighborhood.

21 But our goal is to be there long enough
22 to be able to address most of the quality-of-life
23 issues such as grass not being mowed or people
24 putting trash out too early and it being turned
25 over, or the issues that happen in neighborhoods

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 that would be termed almost "pre-blight"; in other
3 words, the neighborhood is still not suffering from
4 the kind of blight you would see coming under the
5 NTI Program, but at the same time, many
6 neighbors -- the neighborhoods and the neighbors of
7 properties feel that it's not being kept up, and we
8 will use code enforcement to be able to cite this
9 and to be able to go in and then bill the resident
10 and put a lien on the property.

11 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: How did you
12 determine which area to begin the pilot? What
13 information did you use?

14 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: The
15 councilwoman, Councilwoman Krajewski, basically
16 came to the Administration and asked if we would
17 look at the program.

18 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Okay, thank you.

19 Are you trying to compile data on
20 requests made from all Council districts regarding
21 these same issues to determine where you would go
22 next?

23 I would imagine that since we all have
24 these similar complaints about lack of enforcement,
25 there should be some coordination of the --

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 compilation in a database of the number of
3 complaints you get relative to the issues you are
4 trying to address so that you would know where the
5 real problems are.

6 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: We are trying to
7 collect that. We don't have what I would call a
8 comprehensive or an integrated database right now
9 that gives us that kind of information very easily.

10 One of the roles of the Managing
11 Director's Office, I believe, is beginning to
12 create both those kind of databases and that
13 information, so that I could come back and talk
14 with you about these kinds of offenses within a
15 neighborhood that would not really be at the level
16 of blight to trigger a high level within NTI, but
17 at the same time, are enough of an eyesore and a
18 problem to pay attention to. I think we're trying
19 to work out where those lines are.

20 As I have been talking to Council
21 people, one of the questions I've ask is, how
22 many -- are there trees in your neighborhood that
23 you want us to pay attention to? Are there
24 properties? Are there pre-blight conditions that
25 the Managing Director's Office needs to be aware

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 of?

3 I'm trying to work my way through
4 Council asking these questions and have probably
5 done half of you at this point.

6 But part of that is creating that
7 database and using that information and ultimately
8 tying it all together with the database that NTI is
9 forming at the same time.

10 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Well, one of
11 the -- you know, having been here for a long time
12 and being a District Councilperson, we have filed
13 complaints with L&I and certainly Fairmount Park
14 regarding trees and the Streets Department about
15 trash and lack of enforcement. It seems that they
16 should have that information already compiled; we
17 shouldn't have to give you that information again.

18 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: No, I've been
19 asking Council first not to give me that
20 information again, but to help me prioritize where
21 it is. And obviously, we can't do it all, so I'm
22 trying to just get a feel for it right now as we
23 proceed into the spring and fall in the next fiscal
24 year.

25 This is more my education than trying

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 to start you all over again because what I do is
3 take your priority list, send it to the departments
4 and say, Where is it falling? when will it be done?
5 and how can I work with people to make sure that
6 these things are being attended to?

7 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Now, will we get
8 the answer -- when we call the Department regarding
9 enforcement of quality-of-life issues in the 9th
10 Councilmatic District, will we get a response like,
11 "Well, you're not a part of the CLIP Program and
12 you have to wait until we do a pilot in your area
13 before you can get some service"?

14 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: No, no, you will
15 get service hopefully quicker than you've had it
16 before.

17 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Mm-hmm.

18 On the Emergency Operations Plan, what
19 is the mechanism the City will use to educate or
20 inform the public what happens -- if there's an
21 emergency, I mean, how will the public know what to
22 do? Who's going to communicate with them about the
23 City's plan for their safety or what they should
24 do -- should they go to the basement, should they
25 go home? What is the role?

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 MR. NUCCI: Are you specifically talk
3 about the terrorism thing or in general?

4 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: I'm just talking
5 about if we're sitting here and something happens,
6 who tells me what to do?

7 MR. NUCCI: Okay.

8 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: How do we
9 communicate to the public what they should do for
10 their safety?

11 MR. NUCCI: Okay. Specifically for
12 hazardous-chemical incidents, we've sent pamphlets
13 out through the mail and have made them available
14 to community groups about the different options of
15 shelter in places versus evacuation.

16 How we get information to the public
17 during an emergency, we have several ways of doing
18 that: the emergency broadcast system, of which KYW
19 is the common program control station we have
20 access to. So from the Fire Communications Center,
21 they could formulate a message of what they want
22 people in the specific area to do, and that would
23 go out this through KYW, and they download it
24 automatically to the other radio stations that are
25 are a part of the program.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 We can also do it through cable TV. We
3 have a system where we can, according to the area,
4 dial a number to a cable TV station, punch in a
5 code; it will knock all of the programming off the
6 air, and we'll be on there live with a voice
7 message.

8 So there's different ways we have to
9 address that.

10 And then, I guess, as a last resort
11 thing, police cars and fire equipment on their P.A.
12 systems would be giving specific instructions to a
13 relatively small area of evacuation or going in
14 your homes and shelter in place.

15 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Okay. What
16 happens when plan is activated? Suppose you had to
17 activate your plan; what --

18 MR. NUCCI: All right, it's activated
19 pretty much -- at least once a week for different
20 things, like a fire, a three-alarm fire, different
21 elements of the plan.

22 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Mm-hmm.

23 MR. NUCCI: The plan itself consists of
24 a basic plan, plus annexes for different
25 situations. There's a hazardous-materials response

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 annex; there's a mass casualty annex; there's an
3 evacuation annex; there's one for crashes at the
4 airport, an airport emergency annex; and general
5 ones for police, fire that basically spell out what
6 their duties are in certain situations.

7 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: In general, the
8 Emergency Operations Plan is probably at least as
9 thick, if not a little bit more, that takes into
10 consideration every aspect of what could happen in
11 a city and who responds and what order people are
12 notified, what's involved in it, and the decision
13 tree that comes out of it. All of that response is
14 managed out of the EOC, in collaboration with Fire,
15 Police, and any other department that could be
16 involved.

17 And we do end up activating it probably
18 about once a week, probably a little bit more
19 frequently since 9/11 because of information that
20 might be received from the FBI or FEMA or from
21 PEMA.

22 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Okay, thank you.

23 Let me just ask you a question about
24 the prison. We have a very large number of
25 prisoners who are Philadelphians but who are sent

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 far away and into other states. Is there any
3 effort by the City to assist families to make
4 visits to maintain their bond of the absent family
5 member?

6 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: You mean the
7 prisoners who have been sentenced to a federal
8 prison out of state or to a state prison?

9 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Either.

10 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Either one of
11 those.

12 I don't believe the City has any
13 activity that directly relates to that. I know
14 there are private, nonprofit organization that is
15 take that into consideration.

16 If children are involved, then we often
17 will work with families to make sure there may be
18 some type of visitation, but there is nothing that
19 the City does that assumes that responsibility.

20 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Okay. In the
21 integrated case-management program, when the
22 database is in place, what will be the safeguards
23 for the privacy of the families and their
24 information?

25 I recently spoke with a lady who runs a

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 program, who is seeking funding for her program,
3 and there's certain information required, and she
4 has met with resistance from some of the families
5 because they don't want to give up the information.
6 And they might not necessarily receive funding from
7 the program but are a part of the program, and the
8 program requires that you give a census and
9 information on it of everybody, and the program is
10 in jeopardy because the family members are leery of
11 providing certain information.

12 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Probably one of
13 the reasons that that hasn't been developed across
14 the country is the confidentiality laws. And the
15 confidentiality laws, depending on the type of
16 disability or medical issue, are very specific; in
17 other words, the confidentiality rules are
18 different for HIV and AIDS, different for drug and
19 alcohol and for mental health; they're different
20 for children than they are for adults.

21 So coming up with a system that only
22 gives certain kind of people access at any given
23 point in time is the challenge of putting this kind
24 of system together. Overall, who gets to view
25 information has to be very tightly controlled so

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 the wrong people don't.

3 One of the common pieces, though, is
4 that normally, the person who does the funding of a
5 public program has the right to be able to do
6 audits at the appropriate level on that
7 information. Anybody else who's not in that chain
8 has to have some level of release of information.

9 So all of this has to be built into
10 your database to be used so somebody just can't go
11 in and see all of your personal medical or social-
12 services history.

13 So part of the costs, the expense of
14 such a system, is building in the safeguards so
15 that if you're in a computer and you want to go
16 into Councilwoman Tasco' medical history, you have
17 to have some level of specific clearance that will
18 tell the computer you're authorized to have that
19 information and there's a need to know.

20 All of those safeguards have to be
21 built into an integrated data system so people feel
22 comfortable sharing information and know that it's
23 not going to be released into a situation that they
24 know they're not going to be compromised.

25 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Well, how is this

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 going to all impact on your ability to develop your
3 database, integrated database?

4 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: To a large part,
5 since we are the funder of most of these agencies
6 somewhere within the social-services systems, it
7 gives us, again, at an appropriate staff level, the
8 ability to go in and look at information and to use
9 it. These are extremely complicated issues to be
10 able to get to where're we're going.

11 No one else in its country has done
12 this, so we are trying to be on the cutting edge of
13 how not only to develop such a system but how to
14 use it with some level of assurance.

15 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: I left my notes
16 upstairs but I wanted to specifically ask you this
17 question because the program that this organization
18 receives funds from, the management of information
19 is by, I think, Health Partners? Is there a
20 program you have where they manage the information?

21 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Right. Health
22 Partners, which is an HMO within the City, probably
23 wouldn't be included in an integrated database.
24 There may some of their members that could be
25 included because some of their members may be

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 receiving services from the City.

3 Health Partners is not a City agency,
4 so we would not be including their clients' medical
5 information necessarily unless they happen to be
6 involved in a City department. In other words,
7 HealthChoices contracts with the district health
8 centers.

9 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Right.

10 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Somebody who's
11 in a district health center and is also receiving a
12 service from the Health Department in maternal and
13 child health, or they're receiving services in drug
14 and alcohol, the services for that individual may
15 be in our database, but only people in the City
16 that are authorized to provide or audit that care
17 could then receive that record.

18 An integrated database is not a
19 free-for-all for people to push in a name and to
20 get information out. The HealthChoices -- the
21 250,000 members of HealthChoices wouldn't be in as
22 a group.

23 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Okay, I'll come
24 back to that question when I get my notes so I can
25 be very specific.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Okay.

3 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Because I
4 understand that the Health Partners is managing the
5 program. But let me go on to the next one, but
6 I'll come back.

7 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Okay.

8 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Will the Beacon
9 schools take the place of the family centers or are
10 they simply an expansion of that concept? And do
11 the family centers -- are still in existence? and
12 just give me a little bit of background on it.

13 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: The family
14 centers are still in existence; the Beacon Programs
15 will not be taking over the family centers. While
16 they may be doing similar things, the Beacon
17 Program is a much broader, comprehensive program
18 than the family centers were originally
19 conceptualized to be.

20 We are replicating a model out of New
21 York City and San Francisco to do this particular
22 program, and Beacon in this case stands for a
23 school that is a beacon of hope in the community,
24 that brings them in, and it usually includes
25 after-school programs, and it's a collaboration,

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 again, with the community around the type of
3 services and programs they would like to see. It
4 really has a broader scope than the family center.

5 Beacons will be open on the weekends
6 and into the evenings, and many of our family
7 centers are not. So they're broader, more
8 comprehensive, and will have more funding in them.

9 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Okay. Now, where
10 will they be operating?

11 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: There are eleven
12 Beacon Programs that have been funded at this
13 point, and I can get you a list.

14 Or there may be someone here who has a
15 list, and I can read it off to you, but there are
16 eleven programs that we have funded effective
17 basically March 1st.

18 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Okay, I'd like to
19 see that.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilwoman,
21 do you mind if we have a second go-around because
22 we have a number of colleagues that want to be
23 recognized.

24 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Okay.

25 COUNCILPRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 recognizes Councilman Nutter.

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
4 Chair.

5 Good morning. Managing Director
6 Richman.

7 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Good morning.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Let me go back to
9 where Councilwoman Tasco was a little while ago, on
10 Page 5 of the testimony, the Community Life
11 Improvement Program.

12 Now, do I understand that we may have
13 received, in addition to your testimony, some
14 additional information about this particular
15 program recently? Was some information sent out
16 about this?

17 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Not that I know
18 of.

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. And you said
20 that this is a new program?

21 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Brand-new, it
22 hasn't started yet.

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. And this was
24 developed by the Managing Director's Office?

25 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: It was brought

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 to us as a concept by Councilwoman Krajewski.

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. And I
4 thought I heard testimony earlier that the proposal
5 was to take public employees who are presently
6 working in a variety of departments and form them
7 into this particular program; is that correct?

8 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: That's basically
9 correct. We're trying to form a team using
10 employees in the departments that report to the
11 Managing Director's Office in a cohesive team to
12 work together.

13 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. And how many
14 people is that?

15 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I believe there
16 are 30? 30.

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I'm sorry?

18 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: 30.

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: 30, okay.

20 Now, did I hear you say earlier that
21 Mr. Conway was going to be -- what is this, the
22 operations coordinator?

23 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: That's correct.

24 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. Mr. Conway,
25 your present position is what?

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 MR. CONWAY: Deputy Managing Director.

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. And I think
4 our most recent experience with you was more with
5 graffiti activities?

6 MR. CONWAY: Correct.

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And have you
8 transferred over into vacant lots and that type of
9 stuff? It's hard to keep track of your time.

10 MR. CONWAY: The anti-graffiti, I still
11 see that, as well as the Vacant Lot Program.

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. Now, how are
13 we going to take the 30 people away from the
14 departments where they're presently working and
15 have them working on CLIP -- which I'd like to
16 get -- if there's any written material about it,
17 I'd certainly like to read about it -- and not have
18 an impact in other areas of government?

19 MR. CONWAY: Well, I think that the
20 major thinking behind CLIP is the coordination
21 effort. A lot of employees are doing a lot of work
22 in specific areas, but they're not working together
23 per se.

24 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: They're not what?

25 MR. CONWAY: They're not working

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 together on a daily basis.

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. So of the 30
4 people, give me a breakdown of the different areas
5 that the employees will come from, and tell us a
6 little bit about how their efforts are going to be
7 coordinated.

8 MR. CONWAY: For instance, with the
9 CLIP Program, we're looking to attack the
10 quality-of-life issues such as vacant lots,
11 anti-graffiti, the blight issues. For instance,
12 somebody has a -- high weeds on their lawn; the
13 current system is basically, we write a violation
14 for 30 days, and after them 30 days are up, we go
15 back to check to see if the violation was fixed
16 basically. If it's not fixed, we want to send out
17 a crew to fix the problem and then lien the
18 property owner and abate the issue.

19 Now, a lot of these people --

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Now, hold on for a
21 second. So you're saying that under the present
22 system, you send a violation and if they don't do
23 it within 30 days, I'm assuming normally, we would
24 then proceed to court?

25 MR. CONWAY: Correct.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. And under
3 this proposal, you're saying we're going to go out
4 and actually do the work ourselves.

5 MR. CONWAY: After the allotted time is
6 up; that's correct.

7 It's the same type of concept we're
8 using with the Vacant Lot Program. Give them so
9 many days to clean a vacant lot; if they don't do
10 it, we go in and clean the vacant lot, bill the
11 property, and if not, then we'll lien the property.

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So if a property
13 owner's grass is too high and complaints have been
14 made, you put the violation out, they don't do it,
15 then we're going to come back and mow their lawn?

16 MR. CONWAY: Hopefully, they will
17 comply. But it's not so much a lawn-care service;
18 it's more about property owners that basically
19 aren't taking care of their property and --

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I understand that.
21 And the follow-up concept is, rather than leave it
22 in the court system, we're going to send people out
23 to abate the particular problem, whether it's front
24 lawn, rear yard, something in the alley, whatever
25 the issue may be.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 MR. CONWAY: That's correct

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: We're going to have
4 our people do that.

5 MR. CONWAY: Correct.

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. Now, so, the
7 difference here is, essentially, rather than
8 leaving it in the court system where they may or
9 may not respond or you'll end up either in
10 Municipal Court or in Equity Court or one of the
11 courts, we're going to have people just go and
12 abate the problem ourselves and then place a lien
13 on the property and then, what, leave it to either
14 Revenue or the Law Department to follow up on the
15 lien?

16 MR. CONWAY: Correct.

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. And I
18 understand the genesis of the concept, but why
19 wouldn't you do this citywide? I mean, there must
20 be this similar kind of problem all over the place.

21 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I think one of
22 the things I have found is, every good idea doesn't
23 mean that operational-wise, it's as as well as it
24 sounds. So we want to try it, see how it works,
25 how much staff is really does take, how much

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 equipment it takes, and then make a decision on
3 that. That's the reason for using a prototype.

4 It does -- but I have done lots of
5 things that conceptually look good very on paper,
6 and after operational-wise, you run into a lot of
7 problems that you you maybe should have considered
8 before you started or at the point of start.

9 So this is a way to see if it falls
10 into place as well as it sounds.

11 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: How long will the
12 pilot phase last?

13 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I can't tell you
14 that right now; I don't know. I have not preset a
15 date on that.

16 My usual format is to check back on a
17 continual basis every 30, 60, 90 days to see what's
18 happening, how it's going, and if there are any
19 problems that may not have been anticipated.

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. Well, let me
21 go back to the question Councilwoman Tasco asked.
22 If you take 30 people from these departments -- the
23 departments are L&I and Streets; are those the two
24 agencies or is anybody else moving from somewhere
25 else?

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 MR. CONWAY: Basically, it would be L&I
3 Streets, Anti-Graffiti, and the Mayor's Office of
4 Community Services.

5 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: The part of MOCS
6 is the folks that are being diverted and doing
7 community sentences in the court system.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I'm sorry, say that
9 again?

10 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: The members of
11 MOCS that are involved in this are people who are
12 being diverted from jail, the diversions, the
13 people who are sentenced to a community service is
14 a large part of this group.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: A large part of
16 what group?

17 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Of the folks
18 that will be going into the communities and working
19 doing and doing some of the work. You wanted to
20 know the departments and the groups of people who
21 are going to be involved in this.

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right.

23 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: One of the
24 groups is the court diversion group.

25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: You mean to

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 actually do the work?

3 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: To actually do
4 the work.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: All right. Well,
6 let me go back, then. The 30 people involved,
7 those are presently public employees?

8 MR. CONWAY: The majority of them, yes.

9 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Not all of them,
10 in other words; some of them are court diversion
11 people.

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay, all right.
13 Of the 30 people, how many are public employees,
14 how many are diversion people?

15 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Probably about
16 two-thirds of them. I don't have the direct
17 breakdown of that.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Two-thirds which
19 way?

20 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Two-thirds of
21 the 30.

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Are...?

23 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Are City
24 employees, I'm sorry.

25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay, so two-thirds

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 City, so it's --

3 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Right.

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So it's 20 and 10.

5 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Right.

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay.

7 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: And

8 incidentally, there are more than that who
9 currently work on these problems within those
10 departments. So we're not pulling the entire
11 contingent of people. So that if any other
12 Councilperson would call and say, "I have an issue
13 in my community," that we couldn't get to that.

14 This is an attempt to see if we're
15 coordinating this under one single point of
16 authority, can we get a better bang for what we do,
17 have more accountability, and make things happen
18 faster.

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: No, I understand
20 that, but I think what I'm trying to better
21 understand is -- I mean, if you take 20 public
22 employees from a couple different places --

23 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Right.

24 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: -- who do these
25 things, in your view, in not the most coordinated

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 fashion possible, but they are now out of the
3 larger system. When the complaints come in and you
4 have 20 fewer people that are available -- and I
5 thought the testimony earlier was, no, you will --
6 not only will you not see a diminishment in
7 service, you'll see quicker service, and I guess
8 I'm not understanding how you get quicker service
9 with 20 fewer people.

10 I mean, on that theory, I mean, maybe
11 we only need 10,000 employees.

12 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: That would be a
13 nice thought.

14 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I don't think so.

15 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I don't think
16 so.

17 I think my response on it would be
18 quicker just because when things tend to hit my
19 desk, I tend to say, "Get it down now" and push
20 pretty hard.

21 So the system is designed to look to
22 see if a coordinated effort, using a CLIP model, is
23 going to be more effective than our regular model
24 of having it done just by calling the department.
25 That's the goal. Those are the two different

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 models that we'll be looking at.

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right.

4 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I probably
5 should have just said, "No, you probably won't have
6 to wait longer. We'll try to meet your same
7 schedule that we have met in the past."

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Now, where is this
9 program in the budget? 'cause I could not find it.

10 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Because the
11 equipment that we are purchasing is being purchased
12 in the current fiscal year, there's no budget
13 impact, so it wouldn't be pulled out as a separate
14 budget document because we're not pulling new
15 dollars.

16 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I understand. How
17 much equipment are we talking about? And you
18 already had budget authorization to purchase this
19 equipment?

20 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Right. It's
21 within our Fleet Management, and we just went into
22 Fleet and directed dollars by Fleet that they had
23 there into, I don't know, more jeeps -- well, I'm
24 not really good on my trucks and cars yet.

25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: That's okay.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 MR. CONWAY: Some of the new vehicles
3 that are acquiring are also going to be using our
4 residential snow fleet, so we work closely with
5 Fleet Management. For instance, if we're requiring
6 eight new F-350 trucks, they're also, during the
7 winter months, going to be used for plowing and
8 salting. So it's going to be a dual purpose with
9 the new vehicles.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay, go ahead.

11 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: We're getting
12 things like -- I'm still -- 350 Ford pickup trucks,
13 which were just explained, one trash truck, one
14 wood chipper.

15 So it's things like that where there
16 were dollars available within the Fleet budget to
17 do this. That's what we're doing.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. I would just
19 mention to you off to the side, Madam Managing
20 Director, that I know that your former Chief of
21 Staff and now Health Commissioner, John, Domzalski
22 he's a big-truck guy and he can give you some
23 assistance on the differences between the different
24 vehicles.

25 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: People have been

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 giving me several toy trucks but they failed to
3 totally identify them for me, but they're yellow
4 and they're really cute.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I understand.
6 We'll work on that.

7 Okay, so the last question on this
8 particular issue is, the pilot program, length
9 determined, assessment by yourself, and your
10 expectation is that at some point in time, this
11 will be looked at for expansion throughout the
12 City?

13 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: That is correct.

14 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. And let me
15 ask this question: For the rest of the City, while
16 this is going on, what's being done to improve
17 systems and processes to address the the exact same
18 issues?

19 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I think when
20 the -- as I'm working with each commissioner around
21 how they address complaints that come into their
22 department, I'm asking to see, how do they create
23 priority? what do they address? how do they
24 determine what is dangerous? and beginning to try
25 to get a feel for how some of these decisions are

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 made and the timeline that accompanies them.

3 Some of this we're trying to monitor
4 directly from the Managing Director's Office, and
5 some of it, I'm just trying to get a feel for it
6 right now on how the departments have historically
7 operated.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. I'm sure my
9 time is starting to run out, but --

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It is. We'll
11 have a second go-around.

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: We do have a
14 number of other Councilmembers waiting.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Do you want
17 to ask your last question at this point, or would
18 you rather wait?

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: If you give me the
20 opportunity, Madam Chair, absolutely.

21 There was a question asked last week,
22 and maybe, Managing Director, you can give us an
23 update on it.

24 There was a news report regarding an
25 internal and national search with regard to, I

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 guess it would be called the permanent filling of
3 the position of Police Commissioner.

4 Can you give us an update on that
5 search, and who is actually conducting the search?

6 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I actually
7 cannot. I'm assuming the search is being conducted
8 by Personnel, but I have not been involved.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. When I asked
10 the question last week, actually to the Chief of
11 Staff, the Chief of Staff indicated that she was
12 not involved in that process and that, technically,
13 the hire is made by the Managing Director's Office.
14 And it was her position that the Managing Director
15 was handling this particular matter.

16 So you're indicating today that you are
17 not involved in that now?

18 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Not at this
19 point, but I might be.

20 The Police Commissioner is a cabinet
21 member and reports directly to the Mayor, and under
22 normal Personnel rules, when there's a search that
23 happens, the search is normally done by the
24 Personnel Department or a contractor, and then they
25 may choose a group of us at the cabinet level to do

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 the interviews or to otherwise be consulted. And I
3 don't believe it has gotten to that point yet.

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Do you know whether
5 there is a contractor involved?

6 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: No, I don't.

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay, all right,
8 thank you.

9 Thank you, Madam President.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

11 The Chair recognizes Councilman Kenney.

12 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you, Madam
13 President.

14 No disrespect, Managing Director, but
15 that has me seriously concerned that the Managing
16 Director of the City is not involved or aware and,
17 through no fault of your own, 'cause I do respect
18 you and know how hard you work, not involved in the
19 selection process of the most -- of one of the most
20 important commissioners in the City.

21 I mean, the Personnel Office and the
22 private contractor may know more than the Managing
23 Director's Office as it relates to the selection of
24 a person to lead our police department? I mean, to
25 me, that is -- and if you don't feel comfortable

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 commenting, I'll understand.

3 But the fact that you're not aware of
4 that information, again, through no fault of your
5 own, I find it absolutely bizarre and extremely
6 discouraging and upsetting that -- I mean, if
7 anyone else in the City should be involved in that
8 selection process, or at least the knowledge of
9 what's going on, it should be you.

10 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Councilman, I
11 would assume that by the time they get down to a
12 limited number of candidates that I would be
13 involved.

14 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Well -- and, again,
15 I mean, you don't have to comment, but I feel that
16 that particular situation is extremely
17 disconcerting, and people in this city and this
18 government should be concerned that a person in
19 your position with the responsibility that you have
20 is not involved in this process at this point, and
21 I think that that's just downright bizarre.

22 Let me just go to the Clip Program for
23 one second. Again, the people sitting at these
24 tables often are the ones who take the brunt of our
25 questioning and our concerns. And, again, both of

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 you and the people who have been up before you,
3 especially the two of you that I've worked with
4 over the past ten years, are dedicated public
5 servants that have responded immediately, if not
6 sooner, to some of the requests that we've made,
7 and I know that other Councilmembers have the same
8 view.

9 But I would argue, Madam President,
10 through the Chair, that if Councilmembers Nutter
11 and Tasco and yourself, for example, had been
12 better behaved or had acted more appropriately
13 according to what the second floor viewed as
14 appropriate activity during NTI, redistricting, and
15 some other things, perhaps you would be
16 experiencing this expanded pilot program in your
17 districts so that your citizens and constituents
18 would be experiencing this new way in dealing with
19 quality-of-life issues.

20 I think at this point in time, if I
21 could say so, I think your constituents are being
22 clipped because of your lack of cooperation on
23 those issues, which is exactly the reason why we
24 needed the controls that we've sought after in NTI
25 in the first place, because I believe that as we go

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 down the road, NTI will be used as a lever to
3 coordinate and control people's votes on other
4 issues, which I don't think should be its function,
5 but apparently, it's already started to be a
6 function of that program.

7 And, hopefully, our constituents, your
8 District Council constituents, will at some point
9 in time get the message that if you either don't
10 get in line and march right, you're not going to
11 get the services that other districts get. And I
12 think that it really does give a clear example of
13 what NTI may be used for as we move forward.

14 I'd like to move a second to the issue
15 of out-of-state residential treatment facilities
16 and some of our youth that are sent to those
17 facilities. How much do you spend annually, or are
18 we anticipating spending in the next budget cycle
19 on that type of service?

20 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: There are
21 approximately 200 youth -- and I believe that
22 number is decreasing fairly rapidly -- who are
23 placed out of county, out of state, for -- who are
24 usually under the custody of the Department of
25 Human Services and being funded by HealthChoices

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 through the Behavioral Health Initiative.

3 The total amount of dollars --
4 8 million.

5 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: \$8 million per year
6 and decreasing or stable or growing?

7 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Hopefully
8 decreasing. The State changed the mechanism for
9 which how this happens, and the City is totally in
10 control of the cost. And...

11 (Ms. Richman hesitates.)

12 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I'm listening, I'm
13 sorry

14 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Okay. The City
15 now has the responsibility for much of that cost so
16 that it's to our advantage to place those kids
17 within Pennsylvania as opposed to Texas, Colorado,
18 and other places.

19 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: The youth that are
20 sent to these facilities, are they sent by court
21 order generally, and does the court make a decision
22 on what facilities, what location, what state they
23 go to to? Or is the Department simply ordered to
24 do something, and you guys make a decision on where
25 to send people?

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Many of the
3 placements are on the dependency side, and it is a
4 pure decision within a collaboration between the
5 Behavioral Health System and DHS.

6 There are also probably about a third
7 of them now that are delinquent. About a third of
8 them are delinquent, and at that is a collaboration
9 between the court, DHS, and the Behavioral Health
10 System.

11 We've worked very hard over the past
12 year to educate and work with the judges, that the
13 reason that most children are sent out of state is
14 for clinical treatment reasons and to have them
15 understand that it's the clinical expertise that
16 the system can offer that should be picking the
17 placement, how long, and the conditions under which
18 children are placed out of state.

19 They have agreed with that, and the
20 working relationship up to this point with Judge
21 Sylvester has been a very good one, and we look
22 forward to the new administration in having that
23 same collaborative relationship.

24 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: So two-thirds --
25 and Correct me if I'm wrong. Two-thirds or so of

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 the young people that are sent out of state, it's
3 an internal decision through DHS and not really a
4 court-ordered type of operation.

5 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: That's correct.

6 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: And how do we
7 determine where they go? And how far away --
8 what's the furthest place we send people, Texas?

9 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I know we have
10 kids in Texas, Colorado, Arizona I believe. I
11 don't believe we have any children in California.

12 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: What types of
13 services do these institutions or agencies or
14 facilities render that can't be rendered or found
15 in the region?

16 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: The primary
17 reason that children are put out of state is that
18 Pennsylvania has a regulation that treatment
19 facilities cannot be locked, and the out-of-state
20 places we choose --

21 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Locked like a door
22 lock?

23 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Locked like a
24 door lock. They cannot be locked or secured
25 facilities; they have to be open.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 And in other states, you can -- and the
3 only way you can have a locked facility in
4 Pennsylvania is that it is a hospital. So
5 residential treatment facilities in Philadelphia --
6 I mean, in Pennsylvania cannot be locked.
7 Residential treatment facilities in just about
8 every other state can.

9 And for some of children who are placed
10 out of state, the treatment clinician believes that
11 the child, at least for their beginning stay, needs
12 a locked facility.

13 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Have we made any
14 efforts to attempt to change Pennsylvania law?

15 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Numerous.

16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: What is the major
17 obstacle to doing that? I mean, this
18 legislature -- at least the current makeup of the
19 legislature would not indicate to me an interest in
20 keeping facilities unlocked; if anything, it would
21 be the opposite.

22 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: This actually
23 falls within the auspices of the Department of
24 Public Welfare, and most frequently, either the
25 children in youth grouping or the Office of Mental

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 Health and Substance-Abuse Services who have
3 actively opposed having a locked facilities.

4 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: It's an awful
5 expensive decision for our part, I guess, as it
6 relates to -- as a result of what we have to spend
7 based on that decision seems to fly in the face of
8 what many other states are doing 'casue we have to
9 send kids to other states.

10 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Absolutely. We
11 have been working numerous years on trying to have
12 them understand that we believe it's more damaging
13 to go a child to be so far away from their family
14 that it would be what they seem to see as abuses if
15 it is a locked facility.

16 Our hope is that as we enter a new
17 administration next year within DPW, we may be able
18 to solve it.

19 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: DPW or -- DPW's
20 resistant; does that mean that the legislature
21 can't force them to change their position? I mean,
22 have we attempted an legislative remedy as opposed
23 to an administrative remedy?

24 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I'm not sure how
25 to answer that; I don't know that. I can find that

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 out, but I don't want to speak out of turn on this
3 one

4 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Does it make some
5 sense, despite the locked and unlocked issue, does
6 it make some sense at some point to perhaps
7 coordinate with other counties surrounding
8 Philadelphia -- Delaware, Montgomery, Chester,
9 Bucks -- and kind of contribute to building our own
10 facility?

11 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: We actually have
12 several collaborative initiatives going on with the
13 other four counties at this point in time. In
14 fact, of the five, they have sent out a request for
15 proposal, some of those have come back. And I
16 think of the five things they are looking at, three
17 are proposed outside of the City limits and two are
18 in.

19 So there is some collaboration going on
20 and we continue to do that.

21 We've also attracted --

22 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Excuse me, is that
23 for the construction of a residential facility?

24 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Those are
25 residential facilities, small. In other words --

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 and also other our other premise is that we still
3 prefer very small facilities. We believe that the
4 track record of them is much more -- that we get
5 better results and we can be accountable for those.

6 The other part of this is that we have
7 recruited the best of the providers from out of
8 state to come into Philadelphia. The Brown School
9 is one of those; they're based in Texas. The Pine
10 School is based in Virginia. Both of them have
11 come into Philadelphia to operate programs, but
12 they too recommend that where they have a child
13 whose behavior they believe needs a locked
14 facility, they send back to their, quote, home
15 organizations 'cause they don't feel they can offer
16 the security need that the child needs to be here
17 with its current state regulations.

18 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: In your
19 off-the-top-of-your-head estimation, if we had the
20 lock issue resolved, how many of these children
21 would we not have to send out of state?

22 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: The vast
23 majority of them. I think we could even reduce
24 that 200 number to probably 50 or lower.

25 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay. Let me just

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 move for a second to some of the youth coordination
3 issues, children investment strategies, and those
4 type of issues.

5 I'm sure you're aware of an
6 organization in Philadelphia called "Safe and
7 Sound."

8 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Yes, I am.

9 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Does that
10 organization receive City money, either from the
11 Recreation Department or from DHS?

12 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: That
13 organization -- the primary dollars that support
14 Safe and Sound come from the Robert Wood Johnson
15 Foundation, and they come directly to the City. So
16 they come to Robert Wood Johnson, are put into the
17 City Recreation budget and, therefore, they're
18 transferred from that, but let me have Ellen
19 Steiker answer that.

20 (Ms. Steiker comes forward.)

21 MS. STEIKER: Hi, this is Ellen
22 Steiker, Deputy Managing Director.

23 Safe and Sound is funded in two primary
24 ways. The employees of Safe and Sound are
25 primarily Recreation Department employees, and they

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 can be found in the Recreation Department's budget.
3 The program dollars, the non-employee dollars, are
4 funded through the Department of Human Services and
5 can be found in the Grants Fund for the Department
6 of Human Services.

7 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: So with the
8 exception of the origin of the non-operating -- I'm
9 sorry. With the exception of the origin of the
10 non-personnel funds, and even the non-personnel
11 funds are siphoned through a City agency, for all
12 intent and purposes, this is -- if it walks like a
13 duck and talks like a duck, it seems to be a part
14 of the City agency. We have City employees, we
15 have money that's provided from another source but
16 it is routed through DHS.

17 So all in all, it would seem to be
18 pretty much a City agency. Is that -- I mean -- or
19 at least a hybrid City agency; is that fair?

20 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Yeah, that's
21 fair. But it does also have -- it is a private
22 nonprofit and it does have a board, but it works
23 very closely with Social Services and the Managing
24 Director's Office.

25 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Is there any reason

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 why a hybrid social-service City agency like this
3 would not be appearing in the budget process? Any
4 reason it should not?

5 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Well, I'm not
6 sure I can specifically answer that question. One
7 of things that they do actively do is fund-raising,
8 which is one of the --

9 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Well, so does the
10 Recreation Department and, you know, the Police
11 Department.

12 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: That's right.

13 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: They fund a lot of
14 things through, you know, bicycles and bottled
15 water and other things. I mean, many departments
16 fund-raise actively. It's just --

17 And how much money are we spending in
18 that particular quasi-hybrid agency with personnel,
19 and how much money is passed through to the
20 organization through DHS?

21 MS. STEIKER: I will get back to you as
22 soon as I can find that.

23 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: For any of these
24 questions, if you need to respond later, take it as
25 a --

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Why don't we
3 respond later to that one and get you the full
4 information rather than trying to dig through the
5 book and find it right now.

6 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay.

7 Also, just finally -- Madam President,
8 thank you for your time -- on the rear of Page 8 of
9 your testimony, there is a mention of a Targeted
10 Assistance Program \$713,000 in Grants Funds. This
11 is supposed to deal with employment-related social
12 services for refugees, immigrants who have arrived
13 from Eastern Europe, Africa Southeast Asia, etc.,
14 and translation services for members of our
15 refugee communities.

16 Who gets that money, what do they do
17 with it, and what is the evaluation process that
18 relates to its effectiveness?

19 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Coming up is
20 someone who understands this program.

21 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

22 (Witness comes forward.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good morning.
24 Please identify yourself for the record.

25 MS. WOLF: Yes, good morning. My name

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 is Donna Wolf, Director of the Targeted Assistance
3 Program.

4 The Targeted Assistance Funds from 1983
5 on have been 100 percent federally funded. And the
6 primary concern of the Targeted Assistance federal
7 legislation is to get folks jobs as quickly as is
8 possible, and the eligibility is limited to those
9 who have legally entered the country as refugee and
10 now more recently, folks who are asylees [sic]who
11 are -- have been granted political asylum status in
12 the United States.

13 And the employment service -- it's
14 primarily employment service, and a third of the
15 budget is for personnel, which are job counselors
16 working in the office. And for the moment in the
17 Northeast, we have -- we share is a space with the
18 New World Organization of immigrants from Russia.

19 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Is this a City
20 office; do we give grants to organizations who
21 provide services?

22 MS. WOLF: We are a part of the
23 Managing Director's Office and, in fact, we do
24 subcontract for other services as they're needed.

25 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: How many City

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 employees are involved?

3 MS. WOLF: Six.

4 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Six. And how many
5 agencies do we contract with or give grants to?

6 MS. WOLF: Currently, it's about five.

7 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: And how do we
8 evaluate the effectiveness of their service?

9 MS. WOLF: Actually, this is kind of
10 off the topic, but the way the program was always
11 set up was that we automate our intake forms and we
12 track our services, and we have almost constant
13 feedback as to the service provision that we
14 receive from our subcontractors.

15 Mind you, these are not major
16 contracts. The contract for the New World
17 Association, for instance, is for \$35,000, one of
18 them, and that's for -- really allows us to use
19 part of their space. And they do some outreach and
20 referral for us as well.

