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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - BUDGET

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Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Monday, April 16, 2007
10:45 a.m.

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PRESENT:

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA

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COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL

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COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE

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COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.

14

COUNCILMAN WILLIAM GREENLEE

15

COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY

16

COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO

17

BILLS 070114, 070115 and 070116
RESOLUTION 070128

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good morning, everyone. Sorry for the delay. This is our continued public hearing of the Committee of the Whole.

I would ask Mr. McPherson to please call the first department, please.

MR. MCPHERSON: The Department of Public Property.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good morning. Welcome. Please identify yourself for the record and proceed with your testimony.

COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK: Good morning, Council President Verna, members of City Council. I am Joan Schlotterbeck, Department of Public Property Commissioner. It's a pleasure to be here this morning on this awful day to present my FY08 budget. With me today on my left is Frank Punzo, Deputy Commissioner for Communications, and on my right is James Lewis, Facilities Director.

I'd like to take a minute to

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 summarize my testimony. Otherwise, I can
3 read it verbatim.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: No.
5 We'd appreciate it if you would summarize
6 it. We will give a copy to the
7 stenographer and it will be transcribed
8 in full.

9 Commissioner Schlotterbeck:
10 Okay. Thank you.
11 The Department of Public
12 Property's FY08 budget request is
13 approximately 215 million. It's a
14 decrease of approximately 18 million over
15 my estimated obligations for '07. The
16 Class 100 is down about 10.5 percent. My
17 positions are down to 173 from 180. My
18 Class 200 budget is decreased by 10
19 percent, 300 decreased by 12. All of
20 these are a direct result of the transfer
21 of MOIS out of Public Property.

22 In my Facilities Division, we
23 have continued our process of
24 consolidation. We successfully took the
25 Fire Department in in FY06. We have now

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 taken the control of Riverview, and that
3 will be a complete consolidation
4 financially and otherwise by the new
5 fiscal year.

6 One of the highlights for the
7 Fire Department has been the initiative
8 to improve the exhaust systems at the
9 apparatus bays. The Department has
10 recently completed a plan to install
11 switches between the doors and exhaust
12 fans to activate the fans automatically
13 when the doors open. The long-term plan
14 is to install new source capture systems
15 over the next several years.

16 The other highlight for the
17 Facilities Division is the new
18 introduction of new security system in
19 City Hall. This was a process that had
20 to unite several local databases that
21 control access to numerous facilities
22 nearby. Basically, what we're doing is
23 we're integrating the triplex, the One
24 Parkway, the Municipal Services Building
25 and City Hall, so that those who need

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 access to all buildings will have that
3 capability with one card.

4 We will then have
5 around-the-clock security. We've
6 upgraded the number of staff for security
7 from seven to 11, I believe it is. We
8 have spent a lot of time meeting with the
9 tenants badging, First Judicial District,
10 Mayor's Office, City Council, Bar
11 Association. We feel that we're very
12 prepared for the process and we're just
13 waiting for the time to turn it on.

14 The other major highlight in
15 the Division is, the Department of Public
16 Property, SEPTA and PATCO have agreed to
17 allow the Center City District to begin
18 to contract directly for custodial
19 services in the concourses. This is a
20 major initiative for all of us, and we
21 feel it's the right way to go because you
22 have one body taking care of all of the
23 concourse as opposed to having sections
24 off with staffing levels that are varied
25 and deliverables, therefore, affected.

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 So we're very happy with this -- and this
3 should happen by the end of this fiscal
4 year, for the City and SEPTA will follow
5 in the summertime.

6 The Communications Division,
7 we're trying to -- we're not trying.
8 We're in the process of improving the
9 underground communication systems,
10 primarily the 800 megahertz radio. This
11 will enhance the abilities of first
12 responders to react and respond to
13 emergency situations that may arise in
14 the underground. In a coordinated effort
15 with SEPTA, the Police and Fire, an
16 interim solution has been placed into
17 service combining the use of SEPTA
18 radios, the City 800 megahertz and the
19 Rios system, which will allow three
20 diverse systems to be bridged together in
21 the event of an emergency prior to the
22 build-out of the new 800 megahertz system
23 underground.

24 The Department is working with
25 Cingular and its build-out of the

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 cellular network underground as another
3 method for first responders to
4 communicate. An agreement has been
5 reached with Motorola on the underground
6 study to determine the potential for
7 using in-place SEPTA fiber to connect a
8 series of bidirectional antennas allowing
9 communications underground using our
10 current 800 megahertz system.

11 The Real Estate Division in
12 Public Property remains committed to
13 doing as much as it can to have more
14 cost-effective leases and space needs.
15 The huge initiative for us this year is,
16 we have applied for base realignment and
17 closing facilities, BRAC, that are
18 located in Philadelphia. These are
19 federal buildings that are closing. We
20 have two applications in, one for
21 Woodhaven, which would be our back-up --
22 it will be a multi-purpose site, housing
23 the Police Training Academy, 9-1-1
24 Training Center and a back-up 9-1-1 call
25 center. The other location is the

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 Wissahickon facility, and it will be
3 operational and administrative
4 headquarters for Police covert and
5 underground units. The hope is that we
6 will be selected for these properties,
7 and we would hope that it would happen
8 sometime at the end of FY08.

9 The other major impact on our
10 real estate will be the Convention Center
11 expansion, and the Department of Public
12 Property is working diligently to
13 relocate the current tenants, which is
14 the Office of Supportive Housing and we
15 also have some Police in 1321 Race. So
16 we're working on that. We will meet the
17 deadline of getting them out in time.

18 We continue also with our
19 citywide initiative for special events
20 and we remain committed to that.

21 That's about the extent of the
22 highlights from my testimony. I'm
23 available for any questions you may have.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
25 you very much.

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:

3 You're welcome.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:

5 Before I ask any questions, I want to
6 publicly thank you and your department
7 for the fantastic job you do.

8 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:

9 Thank you.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: I
11 think just with what you did in this one
12 room alone, it may have taken a little
13 time, but you really poured your heart
14 into it and I want to thank you for that.

15 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:

16 Thank you. I appreciate it.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:

18 Commissioner, on Page 2 of your
19 testimony, you mention facilities
20 management. Can you tell us the number
21 of facilities Public Property has the
22 maintenance responsibilities of?

23 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:

24 Well, we have approximately -- well, we
25 have 41 Police facilities, 63 Fire

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 facilities, 24 Public Property, if you
3 will, facilities, including City Hall,
4 and then we have the triplex, which is
5 One Parkway, MSB and the Criminal Justice
6 Center. So we're looking at at least
7 five million square feet of space.
8 That's an approximate number at this
9 point.

10 And I forget. What was the
11 second question, the second part of your
12 question?

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: No.
14 There wasn't. I just asked the number of
15 maintenance facilities you were
16 responsible for.

17 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:
18 Okay.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: How
20 many maintenance positions are you funded
21 for in FY08?

22 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:
23 104.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: How
25 many did we have in '07?

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:

3 92.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: In
5 your opinion, will your proposed
6 maintenance staff for FY08 allow you to
7 meet the maintenance needs of the various
8 City facilities, bring the facilities up
9 to code and do this during regular
10 working hours?

11 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:

12 Actually, I believe that if Public
13 Property could not be hit with the
14 unending surprises, if you will, the
15 emergency situations that arise, if we
16 get the upgrade to our software and we
17 continue to make better use of our
18 manpower by zoning and attacking areas of
19 the City with teams, I think we could
20 possibly meet all of our requirements.
21 It's just that we, as you are well aware,
22 so often get hit with emergencies that
23 set us back a little bit.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I

25 know.

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 Then when City Council needs
3 work done, it will not be on overtime and
4 you will not charge us for the work,
5 correct?

6 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK: I
7 don't know that that will be quite --

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Oh,
9 come on.

10 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK: I
11 will do my best not to charge you, but
12 often times we end up, like I said, doing
13 a lot of work on overtime, and in the
14 case of Council, often it's because we
15 can't have access unless it's on the
16 weekends or in the evenings as well.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
18 Controller's Office issued a report on
19 the conditions of the various Police
20 facilities. The report detailed the
21 deplorable conditions that exist as a
22 result of deferred maintenance. Have you
23 been able to correct these problems?

24 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:
25 The answer is, we've been working very

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 hard at addressing most of the issues
3 that are easily taken care of with my
4 staffing. One of the things they wanted
5 us to do is give the Police Department
6 access to our work order system, which
7 they didn't have and in a lot of cases
8 that precluded them from getting their
9 request for work done as fast as they
10 could have otherwise. So we've done
11 that.

12 They've also asked us to
13 address different ways we produce --
14 well, ways we handle responding to work
15 orders, and we've been trying to do a
16 better job with the zone concept so that
17 if you get someone out there because the
18 light is out and they get there and they
19 notice that there's a leak in the sink,
20 that they report that back to their
21 co-workers so that everything gets done
22 in a more timely manner.

23 We've implemented a full load
24 transfer program to the generator
25 maintenance program. That was one of the

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2 things they were critical of. We were
3 installing new generators and they were
4 concerned that we weren't prepared with a
5 full plan to continue to exercise them.

6 We have, as I said, continued
7 to expand the zones. We're actually in
8 the process of getting a couple of
9 facilities that we own out there in other
10 parts of the City staffed properly and
11 get some materials out there so our
12 response time is faster. And we've done
13 a really good job of trying to clear out
14 all the debris. Often times Police stack
15 things, materials, paperwork, and we're
16 working very hard at clearing that out so
17 that we can get to what we need to get to
18 in a faster way.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
20 you.

21 On Page 2 of your testimony,
22 you also mention that you are budgeted
23 enough in regards to monitor and secure
24 City Hall around the clock. How many
25 guards will you be hiring?

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:

3 We're going to be hiring four new guards.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Four?

5 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:

6 Yes. We'll have a total of 11.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And

8 that will be on weekends also?

9 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:

10 Well, the Police will still be here off

11 hours on weekends. There will always be

12 Police at the front northeast corner.

13 That's not going to go away. But, yes,

14 we will have staff. We're going to

15 change shifts and we're going to work

16 around --

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Tell

18 me how the guards will work, please. How

19 will the security guards work?

20 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:

21 Well, the front door especially until

22 we're fully comfortable with how we're

23 operating with the front door concept,

24 meaning northeast corner, the guards will

25 be there all during rush hour and at the

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 end of the day. So I would assume we may
3 have as many as three guards there
4 complementing the police officer. Then
5 the other ones will be responsible to
6 continue to walk through the building.
7 There will be security check points where
8 they'll be testing, stopping by and we'll
9 know they've been through buildings,
10 through the areas, through the men's
11 rooms, through the ladies rooms, continue
12 to basically patrol.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: But
14 it seems that whenever we had an incident
15 with the water in this room, for
16 instance, I think that happened on, I
17 think it was, Good Friday or maybe a
18 Saturday.

19 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:
20 Right.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: And
22 if somebody had been patrolling the
23 corridors, I think they would have heard
24 the water and possibly we would not have
25 had as much damage. When we had the

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 problem in the Caucus Room, if there had
3 been somebody patrolling the corridors --
4 and I think that occurred on a weekend
5 also -- maybe we wouldn't have had as
6 much damage. When somebody broke into
7 the Supreme Court, I believe that was
8 also a weekend.

9 I think we definitely need
10 security during the weekends, because as
11 I said, it ends up costing, as I said,
12 for this room alone like millions of
13 dollars. So if we have some patrolling
14 going along in the corridors, I think
15 even people that come in to do some work
16 on a weekend would feel a lot safer.

17 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:
18 Well, Jim, do you want to take a minute?
19 Do you have a plan?

20 I mean, basically at this point
21 we don't have the staffing to do the
22 weekend patrols, but that is our intent.

23 MR. LEWIS: James Lewis,
24 Facilities Director.

25 Council President, we are

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 working on a plan as we hire guards and
3 train the guards to have a touring system
4 where we can ensure as management that
5 our guards are doing the walking tours
6 throughout the building throughout the
7 floors, and they will work in concert
8 with the officer at the front desk, who
9 will have our radios, that if he sees
10 something on the camera there or he has
11 an issue, he can send our guard to check
12 it out, and vice versa. If our guard
13 comes across a situation that he can't
14 control, or he or she, he can radio back
15 to the officer and then get help.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: But
17 that will be from Monday to Friday.

18 MR. LEWIS: No, no, and the
19 weekends as well.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Oh,
21 the weekends as well?

22 MR. LEWIS: Yes.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Oh,
24 good.

25 MR. LEWIS: Seven days a week.

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Point of
3 information.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And
5 how many guards would you have on the
6 weekend?

7 MR. LEWIS: Right now we have
8 plans just to have one guard per shift
9 work with the officer.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
11 Councilman Rizzo.

12 COUNCILMAN RIZZO:
13 Commissioner, do we have technology --
14 President Verna pointed out about the
15 terrible damage that occurred to this
16 room and also the Caucus Room, and the
17 Mayor's reception room was damaged. I
18 understand that there's technology, a
19 flow detector, that if there was water
20 running in any of the fire systems, that
21 there's an alarm that's sent back that
22 indicates and even tells you the zone
23 where that water flow is.

