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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3

JOINT COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY

4

AND PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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William Penn High School
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, December 6, 2006
7:10 p.m.

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PRESENT:

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COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO

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COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER

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COUNCILMAN WILLIAM GREENLEE

14

COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO

15

RESOLUTION 051155 - Resolution authorizing the
Council Committees on Public Safety and Public
Health and Human Services to hold hearings
regarding the findings and recommendations of
the "Blueprint for a Safer Philadelphia," and,
further authorizing the Committees to seek
advice and recommendations on how Philadelphia
can reduce and eliminate crime affecting the
City's youth.

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COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Good

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evening, everyone. My name is Marian

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Tasco and I'm the Councilperson for the

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Ninth Councilmanic District and Chair of

6

the Public Health and Human Services

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Committee. With me this evening is

8

Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller,

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Chairperson of the Public Safety

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Committee, and I will introduce the

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Councilmembers and then we'll have

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remarks and we'll begin.

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We have a new

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Councilmember-at-Large, Councilman Bill

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Greenlee, who was sworn in on the 27th

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and already has chaired a couple of

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exciting hearings as Chair of the Law and

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Government Committee, and we have

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Councilman Rizzo, who is with us and who

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has attended all of the hearings on the

21

Blueprint.

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We are here tonight at the

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request of State Representative Curtis

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Thomas. Last spring, the City Council

25

began to have hearings on the Blueprint

1 12/6/06 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 051155
2 for a Safer Philadelphia as a result of
3 the murder of Faheem Thomas-Childs.
4 State Representative Dwight Evans pulled
5 together a number of people throughout
6 the City representing organizations and
7 communities to talk about how to stem the
8 tide of violence, and I will let him talk
9 about that process.

10 We thought in City Council to
11 raise the conscious level of what the
12 Blueprint is all about we would have
13 public hearings on the Blueprint for a
14 Safer Philadelphia, ask people to come in
15 and give their thoughts about how they
16 thought the Blueprint could be shaped and
17 implemented in the communities and
18 programs, what programs could be
19 developed to help make the Blueprint
20 successful.

21 Then we thought, Well, why
22 don't we take this show on the road and
23 hold City Council hearings in the
24 community. So we began with Germantown
25 High School and we've been all over the

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2 City, from the Northwest to the Northeast
3 to West Philadelphia, Southwest
4 Philadelphia and South Philadelphia, and
5 had concluded the process until probably
6 the spring when we may have one in
7 Northwest Philadelphia at Martin Luther
8 King High School. But we were going to
9 end and then State Representative Curtis
10 Thomas asked us to come this evening, and
11 hopefully he will come this evening
12 before we end this program.

13 So I would like to ask Donna
14 Reed Miller, the Co-Chair of the Public
15 Safety Committee to chair -- what am I
16 saying? Let me ask Councilwoman Donna
17 Miller to give opening remarks as Chair
18 of the Public Safety Committee of City
19 Council. And we thank all of you who are
20 here for coming out tonight and we
21 certainly thank the City Council staff
22 for their work in setting up this program
23 and the School District of Philadelphia
24 and William Penn High School for opening
25 its doors so we could come in.

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2 Councilwoman Miller.

3 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank

4 you. Thank you, Councilwoman Tasco.

5 Good evening, everyone. I'm

6 Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller, the

7 Councilwoman for the Eighth Councilmanic

8 District, and as Councilwoman Tasco said,

9 I am the Chair of the Public Safety

10 Committee for City Council.

11 I'd also like to begin by

12 thanking those that have taken an

13 interest in Philadelphia and its problem

14 with violence. The fact that you are

15 here shows that you are more than

16 interested in the affairs of the City and

17 you're willing to actually get out and do

18 something. And, again, I want to thank

19 you.

20 I'm going to just condense my

21 remarks.

22 As most people in this room

23 know, as of today, we've reached 377

24 murders. We've completed 340 days this

25 year, and that means that more than one

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2 person is getting killed every day. So
3 since we only have 25 days left this
4 year, how many more will be killed? At
5 least 28 more, according to our track
6 record. We're losing people here in
7 Philadelphia just like in Iraq, and they
8 are at war. What is the problem?

9 Well, we're here today and
10 tonight at the request of State
11 Representative Curtis Thomas. We've had
12 a couple other hearings in North
13 Philadelphia, and we're all committed to
14 do whatever we can to make Philadelphia a
15 safer place to live, a safer place to
16 work, to give young people hope.

