

Committee of the Whole
4/6/2022

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Remote location using Microsoft® Teams
Wednesday, April 6, 2022
10:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT DARRELL L. CLARKE, CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN CHERELLE L. PARKER, VICE-CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
COUNCILWOMAN KENDRA BROOKS
COUNCILMAN ALLAN DOMB
COUNCILWOMAN JAMIE GAUTHIER
COUNCILWOMAN KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON
COUNCILWOMAN HELEN GYM
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILMAN DAVID OH
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILWOMAN MARIA D. QUINONES-SANCHEZ
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA
COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS

BILLS: 220240, 220284, 220285, 220286, 220287,
220288

RESOLUTION: 220300

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, and good morning to all.

We're going to get started. Before we begin the public hearing, I'll make the following announcement:

Due to the continuing threat to public health from COVID-19 and its variants, City Council Committees are currently remotely. We are using Microsoft Teams to make these remote hearings possible. Instructions for how the public may view -- and offer instructions for how the public can access this, the information is included in the public hearing notices that are published in the Daily News, Inquirer and Legal Intelligencer prior to the hearings and can be also found on PHLCouncil.com. I now note that the hour has come.

Mr. McDermott, would you please call the roll. And members that are in attendance, just please say a couple of words to make sure that your image is

1 displayed on the screen.

2 THE CLERK: Councilmember Bass.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good

4 morning, Mr. President and colleagues.

5 I'm present.

6 (Dog barking.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All

8 right. Your spokesperson.

9 THE CLERK: Councilmember

10 Brooks.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Good

12 morning, Council President, colleagues.

13 I'm present.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good

15 morning.

16 THE CLERK: Councilmember Domb.

17 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Good morning,

18 Council President, Administration and

19 listening public. Present.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good

21 morning.

22 THE CLERK: Councilmember

23 Gauthier.

24 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Good

25 morning, Council President, colleagues

1 and to our partners in the
2 Administration. Present.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
4 morning.

5 THE CLERK: Councilmember
6 Gilmore Richardson.

7 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
8 RICHARDSON: Good morning, Council
9 President. Good morning, colleagues.
10 And good morning to the Administration.
11 I'm present.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
13 morning.

14 THE CLERK: Councilmember
15 Green.

16 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Good
17 morning, Council President. Good
18 morning, fellow colleagues of City
19 Council. Good morning to the
20 Administration and to the viewing
21 public.

22 THE CLERK: Councilmember Gym.

23 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Good
24 morning, Council President. Good
25 morning, colleagues. I am present.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
2 morning.
3 THE CLERK: Councilmember
4 Johnson.
5 (No response.)
6 THE CLERK: Councilmember
7 Jones.
8 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
9 morning, Council President, colleagues,
10 the Administration and viewing public.
11 I am present.
12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
13 morning.
14 THE CLERK: Councilmember
15 O'Neill.
16 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Good
17 morning, everyone.
18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
19 morning.
20 THE CLERK: Councilmember Oh.
21 COUNCILMAN OH: Good morning,
22 Council President. Good morning,
23 colleagues. Good morning,
24 Administration.
25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good

1 morning.

2 THE CLERK: Councilmember

3 Parker.

4 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Good

5 morning, Mr. President, colleagues,

6 Administration and viewing public.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good

8 morning.

9 THE CLERK: Councilmember

10 Quinones-Sanchez.

11 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

12 Good morning, Council President,

13 colleagues and Administration. Let's do

14 this.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All

16 right. Good morning.

17 THE CLERK: Councilmember

18 Squilla.

19 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Good

20 morning (inaudible).

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good

22 morning.

23 THE CLERK: And, Councilmember

24 Thomas.

25 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: All right.

1 You heard me. Okay. Thank you.

2 THE CLERK: And, Councilmember
3 Thomas.

4 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
5 morning, Council President. Good
6 morning, everybody. I'm present.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
8 morning.

9 THE CLERK: And, Council
10 President Clarke.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And
12 good morning to all. We're going to get
13 started. We've established our quorum.

14 This is the public hearing on
15 the Committee of the Whole regarding
16 Bill Nos. 220284, 220285, 220286,
17 220287, 220288, 220240 and Resolution
18 No. 220300.

19 Mr. McDermott, would you please
20 read the titles of the bills and the
21 resolution.

22 THE CLERK: Bill No. 220284, an
23 ordinance to adopt the Capital Program
24 for the six Fiscal Years 2023 to 2028
25 inclusive.

1 Bill No. 220285, an ordinance
2 to adopt a Fiscal 2023 Capital Budget.

3 Bill No. 220286, an ordinance
4 adopting the Operating Budget for Fiscal
5 Year 2023.

6 Bill No. 220287, an ordinance
7 amending Section 10-1001 of The
8 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Fees of
9 Commissioner of Records," to increase
10 certain fees for the recording of deeds
11 and mortgages and related documents,
12 under certain terms and conditions.

13 Bill No. 220288, an ordinance
14 amending Section 19-1403 of The
15 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Imposition
16 of Tax," by creating a Philadelphia
17 County Demolition Fund to increase and
18 encourage economic development by
19 demolishing blighted properties within
20 the City, imposing a related fee for
21 recorded documents and related items;
22 and making technical changes; all under
23 certain terms and conditions.

24 Bill No. 220240, an ordinance
25 substantially increasing the budget and

1 number of areas and neighborhoods around
2 the City served by the Community Life
3 Improvement Program, CLIP, to improve
4 the health, safety and cleanliness of
5 every neighborhood and enhance the
6 quality of life for all residents.

7 And Resolution No. 220300,
8 resolution providing for the approval by
9 the Council of the City of Philadelphia,
10 a Revised Five Year Financial Plan for
11 the City of Philadelphia covering Fiscal
12 Years 2023 through 2027 and
13 incorporating revised changes with
14 respect to Fiscal Year 2022, which is to
15 be submitted by the Mayor to the
16 Pennsylvania Intergovernmental
17 Cooperation Authority, pursuant to the
18 Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement,
19 authorized by an ordinance of this
20 Council approved by the Mayor on January
21 3, 1992 by and between the City and the
22 Authority.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

24 Thank you, Mr. McDermott.

25 Today we begin the public

1 hearing of the Committee of the Whole to
2 consider the bills read by the Clerk
3 that constitute proposed operating and
4 capital spending measures for Fiscal
5 Year 2023 and Capital Program and a
6 forward-looking Capital Program for
7 Fiscal Years 2023 through 2028.

8 Before we begin to hear the
9 testimony from the witnesses we have for
10 today, everyone who has been invited to
11 the meeting to testify should be aware
12 that this public hearing is being
13 recorded. And because the hearing is
14 public, participants and viewers have no
15 reasonable expectation of privacy. So
16 by continuing to be in the meeting, you
17 are consenting to being recorded.

18 Additionally, prior to
19 recognizing Members for questions or
20 comments they have for witnesses, I will
21 note for the record at this time that we
22 will use the chat feature available on
23 Microsoft Teams to allow Members to
24 signify that they wish to be recognized.
25 In order to comply with the Sunshine

1 Act, the chat feature must only be used
2 for this particular purpose.

3 Today we will hear testimony
4 from Finance, the Mayor's Office
5 regarding the budget proposal, including
6 the Five Year Plan and Capital Program.
7 Also, joining us today, the Treasurer,
8 Revenue, Sinking Fund and Board of
9 Pensions. I would like to say that we
10 find ourselves in a much different
11 environment than we did the prior two
12 years while we're in the midst of a very
13 aggressive COVID-19 pandemic, but I must
14 also remind our listeners that we still
15 have challenges before us.

16 COVID-19 has not gone away. So
17 as we deal with this particular budget,
18 we will have to take all that into
19 account, and the uncertainty of all of
20 the things that are going on, not just
21 in the City of Philadelphia, but going
22 on in the world as it relates to the
23 inflation-type of environment. So we
24 will on behalf of the taxpayers make
25 sure that we do our due diligence as we

1 make these decisions as it relates to
2 the Mayor's proposed budget.

3 With that, Mr. McDermott, our
4 first person to testify from the
5 Administration is?

6 THE CLERK: James Engler, Chief
7 of Staff Mayor's Office.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
9 Thank you very much. And good morning,
10 Mr. Engler.

11 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: Good
12 morning, Council President Clarke and
13 members of City Council. My name is
14 James Engler, Chief of Staff to Mayor
15 Kenney. And I'm here to testify in
16 support of the Mayor's proposed Five
17 Year Plan, along with all the supporting
18 budget and revenue bills that were
19 introduced on March 31, 2022.

20 Joining me today are Finance
21 Director Rob Dubow, Budget Director
22 Marisa Waxman and Cabinet members,
23 Department heads from across the
24 Administration. You have my full
25 testimony which I will summarize now:

1 As the pandemic enters its
2 third year, the City of Philadelphia has
3 begun to stabilize and build for a
4 stronger future. This Five Year Plan
5 builds a foundation for that future and
6 revives the Mayor's commitment to leave
7 a legacy of true and lasting equity
8 undergirded by his key priorities,
9 quality education for all, a safer and
10 more just Philadelphia, health equity
11 for all, inclusive economy in thriving
12 neighborhoods and diverse, efficient and
13 effective government.

14 This Five Year Plan was
15 informed by over 20 sessions with more
16 than 500 residents, community leaders
17 and City employees and a public townhall
18 with Mayor Kenney. This \$5.6 billion
19 General Fund budget reflects the
20 priorities and needs of Philadelphians.

21 While we have not returned to
22 the level of the positive fund balances
23 the City had worked to build
24 prepandemic, but bolstered by the \$1.4
25 billion in American Rescue Plan funds

1 the City can sustain current operations,
2 provide a small cushion against future
3 disruptions and make targeted
4 investments to improve educational
5 equity and public safety and to prepare
6 for the influx of dollars and
7 opportunity coming from the Bipartisan
8 Infrastructure Law.

9 This budget builds on historic
10 commitments to public education that the
11 City has made over the last six years by
12 investing nearly \$207 million in FY23
13 and 1.4 billion over the life of the
14 Plan in the School District of
15 Philadelphia in addition to local tax
16 revenue that support the District.

17 In continued pursuit of
18 accessible and affordable education, the
19 FY23 budget increases support for the
20 Octavius Catto Scholarship at the
21 Community College of Philadelphia.
22 Since its start in FY21, over 500 Catto
23 scholars have received tuition-free
24 enrollment. The Plan proposes of
25 investing a total of more than \$250

1 million in CCP over the next five years
2 to further the accessibility,
3 affordability and attractiveness of CCP
4 as a post-secondary institution of
5 choice.

6 The FY23 budget provides for
7 the continued expansion of PHLpreK and
8 Community Schools programs, supported by
9 revenue from the Philadelphia beverage
10 tax. PHLpreK will expand by 300 slots
11 and we will add three new Community
12 Schools this year, bringing the total to
13 20 schools.

14 The Free Library of
15 Philadelphia also supports learning
16 opportunities for residents across the
17 City. We propose investing an
18 additional \$9.7 million in FY23 to
19 enable stable, consistent five-day
20 service, including Saturdays at regional
21 libraries. Today these investments
22 prioritize the quality education of
23 children, youth and adults to support a
24 more rapid and equitable recovery and to
25 break the intergenerational cycle of

1 poverty.

2 Like cities across the country,
3 Philadelphia continues to wrestle with
4 the surge of violence that began in 2020
5 and continued in 2021. The trauma of
6 this violence affects all
7 Philadelphians. The Administration
8 continues to treat gun violence as a
9 public health crisis, pulling together
10 every agency and institution that
11 engages with our residents to address
12 it. The goal is to continue to offer
13 better opportunities and services for
14 individuals and communities at high
15 risk, to provide swift and predictable
16 law enforcement consequences for those
17 engaged in violence who do not help, and
18 to always work with authentic community
19 engagement to increase long-term
20 resilience.

21 The full set of violence
22 prevention investments total \$155 million
23 in the FY22 budget. For FY23, those
24 same categories of investment grow 18.5
25 percent to 184.5 million. Details of

1 these investments are found in the Five
2 Year Plan and my full testimony.
3 Additionally, the Plan makes investments
4 in crisis incident response teams.
5 These teams serve as another tool for
6 911 callers with behavioral health
7 needs, ensuring that a range of services
8 are available to provide an appropriate
9 response.

10 The City is committed to
11 ensuring that COVID-19 prevention and
12 treatment options are available to all
13 residents regardless of insurance status
14 or ability to pay. The FY23 budget
15 contains robust continued support for
16 City-funded health centers to provide
17 access to quality care for those who are
18 underinsured as well as to support
19 outside organizations meeting community
20 health needs in Philadelphia.

21 FY23 we'll see the continuation
22 of the critical work of the opioid
23 response units, spearhead our multi-
24 departmental effort and strengthen the
25 City's ability to address the ongoing

1 opioid crisis across the City. We will
2 invest \$17 million over the Five Year
3 Plan to maintain the suite of
4 low-barrier, emergency and permanent
5 housing services for people who have
6 been chronically homeless and have
7 substance use disorders, plus an
8 additional \$5.1 million in FY23 to
9 support services and safety in
10 Kensington.

11 We recognize that safe and
12 stable housing is a critical foundation
13 for health. In addition to the opioid-
14 related homeless service investment
15 mentioned before, we will invest \$6.4
16 million over the Five Year Plan to
17 sustain noncongregate shelter services
18 for seniors and \$5.7 million to increase
19 support for homeless service providers,
20 including to increase wages for
21 providers of these critical services.

22 This plan makes the
23 Charter-required investment of nearly
24 \$28 million in FY23 and \$144 million
25 over the five years in the Housing Trust

1 Fund. The Plan also includes funds to
2 continue to support eviction prevention
3 and the new Right to Counsel program
4 that was launched in FY22.

5 To further increase the supply
6 of affordable housing, the Plan contains
7 continued support for the Neighborhood
8 Preservation Initiative to support the
9 production and preservation of
10 affordable housing units, home repair
11 and tangled title programs, eviction
12 diversion services and other innovative
13 programs, including a new guaranteed
14 income pilot called PHL Housing Plus.

15 Following two years of
16 unprecedented economic upheaval from the
17 pandemic, the economy of Philadelphia is
18 coming back strong. Local unemployment
19 is now down to around 6 percent.
20 Construction is booming and tourism is
21 on the upswing. Implementation of the
22 federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
23 will further propel a thriving economy
24 that provides opportunities to all
25 Philadelphia residents and

1 neighborhoods.

2 This once-in-a-generation
3 infusion of federal funding should bring
4 more than \$1 billion for roads, bridges,
5 transit, water infrastructure and
6 broadband access to the City and
7 thousands of new jobs. The FY23 budget
8 includes a \$20 million investment across
9 12 City agencies to prepare for the
10 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

11 The Plan also includes \$13
12 million in FY23 in investment through
13 PIDC for programs like the Taking Care
14 of Business commercial corridor cleaning
15 program funded with \$7 million in FY23,
16 and other programs assisting small
17 business owners of color to access
18 capital and growth and to attract
19 businesses and quality jobs to locate in
20 Philadelphia.

21 The FY23 budget includes
22 expansion of multiple successful,
23 low-barrier employment programs. These
24 investments total more than \$2.3 million
25 and will form a coordinated system of

1 accessible employment opportunities with
2 pathways to more permanent employment.
3 During the COVID-19 pandemic, the City's
4 Parks & Recreation Centers became havens
5 in new ways as residents and visitors,
6 many of them children, relied on the
7 centers, trails, parks and playgrounds
8 for gatherings to stay safe.

9 The FY23 budget invested an
10 additional \$2.8 million in FY23 and \$11
11 million over the life of the Plan in
12 Parks & Rec. These investments will
13 allow PPR to expand hours and improve
14 programming in the neighborhoods that
15 need it most, and to make sure that PPR
16 spaces are safe, clean and ready to use
17 to meet this increased demand.

18 Building on the significant
19 investments in clean, safe and
20 accessible streets in FY22, the FY23
21 budget includes funds for more street
22 paving and further expansion of street
23 sweeping. The street sweeping program
24 will expand to eight new neighborhoods
25 for a total of 14. The Streets

1 Department will also receive \$2 million
2 to stand up additional crews to respond
3 to illegal dumping.

4 In FY23, the Kenney
5 Administration will continue to expand
6 efforts to reshape the internal
7 processes of government and service to
8 Philadelphians. These initiatives and
9 reforms will ensure that Philadelphia is
10 fiscally stable and build towards
11 increasing financial resilience,
12 provides excellent equitable service
13 delivery, engages communities and
14 advances a more diverse and inclusive
15 workforce and workplace culture for our
16 dedicated employees.

17 FY23 will see the continued
18 implementation of Executive Order 1-20
19 which embeds racial equity as an
20 explicit governing principle. By the
21 end of FY23, all Administration
22 departments will develop racial equity
23 action plans, setting forth priority
24 strategies to achieve greater racially
25 equitable impact and advance equitable

1 outcomes for all, including communities
2 of color, individuals with disabilities,
3 individuals with immigrant status, women
4 and LGBTQ residents.

5 To drive diversity and
6 recruitment and ensure that our City
7 workforce across all levels and
8 functions reflects a diversity of the
9 communities we serve, we have invested
10 in additional recruitment capacity for
11 Office of Human Resources. To support
12 these investments, the City will use
13 \$5.51 billion in revenues, leaving a
14 \$153 million fund balance at the close
15 of FY23.

16 The Plan proposes no tax rate
17 increases and will drawn down \$335
18 million in FY23 in American Rescue Plan
19 funds, and the entire \$1.4 billion by
20 December 2024 to support this level of
21 spending. We are anticipating new
22 property assessments that reflect
23 significant growth in property values.
24 The Administration will continue to work
25 closely with City Council and potential

1 tax relief and reforms as the data
2 becomes available during the budget
3 process.

4 Through the investments I've
5 outlined and others included in this,
6 Philadelphia will work toward becoming a
7 city where equal opportunities are open
8 to all citizens, race is not a
9 determinate of success and diversity is
10 elevated as one of Philadelphia's
11 greatest assets. Thank you for the
12 opportunity to testify today, and we
13 look forward to working with all members
14 of Council throughout this budget
15 process.

16 All of us here representing the
17 Administration are available to answer
18 the questions that you may have,
19 including the Mayor's Office and
20 Department of Labor budgets for which we
21 have submitted written testimony today.
22 Next, we will have testimony from
23 Martine DeCamp, Deputy Executive
24 Director of the Philadelphia Planning
25 Commission on the proposed FY23 Capital

1 Budget and FY23 through '28 Capital
2 Program.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Engler.

5 Ms. DeCamp, if you want to
6 proceed with a summary of your
7 testimony.

8 MS. DeCAMP: Yes, thank you.

9 Good morning, Council President and
10 members of City Council. I'm Martine
11 DeCamp, Deputy Executive Director of the
12 City Planning Commission. Along with my
13 City colleagues, we're here to present
14 for your view and consideration the
15 recommended Fiscal Year 2023 to 2028
16 Capital Program and Fiscal 2023 Capital
17 Budget. These were approved by City
18 Planning Commission on March 24, 2022.

19 The recommended program is a
20 six-year plan for investing in the
21 City's physical and technology
22 infrastructure, neighborhood and
23 community facilities, City-owned
24 buildings and specialized vehicles. The
25 recommended budget reflects the spending

1 appropriations for the first year of the
2 six-year program.

3 As both the program and budget
4 are key instruments of plans physical
5 development, the Philadelphia Home Rule
6 Charter directs that their initial
7 preparation and submission to the Mayor
8 be a function of the City Planning
9 Commission. Beginning in early fall of
10 last year, the City Planning Commission
11 and the Budget Office received and
12 evaluated requests from 20 departments.
13 We then worked with the Department heads
14 and managers to produce a Capital
15 Program and Budget that addresses our
16 capital needs, aligns with City
17 Administration priorities, including
18 racial equity and reflects our financial
19 resources and spending capacity.

20 The recommended Six Year
21 Capital Program calls for over \$1
22 billion of new tax-supported general
23 obligation bond funding to support
24 public improvements throughout
25 Philadelphia. When possible, City funds

1 are used to leverage additional
2 resources provided by our greatly
3 appreciated regional, state and private
4 partners. Considering all sources of
5 funding, including self-sustaining
6 Aviation and Water funds and
7 carry-forward appropriations from
8 previous years, the Recommended Capital
9 Program proposes \$10.99 billion of
10 additional improvements.

11 For Fiscal Year 2023 alone, the
12 Recommended Capital Budget calls for
13 \$181 million of new general obligation
14 bond funding. The proposed \$181 million
15 is consistent with the City's estimated
16 ability to support debt service. For
17 Fiscal Year 2023 recommendations in the
18 Capital Budget include, but are not
19 limited to, investments in streets,
20 parks, commercial corridors and other
21 facilities to support an inclusive
22 economy and thriving neighborhoods,
23 support for information technology
24 infrastructure, public property
25 renovations and fleet vehicles and

1 facilities to ensure a diverse,
2 efficient and effective government,
3 capital investments and health equity
4 for all through renovations at City
5 health centers in City-owned shelters,
6 investments in City-owned Free Library,
7 zoo and art museum facilities to
8 complement schools' capital investment
9 and provide quality education for all,
10 renovations to Fire, Police and Prison
11 facilities to help achieve a safer and
12 more just Philadelphia.

13 We're pleased to propose these
14 investments, but we know they do not
15 include all the projects that
16 departments requested. There remains a
17 lot of documented need, but the amount
18 of recommended new spending in this
19 year's Capital Program and Budget is
20 limited.

21 Increasing City borrowing means
22 increasing debt service and fixed cost,
23 reducing the City's budgetary
24 flexibility and potentially impacting
25 the City's bond rating. In Fiscal Year

1 2023 through Fiscal Year 2028, City GO
2 funding is currently recommended to
3 return to roughly \$170 million per year.

4 We do have the opportunity to
5 spend down or reprogram carry-forward
6 dollars for prior year appropriations
7 before the City appropriates new
8 tax-supported funds. With many projects
9 disrupted or delayed over the past year
10 due to impacts from the pandemic, the
11 amount of carry-forward appropriations
12 available to many departments remain
13 significant.

14 We also have an opportunity to
15 strategically leverage City
16 appropriations to capital as not just
17 for far larger amounts of new federal
18 funding available from the
19 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act,
20 an estimated \$60 million is appropriated
21 for our local match.

22 This once-in-a-generation
23 infusion of federal funding should bring
24 more than \$1 billion over the next five
25 years for roads, bridges, transit, water

1 infrastructure and broadband access to
2 the City and thousands of new jobs. The
3 initial \$60 million for matches is a
4 start, but we anticipate needing to add
5 additional funds in future years to
6 fully realize the benefits of the
7 opportunity.

8 Overall given our financial
9 constraints and the challenges of the
10 past year, the Administration feels the
11 recommended Capital Program and Budget
12 invests in the City's infrastructure to
13 the greatest extent possible. Thank you
14 for the opportunity to testify. Will be
15 happy to address any questions you may
16 have. Please note that leaders of City
17 departments are present to assist in
18 answering your questions. Thank you.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

20 Thank you. There's going to be I
21 believe significant overlap as it
22 relates to the testimony and the
23 implementation of the proposed Five Year
24 Plan and Budget. So if it's okay with
25 the members, put Mr. Dubow up also to

1 give his testimony and then we'll ask
2 questions that I anticipate will be
3 across the board to all three witnesses
4 today.

5 Mr. Dubow, can you give us a
6 summary of your testimony, sir?

7 MR. DUBOW: Yup. Do you want
8 me to do testimony for all the Finance
9 departments that are up today?

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
11 Yeah, I think it will be more efficient
12 because I know a lot of the questions
13 will be kind of all over the place. So
14 get the testimony out of the way and
15 then ask questions about the various
16 aspects of the proposed budget.

17 MR. DUBOW: Then I'll be really
18 quick. My name's Rob Dubow. Thank you
19 for the opportunity to testify today the
20 budget of the Office of Director of
21 Finance. You'll also -- you have a
22 written summary of my testimony and
23 written summaries of testimony from the
24 Treasurer Jackie Dunn, the Revenue
25 Commissioner Frank Breslin and the

1 Executive Director of Pensions Board
2 Francis Bielli, and we are happy to
3 answer any questions you have about that
4 testimony. Thanks.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I
6 anticipate that there will be many, so
7 please be prepared.

8 We're going to open it up to
9 questions now. Again, Members, please
10 put your questions or your notification
11 in the chat so we can make sure we get
12 your name and get to call on you.

13 Chair recognizes, well, you
14 know what, let me get mine in first,
15 take a point of personal privilege and I
16 will try my best to stay at the seven-
17 minute limit on my first round.
18 Actually, I only had a couple of quick
19 questions with respect to the Five Year
20 Plan. And again, it is a plan based on
21 a lot of different circumstances,
22 outcomes, possibilities.

23 But one thing that
24 unfortunately continues to be a given is
25 this level of continuing increasing

1 crime that is obviously costly in terms
2 of human capital, but it is potentially
3 costly in terms of not only what we need
4 to spend to address crime both from a
5 preventive perspective but in the
6 aftermath of the commission of a crime,
7 but the choices that people make in the
8 City of Philadelphia as a result of
9 crime. And again, I promise that report
10 that we keep talking about is just about
11 ready. It will be out in about a week.

12 Have you all taken into account
13 and factored the potential, assuming and
14 I hope I'm wrong that this level of
15 crime continues along this path for the
16 couple next couple of years, because
17 this is -- I mean, this is a problem as
18 you all know.

19 So how did you when you
20 addressed your plan, are you looking at
21 certain factors as it relates to
22 increases and resources for community
23 organizations, increases for law
24 enforcement, increases for different
25 types of strategies that could

1 potentially be used to address this
2 criminal activity in the City of
3 Philadelphia and address the underlying
4 challenges that create this level of
5 problems that we currently have? I
6 guess that's for Mr. Engler.

7 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: Sure.
8 I'll start, and then I'll ask Rob and
9 Marisa to jump in to talk about the
10 sustained investments throughout the
11 Plan. Our focus was really on FY23,
12 trying to maximize the amount of
13 resources that we can bring to bear on
14 this issue, to your point, to make the
15 greatest positive impact over the next
16 several months sustaining the
17 investments that we know were started in
18 FY22 and need to continue as we start
19 FY23 on July 1, those grants to
20 community organizations that needed to
21 be sustained that continued as well as
22 some of the other programs that we know
23 work, right, the READI program, which
24 seemed to work out of Chicago, our GVI
25 program, those activities that we know

1 will really impact violence.

2 So that's why we focused on
3 FY23 on trying to build on those things,
4 and then also to build in resources to
5 do evaluations, to better ascertain
6 what's working so we can capitalize on
7 that funding and expand it in future
8 years.

9 But, Rob or Marisa, do you want
10 to add anything on what's including the
11 Plan for the next four years?

12 MS. WAXMAN: Good morning.
13 Marisa Waxman, Budget Director. So
14 obviously as you've mentioned, there's
15 prevention and then there's aftermath.
16 We've talked about some of the
17 investments that Jim just mentioned, the
18 \$184 million for short-term and
19 medium-term prevention and intervention
20 work, and that's an 18.5 percent
21 increase that includes \$12 million and
22 the additional dollars for community
23 partnership.

24 We also when you asked about
25 maintaining funding or assumptions we're

1 making for funding in the aftermath, we
2 are sustaining our funding and
3 increasing based on the new contracts
4 for the Police Department and other
5 interventions. And then one thing I
6 want to mention is in the aftermath we
7 also have to change some of our
8 assumptions around, say, inmate
9 population at the prisons and making
10 sure that we know how many folks are
11 going to be there and that we provide
12 adequate food and medical services.

13 And so, when you ask about how
14 are we making decisions over the Five
15 Year Plan, those are some of the things
16 we look at. What we can do now in terms
17 of short-term interventions, what are
18 the more foundational investments we
19 need to make so that we can change this
20 trajectory over time and that's where
21 you'll see the interventions around
22 afterschool programming, additional
23 funding for the libraries, our
24 educational investments, but also then
25 looking at the reality of our current

1 systems today.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Okay. The issues with respect to the
4 longer term, i.e., the underlying issues
5 that create this environment where
6 people ultimately turn to crime or
7 create certain aspects of that, they
8 tend to be something that's going to
9 take multiple years.

10 As you go through this process
11 and you hear a lot of questions, the
12 question is the things that we know that
13 have worked over a period of time,
14 investment in education, investment in
15 infrastructure in communities, not the
16 traditional infrastructure, but human
17 infrastructure, that will create a
18 better environment and that will create
19 a quality of life and the whole nine
20 yards. Is there a way that you all can
21 kind of bake that into our long-term
22 Five Year Plan?

23 One of the concerns that some
24 people have as Administrations go, and a
25 number of you all will move on, the

1 Mayor will move on, and we want to make
2 sure that as I stated, as we make these
3 decisions for this particular year, that
4 we do it in a way that could potentially
5 carry over. We know every Mayor wants
6 to put their stamp on it, but some
7 things need to be dealt with on a longer
8 term basis, especially those underlying
9 issues. I guess I really want to get a
10 perspective on that.

11 And with that, I want to ask
12 you about the ARP funds, Recovery Plan
13 funds. There were some questions
14 earlier, actually some questions by
15 members of Council about the investment
16 of those dollars. I understand the
17 Finance Director, if you want to spread
18 it out over five years to keep the
19 budget stabilized, that's your mission,
20 right. Five-year Rob, that's what they
21 call you. I understand that. That's
22 your job, right.

23 But there was a question about,
24 well, do we make a broader investment
25 early on in hopes of changing the

1 narrative and changing the trajectory in
2 terms of improving the lives, improving
3 the likelihood of things in our
4 neighborhoods, changes, improving and
5 investments in things that work to
6 create more jobs, more opportunities.
7 And we talked about that last budget and
8 we didn't necessarily see that.

9 Is there any more thought given
10 to that, particularly when you look at
11 the outyears, that we have the potential
12 of much lower fund balances that suggest
13 that somehow what we're doing is not
14 really going to stimulate our economy?
15 I know that was a long question, but I
16 was just trying to get it --

17 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: I'll
18 take --

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And
20 actually I know a couple of other -- not
21 to compare you to other mayors, but
22 across the country we looked at a couple
23 of other municipalities, large cities
24 and they said, we're going all in early,
25 we're going to take this money, we're

1 going to spend this money now to turn
2 things around. So have you all given
3 any thought to that?

4 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: So I'll
5 take your first question first and then
6 ask Rob and Marisa to jump in on the ARP
7 pieces. I think we have really focused
8 on those long-lasting investments
9 throughout the Mayor's six years-plus in
10 office.

11 And we talked about the return
12 of local control, the School District
13 appointed a locally-appointed School
14 Board in making the substantial
15 investments in education funding at the
16 School District that we've made. That
17 is part and parcel of that question.

18 The first budget that we
19 proposed, we talked about a beverage tax
20 to fund Pre-K and Rebuild because we
21 knew that those generational investments
22 would have long-term dividends for the
23 City of Philadelphia. We did that with
24 the creation of the Office of Children
25 and Families trying to embed those

1 programs, in addition to the operations
2 of Parks & Rec and Library with the DHS
3 function, draw down and maximize the
4 amount of funds we can draw down from
5 other governments in support of children
6 and families, and again advancing that
7 work that will impact for generations.