21 But we do sit on Bergen Street off of
22 Bustleton Avenue three times a week, and it allows
23 us to have evening coverage as well; that's for the
24 predominantly Russian population. And they also
25 have Town Watch.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 We try to improve community
3 relationings by offering small incentives, very
4 small -- \$12,000 at this point -- to get people
5 engaged and have the radios and the training by the
6 police, which is our way of making community
7 support and safety and integration.

8 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Part of -- I mean,
9 this is anecdotal, and I'll raise it through you.
10 Through my workings in the last couple of years
11 with many of these organizations, there seems to be
12 some disappointment, I guess, with the way in which
13 the money is spent, that it seems to be that a lot
14 of it is targeted to Town Watch-type activities,
15 and perhaps a way of looking at it differently by
16 taking the money and instead of spreading it out
17 the way we do, to maybe concentrate it into an
18 overall office, and I don't know whether you
19 received a copy of my report on --

20 MS. WOLF: We're very interesting in it
21 and were sort of hoping that something would happen
22 out of that, actually, as an aside, because there
23 are --

24 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: 9/11 didn't help.

25 MS. WOLF: No, 9/11 hasn't helped in

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 general now because the -- actually, the entrance
3 was halted entirely for refugees for about three
4 months and is only recently been opened again.

5 Most of the targeted assistance funds,
6 the 5, \$600,000, is really primarily employment-
7 driven and mimics very much the welfare to work,
8 which is get a job now as quickly as possible, so
9 most of it is employment counseling.

10 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Part of the
11 problem, though, as you know, which we have with
12 many of our refugee communities is that they're not
13 always legal in status and they're not always
14 knowledgeable of how to get legal.

15 For example, in South Philadelphia,
16 there's a large and growing Indo-Chinese community
17 that are eligible for asylum. The information
18 available to them on how to get asylum, what papers
19 to file, and the fact that if they do file, they
20 become legal until their asylum issue is resolved
21 one way or the other can bring a lot of these
22 people out from underground.

23 And I don't want to belabor this
24 discussion now, but I'd like to have it at a future
25 date, but I'd like to know the agencies that we

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 give grants to, the organizations, if I could get a
3 list of them

4 MS. WOLF: No problem.

5 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: And that would
6 indicate to me -- a couple sentences on what they
7 provide to which communities.

8 MS. WOLF: No problem.

9 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: And maybe we can
10 put together some type of a meeting that would
11 better funnel and deal with these resources in a
12 way and dealing with some of the more acute
13 problems that we have.

14 MS. WOLF: Actually, the State
15 Department of Public Welfare, which is the
16 recipient of other federal refugee resettlement
17 funds, has just granted also a three-month program
18 to the Hebrew immigration folks to support asylee
19 applications, and they have a hotline now, as a
20 matter of fact and a conference coming up.

21 And actually (indiscernible) we have
22 received walk-ins from the population primarily
23 17th and Morris 'cause the church down there is
24 very active with the folks, and there much more
25 asylees than I would have imagined actually and

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 easy to place, actually.

3 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Well, they're an
4 interesting group of people who left under terrible
5 circumstances. Many of them were middle-class
6 merchants and business owners who -- basically,
7 everything was taken from them and they ran for
8 their lives.

9 MS. WOLF: Clearly.

10 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: And they're
11 beginning to show some gems of coming back in that
12 particular neighborhood, which is very hopeful for
13 South Philadelphia in that west side of Broad
14 Street.

15 MS. WOLF: Just as an aside, we had a
16 fellow come in last week, referred to us for
17 employment, and we sent him over for part-time
18 employment to a company locally and in Center City
19 here, and they hired him as a graphic artist,
20 full-time as a graphic artist, and the counselor
21 was stunned when he came back.

22 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: If you could get me
23 a list of that information, I'd appreciate it.

24 MS. WOLF: No problem.

25 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Councilman,
3 your time's up.

4 At this time, the Chair recognizes
5 Councilman Rizzo.

6 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Madam
7 President.

8 Managing Director Richman, I received a
9 letter from -- on behalf of Child Care Matters, and
10 there was money in the budget last year for that
11 group; I believe it was a late addition to the
12 budget. And we looked and maybe missed it, but it
13 doesn't appear that that organization's covered
14 this year.

15 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: We have
16 guaranteed them last year, as we did this year,
17 \$150,000 and said that we would again try to up
18 that this year to 300, and I think we're going to
19 make the 300 this year, and our hope next year is
20 to maintain the \$150,000 and, again, as we look at
21 grants coming in from the State, is to up it to
22 \$300,000.

23 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: That's the only
24 question I had for you, other than your office
25 provides a lot of service to my office, and I'm not

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 speaking for other members, but I'm sure I could on
3 that point, and very responsive, and I want to
4 thank you for always the good work. Thank you.
5 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Thank you.
6 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Madam
7 Chair.
8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You're
9 welcome.
10 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
11 Brown. Is she in the room? Apparently not.
12 The Chair recognizes Councilman Clarke.
13 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Madam
14 President.
15 Good morning.
16 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Good morning.
17 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Managing Director,
18 about a year ago, I had a meeting in my office with
19 a couple of very high-ranking police officials
20 about some problems in specific areas of my
21 district -- there were shootings and a lot of drug
22 activity that, in my mind, got to epidemic
23 proportions. And during the discussion, one of the
24 concerns raised by those officials was the lack of
25 coordination between the law enforcement arm of

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 government and the social service arm of government
3 and.

4 And as I read on Page 5, where you talk
5 about the comprehensive and coordinated social
6 services, it doesn't reference the law enforcement
7 aspect of what it is we need to do. You talk about
8 the MOCS, you talk about the Commission of Aging
9 and other agencies, but nowhere does it reference
10 the law enforcement end.

11 And I'm wondering, are we in fact going
12 to have some coordination services with law
13 enforcement? 'cause it's clear that without a
14 follow-up in those communities after law
15 enforcement action, that we're not going to have a
16 long-term solution to those problems.

17 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I've actually
18 had several conversations with Commissioner Johnson
19 at this point, and I believe we're going to be able
20 to develop a very strong relationship in how we
21 integrate the police and law-enforcement activities
22 with Social Services, particularly in and around
23 drug treatment and service.

24 I believe that the Commissioner did a
25 presentation to Council around some of the new

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 activities that the police have been involved that
3 directly influence how and what we do in Social
4 Services.

5 We're also working closely with them
6 around issues with the School District and how we
7 come together and have a more unified agenda.

8 While they aren't listed as part of
9 Social Services, these are agencies who have as
10 their primary mission social services. The Police
11 Department obviously has as its primary mission
12 safety and security, but their rollover into Social
13 Services is critical if the City is going to be a
14 safe as well as a healthy place to live.

15 So we're both looking for, as new
16 members, to be able to develop a different level of
17 both leadership and collaboration and cooperation
18 than I think has been our history in the past.

19 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Yeah, 'cause I
20 think it's important that the police are out there
21 on a consistent basis. Sometimes the officers have
22 more knowledge about some of these issues than a
23 Social Services individual or the elected official,
24 frankly speaking.

25 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: In fact, I've

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 already asked Commissioner Johnson to come to one
3 of our Behavioral Health sessions and talk about
4 the initiative he's putting in place working around
5 working in the drug and alcohol field with youthful
6 offenders.

7 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Okay. Thanks.

8 Madam Chair, I have another but I'd
9 like to yield 'cause I know Councilwoman Brown had
10 wanted to ask questions for a long time, so I'll
11 yield.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: But you could
13 finish and I will recognize her next.

14 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Okay, thank you.

15 I want another question, this is kind
16 of a pet peeve of mine. Throughout my tenure in
17 government, I've had an opportunity to travel to a
18 lot of municipalities, and one of the things that
19 I've noticed, with the exception of New York -- and
20 I hope nobody is in here from New York -- is the
21 cleanliness of various cities throughout our
22 country.

23 And when I come back to the City of
24 Philadelphia I guess pretty much my opinion of our
25 fine city and some of the people in our fine city,

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 for lack of a better term, is that we have a whole
3 lot of pigs in this city, right? And as we talk
4 about these issues, the quality-of-life issues and
5 government, it seems that our response is that we
6 ramp up our staffing levels to abate the problem.

7 And I've had discussions with members
8 of the Administration over the last year about a
9 proactive approach, 'cause I, frankly speaking,
10 don't think it's appropriate for us to continue to
11 hire people to clean up vacant lots, to hire people
12 to clean up the streets and essentially clean up
13 behind people that should police themselves.

14 And I guess my question is, what are we
15 going to do from an educational standpoint? I
16 recall as I was growing up as a kid -- and I know
17 it was a lot of years ago -- we actually talked
18 about cleanliness in schools, you know, telling
19 children not to litter, but I don't see that out
20 here in government, I don't see that out here in
21 the schools.

22 Are we going to, like, aggressively
23 have some public service announcements or getting
24 Allen Iverson to shoot a piece of trash in the
25 trash can? I mean, something, you know.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: That's a good
3 idea, but I do think it's a mentality that we need
4 to model, that the cleanliness of a city belongs to
5 all of us. It's not a program, it's not done by
6 City staff; it's everyone in a community taking
7 some responsibility of making sure that their
8 community is clean.

9 It's that non-profit agency that's
10 sitting on a block that begins to take some of that
11 responsibility. It's the community organizations,
12 it's small groupings.

13 You know, I've been impressed, as you
14 drive around the country, that on most of your
15 major highways now, you see a sign that says
16 "Such-and-such agency is responsible for the past
17 mile in picking up trash," and perhaps we need to
18 come up with a similar program within the City that
19 different agencies, community groups, sometimes you
20 see family structures that are taking
21 responsibility for making sure blocks are clean, or
22 to remind neighbors that it's time to pick up your
23 trash.

24 I'm not sure we ever want to say that
25 government can do it all and government has to

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 staff up to take full responsibility for people who
3 are just sometimes very sloppy, and that we may
4 need to do both a communications plan, an education
5 plan, and just a responsibility plan for how we
6 would like to educate the people in Philadelphia to
7 take some pride, some personal pride, in their
8 city, their neighborhood, and their block.

9 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Are we doing
10 anything now?

11 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I don't believe
12 we have an organized format to do that now, but I
13 will try to make sure it gets onto my agenda as
14 part of what the Managing Director's Office does as
15 we look and look at the multitude of both agencies
16 and departments we have and what we can do to do
17 that education piece, because what I hear you
18 saying is that we need to educate both ourselves
19 and the residents of our city, take more pride in
20 where they are.

21 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Right.

22 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: And to be able
23 to motivate both our sports team or known figures
24 or celebrities in the City to help us do this.

25 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: All right. You

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 know, I bring this up 'cause I recall years ago
3 that we made a decision that we were going to get
4 rid of graffiti, and we've done a good job on that,
5 and I think we need to take the same approach with
6 the cleanliness of our community.

7 So can I be a part of that?

8 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Yes.

9 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: I've really got an
10 issue about folks just throwing trash out of the
11 car. You know, it's ridiculous.

12 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: We will
13 certainly take you up on the offer to be a part of
14 this.

15 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you
16 Thank you, Madam Chair.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.
18 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
19 Brown.

20 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Thank
21 you, Madam President. Thank you very much.

22 Good morning.

23 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Good morning.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: I wanted to first
25 follow up on questions that were posed initially by

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 Councilwoman Tasco around the Beacon schools. You
3 spoke to the difference between the Beacon school
4 model and family community centers, and you also
5 indicated that those dollars are currently TANF
6 dollars from the State.

7 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Many of them are
8 TANF dollars.

9 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: At what
10 point will they run out, or will they?

11 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I'm not sure
12 that they will or that we're planning for them to
13 do that. In fact, we -- we'll probably be
14 requesting additional TANF dollars this year
15 through the needs-based budgeting process.

16 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Could you
17 speak to the criteria or standards that were used
18 to select the eleven schools at all?

19 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I can certainly
20 get you that, it's all written out. I don't have
21 it with me and I'm not sure I have someone here who
22 can rattle it off of the top of their head.

23 But there were standards, there were
24 selection standards, there were criteria that
25 people had to meet to even submit an RFP. And we

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 will get you all of that information.

3 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Do you
4 recall whether or not geography was a factor or a
5 variable or not?

6 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Well, it was --
7 we tried to look at the areas of the City that had
8 the highest juvenile crime as one of the criteria.
9 We also wanted it to be a citywide
10 initiative, so we also tried to balance the high
11 youth violence rates across the City to be able to
12 get a balance across the City.

13 I believe that all eleven really do
14 cover the City.

15 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay,
16 then. Along this notion of preventive activities
17 around youth violence, in your testimony,
18 specifically on Page 4 where you talk about the
19 criminal justice population management, there's
20 really no discussion of expansion of the Youth
21 Study Center or maybe a new site for the Youth
22 Study Center. And a year ago, there was a lot of
23 dialogue in different quarters about that.

24 Could you update us, please.

25 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: The planning for

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 the Youth Study Center continues. The reason
3 that's not in this testimony is because it's really
4 under the auspices of DHS, and I'm sure
5 Commissioner Martinez will cover it.

6 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay,
7 then.

8 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: The population
9 management really is a part of the Managing
10 Director's Office directly, and that's where that
11 is.

12 But I know the activity is continuing.
13 We are -- I believe parts of it has been -- we're
14 now looking for a site location and are probably
15 getting closer to making some decisions around
16 that, but --

17 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: I'll
18 reserve then and follow up with her.

19 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: It's one of her
20 passions, so I'm sure she'll be very willing to
21 talk about it.

22 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay.

23 Additionally, there was questions
24 around the lot program, and in response to one of
25 Councilman Nutter's questions, 10 of the 30 come

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 through the -- what's called the "Court Diversion
3 Program."

4 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Right.

5 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Is there
6 any intent to increase the number of participants
7 that come specifically through that channel? knowing
8 that, unfortunately, that there are so many young
9 people captured in that system.

10 MR. CONWAY: It was based out of the
11 Urban Artscape Program, where it's mostly geared
12 towards youth. Now we're liking to expand that to
13 also include adult community service offenders,
14 nonviolent.

15 Each week the number continues to rise.
16 We sent a letter to Municipal Court. Last week,
17 for instance, we had 100 non-violent offenders in a
18 program. When we initially started this, it was
19 about ten per week, so I believe this will be a
20 program that will expand.

21 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: And the
22 supervision of those young people happens through
23 your office or through the courts?

24 MR. CONWAY: The supervision will be
25 through the Managing Director's Office.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay.

3 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: There are two
4 programs here, though: One is the Youth Program
5 and the other is the Adult Program.

6 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: I'm
7 referring to the Youth Program.

8 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Okay.

9 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: All
10 right.

11 Councilman Rizzo posed questions around
12 the Health and Safety Fund, the \$300,000?

13 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: That's correct.

14 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Do you
15 anticipate a line item at some point in the future?

16 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I'm probably not
17 anticipating a line item. Because it's a Health
18 and Safety Fund, which is a more bricks and mortar-
19 type stuff, there is very little money sometimes to
20 do that.

21 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay.

22 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: So we are sort
23 of wiggling our way into that. I have guaranteed
24 them \$150,000, with the goal each year of getting
25 up to \$300,000.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay,
3 then. So that's an increase

4 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: That is correct.

5 So the last fiscal year, we did
6 150,000. I think this year, we'll be able to do
7 300,000, and my hope next year is to be able to do
8 300,000.

9 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Very
10 well.

11 When you look at the need, it seems to
12 be a one-third, one-third, one-third approach.

13 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Right.

14 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: And next
15 year, it could conceivably move us towards coverage
16 of all those centers that need that kind of
17 assistance.

18 Finally, last week, the Mayor's Office
19 of Community Services spoke to the breadth of
20 services and programs that they provide.
21 Councilman Ortiz and I had questions or concerns
22 around the impact.

23 Now, you speak to performance-based
24 accountability currently underway in the Managing
25 Director's Office. What we did not hear was what

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 is happening in the way of program accountability
3 specifically in the MOCS area.

4 (Witness comes forward.)

5 MS. KRETSGE: My name is Susan Kretsge,
6 I'm Director of Quality Management.

7 We have been working with all of the
8 social-services department and also with the
9 Mayor's Office of Community Service around how they
10 might measure the impact or effectiveness of
11 services. We've set out a broad framework, and
12 each department has, in turn, developed its own
13 plan.

14 MOCS, through the type of funding that
15 it gets, is involved in what's called
16 "result-oriented management accountability." What
17 they have done just over the last month is started
18 training for all of their staff through a provider
19 that the State has designated.

20 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN:

21 (Inaudible) did mentioned that, the --

22 MS. KRETSGE: Right. We then will be
23 working with them and bringing them into our
24 reporting system and then working with them on what
25 the information or what the data means.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 What it would do is show you some level
3 of impact. Where you need to go with that then is
4 to figure out why you got the results you did. So
5 working better with one population than another? is
6 there something in the process that isn't working?
7 are you maybe not delivering the service according
8 to the model you thought you were going to use?

9 So they have been involved with us in
10 addition. As we have done general training for
11 different social-service staff, they have been
12 involved with that as well.

13 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay, he
14 did mention that there are federal government and
15 where you're receiving State dollars, State
16 regulations, and monitoring guidelines as well.

17 So will that mean overlap, or will that
18 mean coordination with regards to what the City
19 will then do in the area of program accountability?

20 MS. KRETSGE: What we had done across
21 the board is -- we didn't want to go in and say to
22 departments that what you think is important or
23 what your funders have said is important doesn't
24 work for us or doesn't make sense. And probably
25 the last thing most departments need is another

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 report.

3 So for the most part we have said, If
4 you already have defined outcomes for your
5 services, outcomes that focus on the consumers
6 you're serving, then that is fine for us, and we do
7 this in concert with the Office of Program and
8 Budget Evaluation for their reporting.

9 In addition, some departments have
10 said, We want to go a little bit further on this.
11 And then we would work with them there. They may
12 at times have a certain number of measures or
13 information they report to us, but down at a lower
14 level, a lower program unit level, they may need
15 more information and different kinds of measures.

16 But we have tried very much to let
17 departments continue to keep information that
18 matters to them, and not say, You have to do
19 something new because we're here now.

20 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Okay, I
21 appreciate that.

22 Let me just check, Madam President.

23 I think that is it. Thank you very,
24 very much, ladies.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 The Chair recognizes Councilman Ortiz.

3 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Thank you, Madam
4 President.

5 Good morning, Estelle.

6 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Good morning.

7 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Good morning, ma'am.

8 I want to begin with where Jimmy was
9 before in terms of the Targeted Assistance Program
10 because it's something that both he and I are both
11 interested in, but I didn't hear about the refugee
12 situation, and the immigrant situation from Central
13 or Latin America. And we have quite a growing
14 population of that -- of those communities and
15 citizens, and it seems to be Eastern Europe,
16 Africa, and Southeast Asia.

17 MS. WOLF: Councilman, if I can answer
18 that for you --

19 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: That's why I'm
20 asking the question.

21 MS. WOLF: We have to follow exactly
22 the federal regulations as to who is legally
23 entered as a refugee and/or now their status of
24 being just a -- as asylum.

25 So the particular populations that you

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 mentioned fall outside of our federally allowed --

3 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: But you say here
4 "refugees and immigrants."

5 MS. WOLF: It's refugees and asylees
6 [sic].

7 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: What?

8 MS. WOLF: Refugees and asylees.

9 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And asylees. You
10 know, there are some folks that are coming from,
11 for instance, from Colombia that face quite a deal
12 of retribution if they go back to Colombia. I know
13 people recently that have called the office, and I
14 have referred them to different places, whose
15 families in Colombia and other places are facing
16 quite dangerous situations.

17 MS. WOLF: We're on the tail-end of the
18 State Department activities; that's the
19 organization that identifies, through their office,
20 you know, the population who is considered an
21 at-risk population.

22 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And we have a
23 Dominican population that is growing.

24 MS. WOLF: Yeah, I know.

25 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And is facing quite

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 a great deal of problems across the City, and they
3 have established businesses --

4 MS. WOLF: Oh, I know.

5 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: -- across the City,
6 and they have faced quite a bit of attacks and
7 other sorts of discriminatory tactics they have
8 suffered.

9 MS. WOLF: I know.

10 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And they don't have,
11 as Jimmy spoke, they don't have the knowledge of
12 the system, of the police activity that takes
13 place. They have become almost targets in
14 different areas of police in terms of drug deals
15 and so on.

16 MS. WOLF: Yes.

17 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: They have become
18 stigmatized in a way, and I just wonder, how can we
19 expand this? because the communities that are
20 growing, the immigrant community that is growing in
21 numbers in this city is Mexican, Dominican, Central
22 American.

23 MS. WOLF: Yes.

24 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And how can we --
25 'cause Jimmy has been speaking about the City

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 establishing an Office of Immigrant Services. How
3 can we begin expanding this so that we not only
4 take the asylees and we begin structuring an office
5 that really becomes a beacon, to use that word,
6 Estelle.

7 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Yes.

8 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: A beacon to
9 immigrants from all over the place, specifically
10 Latin-Americans so that -- it's an idea that has
11 been floated by Jimmy and this Council, and we held
12 hearings here. And I figure, since we have this,
13 why not expand this?

14 MS. WOLF: Well, we were sort of
15 counting on Councilman Kenney, as a matter of fact,
16 because it has all sorts of implications for
17 economic development, and all sorts of things came
18 to mind.

19 And the Federal Office Of Refugee
20 Resettlement, which is responsible for our funds
21 did, in fact, try four years ago to expand the
22 population to include immigrants, but
23 unfortunately, we have to go back to the federal
24 legislation to --

25 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: But I'm talking

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 about us, I'm talking about us as a city, not the
3 federal government 'cause if we depend on the
4 federal government to do certain things
5 specifically to this community that we're talking
6 about -- the Latino, Mexican, Central-American,
7 Latin-American community -- we'll wait until the
8 Arctic Circle is totally drilled and covered with
9 oil, which may not be too long, okay?

10 MS. WOLF: Okay.

11 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: But how do we as a
12 city -- and Estelle maybe can speak to that. How
13 can we begin attracting and expanding the
14 objectives of this office as to what we have been
15 talking about here at the hearings that we held?

16 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Councilman,
17 perhaps what we should do is use what we have
18 learned from the Targeted Assistance Program to
19 develop some level of plan and beginning some
20 effort of what we might do to the future to address
21 some of these issues brought up by you and
22 Councilman Kenney.

23 From the City perspective, what would
24 it take, what would be the purpose, how would with
25 develop it, and what it would look like?

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Like, for instance,
3 you know, one of the things that -- and I was
4 reading an article last night in the Daily News in
5 New York City about the aspect of rebirth of
6 renaissance and the energy that immigrants bring
7 and the renovation to a city.

8 I don't -- do we have a list, for
9 instance, of all of the commercial bodega bodegas
10 that the Dominican community has established across
11 the City? Do we know all of these businesses?

12 And they face certain problems that
13 other small businesses don't face. And in order
14 for us to help them grow, how can we begin --
15 because they bring the energy of community and
16 business development, okay, into different
17 neighborhoods, and they have settled not just in
18 the traditional Puerto Rican Barrio and
19 neighborhood, but they have settled across the City
20 in terms of establishing their businesses.

21 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Right. I'm not
22 aware of whether or not there's such a listing, but
23 I will inquire.

24 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Can the Commerce
25 Department begin, you know, matching a monetary

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 investment in terms of economic development for
3 these immigrants that come in and establish
4 businesses? We're talking about growth, we're
5 talking about bringing in people who contribute to
6 the economic and establishment of a new middle
7 class, as we say in the City.

8 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: There are
9 organizations within the City and the Dominican
10 Grocers Association and other type of ethnically-
11 based business and civic associations that have
12 those lists, and we'd be happy to provide at least
13 the people that I've come in contact with over the
14 course of the last couple of years who are very
15 interested in not only interfacing with the City,
16 but providing volunteer opportunities from their
17 own organizations to offset any costs that the
18 City's associated with.

19 In addition, a number of foundations in
20 the City that we've met through the grant makers
21 and others indicated a willingness to perhaps match
22 some of the City's investment in this regard if it
23 were to move forward and we were to be serious
24 about it.

25 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Perhaps this is

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 a good collaboration between the Managing
3 Director's Office and the Commerce Department to
4 look at these areas to expand on the assistance
5 program and determine how the City --

6 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: How do we get this
7 office to become a much more encompassing office
8 and actually expand the vision that it has and
9 really become what I said, a beacon that other
10 individuals will know about and start trying to
11 resettle here in Philadelphia?

12 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I think in part,
13 it's moving it up on the agenda and on the plate
14 become more familiar with both its goals and
15 objectives and to be able to integrate that more
16 fully into the Managing Director's Office

17 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Well, I'd like to
18 begin. I think Jimmy and I would both like to be,
19 you know, very closely involved in whatever
20 develops out of here.

21 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Okay.

22 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Because I'd like to
23 begin bringing this together and moving it forward,
24 because it's a community of energy and investment
25 and growth that we need to nurture.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Okay.

3 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: In terms of the
4 vacant lots, yesterday, we had some testimony and
5 it was sort of confusing. You say that 19,731 lots
6 have been cleaned, and yesterday, there was sort of
7 an ambiguous proposal or not very clear as to what
8 is going to happen once you clean them.

9 (Witness comes forward.)

10 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Go on, introduce
11 yourself.

12 MR. ALEXANDER: My name is Tumar (ph)
13 Alexander, Assistant Managing Director.

14 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Who maintains them?
15 Are we going to be in the business of going ahead
16 and, like Michael spoke about, mowing lawns and
17 cutting grass? Do we have the personnel to be able
18 to do this?

19 MR. ALEXANDER: Well, presently, no, to
20 answer your question, Councilman, we don't have the
21 personnel to presently maintain that number of
22 lots.

23 What we're going to try to do is, with
24 our maintenance plan, and try to incorporate that
25 into the issues. And I guess some of the

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 guidelines of NTI is that we're going to try to
3 maintain then in several ways. One is to --

4 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: That's not a clear
5 answer. What happens; do you clean them?

6 MR. ALEXANDER: We clean 'em, right.
7 Presently, we clean 'em. We have the Mayor's
8 Office of Community Services to come behind us and
9 try to solicit community residents to be community
10 caretakers for certain lots, so that number gets
11 taken off the list of the ones that do sign up and
12 say they want to maintain a lot.

13 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: We should have the
14 minutes of yesterday's hearing, because that was
15 not very clear in what was said here yesterday from
16 the Finance Office and the Budget Office.

17 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: For many of
18 these lots that lie in the midst of communities,
19 and all of them don't, I've already had many
20 community groups come into me and say they want to
21 take responsibility, are there small amounts of
22 money they can have to buy grass seed, are there
23 things they can do?

24 So part of it is, as I think
25 Mr. Alexander has said, is that the MOCS workers

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 that follow behind the crews that do the cleaning
3 out of the debris is to activate that community in
4 taking some personal responsibility for that lot.
5 We're also working with Mural Arts about adjacent
6 properties where they can help.

7 So we are trying to engage as many
8 people as we can to take responsibility for keeping
9 the lot clean.

10 Remember, we have cleaned out all the
11 debris, we have made it basically appropriate now
12 for someone to come in and want to plant grass or
13 want to do something more innovative with that
14 space, and many of the community groups really have
15 stepped to the plate to want to do that.

16 For these large, massive lots that may
17 be suitable for a land bank or as the lots that
18 we're trying to keep clean for NTI, we will share
19 some of that responsibility with them.

20 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: So there is not
21 going to be a an RFP given out for a private
22 consultant to come in and do this type of work?

23 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: To do --

24 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: The maintenance and
25 the after-cleanup aspects and coordinate that.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 That's the impression I got yesterday. I'm just
3 asking for clarification.

4 MR. ALEXANDER: Right now, Councilman,
5 it is one of the options of how we're going to
6 maintain it is through an RFP or a bid process, and
7 we asked contractors to come in and give us a price
8 for the service.

9 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And you have that
10 budgeted?

11 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: It's part of the
12 NTI budget.

13 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: So that comes from
14 the bond issues?

15 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: That's correct.

16 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: That comes from the
17 bond proceeds?

18 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Yes.

19 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Okay. In the
20 Community Life Improvement Program, in the broken
21 windows theory, the police played a big role in the
22 quality-of-life issues in different neighborhoods.
23 How does the police work into this? Because I
24 didn't hear it mentioned when the description was
25 coming up, was given.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 MR. CONWAY: Basically, the police will
3 play a very active role in this with the
4 Neighborhood Services Unit, which deals with
5 abandoned vehicles, graffiti squads, the Short-Dump
6 Unit for surveillance. We're going to work very
7 closely with them.

8 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And of the 20
9 persons that are going to be in that CLIP, do you
10 have maybe a description of their functions, of
11 what they're going to be doing, those 20
12 individuals? And how they will be operating? Do
13 you have that in writing?

14 MR. CONWAY: Yes.

15 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Could you just tell
16 me that you have it and then forward it to the
17 President, and I think that will be appreciated.

18 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: One of the
19 things we'll get to the President is a write-up of
20 the CLIP Program. We're still working on that, but
21 when we finish it, we'll make sure that you have a
22 copy of it.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thanks.

24 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: But we'd like to be
25 very clear if we're going to have 20 individuals

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 being transferred from departments to this, to form
3 sort of a task force. What are those 20 employees
4 going to be doing? what are their functions? If it
5 is coordination, do we need 20 people to do
6 coordination?

7 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: No, they won't
8 be doing the coordination. They'll be doing the
9 work, but they won't be transferred; they'll still
10 be the in the Streets Department, still be in L&I,
11 but they may be taking orders from the Managing
12 Director's Office as a piece of this. That's why I
13 said there --

14 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: So there will be one
15 coordinator.

16 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: That's right,
17 one.

18 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Okay, coordinating
19 20 people.

20 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: That's correct.

21 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: From different
22 departments.

23 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: From different
24 departments.

25 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And assigning work

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 schedules to them.

3 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: That's correct.

4 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Plus the
5 work-release people from the judicial process that
6 we have.

7 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: That's correct.

8 This is a different model; that's why,
9 again, I want to do it on prototype to see if it
10 works. When you're coordinating people coming out
11 of various different points, that could be a good
12 design or that could be a nightmare; we'll see.

13 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Well, I'll keep my
14 next statement to myself, but I'll go on to the
15 next.

16 In terms of the prisons here, you have
17 the aspects that you will be enlarging and building
18 a new women's facility.

19 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: That is correct.

20 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Could you explain
21 that to me, please. And when was the timeline for
22 that?

23 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I believe that
24 at this point, we're still on line for the Women's
25 Detention Center coming up, I believe, in the fall

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 of 2003. I would --

3 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: How many beds are in
4 there?

5 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: 800. I would
6 recommend you also ask that question of the Prison
7 Commissioner, who's going to come and --

8 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Oh, we will.
9 Commissioner Costello is here, and we will have
10 more questions for him on that.

11 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Okay.

12 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And you said
13 expansion of Curran Fromhold?

14 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: An expansion?

15 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Well, let me see
16 what the correct phrasing is here.

17 In terms of Curran Fromhold,
18 renovations, what are the renovations to the House
19 of Corrections at Curran Fromhold that are supposed
20 to be made?

21 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Those are
22 additional adjustments we're making to some of the
23 cells there in terms of trying to get more space
24 and taking rooms that are on some of the blocks now
25 and turning them into cells that have bathrooms to

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 make them fully-equipped bedrooms.

3 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: So you're taking
4 square footage and building cells.

5 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: It's not
6 building a cell; it's taking a room that was
7 already within that module and putting in a
8 bathroom or other things that would make it a cell.

9 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And that will
10 increase the capacity?

11 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: That will
12 increase the capacity.

13 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: To what number?

14 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I don't know.

15 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Okay, I'll ask that
16 of Costello.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Councilman,
18 do you mind waiting for the second go-around. We
19 still have other Councilmembers that have not been
20 recognized.

21 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: No problema.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
23 recognizes Councilwoman Miller.

24 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank you, Madam
25 President.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 Good morning.

3 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Good morning.

4 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I have a couple
5 questions. Some of them are follow-up questions to
6 other questions that have already been asked by
7 Councilmembers.

8 I want to start with -- if -- you said
9 that the TANF dollars are going to fund after-
10 school programs?

11 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Yes.

12 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Will that then
13 make it -- will there be eligibility requirements
14 based on those programs as to where they are? I
15 mean, who they're going to serve? Will people have
16 been to be low-income, or will these programs be
17 open to everybody?

18 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: The programs are
19 open to everyone. TANF is the bulk of the money,
20 but it's not the only funding source in it, so that
21 we haven't been bound just by eligibility
22 requirements; we've been able to blend some of
23 dollars, but they are the bulk.

24 MS. STEIKER: The largest proportion of
25 the dollars are the TANF dollars through DHS. And

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 the requirement there is that a family be at
3 400 percent of the poverty level.

4 So it's not a very restrictive program,
5 so we think that most people who would be applying
6 would be accommodated.

7 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay, so that
8 anybody can actually apply for the program
9 irregardless to location because certainly -- will
10 those TANF dollars also fund the Recreation
11 program's after-school activities?

12 MS. STEIKER: At this point, we're not
13 using the TANF dollars for Recreation programs.
14 There is that possibility, but that isn't in this
15 plan.

16 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay. Well, I
17 just wondered because certainly some of the
18 Recreation centers in my district are not in an
19 area that would be low-income, so I wanted to know
20 if they would be impacted by their inability not to
21 receive this funding for after school. So then the
22 funding isn't all TANF, so it should not impact
23 some of the after-school programs that are in
24 different sections of the City.

25 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Right. We've

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 been able to do a mixture of dollars from different
3 sources so that we haven't run into a problem
4 of anyone who comes in and wants to use a
5 Recreation program or an after-school program would
6 ever have to be turned away because of not low
7 income.

8 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay. What is
9 the average dollar-amount of funding per site?
10 'cause I have a very high interest level. I have a
11 lot of people that are interested in opening up and
12 running after-school programs.

13 Is there a minimum amount of funding
14 per site?

15 MS. STEIKER: The funding has been on a
16 per-slot basis at about \$1500 per slot. And what
17 we expect is that these various providers will
18 utilize a number of different sources of funding,
19 not just the sources that come through this
20 particular City program.

21 For example, the State has a program
22 for low-income residents who can access after-
23 school funding through the State.

24 So what we hope is that this money will
25 serve as a way to expand and allow people to

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 develop the programs, but they will use multiple
3 funding sources.

4 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay.

5 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: We also -- for
6 any program that receives money from the City for
7 after-school programs, we've set some very tight
8 standards that they have to meet so that we are
9 trying to control both the quality and the
10 standard and the outcomes that we get from
11 after-school programs. It's not just pouring money
12 into the community and hope it comes out okay.

13 So the standards that we have adopted,
14 we hope, are very clear, and we will only put money
15 into programs who can meet these standards.

16 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Do you have an
17 RFP that you put out, or is there a package that
18 you send out to people that inquire about getting
19 the funding?

20 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Yes. There was
21 an RFP that went out last summer, late summer, on
22 after-school programs, and there was an RFP on the
23 Beacons that went out, I believe, in the fall.

24 Typically, once we understand all of
25 the pieces on funding, if we do another RFP, it

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 will probably be in early summer.

3 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay.

4 I want to move on now to the Beacon
5 centers. Now, those centers will not necessarily
6 be in a school.

7 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: All the Beacons,
8 I believe, are in schools or are connected to
9 schools.

10 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay. So the
11 actual activities will take place in a school?

12 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: That is correct.

13 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: All right. So
14 what is the difference between -- well, actually,
15 that's not a good question 'cause I really don't
16 know what teen access centers do, what services
17 teen access centers provide. I'm very clear on
18 what family centers provide so I can see that there
19 will be a difference between a Beacon and a family
20 center.

21 But can you tell me what the teen
22 access centers actually do or where they are
23 located in the City? Or should I save that
24 question for DHS?

25 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: You should save

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 that question for the Department of Recreation.

3 The two teen access centers are run by
4 the Department of Recreation. I believe they're
5 here tomorrow. There are two -- one we just opened
6 last week -- and they are for and run by teens.

7 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay.

8 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: They also have a
9 comprehensive nature in the neighborhood they're in
10 and offer a variety of activities for the young
11 people who come there.

12 But the uniqueness of this one is that
13 it's actually run by the teens themselves, with
14 adult advisors, but the teens take the primary
15 responsibility of making sure that the teen center
16 works.

17 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay.

18 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: But I'm sure --
19 this has been both a vision and a passion of
20 Commissioner Richard, and he would be very glad, I
21 think, to go into the detail and tell you about
22 them.

23 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay, very good.

24 And the Beacon centers will not replace
25 anything. Whatever we have, family centers, teen

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 access centers, whatever we have will still be
3 there, and the Beacon centers will be in addition.

4 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: That is correct.

5 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay, good.

6 I'd also be interested in knowing where
7 those eleven centers are located.

8 I just want to talk a little bit about
9 the Anti-Graffiti Program here in the City and tie
10 it into CLIP and also just code enforcement around
11 quality-of-life issues particularly regarding trash
12 and cutting of weeds and all of these things 'cause
13 the cleanliness of our neighborhoods is really a
14 pet peeve of mine too, and I'd also like to be
15 included in whatever anti-trash or cleanup campaign
16 activities that you decide to put together, because
17 it's not just needed in neighborhoods, but it's
18 also needed along business strips and a lot of
19 large transportation hubs like Broad and Erie
20 that's always full of trash.

21 I'm interested in just seeing how code
22 enforcement will change, particularly whether
23 people comply because they're threatened with a
24 lien on their property. Because right now, it just
25 doesn't seem that too much works.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 I know that you're out in neighborhoods
3 doing sweep and you're giving people tickets now or
4 citations for putting trash out incorrectly and all
5 of those others. We'd like to at some point get a
6 result; I would like to hear what has been the
7 result of the increased citation, increased
8 enforcement.

9 In my district, we have a lot of
10 problems with people putting trash cans out front
11 rather than in side yard or the backyard and just
12 keeping them there all the time, and we also have
13 problems with people barbecuing on their porches,
14 which we've worked with the Fire Department on that
15 issue, but we get a lot of calls from a lot of
16 neighbors that are frightened that this barbecue
17 grilling on porches can start fires.