17 One of the things I like about
18 these hearings is that the message that
19 we're giving to young people is that when
20 we were their age, we did things, too,
21 and none of us are perfect, but they do
22 have an opportunity to succeed and it's
23 okay to make small mistakes as a child,
24 but there is hope and there is a future.

25 So with that, I'm going to

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2 close. I just want to thank
3 Representative Evans for his vision, and
4 I think he's the catalyst for these
5 hearings and the vision of ending
6 violence in ten years. Violence didn't
7 start yesterday and it's not going to end
8 in just a day, and this whole ten-year
9 effort I think is very, very good. I've
10 been a part of many great meetings, and
11 really I think we really have many people
12 involved and they have actually bought in
13 to a plan to take a look at eliminating
14 violence within ten years.

15 So with that, thank you.

16 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you.

17 Before we call on the other
18 Councilmembers, could I ask Derek Green
19 to read the resolution.

20 MR. GREEN: Resolution 051155,
21 resolution authorizing the Council
22 Committees on Public Safety and Public
23 Health and Human Services to hold
24 hearings regarding the findings and
25 recommendations of the "Blueprint for a

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2 Safer Philadelphia," and, further
3 authorizing the Committees to seek advice
4 and recommendations on how Philadelphia
5 can reduce and eliminate crime affecting
6 the City's youth.

7 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you
8 very much.

9 I now recognize Councilman
10 Rizzo for comments.

11 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you,
12 Councilwoman Tasco.

13 I'm pleased to be here tonight
14 to extend my support to this important
15 issue, and I thank State Representative
16 Dwight Evans and all of my colleagues and
17 our newly elected Councilman-at-Large
18 Bill Greenlee for being here this
19 evening. I'm here to listen and learn.

20 Thanks.

21 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Councilman
22 Greenlee.

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
24 you, Councilwoman Tasco.

25 I'd basically like to echo

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2 Councilman Rizzo's comments and commend
3 the Councilpeople that have been seeing
4 this through this whole period of time.
5 I just thought very quickly how violence
6 touches us all, and we all have our own
7 stories. But as the Councilwoman said, I
8 was just recently elected on November 7th
9 and there was a young man that was
10 celebrating with me that night, one of my
11 committee people. That Saturday, just a
12 few blocks north of here, he was shot in
13 the back of the head in a robbery.

14 So violence is all over. It's
15 touching particularly the youth, but
16 everyone, and I think we all would like
17 to have magic answers. We don't, but I
18 think listening, going out into the
19 community and working together, hopefully
20 we can start getting a handle on this
21 problem, and I'm happy to be here and to
22 listen to the community.

23 Thank you.

24 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you
25 very much.

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2 Let me just recognize the other
3 people on the panel. They will be
4 introduced again and asked to speak, but
5 let me just recognize them here.

6 We have Alicia Jackson from MEE
7 Productions, we have Greg Thompson from
8 Don't Fall Down in the Hood, and we have
9 Jackie Whitkin from CHOICE, and you will
10 hear from them. And Captain Dennis
11 Wilson is back there -- you want to come
12 up -- from the 23rd Police District.

13 In 1999 when we had the Mayor's
14 race, one candidate talked about violence
15 and guns, and everybody said, Well, why
16 are you talking about that when you have
17 a great story to tell about your
18 neighborhood? But I will quote from John
19 Bear's article that Dwight was right,
20 because he was talking about the issue of
21 violence and guns in 1999 because he knew
22 then that that was the number one issue
23 in the City of Philadelphia. And now in
24 2007, seven and a half years later, it
25 has come to be the number one topic of

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2 the agenda in Philadelphia.

3 We've addressed issues of gun
4 violence on the state level and so many
5 other issues in City Council.
6 Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller and
7 Councilman Darrell Clarke and Councilman
8 Rizzo have certainly introduced hundreds
9 of pieces of -- not hundreds; several
10 pieces of legislation around the issue of
11 gun violence, trying to get the ear of
12 the State Legislature to deal with the
13 issue of the guns, and certainly State
14 Representative Evans has used his
15 leverage of power in Harrisburg to bring
16 the issue to a floor discussion.