24 I would hope that after all
25 this repair, that if there would be

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2 another activation and it would be on a
3 weekend, that someone would know there's
4 an activation, not until we come in
5 Monday morning.

6 How do we monitor the flow of
7 water, especially from a system that when
8 it's flowing suggests a fire?

9 MR. LEWIS: Councilman, on the
10 fire system, every time the fire pump
11 does activate, we do know there is a flow
12 in the system on the fire side. With
13 respect to the HVAC system and the
14 chilled water system, if there's a leak
15 in the system, we don't know unless we
16 discover it.

17 COUNCILMAN RIZZ0: So, in other
18 words, if you had a fire alarm or a fire
19 head activated, you'd know that because
20 the fire pump would send a message?

21 MR. LEWIS: Yes. The system
22 would go immediate into alarm and we
23 would be paged and we would know.

24 COUNCILMAN RIZZ0: Is there
25 technology out there for like museums and

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 places that have valuable works of art or
3 a room like this to detect moisture or
4 detect a leak?

5 MR. LEWIS: A flow or a
6 discharge? Councilman, we'll look into
7 that and do some research.

8 COUNCILMAN RIZZ0: There's some
9 critical rooms, I would think, that the
10 earliest warning -- if we have smoke
11 detectors and we have other types of
12 detectors, it might be nice to know that
13 early on that there is some change in
14 humidity, I think would probably be a way
15 to -- a high change in humidity would
16 probably be an indicator.

17 Thank you, Madam President.

18 MR. LEWIS: We will look into
19 that, Councilman.

20 COUNCILMAN RIZZ0: Thank you,
21 Madam President.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
23 You're welcome.

24 I'd like to get back to the one
25 security guard on weekends. Are you

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 going to provide him a card or something?

3 I mean, to do seven floors and to do it
4 several times a day, I think that's going
5 to be a little difficult.

6 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK: We
7 actually did explore -- I forget what
8 they're called.

9 MR. LEWIS: Segways.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: What
11 is that?

12 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:
13 It's an automated scooter. That's long
14 been one of the issues the Police
15 Department have brought up to us, that
16 the tour isn't the issue, but it takes
17 longer than one would think to walk every
18 floor in this building. And we have
19 tenants up on the ninth level, so we need
20 that kind of coverage. It's from the
21 ground up.

22 So we have explored getting one
23 or two of those in the building.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Oh,
25 that's good. Because it seems to me that

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 whatever damages we have had have been on
3 a weekend, and with that one gentleman
4 that broke into the Supreme Court and
5 broke the window in my office, that was
6 on a weekend. I think that if you feel
7 that one person can do it, fine.

8 Can you tell us what the total
9 cost of the security force will cost?

10 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:

11 The four guards?

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: For
13 the guards, the security.

14 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:

15 You mean the 11 positions?

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Yes.

17 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK: It
18 looks like we're estimating about
19 \$405,000.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm
21 sorry. 205?

22 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:
23 405,000.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: When
25 will City Hall be secured and what

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 notification will we be getting as it
3 relates to City Hall security?

4 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:

5 Well, we have done -- we've had some
6 delays in turning on the system and going
7 live, if you will. We had to do a new
8 fire evacuation plan with the Fire
9 Department. We had to, as I suggested
10 earlier, we had to integrate our
11 databases with the other facilities. And
12 the other major time lag was the needed
13 variance for the exit doors.

14 But we feel that we're ready.
15 We've done all the testing. Of course,
16 there's always the unforeseen thing that
17 will happen. We have a proposed draft
18 communications plan and I'm waiting to
19 hear on when we'll go live.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
21 you.

22 Commissioner, City Council
23 amended your FY07 budget during the year
24 and added \$5 million for surveillance
25 cameras. Can you tell us how much of the

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 \$5 million will be spent during the
3 current year?

4 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:

5 We're estimating that we will spend
6 approximately 1.5 million in '07, and
7 we're working closely with MOIS on that.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And
9 can you tell us how much funding for
10 security cameras is included in your FY08
11 budget?

12 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:

13 There is nothing in Public Property
14 budget. However, there's 1.5 million in
15 FY08 in MOIS.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And
17 do you think that would be enough to
18 complete the project?

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PUNZO:

20 Council President, Frank Punzo, Deputy
21 Commissioner of Communications.

22 Certainly we won't know the
23 exact answer to that until all the
24 responses are in to the bid, which is now
25 out on the street. I believe personally

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 in past experience it would probably be
3 low to complete the project throughout
4 the entire City, but it will all be
5 depending upon how the respondents come
6 back. They may be able to do it for that
7 price.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Very
9 well.

10 On Page 16-68 of your detail,
11 you're requesting \$10.4 million for gas
12 service from PGW. This is the same
13 amount as you expect to spend in FY07.
14 Does this mean that the City does not
15 expect the PUC to grant PGW any of its
16 requested \$100 million rate increase?

17 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK: I
18 would like to invite Kent Miller up to
19 the microphone here to explain the
20 projections.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And,
22 Kent, once you identify yourself and
23 respond to that question, I would also
24 like to ask how was the gas service
25 budget for FY08 determined.

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2 MR. MILLER: Well, what we do
3 is, we make an estimate of our expected
4 gas use for the coming year based on our
5 experience in the previous year and we
6 attempt to estimate the benefit of our
7 energy conservation work, and then we
8 make an estimate of what we think the
9 prices will be, and, of course, there's
10 always some uncertainty in the prices.
11 And we believe that when you match the
12 somewhat lower use we expect in natural
13 gas with the somewhat higher costs from
14 the PGW rate increase, we'll be about the
15 same place. Considering there is some
16 uncertainty with respect to weather and
17 our actual use in respect to prices, we
18 think it will be about the same next
19 year.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
21 you. I hope my gas bills reflect the
22 same thing.

23 MR. MILLER: I do, too.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
25 Commissioner, what is the total amount of

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 payroll reductions you were required to
3 take in FY08 for the General Fund of 2.5
4 percent reductions and what is the
5 position equivalent?

6 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK: In
7 my case it was \$244,000, and we took it
8 straight out of regular overtime, because
9 for the first time in a very long time,
10 the Communications, emergency radio and
11 switchboard were staffed more properly.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm
13 sorry. I didn't hear you.

14 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:
15 They were staffed up to the complete
16 capacity, which meant we needed less
17 money for overtime. So I really didn't
18 replace a position. I just took it out
19 of my overtime.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: So
21 how many positions? There are none?

22 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:
23 Well, what I'm saying is, I didn't --

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: For
25 the 2.5 cut.

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:

3 Right. And I took it straight out of
4 Communications' overtime.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Very
6 well.

7 The Chair recognizes
8 Councilwoman Blackwell.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
10 you, Madam President.

11 Security cameras always remind
12 me of the northeast corner. I'm just
13 verifying that we're still okay, because
14 I know my colleague had some question
15 about all corners because we do have
16 officers who are there, and as everybody
17 knows, that's the -- since it's manned 24
18 hours a day, seven days a week and this
19 is the corner that we have people who
20 come needing help, some who are mentally
21 ill, homeless, we continue to ask for
22 special consideration on that corner.

23 And the other issue is, it's
24 just kind of a reminder that I know SEPTA
25 is due to be finished on the Market

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2 Street Elevated project for 46th to 63rd
3 within the next year, and I'll contact
4 you then around that time with regard to
5 our lots that they rent, so we talk about
6 the future of those with that absolutely
7 wonderful, wonderful company, SEPTA.

8 Okay. Thank you.

9 Thank you, Madam President.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

11 You're welcome.

12 The Chair recognizes Councilman
13 Greenlee.

14 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
15 you, Madam President.

16 Good morning.

17 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:

18 Good morning.

19 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Just a
20 question on the City Hall security,
21 another aspect of it.

22 Regular business hours, once
23 this plan is in force, where will
24 non-employees be able to enter? Will
25 they still be able to enter at various

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2 sites or is it going to be directed
3 towards the northeast corner?

4 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK: I
5 guess the simplest way for me to explain
6 it is, anyone who is a tenant or any
7 employee that has a regular need to come
8 and go in City Hall will have access
9 cards. Anyone else will have to go to
10 the northeast corner.

11 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: So the
12 northeast corner will be the only
13 entrance for anybody that doesn't have an
14 access card; is that right?

15 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:
16 Right.

17 Oh, I'm sorry.

18 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I was
19 going to say, do you think there are
20 times where that could be a problem? I'm
21 thinking when there's a lot of people
22 coming here or something. I mean, can
23 there be any accommodations made?

24 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:
25 Let me have Jim answer that, and then

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2 he'll do some clarity on the first floor,
3 because there is access without needing a
4 card on the first floor.

5 MR. LEWIS: Councilman, in a
6 normal mode, we anticipate that we're
7 going to leave the portal doors open so
8 the services on the first floor, any
9 personal can come and go as they need.
10 They don't need to check in the northeast
11 corner. If they need to go upstairs in
12 the building, they need to check in at
13 the northeast corner.

14 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I see.

15 MR. LEWIS: And we're gearing
16 up for when there's large events or
17 there's a large public meeting or things
18 like that.

19 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:
20 We've made arrangements for the clearance
21 of jurors coming from the Criminal
22 Justice Center. If there's some kind of
23 a protest, we're going to handle that.
24 There will be exceptions.

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 All right. Thank you.

3 Thank you, Madam President.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

5 You're welcome.

6 The Chair recognizes Councilman
7 Rizzo.

8 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you,
9 Madam Chair.

10 I agree with President Verna.

11 I think the folks in Public Property, the
12 employees there, always do a great job.
13 You are tested constantly with special
14 events from one extreme to the other and
15 you seem to always get it accomplished.

16 One of the things I think would
17 be helpful, I think would be interesting
18 to the Council, is the restructuring of
19 Public Property. I don't know if we had
20 an appropriate farewell from Deputy
21 Commissioner James to go off to IT, but I
22 think it would be interesting to just
23 explain how it's structured now. And
24 congratulations to Deputy Commissioner
25 Punzo for his appointment, but I think

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2 that many of us aren't really -- it's not
3 really clear on how all this is going,
4 because you said something that the IT
5 function of Public Property left. Maybe
6 I didn't hear you correctly, but IT
7 always was its own department, correct?

8 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:

9 Correct.

10 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So it didn't
11 really leave. Did a function of it leave
12 to go to IT, the information technology?

13 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:

14 I'm going to ask Frank Punzo to answer.

15 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PUNZO:

16 Councilman, I believe that the bulk of
17 the communications function -- I think is
18 what the Commissioner meant -- did go
19 over to MOIS. That would be for the
20 regular voice and data communications
21 that had been previously in Public
22 Property. From the perspective of what
23 stayed in my role, the municipal
24 switchboard, which we're also looking at
25 obviously as a 311 center, the municipal

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2 radio operation and all 800 megahertz
3 items and issues would remain within
4 Public Property. All other day-to-day
5 voice and data cellular Internet type of
6 kind of activity would go over to MOIS.
7 That's the IT function I think the
8 Commissioner was referencing.

9 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So the
10 telephones went to IT, 800 trunking radio
11 stays with you?

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PUNZO:
13 Correct.

14 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Switchboard
15 stays with you?

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PUNZO:
17 Right.

18 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: What was the
19 other?

20 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:
21 Radio.

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PUNZO: The
23 regular municipal radio operation, which
24 we've been working very closely with
25 Emergency Management, probably more so

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2 than we've ever done in the past, that
3 stays as well.

4 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Terrific.

5 Good luck to you.

6 Commissioner James, good luck
7 to you, too.

8 Thank you, Madam President.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

10 You're welcome.

11 The Chair recognizes Councilman
12 Kenney.

13 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you,
14 Madam President.

15 Has anyone in Public Property
16 had an opportunity to firsthand view the
17 311 CSR center at either Chicago or
18 Houston?

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PUNZO:
20 Councilman, not in Chicago or Houston.
21 We have been to the New York center and
22 we've been to Baltimore.

23 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: If it's
24 possible, I would request that one or a
25 few people from Public Property go out to

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 Chicago and/or Houston. I think New
3 York's 311 is primarily a 911
4 diversionary system and not as much CSR
5 integrated as you would think or you
6 would hope.

7 So many major cities across the
8 country have this now, and I know the
9 City had looked at it preliminarily and
10 felt that it wasn't appropriate or too
11 expensive or whatever it was, but I was
12 awestruck at the two systems, both in
13 Chicago and Houston, and their ability to
14 handle complaints and to actually allow
15 kind of an internal audit on a quarterly
16 basis of every department in the city as
17 to the kinds of requests they get, the
18 speed with which they fulfill the request
19 or do not, and it's an unbelievable
20 management tool in addition to changing
21 kind of the cultural view of citizens
22 vis-a-vis their government.

23 People call 1776. They get
24 switched to the Streets Department and
25 Health Department or somewhere and they

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2 give somebody information and it gets
3 done or it doesn't, and then they call us
4 and we call you or we call Jimmy Muller,
5 and we try to like kind of patchwork the
6 stuff together without ever being able to
7 determine just what each department is
8 doing and what resources they need, what
9 personnel needs they have.