18 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: One of the
19 things that we're doing and one of the reasons that
20 we're trying to coordinate this is that certain
21 departments can write tickets. The Police
22 Department --

23 MR. CONWAY: The Streets Department.

24 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: The Streets
25 Department can write a ticket the Streets

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 Department can write a ticket, but only L&I can
3 place a lien on a property.

4 So we're trying to get all of this
5 coordinated that once we write a ticket, if people
6 don't comply, then we can put a lien on the
7 property.

8 We're continuing to work with law -- I
9 should have said from the beginning, all of this is
10 working with law around where the scope of how do
11 we begin to get this all working together in a
12 coordinated way.

13 Understanding your comments about
14 people doing barbecuing on their porches and not
15 fully understanding the fire dangers, we will
16 certainly work with the Fire Department around
17 helping educate people around the potential danger
18 of wood structures and fires.

19 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Right, you're not
20 supposed to barbecue on your porch; you're supposed
21 to do it in your backyard or your side yard or
22 whatever, and it's really frightening people.

23 I was hoping that we were more or less
24 winning the war on graffiti, because certainly when
25 you ride around the neighborhoods, the physical

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 appearance of the neighborhoods have changed and
3 you don't see it -- at least I don't see a lot of
4 graffiti. So I thought we were doing a lot around
5 prevention, but it sounds like we're winning the
6 war because we're just cleaning more buildings.

7 Is that true, or is there a prevention
8 strategy at all?

9 MR. CONWAY: Well, basically, we have
10 several programs in the Anti-Graffiti Network. One
11 is the Paint Voucher Program where we provide free
12 paint and supplies to community groups, active
13 organizations in the neighborhoods, Town Watch
14 Groups and so on and so forth.

15 The graffiti abatement teams are the
16 ones that roughly will do 70,000 properties this
17 year on graffiti removal. The Police Department's
18 Neighborhood Services Unit will be working closely
19 with the graffiti abatement teams to apprehend very
20 active graffiti vandals in the communities.

21 So it's a coordinated approach with all
22 of the different agencies in the City, which has
23 really made a difference and why we've come so far
24 on the graffiti battle.

25 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I just want to

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 piggyback on Councilman Clarke's comments earlier,
3 that I think we just have to do more public
4 education in school or whatever it is, you know, so
5 that we can work with young children that grow up
6 to take more pride in their neighborhood and we can
7 deal more effectively with issues such as trash and
8 graffiti.

9 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Councilwoman, we
10 will certainly include you the planning we're going
11 to be doing with Councilman Clarke to look at this.

12 And one of the entities that I think we
13 probably will try to use as much as we can is the
14 Urban Artscape Program, which is youth and begin to
15 maybe help them become more ambassadors to their
16 communities around the importance of taking pride
17 in the community and not tolerating trash, and
18 taking a zero-tolerance attitude towards trash, as
19 we've done with graffiti in our communities.

20 But to be able to use a youth group
21 that has already made this an agenda item for
22 themselves and their adult mentors and plus be
23 getting in dialogue with you and Councilman Clarke.
24 I think we can begin to get this kind of
25 communication and education program off the ground.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Do we actively
3 recruit junior block captains?

4 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: The Streets
5 Department does.

6 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay.
7 Philadelphia More Beautiful does that?

8 MR. CONWAY: That's correct.

9 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I just wondered.
10 I mean, when we go out on our blight tours -- you
11 know, you've been there, so you know that many
12 times young children follow you from block to
13 block, and I know we've been asking them if they
14 want to become a junior block captain, and they all
15 seem very interested; no one has said no, they've
16 all said yes.

17 I think that's a good place to start,
18 with our younger citizens.

19 I wanted to talk a little bit -- I
20 didn't hear all of Tumar's answers regarding the
21 the caretakers, the lot caretakers.

22 Are we giving them equipment, Tumar, so
23 that they're able to become a caretaker?

24 MR. ALEXANDER: Yes, yes, we are,
25 Councilwoman. They can get equipment through our

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 Community Partnership Program, which runs out of
3 our anti-graffiti warehouse, where they can come in
4 and borrow equipment and have access to paint and
5 paint vouchers also.

6 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Mm-hmm. I was
7 just wondering, because I know of someone that
8 signed up to be a caretaker, and you let them use
9 lawn mowers and things like that?

10 MR. ALEXANDER: Yeah, on a specific
11 basis where we can have -- if there's equipment
12 that we can provide supervision for, we do it
13 through L&I. They have a partnership program where
14 they'll actually bring the people out with the
15 equipment to the people, so they will supervise 'em
16 why they're using it.

17 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Right. We
18 partner with L&I on that -- with lots of projects
19 in my district.

20 I was thinking more of community tool,
21 library, or lending center, because they have --
22 and maybe partnering with a neighborhood nonprofit
23 or church where people could go and pick up a lawn
24 mower if they needed one.

25 MR. ALEXANDER: Yes, Councilwoman. The

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 first thing (indiscernible) gave you is that our
3 anti-graffiti warehouse is where they could also
4 get that kind of equipment.

5 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay, where are
6 they anyway, the anti-graffiti warehouse?

7 MR. ALEXANDER: 4000 North American
8 Street.

9 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: And then you
10 deliver them?

11 MR. ALEXANDER: Yeah, we actually -- we
12 actually have a voucher and we can provide the
13 Council President with some to distribute to the
14 members. We actually have an application they can
15 fill out and send back to us, and we send them a
16 verification telling them where they can pick the
17 equipment up and a contact person for it.

18 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay, all right.
19 Thank you, Madam President.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
21 recognizes Councilman Rizzo for a point of order.

22 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Madam President,
23 point of order.

24 Since I'm on the same wave length with
25 Councilwoman Miller, I thought it would be

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 appropriate maybe to include it in the debate right
3 now.

4 Managing Director Richman, in reference
5 to the sweep officers, I have received letters and
6 calls, especially from Center City residents, and
7 it was a bit cute and funny the way the one
8 constituent said they got a ticket for their trash
9 not being put out properly, and a constituent said,
10 should he bring out his chair and sit there with it
11 after he puts it out because there are dogs, there
12 are people that rummage through the trash that
13 create the situation. So, you know, sarcastically,
14 the communication was to me was, Should I sit out
15 there and babysit the trash until they come and
16 pick it up?

17 And after I laughed a bit about it, I
18 realized that the person had a point: Once you put
19 the trash out, it's basically out of your control,
20 and for this one particular constituent to get four
21 or five tickets because there was a gentleman that
22 patrolled that neighborhood, that went through
23 everything and didn't put it back.

24 I visited a community in the summer
25 that has a requirement, and I know we've discussed

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 it and I know that it's possibly a labor management
3 issue, but we ought to have in this city a rigid
4 container law, where trash, when it's to be put
5 out, it's not to be thrown out in a plastic bag.
6 Even that thing that they show on television
7 doesn't work.

8 In my opinion, we should make sure that
9 the trash gets put out in a container, because in
10 my opinion, when I drive through, especially Center
11 City, the streets are dirtier after trash
12 collection than before. And I know that you have
13 to send the army out there with the sweepers and
14 everything to work behind the collection process,
15 but what is our resistance here?

16 We gave people initially a recycling
17 container. Why can't we require people -- and
18 again, this vacation place that I visit in the
19 summer, you wouldn't dare put your trash out,
20 because they have another problem; they have
21 seagulls and other animals.

22 But we have the same situation here,
23 and I think that we should have a rigid container
24 law in the City of Philadelphia where at least -- I
25 know you experimented with that big bucket up in

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 Roxborough where the truck with the arm picked it
3 up, and that in itself, I think, was a help.

4 But just for people from the
5 third-story window to throw trash bag out at the
6 curb, it just doesn't cut it.

7 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I certainly
8 understand the issue, Councilman Rizzo, having
9 lived in Center City for many years. I also
10 received a ticket once, where you put your trash
11 out and a variety of people can come through and
12 sort through it.

13 I will work with the Streets Department
14 around investigating this issue and get back to you
15 and look at how we might begin to resolve some of
16 these issues you've just brought up.

17 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: And I also think
18 that -- you know, when I grew up, the emphasis on
19 "don't be a litter bug" was important. And when I
20 I come to work in the morning and I'm trying to
21 time it right, someone stops at a fast-food
22 restaurant, and at the same point every day -- I
23 won't name the name of the fast-food restaurant --
24 there's a coffee cup spinning around in the
25 operating lane, and about another hundred yards

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 behind that is the trash bag.

3 I know the Police Department is very
4 busy, but I think this city needs a campaign.

5 I was behind another motorist where the
6 person was a smoker, stopped at this red light, and
7 emptied the ashtray -- opened the door and actually
8 just emptied the ashtray into the street. I don't
9 know whether they're just not aware that that is
10 something you shouldn't do, or the Police
11 Department, I would hope -- I'm hoping to time it
12 right some morning when I see the cup go out the
13 window so I can get the license number and call the
14 district and see if they can do something about it.

15 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Certainly these
16 are concerns, but these are really concerns where I
17 do believe a campaign against littering and a
18 campaign for personal responsibility have to be in
19 effect. We certainly want to focus -- we don't
20 want our police just focusing on litter unless it
21 happens in front of them.

22 But we really want people to take more
23 pride in their own behavior and more pride in their
24 city than to use the City for their trash.

25 And certainly I will include you in

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 discussions with Councilman Clarke and Councilwoman
3 Reed Miller.

4 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: And, you know, you
5 see these things every day. Again, another
6 example, a person -- a piece of tissue, blew their
7 nose, and I watched them put down the window and
8 just throw it right out. You want to just pull up
9 alongside and say something but, you know, that's
10 not appropriate to do -- I guess it's not.

11 But it just amazes me when we're
12 looking at our city and comparing it with others.

13 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I think
14 Councilman Clarke had it right: We have some very
15 sloppy people that we need to find ways, creative
16 ways, to get them to understand that we will not
17 continue to tolerate the level of uncleanliness
18 that they bring.

19 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: What about the rigid
20 container? You may have addressed that and I
21 missed it. What about the rigid container?

22 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I'll work with
23 the Streets Department in looking at the issues
24 surrounding that and get back to you.

25 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Great, thank you.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 Thank you, Madam Chair.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

4 Councilman Cohen, do you still want to
5 be recognized.

6 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Madam President,
7 can I make a comment around that issue?

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Yes.

9 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: I wanted to remind
10 you that Councilwoman Miller and I took a junket
11 last summer to Spain and Paris, and one of the
12 issues was -- and I'm sure the Commissioner will
13 talk about that -- was looking at the use of
14 containers for trash citywide, because it is his
15 passion to deal with the trash. And in both
16 cities, those containers are used throughout the
17 city for apartment dwellers as well as in the
18 communities where -- and so we talked about some of
19 the problems associated with it.

20 I mean, it is a program that could
21 happen, but part of it is the acceptance of the
22 people in Philadelphia of having trash containers,
23 particularly people who live in Center City, people
24 who live in rowhouses who don't have backyards
25 whose trash is not collected in the back.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 So all those issues have been -- and we
3 went round and round with that, but there are other
4 ideas that we saw that could be incorporated in the
5 City to handle that.

6 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: That was not a
7 junket; that was a fact-finding trip.

8 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Oh, it was a
9 junket, I ran it as a junket, and I spent all of my
10 time shopping.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
12 recognizes Councilman Cohen.

13 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you, Madam
14 President.

15 Madam Director, I'm going to change the
16 subject entirely --

17 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Thank you.

18 COUNCILMAN COHEN: First, what is the
19 responsibility, as the City administration
20 understands it, of the City for the health of City
21 workers? We get continuing complaints,
22 particularly from the -- in mass numbers from the
23 Fire Department and the Police Department and then
24 individual complaints from other departments, but
25 those two obviously have the greatest number of

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 injured-on-duty cases.

3 What's the responsibility of injured-
4 on-duty health problems?

5 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: The City on --
6 of its own personnel tries to -- we have an
7 employee medical service located at 19th and
8 Fairmount where City employees can use that center
9 and that we do rule on whether people are ready to
10 go back to work

11 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Is that something
12 with initial like CIS or SCI?

13 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: The Medical
14 Examination Unit is MEU.

15 COUNCILMAN COHEN: We continue to
16 receive, as recently as yesterday, from the Police
17 Department severe complaints that injured-on-duty
18 police officers do not get adequate health care and
19 that they, in fact, often don't have their
20 injured-on-duty bills paid, adversely affecting
21 their credit status.

22 Is there any discussion ongoing between
23 the labor organizations that represent police and
24 fire employees and the City Administration? What
25 is the situation? Why do we keep getting these

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 complaints?

3 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Councilman
4 Cohen, let me correct myself. There is a CIS Unit
5 and Jim Coleman -- my learning curve is still
6 learning. Jim Coleman of my office will answer
7 your questions.

8 (Mr. Coleman comes forward.)

9 MR. COLEMAN: Good morning, Madam
10 President and members of Council. I'm James
11 Coleman, Deputy Managing Director.

12 With regard to problems with the --
13 with those City employees who are injured on duty,
14 they're handled by the a contractor who's
15 contracted to Risk Management and to handle their
16 medical problems while their out on sick leave or
17 on injury time.

18 The question of not paying --

19 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Do the employees
20 pick the medical service that treats them?

21 MR. COLEMAN: The employees, if they
22 choose to remain in the City system, then they
23 follow the procedures of Risk Management and CSI.

24 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I'm sorry, I did not
25 understand what you said.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 MR. COLEMAN: When someone is injured,
3 when an employee is injured, they must treat within
4 the City's system for some period of time, and I'm
5 not too sure what that is right -- lately because
6 there's been some changes recently in the State
7 regulations.

8 However, when someone is injured,
9 there's a choice at some point, 30 days or 60 days,
10 I'm not sure when, where they may opt to go and be
11 treated by their own physician.

12 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Councilman
13 Cohen, this is an issue dealt that's being dealt
14 with by the Office of Labor Relations and by the
15 Law Department with Risk Management. And I would
16 prefer getting you information back on that rather
17 than continuing in an area that I'm not well-versed
18 in.

19 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, I would agree
20 with you, and I would hope that your intervention
21 would begin changing the situation from a Risk
22 Management kind of problem to a health kind of
23 problem, because it seems to me that members of the
24 Police and Fire Department, all of them have to be
25 City residents and about whose health just as

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 residents we're concerned with. We have a double
3 responsibility to them if they're injured in the
4 course of protecting our citizenry.

5 And I'm concerned that instead of being
6 interested in their health matters, what we're
7 trying to do is treat them in the least expensive
8 way; and, therefore, I would be very pleased to
9 accept your suggestion that your office will go
10 into it, that you'll become familiar with it.

11 It's been a dragging question. The Law
12 and Government Committee of City Council held
13 hearings over the last year and a half, nearly two
14 years. The problem is recurring. And as recently
15 as yesterday, from the FOP, the Fraternal Order of
16 Police, Councilmembers got letters depicting the
17 situation with this CIS Group and otherwise as
18 being very unsatisfactory, as needing correction.

19 And we would like to see that corrected
20 because we do owe a duty to these employees who we
21 hire as City residents and who serve the other City
22 residents to protect us from all kinds of problems
23 where there's frequently a likelihood of injury to
24 their health, and they've willingly undertaken that
25 duty, and I think we owe them the consideration of

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 their health first.

3 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Councilman
4 Cohen, I certainly will take an interest in this
5 and work with Labor Relations as well as the Law
6 Department around understanding -- having more
7 understanding of this area.

8 COUNCILMAN COHEN: All right, thank
9 you. Then I'll leave it at this point in your
10 hands.

11 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Okay.

12 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Secondly, what is
13 the relationship of our -- of the City of
14 Philadelphia with the hospitals in general? Do we
15 have any relationship, or is it the State and the
16 federal government that deal with them?

17 I know we have a relationship with them
18 in that they get very low rates, maybe no rates at
19 all, for water, because whenever I visit a
20 hospital, or unfortunately attend it as a patient,
21 I find dripping faucets that nobody worries about,
22 which makes me convinced that they probably don't
23 pay much in water bills, but they ought to be
24 watching dripping faucets like we educate most
25 homeowners to do.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: The Department
3 of Public health does have contracts with several
4 of the hospitals to -- that they either hire
5 doctors through or they send district health
6 patients to to follow up. There is a small amount
7 of money that is used for that purpose.

8 the primary dollars supporting
9 hospitals either come from your commercial
10 insurers, like Independence Blue Cross or from the
11 State or the HMOs or the managed-care entities that
12 have contracts with the hospitals.

13 The City is still interested in what
14 the hospitals do and how they do it, because it
15 does affect the health and welfare of people who
16 are living in the City.

17 Also, many of the departments within
18 Social Services have contracts with the hospitals
19 for a variety of different special projects that
20 they're working with, and I would suggest that you
21 pose that question to the Department of Public
22 Health and the Department of Human Services when
23 they testify if you would like more in-depth
24 information on the nature of their contacts with
25 any hospital.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, may I request
3 of you -- it sounds like a good suggestion -- to
4 request those departments be ready with a list of
5 all the contacts they have.

6 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Yes, I will.

7 COUNCILMAN COHEN: The kind of contacts
8 they have.

9 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Yes.

10 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And which hospitals
11 they have those contacts with.

12 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: (Nods head.)

13 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And, lastly, I was
14 unable to be here yesterday when the question of
15 advertising came on. I hope that matter will be
16 treated by the City as a health matter and not just
17 as a revenue matter. I understand both the
18 Procurement Department and the Finance Department
19 testified. I think that kind of advertising that I
20 understand was discussed in having our City
21 vehicles and our City buildings plastered with, I
22 guess, "Drink Coor's Beer" or whatever company or
23 Miller's Lite or Budweiser, and other kinds of
24 advertising is a real blight.

25 And I don't think that there can be

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 such a thing as a significant anti-blight program
3 when the City produces blight in the way in which
4 it does today in which it has unfettered, unlimited
5 thousands of billboards that are not licensed in
6 the City, that violate blatantly the laws, don't
7 pay the fees for them, put them in places where
8 they violate the law, and I don't think that
9 situation will be helped by adding further blight
10 by compelling people all over the City to seek
11 constant signs in which the City stands as a
12 guarantor of certain kinds of services.

13 And I'm not limiting it to liquor and
14 tobacco; I think any kind of advertising by the
15 City on City property is completely inappropriate
16 and puts the City in the position of seemingly to
17 guarantee the quality of the service to be rendered
18 or the quality of the product to be purchased. And
19 further, I think it increases blight terribly.
20 People are assaulted already too much by
21 advertisers.

22 So I suggest in your role as Managing
23 Director that you introduce a health and
24 environmental aspect to the consideration of the
25 advertising proposal presented by the Procurement

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 Director and the Finance Director yesterday.

3 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I certainly will
4 remember that, Councilman Cohen, but I'm not sure
5 we're doing anything proactive at this point on
6 advertising. So, yes, I do hear your concern and
7 will --

8 COUNCILMAN COHEN: All right. I don't
9 want us referred to as "Nike City Hall," which I
10 heard on the radio this morning.

11 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: We will not have
12 a (indiscernible) on City Hall.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Councilwoman
14 Blackwell.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.
16 Thank you, Madam President.

17 Madam Managing Director, we are really
18 excited about the Community Life Improvement
19 Program. Now, do we contact -- how will it work?
20 Do we contact you about how we see it functioning
21 in a residential or a commercial corridor?

22 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Yes. When we
23 are ready to do so more with this program.
24 Contacting me would be appropriate. In the
25 meantime, if you have any other comments or

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 concerns about this program, I would be the direct
3 contact for it.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: All right.

5 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: We are going to
6 work this program for several months to see whether
7 or not it's an effective way of coordinating
8 services.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I think it has
10 all kinds of possibilities and fits real well into
11 NTI and really be an invaluable tool.

12 The other thing I wanted to do is
13 mention two groups. We love our Town Watch, and I
14 always like to say that for all the people out
15 there who work so hard at it, they do a great job.

16 And also the Mural Arts. I hope that
17 we'll be able to do a little more to enhance and
18 increase them. There are so many possibilities for
19 them as well. There is almost nothing that the
20 Mural Program can't do through being involved with
21 putting chips down to all the work that they do to
22 the pilot programs they do and linking seniors and
23 youth programs and the areas they choose to working
24 with the students, which you know that they do in
25 working with schools and training kids. And they

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 are just invaluable. And I hope that we will
3 expand Jane Golden's salary and their budget a
4 little this year.

5 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Hopefully, if
6 you have an opportunity to talk with Jane, who was
7 here, I am sure she has the information now. Jane
8 is just coming back after some leave, that the
9 adjustments to her salary have been made, and that
10 as always, we hope to continue to support this
11 program. In the past years, we've been able to do
12 significant increases on it, and we would hope to
13 continue that pattern into the future.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Absolutely.
15 Thank you

16 Thank you, Madam President.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You're
18 welcome.

19 We're going to start our second
20 go-around. However, I would like to remind my
21 colleagues that we do have the Police and Fire
22 Commissioners that have been sitting here waiting.
23 So if you could make your questions as concise as
24 possible, I think they would really appreciate it.

25 The Chair at this time recognizes

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 Councilman Nutter.

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
4 Chair. Just a couple questions.

5 First, Mr. Conway, is it my
6 understanding that in response to the concern
7 raised by Councilwoman Miller that you guys are
8 also going to pick up some of those George Foreman
9 Grills and start issuing them to people so they can
10 start barbecuing on their porches?

11 (Laughter.)

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Madam Managing
13 Director and Mr. Conway, you made reference earlier
14 with regard to the Street Tree Program, and
15 somehow, you ended up talking specifically about
16 the stump grinder crew.

17 As you could imagine, I've had the
18 occasion to have a few trees taken down, given the
19 nature of the district that I represent. And you
20 talked about how one crew takes a tree down, a
21 separate crew comes back and does the stump. This
22 seems to be somewhat almost akin to some of our
23 demolition activities, where one group of people
24 tear the building down and then someone else comes
25 and does the stucco work for the remaining wall or

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 walls on either side of the property.

3 We're very familiar with the first part
4 of the process; sometimes the second part doesn't
5 seem to get done. How do we ensure that the other
6 crew comes to take care of the stump work, and that
7 that in and of itself doesn't become a problem out
8 in the neighborhood?

9 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: The coordination
10 is done by Fairmount Park, and we will be providing
11 some oversight to that to see, but I will need to
12 find out how much time normally falls between
13 removing a tree and removing a stump, how that is
14 handled, and how we make sure that they are as
15 close in time as possible so a stump isn't
16 forgotten, but I will take the responsibility of
17 talking to Fairmount Park about this issue and
18 getting a feel for how well timed it is and planned
19 it is.

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, that actually
21 leads into the next question because on Page 8,
22 where you talk about the Street Tree Removal
23 Program, you know that we started that back a
24 couple years ago, bringing that particular service
25 back to citizens. It had been started with a

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 \$1 million funding a number of years ago.

3 It has not been crystal-clear, at least
4 through the budget process, from last year when it
5 was announced that we were putting -- I think it
6 was \$3 million out of the \$10 million that was
7 basically going to jump-start a bunch of
8 NTI-related programs as well as the Street Tree
9 Program.

10 At that time, I know Managing Director
11 Joe Martz said that street tree removal was
12 basically going to be in the Managing Director's
13 Office, although I know that calls continue to be
14 made to Fairmount Park.

15 Can you give us a little better sense
16 of the jurisdictional issues? I mean, whose
17 responsibility is this? Is it somewhere in the
18 Managing Director's Office? is it over in Fairmount
19 Park?

20 And then I actually don't understand
21 why we make the separation between the people who
22 take the tree down and the people who do the stump.
23 I mean, if you're taking the tree down, it seems to
24 me that you do want to go down to street level. So
25 is there any circumstance under which you would

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 only take the tree down to two feet and leave it?
3 Otherwise -- I mean, just do the job.

4 I mean, why isn't the stump machine, or
5 whatever it is, a part of the crew that's dealing
6 with the trees? Then you don't have to worry about
7 coming back. Take it down to the ground, it's over
8 with, and then move on to the next job.

9 MR. CONWAY: Well, I believe that has
10 to do with the machinery. For instance, the
11 tree-trimming crew probably consists of four
12 people, and their job is to take the limbs off the
13 tree and take the tree down down as far as they
14 can, usually around 15 feet, I believe. The stump
15 grinders --

16 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: 15 feet?

17 MR. CONWAY: Approximately 15 feet, I'm
18 not sure about that -- for the tree, to remove off
19 the top of the tree.

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay.

21 MR. CONWAY: And basically, that's a
22 different crew that does that, a different type of
23 machinery. They -- for instance, they use a bucket
24 truck to get up to the top of the tree.

25 A stump-grinding crew has a different

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 piece of machinery that has to be hooked on the
3 back of the truck, which is a totally different
4 outfit -- not an outfit, but their job is to use
5 that type of equipment. So they're trained
6 specifically --

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I understand.

8 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Councilman
9 Nutter, my understanding is that there are two
10 different contracts. The Managing Director's
11 Office holds the contract and the money; the
12 coordination is done through Fairmount Park.

13 Let me find out one why there are two
14 different contracts, how the jobs differ, and why
15 it was put together in the way it was rather than
16 trying to put that together within the hearing.

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I understand.

18 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: But there are
19 two different contracts: one to handle the tree
20 trimming and the cutting down of the tree and
21 another one to handle the stump removal. Let me
22 find out why that exists, how do we choose those
23 contracts, and how we have chosen to do it in the
24 way we do.

25 But the contracts do lie in the

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 Managing Director's Office, while much of that
3 coordination and work is actually done through
4 Fairmount Park.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilman,
6 may I, please?

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Sure.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I know we're
9 talking about dangerous street trees.

10 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: That is correct.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: In my area,
12 in the alleyway, a weed can start and it actually
13 grows into a very, very large size trees. Are we
14 going to be removing the trees in the alleyways too
15 under NTI?

16 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I don't know; I
17 will find out.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Because they
19 do cause a nuisance to many of the property owners.

20 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I will get you
21 an answer, Councilwoman.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
24 Chair.

25 Just for the record, so you know, when

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 Madam Managing Director, when that question was
3 asked last year, the answer was yes, specifically
4 with regard to trees in the alleys.

5 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: In the alleys?

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Yes.

7 Let me just -- you're going to do your
8 reasearch, and I deeply appreciate that. Let me,
9 though, at least put on the record, I mean, the
10 fairly obvious circumstance that happens. You take
11 the top part of the tree off. You're only taking
12 the tree down because the tree is deemed to be dead
13 and dangerous.

14 What often happens is, the top part
15 comes off. If Mr. Conway is correct that you're
16 leaving upwards of 15 feet now of trunk, which, in
17 many instances, has either become hollowed out, is
18 diseased, or generally in a weakened state.

19 If you don't get a relatively quick
20 response or a return rate on your stump-grinding
21 people, I mean, we are now consciously leaving out
22 on the footway a dangerous entity, which just sits
23 there. And we now know it to be a dangerous thing,
24 and if it falls, I mean, there is no question of
25 what happens in that particular situation when

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 you've got a 15-foot high tree trunk with nothing
3 else attached to it.

4 I mean, you know, when it was in full
5 bloom, I mean, maybe it's an even more dangerous
6 situation but, you know, the possibility that it
7 could, you know, either end up on wires or on
8 another pole or something like that to brace it,
9 now when it's below, it's just there, subject to,
10 you know, either people jumping on it, cars running
11 into it, trucks hit them, it's going.

12 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I will get back
13 to you on this issue, Councilman.

14 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I appreciate it.

15 With regard to the lots, one of my
16 staff members had occasion to -- and maybe some of
17 this is just system change that many of us have to
18 get used to. In the past, as you well know, when
19 you needed a vacant lot cleaned, you call L&I and
20 they would try to deal with it.

21 The response the other day was from
22 L&I, "We don't deal with vacant lots; you need to
23 call the NTI intake number."

24 Can you tell us, if you have a vacant
25 lot somewhere, who should we call? Whose

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 responsibility is it?

3 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: If you have a
4 vacant lot that you believe needs to be cleaned,
5 and we haven't gotten to it yet?

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Yes.

7 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: You should call
8 my office.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Call your office,
10 okay.

11 Can you tell me fairly briefly what's
12 going on? And, again, I did not see it in the
13 budget book under the Managing Director's Office;
14 maybe it's somewhere else.

15 The Mayor's Office of Faith-Based
16 initiatives, what exactly do they do? how many
17 people work there? And I seem to recall that they
18 had a truancy program that they were going to be
19 running a couple years ago.

20 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Yes. The
21 Mayor's Office of Faith-Based Initiatives reports
22 to the Mayor's Office but actually is considered
23 part of the Social Services Unit. The director of
24 that office is Nick Talafarro (ph), and he's been
25 working for the past year, probably a little over a

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 year, with the faith-based community on many social
3 services issues. One of those issues is the
4 Student Assistance Program, which continues to work
5 within the area to help -- and they're working in
6 collaboration with DHS around what I've basically
7 called "attendance truancy issues."

8 DHS is probably more on the truancy end
9 in looking at youngsters and students who have
10 missed more than ten days of unexcused absences,
11 and the attendance initiative is trying to get
12 children sort of on the other end that are missing
13 days in school.

14 And what Nick is doing at this point is
15 trying to work with many of the faith-based
16 organizations in collaboration with Former Mayor
17 Reverend Goode to address these issues.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What's the budget
19 for that office?

20 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: It is a part of
21 the Administrative Division of the Managing
22 Director's Mayor's Office, and we've been able to
23 support them with a variety of ways through the
24 units within Social Services to add help, which
25 means both DHS, the Health Department, and the

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 Behavior Health System have been supportive to them
3 as they begin to do more reachout.

4 We are at this point preparing a major
5 proposal to go to the federal government to look
6 for dollars from their faith-based initiative to
7 help support this.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. And are
9 there staff?

10 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I believe there
11 are -- in addition to Nick, I believe there are two
12 other staff.

13 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay.

14 Madam President, I believe I'm done. I
15 was looking for a note that I had made to myself in
16 this massive book here, but I have lost my place.
17 So I shall return.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

19 The Chair recognizes Councilman Ortiz.

20 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Thank you, Madam
21 Chair.

22 Down in the criminal justice population
23 management, you said that with the cooperation of
24 the First Judicial District, new alternative
25 procedures have been established. Can you go into

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 that, explain that, and what has been the impact of
3 those procedures on the number of population,
4 prison population?

5 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I will ask Diane
6 Granlund, the population management guru.

7 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: The population
8 management...?

9 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Guru.

10 (Witness comes forward.)

11 MS. GRANLUND: Good afternoon, Madam
12 President. Diane Granlund, Deputy Managing
13 Director for Criminal Justice Population Management
14 We have developed a number of early
15 parole programs in particular that are particularly
16 successful with the drug and alcohol population
17 that's incarcerated. The primary program is called
18 the "Forensic Intensive Recovery Program." It's an
19 early-parole program to a number of different
20 levels of care for different periods of time.
21 Depending upon the severity of the addiction and
22 the other issues that are involved with the
23 individual.

24 These programs are under the management
25 of the Coordinating Office of Drug and Alcohol

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 Program, which a part of the Department of Public
3 Health.

4 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: How does it work?

5 MS. GRANLUND: How does it work. An
6 individual gets sentenced to the county jail by a
7 judge of local jurisdiction. At approximately half
8 of his minimum sentence, the Public Defender will
9 look at the client to determine the needs of that
10 individual. He will ask that he or she be
11 evaluated.

12 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Does the crime just
13 have to be drug-related or what type?

14 MS. GRANLUND: No, it's any non-violent
15 crime, whether it's a felony or misdemeanor, but
16 we, of course, look at drug-related crimes,
17 obviously.

18 This person is evaluated clinically for
19 a level of care. A recommendation is made to the
20 sentencing judge. The District Attorney has an
21 opportunity to review that recommendation and to
22 object if she desires. And the judge at that point
23 is free to make a decision as to whether he or she
24 will parole that individual.

25 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: How long has the

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 program been in place and how many prisoners have
3 been impacted? What is the number of individuals
4 that are now in treatment?

5 MS. GRANLUND: The program has been in
6 place since 1993, November of 1993. During the
7 course of any given year, the --

8 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: So this is not a new
9 program, then.

10 MS. GRANLUND: Oh, no, sir.

11 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: No, it's been a
12 long-standing program.

13 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Go ahead.

14 MS. GRANLUND: During the course of any
15 given year, the program will take roughly, I
16 believe 1400 or 1500 inmates out of jail and put
17 them into treatment.

18 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: You don't know the
19 number?

20 MS. GRANLUND: I can get the number.

21 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: The Number per
22 year?

23 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: That prisoners that
24 have been deviated from prison to --

25 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: We can get you

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 that number, but Diane's right, it's probably about
3 1400 a year that come through these programs.

4 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And where are these
5 treatment clinics located?

6 MS. GRANLUND: The treatment facilities
7 are located across the City as well as outside of
8 the City.

9 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: How many do we have
10 in the City?

11 MS. GRANLUND: In the City?

12 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Yes.

13 MS. GRANLUND: I could actually have
14 that information for you by this afternoon when I
15 come back for the Prisons testimony.

16 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Are these private
17 contracts or City-managed places? Is it through
18 the health centers or is it private contracting
19 out?

20 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: These are
21 private nonprofits that are contracted somewhere
22 within the Behavioral Health System. They either
23 have contracts with the Office of Mental Health,
24 the Coordinating Office of Drug and Alcohol
25 programs, or with CBH, and they may have programs

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 with any one of those.

3 The standards to get into those
4 programs are pretty high. People have to be
5 credentialed, and they're on a fairly tight
6 reporting-back system so that we can track both
7 recidivism and effectiveness of programs.

8 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Do we have the
9 evaluations and the effectiveness of these
10 different contracts that we have given out; do you
11 have that?

12 MS. GRANLUND: We have two studies.
13 The most recent study is a study of the individuals
14 who have been through the program and have been out
15 of the program for four years. We followed them
16 for four years to see what the recidivism rate was.
17 We can provide that to Council.

18 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I'd like to see
19 that, do you mind, through the office of the
20 President, please.

21 Thank you.

22 Managing Director, in terms of the
23 Beacon Programs, how many children do we have in
24 after-school programs today? I don't think we got
25 that on the record yet.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Let me get back.

3 I can give you a guess, but I would like to be more
4 accurate on that.

5 It should be approaching 10,000

6 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I'd like to see it
7 by locality.

8 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Okay.

9 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I'd like to see
10 where it is that we have the overall programs
11 located and where -- what neighborhoods are being
12 afforded the services.

13 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: We can break
14 that down.

15 The Beacons haven't started yet; we're
16 just funding those. We can tell you what their
17 capacity will be when they are fully operational,
18 the other after-school programs that have been
19 funded the last year, and those that were funded
20 this year. We can tell you where they are, what
21 their capacity is, how many children are in those.
22 But we have all of that data. And, again, we have
23 matched that data to high-crime areas.

24 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: So we have 10,000
25 right now within the programs as --

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Maybe not quite
3 10,000. That may be with the Beacons coming up.

4 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: With the Beacons, it
5 will bring us up to 10,000?

6 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Right.

7 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And the Beacons are
8 11 new programs?

9 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: There are 10 new
10 programs. Congreso got funded further with this
11 grant, and they had the only Beacon prior to this
12 one.

13 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Is the Beacon
14 Program different from the other programs that we
15 have across the City?

16 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Yes, they are.

17 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: What are the
18 differences between the two of them?

19 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: The biggest
20 difference is probably that beacons operate on
21 weekends and in evenings. And they're meant to be
22 more comprehensive than your basic three-hour
23 after-school program that runs from 3 to 5 or from
24 3 to 6.

25 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And what is the

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 staffing in the after-school program that we have
3 currently, and what will be the staffing in the
4 Beacon Program?

5 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I will be happy
6 to give you a copy of our standards that cover both
7 of those programs. That's written out in quite a
8 bit of detail, and we can have that over to you
9 very quickly.

10 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And overall in
11 different parts of City, we have different
12 populations.

13 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: That's correct.

14 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: So how are we
15 dealing with, for example, the different languagess
16 needs that we have in different areas? Like in the
17 Barrio, we have Spanish. I imagine Congreso has a
18 program, but that would be limited to a small
19 sector of the City. The South Vietnamese and
20 Cambodians have other needs.

21 How are we doing in terms of the
22 ability to be able to community and structure
23 after-school programs in the different languagess
24 that we have across the City?

25 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I will make sure

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 that's addressed in the information that we're
3 going to give you, but we've tried to be very
4 conscious of diversity. As we have put out these
5 RFPs, we've tried to make them possible for
6 children with special health-care needs to be in
7 after-school programs, children with behavior
8 needs, children with mental retardation, regular
9 children that may be diverse in terms of physical
10 disabilities and language diversity, so --

11 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I'd like to see
12 that, a description of how that works and maybe a
13 list of individuals in these programs.

14 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: By name or by
15 some other type?

16 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Well, you know, if
17 you can give it to us by name, you know, that would
18 be appreciated, but I'd like to see a breakdown in
19 terms of ethnic and women, nationalities, and so
20 on.

21 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Let me get you
22 the basic description, the names of the program,
23 and the capacity, because that is information we
24 have on hand -- the names and the identities of the
25 individuals that work in the program. We'll

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 probably have to go back to the program to get that
3 and it could take a little bit longer.

4 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: We have time. We
5 don't need to approve this until May 30th.

6 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I'll let you
7 have it before then.

8 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: The 11 Beacon
9 Programs, what is the capacity of each one of them?
10 I don't think we heard that yet. What will be the
11 capacity of each one of them, and when will they go
12 into effect?

13 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I'm not sure I
14 know that off the top of my head, but I believe
15 that we made decisions on which programs would be
16 in late January, and most of them should be geared
17 up to begin operation beginning near the 1st of
18 March.

19 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: You said Congreso
20 has one, right?

21 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Yes. They had
22 the original one.

23 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: The original one,
24 and I'd like to know what other parts of the City
25 they are located in.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Okay. That's
3 all part of the information that's already been
4 written up.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: What are the
6 ages of the youngsters that will attend the Beacon
7 facilities?

8 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: The RFPs were
9 written so that people could respond either for
10 elementary schools, middle high schools, or senior
11 high schools. So the programs will differ in their
12 age groups, depending on the grouping they were
13 referred to.