17 The Blueprint for a Safer
18 Philadelphia came out of an idea to try
19 and find a way to change the behavior,
20 and we have to begin early. So a number
21 of people came together to talk about how
22 to change behavior and what can we do to
23 develop a ten-year plan. And the
24 ten-year plan became a Blueprint for a
25 Safer Philadelphia and was started and

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2 headed up by Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith,
3 a medical doctor and a Harvard professor.

4 I'd like to now introduce State
5 Representative Dwight Evans, who is the
6 moving party on this issue around
7 violence here in Philadelphia and also
8 the major force behind the effort to move
9 the Blueprint for a Safer Philadelphia
10 forward.

11 Representative Evans.

12 REPRESENTATIVE EVANS: Thank
13 you, Madam Chairperson.

14 I'd first like to thank
15 Councilwoman Marian Tasco and
16 Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller for their
17 leadership. We have been to Germantown
18 High School, Olney, Gratz, South
19 Philadelphia, West Philadelphia,
20 Overbrook, Strawberry Mansion, and we're
21 here at William Penn. It's not an
22 accident that we have come to the
23 schools, because the schools are a place
24 that we need to try to put policies in
25 place that will address this issue of

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2 violence.

3 Also, I'd like to thank
4 Councilman Frank Rizzo, who also has
5 traveled throughout all these particular
6 hearings, as well as the new Councilman
7 Bill Greenlee. I'd like to thank him
8 also.

9 What I'd like to do is kind of
10 put this in context of where we are
11 today.

12 On February the 11th, 2004 is
13 when Faheem Thomas-Childs was shot and
14 killed in Councilwoman Donna Reed
15 Miller's district. He was not in the
16 wrong place. He was in the right place.
17 He was on his way to school. Ninety
18 rounds was shot that morning, and
19 unfortunately, he was shot and killed in
20 the head.

21 From that particular time,
22 Jerry Mondesire from the NAACP and
23 Representative Jewell Williams, who it
24 happened in his legislative district, led
25 a march of about 12,000 people.

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2 What have we done since then?

3 Well, on April the 21st, 2004, I convened
4 a meeting of the District Attorney,
5 various local elected officials and the
6 U.S. Attorney. From that process, we
7 worked and, as Councilwoman Marian Tasco
8 said, I hired Dr. Deborah Stith, and we
9 worked to put together what we call a
10 Blueprint for a Safer Philadelphia.

11 Now, we kicked off this
12 particular Blueprint about maybe a year
13 ago, which Alicia will get into the
14 details of it. And basically we wanted
15 to use a public health approach, very
16 similar to like cigarettes. In 1964, you
17 had the Surgeon General report that came
18 out, and from that 1964 report, it was
19 the beginning of changing the behavior.
20 Now we have huge debates about countries
21 and states and cities debating the
22 question about having non-smoking in
23 locations.

24 So Dr. Stith wrote this book
25 called "Murder is Preventable," and that

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2 is the basis of the Blueprint. So thanks
3 to Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller and
4 Councilwoman Marian Tasco, we are trying
5 to make this the official policy of the
6 City of Philadelphia to eradicate, not
7 contain, to eradicate youth homicides by
8 2016.

9 If you look at that number of
10 377 homicides that Councilwoman Donna
11 Reed Miller talked about, you got to look
12 at what portion of that are 17 years and
13 under. Our targeted group to do is to
14 eradicate, not contain, youth homicides.

15 But let me just kind of tell
16 you as a result of the Blueprint the
17 kinds of things that have gone in place,
18 and it's important. For example, for the
19 first time ever, Councilwoman Donna Reed
20 Miller, Councilwoman Marian Tasco and
21 Councilman Frank Rizzo, for the first
22 time the City has talked about hiring
23 more police officers, and in this year's
24 budget, they talked about 100 new police
25 officers.

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2 In addition to that, Councilman
3 Frank Rizzo talked about the removal of
4 police from the highways. For the first
5 time ever, the State is now paying for
6 that, and then the City will have more
7 officers put on the street.

8 In addition to this, the
9 Governor for the first time is now paying
10 100 new police officers. So the State is
11 putting up money for police policy, which
12 never happened before. The highways are
13 now being paid for by the State,
14 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the
15 City Council put up money. So you're
16 talking about in the ballpark of about
17 250 new additional officers.

