

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, May 3, 2011
2:40 p.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL
COUNCILMAN DARRELL CLARKE
COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.
COUNCILMAN BILL GREEN
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM K. GREENLEE
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER
COUNCILWOMAN MARIA D. QUINONES-SANCHEZ
COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN
COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO

BILLS 110135, 110136, 110137 and 110138
RESOLUTION 110161

- - -

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This
3 is a continued public hearing of the
4 Committee of the Whole.

5 I would ask Mr. McPherson to
6 please read the bills and resolutions to
7 be considered today.

8 MR. MCPHERSON: Resolution
9 110161, the Five Year Plan; Bill No.
10 110135, the Capital Program for Fiscals
11 2012 through 2017; Bill No. 110136, the
12 Capital Budget for Fiscal 2012; Bill No.
13 110137, the Operating Budget for 2012;
14 and Bill No. 110138, which adjusted the
15 wage tax.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
17 you.

18 Our first witness -- oh, I'm
19 sorry. We do have quite a list of
20 witnesses that would like to testify.
21 With that being said, we would like to
22 give everybody the opportunity to be
23 heard. Therefore, I am suggesting that
24 everybody be given three minutes to
25 testify. We do have a timer up here. So

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2 when you hear the clicker or the buzz,
3 that means your time is up, so I would
4 appreciate your trying to abbreviate your
5 statements thereafter.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. McPHERSON: Our first
8 witness is Tom Kaiden.

9 (Witness approached witness
10 table.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good
12 afternoon. Welcome. Please identify
13 yourself for the record and proceed with
14 your testimony.

15 MR. KAIDEN: Great. I'm Tom
16 Kaiden from the Greater Philadelphia
17 Cultural Alliance.

18 Good afternoon, Council
19 President Verna and members of City
20 Council. I want to begin my testimony
21 with a question. If we could attract an
22 industry to this region that would
23 generate 40,000 jobs, pump \$1.3 billion
24 into our local economy and generate \$150
25 million in local tax revenues and educate

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2 our kids to compete in the 21st century,
3 would we go after it? Well, we don't
4 have to, because it's already here. That
5 industry is arts and culture, and it's a
6 distinct competitive advantage for our
7 city and one which I'm urging you to
8 maintain the City's relatively small
9 investment in the Philadelphia Cultural
10 Fund that equates to \$1.10 per citizen
11 per year.

12 Now, I'm keenly aware of the
13 pressure on the City's budget this year
14 and of the temptation to view culture as
15 a discretionary item that may be cut to
16 balance the budget, but in my few minutes
17 with you today, I'd like to explain why
18 culture is anything but discretionary and
19 how the small investment we make in arts
20 and culture right now is advancing a host
21 of civic initiatives, from employment to
22 education, public safety to community
23 development, quality of life to civic
24 pride.

25 The Cultural Alliance, of which

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2 I'm President, represents over 400
3 regional arts and cultural institutions.
4 Almost three-quarters of them are in
5 Philadelphia County. And many of them
6 were out on Broad Street this past
7 Saturday, along with about 100,000 of our
8 citizens, to enjoy the Philadelphia
9 International Festival of the Arts street
10 fair. It was a great day and a reminder
11 of arts potential to elevate our lives
12 and unite us across cultures.

13 But culture's impact the other
14 364 days of the year is just as vital. I
15 began my testimony talking about 40,000
16 jobs and \$150 million in tax revenues
17 that we generate, but arts and culture is
18 not just about growing the economy, it's
19 also about growing our communities.

20 This past January, the Cultural
21 Alliance conducted a survey of our
22 membership to find out ways in which
23 people are working, and of the 145
24 organizations that completed the survey,
25 almost half are working in education, a

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2 third were working on anti-blight
3 programs and environmental issues, a
4 quarter were working on aging concerns
5 and many others have programs that
6 address the health of residents, hunger
7 and nutrition issues and homelessness.
8 And this isn't a new aspect of their
9 programming. Many of these organizations
10 have been working in this way for over
11 ten years.

12 I'd like to share with you a
13 couple of stories. First, that of
14 Marquis Herring, who is one of
15 Philadelphia Young Playwrights' recent
16 successes. While a teenager, Marquis was
17 living with his family in a homeless
18 shelter where violence was an everyday
19 problem. He courageously gave voice to
20 his experiences in the play "The Choices
21 We Make" that highlights the value of
22 family, self and life. Young Playwrights
23 mounted his play at the Suzanne Roberts
24 Theatre in 2008. He went to study
25 English and Theatre at Lock Haven

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2 University and today is happily married
3 and attending culinary school. He
4 continues to write and he also mentors
5 younger playwrights. And he says of his
6 experience, "Play writing became a way
7 for me to have some control in a world
8 where I usually would have absolutely no
9 other control. I could have given up on
10 myself and stopped trying, but I didn't.
11 I told myself that I would let my
12 situation make me, not break me, and that
13 has made all the difference on my road to
14 being the person I am today."

15 So let me wrap up my testimony
16 by just saying that on behalf of all the
17 institutions and residents, we urge you
18 to maintain support of the Philadelphia
19 Cultural Fund at \$1.6 million, an amount
20 that works out to just \$1.10 for every
21 citizen of the City over the course of
22 the entire year. I hope that you'll
23 agree that based on all the impacts we've
24 just discussed, it's an investment that
25 yields a huge economic, educational and

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2 civic return.

3 Thank you.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
5 you very much. We do appreciate your
6 coming in to testify.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
9 you.

10 Our next witness?

11 MR. McPherson: Nancy
12 Goldenberg.

13 (Witnesses approached witness
14 table.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It's
16 nice seeing both of you.

17 Please proceed with your
18 testimony.

19 MS. Goldenberg: Thank you.

20 Good afternoon. My name is Nancy
21 Goldenberg. I'm the Chair of the
22 Philadelphia Commission on Parks and
23 Recreation, and joining me is my
24 colleague, Pete Hoskins. Together, we
25 represent the 15-member Commission, and

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2 we thank you for this opportunity to
3 testify in support of the Fiscal Year
4 2012 proposed budget for the Department
5 of Parks and Rec. The proposed budget of
6 a little over \$46 million is essentially
7 flat to last year, with approximately
8 \$180,000 increase to support a complete
9 season of swimming pool operations.

10 In my testimony last year, I
11 said that becoming the greenest city in
12 America, as Mayor Nutter declared in
13 Greenworks Philadelphia, is an auspicious
14 goal, but it is achievable. Today, I
15 worry that unless we work harder together
16 to bring more resources to the
17 Department, we will fall short of this
18 goal.

19 This is not to diminish the
20 remarkable work on the part of the
21 leadership of the Department.
22 Commissioner DiBerardinis and his team
23 are to be congratulated on merging two
24 departments, on building a solid mission
25 based upon community consensus, on

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2 delivering new visionary programs for
3 youth, seniors and those with special
4 needs. And they're to be commended for
5 their innovation in environmental
6 stewardship and care for the physical and
7 historic assets of the system. They're
8 to be commended also on securing millions
9 of federal, state and private resources
10 to make all this happen. The Department
11 continues to press forward on the
12 citywide goal of planting 300,000 new
13 trees, as well as forming strategic
14 partnerships to reach the goal of
15 acquiring 500 new acres of parkland.

16 The Commission on Parks and Rec
17 has been fully supportive of these
18 efforts and, with the support of City
19 Council and the Administration, recently
20 achieved passage of important legislation
21 to help ensure that our open spaces are
22 better protected. For the first time,
23 this city has in place new rules that
24 will provide a consistent, equitable and
25 transparent process to foster the

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2 protection of park and recreation land.

3 I'd like to once again thank you all for
4 your support and especially Councilwoman
5 Blondell Reynolds Brown for your tireless
6 support of the bill.

7 The Commission is now working
8 with the Department and key partners on
9 revenue enhancement strategies, which
10 you'll hear more about in the coming
11 weeks, and which, if Philadelphia is
12 truly committed to reclaiming its
13 position as a leader among the nation's
14 park systems, will require your support.

15 But all of this good work isn't
16 about just improving our park and
17 recreation system for its value as land
18 and in the enjoyment of people forever.
19 Of course we should do that, and that was
20 clearly the impetus behind the
21 legislation we just passed. It's also
22 about creating jobs, improving
23 sustainability, improving the health of
24 our citizens, attracting tourists and new
25 businesses, and retaining college

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2 students. Our park and recreation system
3 should be valued both as a remarkable
4 amenity and as an asset to the economic
5 competitiveness of this city.

6 There is an expression, If you
7 have it, flaunt it. We have an
8 incredible asset in this city and it's
9 our park and rec system, but we don't
10 flaunt it. We should, and we should do
11 so with conviction and passion. This
12 Commission is committed to working with
13 you, with Mayor Nutter and the Department
14 of Parks and Rec to increase public and
15 private-sector resources and to make our
16 park and rec system a true player in the
17 economy of the City and the daily
18 experience of every citizen of
19 Philadelphia.

20 Now I'd like to turn it over to
21 my colleague, Pete Hoskins.

22 MR. HOSKINS: Thank you, Nancy,
23 and also thank you, Madam President,
24 members of City Council. My name is Pete
25 Hoskins, and I am the Chair of the

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2 Revenue Enhancement Committee of the
3 Parks and Recreation Commission.

4 At last year's budget hearing,
5 we were pleased to support a \$3.2 million
6 increase in the allocation for Fairmount
7 Park. Unfortunately, much of that
8 increase was lost in citywide budget
9 cutbacks and positions unfilled in the
10 course of the budget year. Year to year;
11 that is, Fiscal 2010 to 2011, positions
12 actually filled increased by only four,
13 to 614. Proposed budget positions for
14 2012 are actually decreasing by 62,
15 nearly nine percent, from last year's
16 budget. Our parks, therefore, continue
17 to suffer from decades-long lack of
18 maintenance, and the dreams of
19 world-class parks Philadelphians still
20 wait for the commitments necessary to
21 make this possible.

22 The good news is that with
23 admirable initiative on the part of the
24 new leadership of Parks and Recreation,
25 we have secured important investments

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2 through grants totalling approximately
3 \$15 million from foundations and other
4 donors. In addition, the Department, the
5 new Commission on Parks and Recreation
6 and partners such as the Fairmount Park
7 Conservancy and Fairmount Park Historic
8 Preservation Trust have pressed forward
9 to develop new approaches to leveraging
10 private investments in our parks through
11 improved concessions, new lease
12 arrangements and, of course, more sources
13 of charitable support. In these efforts,
14 it is becoming ever clearer that there is
15 enormous support for Philadelphia's parks
16 as vital regional and neighborhood
17 assets.

18 That support, though, must be
19 leveraged through increased commitments
20 from public funds if the investment
21 strategy is to succeed. Donors need to
22 be assured that their dollars are adding
23 value, not replacing public dollars.

24 Over the past few months, the
25 Revenue Enhancement Committee members

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2 have interviewed people who are leading
3 successful models in cities around the
4 country - New York City, St. Louis, Los
5 Angeles, Portland and others. With few
6 exceptions, the models that work best are
7 those that promote partnerships between
8 the public and private sectors. Over the
9 next year, the new Commission will be
10 working with the new Department of Parks
11 and Recreation, along with key private
12 partners such as the Fairmount Park
13 Conservancy, to refine ways in which the
14 national best practices can be brought to
15 bear in our own city.

16 The groundbreaking study of the
17 economic impact of our parks completed in
18 2008 by the Trust for Public Land was
19 clear and compelling. Our parks add
20 enormous value in real dollars. Tax
21 revenues attributed to parks for
22 increased property values, tourism value
23 and real estate transfer tax is \$24
24 million. Cost savings for storm water
25 management and air pollution, as well as

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2 citizen investment of time and money
3 total another \$16 million. The value to
4 users of the park as for recreation and
5 health is calculated to be over \$1.1
6 billion.

7 We cannot ignore these kinds of
8 numbers, especially when the difference
9 between mediocre parks and great parks
10 for Philadelphia is a tiny fraction of
11 those benefits. We strongly support
12 Mayor Nutter's vision of making our Park
13 and Recreation Department the best in the
14 country, but it will take a significantly
15 greater public-sector commitment than we
16 have made to date.

17 Thank you very much.

18 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you
19 very much.

20 (Applause.)

21 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: The Chair
22 recognizes Councilman Jones.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
24 Madam Chair, and I promise I won't use
25 this mike too much today. We have a long

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2 agenda, but when I have Nancy and Pete at
3 the witness stand, I feel like I have
4 Philadelphia treasures and national
5 renowned park experts, so I'm going to
6 take advantage of it.

7 I just want a real quick
8 question. Are park houses, Benedict
9 Arnold's Mansion, Rittenhouse, Paper
10 Mill, other places like that, Ohio House,
11 Please Touch, that are really, really
12 adorning our park at this point, how well
13 are we doing marketing them to tourists,
14 conventions and others by way of -- I
15 kind of use the scenario that if you're
16 at the Marriott and you go left, you have
17 more of an adult entertainment venue, but
18 if you start going west through our
19 museums and into the Zoo and into some of
20 the homes, mansions that have been
21 restored, that you really can take away
22 from Philadelphia a really rich
23 experience.

24 How are we doing with that kind
25 of marketing and cross promotion with the

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2 convention and tourism industry?

3 MR. HOSKINS: Well, I think
4 that we're actually doing a very good job
5 of marketing Philadelphia and those kinds
6 of assets to tourists to Philadelphia. I
7 think we do a less better job of
8 marketing to ourselves and really
9 appreciating those assets ourselves.
10 Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing
11 Corp has done a very good job of
12 promoting the park assets. I think
13 they've done a very good job of that to
14 the tourists.

15 MS. GOLDENBERG: And the only
16 other thing I would add, I agree with
17 Pete. The GPTMC spent, several years
18 ago, a great deal of effort in creating a
19 website called "Boundless Philadelphia,"
20 which encompassed all the sort of natural
21 resources and historic resources of the
22 whole region for tourists, and it's very
23 successful. I do know that the
24 Commissioner has recently completed a
25 more focused look at the area from

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2 Northwestern Avenue to right here at City
3 Hall in terms of promoting that stretch
4 of park and city as a historic resource,
5 tourism resource, where you could spend a
6 whole day just going on that stretch of
7 the City through your district, and I
8 know he's about to roll that out. So
9 it's a very exciting vision.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: When you
11 think about the Japanese House and other
12 assets that we have, if we start to
13 promote them -- and I agree with you,
14 that we should visit -- I call it a
15 staycation, stay at home and really
16 vacation within the City of
17 Philadelphia's limits. And you're right,
18 you can spend several days moving from
19 that Zoo to the Mann and all of the
20 institutions in between with a
21 family-oriented kind of experience. So
22 we really do need to promote spending
23 some time in those assets. So I just
24 wanted to get your view of it.

25 And I thank you, Madam Chair.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you
3 very much.

4 Thank you very much for your
5 testimony. We appreciate you taking time
6 to come down.

7 MR. McPHERSON: Our next
8 witness is Shelly Yanoff.

9 (Witness approached witness
10 table.)