14 We were definitely looking for a couple
15 of the programs to be high school-aged kids and to
16 be the older grouping, as many of the after-school
17 programs seem to focus on that younger group of
18 elementary and middle school, but that information
19 will be part of it.

20 Again, that was all a part of the
21 original request for proposal. So it's information
22 that is readily available.

23 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And they'll be
24 located within the school?

25 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: They will.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 They're all connected to school. There is an
3 agency and a school that have been tied together.

4 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: But if I have my kid
5 in the program, do I send them to Edison High or do
6 I send him to Congreso?

7 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: It depends on
8 where you live. In other words, while they're tied
9 to the school, that's where the program is
10 physically located. It didn't say that your child
11 has to be enrolled in that school.

12 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: No, I'm not saying
13 enrollment; I'm saying where is the program? My
14 two kids are in an after-school programs, and they
15 get out of school and they go downstairs and have
16 an after-school program. Where are the programs
17 going to be located in the eleven schools across
18 the City?

19 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Again, when we
20 fund them, we funded a partnership between a school
21 and a program. So Congreso is working with a
22 specific school when they did their proposal, and
23 we chose that dyad.

24 There were a couple of occasions where
25 we questioned the dyad and then we went back and

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 may have negotiated something different.

3 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Will we be paying
4 rent to the school?

5 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: That's still
6 under discussion.

7 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Because this program
8 was envisioned before the takeover, correct?

9 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: That's correct.

10 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: So has there been
11 conversations about this program with the new board
12 that is in place?

13 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: We have done a
14 preliminary discussion with staff within the School
15 Reform Commission, explaining to them what a Beacon
16 is and how the Beacon works within the School
17 District, and we will be continuing those
18 discussions.

19 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Will this be all a
20 part of the agreement that is being drafted --
21 sorry. No, we haven't seen it.

22 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Right.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Excuse me.
24 Rather than belabor this issue, I'd appreciate it
25 if you would send us any and all information on

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 this program, please.

3 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: We will.

4 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Right. Thank you.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You're
6 welcome.

7 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
8 Tasco.

9 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: I have two brief
10 questions I want to come back to, but I want you to
11 know I'm for barbecuing on the back porch.

12 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I think
13 Councilman Nutter wanted to make sure that we got
14 you the Foreman Grills.

15 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Right.

16 The question I wanted to ask you about
17 this information required for program is an
18 after-school program.

19 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Okay.

20 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: And I did hear
21 Councilwoman Reynolds talk about a program that was
22 tied to TANF.

23 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Some of the
24 money that supports the after-school programs are
25 TANF dollars.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: All right. So,
3 therefore I understand that the health partner is
4 the managing fiscal piece for this?

5 We'll straighten that out, we won't
6 belabor that here. We'll come back to that.

7 The only other question I have -- oh,
8 and we'll ask the Streets Commissioner this too,
9 but I want you to know that I've had two complaints
10 from people in the 50th Ward that they have
11 received citations for not recycling.

12 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I will
13 investigate that.

14 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: One being my State
15 rep. So they asked me to -- I've had two people
16 tell me that.

17 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I will inquire
18 and get you some information on the recycling
19 rules.

20 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Okay. And the
21 only other question I wanted to ask is, are we
22 removing tree stumps?

23 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Yes.

24 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: We just started
25 that? Is that only for dead trees or all trees?

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: I think for any
3 tree we remove, we've been contracting with a stump
4 removal company to remove the stump.

5 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: That just started
6 just began?

7 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Yes.

8 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: That hasn't always
9 been the case, at least I've been the told.

10 MR. CONWAY: The stump removal is
11 street trees. We want to do it in the back of the
12 yard or something like that most of the time.

13 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: But you just began
14 that practice?

15 MR. CONWAY: That, I don't know. I can
16 get back to you on that.

17 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Okay, thank you.
18 Thank you very much.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You're
20 welcome.

21 The Chair recognizes Councilman Rizzo.

22 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Madam
23 Chair.

24 I want to go back to one of questions
25 that made me think of this because when I met with

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 the NTI folks, one of my staff was visiting another
3 city and observed something that he thought was a
4 very good idea, and so did did the people of the
5 NTI Program, but I want to reassure myself that
6 this is something that's going to be considered.

7 When we clean a lot, they noticed that
8 in the other cities that they put a vapor barrier
9 down after they clean the lot and actually put
10 stones over it. The reason for that is that that
11 polyethylene sheeting prevents the growth of
12 vegetation shortly after you clean the lot.

13 And they spoke to some of the folks --
14 I think it was Chicago -- and they said it was
15 very, very effective. They clean the lot, they put
16 the barrier down, and they actually just put stone,
17 crushed stone, into that lot. It obviously was
18 more of an expense. But obviously, you can't deter
19 trash dumping. But what it did prevent, it
20 prevented that immediate grow-back of weeds and
21 other type of vegetation.

22 So I'm hoping that when we develop the
23 way, if we haven't already, that if that thought
24 wasn't included in the proposal, that it be given
25 some serious consideration, because it would be a

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 shame to go clean these lots and halfway through
3 the summer, they're totally grown back over, which
4 they would be.

5 MR. CONWAY: We have experimented with
6 that with actually woodchips from Fairmount Park
7 'cause they're free. We put the tarp down first,
8 put the wood chips on top of that, and it actually
9 does deter dumping on the ground because it seems
10 like the community cares, and it's a more proactive
11 approach to keeping an area clean.

12 We actually use the Community Service
13 Offenders also to dump the wood chips down there,
14 so it's not very -- it's very cost-effective for
15 the City.

16 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Well, you know,
17 whether it's wood chips or -- I thought that there
18 was some EPA hesitation on using wood chips for
19 ground covers. I'm not sure of the regulation, but
20 I knew that there was something that discouraged
21 the use of wood chips for -- I can't imagine why,
22 but there is some rationale of the reason that they
23 don't want to do that.

24 But if we don't do something, all your
25 effort, they'll just be grown back over within a

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 few months.

3 MR. CONWAY: Another alternative is
4 also working with PHS, which is a horticulture
5 society, and putting trees around the barriers of
6 these vacant lot would deter short-dumping and it's
7 not as ugly as the jersey barriers as well.

8 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Great. I just
9 wanted to make sure that -- sometimes one of our
10 problems in government is that we talk about a lot
11 of things, and a lot of those things are -- you
12 know, people nod their heads and there's no follow
13 up on it. So hopefully there will be some
14 follow-up on it.

15 You know, if it's a good idea or a bad
16 idea, at least I'd like somebody to tell me if it's
17 a bad idea. And if it's a good one, hopefully,
18 we're going do it.

19 MR. CONWAY: No, I believe it is a good
20 idea, and we'll work with the Neighborhood
21 Transformation Initiative to implement some of
22 that.

23 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Great, thank you.

24 Thank you, Madam Chair.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You're

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 welcome.

3 Councilman Nutter, did you ever find
4 the question you wanted to ask?

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: No, Madam
6 President, and I don't know how I'll ever survive
7 the rest of this process without finding that
8 question, but I'll somehow try to get through the
9 day.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

11 Are there any questions from members of
12 the committee?

13 (No further questions.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you
15 very much. We appreciate your help.

16 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Thank you.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: At the
18 request of the stenographer, we're going to take a
19 ten-minute recess.

20 (Break taken.)

21 (Proceedings resume.)

22 - - -

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: We are now
24 back in session.

25 The next department to be heard is the

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 Police Department.

3 (Police Department witnesses
4 come forward.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Commissioner,
6 thank you for your patience and it's good to see
7 you here.

8 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you,
9 Council President Verna.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Please
11 proceed with your testimony.

12 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: All right. Good
13 morning, Council President Verna and members of
14 City Council.

15 I am Sylvester Johnson, Police
16 Commissioner. Alongside of me is Deputy
17 Commissioner Nestel, Deputy Commissioner of
18 Administration and Training.

19 I'm really honored to be here today as
20 the Police Commissioner of the City of Philadelphia
21 and as the leader of the Police Department that is
22 now recognized as one of the best in the country.
23 I am very grateful to Mayor Street for giving me
24 the opportunity to head this great department, and
25 I am determined to do everything I can to justify

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 the confidence he has shown me by naming me to
3 succeed John Timoney.

4 The Police Department General Fund
5 Budger request for Fiscal Year 2003 is
6 \$437,147,733. The largest proportion of this money
7 will be used to employ 7,061 sworn personnel, 1,002
8 civilians, 1,037 school crossing patrol. Including
9 the 144 sworn officers assigned to the Airport,
10 funded through the Aviation Department our total
11 sworn strength in Fiscal Year 2003 will be 7,205,
12 the largest number in over 14 years.

13 In Fiscal Year 2004, the Department
14 will lose some 504 employees through the DROP
15 Program, including most of our top commanders. To
16 compensate both for this exodus and for those who
17 will be leaving through normal attrition, I have
18 been authorized to hire 475 recruits in Fiscal Year
19 2003 and an additional 500 in Fiscal Year 2004.

20 To be able to make the best use of our
21 police officers, the Department must be able to
22 deploy them where and when they are most needed.
23 For this reason, in the forthcoming arbitration
24 process that will govern the City's next contract
25 with the FOP, the Department will be seeking more

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 latitude in adjusting the hours of work of police
3 officers and transferring officers and responding
4 to the shifting crime patterns.

5 The contract comes into effect on July
6 1, 2002. The president of the FOP is aware of our
7 position and the reason for it. As I told him in
8 the meeting that I had with him since I became
9 Commissioner, I look forward to working with him
10 and his colleagues, and I know that he shares my
11 goal of reducing crime and improving the quality of
12 life in this city.

13 Making the best use of our offices also
14 means improving way the Department works with other
15 parts of the criminal justice system. A good
16 example of this is the pilot program implemented in
17 September 1999 to reduce police overtime in
18 preliminary court hearings. Usually, the
19 preliminary or arresting officer will be allowed to
20 read into the court records the testimony of
21 auxiliary officers and eliminate the need for them
22 to be present in court. This hearsay testimony was
23 offered with the caveat that each police witness
24 will be available for the actual trial as required
25 by law evaluation.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 An evaluation of the first six months
3 of the pilot program show that the reduction in the
4 number of court notices for preliminary hearing
5 achieved by the program was such that the
6 Department saved about \$109,046 in police court
7 overtime. This represents a decrease of 39 percent
8 from the same time 12 months earlier.

9 In addition, the pilot freed 3,778
10 hours of police time that would otherwise have been
11 spent waiting in court. This is equivalent to
12 having another three full-time officers on the
13 street. The pilot program was recently expanded to
14 additional preliminary hearing courtrooms.

15 Although the Department tends to think
16 of the Police Department mainly in terms of sworn
17 officers, we also employ an 1,002 civilians and
18 1,037 school crossing guards. Our civilian staff
19 tend to be the unsung heroes of the Department, and
20 we paid a special tribute to them this morning.
21 After September 11th, the public praised our
22 uniformed police and fire officers, but too little
23 was said about the role played by the civilian
24 members of the Police Department whose support is
25 essential to their effectiveness.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 Speaking for the Police Department, I
3 can tell you that we could not do our
4 crime-fighting job without the scientific and
5 technical and forensic science laboratories, our
6 911 call-takers and dispatchers, our fingerprint
7 technicians, our crime-mapping experts, our
8 administrative staff, our secretaries, our
9 custodian staff, our correctional officers, and our
10 tow truck drivers.

11 The resource I am requesting are needed
12 to enable the Department to achieve its mission of
13 enhancing the quality of life for all Philadelphia
14 by reducing the fear and incidence of crime,
15 enforcing the law, and maintaining public orders.
16 These are our objectives. I would like to spend a
17 few moments to describe in more detail how we
18 propose to achieve them.

19 Reducing homicides. In my view, our
20 first priority must be to reduce the number of
21 homicides in the City. Under Commissioner Timoney,
22 this number fell from around 400 a year, where it
23 had been stuck for about 10 years before 1998 to
24 around 300 a year, where it has hovered for the
25 last 3 years. This was an important achievement in

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 the Department, and we're proud of it. But this
3 number is still far too high. We must reduce it
4 further.

5 From our analysis of these murders, it
6 is clear that the most effective way if of
7 preventing homicidess is by reducing the number of
8 guns and the amount of drug activity on our
9 streets. We aim to do both. But we recognize that
10 to be successful, we need to work with others.

11 I have told the new U.S. Attorney that
12 we are prepared to work closely with the federal
13 law enforcement agencies active in Philadelphia,
14 that we expect them to cooperate fully with us. We
15 will also continue to work closely with our other
16 partners in the Philadelphia criminal justice
17 systems, as well as with other City agencies, the
18 private sector, the faith community, and anyone
19 else who shares our objectives of making
20 Philadelphia safer.

21 The Youth Violence Reduction Program,
22 in which we are partners with Philadelphia Safe and
23 Sound, the District Attorney's Office, the Adult
24 Juvenile Probation Service, and others have
25 approved that a joint approach does work. In the

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 areas served by this project, homicidess of and by
3 young people, the most vulnerable element of our
4 people, have been reduced sufficiently.

5 One of the most striking facts about
6 homicides committed in Philadelphia is that
7 79 percent were caused by firearms. The Police
8 Department's determined to do whatever it can to
9 reduce the number of guns on our streets.

10 The Warrant Unit. One of the most
11 effect ways of doing this is by targeting repeat
12 offenders, especially those that have a history of
13 using firearms and violence. This is the mission
14 of the Departments Warrant Unit. It concentrates
15 on finding repeated offenders who are wanted and
16 bringing them to justice.

17 In fiscal year 2001, the Warrant Unit
18 arrested 700 fugitives and located another 214.
19 This fiscal year, it is expected to arrest 735 and
20 look at another 20, 25. In Fiscal Year 2003, it
21 plans to arrest 772 and locate 236.

22 Too many deaths and injuries occur in
23 our city as a result of children playing with
24 firearms. We must teach our children that guns are
25 not toys, that the damage that they do can never be

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 repaired.

3 The Department intends to work with
4 other City agencies and private bodies to develop a
5 publicity campaign to get this message across to
6 our children. Experience has shown that such
7 educational campaigns can make a difference.

8 We are seeing this in relation to
9 drugs. Our Heads-Up Program, which was presented
10 to City Council some weeks ago, is an excellent
11 example. We will continue to develop it and show
12 to it any audience that expresses an interest.

13 While we believe that such preventive
14 work is essential for long-term success in the
15 fight against illegal drugs, we recognize that
16 those who deal in drugs as a way of life are
17 unlikely to be deterred by it. For them,
18 well-planned and well-executed police activity is
19 the only answer. As a result of such activity, we
20 made 24,000 drug arrests in the year 2001, we
21 confiscated \$4 million in cash, and \$30 million in
22 illegal narcotics.

23 We are determined to continue this kind
24 of proactive law enforcement activity in Fiscal
25 Year 2003. We will further strengthen both our

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 Narcotics Strike Force, the uniformed components of
3 our Narcotics Bureau, the Narcotics Bureau Unit,
4 the teams that target street-level drug activity
5 "buy and bust" operations, and undertake long-term
6 investigations designed to break up drugs
7 organizations. We will continue to monitor closely
8 the activities of the drug dealers at street level
9 and those who control and profit from them. And
10 working with our federal partners, we will develop
11 new strategies and tactics aimed at eliminating
12 them from our neighborhoods.

13 Drugs are sometimes seen as the problem
14 primarily for the minority community. This is
15 because 85 to 90 percent of those who die in
16 violence as a result of drug activities are
17 African-Americans or Hispanic. It is worth
18 remembering, however, that 85 to 90 percent of
19 those die as a result of drug overdose are
20 Caucasians.

21 No racial or economic group in our
22 society has escaped the destructive force of drugs.
23 We must continue to tackle it with every weapon in
24 our arsenal.

25 The Department also has a major role to

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 play in improving the quality of life in our city.
3 To this end, we have established a Neighborhood
4 Service Unit that works with other City agencies to
5 improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods.
6 This unit deals with such issues as graffiti and
7 abandoned vehicles and proactively prosecutes those
8 who dump trash without concern for the environment.
9 It will be working closely with those responsible
10 for the Mayor's Neighborhood Transformation
11 Initiative.

12 School safety is a vital component to
13 the quality of life in our city. The Police
14 Department recognized this formally May 2001 when
15 it created a new position of Deputy Police
16 Commissioner of External Affairs with the
17 responsibility for managing the 700-person School
18 District Police Force and overseeing all safety
19 aspects of the School District.

20 At the start of the 2000 and 2001
21 school year, the Police Department established a
22 school detail consisting of six divisional
23 captains. They work with the principals of the
24 schools in their areas to create safe corridors,
25 investigate truancy, maximize school safety, and

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 coordinate duties of the school police and the
3 school administration.

4 In addition to the six captains, the
5 Department currently has 41 officers assigned to
6 the school detail. Their task is to patrol the
7 school campus and surrounding areas, conduct crime
8 prevention activities, respond to trouble calls in
9 schools, and deal with truants. Officers who stop
10 truant students on the street return them to their
11 schools or to central truancy sites where they're
12 interviewed and counseled.

13 In the 200-2001 school year, it also
14 handled 24,775 truants. Although this a large
15 number, it represents a 9 percent decrease from the
16 previous year.

17 Technology. Until relatively recently,
18 a police department like ours could fight crime
19 pretty effectively provided it had plenty of
20 trained personnel, an adequate fleet of vehicles, a
21 central 911 control room, and a supply of personal
22 radios. This is no longer true. The threat that
23 we now face and the legal framework within which we
24 have to work are such that we need a whole arsenal
25 of sophisticated scientific and technology support,

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 including image-processing systems, forensic
3 science analysis, and automatic fingerprint
4 identification systems.

5 The Department is well served in this
6 respect and is determined and sure that it does not
7 fall behind as technology develops. But I am not
8 interested in implementing technology for its own
9 sake. What matters for me is not how much
10 technology we have, but how well we are fulfilling
11 ourcore mission of reducing crime and ensuring
12 public safety.

13 Among the many scientific and
14 technology projects in which we are currently
15 working or have recently completed, there are a few
16 that I would like to highlight this morning.

17 The most encouraging is the development
18 of the new Forensic Science in the former Wistar
19 School building at Eighth and Poplar. This
20 state-of-the-art facility will serve our department
21 as well as others in the region. It will cost
22 \$11.7 million and is expected to be completed in
23 March 2003.

24 I also want report on an exciting new
25 development that will make a sufficient difference

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 in our ability to solve violent crimes. Currently,
3 the Department can compare DNA recovery from crimes
4 committed in cities only with DNA recovered from
5 other crimes committed within the City. Thanks,
6 however, to the important work recently completed
7 by our own forensic scientists, we are able to use
8 CODIS, the Combined DNA Index System developed by
9 the FBI to compare DNA recovered from local crimes
10 with DNA samples recovered from crime scenes
11 anywhere in the United States. This very important
12 development will come into effect as soon as we
13 move into the new forensic science facilities I
14 mentioned earlier.

15 For most Philadelphians, the most
16 important service provided by the Police Department
17 is our response to 911 calls for help. Our 911
18 system was greatly improved by the installation of
19 new 911 call-taking terminals in the Department's
20 911 call center by fitting mobile data terminals in
21 all district patrol vehicles as well as many
22 specialized units.

23 The new 911 system has many time-saving
24 and life-saving features, including detection of
25 calls from individuals with hearing disabilities

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 and the capability to transfer calls to or contact
3 police departments from surrounding counties.

4 Unfortunately, another vital component
5 for the Department's 911 system, the Computer Aided
6 Dispatch (CAD) system is outdated and must be
7 replaced. As it happens, the Fire Department also
8 needs a new CAD system. We have decided to work
9 with the Department to develop a single system that
10 will serve both of us. The project is a critical
11 public-safety initiative and is expected to be
12 completed in and around 24 months at the cost of
13 some \$4.4 million to be funded with 911 revenue.

14 Another Police Department service
15 familiar to many Philadelphians is that in dealing
16 with reports of automobile accidents. The
17 department has recently implemented an automated
18 accident reporting system that allows the public
19 and insurance companies to access accident reports
20 via the Internet.

21 Finally, we have begun a project to
22 archive digitally all aspects of our Records and
23 Identification Unit. The archive computer will
24 hold a wide range of items such as fingerprint and
25 palm prints, digital mug shots, and criminal

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 history information. When the project is finished,
3 the Department will no longer have to keep the
4 original of any document.

5 Finally, all programs described above
6 were in place before September 11, 2001, when our
7 country was attacked by terrorists determined to
8 destroy our way of life. This tragic event imposed
9 both unexpected short-term burdens and new
10 long-term responsibility on the Police Department.

11 Immediately following September 11th,
12 we had to reassign police resources from the
13 conventional crime-fighting activities to provide an
14 enhanced police coverage in Center City, additional
15 security staff at the Philadelphia Stock Exchange,
16 Red Cross Headquarters, and the City's Emergency
17 Operating Center, and extra surveillance of
18 high-profile locations such as public utility
19 plants, etc. This new responsibility added about
20 \$4.3 million in General Fund overtime costs in
21 Fiscal Year '02.

22 As for the long-term effect of
23 September 11th, the Department has developed a
24 number of new programs aimed at preventing
25 terrorist atrocities and responding urgently and

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 effectively to critical incidents.

3 In addition to and in common with other
4 major cities, the Department will be strengthening
5 its senior management team responsible for
6 anti-terrorist and emergency management activity.
7 The aim is to improve our ability to plan and
8 manage anti-terrorist exercises and major
9 emergencies, to collect and analyze anti-terrorist
10 intelligence, and liaison with those at the federal
11 and state level concerned with anti-terrorist and
12 major emergencies. Our hope is that the federal
13 government will provide additional funding to
14 support these new responsibilities, but to date,
15 these costs had to be met from within our existing
16 budget provision.

17 As I said at the outset of this
18 testimony, the Police Department budget request for
19 Fiscal Year 2003 is about \$437 million. This money
20 must fund all the services that the provided last
21 year as well as the new responsibility that we have
22 been given as a result of September 11th. We
23 cannot skimp on those new anti-terrorist
24 activities. Terrorists threaten the basics of a
25 free society, but at the same time, we cannot allow

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 these new tasks to reduce the intensity of our
3 effort directed at reducing homicidess, attacking
4 illegal narcotics activity, and maintaining the
5 civilized quality of life in our neighborhoods.

6 The last four years have been one of
7 the outstanding achievements for the Philadelphia
8 Police Department. The City's annual Citizens
9 Survey has shown that Philadelphians appreciate
10 this and feel safer and more satisfied with our
11 service.

12 It is no exaggeration to say that John
13 Timoney transformed our department. He pursued our
14 civil leaders to establish a Police Foundation
15 through which the private-sector could fund
16 innovative programs in support of the Department,
17 including university scholarships for the police
18 officers. He made the Department recognize the
19 racial factor in policing and took steps to deal
20 with it, including the introduction of new policies
21 and procedures for ensuring that racial profiling
22 and bias were eliminated from our culture and our
23 behavior.

24 As I see it, it is my job to build on
25 the achievements of John Timoney and to take this

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 department forward. John Timoney's contributions
3 to the City will never be forgotten, but a police
4 department cannot live on memories.

5 In order to remain an effective and
6 professional as it is today, the Department needs
7 to look forward and not backwards. It needs to
8 develop fresh solutions to new problems. It needs
9 to meet new challenges and set itself more
10 ambitious goals in order to successfully meet these
11 challenges and achieve these goals. It needs to to
12 make new investments in recruitment, in training,
13 in buildings, in vehicles, in radios and computers
14 and other equipment.

15 Our budget request for the next fiscal
16 year will allow us to make these new investments so
17 that we can hold the ground that we have won over
18 the past four years and achieve the objectives that
19 I have outlined this morning.

20 Finally, I would like to extend an open
21 invitation to members of Council to tour Police
22 Headquarters with me at any time to see some of our
23 new technology and meet those who operate it.

24 I also want to let members know that I
25 will be inviting them shortly to the formal opening

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 of the new police station being built at 3901
3 Whittaker Avenue to serve both the 24th and 25th
4 District. The building is now about 95 percent
5 cleat and should be ready for occupancy in April.

6 I would like to thank you for the
7 opportunity to come here this morning, and I am
8 prepared and my staff to answer any questions you
9 may have.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you,
11 Commissioner.

12 Commissioner, how long does it take
13 from the time a police recruit enters the Academy
14 until he or she is out on the street and
15 functioning as a police officer?

16 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: The Academy is
17 now in ten months.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And can you
19 tell us what the average yearly attrition rate is
20 for uniformed officers?

21 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: I'm going to
22 refer some of these questions to Deputy
23 Commissioner Nestel.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Certainly.

25 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NESTEL: Tom

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 Nestel, Deputy Police Commissioner.

3 Councilwoman, the average attrition
4 rate is 240 per year.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I think we've
6 been hearing about the number of police officers
7 that will be going out on the DROP Program.
8 Commissioner, I believe in your testimony, you
9 stated that there would basically 504?

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NESTEL: There will
11 be 504 in Fiscal 2004.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Oh, 2004.

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NESTEL: Yes.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Okay, would
15 that be September or October?

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NESTEL: Actually,
17 it's September 28th. They have to be off the books
18 by October 1st.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Okay.
20 Yesterday, when Mr. Kidwell was here, who is with
21 the Pension Bureau, he indicated that there would
22 be approximately 641 police officers that would be
23 going out on the DROP Program. You're saying 504?

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NESTEL: No, I'm
25 saying 504 in Fiscal 2004.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Okay. So if
3 we add 288 to the 504, that would give us 792.

4 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: No. If I can
5 answer that, as of this morning -- and I checked
6 with our personnel and our people -- we now have a
7 total of sworn personnel of 633 sworn personnel
8 that are now entered into the DROP Program as of
9 this morning, and another 102 civilian personnel
10 who are in the DROP Program.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: How many?

12 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: 102.

13 Now, some will be leaving the very
14 first day, October the 1st of --

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: How many do
16 you anticipate will be leaving at the beginning of
17 October?

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NESTEL: 289.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: 289? And I'm
20 sure you've calculated how many would be going out
21 through attrition?

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NESTEL: Yes.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: How many
24 would that be?

25 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NESTEL: 20 per

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 month. We're calculating losing 504 officers,
3 sworn personnel, through the DROP and 240 through
4 normal attrition.

5 However, it is expected that that
6 normal attrition will slow down a little bit
7 because of the DROP.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: So you're
9 authorized to hire 475 recruits in FY '03 and an
10 additional 500 in FY '04. What is your estimated
11 hiring schedule?

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NESTEL: We're
13 expecting to have a class of 100 in August of 2002,
14 125 in December, 125 in April of 2003, 125 in June
15 of 2003.

16 And then going on to the next fiscal
17 year --

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Just a
19 minute, please.

20 Okay, please proceed.

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NESTEL: Going into
22 the next fiscal year, we will have four classes of
23 125 in each class. That will be in October of
24 2003, February of 2004, April and June of 2004.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: As I

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 calculate it, you don't have your full complement
3 or strength during the summer months when I think
4 you really need them.

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NESTEL: During the
6 summer months, there will be, of course, recruits
7 in the Academy.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: But you're
9 saying it takes ten months for a recruit to be in
10 the Academy, and I'm sure that the day that they
11 graduate -- I don't know how you work this, but I'm
12 sure that they're not simply put out on the street
13 by themselves. Don't they usually go with another
14 police officer?

15 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Well, that
16 depends on what district that they go to. We never
17 let police officers out there without their safety
18 in place. Normally, when they come out of the
19 Academy and they go to particular district, they
20 normally do work with another police officer, but
21 they're very well surprised by a supervisor there.
22 So if you go to a quiet district like the 5th
23 District, sometimes you may be placed in the car by
24 yourself.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I am telling

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 you, I think we're all extremely fearful that we're
3 going to be losing police officers, and we would
4 like to see them recruited as soon as possible.

5 Excuse me a minute, please.

6 Commissioner, if we could get back to
7 our line of questioning, please. How will this
8 schedule impact your ability to provide the
9 appropriate coverage during FY '04?

10 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Go ahead.

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NESTEL: I believe
12 that we will be able to provide appropriate
13 coverage. As it stands, we normally have at least
14 160 in the Academy at one time. At times, that
15 goes to 240. During Fiscal '04, we will have about
16 375 in the Academy.

17 However, one of things that have stood
18 out as far as those who are leaving the DROP is
19 that very few are leaving from the busy districts.
20 An example: The 25th and 35th District only have
21 one officer leaving. The higher numbers are
22 leaving from the 7th District and the Airport.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I would
24 assume also that most of those that have applied
25 for the DROP Program are the veterans. For

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 instance, the captains, the lieutenants, the
3 inspectors.

4 How many captains, inspectors, and
5 lieutenants will there be included in the DROP
6 Program?

7 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay, we will
8 have 3 deputy commissioners, 9 chief inspectors, 7
9 inspectors, 1 staff inspector, 26 captains, and 60
10 lieutenants.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: 60?

12 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: 60.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: 6-0.

14 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: 6-0.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And how many
16 captains?

17 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: 26 captains, 96
18 sergeants, 32 corporals, 76 detectives; and as of
19 today, 320 police officers.

20 But what we did, the Mayor has gave us
21 the authority on March the 15th to promote, and on
22 that particular day on March 15th, we will be
23 promoting 7 chief inspectors, 14 inspectors, 19
24 captains, 26 lieutenants, 80 sergeants, and 19
25 corporals. And at this point, there's no list for

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 the detectives.

3 These promotions were made in
4 anticipation that the DROP Program would be kicking
5 in in the next one and a half and two years.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: So there's an
7 existing list for captains, lieutenants, sergeants,
8 corporals, and you took from the existing list, I
9 assume.

10 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: That is correct.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Okay.

12 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Point of order.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
14 recognizes Councilman Rizzo.

15 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Commissioner, based
16 on the need to hire a significant number of
17 recruits for the Academy, do you think we'll be
18 able to do that with -- without going outside the
19 City of Philadelphia? You do you believe that we
20 need to hire police officers from outside the City
21 and change the residency requirement to do what you
22 sound like you're going to need to do here? Or do
23 you have enough qualified applicants from the City
24 of Philadelphia?

25 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: We just gave a

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 police test approximately two weeks ago. There was
3 approximately 14,000 -- between 14 to 15,000 people
4 that applied for the test.

5 My understanding is 4900 people took
6 the test, which gives us the idea that we're
7 probably going to have to give another test in the
8 next six or seven months.

9 My feeling is that there's enough
10 qualified people inside the City of Philadelphia of
11 people qualified. It's not just Philadelphia
12 that's having this problem recruiting; it's on a
13 national level. New York spent \$10 million for a
14 program just to go out there and publicize that
15 they're hiring police officers.

16 I don't know exactly what the problem
17 is. I think if you join the Department just for
18 money, then we're not getting the recruits.

19 So, again, with 15,000 people applying
20 for those tests and only 4900 taking the test, it's
21 presenting a problem. Out of that 4900, we will
22 probably reject close to 60 to 70 percent of the
23 people that applied for it.

24 So my feeling is that there's enough
25 qualified people inside of Philadelphia if they

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 want to be police officers.

3 I'm not exactly sure what the answer
4 is.

5 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Commissioner, have
6 you ever looked at the process? I mean, it's such
7 a long process. If you want to be a police
8 officer, before you get to take the test, it could
9 take months maybe before you're even told. So if
10 you apply, you could wind up with another job.
11 Maybe the process has to be looked at on when a
12 person applies, when they're able to take the test,
13 because, you know, six or eight months goes by
14 before you're even eligible to go take the test.
15 Maybe that's a discouragement or a deterrent in
16 itself.

17 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Well, what we
18 want to do -- at least what I would like to do is
19 look at the entire process. I think that -- I
20 mean, the whole process sometimes to me on a
21 personal level, I'm not satisfied with the entire
22 system that we have in place.

23 I'm not sure whether it's feasible to
24 have a person live in the city a year before he
25 takes the test instead of having him take the test,

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 come to the Department, and then move in six months
3 after he passes the test. I mean, there's a lot of
4 other ways that we can look at how we can solve
5 this problem.

6 But at this point, I think the last
7 test we gave was about a year ago. We're going to
8 have to give the test more frequently or we could
9 have continuous testing.

10 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Commissioner, why do
11 we wait until we promote that many supervisors?
12 Why -- are you able by Charter or whatever you're
13 regulated by to promote two captains when you need
14 a captain, five sergeants when you need five
15 sergeants? Why do you have to wait when and have
16 this massive appointment process? Why can't you
17 fill positions as they're needed?

18 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Well, we
19 probably can. We've never done it, and a lot of it
20 is strictly civil service. All of our promotions
21 is by civil service; I make no appointments. The
22 only appointments in the Department is the Deputy
23 Commissioner and the Commissioner.

24 The other thing is that we normally --
25 I mean, I have no reason -- I wasn't Deputy

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 Commissioner or Commissioner at that point, so I
3 had to wait until I became Commissioner to try to
4 prepare for these promotions.

5 Ones we request the promotion, then it
6 has to go through budget restraints, it has to go
7 through the Managing Director, it has to go to the
8 Mayor's Office. I mean, there's different
9 procedures. I just cannot promote anytime I want
10 to promote.

11 I went to the Mayor's Office, I
12 requested these promotions, and the Managing
13 Director, and they approved thee promotions.

14 I would like to make sure in the future
15 that we have enough people just to cover the DROP
16 Program and to promote more frequently than once
17 every year or once every year and a half

18 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you,
19 Commissioner.

20 Thank you, Madam Chair.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Commissioner,
22 just so I understand, in spite of the fact that you
23 have recently promoted many of the uniformed
24 personnel, when the DROP Program goes into effect,
25 we're still going to be short of captains,

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 lieutenants, sergeants, corporals.

3 Do we have an existing list that will
4 cover that period of time so that you would be able
5 to make your selection from that list?

6 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: These promotions
7 have not been made yet.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You said they
9 won't be made until March 15th.

10 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: March 15th.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: All right.

12 In spite of that, in spite of that, when the DROP
13 Program goes into effect in September, you're still
14 going to be short any number of lieutenants,
15 sergeants, corporals.

16 Do you have an existing list? Will the
17 list be existing at that time from which you would
18 be able to hire the captains, lieutenants,
19 sergeants, corporals?

20 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Yes, ma'am.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Okay. Are
22 all school crossing guard positions filled at the
23 present time?

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NESTEL: No,
25 they're not. I believe there are about 30

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 vacancies.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Why is that?

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER Nestel: Because
5 the attrition is high and it just takes a while to
6 get people to take that test to get hired.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: How
8 frequently is the test being given?

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER Nestel: I believe
10 the test is given about every two years.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: There was a
12 period of time when there was an ongoing test; I
13 think it was given almost daily. That has changed
14 now to every two years?

15 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER Nestel: To the
16 best of your knowledge, it is not given daily.
17 There was a period of time where the Police
18 Department test was also given quite frequently. I
19 will talk to the Personnel Director to find out
20 exactly when, but they do keep an active list so
21 that we can hire from it.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Well, if
23 there's an active list that we could hire from, I
24 don't know why we would have 30 vacancies.

25 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER Nestel: We hire as

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 quickly as we can, and I'll look into that for you.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Would you,
4 please. Because I'd like some information on that.

5 Commissioner, you said in your
6 testimony that you will continue to strengthen both
7 our Narcotics Strike Force, the uniformed component
8 of the Narcotics Bureau, and the Narcotics Field
9 unit.

10 I am hoping that you would be able to
11 achieve that since we are apparently going to have
12 less uniformed personnel in FY '03 than we have in
13 FY '02. Do you feel confident about that?

14 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Yes, ma'am.
15 There's a couple things that we have in place right
16 now. What we're basically doing is beinging and
17 analyzing all units in the Department.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Excuse me,
19 Commissioner, I think you deserve a little more
20 respect than that.

21 Thank you.

22 Please proceed.

23 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: We're going to
24 analyze all the units to find out the number of
25 people that we can put on the street. We've also

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 (indiscernible) into every district to see some if
3 of their administrative people can duplicate jobs
4 such as sanitation...

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm sorry,
6 Commissioner.

7 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay, the
8 sanitation officers. There's a lot of
9 administrative positions that are in the Department
10 that we're looking at now. We're not going to be
11 anything until we make a complete analyzation [sic]
12 of everything that we have within the Department
13 before we bring these people in.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Well, I will
15 tell you, and I know that I don't have to tell you
16 because you fully realize that drugs are almost
17 literally taking over some of our communities, and
18 I think it's something that we really have to
19 address sooner or later. It's absolutely
20 frightening to me.

21 And I know you did mention the amount
22 of arrests that were made during the year.
23 However, I think with many of these drug dealers or
24 people who are using them, they're arrested one
25 night, and the very next morning, they're out on

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 the street doing business as usual.

3 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Well, that's
4 correct. And I've said it and I really believe it:
5 We're never going to arrest our way out of the
6 system. Law enforcement will never solve this
7 problem. We have to go into other areas and join
8 in partnership with the community, with the clergy,
9 with the business people, because our arrests are
10 tremendous, our confiscations are tremendous.
11 Because of that, we're not into the rehab
12 community. I've been into the prisons.

13 Traditional police and locking people
14 up is not changing the quality of life in
15 Philadelphia. We have to go into something
16 completely different. We have to be more proactive
17 than we've ever been before. We not have to go
18 into the education, the treatment, the prevention.

19 Locking a person up and putting them in
20 jail for 48 hours and they're addicted, when they
21 come back out, they're still addicted. It hasn't
22 solved anything.

23 The Heads-Up Program that I mentioned
24 earlier, we've been to 26,000 kids so far just to
25 build to this program. No matter how many drugs

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 that come into the City of Philadelphia, if we can
3 educate our community not to use it and not to sell
4 it, then we would come a long way. But when we're
5 going through the particular areas and we're just
6 making a lot of arrests, it's not the amount of
7 arrests that I'm concerned about; the numbers are
8 not important to me. It's the quality of those
9 arrests. We have to go out to the organizations.

10 Our numbers, like I said, are
11 tremendous, but if it's just numbers by itself and
12 not changing the quality of life, it hasn't really
13 changed anything, and it won't change anything. So
14 what we're trying to do right now is join in the
15 partnership with the Town Watch organizations, with
16 the block captains, with the community. And I
17 think if we do that, then we will be able to do
18 something completely different.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: Commissioner,
20 I want to thank you for showing Councilmembers and
21 their staffs the film on drugs. That was just a
22 horrifying film to me. And I know that you have
23 been making that same presentation to many of the
24 schools.