18 As a result of that, we came up
19 with a special session called the
20 Committee of the Whole where we're
21 dealing with gun policy. As a result of
22 that, Speaker Perzel came up with this
23 idea of 10,000 police officers statewide.
24 The City of Philadelphia, if we decide to
25 accept that, can benefit between 1,000 to

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2 1,200 new police officers. So from a
3 policing standpoint, as a result of this
4 Blueprint and everything else, we now
5 have for the first time discussions
6 adding more police.

7 The second aspect, thanks to
8 the leadership of Donna Reed Miller and
9 Darrell Clarke, who traveled to Baltimore
10 and other places, we now have cameras. I
11 know you can see them along Broad Street
12 and other places. We now have cameras in
13 locations, using technology.

14 So in addition to that, for the
15 first time we have created a Gun Court
16 that we now have. We never had that
17 before. Creation of community education
18 and involvement programs, creation of the
19 Safer Neighborhood Initiative and the
20 Youth Violence Reduction Partnership.

21 In addition to that, all of
22 these initiatives that we have now put in
23 place are initiatives to ultimately deal
24 with the objective of making Philadelphia
25 a safer place block by block, is what we

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2 are attempting to do. We're putting
3 these kind of City and State policies in
4 place that will help do it. I no longer
5 believe that the City can do it by
6 itself. It has to be this partnership
7 between the City and the State in order
8 to reduce violence in these
9 neighborhoods.

10 I believe, with the policies
11 that we have put in place -- and we just
12 started this within the last year -- that
13 you will begin to see reduction, but
14 these are things that we have just
15 started in the last year or two. And
16 really the point you want to put it in
17 context, which I think is the tipping
18 point, is February the 11th, 2004, is
19 when Faheem Thomas-Childs was killed. So
20 if you look at it from February 11, 2004
21 and you look at what we have done today,
22 we have so far invested \$30 million in
23 the Blueprint, and you will hear the
24 specifics of that by Alicia and she will
25 describe it.

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2 So I want to say to you about
3 more police, cameras and technology,
4 community-based, the Gun Court, the
5 Blueprint, all of these things have now
6 been policies City and State that we have
7 now put in place.

8 And what I would like to do is
9 have Alicia, if that's all right, Alicia,
10 you want to talk about from your
11 perspective?

12 MS. JACKSON: Yes.

13 Good evening. How is everyone
14 doing this evening? Good? All right.
15 Here we go. My name is Alicia Jackson,
16 as it was noted. Let me duly say the
17 proper thank you's as well, and I clearly
18 want to applaud Councilwoman Tasco,
19 Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller for their
20 just aggressiveness with reference to
21 bringing this to the community. It's
22 important that we start this dialogue,
23 which is what I'm going to explain with
24 reference to the MEE Production role.
25 It's about a dialogue around prevention,

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2 violence prevention.

3 In addition, of course, we
4 truly applaud the vision of State
5 Representative Dwight Evans, his
6 willingness to step out on the limb and
7 make a wholeheartedly genuine commitment
8 to committing himself to ten years to
9 say, Let's really sit down and think
10 about a model that we can put in place
11 for our community, for our young people
12 to actually prevent violence.

13 So with that said, again, I'm
14 Alicia Jackson here representing MEE,
15 M-E-E, Production, which is based here in
16 Philadelphia. We are a research-based
17 communications company. We are in the
18 business of developing and delivering
19 messages, primarily around public health
20 issues.

21 MEE Production was brought in
22 to this process, if you will, in early
23 part of March -- or early part of 2005,
24 with the intent to lead this charge
25 around prevention specifically. As the

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2 Representative noted, though, the
3 Blueprint for a Safer Philadelphia is a
4 huge campaign. It's 30 million strong.

5 With that said, there are a lot
6 of things going on in the community with
7 reference to resources, programs, just a
8 host of things that are available to
9 young people around violence, youth
10 violence specifically. We're looking at
11 that target age of 16 to 24. MEE
12 Production is actually spearheading a
13 segment of that as we talk about
14 prevention, prevention from a public
15 health standpoint.

16 As a communications company, we
17 have been asked to actually develop key
18 messages around the Blueprint, around
19 prevention, to the extent that we are
20 going to be driving and are currently
21 driving the social marketing effort. And
22 the social marketing is to, as it was
23 alluded to earlier, is to actually put
24 messages in the community to raise
25 awareness, provide a high level of

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2 education around prevention. We need to
3 change the mindset, the behavior around
4 the issue of violence, which we know this
5 is a very difficult, difficult, difficult
6 task, because we all have our personal
7 views about violence. Young people I
8 believe are feeding off what adults think
9 about violence. So we're looking to
10 change the mindset, the attitude of the
11 entire community, the City of
12 Philadelphia, as it pertains to violence.