11 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Good
12 afternoon.

13 MS. YANOFF: Good afternoon.
14 It's me again. I'm Shelly Yanoff. I'm
15 Executive Director of Public Citizens for
16 Children and Youth. We're the region's
17 major child advocacy organization.
18 Although I'm here to testify specifically
19 about the proposed City budget, I want to
20 begin by suggesting what investments we
21 would like to see the City make which we
22 believe would make Philadelphia both a
23 destination city for newcomers and the
24 place that all of us native
25 Philadelphians want to proudly call home.

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2 We want the City to be a place
3 where all children who are born here have
4 access to healthcare, both through their
5 own private health insurance, CHIP or
6 Medical Assistance, as well as through
7 the public health centers. As you have
8 heard, there are long waiting lists in
9 those public health centers. We can do
10 better. Together --

11 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Shelly,
12 would you speak into the mike, please.

13 MS. YANOFF: I'm sorry. Sure.

14 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Pull it
15 down. Thank you.

16 MS. YANOFF: As you've heard,
17 there are long waiting lists in many of
18 those health centers. We can do better.
19 Together, let's look at the kinds of
20 incentives we might provide to secure
21 more nurses and physicians to work in
22 those health centers, and then we would
23 be cutting out -- cutting the waiting
24 list.

25 As you know, the City has made

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2 major strides in protecting kids from the
3 devastating impact of lead poisoning,
4 with many of your leadership. We commend
5 the City's work in lead-safe babies, in
6 supporting Lead Court and in quickly
7 removing lead hazards. But today there
8 are currently more than 300 homes that
9 have been identified as having hazards
10 that have poisoned children. We must
11 somehow clear up this backlog and expand
12 our efforts so that we can prevent
13 children from ever being poisoned in the
14 first place. Working together with all
15 levels of government, we should be able
16 to remove this scourge and make it clear
17 that our children should not be put at
18 risk in dangerous homes. We will be
19 saving lives and funds when lead
20 poisoning is yesterday's, not today's,
21 nightmare.

22 Concerning health, finally, we
23 want to urge the City consider increasing
24 the funding for the City's community
25 behavioral health centers so that

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2 treatment is available for even uninsured
3 children.

4 The City's babies and toddlers
5 should have access to quality care,
6 allowing parents to work knowing that
7 their children are safe and becoming
8 school ready. In the City, there is a
9 very real shortage of infant programs and
10 a waiting list of almost 5,000 families
11 for subsidized childcare. The potential
12 elimination of full-day kindergarten is
13 yet another threat to our children and
14 families. What kinds of incentives might
15 we together think about to encourage
16 business partnerships to support early
17 childhood programs as they grow their
18 businesses to help grow the City's
19 children? What kinds of local government
20 actions could we link together that would
21 support early childhood programs as we
22 develop other commercial interests? In
23 other years, we've talked about tying
24 development incentives to early childhood
25 programs. Other cities have done so. We

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2 should as well.

3 We want all our kids to be able
4 to go to schools that prepare them for a
5 successful world of work, citizenship and
6 family responsibility. As you well know,
7 there are many successes and many
8 failures in our schools. There have been
9 major advances in student achievement
10 recently and in stemming the dropout
11 rate, but we need to do much more and
12 much better than we have thus far, and as
13 you well know, we're facing very serious
14 threats.

15 As we look at the massive
16 cutbacks that are being considered in the
17 schools, we ask that the City take
18 responsibility for some of the
19 programming that up to this time has been
20 provided and funded by the District.
21 This could either be in considering a tax
22 increase for the schools or the
23 assumption of some services that
24 currently are part of the School
25 District's funding responsibility. We

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2 ask that the City support, temporarily at
3 least, the bussing costs that the
4 District is considering cutting. We
5 don't believe transporting kids to school
6 is an academic issue, but not providing
7 transportation will hurt kids and
8 families, increase the number of kids who
9 are truant and the number who drop out.
10 The lack of transportation will act as a
11 tax on the very working people who are
12 the lifeblood of the City. It will also
13 end up making a mockery of the idea of
14 any school choice. We urge the City
15 undertake some kind of relief in this
16 way, whether temporarily or permanently.

17 We, of course, all want our
18 kids to be able to enjoy the security of
19 a strong family relationship. We note
20 that this city's child welfare system has
21 made enormous progress in the last
22 several years in providing preventive
23 care, in keeping families together and
24 providing needed support, in working with
25 the School District to particularly watch

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2 out for the education of kids who are
3 placed outside of their homes, in
4 supporting after-school and summer
5 programs for children and youth in
6 high-risk neighborhoods. We need to
7 build on these advances. We recognize
8 that the support for much of this work is
9 derived from the state, from the Human
10 Services Development Fund, whose future,
11 as you know, is at serious risk today.
12 These programs must not be allowed to
13 disappear. The loss of HSDF dollars
14 would cause a severe blow to recreation,
15 after-school, library and homeless
16 programming. We can't let it happen.
17 Again, temporary fines or tax increases
18 may be required just to get us through
19 this bad time.

20 We can look to doing more and
21 doing better even in difficult times.
22 Your past courage in increasing the sales
23 and property taxes and supporting the
24 moratorium on the phasing out of the part
25 of the business tax has resulted in the

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2 City being in a far better position than
3 many others that are facing catastrophic
4 cuts in vital services. We commend you
5 for that, for saving the libraries, for
6 saving after-school programs, for
7 supporting the summer jobs campaigns in
8 the past, and we urge you to do a repeat
9 performance. As you well know, we're
10 facing the possibility of severe cuts
11 from the state all over the map, and
12 although we hope and are working so that
13 they don't materialize, we probably will
14 face cuts in many areas that will require
15 more support from the City. We commend
16 you in advance for your work in building
17 toward a city that supports all its
18 people generally and particularly its
19 children and families.

20 We're not there yet, but we can
21 be a city on the hill, but for right now,
22 we must work together to protect the
23 advances that have been made. So we urge
24 you to watch out, continue watching out
25 for children in changing times. We

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2 recognize your choices are difficult, but
3 so too are the lives of too many of the
4 children who live in the City. They look
5 to you for protection. We urge you to
6 provide it.

7 Thank you.

8 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you
9 very much. We appreciate your testimony.

10 (Applause.)

11 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0:
12 Councilwoman Brown, you have your light
13 on. Would you like to ask questions?

14 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Yes.
15 Thank you.

16 Good afternoon.

17 MS. YANOFF: Good afternoon,
18 Councilwoman.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And thank
20 you for your unwavering support of our
21 city's children.

22 MS. YANOFF: Thank you. And
23 thank you for yours.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: We still
25 have a lot of work to do.

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2 MS. YANOFF: We do.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: With
4 regards to the lead issue, we learned
5 during budget testimony from, I believe
6 it was, Health that those dollars from
7 the state have been cut. So I'll look
8 forward to working with your office and
9 figure out how we weave our way through
10 that in spite of the cuts from the state.
11 That was just not something neither one
12 of us expected as we were looking to have
13 hearings on the lead bill.

14 Secondly, can you speak to any
15 best practices of cities around the
16 country that have actually linked where
17 the municipality or a business has linked
18 with a childcare provider and have
19 figured out a way to ensure that the
20 waiting list for childcare is simply not
21 long.

22 MS. YANOFF: Well, as San
23 Francisco and San Diego have both
24 encouraged when businesses come to work
25 out what they're going to get from the

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2 city in exchange for moving there, that
3 childcare, providing childcare, as part
4 of their commitment to building new
5 buildings is part of it. Other places
6 have given some kind of tax credit for
7 newcomers to the city who are starting
8 new industries if they support childcare
9 programming.

10 So there are ways. And then,
11 of course, you have places like PNC that
12 encourages other businesses to indeed
13 provide free childcare to their
14 employees, but we need to spread that
15 much more.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Well, PNC
17 is just a natural leader with a ten-year
18 commitment that way.

19 MS. YANOFF: That's right.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay.
21 That's helpful to know, and in that,
22 signals opportunity.

23 MS. YANOFF: I think there's a
24 lot of collaborative opportunities, if we
25 could just say we're going to figure them

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2 out somehow.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay,

4 then.

5 MS. YANOFF: Not just say, no,

6 we can't.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Well,

8 we'll have a subsequent sit-down.

9 MS. YANOFF: Great. Thank you.

10 And I want to thank you for your

11 leadership on lead paint poison

12 prevention.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: You're

14 welcome.

15 Thank you, Madam Chair.

16 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you.

17 Are there any questions of this

18 witness?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you

21 for coming, Shelly. We appreciate your

22 advocacy for children, as always. The

23 only thing I need you to answer for me --

24 and not today -- is how do we pay for all

25 of this. Thank you very much.

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 MS. YANOFF: Yes. Yes.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. McPHERSON: Our next
5 witness is Cheryl Brubaker.

6 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: We remind
7 you that you have three minutes. So if
8 you have long testimony, we ask you to
9 summarize it. We have a long, long list
10 of witnesses. So we need the meat of
11 your topic of your presentation and we
12 don't necessarily need the dessert.

13 (Witness approached witness
14 table.)

15 MS. BRUBAKER: Good
16 afternoon --

17 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Good
18 afternoon.

19 MS. BRUBAKER: -- members of
20 City Council. My name is Cheryl Brubaker
21 and I'm the Director of Development at
22 Women Against Abuse.

23 I am aware that caring for the
24 needs of domestic violence survivors in
25 Philadelphia is a priority for City

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 Council, and we are grateful for your
3 history of support and your partnership
4 in our work. I am here today to ask that
5 City Council maintain level funding for
6 the Office of Supportive Housing. The
7 Office of Supportive Housing provides 60
8 percent of the funding for the Women
9 Against Abuse emergency shelter.

10 Women Against Abuse is the
11 largest domestic violence program in
12 Pennsylvania and serves more than 12,000
13 individuals each year through direct
14 service and community education programs.
15 Since we operate the only emergency
16 shelter in Philadelphia for abused women
17 and their children, as well as a
18 transitional housing program for domestic
19 violence victims, we have a unique
20 front-row view of the housing needs of
21 one of Philadelphia's most vulnerable
22 populations. We see the difference that
23 shelter and housing makes for families
24 that have had to flee their homes to
25 escape from violence. We see how safety

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 and stability can empower a family to
3 overcome the most difficult of obstacles
4 to embrace lives of hope and
5 independence.

6 I can only assume that you as
7 our City leaders may be a bit weary of
8 dire budget stories, but there is no way
9 to say what I have to say without it
10 sounding dire, because we know that when
11 we turn someone away because we have no
12 room in our shelter, it can have dire
13 results.

14 Last fiscal year, we turned
15 away nearly 6,000 requests for emergency
16 shelter because our 100-bed facility was
17 filled to capacity, 5,991 to be exact.
18 This is significantly higher than any
19 other domestic violence shelter in
20 Pennsylvania.

21 The good news is that in spite
22 of budget cuts, 12,000 individuals were
23 touched by Women Against Abuse services
24 in the last year, and of these, 5,925
25 were survivors who were directly impacted

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 by violence. Five thousand nine hundred
3 and twenty-five survivors were given the
4 opportunity for safety and recovery from
5 trauma.

6 We don't always know the
7 difference we've made until many years
8 later, and this point was driven home to
9 me recently when Kimberly -- and she
10 wanted me to use her name -- a former
11 client of Women Against Abuse, contacted
12 us through our website, and this is what
13 she wrote.

14 "I was seven years old when my
15 mom said we were going to the Women
16 Against Abuse shelter. I was so happy
17 that she was leaving him. It was the
18 safest I felt in all my life. Being able
19 to sleep without worry about abuse was
20 something I can still feel. I just
21 wanted to say thank you, and I'm sure you
22 made this difference in lots of lives.
23 That was 30 years ago and it is still one
24 of my best memories."

25 Thank you for your part in

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.
2 making this difference for Kimberly.
3 Please continue to provide prioritized
4 funding for these needs so that we can
5 continue to make the difference for more
6 families in Philadelphia.

7 Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you
10 so much. We appreciate your taking time
11 for that testimony.

12 MR. McPHERSON: Our next
13 witness is John Kromer.

14 (Witness approached witness
15 table.)

16 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Good
17 afternoon.

18 MR. KROMER: Good afternoon.
19 Thank you for giving me the opportunity
20 to speak with you briefly this afternoon.
21 I'm here to propose an alternative
22 approach for funding activities that are
23 currently managed by the Sheriff's
24 Office. One such activity is a tax
25 collection on sales through which vacant

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2 tax-delinquent buildings and lots are
3 sold at auction. When managed
4 effectively, tax collection sales can
5 generate new revenues for the City and
6 return vacant properties back to
7 neighborhood real estate markets.
8 However, tax collection sales have not
9 been managed effectively. Far from it.
10 Econsult reported last year that 17,000
11 vacant tax-delinquent properties can now
12 be found in Philadelphia, amounting to 70
13 million in uncollected tax revenues.

14 Back when tax collection sales
15 were being scheduled on a monthly basis,
16 about 100 properties were being auctioned
17 a month. At this rate, it would take 14
18 years just to clear the backlog. It's no
19 wonder the speculators simply ignore
20 their tax bills. Under the current
21 system, they have good reason to feel
22 that the City would never catch up with
23 them.

24 The root of this problem is the
25 need for public agencies to work

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2 together, and with respect to vacant
3 property issues, most City agencies have
4 been working together. Under the Nutter
5 Administration, the Managing Director has
6 been designated as the City official
7 responsible for supervising interagency
8 coordination to address the problem of
9 blight, and this approach has produced
10 positive results. However, during most
11 of the Nutter Administration, two
12 agencies have not fully participated in
13 the City's coordinated approach, the
14 Philadelphia Housing Authority and the
15 Sheriff's Office. Both agencies operate
16 independently of the Mayor and City
17 Council, and both, as you know, are
18 currently under federal investigation.
19 That's the price we're paying for
20 maintaining independent agencies to
21 manage government operations.

22 The best solution to these
23 problems is a consolidated approach in
24 which any agency responsible for any kind
25 of real estate transaction reports to the

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 Mayor or Managing Director. This isn't
3 just my idea. It's the position of the
4 Pennsylvania Intergovernmental
5 Coordination Authority, PICA, which has
6 proposed integrating the functions of the
7 Sheriff's Office into City government and
8 is estimated at 3 million annually that
9 would be saved through this
10 consolidation.

11 We can't afford to wait any
12 longer to adopt a cost-saving approach.
13 The implications of the recently reported
14 cuts in federal and state aid for
15 Philadelphia couldn't be clearer. If the
16 cost of government doesn't go down, taxes
17 will go up. The consolidation of all tax
18 collection sales responsibilities within
19 City government would save 3 million in
20 operating costs beginning in Fiscal 2012
21 and would make it easier for City
22 agencies to work together in using tax
23 foreclosure auctions to generate a lot
24 more revenue for the City. The other
25 functions of the Sheriff's Office -

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.
2 mortgage foreclosure sales, prisoner
3 transport, courtroom security - can be
4 integrated into the City government as
5 well.