8 So that's been a focus for this
9 Administration. You will see that baked
10 into the Five Year Plan projections that
11 we've made, and we would love to see
12 that funding sustained well beyond where
13 this Administration is because we think
14 it's the right thing to do going
15 forward.

16 On the ARP side, before I turn
17 it over to Rob and Marisa, that was part
18 of the discussion that we had amongst
19 the Administration and the
20 Administration leadership as we
21 developed this budget proposal. What's
22 the right amount of funding to draw down
23 each of these years in order to ensure
24 that we're balanced through the Five
25 Year Plan, because we have to present a

1 Five Year Plan to PICA with reasonable
2 assumptions, and to do it in a way in
3 investments that we think will make
4 sense for Philadelphians.

5 To your point, there are
6 governments that are choosing to do it
7 in different ways. Congress has given
8 us the authority, given local
9 governments the authority to spend the
10 dollars through December 2024, and we
11 will spend every dime of this before
12 December of 2024. And there are other
13 governments that are handling it
14 differently.

15 I was on a call with several of
16 the surrounding counties over this week,
17 and they're still thinking of ideas on
18 how to spend their money because their
19 bottom line was not as severely impacted
20 as ours by the pandemic and resulting
21 recession.

22 So, Rob and Marisa, feel free
23 to jump in. But I think we tried to
24 make the largest drawdown that we could
25 early in the Plan to have that immediate

1 impact, but we know that the impact of
2 the pandemic is going to be here for
3 years beyond when these dollars are
4 usable.

5 MR. DUBOW: Sure, there's a few
6 things to add to that. One, we do
7 assume that the economy gets stronger by
8 the end of the Plan. Looking at our tax
9 revenue assumptions, tax revenues are \$1
10 billion higher by the end of the Plan
11 than they were in '21, part of that is
12 because of the investments that Chief of
13 Staff talked about that are only
14 possible because of the ARP funding.

15 Without the way we've deployed
16 the ARP funding now to try to make the
17 investments that we're showing in the
18 Plan, we have a deficit of over \$400
19 million, so we are making investments
20 that help grow our economy. You pointed
21 out correctly though that that is not
22 translating into high fund balances in
23 the end, because I'm Five-Year Rob and I
24 have to take an eagle-eye view of where
25 our finances are, that 60 million at the

1 end of the Plan does kind of constrain
2 what we can do, and one of the reasons
3 that we can't push our way to some of
4 the stuff that other cities are to do is
5 we took a much bigger hit than almost
6 every other city in terms of our revenue
7 loss. And a lot of that is because of
8 our reliance on taxes that are really
9 sensitive to the economy like the wage
10 tax.

11 I don't know if you want to add
12 anything, Marisa.

13 MS. WAXMAN: Just to highlight
14 Rob's point about the differential
15 impacts, Pew did a study that showed
16 that we developed a nearly 15 percent
17 budget gap in part due to our reliance
18 on the wage tax. Boston only developed
19 a 2 percent. So as a result, we have to
20 make very different choices. It's
21 almost like something sad happens, your
22 Great-Aunt Bunny passes away and you
23 inherit money. If everything is fine in
24 your life, you can use that to do
25 something, take a vacation. But if

1 you've recently lost your job, you're
2 going to spend that money covering your
3 existing expenses, your ranch, your dog
4 food, whatever it is you need to do. So
5 that's really why in some ways it's hard
6 to compare Philadelphia and our use of
7 the ARP dollars. Since we're using it
8 to replace the lost revenues, everything
9 we do with it is around making sure that
10 we have the right balance of services
11 for Philadelphians. And we've really
12 shifted and evolved in the past couple
13 of years what we do and how we do it,
14 but we are not differentiating as much
15 between ARP dollars versus just what we
16 need as a City for everything that we
17 do.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
19 right. I promise this is my last
20 question in terms of my abuse of my
21 Chairperson privilege of asking the
22 first round of questions.

23 Real quickly, we had a
24 discussion and actually I think I've
25 weighed in on the PICA expiration, 2023,

1 can you give me the status of what's
2 going on with the Harrisburg
3 legislation?

4 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: Rob,
5 did you want to jump in on that?

6 MR. DUBOW: Sure. Legislation
7 was introduced -- it just moved out of
8 one committee. We actually think it's
9 going to start moving pretty quickly, so
10 we're still confident that that
11 legislation is going to pass into PICA,
12 will be extended and will be around for
13 decades.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
15 right. I've abused my time enough.
16 With that, Chair recognizes Councilwoman
17 Parker for questions. To the Members,
18 our first round we're going to do seven
19 minutes if that's okay with you all, and
20 then we'll follow up with subsequent
21 rounds.

22 Councilwoman Parker.

23 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank
24 you, Mr. President. Trying to be
25 disciplined, I set a timer,

1 Mr. President.

2 Let me just start by saying
3 good morning. And I want to follow up
4 on Council President Clarke's first
5 question. And that is, unless you are
6 tone-deaf in the City of Philadelphia,
7 you know that public safety is the
8 number one issue in this budget process
9 and on the minds of all Philadelphians.

10 There was data that was
11 previewed at a Pew Virtual Brown Bag
12 Seminar on March 29th. I think the
13 report will be forthcoming, and it's
14 from a January 2022 resident poll. And
15 obviously, overwhelmingly the issue of
16 crime, drugs and safety was the number
17 one issue on everyone's mind.

18 In the Mayor's Five Year Plan,
19 one of his key priorities is a safer and
20 a more just Philadelphia, and I couldn't
21 agree with you all more. And so, I
22 think it affirms that we obviously need
23 to double-down on our anti-violence
24 efforts while making sure we're
25 measuring them at the same time, and I

1 understand the importance of targeting
2 funds and resources in the most high
3 crime areas. I think of the term
4 hotspot. I've heard Commissioner Outlaw
5 referencing the pinpoint strategy.

6 But I want to firmly state that
7 we can't neglect other parts of the City
8 and solely focus on what we consider to
9 be hotspots. It shouldn't be an either
10 or. It must be a both and an and. And
11 that's why I was proud to stand with my
12 colleagues, community-based leaders
13 across the City when we introduced last
14 week the Philadelphia Neighborhood
15 Safety and Community Policing Plan,
16 which one of the five-point thrusts is
17 that we get 300 more officers out in all
18 neighborhoods across the City doing
19 community policing. And for those who
20 are not sure what that means, I'm
21 talking about walking the beat and on
22 bike patrol.

23 With that being said, do you
24 agree -- this is the first question --
25 that we must ensure that our police

1 force is not only responding to
2 emergencies and criminal activity and
3 not only acting in a reactive manner, do
4 you agree that we need a police force
5 that can act as a crime deterrent in a
6 proactive manner by being embedded in
7 the part of the very fabric of
8 neighborhoods across the City?

9 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: Thank
10 you, Councilmember. We do agree with
11 that. I know Commissioner Outlaw is on
12 and can talk about some of the
13 strategies that the department has
14 implemented to get more officers out on
15 the street, talking to residents,
16 talking to business owners.

17 One of the key investments that
18 we are making as part of this budget is
19 a mobility project with the Police
20 Department to outfit officers with cell
21 phones so that way business owners know,
22 residents know the officers walking
23 their beat and can get in touch with
24 them when there's incidences or when
25 someone's feeling unsafe or in various

1 circumstances.

2 So, Commissioner, did you want
3 to talk a little bit more about that
4 project and other efforts for the
5 department?

6 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: Good
7 morning, everyone. My name is Danielle
8 Outlaw, Police Commissioner of the
9 Philadelphia Police Department. I think
10 it's no secret. We've talked about this
11 a lot, but I'll be more than welcome to
12 talk about it some more. Pinpoint is
13 our strategy that falls under the
14 Philadelphia Roadmap for Safer
15 Communities. And given the resources
16 that we have, we are basically utilizing
17 our staff, the staff that we do have, to
18 be as proactive as we can and ultimately
19 reactive in the areas that's hardest
20 hit.

21 In order to increase our
22 visibility and our presence in those
23 areas that we prioritize, we pull some
24 officers out of plain clothes, put them
25 back into marked cars and into uniforms.

1 But to get to the point where we all
2 want to see bicycle officers and more
3 officers on foot city-wide, we have to
4 shift beyond robbing Peter to pay Paul,
5 because typically we all know that the
6 weather is going to get nice, spring and
7 summer.

8 We're going to be dealing with
9 not only increased protection and
10 security where our young people will
11 be -- to also making sure that we're
12 visible and present for ATVs and dirt
13 bikes and all the other issues that
14 we're seeing throughout the City. In
15 our beautiful city of neighborhoods,
16 each neighborhood has their own issues
17 and we're working from the same cadre of
18 officers in order to address those. So
19 in order to --

20 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER:
21 Commissioner, I want to thank you for
22 providing that response. I'm being
23 really mindful of the --

24 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: Oh,
25 sorry.

1 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: -- seven
2 minutes, and I know we have several
3 folks teed up. I just want to again
4 affirm the need for us to have a
5 proactive response and not to allow us
6 to simply be responding to crime. And
7 that's in every neighborhood across the
8 City.

9 Council President talked about
10 the ARPA funds. I won't go into detail
11 there. I just want to state for the
12 record that the City needs more
13 investment and we need more stimulus
14 right now. I don't care if we're
15 talking about gun violence, poverty or
16 static employment. We need to use more
17 federal stimulus spending now and do it
18 with a sense of urgency.

19 I want to follow up though on
20 my question in regards to workforce.
21 And that is, when thinking about the
22 City of Philadelphia and our current and
23 future workforce, this is somewhat
24 related to my call for 300 more police
25 officers to do community policing in

1 neighborhoods across the City. We are
2 never going to have a true community
3 policing unless and until we figure out
4 how to better recruit and retain police
5 officers.

6 The Police Department is
7 effectively in a race against time to
8 maintain its current size, which it
9 already has over 400 vacant positions.
10 But before the pandemic, the department
11 was graduating an academy class that was
12 approximately every three months, and
13 these were about 80 to 100 officers in
14 size.

15 In April 2022, we'll be
16 graduating a class of about 40 in size
17 and then another class I believe about
18 80 due to graduate in September 2022.
19 However, at the same time we're
20 predicting to lose about 1,000 existing
21 officers over the next four to five
22 years, and most of them due to
23 retirement. So that equates to the
24 Police Department in essence over the
25 next four to five years losing at least

1 200 officers a year.

2 So my concern is what I
3 described for the Police Department is
4 also true for other departments, meaning
5 that we have a large number of vacancies
6 as well as a large number of soon-to-be
7 retirees on deck. Tell me, if you will,
8 and if you don't have the information
9 today please get it to us at another
10 date, the number of vacancies per
11 department, the percentage of positions
12 vacant per department. And if you have
13 it, the average age of the employees per
14 department compared to the average age
15 of private sector employees and
16 estimates for soon-to-be retirees for
17 the next four to five years, because it
18 affirms our need to ensure that their
19 pipeline, our pipeline in our aging
20 workforce is something that we need to
21 pay a large amount and intentional
22 attention to as we get through this
23 budget process.

24 Thank you, Mr. President. And
25 if anyone from the Budget Office and/or

1 HR has a response to that question, I
2 will greatly appreciate it.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Thank you, Councilwoman.

5 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER:

6 Councilmember, I think we can follow up
7 with the detailed information per
8 department for your request. We are
9 making investments in the Office of
10 Human Resources, specifically targeted
11 at recruitment. So I think we are
12 hearing that call and responding to it
13 with those additional resources, but we
14 can provide the detail that you
15 requested.

16 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank
17 you. Thank you, Mr. President.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
19 Thank you, Councilwoman. And I'm sure
20 we will follow up with more questions
21 about that.

22 Chair recognizes Councilman
23 Jones.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
25 Mr. President and members of the

1 Administration.

2 I want to start by saying that
3 when I listened to the Mayor's state of
4 the budget, I could not help but think
5 about what would have happened if no
6 federal aid came from Washington to the
7 states, to the City, what type of budget
8 hearing we would be having right now.

9 And I'm just thankful that we have a
10 right team, legislative and
11 administrative, to be able to accept
12 that aid and be able to begin through
13 this process putting it to good use. So
14 that's probably the only compliment I'm
15 going to give you during the whole
16 budget, but hopefully you remember that.

17 The second thing that I want to
18 say is that there is an increasing
19 amount of dollars that's coming for
20 infrastructure repair. I remember prior
21 budgets where we talked about the over
22 200 steps it takes for us to fix a road,
23 build a bridge, deal with capital
24 projects. Have we, A, been able to cut
25 that down? And, B, if we're going to

1 get this influx, how do we reduce the
2 10-year backlog of capital projects that
3 we have? And then, C, how do we make it
4 an equitable distribution of relief in
5 the sense that we don't have a Director
6 of the Office of Equal Opportunity and a
7 reduced staff?

8 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: So
9 thank you, Councilmember. Your last
10 part first. On OEO, we were able to
11 hire a new Commerce Director last week.
12 It's Day 8 for her in the office, and we
13 do -- I can't go into greater detail
14 because we're going through the vetting
15 process, but we do have an offer out for
16 the OEO Director position as well. So
17 the hope is that that person will be on
18 board in the next week and a half or so
19 once we're through the vetting and we
20 can start building back that office.

21 It is without a doubt we lost a
22 lot of talent in the Commerce Department
23 and OEO specifically over the last six
24 months and all kind of around the same
25 time. So we are working as hard as we

1 can to rebuild that team to meet this
2 moment. And the infrastructure
3 investment that we're talking about in
4 this budget is really to build back the
5 team we know we need in order to
6 diligently spend the billion dollars
7 that we're expecting to come to
8 Philadelphia through the Bipartisan
9 Infrastructure Law.

10 So I'll ask Deputy Managing
11 Director Mike Carroll to talk about some
12 of the planning for that, and then maybe
13 Stephanie Tipton, our Chief
14 Administrative Officer, to talk about
15 the elimination of some of those steps
16 because we have taken a lot of effort to
17 reduce the number of steps it takes to
18 complete capital projects and the
19 procurement projects.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Before he
21 starts his answer to that question, I
22 want to put on the record so that I
23 don't get moved to the second round, why
24 in the budget does the Police Oversight
25 Commission come up under the Managing

1 Director's Office when it is an
2 independent commission and should stand
3 alone? Put a pen in that, answer the
4 other question, and then they can ring
5 the bell all they want.

6 MR. CARROLL: Hi. This is Mike
7 Carroll, Deputy Managing Director for
8 Office of Transportation Infrastructure
9 and Sustainability. Thank you,
10 Councilmember Jones, for that question.
11 And so, I just want to say the
12 Administration only endorses the
13 priorities that you're laying out,
14 making the processes streamlined as
15 possible and really bring a real
16 intention and focus to supporting
17 Philadelphians from the perspective of
18 diversity, equity and inclusion so that
19 we're not just repairing things, but
20 we're also building wealth and
21 opportunity for Philadelphians.

22 So what I'll say is that this
23 capacity building I think, which Chief
24 of Staff Jim Engler is talking about,
25 has been the main focus. And so, we're

1 really gratified that the budget
2 includes \$20 million of operating funds
3 to build back the capacity so that we
4 can focus on these problems. We're
5 going to have to have a multi-pronged
6 approach. You talk about all the steps
7 involving any projects done. A lot of
8 that is imposed on us when we accept
9 federal funds and work with the state to
10 implement projects.

11 And so, we're very much
12 interested in coordinating with our
13 federal partners and had great
14 conversations with Senator Casey's
15 office and also with the Biden
16 Administration to really focus on how we
17 can reduce some of that red tape and get
18 projects put in place that are actually
19 going to get done sooner, faster, employ
20 more people with this equity lens and
21 help us clear the backlog so that we can
22 take in new funding.

23 So in terms of hiring people,
24 we've been very fortunate to be having
25 good conversations. Of course, we did

1 have to take a step back as you
2 mentioned to make sure within government
3 we've got the appropriate people in OEO
4 and Commerce. But we've been working
5 with the School District. We've been
6 working with SEPTA, working with PennDOT
7 to identify a regional approach so that
8 we're not stepping on each other's toes
9 so that we're coordinating on how we
10 build capacity in terms of entry-level
11 job opportunities for people trained for
12 our young Philadelphians to enter the
13 workforce and really look at
14 infrastructure as an opportunity for
15 themselves to build a career and build a
16 life around, and we really need to do
17 that, not just to get these projects
18 done and build wealth, but because we're
19 seeing a generation change within our
20 departments.

21 A lot of folks are moving on to
22 retirement and other things, and we've
23 had issues in making sure we've got the
24 workforce within government and also
25 when we look at the contracting

1 community and we look at our other
2 partners, so I guess the silver lining
3 is we can do two things at once. We can
4 bring people into the workplace and
5 replace those important resources, these
6 important people that we're seeing move
7 on. And so, we've got to make sure that
8 we're in good alignment in doing that.
9 Pulling our resources is the key --

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Real quick
11 as an adjunct question, I'm glad to hear
12 that we're working as a region to take a
13 look at infrastructure and in
14 particular, transportation kind of
15 remedies. We are growing in places.
16 President Clarke took us up to New York
17 to look at traffic models and how to
18 address traffic growth.

19 And in my District, in the 4th
20 District, I have 30 acres of stranded
21 assets called the Paper Mill because we
22 don't have proper egress and bridges
23 across into the counties to be able to
24 sustain any growth that we would have in
25 that area, so I would hope with this one

1 time infusion of federal money that we
2 actually plan.

3 And there's a quote that says,
4 "Society grows great when old men plant
5 trees that they will never sit in the
6 shade of," and I'm hoping that we take
7 that approach as we look at these
8 resources and assets.

9 MR. CARROLL: Okay.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
11 Mr. President.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
13 Councilman, where'd you get that from?

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: That's a
15 Greek proverb.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Oh,
17 okay. I was just wondering.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: No, it
19 wasn't -- I will not plagiarize. But I
20 was thinking about your comments when
21 you said we have to plan ahead and use
22 this time. I kid you not. All right.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It
24 was great. That's why I wanted to know
25 the origin. It was awesome.

1 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'm going to
2 send it to you.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
4 Thank you, sir.

5 Chair recognizes Councilwoman
6 Gauthier.

7 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
8 you, Council President.

9 I'd like to start with comments
10 and then move on to my questions. In
11 order to provide all Philadelphians the
12 quality of life that they deserve, we
13 must be bold and innovative during this
14 year's budget process. It's not new to
15 anyone that we are at a critical
16 juncture here in Philadelphia.

17 We are on track to once again
18 eclipse the annual record for homicides
19 and shootings. Many Black and Brown
20 communities are in crisis and people all
21 over Philly are concerned for their
22 well-being and for the future of this
23 City. And while I appreciate the
24 challenging position that the Kenney
25 Administration is in governing through a

1 pandemic, we have to accept the reality
2 that what we've been doing isn't
3 working.

4 Historically, we've taken a
5 traditional approach to public safety
6 here in Philadelphia, investing massive
7 portions of the City's budget in things
8 like policing and law enforcement. And
9 today I want to suggest that we aren't
10 directing nearly enough of our City's
11 resources towards investment in
12 communities that would enhance safety in
13 our neighborhoods and allow people all
14 over our City to thrive.

15 With this year's proposed
16 budget, Council is being asked to
17 consider yet another set of budget
18 increases for Police and Prisons.
19 Meanwhile let's consider the current
20 state of affairs in many of our
21 neighborhoods. Safe, affordable housing
22 is out of reach for a disturbingly large
23 and growing portion of our neighbors.
24 Public schools are contending with
25 dangerous, crumbling facilities in

1 desperate need of repair. Our public
2 libraries only have enough funding to
3 stay open for several hours each
4 weekday. They're operating on such a
5 shoestring that any absence in any
6 facility's issue can shut down an entire
7 library. Shuttered amenities like the
8 Sayre pool are sitting unused and
9 deteriorating year after year. Rec
10 centers sit idle with broken plumbing
11 and heating.

12 Illegal dumping running rampant
13 with repeat offenders hitting the same
14 locations over and over again with
15 impunity. Street lights burn out and
16 leave pedestrians in the dark for
17 months. Abandoned vehicles sit
18 untouched, taking up parking and
19 creating an eyesore. Blighted
20 properties are everywhere, serving as
21 havens for illicit activity and
22 disincentivizing private investment and
23 growth.

24 It is urgent beyond words that
25 we acknowledge a direct link between all

1 of these issues, in other words,
2 disinvestment in Black and working-class
3 communities and our gun violence crisis.
4 While I'm pleased to see increased
5 investments in anti-violence efforts in
6 the proposed Five Year Plan, it's going
7 to take much more to start seeing it
8 make an impact.

9 It's going to take much more
10 than drips and drabs of \$1 million here
11 and \$2 million there of pilot programs
12 and grant opportunities that are hard
13 for grassroots organizations to
14 navigate. What could our City look like
15 if we chose to invest \$250 million or
16 even \$500 million towards anti-violence
17 initiatives, opportunities for youth,
18 workforce development programs and
19 dependable delivery of City services in
20 neighborhoods in need.

21 It's true that issues like gun
22 violence and disinvestment are thorny
23 and complex, but there are tangible
24 steps we can take to improve conditions
25 in our neighborhoods and to start

1 chipping away at these persistent
2 challenges. That starts with
3 distributing City resources equitably
4 and prioritizing the areas that need
5 them the most.

6 We need focused place-based
7 investments to send the message that
8 these are neighborhoods that are cared
9 about and important to our City as a
10 whole. The fact of the matter is that
11 all Philadelphians deserve to receive
12 the same high quality of service from
13 the City, and the City has an obligation
14 to ensure the well-being of all of its
15 residents.

16 The COVID pandemic led many of
17 us to see our society's systems in a new
18 light and to comprehend on a visceral
19 level that we can't progress as a
20 collective if we are leaving behind the
21 most vulnerable. The same idea applies
22 here. If we want Philly to thrive and
23 prosper and grow, it's absolutely
24 critical that we focus our resources and
25 attention on the communities and

1 institutions that have been left behind
2 for far too long. And with that being
3 said, I'll probably get through one of
4 my questions.

5 During last year's budget
6 negotiations, Council wanted to spend
7 ARP funds more quickly than the
8 Administration did. The final
9 agreed-upon level of ARP expenditure for
10 FY22 was \$575 million, but it looks like
11 the Administration is only spending 250
12 million of that this year. That's less
13 than half of what we agreed to spend.

14 This is a drastic reduction in
15 spending at a time when our core City
16 services are floundering, leaving
17 residents mostly in neighborhoods
18 outside of Center City to suffer the
19 consequences. And while I recognize
20 that COVID has created unique
21 operational challenges for our City
22 government, why didn't we use the ARP
23 funds available to us to make critical
24 investment and to bolster these services
25 or at the very least to build up

1 capacity that would allow these services
2 to expand and improve?

3 As an example, the Mayor's FY23
4 budget proposes a new \$2.5 million
5 investment to battle illegal dumping.

6 That's a great idea and I look forward
7 to learning more about those plans. But
8 why didn't we make that investment in
9 FY22, and why are we stopping at \$2.5
10 million? Couldn't we invest more across
11 multiple City departments like L&I and
12 CLIP to address a variety of
13 quality-of-life issues and invest in
14 additional lawyers in the Law Department
15 to bring enforcement actions against our
16 worst offenders?

17 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: Thank
18 you, Council --

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
20 Who --

21 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: I'm
22 sorry. Did you have something, Council
23 President?

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Who
25 wants to handle that?

1 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: So
2 there were a number of questions there.
3 I think for the first one I'll probably
4 ask Rob and Marisa to take the ARP
5 funding drawdown, and then we can talk
6 about some of the Streets Department
7 issues.

8 MR. DUBOW: Under the federal
9 law, we are supposed to spend that money
10 by December of '24. And we look at that
11 collective 1.4 billion as a resource we
12 have over the Five Year Plan to enable
13 us to make investments and to sustain
14 them. So just what you're talking
15 about, we want to make sure that we're
16 making investments, we want to make sure
17 that they last. We don't want to do
18 things that we invest in, in one year
19 and then they're gone. So part of what
20 we're looking at is making sure what we
21 do lasts at least through this Plan.

22 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: I guess
23 I would just push back in saying we've
24 had challenges with City services in my
25 District that I think directly relate to

1 public safety. We've had blighted
2 properties that we've focused all the
3 resources of our office on that have
4 become drug hotspots, that have been
5 connected to shootings, that we've been
6 unable to shut down and transfer to some
7 other kind of productive use.

8 I have a list of street lights
9 I've been pushing on since last summer
10 in neighborhoods where there are
11 frequent carjacking and shootings. And
12 I'm asking is the conservative nature
13 that we're using these funds really
14 helping us?

15 MR. DUBOW: The things that you
16 kicked off are exactly where we're
17 making investments in this Plan. So for
18 example, one of the things that we'll be
19 doing is a borrowing to improve street
20 lights throughout the City because we
21 understand that's a major problem. As
22 you pointed out, we're putting money
23 into combating dumping. We're putting
24 significant funding into the library to
25 make sure it can be open with

1 sustainable hours. So we're doing the
2 things that you're talking about because
3 we understand that those are really
4 crucial. And we could not have done
5 that if we weren't getting the federal
6 money.

7 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
8 you. I know I'm done. I just want to
9 say I'm suggesting that we need to take
10 this opportunity to do more. There's no
11 reason to have libraries open for five
12 days and to not have them open for six.
13 And there's no reason not to be pouring
14 services into neighborhoods that are
15 incredibly distressed in this moment.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
17 Thank you. You know what, I'm going to
18 real quick follow up on Councilwoman's
19 issue/question. So being around for a
20 long, long time, I understand the
21 annualized nature of funding, right.
22 You hire a bunch of folks in government
23 to do certain things and you have to
24 figure out how to fund them over a
25 period of time.

1 But when you get an infusion of
2 cash such as we have under the Recovery
3 Plan, the question is like Councilman
4 Jones referenced earlier about a track
5 of land, that if we were able to have a
6 road as an example of infrastructure
7 that allowed that particular parcel to
8 be developed, that will create
9 annualized revenue as a result of the
10 development of the site, as a result of
11 the taxes that will be generated from
12 that site. That's the kind of way you
13 spend that annualized -- that's where
14 you kind of spend that infusion of cash,
15 so it frees up other dollars to spend
16 for what the Councilwoman is talking
17 about in the budget process because
18 you're in a position to have more
19 revenue coming. And that's why I think
20 people on Council I know are thinking
21 about, filling the budget gaps.

22 If we can do an affordable
23 housing development as an example, and I
24 know the Councilwoman has been on that
25 issue ever since she's been here, if

1 there's a budget gap, we need \$2 million
2 or \$3 million to build an 80-unit senior
3 citizens affordable housing development,
4 that's what we need to look at, possibly
5 infusing that cash to get that done and
6 then it will generate long-term benefits
7 for not only the City of Philadelphia,
8 but for the residents.

9 So that's the thought having
10 talked to my colleagues, how do we use
11 that money and create an environment
12 where we're able to benefit long-term.

13 MR. DUBOW: Yeah. And that's
14 one of the things we were thinking
15 behind investing \$20 million in building
16 our infrastructure capacity so that
17 we're using the money we have to now
18 take advantage of the next set of
19 federal funding, which is the
20 Infrastructure Jobs Act to make sure
21 that we can attract as much of that
22 funding as possible to build the kind of
23 projects that you're talking about.

24 We also do in this budget
25 because of the Charter change,

1 significantly increase our contribution
2 to the Housing Trust Fund. It's one of
3 the biggest increases in spending in the
4 budget. It's about \$27 million, so we
5 are investing in the areas that you're
6 talking about.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
8 right. I just think that we'd like to
9 see a clearly defined plan. I know when
10 the Councilwoman or whomever goes out to
11 these community meetings, people want to
12 know what are you going to do, right.
13 And if we have a clearly defined
14 gameplan for a neighborhood that has
15 some level of despair, these people
16 think there's some level of hope. Okay,
17 we're going to develop this, we're going
18 to turn these vacant lots into some
19 productive use. All those are the kind
20 of things we need to be able communicate
21 to the citizens of the City of
22 Philadelphia. I won't take anybody
23 else's time. I'll move on from that,
24 but I do think we should have some
25 policy discussions around how we do

1 that.

2 Chair recognizes Councilwoman

3 Bass.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
5 Mr. President. And I want to thank the
6 Administration for being here and my
7 colleagues as well.

8 I wanted to start off with just
9 a couple of questions. And I really
10 want to piggyback, a lot of what I
11 wanted to say has actually been said in
12 some way, shape or form. Because as a
13 District Councilmember, the
14 responsibility for those street lights
15 that Councilwoman Gauthier referenced
16 that aren't turned on or for the
17 violence in our neighborhoods or for
18 many of the issues that we're facing on
19 a day-to-day basis, they come to us.
20 They come to us as their District
21 Councilperson. And at the end of the
22 day we are the responsible parties and
23 the boots on the ground that they see
24 and that they expect to have these
25 matters addressed.

1 And so, while I appreciate what
2 the Administration has offered to do in
3 terms of putting dollars here or dollars
4 there, I feel that like many of my
5 colleagues, that we just aren't doing
6 anything that's bold enough, that's
7 going to transform where we are today to
8 some place better tomorrow. I think
9 that most people just aren't getting
10 that sense or that feeling.

11 So I wanted to start out by
12 asking you, Mr. Dubow, if you would give
13 us a sense or give us a number, not a
14 sense, give us the number in terms of
15 this Administration's growth of the City
16 budget just throughout this
17 Administration. How much have we grown
18 this City budget?

19 MR. DUBOW: So I think it's
20 probably okay to take this from FY -- we
21 were about 4 billion when the
22 Administration started and we're now
23 proposing a \$5.5 billion budget. The
24 budget took a turn down during the
25 pandemic --

1 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Sure.

2 COVID, yeah.

3 MR. DUBOW: -- but we've been
4 building back up since '21. In '21 we
5 spent 4.7 billion. In this year's
6 budget, we're projecting to spend 5.6
7 billion. So in those two years, we've
8 increased spending by about \$900
9 million. And to the point people have
10 been making, that's only possible
11 because we're getting that federal
12 funding.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. So
14 we've spent, I'm just going to round it
15 to \$1 billion over the course of this
16 Administration. We also have access to
17 the American Rescue Plan funds. And I
18 think when those funds became available
19 everyone in Council, all of us, were
20 really excited because we saw that there
21 was the potential for getting us on
22 track, keeping us on track and that
23 really just hasn't happened.

24 I think if you ask most
25 Philadelphians how do they feel about

1 the direction in which the City is
2 heading, I think that they will feel
3 that they haven't seen any sort of
4 relationship between the growth of the
5 City budget, the infusion of federal
6 dollars and the quality of life in their
7 neighborhoods.

8 And so, as I mentioned a lot of
9 my questions have already been asked,
10 but I would really just like for you to
11 help us understand how we can expect to
12 grow if we don't do something bolder or
13 more transformative, because without --
14 expecting that there's going to be a
15 decrease in revenue, we know that
16 there's going to be less City wage tax.
17 We know that City sales tax is not
18 exactly where we were hoping or
19 projecting it will be.