13 With reference to our strategy,
14 MEE Production did some research in June
15 of 2005, actually going into the
16 community, specifically the nine zip
17 codes that are exhibiting the highest
18 level of homicides. We spoke to parents,
19 we spoke to community-based
20 organizations, service providers, if you
21 will, and we also spoke to young people
22 about how they view violence in the City
23 of Philadelphia.

24 Some key issues came out of
25 that, of which we have started to develop

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2 messages around that are being, if you
3 will, delivered through radio PSAs, soon
4 to be released TV PSAs and print
5 materials. We're actually out of print
6 materials as I speak to you tonight,
7 which is a good thing, so we have
8 saturated the community with these
9 materials.

10 Some of the highlights of the
11 qualitative research, which is very
12 important from our standpoint because
13 it's how we ground our message
14 development process, is that education is
15 critical to preventing, again, preventing
16 violence. Young people articulated that
17 they want a good education. We are also
18 hearing that they're not receiving a good
19 education. It's up to adults to say, We
20 have to now push the system and other
21 kinds of resources, which are
22 after-school programs, providing that
23 educational foundation, that we demand
24 high-quality education opportunities for
25 our young folk.

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2 In addition to that, another
3 key research finding and message
4 opportunity is around parenting. We
5 don't intend to blame anyone with
6 reference to the level of violence that
7 Philadelphia is experiencing. So we want
8 parents clearly to know that we support
9 their efforts in raising their children
10 and that we're going to be in the
11 community talking about parenting
12 classes, if you will, letting folk know
13 that there are ways that you can train
14 your child and develop your child not to
15 be violent.

16 In addition to that, we have a
17 key message that came out of the
18 research, which I think is very
19 critical -- and we're speaking directly
20 to the young people -- the lack of adult
21 involvement. Young people asked for
22 adults to be involved in their lives, and
23 we, for the most part, have dropped the
24 ball. So we are engaging all folk in the
25 Philadelphia community to get involved in

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2 this endeavor and play a part, and that
3 part can be as small as knowing the youth
4 on your block. Getting to know one child
5 in your community by name can make a
6 difference in the development of that
7 child.

8 It was actually articulated on
9 a radio show last night -- and this is a
10 sidebar statistic -- that if a child has
11 two bad experiences in their educational
12 development in the early years, that can
13 ruin them for life. That's significant.
14 If you have two bad experiences in your
15 early childhood development in your
16 school environment, that can ruin a child
17 for life.

18 So we need to think about the
19 experiences that young people are having
20 with adults in and out of the school, in
21 and out of the community, in and out of
22 every environment that young people are
23 in, recreational environments, church
24 environments. It's important that we
25 interact with young people.

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2 So those are the key messages
3 as we look to move these messages into
4 the community from traditional
5 standpoints. I talked about the
6 traditional channels, the traditional
7 channels being radio PSAs, TV PSAs, print
8 materials, transit. And you may have
9 seen those things this past year. We'll
10 be launching TV PSAs in January.

11 In addition to the traditional
12 channels of delivery of these positive
13 messages, MEE Production is using several
14 proprietary models to take the messages
15 directly to the audience. We'll be using
16 peers. We are recruiting peers, adults
17 to work with peers. Peers will be
18 penetrating the community with these
19 messages and actually talking to not only
20 their peers, but adults with reference to
21 prevention, violence prevention.

22 In addition, we are working
23 with community-based organizations.
24 We've held a number of what we call
25 information sessions titled Chat and

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2 Chews in the community with
3 community-based organizations. We've
4 trained community-based organizations on
5 the strategies that we've used. So we're
6 using a number of non-traditional
7 strategies with reference to moving these
8 messages into the community. Again, it's
9 important that we get into the community,
10 start to have a dialogue around
11 prevention so we can look at changing
12 behavior.