6 To be implementing this
7 approach in FY 2012, the budget line item
8 for the Sheriff's Office should be
9 reduced by 3 million, the amount of
10 anticipated savings associated with
11 consolidation, resulting in a remainder
12 of about 10 million, and this entire
13 amount should be reallocated to the
14 Office of the Managing Director.

15 We can't abolish the position
16 of Sheriff immediately, but we assign its
17 funds to professionally managed City
18 agencies that can do the job reliably and
19 that will be directly accountable to City
20 Council and the Mayor.

21 With the changes I have
22 proposed, the Office of Sheriff could be
23 reconstituted as simply an honorary
24 position beginning in FY 2012. Under
25 this approach, the salary for the

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.
2 position and the entire Fiscal 2012
3 Sheriff's Office would be \$1. And if you
4 decide to support this approach,
5 consistent with PICA, I'd be glad to
6 contribute the dollar on July 1st at the
7 beginning of FY 2012.

8 Thank you very much.

9 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you
10 very much.

11 Councilman Goode.

12 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
13 Madam Chair.

14 Mr. Kromer, when did you
15 develop this policy position?

16 MR. KROMER: I developed this
17 position at the time when I read the PICA
18 report on which it is based, and that was
19 over a year ago.

20 COUNCILMAN GOODE: So it is not
21 an original idea?

22 MR. KROMER: It is not an
23 original idea, no. This is the proposal
24 of PICA, the state oversight agency --

25 COUNCILMAN GOODE: So you want

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 to be elected Sheriff so that you
3 implement PICA's recommendations?

4 MR. KROMER: In part, yes.

5 COUNCILMAN GOODE: And the \$3
6 million in savings would come from where?

7 MR. KROMER: Well, PICA has
8 detailed that in its report and also
9 provided evidence from other
10 municipalities.

11 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I'm asking
12 you where the \$3 million in savings would
13 come from.

14 MR. KROMER: Well, I'm simply
15 citing the PICA report.

16 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Can you
17 detail that?

18 MR. KROMER: No. I'm citing
19 the PICA report as an authority.

20 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I'm actually
21 asking you to cite it.

22 MR. KROMER: Well, I am guided
23 by the PICA report as I --

24 COUNCILMAN GOODE: But you
25 don't know what's in the PICA report?

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.
2 You don't know specifically what's in the
3 PICA report?

4 MR. KROMER: Yes. I read the
5 report and --

6 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Tell me
7 exactly how we're going to save \$3
8 million.

9 MR. KROMER: Well, it's
10 documented in the report, and PICA would
11 have to provide you the detail.

12 COUNCILMAN GOODE: But you
13 can't tell me right now?

14 MR. KROMER: No. This is
15 PICA's report. It's not mine. But I
16 trust the judgment of the PICA staff.

17 COUNCILMAN GOODE: You're
18 running for Sheriff to implement PICA
19 recommendations, and you say it would
20 save us \$3 million, but you can't tell us
21 how we save \$3 million?

22 MR. KROMER: I'm telling you
23 that I trust the judgment and the
24 analysis completed by professionals who
25 are mandated by state government to

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.
2 oversee the financial management of the
3 City.

4 COUNCILMAN GOODE: They
5 themselves are political appointees.

6 MR. KROMER: Pardon me?

7 COUNCILMAN GOODE: They are
8 political appointees. They're not hired
9 professional managers.

10 MR. KROMER: They are
11 professionally staffed and they have been
12 providing this oversight for more than a
13 decade.

14 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Okay. But
15 still, on the record, you can't tell us
16 where any of those savings are going to
17 come from?

18 MR. KROMER: I am citing the
19 report which has been prepared by
20 professional analysts --

21 COUNCILMAN GOODE: So I should
22 ask PICA rather than you?

23 MR. KROMER: Pardon me?

24 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I should ask
25 PICA rather than you?

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 MR. KROMER: For the details,
3 certainly.

4 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Yet you came
5 to testify?

6 MR. KROMER: I'm testifying
7 based on the PICA report.

8 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I've already
9 read the PICA report, so I know what the
10 PICA report says. It doesn't say much.
11 It basically based savings upon other
12 jurisdictions. It does not say how we
13 save money here. If you read the report,
14 you would know that.

15 Thank you, Madam Chair.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
17 you.

18 Our next witness?

19 MR. McPHERSON: John Smith,
20 Esquire.

21 (Witness approached witness
22 table.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good
24 afternoon, Mr. Smith. Please identify
25 yourself for the record and proceed with

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 your testimony.

3 MR. SMITH: Good afternoon,
4 Madam President. My name is John F.
5 Smith. I am the President and Board
6 Chair of the Global Philadelphia
7 Association. With me is our Executive
8 Director, Molly Roth, and a number of the
9 members of our Board, and thank you very
10 much for the opportunity to speak to
11 Council.

12 I understand that I have three
13 minutes to tell you a story, to make two
14 important points, and to ask two things
15 of this Council.

16 First, the story. The story is
17 of a city that existed one-quarter of a
18 millennium ago, 250 years ago. It was at
19 the time the largest and most influential
20 city in the entire western hemisphere. A
21 revolution occurred in that city shortly
22 afterwards, and with that revolution, the
23 city gained new luster and became a
24 worldwide beacon for freedom and for
25 democracy. One hundred years later, a

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 centennial exposition was held in that
3 city, and the world beat a path to its
4 door.

5 Not too many decades after that
6 the city continued to be a manufacturing
7 center and one of the most prosperous
8 cities in the United States of America.
9 But in contrast to all of that, only a
10 few years ago when that city tried to
11 become the site of the 2016 Olympic
12 Games, the International Olympic
13 Committee failed to even consider its
14 credentials because it was not regarded
15 as sufficiently international.

16 What a tragedy, in the space of
17 a few hundred years to have gone from the
18 first to something that's essentially in
19 the middle of the pack.

20 We have an opportunity to
21 change that, and the Global Philadelphia
22 Association was created in order to
23 accomplish that. We have a threefold
24 goal. Our goals are to work with all of
25 the international organizations,

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 business, cultural and otherwise, in this
3 city and help them become more
4 interactive with one another. We exist
5 to help our citizens appreciate our
6 history and the importance of being an
7 international city. And we exist in
8 order to radically improve the global
9 profile of this wonderful city.

10 I want to make three points.

11 The first is that being international is
12 critical to our economy. Being an
13 international city, if you want to put it
14 in crass terms, means dollars. We need
15 those dollars. We need that stature. We
16 need to work on that stature.

17 The second point is, we live in
18 a world of global competition. Each
19 region in the world is in competition
20 with each other region in the world. And
21 unless Philadelphia succeeds in this
22 do-or-die competition, we are at risk of
23 falling behind and not being even that
24 middle-class city which we have become.

25 The third point is that despite

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 the wealth of international resources
3 that we have -- and they're detailed in
4 the testimony that I've written and
5 handed up to Council -- despite that, we
6 still are not perceived by the world's
7 marketplace as the best place to come,
8 the best place to invest capital, the
9 best place for immigrants to come and
10 work in our factories, work in our
11 offices and create businesses.

12 What then are our requests?

13 Our first request is that Council,
14 working with the Mayor's Office, consider
15 a substantial increase in the resources
16 being made available to accomplish that
17 international stature. Some of those
18 resources will inexorably be appropriate
19 for the Department of Commerce, some may
20 go to the City Representative's Office,
21 some may go in support of Sister Cities.
22 There are any number of ways, but I
23 fervently ask Council to enter into a
24 conversation with the Mayor's Office and
25 insist that we start developing the

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 international profile that this city
3 needs in order to succeed.

4 The second point that I would
5 make or request that I would make is that
6 through Council's Economic Development
7 Committee and such other committees as
8 Council deems appropriate, we would like
9 to have a continuing dialogue so that we,
10 working with you, can find a way so that
11 the City will have a sustained,
12 laser-like and effective attention to all
13 things international. It's our ticket to
14 success.

15 And so I leave you with the
16 final question, and, that is, what will
17 happen to Philadelphia's star, a star
18 that once burned brightly throughout the
19 world, a star that's dimmed a bit? And I
20 ask you, what is the future of that star?
21 Will we continue to dim and become
22 nothing more than a small dwarf star,
23 hardly making an impression on the
24 heavens, or will we re-brighten, will
25 this city regain its luminescence and

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.
2 become once again a city at the forefront
3 of the world's cities?

4 Thank you.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
6 you very much.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
9 you. One moment, sir.

10 The Chair recognizes Councilman
11 Jones.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Again, I
13 promised Chairwoman Tasco I wouldn't say
14 anything. So she's not at the Chair, so
15 I'll make the promise to you.

16 Mr. Smith, I just want to
17 compliment you on your testimony. I had
18 an opportunity to see a documentary
19 called "Philadelphia: The Great
20 Experiment." I don't know if you saw
21 that document or documentary. It was
22 enlightening, inspiring, and so was your
23 testimony.

24 Under the Rizzo Administration,
25 there was a group called the Traveling

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 Representatives, and the Traveling
3 Representatives' job was to go around and
4 be both ambassador but also commerce
5 director at the same time to various
6 cities, the Sister Cities program. But
7 it wasn't just that, it was economically
8 driven to try to find strategic economic
9 partners around the world. I think
10 Cameroon was looked at because of their
11 cocoa exports and coffee imports. And it
12 was just a great idea then.

13 Under the Street

14 Administration, Imjensey Traylor (ph) did
15 a number of these types of sojourns, one
16 to Korea, and I remember going with him.
17 We met with 50 companies, and at the end
18 of it, we met one train manufacturing
19 company, and they bid and they decided to
20 come and bid on a SEPTA contract here,
21 move their factory here.

22 If we spent a little more time
23 working with the private sector to try to
24 look at potential strategic partners
25 globally, respecting new and emerging

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 markets, respecting differences in
3 culture and recognizing the strength of
4 Philadelphia, we have over 100 different
5 ethnic groups that reside in Philadelphia
6 that can be our ambassadors to these
7 countries.

8 So what your vision that you
9 submitted today, I totally applaud.
10 Councilman Goode and I are going to
11 introduce a resolution to try to bring it
12 back and start to talk about putting meat
13 on the bones of that idea. I just want
14 to tell you that we were inspired by your
15 comments.

16 MR. SMITH: Thank you very
17 much, Councilman, and let me say that I'm
18 not naive. I know that in order to do
19 that kind of work -- and thank goodness
20 that there has been that spirit in the
21 City before and today, but I know that in
22 order to do that work, the political
23 process is not necessarily kind to people
24 who are seen as leaving the City and
25 going off on what might be thought of as

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.
2 a junket. Well, that's not what these
3 things are about, as you have just said.
4 They're about bringing home the bacon,
5 and we need more efforts to make that
6 happen.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
8 you very much, Mr. Smith, and your
9 written testimony will be given to the
10 stenographer to be transcribed.

11 Our next witness?

12 MR. McPHERSON: Ramona Riscoe
13 Benson.

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Is
16 Ms. Benson here?

17 (No response.)

18 MR. McPHERSON: Sherrie Cohen.

19 (Witness approached witness
20 table.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good
22 afternoon. Welcome.

23 MS. COHEN: Thank you, Council
24 President and Councilpeople.

25 I have come today to speak

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 about a law that will not die, and I have
3 come to fight again to save this law from
4 further delay. Mayor Nutter now seeks to
5 delay the first progressive wage tax
6 legislation ever passed in Philadelphia,
7 a bill he voted for when he was a member
8 of City Council. Mayor Nutter is a
9 strong believer in tax cuts, apparently
10 so long as they are not targeted to the
11 people who need help the most. It is
12 appalling and unconscionable that the
13 Mayor is seeking to balance the budget
14 and the Five Year Plan on the backs of
15 the working poor.

16 This is the third year I have
17 come to testify before City Council to
18 speak against the planned elimination or
19 delay of Councilman David Cohen's Working
20 Families Wage Tax Rebate, the crowning
21 achievement of my father's long and
22 fruitful legislative career. The
23 ordinance was introduced by my father and
24 passed by City Council over the veto of
25 Mayor Street. The credit is similar to

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 the state tax forgiveness program. Under
3 the existing legislation, a two-parent,
4 two-child family with an income of up to
5 \$34,250 would be eligible for a wage tax
6 rebate. Even the state and federal
7 governments both provide these tax
8 refunds.

9 Within months of my father's
10 death in October 2005, then Mayor Street
11 in January 2006 sought the repeal of the
12 ordinance. Working poor people and their
13 advocates in and out of Council rose up
14 and repelled that attempt. However, the
15 effective date of the ordinance was
16 deferred until 2013.

17 Then in the winter of 2008, new
18 Mayor Nutter sought the elimination of
19 this ordinance. His effort to repeal the
20 ordinance was defeated, but the
21 provisions of the bill were watered down
22 and its benefit cut in half. At this
23 time, many Councilpeople came to me and
24 other advocates and promised there would
25 be no further delay or watering down of

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 this ordinance.

3 And here we are again. Mayor
4 Nutter is again seeking the delay of this
5 ordinance until 2017 through Bill 110138.
6 This time, this is a stealth move on the
7 part of the Mayor. He did not even
8 mention in his budget address that he is
9 seeking the further delay of this
10 ordinance.

11 How many reasons are there to
12 oppose the Mayor's attack on working poor
13 people in the City? There are
14 approximately 300,000 reasons, the number
15 of working poor people estimated to live
16 in Philadelphia.

17 Who are these people? These
18 are the people earning less than about
19 \$34,000 for a family of four. These are
20 the people who work hard, yet cannot make
21 ends meet. These are the people whose
22 work fails to afford them basic dignity.
23 As my father repeatedly would say, there
24 is no dignity to work if your work
25 doesn't produce enough income to provide

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 the basic necessities for your family.

3 These are the people who are
4 already paying a much greater share of
5 their income in taxes than middle-income
6 and high-income people in Pennsylvania,
7 according to the Institute on Taxation
8 and Economic Policy's "Who Pays" study.

9 Those in the bottom 20 percent of
10 taxpayers in Pennsylvania pay 11.4
11 percent of their income in taxes, whereas
12 those in the top 1 percent pay only 3.5
13 percent of their income in taxes, and
14 those with incomes in the middle 20
15 percent pay 8.8 percent.

16 These are the people whose
17 numbers are rising faster in Philadelphia
18 than in the nation as a whole. In
19 Philadelphia, the poverty rate in 2000
20 was 18.5 percent. Today it is 25
21 percent, a rate far higher than the
22 national average of one in seven. Even
23 more upsetting, one in three children in
24 Philadelphia are poor compared to one in
25 five children nationally.