10 I mean, I sat through kind of a
11 CSR review with the Chief of Staff of the
12 Mayor of Chicago and the entire Health
13 Department, and it was an unbelievable
14 experience to just be able to determine
15 the number of cases that they see at the
16 health centers, what kinds of cases
17 they're getting, how come one health
18 center sees more than another health
19 center but has less employees. It was
20 fascinating.

21 I'm releasing a report on
22 Wednesday on a 311 effort again and
23 trying to develop an RFP so the next
24 Mayor has it handed to him in January
25 '08, but I would really like you guys to

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2 go out and just take a look at what it is
3 they do, because each city gets two
4 million calls a year, each city, and a
5 million of those calls in both cities are
6 dispatched with one phone call. What
7 time does the parking lot open to the
8 Linc? Why is East River Drive shut down?
9 What happened to this bridge? I mean,
10 those kinds of questions get answered
11 with one call. The other million get a
12 tracking number like UPS or Fed Ex, and
13 the citizen can actually watch their
14 request to completion.

15 I really would urge you to do
16 that, because I think you guys will
17 probably be around if this effort goes
18 forward. I'd like you to see what they
19 do.

20 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:
21 Okay.

22 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you,
23 Madam President.

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PUNZO: I
25 think that would be a great idea,

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 Councilman. Baltimore, I sat through a
3 similar situation in Baltimore, and I
4 agree with you, the tracking of all of
5 the jobs and what exactly happened is the
6 real key to the 311 and getting it done
7 on the first call.

8 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Well, for
9 example, one of the operating departments
10 they allowed us to view was -- they call
11 it the Bureau of Electricity, which is
12 actually street lighting and traffic
13 engineering. I mean, they can figure out
14 through the CSR request, they can send
15 one crew out to do 20 different requests
16 in one area because they have all the
17 information, instead of waiting and then
18 sending out -- I mean, they can really
19 rationalize their resources. And both
20 Chicago and Houston are very, very
21 welcoming to people from around the
22 country and around the world who want to
23 go -- Chicago especially. I mean, they
24 go out of their way just to show off, and
25 they have a lot to show off.

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 So if you can, whenever your
3 time allows between now and next year,
4 could you try to do that?

5 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:
6 Absolutely.

7 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
9 you.

10 Are there any other questions
11 or comments from members of the Committee
12 of the Commissioner?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
15 Seeing none, I thank you very much.

16 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:
17 Thank you.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
19 you. And, again, I applaud your
20 fantastic work.

21 COMMISSIONER SCHLOTTERBECK:
22 Thank you.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
24 next department?

25 MR. MCPHERSON: Is the

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 Department of Fleet Management.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good
4 morning. Welcome. Please identify
5 yourself for the record and proceed with
6 your testimony.

7 MR. MULLER: James Muller,
8 Fleet Manager for the City of
9 Philadelphia. Good morning, President
10 Verna and distinguished members of City
11 Council. Here today with me is Bob Fox,
12 my Administrative Services Director.
13 Thank you for the opportunity to present
14 testimony in support of my FY2008
15 Operating Budget for the Office of Fleet
16 Management.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:
18 Mr. Muller, excuse me. I don't mean to
19 interrupt you, but if you could
20 abbreviate your testimony, we'd
21 appreciate it. We will give a copy of it
22 to the stenographer and she'll transcribe
23 it in full.

24 MR. MULLER: All right.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 you.

3 MR. MULLER: Our FY08 General
4 Fund budget request is 63,583,424,
5 including 19 million for the purchase of
6 new vehicles. Class 100 accounts for
7 17,687,192. Class 200 is 4,208,252, and
8 Class 300 is budgeted for 22,487,980.
9 Also, FY08 budget includes nine more
10 positions than in 2007. These increases
11 are necessary to maintain the most
12 expensive and complicated vehicle repairs
13 in the City of Philadelphia such as fire
14 equipment, pumpers, ladders and medic
15 units.

16 The fleet: The City of
17 Philadelphia has a diverse fleet in terms
18 of vehicle size and complexity, with an
19 asset value of \$248 million, which
20 includes and supported by Water and
21 Aviation Funds. The fleet represents a
22 significant investment of public funds.
23 Currently, OFM maintains an active fleet
24 size of 6,000 vehicles, including 787
25 that are specialized vehicles.

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 Availability is 90 percent, which means
3 5,400 vehicles are available every day,
4 thereby meeting most vehicle targets.

5 Hybrid vehicles: OFM's study
6 of hybrid vehicles continues. The study
7 focuses on the hybrid vehicles are -- how
8 hybrid vehicles are affected by multiple
9 drivers and repair costs and fuel
10 savings. OFM ordered another 30 Ford
11 Escape Sport Utility Vehicles this year,
12 raising the total number to 57.
13 Assessments of these vehicles thus far
14 are promising.

15 New vehicle information system:
16 The new vehicle information system, which
17 will become operational by this summer,
18 is the second-generation custom fleet
19 software created by the City of
20 Philadelphia. It was created by OFM's IT
21 Director using the programming language
22 dot net. The original system was
23 supported by vendors for the last ten
24 years. Therefore, Fleet can delete the
25 existing system, which was licensed and

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 maintained at an annual cost of \$200,000.

3 General Fund revenue
4 generation: Since FY97, OFM's auctions
5 have sold more than 2,600 vehicles and
6 generated over 10.5 million in revenue
7 for the City of Philadelphia - 8.5
8 million for the General Fund, 5.5 million
9 for the Water Fund and \$218,300 for the
10 Aviation Fund. For FY07, OFM estimates
11 revenues at 700,000 for the General Fund,
12 120,000 for the Water Fund and 20,000 for
13 the Aviation Fund.

14 Improved Automotive, ASE,
15 Master Certification Program: Initially
16 OFM instituted a \$500 incentive program
17 to encourage technicians to obtain the
18 national recognized Automotive Service
19 Excellence Master Certification. FY2005,
20 the stipend increased to a thousand
21 dollars and in FY2006 to 1,500.
22 Additionally, OFM began to provide a free
23 training program to help prepare
24 technicians for this examination.

25 To obtain this prestigious

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 certification, technicians must complete
3 accredited courses that teach vehicle
4 diagnostic skills. This skill has proven
5 the most effective way to reduce costs
6 and maintain vehicle safety. Eighty-six
7 technicians, or one-third of our
8 technicians, have at least one
9 certification.

10 This concludes my testimony.

11 I'd be happy to answer any questions.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
13 you.

14 On Page 1 of your testimony,
15 you mention that the FY08 budget includes
16 nine more positions than FY07. Will you
17 please refer to Page 17-4 of your detail.
18 It indicates that City Council funded 322
19 full-time General Fund positions in the
20 current fiscal year; isn't that correct?
21 However, your FY08 full-time General Fund
22 positions are for 321. That's a
23 reduction of one position, not an
24 increase of nine, as stated in your
25 testimony; isn't that correct?

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 MR. MULLER: I'll have Bob Fox
3 look at that.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Sure.
5 Take his time.

6 MR. FOX: Robert Fox,
7 Administrative Director.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Yes.

9 MR. FOX: Council President,
10 the directions have us in Column 8
11 subtracting Column 7 from Column 11. I'm
12 sorry; Column 8 from Column 7.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: But
14 the nine positions are against an
15 arbitrary date as to the number of filled
16 positions as of a date certain and does
17 not represent the 2007 budgeted position
18 level. This is very misleading. It
19 really is.

20 MR. FOX: I would agree.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: If
22 you could clear that, I would appreciate
23 it.

24 MR. FOX: Okay.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 you going to clarify that?

3 MR. FOX: Other than to say
4 that we were in the directions asked to
5 separate the one column subtracting from
6 the other number. It was just following
7 the directions of the form. I can
8 provide you with --

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I
10 don't want to put you in a position that
11 I would not want you to put me in, so
12 just tell me you will put it in writing,
13 mail it to me and I can distribute it to
14 the Councilmembers.

15 MR. FOX: Thank you, Council
16 President. I will do that.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Okay.
18 On Page 17-35 of the detail, you're
19 requesting \$30,000 for medical
20 surveillance program. Can you tell us
21 what this is for? I believe it's Thomas
22 Jefferson physicians.

23 MR. MULLER: Yes. It's for
24 drug testing.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Oh,

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 drug testing.

3 MR. MULLER: People with CDL
4 driver's license.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
6 you. I just couldn't understand what
7 that was for.

8 You're also requesting \$19
9 million for General Fund vehicle
10 purchases in FY08, which represents an
11 increase of \$6.4 million over FY07
12 purchases. Can you explain why you need
13 this additional funding?

14 MR. FOX: Yes, Council
15 President. Our vehicle replacement
16 budget over the previous five years had
17 been pretty low compared to our normal
18 replacement. We talked to the Budget
19 Bureau about the size of our fleet, the
20 age of our fleet and the breakdowns more
21 unscheduled than we've had in the past.
22 So they agreed to move money forward from
23 '09, '10, '11 and '12 of the Five-Year
24 Plan into '08 so that we could try to
25 erase some of these problems, order more

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 police cars, order more fire equipment.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: So if
4 we in fact were to put the money in '08,
5 the money would be available July 1.

6 MR. FOX: Yes.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: How
8 long would it take before the City would
9 receive the vehicles?

10 MR. FOX: Depending on the type
11 of vehicle, a radio patrol car could be
12 less than three months. A compactor or a
13 piece of fire equipment could be over a
14 year.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Would
16 you be kind enough to give us a breakdown
17 by department, by vehicle type and
18 quantity that you plan to purchase in
19 FY08?

20 MR. FOX: Yes, Council
21 President. We'll get that to you
22 immediately.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You
24 don't have it with you?

25 MR. FOX: I don't have it with

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 us now. Sorry, Councilwoman.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: What
4 is the decision process that you utilize
5 in making a decision as to what vehicles
6 are to be replaced?

7 MR. MULLER: Well, it's
8 depending on the age of the vehicle, the
9 mission of the vehicle. That's how we
10 usually base it on. The cost of how much
11 money we've spent to date. The national
12 average is 80 percent. Once we reach 80
13 percent of a vehicle, we don't maintain
14 it. We try to relinquish it.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Who
16 makes the determination as to what
17 vehicles by make, model, et cetera, that
18 the City would buy or should buy?

19 MR. MULLER: Fleet Management
20 does, depending on the mission of the
21 vehicle, the price, what we believe the
22 Department could use. Sometimes we're --
23 the Department makes the decision for us
24 basically with some fire equipment,
25 police cars.

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: From
3 what I see, I think the police cars are
4 in really bad shape, for the most part.

5 The Chair recognizes Councilman
6 Kenney.

7 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you,
8 Madam President.

9 Mr. Muller, have you been doing
10 any investigation relative to the
11 availability or utility of biofuels by
12 vehicles?

13 MR. MULLER: Yes.

14 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Could you
15 explain what you've been doing to date?

16 MR. MULLER: We're doing a
17 hybrid study right now, and it's turning
18 out to be very, very -- showing us very,
19 very promising with the hybrid vehicles.
20 Also, we're buying biodiesel fuel for
21 our -- and we just received a grant from
22 the Pennsylvania Department of
23 Environmental Protection for \$351,000.

24 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: So you are
25 working with the state?

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 MR. MULLER: Yes.

3 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: And you're
4 purchasing the biodiesel from a
5 Pennsylvania company?

6 MR. MULLER: I'm waiting for
7 Tim on a contract. The bid has not been
8 put on the street yet, but that's what
9 we're looking to do with Sunoco.

10 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: As you saw,
11 the Governor had an announcement that a
12 firm -- I forget the name of the
13 company -- was going to open seven or so
14 biofuel refineries, I guess for want of a
15 better word. I think that Philadelphia
16 could probably be perhaps that company's
17 biggest state purchaser, or one of them
18 at least, which would also give us a nice
19 link to Pennsylvania agriculture and kind
20 of putting Philadelphia together with the
21 rest of the state as an important element
22 in the state's economy.

23 So in addition to environmental
24 issues and perhaps saving some money,
25 because the biofuel is cheaper -- how

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 does it relate to --

3 MR. MULLER: About ten or 15
4 cents more.

5 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: More?
6 Okay. But the environmental benefits are
7 clear and also that linkage to the state
8 is important. So could you keep us up to
9 date as to how that's going?

10 MR. MULLER: Okay. Would you
11 want a copy of the letter that we have?

12 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Yes,
13 please. Just forward it to the President
14 or to me.

15 How many tires do we go through
16 in a year?

17 MR. MULLER: A lot. Can I get
18 back to you on that, Jim? I don't have
19 the number in my head, but it's a lot.
20 It's a lot. And they have to be -- we
21 just can't throw them away anymore. We
22 have to make sure --

23 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: My question
24 is, how do we dispose of them?

25 MR. MULLER: We're very

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 fortunate. We have the Streets
3 Department comes and picks ours up and
4 takes them down to the --

5 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: So they're
6 landfilled?