13 In addition to some of the
14 other things that I've articulated by way
15 of messages and channel of delivery is,
16 one key channel of delivery for the
17 audience and the community is going to be
18 CHOICE, and Jackie will talk to you about
19 their involvement. CHOICE is very
20 strategic to this social marketing
21 campaign and to the Blueprint project
22 overall. They will be the central point
23 for which resources will be available to
24 young people, which was one major thing
25 that came out of the research. Parents

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2 articulated that there are a lack of
3 resources in their community that they
4 can access with reference to services for
5 young people. Young people also
6 articulated this.

7 With that said, CHOICE is going
8 to be that central focus for providing
9 those resources, as well as gathering
10 information around what is not happening
11 in our community with reference to
12 resources.

13 We're going to be doing a
14 Citywide mapping of the resources through
15 the University of Penn and Temple
16 University and Drexel University.
17 Philadelphia was awarded a huge contract
18 via the Center for Disease Control by
19 placing a violence research center here
20 in the City of Philadelphia, and they
21 probably have been very low key about
22 that because they just got the award this
23 past summer, and they will be laying a
24 foundation to also speak to the violence
25 occurring in the City of Philadelphia,

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2 which was a major cue from a City
3 perspective, but they really were
4 impressed with what was going on by way
5 of the Blueprint and Representative
6 Evans, so they selected Philadelphia as a
7 major hub with reference to one of these
8 research centers.

9 So we're joining with the
10 research center to actually do a major
11 mapping. That report will be available
12 next year.

13 In addition to CHOICE being
14 available with their resources, we'll be
15 releasing a new technology-driven
16 resource guide, which is going to be very
17 critical, because this resource guide
18 will no longer depend on people printing
19 paper. It's technology-driven and it can
20 be updated at a moment's notice. For
21 those folk who don't have access to
22 computers, they can get that at their
23 library. So these will be released in
24 January, which will really be distributed
25 and we think impact the City with

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2 reference to the resources available to
3 young folk. So we're really excited
4 about that.

5 And then, again, what's most
6 important is that we are engaging young
7 people in this process. This is a buy-in
8 for movement. We're looking to engage
9 adults as well as young people to say,
10 Let's get into the community, let's talk
11 about this issue, let's talk about it
12 from a prevention standpoint and let's
13 all change our thinking as we move
14 forward to eradicate violence.

15 Thank you.

16 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you
17 very much, Alicia.

18 I was just amazed that this
19 little cartridge, this little disc, is
20 going to contain information. Just pop
21 it in, carry it in your bag. If you need
22 help, you can tell people where to go in
23 their community to access the resources
24 and programs in their community. It's a
25 very good tool for us to use.

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2 Before I introduce the young
3 lady from CHOICE, who will talk about the
4 CHOICE and their role in this whole
5 Blueprint, I'd just like to say that over
6 \$28 million has been appropriated for
7 this Blueprint so far for programs
8 associated and part of the Blueprint for
9 a Safer Philadelphia.

10 This is not going to be a
11 quick-fix effort. I mean, violence is
12 ongoing, but we're looking to hopefully
13 stem the tide, and the bottom line is to
14 change behavior. And these resources and
15 the programs are developed to get to
16 young people, to help them change their
17 thoughts about violence and try to
18 channel them into new directions.

19 And one of the things I want to
20 say in response to an editorial that says
21 that Council has not really been engaged
22 in trying to deal with the issue of
23 violence, we are having these Blueprint
24 hearings around the City. Council has
25 introduced a number of pieces of

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2 legislation to deter crime, to try to
3 address the State Legislature on gun
4 control. We have through our District
5 Council worked with the Recreation
6 Department to open up Teen Centers. I
7 have three of them in my district, so
8 that young people can have alternative
9 sites to go and engage in activity.

10 So City Council has initiated a
11 lot of activity, and I'd like to think
12 that we need some recognition for what we
13 do. And I certainly want to, again,
14 applaud Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller
15 and Councilmen Clarke and Rizzo for
16 taking the lead on so many of the issues
17 around the security cameras, the weapons.
18 And yesterday there was a bill voted out
19 of Committee to hold parents accountable
20 for letting their children have access to
21 guns. So we're moving forward, and we
22 certainly do care about what is going on.

23 Part of this effort is the role
24 that CHOICE plays in providing the
25 hotline, and I'm going to ask Jackie

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2 Whitkin, who is with CHOICE, to talk
3 about CHOICE's role in the Blueprint.