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 These are the people who
3 already pay higher prices than
4 higher-income households for nearly every
5 necessity of everyday living in
6 Philadelphia, according to the 2005
7 Brookings Institute report, "The Price is
8 Wrong: Getting the Market Right for
9 Working Families in Philadelphia." These
10 are the people who do not meet the 2010
11 self-sufficiency standard computed by
12 Pathways PA, which determines how much
13 money people need to live and work
14 without public or private assistance or
15 subsidies. Being economically
16 self-sufficient means you can pay the
17 rent, have a car, have a job and pay your
18 bills. You don't need to depend on
19 anyone for anything. You are off all
20 assistance programs. You can pay for
21 daycare for your children, buy groceries,
22 pay for life's necessities.

23 Pathways found that a single
24 parent with an infant preschooler, for
25 example, needs to earn \$27.03 per hour.

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 I'm shortening this a bit.

3 Among Philadelphia's working
4 poor are those who have to reduce the
5 size of their meals or skip meals
6 entirely because they cannot afford food
7 purchases, according to the Pennsylvania
8 Health Management Corporation's 2004
9 Household Health Survey for Southeastern
10 Pennsylvania, which documented 122,000
11 such households in Philadelphia,
12 including nearly 61,000 children. Among
13 these people are those who have to wait
14 five months to schedule an appointment
15 with a doctor at a health center,
16 according to a 2007 report released by
17 the Philadelphia Unemployment Project.

18 These are the people who will
19 invest this tax rebate into their
20 communities and help revitalize every
21 neighborhood of the City. The IRS
22 estimates that every dollar received from
23 the federal Earned Income Tax Credit puts
24 up to \$3 back into local communities.

25 Mayor Nutter and City Council,

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 the choice is yours. Will you write off
3 these people for another few years and
4 increase the divide between
5 Philadelphia's two cities or will you
6 choose instead one Philadelphia?

7 I am here today to ask each
8 member of Council to sign a formal pledge
9 that they will not vote for this grossly
10 unfair attack on the working poor. Who
11 will sign this pledge today?

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
13 you.

14 The Chair recognizes Councilman
15 Goode.

16 (Applause.)

17 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
18 Madam President.

19 Good afternoon, Sherrie. I
20 just want to let you know that I was the
21 first co-sponsor of the bill. I voted
22 against the repeal and its delay, and I
23 will continue to do so.

24 MS. COHEN: Thank you. Thank
25 you so much, Councilman.

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2 (Applause.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
4 you very much. Thank you.

5 Our next witness?

6 MR. McPHERSON: Liz Werthan.

7 (Witness approached witness
8 table.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good
10 afternoon.

11 MS. WERTHAN: Good afternoon.
12 My name is Liz Werthan and I am a Board
13 member of the Friends of the Wissahickon
14 and a member of its Advocacy Committee.
15 The Friends of the Wissahickon is the
16 oldest and largest of the non-profit
17 volunteer groups active in the Fairmount
18 Park system. For over 85 years, the
19 Friends have been stewards of Wissahickon
20 Valley Park, the beautiful northern
21 stretch of Fairmount Park, an amazing
22 section of this urban park that most
23 resembles the kind of wilderness areas
24 more characteristic of Vermont or Maine.
25 Our members maintain and preserve its

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2 extensive trail system and historic
3 structures, care for native plant and
4 animal species, and protect the watershed
5 of the Wissahickon Creek that runs into
6 the Schuylkill.

7 I am here today to add the
8 voice of FOW to the many individuals and
9 organizations that wish to protect this
10 precious resource and urge support
11 through the City's Operating Budget for
12 its oversight by the Department of Parks
13 and Recreation.

14 Friends of the Wissahickon
15 raises monies and recruits, trains and
16 manages volunteers to work in the park.
17 We depend on both the Department of Parks
18 and Recreation and the Water Department
19 to be robust partners in making the
20 Wissahickon the special place that it is
21 for all generations of Philadelphians.
22 For many, the park is a place to walk,
23 run, hike, bike, go fishing and ride
24 horseback. For others, it's a place to
25 go for quiet reflection away from the

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2 City streets and among the trees and
3 woodlands. It's a place for families and
4 for friends to picnic. It is, as
5 Councilman Jones stated recently, before
6 today, a perfect place to go for a family
7 staycation.

8 While the Parks and Recreation
9 Department continues to work toward
10 greater efficiencies and to become one
11 functional department, it requires time
12 to get the merger working right, and it
13 also needs money. We are advocating for
14 adequate funding for this Philadelphia
15 treasure for the sake of today's citizens
16 and for our future ones as well.

17 We ask Council to pass the
18 budget for Parks and Recreation as
19 submitted for this fiscal year and to
20 recognize the crucial role that this
21 important department plays in the quality
22 of life for all Philadelphians. We
23 encourage Council to look for future
24 opportunities to increase the budget for
25 this chronically underfunded Philadelphia

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2 treasure.

3 Thank you very much.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
5 you.

6 The Chair recognizes Councilman
7 Jones.

8 (Applause.)

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: Liz -- I'm
10 sorry; Ms. Werthan, before you leave, I
11 just want to thank you and the Friends of
12 the Wissahickon for what you do to
13 protect that part of Philadelphia.

14 A quick question. The
15 purchase, recent purchase, of the Sugar
16 Loaf Retreat Center, what is your --
17 they're looking at doing some things up
18 there and I'd love to get your opinion
19 about that.

20 MS. WERTHAN: Well, I have to
21 say personally I have not been too
22 involved in it, so as a Board member,
23 I've listened to the reports as they've
24 come forward. I know that there have
25 been many hundreds of hours of

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2 negotiations between the neighbors and
3 the Friends group and the Chestnut Hill
4 folks, all kinds of people, and the
5 college, and I thought they were working
6 toward a resolution of all of the
7 problems. The Friends of the Wissahickon
8 is particularly interested in the issue
9 of water, the runoff and making sure that
10 the creek is not contaminated. That was
11 the really big issue for us. Other
12 people have other issues. And so getting
13 everybody on the same page has been
14 contentious.

15 My understanding really just
16 from reading the Friends of the -- the
17 Chestnut Hill Local recently was that
18 there have been passage by -- that the
19 college's request for an IDD had been
20 approved, and I think there was some
21 upset about that, but I don't -- I can't
22 really tell you a whole lot more about
23 it.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: I just want
25 you to know that we'll be working with

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 you and other Board members to make sure
3 that that's a palatable transformation.
4 And I understand the need of the college
5 to expand, but not at the expense of the
6 environment, and that there probably is a
7 further negotiation that will come to
8 some kind of accommodation and protection
9 for that part of the park. I just want
10 to thank you for your diligence in
11 safeguarding it. So thank you very much.

12 MS. WERTHAN: Well, it
13 certainly has been a labor of love, I
14 think, and an important stewardship by
15 the Friends and particularly by our Board
16 Chair, Bob Vance, who has been
17 representing FOW in those negotiations.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
19 Madam President.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
21 You're welcome.

22 Thank you very much.

23 MS. WERTHAN: Thank you.

24 MR. MCPHERSON: Our next
25 witness is Kia McClure.

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2 MS. McCLURE: Greetings to all.

3 My name is Kia McClure and I am the Teen
4 Director at the Boys and Girls Club of
5 Philadelphia, the Wissahickon Unit, in
6 the Germantown section of the City. On
7 an average, we serve 85 teens a night.
8 We try to offer a wide range of
9 activities for these teens to keep them
10 off the streets.

11 This fall, we were fortunate
12 enough to be given an opportunity to
13 partner with Art-Reach for a phenomenal
14 anti-violence T-shirt design art program.
15 Without this program, our children would
16 not have had the opportunity to
17 experience a lot of the opportunities
18 that went along with this program.

19 The teens were given a chance
20 to visit the fabric museum and witness
21 the silkscreen process firsthand. They
22 were also given the opportunity to sit in
23 on a phenomenal one-man play about crime,
24 violence, art and the inmates at
25 Graterford Prison.

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2 In my personal opinion, I think
3 the experience that had the most impact
4 was the Cradle to Grave program at Temple
5 University. During this program, the
6 teens were given -- excuse me; they were
7 taken through the experience of a gunshot
8 victim who was shot 22 times and lost his
9 life. The teens were taken to the trauma
10 center, where one teen volunteered to be
11 this young man lying on the table
12 fighting for his life. The facilitator
13 placed 22 red stickers on the teen's body
14 to represent the places and number of
15 times this young man was shot. I watched
16 my teens' faces as they were truly
17 touched by the demonstration of someone
18 having to massage this young man's heart
19 to keep him alive, and all from senseless
20 violence and being shot.

21 The teens were able to come
22 back to the club and talk about this
23 event that was so heavy on their hearts,
24 and this is where the life of the design
25 of their T-shirts came from. The teens

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.
2 were able to express what they were
3 feeling by designing a heart and
4 incorporating slogans against violence
5 into it, telling the world that it was
6 important to them and what was heavily
7 weighed in their hearts and minds.

8 The silkscreen -- they
9 silkscreened designs onto T-shirts that
10 they presented -- and presented them to a
11 panel of judges, who chose the design to
12 be mass produced and sold in the retail
13 store Villa.

14 To prepare for this
15 presentation, Art-Reach provided the
16 teens with workshops on public speaking
17 and expressing their own point of view to
18 an audience. The students did very well,
19 and the proceeds raised from these sales
20 of the shirts will be donated back to our
21 center. In addition, the program left
22 our center with a fully functioning
23 silkscreen studio that our teens can
24 continue to practice their newly found
25 skills. One of our teens said, "I had a

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 great time learning how to make shirts.

3 Now I can do more designs and teach

4 others. I am very thankful."

5 Clearly, this was an effective

6 program, and I encourage this funding to

7 continue, because it makes a very real

8 difference in the lives of the teens I

9 work with. We are in very strong hopes

10 that we'll be placed on the list to

11 receive this opportunity again and again,

12 for it is worth having.

13 Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: One

16 moment, please.

17 Just a moment, please.

18 One moment, please.

19 Councilman Jones, your light is

20 on. Did you want to be recognized?

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: No, Madam

22 President.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank

24 you.

25 Excuse me, Dear. Sorry.

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Hi, Kia.

3 MS. McCLURE: How are you?

4 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I missed
5 the first part of your testimony, but I
6 think you're actually here because of
7 funding for -- anti-violence funding.

8 MS. McCLURE: For Art-Reach. I
9 had to cut my testimony short because I
10 heard the bell go off, but --

11 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I'd like
12 to talk to you later, Kia, about your
13 concerns.

14 MS. McCLURE: Okay. And it
15 says that we wish to thank the
16 Philadelphia Cultural Fund, who provided
17 the financial support to make this
18 program possible, and the Council for
19 having a vision to fund projects like
20 this to help so many kids, giving them
21 positive activities that exercise their
22 creative minds and elevate their
23 self-confidence.

24 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: That's
25 the T-shirt competition or exhibit you

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.
2 were supposed to have at the Villa when
3 we had that big snowstorm?

4 MS. McCLURE: Yes. Yes.

5 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay.

6 MS. McCLURE: Teens
7 silkscreened hearts on T-shirts and they
8 were sold at the Villa stores.

9 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Right.
10 Okay. All right. Thank you. Thank you
11 for coming.

12 MS. McCLURE: Thank you.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Our
14 next witness?

15 MR. McPHERSON: Sam Little and
16 Stephen Huntington.

17 (Witnesses approached witness
18 table.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good
20 afternoon, gentlemen. Thank you for your
21 patience.

22 MR. LITTLE: Thank you, Madam
23 President, for allowing us to speak to
24 Council. I'd like to introduce -- I'm
25 Sam Little with the Crosstown Coalition,

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 and this is Steve Huntington.

3 MR. HUNTINGTON: How do you do?

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: Good
5 afternoon.

6 MR. HUNTINGTON: Sam is going
7 to make short prepared remarks, but
8 before he does, our Coalition started
9 around the Zoning Code Commission reform
10 effort. We've put together 14 civic
11 associations and we're trying to speak as
12 one voice. Today we have representatives
13 here from Society Hill, Lorna Katz is
14 here; from Logan Square, Ed Panek, who
15 had to leave; from Center City Residents,
16 Guy Aiman; from Woodland Terrace
17 Homeowners Association, Maggie Lerner;
18 from Overbrook Farms, Stephanie Kindt.
19 Stephanie is wearing two hats because
20 she's also here from one of our other
21 members, SCRUB. From East Falls, we're
22 lucky to have Meg Greenfield, and from
23 Old City, Joe Shiavo. And we have a
24 group of 14. We've had a little
25 attrition this afternoon, but let me turn

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 it over to Sam.

3 MR. LITTLE: However, our
4 Coalition has gained two new civic
5 associations because of our new role of
6 reviewing the plan.

7 Steve did point out that we
8 have been working very hard on reviewing
9 the Zoning Code, reworking that's been
10 done by the Zoning Code Commission.
11 We've attended over 30 meetings. We have
12 reviewed every single version, which are
13 now black, red, green, blue lined, and I
14 think fuschia line is next. We have over
15 100 pages of detailed comments, but our
16 real thanks to the City Council and
17 members here who put the brakes on what
18 was going on over there so that civic
19 associations and other stakeholders could
20 have a chance to really digest this very
21 complicated area and to input more
22 effectively.

23 I'd like to ask Council sort of
24 the same thing about the Comprehensive
25 Plan, which is being done by the

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2 Philadelphia Planning Commission. We
3 actually have two requests. One is that
4 Council oversee the public and
5 transparent -- public involvement and
6 transparent nature of the Philadelphia
7 2035 Plan. It's a comprehensive plan.
8 It covers a citywide vision, but it's
9 also a very important precursor to what
10 are called the district plans, more
11 localized ones. And that's our second
12 request. We would like Council, please,
13 to look at -- make sure that the Planning
14 Commission has the resources to do these
15 all-important district plannings. These
16 are where the Planning Commission
17 outreach to neighborhoods is vital in
18 bringing together both their needs, their
19 broader City ambitions and other
20 stakeholders, and this is really critical
21 prior to remapping of the Zoning Map.

22 We fear that the Commission
23 really is understaffed and
24 under-resourced to do this. They have
25 two people who are supposed to do two

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2 plans a year, and if you go through the
3 18 districts, that goes out to more than
4 five years. That's just not fast enough,
5 nor is it careful attention enough. And
6 those of us in the Coalition who have had
7 neighborhood plans, both Steve's civic
8 association and mine, have known they're
9 hard, sometimes they have food fights,
10 but what they do is, they provide for
11 stakeholders - the neighbors,
12 businesspeople - to make development and
13 quality of life and communities stay
14 together and work together.

15 We believe that if there were
16 additional funding for two to four staff
17 people on the Commission, first of all,
18 the length of time to do these district
19 plans would be reduced and, second of
20 all, the quality of the problem-solving
21 would be greatly improved. And so we
22 would like you to look at whether that
23 kind of resource could be found available
24 for the Planning Commission.

25 We know our funding request is

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 significant when there's so many pressing
3 needs in the City, but we feel it would
4 be more than repaid in terms of helping
5 both neighborhoods and economic
6 development flourish in the City.