7 MR. MULLER: Yes. Yes.

8 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I'll send a
9 letter to the Streets Department also,
10 but I wondered if you could try to find
11 out whether or not -- I think there's a
12 company -- and I don't know whether the
13 cost is prohibitive or not -- that's
14 opening up somewhere in New York relative
15 to the rubber sidewalk manufacturer, that
16 we may be able to create a source for
17 them of tires that we wouldn't have to
18 landfill. Because I expect that the
19 number of tires we landfill in a year has
20 got to be significant, and that's a cost
21 to us also.

22 MR. MULLER: Right. We
23 purchase about a million dollars worth of
24 tires a year.

25 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay. I'd

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 be interested in knowing the number, the
3 number that we dispose of a year.

4 MR. MULLER: Okay.

5 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: And you did
6 give us somewhat of an update on the
7 hybrid vehicle stuff, so that was my
8 third question. So thank you very much.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
10 You're welcome.

11 The Chair recognizes Councilman
12 Rizzo.

13 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you,
14 Madam Chair.

15 Again, I say this to you every
16 year. I think Fleet Management does a
17 great job, a diverse group of vehicles,
18 and I'll tell you, if I didn't understand
19 the numbering system, I see some of them
20 that look like they're two, three years
21 old and they're eight, nine, ten years
22 old. Even some of our sedans that I see
23 in the Water Department and other places,
24 they look first class.

25 But I do agree with you, that

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 money that you've asked for to buy the
3 new vehicles, especially the
4 radio-patrolled vehicles, that that can
5 get expensive, maintaining an old
6 vehicle, and I think that's a good
7 management decision to move on that stuff
8 now, get it out of here and stop wasting
9 money on it, especially when you hear
10 about engines and some real expensive
11 repairs that are required to get that
12 back on the street. And I know that
13 we've been pushing you to not get new
14 vehicles, a lot of people have, and try
15 to contain the cost, but now I think it's
16 starting to go on the other side where
17 maintenance is starting to be a factor.

18 So, again, I think that all of
19 you do a great job and even in some bad
20 times, like the weather today and over
21 the weekend, to keep a lot of equipment
22 that's so important. I watched those
23 drain-cleaning vehicles. It looked like
24 you were running 24/7, and there was a
25 Fleet Management person on site

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 apparently making some repair right on
3 the street to keep it going. So
4 congratulations.

5 MR. MULLER: Thank you.

6 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: And I think
7 you guys do just a great job.

8 MR. MULLER: Thank you very
9 much. I have a wonderful staff of
10 people, of support. Thank you.

11 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you,
12 Madam Chair.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
14 You're welcome.

15 And I would ask that you please
16 send that breakdown for me by department.

17 MR. MULLER: Yes.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
19 you.

20 MR. MULLER: Thank you very
21 much.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
23 you so much.

24 Our next department?

25 MR. McPHERSON: Historical

1 4/16/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 Commission.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: We're
4 just going to take a three-minute break.
5 We'll be right back.

6 (Short recess.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
8 you very much. Kindly identify yourself
9 for the record and proceed with your
10 testimony.

11 MR. FARNHAM: Good morning,
12 Council President Verna. I am John
13 Farnham, Acting Historic Preservation
14 Director of the Philadelphia Historical
15 Commission.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
17 Excuse me, sir. Can you pull the
18 microphone closer to you, please.

19 MR. FARNHAM: I am John
20 Farnham, Acting Historic Preservation
21 Director of the Philadelphia Historical
22 Commission. To my right is Thomas
23 Sugrue, Vice Chair of the Commission, and
24 to my left, Vincent Rivera, the Chair of
25 the Commission's Architectural Committee.

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2 Michael Sklaroff, the Chair, sends his
3 apologies. He was called before the
4 state Supreme Court this morning.

5 I present for your review and
6 consideration the Historical Commission's
7 Operating Budget request in the amount of
8 \$325,868 for Fiscal Year 2008. The
9 addition of \$4,125 over estimated
10 obligations for Fiscal Year 2007 will
11 fund wage increases. The proposed budget
12 will fund six staff positions, what we
13 have currently, and support the current
14 levels of service.

15 In Calendar Year 2006, the
16 Commission reviewed and approved 1,513
17 building permit applications for historic
18 properties designated under the local
19 ordinance, a 2.5 percent increase over
20 the previous year. In addition to this
21 achievement, the Commission conducted or
22 supervised 2,531 federally mandated
23 historic reviews for projects undertaken
24 by public and quasi-public municipal
25 agencies.

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2 The Commission continues to
3 streamline practices and procedures,
4 providing services in more efficient and
5 effective ways. For example, the
6 Commission is reorganizing its staff,
7 revising current and creating new job
8 specifications to promote recruitment and
9 retention of qualified personnel. It is
10 also undertaking a major project to
11 update and verify the Philadelphia
12 Register of Historic Places, the master
13 list of designated historic properties,
14 and to provide better and more data to
15 City agencies and the public.

16 Thank you, members of City
17 Council, for your attention. We are now
18 happy to address any questions that you
19 may have.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
21 you very much.

22 In your testimony, you mention
23 that the Commission has a backlog in the
24 area of historic district designations.
25 The only question I have for you is, are

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2 you satisfied with the Administration's
3 proposed FY08 budget of \$325,000?

4 MR. FARNHAM: The proposed
5 budget will allow us to continue the
6 current services that we provide to the
7 citizens of Philadelphia. I've been
8 speaking with the Budget Director, and it
9 looks like we may receive a small
10 increase in Class 200 money that would
11 allow us to hire consultants to undertake
12 some of those deferred tasks.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Can
14 the Budget Director come up to the table,
15 please.

16 We go through this every year,
17 and every year we have been saying that
18 the Historic Commission definitely needs
19 more employees.

20 How far does your backlog go
21 for the historic district designations?

22 MR. FARNHAM: The oldest
23 district nomination that we have that we
24 have not yet processed I believe was
25 received approximately five years ago.

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2 We have a total of five district
3 nominations that are waiting to be
4 processed, the others submitted between
5 one, two and three years ago.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And
7 at the amount of employees that you
8 presently have, how much longer do you
9 think it would take to address the issue?

10 MR. FARNHAM: Well, with the
11 addition of some consulting money to hire
12 interns, I think we could begin to
13 address the issue. I think it would take
14 several years to overcome the backlog
15 that we currently have.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And I
17 see you've been cut by \$7,660. Your
18 budget is really not that much, but do
19 you feel very confident that what you're
20 being told can be accomplished and the
21 backlog will be decreased?

22 MR. FARNHAM: I believe --

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Speak
24 now or forever hold your peace, please.

25 MR. FARNHAM: Without the

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2 addition of more Class 200 money, we can
3 continue to provide the current services.
4 I don't believe that we will be able to
5 aggressively deplete those deferred
6 historic district nominations. With some
7 consulting money, we can begin to work on
8 that task, but it would be several years
9 until we had worked our way through that
10 backlog.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

12 Ms. Reed, can you come up, please, to the
13 table.

14 I see that Class 200 for this
15 current year we had \$21,084. For FY08,
16 I've heard three times that you expect
17 the Class 200 to be increased. I see it
18 as being the same, \$21,084.

19 MR. FARNHAM: Yes. Currently,
20 in the proposed budget, that is the
21 figure, and that money would be dedicated
22 to emergency engineering evaluation
23 services for dangerous buildings.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Well,
25 where do the consultants come in?

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2 MS. REED: Dianne Reed, Budget
3 Director.

4 Conversations about trying to
5 help the Historical Commission out with
6 its backlog have occurred subsequent to
7 the submission of the detail and we will
8 have to work this out in the final budget
9 accommodation.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Well,
11 how much more money do you anticipate
12 that they will be receiving?

13 MS. REED: We have not worked
14 out the details of that. We'll try to go
15 on the cheap, because that's what we have
16 to do this year.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Well,
18 if --

19 MS. REED: While trying to help
20 them accomplish their purpose.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Well,
22 if you don't, I think we will. I think
23 it's utterly ridiculous that after five
24 years, the historic district designation
25 has not been completed, and if we don't

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2 give them the assistance that they need,
3 it may be another five years before
4 that's accomplished. I would suggest,
5 Ms. Reed, that you look into this very
6 carefully and be in touch with us as soon
7 as possible, because every year it's the
8 same -- I knew the Historic Commission
9 would be cut again and the plea was going
10 to be for them to get more help. Now, if
11 I thought that, I'm sure you had to be
12 looking at that very carefully.

13 MS. REED: Yes, ma'am. We
14 actually are increasing them by one
15 position and they're up about a whole
16 giant 50 percent from four positions a
17 couple years ago.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: But
19 then if you look again, I don't see that
20 really happening to any great degree. I
21 don't even want to discuss this with you.
22 Look at it closely and get back to us.

23 The Chair recognizes
24 Councilwoman Blackwell.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank

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2 you, Madam President.

3 I see one of those to be
4 considered is West Philadelphia. I don't
5 know if it's our old Spruce Hill site.
6 Is it?

7 MR. FARNHAM: Well, there are
8 two proposed historic districts in West
9 Philadelphia, the Spruce Hill proposed
10 district and also a district in Overbrook
11 Farms.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Okay.
13 Well, Overbrook Farms is the Fourth
14 District.

15 MR. FARNHAM: Excuse me. I'm
16 sorry.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: That's
18 all right.

19 MR. FARNHAM: There's Three
20 Parkside as well. Excuse me.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm
22 sorry, Councilwoman.

23 Who has been waiting since
24 2002? What district is that?

25 MR. FARNHAM: That would be the

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2 Spruce Hill district.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: But,
4 Madam President, I haven't been waiting.
5 And my area has not still settled itself
6 in terms of how they feel about it and
7 where people fall down on the issue, who
8 it includes, who it doesn't, all the
9 issues of affordability and so forth.

10 So my concern is that since we
11 are not sure -- now, Overbrook Farms is
12 the Fourth District. Parkside, it
13 depends on which side of Parkside Avenue
14 we're speaking, but certainly with regard
15 to other areas who may be ready and
16 willing to go, I would say perhaps they
17 can be considered and not feel that five
18 already. Because I know we're not ready.
19 In Spruce Hill we're not ready. I'm not
20 sure where you're talking about on
21 Parkside Avenue. And then maybe those
22 who have been waiting for it and want it
23 and are settled down to what they want,
24 maybe they can be considered.

25 I don't know, again, where you

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2 mean on Parkside. If it's Jim Brown,
3 that's one area. Jim Brown is my side of
4 Parkside Avenue. So we can have that
5 discussion, but as for Spruce Hill, we're
6 still not ready.

7 MR. FARNHAM: Certainly the
8 Commission would never proceed on
9 evaluating the nomination without first
10 speaking with you and with your
11 constituents and ensuring that it was
12 something that there was a real feeling
13 it ought to go forward.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
15 you.

16 MR. FARNHAM: The Parkside
17 district, the proposed district is very
18 small, and James Brown is one of the
19 primary supporters of the creation of
20 that historic district.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Yes,
22 he is, and for the Commission itself.
23 He's been a great advocate for that. So
24 we may be ready to consider that at an
25 appropriate time, but not the other. But

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2 I appreciate your saying you won't move
3 forward, because we've been through that,
4 and us having debates in here doesn't
5 help any of us.

6 So I think that that's probably
7 a good way to go, Madam President, with
8 those whose Councilpeople and communities
9 are ready, then maybe it wouldn't be so
10 long.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: If
12 you have to wait five years, you'll
13 either be ready or you'll never be ready,
14 believe me.

15 This morning before coming into
16 the hearing, I received a letter from a
17 small construction firm located in Center
18 City and he went on to say how important
19 the Philadelphia Historic Commission is.
20 Furthermore, he went on to say, Our gross
21 receipt tax alone for 2006 was
22 approximately \$70,000, not including
23 permit fees, licenses, skilled union
24 labor or wage tax. The Historic
25 Commission is providing the City with

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2 valuable services that are financially
3 benefit to the City and local business.

4 So, again, I am going to ask
5 Ms. Reed -- I don't see her. I assume
6 she's still here -- to please look into
7 this very carefully and get back to us.

8 Are there any other questions
9 from members of the Committee?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Okay.
12 Seeing no one, thank you, gentlemen.

13 MR. FARNHAM: Thank you very
14 much.

15 MR. MCPHERSON: Our next
16 department is the Department of Streets.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Oh, I
18 have one last question. Once you do the
19 designation, how many additional
20 properties will you have to be
21 overseeing?

22 MR. FARNHAM: John Farnham
23 again.

24 Currently, the Commission has
25 designated approximately 10,700

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2 properties. If all five districts were
3 designated as currently proposed, it
4 would add about 3,035 properties. We
5 would expect an increase of 14 or 15
6 percent in our permit applications, which
7 is the primary work that the Commission
8 does.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Very
10 well. Thank you so much.

11 MR. FARNHAM: Thank you.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Madam
13 President.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Yes.

15 Just a moment, please.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Let me
17 likewise note, in opening mail, I just
18 received a letter today from James Brown,
19 who, as you know, is Executive Director
20 of the Parkside Historic Preservation
21 Corporation, certainly asking for an
22 increase by 300,000 to allow you to do
23 the work that you do. So I want you to
24 know that you do have many advocates out
25 there who value the work that you

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2 perform.