25 Have we found that there have been

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 students perhaps who have, after seeing this film,
3 realized that they must get help immediately? Have
4 they contacted the police?

5 And what are we doing to help
6 youngsters who are addicted? Do we have programs
7 that we're sending them to?

8 As I said, showing the film, to me,
9 that is absolutely horrifying. Have we had
10 children who have come forward and said, you know,
11 I've seen this dreadful film, I truly need help,
12 can you put me under a program? Have we gotten any
13 of --

14 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Yes. I'm not
15 going to name the school, but --

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I don't want
17 you to mention schools; I just want you to tell me.

18 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are there
20 students that have now come forward and said,
21 Please help me?

22 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: We went to
23 numerous amounts of schools. The last school we
24 went to maybe about two weeks ago, after the
25 presentation, we had eight juveniles who decided to

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 go into rehab. We have set up a program with the
3 Bridge Program, which is for juvenile people in
4 rehab who are addicted. That same day they all
5 went up to Bridge and have all basically put
6 themselves into a program.

7 Most of the time when go out to the
8 different schools, we have rehab people with us,
9 and we have people who have given us bids where a
10 child gets up says, "Look, I have a problem.
11 Afterwards, we have facilities or abilities to put
12 them right into a program that same day.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Commissioner,
14 are we showing that film to middle school and high
15 school students?

16 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Yes, ma'am, we
17 are.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: I will tell
19 you, after seeing that film, I will tell you, I
20 could not erase many of those scenes from my mind
21 for days. I think it's very impressive.

22 Mr. Johnson, how many officers are
23 assigned to the Neighborhood Services Unit? And
24 what is the purpose of this unit?

25 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: I'm not sure of

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 the exact amount, but I think the purpose of the
3 unit is to work in conjunction with the
4 Neighborhood Transformation Initiative. They do
5 the abandoned vehicles, they do the sanitation they
6 do other things like that to identify problem
7 areas.

8 I think it's approximately 14 or 15 of
9 them assigned, along with a supervisor.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Will they
11 also be interacting with the Community Life
12 Improvement Program that is a new initiative of the
13 Managing Director's Office?

14 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Yes, ma'am, they
15 will.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Since you
17 have approximately the same number of sworn
18 officers in FY '03 as you had in FY '02, where will
19 these officers be coming from and what's the impact
20 on the other functions of your department?

21 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Well --

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: I know we
23 have a police sanitation officer, I assume, in
24 every district right now, do we not? I know we
25 have one in the 17th.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Well, we do.

3 Every district doesn't need the same type of
4 officers, every district doesn't need a sanitation
5 officer, every district doesn't need a community
6 relations officer, every district doesn't need
7 certain things. And if they do have that program
8 there, there's no reason why one officer couldn't
9 handle the same problem. He could be more than
10 just having one responsibility. The sanitation
11 officer can also be the community relations
12 officer, can also be the victim witness officer.
13 So we're going to look into that.

14 What I try to do is deploy officers
15 based on the different cabinets. I'm not sure
16 whether anybody here in City Council has been to
17 our COMPSTAT, but we try to hold the captains
18 accountable for the personnel that they have in
19 their particular district. By doing that, we give
20 them the flexibility and the authority to put
21 police officers where they feel it's needed to
22 attack the crime problem in their particular
23 district.

24 Once every 28 days, they have to come
25 in front of the deputy commissioners and myself to

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 explain exactly what they're doing and how they're
3 crime fighting initiative.

4 So we leave the responsibilities of
5 deployment to the captains, but we hold them
6 accountable for what they do.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

8 I have several other questions but I
9 notice a number of Councilmembers who have their
10 lights on.

11 Is Councilman Ortiz in the room? Do
12 you want to be recognized?

13 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I yield.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Okay,
15 The Chair recognizes Councilman Clarke.

16 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Madam
17 President.

18 Good afternoon, gentlemen.

19 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Good afternoon.

20 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: The first question
21 I'm going to ask is for my colleague Councilwoman
22 Brown; she had to leave, she had a prior
23 engagement.

24 A few years back, there was an
25 initiative to increase the rolls in the Police

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 Department for minorities and women, and I think
3 that was relatively successful. The question is:
4 In the leadership ranks in the Department, is there
5 a similar type of initiative to increase those
6 rolls in the officers, lieutenants, captains,
7 inspectors, chief inspectors, deputies?

8 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Well, all of our
9 promotions are by civil service examination, and
10 they take the civil service test.

11 But I think when you see these
12 promotions on the 15th, you'll have minorities, a
13 large amount of minorities in every single rank.
14 We'll have them in inspectors, captains,
15 lieutenants. We have a large amount of them,
16 almost 35, 40 percent that will be promoted to
17 sergeants are minorities. I think it's another 35,
18 40 percent will be coming to lieutenant. The same
19 basically with the captain.

20 And normally in the history, at least
21 from my experience, the minorities normally, with
22 the promotional examinations, it's normally about
23 10 percent. We will triple those numbers with this
24 promotion. And that's not because they're doing
25 anything special for them; it's because they took

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 the examination and they scored high on the
3 examination, and they're in a position to be
4 promoted.

5 Even to the rank of chief inspector,
6 we'll have two minorities will be promoted to the
7 rank of chief inspector, three will be promoted to
8 the rank of inspector, and approximately six or
9 seven -- almost eight will be promoted to the rank
10 of captain.

11 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: What about females?

12 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Well, the only
13 rank where we won't have a number of females being
14 promoted is the rank of lieutenant, and we're
15 planning on making more promotions, but as the
16 rank -- as the promotions are being made, I have to
17 go strictly by the civil service list.

18 We'll have more minorities being
19 promoted to the rank of lieutenant this time than
20 we've had in the last four five years at one time.
21 We will not have any female lieutenants,
22 Afro-American female lieutenants being promoted
23 this time, but the next promotion, we will have the
24 highest amount of female lieutenants ever been
25 promoted at one time once we hit their numbers on

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 that list.

3 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Okay, a couple of
4 quick operational questions.

5 I've been getting conflicting reports
6 when I talk to residents and officers. Patrol
7 sectors, most people in my district, they say they
8 don't ever see a police car patrolling through their
9 blocks, and I understand the difficulty of vehicles
10 being able to go down every block. We all kind of
11 thought that happened in the older days, but it
12 probably didn't.

13 What's the process? Is there a sector
14 for each vehicle and that vehicle's supposed to
15 traverse down various streets? Or do we solely
16 deal with a response-driven patrol? Can you run me
17 through that process?

18 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Well, we have
19 sector integrity, but being realistic, in most of
20 our districts, especially the busy districts, they
21 are one-man cars. And realistically, they're going
22 from one district or one area to the other area
23 based on what's happening in that particular
24 district.

25 You may have a sector car that's making

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 just a car stop where another's going to back him
3 up. In a real busy district, we try to supplement
4 or complement that by having maybe the Narcotics
5 Strike Force and highway patrol (indiscernible),
6 but it says we're trying to have more emphasis and
7 putting not so much pressure on the police officers
8 to go out there and be visible, because being
9 visible is being proactive, being proactive is
10 being preventive. A lot of times, people won't
11 commit the crimes if they see the police officers
12 out there.

13 But at the same time, that depends on
14 sometimes if they have a full complement of
15 officers working and not counting people that may
16 be on vacation or somebody that may have called in
17 sick, some of them may be injured, some during the
18 daytime are in court. There's a whole lot of
19 variables that comes into that.

20 There are sometimes we will go to roll
21 call where they might have 15 people assigned to a
22 particular platoon, and maybe 7 or 8 are working.
23 So it's kind of hard to have sector integrity when
24 we don't have -- when everybody's working, and
25 there's times that we have a problem with the cars.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 So the uniformed officer on the street
3 is the first officer out there no matter what
4 happens. Whether it's a burglary or robbery or a
5 homicide, the first one to respond is that
6 uniformed officer, and they're very important. And
7 we try to put the emphasis to them to go out there
8 and do their job on a continuous basis.

9 And that's one of other things with
10 these promotions that we're about to do. Say, for
11 example, in the 5th District, which is a quiet
12 district, you have 12 sergeants or 13 sergeants.

13 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: You're talking
14 about the 5th Police District, not the 5th Council
15 District.

16 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: No, the 5th
17 Police District.

18 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: All right.

19 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: And in the 5th,
20 you have 90 police officers assigned, approximately
21 90 police officers. In the 25th District, there
22 are probably 20 or 40 police officers assigned,
23 with still 13 sergeants. It doesn't make sense to
24 have the amount of supervisor to the 5th District
25 as assigned to the 25th District.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 So with these promotions, it has given
3 us the ability to put more supervisors in the busy
4 districts to be able to be supervised more closely
5 than in the quiet district.

6 Again, the officers are out there
7 but there's very few times that we still have the
8 total complement of people who are assigned to
9 platoon, working the street that same day.

10 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Okay, all right, so
11 I guess the answer is that we should not expect
12 vehicles to traverse our streets as we thought we
13 did in the old days. I get these calls, you know,
14 from some of our friends, mutual friends in our
15 district, a certain lady over in Strawberry Mansion
16 that you know very well, who says she's never seen
17 a police car on her block, and I needed to ask
18 these questions get a sense of whether or not she
19 could realistically expect a vehicle to actually
20 patrol her block, not in response to a crime but to
21 simply kind of --

22 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Well, the only
23 that I thing look at, Councilman, is that -- I
24 mean, if she hasn't seen a police car, the positive
25 thing is that there's no problem on that block,

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 hopefully. But the officer should be out there
3 patrolling, they should be visible because
4 visibility prevents crime.

5 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Okay.

6 In a earlier question to the Managing
7 Director, I had mentioned the fact that one of the
8 concerns in the past of the Police Department was
9 the coordination between the social service
10 agencies, and she indicated that she was going to
11 have a follow-up discussion with you about that
12 issue.

13 Can you just tell me what your
14 expectations would be?

15 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: I had talked to
16 the Managing Director maybe about a month ago, and
17 she had made the request that I come to her
18 headquarters or to her building to talk to her
19 people about the Police Department and how my
20 vision is that we're not going to solve this
21 problem just by locking people up, that we're going
22 to need people that's in rehab and alcoholization
23 [sic] to be able to work together to solve a lot of
24 these problems.

25 I think the other thing is that I've

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 also talked to her about having City services
3 combine with the Police Department and we go
4 through these particular neighborhoods. I mean,
5 Licenses and Inspections works very closely with
6 us, there's the Streets Department, there's L&I.

7 We have to have a wholistic type of
8 approach when we go into a neighborhood to try to
9 clean it up. We have to work very, very close
10 together. And I think the Managing Director,
11 Miss Richman, is amenable to that.

12 Also, a lot of times, we have to change
13 that mindset 'cause a lot of police officers feel
14 as though traditional policing is just locking
15 people up, that's going to solve the problem. It's
16 not going to solve the problem, it hasn't solved
17 the problem, it will never solve the problem.

18 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Okay.

19 My next question is kind of twofold.
20 And you've actively been in these discussions. The
21 last Police Commissioner, who's a good friend of
22 mine and a constituent of mine still, we've had
23 discussions about street-corner activity, and you
24 recall actually at last year's hearings, I asked
25 this question about to what degree officers can be

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 proactive and, in my mind, preventing crime by
3 allowing congregation of individuals who are
4 obviously selling drugs. Commissioner Timoney was
5 somewhat of a Civil Libertarian, so he felt that
6 people had the right to stand on the corner for
7 nine hours straight for no obvious reason other
8 than the fact that they're selling drugs, but they
9 still had the right to stand there unless the
10 officer actually saw the drug sale.

11 And I guess I want to ask you, one,
12 will the policy change as it relates to simply
13 moving people along on these troublesome corners?

14 The other question is, I asked
15 Commissioner Timoney before, as it relates to guns,
16 if there was a law that he can change; i.e., the
17 Harrisburg; i.e., the State legislature? What
18 would the law be that will allow us to get all of
19 these guns off the street?

20 'Cause I believe that, you know,
21 there's always been drugs, but the problem now is
22 that there's drugs and there's guns, and there had
23 never been the level of gun activity that we've had
24 in the past, and it seems pretty much that
25 everybody in the world has a gun now, and that's

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 the first action that they take is to pull a gun.

3 So I just wanted to ask you that in a
4 twofold question 'cause I think my time winding
5 down, and I had to get in two for one.

6 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Well,
7 Commissioner Timoney and I feel the same about the
8 first question. My feelings is that if the kids
9 are on the corner and they're doing something
10 illegal, even if it's a minor offense, then we can
11 address that problem -- whether it's loud noise,
12 whatever it is.

13 But the mere fact of moving from one
14 corner to another corner to the middle of the block
15 when there are not any illegal activity, I really
16 believe it is unconstitutional and we're going to
17 create more problems, I think, by fighting the drug
18 activity and we clean up area, we're going to have
19 to put jobs into these neighborhoods, we're going
20 to have to put training into these neighborhoods,
21 we're going to have to put something for these kids
22 to do.

23 For example --

24 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Well, Commissioner,
25 in all due respect, I'm not just talking about

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 kids; I'm talking about adults who are standing on
3 the corner, right, selling drugs, drinking
4 whatever, smoking blunts or whatever, right,
5 everybody in the world knows what these guys are
6 doing. They're standing on this corner, right, all
7 day long, you know, creating an environment where
8 people are afraid to go to the corner store, afraid
9 to walk down the street.

10 I mean at some point, I mean, we need
11 to be in a position to do something.

12 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: If they're on
13 the corner --

14 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: I understand the
15 Civil Libertarian issue, but the reality is that
16 the liberties of these individuals in these
17 communities are taken away every day because these
18 guys decide it's their world, right, and they're
19 going to do whatever they want to do. And at some
20 point, I mean, the people in the community should
21 have the right to have some piece of their
22 neighborhoods.

23 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Councilman, I
24 agree with you 100 percent, and I didn't mean to
25 give the impression that I think it's right to do

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 illegal activity on those corners, because it's
3 not. If they're out there and they're drinking or
4 disorderly or if they're selling drugs, then that
5 is the responsibility of the Police Department to
6 clear that corner up.

7 I said if there's anything illegal on
8 that corner being done, then we will react to that.
9 We will survey that, we will make a surveillance of
10 that corner and try to clean the corner up. But if
11 there's no illegal activity, we just can't move
12 them from the corner to the middle of the block to
13 another place like that. And I think the citizens
14 have a right be be able to come out their house and
15 kids have the right to come out and play.

16 But at the same time, we cannot break
17 the law to enforce the law. And if we start taking
18 people's civil rights by doing that, then it will
19 basically create a problem.

20 But if there is any illegal activity,
21 no matter how moderate the illegal activity is,
22 whether it's drinking, whenever it is, then we
23 will react to it.

24 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Okay, not to
25 belabor the point. I just want to add this.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 My understanding, under this new
3 initiative, the Neighborhood Transformation
4 Initiative, as it relates to certain visible
5 violations, we are simply taking the position that
6 we're going to enter -- we entered onto a vacant
7 lot, some people will question the legality of
8 that. We will then cut the locks, went in, removed
9 a bunch of abandoned vehicles, issued a number of
10 citations, and we basically took the position that
11 if what we've done is illegal, then that individual
12 should go to court.

13 And we're taking a proactive approach,
14 and we basically said we have 150 lawyers in the
15 Law Department and we're going to do what we're
16 going to do to put the onus on the perpetrator to
17 come back and make us a defendant as opposed to the
18 other way around.

19 I mean, we're sending that signal on
20 these other quality-of-life crimes, as it relates
21 to vacant lots and abandoned vehicles, and I'm just
22 wondering why we can't take a similar approach.

23 I mean, you said what you said, but I
24 just need for you to get a sense of my frustration
25 with this issue publicly, as I've talked to

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 privately about this.

3 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Yes, sir.

4 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: And then Part 2 was
5 the gun issue.

6 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: What was the
7 Part 2?

8 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: What law would you
9 ask our legislature in Harrisburg to change that
10 would allow you to get the guns off the street to
11 some degree?

12 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: What I've
13 basically done is talk to the people from the
14 federal sector. We had a cease-fire here.
15 Cease-fire is really a gun initiative where a
16 person who has committed a crime and has a weapon,
17 that instead of trying 'em locally, they will be
18 taken federally, and expandatory [sic] sentences
19 would happen.

20 We make a lot of gun arrests in the
21 City of Philadelphia, but it seems like -- and not
22 criticizing the court system here locally, but it's
23 not taken real serious as it is in the federal
24 sector, where a person's arrested for a gun, goes
25 to a hearing or goes to court, and is released

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 either on probation or parole or other things like
3 that.

4 I think if we had strong sentencing for
5 people who have weapons and who are arrested for
6 weapons, then we can eliminate the problem.

7 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: I'm talking about
8 the proliferation of guns, not the gun arrests.
9 I'm saying that there is a problem with guns coming
10 in here like water, right?

11 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Right.

12 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: And we want to do
13 some things -- I know Councilman Angel Ortiz years
14 ago tried to do something with gun legislation, but
15 he was shot down. I actually got a gun bill
16 passed, and now am told it can't be enforced.

17 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: We passed one two
18 years ago.

19 (Council President Verna
20 strikes gavel.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Our visitors
22 are certainly welcome, but we are trying to conduct
23 business. So I would appreciate you're not
24 speaking or making noise.

25 Thank you very much.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: We passed Smart Gun
3 Legislation, which goes into effect, and we did it
4 around three years ago so that it could -- no, four
5 years ago so that it could go into effect in the
6 year 2003 because it's -- so that no handgun shall
7 be sold in the City of Philadelphia without some
8 protective or identifying mechanism, the Smart Gun
9 concept. And that will probably be litigated very
10 quickly when it goes into effect.

11 I think it goes into effect January of
12 2003, Commissioner, if I'm sure, okay?

13 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: That's correct.

14 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: So we have that, and
15 that's for the handgun. We passed legislation nine
16 years ago dealing with assault weapons, and that
17 was, again, more or less like the school takeover.
18 The State passed Act 46 for us to be able to -- to
19 prohibit us really from passing assault
20 legislation, and the proliferation that we saw in
21 '80, '89 and '90 about Uzis and AK-47s.

22 Commissioner, if I'm wrong, you
23 might -- but I think now we're seeing a lot of
24 those same weapons back again on the streets. Is
25 that what you're experiencing?

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Yes, sir, it is.

3 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: So we'll see,

4 Councilman, we'll see how our legislative powers as
5 a council are affected when the legislation on the
6 smart guns, the handguns, goes into effect in
7 January. Hopefully, it would prevents the sale of
8 guns, because every sale will have to have a
9 person, and it will be identified who gets the gun,
10 they will be registered, and so on down the line.

11 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: I think we're
12 talking to our attorneys that -- we're in the
13 process right now of making it harder and stricter
14 for people to get guns, but I will evaluate that,
15 we will look that into that and everything we can,
16 because it's an advantage not only to the citizens
17 of Philadelphia but also to the Police Department
18 to do as much as we can to make sure the right
19 people are getting the weapons.

20 So as we go through this process, I
21 will keep you informed exactly what we're going to
22 do and what we recommend 'cause we're going to need
23 your help in getting it passed.

24 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Last but not lease,
25 are we going to push ahead on this one gun a month?

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Yes, sir.

3 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: We're lobbying our
4 friends in Harrisburg?

5 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: That's correct.

6 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: All right, thank
7 you.

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1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 (Reported by Lisa C. Bradley, RPR)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: "Commissioner,
4 not to belabor this issue, however, you did say that
5 you have been authorized to hire an additional 500
6 in FY '04. When I asked you about the hiring
7 schedule, it would appear that the four classes that
8 you mentioned, October of '03, February '04, April
9 and June of '04, that would I had indicate to me
10 that we would not physically see 500 police officers
11 on the street until FY '05.

12 MR. NESTEL: When the first group
13 leaves, which is the 289 on the last day of
14 September, by that day we will have graduated 225
15 new officers will be on the street. There will be a
16 slight reduction. It will take us time to get back
17 the full strength, but this is about the most
18 aggressive hiring program we could handle.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are you
20 referring to the 475 or the 500?

21 MR. NESTEL: Actually, the 475, the
22 first class from that group --

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You said it's
24 August of '02, and that would be 100.

25 MR. NESTEL: The people that are hired

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 August 19th of '02 will graduate May of '03. But
3 the classes -- they will graduate in May. At the
4 end of --

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: I'm not
6 questioning the 475. My question is, it has been
7 testified to that an additional 500 would be hired
8 in FY '04. There is supposed to be four classes,
9 October of 2003, which means that they would not
10 graduate until August of '04 which would be in FY
11 '05. February class would not graduate until
12 December '04, which is also FY '05. April the 4th,
13 you said there would be 125; they wouldn't graduate
14 until February '05. And you said there would be
15 another class of 125, and they would not graduate
16 until April '05. So I don't know how we get 500 in
17 FY '04.

18 MR. NESTEL: I said we would hire 500 in
19 FY '04. Most of that fiscal year we will have 375
20 people in the academy.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: At the
22 conclusion of the hearing, I would like you to get
23 together with Mr. McPherson, who is to my right, and
24 Mr. Rob Dubow because I'd like to clear this up
25 because it certainly is not very clear to me and I

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 don't know that it's clear to anybody else.

3 The Chair now recognizes Councilman
4 Nutter.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
6 Chair.

7 Good afternoon, Commissioner.

8 MR. JOHNSON: Good afternoon,
9 Councilman.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: It took a while to
11 get there, but it's a pleasure to be able to address
12 you as the Police Commissioner of Philadelphia.

13 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

14 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: It is a
15 well-deserved honor.

16 Let me ask a couple questions. I had
17 not originally planned to ask about this, but from
18 the discussion back and forth between yourself and
19 Councilman Clarke, I wonder whether or not -- and I
20 grabbed a copy of the Philadelphia Code while you
21 two gentlemen were having your conversation. I
22 wonder whether or not by strict use, if not a little
23 bit of creativity by the Police Department with
24 regard to the well-known guys hanging out on the
25 corner doing whatever they're doing, and from time

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 to time, I don't know, there might be some girls
3 hanging out on the corner, but people hanging out on
4 the corner doing the things they do, in many
5 instances, either up to no good or actively engaged
6 in illegal activities. I wonder about the use of
7 some of the provisions of our Section 10-600 in the
8 Philadelphia Code, and there might be other
9 sections, generally entitled -- Section 10 is
10 "Regulation of Individual Conduct and Activity."
11 Could you maybe shed a little light on whether or
12 not ordinances like loitering, open containers on
13 the highway, and some of those kinds of provisions
14 are tools that the Police Department may be able to
15 either utilize or re-utilize in ways that can -- I'm
16 sure Councilman Clarke speaks from experience. I
17 have my own experience of this other time in our
18 City's history when if, one, if you were told by a
19 police officer to clear the corner, generally you
20 did. And I know I had that experience on a number
21 of occasions. But also with added emphasis to
22 quality of life issues, are there provisions of our
23 Philadelphia Code that gives the Police Department
24 some of the tools that they might need if they are
25 somewhat creative in their use?

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 MR. JOHNSON: Councilman, on our staff,
3 I have four attorneys. And what I'm willing to do
4 is have our attorneys look into that.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: With every respect
6 to the attorneys, Commissioner, that's only going to
7 get you in trouble. You've got four attorneys on
8 your staff, you might not be able to --

9 MR. JOHNSON: What I would like for them
10 to do is to look for that. Any tools that we can
11 possibly use to change the quality of life in
12 Philadelphia, including what's in the Code, we're
13 willing to do. And the only thing I'm going to use
14 the attorney for is to research that. If there is a
15 code on the books that is legal that we can move
16 people off the corners or disperse crowds, then I am
17 willing to do that because I'm willing to do
18 anything that's going to change the quality of life
19 in Philadelphia that's legal. If those codes are
20 legal, then it's not a problem with me at all. I
21 didn't want to do anything illegal. I did not want
22 to break the law to enforce the law.

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Absolutely. And Ms.
24 Simmons knows that I have the greatest respect for
25 her and I know she'll give you good advice.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 On the other hand, for whatever else
3 some of the folks may be doing, sometimes they are,
4 in fact, loitering, they are blocking the highway,
5 they do engage in other activity. And quite
6 frankly, it might sound a little harsh, but if
7 they're out there doing what they're doing, then I
8 think we've got to throw the full weight of whatever
9 we have, if it is loitering, if it's spitting on the
10 sidewalk, if it's blocking the highway, if you're
11 caring an open container, all of those things are in
12 fact on the books. And it might seem like rather
13 small offenses, but if it does disrupt their
14 activity and makes the lives of the people out in
15 the community that much more peaceful on a
16 day-to-day basis, then I am certainly going to be a
17 person to support the Department's efforts to, not
18 only maintain the law and respect people's rights --
19 but you know as well as I do sometimes in our
20 protection of certain people's rights, which is
21 often a very small group of people actively engaged
22 in illegal activities because we're afraid that
23 they're either going to sue us or come after us, a
24 much larger group of people, their rights are
25 absolutely taken away from them and they live in a

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 state of fear and terror. And part of our
3 responsibility is to look out for their rights as
4 well.

5 MR. JOHNSON: Councilman, I will do
6 everything I can. The Department will do everything
7 we can to enforce any law that's on the book that's
8 going to change and better the quality of life in
9 our neighborhoods.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you,
11 Commissioner.

12 Commissioner, I saw you on TV not too
13 long ago. There was a recent rash -- and that
14 doesn't mean at other times there aren't shootings,
15 but you were seemingly either at a press conference
16 or an availability just the other day because of --
17 I think the number 14 seems to stick with me, that
18 there were either 14 shootings or 14 people had been
19 shot or something over maybe a three- or four-day
20 period of time. And you talked about a recent
21 meeting that you had with commanders about that
22 particular issue and some of your expectations out
23 of that. Can you give us a little more information
24 about either the particular situation or your
25 general view about how we're going to deal with

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 issues of crime and excessive violence and drug
3 activity, especially when it's concentrated in a
4 particular area, maybe gang warfare back and forth
5 between groups or retaliation, turf warfare
6 activity? Can you tell us what's going on with
7 that?

8 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, sir. Last week we
9 had approximately 14 people shot.

10 (Hearing interrupted.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You do have
12 right to speak, but you are not to interfere with
13 our hearings, sir.

14 Excuse me, sir. Just a moment, please.
15 You can testify. Wait until our hearings are just
16 about over. After the Prison Commissioner
17 testifies, we'll be very happy to hear what you have
18 to say. Presently, we're in a budget hearing and I
19 am not going to have you interfere with our process.
20 You're more than welcome to stay. Thank you.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The hearing is an
22 hour late.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And so we
24 understand that. We have been sitting here all day.
25 We are not going to allow you interrupt our session.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 Thank you.

3 Commissioner, please proceed.

4 MR. JOHNSON: They had approximately 15
5 shootings last week. And because of these
6 shootings -- there was one on Friday where eight
7 people were shot: Three people dead, two people
8 possibly could die. That was a concern of mine.
9 The main concern, I wanted to know from our
10 commanders what did we have in place to counteract
11 that. I wanted to know what did they know about
12 these particular shootings and what is our strategy
13 to make sure that these things will not happen
14 again.

15 In addition to that, I'm having a
16 meeting today, if I'm out of City Council on time,
17 with the District Attorney, the head of the DEA and
18 also the head of Narcotics. I think we have to have
19 a holistic-type approach. But the main focus on
20 Saturday is that I was very concerned about these
21 shootings. I feel as though the captains and the
22 inspectors and the chief inspectors should be
23 equally as concerned as I was that we did not have
24 people going all over the City just committing
25 shootings and we took it in stride, that we had to

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 fight back. We want to send a message that the
3 Police Department is in charge of the City, not the
4 drug dealers or not the people who are out there
5 doing these particular shootings. If we identify
6 these people, again, what strategy do we have in
7 place to bring these people down. So I brought the
8 Narcotics Bureau in, the Patrol Bureau in, the
9 Detective Bureau in, everybody to sit down and
10 strategize and talk about what did they know about
11 the particular shootings, what have they done about
12 the particular shootings, and what are they planning
13 on doing about these shootings. And that is the
14 reason why I had the meetings Saturday.

15 I should not, at least in my opinion,
16 have to tell a captain or inspector or chief what
17 their problems are in their particular districts and
18 what their plan should be. They should be telling
19 me that there is a problem in their district and
20 they should be telling me what their plans are.
21 That should be on a continuous basis. That was
22 myself, Deputy Commissioner Mitchell who's in charge
23 of Operations, we sat at the meeting along with the
24 person who's like the chief of staff to me,
25 Inspector Tamperelli (ph), and we wanted them to

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 come back and tell us what are they going to do
3 about it. The Chief Inspector Patrol went back to
4 his particular bureau, he put a memorandum out
5 yesterday. He wants them to identify what their
6 strategies are by March 4th on how they can combat
7 these particular things.

8 What we do at COMSTAT is hold our
9 captains and inspectors and chief accountable. We
10 give them the flexibility and the authority to do
11 the things that they have to do. But they have to
12 explain to us what they're doing about the crime.
13 And again, that's what the meeting was about
14 Saturday.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you,
16 Commissioner. I'll be glad to have a conversation
17 with you later -- and you've always made yourself
18 available -- about a couple specific areas in the
19 district I represent, parts of West Philadelphia,
20 Winfield and Overbrook and some areas over in the
21 39th Police District as well that do need some
22 particular concentrated attention. There appear to
23 be a number of entities operating that are not only
24 in the course of doing what they do are disruptive
25 and destructive to the community, but also

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 apparently there is rivalry activity going on which
3 is causing even more of a problem, and I'd like to
4 talk to you about those specific areas. I think we
5 can draw them out on a map and I'd like to make some
6 progress on those.

7 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, sir, I will. What I
8 said earlier is that I'm calling all the people, at
9 least in the City of Philadelphia, who's involved in
10 drug activity -- not so much drug activity, but
11 who's involved in drug enforcement, law enforcement,
12 to be able to communicate and work together starting
13 today. In the following week, we're going to meet
14 with all law enforcement agencies that we can sit
15 down and come up with a strategy. Pat Mann who is
16 the US Attorney is very amenable to the meetings
17 that we're about to have. The federal sector has a
18 lot of resources that we don't have. They have a
19 lot of flexibility that we don't have. One of the
20 problems that we're having in a lot of these
21 shootings is that we cannot get witnesses to come
22 forward. We're thinking about having a grand jury
23 convene and start bringing people in and making them
24 talk and give us information, every way that we can
25 do to solve these problems. Because a lot people

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 are arrested, the Police Department are arresting
3 them, but the witnesses are not showing up. And I
4 can understand that because of a lot of them have to
5 live in that particular neighborhood. But we have
6 to put something in place to protect the witnesses
7 and make sure they come in. Even some of the
8 victims will not tell us who shot them. So I think
9 the grand jury, whether it's a federal grand jury or
10 a state grand jury, will be helpful to us. And our
11 ideas, see how we can do to bring people in because
12 some of the people we were looking for in last
13 shooting have been arrested 9 and 10 times. We've
14 identified who they are, but nobody will come to
15 court to testify against them. We have to solve
16 that problem.

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you.

18 On another topic, on Page 5 of your
19 testimony, you talk about school safety. I'd like
20 to talk about that particular issue with regard to
21 some truancy issues and safety at the particular
22 school buildings. Now, your testimony indicates
23 that Deputy Commissioner Green reports both to you
24 and the head of the School Reform Commission. How
25 is that arrangement going to work going forward?

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 And I know for a fact -- and the School District has
3 its own police force; is that right?

4 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, sir.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And so what, that
6 police force is now under the jurisdiction of Deputy
7 Commissioner Green?

8 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, sir.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And how is this dual
10 reporting responsibility work? How can the Deputy
11 Commissioner report both to you and to the head of
12 School Reform Commission?

13 MR. JOHNSON: At this point, it's a
14 little difficult. Maybe Commissioner Dexter Green
15 can explain it. But right now his salary is paid by
16 the School Board. And I think his responsibility at
17 this point is to the School Board. We're going to
18 sit down sometime in the very near future of how --
19 and we work very closely with one another. But at
20 this point, he reports -- although he has the title
21 Deputy Commissioner of Police, I guess his immediate
22 boss would be the School Commissioner at this point.
23 Maybe Commissioner Green can explain a little better
24 than me. It's a little difficult at this point, but
25 I think we can really straighten it out sometime in

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 the very near future.

3 MR. GREEN: Councilman, just to respond
4 to your question --

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Please identify
6 yourself for the record.

7 MR. GREEN: Dexter Green, Deputy
8 Commission of External Affairs. And I also hold the
9 title of Chief Safety Executive for the School
10 District of Philadelphia, and in that role, I report
11 directly to the CEO of the School District of
12 Philadelphia, currently the acting CEO, Dr. Farmbry,
13 reporting to her. I also report to the School
14 Reform Commission under the leadership of Chairman
15 Jim Nevels. And for me, it hasn't really been a
16 problem holding both roles. At the School District,
17 I'm accounting for and responsible for the School
18 Police Department as well as -- there's another
19 branch of my operation which is the prevention and
20 intervention side of the house. And in doing both
21 roles, it has worked out for me personally very
22 well. On police issues, I report to Police
23 Commissioner Johnson. On school issues, I report to
24 Dr. Farmbry and the Reform Commission.

25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Aren't they all the

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 same? I mean, what's the difference?

3 MR. GREEN: For me there is no
4 difference because collectively and collaboratively
5 we're both working for the same purpose.

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Obviously, you know
7 your job better than I do. I'm not going to
8 question your judgment about it. On the other hand,
9 just from a pure management standpoint, it seems to
10 me that it is a little difficult -- I mean,
11 notwithstanding your experience and your talent,
12 it's a little difficult for a person to report to
13 two totally different entities and maintain a
14 certain level of accountability and responsibility.
15 I mean, it would seem to me that the job needs to be
16 in one place reporting to one entity about the
17 nature of your work. And it's, obviously, very
18 serious and very important. And maybe as the School
19 Reform Commission goes forward or any other
20 agreements that are made that that situation would
21 get kind of squared away. I mean, if you're in
22 charge of the School Police and school safety, it
23 seems to me that you should be over at the School
24 District or with the School Reform Commission
25 because they're the new entity in charge. But I did

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 wonder about that.

3 Now, the testimony also indicates that
4 on average 13.6 percent of the total school student
5 population was absent on any given day the 2000-2001
6 school year. Taking the school population, which
7 generally reported in the newspaper is 212,000
8 students, that means 28,832 young people were absent
9 from school on any given day last year?

10 MR. GREEN: On any given day, that's
11 correct.

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And the testimony
13 further indicates that at least 50 percent of the
14 students were truant. What were the other 50
15 percent doing? They were sick that day?

16 MR. GREEN: They could very well be.
17 The 13.6 percent, I think it was, includes all
18 absences from school. It can be an excused absence.

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: 14,000 kids absence
20 from school for legitimate reasons?

21 MR. GREEN: 14,000, yes, that's correct.

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: On the 14,000 who
23 were potentially truant, later in the testimony it
24 says that in 2000-2001 the officers contacted and
25 returned to school a total of 24,775 students across

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2 the City. Now, how many of those students were a
3 one-time return to school and how many of those
4 students were multiple returns to school in the
5 course of that school year?

6 MR. GREEN: I don't have those numbers
7 with me. But that's one of the things that we've
8 been looking to kind of track that the District was
9 not tracking before I got there.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So at the moment we
11 don't know whether they returned, quote/unquote,
12 24,000 students who could actually be 5,000 students
13 who were returned four times, we don't know what --

14 MR. GREEN: That's correct.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: -- what the
16 recidivism rates is?

17 MR. GREEN: That is correct.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Now, what happens
19 with these students when we return them to school
20 and what contact do we have with their parents or
21 other guardian?

22 MR. GREEN: The students are returned to
23 what we call the age-appropriate school, so high
24 school students are returned to high schools, middle
25 school students are returned to middle schools.

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2 Anyone picked up in Center City is returned to the
3 Truancy Center down in South Philadelphia.

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, when you say
5 that the various students are returned to a middle
6 school or a high school, are they returned to their
7 school?

8 MR. GREEN: They're returned to they're
9 school if that's where they're picked up. If a kid
10 is picked up in Olney Section of the City who goes
11 to Overbrook, they're taken to Olney, not to
12 Overbrook.

13 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What would they do
14 that day at Olney?

15 MR. GREEN: Even whether they go Olney
16 or Overbrook or the Truancy Center, each school is
17 supposed to have a program in place where they get,
18 again, what they call age-appropriate education at
19 those facilities.

20 You asked me about the parental contact;
21 and parents are notified.

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What does that mean?
23 Who notifies them and then what happens?

24 MR. GREEN: At the Truancy Center,
25 that's Marilyn Carr who is the Principal at the

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2 Truancy Center notifies parents, and parents are --
3 she requests that parents come and pick their
4 teenagers up.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Do they?

6 MR. GREEN: Most of the time they do. I
7 don't know if you've ever met or talked to Marilyn
8 Carr; and if you haven't, I would suggest that you
9 take a visit to that Truancy Center. I would say
10 that 80 percent of the parents come and pick their
11 kids up from the Truancy Center. That's not true at
12 the middle and high schools.

13 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What happens at the
14 middle and high schools?

15 MR. GREEN: They're given tokens to
16 return home at dismissal time.

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Can you lay out for
18 us by way of any of the various reports or data that
19 you might have access to, I guess on a ZIP code
20 basis, the truancy that was experienced last year if
21 you can determine how many students were single
22 one-time truant in the course of a school year,
23 two-time, five-time, ten-time, any of this multiple
24 discussion that we've had? And do you know after a
25 parent has picked up their child from being truant

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2 whether the child ended up back in the Truancy
3 Center or had been determined to be truant at a
4 later point in time?

5 MR. GREEN: I can't give you that for
6 school year 2000-2001. I could probably give you
7 that information for this year, for this current
8 school year.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: 2001-2002 school
10 year to date?

11 MR. GREEN: That is correct.

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Is there an overall
13 safety plan for the 264 schools in the School
14 District?

15 MR. GREEN: Yes, there is. The District
16 has a comprehensive safety plan.

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Is that a written
18 document that's available?

19 MR. GREEN: That's a written document.
20 It was written back on May 1st of 2001, and it was
21 also the same document that we took before Judge
22 Smith in September of 2001.