4 MS. WHITKIN: Thank you. My
5 name is Jackie Whitkin and I am the
6 Director of Hotline Programs at CHOICE.
7 If you're not familiar with us, we've
8 actually been in the business of
9 operating public health and social
10 service hotlines for the past 35 years in
11 the Philadelphia area, and we are proud
12 to be now operating the Blueprint for a
13 Safer Philadelphia, which we've been
14 doing for about the last year and a half.

15 The Blueprint for a Safer
16 Philadelphia is a very special hotline
17 for us, because in the last year or so,
18 we've spoken to hundreds and hundreds of
19 people who represent a spectrum of
20 emotions in their reaction to the
21 violence issues that we're looking at.
22 We've spoken with parents who expressed
23 frustration and sadness over not being
24 able to deal with their children, so we
25 link them with mentoring services, with

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2 conflict resolution programs.

3 We've spoken with the youth,
4 who are bored and frustrated with what
5 their community is offering, and they're
6 looking for after-school programs and
7 ways to further their education and their
8 development.

9 We've spoken with people who
10 expressed so much excitement over being
11 able to volunteer their time as mentors
12 or in other after-school programs. So
13 it's been very exciting for us.

14 We have been the point of
15 contact for community service
16 organizations to find each other, because
17 what we've learned is that Philadelphia
18 is a -- it's a city of neighborhoods, and
19 one neighborhood is not always familiar
20 with what another neighborhood has to
21 offer, so we've been linking community
22 organizations with one another, parents
23 with programs and youth with their
24 programs. So we've been very excited.

25 It's been very fulfilling and

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2 we feel that in the next year, it's just
3 going to blossom even further.

4 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you
5 very much.

6 MS. WHITKIN: You're welcome.

7 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: We're
8 going to ask Mr. Greg Thompson, Executive
9 Director of Don't Fall Down in the Hood.

10 MR. THOMPSON: Yes. Thank you.

11 Don't Fall Down in the Hood is
12 an adjudicated youth program.
13 Adjudication means that a young person
14 has committed a crime in this
15 Commonwealth and has been found guilty of
16 the crime and now has a record.

17 We have young people from the
18 age of 13 to 18 years old who have
19 specifically committed crimes with guns.
20 That is what the program works with,
21 young people who have committed crimes
22 with guns.

23 Now, these young people who
24 have committed crimes with guns are --
25 and I need to explain it just a little

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2 bit. The reason why they're able to come
3 back to the community, because their use
4 of the gun was not to take someone's
5 life. They had a gun in a car, it was
6 under the seat. They pointed a gun at
7 somebody at an ATM machine and demanded
8 their money, or they took a gun to school
9 and put it in their locker.

10 Juvenile Court believes, along
11 with us, that we can begin to address
12 some of those problems by engaging the
13 family, looking at the community, looking
14 at the background of the family and
15 putting resources around those young
16 people with the problems.

17 When we take a real close look
18 at what's going on, look at history, we
19 look at family, we look at the
20 involvement of parental partners with us
21 and we also look to see if the young
22 person is adhering to the strict
23 guidelines that the court has laid out as
24 a result of remaining in the community.
25 Of course, drug testing, education and

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2 all these different things are part of
3 it.

4 If in fact those young people
5 do not comply with that, it is the
6 responsibility of my organization to
7 report it directly to the court, and then
8 that young person is removed or placed
9 under house arrest or taken to a
10 residential treatment facility or sent
11 away for an indefinite period of time.

12 Don't Fall Down in the Hood has
13 worked very, very hard to help change the
14 behaviors of young people by engaging the
15 family, by finding out what exactly the
16 problems are in the household, by
17 connecting the family to resources and
18 also working very, very closely with the
19 young people. We see them every single
20 day from 4:00 to 8:30. They are with us
21 at Temple University. They're under
22 extreme scrutiny and very watchful eyes
23 of the court, along with the program.

24 So we've seen a lot of good
25 results as working with our young people.

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2 And they just did a statistical study on
3 our program under the DHS and also an
4 independent surveying agency. Out of 400
5 adjudicated youth that was in our
6 program, only 13 committed crimes while
7 they were in the program over a six-month
8 period. So those statistics are
9 stunning, but it is a concentrated effort
10 that we use to work with our young
11 people, and it's working.

12 So understanding the
13 perspective of young people and
14 understanding why they are picking up
15 guns and how easy it is for them to get
16 guns is astounding, and that's what we're
17 going to lend to the conversation
18 tonight.