20 But without the revenue that we
21 need, we can't have safer streets. We
22 can't have cleaner streets. We can't
23 address our education system. We can't
24 have the more vibrant neighborhood
25 commercial corridors that we desperately

1 need and et cetera and et cetera and et
2 cetera. And it's all about the
3 increasing cost because as we know, the
4 inflation is just through the roof right
5 now and the corresponding shrinking tax
6 base is not helping.

7 So I'm asking, I guess, if you
8 can help us understand how we can better
9 use these American Rescue Plan dollars
10 to do something outside of the box? Was
11 there anything else on the
12 Administration's table or that they were
13 considering that we're not aware of at
14 this time that could be reconsidered
15 because I just think that we have to do
16 something more than what we're doing for
17 the people of Philadelphia right now?

18 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: Thank
19 you, Councilmember. So I'll note that
20 the revenue loss from the pandemic was
21 more than the additional federal funding
22 that we received from the American
23 Rescue Plan dollars. So the revenue
24 loss that we've sustained from the
25 pandemic and the resulting recession,

1 all the things you just mentioned --

2 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Sure.

3 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: --

4 nonresident wage tax, all of those
5 things were actually more than the
6 federal dollars that we received. So
7 when we're talking about additional
8 investment --

9 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: What did we
10 calculate that loss as?

11 MR. DUBOW: Without the federal
12 money, we would have had a \$1.5 billion
13 deficit. We got \$1.4 billion. So it
14 rescued us, it prevented a really
15 horrible budget. It didn't close our
16 full gap.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.

18 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: So when
19 you're talking about other
20 Councilmembers, you're talking about new
21 out-of-the-box investments. I think
22 we're trying to be strategic about
23 putting our dollars where we think it
24 will have the biggest impact, but
25 knowing that we don't have a huge pot of

1 funds to pull from as we're planning for
2 our future.

3 So that's why you're seeing the
4 key investments that we're making in
5 things like violence prevention, in
6 street sweeping, in illegal dumping, in
7 libraries and areas that people have
8 highlighted as priorities. We're trying
9 to make as much investment as we can,
10 sustain that investment and have an
11 impact. But understanding that our
12 financial bottom line while improved and
13 rescued, to Rob's point, is not as
14 healthy as it otherwise would have been
15 prepandemic and as we had planned
16 prepandemic.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. I --
18 oh, go ahead. I'm sorry.

19 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: (Shook
20 head).

21 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: That was
22 it, okay. Well, I understand the
23 perspective and I get it that we're just
24 trying to cover our bases. But at the
25 same time covering our bases is just

1 really not working in our City right
2 now. It's not doing enough.

3 And just want to make a point,
4 not to be overly critical, just to put
5 it in perspective, I know that there was
6 a \$2 million allocation to the Streets
7 Department. I work very closely with
8 the Streets Department. I think they
9 work very hard there. They're extremely
10 responsive. But the trash, the dumping
11 problem that we have in our City is way
12 bigger than a \$2 million problem.

13 And I'm just going to use that
14 as an example. I could use \$2 million
15 for clean-up and resources and trash
16 cans and this and that and the other
17 thing in my District alone. In the 8th
18 District alone, I could use \$2 million
19 to get our District in my opinion
20 properly addressed, even though I know
21 Sanitation is working very, very hard to
22 address these issues.

23 So I just think when we talk
24 about the level of investment that we're
25 making --

1 (Timer bell sounded.)

2 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: That was
3 the fastest seven minutes. When I talk
4 about the level of investment that we're
5 making versus the outcomes, I don't see
6 us being able to have the level of
7 outcomes that people in our
8 neighborhoods will look and say, I can
9 see a difference now, I can look at this
10 budget and I can see a difference.

11 I'll come back in the next
12 round, Mr. President. Thank you.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
14 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Brooks.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Thank
16 you, Council President. I also want to
17 thank my colleagues for kind of just
18 preparing me so it's going to cut my
19 questioning a little shorter.

20 I was thinking also about the
21 ARP funding. What was the rationale for
22 not spending the money that we
23 originally planned to spend because it
24 sounds like we're unwilling to have
25 those robust City services now?

1 Prevention, intervention and all those
2 things should be what we're committed to
3 and it seems like we're more committed
4 to use those funds to fund, you know,
5 incarceration and prisons in the future.
6 So it seems kind of lopsided to me and
7 kind of reminiscent of past policies.

8 And I was wondering once this
9 money, we have this money, this infusion
10 of money, once-in-a-generational type of
11 support that we're seeing from the
12 federal government, what are we going to
13 do to make Philadelphia better
14 immediately and why hasn't it been an
15 emphasis on spending this money now?
16 You know, now when I think two days ago
17 kids are being killed walking home from
18 school. These are the things that we
19 need to focus on with the same level of
20 emergency, and these investments can be
21 made in those preventive and
22 intervention services immediately as
23 opposed to something later on. And
24 that's where I'm stuck on why we haven't
25 spent the original money that we said

1 we're going to spend for 2022 and '23.

2 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: Thanks,
3 Councilmember. So I think we are
4 spending the money with as much urgency
5 as we can in the areas that you and
6 other Councilmembers have articulated as
7 key priorities. The investments that
8 are being made in areas like prisons are
9 critical, right. Our inmate population
10 has grown. Our workforce complement has
11 shrunk. We need the investment there in
12 order to provide services to keep people
13 safe.

14 There's ongoing litigation
15 related to that and we can't get into
16 that on this call, but those investments
17 that are being made there are critical.
18 But in the other areas that folks have
19 highlighted as needing investment, we
20 are making that investment. And I think
21 everyone would love to see more money
22 going to certain areas.

23 We have this money through
24 December 2024. We're trying to spend it
25 in a way that we can get it spent, have

1 an impact and sustain those investments
2 beyond 2024 when the expenditure of
3 those dollars is up. And I have to go
4 back to my point to Councilwoman Bass,
5 which is that the money that we've
6 received is fantastic, and again to
7 Rob's point, it rescued us. It saved
8 the City from disaster, but it did not
9 even fully replace the revenue that we
10 projected prepandemic.

11 So all of these investments
12 that we're making to match the crises of
13 the moment, the gun violence crisis, the
14 community response to the pandemic, the
15 opioid crisis, all of the crises of the
16 moment we are making them coming from a
17 base that is drastically smaller than it
18 was two years ago.

19 So I understand the call for
20 urgency and we look forward to working
21 with Councilmembers to figure out how we
22 maximize the impact of the dollars that
23 we have throughout this budget process,
24 but the areas that individuals have
25 highlighted, we are making critical,

1 critical investments there.

2 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: I also
3 want to highlight Councilmember Bass's
4 point. As an 8th District resident, I
5 too believe my District colleagues would
6 advocate for that. And to the point
7 that I understand it was an urgency for
8 the need of safety in the prisons, but
9 we both know the prisons aren't safe,
10 right. They aren't safe for the staff
11 and they aren't safe for the folks that
12 are incarcerated.

13 So when I think about the sense
14 of urgency around prevention and
15 intervention and making neighborhoods
16 safer, whether it's through clearing
17 blight, and I think Councilmember
18 Gauthier talked about more community-
19 based things, those are the things that
20 we can do earlier towards intervention
21 and prevention to prevent those large
22 investments that we make over time and
23 incarceration of young people, and
24 that's where the urgency lies, how can
25 we save the next generation from this

1 huge loss with this once-in-a-generation
2 support that we received right now.

3 And that's the urgency I feel
4 that my Council colleagues are talking
5 about, like what are we going to do now
6 to present tomorrow. And I think
7 currently I don't really see that
8 happening. And to your point, I hear
9 what you're saying. But I still have to
10 put emphasis because I think I've been
11 No. 4 or 5, five out of my 17 colleagues
12 have said basically the same thing.
13 It's a sense of urgency that we see
14 immediately.

15 I'm not sure where my time is
16 for my second question and I don't want
17 to start it and not finish it, but it's
18 talking about racial equity. We spent a
19 lot of time talking about racial equity.
20 I was wondering what actions have been
21 taken to address longstanding racial
22 inequities in the way that we collect
23 revenue for the City?

24 And I was wondering have we or
25 has there been a way for the City to

1 collect revenue that has been examined
2 with a racial equity lens? Because we
3 spend and we rely heavily on regressive
4 taxes right now, whether it's a uniform
5 wage tax or a uniform property tax and
6 overreliance on sales taxes, and we know
7 there's uniformity clauses. But what
8 have we or have we thought about ways to
9 make taxes more racially equitable for
10 the City?

11 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: So I'll
12 start there and then probably ask Rob
13 and Commissioner Breslin to jump in
14 because it seems like it's more of a tax
15 policy question for the Revenue
16 Department; am I right, Councilmember?

17 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Yes.

18 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: Okay.
19 Thank you. So to your point, the
20 uniformity clause doesn't allow us to
21 have differential rates on certain taxes
22 that may have more inequitable impact on
23 Black and Brown residents, communities
24 of color in Philadelphia. And that's a
25 significant impediment, we talked about

1 that at length.

2 I think the Revenue Department
3 has the task of collecting revenue on
4 behalf of the City based off the tax
5 rates that Council sets. We have tried
6 to have some real honest conversations
7 within the government about racial
8 equity, the systems that we perpetuate
9 as a government and trying to break them
10 down.

11 The process that we went
12 through for the development for this
13 budget, engaging our racial equity
14 consultant, equity and results, to score
15 each of the justifications, budget
16 justifications that departments
17 submitted to make new investments and
18 then funding the things that scored very
19 high on that list. But from a tax
20 policy perspective, to your point our
21 hands are significantly tied.

22 And the impact we can have on
23 different communities, on other areas,
24 the areas like the Water Department for
25 instance, we've continued the moratorium

1 on shut-offs as we go through this
2 pandemic. And in looking for policy
3 changes, we can make there to ensure
4 that our collection practices are not
5 negatively impacting the communities
6 that are suffering from poverty and that
7 people keep their water on, but I think
8 that we have our hands significantly
9 tied by the uniformity clause and by
10 state law on the way and how we collect
11 revenue.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Are
13 you finished, Councilwoman?

14 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: (Muted).

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
16 You're on mute.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: I'm
18 sorry. I was trying to find it. I
19 mean, you explained a lot. But I'm not
20 really sure if I'm hearing how, how we
21 have looked specifically on how we can
22 do this. Is there another way that we
23 can do this in order to generate the
24 income that we need and make sure that
25 it's not inadvertently affecting the

1 same folks that we're trying to pull out
2 of poverty?

3 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: Rob or
4 Commissioner Breslin, do you want to
5 talk about some of the Revenue
6 Department's practices?

7 MR. DUBOW: Yeah. I can start
8 and then the Commissioner can add
9 detail. We have some of the most
10 expansive relief programs in the
11 country. So for example, on the
12 property tax we understand that property
13 tax can be a burden for people, so we
14 have relief programs that allow payment
15 plans that actually have as low as \$0
16 payments until people can actually make
17 payments. So we try to make sure that
18 our collection practices -- keep in mind
19 the impact the collections have is a
20 similar program on the Water side as the
21 TAP program, so we try to make sure that
22 we have programs in place that take into
23 account what you're talking about.

24 Commissioner Breslin, if you
25 want to add more detail.

1 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: Yeah.

2 You know, first let me say the
3 department participated in the first
4 cohort of the DEI initiative this year
5 and we're trying to look at everything
6 internally and externally from the
7 department's perspective with the DEI
8 lens. So that includes our taxes and
9 our collection processes and as
10 (inaudible), in Philadelphia that we do
11 have some real constraints since we
12 cannot have graduated tax rates and the
13 State Constitution gives us a lot of
14 restrictions in being able to address
15 those types of concerns.

16 So we're looking at it from a
17 policy standpoint, but we're also, as
18 Finance Director said, looking at it
19 always from a collection and enforcement
20 lens to try to make sure that we are
21 protecting vulnerable citizens. And
22 we've done that through our OOPA, which
23 is our Owner-Occupied Payment Agreement
24 so that allows people to stay in their
25 houses even when they're delinquent in

1 their real estate taxes.

2 And the payment agreements
3 believe it or not as we've said, as
4 others have said when they hear this,
5 that we have payment agreements that
6 require no down payment and actually no
7 payment for certain income levels to
8 keep people in their houses. So we do
9 have some of the most progressive
10 programs in the country.

11 In the sake of time, I'll be on
12 this afternoon with my full team and
13 I'll have my Deputy for Policy and also
14 my Deputy for HR who's leading our DEI
15 initiatives and we can talk further on
16 this if you'd like.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Yes. So
18 I --

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
20 Councilwoman, can you because we're --

21 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Wrap it
22 real --

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You
24 can get him when we come back for the
25 second round. You don't have to wait

1 until this afternoon. We're --

2 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Okay.

3 Just --

4 COMMISSIONER BRESLIN: Revenue
5 is on this afternoon and I'll have my
6 full team.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

8 We'll have a second round. So
9 Councilwoman wants to come back on the
10 second round this morning.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Okay.

12 All right. Thank you.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

14 Thank you, Councilwoman.

15 Chair recognizes Councilwoman
16 Gym.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Thank you so
18 much, Council President.

19 So obviously, as we embark on
20 this 2023 budget session and our
21 residents, families, and especially our
22 young people are facing the greatest
23 crisis that we've seen, it's our
24 responsibility to meet this moment.
25 This budget session we have to ensure I

1 think what you're hearing is that this
2 budget session we want to ensure that
3 the investments we make are not merely
4 on paper. They're clearly on paper.
5 You can divide them out. You can show
6 incremental increases, et cetera, et
7 cetera. But the investments have to be
8 felt and reached by the people and the
9 youth who are in crisis and focus on the
10 actual work that's needed to make public
11 safety a top priority for Philadelphia.

12 And as the individuals on
13 either side of the gun get younger and
14 younger, I have to say it's a terror for
15 children and youth. We are leaving our
16 young people behind. The programs that
17 we do around the libraries, around the
18 Parks & Rec centers, around school-based
19 services, state corridors, these are a
20 tough-on-crime all encompassing part of
21 a robust public safety plan, one that
22 reaches into every single neighborhood
23 and is a promise to every child that a
24 public safety plan is as much about
25 books, play, opportunity and education

1 as it is about policing and anything
2 else.

3 One of the changes as we go
4 into the five-year budget session is
5 that we break up into departments as
6 opposed to visions. And this is one of
7 the few chances that we have with Jim
8 Engler and with Rob Dubow and with you
9 both as primary leaders to lay out the
10 vision for the next five years. That's
11 really what this conversation is about,
12 and I think that is what you're hearing.

13 So we have to still struggle to
14 not talk about public safety writ large,
15 but to focus on some of our high-need
16 communities, the 57 blocks, the 10 zip
17 codes and 25 schools, public, charter
18 and alternative that need a specific
19 rescue plan around violence, on
20 management around guns and gun control
21 that is devastating to them. So I want
22 to underscore how important it is for us
23 to look at this.

24 And again, I think some of my
25 colleagues have said this. I'm going to

1 double up on it and then ask a few
2 questions. So not a single public
3 library is open on the weekends, not
4 one. One of the things that we hear
5 repeatedly from our juvenile justice
6 side, especially for probation, is that
7 they desperately need, desperately need
8 weekend, they need weekend hours, that
9 the day they dread the most is Friday
10 because on Friday evenings many of the
11 programs that traditionally serve young
12 people who are high risk and that meet
13 start to close down and they don't open
14 until Monday morning. So we need
15 programs that are open on weekends.
16 That means we have to restore and take a
17 look at Parks & Rec.

18 The budget, maybe it's on
19 paper, has just recouped from 2019. But
20 all of us know that the massive changes
21 that we've seen in the Parks & Rec
22 budget means that they are nowhere near
23 2019 levels even though it is
24 consistently defined as an anti-violence
25 strategy that's needed. And it's those

1 kinds of things, an exponential growth
2 in summertime and weekend activities for
3 young people in zip codes most impacted
4 by gun violence that is missing from
5 some of the levels of the budget,
6 especially when you start to break up
7 into departments. That's what I'm
8 looking for.

9 And I'd love to hear within
10 a -- there's a couple of other areas
11 that I want to cover, which includes
12 revenue. But in terms of recovering and
13 bringing our young people back to sanity
14 and humanity, back to a place of loving
15 support, where is that vision over the
16 five years because I'm not seeing it,
17 particularly if you look at the Five
18 Year Plan from a vision of children and
19 youth in neighborhoods most impacted by
20 the gun violence that we see?

21 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: Thank
22 you, Councilmember. So I'll ask the
23 representatives from the Office of
24 Children and Families. I know Jessica
25 Shapiro and Vanessa, who will be

1 starting there next week, are on here
2 and they can talk about some of the
3 summer planning work that's ongoing and
4 will be sustained.

5 To your point, we know that
6 there are staffing shortages that are
7 impacting Library operations and Parks &
8 Rec, which is why we are making
9 investments in those two departments.

10 The Charter requires us to budget by
11 department and by class, so it's not a
12 vision-heavy document. But the work
13 that is happening in each of these
14 departments is visionary and will have
15 tremendous impact.

16 So I'll ask maybe Jessica to
17 start and then we can filter into --

18 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: And if I
19 could, first of all, I think the
20 conversations with Jessica, wonderful,
21 and we are deeply engaged in this work.
22 I actually want to push it back more to
23 the upper-level Administration above
24 Jessica. That's not to say that she's
25 not upper level, but above level because

1 I'm going to challenge the Parks & Rec
2 budget. That was increased by a few
3 million dollars.

4 I do not think that that is a
5 massive investment. I don't think it's
6 meeting the needs. I don't think it's
7 helping increased supports for
8 individuals. And I will also challenge
9 that we want you to have a vision-heavy
10 document for the Five Year Plan. We
11 want to see where the City is going.
12 And by breaking us down into different
13 departments and silos, what we don't get
14 to see is the cohesive vision for where
15 the City wants to go, particularly and
16 obviously -- I'm going to push on
17 this -- in a vision for children and
18 youth. The City's violence is being
19 driven by young people who do not see a
20 plan for them. They don't see a vision
21 for them within the City.

22 So I'm looking back to you --
23 I'm going to go indepth with Jessica.
24 I'll go indepth with Kathryn Ott Lovell.
25 I'll go indepth with Kelly Walker at the

1 library. I've worked with them and I
2 actually believe that they're pushing.
3 But I'm asking you we did not invest in
4 Parks & Rec at all I don't think.

5 I don't think we set a
6 visionary plan for the libraries to be
7 open on weekends, and I need to see more
8 investments for the summertime weekend
9 activities that is not -- let me be
10 careful because I want to be thoughtful
11 about this, but we have to be driven as
12 much by need as we do as resources.

13 We have to understand the need
14 within communities in order to re-adjust
15 our resources. If we simply go back and
16 say that we're constricted by resources,
17 we'll never meet need, we'll never meet
18 need, and we'll never reconstruct back
19 towards that. I don't think you've
20 invested in Parks & Rec and I don't
21 think you've invested nearly enough to
22 give me an outcome I can believe in for
23 the libraries, that they'll be open on
24 weekends. So I wanted to see if you
25 could respond to that.

1 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: Sure.

2 So I'll say that we have made
3 investments, significant investments in
4 the Library and Parks & Rec. I
5 understand it doesn't meet the need that
6 you have articulated. We have a ton of
7 need and not enough resources to meet
8 that need, period. We have more need
9 than we have resources to meet in a
10 number of different categories.

11 So when we look at a budget, we
12 try and fulfill as much of the need as
13 we can in key areas to have impact and
14 to have sustained impact. So I look
15 forward to having continued
16 conversations throughout this budget
17 process for areas where we need to make
18 adjustment to meet the need in more
19 areas as articulated to the priorities
20 of Council. But we have made investment
21 in those areas and it may not meet the
22 need that's been articulated by members
23 of the community and City Council, and
24 those decisions are based off of the
25 resources that we have offhand to meet

1 that need in every category, from Parks
2 & Rec and Library and the Office of
3 Children and Families to Police and
4 Corrections and Streets.

5 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Council
6 President, I'll wait for the second
7 round for my --

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
9 Okay.

10 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: And I have
11 just one clarification. I under --

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: One
13 second --

14 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: -- stand
15 you've made an investment in the
16 libraries --

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
18 Councilwoman, one second please.

19 Councilwoman Bass, you had a
20 point of information. Was it on the
21 question or was it on the response?

22 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
23 Mr. President. It was on the response
24 from the Administration from Mr. Engler.

25 I didn't know if he was aware

1 when Councilwoman Gym asked him about
2 the libraries when the response was
3 related to staffing issues, I don't know
4 that Mr. Engler is aware that in the 8th
5 District we opened up along with INALJ,
6 which is a recruiting firm, we opened up
7 a jobs bank within the library in
8 Nicetown.

9 And so, we have reached out and
10 asked the Administration to partner with
11 us to help staff the libraries through
12 the jobs bank that the City of
13 Philadelphia and our office and that
14 libraries are running together. So I
15 just wanted to put that out there, that
16 if we're really serious about getting
17 staffed, we have a professional
18 organization that's working with us to
19 go out, recruit and hire, and we can do
20 that specifically with the libraries and
21 we've made that overture in the past.
22 And I just wanted to publicly on the
23 record state that we are certainly
24 willing to work to make that happen to
25 staff these libraries because they need

1 to be opened.

2 Thank you, Mr. President.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Councilwoman, did you have a last
5 follow-up?

6 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Yes, I just
7 wanted to conclude my statement because
8 I'll wait for the next round. But I did
9 just want to make clear that no matter
10 what the investment may be on the
11 library front, if the library is open on
12 weekends, this is what I'm saying, that
13 it can't just be a measure of the
14 money's that on it. It's got to be
15 articulated by the residents and the
16 community members.

17 No libraries are open on the
18 weekends. A library needs to be open on
19 the weekends. And if the investments
20 are made, it doesn't mean the outcome
21 meets the quality of the investment that
22 is requested. So that was my only
23 concluding thing.

24 And I'll wait for the next
25 round, Council President.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

2 Thank you, Councilwoman.

3 Chair recognizes Councilman

4 Domb.

5 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,

6 Council President.

7 And good morning, everyone. I

8 want to just clarify. On the

9 coronavirus spending or the program

10 that's available from the federal

11 government, I want to clarify if those

12 monies have to be allocated by 2024 or

13 spent by 2024?

14 MR. DUBOW: They have to be

15 obligated by the end of '24.

16 COUNCILMAN DOMB: But not spent

17 by the end of '24?

18 MR. DUBOW: You can get a

19 little lag after, so they have to be

20 obligated. We have to show that they

21 are committed to something. Obligated

22 under a contract for example, even if

23 the payment comes after December '24.

24 We have to obligate the funding by the

25 end of Calendar '24.

1 COUNCILMAN DOMB: I don't know
2 if it matters. I'll just share it with
3 you. In the new regulations it does say
4 that it must be obligated by December
5 31, 2024, but it doesn't have to be
6 expended until December 31 of '26. I
7 know if that helps, but I just wanted to
8 put it out there. That's in the new
9 regulations from the President.

10 In the areas of the comments of
11 my colleagues, I agree with most
12 everything that's been said. I'm not
13 going to repeat any of those questions
14 or comments, but I agree with the
15 majority of them. The number one issue
16 of course is public safety. I'm just
17 curious how the measurement of public
18 safety is going, and I have a series I'm
19 just going to ask.

20 I'd like to know how with this
21 money we've invested in Council, the 155
22 million, how that is being measured, so
23 we can determine which programs are
24 successful and which ones aren't. I
25 will also just share in the long-term

1 goals of the Administration and I think
2 of this Council, I don't see us having
3 really goals of changing the poverty in
4 the long-term.

5 And I selfishly say that
6 because I've been saying for six years,
7 if we want to say change poverty in the
8 long run, we should be changing what
9 we're teaching in schools. We should be
10 teaching from kindergarten to 12th
11 grade, financial literacy, technology,
12 entrepreneurship and then allowing
13 students in 9th, 10th and 11th grade to
14 work one day a week, go to school for
15 four days, get paid, get a job and get a
16 summer job from those companies. It's
17 invaluable. It won't happen in changing
18 poverty in the next 5 or 10 years. But
19 15 to 20 years from now, it'll change
20 the course of the City. I won't be
21 here, but it'll change the course of the
22 City. Anyway, and I'd like that to be
23 addressed somehow.

24 Also, I want to talk about, and
25 I know my time's limited, I want to talk

1 about the police headquarters
2 relocation. I just want to make sure I
3 have the story straight because it
4 concerns me on how we manage taxpayer
5 money and how we invest taxpayer money.

6 And I believe that story is
7 that after a lot of deliberation back in
8 time, former Police Commissioner Charles
9 Ramsey and I believe Mayor Michael
10 Nutter decided to relocate the police
11 headquarters from the aging Roundhouse
12 to 4601 Market, the former Provident
13 Mutual Life Insurance building in West
14 Philadelphia. And in 2014, Councilman
15 Kenney and the rest of Council approved
16 up to \$250 million in borrowing to fund
17 moving the police headquarters there.

18 That same year we issued bonds
19 and got 65 million from investors who we
20 agreed to repay with interest through
21 2044 for a total of \$117 million. We
22 spent 50 million from those bonds to buy
23 the building and start turning into the
24 next police headquarters. We got almost
25 all way to the interior landscape ad

1 design of the new headquarters.

2 Then in 2016, Mayor Kenney
3 decided to abandon the efforts of 4601
4 Market. We sold the building for 10
5 million. I think the two of us, myself
6 and Councilmember Sanchez, voted against
7 that. If the City had spent 50 million
8 there and agreed to fund the purchase
9 and redevelopment of the former Inquirer
10 from face value of about 280 million.
11 But instead of just funding the
12 acquisition and renovation of the new
13 headquarters, the Administration agreed
14 the City would lease the building for a
15 total of about 140 million over nine
16 years, up to 15.6 million per year.
17 Then the developer qualified for 40
18 million in federal tax credits.

19 After that nine-year rental
20 period, we'll have the option to either
21 keep renting the police headquarters or
22 buy out what's left at the fixed rate of
23 3.75 interest, 19-year financing that's
24 estimated to cost us about 353 million.
25 And now that we've changed our minds,

1 thrown away millions, to wait a few
2 years and finally finish the renovation,
3 we decide to mothball a few of the upper
4 floors of this building we're paying
5 hundreds of millions for.

6 So from the time Mayor Nutter
7 decided to move the police headquarters
8 from the Roundhouse to the time the City
9 will fully own the new police
10 headquarters in the former Inquirer
11 building, how much total money will we
12 have spent on this relocation? That's
13 Question 1.

14 And then Question 2 is: I'm
15 concerned about what's coming up next
16 because this inconsistency is part of
17 what makes it hard for people to trust
18 that City government has their best
19 interest at heart, so when it comes to
20 deciding what to do at the Roundhouse,
21 what are the steps we're taking to make
22 sure the City's approach is more
23 professional and less costly to our
24 taxpayers?

25 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: A

1 couple of questions there. Do you want
2 us to handle the police headquarters
3 questions first or the poverty questions
4 first?

5 COUNCILMAN DOMB: It's your
6 decision. Whatever you like.

7 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: We'll
8 take the second part first and then let
9 me come back. So on the police
10 headquarters move, I think your timeline
11 is accurate. When we came into office
12 in 2016, the Mayor asked us and the new
13 Police Commissioner at the time,
14 Commissioner Ross, asked us to look at
15 that project and whether it was right to
16 move forward with that project or to
17 look at other potential relocation.

18 After looking at the potential
19 sites, the Inquirer building was chosen
20 as the next possible site. And it did
21 free up the 4601 Market site for
22 additional redevelopment. To your point
23 about the sale, the eventual services
24 that are going to be provided there by
25 CHOP and PHMC will be substantial and

1 tremendous benefits in the West
2 Philadelphia community that will be able
3 to access them in the neighborhood, so
4 I'm really happy about where that
5 project ended up.

6 To your point about the
7 additional space in the new police
8 headquarters building, we're having this
9 conversation right now with Public
10 Property. As you can imagine, the
11 pandemic has shifted the way that the
12 City provides services, the way that our
13 office spaces are structured, the way
14 that our office spaces are designed, and
15 the amount of people that are in the
16 office five days a week as opposed to a
17 more hybrid environment and how much
18 square footage they need. So with the
19 Department of Public Property, we're
20 reviewing now how we can best fill that
21 space so that way it's best utilized.

22 And then I will probably ask
23 the Finance Director to talk about some
24 of the cost related to the project.

25 MR. DUBOW: Yeah. I think the

1 one place where we differ with your
2 numbers on the project are what the
3 purchase price will be. There's a
4 formula that would have it be higher of
5 the remaining debt service for the value
6 of the property. So rather than the 350
7 you're talking about, we think that
8 number will be more like in the 200
9 range. So it will be that cost plus the
10 rent payments over the nine years.

11 COUNCILMAN DOMB: I guess my
12 question is though between 46th and
13 Market and the Inquirer building, what
14 was the total amount of money that's
15 either been lost or invested or spent,
16 whatever way you want to call it, what's
17 the total taxpayer cost?

18 MR. DUBOW: We'll put a table
19 together that shows all of that for you.

20 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Because my
21 concern is that we now have the
22 Roundhouse coming up and how are we
23 going to deal with that? And I don't
24 want to go through this again on the
25 Roundhouse. We can't go back. I just

1 want to move forward. I just don't want
2 to have the same situation.

3 MR. DUBOW: Understood.

4 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: And on
5 that development, we're going through
6 the community engagement process now for
7 the Roundhouse development. I believe
8 the community engagement consultant is
9 being selected this week or is under
10 contract shortly and we'll start that
11 community engagement process. We
12 thought that was really critical for
13 that project to really engage with
14 members of the close community as well
15 as the City at-large because that
16 building has a lot of historical
17 significance for all Philadelphians, and
18 we want to make sure the redevelopment
19 of it and matches the vision that our
20 residents would like to see.

21 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. I'll
22 (inaudible). Thank you very much.

23 Thank you, Council President.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

25 Thank you, Councilman.

1 Chair recognizes Councilwoman
2 Gilmore Richardson.

3 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

4 RICHARDSON: Okay. Thank you. Thank
5 you, Council President.

6 And thank you to our
7 Administration partners for your
8 testimony. I'll just start by saying
9 that I do agree wholeheartedly with the
10 concerns raised by a number of my
11 colleagues relative to public safety and
12 the quality-of-life issues here in the
13 City. But I wanted to start by giving
14 kudos in this process because over the
15 last year I have worked really hard to
16 be a partner with our administrative
17 partners and I recognize the work we all
18 are seeking to do to make things better
19 on a daily basis.

20 So I just wanted to quickly
21 thank Deputy Commissioner Warren from
22 Streets who we call on every single day
23 and Commissioner Williams, L&I
24 Commissioner DiPietro, and I'll go into
25 the work that we've been working on in

1 my first question, Parks & Rec for the
2 constituent case just I think last week,
3 Revenue for the issues we're working on
4 around tangled titles, and the Records
5 Department, our Commissioner who has
6 been wonderful in the Register of Wills
7 Office and so many of you all across
8 City government.