7 Thanks for your time.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
9 you. One moment, please.

10 The Chair recognizes Councilman
11 Green.

12 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you
13 for coming in and testifying about what
14 is a very important issue, and the
15 planning that has to happen around the
16 2035 Plan and district plans are going to
17 be something that impacts the City for
18 the next few decades and it's obviously
19 very important.

20 I'm wondering if you spoke --
21 we have spoken about this before. I'm
22 wondering if you've spoken to the
23 Administration about additional Planning
24 Commission staff and what their reaction
25 was.

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2 MR. LITTLE: Their reaction, my
3 sense is in talking with the head of the
4 Strategic Planning group, that it would
5 be a great help to them. They see the
6 district plans as the focal point between
7 local interests and citywide objectives.
8 So I think they would see it that way.

9 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Certainly in
10 budget hearings, we'll have the
11 opportunity to talk to the Budget
12 Director about why they didn't make a
13 request for additional staff for the
14 Planning Commission. The way this form
15 of government works is, we can
16 appropriate whatever we like and they
17 don't have to spend it. So we don't have
18 line-item spending authority. We could
19 give the Planning Commission an extra
20 million dollars and it simply not get
21 spent unless the Administration is fully
22 behind it. And so I will ask the
23 question and see if we can get an answer.

24 MR. HUNTINGTON: It seems to me
25 that the question for Council is whether

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 the district plans are going to be
3 presented at the ZCC and the 2035 Plan
4 have been presented to the community so
5 far. It's been totally top down. And
6 thanks to Councilman Green's intervention
7 and Councilman O'Neill's intervention,
8 the ZCC process was finally opened up.

9 We were told on December 3rd
10 that we had to review and comment on a
11 400-page plan by early January, and, of
12 course, that plan has now gone through
13 three iterations. If there's not enough
14 Planning staff to do the district plans,
15 what's going to happen is your individual
16 neighborhoods are going to be faced with
17 a fait accompli, because there won't be
18 enough staff time to take in the comments
19 from the neighborhoods and pack it into
20 the plan. So that's why we regard this
21 request as crucial.

22 MR. LITTLE: Can I just add to
23 this? I'm the President of the Logan
24 Square Neighborhood Association, which is
25 a large area. It's the northwest

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.
2 quadrant of Center City. We've had a
3 neighborhood plan that took two and a
4 half years to do, and it was quite
5 expensive, and I was only half joking
6 about food fights. It's very hard to get
7 everybody's differing views into place.
8 But now that it has, we have over a half
9 a billion dollars worth of development
10 going into Logan Square in the
11 foreseeable future, and the community has
12 accepted and worked with developers to
13 make these happen. That's what we think
14 the repayment is in making these district
15 plans really the focal point. And it's
16 not just finding the data and how many
17 people live on the second floor or the
18 fourth floor, it's problem-solving, and
19 when it gets to that stage, we all
20 benefit.

21 MR. HUNTINGTON: And for the
22 first time, developers are coming into us
23 and they're saying, On Page 18 of your
24 plan, you say you want parking in the
25 back. We've got parking in the back.

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.
2 That facilitates discussions, and so that
3 the first draft of the plans tend to be
4 far more community oriented because the
5 community has spoken.

6 MR. LITTLE: Thank you.

7 MR. HUNTINGTON: Thanks for
8 your time.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
10 you. Thank you very much.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. McPHERSON: Our next
13 witness is Lawrence Clark.

14 (Witness approached witness
15 table.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good
17 afternoon. Please identify yourself for
18 the record.

19 MR. CLARK: Sure. Lawrence
20 Clark. Good afternoon, Council. Today I
21 come before City Council today to
22 strongly request a review of the Bureau
23 of Administrative Adjudication, because
24 they are not in compliance of Chapter
25 12-2800 of The Philadelphia Code. I have

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 received over hundreds of written
3 complaints that the citizens have not
4 received a due process, a fair hearing
5 and their vehicles is being hold ransom
6 for parking tickets and leaving the City
7 to alter their vehicles. Let me be
8 clear, this is not about one
9 responsibility of paying any debt, but
10 about creating a fair process with
11 accountability.

12 Today we filed a civil suit in
13 Federal Court against the Philadelphia
14 Parking Authority for holding people cars
15 ransom over parking tickets. I think
16 this is an outrage, and I think that we
17 need some attention down at the BAA to
18 make sure that the citizens is getting a
19 fair share. The citizens of Philadelphia
20 need they vehicles to get back and forth
21 to work, to take they children to school
22 and also go shopping.

23 So we speaking on the behalf of
24 the citizens today. So that's why I'm
25 here today, to address Council to

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.
2 immediately to look into the practices of
3 the BAA.
4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
5 you very much.
6 MR. CLARK: Thank you.
7 (Applause.)
8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Our
9 next witness?
10 MR. McPHERSON: Cardell
11 Johnson.
12 MS. JOHNSON: You said Cardell
13 Johnson?
14 MR. McPHERSON: Yes.
15 MS. JOHNSON: That's me.
16 (Witness approached witness
17 table.)
18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good
19 afternoon.
20 MS. JOHNSON: It's a pleasure
21 to be here and it's a pleasure to see so
22 many other people here.
23 I'm going to start with in
24 1966, it's when I first came to
25 Philadelphia. I was 15 years old. And

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 when I came to Philadelphia, I thought
3 this was the most beautifullest city, the
4 wonderfullest city in the whole world,
5 because this was the first city I had
6 ever been to from off the farm in North
7 Carolina. But over the 45 years that I
8 have worked and volunteered through
9 Philadelphia, I have seen Philadelphia
10 begin to deteriorate in North
11 Philadelphia and low-income homes,
12 low-income families all through the City
13 of Philadelphia. It hurts me today to
14 come and just see so much that is going
15 on and so much injustice that's going on,
16 especially with the Parking Authority. I
17 have a sad story for that. I have a sad
18 story for the taxes, the amnesty program,
19 where families are put out of they houses
20 and become to be homeless because they
21 can't afford to pay the taxes.

22 I come to you today as a
23 volunteer of Philadelphia. I speak
24 for -- the name of my group is Mothers
25 Against Injustice. That's my sister

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.
2 there. I formed that in 1970, and what
3 we do is, we go throughout Philadelphia
4 helping anyone that we feel as though
5 that has been victimized or need help in
6 any way that we can help them.

7 I'm asking City Council members
8 to begin to look back into the
9 communities, because to me you're losing
10 touch with the real people throughout
11 Philadelphia. There are so many people
12 that have been victims of the Parking
13 Authority of how they do business.

14 For instance, I'm in North
15 Carolina visiting my mother. My brother,
16 who is an alcoholic, went and got the
17 keys to my car without my permission and
18 moved the car, because somebody was
19 fighting. The police stopped him. He
20 was drinking and driving, and they should
21 have locked him up. They locked him up.
22 They took my car.

23 When I get back, he tells me
24 the story. So I go down to try to get my
25 car. They tell me that I can't get my

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.
2 car because I have to go before a judge.
3 And I say, I was not the one driving; it
4 was my brother.

5 It doesn't matter, Miss. You
6 have to go before the judge. The judge
7 have to give a letter for the Parking
8 Authority to release your car.

9 Okay. That's simple. A few
10 days later, I go before the judge. The
11 judge was very nice, and he says to me,
12 Where is your brother?

13 I said, I don't know.

14 He said, Well, Ms. Johnson, you
15 need your brother here in order for him
16 to make restitution for those tickets he
17 got, because without that, you cannot get
18 your car.

19 I said, But, Your Honor, I
20 wasn't driving.

21 It doesn't matter. This is the
22 law now, that if somebody else is caught
23 driving your car and they get locked up
24 or for any reason, you have to bring them
25 to court for the judge to make

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.
2 restitution for the tickets that they got
3 before I can get my car.

4 Okay. Fine. I did that. I
5 went and found my brother again. All of
6 this is going on.

7 It's so much red tape that you
8 have to go through. They made me feel
9 like a victim. The stuff that I went
10 through, it took me 30 days and \$3,000 to
11 get my car. Twenty dollars a day that
12 you have to pay for every day that your
13 car is impounded. You have to pay for
14 the towing.

15 Now, all I'm saying to you
16 today, I'm poor. I'm a \$13,000 a year
17 job. I have to find that \$3,000, because
18 after I found out how much it would cost
19 for me to get my car, I said, Keep it. I
20 didn't pay \$3,000 for it.

21 You know what they said to me?
22 They're going to sell my car, which they
23 did -- which they would, but still I will
24 be responsible for the tickets. And if I
25 didn't -- if my car was considered

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.
2 abandoned, the Parking Authority could
3 suspend my license for 90 days for
4 leaving an abandoned vehicle. So I was
5 forced to get it, because I had to keep
6 my job.

7 The things what I'm saying
8 today is, there is a lot of laws that you
9 implement, but you don't really know the
10 nuts and bolts that people go through and
11 the hardship that the Parking Authority,
12 the Police Department and when you go
13 before a judge that you have to go
14 through. I was not the person driving
15 the car. I was not the person that was
16 breaking the law, but I wind up paying
17 \$3,000.

18 So I'm saying today -- and I'm
19 going to close that. I'm saying today
20 that we would love for you to look into
21 how the Parking Authority is operating,
22 how the Police Department is operating,
23 because some of these police officers,
24 they're so horrible, when they can stop
25 somebody and put a whole family out in

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 the street in the rain and confiscate
3 their car.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. McPHERSON: Our next
7 witness is Lewis Harris, Jr.

8 (Witness approached witness
9 table.)

10 MR. HARRIS: Good afternoon.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good
12 afternoon.

13 MR. HARRIS: I'm honored to be
14 here. Normally I'm running and speaking
15 before the School Board Reform, so I've
16 never really spoke before City Council,
17 and I didn't know how the time is,
18 because normally, you know, the School
19 Board, they make you give up something.
20 So I really think this is critical.

21 My name is Lewis Harris. I
22 come as a concerned citizen, and my thing
23 will be real -- I'm going to read it as
24 fast as I can.

25 We are -- the citizens of

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 Philadelphia are being placed in a
3 tremendous disadvantage with the now
4 existing system of the Parking Authority.

5 What exists now within the
6 system of the Parking Authority is one
7 which exhibits unfairness in their
8 process of collecting on violations
9 and/or alleged violations, no
10 transparency in honoring the basic
11 principles of human rights and civil
12 rights, extremely burdensome in their
13 service delivery and, finally, there
14 exists no community education about what
15 the Parking Authority do, how they
16 operate that stems down to the community.

17 The notion of unfair practice
18 within the Parking Authority's system is
19 diversified. One only has to look at the
20 booting system on violators or alleged
21 violators who can come and attempt to pay
22 the ticket off and find themselves at a
23 hearing where they're being given tickets
24 dated back to 1991, 1992, some
25 30-something years and 20 years back.

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2 The word "extortion" comes in
3 play. And I looked it up in the
4 dictionary, and it says "misuse of power
5 by exerting undue penalties to extract
6 too high a price." Also under the
7 Wikipedia, extortion is almost considered
8 an organized crime.

9 The key is that it cannot exist
10 without written verbal threats, which
11 keeps the method of operation one step
12 from actual robbery. And I feel that we
13 are one step with the Parking Authority
14 from actual robbery. There will be -- I
15 really wish I could read it fast, but I
16 didn't want to kill time, but I want to
17 go to the debts.

18 The alleged debts are extremely
19 unreasonably high, and they want it all
20 or a large down payment. They are
21 forcing to enter into a payment agreement
22 even if they know that they not guilty of
23 it, and the reason why they do that is
24 because the Parking Authority says that
25 the tickets are now in collection. And

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 if you want to challenge the cost or the
3 ticket, you will have to go to the City
4 and go to Philadelphia Law for collection
5 and deal with it. But to get your car
6 out, you going to pay whatever price we
7 come up with. In my case, it came up to
8 \$4,180-something. Tickets dated back
9 before my son was even born.

10 Then there's the issue of
11 transparency. I went to the website. I
12 went everywhere trying to locate the
13 mission statement of the Parking
14 Authority. They had the icon, but no
15 mission statement. I tried to locate the
16 bylaws or articles of incorporation. I
17 tried to find all of the statutes that
18 mandated that they had the ability to do
19 some of the stuff they doing, and one of
20 the things that came up is that they
21 were -- they were mandated more in 2007
22 and yet they're ticketing people and
23 billing them from 1998, 1997, 1991.

24 So what I'm saying before the
25 City Council is that I think brother

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 Lawrence P. Clark is on point. We need
3 your help. We need your help to kind of
4 re-review the Parking Authority and its
5 operation and its procedures.

6 And with that, I thank you.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
8 you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. McPHERSON: Our next
11 witness is T. Milton Street.

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Is
14 Mr. Street here?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Let's
17 go on.

18 MR. McPHERSON: Pete Matthews.

19 (No response.)

20 MR. McPHERSON: Sue Rosenthal.

21 (Witness approached witness
22 table.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Nice
24 seeing you again.

25 MS. ROSENTHAL: It's nice

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 seeing you again, and I want to thank you
3 for all the years that you welcomed us
4 and helped us, and wish you good luck.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
6 you.

7 MS. ROSENTHAL: Good afternoon.

8 I am Sue Rosenthal, Chair of the
9 volunteer Community Board of Public
10 Health Center 10.

11 I urge City Council to adopt
12 the Fiscal Year 2012 Health budget
13 proposed by Dr. Donald Schwarz,
14 Philadelphia's Health Commissioner.

15 Your eight public health
16 centers serve over 90,000 clients. This
17 includes 25 percent of Philadelphia's
18 uninsured residents as well as many
19 covered by some type of insurance.

20 New adult patients have to wait
21 66 days for initial treatment at the
22 health centers. For Health Center 10,
23 the City's busiest, the delay for a first
24 visit is eight to ten months. This wait
25 for medical treatment must be cut.

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 Worse, this delay will become longer
3 because of the present high rate of
4 unemployment that's already sending more
5 people to the health centers. Many
6 Philadelphians lack medical care.

7 Untreated illnesses may become
8 so severe that hospitalization may be
9 necessary for medical problems which
10 could have been cured by earlier public
11 health center treatment.

12 I recognize the difficult
13 decisions you must make in forming our
14 City budget in these economically trying
15 times. Including a relatively small part
16 of that budget to be dedicated to the
17 health of Philadelphians stressed by that
18 same poor economy I think is an important
19 part of your responsibilities. I
20 respectfully urge you to approve the
21 budget request of Commissioner Donald
22 Schwarz.

23 Thank you for the opportunity
24 to testify.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.
2 you. We appreciate your taking the time
3 to come in and share your views with us.
4 Thank you.

5 MS. ROSENTHAL: Thank you very
6 much.

7 MR. McPHERSON: Our next
8 witness is Khadijah Jones.

9 (Witness approached witness
10 table.)

11 MS. JONES: Good afternoon.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good
13 afternoon.

14 MS. JONES: Good afternoon.
15 Hello, Councilmembers, and thank you for
16 letting me testify and speak to you
17 today. My name is Khadijah Jones, the
18 Director of Campaign for Working
19 Families.

