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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC MEETING
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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Wednesday, 2/6/02

10:15 a.m.

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Room 400, City Hall

Philadelphia, PA

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9 ORDINANCE 010595 Amending Title 22 of the
Philadelphia Code, entitled "City of Philadelphia
10 Public Employees Retirement Code," by providing that
employees may purchase credited service for approved
11 leaves of absence taken to participate in the United
Nation Peace Keeping or Police Missions, all under
12 certain terms and conditions.

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PRESENT: COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA
15 COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE L. BLACKWELL
COUNCILMAN FRANK J. DICICCO
16 COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.
COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY
17 COUNCILWOMAN JOAN L. KRAJEWSKI
COUNCILMAN RICHARD T. MARIANO
18 COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILMAN ANGEL L. ORTIZ
19 COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO

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1 2/6/02 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - BILL 010595

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good morning,
3 everyone. Sorry for the delay.

4 This is a hearing of the Committee of the
5 Whole regarding Bill No. 010595. I would ask
6 Mr. Mezzaroba to please read the title of the
7 ordinance.

8 MR. MEZZAROBA: An ordinance amending
9 Title 22 of the Philadelphia Code, entitled "City
10 of Philadelphia Public Employees Retirement Code,"
11 by providing that employees may purchase credited
12 service for approved leaves of absence taken to
13 participate in the United Nation Peace Keeping or
14 Police Missions, all under certain terms and
15 conditions.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Mr. Kidwell.

17 (Witness comes forward.)

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

21 MR. KIDWELL: James Kidwell,
22 K-I-D-W-E-L-L, Acting Executive Director of Board
23 of Pensions and Retirement.

24 Good morning.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good morning.

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2 MR. KIDWELL: I am James Kidwell, Acting
3 Executive Director of the Board of Pensions and
4 Retirement. I am pleased to present testimony on
5 behalf of the Board's trustees and its chairperson,
6 M. Janice Davis, Director of Finance. With me is
7 Linda Donovan, Pension Program Administrator, who
8 oversees the Board's Active Services Units.

9 Bill No. 010595 will allow an employee
10 who's granted a personal leave of absence in excess
11 of 90 days to serve at United Nations International
12 Peace Keeping or Police Mission to purchase such
13 leave of absence for pension purposes by
14 contributing the pension contributions that the
15 employee would have paid into the retirement system
16 had the employee been in paid status during the
17 period of the leave of absence.

18 Our actuary, Kenneth Ken of William
19 Mercer, advised the Board of Pensions and
20 Retirement that the cost implications for the Cit
21 of Philadelphia's public employees retirement fund
22 are immaterial. Based on the past experience
23 provided to William Mercer by the Board's staff,
24 only 2 City employees out of approximately 30,000
25 active employees have been granted a personal leave

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2 of absence by their personal departments to serve
3 at a United Nations Police Mission. William Mercer
4 pointed out this leave of absence should be
5 monitored in the event that the level of activity
6 becomes more prevalent.

7 The City of Philadelphia Board of Pensions
8 and Retirement supports Bill No. 010595.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'll be honest.
10 I'm rather surprised to see -- or to hear that we
11 have only two City employees that have --

12 MR. KIDWELL: To the best of the Board's
13 knowledge, only two employees served in the Police
14 Mission.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Okay. Are there
16 any questions?

17 The Chair recognizes Councilman Mariano.

18 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Thank you, Madam
19 President.

20 Mr. Kidwell, the Council President touched
21 on this a little bit, but you talked about the two
22 employees. That is two employees in its current
23 action now in Afghanistan or someone who's been
24 called up in support?

25 MR. KIDWELL: I believe the two employees

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2 that we are aware of were in Kosovo.

3 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: 'Cause I think I know
4 five people myself -- three are policemen and two
5 are other City employees -- that have been called
6 in the Reserves, and I personally know them. So is
7 there a chance that they haven't done what they
8 need to do?

9 MR. KIDWELL: We would be notifying any
10 employee -- should this bill pass, we will inform
11 the employees of their rights to purchase at that
12 time to any employee who would be on a personal
13 leave of absence to serve in such a mission.

14 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: If someone gets
15 called up in October of '01 in the Army Reserves to
16 deploy wherever they're deployed, are you notified?
17 Say, it's a policeman -- I know two policemen in
18 the 24th District that are now with the military
19 somewhere. Are you notified that there might be a
20 gap at his pension? What I'm looking for is, is
21 there -- could somebody fall through the cracks
22 here?

23 MR. KIDWELL: No one will fall through the
24 cracks.

25 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Because you'll notify

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2 everybody?

3 MR. KIDWELL: This bill is a little bit
4 different than an employee who is on a leave of
5 absence -- on a military leave of absence.

6 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Right.

7 MR. KIDWELL: Okay, they currently have
8 the right to purchase that military leave of
9 absence for pension purposes.

10 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Okay.

11 MR. KIDWELL: This bill steps outside of
12 the military leave and is for United Nations Peace
13 Keeping or a Police Mission, which is not a
14 military leave of absence.

15 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Which would be Kosovo
16 or Bosnia.

17 MR. KIDWELL: Yes.

18 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: That was that was.

19 MR. KIDWELL: Well, if you served in the
20 United Nations Peace Keeping Mission in Kosovo,
21 yes. If you're an active employee granted a
22 military leave and served in Kosovo, that employee
23 currently has the right to purchase such leave.

24 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: This just basically
25 fills where there may have been a loophole? Is

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2 that safe to say?

3 MR. KIDWELL: Yes, it is.

4 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Okay, thank you.

5 MR. KIDWELL: Thank you.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are there any
7 other questions from members of the committee?

8 (No further questions.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Is there anyone
10 else to testify on this bill?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Seeing none,
13 this will conclude the public hearing.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: We will now go
3 into our public meeting, and the Chair recognizes
4 Councilwoman Krajewski.

5 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank you, Madam
6 President.

7 I move that Bill No. 010595 be reported
8 out of this committee with a favorable
9 recommendation.

10 (Duly seconded.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
12 moved and seconded that --

13 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: With a
14 suspension.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Whatever you
16 want; do you want to suspend the rules?

17 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: With the rules of
18 Council to be suspended as to permit first reading
19 at the next session of Council.

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
22 moved and seconded that Bill No. 010595 be reported
23 out of committee with a favorable recommendation,
24 also a recommendation that the rules of Council be
25 suspended so as to permit first reading at our next

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2 session of Council.

3 All those in favor will say aye.

4 Those opposed?

5 The ayes have it, the motion carries.

6 Thank you very much.

7 This concludes the hearing.

8 (Proceedings end at 10:35.)

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CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing
proceedings of the Council of the City of
Philadelphia's meeting of the Council Committee of
the Whole of Wednesday, February 6, 2002, are
contained fully and accurately in the stenographic
notes taken by me upon, and that this is a true and
correct transcript of same.

RE: Bill No. 010595

Josephine Cardillo
Registered Professional Reporter
and Notary Public

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