3 Thank you, Madam President.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:

5 You're welcome.

6 I also see John Gallery sitting
7 in the back of the room, who has written
8 saying how important it is that we try to
9 look at your budget very closely. So I
10 thank you so much again.

11 MR. FARNHAM: Thank you.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
13 next department to testify?

14 MR. McPHERSON: The Department
15 of Streets.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good
17 morning. Welcome.

18 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: Good
19 morning, Council President.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:
21 Please identify yourself for the record
22 and proceed with your testimony.

23 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: My name
24 is Clarena Tolson, Commissioner of the
25 Department of Streets.

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2 Good morning, Council President
3 Verna and members of City Council. I'm
4 here today to present testimony on behalf
5 of the Department's proposed 2008
6 Operating Budget.

7 We request a General Fund
8 appropriation of 129 million and an all
9 funds appropriation of 160 million. Our
10 proposed budget in the General Fund
11 requests 66 million for Class 100
12 personal services, an increase of 1.7
13 million over the 2007 estimated
14 obligations; 58 million for Class 200
15 purchase of services, an increase of
16 110,000; and 4 million for Class 300
17 materials and supplies, a decrease of 1.7
18 million; and 53,000 for Class 500
19 contributions.

20 The General Fund appropriation
21 reflects a general --

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
23 Commissioner, excuse me, please. We
24 would really appreciate it if you could
25 abbreviate your testimony. A copy will

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2 be given to the stenographer and it will
3 be transcribed in full.

4 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: Yes.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
6 you.

7 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: Thank
8 you.

9 The General Fund appropriation
10 reflects a general reduction of 2.5
11 percent in personal services and a four
12 percent wage increase effective July 1,
13 2007.

14 Many important services are
15 provided by the Streets Department,
16 including sanitation services, which
17 includes household collections and street
18 cleaning, recycling services, as well as
19 other special services through education
20 and enforcement. Additionally, in our
21 Transportation Division, we're
22 responsible for roadway maintenance,
23 storm response, as we were active today,
24 traffic engineering, bridge maintenance,
25 as well as street lighting and survey

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2 work.

3 The employees of the Streets
4 Department continue to work diligently in
5 the delivery of services to our citizens
6 and neighborhoods and to improve the
7 quality of life in our city by providing
8 clean and safe streets. Therefore, we
9 request favorable consideration of this
10 budget request.

11 I'm available for any questions
12 at this time.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
14 you very much, Commissioner.

15 On Page 2 of your testimony,
16 you mention recycling and the "All
17 Together Now" program. When will this
18 program be offered citywide?

19 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: I have
20 with me Carlton Williams, who is the
21 Deputy Commissioner who heads the
22 Sanitation Division, and he's quite
23 excited about this program, so I'd like
24 to have him answer this question. I'm
25 familiar with it, but I think it's a very

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2 great program that he's developed. He
3 should be proud of it, and I'm proud of
4 him for it.

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

6 Thank you, Commissioner.

7 Thank you, Council President.

8 My name is Carlton Williams, Deputy
9 Commissioner for the Streets Department.

10 Since we rolled out the
11 single-stream recycling program in the
12 Northeast and Southwest Philadelphia,
13 we've seen nearly a combined effect of a
14 45 percent increase, without any
15 additional costs to our Operating Budget,
16 and this is something that's exciting for
17 us, because it has moved the diversion
18 rate. The diversion rate for years
19 hasn't moved past six percent and it's
20 now up to 7.2 percent that we're
21 projecting at the end of the year, and we
22 plan on rolling out in a three-year phase
23 to the entire City.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: So
25 when do you plan to offer it citywide?

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2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

3 Within the three-year period.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Oh,
5 within a three-year period.

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

7 Yes, ma'am.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You
9 mention that the recycling diversion
10 rates are approximately 7 percent for
11 city curbside collections. How does this
12 compare to other cities?

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

14 Well, one of the things that we've had a
15 challenge with to explain to the public
16 is that it's difficult to compare our
17 city with other cities because you don't
18 collect the same amount of materials.
19 For instance, in New York they add
20 abandoned cars in their recycling rate.
21 Other cities use a combined recycling
22 rate, such as commercial and residential.
23 If we combined our commercial and
24 residential, we'll be up at 38 percent.
25 We use a number from our curbside

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2 program, which is 7 percent.

3 So it's very difficult for us
4 to compare ourselves to like Los Angeles,
5 New York and Chicago, because they use
6 different materials.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: On
8 Page 3 and 4 of your testimony, you
9 mention the Philadelphia More Beautiful
10 Committee's Clean Block program. The
11 annual General Fund contribution to
12 support this program is \$48,000 or
13 thereabouts. When was the last time this
14 funding was increased? Because I'll tell
15 you, going through the areas, everybody
16 complains about the terrible, terrible
17 dirty streets and I know we don't clean
18 the streets year round.

19 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: I don't
20 have the exact date --

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: In
22 South Philadelphia when we attempted this
23 program, people went ballistic because
24 they had to move their cars and they
25 didn't want to do that. But can you tell

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2 me when the last time --

3 (Councilman Kenney talking
4 without a microphone.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I
6 know. And nobody wants to use a broom.

7 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Stuff
8 doesn't fall from the sky. It comes out
9 of people's hands.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
11 Exactly.

12 So, again, I would ask you,
13 when was the last time that this funding
14 was increased?

15 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: This
16 particular contribution, I believe it's
17 been over six years.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
19 Administration has reduced your General
20 Fund full-time position level from 1,939
21 in the current budget to 1,901 in FY08.
22 Can you tell us where you took the 38
23 position reduction and the operational
24 impact of this cut?

25 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: Many of

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2 the positions have come from our condo
3 allocation. Because of the relatively
4 smaller number of users that we have in
5 that system -- we presently have 14
6 locations as of January -- fortunately
7 the locations taking advantage of the
8 condo collections, the positions came
9 from there. Most of our positions came
10 from there.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Well,
12 does that mean you're not going to be
13 picking up from the condominiums?

14 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: No.
15 Those that have selected our service, we
16 are collecting from them. I think that
17 we had anticipated a larger number, a
18 larger response, and we did not get that.
19 So because we had a smaller response, we
20 were able to reduce the allocation
21 towards that service.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are
23 the responses that you received, are most
24 of them in Center City?

25 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: No. We

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2 have people all over the City, condos all
3 over the City that we service.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm
5 just trying to visualize how large some
6 of these condos are.

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:
8 Yes. This is Deputy Commissioner
9 Williams again.

10 The larger condominiums with
11 smaller space were found in Center City.
12 We had condo locations, and we had
13 defined them as locations, because a unit
14 can have over three to four thousand
15 units within a location. We are not
16 servicing those areas. We're finding
17 that we're servicing the ones, for
18 instance, in the Northeast when they were
19 more spread out and easier to collect
20 curbside. The ones with multiple
21 collection days have opted not to accept
22 the service.

23 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Madam
24 President.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The

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2 Chair recognizes Councilman Kenney.

3 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: It's not
4 that they've opted not to accept the
5 service. They can't accept the service
6 because their insurance providers will
7 not allow the City trucks to go onto
8 their property to pick it up. And since
9 they've taken a 38-person reduction, you
10 can get 14 more reduced, if you'd like.
11 All the City has to do is just reimburse
12 the condo associations for the trash
13 pick-up and we don't have to talk about
14 personnel, equipment, insurance or
15 anything else, and it's cheaper.

16 I mean, I don't get it. I
17 mean, I understand this decision is not
18 coming directly from the Streets
19 Department, but if you can do it more
20 efficiently by reimbursement, you can do
21 it cheaper by reimbursement and you don't
22 need 38 people or the 14 people that's
23 doing it now, because if you wrote them a
24 check, the private haulers would be
25 taking it like they've always taken it.

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2 To me it's totally ridiculous.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

4 That's a shame. Councilman Kenney, I
5 know before we even voted on this bill,
6 that was your concept from very early on.

7 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: When we
8 first recommended it, they said we
9 couldn't do it, it's too expensive. And
10 then when they were forced to do it, they
11 say that -- it's one excuse after the
12 other, when the direct, more intelligent
13 way of doing it is sitting down and
14 writing a check for a very small amount
15 of money compared to what it costs us to
16 pick it up. And those discussions
17 hopefully are ongoing. We've been trying
18 to get the Mayor to sit and talk with the
19 representatives of the larger condos.
20 I'm trying to find out what the status of
21 that is, but it's a little frustrating.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

23 Well --

24 COMMISSIONER TOLSON:

25 Councilwoman, can I just clarify one

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2 point as well on that?

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

4 Please.

5 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: For the
6 total positions that were dropped, 14
7 were from the condominium, 17 were from
8 the Highways Group. Those were the folks
9 who supported the Hot in Place Paving
10 program, and one was from a grant that we
11 had from DVRPC.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Were
13 these people under DROP?

14 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: Through
15 attrition we're losing them.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: On
17 Page 4 of your testimony, you mention
18 that you will receive a million dollar
19 grant for Safe Route to School. How many
20 flashing signs will we be able to install
21 with this grant and what is the cost of a
22 flashing signal?

23 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: The
24 flashing signal, I believe the unit costs
25 about \$25,000. Let me just confirm that.

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2 Yes, about 20, 25 thousand per
3 school.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Boy,
5 that keeps going up, too.

6 Okay. And I am sure that we
7 have quite a waiting list of requests for
8 the flashing lights.

9 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: We should
10 complete the waiting list this year.

11 Within the next fiscal year,
12 we'll complete the waiting list.
13 However, there are a number of schools
14 that have not requested them as of yet.
15 So each additional year you'll simply do
16 those that have not requested, because we
17 will have the ability to take care of
18 them.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
20 Commissioner, are you referring to 2008
21 or 2009?

22 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: 2008.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And I
24 see one of my favorite people in the
25 audience and I know this is a Capital

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2 Budget question, but do we have money for
3 new street lights?

4 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: We have
5 very -- right now we do not.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Very
7 little.

8 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: Yes. We
9 expect that when we get a Capital Budget,
10 that we will have some limited amount,
11 nothing for any wholesale installations.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Okay.
13 The Chair recognizes Councilman
14 Greenlee.

15 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
16 you, Madam President.

17 Two kind of follow-ups, I
18 guess, on issues that were brought up,
19 but since street lighting was the last
20 one, it seems like on basic repairs when
21 somebody calls in a street light that's
22 out, you get to it pretty quickly, and
23 that's great. I know sometimes there's
24 wiring problems that take a little
25 longer, but alley lights seem to be more

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2 of a problem. It seems like there's
3 often time -- what is your average wait
4 on that or how long does it take to
5 usually get to an alley light?

6 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: It can
7 vary. It depends upon the number of
8 complaints that come in at any given
9 time. People tend to be more concerned
10 about it in certain parts of the year
11 than others. And we've also changed our
12 strategy to respond to them. It used to
13 be that we kind of metered out our
14 response over the course of a year so
15 that we did so many each month so that we
16 can always respond to challenges and
17 problems, and what we're doing now is
18 we're just simply tackling everything
19 that's on the list.

20 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Because I
21 remember at one time in my life before
22 this life, the street lighting division
23 would say sometimes, Well, we maintained
24 that a certain amount of time ago, so
25 even though it's out, we're not going to

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2 get to it for a long time. Is that still
3 the --

4 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: I think
5 the situation that you're describing is
6 one where we had repeat problems.

7 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Right.

8 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: And
9 they're not operational or electrical
10 problems. They're not a wiring problem.
11 It's sometimes a problem where people are
12 shooting them out or vandals are shaking
13 the pole with the intent of doing damage
14 or causing some other problem. But by
15 and large, I think that we're trying to
16 maintain a schedule that's closer to just
17 a couple weeks. Some of them are a
18 little faster, some of them are a little
19 bit longer, depending upon what the
20 problem is. If we can access the
21 alleyway, we try to respond fairly
22 quickly.

23 A significant problem does come
24 up and we've had a significant backlog
25 with people who do not have access to

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2 their rears, either gates, unsafe
3 conditions with animals in the back or
4 debris that the households put out in the
5 alleys so that --

6 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: They
7 couldn't get through to maintain them.

8 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: They
9 can't get through.

10 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay. As
11 long as we're talking time frame, I know
12 you were working on that program with the
13 pothole/plumbers' ditch repairs, which
14 was -- what was the time frame you were
15 working on?

16 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: It's a
17 next-day response. It's been a quite
18 successful program. It's run by our
19 Highways Division that has done an
20 excellent job. What it guarantees is, on
21 all potholes that the City maintains, we
22 will respond the next day to repair that
23 pothole within our pothole season, and
24 we're certainly in pothole season now.

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I was

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2 going to say, this is probably prime
3 time, right, the end of the winter?

4 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: Yes, it's
5 prime time now.

6 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Although
7 we're still in winter, I guess. I don't
8 know.

9 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: And our
10 average response time at this point is
11 the one day.

12 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Now, is
13 that plumbers' ditches, too?