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And does that mean
24 that there are also safety plans for each school?

25 MR. GREEN: That is correct.

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2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: If you could get
3 that information to us through the Chair, I would
4 greatly appreciate it.

5 Lastly, how is the plan working in the
6 context of some of the incidents that we've read
7 about or heard about in the news media recently?

8 MR. GREEN: I think we're moving
9 forward, but there's still a lot of work to be done,
10 particularly in the area of training with School
11 Police Officers as well as making sure that all of
12 the building administrators understand their role
13 and responsibility in school safety.

14 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What are your ideas
15 or what would our proposal be to ensure to the
16 greatest extent possible that our school buildings
17 and the area around the schools is close to 100
18 percent safe for the students and the staff and the
19 faculty?

20 MR. GREEN: One of the first things that
21 we did do is this whole issue of deployment of the
22 490-plus School Police Officers that we have, plus
23 the NTAs and noontime aids. What we did was come up
24 with a deployment strategy based on incidents,
25 truancy, suspensions, to kind of ensure that we're,

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2 first of all, deploying the appropriate number of
3 people to each school. The other two things I think
4 that are extremely important is, one, to get the
5 School Administration in this whole picture. And
6 finally, I think it's to make sure that the
7 community and parents are involved in this process.
8 We can't leave them out.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Last question: What
10 resources do you need to improve safety at schools?

11 MR. GREEN: I want to say more money,
12 but I won't say that.

13 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: If that's the
14 answer, then say the answer. I mean, I asked the
15 question, so ... I mean, I understand.

16 MR. GREEN: More money honestly would
17 help, but before I go that far, what I'd like to see
18 more of is other governmental agencies -- more
19 collaboration with other governmental agencies, for
20 example, the Managing Director was up here a little
21 bit earlier talking about DHS, more cooperation
22 between the agencies who can provide services for
23 the school kids. A lot of these kids need other
24 services that the school cannot provide. And I'd
25 just like to see us work more collaboratively with

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2 other agencies.

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What kinds of
4 things? I'm sure in the course of this budget
5 process we can have a longer conversation about it.
6 Whether it's financial resources or support services
7 resources, is there a plan or have you been able to
8 develop a plan that takes you from where things are
9 today to where you'd like things to be in a year or
10 two and what kind of cooperation are you talking
11 about trying to either inspire or encourage and what
12 kind of cooperation are you not getting today that
13 ends up being an obstacle or a barrier to you being
14 able to do your job?

15 MR. GREEN: When you see the copy of the
16 Comprehensive Safety Plan, right in the
17 Comprehensive Safety Plan are some suggestions and
18 recommendations as to how we can sure up some of
19 these collaborations. And to date, let me say this,
20 the District Attorney's Office has been very active
21 with the School District. DHS has been very active
22 with the School District, and we hope to improve
23 that. The court system, the Managing Director
24 mentioned Judge Sylvester, has been very supportive
25 and very active with the School District. And

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2 hopefully, we intend to enhance those relationships,
3 is the direction we'd like to go in.

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
5 Chair. I have some other questions, but I'm sure my
6 time is expired.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.
8 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
9 Blackwell.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
11 Madam President.

12 Good afternoon, Commissioner. Thank you
13 and the deputies and your department for all that
14 you do for us in this City. We say thank you.

15 My question to you is that I've been
16 concerned about the move -- and maybe you can check
17 this. I've been meaning to call you and ask you
18 anyway. Maybe your people can check it out for me.
19 I'm interested in misdemeanor court cases staying in
20 the neighborhoods. So for the 18, for example, they
21 have taken them out and everybody has to come to
22 CJC. They've told me that, you know, it should be
23 better because there, hearsay evidence is allowed so
24 everybody doesn't have to come in town. But it
25 creates a problem with seniors coming in town and

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 other people leaving their neighborhoods. And I
3 believe the backlog -- and I'll deal with the courts
4 when they come. I believe the backlog of cases may
5 go down because people won't complain, but I believe
6 the quality of life in neighborhoods will be
7 decreased with this new move. I've talked to the
8 judge about it, Seamus McCaffery, and apparently
9 this has already happened. My question to you is,
10 in your opinion or can you check for me to see if it
11 makes a big different whether officers are at CJC or
12 in the neighborhoods. Does it really matter? Does
13 it affect the amount of money that the Police
14 Department would spend for overtime? That's what
15 I'm told, but common sense tells me that it's not
16 so.

17 MR. JOHNSON: Well, I think what happens
18 a lot of times, you have an officer who may be going
19 to Municipal Court at the same time subpoenaed the
20 Common Pleas Court. If he's going the Municipal
21 Court, sometimes he's in the district and the
22 problem that we're experiencing is that he may be in
23 the 18th District and his case is being called CKC.
24 And what happens with a lot of the judges is that if
25 the officer is not there, they're dismissing the

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 cases. He can't be at both places.

3 The other thing what I understand is
4 that a lot attorneys are using the same excuse, that
5 I can't be in CKC because I have to be in the
6 District Court. Well, at least what was explained
7 to me, if we have them all in the same building they
8 just have to go floor to floor. We have them
9 centralized and it will be better for the police
10 officer and better for the attorneys because a lot
11 of attorneys use the excuse, I can't come to court
12 that particular day or I can't come to the hearing
13 that day. And what you have are a lot of the
14 victims frustrated because the case is scheduled
15 three and four different times; the lawyer can't
16 appear, the police officer can't appear. Where if
17 we have them all in a centrally located place, then
18 the excuse that I can't get there or I can't appear
19 because I'm someplace else, they would eliminate
20 that because they're all in a central location.

21 But what I will do is research that. It
22 has nothing to do with the overtime. It's just
23 sometimes the officer who is in the Divisional Court
24 may have an additional case in another court and he
25 can't be at that one place.

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2 The Police Department has really
3 enhanced the amount of arrests that we've made, so
4 the numbers are up. Although our numbers are up and
5 our staff has been built up, the court system hasn't
6 built theirs up. And a lot of times they can't
7 handle all those cases. So I'm not saying they use
8 excuses to get rid a lot of the cases, but we have a
9 lot of cases that are being dismissed just for the
10 mere fact that the officer is not there. And
11 sometimes he's in the building and may have three or
12 four different cases. But if he's not there at the
13 time that the case is brought up and the defense
14 counsel may come up with the idea, well, he's not
15 here. And the judge is, well, dismissed. And he
16 might be on another floor.

17 But I will look into that. I will
18 research that and we will do everything we can to
19 make it better for the victim because sometimes
20 they're victimized twice.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.
22 I'll send you the information I have. And listen, 9
23 times out of 10 they're probably stuck outside
24 trying to get in the building. That's a big issue,
25 too. CJC can't even accommodate this increased

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 level. The new reportings we've had in the paper,
3 about people getting in the building, I contend, are
4 because the CJC can't handle that. So some cases
5 are getting dismissed simply because people are
6 trying to get in the building when their case is
7 called. But at any rate, I'll send you the
8 background information I have. I just wanted to
9 know the part that the Police Department played.
10 Thank you.

11 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, ma'am.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
13 Madam President.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
15 recognizes Councilman Rizzo.

16 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Madam
17 Chair.

18 Commissioner, again, congratulations.
19 You've come a long way in the Philadelphia Police
20 Department.

21 Based on some of the testimony that we
22 heard this morning, it appears that there might be
23 some difficulty down the road having enough police
24 officers, at least that was my interpretation, where
25 we need them to be in the neighborhoods. And that

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 leads me to an issue that I've discussed here
3 before, but not too much really came of it. And
4 again, I don't want to go in depth here, but here's
5 what I'd like to know, and you tell me the detail
6 you can give me. I would like to know how much
7 money we spend, the Philadelphia Police Department,
8 in the Highway Patrol Division's budget to patrol
9 I-95, Schuylkill Expressway, Woodhaven Road, Vine
10 Street Extension. And again, not to belabor it
11 here, but I believe it is the responsibility of the
12 Pennsylvania State Police, and we patrol that as a
13 courtesy. And I believe we have -- and you don't
14 have to tell me how many police officers, but I
15 would like to know -- and you can provide the
16 information to the Chair. I'm sure you don't have
17 that number with you today. But I'd like to know
18 how much money we spend 24 hours a day, 7 days a
19 week, 365 days a year to patrol those roadways when
20 it's the responsibility of the Pennsylvania State
21 Police.

22 MR. JOHNSON: Well, again, in my
23 opinion, I think we spend too much money. I don't
24 know the specifics, but Highway Patrol when it was
25 beefed up in December or November of 1997 with the

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 idea that they'd be a rapid response team, that they
3 would be out there to go into the crime areas and go
4 out and fight crime any time we needed a large
5 amount of police officers at one time, they would be
6 ready to respond and that could bring a whole group
7 at one time. Without giving you the specific
8 numbers, half of Highway Patrol is on the
9 expressway. The fact that they are on the
10 expressway has taken -- we don't have the ability to
11 have a rapid response team anymore. If we can
12 eliminate that, however, and go on to
13 crime-fighting, which they were originally meant
14 for, it would be a benefit to everyone. But, as I
15 said, I don't know how we can do that. As long as
16 the State is not patrolling, it is our
17 responsibility to patrol it. But I would love to
18 see Highway Patrol in the areas in the communities
19 fighting crime where I think they should be. In
20 addition to being a limited amount on the
21 expressway, but if the State Police took over the
22 entire expressways and the roads, it would really
23 help us out quite a bit.

24 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I'm sure it would,
25 Commissioner, and that's why I don't want to belabor

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 and explain to maybe people that aren't up on the
3 issue the actual details.

4 Now, Commissioner, there's another
5 area -- and I know the 800 megahertz radio system is
6 slowly approaching the Philadelphia Police
7 Department. But something that I've observed
8 recently and it's really troubling me and it's
9 something that we all have probably lived with the
10 best part of our lives. It has to do what we call,
11 at least on the street, wreck chasing.

12 Commissioner, when there's a vehicle accident in the
13 City of Philadelphia, many times two, three tow
14 trucks are at the scene of a vehicle accident before
15 the police, just there waiting in prey to get
16 someone to sign a paper to have their vehicle towed
17 away from the road and sometimes to sign away, make
18 a commitment that they're not even aware of, to
19 repair the automobile. Commissioner, I don't know
20 what we can do, but it appears to the public, and
21 I've received calls about it, that the police -- I
22 don't know at this point whether it is legal. I
23 observed on the expressway, on the Schuylkill
24 Expressway recently, where there was a minor
25 fender-bender and the whole shoulder of the road had

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 tow trucks there that were monitoring police radio,
3 which I believe is not legal. There's an ordinance
4 that says who can listen in, the media and other
5 organization that can legally monitor the police
6 radio. But most of the tow trucks have T Band, have
7 police radio in there. And again, like I mentioned,
8 they're there before the police in many cases.

9 Are the police, are they supposed to be
10 saying to those tow truck drivers, "Get out of here,
11 you're interfering with a police process here"? I
12 know it must be reassuring to see all these tow
13 trucks, but they're fighting for the wreck. We all
14 know about wreck chasers, that they go out and they
15 snag these cars and tow them to their favorite body
16 shop and get a piece of the action. But I think
17 it's personally starting to disturb me to see every
18 time there's a vehicle accident, whether it be on
19 the Boulevard, whether it be on the Expressway or
20 I-95, this windup of tow trucks there just waiting
21 to snatch one of these wrecked cars. And the police
22 eventually arrive and the tow trucks seem to be able
23 to stay there. I don't know, is it legal? Is it
24 appropriate? What can we do to deal with this
25 situation?

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2 MR. JOHNSON: Well, it is and it has
3 been a concern of mine before. Because a lot of
4 times we have these accidents, a lot of times it's
5 the person's first accident, they don't know how to
6 respond or they might be injured and they might sign
7 something that they're not cognizant of what they're
8 doing. I'm going to have our people who will be
9 able to look into that problem.

10 We had a problem maybe four or five
11 years ago that we felt as though, and I'm trying to
12 be very candid with you, that some of the police
13 officers may be collusion with some of the tow truck
14 people that they're pushing some away and accepting
15 others. That became a problem also.

16 But I think it's a serious problem that
17 we have to look at and solve, and I'm willing to do
18 that. We'll get back to you with our results.

19 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Commissioner, I think
20 it's important. I think the obvious part of the
21 problem and I think we'll have to deal with it, when
22 you cut over to the new communication system, the
23 ability for -- and I'm already getting calls from
24 various people asking me how they're going to be
25 able to monitor the new police communication system.

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2 So that in itself might put them out of business,
3 but there will be scabs out there that will probably
4 bootleg and give them the ability to monitor police
5 radio. But I think if there is a law that prohibits
6 tow trucks from monitoring police radio, then they
7 ought to be either confiscated or arrested by the
8 police officers at the scene when these wreck
9 chasers show up. I think that should be the first
10 step if in fact it is illegal for them to have it,
11 and I believe it is.

12 MR. JOHNSON: It is my understanding
13 that it is not illegal for them to have it.

14 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I read the ordinance
15 and it's very specific because that ordinance was
16 written back in the 70's. It states the media, and
17 nowhere in there does it say that private tow truck
18 operators are permitted to monitor police radio. I
19 hate to disagree with you. I might be wrong and
20 I'll apologize.

21 MR. JOHNSON: I apologize to you if I am
22 wrong. But what I will do is I'll have it
23 researched today and I will get back to you today.
24 If the law is they cannot monitor and they come to a
25 location and they're not supposed to be there and

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 they have a radio, then we will enforce that. I
3 don't have a problem enforcing anything that's on
4 the books. But let me research that and have our
5 attorneys research that to find out whether it is or
6 not. I'm not positive myself.

7 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: And I'm recollecting
8 that that ordinance was written to prohibit that
9 from occurring. There might be authorized tow
10 trucks that have that ability, but I don't believe
11 that that is the regulation. And again, I don't
12 want to say too much here, but the problem that we
13 had which motivated that was burglars were
14 monitoring police radio, and the minute they heard
15 the call go out, they beat it.

16 MR. JOHNSON: Councilman, I will
17 research that today. I will get back to your office
18 today.

19 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: And Commissioner, the
20 indication that you'd be supportive of the
21 Pennsylvania State Police to some degree, either
22 overlapping I think is a good move because we could
23 use those officers in Highway to fight crime. Not
24 that they're not fighting crime out there on the
25 roadway, they are. But if somebody else would pick

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 up the tab to do that or at pay us to do it. Thank
3 you.

4 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, sir.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilman,
6 are you finished?

7 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I'm finished. I'm
8 sorry, Madam Chair.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.
10 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
11 Miller.

12 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank you, Madam
13 President.

14 Good afternoon, Commissioner and Deputy
15 Commission, and congratulations.

16 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

17 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I have a couple
18 questions. I just want to follow up and make some
19 comments and ask for your input concerning the
20 troubled corners. In my district there's one corner
21 in particular that I ride past almost every day on
22 my way home. And I know some of the guys on that
23 corner are selling marijuana and I'm not sure
24 whether other drugs are being sold there. But the
25 14th District has targeted that corner and they've

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2 arrested at least one individual several times. But
3 what baffles us in the neighborhood is that he gets
4 arrested, he gets out, and he comes right back to
5 the exact same corner each time. If we rode there
6 right now, he'd probably be on that corner.

7 Do you think that there's some way that
8 the community at this point could partner with the
9 police to free this corner? It's a troubled corner.
10 There's a store on the corner. It's my
11 understanding people like those types of corners
12 because people are coming there to go to the store
13 anyway. It's just a good place to be on the corner
14 of a neighborhood store. Do you think there's
15 anything to do? We were talking about having a
16 sit-in.

17 MR. JOHNSON: I was up in the 14th
18 District not too long ago on a real cold night on
19 one corner. And as we were sitting out there
20 freezing, they were inside looking at us laughing.
21 It didn't solve anything that particular night
22 except us being out.

23 I think you have other cities where a
24 person is arrested and they go to court and they are
25 found guilty, one of the stipulations for their

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2 release or their probation is that they're not allow
3 to associate with certain people or they will not be
4 allowed to go back on that corner or designated
5 corners that they can frequent. I think we are
6 going to have to bring the judges into this as one
7 stipulation of the patrol. But I think the
8 important thing is that the community and the police
9 do work together to take over these corners. A lot
10 of times what we find is people who are selling
11 drugs on the corners who are arrested, and I'll
12 check our record, numerous amount of time, 4 or 5 or
13 10 times that they go to court. And the judges in
14 their court rooms have to take this serious. It's
15 more so than just a release -- a lot of times if
16 it's not a violent-type crime they're arrested for,
17 normally they get out on nominal bail and they come
18 right back on those same corners. And the only
19 thing we can do is arrest them again. It sometimes
20 became a problem with the police officer; why should
21 we arrest them and he's going to get back out? My
22 opinion is arrest him again.

23 We will continue to do our job. And now
24 the courts are going to have to do their jobs. So I
25 think by working together and communicating with one

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 another and networking that we can solve this
3 problem. I think the drug markers are important,
4 but I'm not sure whether they're as effective now as
5 they were at one time before, because they just move
6 to another corner. Or they get rid of that corner
7 that particular day, but they come right back as
8 soon as the police officers or the community leaves.
9 But it has to be some way that we can say to the
10 citizens of Philadelphia that we're just not going
11 to let drug sellers take over our community. And my
12 intention is to arrest, but not just take them
13 locally, but take them federally because there's a
14 different penalty when they go federally. And I
15 think that we can solve the problem as long as we
16 work together and communicate with one another.

17 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay. Because
18 we'll probably be meeting with someone at the 14th
19 District to figure out how we can tackle that
20 corner. There are some other corners in that
21 particular neighborhood that we worked on over the
22 years, and we've been very successful. But this
23 individual's head is just real hard, and I guess he
24 just thinks he's just going to operate his business
25 there ongoingly.

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2 I was in the Caucus Room, I guess about
3 a month ago, and I did see part of the Heads Up
4 Program. And I thought that that was really a good
5 program. I mean, it told me a whole bunch and a
6 whole lot about drugs and, unfortunately, the
7 violence that goes along with it.

8 How are you using the program and where
9 are you using it and when? I know you should be
10 using it in schools. I missed the beginning of the
11 introduction of the Heads Up Program, but I thought
12 it was a really good prevention program, educational
13 program, not just for children, but also for adults.

14 MR. JOHNSON: The program -- to give you
15 an idea of what the program consists of, the first
16 10 minutes of the program is prisoners from
17 Graterford Prison talking about their life
18 experiences. And most of the ones that are talking
19 are from Philadelphia. After they've talked and
20 give them an idea of how it is to be in prison, we
21 have Philadelphia Police Officers who will give you
22 history and identification or definition of all the
23 drugs, heroine, cocaine, the different types of
24 drugs. And they will show pictures of different
25 drug houses and drug corners. In addition to that,

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 after they show the pictures, it's pretty graphic,
3 they actually show films of people who have died
4 because of drugs. And in the film you will see
5 Belushi, Jimi Hendrix, people who are known
6 entertainers, rich people to show these kids that
7 it's not just affecting the younger kids or poor,
8 it's affecting everybody. So after that, we
9 actually show pictures of kids who have overdosed
10 and who have been killed because of the drugs. But
11 in addition to that, after that is done, then we
12 have people from the rehab community and the
13 ex-offenders that will talk to the audience. After
14 that, we have parents who have lost their children
15 because of guns or because of violence because of
16 drugs. So what you have is a partnership at one
17 location between prisoners or inmates, the Police
18 Department, ex-offenders, rehab community, parents
19 everyone working together to try to solve our
20 problem.

21 When you deal with drugs and you go to
22 the different schools, it's all about choices. And
23 one bad choice can ruin your entire life. We try to
24 send that message to the children. So far we've
25 been in front of approximately 27,000 children in

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 the City of Philadelphia and we've been to almost
3 all of the public and Arch Diocese schools, the high
4 schools, and most of the junior high schools. We've
5 been as far as Delaware. We've been over Jersey
6 five or six times. We've been up in Harrisburg. We
7 go anywhere we're invited to no matter what the time
8 is because we think it's that important. The other
9 thing, the officers that are presenting this program
10 are normally volunteers. They go on a voluntary
11 basis and at night they're out there on the street
12 with the narcotics strike force enforcing the law.
13 And the amount of times that we've shown it, we get
14 additional photographs and additional parents want
15 to be involved in this because drugs affect
16 everyone. It doesn't make any difference whether
17 your black or white, rich or poor. If you get
18 yourself involved in drugs, it's going to ruin your
19 life. But it will not just ruin your life, it ruins
20 everybody's life that you're going to come in
21 contact with.

22 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Can community
23 groups call and request that the Heads Up Program
24 come out to community meetings?

25 MR. JOHNSON: We've been out to

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 community places, we've been to YMCA, we've been to
3 churches. We will go anywhere we're invited to. We
4 will go if the crowd is 10 people or if it's a
5 thousand people. Wherever we're invited to, we will
6 show up.

7 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: So who do we call
8 for that?

9 MR. JOHNSON: You can call Chief Rooney
10 at (215) 685-1119 or 1120. They normally set up the
11 schedule. And, again, we will go anywhere we're
12 invited to no matter how big the crowd is. You
13 give us the date and time, and we will be there.

14 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Good. I have a
15 couple more questions.

16 For the past, I guess, year and a half,
17 I've Chaired a Task Force on Dangerous Dogs. I have
18 a couple questions that talks about dangerous dogs
19 and what's happening here in Philadelphia in
20 relationship to the Police Department and just have
21 some recommendations.

22 Representatives from the Police
23 Department served on the task force, representatives
24 of the Research and Development and K-9 Unit. One
25 of the recommendations that came out of the task

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 force was that we would like police wagons to be
3 equipped with the animal control device. And I
4 think currently you do have some of the these
5 devices. Would you happen to know how many devices
6 do you have, you know, that stick with that wire on
7 the end?

8 MR. JOHNSON: I'm not sure how many we
9 have now. I know at one time we had the dog nooses
10 in the wagon. I'm going to have to research that
11 and look into that. A lot of times we would respond
12 if there was a vicious dog. And we had a problem
13 with that because what happens, we would respond and
14 we would wind up shooting the dog eventually. That
15 became a problem with the SPCA. So it's something
16 that we really have to work out and look into.

17 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: How do you rate
18 the call just in terms of when you prioritize calls
19 to respond to from citizens when someone calls and
20 says they're being attacked or there is attack by a
21 dog, a vicious dog. We just changed the name from
22 "vicious" to "dangerous," but we mean the same
23 thing. Because as you know and as we all know,
24 there's been an increase, and we see it as a very
25 serious public safety and quality of life issue in

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 neighborhoods. People that are accustomed to going
3 out and taking walks in the morning and jogging for
4 exercise are frightened to do that now because of
5 the increased presence of dangerous-type dogs
6 running through neighborhoods. If someone calls,
7 how do you prioritize that call?

8 MR. JOHNSON: If they're saying they're
9 being attacked, it's a top priority. We will
10 respond right away. If it's a vicious dog out there
11 that may be cornered, it's still a priority, but
12 it's not the top as it is if a person is being
13 attacked. If the call comes in that there is a
14 vicious dog and is attacking somebody, then that is
15 a priority call and we will respond right away,
16 immediately.

17 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: We are also
18 requesting that two police officers in each district
19 be trained on the proper usage of the animal control
20 device. We just want the Police Department to keep
21 people trained in the area of animal control because
22 the incidents of crime and injuries from these dogs
23 is just growing, not just here in Philadelphia, but
24 across the nation and, in fact, across the world.
25 So we don't want you to forget that that type of

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 training is important and that we want police
3 personnel trained to be able to respond to these dog
4 attacks. And also, I think that that's probably
5 something that should be added under the
6 Neighborhood Services Unit because it is a quality
7 of life issue out in the neighborhoods right now.
8 We're working on legislation, we're continuing to
9 work on that and there's a companion piece of
10 legislation that was introduced at the State, I
11 believe it may have been introduced last week, and
12 we're going to have the State Department of
13 Agriculture that controls the animal laws will be
14 coming here to Philadelphia to hold hearings on this
15 issue.

16 MR. JOHNSON: We will be glad to be a
17 part of that and we'll also be glad to be a part of
18 the solution of that, so whenever you set these
19 particular hearings up or whatever concerns you
20 have, we'll be willing to talk to you at any time
21 that you want to sit down and talk.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: May I say
23 something, please. I know there's protocol, but I
24 just want to say this is blessing. We're proud of
25 you. We think you are doing a hell of a job. We

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 know you got a hard job. We know you got a hard job
3 taking over for Mr. Timoney, but God bless you.

4 And you Councilmembers, thank you for
5 going back to work. President Verna, we love you.

6 Okay, I'll leave. This is usual. I
7 always get put out. I mean, things are going as
8 normal. I usually get escorted out.

9 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I have one more
10 question on school safety. You asked the question
11 earlier about whether any Councilmembers had been at
12 COMSTAT, and I have been to COMSTAT.

13 Lately I've been hearing about some
14 serious reports of school violence at Cleveland,
15 Gratz, and Gillespie. Those schools are in my
16 district. And I was wondering do you use COMSTAT or
17 will you be using COMSTAT to address violent crime,
18 tracking of violent crime in schools? And are you
19 satisfied that the reporting of these crimes by
20 principals make the data relevant?

21 MR. JOHNSON: We're planning on joining
22 forces with Deputy Commissioner Green, and I think
23 it would be important that we have school COMSTAT.
24 At the same time, I think we're looking to the fact
25 that -- I mean, there's no doubt there's some

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 problems in the school. We would like to see that
3 any crime that is reported in the school is
4 immediately reported to the Police Department. I
5 think we're working in that direction. There's a
6 lot of disciplinary problems that happens in the
7 schools that sometimes the principal is in charge or
8 the School Board is in charge, like a small fight or
9 some other disciplinary problems. But if a teacher
10 is punched in the face or there's a criminal act
11 committed, then the Police Department wants to be
12 involved in it right away. The fact that we have a
13 Deputy Commissioner over there, we now have an
14 Inspector over to the School Board, we have six
15 captains that are involved and meet with the
16 principals on a continuous basis that we joined that
17 liaison because if it's unsafe in the school, it's
18 going to be unsafe outside the school. We have to
19 have a coordination between what's going on in the
20 school, what's happening in the school because they
21 interact with one another. So we've been meeting
22 with the people from the School Board. Dexter, even
23 though he has another boss, he has three bosses I
24 believe, but I'm one of them. So it's very
25 important to me that we work very closely with the

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 School Board and we will work out these problems.

3 School safety is a top priority in our

4 administration.

5 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I was at a Home
6 and School meeting at one of the high schools, I
7 guess, two weeks ago, and I did meet a police person
8 and he explained to me how the new structure is and
9 how they're assigned -- he may have been a sergeant;
10 I'm not sure. But also, the principal expressed how
11 happy she was that now she doesn't have to be
12 directly responsible for school safety but the
13 Police Department will be doing that now I guess in
14 partnership with her and she thought that the new
15 structure and new assignment of police officers was
16 really good, the way it's assigned now.

17 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

18 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Do you have these
19 officers assigned to all of the comprehensive high
20 schools.

21 MR. JOHNSON: Well, the officers inside
22 the school are School Police Officers. The officers
23 that are assigned outside the school are normally
24 Philadelphia Police Officers. The six captains are
25 Philadelphia Police Officers. The inspector is a

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 Philadelphia Police Officer. The Deputy
3 Commissioner is a Philadelphia Police Officer. So
4 but actually inside the school, they are School
5 Police Officers whose responsibility and authority
6 is inside the school. Because, again, once outside
7 the school, it becomes a Philadelphia Police
8 Department responsibility. But if there's a crime
9 that happens inside the school, that is still our
10 responsibility and we will go into that school.

11 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Now that we've
12 had -- I guess, most of the high schools have had
13 that monitoring, that electronic --

14 MR. JOHNSON: Magnetometers.

15 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Right. I think
16 you've had them now for about a year in schools.

17 MR. JOHNSON: Approximately two years,
18 two to three years.

19 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Well, some schools
20 didn't have them before and then they got them
21 recently or more recent than the others. At some
22 point perhaps, Deputy Commissioner Green, when we
23 have our School District hearings, I'd like to know
24 how effective that mechanism has been in terms of
25 number of incidents of crime and violence and

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 trespassing in particular, okay? Thank you.
3 One other question. Commissioner, I
4 have four police districts in the 8th District, the
5 39th, the 14th, the 35th and, of course, a small
6 portion of the 25th. And it has become increasing
7 difficult to develop a good working relationship,
8 ongoing continuity with captains, particularly in
9 the 14th and the 39th because they're consistently
10 transferred. Now, we've talked in the past about
11 this, and I'm not talking about a transfer that
12 happens as a result of a promotion because I know
13 that that's going to happen in the 39th. I believe
14 the captain there has passed a test for inspector
15 and will be moving on. But some of those transfers
16 have not been due to promotions. And it's really
17 hard when you're working with captain, you're
18 working well, the community starts to get to know
19 them, the captain starts to get to know the
20 community, and they're gone. And particularly in a
21 district like the 39th, there's no administrative or
22 executive officer there and so there's no
23 continuity. So presently when Captain Horn leaves,
24 you know, there's just nobody there. So in the 39th
25 we have two issues, turnover of captains, no

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 administrative officer. And in the 14th, I did talk
3 to you about Captain Dorsey and requested that she
4 continue at the 14th District if her leaving was not
5 due to promotion. And at some point, we really need
6 to sit down and talk about it because it is a
7 concern of mine, of my constituents. We work really
8 hard to build relationships with the captains, and
9 then before you know it, they're gone and then we
10 have to start all over again. In the last year or
11 two years, we've changed -- the last three years
12 we've had three captains at the 14th, and it seems
13 like Castro was just at the 39th and Horn came. Now
14 Horn's going to be gone. It just makes our job a
15 little bit more difficult. And certainly, our
16 relationship with the Police Department is vital and
17 key because of the crime and violence that goes on
18 in our neighborhoods. So we need to be able to
19 build good working relationships. But the players
20 change so often, it makes our job harder.

21 MR. JOHNSON: There are a couple
22 reasons -- there's more than a couple reasons
23 sometimes why captains leave. Sometimes in a real
24 busy district, it's at the captain's request that
25 he's there for two or three years. He gets burned

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 out and he requests to leave. There's other times
3 that the administrators in the department, from
4 myself to my executive officers, feel that a
5 captain's not doing what he's supposed to do. And
6 sometimes our responsibility is to make sure that we
7 put the right person in those particular districts.
8 There is some sort of incidents that are happening
9 up there, and my feelings is that, and I believe it,
10 that a captain should be a captain no matter what
11 district he goes to, that he should be able to come
12 to a district and step right in where the captain
13 has left. It's very important to me that the
14 captain is in communication with the particular
15 district so when he arrives there, he should talk to
16 the community people, he should talk to the
17 politicians, get himself familiarized with what's
18 going on. But he's a police captain getting police
19 salary. And I know there's liaisons built there,
20 but there's a lot of different reasons why captains
21 are moved besides promotions. And I know the
22 captain that you're talking is that sometimes in
23 real bad places, we have to put certain people
24 there. And I don't want to go into their personal
25 problems, but there's times that captains that were

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 in the 14th District that have come and asked
3 because of personal problems in their own families
4 that they have that they would like to get something
5 a little more amenable to what they're doing
6 because the area that you cover is some of the most
7 busiest districts in the City. And by it being
8 very, very busy, after two or three years -- the
9 average life of a captain in any district is two or
10 three years before they get burned out because they
11 go to community meetings and they're constantly
12 moving and going. So I try to be amenable to those
13 requests. But if there is something that happens
14 that I feel as though that they violated
15 departmental policy, they've done something that's
16 demeaning to the department, to the community, then
17 sometimes we may have to move them. But we always
18 try to put a good captain in those positions. And
19 we really have decided to pay patrol captains even
20 more money than other captains get paid because we
21 know it's a taxing job. But we will always try to
22 work along with you. And from now on, if there is a
23 move, I will call you up and tell you what captain
24 you're about to get. And for a period of time when
25 he comes there, he should be in communication with

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 you and should be able to work with the community.

3 But every captain should be able to do that.

4 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: We understand
5 that. What about what you call an administrative or
6 executive officer at the 39th? The 39th is pretty
7 busy.

8 MR. JOHNSON: Well, you know, my
9 personal feelings again, and it is my feelings and
10 it might change if someone else takes over my
11 position, we had one captain in every district in
12 the history of the Police Department up until four
13 years ago. And it is his responsibility to run that
14 district, the one captain. And when we came up with
15 COMSTAT, I think we used some of the administrative
16 captains as a crutch, that I'm so busy that I need
17 another captain to be there for me. And sometimes
18 it brings conflicts if you two captains there. I
19 really believe that one captain has and should be
20 able to run a district. There doesn't need to be
21 two captains running that district. If he has
22 officers there, say even in the 39th District, and
23 we go by priority. We go by the amount of crime
24 that's happening in that particular district, we go
25 by the incidents happening in that district, we go

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 by the 911 calls in that district. And we have
3 A Districts and we have B Districts. Right now the
4 39th is an A district. It may become a B District.
5 But I really feel that a captain should be able to
6 handle a patrol district. They always have. And in
7 the future, we might go back to one captain again,
8 that they have the administrative captain, they have
9 the administrative lieutenant, they have the
10 administrative sergeant. And then sometimes we have
11 the problem we don't have enough people on the
12 street. We've got to stop being administrative and
13 put them where they belong, and they belong on the
14 street out there patrolling.

15 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Well, I think the
16 39th may change from an A to a B District because of
17 the change in its boundaries. I think the change is
18 working well. We had a really big thing welcoming
19 Castro to our district. And before you knew it, he
20 was gone. But the 39th is doing a good job in the
21 area that it has expanded to. I think that's one of
22 the reasons why it may change from an A to a B. I
23 did not know originally that there were so few calls
24 coming out of the 39th, but I believe with the
25 increase activity, neighborhood activity that the

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 39th could potentially change from an A to a B.
3 It's just that when you have other districts and
4 everybody else has an administrative captain, then
5 you just think, Well, why doesn't the 39th have one?
6 If it's based on volume and activity, then I can
7 understand why there's no administrative officer
8 there. I'd just like to continue to have dialog
9 about what's going on in the districts.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilwoman,
11 we have a number of other Councilmembers --

12 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I'm finished.
13 That's my last question. So I just want to make you
14 understood that really impacts the community when we
15 change captains all the time. Thank you.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.
17 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

18 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Good afternoon.

19 MR. JOHNSON: Good afternoon.

20 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: And
21 congratulations. And I want to thank you and the
22 Police Department for all the good services you
23 provide to us in the 9th District and particularly
24 to the 14th for Vernon Road.

25 MR. JOHNSON: I apologize. I had a

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 4 o'clock meeting with the District Attorney and the
3 head of the DA and I just asked Commissioner
4 Mitchell to start the meeting for me. So I
5 apologize that I didn't hear. I just want to have
6 him go over there so we can start this meeting.
7 It's all about drugs and crime.

8 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Okay. I just want
9 to thank you for the 14th District and Vernon Road.

10 My questions are very minor. One, I
11 just want you to know that we have a very serious
12 problem -- mine is minor. I support everything else
13 that's been said about drugs. But the other issue
14 we have is enforcement of no truck parking in a
15 residential neighborhood. I'm talking about these
16 big large tractor-trailers. They should be ticketed
17 whether there's a sign or no sign. You don't have
18 to answer, I just want you to know.

19 MR. JOHNSON: And starting today they
20 will be ticketed.

21 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: They're just
22 proliferating everywhere. So we want them ticketed,
23 okay?

24 The other thing is bike patrol. I
25 wanted to know if the Police Department is going to

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 be able to put bike patrol on the street? And do we
3 have to engage the business community in helping pay
4 for that? I think it ought to be something that
5 comes out of the Police Department's budget.

6 MR. JOHNSON: I think at this point we
7 have enough bikes. At least that's my belief.
8 We're going to have bike training sometime in the
9 very near future. The only problem that we have
10 sometimes -- as a matter of fact, I would prefer
11 that the community don't buy the bikes because when
12 they buy bikes, they feel as though they own the
13 bikes and the officers. When they buy the bikes,
14 they want the officers in certain locations, so I
15 would rather it comes out Police Department budget
16 and put the officers there and we can put them there
17 where we need them. But there's going to be
18 training for bike officers in the near future. We
19 have bikes available, and I'll be willing to sit
20 down and talk to you to make sure that you get your
21 people there.

22 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you very
23 much.

24 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, ma'am. Thank you.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 recognizes Councilman Ortiz.

3 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: How you doing,
4 Commissioner?

5 MR. JOHNSON: Fine, sir. How are you?

6 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Commissioner. Happy
7 to see you in the position.

8 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

9 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I want to go back to
10 one thing President Verna said. We don't have a
11 full complement of crossing guards hired, right,
12 Commissioner Nestel, you said that? How many are we
13 missing?

14 MR. NESTEL: I said we were about 30
15 down. I just checked; it's 28.

16 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And we're in the
17 process of recruitment, right?

18 MR. NESTEL: Oh, yes. As a matter of
19 fact, what we normally do is try to get five at a
20 time so that we can train them and get them
21 uniformed and get them out there.

22 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Do you have the list
23 of the schools that are missing those crossing
24 guards?

25 MR. NESTEL: I'm sure our Patrol

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 Division does. That's who they report to. And the
3 answer to that would be yes.

4 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: We'd like to have
5 that because we'd like to know because I've been
6 pushing that for a long time and I get inquiries
7 about crossing guards from all over the City. So if
8 you can give us that, I would really appreciate it.

9 MR. NESTEL: Okay.

10 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And what is the
11 projected time line for securing the full
12 complement?

13 MR. NESTEL: I can't tell you that, but
14 I will check into it and get back to you. I can
15 tell you that they hire them as quickly as they can
16 and get them trained and get them out on those
17 corners. But I will get back to you with that.

18 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Commissioner, before
19 I get into the other questions I have, I'm always
20 interested and I ask this question every year. What
21 is the status of Latino recruitment into the Police
22 Department? What is the current percentage of the
23 police force that is Latino? And if we have a
24 breakdown of the numbers of Latino by captains,
25 inspectors, sergeants, on down the line.

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2 MR. JOHNSON: I'm not sure of every
3 rank. And I'm not exactly sure of the percentage,
4 but I think the percentage is -- while we're finding
5 this, I'll say I have a strong working relationship
6 with Salea (ph).