20 With the high cost of being
21 poor, families are still struggling to
22 make ends meet, many day-to-day expenses,
23 utility costs and some recuperating from
24 foreclosure and periods of unemployment.
25 The Campaign for Working Families is here

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 to make that path a bit smoother by
3 empowering our customers and constituents
4 of the City to hold onto their money and
5 their dreams and to achieve better lives
6 in the future. We do this by boosting
7 the number of people who receive free tax
8 preparation and do not have to pay
9 sky-high fees to commercial preparers.
10 We operate 11 community-based tax sites
11 offering e-filing, direct deposit, FAFSA
12 completion, which is the Free Application
13 for Federal Student Aid, and fairly
14 priced financial products to help people
15 save money.

16 Our services allow families to
17 maximize their federal and state tax
18 credits, including EITC, which is the
19 Earned Income Tax Credit. These credits
20 help to close the gap between income and
21 expenses that a lot of the colleagues
22 before me spoke about.

23 But we're not just a tax site.
24 So we also develop financial asset by
25 connecting constituents to advice about

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 non-predatory quality financial services,
3 savings options, wealth building
4 resources, credit building and public
5 benefits, such as credit report pooling,
6 savings bond purchasing and opening of a
7 prepaid debit card for the unbanked, to
8 name a few.

9 Over the past nine years, the
10 Campaign has prepared and e-filed over
11 100,000 tax returns, 103,874 to be exact,
12 and brought over almost \$180 million in
13 state and refunds to working families
14 throughout Philadelphia. The Campaign's
15 free tax services also helped save those
16 families an additional \$22.5 million in
17 interest, fees and charges for tax
18 preparation, check cashing and loans.

19 The world is changing.
20 Therefore, the tax environment must
21 follow suit. Before our target was
22 specifically the poorest of poor and
23 lowest of low income, and since the
24 modern-day depression and economic
25 downturn, our work is needed for a more

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 diverse work of life. That's why our
3 services are available to families making
4 under 50,000 or less and individuals
5 20,000 or less. These can be the most
6 vulnerable family members and neighbors.

7 We invest in training
8 IRS-certified volunteers, over 600 this
9 year, to provide quality services, and we
10 get results. This year we had the top
11 three sites in the state, producing over
12 a thousand returns each, and we
13 represented ten percent of the state's
14 production in tax preparation. We just
15 had a conference call with the Chairman
16 of the IRS to talk about the
17 congratulations to the Campaign and what
18 we've been doing for the City.

19 Some of our best volunteers are
20 governmental employees, including county
21 assistance agents and MOCS employee.
22 That diversity can equal quality.

23 I'm sure others are asking for
24 money and to sustain their current
25 funding sources. However, here's two

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 points I'd like to make. For every
3 dollar -- one is, for every dollar
4 invested in our program, it generates
5 \$1.50 into the local economy, and this
6 was based off of a study done by the city
7 government in San Antonio, Texas. And
8 the second point is, it is my
9 understanding that you want more TANF
10 recipients working and not just
11 collecting benefits. Well, the Campaign
12 for Working Families actually helps in
13 that area. We directly impact TANF
14 recipients with the incentive to work
15 through the EITC and lifting those
16 families out of poverty for a better
17 quality of life.

18 We all want what's right for
19 our families and communities. So I ask
20 you to please look at our organization
21 when you're looking at your budget
22 allocations and the investment in the
23 programs. You're in a great position to
24 make a real impact on the City.

25 At this time, I'd like to

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 introduce two other people that you are
3 just about to call. One is Pastor
4 Juanita Rivers from Ebenezer Temple
5 Baptist Church in Southwest Philly and an
6 actual customer of CWF, Lashay Fenture.

7 (Witnesses approached witness
8 table.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good
10 afternoon, Pastor. Please introduce
11 yourself for the record.

12 PASTOR RIVERS: Good afternoon,
13 Council. Thank you all for allowing me
14 to be here today. My name is Pastor
15 Juanita Rivers and I'm the Pastor of
16 Ebenezer Temple Pentecostal Church in
17 West Philadelphia. And I just come
18 before you today to say to you that we as
19 non-profit, especially faith-based
20 organizations, we would like you to
21 consider us as a viable option into
22 helping you have the City's resident
23 needs met. We as non-profit, our
24 buildings are dormant about 50 percent of
25 the time, where the City's children,

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 youth, are needing access to services,
3 and so, therefore, for a minimal
4 investment, you're able to get these
5 residents the services that they need.

6 Non-profits are viable options
7 to mentoring youth, increasing overall
8 productivity in City Hall, empowering
9 individuals to maximize their creativity
10 as well as their abilities. At my church
11 alone, we sponsor programs to impact the
12 City's residents. Last year we had a
13 free summer camp enrichment program where
14 we offered the children in that community
15 Spanish, math, English, computer
16 literacy, things that will keep them off
17 the streets so that they're not being
18 delinquent there. We were able to
19 service 57 children, ages 3 to 14, and
20 that did not cost the parents anything.

21 And so we're saying, consider
22 non-profits. In addition, we're one of
23 the sites that Ms. Jones spoke about. We
24 maintain a volunteer income tax system in
25 the site. We've done it for over 20

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 years. We were able to service citizens
3 in the City of Philadelphia so that they
4 don't have to go to the paid preparers to
5 have their returns done.

6 One of the things, at the end
7 of our summer camp last year, we asked
8 one of the 14-year-old youth, what did
9 this program mean to him, and he said, I
10 am grateful for this program because I
11 didn't have to worry about being shot. A
12 youth. The most important thing on his
13 mind is worrying about being shot.

14 And so we're asking you to
15 consider us as non-profits as you begin
16 to issue out your funding, that we might
17 be able to assist the residents of this
18 city with the things that they need most,
19 empowering them to be the leaders of
20 tomorrow.

21 Thank you for this opportunity.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
23 you.

24 MS. FENTURE: Hi. I'm Lashay
25 Fenture. My name is Lashay Bonner

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 Fenture. I'm no City Council member.

3 I'm not the President of anything. I'm
4 just a regular citizen. I just graduated
5 from Temple.

6 I first filed my taxes in 2009
7 and then again last year in 2010, and
8 both times the Campaign for Working
9 Families filed my taxes. I had never
10 been offered the opportunity to buy a
11 savings bond, really hadn't heard about
12 it much, but in 2009, I bought my first,
13 and again last year. So far I have a
14 thousand dollars saved up for my daughter
15 in savings bonds. And I know that might
16 not seem like a lot of money to you all,
17 because you're working, you know, working
18 people, but as a college student and a
19 young mother, that means a lot. And if I
20 do that every year, by the time she's 18,
21 you know, she will have something for
22 college.

23 And something I wrote that's a
24 little cute. The Campaign for Working
25 Families gives the so-called have-nots

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 like myself the opportunity to have a
3 little.

4 Thank you.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
6 you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. McPHERSON: Ramona Riscoe
9 Benson.

10 (No response.)

11 MR. McPHERSON: Our next
12 witness is Pete Matthews.

13 (Applause.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good
15 afternoon. Welcome. Please identify
16 yourself for the record and proceed with
17 your testimony.

18 MR. MATTHEWS: Pete Matthews,
19 President, District Council 33. Council,
20 thank you, Madam President, for your
21 patience. We really appreciate it. And
22 we're going to -- we're really going to
23 appreciate the help that you can give us,
24 because this has been quite some time
25 we've been at that, and hopefully after

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.
2 we make this --
3 (Audience members yelling.)
4 MR. MATTHEWS: You guys wore me
5 out a little bit a while ago.
6 Can you hear me now? Okay.
7 (Audience members yelling.)
8 MR. MATTHEWS: Is the mike on?
9 It's on, isn't it?
10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Yes.
11 MR. MATTHEWS: You can hear
12 now, can't you?
13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: If I
14 try closing mine, maybe you'll get more.
15 MR. MATTHEWS: Okay. Can you
16 hear?
17 (Audience members yelling.)
18 MR. MATTHEWS: You want me to
19 talk like I did outside? You want me to
20 scream?
21 (Audience members yelling.)
22 MR. MATTHEWS: One thing I can
23 say about Madam President, the loudness
24 doesn't impress her, just the facts.
25 Members of City Council, thank

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 you for this opportunity to come before
3 you and testify on the City of
4 Philadelphia's 2011 budget. I am
5 submitting my formal testimony with the
6 statement so that you can read our
7 extended comments in full as part of the
8 public record. Let me just use this time
9 to offer an overview of our union's
10 position.

11 When Mayor Michael Nutter was
12 running for office in 2007, he came to a
13 District Council 33 general membership
14 meeting to ask for our support and
15 promised to settle a fair contract.

16 Now, almost four years later,
17 District Council 33 members still do not
18 have a settled contract, a pay raise or
19 an increase in health benefits
20 contributions from the City.

21 We have continued to deliver
22 quality public services to the citizens
23 of Philadelphia, with no work stoppages
24 or strikes and with no increases in pay
25 or City contributions for health or

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 pension benefits for the last four years.

3 On healthcare benefits,

4 District Council 33 was the first City

5 worker union to move to a self-insured

6 plan that allowed us to maintain our

7 health benefits while saving the City

8 millions of dollars in contributions.

9 The City has not increased its

10 contributions to our health and welfare

11 fund for going on four years. Those

12 savings, combined with savings from

13 District Council 47, amount to over \$69

14 million.

15 District Council 33 and 47

16 members have not received any pay

17 increases since 2007, and the pay freeze

18 has saved the City another \$52 million.

19 District Council 33 worked with

20 the City in September of 2008 to reassign

21 hundreds of City workers to other funded

22 jobs instead of layoffs, and saved the

23 City an additional \$35 million.

24 District Council 33 provided

25 the crucial support and the Pennsylvania

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 Legislature in September 2009 that
3 produced the passage of legislation
4 approving the changes to the pension fund
5 and allowed the City to increase the
6 local sales tax. The pension fund
7 changes saved the City \$240 million, and
8 as of December 2010, the sales tax has
9 already generated another \$51 million for
10 the City.

11 District Council 33 has helped
12 the City save \$447 million in the last
13 four years. That savings figure doesn't
14 include the hundreds of millions that the
15 City has saved as a result of the
16 arbitration award to the police and
17 firefighter unions.

18 The legislative relief on the
19 sales tax and the pension fund changes
20 passed by the Pennsylvania General
21 Assembly will help the City to generate
22 an estimated \$700 million in additional
23 revenue over the City's Five Year Plan.
24 That includes the 240 million from the
25 pension changes as well as projected 460

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 million from the sales tax increase in
3 the same time period.

4 These are facts that the City
5 has never denied. I am not making up
6 these figures. These figures can be
7 easily calculated by adding up what the
8 City would have paid over the last four
9 years if we had had increases that come
10 close to the percentage increase in the
11 cost of health benefits. Attached to my
12 formal testimony are spreadsheets that
13 detail how we came to the savings figures
14 for wages and health benefits
15 contribution that I have cited in this
16 testimony.

17 I have brought the Controller
18 of District Council 33, Frank Wallace,
19 with me today to explain exactly how we
20 calculated the savings we have made for
21 the City, and he is available to answer
22 any questions you may have.

23 I would also like to take note
24 that all of the savings the City -- to
25 the City that District Council 33 has

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.
2 produced over the last few years don't
3 include the literally hundreds of
4 millions of dollars that the City has
5 wasted by contracting out bargaining
6 union work that could have been done
7 quicker, more efficiently and at less
8 expense by District Council 33.

9 The issue of contracting out is
10 a separate subject --

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. MATTHEWS: The issue of
13 contracting out is a separate subject
14 that will be worthy of a separate set of
15 public hearings, and there are a number
16 of local unions in District Council 33
17 that deliver a great deal of detailed
18 testimony on this subject.

19 After all this help, after all
20 the sacrifices made by District Council
21 33 members in the last four years, the
22 City turns a deaf ear.

23 On Monday, March 21st, District
24 Council 33's negotiating team held our
25 first formal negotiation session with the

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 City in over two years. The negotiation
3 session came as a result of a request by
4 the City to meet. The result of this
5 last meeting, bargaining meeting, is the
6 same as it has been for almost -- for
7 most of the last four years. No
8 progress. Mayor Nutter wants to dictate
9 terms, not sit down and negotiate.

10 It is time for the City to
11 recognize the contributions District
12 Council 33 members have made over the
13 last four years to help the City survive
14 the recession. District Council 33 has
15 gone above and beyond when it comes to
16 helping their fellow Philadelphians in
17 these trying economic times. The City
18 should not balance the budget on the
19 backs of the City workers.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. MATTHEWS: We continue to
22 do our part to help the City year in and
23 year out. We will bargain this contract
24 in good faith, but we won't be exploited.

25 What the Mayor seems to have

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 done is to penalize us for goodwill that
3 we had and the foresight that we had to
4 recognize this economic problem that's
5 around the country and also the economic
6 problems that the City had. So what we
7 did was take a step that was never done
8 before in the history of negotiations.
9 Knowing the problems that the City had,
10 we went ahead of the curve, and every
11 time the Mayor called for help, I
12 answered that call, knowing that we would
13 add up the savings that we have made to
14 the City over the year. The City would
15 not have balanced these budgets over the
16 past two or three years if it wasn't for
17 the efforts of District Council 33.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. MATTHEWS: In spite of
20 that, the Mayor goes around nationally
21 and around the country and says what he's
22 going to do with changing pension
23 benefits, changing our health and
24 welfare, just changing, changing,
25 changing. We are a union that fought

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 hard for these rights. As I said, we
3 knew the economic problems that were
4 going to happen in the City and we
5 stepped forward and helped the City. We
6 should not and will not be penalized for
7 the help that we gave this city --

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. MATTHEWS: -- and the help
10 that we gave the citizens of this city.

11 Our members are City residents
12 and taxpayers, too. We will bargain --

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. MATTHEWS: We will bargain
15 this contract in good faith, but we will
16 not be exploited.

17 We are appealing to City
18 Council to help us in our plight as we go
19 over the facts and explain the facts of
20 the money that we have saved the City.
21 As I said again, through all this crisis,
22 our members worked. Through all the snow
23 emergencies, through all the emergencies
24 with the water breaks --

25 (Applause.)

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 MR. MATTHEWS: -- through
3 everything that came up, we worked. We
4 did our job. We saved the City money.
5 In spite, what I believe, the Mayor
6 wanted us to strike, wanted us to
7 exploit. We did not do that.

8 The Mayor constantly tells us
9 the great work that City employees do.
10 We don't want a pat on the head. We want
11 fair treatment.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. MATTHEWS: Thank you, City
14 Council, and I'm available to answer any
15 questions you may have on our positions
16 on the budget or the contract
17 negotiations with the City.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. WALLACE: My name is
21 Franklin Wallace and I'm the Controller
22 of District Council 33.