9 And I also want to thank
10 members of the Philadelphia Police
11 Department, namely Captain O'Donnell in
12 the 17th and Captain McKeever in the
13 19th, Inspector Rodriguez in the 18th.
14 For the past several weeks, it has been
15 my honor and privilege to go out with
16 members of the Police Department between
17 the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m. in
18 those particular districts to look at
19 the implementation of two pieces of
20 legislation that I passed here in this
21 body. The first one being an updated
22 curfew to simplify curfew hours in the
23 opening of community evening centers in
24 our South and Southwest Divisions, and
25 then also looking at the enforcement of

1 the drug paraphernalia legislation in
2 our City and looking at a lot of these
3 nuisance businesses.

4 And so, we all recognize that
5 in the budget community recap, one of
6 the top community concerns was public
7 safety. And everywhere I go all
8 Philadelphians I hear from, they voice
9 concerns about these issues, but
10 particularly about these nuisance
11 businesses that are really popping up
12 all over the City.

13 And I talked to you last year
14 about the drug paraphernalia legislation
15 and how we've been able to enforce on
16 these businesses that are skirting the
17 zoning code and popping up almost on
18 every commercial corridor. If you're
19 anywhere in the City, you see these
20 businesses selling drug paraphernalia.
21 Most of them do not have the proper
22 licensing or certification to operate.
23 They have not gone through zoning or any
24 type of community process.

25 And just recently, we had a

1 shooting outside one of those locations
2 for actually a store we're slated to
3 visit at the end of this month in the
4 District of our Majority Leader
5 Councilmember Parker. And so, the
6 Nuisance Business Taskforce is really
7 one of the most valuable interagency
8 working groups we have in City
9 government.

10 I wanted to talk specifically
11 about any new investments to expand the
12 taskforce work in this proposed budget,
13 particularly around L&I inspectors,
14 particularly for the Department of
15 Health and for PPD so that we can have a
16 robust Nuisance Business Taskforce that
17 can handle the challenges we are faced
18 around these nuisance businesses. What
19 we have now is not enough to get to all
20 the locations where we have complaints
21 and where we know they are operating
22 without the appropriate licensing and
23 certification in our City, so I wanted
24 to start there.

25 And the second question,

1 because I want to get in my questions in
2 the first round, is around L&I
3 inspectors. We know they're very
4 highly-trained professionals in their
5 very challenging jobs to fill. We do
6 rely on them for significant amount of
7 our enforcement to address these
8 quality-of-life issues in our community.

9 So I wanted to know why we are not
10 providing additional dollars to hire
11 more inspectors and to better retain our
12 highly-skilled inspectors in our
13 workforce.

14 And then lastly, how is the
15 Mayor's Office prioritizing the
16 enforcement of quality-of-life issues in
17 our neighborhoods overall? And I say
18 that because we have gone out in almost
19 every Council District and we're working
20 our way through in the evening to look
21 at these drug paraphernalia stores. And
22 like I stated, I've recently started to
23 go out on Friday nights between
24 10:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m. We need a lot
25 of help with quality-of-life issues, and

1 we need to see that prioritized in this
2 budget. So those are my initial three
3 questions.

4 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: Thank
5 you, Councilmember. I see Tumar popped
6 up so I'll ask the Managing Director's
7 Office and then the operating
8 departments to take those questions. To
9 your last point around the
10 prioritization of quality-of-life
11 issues, from the Mayor's Office
12 perspective it's something that the
13 Mayor cares deeply about. He's out in
14 the community and sees various quality-
15 of-life issues. It comes back to us,
16 which means that we're focused on it.

17 We meet weekly not only on a
18 violence prevention basis, but also
19 specifically focused on quality-of-life
20 issues related to Kensington and other
21 neighborhoods that are dealing
22 specifically with those various issues,
23 so it's something that he's personally
24 invested in. We can talk in more detail
25 later. But I would like the operating

1 departments to talk about some of the
2 specific issues you raised.

3 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

4 Yeah, Jim. I was calling on
5 Commissioner DiPietro to talk
6 specifically about the Nuisance
7 Taskforce and the work that's being done
8 between those folks at the District
9 Attorney's Office and Law Department and
10 certainly L&I.

11 Councilwoman, to your overall
12 question around budget investment, I
13 think we as the Administration come up
14 with a budget and then understand that
15 we're working with Council, starting
16 this process today, to talk through that
17 and understand that it's some needs that
18 we may not have to the satisfaction of
19 Councilmembers in our budget that will
20 be part of that back-and-forth
21 discussion as we get through this
22 process. But, Ralph, you want to --

23 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

24 RICHARDSON: And, Mr. Managing Director,
25 before Commissioner DiPietro responds, I

1 just want to say for the record he has
2 been out with us, okay --

3 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

4 Absolutely.

5 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

6 RICHARDSON: -- on those tours all
7 throughout the year, in the evening, at
8 nighttime. Even one of the most
9 challenging situations that I've ever
10 faced, period, in my life, he was there
11 with us. And so, I want to give kudos
12 to the Commissioner because I know he is
13 doing the very best that he can with the
14 resources that he has. But this process
15 is about what we can do to prioritize
16 quality-of-life issues and make it
17 better.

18 And if it's simply adding
19 additional resources to the Nuisance
20 Business Taskforce and to L&I so that
21 they have the appropriate staffing to
22 address these concerns, then I think we
23 should work toward that end in this
24 process. And so, I just wanted to be
25 clear on that because we have been

1 working hand in hand with them. It's
2 just tough when like everybody we're
3 faced with staffing challenges that
4 prevent us from doing all that we can
5 for people in the community.

6 I guess we'll have to come back
7 for the second round because I will
8 honor the clock, Council President. I
9 will come back on the second round and
10 we'll hear from Commissioner DiPietro.
11 Thank you so much for the opportunity.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
13 Thank you so much, Councilwoman. Thank
14 you for doing what you do. One of these
15 days I'm going to actually ride along
16 with you. Maybe when you do some
17 daytime hours. I don't know about that
18 10:00 to 2:00 thing. Thank you so much.

19 Chair recognizes Councilman
20 Thomas.

21 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
22 morning every -- afternoon everybody at
23 this point now. I'm going to use my
24 five minutes to ask all of my questions,
25 and I know you won't have time to

1 respond to all of them. So I'll let the
2 Council President determine how that
3 ends up taking place.

4 Just sitting here listening to
5 some of the responses, Ms. Engler talked
6 about the fact that the budget wasn't a
7 visual document, like it's not the
8 vision of the City. So at some point,
9 please show us the document that has the
10 vision of the Administration because
11 we're a little concerned right now with
12 the direction that we're going in,
13 similar to my colleagues.

14 This issue of gun violence is a
15 huge problem. In 2021, we seen 242
16 children shot; 26 fatal. In 2022, we
17 already had 57 children shot; 16 fatal.
18 So my first question, and I'll go
19 through all of them now, is similar to
20 what other Councilmembers said, how can
21 we say that gun violence is a priority
22 when rec centers are only open five days
23 a week?

24 Think about the fact that with
25 all the crime that we see with teenagers

1 and involving teenagers, that somebody
2 can play football or baseball on a
3 Saturday and if they have to go to the
4 bathroom, they can't even go into the
5 rec center to use the bathroom because
6 we have them closed in the midst of a
7 gun violence crisis while also having a
8 surplus amount of money. So think about
9 that message that we're giving to the
10 constituents of the City of
11 Philadelphia.

12 We have 100,000 people that we
13 said that we would pull out of poverty.
14 So how can we not say that right now is
15 the moment where we need to invest
16 significant dollars in the City of
17 Philadelphia when we committed to
18 pulling 100,000 people out of poverty
19 and we're not moving in that direction
20 at all.

21 I also looked through the
22 budget and I'm wondering why is there no
23 funding for the African American Museum.
24 We wanted to see significant investment
25 in the African American Museum,

1 especially with the capital campaign
2 that they have going on, and it's
3 unfortunate that we didn't see a
4 significant line item, not the \$500,000
5 that they annually get. We're talking
6 about significant investment in the
7 African American Museum.

8 I'm also disappointed that I
9 didn't see any language around the 12
10 percent of roads that produce 80 percent
11 of the car accidents. This is something
12 that we discussed last budget. I was
13 assured that we would see significant
14 investment in infrastructure when we got
15 the ARP money, and there is nothing in
16 there around that.

17 Similar to what my colleague
18 said, the lack of investment in L&I is
19 extremely disappointing. The report
20 from the Arts and Culture Taskforce
21 talked about the importance of investing
22 in L&I. L&I currently is significantly
23 understaffed. They only have about 370
24 staff members over there, and there's no
25 plan or no vision to invest in

1 technology, to use technology to be able
2 to find bad actors and actresses and
3 have that revenue be revenue that we
4 generate for the City of Philadelphia.

5 I heard folks talk about
6 libraries a little earlier. But overall
7 we always -- and I'll say this and I'll
8 stop and then I'll let you answer to
9 respond. The elders told me when I
10 first got involved in politics is
11 politics is the allocation of scarce
12 resources, which basically means that
13 there's not enough resources for
14 everybody.

15 So when we say we have a lot of
16 different departments that have needs,
17 well, that's been the case since I've
18 been born. At end of the day, we
19 recognize that there are always going to
20 be departments that have needs, but it's
21 our job and our obligation to meet the
22 needs of the moment. And right now I
23 don't see us moving in that direction.
24 So I'll stop right there and I look
25 forward to some responses to some of the

1 questions and statements that I made.

2 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: Thank
3 you, Councilmember. I'll go through in
4 the order that I wrote them down, but I
5 may have missed some so I apologize for
6 that. We can talk about it again. As
7 to your point around vision, my point to
8 the Councilmember was that we budget by
9 department and by class, so it's hard to
10 articulate the vision out of the
11 budgetary document.

12 The Five Year Plan though does
13 set specific goals, and the Five Year
14 Plan's goals for each department are
15 included in there. And our vision for
16 how we address violence prevention is
17 the Roadmap to Safer Communities. It's
18 been that way for several years, and we
19 continue to build on that as the base
20 for how we address surging violence.

21 The funding for the African
22 American Museum you are correct, there's
23 \$500,000 for operating support for the
24 African American Museum. We are in I'll
25 say early discussions about capital

1 needs, whether that's a new site or
2 capital improvements at their existing
3 site, there are ongoing discussions.
4 Hopefully, they are resolved by the time
5 we get to June so they can be a part of
6 this budget, but it didn't make sense to
7 put specific capital funding related to
8 again a new facility or something else,
9 something else entirely until we're
10 through those discussions --

11 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

12 RICHARDSON: Mr. President, point of
13 information.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

15 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Gilmore
16 Richardson.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

18 RICHARDSON: Yes, thank you so much,
19 Mr. President.

20 For the record, I just wanted
21 to ask the Administration to detail the
22 amount the African American Museum
23 received last year.

24 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: Rob or
25 Marisa, do you have that?

1 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

2 If I'm correct, Rob, let me try, Rob,
3 and let me know if I'm incorrect.
4 Councilwoman, I believe they received
5 \$800,000 last fiscal year. This year
6 they're slated to receive 500,000. I
7 think the 800,000 -- I think the 500,000
8 is what they've been consistently
9 getting prepandemic. It was a cut
10 during the pandemic. Afterwards I think
11 working together with Council we did
12 increase that money for them, but this
13 year it's 500,000. Last fiscal year it
14 was \$800,000.

15 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

16 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Just wanted
17 that information for the record.

18 Thank you, Council President.
19 And thank you, Colleague Councilmember
20 Thomas.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

22 Thank you, Council Lady.

23 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: Thank
24 you. And then I'd ask Deputy Managing
25 Director Carroll to talk about the

1 Vision Zero issues that you raised
2 around specific Streets issues.

3 MR. CARROLL: Thank you. We
4 may need to get back to the
5 Councilmember with more detail, but I
6 just want to assure you that we are
7 investing in Vision Zero, especially the
8 High Injury Network that you identified,
9 which is the 12 percent of streets where
10 80 percent of the killed and seriously
11 injured Philadelphians are involved.

12 I would point out that we do
13 continue to rely heavily on grant
14 funding for that investment, and we'll
15 be moving forward a number of grant-
16 funded projects in the FY23. Also, I
17 would go back to describe the
18 investments that we're making in the
19 infrastructure funding, the federally
20 funded infrastructure work, building the
21 capacity to deliver even more projects
22 that all doesn't appear yet in the
23 category of Vision Zero, but that is
24 going to be heavily slanted towards
25 safety products focused on the High

1 Injury Network.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Is
3 that it --

4 MR. CARROLL: Yes.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: --
6 Councilmember?

7 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: I know my
8 time is up. Thank you, Coun -- I don't
9 have to hear an alarm, but I know it's
10 coming. I timed it. Thank you, Council
11 President. I know my time is up. And
12 what I will say is --

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I
14 was just wondering if they addressed
15 each one of your questions.

16 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: They
17 didn't, but it's okay. I'll be sending
18 over a memo with information as it
19 relates to the 12 percent of the roads
20 because that's extremely alarming and
21 disappointing that we've been talking
22 about this since 2020. It's 2022.
23 We're in the middle of a crisis and
24 we're doing nothing about it.

25 I'll also be sending a memo

1 over around L&I. Because again at the
2 end of the day when we're looking at
3 this issue around L&I, this is an
4 opportunity to generate revenue for the
5 City without increasing taxes for people
6 or for businesses.

7 So thank you, Council
8 President, and I'll queue myself in for
9 the second round. And I am going to
10 continue to be a strong advocate as it
11 relates to this hit-and-run issue
12 because we're just not seeing the type
13 of traction that we need to see as it
14 relates to infrastructure investment.
15 Thank you, Council President.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
17 Thank you, Councilman. You're not going
18 to believe this. Someone from my staff
19 just came up and informed me that
20 somebody actually hit my City vehicle
21 sitting outside parked in its legal
22 location. And apparently, it was a
23 delivery truck. And apparently, it did
24 not stop. It hit and it ran. So we
25 clearly understand. Fortunately, no one

1 got hurt, but this is a clear example of
2 what you're referencing. Thank you.

3 Chair recognizes Councilwoman
4 Quinones-Sanchez.

5 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
6 Thank you, Mr. President.

7 Thank you to the
8 Administration. I want to talk a little
9 bit around public safety but from an
10 operational department perspective. My
11 colleagues have talked very eloquently
12 around some of the programming issues
13 that I'll probably get into the second
14 round.

15 This Administration came in,
16 talked about zero-based budgeting, we
17 moved to performance-based budgeting.
18 Mr. Engler, is this budget a
19 reflection -- and again, there's some
20 investments in departments that are
21 important, Streets Department, all of
22 that, how are you making a decision
23 about the amount? So for instance, if
24 we have 10,000 potholes, do we have
25 money to fill 10,000 potholes?

1 If we know we have PHS's budget
2 with 30 million square feet of vacant
3 lots that they take care of, does this
4 budget reflect what it cost to take care
5 of those issues? We have the historic
6 illegal dumping that'sgoing on. How did
7 you come up with how we make those
8 investments and are we budgeting for
9 what we have or what we need and how
10 does Council know the difference between
11 those two? Because operationally,
12 street lights, vacant lots, trash, the
13 L&I enforcement, those are public safety
14 issues and quality-of-life issues. So
15 how do you guys come up with the amount
16 and what does it really resolve in those
17 investments?

18 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: So
19 getting back to one of your earlier
20 points, budgeting for what we need
21 versus what we have, it's a little bit
22 of both. Looking at various
23 departmental budgets to either sustain
24 their current operations as well as
25 enhance the things that they do or can

1 do or do more of is how we can generate,
2 look at the budget.

3 I think we do have funding to
4 fill potholes. We do have funding to
5 provide all of those services that the
6 department needs. Those costs escalate
7 over time, which is why you see
8 department budgets increase, especially
9 now with inflationary pressure that's
10 impacting every department. So it's a
11 little bit of both. When we look at
12 building the budget, it is about the
13 needs that are articulated by residents,
14 by community members, priorities
15 outlined by the Mayor in discussion with
16 various other Administration officials
17 and then taking the resources that we
18 have and matching it to that need.

19 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
20 So if someone would ask us, we know we
21 have this historical dumping problem, we
22 know when people dump all the time, this
23 budget gives the Streets Department
24 enough money to keep all of those
25 dumping sites clean, does it?

1 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: I think
2 this budget gives the department more
3 resources to be able to address the
4 issue of illegal dumping. There's also
5 more that we know that we can do on the
6 regulatory side. When we had a budget
7 briefing for the state legislature, we
8 talked to Representative Hohenstein
9 about state legislation that you might
10 be interested in supporting to help us
11 go after illegal dumpers more
12 significantly.

13 There's also ongoing
14 discussions with our Law Department and
15 the District Attorney's Office about how
16 we can be more strategic in going after
17 illegal dumpers in not just resolving
18 the issue and cleaning up the mess, but
19 also holding people accountable for
20 their illegal dumping and for their
21 illegal activity. So --

22 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
23 Street lights, all of these things add
24 to how people feel around public safety
25 from an operational standpoint. And

1 again like my colleagues, we work with
2 the Streets Department and CLIP and all
3 those other things. I just want to make
4 sure, if you're attesting to and as
5 departments come up, we'll talk about
6 what it is that we're charging them to
7 do and if we're giving them enough
8 resources to actually get it done.

9 I want to go to the public
10 safety, in particular the criminal
11 justice component of it. There's a lot
12 of always discussion about the Police
13 Department. We've had a lot of debate
14 with the DA in talking about the DA. I
15 was very disappointed to see the lack of
16 funding in the Public Defenders Office.
17 All of these are reaction after a crime
18 is done.

19 What I haven't heard from the
20 Administration in articulating its
21 public safety strategy is what is the
22 underpinning that we're putting in as it
23 relates to DHS and CBH to support the
24 folks. We know who the next victim is
25 going to be. We know because they're in

1 our system who the next shooter is going
2 to be. How are we supporting those
3 systems on the intervention investment
4 so that when a young person is in one of
5 our diversionary programs, we are
6 supporting them in a way to make sure
7 they don't become a victim again? How
8 are you looking at those investments
9 from a public safety strategy?

10 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER:

11 Absolutely, Councilwoman. So that is
12 part and parcel of the entire public
13 safety strategy as outlined in the
14 Roadmap. We've gone forward and opened
15 our evening resource centers and several
16 more plan to open in this budget. And
17 as you know, the vast majority of
18 funding for those agencies, DHS and
19 DBHIDS comes from other governments, so
20 they're not included in the General Fund
21 allocation.

22 Some of the funding is in the
23 General Fund allocation like the evening
24 resource centers I mentioned, crisis
25 intervention response teams that were in

1 my testimony, but the vast majority of
2 their funding comes through those other
3 big pots of money from either the state
4 or federal government, and it's all
5 targeted at that same approach. And if
6 there are specific questions, I'm sure
7 Commissioner Ali or Dr. Bowen are happy
8 to jump in and answer questions about --

9 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

10 When those questions come up, I was
11 looking for kind of a statement about
12 we've charged these departments, we've
13 really helped provide that immediate
14 intervention in a different way. A lot
15 of this is human services, a lot of this
16 is in the CUA system.

17 And one of the complaints
18 whether you talk to CUA members or
19 parents who are interfacing with CUA
20 members is sort of sometimes what needs
21 to be fixed is simple and we can't fix
22 it, right. It's a housing instability
23 issue. It's something that's broken in
24 the household that leads us from
25 removing children from homes and stuff,

1 so that's what -- and we'll talk about
2 it then. I was just looking for a
3 bigger conversation.

4 As it relates to the Criminal
5 Justice Advisory Board, this feeling of
6 lawlessness comes from police don't
7 arrest, DA doesn't charge, courts are
8 releasing people, public defenders are
9 left out of the conversation. What has
10 the Mayor's team done, said or provided
11 in terms of bringing this leadership
12 together that we all fund and say,
13 folks, this is not a pointing of the
14 fingers anymore, this is what we're
15 going to do, this is the expectation and
16 how is that related on the budget
17 accountability for them?

18 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: I say
19 we do that on a daily basis. One
20 specific example is through the
21 reinstitution of the Drug Court ARD
22 program. So we had a lot of
23 conversations with the District Attorney
24 and the First Judicial District about
25 how to restart that program, and we ran

1 into an impasse because the DA said they
2 didn't want fines or fees to be an
3 impediment for people to be in the
4 program, and the court said that people
5 needed to be up on their fines and fees
6 in order to go through the program.

7 So we said from a City
8 perspective, we will allocate our scarce
9 resources to pay for those fines and
10 fees so that individuals can go to that
11 program and we can get them through the
12 program, rehabilitate them and back on
13 with their lives, and we think that will
14 have a significant impact and
15 significant costs associated with our
16 budget. So those kind of problem-
17 solving issues are happening on a daily
18 basis, whether that's with the Managing
19 Director's Office or through other areas
20 of the government trying to improve the
21 way that we provide public safety
22 services up and down the spectrum from
23 the police department all the way
24 through the prevention as you mentioned.

25 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

1 I appreciate that. Part of those --

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Point of
3 infor --

4 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

5 -- conversations, okay. On the drug
6 court, I know we've been part of those
7 conversations and I know it was
8 difficult to get through, but that's one
9 of many examples around how do we get to
10 people feeling that our system works,
11 right, and that people are not operating
12 off of islands, right, and there's a
13 consistent messaging around public
14 safety.

15 And I just think when you go to
16 community meetings, people just, you
17 know, this problem and this problem.
18 And consistent messaging is based on
19 people's experiences, and I'm not
20 getting that on a daily basis, right.
21 And it's frustrating because people
22 don't separate government. When I go to
23 a meeting, it's not about the prison,
24 it's not about the courts. It's about
25 you guys in the City. So we have to

1 tell people some of these challenges,
2 right, and we have to hold these
3 departments who use bureaucracy to limit
4 the ability for us to just help people,
5 right, and get things done. And I think
6 we need to get more public around that.

7 I'm sorry, Tumar. Did you want
8 to say something?

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: Point of
10 information, Council President.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
12 Councilman Jones had a point of
13 information.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: I think as
15 it relates to what Member Sanchez talked
16 about, we spent two years doing 100
17 shooter review that turned into a 2,000
18 shooter review. And within that, there
19 was a sense of cooperation between all
20 parties. We finished that document and
21 we put it on a shelf.

22 The question becomes who picks
23 it up off the shelf and integrates it
24 into our budget on a daily basis and on
25 a team basis. Daily basis is individual

1 communications between departments, but
2 on a team basis who is the straw that's
3 going to stir the drink that points to
4 the solutions that get paid for through
5 our budget.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

7 Thank you. Thank you, Councilman. I
8 don't know if that was a question or --

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: It was a
10 little of a statement and a lot of need
11 for a response.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

13 Okay. Anybody want to grab that?

14 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

15 I will save my programming conversation
16 for the second round. I will say we've
17 been missing the public safety
18 conversation around 911, which I hope is
19 part of this goal and plan because all
20 of these things are connected and public
21 safety makes people feel better if they
22 can interface with our systems in a way
23 that's predictable.

24 So thank you very much, Council
25 President and Mr. Engler.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

2 Thank you, Councilwoman.

3 Actually we're scheduled to
4 take a break at 12:30. We have
5 Councilman Green up next. There has
6 been a number of inquiries today --

7 COUNCILMAN OH: I'm sorry,
8 Council President. Councilman Oh I
9 think is next or maybe Councilman Green,
10 am I wrong? Did I miss that? I didn't
11 get my first round.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I'm
13 sorry, sir. I'm sorry. You are --
14 Councilman Green and then Councilman Oh.
15 I'm just basing it on the information
16 that's being fed to me.

17 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And
19 then we're going to take a break. And I
20 know there are a number of inquiries in
21 the first round, some of which I'm
22 assuming you will be able to come back
23 and respond to from members of the
24 Administration, which will be helpful
25 and then we can get a little deeper into

1 some of the more specifics.

2 So, Councilman Green and then
3 Councilman Oh.

4 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
5 Council President.

6 Good afternoon, everyone. I
7 just have a few quick questions. How
8 much money was spent -- how did the City
9 spend the CARES dollars?

10 MR. DUBOW: So we can get you a
11 specific breakout on the CARES
12 dollars --

13 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Well, I
14 don't need the specific breakout. But I
15 know you have a general understanding of
16 how much was spent in other areas.

17 MR. DUBOW: Yeah. We spent in,
18 you know, reacting to the pandemic for
19 things like the isolation and quarantine
20 sites, PPE, you know, providing medical
21 care where necessary so that whole range
22 of responses to the pandemic.

23 COUNCILMAN GREEN: But none of
24 the CARES dollars was spent for arts
25 groups or other organizations like that

1 or other groups that were impacted by
2 the pandemic?

3 MR. DUBOW: There was money
4 through the first round that was
5 provided for small businesses. There
6 was also a fund that we set up to
7 provide money to arts institutions, so
8 there was funding that went to those
9 organizations.

10 COUNCILMAN GREEN: With CARES
11 dollars?

12 MR. DUBOW: I'm not sure
13 whether it was CARES dollars. I know
14 there was federal streams. I'm not sure
15 whether it was the CARES bucket.

16 COUNCILMAN GREEN: My
17 understanding is the vast majority of
18 dollars that we spent as a City with the
19 CARES dollars went to public safety,
20 PPE, some of the other things you talked
21 about. But other types of organizations
22 that were really impacted by the
23 pandemic, those dollars were not spent
24 there. I think that was the American
25 Rescue Plan dollars that was spent for

1 those areas or we used some of the money
2 that Council provided, the \$84 million
3 to provide resources to small businesses
4 and others, which came out of the
5 General Fund dollars.

6 MR. DUBOW: Yeah, we elbowed
7 together whatever streams we could. But
8 that's right, we did have emergency
9 needs that we funded with those CARES
10 Act dollars.

11 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Right. So
12 for the most part we prioritized dollars
13 for public safety and some of the other
14 issues in that regard.

15 MR. DUBOW: Public health --

16 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Public
17 health, right. It was based on re -- I
18 mean, I think we spent almost all of our
19 money more so on reimbursement of
20 expenditures directly tied to COVID?

21 MR. DUBOW: Yes, it was on
22 expenditures. It was all related to
23 COVID. That was the requirement.

24 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Well,
25 actually that's not totally true. One

1 of the reasons why I'm asking this
2 question is that -- and I know a lot of
3 my colleagues asked about the urgency,
4 which I spoke about last week in our
5 budget process being bold and being
6 creative with the dollars that we use.
7 For example, Dayton, Ohio used CARES
8 dollars to make investments to arts and
9 culture organizations because under the
10 CARES Act which is based on the FEMA
11 model, you could use CARES dollars for
12 organizations that had a disaster
13 impact, and that's how they were able to
14 be creative with those dollars. So my
15 concern, and I will echo all the
16 comments made by my colleagues, the lack
17 of bold vision and urgency in this
18 budget process.

19 My next question is in
20 reference to --

21 MR. DUBOW: Can I respond to
22 that one, though?

23 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Well, I'm
24 moving on to my next question because I
25 only have a few moments.

1 MR. DUBOW: Okay.

2 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Who are we
3 using in reference to consultants to
4 help us with either the Infrastructure
5 Investment and Jobs Act or other type of
6 federal funding process?

7 MR. DUBOW: So we have a
8 consulting firm called Tetra Tech that
9 we used that helps us determine where we
10 can get reimbursement and the best way
11 to allocate the money among various
12 streams.

13 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And so, that
14 was the same group we used for the
15 American Rescue Plan and we're also
16 using that same group for the Bipartisan
17 Infrastructure Law?

18 MR. DUBOW: You asked about
19 federal funding. For the infrastructure
20 bill, I know we have money allocated
21 throughout departments. And one of the
22 things we'll look at for that, including
23 staffing, is what kind of outside help
24 we need.

25 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So from my

1 understanding in the budget briefing,
2 dollars have been allocated for some
3 matching perspectives and we've had some
4 placeholders in the budget, correct?

5 MR. DUBOW: There's two
6 different things. There's one -- in the
7 operating budget, there is money to help
8 us attract dollars and then to implement
9 improvements in our process so that when
10 we get funding, we will implement the
11 projects effectively. And then in the
12 Capital Budget, there is matching
13 funding, assuming that the dollars we
14 get from the IIJA will require a local
15 match.

16 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay. I --

17 MR. DUBOW: And it's 20 million
18 on the operating side and I think 60 on
19 the capital.

20 COUNCILMAN GREEN: 60 on the
21 capital side, right. So I guess my
22 question is what's the process to bring
23 in assistance to help us navigate the
24 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law?

25 MR. DUBOW: I'm going to ask

1 Mike Carroll to talk about that in a
2 little more detail than I would.

3 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. So I would
4 say that we have within City government
5 significant capacity, but we're also
6 hiring folks to focus on this. And so,
7 whether we're talking about the program
8 guidance or which projects we select or
9 the emphasis on diversity and hiring and
10 procuring, we feel like we need one team
11 that's 100 percent focused on
12 accomplishing those goals for the City.
13 And so, we're figuring how to hire those
14 folks. The funding for that is
15 reflected in the operating dollars that
16 Rob is talking about.

17 At the same time, we are going
18 to be partnering up with others in the
19 region like I said before. It's not so
20 much a spending question. These are
21 other folks who are interested in these
22 questions as much as we are, but the
23 work involved in convening these people,
24 aligning our strategies, our priorities,
25 that will also be a task that the

1 smaller team will be focused on, drawing
2 on commissioners and folks in operating
3 units as they need to, to address the
4 specific need. So that's not a huge
5 resource question, just understanding
6 the bill. But it requires work, so we
7 do need to dedicate some time to that.
8 If you're interested in more on the
9 capital matching, I can talk to that but
10 I didn't know if that was the focus of
11 your question.

12 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So when you
13 say that we have significant capacity,
14 are you talking about in reference to
15 spending the dollars or capacity to
16 understanding how we apply for various
17 grants and other funding opportunities
18 through the infrastructure law?

19 MR. CARROLL: I would say we're
20 very good in applying for grants. We
21 don't need a lot of outside support for
22 that. We just need to make sure that we
23 have the people and how to apply for
24 more than we've been applying for
25 before. The City of Philadelphia is

1 very successful in attracting grant
2 dollars when it comes to infrastructure,
3 so we just need to scale up. And we do
4 want to coordinate that effort as much
5 as possible so we're not just addressing
6 issues like the State of Good Repair,
7 which is always important, but we're
8 also trying to build opportunity for
9 people. And that's a little bit of a
10 wrinkle that we need to learn more from
11 others how to do. And so, there's going
12 to be a lot more focus on that looking
13 forward.

14 COUNCILMAN GREEN: I agree that
15 the City has significant expertise and
16 it's been successful in getting grants
17 over the years. I'm not really
18 questioning that expertise. But my
19 concern is that as I've heard from
20 talking with other Councilmembers from
21 all around the country, the
22 infrastructure bill is very complex.
23 There are multiple agencies that have
24 dollars that you can apply for.

25 And so, I don't want us to just

1 take the traditional route, well, this
2 project is a Department of
3 Transportation-looking project, so we're
4 just going to apply for a grant for DOT
5 when there could be other funding
6 opportunities in other parts of the
7 federal government to go after those
8 dollars.

9 And so, I just want to make
10 sure we are taking that type of
11 perspective with our dollars. And then
12 ultimately, we need to make sure that we
13 are being creative and flexible on how
14 we use those dollars, because my concern
15 is like going back to my initial
16 question regarding the CARES Act, we
17 could have used that in a broader way
18 and not just specifically on
19 reimbursement of expenses that were
20 incurred to COVID as we've seen in
21 Dayton, Ohio and other cities around the
22 country.