7 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I know that.

8 MR. JOHNSON: As a matter of fact, what
9 happened was that they were planning on giving the
10 test in November. Commissioner Timoney met with
11 Salea. Salea requested that they delay the test for
12 a full month while they went out there and
13 recruited. And they did a well job in recruiting a
14 lot of Latino officers. Only going by memory of
15 what I believe is current, I know we have one Latino
16 inspector. I think we have a Latino captain.

17 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: One?

18 MR. JOHNSON: One. I'm not sure how
19 many lieutenant's we have. I know we have at least
20 maybe two or three. I'm not sure the amount of
21 sergeants, but I believe the percentage of Latinos
22 on the department is a reflection of the Latinos in
23 the community or in the City at the police rank
24 above the rank of patrolman, I believe. But what I
25 will do, and I will do that today, is be able to get

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 back to you with the specific numbers of every rank
3 that they have and what the percentages are based on
4 the population of the City.

5 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: We used to have a
6 policy in which 10 percent of every class was
7 recruited from the Latino community and so on. I
8 know Timoney changed that. I don't know, because he
9 said that he felt that it could go higher. I don't
10 know whether that happened, whether it did go higher
11 or not. But out of the classes, what's the numbers
12 that you're expecting to have in the following
13 classes that you're recruiting?

14 MR. JOHNSON: I believe, and
15 Commissioner Estelle can probably verify it more so,
16 but I believe in the last recruitment classes, the
17 percentage were pretty good. Is that correct? From
18 natural hiring.

19 MR. NESTEL: From the natural hiring,
20 our last couple classes have actually been more than
21 10 percent Latino.

22 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Could we have some of
23 that information available so that we can look at
24 it?

25 MR. JOHNSON: I will have it for you

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2 later on today or first thing tomorrow morning.

3 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Commissioner, what is
4 the status of Operation Sunrise? I like to tell
5 folks that the concept of Operation Sunrise was in
6 place before Timoney came on board, and I know that
7 was part of your creation when you were Deputy
8 Commissioner. But it was aimed at attacking the
9 warehouse problem with drugs in the east, East
10 Division. How has that been affected? Is the East
11 Division still the warehouse of heroin and crack
12 cocaine, or has that changed?

13 MR. JOHNSON: Philadelphia still has the
14 most pure heroin in the nation. Of any other City
15 in the nation, Philadelphia heroin is the most pure.
16 I think over in East Division, and I look at the
17 violent crimes, the reduction of violent crimes went
18 down, the shootings and the homicides. After we
19 took over -- we went on four phases and we were in
20 our last phase, Phase 4, which encompass Ninth and
21 Indiana, which I thought was the worst drug corner
22 in the entire City. From Sunrise we went to
23 Operation Take Back and Operation Take Back was at
24 the time that I put police officers down there just
25 to be visible. I wasn't concerned about arrests

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 because we made a major drug -- we took down a major
3 drug organization that was supplying not only to
4 East Division, but all other areas in the City. And
5 when we took that corner down, we decided that we
6 weren't going to give that corner back up. So right
7 now -- and I ride by there every day because I took
8 it personally, especially that corner, Ninth and
9 Indiana. And I take all the drugs and the shootings
10 personal. We still have a long way to go. It took
11 us 25, 30 years to get into the condition that we're
12 in today, and it's going to take us a while to get
13 out of the condition. But I think the perception,
14 if you talk to the citizens down there, that it's a
15 lot better.

16 At one time, 70 percent of the drugs
17 that was coming to the City of Philadelphia was
18 coming to East Division; 48 percent of the entire
19 drug arrests for the City of Philadelphia, East
20 Division; one-third of our entire homicide for the
21 City of Philadelphia, east division. And I
22 admittedly say constantly the Police Department
23 totally and completely let go along with other
24 agencies had let go. So we had to change the
25 mind-set of the Department. We have to change the

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 mind-set of the community. And when we first went
3 down there, we made numerous amounts of arrest. And
4 I analyzed that. After making the amounts of
5 arrests we made and not realizing that it was
6 changing quality of life, that we have to go into
7 something different. I decided to go into the rehab
8 community because we have these reverse things down
9 there and we would take over a drug corner and we
10 would replace the drug sellers with police officers
11 and in four hours maybe we would lock up a hundred
12 people. Well, if you're an addict and you're
13 arrested and you spend 48 hours in jail, when you
14 come out you're still an addict. So we had to do
15 something completely different. So when I went to
16 rehab community and started talking with them to get
17 them involved with this type of thing, right now we
18 have something new that started. When we take over
19 a drug corner and we replace them with police
20 officers, as the buyers come in and we arrest the
21 buyers, we take them to our command post. At the
22 command post there's a District Attorney and also
23 people from rehab. If a person signs up right then
24 to go into rehab, they won't be arrested. We have
25 to start going into prevention, we have to start

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 going into treatment, we have to start going to
3 education.

4 But as far as East Division, I'm not
5 satisfied with the entire thing in East Division or
6 in other parts of the City. But I think it's 75
7 percent better today than it was four years ago.

8 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: What are the numbers?
9 How have the numbers? Changed from 70 percent to
10 what now?

11 MR. JOHNSON: The homicides went down
12 approximately 40, 45 percent.

13 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: What about the drugs
14 in terms of the amount of drugs stored, warehoused
15 in the area?

16 MR. JOHNSON: Well, I don't think -- the
17 suppliers never came to East Division. You would
18 have some stash houses there, but working along with
19 the DEA and the FBI and the District Attorney's
20 Office, we've taken down 25, 30 major organization.
21 So as we change our tactics, so have they changed
22 theirs with the idea that they don't carry as much
23 drugs no more as they did at one time because a lot
24 of times they take them federally. They get
25 sentenced on the amount of drugs they have on their

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 possession. At one time in North Philadelphia or in
3 East Division they run a corner between 1500 and
4 2,000 a week to rent a drug corner.

5 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: How are they doing
6 now?

7 MR. JOHNSON: Well, they're still
8 renting them. I don't know if the rent came down or
9 the rent went up, but they're still renting them.
10 But at the same time, we don't have as many drug
11 corners. But we don't go by corners any more, we go
12 by complaints.

13 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: The 25 to 30
14 organizations, were these all in the East Division
15 or across the City?

16 MR. JOHNSON: Repeat that, Councilman.

17 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: The 25 to 30 big
18 organizations that you took out --

19 MR. JOHNSON: We had some in South
20 Philadelphia. Most of them were in East Division.
21 It's still -- from my experience and from my
22 knowledge, a lot of our drugs are coming from New
23 York right to East Division. We have I-95 here with
24 the seaport still coming to the East Division and
25 then they distribute to other places, the heroin and

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 the cocaine. A lot of the marijuana are still
3 coming in maybe South Philadelphia or other areas.
4 But most of the organizations that are supplying
5 drugs in the City are still located in East
6 Division. That's where their supply is at and
7 that's where -- not so much the warehouses, but the
8 dealers are at. But it's been reduced quite a bit.
9 And that's why the meeting today is very important
10 because we're meeting with people who can assist us
11 in that, the DEA, with the FBI, with the District
12 Attorney, with Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, and
13 we have people assigned to all these different
14 agencies. We have to work together. We have to
15 communicate with one another. But the other thing
16 we have to do is, again, and I know all police
17 officers don't agree with me, traditional policing
18 will not solve this problem. We will never arrest
19 our way out of this problem.

20 Those who sell drugs live in our
21 neighborhoods. Those who buy drugs come from
22 outside the neighborhood. 35 percent of the people
23 that we arrest come from outside the City.

24 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Do you have numbers
25 on that? Do you have statistics in terms of

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 documentation that shows that and able to provide it
3 to us so we can look at it?

4 MR. JOHNSON: Not only do we have the
5 numbers, we have the names and addresses. What we
6 were doing a lot of times, when we lock up a person
7 who lives outside the City, we will contact the area
8 that he lives in. In other words, if he lives in
9 Collingsdale, whatever street, we would call up that
10 police chief there, give them the name of the person
11 and what they were arrested for so they can put it
12 in their local paper or at least they can be on the
13 lookout with the idea -- because a lot of times
14 people come to Philadelphia, buy our drugs, it's
15 pure, it's available, it's cheap. They take it back
16 and the cut it down. And where are they're a buyer
17 here, they become a dealer in their own townships.

18 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Through COMSTAT,
19 you're able now to really detail how the drug
20 dealers are moving around in the neighborhood? When
21 one corner is being hit by police officers and your
22 folks are around, you're able to trace those
23 movements?

24 MR. JOHNSON: Well, we're able to trace
25 their movements by a lot of things, but I think we

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 have to go into the different -- we've got to go
3 into the wiretapping. We have to go into
4 confidential informants. We have to do a whole lot
5 of things that we've never done before. We're doing
6 that. A lot of the information that we receive from
7 the federal sector who has a lot more money than
8 what we have, they like these long-term
9 investigations. It might take them a year or two
10 years to bring certain organizations down. We can't
11 afford that in the City of Philadelphia because our
12 organizations are not only dealing in drugs but
13 they're dealing in violence. We have to attack the
14 violence on a continuous basis right away. As many
15 cases that I can possibly do -- and I've talked to
16 the District Attorney and the U.S. Attorney who is
17 concerned about this. As many people that we can
18 take federally is to our advantage that they don't
19 go to the local courts because a lot of times when
20 you go to the local courts, they go to the Municipal
21 Court hearing and they're out. They intimidate
22 people. They do a lot of things. They're well
23 organized. And we have to be as well organized as
24 they are and better. And I think, at least in my
25 opinion, we are more organized and better than they

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 are. We have a lot of law enforcement people in the
3 City of Philadelphia. We have to work together. It
4 doesn't make any difference who gets the credit for
5 a big arrest. The people who gets the credit and
6 that really benefit from it is the citizens of the
7 Philadelphia. So at one time four or five years ago
8 we wouldn't even talk to one another. That is no
9 longer the case. Law enforcement has combined. Law
10 enforcement are working together and we're trying to
11 change and will change the quality of life in
12 Philadelphia.

13 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: What's the current
14 number of police officers in the department?

15 MR. JOHNSON: Right now, I think a
16 little over 7,000.

17 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And your goal
18 objective is 74 or 73?

19 MR. JOHNSON: Our goal and objective at
20 this point is to make the 7,000 that we have go out
21 there and work and deploy them and in the proper and
22 in the right places.

23 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: The Council President
24 was talking about the retiring, the DROP factor, the
25 other aspects of the police.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 MR. JOHNSON: I think at this point what
3 we want to do is keep the same level of police at
4 least stated at 7,000 that we gave present today.
5 Now, with this DROP Program which is going to hurt
6 us, that's why these promotions are beneficial to
7 us. And we're going to have more promotions in the
8 same time the hiring, but we don't want to lower the
9 standards at all; and I don't think the standards
10 have been lowered. We can only train so many people
11 at so many times. I think Deputy Commissioner
12 Estelle has put in place the most aggressive hiring
13 practice that we can possibly do at this point. I
14 don't think anyone anticipated so many people
15 joining the DROP Program, especially all the command
16 staff, but it's happened and we have to be able to
17 react to it. And I think we are planning and
18 reacting to it.

19 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Have you been able to
20 computerize every car right now? Do you have
21 computers in ever patrol car?

22 MR. JOHNSON: We have MDTs in every car.

23 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: You have that now?

24 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, sir.

25 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And they are totally

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 connected so that they can really get quick to
3 information?

4 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, sir.

5 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: How has that been
6 functioning? What has been the results of it.

7 MR. JOHNSON: Well, we've had some
8 problems. And I'm in communication with Deputy
9 Commissioner. We have a Deputy Commission just
10 charged to technology and he's constantly looking
11 for improvements and doing improvements. We have
12 some repairs that we have to do and some more
13 innovative things that we have to do. My whole idea
14 is we cannot stay status quo. We have to change.
15 We have to take risks. We've got to do things that
16 are better. We have to enhance the things that
17 we're doing.

18 In the area of technology, and I'm not a
19 great person in technology, but the Deputy
20 Commissioner I have is very knowledgeable in
21 technology and I think he's doing other improvements
22 based on the budget that we have to improve the
23 quality of life for the police officers and the
24 community.

25 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Thank you, Madam

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 Chair.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

4 The Chair recognizes Councilman Nutter.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam

6 Chair. I'll be brief.

7 Commissioner, I do need to go back to
8 the area where I left off which was schools for one
9 brief second because there was one thing that was
10 not clear to me and I had an additional question.
11 Deputy Commissioner Green made reference to some
12 plans that had been developed and handed in or sent
13 in, and I thought he said to Judge Smith. Can you
14 give me a little more information about that,
15 because I remember when Judge Smith was handling, I
16 thought, a Human Relations Commission case some
17 years ago and made a variety of rulings, some
18 related to all-day kindergarten and a whole host of
19 things. But I thought that that case was basically
20 either over or jurisdiction had been relinquished.
21 Deputy Commissioner, what did you mean by that?

22 MR. GREEN: Judge Smith is handling the
23 deseg. case. And as part of that case, she required
24 the district to develop a comprehensive safety plan,
25 which it did. And it went back before Judge Smith

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 September 17th, and she was please --

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Of 2001?

4 MR. GREEN: Of 2001. And she was
5 pleased with it and we're moving forward with it.

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Now, the fact that
7 she was pleased with it -- I mean, obviously I
8 respect Judge Smith. What does that mean? And does
9 that mean that the plan is the official safety plan
10 of the schools? And how does that get communicated
11 either through the schools or through to the
12 students and the parents? What happens after it
13 gets filed with Judge Smith?

14 MR. GREEN: It is the School District's
15 safety plan for the district-wide safety plan.
16 Every building administrator and every administrator
17 at 21st Street was given a copy of that at
18 convocation this year. Some 600 copies were given
19 out. There was training along the lines of the
20 comprehensive safety plan. We've developed a
21 tri-fold that we give out at community meetings and
22 that we give to community folks. And 20 copies will
23 be given to Council President Verna.

24 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I appreciate that.

25 How do parents access the same

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 information and know about the safety plan at an
3 individual child's school?

4 I will tell you I certainly received no
5 information about that.

6 MR. GREEN: At every school there is a
7 safety plan. The ultimate goal is that the
8 comprehensive safety plan district-wide should be on
9 the Web, hopefully, in a couple months. I'm not
10 sure we have the capacity to do it. We hope to get
11 the individual school plans on the Web. I don't
12 know if the District has the capability of doing
13 that.

14 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: The School Police
15 Officers, are they a part of the same union as the
16 Philadelphia Police Officers?

17 MR. GREEN: No, they're not.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: But as the person at
19 the top, and I understand in basically somewhat of a
20 paramilitary structure, you take your direction from
21 whoever has been designated as the top of the unit.
22 So in your capacity as either Deputy Police
23 Commissioner or External Affairs or -- the other
24 title is...

25 MR. GREEN: Chief Safety Executive.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Chief Safety
3 Executive for the School District, they
4 automatically have to report to you?

5 MR. GREEN: They report directly to me,
6 that's correct. Well, not directly. Through their
7 chain they report to me, that's correct.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Did I understand
9 that there are six Philadelphia Police captains?

10 MR. GREEN: They're not assigned
11 actually to the School District. They're signed
12 to -- you want to explain that?

13 MR. JOHNSON: They are liaison people
14 who are assigned and help out the principals. But
15 they're in constant communication with the
16 principals. They're assigned to the Philadelphia
17 Police Department, but they're in communication to
18 the principals based on geographic. In other words,
19 we have one in the south, west, east, and in certain
20 schools. But their immediate superintendent is the
21 chief inspector of the department and they report to
22 the department. I'm sure Dexter has some
23 communications with them, but they're actually
24 Philadelphia Police Captains.

25 We thought it was important that at the

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 rank of captain we put them over there to show the
3 School District that we're very concerned about
4 what's going on in these schools. And they meet
5 with the principals, they talk to the people from
6 the Administration of the School District and they
7 have no authority to -- I mean, the School Police,
8 they report directly to the Police Department with
9 recommendations and with complaints and with ideas.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: These six captains,
11 is their sole job school-related matters?

12 MR. JOHNSON: Strictly. That's the only
13 job they have, strictly schools.

14 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, I guess I mean
15 whether Commissioner Johnson were working with
16 Managing Director Richmond or with the Mayor or
17 Chairman Nevels, it just seems to me that --
18 obviously, everybody wants to do a good job. And
19 I'm not from Price, Waterhouse, Coopers or some
20 management expert. But there are a lot of different
21 people seemingly with a lot of different
22 responsibility. And for something like this, one
23 entity and one person really has to be in charge.
24 And so ultimately, either the Philadelphia Police
25 Department is going to be responsible for safety

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 issues city-wide everywhere in all public places and
3 in schools and I guess those officers potentially
4 end up as part of the department, or the people who
5 go in are just Philadelphia Police officers and
6 ultimately accountable to the Police Commissioner or
7 I know your possibly Secretary of Public Safety, the
8 other title. But even in terms of some of the press
9 accounts of incidents in schools, who reported
10 them -- Commissioner Johnson, I heard you say
11 earlier that every incident that takes place in a
12 school should be reported to the Philadelphia Police
13 Department. I think, again, at least if you can
14 believe some of the news accounts, there have been
15 times when in-school incidents have not been
16 reported to the Police Department although they have
17 been reported to School Police Officers or school
18 administrators. I mean, you can't have this thing
19 in a happenstance kind of fashion. It just seems
20 increasingly there will be these issues, as they
21 say, betwixt and between; in school, out of school;
22 School Police Officer, Philadelphia Police officer.
23 You're left with a bit of a matrix of who is in
24 control here and who has ultimate responsibility.
25 I'm concerned about that.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 MR. JOHNSON: I think the original plan,
3 if I have it correct and I know I have it correct,
4 was that we were going to send a Deputy Commissioner
5 over to the school with the idea of evaluating of
6 taking over the School Police. That was the
7 original plan. I think things have changed a little
8 bit since then. But the original plan and the idea
9 of sending the Deputy Commissioner over to the
10 School Board was to evaluate the feasibility of
11 taking over the entire School Police.

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And would the Deputy
13 Commissioner then work for the School District?

14 MR. JOHNSON: The Deputy Commissioner
15 would then work for the Philadelphia Police
16 Department. And all police officers inside the
17 school would be Philadelphia Police Department.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. Because you
19 mentioned earlier that technically -- this will be
20 my last piece -- Deputy Commissioner Green presently
21 is being paid by the School District or School
22 Reform Commission?

23 MR. JOHNSON: That's correct.

24 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Why was that
25 decision made?

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 MR. JOHNSON: Prior to me being
3 appointed.

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: If it happened
5 before you got there, you don't have to take
6 responsibility.

7 MR. JOHNSON: No, it's not that but --

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I understand.
9 That's fair. Thank you.

10 Thank you, Madam Chair.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
12 recognizes Councilman Rizzo.

13 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I would just like to
14 follow up with Deputy Commissioner Dexter Green.
15 After 911 there were many threats that caused our
16 schools to be evacuated. And I don't want to
17 reinvent the wheel here, but there was lots of
18 confusion. Parents were not being told clearly -- I
19 don't want to use the word honestly -- when there
20 was a bomb threat. Kids were sent home. Parents
21 had no clue what was going on. And the
22 communication between the School District and the
23 media was even in some ways not as clear as it
24 should be, saying that it was a fire drill rather
25 than a bomb threat. Has that all been straightened

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 out? There was supposed to be some follow-up with
3 us on that. It never happened. Could you explain
4 that whole process? Has it been cleaned up and
5 there's a more candid approach to what's going on?

6 MR. GREEN: Right after our
7 conversation, I had a meeting with several of the
8 school administrators to deal with that issue and to
9 kind of clear that up. But even in recent weeks,
10 we've been working with Fire Commissioner Hairston
11 on some of these -- not so much the bomb threats,
12 but more on the fires and whatnot being set in
13 buildings and evacuation of students and how that
14 should be accomplished. Again, things are not
15 perfect there. But working with Fire Commissioner
16 Hairston, hopefully over the next few -- I don't
17 want to weeks, but probably over the next few months
18 we'll have that piece straightened out. But in
19 terms of the bomb scares themselves, we are actually
20 telling folks honestly what the situation is.

21 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: You can imagine when
22 a parent calls the school, fire engines are
23 surrounding the school and they're told it's a fire
24 drill. They've never seen fire engines show up for
25 a fire drill. Obviously, there's some concern about

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 that.

3 MR. GREEN: Even with the anthrax
4 scares, principals are probably less than candid. I
5 understand what they were trying to do, but why not
6 just let folks know exactly what they have.

7 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: What's the cliché,
8 truth doesn't hurt, right?

9 MR. GREEN: Right. I believe we
10 straightened that out.

11 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Good. I appreciate
12 that. That makes me feel a lot better because the
13 phones were ringing off the wall during the period
14 shortly after 911. And I know that the
15 communication -- because I even talked to a
16 journalist who said they called to find out what was
17 going on and they were told the same thing, that it
18 was a fire drill. Thank you, Commissioner.

19 MR. GREEN: You're welcome.

20 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Madam
21 Chair.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

23 Commissioner, thank you so much for your
24 patience. We wish you all the luck in the world.
25 And we certainly applaud you and your department for

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 just doing a fabulous job.

3 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

4 Thank you.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Fire

6 Department is next.

7 (Witness come forward.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good

9 afternoon. Please identify yourself for the record
10 and proceed with your testimony.

11 MR. HAIRSTON: Good afternoon. I'm Fire
12 Commissioner Harold Hairston, and with me to my
13 right is Deputy Commissioner William J. McNulty and
14 to my left is our Fiscal Officer Dave Beatrice. So
15 good afternoon to you and the other Councilpersons.

16 The Fire Department's FY '03 Operating
17 Budget proposes \$157,559,617 for the General Fund,
18 \$4,397,400 for the Aviation Fund. And \$591,893 for
19 the Grants Fund. This is an increase of \$155,592,
20 counting all fund over the current '02 budget.

21 Last year, as you may know, we had a 12
22 percent drop in our fire deaths. We went from 51
23 the previous year to 45. We were pleased to have
24 that drop. That represented 33 incidents, and 7 of
25 the 45 deaths were caused by arson fires. We

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 increased the number of fire prevention programs
3 that our fire prevention division did to 3200. Part
4 of that -- and it's a program that we started
5 sometime ago to deal with juvenile fire starters.
6 We have a program where we interacted with 190
7 families to help bring that kind of problem under
8 control, representing 213 incidents.

9 We completed Phase II of Operation
10 Children First. That was a program where we had it
11 funded through William Penn Foundation where we got
12 \$550,000 to cover two years. And we looked at 58
13 high risk centers where we were checking children
14 under the age of 12 and we installed over 31,630
15 ten-year smoke alarms. We believe those ten-year
16 smoke alarms are a big answer to the problems that
17 people otherwise have where they take the batteries
18 out of smoke alarms. We put those in 17,000 homes.
19 And if we include all of the smoke detectors that we
20 installed last year, it was 46,063.

21 The number of structure fires did
22 increase slightly from 2,440 to 25,010 which is a
23 slight increase, but it's still 37.6 percent lower
24 than we had in 1992 where we had 4,025.

25 As you know, September 11th brought a

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 lot of changes to all of us, particularly in the
3 service that we're in. And what I did with that was
4 I took a senior chief officer and had him reassigned
5 to direct our preparedness activities on a full-time
6 basis. We brought in our chief officers and our
7 captains, total of 150 of them, and gave them
8 refresher training on managing the consequences of
9 weapons of mass destruction.

10 As you know, we sent some members up to
11 New York, 19 members in fact. Eighteen of them
12 stayed up for a little over a week, and one of
13 members who has really been elevated in that whole
14 urban search and rescue scene stayed up for 40 days.
15 He was also a person that went to the Olympics to
16 help in the preparedness there.

17 One of the things that we were concerned
18 with and we had been concerned with sometime and we
19 were able to get it into our training program last
20 year was rapid intervention teams. And those are
21 teams that set up so that we always have an
22 additional engine or an additional ladder company at
23 a fire scene just in case some fire fighter gets
24 trapped and needs the services of having a full team
25 prepared to go in and do nothing but deal with

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 rescue activities. Otherwise, they're in a standby
3 mode on the fire grounds. And we spent about
4 \$110,000, I think, on actually buying additional
5 rescue ropes and webbing and hand tools and those
6 kinds of things in order to do that.

7 The anthrax scare became something that
8 touched, I guess, all of us from a national level as
9 well as from a local level. And when we realized
10 that that was going to be the case, we recognized we
11 were going to be overcome with responses to that.
12 So we did something I thought was rather innovative
13 along with the Health Department and Fire
14 Department. We put in what we call rapid assessment
15 teams where we took two fire fighters that were
16 hazmat trained and put them in a vehicle along with
17 one police officer and one health care worker to
18 respond to these incidents. And from the time that
19 we did this, which was from October 12th until the
20 end of the calendar year, we responded to 1263 of
21 those incidents. No and thrash was discovered.

22 We had a pretty fortunate year as far as
23 injuries and accidents were concerned. They're
24 down. We did an averaging where we looked at from
25 1991 to 2000, and we were down 34 percent in

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 injuries and we were down 11.2 percent in accidents.
3 We had a number of enhancements in EMS,
4 not the least of which was the fact that we took one
5 of our medic units that was 12 hours, increased that
6 to 24 hours and then we added three 12-hour units in
7 locations that were strategically placed around the
8 City. We responded to 186,000-plus medical
9 incidents. And quite a few of those ended up in
10 being hospital cases, as you might imagine. One of
11 the things that we have worked on very hard over the
12 last few years is to make sure that our dispatchers
13 were certified. And we had them all certified
14 through the Association of Public Communication
15 Officials, something that we refer to as APCO. And
16 we had them all certified as emergency medical
17 dispatchers. We have oversight from a doctor by the
18 name of C. Crawford Mechem who is our medical
19 director, and he works not just for us, but he also
20 works for the Hospital of the University of
21 Pennsylvania. And all of them are in compliance
22 with Pennsylvania law. And they're actually
23 certified through the Pennsylvania Emergency
24 Management Agency called people PEMA.
25 Our revenues were good over this last

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 year because we charge, as you know, for
3 transporting persons to the hospital. In FY '01 we
4 collected 14.7 million in net emergency medical
5 services revenue, and that represents an increase of
6 276.9 percent over the 3.9 that we had collected in
7 FY '92. Our net revenue is projected to reach 15.3
8 million in FY '02 and 15.5 in FY '03.

9 We had something that was fairly well
10 publicized about dealing with Hepatitis C, as you
11 might imagine, and we actually hired an infectious
12 disease control officer. It was a position that we
13 created, and that is working out extremely well.
14 And we had training for everyone, every fire fighter
15 and every paramedic so that they would understand
16 the nature of infectious diseases and we focused
17 specifically on Hepatitis C, and the training
18 primary focus was on the universal precautions that
19 we recommend so you can not end up being exposed to
20 that dreaded disease.

21 We improved our billing collections and
22 increased our revenue. We also enhanced the quality
23 of our assurance process by having mobile data
24 terminals where we get rid of all the paper and the
25 information's a lot more instantaneous and we're

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 able to take that information and download it and
3 make decisions a lot quicker in terms of patient
4 care as well as being able to decide what training
5 needs we need, and it has worked out extremely well.

6 And I'd like to say that I would invite
7 any Councilmember to check out our Website. We're
8 very proud of it. And you do that by simply
9 clicking onto Philadelphia.gov and then click onto
10 the Fire Department under City services.

11 I'd like to thank you for all of your
12 support. We hope that you continue to give us that
13 support. Again, thank you.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you,
15 Commissioner.

16 Commissioner, how many fire fighters
17 will be leaving in FY '04 as a result of the DROP
18 Program?

19 MR. HAIRSTON: Well, basically it's 167
20 that we had originally scheduled to leave. And some
21 of them, as you might imagine, have started to leave
22 already this past year. Out of that 167 that were
23 originally scheduled, we had 20 to leave already.
24 We anticipate some others will leave the same way.
25 What we've decided to do with that is to -- we broke

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 it down about every way that you could possibly
3 break it down. One deputy chief's in the DROP Plan,
4 we have 18 battalion chiefs, 29 captains, 70
5 lieutenant's, 297 fire fighters for all total in
6 that plan along with 3 engineers, 4 pilots, 6
7 paramedics, 1 paramedics operations chief, and 1
8 captain. Now, what we decided to do when we broke
9 it down was that we can do this by adding five
10 classes starting in FY '03 of about 80 per in the
11 class and then two the following year and then one
12 the following year after that, and it should take
13 care of all of our problems. There's a total of 436
14 people that have signed up for that DROP Plan.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: How long do
16 the classes last? I know with the police officers
17 they said that it's 10 months in the academy.

18 MR. HAIRSTON: It's much shorter for
19 fire fighters. It's 16 weeks for fire fighters and
20 7 weeks for paramedics. The paramedics, of course
21 come in already trained and certified and then we
22 give them 7 weeks at our academy and then we put
23 them with preceptors where they stay in until we're
24 satisfied that they not only understand the
25 protocols, but they have perform the intricacies

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 that are necessary in order for you to possibly
3 intubate a patient and do the other things that are
4 necessary.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You indicated
6 that you'll have five classes starting in '03. When
7 in '03?

8 MR. HAIRSTON: We actually spaced it out
9 to January of '03. We're counting on putting 80 in.
10 June of '03 would be 80; January of '04, 80; May of
11 '04, 80; and January of '05, would be 80.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Do when we
13 have an existing list from which you can --

14 MR. HAIRSTON: Yes, we do have an
15 existing list. Fact is, we're preparing right now
16 to do some hiring. We don't have much in the way of
17 vacancies but we plan to have a small class of about
18 40.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: So you know
20 interruption or any impact in your operations
21 because of the DROP Program?

22 MR. HAIRSTON: Not at all. I see it, if
23 anything, as an opportunity to do some things. I
24 see it as an opportunity to promote some people. I
25 see it as an opportunity for us to do planning and

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 those kinds of things because this is one of the
3 rare cases where you know exactly how many people
4 are signed up and what you can anticipate.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Great.

6 Commissioner, on Page 3 of your
7 testimony, you talk about your net EMS revenue
8 collections.

9 MR. HAIRSTON: Yes.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: What do you
11 mean by "net"?

12 MR. HAIRSTON: Well, after we pay the
13 contractor. We have a contract with ACS, formerly
14 Lockheed and we pay them 15 percent. And after they
15 get their fee, that's what I mean by the net.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And what is
17 the amount that the provider receives? Did you say
18 15 percent?

19 MR. HAIRSTON: 15 percent, that's
20 correct.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: How does this
22 compare as an industry average?

23 MR. HAIRSTON: It depends on who you
24 talk to, but most of the people that you talk to
25 that have systems that are similar to ours where

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 it's with a major City, we probably do better than
3 anybody. The only person I think that might be
4 close would be Houston, and Houston has, I think,
5 80-some ambulances and they run a few more thousand
6 calls than we do. They're collections, I think were
7 close to 22 million, but that was based on a gross
8 figure and not a net figure -- 20 million, I'm
9 sorry, not 22 million.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.
11 The Chair recognizes Councilman Ortiz.

12 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Thank you, Madam
13 Chair. I've got to begin the way we always begin,
14 Commissioner. Again, out of the corps of fire
15 fighters -- and we seem to have a problem recruiting
16 Latino fire fighters for some reason or another.
17 What is the percentage of Latinos right now in the
18 Fire Department?

19 MR. HAIRSTON: 3.19 percent.

20 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And the officer
21 corps, the supervisors?

22 MR. HAIRSTON: Officer corps, you only
23 have two that are lieutenant's.

24 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And over the years,
25 we've had this problem of being able to bring in

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 Latinos from the fastest growing community in the
3 City. Do you have any inkling as to why?

4 MR. HAIRSTON: Well, actually, I think
5 that when haven't done badly, all things considered.
6 As you know, we go back some time where we decided
7 to set our goal at 10 percent, and we've met that
8 goal since when set that goal.

9 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: We're meeting that
10 goal?

11 MR. HAIRSTON: We're meeting that goal
12 of 10 percent, yes.

13 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: So that's why we have
14 gone up to the 3 percent that we have right now?

15 MR. HAIRSTON: Yes.

16 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: So in every class
17 that you have right now, we are getting 10 percent
18 of Latino men and women coming into Fire Department?

19 MR. HAIRSTON: That's correct.

20 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Very good.

21 In the issue of Hepatitis C, give me a
22 perspective on it. How is it affecting and
23 impacting the Fire Department and the finances? And
24 how are we doing with the fire fighters who have
25 contracted Hepatitis C?

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 MR. HAIRSTON: We only one person that I
3 can think of that is really suffering from long-term
4 illness where it has become so debilitating that the
5 person cannot work, and that's Mary Kohler. The
6 other persons are still coming to work. They are
7 getting medications. They are getting the meds that
8 they need and so forth. It may not be a perfect
9 scenario, but it's one where has not become so
10 debilitating to them that it really has affected our
11 service. As you might imagine, most of these people
12 that have Hepatitis C actually got it more than 10
13 years. Since I've been the Commissioner, they've
14 been universal precautions, and I think we only have
15 two cases that we know of.

16 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: That's because it
17 incubates, right?

18 MR. HAIRSTON: Because it what?

19 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Incubates and it
20 takes it time to be able to show itself?

21 MR. HAIRSTON: Well, I don't think so.
22 I think what happens is we've had these procedures
23 in place for a very long time. And if you suspect
24 that you have a contact, what you do is you tell us
25 and you fill out the forms and you get medical

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 attention from it immediately. And so we would have
3 that on the record. We've been encouraging people,
4 and fact is, have had it as a requirement as to if
5 you have a contact or you suspect that you have a
6 contact, you're supposed to notify us so that we can
7 take the proper steps as far as the hospitals are
8 concerned. So I think it's because we have been
9 using these precautions for a very long time where
10 you put the gloves, on you put the mask on, you make
11 sure that you don't have any open cuts or anything
12 like that, and you do exactly what the doctor's have
13 taught us to do as to why we've been so successful
14 since we've used the universal precautions to have
15 such a low rate of it.

16 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Has all the problems
17 with the contract been resolved?

18 MR. HAIRSTON: Well, that's an argument
19 that you can argue whether or not it's being
20 resolved or not. There are a couple of things that
21 are in there. One of which was to put some
22 ventilators in the fire houses. We have worked with
23 Risk Management. Risk Management is now engaged in
24 contracts to see that that happens. They have eight
25 of them listed so that they can get those things

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 done. They did engineering studies and so forth,
3 the fortunate part of which was that the air in the
4 fire houses was nowhere near as polluted as it had
5 been otherwise thought to be. And so that's on its
6 way to being resolved.

7 The base line testing for Hepatitis C
8 has all been set up. We have plans within this next
9 month to run some pilots. We'll have about 200
10 people that will be tested as part of the pilot to
11 be set up in four sites. We're going to see what we
12 learn from that in terms of setting it up. It takes
13 about 15 minutes per company in order to do that.
14 Once we get the feedback back from that, then we're
15 going to test everybody in the Department. And
16 that's all being arranged through and contracted
17 through Risk Management. So those are the two
18 things that have really been the major issues as far
19 as that is concerned. And some of the other issues
20 we had been working on in just have good
21 relationships from the union and we've been meeting,
22 not discussing but cases where we can implement
23 things that we think are good for everybody. That's
24 the kind of thing that we're trying to do.

25 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Thank you, Madam

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 Chair.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you very
4 much.

5 Are there any other questions from
6 Members of the Committee?

7 The Chair recognizes Councilman Rizzo.

8 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Commissioner just to
9 finish up here and it sounds like I'm going to be
10 the last member to address you. I just want to tell
11 you what a great job the Fire Department always does
12 under the worst conditions. They're always there.
13 I just want all of you to know how I personally feel
14 about the work you do.

15 MR. HAIRSTON: Thank you. I really
16 appreciate that. And I appreciate your support, not
17 only today, but over the years. And by you being a
18 member of our Citizens Fire Prevention Committee, it
19 means a lot to us.

20 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you,
21 Commissioner.

22 MR. HAIRSTON: Thank you.

23 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Madam
24 Chair.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 Thank you very much, Commissioner. And
3 gain, thank you for your patience.

4 MR. HAIRSTON: Thank you.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Philadelphia
6 prisons is next.

7 (Witnesses come forward.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good
9 afternoon. Please identify yourself for the record
10 and proceed with your testimony.

11 MR. COSTELLO: My name is Thomas
12 Costello. I'm the Prisons Commissioner of the City
13 of Philadelphia. With me today, to my right, Deputy
14 Commissioner Press Grooms; to my left, Mr. Ed
15 Szymanski, Fiscal Officer; also here today is Leon
16 King, our Chief Legal Counsel; Dianne Granlund who
17 is the head of our Population Management Unit; and
18 Alan Appel, our Director of Inmate Services.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify
20 and answer any questions you may have concerning the
21 FY '03 Operating Budget for the Philadelphia Prison
22 System. We have some submitted some extensive
23 written testimony. However, I would now like to
24 point out some of the highlights for our FY '03
25 budget request.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 The \$164.7 million Operating Budget
3 request for FY '03 is based on a projected average
4 daily inmate population of 8,034 and is 8.6 million
5 or 5.5 percent more than our FY '02 estimated
6 obligation level.

7 FY '03 General Fund Class 100 request of
8 \$94.1 million reflects a phase-in of additional
9 full-time staff and overtime savings and is an
10 increase of 2.3 million over FY '02. It funds an
11 average of 2,007 full-time positions, including an
12 additional 200 positions for the women's detention
13 facility, tentatively scheduled to be opened in the
14 latter part of FY '03.

15 The General Fund Class 200 request of
16 \$64.9 million contains funding for increased cost of
17 health service and foot services and out-of-county
18 housing for inmates. This is a 10.8 increase over
19 FY '02 estimated obligation level of 58.6 million
20 and is related to the rise in the inmate population.

21 Funding levels for Class 300, 400 and
22 500 remain the same as the previous year.

23 The FY '03 budget will allow us to
24 continue to maintain our facilities in a safe and
25 secure manner, provide adequate medical and mental

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 health services, allow us to continue to maintain
3 our inmate services programming, including social
4 services; in-house substance abuse treatment
5 programs; and our educational, vocational, and
6 training programs; in addition to maintaining our
7 population control programs including our community
8 substance abuse treatment program which not only
9 serves as a population control mechanism, but also
10 reduces the overall rate of recidivism. It is
11 important to note that absent the current population
12 control programs we would be required to house
13 nearly 1400 inmates within the PPS, which is
14 actually higher than our current population at the
15 House of Correction, one of our main facilities.