14 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: Ditches
15 are different. Ditches, our goal
16 timeline for response is 30 days. Right
17 now coming off of the winter when you
18 have been unable to permanently repair
19 ditches, we do have a backlog. We expect
20 to have that backlog gone within a couple
21 of months, I would say. Yes. By the end
22 of this fiscal year, the backlog will be
23 gone, and we will then be able to
24 maintain our 30-day response pretty
25 handedly. We were able to do that last

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2 year, and our citizens, I think, really
3 appreciated it and they told us that,
4 which was a big boost to the folks who
5 work in the division, because they saw
6 the efforts appreciated in a big way. It
7 got to the point where we were able --
8 our process is one where a call comes in,
9 people identify a pothole and an
10 inspector goes out to make sure that it
11 is a pothole. We've had to do that
12 because, unfortunately, about 30 percent
13 of the calls that say they're potholes
14 they aren't.

15 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: They're
16 ditches of some sort, right?

17 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: They're
18 ditches. They could be a missing utility
19 cover or sunk-in cover, a whole host of
20 things. And our inspector often times
21 will call the individual that makes the
22 request -- they give you a telephone
23 number -- to confirm that we have the
24 right location, that we're not missing
25 something. It could be under a car and

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2 we don't see it. So that has gone along
3 quite smoothly quite nicely.

4 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Great.

5 Just one more follow-up, and as
6 Councilman Kenney said, I know you kind
7 of have to do what the Administration
8 instructs you to do in this case, but on
9 the condo trash pick-up -- I know Deputy
10 Commissioner said that there was only so
11 many that were participating so far, but
12 what kind of strain on your manpower
13 would you have if these bigger condos
14 just decided, You know what, we're going
15 to ask you to do this since it's your
16 responsibility right now to do?

17 And I certainly agree with
18 Councilman Kenney, that certainly tax
19 credits seem to make a heck of a lot more
20 sense economically and otherwise. But
21 how would you handle that? I mean, do
22 you have people like ready to go if the
23 Philadelphian and Society Hill Towers and
24 all these places started saying, We want
25 our trash picked up?

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2 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: Yes,
3 Councilman. We actually prior to the
4 start of the service, we prepared
5 ourselves by surveying the facilities to
6 determine what type of dumpsters we'd
7 use, make sure we had the proper type of
8 truck that would handle the service, and
9 that's why we staffed appropriately and
10 also prepared ourselves in terms of our
11 disposal capacity.

12 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And that
13 would not have an effect on your
14 personnel as it is now?

15 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: No.

16 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Because
17 if you're not doing it now, those people
18 are doing something else, right?

19 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: Well, we
20 were to staff up to that level to support
21 the condo collection, but we did not
22 staff to that level because the condo
23 collection didn't happen on a wholesale
24 level.

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And I

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2 know this isn't your thing as much as the
3 Law Department, but on the issue that
4 Councilman Kenney brought up as far as
5 the condos and the damage that could be
6 done insurance-wise and whatever, has
7 that been discussed?

8 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: I had not
9 heard of the insurance issue previously.
10 I had not heard of the insurance being a
11 concern.

12 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: We did
13 hear that from condo associations, that
14 they didn't want -- you had issues of
15 damage and that kind of thing or
16 allegations of damage.

17 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: We were
18 not advised of that.

19 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.
20 All right.

21 Thank you, Madam President.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:

23 You're welcome.

24 The Chair recognizes Councilman
25 Rizzo.

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2 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I hope that
3 if there's a fire, they'll allow the fire
4 truck to come.

5 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: I'm
6 sorry?

7 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I hope if
8 there's a fire, they'll allow the fire
9 truck to come to the condos.

10 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: Yes.

11 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I want to
12 talk about the school zones first. I've
13 noticed that the school zones are now --
14 they say 15 miles an hour. Rarely a
15 person goes through a school zone at 15
16 miles an hour.

17 Is there any work between the
18 Streets Department and the Police
19 Department to do some collective
20 enforcement -- I guess that's a word from
21 the last decade -- to periodically
22 monitor some of the locations? I know on
23 the way to work, Henry Avenue by the Saul
24 School, if anybody is doing 30 through
25 that school zone, that's slow. And then

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2 I notice -- and I'm going to look into
3 legislation. I'm not hot on banning
4 people from using cell phones while they
5 drive, but through a school zone, maybe
6 that should be where we start with that.
7 I see people talking on cell phones.

8 So I'm wondering, what do we do
9 to monitor those? I know the Streets
10 Department certainly is the installer and
11 really don't get involved in the
12 enforcement, but is there any data on how
13 effective they are? Does the Police
14 Department look at those occasionally to
15 see how fast people are going through
16 there? Do you have the ability to
17 monitor, just pick a couple different
18 locations to see what kind of speeds are
19 really occurring there?

20 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: Yes. I
21 think you're making an excellent point,
22 Councilman, and, in fact, I can say that
23 we are partnering with the Police
24 Department and -- you used the word
25 "selective enforcement." I won't say

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2 that. However, we do move from school to
3 school every day of the week, and they
4 are monitoring the locations for abuses
5 and reckless driving behavior, whether
6 it's not stopping properly for a school
7 bus if the school bus is in use, making a
8 turn on red when there's a sign up for
9 that, moving recklessly through the zone.

10 It's difficult to do the speed
11 enforcement because most of it you can't
12 travel -- you're not getting to the --
13 you can't clock the 30 miles an hour in
14 that kind of area. And we do have data
15 for that. I did not bring that with me,
16 but it's something that is regularly
17 monitored and it's an ongoing project.

18 COUNCILMAN RIZZO:

19 Commissioner, as a motorist, you just
20 said something that's important, just as
21 a driver. In my opinion, correct me if
22 I'm wrong, that any intersection that has
23 a school crossing guard should
24 automatically be a "no turn on red"
25 location. I was amazed at a particular

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2 location there was a school crossing a
3 person and there was no regulation not to
4 turn right on red.

5 Would my concept work that if
6 there's a school crossing guard, that
7 automatically that should become an
8 intersection that is posted "no turn on
9 red"? Because this person made a right
10 on the red while the school crossing
11 guard was right in the middle of the
12 intersection, and she said a few kind
13 words to the person, but the person
14 really wasn't wrong in making the right
15 on the red.

16 Does it make sense to possibly
17 consider that the Police Department
18 provide all the locations that are
19 controlled by a crossing officer and post
20 those "no turn on red"?

21 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: That is
22 something that we will definitely
23 consider. It's a good idea. We have an
24 ongoing committee that meets on school
25 safety that includes not just the Police

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2 Department and Streets but also includes
3 the Parking Authority and the School
4 District, the Archdiocese, and we address
5 various issues. So at our next meeting,
6 which is this week on Thursday, I
7 believe, we will address this point.

8 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I assume
9 that would kind of be an easy process
10 where the Police Department would just
11 tell you where those locations are, and
12 I'm sure many of them already are posted,
13 but there's a couple that I've noticed
14 that there is personnel there, but the
15 intersection does allow you to make a
16 right on a red.

17 Going back to the school zones,
18 I assume the tool of a traffic engineer,
19 even though it's not for enforcement, is
20 a radar device that they can actually --
21 they have a radar gun like the Police do
22 to monitor the speed?

23 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: No. We
24 don't have any radar guns.

25 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: You don't?

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2 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: No.

3 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: How does the
4 Streets Department monitor speed?

5 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: I'm
6 sorry. I apologize. We do have a radar
7 gun.

8 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I thought
9 that I saw somewhere that speed --

10 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: We have
11 one.

12 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I'd be
13 curious if maybe -- and I know you're
14 very busy, but just to confirm what I
15 believe about the speeds in our school
16 zones, that if maybe four or five
17 locations over a few-month period before
18 school is over could be checked to see
19 what kind of speeds are truly -- I'm the
20 kind of person you just don't want to
21 throw it out there. You want to make
22 sure that what you believe is occurring
23 is occurring. But just based on driving,
24 you see the speeds of people.

25 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: I

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2 understand.

3 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: And I'm also
4 going to check to see if there is
5 anything in the Motor Vehicle Code that
6 would prohibit a person, without creating
7 a new law, to prohibit a person from
8 using a cell phone as they travel through
9 a school zone.

10 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: Thank
11 you.

12 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Again, thank
13 you very much, Commissioner.

14 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: Thank
15 you.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
17 Chair now recognizes Councilman Kenney.

18 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you,
19 Madam President.

20 Just so the discussion is
21 clear, relative to the issue on liability
22 with the large condo associations as
23 opposed to a fire emergency is that there
24 is refrigeration equipment, there's tight
25 space, there's issues of workmen's comp,

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2 issues on private property. It's a
3 complicated thing. It's not as simple as
4 a ladder or engine truck coming to save
5 people's lives. It's kind of a weekly
6 interaction that the insurance companies
7 for the condos themselves have said,
8 We're not going to cover this. So that's
9 the reason why. It's not just being
10 stubborn. It's they have some serious
11 concerns, and I hope they can be worked
12 out. So I just wanted to make sure the
13 record was clear.

14 But just one final thing. Did
15 you thank God yet?

16 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: Yes,
17 indeed.

18 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I thank
19 God.

20 COMMISSIONER TOLSON:
21 Regularly.

22 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: You know
23 what I thanked him for this week? That
24 that Nor'easter didn't happen a month, a
25 month and a half ago.

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2 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: I was
3 thinking about a half hour ago, actually.

4 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Because
5 could you imagine three feet two months
6 before the election after what we went
7 through in '96?

8 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: No.

9 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: So thank
10 God. Thanks.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
12 You're welcome.

13 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: I will
14 thank him when I leave here today as
15 well.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
17 Chair recognizes Councilman Greenlee.

18 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Just one
19 last question, Commissioner. You mention
20 in your testimony about soft rumble
21 strips. How many of those roughly do you
22 have around and what have you found the
23 effect? Have there been any studies to
24 show the effect of them?

25 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: We are

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2 using them in a number of locations and

3 we're using other alternatives as well.

4 I don't have my exact number, but I'll

5 get that for you in terms --

6 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: If you

7 could. I'd be interested, because I know

8 a few years ago there was one put on

9 Pennsylvania Avenue around the

10 Philadelphian apartments and now condo,

11 and people thought that they didn't

12 really have as much of an effect. People

13 wanted the best of all worlds. They

14 wanted traffic slowed down, but they

15 didn't want any noise, which I know is

16 kind of hard to do.

17 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: We have

18 something called Slow Down Philadelphia

19 that we're developing, and what we have

20 learned and what we knew but we are

21 expanding is that different approaches

22 are needed for different scenarios,

23 depending upon how wide the street is,

24 what type of vehicle traffic you have on

25 it, trucks and whatnot, whether it's

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2 residential or commercial. So we have
3 been trying to test different approaches
4 in an effort to slow the traffic down.

5 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Because I
6 know that's a complaint we get a lot.
7 Traffic goes too fast everywhere, I
8 guess. I'm just trying to determine how
9 those might work. Okay. Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: Thank
11 you.

12 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
13 you, Madam President.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
15 You're welcome.

16 Councilwoman Blackwell.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
18 you, Madam President.

19 Certainly I want to thank the
20 Streets Department, our Commissioner,
21 Commissioner Tolson, and Deputy
22 Commissioner Williams, who we worry
23 daily. In fact, I said I had to call
24 them today. We got a big pothole at 45th
25 and Chestnut, going down Chestnut Street

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2 in the morning, and I've been meaning to
3 call. But when your car almost won't
4 come out, I said, well, I guess I'd
5 better do it now, and with the rain
6 coming.

7 But we also want to thank you
8 for the focus on recycling. Recycling
9 has become a major issue in my district,
10 as you know, and we continue to give out
11 the bins, and Marty, who is in the
12 hallway, goes to a meeting almost every
13 night.

14 And had I known that it would
15 be that issue, Madam President, I would
16 have focused on that a long time ago and
17 maybe I wouldn't have to work so hard in
18 many other areas since this recycling is
19 such a major, major issue.

20 But we do thank you. We do
21 really support that. And I know that
22 numbers have gone up with the degree of
23 recycling we have. Thank you again for
24 the bins and the information and coming
25 out, Commissioner Williams, to our

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2 communities whenever they call. It's
3 always a good meeting when you come out
4 to talk about recycling. It makes our
5 job a lot easier. But we do support you
6 in all that happens and look forward to a
7 great year ahead.

8 Thank you, Madam President.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

10 You're welcome.

11 Councilman Kenney.

12 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: One
13 question I forgot to ask relative to
14 recycling. Have you been able to assign
15 an amount of money savings for every
16 percentage of trash diverted?

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

18 Yes. Hi. This is Deputy Commissioner
19 Williams again.

20 Yes. We measure it in terms of
21 tonnage, and the tonnage that we don't
22 divert to a landfill is approximately \$60
23 a ton right now.

24 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: And how
25 many tons does that represent currently?

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2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

3 Well, last year -- I can give you last
4 year's numbers. We diverted 40,000 tons.
5 It saved us approximately \$2.4 million
6 that we didn't have to pay to disposal
7 companies.

8 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Do you have
9 the leeway to rededicate that savings
10 back into expanding recycling within your
11 own department?

12 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: Say it
13 again.

14 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Do you have
15 the ability to assign that savings to
16 expanding recycling? Because it seems to
17 me obviously the more tonnage we divert,
18 the more savings we have, the more monies
19 available for recycling. We can maybe
20 accelerate our recycling program instead
21 of over three years maybe even shorter.