23 Thank you, Council President.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

25 Thank you, Councilman.

1 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: If I
2 can just add to that just briefly. I
3 think one of the important things when
4 we're looking at this federal funding is
5 the impact on the local government. So
6 the Dayton example that you mentioned,
7 Councilman, their revenue losses
8 associated with the pandemic was about
9 \$10 million. Yet they received \$138
10 million in ARPA funds. So their
11 allocation of ARPA funds was
12 substantially more than what their
13 revenue loss is, whereas our case the
14 revenue loss was more than the federal
15 funds that we received.

16 So I think that's one of the
17 challenges that we have when trying to
18 compare ourselves with other governments
19 is we're not similarly situated from a
20 revenue perspective to apples
21 comparisons.

22 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Well, just
23 to correct the record, I was making
24 reference to CARES dollars, not ARPA
25 dollars. I know there was a distinction

1 between the amount of ARPA dollars and
2 the deficit we have. I was talking
3 specifically on the CARES side which
4 could not be used as broad as ARPA
5 dollars, and how other jurisdictions
6 around the country like Dayton used
7 their CARES dollars to help some of the
8 organizations like arts and culture
9 organizations that were devastated by
10 the impact of COVID-19 where we could
11 have done something on the CARES side,
12 and then we had to have a Council
13 intervention on how to use the dollars
14 on the ARPA side through our budget
15 process.

16 Thank you, Council President.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

18 Thank you. Thank you, Councilman.

19 Chair recognizes Councilman Oh.

20 And I apologize. It was my oversight
21 both to Councilman Oh and to Chris --

22 COUNCILMAN OH: You're not
23 perfect, Council President, just close.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You
25 know, I get told that every day of the

1 week --

2 COUNCILMAN OH: Yes. Thank
3 you, Council President.

4 In terms of dealing with the
5 pandemic, the downturn in the economy
6 and all that, when it comes to growing
7 the pie or reducing the deed, I see that
8 there has been an increase in the budget
9 for the Commerce Department. The
10 Commerce Department's actual budget for
11 2019 was \$7 million -- well, 7.34
12 million; 2020, 10.2 million. Then it
13 was cut to 3.34 million.

14 The projected budget for this
15 year is 14.26 million, but 10.9 million
16 of it is for purchase of services.
17 Could you explain what is the goal of
18 this purchase of services?

19 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: I'm not
20 sure the specific figures you mentioned.
21 The Commerce Department includes a
22 movement of significant dollars through
23 PIDC for our stimulus program, which
24 funds things like the Taking Care of
25 Business corridor cleaning program and

1 other business attention and retention
2 programs. So I'm not sure if that's the
3 \$10.3 million that you just mentioned or
4 it's for another service. We can go
5 through that when we get to the Commerce
6 Department's budget in a few weeks.

7 COUNCILMAN OH: All right. I
8 am aware of that and I appreciate that.
9 I'll go into detail with them. In terms
10 of the challenges of not having enough
11 money in resources, the question of
12 doing the same thing again and again,
13 funding the failure. In terms of
14 funding the solution, typically cities
15 or entities turn to new technology. Is
16 that something that we can find in the
17 budget?

18 Are there new solutions where
19 we can be force multipliers with our
20 personnel having technology do the work
21 for us in the evenings, at night, those
22 types of things, high definition
23 cameras, other types of technology to
24 deal with gun violence, deal with
25 illegal dumping, fires, all the types of

1 emergencies that we have to deal with?

2 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: Thank
3 you, Councilmember. I look for the
4 operating departments to talk about some
5 of the ways that they're using
6 technology, but it's an absolute need to
7 your point. We spend a lot of time on
8 technological upgrades for even the back
9 of the house things that the City
10 government does.

11 We did that for our payroll
12 system. We're doing that now through
13 accounting system, which believe it or
14 not is older than me and I think a
15 couple members on Council, so that need
16 is definitely there. When it comes to
17 violence prevention, I think I'll ask
18 the Police Department and the OIT and
19 MDO to talk about where they're making
20 some of those investments.

21 COUNCILMAN OH: Okay. I'll ask
22 them when we get to that with their
23 departments. I'm very cognizant of my
24 time. But basically, it's an
25 affirmative. That's what the goal of

1 the Administration is. We'll go into
2 the weeds a little bit.

3 I do have a couple of pointed
4 questions here: Council appropriated
5 \$500,000 for relocating the targets of
6 deadly retaliation, something that's a
7 little new to me when it comes to this
8 level of street violence where, for
9 example, a mother is targeted for
10 shootings as well as her minor children
11 simply because she is the mother of
12 someone that these young people, most of
13 them very young, cannot get to. So we
14 appropriated this \$500,000, and we have
15 not yet been able to move a single
16 person in accordance with why we
17 appropriated it.

18 For example, a mother had been
19 relocated in the typical fashion that
20 the District Attorney's Office does,
21 which is to prepare them as a witness
22 for court, maybe two weeks in a hotel,
23 they testify, they go back home. This
24 is not something that we can do because
25 they get exposed every time they return

1 home.

2 And so, we've searched out for
3 a new process, but we're also looking
4 for where the money is. So far what I
5 found is the answer that I received is
6 \$200,000 is available for the people we
7 identified, but we appropriated
8 \$500,000. Where is the other \$300,000?

9 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

10 Councilmember, Tumar Alexander. Good
11 afternoon now.

12 COUNCILMAN OH: Good afternoon.

13 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

14 All of the \$500,000 that you all
15 appropriated, as I understand to the
16 Managing Director's Office, I believe
17 you and other Councilmembers have been
18 having conversations with the Office of
19 Violence Prevention, and I think you
20 know that we've recently hired a
21 director for the newly created Office of
22 Victim Services.

23 My understanding is those
24 conversations were moving forward and
25 then that was coming up with a strategy

1 for how to utilize that money. When I
2 say strategy, I only say that because
3 there's more than just Office of
4 Violence Prevention and MDO that's a
5 part of how you utilize that money. For
6 instance, right now when we get requests
7 from Council or requests from community
8 groups or whatever for relocation, we
9 typically work with our community crisis
10 and intervention partner PAAN and the
11 District Attorney's Office to address
12 those needs. So those families will get
13 satisfied -- those families will get
14 addressed whereas though PAAN, we use
15 some of that CCIP money for those
16 services. At times we will work with
17 the District Attorney and with the
18 Housing Authority as well.

19 So for our 500,000 I think our
20 vision wasn't just absorb that 500,000
21 MDO, we sort of sit on that money and
22 use it all ourselves. We know some of
23 those partners need that money to
24 continue doing those services over and
25 above the ones and twos and threes that

1 we're asking for now.

2 So I'm not extremely up-to-date
3 on where that process stands. I will
4 get up-to-date on that and be able to
5 give you that report. Erica Atwood who
6 is our Senior Director for Violence
7 Prevention, Policies and Strategies is
8 on the line. I'm not sure if she has
9 any updates other than that. I --

10 COUNCILMAN OH: Yeah. I'll
11 just get that in the interest of time as
12 you'll fill us in on it. I just want to
13 state as I'm looking at Councilmember
14 Curtis Jones and of course Kenyatta
15 Johnson as well as the Controller
16 Rebecca Rhynhart, we're all involved in
17 this conversation as well as Sheriff
18 Bilal.

19 We identified a nonprofit that
20 could immediately move the women that
21 we're talking about, but we have to get
22 them the money. That's where we're kind
23 of trying to find exactly where it is
24 money. So you're going to get that
25 information to us, so I'll move to my

1 final question. And that has to do with
2 SEPTA.

3 Typically, we give SEPTA \$65
4 million or \$70 million. I know we do
5 that so they can get additional funds.
6 However, they just got \$100 million from
7 the federal government, and this year it
8 seems we're going to give them \$100
9 million. And my question is, one, why
10 are we giving them so much more money
11 when SEPTA is so unsafe, so unclean and
12 is not doing their part to encourage
13 ridership?

14 I would like to ask the
15 Administration and my colleagues to
16 consider withholding \$10 million and
17 reimbursing them after they increase the
18 salary of police officers, which is the
19 lowest in the region, so they can
20 recruit the 100 officers that they're
21 short and put them on the platforms and
22 throughout the subway system where they
23 need to really guarantee the public that
24 they are looking out for their safety
25 and that they will deal with just the

1 unsanitary conditions that so many
2 people complain about?

3 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: Thank
4 you, Councilmember. I think Mike
5 Carroll's going to jump in. But the
6 amount that we allocate to SEPTA is
7 formulaic, and it's based off of the
8 amount that the state kicks in and we
9 kick in money to meet that match, and
10 the state did contribute more money to
11 SEPTA this year, which has increased our
12 match.

13 But, Mike, did you want to add
14 to that? I'm sorry.

15 MR. CARROLL: Yes. So thank
16 you for that, Jim. We are obligated to
17 make those matches through the state
18 law. But I also say SEPTA similar to
19 the City is going through a pretty rough
20 time. I do want to encourage you that
21 they're doing everything that they can
22 to build the ridership. They're fully
23 aware of the issues that are presented
24 to them with respect to their rider
25 safety and the public impact in terms of

1 cleanliness and other issues.

2 And this Administration has
3 partnered very closely with SEPTA to try
4 and take on appropriate roles to address
5 that stuff. We are seeing some
6 significant improvement. I want to call
7 out the work that's taken place around
8 Somerset Station for example, which has
9 been a huge success. And we look to
10 replicate that type of thing throughout
11 the network, but there's a lot of work
12 to do.

13 There's a lot of recovery
14 that's still under way, so we're hopeful
15 that this matching investment, the
16 investment we get from the state, the
17 investment we're looking forward to
18 getting from the federal government
19 really does start to turn that story
20 around, and we are seeing some positive
21 numbers in terms of people coming back
22 to SEPTA on the buses, on the subways,
23 the El and on the regional rail. And we
24 just want to make sure we keep putting
25 our shoulder into that until we get back

1 to where we need to be.

2 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you.

3 I'll respectfully disagree, talking to
4 people in Harrowgate and Kensington that
5 the Somerset Station is not a success,
6 that spending \$8 million on personnel
7 that cannot protect the public, that
8 cannot arrest, that basically just call
9 the police who aren't there, who are
10 understaffed 100 officers is
11 unsatisfactory.

12 And it seems to be an
13 intentional policy by SEPTA, which for
14 whatever reason they seem more
15 interested in doing things that get them
16 accolades than taking care of the safety
17 of the ridership, and it is dangerous.
18 That is what I get a lot of and that is
19 what I see as well, but I appreciate
20 that. My time is up.

21 Thank you very much, Council
22 President.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

24 Thank you, Councilman. I believe that
25 concludes our first round, so we're

1 going to take a recess until 1:40 where
2 we'll come back for our second round and
3 give the executive branch a chance to be
4 prepared for some follow-up questions.
5 So we'll be back at 1:40. Thank you.

6 (Brief recess.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

8 Thank you. We are back from our recess
9 for City Council's FY 2023 budget
10 hearing. This is our first day of
11 testimony. We are hearing the 2023 to
12 '27 Five Year Plan, the FY23 Capital
13 Budget and Program and FY23 Operating
14 Budget, the City's revenue adjustments
15 and FY23 School District budget and tax
16 reauthorization.

17 We are going to get started now
18 with our second round of questions for
19 members of our Administration. I will
20 take a couple of questions that I had
21 with respect to the Administration's
22 FY23 budget. And I guess I will
23 reference actually the bill that was
24 introduced in City Council for the
25 FY2023 budget.

1 It will be Bill No. 220240.

2 And in large part, it reflects the
3 significant part of the conversation
4 that we've had during the course of the
5 morning session with respect to the
6 quality-of-life issues, community
7 issues, dumping, cleaning, inspections
8 and all of that.

9 I actually got an inquiry when
10 we introduced the bill because it was a
11 whopping \$28 million to go to CLIP. A
12 lot of people don't know what that
13 actually stands for. It was created
14 years ago during the Street
15 Administration, Community Life
16 Improvement Program. And the bottom
17 line is it has in our mind the
18 flexibility to do a lot of things,
19 things that were referenced.

20 So I'm going to ask the
21 Administration, and I don't expect an
22 answer at this point, about their
23 position on the bill. But I do want to
24 say that the bill reflects the need and
25 the ability to efficiently consolidate

1 and structure our old program as it
2 relates to the neighborhood approach
3 that would include departments such as
4 the "CLIP" and such as PHS, who has
5 numerous contracts with organizations
6 across the City of Philadelphia. That's
7 the Philadelphia Horticultural Society
8 for members of the public; Same Day Pay,
9 that has contracts with organizations
10 across the City, a successful program;
11 Licenses & Inspections, the City
12 department that deals with blighted
13 conditions particularly around
14 enforcement; Streets Department, not
15 only dealing with vacant lots and
16 cleaning debris, but also the dumping
17 camera network that we put in money
18 years ago and hearing that there may be
19 some problems with respect to the
20 technology for our ability to have
21 mobilization of those cameras from
22 location to location.

23 And I'd actually like to kind
24 of get a perspective on Planning.
25 Because at the end of the day,

1 particularly as it relates to vacant
2 lots, I think ultimately the goal is to
3 have something on the vacant lot, be it
4 a building, be it a commercial retail
5 establishment or being something as
6 simple as a community garden. I think
7 that's where you get ultimate resolution
8 to vacant land in terms of some level of
9 permanency. Because we all know as long
10 you have a vacant lot, at some point
11 it's going to be a call to 311 or
12 whomever, please come out and clean this
13 lot. So I would like for Planning to
14 kind of talk about the long-term goals
15 and strategies, how do we eventually
16 create an environment where all these
17 vacant lots are put to some positive
18 use.

19 So let me start by talking to
20 the money person with respect to the 28
21 million. I know it is clearly not in
22 the budget, but we can start out by
23 having that conversation, and then the
24 broader issues about creating the level
25 of efficiency around coordinating all of

1 these various activities with the
2 various departments.

3 MR. DUBOW: Sorry. What's
4 the --

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
6 What's the answer? \$28 million, and I
7 know we've raised some eyebrows, and I
8 told you I was going to do it. I didn't
9 tell you how much. I mean, the bottom
10 line is you've heard from testimony
11 today that the quality of life in these
12 neighborhoods is a problem. And I know
13 you all know it's a problem because
14 you've referenced 1.5 million to be used
15 for environmental remediation.

16 You talk about vacant lot
17 remediation, cleaning fields,
18 demolitions in neighborhoods. 1.5 as
19 you know is not clearly enough to
20 address the issue. So just kind of give
21 me your perspective, I guess, on the 28
22 million and your perspective, I guess
23 that will be Mr. Engler and City
24 Planning, on what's the policy and
25 what's the strategy associated with

1 dealing with these different -- these
2 many, many problems, assuming that we
3 can get close to \$28 million.

4 MR. DUBOW: Sure. I'll do the
5 part that you asked me about. So as you
6 said, it's not in the budget. But this
7 process is all about our working with
8 Council to figure out what our shared
9 priorities are and where investments
10 should be. And I assume as we go
11 through the process, we'll talk about
12 what's an appropriate level of funding
13 for CLIP.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
15 right. That's a good answer.

16 You want to talk about it,
17 Mr. Engler?

18 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: Yeah.
19 Just on the policy question, I think we
20 would agree with you, the need to do
21 more on the quality-of-life side. There
22 are investments here in our budget for
23 enhancing Same Day Pay programming and
24 to continue a lot of the lot remediation
25 program. You mentioned the funding that

1 was included in the violence prevention
2 specifically. I think that we would
3 agree with you and we could do a better
4 job of coordinating all that.

5 I think we've started a number
6 of these programs to get them up and
7 running, and now we can really look to
8 enhance them and put them on a path to
9 sustainability and success. So look
10 forward to having those conversations
11 with you and the other Councilmembers
12 through this budget process and
13 operationalizing it in a way that meets
14 the expectation.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
16 Yeah. And I, you know, we've had these
17 conversations. I'm not going to get
18 into pointing fingers and all that.
19 That's not my style. But we have to do
20 the job in these communities and we need
21 to be able to utilize the efficiencies
22 for having the level of coordination
23 that should be pretty clear. Having a
24 lot cleaned in a response to a 311 call
25 when it's four other lots on the street

1 that weren't a part of the 311 call, the
2 question is do you clean the lots or do
3 you target neighborhoods, but it all
4 ends up having enough resources even
5 after we come up with a strategy to
6 coordinate and maximize the level of
7 efficiency that we can have.

8 The other part of that I want
9 to talk about -- and we can do this
10 later obviously with the departments --
11 the whole issue about neighborhood
12 involvement. I've been around for a
13 minute. I keep referencing that. There
14 was a day and time when the block
15 captain network was serious deal.

16 And I hate to sound like old
17 school and I know things are different
18 now, but at the end of the day a lot of
19 this debris and trash, it comes from
20 neighbors in that neighborhood. And to
21 have people engaged in that process, I
22 think creates a better long-term
23 strategy of cleaning up.

24 I know in talking to people,
25 people will tell you, that trash came

1 from right over there, right, and that
2 person puts it out on the wrong day
3 every day of the week, right. That
4 property around the corner, the guy's
5 gutting it out, demolishing the
6 property, right, he's dumping it on the
7 lot around the corner. To have that
8 level of participation with community
9 engagement, I think takes us a much
10 longer way. So can we please have this
11 conversation in earnest, which is why we
12 put the eye-popping \$28 million in there
13 to try to force the conversation, so I
14 look forward to that.

15 The last question I have on the
16 second round: Public safety officers
17 again, we've had this conversation for a
18 lot of years, frustrating. I know I
19 talked about the bet that I had with a
20 colleague. I'm not going to say it on
21 this particular forum about whether or
22 not the money was going to actually be
23 spent.

24 Somebody told me that there was
25 an editorial in the Inquirer about

1 public safety officers. I didn't see
2 it. But I know that our ability to
3 address not only the quality of life,
4 but actually more importantly here of
5 late being able to have sworn police
6 officers focus on crime given the level
7 of concerns that we have in our
8 neighborhoods.

9 I consistently say it makes no
10 sense to me to have a police officer
11 writing tickets for an abandoned car.
12 That makes no sense in the world. This
13 whole issue is starting to become
14 increasingly more problematic, and
15 that's a good thing because people are
16 coming back to work. The traffic is
17 picking up. You're now starting to see
18 congestion in neighborhoods. And again,
19 that's a good thing because people are
20 coming back to work.

21 The original call for public
22 safety officers to deal with traffic;
23 this issue about police cars sitting on
24 construction sites basically sitting in
25 the car doing whatever, and I commend

1 the police for their great work, but
2 there's no reason in the world why we
3 can't have the civilianization of that
4 particular level of personnel doing
5 that. Carrying mail, I mean all those
6 things that we have police officers
7 doing to me makes no sense.

8 And I know we've had that
9 conversation about the FOP. But in all
10 due respect the FOP, and I know people
11 over there will find -- but they're a
12 union representative. They're not a
13 member of the government. The
14 government should make the decisions
15 about the appropriation and the
16 deployment of government personnel, not
17 a particular union. So can you talk to
18 me about the latter, where are we?

19 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: So I'll
20 let the Managing Director talk about the
21 public safety enforcement officers
22 specifically. On the issue of
23 civilianization, that was something that
24 both the Commissioner, the
25 Administration as a whole really fought

1 for as part of the last arbitration
2 award related to FOP contract, and we
3 have a process in place now to look at
4 civilization of some of those exact job
5 responsibilities that you mentioned.
6 The mail-carrying, things like that,
7 that really shouldn't be a sworn
8 officer's responsibility so we have a
9 process now where we can get that done.
10 And one of the first things that we've
11 looked at is this public safety
12 enforcement officer piece to it.

13 So, Tumar, do you want to jump
14 in with that.

15 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

16 Yes. Good afternoon, Council President.
17 As Jim said, we support the public
18 safety enforcement officers program. As
19 you know, we spent a lot of time, folks
20 in the Managing Director's Office and
21 other departments, working to set this
22 program up throughout October of 2021.

23 We worked with the ad board and
24 we sort of created job descriptions for
25 these programs. We posted the job

1 description for public safety officers
2 and for supervisors for what we call the
3 Public Safety Officer program. Shortly
4 thereafter in December, we received
5 correspondence from the FOP citing their
6 concerns that we shouldn't go forward
7 with hiring for these positions because
8 these folks as they deem is under their
9 traffic enforcement program.

10 We then paused and had
11 conversations with our Law Department,
12 and we had two paths to take. One path
13 was to participate in that sort of Act
14 111 process with the FOP with
15 arbitrators as Jim Engler just
16 mentioned, the ability we got in this
17 last round of the labor contracts with
18 them.

19 The other path was we could
20 have continued hiring. We could have
21 continued moving forward. We could have
22 hired someone. FOP likely would have
23 took us to an arbitration process in
24 state. It was the advice of our counsel
25 that that process wouldn't have been

1 favorable to us. And if we would have
2 went forward with that process and FOP
3 would have won, that process would have
4 ultimately stopped us from implementing
5 this Public Safety Enforcement officers
6 program permanently. I didn't want that
7 outcome. So I decided that we should
8 utilize the outcome within the Act 111
9 process. That hearing is forthcoming.

10 We've been having conversations
11 with PPD and public safety officers
12 similar to what you mentioned. We think
13 our strategy should be going in there
14 and defending a public safety
15 enforcement officers program, but also
16 going in there for other civilianization
17 needs that we think we want out of the
18 department, and we're planning and
19 preparing to move forward with that.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
21 right. So thank you. And with respect
22 to that, I think that was an approach
23 that hurt what we had been moving for,
24 and that actually goes back to the
25 Charter change that we actually put on

1 the ballot years ago prior to 2021, the
2 appropriation that was prior to 2021 by
3 including the public safety officers in
4 the broader civilianization of the
5 Police Department. I think that was not
6 a good approach because we got caught up
7 in the broader issue in terms of what
8 you all were attempting to do with the
9 police that, therefore, you all made a
10 decision to make it a part of the
11 arbitration.

12 It should have never been part
13 of the arbitration from my perspective.
14 We are authorized by state law to create
15 public safety officers for certain
16 aspects of what was being proposed. I
17 didn't agree with you then. As
18 Councilmember Jones had established the
19 public hearing, set it up. You guys
20 decided not to come up and testify and
21 we cancelled the public hearing.

22 We're going to try it again
23 because this issue initially that was
24 related to traffic but now it relates to
25 the number of sworn police officers that

1 do police work is increasingly becoming
2 more and more of a problem. Again, the
3 fact that we have sworn police officers
4 doing things that can be done by
5 civilian personnel that should be as
6 opposed to the deploying police
7 personnel out in these neighborhoods
8 dealing with crime and the violence. I
9 just think that makes no sense to me.

10 So I guess at the time when the
11 hearing is scheduled, we will again be
12 asking you all to come up and testify on
13 the bill. This is going on way too
14 long. This is going on way too long.
15 And again, I don't want to lose the bet
16 to my colleague that bet me that you all
17 will never implement the program.

18 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:
19 It's certainly not our intent to not
20 implement the program, Council
21 President.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
23 Thank you.

24 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
25 Point of information, Council President

1 Clarke.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Quinones-

4 Sanchez.

5 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

6 Thank you. While they pursue this

7 strategy that they're pursuing, what is

8 the limitations with those tasks and job

9 responsibilities being done either under

10 the Public Safety cabinet at the

11 Managing Director's Office, Sheriff's

12 Office or any other office, what

13 prohibits the City from pursuing that

14 hiring up or is this only a one-track

15 opportunity?

16 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

17 Well, I think once that -- and I can't

18 call it an unfair labor fair practice,

19 Councilwoman, because I don't believe

20 I've been advised by the Law Department

21 it wasn't that what they filed. But

22 once they filed objection to us moving

23 forward, like I said we certainly could

24 have moved forward and did those hirings

25 which would have probably been then

1 halted and went up to the State Labor
2 Relations Board, which we have not had a
3 whole lot of success in the past and I
4 don't think our folks advised us that we
5 will likely have it now or in the
6 future.

7 I think as it relates to
8 outside entities such as the Sheriff's
9 Office taking that responsibility and
10 role, I think that's conversations we're
11 likely to have with Sheriff Bilal and
12 PPD and others to sort of have those
13 discussions. I will tell you we haven't
14 had those discussions before. Our
15 intent has been to try to get this
16 program up and running. We certainly
17 put a structure in place with it. We
18 certainly put a supervisory structure in
19 place for it as well and was looking
20 forward to implementing it, but those
21 conversations with the Sheriff, who she
22 and I have been sort of texting offline
23 in the last few minutes, will happen
24 shortly.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

1 What's that about the Sheriff --

2 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

3 So just to ask, how about the Streets
4 Department, isn't the Streets Department
5 given a purview over the right-of-way of
6 our streets?

7 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

8 Yeah. And actually, the Streets
9 Department was the department that would
10 have been managing both the safety
11 officers and the crossing guards, so our
12 intent was to put this in the Streets
13 Department. They've been coming up with
14 the infrastructure, the sort of behind-
15 the-curtain infrastructure of
16 supervision, HR and all of that
17 structure, and that's actually in place
18 with the crossing guards. If we're
19 successful, and hopefully we are
20 successful in getting this implemented,
21 that will go within that structure. So,
22 yeah, that has been a part of these
23 conversations.

24 And, Council President, you
25 were about to ask what role does the

1 Sheriff play in this. It's just simply
2 that the Sheriff offered her support for
3 having these conversations while we were
4 on this call.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: No,
6 I mean, I don't -- you know, that's a
7 sworn officer. The Sheriff has a role.
8 The model that we attempted to adopt was
9 the New York model, that these were
10 civilian civil service employees. The
11 offer was made actually in terms of our
12 support with these members to be in the
13 FOP, frankly speaking so to enhance
14 their membership.

15 In New York the implementation
16 of the program has given entry-level
17 opportunities for a lot of people. They
18 have a significant level of members of
19 color in the traffic enforcement
20 division in the city of New York with a
21 path towards ultimately being either a
22 police officer or some other civilian
23 personnel, so this is clearly a long-
24 term, thought-out process. But again, I
25 think including that in you all's

1 broader civilianization strategy hurt
2 it.

3 I would really like to see
4 let's focus on what's been fronted,
5 focus on what the citizens said they
6 want and us to move forward on this, but
7 I'm not going to belabor the point and
8 I'm sure it's going to come up again
9 when the Police Department comes up.

10 Thank you.

11 I'm going to call Councilwoman
12 Parker for a second round of
13 questioning.

14 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank
15 you, Council President Clarke.

16 Let me stay on this issue of
17 public safety and say a special thank
18 you to each and every one of my
19 colleagues who raised those very
20 important quality-of-life issues. What
21 it did, Mr. President and to members of
22 the Administration, was affirm to me and
23 for those 22 community-based
24 organizations representing every
25 neighborhood across the City of

1 Philadelphia, that the Philadelphia
2 Neighborhood Safety and Community
3 Policing Plan that was offered last week
4 as a comprehensive plan that if we
5 follow it in conjunction with our
6 current efforts can serve as a blueprint
7 for not only making our City a safer
8 city, but it can also help us to grow
9 our economic pie while community
10 policing and those 300 additional
11 officers on the ground, proactively on
12 the beat, on bikes and walking are
13 extremely important in hiring more
14 officers and addressing other personnel
15 challenges.

16 Those quality-of-life issues,
17 support for victim and witness services
18 along with that community engagement and
19 human investment in our infrastructure
20 is extremely important. And as we think
21 about that, I want to say for the
22 benefit now, this is for members of the
23 viewing public, we don't need to look at
24 this simply as the duty of the City of
25 Philadelphia. This requires an

1 intergovernmental strategy that requires
2 a funding and system support from the
3 federal, state and local government.

4 And with that in mind,
5 Mr. President, I wanted to give a huge
6 thank you on the record to our leader in
7 the Pennsylvania House, Minority Leader
8 Joanna McClinton, Whip Harris, Jason
9 Dawkins, Chair of the Delegation, and
10 all members because when we announced
11 this Philadelphia Neighborhood Safety
12 and Community Policing Plan,

13 Mr. President, before we could even
14 start these budget hearings, Leader
15 McClinton had announced that that Caucus
16 had found \$5 million to address those
17 issues. And of course, quality-of-life
18 issues, victim and witness services were
19 all a part of it. So that affirms for
20 me that we are moving in the right
21 direction. And I wanted to say thank
22 you to them for that.

23 But I also wanted to talk about
24 this issue of addressing these quality-
25 of-life issues, which includes in the

1 Plan the issue of L&I and enforcement.
2 One of the things that has come up when
3 we talk about our ability to enforce the
4 laws that we pass here in our City is
5 that if they are not enforced, we don't
6 have the staff to enforce them, they
7 become paper tigers.

8 I think about all of the worker
9 supports in safety, laws that we have
10 enacted here in the City of
11 Philadelphia, many of which are supposed
12 to be enforced by the Mayor's Office and
13 our Deputy Mayor in the Department of
14 Labor. But if they are not adequately
15 funded, we cannot effectively and
16 efficiently enforce those laws.

17 In addition to that, I want to
18 ask you this question in particular,
19 Mr. Engler, because I listened to you
20 with great specificity and intent when
21 you talked about revenue-generating
22 mechanisms, revenue generation.

23 Sometimes people look at the legislative
24 branch and they just think, well, the
25 only thing you are, are expert

1 articulators of problems and you never
2 think about revenue-generating solutions
3 in our City.

4 I want you to tell me if you
5 have any idea how much money do you
6 think the City of Philadelphia is
7 leaving on the table when we think about
8 worker misclassification? I will be
9 holding a hearing in City Council and
10 talking to L&I and the Department of
11 Labor during our budget hearings about
12 this.

13 But worker misclassification
14 ultimately referred to as payroll fraud,
15 do you know how much in wage taxes and
16 other business taxes are we leaving on
17 the table as a result of this illegal
18 practice?

19 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: Thank
20 you, Councilmember. I don't have a
21 figure, but my sense is that like all
22 fraudulent activity or illegal activity,
23 I think it probably leads to a
24 substantial amount of resources that are
25 unaccounted for and uncollected by the

1 City because someone classifies someone
2 as 1099 worker or a day worker, and
3 they're just paying them cash as opposed
4 to paying them a salary and giving us
5 the wage taxes that are due.

6 It has been a focus for this
7 Administration. I know the Department
8 of Labor, L&I and Revenue have been
9 working to try to address it in certain
10 areas. And I know Rich Lazer is on here
11 as well as the Commissioners from L&I
12 and Revenue, if they'd like to talk
13 about some of the steps that they've
14 taken to address. But to answer your
15 question, I don't have a figure, but we
16 know it's a continued issue. And that
17 underground economy we can better
18 address.

19 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: So let me
20 just state for the record that when we
21 have our hearing in the budget process,
22 we will be raising this issue
23 specifically. But right now I'm a firm
24 believer that we as a City can't afford
25 to leave one nickle that they are owed

1 on the table, and we should ensure that
2 we have the administrative supports in
3 place, whether that is the Department of
4 the L&I, our office or Department of
5 Labor here. We need to make sure that
6 they are staffed so that we can address
7 issues that I view as basically taking
8 off money that we could be using to
9 address poverty, focus on education,
10 making investments in parks, recs and
11 other issues, and addressing those
12 issues that are at the heart of what we
13 need to do to move Philadelphia forward.
14 So that will be a priority for me as we
15 move forward, because it impacts the
16 economic viability of our City and we
17 can't forget about that as we move
18 through this process.