16 Madam President, this concludes my
17 testimony. I'm now available to answer any
18 questions that you may have.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you very
20 much.

21 You state in your testimony that the
22 City is taking a number of steps to control the
23 growth in the prison census. What steps are you
24 taking?

25 MR. COSTELLO: There are a number of

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 steps that are being undertaken by the Population
3 Management Unit. There are -- Ms. Granlund do you
4 want to address that?

5 MS. GRANLUND: I'd be glad to address
6 that.

7 MR. COSTELLO: Ms. Granlund, our
8 Director for Population Management will address
9 that, Madam President.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

11 MS. GRANLUND: Madam President, good
12 afternoon. Dianne Granlund.

13 There are a number of things that the
14 prison and the City in general have done in
15 conjunction with the First Judicial District because
16 it's clear that although we operate the hotel,
17 they're in charge of the business. There are
18 pretrial release guidelines that the First Judicial
19 District has implemented, and implemented when the
20 cap went off which are, in theory at least, supposed
21 to govern who comes into jail who does not based on
22 an evaluation of prior failures to appear to court,
23 ties to the community, the nature of the offense,
24 being charged presently, and those kinds of factors.
25 They work fairly well in screening people away from

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 the jail from the beginning, from arrests onward.
3 There are a number of other things that we use. We
4 use electronic monitoring sometimes on a pretrial
5 basis and sometimes on a post-sentence basis to get
6 people out of jail back into the community and into
7 treatment. There is the Treatment Court which is
8 under the supervision of President Judge Louis
9 Presenza in the Municipal Court who will screen
10 people at all stages criminal justice system in an
11 effort to divert those from jail who are in need of
12 treatment.

13 There's the Intermediate Punishment
14 Program which also diverts people from jail, whether
15 pre-trial or post-trial. That happens at almost any
16 point along the way. These people are somewhat more
17 serious offenders, although they continue to be
18 nonviolent offenders.

19 We have the a program which we discussed
20 this morning during the Managing Director's
21 testimony which is an early parole program to drug
22 and alcohol treatment programs.

23 There are other initiatives that my
24 office has undertaken to speed up the trial of cases
25 of people who are in our custody so that we can

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 reduce their length of stay in the Philadelphia
3 Prison System.

4 There is also an Earned Time Good Time
5 Program which is a court -- it was devised by court
6 regulation. That has been amended to permit the
7 awarding of Earned Time Good Time to people who not
8 only remain infraction-free, but participate in and
9 successfully complete programs that are offered in
10 the prison setting.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Can you tell
12 us what the re-arrest rate for people under that
13 program, the Good Time Program?

14 MS. GRANLUND: I can get that
15 information for you.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.
17 The Chair recognizes Councilman Ortiz.

18 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Thank you, Madam
19 Chair.

20 Commissioner.

21 MR. COSTELLO: Good afternoon, sir.

22 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Good afternoon. I'm
23 going to read into the record a letter that was left
24 by Councilwoman Blondel Reynolds. She could not be
25 here. She wanted to put this letter on the record

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 and ask you the questions that come out of the
3 letter. It's letter from the Indochinese American
4 Council addressed to Warden Levy.

5 "I would like to bring to your attention
6 a very unpleasant experience of three other adults,
7 including a 9-month pregnant woman and myself had to
8 go through during the freezing night of February 11,
9 2002, at your facility. This pregnant woman is the
10 girlfriend of the incarcerated man that we tried to
11 bail out from your facilities. With your
12 permission, I will not disclose the name of the
13 incarcerated man because of fear of reprisal against
14 him.

15 "As the head of our community-based
16 organization, I volunteered to help get a family to
17 get one of their members released from your
18 facilities. The members of this family do not speak
19 English very well nor do they know how to
20 communicate with correction officers.

21 "We arrived at your facility at 11:00
22 p.m. on February 11, 2002, with bail paper. Ten
23 minutes after we handed in this paper, we were
24 advised by the receptionist that we could not stay
25 in the facility and must wait for our man in our car

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 which was parked in the facility's visitors parking
3 lot about a quarter mile from the facility. We
4 complied. However, we were forced to wait at the
5 parking lot until 4:35 a.m. or for more than five
6 hours and a half after we presented the bail paper.
7 During this period, all of us, including a ninth
8 month pregnant woman had to walk a few times in the
9 freezing night from the parking lot to the reception
10 area in order to use the bathroom. It took about 10
11 minutes to walk from the parking lot to reception
12 building. At one time I explained to your staff
13 that the pregnant woman might deliver a baby any
14 time. Instead of taking this concern seriously, one
15 correction officer said that she was concerned more
16 about my impatience more than the possibility that
17 the woman might deliver a baby. This remark was
18 made loudly in front of a number of people who
19 happened to be in the reception area. I found this
20 remark distasteful, insensitive, humiliating,
21 irresponsible and certainly lacking in dignity.

22 "I would appreciate it very much if you
23 could respond to my following questions regarding
24 the policy of your facility:

25 "Why weren't we allowed to stay in the

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 heated reception area until the incarcerated man was
3 released on bail?

4 "Why were we forced to stay in our car
5 in very cold weather for more than five hours
6 without being able to talk to anybody? During this
7 time we used our cell phones to call the facility,
8 telephone number, (215) 685-2862, several times and
9 no one pick up the phone.

10 "Why did it take more than five hours to
11 process the release of one incarcerated person?

12 "One of the purposes of this letter is
13 my sincere hope that no one will have to go through
14 what I call inhuman and humiliating treatment by
15 your staff and that all people who come to your
16 facility will be treated with dignity and respect.

17 "Thank you very much for your prompt
18 attention. Von D. Doy, Ph.D., (ph) Executive
19 Director, Indochinese Center."

20 Ms. Reynolds could not be here and she
21 left this letter, and I had would like a response
22 for the request.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Mr. Costello,
24 I too had received the very same letter. I
25 forwarded it to your attention, ask that you

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 investigate same and report your findings. To date,
3 I don't believe I have received a response to my
4 letter.

5 MR. COSTELLO: I will certainly
6 investigate that. I don't have a response right
7 now, Madam President. I will certainly look into it
8 and respond formally to both of you.

9 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Just address the
10 response to the President.

11 MR. COSTELLO: I just had one question
12 about the facility, which facility was that?

13 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I think it was from
14 Holts.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: What telephone
16 number?

17 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: It was 685-2862.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Is that number
19 familiar to any one of you?

20 MR. COSTELLO: No, it is not. But we
21 will certainly look into that.

22 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Well, nobody answered
23 it.

24 MR. COSTELLO: We will look into that.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Commissioner, how
3 many -- what's the total population now currently in
4 prison?

5 MR. COSTELLO: Our total population as
6 of this morning, actually as of last night midnight
7 was 7,689 inmates.

8 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: While you were here,
9 we had a big demonstration outside with people that
10 were questioning the treatment of prisoners in the
11 health program that is currently in service at the
12 prisons. They're concerned in terms of HIV,
13 Hepatitis C, the treatment they get.

14 On February 20th, I got a letter -- and
15 you know that we're going to have a hearing on
16 Thursday.

17 MR. COSTELLO: Yes.

18 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I got a letter on
19 February 20th about a Mr. Francis Xavier Cannon, and
20 I got this from the law firm of Saltz, Mongeluzzi,
21 Barrett & Bendesky. They represent the Estate of
22 Mr. Cannon.

23 He received injuries while in prison.
24 And according to the newspaper, Mr. cannon allegedly
25 struck a correctional officer while at the

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 correctional facility and the correctional struck
3 Mr. Cannon in the jaw causing a compound fracture to
4 the right mandible. What occurred next is unclear,
5 other than the fact that Mr. Cannon was transferred
6 at sometime thereafter to the correctional center's
7 medical facility operated by Prison Health Services
8 may have remained there approximately 24 hours in
9 spite of the fact that his right side was swollen.
10 He was spitting blood and agitated.

11 More than 24 hours after the assault Mr.
12 Cannon was transferred to Temple East, Northeastern
13 Hospital. According to their hospital records and
14 admission, Mr. Cannon was noticed having extensive
15 bleeding and swelling to the right side of his face.
16 He was brought to the emergency room for further
17 evaluation and he was intubated in the emergency
18 room for airway protection.

19 Mr. Cannon was then admitted to the
20 Intensive Care Unit with diagnosis of respiratory
21 failure in addition to mandibular fracture.

22 Mr. cannon underwent surgery to correct
23 the fracture, but his postoperative course was poor
24 because of a combination of reasons, including
25 anesthesia being responsible for aggravating his

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 preexisting liver condition.

3 Mr. Cannon was delivered to the hospital
4 and his family was notified and by that time Mr.
5 Cannon was unconscious. Surgery for the jaw was
6 required. He died October 14, 2001, from kidney
7 failure..."

8 Did you conduct an investigate into this
9 case?

10 MR. COSTELLO: We did an internal
11 investigation.

12 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And what were the
13 find of the Internal Affairs?

14 MR. COSTELLO: The findings from the
15 Internal Affairs did not show that the officer
16 involved violated our policies and procedures. But
17 that --

18 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: We're not talking
19 about the officer. It's the treatment. The officer
20 might have hit the individual, but it's the 24 hours
21 that go on after that and what happens within those
22 24 hours.

23 MR. COSTELLO: Well, again, the
24 investigation on this incident I believe is still
25 ongoing. I don't -- I believe that there's also

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 been litigation filed by the family of Mr. Cannon.
3 So at this point, I don't know how much information
4 would be available at this time, Councilman.

5 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: What information did
6 you give the family?

7 MR. COSTELLO: The information given to
8 the family?

9 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Yes. What did you
10 tell the family? The guy is in the hospital at one
11 point. He gets into a fight and then he dies.

12 MR. COSTELLO: Well, the information I
13 received specific to this case was that he had other
14 conditions. He had a major problem, medical
15 problem. Although he was taken to the hospital
16 initially because of the injury he incurred as a
17 result of the incident, there were other factors
18 that led to his death, not the broken jaw.

19 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Well, I don't think
20 many people die from a broken jaw. That's why
21 people are wondering why he died.

22 MR. COSTELLO: He died from existing
23 conditions. To the best of my knowledge on this
24 particular case, he died from existing medical
25 conditions that he had prior to being incarcerated.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: This happen to other
3 individuals within the prison system and have come
4 under the care of this company that you have a
5 contract with for what, \$27 million is it now?

6 MR. COSTELLO: Yes.

7 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: \$27 million. And
8 this company has come under criticism, internal
9 criticism, by your on consultants, but they still
10 got renewed in terms of their contract. And that
11 criticism in terms of the consultants was never
12 really turned over to this Council while we were
13 investigating the performance of this company.
14 Don't you think that those documents should be made
15 available to us now?

16 MR. COSTELLO: The documents concerning
17 exactly --

18 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Well, the studies
19 that have been made about the performance of
20 Philadelphia Health Systems and the studies that
21 consultants that have written that we have paid with
22 taxpayers' money.

23 MR. COSTELLO: I believe that there's
24 been documents submitted by the City. I do not know
25 to what extent. I assume that that was the

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 information that we had submitted. At this point,
3 maybe the Managing Director has some additional
4 information.

5 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: This company was
6 granted the contract really without -- this contract
7 was not put out to bid again, right? We just
8 renewed them?

9 MR. COSTELLO: There was a bidding
10 process for this.

11 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: They didn't have a
12 contract with options?

13 MR. COSTELLO: There was other companies
14 involved with PHS. Prison Health Services is the
15 name of the corporation.

16 This is Leon King, our Chief Legal
17 Counsel.

18 MR. KING: Good afternoon, Councilman
19 Ortiz. In regard to the documents you just referred
20 to, I believe you're referring to DePaul reports.
21 We provided to your office the DePaul for 2001 and
22 the year 2000 and we're gathering the ones from 1995
23 to 1999 that you requested and you should have them
24 in advance of the hearing on Thursday.

25 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Did we get them yet?

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 MR. KING: I don't know if they're there
3 yet. I know that we're working on it collectively.

4 MS. RICHMAN: Councilman, this is
5 Estelle Richman, Managing Director. There was a
6 very controlled bid process for PHS that we did.
7 They've just completed their first year. The
8 contract was awarded in July of 2001. We did go
9 through a process. We monitored this contract very
10 tightly. Many of your issues, I believe, should
11 really be directed to the City to know how our tight
12 our monitoring is.

13 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: We will do that on
14 Thursday.

15 MS. RICHMAN: And I will have the person
16 who manages the contract here as well as people from
17 the Behavioral Health System who oversee and tell
18 these folks what to do. Unfortunately, I will be
19 out of the area, but the folks who have monitored
20 this contract and worked this contract will be
21 available for your questions and to answer what
22 they're doing and how they're doing it.

23 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Well, whatever
24 information you have also about Mr. Cannon, we'd
25 really appreciate. And we would like to find out

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 what communications you had with their families and
3 so on. It's strange that people die.

4 Thank you, Madam Chair.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You're
6 welcome.

7 The Chair recognizes Councilman Nutter.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
9 Chair. Good afternoon, Commissioner.

10 MR. COSTELLO: Good afternoon,
11 Councilman.

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Commissioner, I'd
13 like to do two things. One, I want to go back to
14 one day last week at the Appropriations Committee
15 hearing. We had some discussion about the total
16 number of beds or cells, holding areas that are
17 available to people who happen to be incarcerated in
18 our system. There were, at the time, a fair amount
19 of numbers kind of going back and forth. And at
20 some point, I think we lost track of -- we may have
21 forgotten what the original question was. Your
22 testimony back on that day on February 19th was that
23 the current estimate for average inmate population
24 was 7,674. Somewhere in the course of the hearing I
25 then asked the question about the prison cap. While

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 naturally I was aware that the cap technically has
3 been lifted by the court, it was obviously put into
4 place because the prison naturally can only hold or
5 should only hold so many people, I'm assuming
6 according to some guidelines, and therein, started a
7 bit of the problem. Can you tell me how many
8 prisoners do we have, and define the term, how many
9 beds, how many cells, how many spaces, what's the
10 occupancy that you're allowed to have by way of any
11 code in the various facilities we have?

12 MR. COSTELLO: Currently, Councilman,
13 there is 7,689 inmates that are under the custody of
14 Philadelphia Prison System. The number of inmates
15 that are actually in the facilities today is 7162.
16 Our current number of beds available --

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I'm sorry,
18 Commissioner. 7,689 is what?

19 MR. COSTELLO: 7,689 are the number of
20 inmates that are committed to the Philadelphia
21 Prison System under the jurisdiction of this county,
22 of the City. Of that total, as of today, there is
23 7,162 that are actually being housed within the
24 system, in the physical facilities in Philadelphia.

25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So that means that

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 527 are somewhere else?

3 MR. COSTELLO: Yes. They are housed
4 somewhere else.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Where are they?

6 MR. COSTELLO: 409 are housed in
7 Delaware County. There are 50 being housed in other
8 jurisdictions on rent to other facilities. They're
9 not being housed in the system. They will
10 eventually come back to Philadelphia to finish out
11 their cases. And we have 68 being housed at the
12 State Department of Corrections.

13 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. Now, the 7162
14 number, how many beds do we have in our facilities
15 to deal with that cohort of people.

16 MR. COSTELLO: 7,468.

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Now, what was the
18 prison cap when we had a cap?

19 MR. COSTELLO: It was 5600 originally
20 prior to CFCF being completed. It was 5600.

21 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And CFCF added how
22 many?

23 MR. COSTELLO: CFCF actually added about
24 a thousand beds to the system because we closed
25 Holmesburg Prison which had a little over a thousand

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 beds. So CFCF added a thousand beds to the prison
3 system.

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So does that mean
5 that the total then became 6600?

6 MR. COSTELLO: Well, the total was never
7 officially changed but, actually, if you were to use
8 that number as a base, we would just add a thousand
9 beds to that. It would be 6600.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. But you said
11 we have 7468.

12 MR. COSTELLO: We have 7468 beds right
13 now in the prison system. So the cap had -- there
14 was no correlation between the cap and the number of
15 beds that were available. That was a number that
16 was given by the court which, to my knowledge, had
17 no actual formal formula attached to it. It was a
18 number that 5600 would be the ideal cap according to
19 someone in the court system.

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So based on the
21 information you shared, we actually have 306 beds
22 empty?

23 MR. COSTELLO: Yes, that's correct,
24 Councilman.

25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So we don't have an

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 overcrowding problem now?

3 MR. COSTELLO: Well, I would always like
4 to see more beds available, but it's -- everyone has
5 a bed as we speak.

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I understand that.
7 But why would you say -- if you have 306 beds empty,
8 why would you say that you'd always like to have
9 more beds?

10 MR. COSTELLO: Well, there are some beds
11 wouldn't be available to fill because of
12 classification issues that spoke about last time.
13 For example, I used the female classification and
14 the male so...

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So sometimes you
16 have an imbalance between the various
17 classifications, notwithstanding the fact that you
18 actually have more beds available than you have need
19 for?

20 MR. COSTELLO: Yes, sir.

21 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: If they're not in
22 the right categories, that causes a problem.

23 MR. COSTELLO: That creates a problem
24 sometimes.

25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: For the total

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 population and on average year to year, what is the
3 recidivism rate with regard to people who have been
4 in the facility or any other facilities once, on
5 average, how many times are they coming back?

6 MR. COSTELLO: Currently, our last
7 snapshot was 81 percent.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: 81 percent.

9 MR. COSTELLO: Of those coming back to
10 the facilities.

11 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: You must run a
12 really nice facility or they must not have anything
13 else to do with themselves.

14 Does that strike you as high?

15 MR. COSTELLO: I would say that it's a
16 high recidivism rate, yes sir.

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Is the high just
18 because the number is 81 percent or is it high
19 because it's significantly above either the national
20 average or -- I mean, how is that rank as compared
21 to other major cities across the country or counties
22 that have prison systems?

23 MR. COSTELLO: Those reporting
24 recidivism rates report basically on whatever they
25 consider to be the definition recidivism. One of

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 the issues that we have to deal with is measuring
3 exactly what that means as far as this jurisdiction.

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What does it mean to
5 you?

6 MR. COSTELLO: To me, a recidivist is
7 someone who is convicted of a crime and then
8 eventually is re-convicted at sometime in the
9 future. That person would be, to me, considered a
10 recidivist.

11 In a jurisdiction such as this our main
12 issue is the arrest rate because many of those
13 coming through, come through strictly because
14 they're arrested, whether or not they're convicted.
15 It's a real percentage of repeat arrestees that come
16 into the prison system that create a problem for us.

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Is the 81 percent
18 figure represent everybody who was in once and comes
19 back through regardless of whether they're
20 ultimately convicted or not?

21 MR. COSTELLO: It represents the number
22 of any of those who have been arrested and was
23 processed in our prison system and re-arrested for
24 the past 16 years that we've been keeping records.

25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What's the rate for

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 people who have actually been convicted once and
3 have come back through and subsequently been
4 convicted again?

5 MR. COSTELLO: We do not have specific
6 figures on that at this point. We're trying to
7 ascertain exactly what that rate would be and trying
8 to break it down in terms of length of time between
9 convictions, such as someone who comes in six months
10 or is arrested, convicted, serves their sentence,
11 discharged, and comes back within 6 months, 12
12 months, 18 months, 2 years. We're working on that
13 project right now, Councilman, and we're trying to
14 get accurate data on that issue.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What's the
16 percentage of people who come through the system,
17 whether they're convicted or not?

18 Let me preface the question. Is it my
19 understanding that everyone who is ultimately
20 processed is also drug tested?

21 MR. COSTELLO: They are given certain
22 tests when they come in.

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Is one of them to
24 determine the presence of drugs or other illegal
25 substances either in their blood or their urine?

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 MR. COSTELLO: Some of the tests do.

3 Mr. Grooms, do you have anything
4 specific as far as --

5 You mean if they have any illegal in
6 their system?

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Yes.

8 MR. COSTELLO: We don't presently do
9 that.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Why not? Don't you
11 want to know? Aren't there also safety issues
12 involved, or don't you need to know whether someone
13 has in addition to whatever it was that they were
14 locked up for -- I mean, I think there's literature
15 out in the public that seems to indicate that some
16 significant proportion of people either arrested or
17 convicted have some kind of drug problem. How would
18 you know that? Where does that information come
19 from?

20 MR. COSTELLO: Well, the information
21 comes from various studies that have been completed.
22 In fact, the last study that was completed in this
23 system showed about 80 percent of everyone coming
24 through the system has a form of either drug or
25 alcohol substance abuse.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: But then you tell me
3 that just in the regular course of business as
4 people are being processed that they're not drug or
5 substance tested?

6 MR. COSTELLO: Not upon admission.

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Why?

8 MR. COSTELLO: There probably isn't a
9 basis for doing that at this point because of the
10 number of admissions that come through the system
11 and the --

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: You take their
13 picture, don't you?

14 MR. COSTELLO: Yes, we.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: You have a basis for
16 that, right.

17 MR. COSTELLO: Yes.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Because you want to
19 know who the are?

20 MR. COSTELLO: Yes.

21 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: You take
22 fingerprints?

23 MR. COSTELLO: They're fingerprinted,
24 yes.

25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: A whole series of

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 things happen. You don't want to know whether this
3 person at that moment has something going on in
4 their system. Don't they present some level of
5 potential threat to anyone that they're either in
6 contact, whether it's at the moment a fellow inmate,
7 some other person, correction officer. I mean, if
8 somebody is completely whacked out on some substance
9 don't you want to know as they're coming through the
10 door what you're about to deal with?

11 MR. COSTELLO: They would be dealt with
12 specifically if there was some deviant behavior.
13 There is an extensive questionnaire that is given
14 upon admission.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What's deviant
16 behavior?

17 MR. COSTELLO: Acting out.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Most people act out
19 when they get arrested. Last I checked, it wasn't a
20 pleasant experience. So if you're arrested and act
21 like a nice person or don't exhibit these deviant
22 behavior signs or you're not throwing your arms up
23 and down or speaking, you know, in three foreign
24 languages at the same time or foaming at the mouth,
25 okay, you come in, you sit down, go sit over in

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 chair and we'll deal with you when we get to you,
3 notwithstanding the fact that they maybe as high as
4 a kite and have all kinds of other stuff going on in
5 their system and at some particular moment flip out
6 on somebody and stick a pen in their neck.

7 MR. COSTELLO: Well, normally, anyone
8 coming in, again, every inmate coming in every new
9 admitee is screened.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What do you mean
11 screened?

12 MR. COSTELLO: If we were to perform
13 tests on everyone coming in initially, it would take
14 probably several days to get back the results of any
15 of the tests that we would take. If there's someone
16 specifically coming in that has a problem, we deal
17 directly with that individual as a priority coming
18 in. If there's no complaints, if there's no deviant
19 behavior. Again, they go through a number of
20 processes when they're first admitted, including
21 medical screening and a physical where they were
22 physical upon admission.

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What's the average
24 length of stay for the average person that gets
25 popped by the system?

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 MR. COSTELLO: Average person who is
3 arrested?

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: An average person
5 gets arrested, what's their average length of stay?

6 MR. COSTELLO: Our average length of
7 stay is probably around three months, something like
8 that, around three months.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: You're telling me
10 that from the time they're arrested during the
11 course of three months, we don't have time to figure
12 out whether that person has a substance problem and
13 to give them some kind of test?

14 MR. COSTELLO: Well, 50 percent are out
15 within the first two weeks, Mr. Nutter.

16 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I understand that,
17 but you said it would take three to six days to get
18 a test back.

19 MR. COSTELLO: I don't know how long it
20 would take to get the various tests back, but it
21 certainly takes several days.

22 If someone's coming in, they would get
23 immediate attention and immediate screening.

24 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: All right, fine.
25 Let's forget about the folks who just kind of come

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 in, maybe they're out in a couple days. Let's talk
3 about the people who are going to extend their stay
4 with us for a little while. Are all of those people
5 drug tested?

6 MR. COSTELLO: They're not drug tested,
7 but they're tested for any problem that they have,
8 any medical problems that they have.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, substance
10 abuse might be a medical problem, right?

11 MR. COSTELLO: I'll ask Mr. Grooms to
12 comment.

13 MR. GROOMS: Press Grooms, Deputy
14 Commission. What we have, your Honor, is a
15 screening process and each and every inmate that
16 come in is seen by a nurse or medical person and
17 there's a list of questions that we ask: Have you
18 ever been arrested before? Have you ever used
19 drugs? What type of drugs do you use?

20 And 80 percent of them answer "yes" to
21 those questions. Once we do that, if we determine
22 that that person is on some type of drugs, say,
23 heroin and they're going to be going through detox,
24 that person is seen by the doctor immediately and
25 given medication for detox.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What is that,
3 methadone?

4 MR. GROOMS: We are not giving methadone
5 as of yet. But there are other medications that we
6 give instead of methadone to those individuals that
7 are withdrawing for drugs. So we do know the number
8 of inmates that come in that are utilizing drugs
9 because of the screening process that we do and
10 because most of them are honest in terms of, "have
11 you been using drugs?"

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And you said the
13 number is 80 percent.

14 MR. GROOMS: Roughly about 80 percent of
15 those people that are incarcerated have drugs or
16 drug-related or alcohol-related charges, yes.

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And is that number
18 now consistent across the population of -- so you're
19 now telling me that out of 7,162 people housed in a
20 facility, on average on any day 80 percent of them
21 have a drug problem?

22 MR. COSTELLO: Have either a substance
23 abuse or an alcohol problem, some type of substance
24 abuse problem.

25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What are we doing to

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 help them?

3 MR. COSTELLO: As far as, as I said,
4 probably 50 percent of those coming into the system
5 that are here for the first couple of weeks are
6 discharged. There is medications that are given to
7 them if they need to be detoxed. Although we do not
8 have a methadone program, we do have other
9 medications that we administer if they are suffering
10 from that type of problem. We do have for others
11 whatever programming that is available for those
12 that are amenable to treatment. For example, we
13 have quite an extension options program which is our
14 in-house substance abuse treatment program. We have
15 several slots that available for them if they are
16 amenable to treatment.

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What does amenable
18 to treatment mean?

19 MR. COSTELLO: They're willing to
20 address their substance abuse problem.

21 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And if they're not?

22 MR. COSTELLO: If they're not, then
23 we're not going to treat them unless they're
24 absolutely amenable to it.

25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, how do you

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 deal with a substance abuse problem when you're in
3 prison and you're not in treatment?

4 MR. COSTELLO: Through education,
5 through therapy.

6 Mr. Appel, did you want to step in here?
7 This is Deputy for all treatment programs and runs
8 the substance abuse treatment programs within the
9 system.

10 MR. APPEL: Hello, Mr. Nutter. Alan
11 Appel, Director of inmate services.

12 We have approximately 900 inmates that
13 are in your drug treatment program per month.

14 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: The same 900,
15 approximately?

16 MR. APPEL: No. There's a rapid
17 changing of that number as inmates are released and
18 new inmates are admitted and then enrolled. That
19 number for the Fiscal Year '01, approximately
20 2300 -- no, no. If you can give me one minute,
21 please.

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: No problem.

23 MR. APPEL: Approximately 20,900
24 inmates went through group treatment through the
25 options program.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And how many people
3 actually came through the system during that same
4 time period.

5 MR. COSTELLO: We had during the same
6 time period about 35,000 admissions.

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Let me try to
8 understand this. You presently have 7,162 housed in
9 the facility.

10 MR. COSTELLO: Yes.

11 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: 80 percent of whom
12 have some kind of substance abuse problem.

13 MR. COSTELLO: Yes, we believe about 80
14 percent.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: That's 5,730. You
16 have 900 slots, approximately.

17 MR. APPEL: Yes, sir.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: For 5,730 people.
19 What happens to everybody else?

20 MR. COSTELLO: Let me just say this,
21 Councilman. Our priority for our substance abuse
22 treatment is for the sentenced inmates, inmates that
23 are sentenced to the system that are going to be
24 with us for a while. Our priority is that
25 population, which is probably around 2700 of the

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 total that you're speaking of. Of that 2700,
3 probably about 50 percent are amenable to treatment.
4 About 50 percent are willing -- you know, there are
5 individuals that will admit they have a drug and
6 alcohol problem, but I would say probably
7 professionally about 50 percent are actually
8 amenable to treatment and are willing to take
9 treatment of the sentenced inmates, which would
10 probably be around 1400 of the sentenced.

11 MR. APPEL: Right. And then since we
12 know that only about 80 percent of those inmates
13 have drug problems, that brings the number down to
14 about 1200. We have approximately 400 of our
15 sentenced inmates are housed in the Delaware County
16 Prison.

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: We already
18 eliminated them from the population for this
19 discussion. They're not in the 7,162.

20 MR. COSTELLO: But they're a good part
21 of the sentenced population. So there has to be
22 some portion of that population that we can
23 attribute to not receiving --

24 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Commissioner, let me
25 go back to something, though, that you said. Maybe

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 that's a part of the issue. What you said earlier
3 was if 7,162 people, and then I thought I heard you
4 say only 2700 of whom are basically your sentenced
5 individuals and that they were your priority. I'm
6 sure you did not mean to convey, though, that the
7 other people who came through your system for some
8 amount of time are not your priority because you had
9 them for some period of time, you know they have
10 some kind of substance abuse problem, you've got an
11 81 percent recidivism rate probably driven by the
12 fact that most of those same people have a drug
13 problem for which they were either robbing,
14 stealing, shooting, or doing something else which
15 caused them to be re-arrested. But they never got
16 any real treatment, so they keep coming back and
17 they keep coming back and they keep coming back. At
18 what point in time does that group, the
19 non-long-stay people, who treats them and who deals
20 with them and their issues?

21 MR. COSTELLO: There are many, many
22 community treatment programs that are available to
23 them that are provided throughout the City. The
24 City spends millions of dollars upward to maybe a
25 billion dollars on those programs throughout the

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 entire City. The priority for the prison system, as
3 I said --

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, Commissioner,
5 with every respect, and I know you don't run the
6 whole social service system, if they were working,
7 you wouldn't see 81 percent of the people back. So
8 obviously that's not the answer.

9 MR. COSTELLO: Well, we do have some of
10 the other un-tried, although they're not the
11 priority for the system, there are un-tried, some of
12 those who are un-tried who do participate in the
13 programs. We don't have a program that's large
14 enough to deal with the entire prison population
15 sentenced and un-sentenced.

16 MR. APPEL: The inmates who are
17 committed to serve a sentence where we know that
18 they'll be with us for a certain amount of time and
19 who are kind of beyond denial of the problem since
20 they've been convicted, are the ones who are most
21 likely to be successful. If you enroll someone and
22 three days later they get bailed out, you've kind of
23 not had a chance to allow your program to work.

24 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. Let me ask
25 with reference to the same population of my last

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 question. Who works with either the sentenced or
3 the non-sentenced people on issues around
4 post-incarceration employment and trying to help
5 people get either their lives back on track or if
6 they were never on track, on a track? Because, one,
7 I'm sure it must be very difficult to get any kind
8 of employment if you have even a little bit of a
9 record. Who works directly with this population to
10 help them start to point their lives in the right
11 direction, not only on the substance abuse side if
12 that's an issue, but on the kind of work side
13 getting your life together program?

14 MR. COSTELLO: Our vocational training
15 staff work along with certain programs that we have
16 that try to help a certain percentage, obviously, in
17 getting jobs and employment.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: How many people went
19 through the program last year?

20 MR. COSTELLO: We also had the work
21 release program that's working to ensure that those
22 have jobs that are committed to work release that do
23 not have employment.

24 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I actually don't
25 know what that means.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 MR. COSTELLO: If someone is committed
3 to the prison system with a work release program, we
4 have to find them a job and work with them to get a
5 job.

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: How many of those
7 people are the re.

8 MR. COSTELLO: We have about 250, I
9 assume.

10 MR. APPEL: In our last Fiscal Year,
11 1914 inmates went through one of our vocational
12 training programs.

13 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And how many of them
14 found employment?

15 MR. APPEL: I don't have the answer,
16 sir. But what I can say is that in our new Fiscal
17 '03 contract with our vocational training provider,
18 we have greatly reemphasized that the primary
19 outcome that we expect from them will be placement
20 upon parole. Rather than simply providing job
21 training, we will expect to provide them with actual
22 work when they are paroled.

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: All right. Do me a
24 favor. If you would get information to the Chair
25 responding to the question of -- if you're telling

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 me that last year 1914 inmates came through the
3 vocational training program, I'd like to know how
4 many of that number actually found employment and
5 sustained that employment for at least six months.

6 MR. COSTELLO: We'll find whatever
7 information we can, Councilman.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you.
9 Thank you, Madam Chair.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Mr. Costello,
11 do we have a contract with physicians at the prison?

12 I see that the inmate medical services
13 is something like \$28 million. Do we have
14 physicians that are under contract and how many
15 physicians do we have at the prison? Are they there
16 24 hours a day? Are they there just on certain
17 days, certain hours?

18 MR. COSTELLO: I don't have that
19 information.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm sure
21 somebody must.

22 MR. GROOMS: I can't tell you the exact
23 number.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Please
25 identify yourself for the record.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 MR. GROOMS: My name is Press Grooms,
3 Deputy Commissioner.

4 I can't give you the exact number of
5 physicians that we have, but I can tell you this,
6 that there's a physician on duty 24 hours, 7 days a
7 week in one of our major institutions. And there
8 are physicians on at the other four institutions for
9 16 hours a day -- correction, three of the four
10 institutions for 16 hours a day.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm sorry,
12 who's on for 16 hours a day?

13 MR. GROOMS: There are physicians on
14 duty at one institution 24 hours a day. There's a
15 physician on duty at three of the four other
16 institution for at least 16 hours a day. But in
17 terms of a number, I cannot give you the number of
18 physicians that are employed by the contractor. But
19 I can find that out for you.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Would let us
21 know, please.

22 MR. GROOMS: I can do that.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are there any
24 other questions from Members of the Committee?

25 Gentlemen, thank you very much.

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 Mr. Costello, is there something you
3 wanted to clarify or the Managing Director wants to
4 clarify.

5 MR. COSTELLO: The contract for PHS is
6 \$28 million for the entire which contains the
7 salaries for the physicians that are employed with
8 that company.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm sure for
10 medication and -- I realize that. I was just
11 wondering if we had a contract with physicians. We
12 do not?

13 MR. COSTELLO: No. It's part of the
14 overall contract.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And whose the
16 contract with?

17 MR. COSTELLO: Prison Health Services.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And how many
19 doctors are assigned?

20 MR. COSTELLO: Again, I don't have the
21 exact number. But there are physicians on duty.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Oh, I didn't
23 think that the doctors got \$28 million. I realize
24 full well that that is for many of the medical
25 services. I was just curious to know about the

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 physicians and the type of coverage. Thank you.

3 Department of Records is next.

4 (Witnesses come forward.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good evening.

6 MS. DECKER: Good evening. I will be
7 very brief. Good evening Council President Verna
8 and Councilmembers. My name is Joan Decker, I'm the
9 Records Commissioner and I have with me today Jeanne
10 Reedy, Administrative Services Director; and
11 Virginia Martinez, Payroll Assistant; and Dave
12 Werbo, Budget Assistant.

13 For Fiscal Year '03, the Records
14 Department is requesting a General Fund Operating
15 Budget of \$5,424,009, which represents a net
16 increase of \$48,513 from the '02 estimated
17 obligations.

18 Just a few points in FY '01. We
19 collected \$95.6 million comprised of recording fees
20 and realty transfer taxes. And this marks the
21 fourth year that we do not have a document recording
22 backlog.

23 I'd be happy to answer any questions you
24 may have.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I, for one,

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 think that you and your department have done a
3 really fantastic job. And I congratulate you.
4 MS. DECKER: Thank you very much.
5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Councilwoman
6 Blackwell.
7 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you. I
8 wanted to echo the statements of the president. We
9 thank you. You've done a great job since you've
10 been Commissioner and we thank you for your service.
11 MS. DECKER: Thank you very much. We
12 want to continue that, and I will convey that to the
13 staff.
14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Did I
15 understand you to say you have absolutely no
16 backlog?
17 MS. DECKER: No backlog.
18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Amazing.
19 Amazing.
20 Councilman Nutter, I'm sure want to say
21 a word.
22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Absolutely, Madam
23 President.
24 Commissioner Decker and her staff, we do
25 remember not too many years ago how tough it was for

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)
2 you. And you came here and told us that with some
3 additional support you would be able to turn things
4 around. You have clearly done that. I wish to
5 continue to commend you and also thank you for a
6 great response whenever we've called the office.
7 Things have shown up instantaneously.

8 I read the real estate section in
9 Sunday's newspaper just to kind of keep track of
10 different transactions. I noticed the other day
11 that there was a listing about sales in the City
12 that had taken place in early January, and this was
13 about a week or so ago in relatively early February.
14 Those listings used to show sales of maybe six to
15 nine months previous. And the fact you're almost at
16 a real-time basis is really quite amazing. And I
17 want to thank you for the great service. We are
18 paying attention out there. Thank you very much.
19 Keep up the good job.

20 MS. DECKER: Thank you all for your
21 support. We appreciate Council support. Thank you.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: For you to be
23 up there and testifying for all of six minutes you
24 must pat yourself on the back and tell yourself how
25 wonderful you and your staff are. Because I think

1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 the Managing Director was up there for how many
3 hours today?

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: At least four.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: At least four.

6 Congratulations. Thank you so much. We appreciate
7 your patience.

8 MS. DECKER: Thanks for your support.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This Committee
10 will stand in recess until tomorrow, Wednesday,
11 February 27 at 9:30 a.m. Thank you.

12 (Council adjourned at 5:30 p.m.)

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1 2/26/02 COMM. OF THE WHOLE - BILL 020001 (cont'd.)

2 C E R T I F I C A T I O N

3

4 I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing
5 proceedings of the Council of the City of
6 Philadelphia of February 20, 2002, were reported
7 fully and accurately by me, and that this is a
8 correct transcript of the same.

9

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12 RE: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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17 _____
Josephine Cardillo, RPR
18 and Notary Public

19

20 _____
Lisa C. Bradley, RPR
21 and Notary Public

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