23 Ladies and gentlemen, in all
24 due respect, these calculations are not
25 very difficult. No, we did not use fuzzy

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 math either.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Pull
4 the microphone closer. Thank you.

5 MR. WALLACE: Simply put, the
6 savings generated by the City for not
7 providing any salary increases that
8 Mr. Matthews just recently spoke about
9 was computed as follows: Total City
10 employees represented by AFSCME times the
11 annual salary at July 1, 2007, and that's
12 the last time that these workers received
13 a salary increase. That provides us with
14 the basis for starting this calculation.

15 Now, historically the workers
16 that is represented by DC 33 had received
17 an average of roughly three percent raise
18 over the last 15, 20 years. So using
19 that as a basis, we factored in that
20 average of three percent to the base
21 salary over a 48-month period, which ends
22 on July 1 of 2011. That produced a base
23 savings of roughly \$52 million just on
24 the salary had those workers received
25 that average increase of three percent

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 over the last four years.

3 Now, in regard to the health
4 and welfare, we used the same methodology
5 to calculate the savings on the health
6 and welfare fund, and, that is, again,
7 the last health and welfare adjustment
8 that the City provided to DC 33 also took
9 place on July 1 of 2007. So through
10 various publications such as the
11 Philadelphia Business Journal and reports
12 published by the Segal Company, a
13 well-known healthcare consulting firm,
14 and other documents that we reviewed,
15 which I could not remember off the top of
16 my head, we concluded that the average
17 increase in healthcare cost over that
18 period was somewhere around 15 percent
19 per year. We used in this calculation a
20 trend of 13 percent to be more on the
21 conservative side, and we also compounded
22 that number annually over the same
23 four-year period. That computed to be
24 more than \$69 million for the AFSCME
25 workers.

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 Adding this figure to the
3 projected salary savings that was
4 calculated on the wages, the total of
5 those two items alone total \$121 million.

6 Now, in addition to those
7 numbers, Pete also mentioned the pension
8 savings, the savings that was attributed
9 to filling the vacant positions, in
10 addition to what we projected was raised
11 by the additional one percent sales tax,
12 which we had an integral part in making
13 that pass up in Harrisburg. Combining
14 all those numbers together, we feel that
15 District Council 33 attributed a minimum
16 of \$447 million to this process.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. MATTHEWS: If you recall in
19 Fiscal Year '09, the Mayor had said
20 during our negotiations that he wanted 25
21 million from each union in concessions.
22 Well, if you see over the period of years
23 you add up the cost in the health and
24 welfare savings and also in the savings
25 from salaries, that savings is 221

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 million -- \$121 million. It's just -- I
3 mean, it's just plain overkill. I mean,
4 if you look at these figures, I don't
5 know where the Mayor is coming from. I
6 don't know what his agenda is, but it's
7 just plain ridiculous. And he talks
8 about negotiating fairly. I don't know
9 what his agenda is. I don't know what
10 he's looking to be.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. MATTHEWS: But it's
13 something that the members of this union
14 just won't stand for any longer.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. MATTHEWS: We don't like to
17 put it in these terms, because just along
18 with other representatives of the City, I
19 mean, we vote in support for our
20 Councilmembers also.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. MATTHEWS: And I'd like to
23 say this -- I don't begrudge anybody --
24 can I have a little order?

25 I'm taking over your job,

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 right?

3 Have a little order.

4 But I don't begrudge anybody
5 anything that they make. Absolutely not.

6 I'm 100 percent for the DROP program,
7 which the Mayor has thrown out there.

8 Obviously he wants us --

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. MATTHEWS: Obviously he
11 wants us to comment on it. I'm not
12 against anybody's salary. I'm not
13 begrudging anything anybody makes. This
14 is the United States of America. And I'm
15 sure not the one to make concessions, and
16 I don't begrudge anybody else to make
17 concessions too either. But fair is
18 fair, and we look --

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. MATTHEWS: You know, when
21 some of you guys come around and you come
22 to talk to us and you want our support
23 and we say we're going to give you our
24 support, all we ask for is fairness.
25 That's all we ask for. And if you

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 look --

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. MATTHEWS: You know, I'm
5 not hearing any questions on this, but I
6 want you to sit down and look at these
7 figures and I want you to look at the
8 history of what's been done in this
9 union. This is something unprecedented
10 that has never happened before. When we
11 went out and said this city was facing a
12 financial crisis, we stepped forward and
13 helped everybody. We stepped forward and
14 didn't get any increases over the years.
15 We stepped forward when the City had a
16 pension problem. We were the ones that
17 went out there and put our pension
18 trustees to delay the payment of the
19 pension plan so the Mayor could save \$230
20 million. It was us.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. MATTHEWS: And City workers
23 are tired of this treatment. They're
24 tired of these pats on their head. They
25 got to eat like everybody else.

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. MATTHEWS: Now, we can
4 guarantee you this: We've been calm.
5 We've been collected. Nobody wants to
6 strike. Nobody wants a work stoppage.
7 Nobody wants to do anything that's
8 harmful to the City. We don't want that.
9 But we want to be paid attention to. We
10 do not want to be taken for granted.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. MATTHEWS: We don't want to
13 be treated like kids out here. We have
14 worked hard for what we got. We have
15 sacrificed. We continue to sacrifice,
16 and we are not going to take being
17 stopped down as workers. We are not
18 going to get this budget balanced on the
19 back of the workers. Please --

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. MATTHEWS: -- please,
22 please pay attention to what we are
23 saying. We're not -- be forewarned. We
24 are sick of this. We are tired of this.

25 We got an expression, "The City

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 works because we do." None of this stuff
3 out here --

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. MATTHEWS: None of this
6 stuff out here, none of this trash being
7 picked up, none of these offices being
8 worked on, none of the staff around here
9 in this building, none of this stuff can
10 happen without the workers in this city.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. MATTHEWS: So now when they
13 come to say -- and I hear this. When
14 they come to say that we can't put money
15 in the budget for City workers or the
16 City or the Mayor takes the money out, I
17 ask you to look over those facts and see
18 how much money that we have sacrificed
19 and saved the City and why -- we are
20 penalized. We are being penalized,
21 because we didn't get any increases. We
22 went self-funded. We were the first to
23 go self-funded, and we managed to
24 maintain our healthcare. Fine. We
25 managed to maintain our healthcare. But

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 the City took the healthcare from their
3 non-union people. They made them pay.
4 Why should we be penalized for doing a
5 good job? Think about this.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. MATTHEWS: You think about
8 this. With the job that we've been doing
9 for our health and welfare, of course it
10 can't continue forever. Of course we
11 need funding. And the City has saved
12 tremendous money. But think about this.
13 The job that we did in our healthcare,
14 maybe we should be running the City's
15 healthcare.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. MATTHEWS: Because the
18 City -- we have calculated, the City
19 actually pays more per member per month
20 than what we're getting from the City,
21 and less benefits. So don't penalize us
22 to say for what we do, you know. Reward
23 us for the job we done and helped the
24 City. Don't say --

25 (Applause.)

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 MR. MATTHEWS: Don't say -- and
3 because I try not to speak about it,
4 because it's projected the wrong way.
5 The City employees don't pay anything out
6 of their paychecks. Well, that damn sure
7 ain't because of the money the City
8 didn't give us for the past 47 months.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. MATTHEWS: So as I said,
11 we're looking for you to fight for us
12 fairly. That's what we're looking for.
13 That's what we're looking for from this
14 Mayor. Because the more that I hear from
15 this Mayor, the more I hear -- more and
16 more I hear a republican speaking.

17 We have saved him the money.
18 We have sacrificed. Every time the Mayor
19 made that call and said, Pete, help me, I
20 answered. Every time he said, Help me
21 again, I answered. Every time he called,
22 I answered. The last time he called and
23 said that he needed help from the State
24 Legislature because of the people that
25 are in now, I said, I'm calling you to

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 return the favor, to do what is fair, to
3 do what is fair. And I said, Take heed
4 for this. Take heed for this, because
5 eventually the media is going to get this
6 point across. All these new
7 publications, all these anti-union people
8 out there are going to get this across.
9 All the reporters out there that have
10 been screwed by their newspaper unions
11 also, they're going to get this point
12 across. And you better understand, you
13 better understand, it's about what's
14 fair. We're not asking for anything.
15 All we're asking for is fair treatment.

16 Please, please, I'm making this
17 appeal to City Council. I would never
18 say please to the Mayor ever, but I'm
19 pleading with you. I'm pleading with you
20 to take heed --

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. MATTHEWS: I am pleading
23 with you to take heed and help us with
24 this just plight of the workers and the
25 citizens and the taxpayers that live and

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.
2 work and have to live and want to live
3 and work in this city and make this city
4 work.

5 Thank you.

6 (Standing ovation.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are
8 there any questions or comments from
9 members of the Committee?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: No
12 one.

13 (Audience members yelling.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

15 Mr. Matthews, your microphone may not
16 have been working too well, but I will
17 tell you, we all heard you loud and
18 clear, and we certainly know how
19 passionate you are, and I don't think
20 that's a secret. That is not a secret.

21 But at this point in time, I
22 would like to recognize Councilman Green.

23 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
24 Madam Chair.

25 Thank you very much for your

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 testimony. We had testimony in City
3 Council last week about healthcare
4 savings that can be attendant in the
5 exempt employees in the City and some
6 other unions moving to self-funding plans
7 and also with respect to making
8 investments in preventative measures, in
9 addition to the cost containment measures
10 that the City is not actually doing at
11 this point.

12 Based on that testimony, it's
13 clear that just with exempt employees, by
14 the City's own testimony, we could be
15 saving almost \$7 or \$8 million a year
16 from what we're currently doing, and we
17 haven't done it for the last three years.
18 So that's 21 million if you add it up
19 over the last three years, and that
20 doesn't include really any cost
21 containment. That's going to
22 self-funding, and that doesn't include
23 investing in preventative measures; for
24 example, paying extra attention to people
25 with diabetes, having clinics that people

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 can go to daily.

3 So there are tremendous savings
4 still within City government in the areas
5 that are outside of DC 33's control or DC
6 47's control. And I just want to thank
7 you for your testimony today pointing out
8 all the savings that you have made in
9 healthcare, and I'm sure you continue to
10 work on that all the time. I hope that
11 the City is paying attention, the
12 Administration is paying attention, and
13 they're going to make our system as
14 efficient as your system. I certainly
15 wish I could be a part of your healthcare
16 plan.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. MATTHEWS: And to answer
19 that, Councilman, we have also done that
20 in District Council 33. As you know -- I
21 don't know if you're aware -- we have our
22 own clinic. We have done cost
23 containment with the diabetes. That's
24 just about -- that's how we survived for
25 this period of time over the years with

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 our healthcare.

3 So we've done all that. We've
4 been at the forefront of doing that. As
5 I said, we went self-funded. We were the
6 first to go self-funded. We did all
7 that. We did everything. I mean, the
8 Mayor took his cue from us to do those
9 things. So he fell in line in back of
10 us, got that in arbitration from the --
11 award from the FOP. And we're willing to
12 sit down and discuss some of those things
13 in our negotiations and the way that
14 healthcare was changed in that agreement
15 with the funding of the administrative
16 plan, paying your bills, all those type
17 of things.

18 What the Mayor wants to do is,
19 he wants to say that your members must
20 pay. Well, that should be --

21 (Audience members yelling.)

22 MR. MATTHEWS: Hold it. Hold
23 it. Hold it.

24 That should be determined by
25 us; more specifically, from the funding

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.
2 that we get from the City. You should
3 not determine what our members are going
4 to pay, unless we don't have -- we can't
5 sustain the funding that you give us.

6 Case in point: FOP. What they
7 have is, they pay the bills. They get
8 their administrative costs. They don't
9 pay. We're open to sit down and work out
10 the same thing.

11 This is overkill against this
12 union. And I might say, I'm also going
13 to say this, some of the things that are
14 happening are happening to a largely
15 minority union. If you look at the
16 facts, these are the things that's
17 happening. These things -- this is the
18 fact. So that's one of the things that
19 we are highly upset with the Mayor about
20 is, you know.

21 The Mayor speaks of that he's
22 our friend, he's going to look out for
23 us. This is what he said. This is what
24 he constantly said. And every time when
25 we come to sit down, it's something

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 different. For friends like that, I
3 don't need. I need real friends.

4 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Well, just
5 for the record, over the past three
6 years, I know that five committees were
7 formed, the Technology Committee, a
8 Health Committee, a few other committees,
9 and in the first year where your union
10 and other unions accepted a one-time
11 payment instead of a raise, you were
12 going to work for a year with those five
13 committees to try to find areas of common
14 ground. Can you tell me of those five
15 committees, how many times they met in
16 that year?

17 MR. MATTHEWS: I don't recall
18 meeting. I don't recall meeting. But
19 let me tell you this --

20 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Zero, I
21 think.

22 MR. MATTHEWS: I don't recall
23 meeting, but think about this: We have
24 not got any increases in four years.

25 COUNCILMAN GREEN: I know.

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 MR. MATTHEWS: So we did those
3 things. We sat down and did those
4 things. We didn't have to ask the City.
5 We did all those things. What I want the
6 Council to take heed is, we have not
7 received a dime. We worked all those
8 things out. We were ahead of the curve,
9 and we sat down and did those things. So
10 the City never paid us a dime. All we're
11 asking for is fair treatment to go
12 forward from this year on and to help us
13 to continue the job that we're doing.
14 That's only fair.

15 And understand -- let me say
16 this. And understanding that, yes, there
17 was a financial crisis out here to the
18 City. We understand that. Because one
19 of the first things that some of the
20 Councilpeople said to me and the first
21 thing that the newspapers said to me,
22 Well, what concessions are you going to
23 make?

24 Well, what I said was, I'm not
25 going to make any concessions, but what I

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 did in negotiating with the City, we
3 continued on to operate.

4 Now, in that period of time, if
5 we had to make the adjustment with our
6 members to pay, that wouldn't have been
7 on the City. That would have been on us.
8 So what I'm saying, we should not be
9 penalized because we had the foresight to
10 do a good job. And I make the point
11 again --

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. MATTHEWS: I just want to
14 make this point again with the City. The
15 Mayor came in and cut the non-union
16 people, cut them, made them pay, made
17 them pay for everything. They're
18 actually paying more money for them and
19 they got less benefits. So what they'll
20 say to us is, Well, you don't pay. Well,
21 that's not because of the City. That's
22 because we were smart enough to do the
23 things that you talk about.

24 COUNCILMAN GREEN: That's
25 right. That's right. Well,

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 Mr. Matthews, I just want you to know
3 that I appreciate personally everything
4 you've done, and I'm going to stand with
5 you and I'm not going to take a cost of
6 living increase until you get a contract.

7 (Applause.)

8 (Audience members yelling.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
10 Chair recognizes Councilman Clarke.

11 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
12 Madam President.

13 Good afternoon, gentlemen. You
14 know, that was one hell of a compelling
15 statement that you just made, and as I
16 listened to it very intently, I can't
17 think of a single thing that you said
18 that I disagree with.