19 In addition to that, let me ask
20 for the Department of Labor. If Deputy
21 Mayor Lazer is on, can you give us an
22 overview of the \$3.9 million proposed in
23 FY23 for the Department of Labor? Tell
24 us what percentage of the current budget
25 is being spent on enforcement of these

1 City worker protection laws because we
2 spent a significant amount of time over
3 the years in passing these laws, but we
4 don't want them to be paper tigers. So
5 can you give us a brief overview on that
6 so I can get one last question?

7 DEPUTY MAYOR LAZER: Yes.

8 Thank you, Councilwoman. We're going to
9 create three more positions in the
10 Office of Labor Worker Protection to
11 help with enforcement. Because of City
12 Council's support, we did bring an
13 attorney over to start taking cases
14 we're not able to solve to file for
15 court.

16 We also have another position
17 for an attorney and two community
18 outreach/investigator positions. And we
19 also have money in the budget to give
20 community grants to community-based
21 organizations that work with a lot of
22 the workers that we're trying to reach
23 out to that's been successful for us
24 with the Worker Relief Fund that we went
25 through during COVID and got money out

1 to workers who were not able to get the
2 federal relief, so we're --

3 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER:

4 Mr. Lazer, let me just state for the
5 record that I look forward to in the
6 budget hearings us going into detail
7 more about those investments and what
8 they will mean to enforcement of laws
9 that we have passed by Council. The
10 final thing I want to state to this
11 Administration is that when we're
12 talking about this issue of public
13 safety, again I want us to view it from
14 a holistic perspective, and I also want
15 us to think about our population loss.

16 Philadelphia just had one of
17 the largest one-year population decline
18 since 1975. We lost almost 25,000
19 residents between July 2020 and July
20 2021. In addition to that, Pew reports,
21 they predict that we can lose up to
22 20,000 daily commuters by 2025. And if
23 we are talking about doing what I just
24 mentioned and what Mr. Engler referenced
25 during his response to early questioning

1 about growing our tax base, both in
2 terms of residents and nonresident
3 workers, we have to figure out a
4 solution to address that.

5 Council President Clarke worked
6 very closely with and we are anxiously
7 awaiting data coming from TRF about the
8 fact that between our last census and
9 today overall 31,000 Black people left
10 the City of Philadelphia and 11,000
11 White people left the City of
12 Philadelphia. And while we know that
13 education, public safety are prime
14 reasons for that, we anxiously await the
15 data so that we can peel back the layers
16 to figure out why. We have to continue
17 growing that pie. And I want you to
18 respond, if you will, to what we are
19 doing now to grow our tax base again in
20 terms of resident and nonresident
21 workers. Again, I'll go on mute and
22 listen. Thank you.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
24 Thank you, Councilwoman.

25 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Growing

1 the economic pie, what are we doing?

2 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: So we

3 are expanding the outreach from the

4 Commerce Department, increasing the

5 number of staff so that way we can do

6 more on the business attraction and

7 retention side and we're making

8 investments in all the areas that you've

9 highlighted as reasons why people would

10 either want to leave the City or to move

11 into the City from a residential

12 perspective.

13 So those investments that we're

14 making around public safety and in

15 community amenities and the quality-of-

16 life issues that we've been highlighting

17 all day, we know those are things that

18 are detrimental to getting people to

19 either stay or want to relocate to

20 Philadelphia, so we're making those

21 investments now in this budget proposal

22 and trying to sustain them over the next

23 several years so that way we're making

24 Philadelphia the place for people to

25 live, work and play.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

2 Thank you. Thank you, sir. And as the
3 Council Lady said, I'm sure there will
4 be follow-up for the departments
5 specifically.

6 Chair recognizes Councilman
7 Jones.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
9 Mr. President. And thank you,
10 colleagues, for elevating the discussion
11 around public safety to an all-time high
12 level and I appreciate it and so does
13 the citizens of Philadelphia.

14 My first-round question was not
15 answered about the Citizens Police
16 Oversight Commission and why the budget
17 is in the Managing Director's Office as
18 opposed to being a standalone
19 independent entity that was passed on
20 the ballot for the Charter change?
21 While you find the answer to that, I
22 want to stay on my theme of capital
23 improvements and want to get -- I had a
24 very good conversation with the
25 Commissioner of Public Property who I've

1 had a longstanding positive relationship
2 with.

3 I need to put on the record
4 where we are with the following
5 facilities: The Fire Academy on the
6 Waterfront, what is the status of that?
7 Someone between that meeting and now
8 texted me and said that the burn unit
9 was closed and that there were problems
10 up there, so I need to know capital-wise
11 what has been done, what is planned to
12 be done for that facility.

13 The forensic facility, we've
14 had discussions with the Chief of Staff
15 about possibilities, but I want to put
16 on the record where we're heading.
17 Because any time the District Attorney
18 and the Commissioner of Police agree on
19 one thing, then we should pay attention.
20 And so, if we could deal with the status
21 of those facilities.

22 And then finally, where are we
23 on water infrastructure? 3,000 miles of
24 water infrastructure I think with a
25 23-percent leakage rate, are we going to

1 take advantage of the infrastructure
2 bill and funding to fix some of that?

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Thank you, Councilman.

5 Who wants to go first?

6 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: Thank
7 you, Councilman. I think we're still
8 trying to get to the bottom of the
9 Police Oversight Commission budgetary
10 issue. I think it's just a vestige of
11 how the Police Oversight Board has been
12 funded in the past, and we'll make sure
13 to work with Council technical staff to
14 get it resolved to everybody's
15 satisfaction at the end of the budget
16 process. But it wasn't an intent that
17 the MDO would provide that oversight.
18 It is independent. We've been acting in
19 accordance with that.

20 On the forensic lab, I
21 understand and hear you on that. I
22 appreciated the conversation last week
23 and we're having our internal
24 conversations about that and seeing
25 where we can move that. I don't know if

1 Commissioner Greenwald is on, but I see
2 Mike Carroll is teed up. So maybe he'll
3 take the water infrastructure question
4 first and then come back to the fire
5 academy, if that's okay.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: That's fine
7 with me.

8 MR. CARROLL: Thank you,
9 Councilmember. Speaking to the ability
10 and the opportunities for us to invest
11 in water infrastructure, we are very
12 determined to make investments
13 leveraging as much federal support as we
14 can. I want to point out an issue where
15 we're hoping we can get successful
16 changes in the state and federal
17 guidelines.

18 And I'll just try to sum it up
19 this way, we're set up to take federal
20 financing through the state revolving
21 fund and what we want is federal
22 funding, so we're able to able to take
23 advantage of low-interest loans to
24 support improvements in our
25 infrastructure. But the fact is because

1 of the level and the structure of our
2 water rates, we're effectively
3 ineligible for grants, for straight-up
4 funding for our water infrastructure.

5 So we've communicated this to
6 the Biden Administration and Senator
7 Casey's Office. They both acknowledge
8 that this is an issue that they see in
9 other municipalities across the country
10 and we're going to advocate for changes
11 in policy and legislation to allow us to
12 take advantage of that funding, those
13 grant funds.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay. I
15 would also urge us to take a deeper
16 dive, harder look at utilizing some of
17 those funds to prevent terrorism,
18 prevent things like possible takeovers
19 of our computer systems and interpret
20 some of that infrastructure to be OIT as
21 well. I am concerned on a daily basis
22 of hackers.

23 But in light of what we're
24 going through with Russia, that could be
25 a vulnerable area and I want from time

1 to time you guys to report that to
2 Council to make sure in a meaningful way
3 we're making improvements on our water
4 infrastructure, on our electrical
5 infrastructure so that they aren't as
6 vulnerable as I think they are.

7 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: Thank
8 you. Thank you, Councilman. I think we
9 can absolutely set up a briefing with
10 Mark Wheeler and our new Chief
11 Information Security Officer. I think
12 we can update on some of the cyber
13 security changes that we've made. And I
14 see Commissioner Greenwald popped up.

15 COMMISSIONER GREENWALD: Hello.
16 Yes, we --

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: How've you
18 been?

19 COMMISSIONER GREENWALD: I'm
20 good. Long time no see, right. It's
21 better in person, but this is, you know,
22 take what I can get. So I did follow up
23 on what we talked about yesterday about
24 you had some concerns about those burn
25 pits and that was taken care of. One

1 thing you asked at the fire academy, the
2 burn tower, there was a lot of work
3 done. We were under the impression it
4 was up and running so we're confirming
5 that.

6 We improved all the panels. We
7 did the other safety improvements. We
8 fixed the infrastructure, so I will
9 follow up with Fire to make sure it is
10 up and running, but all the improvements
11 that we were doing to the burn building
12 were done. Now, we are working on some
13 design with some modular issues right
14 next to it, but I think that that has
15 been complete -- it has been complete.
16 Let me just make sure it's up and
17 running.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: I appreciate
19 you promptly looking into it. I am very
20 much going to stay focused on
21 development of a new location for the
22 forensic lab. The correlation between
23 closure of shooting cases, homicide
24 cases, depends on those technicians'
25 ability to be able to take two shells

1 and say they're from the same gun or to
2 be able to process rape kits or to be
3 able to make sure that ghost guns are
4 dealt with. If we do not give those
5 professionals adequate equipment and
6 space, we're not going to improve our
7 closure rate. So I'm hoping that we
8 will take the opportunity to tap into
9 some of those federal dollars to match
10 it with some City dollars to do what we
11 need to do to improve that facility.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

13 Thank you. Thank you, Councilman.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,

15 Mr. President.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

17 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Gauthier.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank

19 you, Council President.

20 I'm going to skip the question

21 I put on record earlier about investment
22 in illegal dumping at the end of the
23 first round because Councilmember
24 Quinones-Sanchez as well as others have
25 touched on that. But before I move on

1 to some questions about the Capital
2 Budget, I wanted to echo Councilmember
3 Bass's and Councilmember Gilmore
4 Richardson's point about the hard-
5 working members of the Streets
6 Department. Commissioner Williams,
7 Deputy Commissioner Warren and Deputy
8 Commissioner Montanez work very hard to
9 be responsive to my office and others,
10 but I cannot help but feel that they
11 don't have the resources that they need.

12 Moving on to some questions
13 about the Capital Budget. For the
14 record, how much capital funding is
15 allocated towards street light
16 replacement in the Capital Budget for
17 FY23?

18 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: I'll
19 ask the Budget Director to get back to
20 us with that answer.

21 MS. WAXMAN: So unless Martine
22 or Tavaré, do you have that at your
23 fingertips? I know we have an RFP in
24 the works right now for all of the
25 street light replacement, and I think

1 that's where we're going to determine
2 the cost, the RFP.

3 But, Tavaré, do you have a
4 little more data there?

5 MR. BROWN: (Muted).

6 MS. WAXMAN: You're on mute,
7 Tavaré.

8 MR. BROWN: Off of mute. Okay.

9 So in the Capital Budget there is
10 \$500,000 specifically for street light
11 improvements -- oh, I'm sorry, \$300,000
12 for street lighting improvements. We
13 also have an additional \$350,000 for
14 street lighting for alleyways so we kind
15 of segment the two, so that's a total of
16 \$650,000.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Okay.
18 How many street lights and alley lights
19 do we think those amounts will purchase
20 across the City?

21 MR. BROWN: So for that one, I
22 will defer to the Streets Department to
23 kind of talk to that program for street
24 lightings.

25 MR. DUBOW: And while they're

1 doing that, I should also point out that
2 we're planning to do a borrowing to fund
3 street lighting across the City, so this
4 is just a small portion of our street
5 lighting investment.

6 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Okay.
7 Is the Streets Department planning to
8 come before Council outside of this
9 budget process for approval for a
10 contract under the operating budget to
11 convert our street lights to LED?

12 MR. DUBOW: There'll be a --
13 yes. And, Commissioner, correct me if
14 I'm wrong, but it will come to you in
15 connection with the borrowing for this
16 extension.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
18 you. Can someone talk about how much
19 new funding is dedicated to Vision Zero
20 in the Capital Budget? I saw \$1 million
21 in City dollars, 4 million in private
22 dollars and 4 million in other private
23 funds; is that correct -- I'm sorry,
24 state funds; is that correct?

25 MR. BROWN: Yes, that is

1 correct. We have \$2.1 million in the
2 Capital Budget to support street
3 lighting -- traffic control improvements
4 throughout the City. 1 million of that
5 is specifically dedicated for the Vision
6 Zero program. And the Streets
7 Department, I'm sure they can speak more
8 to it, using that to leverage grant
9 funding. So that's where you see those
10 grant appropriations there.

11 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Okay.
12 Would someone be able to follow up after
13 the hearing with a more specific
14 breakdown of how we plan to spend those
15 funds?

16 MR. BROWN: Yes.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
18 you.

19 MR. CARROLL: Yes.
20 Councilmember, this is Mike Carroll.
21 Yeah, we will provide that detail as
22 much as we're able. Some of that is
23 what I would call perspective and we'll
24 use it to support projects as they
25 become ready. So a level specificity

1 quarter by quarter might not be 100
2 percent ready in a responded time for
3 you.

4 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

5 Whatever it is that you have. And I
6 have to say that generally traffic-
7 calming measures are one of the most
8 frequent requests that we get from
9 constituents. And by our estimate of
10 the amount of requests we send to
11 Streets, about 90 percent of our
12 requests are denied. Requests for
13 interventions, whether it be a stop sign
14 or speed bumps or other interventions
15 that could help with traffic safety.

16 So I'm interested in knowing
17 generally speaking how much capital
18 money we allocate to the installation of
19 traffic-calming measures like speed
20 cushions?

21 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. So that's
22 mostly going to be operating funds. We
23 can provide that detail though in any
24 case. And I will just point out that
25 often what we're trying to do when we're

1 spending capital dollars is to
2 incorporate those types of improvements
3 along with pavings. So sometimes the
4 funding is in paving. So it's a little
5 bit unclear until we really dig down to
6 show what is actually being spent for
7 traffic-calming measures specifically,
8 but we will do the best we can.

9 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Okay.

10 Our Five Year Plan says that Streets
11 installed 530 pedestrian countdown
12 signals and 180 rubber speed cushion as
13 part of its traffic-calming efforts.
14 After this hearing, would you be able to
15 provide me with a list of these
16 locations and how it compares to where
17 these types of measures have been
18 requested or approved?

19 MR. CARROLL: Yes, we'll follow
20 up with that detail.

21 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
22 you. Relatedly OTIS administers the
23 Neighborhood Slow Zone program, which is
24 meant to reduce driving speeds and
25 encourage safe driving in neighborhoods.

1 According to the City, 28 neighborhoods
2 applied for slow down zones, but only a
3 few have been funded. I see that
4 funding for neighborhood slow zones
5 comes from the automatic red light
6 enforcement program. Is there a
7 particular reason that the program is
8 funded in this manner and could we use
9 additional capital dollars to fund even
10 more slow zones?

11 MR. CARROLL: In the past we
12 have used other capital funds so that
13 opportunity does exist. We felt like
14 this time around we were able to make a
15 pretty significant ask of the Red Light
16 Enforcement Grant Program. And so, we
17 will continue to do that. But for this
18 round, we had to address not just I
19 think the need for us to build the
20 capacity -- I'm sorry, for us to get the
21 funding, but the capacity to manage
22 projects kind of post-pandemic
23 environment. So we hope we can scale
24 the program up more and we'll continue
25 to make requests.

1 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Okay.

2 The point I'm trying to make with these
3 questions is that over and over again
4 going back to this discussion about
5 quality of life, the Black and Brown
6 neighborhoods that I represent are
7 routinely denied requests to help make
8 their neighborhoods better. And in this
9 one particular area, we're talking about
10 traffic interventions.

11 I don't understand why most of
12 the requests are denied. I don't
13 understand why we can't add more
14 investment into this area, particularly
15 when as a City when we want to do big
16 things, we find the money. We found \$60
17 million to try to go after
18 infrastructure dollars. We found over
19 \$20 million for FDR Park. Those are
20 great laudable goals.

21 The point I'm making is that
22 when we want to find money to do things,
23 we find money to do things. The
24 exception to that seems to be when it's
25 really in the neighborhoods that are

1 most in need. And I think we have to
2 get away from that. And I hope that
3 this budget can be a place where we
4 start to think about things differently.

5 MR. CARROLL: If I can
6 certainly acknowledge your perspective,
7 I think we're working to do that. I
8 would want to point out we'll be
9 submitting an application for federal
10 funding under the RAISE program, which
11 is addressing specifically the issues
12 that you're talking about, trying to
13 make a broad spectrum of improvements,
14 addressing quality-of-life issues, state
15 of good repair issues and traffic-
16 calming, traffic-safety issues across
17 neighborhoods, and those neighborhoods
18 will be identified specifically because
19 of the level of disinvestment that
20 they've experienced in the past with a
21 real focus on equity and racial equity
22 in particular.

23 So we'll keep working on that.
24 If we don't get that funding this time
25 through the RAISE grant, we'll find

1 other opportunities to follow up, but
2 we're doing the best we can to organize
3 that approach and really elevate it as a
4 priority in the Administration in terms
5 of transportation study.

6 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
7 you. I look forward to that. I hope we
8 get that funding and I also hope we
9 prioritize the funding we already have.
10 Thanks.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
12 Thank you, Councilwoman.

13 Chair recognizes Councilwoman
14 Bass.

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
17 Councilwoman --

18 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
19 Mr. President. Couldn't come off of
20 mute.

21 I just want to follow up on my
22 colleague Councilmember Gauthier. We
23 seem to be really in sync today. But I
24 think that really all of us, all members
25 of Council, have really expressed a lot

1 of concern around quality-of-life issues
2 in our neighborhoods. And I really hope
3 that the Administration is getting it.

4 I'm not so sure from the budget
5 which has been presented, that it really
6 is a reflection of what we hear every
7 single day. And so, I'm hopeful that
8 you will really, really hear what these
9 Members are saying today and that you
10 take it to heart because again, I don't
11 see that reflected in the numbers and in
12 the budget.

13 As the Councilwoman just
14 stated, we find a way to make things
15 happen when we want to. We find a way,
16 we can change rules, we can find money,
17 we can do all kinds of things when we're
18 really interested in making something
19 happen. And so, I'm really hopeful that
20 this body will be heard and that changes
21 will be made that are more reflective of
22 what it is that we hear every single day
23 and we see every single day.

24 So I just had a couple of
25 questions and I wanted to start with as

1 I'm sitting here just thinking about
2 quality-of-life issues and knowing that
3 we're going to be Parks & Recreation,
4 we're going to be talking directly to
5 those departments later down the line.
6 But I did want to talk about Rebuild.
7 And so, I know that -- and the soda tax.

8 And so, I know that, listen,
9 every Mayor has a signature program
10 initiative that's going to be making big
11 change. The one that is most pronounced
12 that comes to my mind was NTI when Mayor
13 Street had his NTI program, which was
14 really, you know, you could see it.
15 There was no doubt if there was an NTI,
16 if it was happening, it was happening
17 throughout the City of Philadelphia. It
18 was very much present and very much
19 visible for all to see.

20 Contrastly when I look at
21 Rebuild and the soda tax that we enacted
22 to pay for Rebuild, I think that there
23 was a perception that new playgrounds,
24 recreation centers, parks, they were
25 going to be getting finally the level of

1 attention that they deserved. And while
2 I know that there is a considerable
3 amount that has been spent on Rebuild,
4 it was a seven-year program --
5 initially, it was a seven-year program.
6 It was supposed to be \$500 million.
7 That number has bounced around. So the
8 first thing I want to ask is how much
9 are we planning to spend on Rebuild as
10 we stand today?

11 MR. DUBOW: In Rebuild's latest
12 report they are projecting to spend
13 between 400 and 450 million.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. So
15 that number has changed just a little
16 bit. So now it's between \$400 million
17 and \$450 million. Okay --

18 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER:
19 Councilmember, we talked about that when
20 we got the first return of the beverage
21 tax a few years ago after the program
22 was started, that it needed to be scaled
23 back because the revenue projections in
24 the beverage tax came in slightly below
25 what was originally projected, and the

1 cost of the borrowing had gone up.

2 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: You're
3 correct, we did talk about it, but a
4 figure was not associated with what
5 scaled back means at that time. So if I
6 remember, it was much more vague and
7 I've been trying to pin it down ever
8 since then because there is an
9 expectation in terms of what people
10 expect from us.

11 And I want to say that I see
12 Kira has joined us, Kira Strong from
13 Rebuild, who is just amazing to work
14 with, but again like so many departments
15 I just feel that doesn't have the
16 resources that she really needs to be
17 able to get done what was promised.

18 And when we go out in the
19 neighborhoods, they see these
20 playgrounds, rec centers that have been
21 untouched. And many of which will
22 remain untouched at the end of Rebuild
23 because we just haven't put in the
24 amount of resources that I think people
25 were expecting to see in terms of an

1 investment.

2 So I'd like to get a sense from

3 the Administration just going over the

4 expectations of our public facilities.

5 One of my colleagues asked a question

6 which prompted a question in my mind

7 after we just did Philly Spring Cleanup

8 last weekend, and much of our work was

9 done around the cleanups at playgrounds

10 and recreation centers, which I think we

11 shouldn't have to do.

12 Taxpayers pay tax dollars.

13 There's supposed to be cleaning that's

14 done at our recreation centers and

15 facilities. There's supposed to be

16 maintenance done at these same

17 facilities. So I guess what I'm asking

18 is what is the schedule for maintenance

19 and cleaning and also how much is

20 allocated out of our City budget to care

21 for our facilities, whether they be

22 parks, recreation centers or other

23 facilities as well?

24 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: The --

25 MANAGING DIRECTOR ALEXANDER:

1 Jim, I'm not sure if you want me to jump
2 in. Councilwoman, it may be easier for
3 us to have those individual departments
4 respond in writing, because I think each
5 of them has a maintenance budget
6 allocated and will be able to show you
7 the budget, show the schedule and show
8 you the frequency of cleaning if that's
9 easier. So, Rob and Marisa, I think if
10 we want to add that to a list of the
11 questions that we follow up on.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: That will
13 be great and we can do that when we have
14 those individual presentations. I guess
15 I wanted to get a sense of overall how
16 much are we spending in our budget to
17 maintain our facilities, and some of
18 that can come from Parks & Recreation,
19 some of that will come from other
20 departments. But I guess the sense that
21 we are not spending nearly enough even
22 after Rebuild, even after the small
23 increases that we've had.

24 Taxpayers should not have to go
25 out and clean and paint and maintain the

1 facilities in their neighborhood. This
2 is supposed to be done through our tax
3 dollars. And so, I would like to be
4 able to encourage our Recreation
5 Advisory Councils to be able to engage
6 with our young people, to be able to
7 help run programs that help out the
8 staff with other activities because
9 there's so much that needs to be done on
10 top of just cleaning and the painting
11 and the things that they're again paying
12 the tax dollars for. So I hope that we
13 can get some answers to those questions.

14 MR. DUBOW: We will --

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I hope that
16 we can get them within -- okay. Say it
17 again.

18 MR. DUBOW: I said we will
19 provide those.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.
21 So one other question I just wanted to
22 ask is as we were talking earlier about
23 growing the revenue pie, I know that
24 there was conversation that mentioned
25 our new Revenue Commissioner or excuse

1 me, our new Commerce Director, excuse
2 me. And I was wondering if we can hear
3 from her briefly.

4 I know that again she is going
5 to be presenting later down the line.
6 But I didn't know since we were talking
7 about growing revenue and we can't do
8 anything without growing revenue in the
9 City of Philadelphia, and I just wanted
10 her to weigh on what that's going to
11 look like from the Commerce Department,
12 as she knows from her many years of
13 experience this plays such an important
14 role in what's going to be happening in
15 our neighborhoods along our commercial
16 corridors. I have several that are in
17 significant need. And so, we would like
18 to get a preview, if we could, of what
19 we could expect from Commerce.

20 MS. NADOL: Thank you,
21 Councilwoman, very much.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: You're
23 welcome.

24 MS. NADOL: So I think
25 everybody would agree that the way to

1 grow the revenue is to stabilize our tax
2 base and to encourage companies coming
3 into the City, retaining those that are
4 here and growing the opportunities for
5 jobs in the City, and that is going to
6 be the focus of the department along
7 with all of our partner agencies and all
8 of our partner departments.

9 And when I say retaining jobs
10 and working with businesses, it's
11 businesses small, big, minority, women-
12 owned. In all of the neighborhoods, all
13 of the commercial corridors are
14 definitely hurting right now. We
15 recognize that. We know that, and we
16 are going to do everything that we can
17 to use every ounce of resources that we
18 have to dedicate to helping stabilize
19 the business community and hopefully as
20 a result grow the tax base.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Well, I'm
22 looking for our sit-down. I know that
23 you just started five minutes ago. So
24 I'm looking forward to having an
25 opportunity to meet on the particular

1 commercial corridors that are in
2 desperate need throughout the 8th
3 District, so looking forward that.

4 Thank you, Mr. President.

5 MS. NADOL: Thank you.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
7 Ms. Nadol.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
9 Thank you, Councilwoman.

10 It has been brought to my
11 attention that we did not call on
12 Councilman Squilla in the first round,
13 so I'm going to ask him to jump the
14 line. Councilman Squilla, are you on
15 with us?

16 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

17 RICHARDSON: Mr. President?

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Yes.

19 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

20 RICHARDSON: Quick point of inquiry.

21 Can you just go over the order?

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

23 Yeah. So we have -- now, I'm going to
24 insert Councilman Squilla. Then it's
25 Councilman Domb, Councilwoman -- you,

1 Councilwoman Gilmore Richardson,
2 Councilwoman Sanchez.

3 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

4 RICHARDSON: Okay. Thank you, Council
5 President.

6 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: And, Council
7 President, can I also ask for a --

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Gym,
9 Gilmore Richardson Sanchez after
10 Squilla.

11 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: So who was
12 after --

13 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Council
14 President, I apologize. I was unable
15 to -- for some reason my keyboard
16 couldn't put into the chat. I did have
17 my hand up, but then it was missed, but
18 that's fine. It's not a big deal.

19 I just want to follow up. I
20 have some questions that I want to
21 follow up on Councilmember Bass's
22 questions on Parks & Rec obviously and
23 the budget end. We know this is a
24 legacy with Rebuild, but instead of
25 coming up with a dollar amount, can we

1 just get assurance that every park and
2 every position will have a maintenance
3 person for our playgrounds and parks?
4 Is that something that we can say will
5 be in the budget for this year? And I
6 think that will be easier than saying
7 what an amount would be.

8 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: I don't
9 know that we have one dedicated staff
10 member for each. I'd ask the
11 Commissioner to probably jump in and
12 talk about how they allocate those
13 resources. But I don't want to make a
14 commitment that I don't know that we can
15 live to without having her feedback.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
17 Commissioner, do you want to weigh in?

18 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Yeah.
19 Good afternoon, everybody. So we do not
20 have dedicated maintenance staff at all
21 of our facilities. We have 10,000 acres
22 of land and 140 neighborhood parks,
23 about 159 rec centers. And so, we
24 utilize a crew system to manage and
25 maintain our parks. And with the number

1 of crews that we have, we get to the
2 parks twice a week. So that means we're
3 doing very, very minimal basic
4 landscaping, but we're primarily focused
5 on trash and litter cleanup and making
6 sure those trash cans are emptied. So
7 we have crews that go around to address
8 each park twice a week.

9 Of course, if there's issues
10 that come up in between, we send folks
11 out. And many of the Councilmembers on
12 this call have my cell number and reach
13 out where there's issues or concerns at
14 a park and we can send people out
15 as-needed on an emergency basis to
16 address those issues.

17 For recreation centers, for
18 most of them we have caretakers.
19 However, we might have one caretaker for
20 a very large site. Like if you think of
21 a Simons Recreation Center, right,
22 there's one caretaker for that entire
23 campus, if you will. So our crews also
24 help to support some of the larger sites
25 where one caretaker -- it's a challenge

1 for that one caretaker to maintain the
2 whole facility. So I hope that answers
3 your question.

4 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Yeah, I
5 mean, I think that is not a good answer.
6 I think it's an answer. I think if
7 we're looking and we are investing a lot
8 of money in Parks & Rec and Rebuild and
9 we all love it, I'm a big supporter of
10 it. But to not get to where we have to
11 rebuild every site, maintenance is so
12 important and our maintenance upkeep,
13 and we're going to talk about the
14 budget, our Capital Budget, where
15 Council had money, ITEF dollars, to work
16 there and what that budget is and if
17 that is still continued to be cut.

18 But having a facility
19 maintenance person is so important
20 maintaining a facility. And if we don't
21 do that, we're going to spend more money
22 in the future of having these places go
23 down, whether it's a leak somewhere in
24 the toilet, having to redo the floor or
25 whatever it may be, to even cleaning up

1 to make the place tidy is so important.

2 So I will be pushing, and I
3 know Councilmember Bass has already
4 alluded to this, whatever that amount is
5 that we need, we need to make sure that
6 we have facility people at every site,
7 and the crew can be helpful to
8 accommodate and work on some unmanned
9 sites at other places, but not to even
10 fill in for sites that we don't have
11 facility caretakers. So I don't know
12 how we do that, but I think that's
13 something that's real important.

14 And the next question would be
15 the money for ITEF dollars, what is the
16 Administration looking for on that?

17 MS. WAXMAN: So the amount of
18 ITEF for each District Councilmember
19 this year is sustained at the level from
20 FY22, so that's \$395,000 that is just
21 for PPR facilities plus an additional
22 255,000 that can be used on any City
23 facility. And so, my quick math tells
24 me that it is \$650,000 total, no change
25 from last year.

1 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: And that's
2 also a problem. And you know and we
3 help with our facilities, as we get
4 calls from our friends of groups, our
5 Advisory Councils that have concerns,
6 how do we fix something quickly, we've
7 been patching things here and there and
8 it just doesn't work. And if we don't
9 have resources to do that, they fall
10 apart.

11 So the way I see it, we're not
12 looking at our rec centers -- we're
13 looking to invest in rebuilding them,
14 but we're not looking to keeping them up
15 and running, I think we need to look at.
16 As a Councilperson, I know our request
17 for those dollars is going to be
18 important. I know that the
19 Administration has decided to keep that
20 at a level from last year, but if we're
21 really going to invest and use that
22 money that we received, this is an
23 investment that I think is needed.

24 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
25 Point of information. I just want to

1 make sure for the record if Marisa could
2 speak to what was our ITEF money
3 pre-last year before the pandemic --

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
5 Councilwoman, Councilwoman, hold on one
6 second. I think Councilwoman Bass has a
7 point of clarification.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Yes. Thank
9 you, Mr. President. And I'll be brief.

10 I just wanted to mention that
11 my good friend and colleague Mark
12 Squilla, I understand your questioning
13 around the amount that we're spending or
14 the number of people requiring a
15 dedicated person to be at each rec
16 center for maintenance. I guess my
17 question is a little bit different
18 because one of the things I hear all the
19 time, and I know that my colleagues hear
20 this as well, is the feeling that in
21 some parts of the City they get more,
22 they get better, they get more
23 resources, they are fully staffed, they
24 get the maintenance they need than in
25 others. So I think it's important to be

1 transparent and make sure everyone can
2 see what's going on where. So I just
3 wanted to clarify the purpose of my
4 request.