22 Do you have that authority or
23 do you need to go to ask for an
24 appropriation for that?

25 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

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2 Our revenues go back to the General Fund.

3 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: So you
4 can't capture some of that savings?

5 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: No.

6 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: All right.
7 Thanks.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Is
9 Councilman Clarke in the room?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I
12 don't see him.

13 Do we have anyone else that
14 would like to ask any questions or make
15 any comments?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
18 Seeing no one --

19 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Madam
20 President.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Yes.
22 Councilman Rizzo.

23 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: A quick
24 question about street lights.

25 I understand -- and if

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2 Mr. Doyle could come.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

4 Mr. Doyle.

5 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I understand
6 they have these blips back and forth with
7 the number of troubled reports with
8 street lights that PECO Energy handles
9 where you see multiple lights out, and
10 Councilman Greenlee was kind of referring
11 to some of those issues. It went pretty
12 high, I understand, in the last few
13 weeks, month. It was over a hundred and
14 now it's down to 90.

15 Could you, for the record, tell
16 us -- I believe PECO tries their best to
17 respond to our requests, but there are
18 lots of areas still. I mentioned to you
19 earlier -- and I know they're state
20 involved -- Gustine Lake and some of the
21 overhead signage. The lights at the
22 intersections at Kelly Drive and
23 Wissahickon have been out for many, many
24 months.

25 Could you just briefly describe

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2 what you believe the response of the
3 people that need to provide you support
4 to get these lights back in service, both
5 the overhead signage -- I know that may
6 be City. I'm not sure whether it's City,
7 whether it's PennDOT, but it still is
8 City of Philadelphia.

9 We had a time before
10 Commissioner Tolson when you'd call the
11 Streets Departments and you wanted a
12 pothole fixed, they gave you the phone
13 number for PennDOT. I hope those days
14 are over. So if we have a sign that's
15 not lighted at night and it is a PennDOT
16 sign, that we take that very seriously
17 and let PennDOT know that it needs to get
18 fixed.

19 Could you just describe where
20 we are right now, the relationship? Are
21 you satisfied with it? Do they need to
22 do more? Where exactly are we and do you
23 consider over a hundred trouble reports
24 significant?

25 MR. DOYLE: Joseph Doyle, Chief

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2 Street Lighting Engineer.

3 Councilman, you've asked kind
4 of a broad range of questions.

5 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Right, I
6 have.

7 MR. DOYLE: Our relationship
8 with PennDOT is obviously different than
9 our relationship with PECO, and yet we're
10 depending on both of them when it comes
11 to operating and maintaining lighting
12 that's in the City versus the City's
13 lighting.

14 To kind of tackle one question
15 at a time, as far as PennDOT is
16 concerned, PennDOT, of course, is
17 responsible for maintaining all of the
18 lighting on the interstate highway system
19 and the ramps that approach it. In
20 particular, this does include the twin
21 bridges at City Avenue and Gustine Lake.

22 I know there have been ongoing
23 problems with PennDOT and the lighting
24 there, because you personally have
25 contacted us on this. They are working

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2 now, and we actually had a meeting with

3 the PennDOT Supervisor just last Friday

4 to try to clarify some of those issues.

5 So, yes, we hope to have that improve

6 with PennDOT, including sign lighting.

7 There was a question that they brought up

8 about sign lighting. They were confused

9 and thought that some of the lighting on

10 the signs, on PennDOT's own signs, were

11 maintained by the City, and I corrected

12 them on that. No, they're PennDOT

13 responsibility. So I think they're going

14 to have a little stronger initiative in

15 that area to pick that up and improve

16 that.

17 The relationship with PECO, of

18 course, is different. They provide our

19 repairs to underground lighting that

20 actually do belong to the City. It's the

21 City street lights.

22 You're right that the backlog

23 of repairs kind of peaks in the

24 wintertime. It's obviously more

25 difficult for them to work considering

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2 the bad weather and ice and snow, and
3 conversely the salt and other chemicals
4 on the road further aggravate the
5 problem. So you have an increase in
6 outages and a decrease in the ability to
7 repair them.

8 However, PECO has picked this
9 up in the last couple of years where they
10 now use more outside contractors. They
11 had traditionally tried to make all the
12 repairs with their own people, but that's
13 improved quite a bit and they now use
14 contractors for that work. So that has
15 helped bring those numbers down from a
16 backlog and outage. And I think that
17 that is the experience that we've seen on
18 heavy corridors, like Henry Avenue,
19 Roosevelt Boulevard in particular. The
20 Boulevard has been very well maintained
21 by PECO in the last couple of years where
22 prior it was less than ideal.

23 So overall, we are trying to
24 kind of keep our -- there's a lot of
25 competing priorities obviously on storm

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2 work. PECO diverts their forces off on a
3 Nor'easter, which detracts from their
4 ability to repair street light circuits,
5 so the next week that number will go up
6 and possibly they won't be able to bring
7 that number down as quickly as we would
8 like.

9 So, clearly, there's a balance
10 and a priority system, but we think that
11 our relationship with PECO is really
12 customer oriented. They do want to
13 provide a good service, and I know your
14 help with them has often been helpful to
15 try to get that reprioritized sometimes.

16 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you,
17 Mr. Doyle. And I want to thank the
18 Commissioner, because lighting is a very
19 important part of the Boulevard safety
20 initiative. I do recall when there were
21 dozens of lights in various areas on the
22 Boulevard, and rarely, to your efforts,
23 do I see a light out.

24 Since we've had this confusion
25 with the lighted signs, I don't think it

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2 would be a bad idea since PennDOT didn't
3 know that it was their responsibility and
4 the City wasn't fixing them, the reason
5 it got to my attention was that I have
6 seen those lights out now for many, many
7 months, and you figure, well, next week
8 it will be on, well, next week it will be
9 on, because the street lights were out
10 and I didn't know whether it was a part
11 of the street light outage that created
12 the overhead signs to be out.

13 Do we know where we have
14 illuminated signs in the County of
15 Philadelphia that are PennDOT
16 responsibility to determine whether
17 they're on or off? Because I'm sure
18 PennDOT is not going to go out and look
19 for them.

20 MR. DOYLE: Well, actually,
21 they showed a lot more interest in this
22 when they realized they were their
23 responsibility and not the City's.

24 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Who is
25 paying the electric?

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2 MR. DOYLE: Well, they are.

3 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: And that's
4 neat. They pay for the electric and
5 assume the bulk --

6 MR. DOYLE: Suffice it to say
7 that we're trying to work with PennDOT.
8 They understand their responsibilities.
9 We are going to have a follow-up meeting
10 with them to see how that works. So I
11 will with certainly put that on the
12 agenda, that that's their first
13 responsibility, is to deal with the sign
14 lighting issue and get that up to speed.

15 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So it's fair
16 to say, so I know what I'm looking at and
17 talking about, that any illuminated sign
18 in the City of Philadelphia is a PennDOT
19 responsibility?

20 MR. DOYLE: It's not a Streets
21 Department responsibility. I'm presuming
22 they're all PennDOT. I don't have that
23 list in front of me, so to speak, to say
24 about every sign. There could be Port
25 Authority signs that are down near the

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2 bridges.

3 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I got you.

4 MR. DOYLE: I don't know every
5 sign in Philadelphia that has
6 illumination on it. I only know that
7 none of them are maintained by the
8 Streets Department. So that those other
9 types of signs that may exist are other
10 agencies -- the owner of the sign is
11 normally responsible for lighting the
12 sign. So if it's a Port Authority sign,
13 for example, then it would be the Port
14 Authority would do the lighting.

15 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So other
16 than Port Authority, the biggest piece of
17 it probably would be PennDOT, because the
18 signs that -- before you get on a limited
19 access, the Expressway, you're coming
20 down City Avenue, there's a big sign.
21 It's illuminated. It's supposed to be
22 anyway. I would assume it's PennDOT?

23 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

24 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: And they
25 didn't know that it was their maintenance

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2 responsibility? I don't mean to put them
3 on the spot, but I'm just curious. That
4 really is hard for me to believe.

5 MR. DOYLE: There seemed to be
6 some confusion on that.

7 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Confusion?
8 You are so polite, confusion. Okay. So
9 if there's a light out on one of the
10 signs that gives direction that's very
11 important at night, it's not the Streets
12 Department, it's some other agency than
13 the Streets Department to get the light
14 back on?

15 MR. DOYLE: Yes. It would be
16 the owner of the sign.

17 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Okay. I
18 wonder how we audit that, to go and ask
19 PennDOT to do it. Could that be the way
20 to do that? At least that would take the
21 biggest piece of it. Could you get
22 PennDOT to check every one of the ones
23 that they know that they own that they're
24 lighted at night?

25 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

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2 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you.

3 Thank you, Madam Chair.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
5 Chair recognizes Councilman Clarke.

6 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
7 Madam President.

8 Good afternoon.

9 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: Good
10 afternoon.

11 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: I just have
12 a couple of brief questions. With
13 respect to the recent snow/ice storm, the
14 Department had a treatment that, I guess,
15 included cinders or something in a very
16 aggressive way, and it was pretty
17 effective in minimizing the problems as
18 it relates to the ice, but the aftermath
19 of that is somewhat problematic in a lot
20 of parts of the district. The cinders
21 just won't go away. Even in spite of the
22 recent monsoon that we had over the last
23 24 hours, they're still there. How can
24 we get rid of these things?

25 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: The

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2 Streets Department through Sanitation is
3 systematically going through the City and
4 clearing locations by mechanical broom.
5 We certainly would encourage any
6 locations that you have or problem blocks
7 to let us know and we will take care of
8 them. But additionally, I think that we
9 ask for citizen assistance and help to
10 clear the cinders away as soon as
11 possible. I wouldn't have thought that
12 we needed them this late in the year.
13 However, it was still good to have some
14 of them around given the slush that we
15 saw this morning.

16 But you are right. During the
17 wintertime, they were wonderful because
18 it helps to minimize accidents. It's an
19 anti-skid material. It did a great job
20 for that, but it has certainly passed its
21 usefulness for us -- well, at least
22 hopefully today it has passed its
23 usefulness in terms of its application on
24 the streets.

25 So we are cleaning blocks. If

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2 there are locations that people are aware
3 of, they can call in and we will address
4 them more expeditiously, and we ask for
5 our citizen support and assistance, if
6 they can.

7 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: With
8 respect to our, I guess maybe three or
9 four times, I know the Streets Department
10 through Philly More Beautiful has a
11 program where they go out and do cleaning
12 in the blocks, encouraging citizen
13 participation, but it appears that the
14 participation has been dwindling over the
15 last several years. Can you give me a
16 sense of what's going on with that and
17 what we can do to encourage more
18 participation?

19 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: Citizen
20 participation through PMBC is critical
21 for us. I think all of us in government
22 appreciate that government can't do it by
23 itself. We need to work with the
24 citizens for whom we are public servants.

25 I have some of the stats for

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2 the last couple of years. The numbers
3 are fairly consistent. In 2005, we had
4 9,600 organized clean-ups. In 2006, we
5 had 9,900 organized clean-ups. Each time
6 we picked up about 2.1 million pounds of
7 litter. And we had 88,000 volunteers in
8 2005 and 89,000 in 2006.

9 So I think that with a little,
10 a lot has been done. Our block captains
11 list is growing. People are becoming
12 more and more involved.

13 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: How do we
14 know that, that the block captains list
15 is growing, since it is quite a secretive
16 list?

17 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: I
18 appreciate that. You have to trust me,
19 Councilman. We have people who are
20 becoming more and more active. It used
21 to be one where I think it was mostly
22 older people, a lot of them women, and
23 we're seeing different people who are
24 becoming part of that next. People are
25 saying they want to take on the challenge

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2 and become owners of their block. We try
3 to make it non-political. We say, You're
4 not becoming a ward leader. You're not
5 becoming a district man or woman. You
6 have one block. That's the only block
7 that you have to worry about, the only
8 thing that we want you to tackle. And
9 it's been quite effective.

10 We've also been bringing in
11 children. I think there's nearly 600
12 junior block captains, children who are
13 under the age of 18 who are either
14 partnering with an adult or who on their
15 own are taking leadership for organizing
16 the children in the block and doing
17 clean-up, fixing, painting, whatever, to
18 help to maintain litter-free blocks.

19 And we can see that PMBC is
20 quite effective in what it does. By and
21 large, I would say you can drive around a
22 neighborhood and see some blocks that are
23 littered and dirty and then you get to
24 one block that looks like a jewel, and
25 that's usually a PMBC block. And a lot

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2 of bad things don't happen on PMBC
3 blocks, because people also become
4 involved in Town Watch and Elder Care and
5 the like. As Councilman Kenney was
6 mentioning earlier, they don't let the
7 stuff fly from hands to the street,
8 because the people who are cleaning the
9 street don't want other people to come
10 through and litter and make it dirty.

11 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Right. Out
12 on the campaign trail you hear a lot of
13 complaints about a lot of things and so
14 I'm asking these questions.