19 MR. MATTHEWS: Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: And as all
22 the Councilmembers did during the course
23 of the negotiation when the City first
24 started experiencing the problems with
25 its fiscal house, those phone calls also

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 came from us to ask you would you help,
3 right? You didn't say it, but we were
4 calling you, too.

5 MR. MATTHEWS: Right. Right.

6 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: I'm hearing
7 what you're saying. You're asking for
8 that phone call to be returned in a
9 different way.

10 MR. MATTHEWS: Absolutely.

11 Absolutely.

12 (Applause.)

13 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: And the one
14 thing, speaking for myself personally,
15 that I'm not going to do is over-promise,
16 because the worst thing to do is promise
17 somebody something that you know you
18 can't do. But I think there are some
19 things that we can do, particularly
20 around this whole contracting out
21 business, right? Because at the end of
22 the day, every time a job is contracted
23 out, that job leaves not only the union,
24 but too often it leaves the City.

25 MR. MATTHEWS: That's right.

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: So what I
3 would like to say personally, I would
4 like to commit today on that particular
5 part of the problem -- and I know there's
6 a whole lot of problems as it relates to
7 that -- that I would like for us to work
8 with you in a very targeted way to start
9 talking about dealing with some of these
10 contracting out issues.

11 (Applause.)

12 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: I
13 personally make that commitment, because
14 I can only speak for myself, but I
15 personally make that commitment to make
16 that my number one priority. All right?

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
20 Chair recognizes Councilman Jones.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
22 Ms. President.

23 Thank you, Mr. Matthews, for
24 your comments. One of the things that we
25 have done as a body is introduced Bill

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 No. 100748, which specifically addressed
3 what Councilman Clarke is talking about,
4 to talk about whether or not it's better
5 to keep jobs within the rank and file of
6 union members, within City members,
7 versus sending them out to places like
8 Jersey, and we're taking a hard look at
9 that. As we try to balance a budget, the
10 truth be told, it's cheaper to keep her
11 and cheaper to keep it in-house.

12 So now that we have your
13 testimony to also talk about, we hope
14 that you understand that you guys aren't
15 from another planet, you're our
16 neighbors, you're our neighbors, and that
17 when you do well, when you do well, we do
18 well.

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Listen,
21 listen, listen, first of all, City
22 Council doesn't negotiate the contract,
23 but what we do is vote on the budget. So
24 as we have in the past when it came to a
25 tax raise to support the salaries of

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 workforce so we didn't have to reduce,

3 watch how we vote, simple as that.

4 Enough of that. Watch how we vote.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Does

8 anyone else --

9 (Audience members yelling.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Would

11 anyone else want to be recognized?

12 The Chair recognizes

13 Councilwoman Brown.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you

15 for your testimony. As Councilman Clarke

16 indicated, it has been quite

17 enlightening, giving us an additional set

18 of facts outside of the meetings we

19 enjoyed with you around the conference

20 room table.

21 I took a lot of notes here and

22 the one question I have, Councilman

23 Clarke raised. What services to date

24 have been contracted out? Because that

25 helps us on this end when it comes to

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 being well informed.

3 MR. MATTHEWS: We don't have
4 that information to testify here, so we
5 would have to get that information to
6 you, as well Councilman Clarke, and we'll
7 get that information to you on the
8 services that have been contracted out.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Because we
10 need to be on the record in letting you
11 know, for every single department that
12 has come before City Council, the case
13 has been made that when you send work out
14 of town, that's not acceptable to members
15 of Council. Philadelphia first, women
16 and people of color first.

17 (Audience members yelling.)

18 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Absolutely
19 right. And so it's important to us that
20 you know that that is a regular,
21 consistent question raised every single
22 time a City department comes before us.

23 So we'll look forward to that
24 information, and I look forward to
25 working with Councilman Clarke and

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 others, who do care about making sure
3 that jobs stay in the City.

4 (Applause.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Does
6 anyone else want to be recognized?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
9 Seeing no one, Mr. Matthews, thank you
10 very much. We do appreciate your
11 testimony and your coming in.

12 MR. MATTHEWS: Thank you, too.
13 And, you know, I also want to tell the
14 City Council people again, don't ignore
15 the sacrifices that we made in this city.
16 Don't cause this to be a problem that we
17 don't want to make and when you get out
18 there and your constituents are disrupted
19 and they find out the reason why we're
20 doing what we have to do. I mean,
21 consider -- I hear what you're saying
22 about contracting out, but consider the
23 money that we've saved this city over the
24 years when the Mayor made that call and
25 said he was in financial distress, when

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 he had problems, as the Councilman said,
3 when he made the call to you, when he
4 made the call to me and we did something
5 unprecedented, because I know some of
6 you -- man, I am old. Not too many of
7 you have been around here, except for
8 Jannie, as long as I have. So we've been
9 around here. And you know in
10 negotiations, we always negotiate and
11 said after we negotiate, you find the
12 money. We didn't do that this time. The
13 Mayor asked. We delivered. The Mayor
14 didn't do a contract. We continued to
15 deliver.

16 These members are hearing
17 what's going on. They getting
18 frustrated. They getting more and more
19 frustrated from this stuff.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. MATTHEWS: We understand.
22 We understand that the Mayor negotiates
23 the contract, but you pass the budget.
24 We understand what he does. We
25 understand. We understand. All these

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 people in this room understand what the
3 Mayor does. And the Mayor plays this
4 same old game of sliding and sliding.
5 But I'll tell you what the members of
6 District Council 33 tell me. If you a
7 leader, you lead. You find a way. I
8 found a way in this healthcare, and we
9 survived.

10 We should not be penalized for
11 doing a good job, and that's what's going
12 on here. And I'm sick and tired of some
13 of these politicians and some of these
14 mayors going around expounding the word
15 of Martin Luther King and saying how he
16 made them where they are today and not
17 recalling that Martin Luther King died
18 for workers. He died for workers. And
19 he would turn over in disgust to see what
20 is happening to the workers today.

21 And workers will not be turned
22 down. We will do whatever we have to do.
23 Remember that. It's not a threat, and
24 believe me, believe me, it's not idle
25 talk, because I am not going to make

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.
2 concessions, not after the sacrifices
3 that we made to the union -- to the City.
4 We will not --

5 (Standing ovation.)

6 MR. MATTHEWS: We will not be
7 abused. We will not be. I'm telling
8 you. I mean what I say. I said it. I
9 would rather die after what we sacrificed
10 and give back.

11 If you heard me over there, I
12 told them what my uncle told me. I mean
13 it. This is not rhetoric. I don't run
14 for nothing. I wouldn't want to be
15 Mayor. I wouldn't want to do this job as
16 City Council, because I can't get along
17 with people that well. So I couldn't do
18 it. There's no way I can do it. But my
19 uncle told me something one day, Howard
20 McCall, President of 403. He told me
21 this, and it stuck in my mind. He said,
22 Many are called; few are chosen.

23 I was chosen for this job, and
24 I was chosen --

25 (Applause.)

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 MR. MATTHEWS: I was chosen to
3 do what I have to do for the workers that
4 made this city, made this city work, made
5 all of us that are here today, the
6 sacrifices that are made, the people from
7 the '30s and '40s that were making 8, 9,
8 10 dollars a week, no benefits, nothing,
9 dirt under they nails, ashes in they
10 nostrils. This is what they went through
11 to get what we got today. So I will
12 not -- I refuse, I refuse to take low
13 from anybody when we have done our part,
14 understanding what is going on with this
15 city, what is going on today. And I hope
16 that the Mayor is not doing this for
17 looking further down the road, because he
18 seems to be talking more outside the City
19 than he does in it. And I'm telling you,
20 we going to follow him or anybody else
21 that tries to destroy this union.

22 I am sick of this treatment. I
23 am sick of feeling used. And all I'm
24 doing is -- and, City Council, I want you
25 to understand, all I'm doing is making

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.
2 the statement speaking for the members of
3 this union. Please do not ignore us.

4 Thank you for your time.

5 (Standing ovation.)

6 (Audience members yelling.)

7 (Pause.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
9 Committee will stand in recess until
10 5:30. Thank you.

11 (Short recess.)

12 MR. McPHERSON: Our first
13 witness is Ellen Wert.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You
15 have been extremely patient and I want to
16 thank you. I know that we had hearings
17 up until -- I'm sure you saw the crowd
18 downstairs.

19 MS. WERT: Yes. Thank you,
20 Madam President, and I thank you for your
21 patience and making this extra session.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Okay,
23 Dear. Would you please recognize
24 yourself for the record and proceed with
25 your testimony.

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2 MS. WERT: Okay. My name is
3 Ellen Wert and I'm representing the
4 Friends of Cloverly Park.

5 Madam President and -- well,
6 absent members of the City Council, thank
7 you for this opportunity to speak to you
8 about the vital importance of
9 Philadelphia's Department of Parks and
10 Recreation. My name is Ellen Wert, born
11 in Logan, longtime resident of
12 Germantown. I represent the Friends of
13 Cloverly Park, a group of volunteers who
14 tend the two acres between School House
15 Lane and Wissahickon Avenue, Laurens and
16 Winona Streets that are part of the
17 Fairmount Park system.

18 If in 1986 one of you had told
19 me that the creepy, overgrown park in my
20 neighborhood filled with abandoned cars
21 and the site of crimes would one day be
22 an asset to the community and five-time
23 winner in the City Gardens contest, I
24 would have assumed that you'd been
25 smoking what they were selling in that

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 park.

3 But thanks to a group of
4 committed neighbors and guerilla
5 gardeners and the leadership and staff of
6 Fairmount Park, who believed in us, our
7 neighborhood now has a beautiful park
8 that attracts mostly positive use.

9 Moreover, the results of our 25-year
10 effort have proved a magnet, first for
11 responsible homeowners and, more
12 recently, developers who have carefully
13 restored the historic apartment buildings
14 next to and now nearby the park. Just
15 last year the owners of a long-neglected
16 parcel next to the park, embarrassed by
17 the increasing contrast between Cloverly
18 and their abandoned lot, have turned it
19 into an attractive community garden.

20 You've heard it many times.
21 Philadelphia's vast and varied system of
22 parks is unique. You know how much
23 revenue the large public spaces generate
24 for the City, revenue that Parks and
25 Recreation should have access to, by the

1 5/3/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110135, ETC.

2 way. And you also know the documented
3 benefits of a safe, clean, good-looking
4 neighborhood park, less crime, higher
5 property values, more active children and
6 adults.

7 But I invite you to stop by
8 Cloverly Park to see other less
9 quantifiable benefits. Among the
10 children and parents gathered, you would
11 notice remarkable diversity, diversity
12 that extends far beyond simply black and
13 white. In this beautiful, welcoming
14 public space, these parents find common
15 ground and their children learn to take
16 diversity as a given.

17 Our neighborhood's 25-year
18 quest to reclaim, improve and maintain
19 Cloverly Park has made people more
20 vigilant about the neighborhood. When
21 good is the norm, something not so good
22 stands out. It has given neighbors an
23 occasion to work together and build trust
24 and understanding. That expertise has
25 spawned active block associations and

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2 increasing involvement in community
3 issues. It is no accident that among the
4 people who have recently gathered to
5 voice concerns about Cheltenham Plaza, so
6 many have pushed wheelbarrows of mulch at
7 our park. In short, it's helped us to
8 become better, more involved citizens.

9 With us all the way has been
10 the staff of Fairmount Park, now Parks
11 and Recreation. Frankly, we are amazed
12 at what they can accomplish with so
13 little money and so few people. But the
14 staff's ability to do a lot with a little
15 does not justify chronic underfunding.

16 The Philadelphia Parks
17 Alliance, whose analysis of funding
18 trends I include here for your review,
19 urges not only restoring the level of
20 funding, itself hardly adequate, but
21 increasing it. I underscore that good
22 advice.

23 And here's why: Cloverly
24 represents just one little slice of
25 Germantown. Think of the many, many

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2 parks that are part of the fabric of the
3 City's neighborhoods and consider the
4 impact and potential impact of each. By
5 adequately funding this city's unique
6 system of Parks and Recreation
7 facilities, you have an opportunity to
8 make a strategic investment unlike any
9 other. The dollars that support Parks
10 and Recreation go well beyond the
11 physical facilities. They go deep inside
12 the City's neighborhoods, leveraging
13 improvement, helping and uniting people
14 in positive ways, some beyond counting.

15 Now, with the merger of
16 Fairmount Park and the Department of
17 Recreation, you might applaud the fact
18 that these two important entities no
19 longer must compete against each other
20 for scant dollars. And yet they still
21 compete. The Recreation facilities are
22 under enormous pressure to serve the
23 City, its children in particular. In a
24 city where 57 percent of the children in
25 public school are considered economically

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2 disadvantaged, the role of these
3 facilities is critical. Without
4 significant funding, the Department's
5 money will appropriately go first to
6 meeting that critical need, leaving
7 little to maintain and improve the
8 parkland.

9 Keep in mind that the way
10 Cloverly Park looked in 1986 had much to
11 do with decades of benign neglect that
12 became decades of abusive neglect that
13 drove away homeowners. As City
14 officials, you know all too well that the
15 price of not doing something is usually
16 much, much higher than the amount you
17 thought you were saving in the long run.
18 There is only so much that
19 well-intentioned neighbors with trowels
20 and spades can do. And I might add, not
21 every park has those neighbors yet. The
22 Department of Parks and Recreation needs
23 sufficient funding this year and every
24 year to make all of its facilities safe,
25 beautiful and ready to use, and keep them

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2 that way.

3 Thank you very much.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
5 you, Ms. Wert. We do appreciate your
6 taking the time to come in to testify.
7 And your park sounds lovely.

8 MS. Wert: It's beautiful.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: And I
10 think it's an indication to me what can
11 happen when the community works together,
12 with the cooperation of Parks and
13 Recreation.

14 MS. Wert: Absolutely. It's a
15 beautiful thing.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: You
17 are to be commended and applauded.

18 MS. Wert: Thank you. Thank
19 you so much, and thank you for your
20 patience and time.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
22 you.

23 Any questions from members of
24 the Committee or any comments?

25 (No response.)

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:

3 Seeing no one, again, I thank you.

4 MS. WERT: Thank you so much.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Is

6 there anyone else to testify?

7 Are you testifying, sir?

8 UNIDENTIFIED WITNESS: No.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: I

10 don't believe we have anybody else.

11 We're just checking to see if there's

12 anybody downstairs.

13 (Pause.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: This

15 Committee will stand in recess until

16 Thursday, May the 5th at 9 o'clock.

17 Thank you.

18 (Committee of the Whole

19 adjourned at 6:10 p.m.)

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1
2 CERTIFICATE

3 I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
4 proceedings, evidence and objections are
5 contained fully and accurately in the
6 stenographic notes taken by me upon the
7 foregoing matter on May 3, 2011, and that this
8 is a true and correct transcript of same.

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13 -----
14 MICHELE L. MURPHY
15 RPR-Notary Public
16
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