5 Thank you, Mr. President.

6 Thank you, Mark.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

8 Thank you, Councilwoman.

9 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,
10 Councilmember. And that information
11 would be good to give to the Chair.

12 To follow up with what
13 Councilmember Sanchez's said too, before
14 the pandemic, prepandemic, the amount of
15 the ITEF dedicated Parks & Rec funding?

16 MS. WAXMAN: Yeah. So
17 prepandemic it was split 790,000 PPR and
18 510,000 to the finance item that can go
19 to any City facility. And obviously,
20 now when we went through the pandemic
21 that was halved in part. As we go
22 throughout the Capital Budget, we look
23 at a number of factors including
24 available to carry forward, other
25 outside streams. And so, that was one

1 of the trade-offs that was made.

2 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: And
3 we'll be happy to provide that breakdown
4 of district-by-district carried forward
5 in the ITEF so that Council can see that
6 as well.

7 COUNCILWOMAN SQUILLA: Thank
8 you. I guess I'm done. One quick
9 thing, the AMP program, and I know we
10 had met through a lot of different
11 resources with the Police Commissioner,
12 the Managing Director's Office, the
13 Administration, the District Attorney's
14 Office, Defenders Association, and it
15 looks like there is now dollars put in
16 for this AMP program for fines and fees
17 associated with it. Do we have a
18 timeline when we think we could work
19 with the courts to get that up and
20 running?

21 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER:
22 Vanessa. I saw Vanessa jump on. So
23 please take that, Deputy.

24 MS. GARRETT-HARLEY: I'm sorry.
25 I couldn't get off mute. Good

1 afternoon. Councilman Squilla, I am
2 working with the courts. We are still
3 working directly with President Judge
4 Dugan over in Municipal Court as well as
5 the Defenders and the District Attorney
6 to start AMP. We did put in the money
7 for fines and fees.

8 We are going to be following up
9 with the District Attorney's and we also
10 put aside some money because the
11 District Attorney did let us know that
12 he may need two or three more attorneys
13 in order to be able to run that court
14 correctly, so we're trying to follow up.
15 I am hoping that it will be as soon as
16 possible, but there's still a few things
17 that we have to iron out amongst those
18 three to get AMP court back up and
19 running.

20 We did predicate approximately
21 600,000 to be able to pay the fines and
22 fees for anybody that participates in
23 the program and completes the program
24 adequately. So I'm pretty confident
25 that we should be having that up and

1 running as soon as possible.

2 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Okay. I
3 know that Councilwoman Sanchez and
4 myself was very involved in that and
5 really appreciate the efforts to have
6 something in common interest that we all
7 can work on. Thank you for your
8 diligence. And if you can, when you do
9 get that information if you can share it
10 with Council President so he can send it
11 to Councilmembers. It will be greatly
12 appreciated and I'll come back a second
13 round. Thank you.

14 MS. GARRETT-HARLEY:
15 Absolutely. Thank you.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
17 Thank you, Councilman.

18 Chair recognizes Councilwoman
19 Gym.

20 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Thank you
21 very much, Council President.

22 I will just say that I have a
23 comment for the Commerce Director and
24 then questions for Revenue. For the
25 Commerce Director, one of the areas that

1 I think I would be interested in hearing
2 is not this need to meet all businesses
3 at all times, but a strategy on how we
4 are tapping into the new economy. And I
5 do think that this is the transformation
6 that we're seeing with work from home.
7 A generational shift is not temporary.
8 I think it's at least significantly
9 short-term and could potentially impact
10 long-term.

11 Among the things that I'm
12 interested in is really not only job
13 recruitment or attraction, but really
14 job development here in our City.
15 Talking to young people, not as many of
16 them are interested in going to work for
17 large corporations and big businesses
18 and fitting into corporate structures
19 that have long marginalized Black,
20 Brown, immigrant, women from their
21 hierarchy, right.

22 And so, I would be interested
23 in hearing what the interest is and
24 expansion will be around small business
25 development and growth of existing

1 businesses that are local and small here
2 as well as efforts to tap into the
3 entrepreneurial mindset that I think is
4 really driving a lot of young people.
5 Again, I think it could be something
6 that ties into our diversion strategies
7 to things that really appeal to young
8 people, which is being their own self.
9 And so, that's one of the things that I
10 will be looking for and certainly
11 looking forward to under your
12 leadership.

13 I guess my main question though
14 is for Rob and Marisa to talk a little
15 bit about projections on revenue, about
16 what we are looking like over the five
17 years of this plan. And I want to
18 congratulate my colleagues, including
19 Councilmember Brooks, who are thinking
20 about revenue growth and development,
21 including new revenue sources. So I'll
22 leave that up to Rob, and then I'll
23 probably have a quick follow-up.

24 MR. DUBOW: Sure. And I'll let
25 Marisa talk about how we go about our

1 revenue projections. But we talked
2 about it before, we're assuming a
3 bounceback from the pandemic. And you
4 can see if you look at our tax revenues,
5 we're assuming about \$200 million of
6 growth in FY23. And by the end of the
7 Plan, those tax revenues will be about
8 \$1 billion higher than they were in
9 FY21, so we're relying on a bounceback
10 for this plan to work.

11 With that, I'll turn it over to
12 Marisa to go through some of the details
13 of how we come up with our projections.

14 MS. WAXMAN: Thank you, Rob.
15 So Philadelphia works with an outside
16 econometric firm called IHS Markit.
17 They're a global firm. They work with a
18 number of states and municipalities.
19 And we constantly work with them sharing
20 our realtime data. They're then
21 using -- in terms of our actual
22 collections, they're using a number of
23 outside streams of information to
24 develop their econometric models to
25 project what is likely to happen. And

1 they use a lot of City data but also
2 regional, because so much of our
3 Philadelphia tax dollars does depend on
4 the regional economic health. And we've
5 been talking about that particularly in
6 the past few years around the commuter
7 wage tax.

8 Our wage tax is about 40
9 percent of all of our local collections
10 here. And about 40 percent of that
11 historically was from commuters. And
12 so, you just mentioned a lot of the
13 shifts in how folks work. What that has
14 meant for our collections has been
15 rather seismic. And actually last year,
16 we projected about 15 percent of those
17 commuter taxes would be permanently
18 lost. Unfortunately, this year we
19 updated that number and said that it's
20 about 25 percent, and that's a mix of
21 folks who never come in or folks who are
22 coming in less hours at the direction of
23 their employer.

24 And so, what we do after we
25 work with IHS to develop the growth

1 rates or unfortunately occasionally some
2 declines to our tax base, PICA convenes
3 an event at the Federal Reserve for
4 regional economists and they really kick
5 the tires on what we present, do things
6 look like we are being too optimistic,
7 too pessimistic or conservative, just
8 about right.

9 And after that process this
10 year where we wound up was really
11 projecting growth differently for a
12 number of different taxes. All but one
13 were positive, and they ranged from a
14 modest 1.25 percent growth for the
15 beverage all the way up to about 12
16 percent growth rate we're projecting for
17 the BIRT.

18 And I will say that the BIRT
19 even prepandemic is just like a wild
20 volatile, bounces around like a
21 kangaroo, up 10 percent, down 30, double
22 digits, so that one's a little nerve-
23 racking. But we are expecting growth
24 for all of our taxes, but for the realty
25 transfer tax. And the realty transfer

1 tax, the reason we're projecting a
2 decline in the coming year is because
3 FY22 has been particularly robust, in
4 part because of large factors we don't
5 control, interest rates were low and the
6 real estate market overall, but also
7 because of some of the local changes we
8 had in terms of the value of the 10-year
9 tax abatement, the implementation of the
10 development impact tax, and that we
11 think time-shifted a lot of activity to
12 the end of Calendar Year 2021. So that
13 we're not expecting to repeat. That was
14 a one-time spike.

15 So basically, we are seeing
16 some growth. But when you look at our
17 overall revenue projections for the Five
18 Year Plan, tax, outside dollars, state
19 and local grants, what you see is our
20 revenues go up in '23, up '24, up in
21 '25. FY25 is the last time we can draw
22 down on ARP dollars and then our revenue
23 projections after that dropped down for
24 '26 and '27.

25 At the same time you'll see

1 that our spending, we're not
2 anticipating -- we didn't make it so
3 that our spending falls off of a cliff.
4 And so, using the fund balance, is
5 adjusting, so that we can continue our
6 spending even with that expected decline
7 in revenues for FY26. And I'm sorry.
8 That was a lot. I apologize.

9 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: No, it's a
10 little bit of what we wanted. But to be
11 clear, you expect that the wage tax will
12 drop by 25 percent permanently; is that
13 what you said?

14 MS. WAXMAN: We're actually --
15 the wage tax, the percent that comes
16 from nonresidents from commuters?

17 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Yes.

18 MS. WAXMAN: We expect a
19 permanent contraction in that share of
20 25 percent, the result of work from
21 home. But overall --

22 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: How much --

23 MS. WAXMAN: -- because of
24 other growth and because of other jobs
25 coming back as well as income growth,

1 overall we're projecting the wage and
2 earnings tax to grow by 6.9 percent for
3 FY23.

4 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: And how much
5 of an amount would that 25 percent
6 contract --

7 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER:
8 Councilmember Gym, I just want to note
9 for the record we're going to wrap this
10 up and move on to the next person, but
11 it looks like we are going to have a
12 third round. So if you can just wrap
13 this one up, Councilmember, and we'll
14 move on.

15 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: That was my
16 last question.

17 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank
18 you.

19 MR. DUBOW: It's over \$100
20 million, that --

21 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: The 25
22 percent amounts to over \$100 million?

23 MR. DUBOW: Yes.

24 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Okay. Thank
25 you very much.

1 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank you
2 very much, Councilmember Gym.

3 Chair recognizes Councilmember
4 Domb.

5 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,
6 Majority Leader.

7 And I just want to go back to
8 my earlier questioning. And maybe I can
9 get a copy of the lease for the Inquirer
10 building. If you guys could maybe send
11 it over, I'd love to see a copy of that
12 because my concerns remain on those
13 transactions that we're really not
14 talking about hundreds of thousands of
15 dollars, but millions and tens of
16 millions and hundreds of millions of
17 dollars on our real estate transactions.

18 And I don't know if we can move
19 forward with master planning for major
20 economic development or housing projects
21 until we get our internal affairs in
22 order, especially on these real estate
23 transactions so I'm concerned about
24 that. The return on the investment for
25 our real estate transactions, it's big

1 numbers in terms of alternative program
2 funding.

3 So now, I'd like to ask some
4 questions to go ahead with my second
5 round. And I just want to make a state
6 of fact that I think this budget should
7 address and I think everyone should
8 address, and that is some facts that
9 came out in the last year, that from
10 2009 to 2018 within United States all
11 jobs created that paid less than \$35,000
12 were 29 percent of the total jobs
13 created in the U.S.

14 In major cities, it was 28
15 percent. Yet in Philadelphia, it was
16 60.5. We're producing double everybody
17 else of low-paying jobs. And my
18 question is in this budget, how are we
19 dealing with that issue because I think
20 that's a big issue? I think a family of
21 four making less than 30,000, they're in
22 poverty. How are we dealing with that
23 issue? We're not creating those good-
24 paying jobs that we need.

25 And when you look at the

1 charts, the area where we got crushed
2 was in the jobs that paid \$35,000 to
3 \$100,000. We're less than half of
4 everybody else. Everywhere we did well
5 or similar to other jobs was in the jobs
6 over 100,000.

7 So the area of focus -- and
8 this is for the new Commerce Director,
9 I'd love for you to take this on -- is
10 really in that \$35,000 to \$100,000
11 category. That's where we're not
12 getting those jobs. Many of those jobs
13 we'll see them out in King of Prussia,
14 Devon and Malvern. They're all out
15 there. We need to bring them into the
16 City.

17 Having said that, I know in
18 this budget it says that the forecast
19 for the OPA certifications which we
20 should know about I guess in another
21 month or so, we're projecting about a
22 4.5 percent increase. And I know that
23 in the budget talks, the conversation's
24 been around if we do any type of
25 investment in job growth, we have to see

1 what the evaluations on OPA will look
2 like.

3 But let's just assume that --
4 let's prepare now for whatever those
5 numbers might be. So right now if in 30
6 days from now OPA comes back and says,
7 valuation are up 10 percent just as an
8 example, what's the program on how we
9 spend the extra \$200 million over the
10 next five years, how would we go about
11 investing that to create job growth in
12 the City and expand economy?

13 And to Councilmember Majority
14 Leader Parker's point, losing 25,000
15 people last year is devastating for us.
16 We need to have programs where we can
17 gain 25,000 or 50,000 people. How do we
18 go about investing that 200 million over
19 the next five years? What would be the
20 right investments to rebuild our
21 economy?

22 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: So I'll
23 take the second part of your question
24 first and then turn it over to the
25 Commerce Director to talk about the

1 first part. I think if the assessments
2 come in much higher than anticipated, I
3 think all of the options are on the
4 table for us. I think we want to
5 provide some additional protections for
6 property owners through expansion of the
7 Homestead Exemption, and we want to look
8 at the tax code to see if there are
9 changes that we can make.

10 Even part of the Tax Working
11 Group that we had with City Council, we
12 looked at a number of different options,
13 whether it was on business tax or on the
14 wage tax to provide those incentives on
15 the business side, but also to shore up
16 our financial future, as Marisa just
17 went through, looking at the volatility
18 of the BIRT and the fall-off that we've
19 seen in nonresident wage tax. So I
20 think if those assessments are much
21 higher than we anticipated, we would
22 have all of those options on the table
23 to be able to look at to provide relief
24 to residents and property owners, you're
25 going to see that increase.

1 And then I'll turn it over to
2 the Commerce Director to talk a little
3 bit about workforce and attraction
4 piece.

5 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Jim, before
6 we -- I guess my question is shouldn't
7 we be prepared so we don't scramble 30
8 days, shouldn't we have some ideas on
9 how we can go about doing this and have
10 a plan in place so we know what we're
11 doing versus waiting 30 days to see
12 where we are?

13 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: Happy
14 to have those conversations offline. I
15 think it's -- we've talked about them as
16 part of that working group though. I
17 don't think there are new conversations.
18 It's a matter of scale based off of what
19 the assessment number is. I think we're
20 all anxious to get those final
21 assessment numbers. We want to make
22 sure they're right and they're accurate
23 before we go out with anything there.
24 But I think we're talking from the same
25 list of options that we've been

1 discussing for a year or so as part of
2 that group.

3 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. Thank
4 you.

5 MS. NADOL: (Muted).

6 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: I'm
7 sorry. You're muted, Anne.

8 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank
9 you, Councilmember Domb.

10 Chair recognizes Councilwoman
11 Gilmore Richardson.

12 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Majority
13 Leader, I was wondering if they could
14 answer the first question which is the
15 job production. Our job production
16 doubled the national average of
17 low-paying jobs and what we're doing to
18 deal with that issue because I think
19 that's a major issue for the whole City
20 of Philadelphia.

21 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank
22 you, Councilmember Domb. If the
23 Administration could respond, and then
24 afterwards we'll move on to
25 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson.

1 MS. NADOL: Thank you,
2 Councilwoman. Councilmember Domb, thank
3 you for the data. I had not heard that.
4 I certainly hear these things
5 anecdotally. I had not heard it
6 summarized as you had just summarized it
7 about the salary level. I can tell you
8 that I've been here for less than a week
9 or just 10 days, and I can tell you that
10 we've been having some conversations
11 amongst ourselves to focus not only on
12 the good-paying jobs as we call them,
13 but really career opportunities in
14 bringing in employers who will provide
15 career opportunities for our residents,
16 and that means longer range, very
17 strategic direction for the companies
18 that we are bringing in. And so, that
19 is one of the areas of focus that we are
20 going to have, in addition to focusing,
21 as Councilwoman Gym alluded to earlier,
22 sort of the entrepreneurial market that
23 is there and that is not necessarily
24 serviced by government now and thinking
25 about the best ways to help solidify

1 those types of small individual
2 businesses that have such potential.

3 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. Well,
4 I'm going to repeat myself again on
5 something and, that is, we need to
6 change what we teach in our schools.
7 I'm going to keep drilling this in until
8 I'm dead. We need to teach financial
9 literacy from kindergarten and 12th
10 grade. We need to teach
11 entrepreneurship from kindergarten to
12 12th grade and we need to teach
13 technology.

14 We need to give kids a chance
15 in 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th just like
16 Cristo Rey where they work one day a
17 week, get credit, get paid, go to school
18 for days and have four different job
19 experiences. If you want to change
20 poverty in the long-term, that's got to
21 be a component. And I will end on that.
22 Thank you.

23 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: No, thank
24 you so very much, Councilmember Domb,
25 and you have been consistent. Thank you

1 very much.

2 Chair recognizes Councilmember
3 Gilmore Richardson.

4 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

5 RICHARDSON: Thank you so much, Madam
6 Majority Leader, and thank you again for
7 all of our colleagues for posing
8 questions.

9 I just wanted to add my voice
10 to the choir regarding the school
11 crossing guard issue that Councilmember
12 Sanchez brought up earlier in the
13 questioning. I just ask the
14 Administration if they could please
15 include the crossing guards in this
16 conversation. You moved them from one
17 department. You're seeking to move them
18 to a second department. And I'd just
19 like to ask that you please include them
20 in this conversation. I've heard from
21 several crossing guards, including my
22 crossing guard from kindergarten about
23 this issue so I ask that you follow up
24 there.

25 I wanted to quickly circle back

1 to the questions I had regarding the
2 Nuisance Business Taskforce and our
3 ability to staff up that Taskforce both
4 from the perspective of Licenses &
5 Inspections but also for the Health
6 Department, for Law and for PPD. So I
7 just quickly wanted to receive a
8 response about that on the record so
9 that I can move forward to my two
10 additional questions I need to ask in
11 this round.

12 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: The
13 question on the additional resources,
14 was that whether there are additional
15 resources specifically for the Taskforce
16 in the budget? I'm sorry.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

18 RICHARDSON: Yes. Are there additional
19 resources for the Nuisance Business
20 Taskforce in the proposed budget
21 currently? And that would be for
22 Licenses & Inspections for additional
23 inspectors. That will be for Health
24 Department. That will also be for the
25 Law Department because we rely on law to

1 help us with a number of these cases.

2 And I just wanted to know where we are
3 with that.

4 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: I don't
5 believe there are specific earmarked
6 resources for the Taskforce. There are
7 individual increases for those
8 departments, and then we're happy to
9 talk to you as we go through this budget
10 process to figure out what the right
11 investment is and for the Taskforce
12 itself when we get to the finalizing the
13 budget.

14 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

15 RICHARDSON: Okay. That will be great.
16 I specifically want to focus
17 in (inaudible) --

18 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER:

19 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson, we
20 just had a little problem with your
21 audio. Can you repeat the question you
22 just posed again, please.

23 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

24 RICHARDSON: Okay. Thank you so much,
25 Madam Majority Leader.

1 What I was stating is that I'm
2 looking forward to working with the
3 Administration relative to the Nuisance
4 Business Taskforce as communities are
5 being besieged by these nuisance
6 businesses, and it's not allowing for
7 space and opportunity for legitimate
8 businesses that want to operate on our
9 commercial corridors and do the right
10 thing in our neighborhoods and our
11 communities.

12 I quickly wanted to move on to
13 two other areas. One being climate
14 change and secondly, workforce
15 development. We've seen that over the
16 last two years we've had in Philadelphia
17 the second hottest summer on record and,
18 two, really extreme weather events. And
19 I know no one can ever forget what
20 happened on 676 recently.

21 We know that our residents more
22 so than any of the cities in the country
23 are severely energy-burdened, and many
24 of our communities are struggling. And
25 so, there's no mention in the Plan

1 around climate change, environmental
2 justice and even in your capital
3 testimony. So can you please detail all
4 the new investments the Administration
5 is making to achieve carbon neutrality
6 by 2050 in your proposed Five Year Plan?

7 And can you explain how the
8 City will work to achieve carbon
9 neutrality by 2050 when the chart on
10 Page 640 of the Five Year Plan actually
11 shows a decrease in the Office of
12 Sustainability's budget? And then can
13 you lastly explain why the Office of
14 Sustainability received \$267,600 in
15 Class 200, which is slightly more than
16 the amount Council allocated to them as
17 new dollars last year for all the
18 environmental justice initiatives?

19 You know we've been working
20 with the Administration on the EJ
21 Advisory Council that you all have
22 worked with us to get up and running
23 that started under Councilmember
24 Blondell Reynolds Brown, and then also
25 the Climate Resilience Grant Fund, can

1 you talk about them as priorities in
2 this budget?

3 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: Sure.

4 Thank you, Councilmember. I will
5 probably rely on Rob and Marisa to talk
6 about any of the individual changes to
7 Sustainability's budget, and then maybe
8 ask Christine Knapp, our Director of
9 Sustainability, to talk about some of
10 the priorities that they're working on
11 to help us reach that goal.

12 MS. WAXMAN: Hi. I'll start by
13 saying we can get back to you with some
14 details. But you're correct, that you
15 definitely were seeing some reductions
16 in Class 200. That's because there were
17 also some shifts to Class 100, so we can
18 get back to how funding moved around and
19 what did and didn't occur from FY22.

20 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

21 RICHARDSON: I understand. And before
22 Christine Knapp responds, because I do
23 think this is about priorities within
24 the Administration, and I don't know
25 that it's necessarily appropriate for

1 Christine to respond because this is a
2 proposed budget coming from the
3 Administration and this is about
4 priorities and this is about the goals
5 that the Mayor has set for the City, and
6 I just want to make sure we're properly
7 funding those goals.

8 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: I
9 understand, Councilmember. And I was
10 just asking Christine to talk about the
11 priorities that the office is working on
12 to help us achieve those goals. As I
13 said earlier this morning I think, we
14 all wish we can do more with the
15 resources that we have.

16 We're working with a number of
17 partners to help us reach the climate
18 goals that the Mayor has set, and
19 Christine can outline that work. But I
20 think we'd all like to do more within
21 the frameworks that we have and we're
22 trying to do as much as we can within
23 the framework that we actually have
24 available.

25 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

1 RICHARDSON: Okay. I understand. And
2 I'll certainly circle back to this. I'm
3 just concerned that I don't think we're
4 taking a whole government approach to
5 how we're looking at the impacts of
6 climate change and environmental justice
7 on our City budget.

8 I recently met with a
9 department who talked about certain
10 periods of time dealing with animals in
11 certain periods. And now instead of it
12 being a two-to-three month cycle, it's
13 eight months. And so, that's a part of
14 weather changes and climate change
15 issues that we've seen in the City.

16 So I just want to ensure we're
17 taking a whole government approach to
18 this work and that we're properly
19 investing in climate change and planning
20 for climate change and environmental
21 justice in our budget. And know that I
22 have worked with a variety of
23 departments in encouraging them to apply
24 for federal grant opportunities that can
25 help us beef up some of this work, and

1 I'll continue to work through that with
2 you all.

3 The next piece I wanted to get
4 through in this round -- I'm hoping that
5 we'll have a third round -- is really
6 focus in on workforce development. And
7 our Majority Leader talked about this
8 previously in the first round of
9 questioning relative to recruitment and
10 retention and sort of where we are with
11 retirements and the amount of
12 individuals who are eligible for
13 retirement based on either years of
14 service and/or age.

15 And this is a question that I
16 had brought up with our HR Director when
17 we had a meeting previously, and I had
18 asked for information that I know
19 they're going to provide because we just
20 had the meeting yesterday. But I wanted
21 to talk about how this budget proposal
22 notes new investments in marketing for
23 City positions and a new Talent Director
24 position. So I just wanted to know
25 what's the overall strategy behind those

1 investments specifically, and then what
2 the overall plan will be for workforce
3 development both internally and
4 externally? Thank you.

5 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: Thanks,
6 Councilmember.

7 If Mike Zaccagni is on and,
8 First Deputy Tipton, you want to talk
9 about some of those investments that are
10 coming to OHR and CAO.

11 MR. ZACCAGNI: Can everybody
12 hear me? I was having --

13 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Yes.

14 MR. ZACCAGNI: -- a delay. So,
15 Councilmember, first I'm actually
16 looking at some of those numbers that we
17 talked about yesterday so we should have
18 them together relatively shortly. I
19 just want to go through them, make sure
20 that they're put together in a way that
21 best presents the information that you
22 want.

23 We're really excited about the
24 fact that we have some investments in
25 recruitment this year. And what we're

1 looking to do is really try to get out
2 into the communities. As you know,
3 Janine LaBletta who's not on right now
4 has been doing a lot of work with local
5 libraries as well as local community
6 groups and also reaching out to the
7 School District, so we have a couple of
8 positions -- we have several positions
9 that will be joining us over the next
10 year. I will try to get them on as soon
11 as possible.

12 We want to have a much bigger
13 role in social media so that we can
14 reach people through that venue. We
15 just don't have the capacity to do that
16 now. And also, we are going to have --
17 probably going to take 9 to 12 months.
18 Anybody who's bought a vehicle over the
19 last year or so knows it takes a while
20 to get those in. We're going to have a
21 mobile lab that will be able to go out
22 into the community. We're partnering
23 with the Free Library.

24 We're going to go out to
25 community groups where we'll be able to

1 do more point-on recruitment in the
2 neighborhoods. This mobile lab will
3 have several computer stations. I think
4 there's about nine of them, I can't
5 remember completely, and applicants or
6 people interested will be able to come
7 in and actually access information
8 there. We'll also possibly use it for
9 our assessment processes.

10 So what we're hoping to do is
11 really have much more of a presence all
12 around the communities, trying to
13 recruit individuals who are really
14 interested in City employment and we're
15 going to be working on that strategy as
16 we move forward. This will also enable
17 us to reach out to local universities
18 and also to local schools in the area.

19 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank you
20 so very --

21 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

22 RICHARDSON: Okay. Well, thank you --
23 Madam Majority Leader, I apologize. I
24 just wanted to ask if I can be put in
25 the queue for the third round as I'm

1 doing school pick-up right now. And I
2 thank Mr. Zaccagni for his response,
3 Madam Majority Leader. But I look
4 forward to receiving that data that was
5 requested, because I really feel as
6 though we need to have a robust strategy
7 with the School District, with our other
8 partners to create pipelines to City
9 employment knowing the retirement crisis
10 we'll be facing amongst our City
11 government employees.

12 So thank you very much, Madam
13 Majority Leader. Please put me in the
14 third round.

15 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank
16 you, Councilmember Gilmore Richardson.
17 And that is noted for the record that
18 you are in queue.

19 The Chair recognizes
20 Councilmember Sanchez.

21 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
22 Thank you very much. And let me just
23 keep that line of questioning from
24 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson. As
25 departments come forward, I know we're

1 making a lot of investments in
2 departments and we're going to be
3 staffing up.

4 And one of the questions that I
5 want all departments to be prepared to
6 address is sort of how do we make sure
7 that in this staffing up we're providing
8 real opportunity to diversify our staff
9 because as much as I want the libraries
10 fully funded, I also want to make sure
11 that we're hiring ethnically diverse
12 culturally competent people to be able
13 to provide the type of programming the
14 distinct neighborhoods need and deserve,
15 so that will be one of my questions.

16 And obviously, we need the personnel
17 office to be fully staffed and have the
18 capacity to provide that support to the
19 departments. The issue is always the HR
20 Office, the list, the testing, the
21 staffing up as it relates to that. So
22 thank you, Councilmember, for that.

23 I want to get a question, Jim,
24 at your level, conversation around the
25 Capital Program. We have a \$12 billion

1 Capital Program. During a recent Fiscal
2 Stability hearing that was sponsored by
3 Councilmember Domb, I asked questions of
4 Harvey Rice and Rebecca Rhynhart, our
5 City Controller. We hear too many times
6 we are building at New York prices for a
7 Baltimore market.

8 And one of the letters that I
9 subsequently followed up with them was
10 the cost of doing business with the City
11 of Philadelphia versus comparable other
12 cities. And I wanted to ask you what,
13 if any, assessments or analysis your
14 department, the Mayor's Office, Finance
15 and others have done around this. And
16 if you're willing to participate in a
17 process and sort of audit survey review
18 around how we are comparing to other
19 cities on some of this infrastructure
20 cost?

21 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: Thank
22 you, Councilmember. I don't know if
23 Stephanie Tipton from the Chief
24 Administrative Officer is still on, and
25 if she could speak to some of the

1 changes that we've made through our
2 procurement processes. And from the
3 Mayor's Office perspective, we're happy
4 to participate in any type of audit
5 that's going to allow us to buy more
6 things more cheaply, more efficiently so
7 we can do more things.

8 I think we've seen a dramatic
9 increase in a number of things,
10 shortages in a number of errors, things
11 as simple as envelopes where there's a
12 global shortage through the pandemic.
13 So I'd say off the top any type of
14 assistance that we can go through to
15 help us there we welcome.

16 But, Stephanie, do you want to
17 talk through some of the changes that
18 your office has been able to make?

19 MS. TIPTON: Sure. So over the
20 last years, Councilmember, we have put
21 into place a number of improvements to
22 speed up the process, anywhere from
23 having a more robust front-end system to
24 allow for the electronic submission of
25 contracts and bids and RFPs to

1 streamlining the process itself on the
2 backend, so we have been able to just
3 overall reduce and streamline the
4 process itself.

5 What I do want to highlight
6 though is the investment that we're
7 making this year in just capacity within
8 our central administrative offices,
9 which makes my heart sing because it's
10 not very often that we make those
11 investments in things like Procurement
12 and OEO. And I think having more folks
13 actually doing the work and being able
14 to partner more closely with departments
15 to get them what they need and do more
16 of that strategic thinking with them is
17 going to be tremendously helpful,
18 especially as we're thinking about the
19 influx of IIJA dollars.

20 We're also looking at ways to
21 improve and streamline the experience
22 for vendors, anywhere from making the
23 front-facing portal for them easier.
24 And then also vendor payment, we have
25 done -- and we'll talk more about that

1 probably during our budget hearing, but
2 we have done a lot around that and we're
3 seeing tremendous progress, especially
4 because of the pandemic. We've seen a
5 lot of automation come into that process
6 where we've been able to get payments to
7 vendors much quicker. So --

8 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

9 Systems are important, so I definitely
10 look forward to talking to you. I want
11 to talk a little bit more about policy-
12 setting as it relates to this. And I'll
13 use a couple of examples. There's been
14 a lot of concern or frustration around
15 aligning infrastructure investments from
16 Streets, Water, Parks & Rec and an
17 alignment around equity lens when work
18 is being conducted, right.

19 So a lot of my colleagues are
20 frustrated, don't want the Water
21 Department's money because it just comes
22 with too many strings attached. What
23 regulatory policy alignment are we doing
24 in that process to say, you know, and
25 I'll use Water Department for instance.

1 Their whole policy around when they
2 invest, if there's a disturbance of
3 15,000 square feet, we don't want to be
4 a part of it. What has the City done to
5 say, no, these alignments have to come
6 together so that we can ensure we're
7 utilizing and leveraging the independent
8 goals in bringing them together?