15 I'm getting a lot of complaints
16 about the Sanitation trash pick-ups where
17 in some instances there's debris left
18 over from the pick-up and there's no
19 attempt to clean it up. People are
20 saying that sometimes the trash guys, you
21 know, they like to throw the things and
22 they do -- and I want to emphasize that
23 they do a really good job out in the
24 neighborhood. It's a very difficult job.
25 But sometimes they leave a block and

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2 there's streams of leftovers in the
3 street. What is the policy on that? I
4 mean, if you missed the truck when you
5 throw the trash bag and it hits the end
6 and bursts open and some of the stuff is
7 on the street, what --

8 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: There's a
9 couple ways that I would approach that
10 question. One, I agree with you, it is a
11 very tough job. I've collected trash to
12 understand how it works, to understand
13 what my staff goes through. It's
14 difficult and it's a challenge. However,
15 the trucks are required to carry and we
16 supply brooms and shovels. So if a
17 collector chooses to toss a bag and it
18 misses the truck and it breaks and
19 splatters, they have to clean that up.

20 On the same hand, and I would
21 say --

22 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Are they
23 instructed to do that?

24 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: Yes.
25 Absolutely. Absolutely. And a good way

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2 for us to address that is if people call
3 to complain about that, we send that same
4 truck back to that location to clean up.
5 And the crews hate to do that. They
6 don't want to have to go back to the same
7 block twice, because it wastes their time
8 and we have expectations about how much
9 work that they're going to do in a day.
10 So it's effective, but we need people to
11 address it. If people are reckless in
12 their behavior, to advise of individual
13 circumstances.

14 The other thing that is a
15 challenge with regard to the materials
16 that are messy after trash day is how
17 people put trash out. Most times pizza
18 boxes, they never make it into a trash
19 bag or a trash can. They're laid on top.
20 And there's other type of
21 irregular-shaped debris or people just
22 have extra stuff that comes out late and
23 they just lay it on top. They don't bag
24 it up. People also are not using cans
25 properly or the proper size bags. The

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2 little three-gallon bag that you get from
3 the supermarket, little plastic bag,
4 people use those for trash bags. It's
5 completely inappropriate. They're not
6 meant to hold trash. They leak. They
7 tear. They rip. They're meant to carry
8 your milk from the store to home, not
9 much more than that.

10 And the other way that we get
11 material -- as you say, for that one, the
12 solution is that we have to continue to
13 educate people about the proper
14 containers. Because it actually is
15 against the regulations to put your
16 materials out in a bag of that size. But
17 if you would drive around any section of
18 the City, Center City to the Northeast to
19 the Northwest to the Southwest and South
20 Philadelphia, if you spread out, you're
21 going to see those bags being used, and I
22 think people do it because the bags are
23 free, in a sense. You've already got
24 that bag at home, you might as well put
25 20 of them in front of your house. But

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2 we've had people who put sharp items in
3 those bags. We have people who put
4 bricks and construction debris in plastic
5 bags. It just doesn't work and it's not
6 meant to happen.

7 The other way that the trash
8 gets on the street is that pedestrians
9 often times will see trash out and
10 walking past will just lay their
11 materials on top and not try to put it in
12 a container or otherwise, and that's a
13 problem, as well as people ripping into
14 trash, looking for things and people who
15 are from other counties or New Jersey who
16 leave trash, because they know in
17 Philadelphia we'll pick it up. So any
18 place that you come into the City,
19 whether it be Broad Street or Henry
20 Avenue or Belmont, where people come into
21 the City, they find a place to leave
22 their materials behind.

23 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Right. One
24 last question. The disposal of
25 computers -- this is actually one of

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2 those questions that came up. Councilman
3 Greenlee and I happened to be at a
4 function the other night and we were
5 talking about recycling and then the
6 gentleman wanted to know was there a
7 recycling program for computers. I
8 didn't know and we kind of, frankly
9 speaking, said that's something that
10 never came up.

11 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: We are
12 developing that. That's called eCycling
13 in the industry. I'm going to let the
14 Deputy speak more to that issue. But
15 it's something that is being developed
16 more and more around the country, because
17 we don't want to dispose of those items
18 in the trash. But it is called eCycling
19 and he can address it further, if you'd
20 like.

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:
22 Councilman, each year we have six
23 locations where they can drop off
24 hazardous material that a household has
25 on his waste days, and one of the things

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2 that we have as a component of that is
3 where you can drop off your old computer
4 equipment at those locations at our area
5 yards.

6 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Are they
7 recycled?

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:
9 Yes. Yes.

10 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: All right.
11 Now, if we could just remember the
12 gentleman's name that asked us that
13 question, I'd like to get -- because he
14 was quite interested in that.

15 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: We can
16 get some material to your offices that
17 you can share with your constituents with
18 regard to when these events are
19 scheduled. They're very, very popular.
20 I think that people like that idea. And
21 it helps us. Every time we have somebody
22 bring in a gallon of motor oil or quart
23 of motor oil, that's something if it were
24 put in the trash, it could contaminate
25 ground and groundwater very easily, and

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2 it can contaminate a lot of it. It
3 spreads quickly, spreads easily.

4 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Point of
5 information.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
7 Chair recognizes Councilman Rizzo for a
8 point of information.

9 COUNCILMAN RIZZO:
10 Commissioner, did you say there's only
11 six days?

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:
13 Six days throughout the year where we
14 invite the public in to bring all of
15 their material.

16 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Why would we
17 discourage someone from disposing of
18 something properly? I know that was one
19 of the concerns, where people wanted to
20 go to a location and dump something and
21 they were told, Well, no, we can't accept
22 it. Then they go three blocks away and
23 short dump.

24 Why can't we make it easy for
25 people to do it the right way?

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2 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: Can we
3 clarify that? Those drop-off days are
4 what we call our household hazardous
5 waste days, and for that, we bring in a
6 vendor. I think it's Clean Ventures.
7 And some of this material is quite
8 dangerous. We've had people bring in
9 acids. Something like oil-based paint
10 seems simple enough for any of us to
11 handle, but you never know what you're
12 going to get. So we get other cleaning
13 products, unlabeled chemicals. So all of
14 that is taken by a certified vendor, who
15 has to test it and then process it. And
16 those materials, we don't want the
17 chemicals at a facility, because you
18 don't know what you're going to get.
19 There's all kinds of stuff that people
20 have in their homes.

21 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Okay.

22 Let's --

23 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: But if it
24 were something that's more direct and
25 simple --

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2 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: A computer.

3 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: -- then
4 you can bring that to any of our drop-off
5 points.

6 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Any time?

7 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: Where we
8 have a citizen drop-off. We have those
9 around the City.

10 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So there's
11 no restriction? Because I got confused.
12 I thought you were restricting the
13 drop-off of a computer to six days. So
14 you're not doing that?

15 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: No.
16 Computers can be taken at any time.
17 However, to get some of our chemicals,
18 we're challenged with that.

19 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I'm not
20 talking about that.

21 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: But we
22 promote eCycling in our household
23 hazardous waste. And also, we don't
24 promote cans and bottles for those days.

25 COUNCILMAN RIZZO:

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2 Commissioner, another thing just to end
3 this. One of the things that really is a
4 mess -- I don't know, and I checked on it
5 before. Sometimes the garbage or the
6 debris that's left in the compactors,
7 when they compress the truck, all this
8 fluid comes out of them, and they go from
9 one stop to the other leaving a trail.
10 It stays forever, it seems, whatever this
11 contaminant is. And I assume the point
12 that you're making right now, if somebody
13 puts motor oil in there, if it opens, it
14 get into the truck. But they tell me
15 that there's -- Fleet Management said
16 that there's some seals that are very
17 significant in those trucks so that trail
18 of garbage or contaminated liquid doesn't
19 coat all over the City streets. I mean,
20 you can actually see the trail of the
21 truck, where it goes from one side of the
22 street to the other discharging whatever
23 this fluid is.

24 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: Yeah. We
25 have --

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2 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: How does it
3 get in there? Is it rainwater that gets
4 mixed with the -- how does all this,
5 whatever it is, get into these trucks?

6 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: It could
7 be rainwater or it could be things that
8 people put in the trash. Councilman, I
9 would hate to tell you what people put in
10 a bottle and then put in the trash bag.

11 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Right.

12 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: I mean, I
13 think that people assume that because you
14 can't see it, it won't hurt you.
15 Unfortunately, we've had people who have
16 been killed on the job collecting trash,
17 which is a horror. I mean, it's not
18 right. We've had people who have been
19 sickened. That happens fairly regularly,
20 because people put something in the
21 trash. And, I mean, we've seen people
22 who gingerly carried something out to the
23 curb, put it on the curb and then walked
24 away from it. So it was dangerous enough
25 for them to carry it out gingerly from

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2 their house or their home. However, they
3 left it out for pedestrians, children and
4 for the trash collector to pick up.

5 We have people who are
6 regularly pricked by intravenous needles.
7 You don't know where it's come from. And
8 then there's always the feces, and you
9 never know whether it's animal or human.

10 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: It's tough,
11 no question.

12 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: And we've
13 had that be in the back of the truck and
14 having that pop and splatter in your face
15 or whatnot.

16 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: But I was
17 told whatever these seals are in those
18 trucks, they're designed to contain that
19 material, and sometimes these seals
20 deteriorate or break. Maybe Commissioner
21 Carlton Williams knows what I'm talking
22 about.

23 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: I
24 understand what you're talking about.
25 The challenge, the seals that -- we

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2 replace seals. Sometimes we have
3 challenges with just other cracks or
4 whatever. So we've had to do additional
5 welding. So whenever we come across a
6 truck that begins to leak for whatever
7 reason --

8 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I'm sorry.
9 It's not my turn.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
11 Councilman Rizzo, that was a point of
12 information.

13 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I forgot.

14 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Master of
15 the point of information, my good friend.

16 A couple of quick follow-ups.
17 One, at an earlier hearing -- I think it
18 was actually last year -- I was telling
19 you about a section of my district
20 actually in kind of Fishtown, lower
21 Kensington where there were a lot of
22 industrial buildings, and I was telling
23 you about the operators of those
24 facilities not cleaning their sidewalks.
25 I have seen no degree that that has been

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2 enforced or addressed, because the same
3 buildings continue to have the same
4 debris on the sidewalks, and you
5 indicated at the last hearing that you
6 were going to have your, I guess, sweeps
7 officers --

8 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: Yes.

9 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: -- go out
10 and aggressively enforce that, and
11 nothing is happening. I got hit with
12 that again at a community meeting the
13 other night.

14 COMMISSIONER TOLSON:
15 Councilman, after the meeting, after
16 today's session, can we make contact with
17 you again to refresh us about the
18 locations?

19 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Yes,
20 please.

21 One last thing -- and I don't
22 know if there's anything we can do about
23 this. In a lot of parts of the City, not
24 only in my district, you have these
25 little corner stores and they have these

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2 little -- everybody gets plastic bags
3 now, no longer the paper bags, and the
4 people come out of the store with the
5 plastic bags, take whatever it is out of
6 the plastic bag and disposes of the
7 plastic bag, unfortunately, on the
8 street. And these little plastic bags,
9 they blow down the street and they end up
10 resting against a fence or a property or
11 something. And you can pretty much tell
12 when you're walking down the street that
13 there's one of these little corner stores
14 in proximity to your location because of
15 the level of that type of debris, candy
16 wrappers, things of that nature. And I
17 understand that it's really the
18 responsibility of the person who
19 purchases the goods from them not to be
20 pigs, for lack of a better term, but the
21 reality is that it is.

22 Is there any way that we can
23 shift some of the focus to the store
24 owners to be responsible for the
25 perimeter? Although it may not be on

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2 their property, but it's clear that that
3 debris is coming as a result of their
4 store or for people purchasing service
5 out of their store. Is there any way?
6 Because this is really a problem.

7 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: If you
8 could share your information about
9 locations where that's a problem, we can
10 help address it.

11 Any store that sells foods for
12 takeout is required by law to have a
13 trash can, I think it's, six to eight
14 feet from their door.

15 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Really?

16 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: For that
17 very purpose. People walk out, they can
18 throw it.

19 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Really?

20 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: Yes. Any
21 store that sells food for takeout.

22 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: I can't
23 think of a single commercial corridor in
24 my district where there -- and I know
25 there may be some, but all of those

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2 takeout stores, I don't know anywhere
3 where they have that much. So they're
4 required by law?

5 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: Yes.

6 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: So if I
7 just give you the commercial corridors
8 starting with those, you'll be able to go
9 out and aggressively enforce it?

10 COMMISSIONER TOLSON:

11 Absolutely. Yes.

12 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: All right.

13 You'll have them. Okay. Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: Thank
15 you.

16 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
17 Madam President.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

19 You're welcome.

20 Are there any other questions
21 from members of the Committee?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
24 you very much.

25 COMMISSIONER TOLSON: Thank

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2 you.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: This
4 Committee will stand in recess until
5 tomorrow, Tuesday, April 17th at 10:00
6 a.m.

7 Thank you all very much.

8 (Committee of the Whole
9 adjourned at 12:55 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that the

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foregoing matter on April 16, 2007, and that

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this is a true and correct transcript of same.

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MICHELE L. MURPHY

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