9 So, Mike, does that mean you're
10 going to respond to that?

11 MR. CARROLL: I just want to
12 acknowledge your outreach engagement
13 with the Water Department, we'll do
14 whatever we can to make that they are
15 the best partners that they can be, you
16 know, working across government. You're
17 aware because you spent as much time
18 working with them that these issues
19 about what the rate base is responsible
20 for and what the taxpayers are
21 responsible are pretty thorny. But
22 we'll do what we can to make sure that
23 we get the alignment you're seeking,
24 because we'll keep coming back to the
25 issues of --

1 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

2 So all you have to do is look at the
3 timelines when you're doing these
4 projects, right. So they have this zero
5 engineering process that they go through
6 when we're doing some of these projects.
7 So who is looking at what we've done,
8 lessons learned, and then how do we move
9 forward so we can move some of these
10 projects?

11 I can show you three or four
12 projects that are delayed, right,
13 because of some of these again policy
14 regulatory issues, like who's going to
15 pull the plug on that and say, no, we're
16 not holding up a rec center six months,
17 we're not holding this up, and their
18 unwillingness to say put all the money
19 in the pot as opposed to holding the
20 money and holding the project hostage?

21 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. Like I was
22 saying, when we are able to work with
23 grant funding and align that with other
24 City projects which is our objective
25 around all this infrastructure spending,

1 I think we're going to be in a better
2 situation.

3 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

4 Yeah, but when we're trying to explain
5 to ratepayers, people paying stormwater
6 fees, one of the best success stories
7 is to show them what that gets them,
8 right. They're like, why am I paying
9 this, right. And when they see an added
10 benefit, green space improvements,
11 streets improvement, tree improvements
12 in our neighborhood, you can almost get
13 away with not getting hollered at by
14 them because you can say, look, this
15 pays for this, right --

16 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

17 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

18 -- and so, my challenge is it's still
19 too siloed. There's still again zero
20 engineering that goes into this and an
21 enormous amount of cost, and these
22 should be seamless, right. We can't
23 talk green roofs because it doesn't meet
24 their regulatory requirement.
25 Stormwater management in fields and the

1 rec centers, that doesn't meet the
2 regulatory requirements.

3 At what point are we going to
4 say whose regulatory requirements?
5 Ours. This needs to be better aligned.
6 And I think we could have been farther
7 ahead on Rebuild and other things if
8 there was that political will and that
9 willingness to say these come together.
10 When we've done it, we've done it well
11 and people walk away feeling good. But
12 why aren't we doing it more.

13 MR. CARROLL: Understood.

14 Thank you.

15 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank
16 you. Councilmember Sanchez, thank you
17 for your leadership and that line of
18 questioning. Extremely important for us
19 to have on the record. Thank you for
20 your leadership there.

21 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

22 Thank you, Madam Chair.

23 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: We are
24 now going to formally start our third
25 round of questioning and I'm going to

1 get started here. And this is for our
2 Commerce Director, if she would come
3 back.

4 MS. NADOL: Hi --

5 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Hello,
6 Anne. How are you?

7 MS. NADOL: I am well. Thank
8 you, Councilwoman. How are you?

9 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: It is
10 great to see you and I look forward to
11 meeting you whether virtually or in
12 person very soon. I wanted to --

13 MS. NADOL: Hopefully in
14 person.

15 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: I
16 specifically want to go back to your
17 comments regarding neighborhood
18 commercial corridors and small
19 businesses in particular. I have a very
20 long track record of being a strong
21 advocate for neighborhood-based
22 commercial corridors, small businesses
23 in particular, and particularly Black
24 and Brown small businesses that are in
25 existence in neighborhoods.

1 While I was pleased to hear you
2 talk about or speak from a neighborhood
3 focus, I specifically want to talk about
4 an industry that has not recovered from
5 COVID. And I was shocked when I met
6 with them, I actually met with them,
7 after a five-hour hearing that I hosted
8 here in Council on public safety and
9 neighborhood commercial corridors.

10 And that is, I heard from a
11 gentleman named Darryl Thomas and a
12 young lady named Ann Turner and they
13 represent a group called the
14 Pennsylvania Professional Image
15 Alliance. And these are hundreds of
16 Black and Brown small neighborhood-
17 based, not chain, barber shops and hair
18 salons across the Commonwealth, but the
19 City of Philadelphia in particular, and
20 the striking stat was that 40 percent of
21 them closed and have not reopened.

22 I am going to be holding a
23 public hearing during this budget
24 process specifically focused on this
25 issue of neighborhood-based and

1 minority-owned barbershops, beauty
2 salons, how they were impacted by COVID,
3 and what very specific remedies that we
4 can offer as a City to support this very
5 fledgling but important industry.

6 And I say that with
7 Councilmember Jones in mind because he
8 constantly reminds us that our hair
9 salons and our barbershops do more than
10 make us look nice. They are our safe
11 spaces in our community. They provide a
12 valuable place for gathering. And so, I
13 wanted to note --

14 (Background interruption.)

15 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER:
16 Councilmember Squilla. If you can go on
17 mute, Councilmember Squilla. Thank you
18 so much, sir.

19 I wanted to know if you could,
20 if you will, tell us about any special
21 support that will be available for that
22 particular industry. Just full
23 disclosure, I've had meetings with the
24 Administration about this issue
25 specifically. I know it's on their

1 radar and they've had conversations with
2 senior members of the Commerce Director
3 staff. But I want to be laser-focused
4 within the department on this issue
5 along with several others and wanted to
6 see if you had any comments for the
7 record.

8 MS. NADOL: On that particular
9 industry, I know we had set up a relief
10 fund I believe during COVID to help the
11 barbershops and the salons who were --
12 obviously everybody was affected during
13 the pandemic, but in particular they
14 were, and there was a relief fund set
15 up. Obviously, that doesn't keep them
16 open and restore them to prepandemic
17 levels. And we look forward to the
18 conversation with you about that and
19 we'll certainly be more prepared for the
20 hearing to answer those questions.

21 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Listen,
22 thank you so very much for your
23 response. And I want to state this on
24 the record. I didn't get it initially
25 thinking about this. Councilmembers

1 Sanchez, Squilla, Green, and I can't
2 remember who else was a part of that,
3 when we were actually working on the
4 emergency transfer when COVID first
5 started, when we were one of the first
6 in the nation to set up a fund to
7 support our small businesses that had
8 been impacted by COVID, but what became
9 evident after having a discussion with
10 them was that there are chain hair
11 salons and barbershops in existence in
12 our neighborhoods that are in essence
13 part of a franchise similar to a
14 McDonald's or a Burger King.

15 I know I'm telling my age now,
16 but we had a Command Performance Hair
17 Salon that was a chain. It was a group
18 called the Hair Cattery. I don't even
19 know if they're still in existence.
20 But --

21 MS. NADOL: They are.

22 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: --
23 obviously, their corporate structure
24 gave them the ability to immediately
25 respond to all of the technical

1 requirements making them eligible to
2 receive funding so those franchise
3 salons benefited at a greater rate than
4 our neighborhood-based barbershops and
5 hair salons that don't necessarily have
6 an accountant or a lawyer, a legal team
7 or a retainer that could assist them
8 through this process. So we want you to
9 keep that as a part of your focus. And
10 I look forward to that discussion in the
11 future.

12 In addition to that, I wanted
13 to say a special thank you to
14 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore
15 Richardson for keeping the issue of
16 workforce development alive. It is
17 extremely important. When I heard
18 Councilmember Domb talk about the number
19 of low-wage jobs that have been created
20 in our City in comparison to those
21 positions earning \$100,000 and more, I
22 thought to myself, wow, that is great.

23 But even if we are creating
24 those positions and they are readily
25 available, we're a city of eds and meds,

1 biotech and in the sciences, unless our
2 workforce development is directly
3 connected to those higher-wage earning
4 positions that are growing in our City,
5 it becomes null and then we don't have a
6 workforce prepared to assume the roles
7 and take those jobs that put people on a
8 path to self-sufficiency.

9 So I want to see what the Plan
10 is going to be for the City so that we
11 are directly training our people,
12 Philadelphians, our folks directly to
13 those jobs that are going to be
14 available in our City.

15 With that being said,
16 Mr. President, thank you so very much.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
18 (Muted).

19 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: You're on
20 mute, Mr. President. Councilmember
21 Jones is No. 2 in queue for Round 3.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I'm
23 sorry. Thank you, Councilwoman. Thank
24 you for filling in so capably.

25 Chair recognizes Councilman

1 Jones.

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you so
3 very much. I'd like to move a little
4 away from where I was, but somewhat
5 directly related. The President put in
6 an ordinance that will become a Charter
7 referendum which requires the ZBA to
8 allow two members to its body to be from
9 a community organization.

10 I think that's important to
11 kind of safeguard the philosophy of
12 community bottoms-up development, which
13 I think is important. A part of the
14 legislation that we passed in 2018 was
15 the SLAPP suit law, which talks about
16 the need for legal representation for
17 some of our community-based
18 organizations who go to court, deal with
19 development, fight it out and do not
20 have the legal representation some large
21 firm developers have, and we passed that
22 bill creating a need for a fund to be
23 developed so that those individuals,
24 community groups would not be put out of
25 business, would not have to file

1 bankruptcy, would not have to go into
2 their personal finances to create good
3 government neighborhood zoning policy.

4 I did that in 2018, but we have
5 yet to see that fund developed and
6 utilized. Can someone tell me why?

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
8 Hello?

9 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: I --

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Hey, Pres,
11 they just refuse to answer my questions.

12 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: Long
13 day, long day --

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: We
15 got six weeks of this. So you mind as
16 well answer it now.

17 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: --
18 Councilmember. Long process. I'm not
19 sure if Anne Fadullon, our Director of
20 Planning and Development is on, if she
21 would like to jump in. I'm recalling
22 specifically the fund. I know there was
23 legislation to provide insurance
24 policies for the RCOs, and then there
25 was a conversation that we had about

1 trying to standardize the RCO process so
2 that way those organizations have
3 standard of conduct and certain rules
4 and regulations that they need to follow
5 in order for us to be able to support
6 something like that, and we never got to
7 that second part, the second part of
8 that process.

9 So I'm happy to continue that
10 engagement and talk about how we can
11 better support RCOs through that process
12 since we asked them to be part of the
13 development process through the zoning
14 code changes. But in doing so, we want
15 to make sure those organizations are
16 also holding up their end of the bargain
17 and following policies and practices
18 that make sense and are defensible from
19 a legal perspective. And I see Anne has
20 jumped on.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yeah. I
22 just want to make sure. There's some
23 parts of my District that we're trying
24 to encourage good policy development,
25 good economic development, good housing

1 development, but there's some parts of
2 my District that have been
3 overdeveloped. And to go into the good
4 fight with some of the big developers
5 who have powerful law firms, they're
6 exhausting their funds and are legally
7 liable personally for some of things
8 that they represent on behalf of the
9 community.

10 So we need to look at a pool of
11 dollars for insurance against their
12 personal liability which we have, but
13 also who's going to represent them at
14 the ZBA, who's going to represent them
15 often in court appeals?

16 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: I'm not
17 sure if Anne wants to jump in, but I do
18 know that if there's a conversation that
19 we're going to have as a City, then we
20 should be talking about the
21 professionalization and the policies and
22 practices of those organizations to make
23 sure they're meeting a certain standard
24 as well. But I'm sorry, Anne.

25 MS. FADULLON: No, I think

1 that's right. We do provide training to
2 RCOs and we provide a lot of support for
3 RCOs. But the Councilman is right,
4 they're not as well-resourced as some of
5 the private developers, and it's just a
6 complicated issue, right. I think we
7 ran into some issues with Risk
8 Management about how to even ensure --
9 there's almost close to 300 RCOs and
10 sort of where do you draw that liability
11 line and how much of the responsibility
12 of the action of the RCOs is the City
13 able to take on. I just think a lot of
14 those issues haven't been worked
15 through, right. How do you make
16 something like that actually operational
17 and feasible, and I think those are
18 things that have to be looked at.

19 So in the meantime, we've been
20 trying to provide as much support as we
21 can to RCOs. And I will say even a
22 bigger issue for us often times is the
23 relationship amongst the RCOs and
24 navigating that. And so, I do think
25 folks are doing this on their volunteer

1 time. Particularly in certain
2 neighborhoods, they have a lot of
3 development going on. It's a lot to ask
4 of an RCO. To Jim Engler's point, once
5 you sort of take a step on this, you're
6 really all the way in and you kind of
7 have to figure out how you're going to
8 support that whole system.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: So I've
10 experienced, and I've been lucky, in
11 most of my civic RCOs they have clearly
12 defined territories. In some cases,
13 there's some overlap. There's some
14 arguments about it, but it is a
15 legitimate argument that should be had
16 because whether they win, whether they
17 lose, it's a part of good civic and
18 community planning. It's when they have
19 to go broke doing it that I worry about.

20 And once you wear down a civic
21 and wear down an RCO and they just stop
22 coming to meetings, they just roll over
23 for whatever development we have, we are
24 a poorer City forward. So we have to
25 give some balance to it.

1 I see my colleague Gauthier.
2 She's getting ready to speak about it,
3 but that's what I feel. That's just my
4 personal opinion. All right.

5 Thank you, Mr. President.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

7 Thank you, Councilman.

8 Chair recognizes Councilwoman
9 Gauthier.

10 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
11 you, Council President. I was not going
12 to speak about RCOs, but I support that
13 point and certainly the same thing
14 applies in the 3rd District.

15 To the Administration, thank
16 you for proposing capital funds for the
17 Philadelphia Zoo. Cultural
18 institutions, especially outdoor family-
19 friendly and neighborhood destinations
20 like the Zoo are key to our City's
21 recovery. I understand that the Zoo is
22 seeking more capital funds than is
23 currently proposed in this budget, and
24 that the Administration's prepandemic
25 proposed budget included additional

1 funds for the zoo.

2 In light of this, is the
3 Administration open to ongoing
4 conversations about the right level of
5 capital funding for the zoo?

6 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: Thank
7 you, Councilmember. I often call the
8 first budget that the Mayor proposed in
9 March of 2020 my favorite budget of all
10 time because it lasted about three days
11 before the pandemic hit, and it did
12 include substantial capital resources
13 for the Zoo. And we're obviously open
14 to more of those conversations.

15 We've met with the Zoo's
16 leadership and are really excited about
17 the plans that they have there, and the
18 budget team was also able to go out
19 there and visit some of the recent
20 capital improvements they were able to
21 make because of the funds the City has
22 provided. So I look forward to
23 continuing to work with you and all of
24 Council throughout the budget process to
25 figure out the right level for all of

1 our cultural institutions.

2 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
3 you so much.

4 My next question is for the
5 Commerce Director. Can you explain what
6 the Neighborhood Commercial Corridor
7 Center line item in the Commerce budget
8 is for, and can you also delineate the
9 amount of planned expenditures for FY23
10 and identify the commercial corridors
11 where those funds will be spent in FY23?

12 MS. NADOL: I apologize,
13 Councilwoman. I did not hear your
14 question. You froze on my screen, so
15 would you mind repeating it? I
16 apologize.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Oh, no
18 problem. Can you talk more about the
19 Neighborhood Commercial Corridor Center
20 line item in the Commerce budget? Can
21 you delineate the amount of planned
22 expenditures for FY23 as it relates to
23 that line item and can you identify the
24 commercial corridors where those funds
25 will be spent in FY23?

1 MS. NADOL: I'm going to ask
2 Deputy Karen Fegley to go into some
3 detail on that since she's got the
4 information right at (inaudible).

5 MS. FEGLEY: Karen Fegley,
6 Deputy Commerce Director.

7 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Hi,
8 Karen.

9 MS. FEGLEY: So thank you for
10 asking about this, Councilwoman. As you
11 know, we maintain the Neighborhood
12 Commercial Centers' line items so that
13 we can carry out streetscape and
14 beautification improvement projects in
15 neighborhood commercial corridors.

16 We recently finished up a
17 handful of projects and have a few more
18 in design. In FY23 we are expecting and
19 projecting that three projects will go
20 into construction, and that is the
21 Broad, Germantown and Eerie project;
22 Cottman and the Boulevard; and Mt. Airy
23 pedestrian crossings.

24 The way we plan out our
25 projects is I know, Council knows and

1 sometimes is frustrated by, these are
2 multi-year projects where we start the
3 design of a project, we start with
4 conceptual design, and then we go into
5 engineering and final design, and then
6 we go into construction. So we have our
7 project scheduled out where we are
8 trying to start one project a year so
9 that we have a continuous pipeline to
10 make sure that there is always activity
11 and that we are always making some
12 progress around the City. We have a
13 long pipeline.

14 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Okay.

15 Thanks so much. And then lastly, I just
16 wanted to support Majority Leader
17 Parker's and Councilmember Gilmore
18 Richardson's comments around the
19 importance of a really defined and
20 focused and robust workforce development
21 strategy.

22 So much of the development
23 that's happening in the 3rd District is
24 driven by life sciences, so we're seeing
25 the development happen fast and

1 furiously. But I can't help but think
2 that we do not have the corresponding
3 workforce development strategy that will
4 help to get people in our neighborhoods
5 into those jobs. And I have the sense
6 that within many life sciences companies
7 there are pipelines where people don't
8 necessarily have to have a degree or
9 Ph.D. But with some training, they can
10 make a family-sustaining wage.

11 And I just feel like if we
12 don't figure out what this strategy
13 looks like right now, the train is going
14 to pass us by like it does with so many
15 other industries, especially when we're
16 talking about our most vulnerable
17 residents. So just wanted to be on
18 record just expressing my support for
19 that important issue.

20 MS. NADOL: Thank you.

21 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: And I'm
22 done. Thank you, Council President.

23 MS. FADULLON: Sorry. If I can
24 jump in there really quickly,
25 Councilwoman. I just want to let you

1 know that actually this morning staff
2 went on a tour with Community College of
3 Philadelphia trying to work with them to
4 identify a training facility because
5 you're exactly right, the impression
6 about life sciences is that everybody's
7 got a Ph.D. biotech degree.

8 And, yes, there is that, but
9 also a majority of the jobs are lab
10 techs and we can definitely jump on that
11 and train that workforce and get -- I
12 think the goal frankly is to have the
13 best delivery service in the country to
14 train that workforce and get those jobs.
15 And that's how we're going to really
16 attract the life sciences here and get
17 those quality jobs.

18 And in particular, those are
19 exactly the types of jobs that our
20 residents can be trained for. They
21 don't necessarily need higher degrees
22 and all of these other things. And so,
23 we've been doing outreach with the high
24 schools, with CCP, with the other folks.
25 We've actually been working with

1 Pittsburgh to sort of have a joint, you
2 know, how do we attract this industry
3 here together, but staff development is
4 going to be the key and look forward to
5 working with all of Council and the
6 Administration to further our efforts,
7 because I think you're right, this is a
8 huge opportunity for us. So thank you
9 for bringing that up.

10 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
11 you so much. I'm excited to hear that
12 and looking forward to supporting that
13 work and participating in it. Thanks.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
15 (Muted). Thank you. I'm sorry about
16 that. Thank you, Councilwoman, and
17 thank you, Ms. Fadullon.

18 Chair recognizes Councilwoman
19 Gym.

20 (No response.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
22 Okay. Can you hear me?

23 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

24 RICHARDSON: I can hear you, CP.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Oh,

1 I'm sorry. I thought it was me. Chair
2 recognizes Councilwoman Gym. Can you
3 hear me?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Councilwoman Gym, you're not here?

7 You're not on?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Okay.

10 We'll go to Councilwoman Gilmore

11 Richardson.

12 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

13 RICHARDSON: Well, thank you so much,

14 Council President.

15 I wanted to thank my
16 colleagues, our Majority Leader
17 Councilmember Parker and Councilmember
18 Gauthier for talking about workforce
19 development, which is something that we
20 all know that I deeply care about. And
21 I want to circle back to workforce
22 development because I've been having a
23 number of meetings over the last year
24 about this and just about our overall
25 labor market forecast both in the short-

1 term and in the long-term and how we are
2 creating meaningful partnerships to
3 really ensure that we can either reskill
4 or upskill or provide skills to
5 Philadelphians so that they can get into
6 some of these positions.

7 And I will be honest with you,
8 I have found that most everyone means
9 well and I know they are doing the very
10 best that they can. But if we really
11 want to make a sizable dent in this
12 issue and provide not only skills but
13 opportunity for a number of
14 Philadelphians in a number of these
15 industries, we have to be intentional
16 about this work.

17 And so, what I found is that a
18 lot of folks will say, we're doing
19 internships and we're doing career
20 exposure and we're really doing \$15 an
21 hour internships and that is all
22 wonderful and I think it's great,
23 particularly for career exposure.

24 But if we really want our
25 residents in these jobs, we have to

1 create direct pipelines to these
2 employment opportunities. It's not
3 going to happen by happenstance and it
4 will not happen if you hope and wish
5 that the companies will create these
6 pipelines. We have to do it in
7 partnership and together.

8 And so, I want to start
9 internally from a City perspective and
10 then circle out to working on a more
11 external strategy around actual
12 partnerships the City is developing with
13 educational institutions and workforce
14 development organizations to create
15 pipelines into City employment, and if
16 you could provide me with a detailed
17 list of partners as well as the outcome
18 of all of these programs.

19 And then your testimony states
20 that your office will work with City
21 departments to develop tools to track
22 and improve diversity in hiring,
23 retention and promotion. Can you speak
24 about these tools, how they will be
25 implemented and how transparent your

1 office will be with City Council around
2 the results?

3 And finally, how is your office
4 planning to work with the incoming
5 Superintendent Mr. Watlington to align
6 the School District's curriculum so that
7 our young people are prepared to begin
8 careers with the City of Philadelphia?

9 I've worked with these offices since
10 becoming a member of Council and
11 previously, but I found that we have to
12 take a real hard look at those 180
13 programs so that we can assure they
14 align with the opportunities we know
15 will be in the City of Philadelphia.
16 And I don't want to take up all of my
17 time because I have another question.

18 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: So I'll
19 say that we're happy to provide all of
20 that information to you, Councilwoman.
21 I think one of the prime programs I
22 would mention is the partnership between
23 CCP and L&I for inspectors, which I know
24 is an issue you've raised a couple of
25 times today and is an area of focus I

1 think building out that partnership.

2 I did let a couple of the

3 Education folks off the call because

4 they had a meeting. So I think the

5 partnership with Dr. Watlington coming

6 into the School District, we're looking

7 to build on. I don't know if there's

8 other folks here that can jump in for

9 questions or if you want to just take it

10 offline and we can bring it up again

11 when we come back for individual

12 departmental hearings.

13 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

14 RICHARDSON: Okay. Well, we can take

15 that conversation offline since the

16 Education folks are not here, but I

17 wanted to get that on the record. Also

18 wanted to quickly say that I am

19 supportive of the efforts for capital

20 improvements at the Philadelphia Zoo,

21 and wanted to ask about the Film Office

22 because of their residual impact for the

23 City. What is the current funding in

24 this proposed budget for the Film

25 Office?

1 MS. WAXMAN: I'm sorry. My
2 camera has flipped off. For FY22, there
3 was one-time funding of \$100,000 for the
4 Film Office. Obviously, through this
5 process we talk about those Class 500
6 contributions and continue to talk with
7 Councilmembers about what might be right
8 for FY23.

9 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

10 RICHARDSON: Okay. I'll certainly
11 circle back to you about that.

12 And I quickly wanted to ask Rob
13 Dubow a question. Something happened
14 about a week or two ago with an
15 inversion of the Treasury yield curve in
16 the bond market and is typically an
17 indicator for a potential recession.
18 How are you tracking the inversion that
19 just occurred and how are you all making
20 plans for the City, particularly around
21 thinking about our fund balance and
22 where we'll be, knowing that it will be
23 lower than where we need it to be?

24 MR. DUBOW: Right. So I'll get
25 this wrong, but yield inversions have

1 predicted something like 12 of the last
2 six Depressions -- I mean, recessions.
3 So it's an indicator, but it's not
4 always right. It's saying that the bond
5 market thinks that the Fed is going to
6 jump up rates in the short-term and in
7 the long-term those rates will have gone
8 down so that you're paying more for
9 short-term interest. So it's one
10 indicator that the markets are worried
11 that there will be a downturn.

12 And so, it's clearly something
13 that we need to keep laser-focused on
14 because the Fed is clearly also going to
15 take some actions this year to increase
16 rates, and we've seen that they've done
17 things this week that jittered the
18 market and the market's kind of been
19 going down today and a little bit
20 yesterday because of that. So it's
21 something that we have to keep an eye
22 on.

23 It is why we like to have a
24 fund balance that's at least 6 to 8
25 percent of our revenues so that we have

1 some cushion. We have some fund balance
2 early on, but late in the Plan after the
3 fund balance goes away, it's a problem.
4 We keep our eye on it. We can't stick
5 our heads in the sand like an ostrich
6 because it is a problem that we're going
7 to have to make sure we keep an eye on.

8 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

9 RICHARDSON: Well, the reason why I
10 bring it up is because typically in the
11 past when we've seen inversions in the
12 yield curve, we have not had the
13 confluence of activity that we see now
14 with record-high inflation with the job
15 market being where it is and difficulty
16 with hiring, and just everything that
17 we've seen going on even in the real
18 estate market. All these activities are
19 happening at the same time.

20 And my concern is if you look
21 at the Five Year Plan as proposed, I
22 don't know that we have enough in the
23 fund balance to protect the City from
24 anything that may or may not occur,
25 particularly if borrowing costs are

1 higher than what we thought they would
2 be at the onset of this plan or even in
3 the previous fiscal year. So I just
4 want to put that on the record as
5 something that we have to continue to
6 look at as we move forward.

7 Thank you, Council President.

8 MR. DUBOW: I think that's a
9 really important point. I think low
10 fund balances have dogged us for a
11 while. We do try to put things like the
12 recession reserve in to give us a little
13 bit of cushion. We are able at one
14 point during the Plan to put money in
15 the Budget Stabilization Reserve Fund,
16 so there are some other things in the
17 Plan. But I agree with you that that's
18 something that is a major concern.

19 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

20 RICHARDSON: Okay. Well, thank you
21 very, very much. And I will certainly
22 circle back to you about that, okay,
23 because that just happened about a week
24 and a half ago.

25 Thank you, CP.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

2 Thank you, Councilwoman.

3 I want to follow up on that
4 conversation a little bit with the
5 Councilwoman with respect to the low
6 fund balances. I was going to kind of
7 let this go, but since it came up, this
8 whole notion of putting 300 million in
9 operating dollars in capital in the Six
10 Year Capital Plan, why are we doing that
11 if we're concerned about low fund
12 balances in outyears?

13 MR. DUBOW: There's 60 million
14 that we want to use as matching funds
15 for the IIJA, so we have competing
16 constraints on our financial condition.
17 Another one of the issues we face is
18 that we have high fixed costs. So if
19 you look at the combination of pension
20 costs, debt service, other fixed costs,
21 that's like albatross on our finances.
22 So they take well over 20 percent of our
23 budget that limits our flexibility. So
24 we do also like to look for ways not to
25 increase our fixed costs, so that is one

1 of the reasons that we're looking at
2 that 60 million as a way to avoid
3 borrowing. And there are trade-offs. I
4 mean, I understand your point.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Yeah. Well, the fixed costs, are you
7 talking about debt service payments? In
8 terms of a fixed cost --

9 MR. DUBOW: Yes. We borrow
10 through that instead of using operating
11 money.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
13 right. But based on the outyears --
14 well, that's right, it will be a new
15 Administration. But there's the
16 potential that they may shift back the
17 other way, so it could potentially shift
18 away from committing that kind of
19 dollars. Well, I shouldn't even be
20 asking these questions because this is
21 not a six-year outyear strategy.

22 I just was wondering because we
23 were expressing our concerns about this
24 fund balance, but yet we're committing
25 300 mil for operating costs. But you're

1 concerned about the debt service. I
2 don't necessarily agree with that. But
3 okay, that's fine.

4 MR. DUBOW: Yeah. I mean, it's
5 a balancing act.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
7 Councilman Jones said he had one last
8 question.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: My last
10 question is I appreciate under the
11 Capital Budget that you are looking at
12 our facility in the 39th District to
13 renovate, but I would have to question
14 why the 5th and the 19th aren't being
15 looked at this year to upgrade? I think
16 I recall doing graffiti on the cell
17 block back then, I bet it's still up on
18 the wall.

19 I need to know why they can't
20 get upgraded pumps. The pumps there are
21 probably dangerous. Can we get someone
22 take a look at expediting that?

23 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: I'm not
24 sure if the Public Property Commissioner
25 is still on.

1 COUNCILMAN JONES: They don't
2 like my questions. I'm trying to tell
3 you, Pres.

4 COMMISSIONER GREENWALD: I'm
5 on. For some reason I can't get my mic
6 to work. Can you see me?

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: We
8 can hear you.

9 COMMISSIONER GREENWALD: Okay.
10 Do you just see my hand? Okay. There I
11 am. Okay. Councilman, so you may
12 remember a few years back we
13 commissioned a mass service facilities
14 plan for all police and fire stations.
15 The 39th is at the top of that list
16 right now. I will get together for you
17 all the changes, all the renovations we
18 had made at the 5th. And what was the
19 other one you said? I heard the 5th and
20 then I got cut off.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: The 19th.

22 COMMISSIONER GREENWALD: Okay.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Member
24 Gilmore knows that's one of our
25 hotspots. They get a lot of activity.

1 Somebody in that PSA will get shot every
2 28 days, so they get a lot of activity.
3 They need a lot of help.

4 COMMISSIONER GREENWALD: Okay.
5 I'll let you know what we're exactly
6 doing with those two districts. But the
7 39th, the reason it came up because it
8 is actually the number one based on the
9 Plan, so I'll give you the info on the
10 other two.

11 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

12 RICHARDSON: Point of information,
13 Council Pres --

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you so
15 much. That was my last question, sir.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

17 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Gilmore
18 Richardson.

19 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

20 RICHARDSON: I just wanted to concur
21 with my colleague Councilmember Curtis
22 Jones, Jr., relative to the 5th District
23 and the 19th Police District. I was
24 actually over in the 19th about three
25 weeks ago, and I concur with his

1 comments and support for both the 5th
2 and the 19th. Okay. And I was actually
3 with the 5th this past weekend at the
4 PDAC event. So thank you very, very
5 much.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

7 Thank you. Thank you, Councilwoman.

8 And thank you, Councilman.

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

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

14 There being none, this Committee will
15 stand in recess until April 13th at
16 10:00 a.m. at which time we will
17 reconvene on Microsoft Teams. I want to
18 thank you all very much and thank the
19 Administration. This is the beginning
20 of our six-week annual process. Thank
21 you guys. Talk to you later.

22 CHIEF OF STAFF ENGLER: Thank
23 you.

24 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

25 RICHARDSON: Thank you, CP.

1 (Committee of the Whole
2 concluded at 4:45 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, hereby certify that the
proceedings and evidence noted are contained
fully and accurately in the stenographic notes
taken by me in the foregoing matter, and that
this is a correct transcript of the same.

TANEHA CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

(The foregoing certification of
this transcript does not apply to any
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