19 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you
20 very much.

21 We have Sergeant Greg Riley
22 from the 23rd Police District.

23 You might want to share with us
24 how they're working with the young people
25 in the district.

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2 SERGEANT RILEY: Actually, I'm
3 here representing Captain Dennis Wilson.

4 We're talking about violence
5 today and it's pretty interesting, we
6 just had our third shooting not even five
7 minutes ago in this district, which
8 covers this area from Poplar Street up to
9 Montgomery, third shooting today just
10 around the corner, Carlisle and Oxford
11 Street, a young man with a Tech-9.

12 So when we get ready to leave,
13 I want to make sure there's another car
14 out here, because the individual did get
15 away for now.

16 I don't know the condition of
17 the victim, but we had another shooting,
18 which is where I last saw Captain Wilson
19 and he asked me to stop by here and
20 represent him. On 1700 Woodstock, a
21 19-year-old male got in an argument with
22 another young male in the neighborhood
23 and he shot him in the stomach.

24 I think Senator Evans said it,
25 the guns are too easily available to

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2 these young guys, and I think that's our
3 biggest problem.

4 That's all I got to say. Thank
5 you.

6 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you
7 very much.

8 This is the second time. We
9 were at Olney and while we were having
10 the Blueprint hearing, there was a
11 shooting around the corner from Olney
12 High School that night while we were
13 there.

14 Councilwoman Miller, you want
15 to make some comments? And we'll open
16 the floor for comments or questions or
17 recommendations.

18 Let me recognize Mr. Stevens,
19 who is from State Representative Curtis
20 Thomas's office. Are you Mr. Stevens?

21 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Right
22 here, in the black jacket.

23 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: I'm sorry.
24 Mr. Stevens, okay. Thank you so much for
25 coming.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: And we
3 also have a visitor from Mothers in
4 Charge. I know you're Director of
5 Communications. What's your name again?

6 MR. BRUNSON: Theresa Brunson.

7 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: You know,
8 these shootings just go on and on and on,
9 and no matter whether it's one or 377, it
10 still makes your stomach jump. We all
11 just wish that we could wave a magic wand
12 and figure out a way that we could really
13 impact these young folks and stop this
14 killing, stop the violence. And we know
15 that jobs is one of the most important
16 ways to stop the violence and to help
17 these young people get jobs, but we have
18 to convince them to stay in school to get
19 some skills.

20 That's one of the reasons why
21 I've been working on ex-offender issues.
22 The police report that many of the people
23 that are arrested are repeat offenders,
24 and we also know that if we can help
25 ex-offenders become employed, then the

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2 chances of them going back to prison will
3 greatly decrease.

4 We were standing outside and we
5 heard all the sirens and walked up the
6 hall, and the only thing that we were
7 hoping tonight is that whoever got shot
8 did not get killed, because the number of
9 assaults -- we're talking about 377
10 murders, but the number of people that
11 have been shot or stabbed or violently
12 assaulted is very, very high. I think
13 it's more than a thousand. I was helping
14 my daughter write a speech and we were
15 doing some research, and I can't remember
16 the exact number, but it's very, very
17 high. So it just seems like we're
18 getting more and more violent.

19 Sometimes when I'm watching
20 westerns and everybody there has a gun on
21 their hip, it makes me say, Boy, I hope
22 we never get to that point. But, you
23 know, each day we're hoping we're getting
24 closer to convincing people, convincing
25 not just young people but many people in

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2 Philadelphia, that a weapon is not a way
3 to solve some type of conflict,
4 particularly when most of these murders
5 are committed by people that have
6 personal arguments with each other. So
7 I'm hoping that if we do put more police
8 on the streets, it will help with some of
9 the crime, but we need to figure out
10 other ways and start teaching young
11 people early on about conflict resolution
12 and how you resolve issues with people
13 without being violent.

14 So with that, I'm going to just
15 end my comments right there, because I
16 really kind of get disturbed when you
17 keep hearing about these murders all the
18 time.

19 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: State
20 Representative Evans, you had wanted to
21 say some more before we go to the floor?

22 REPRESENTATIVE EVANS: I think
23 that the bottom line is, we look forward
24 to hearing people's comments.

25 So Councilwoman.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: The floor
3 is open for comments.

4 Yes. Would you come to the
5 mike, please and identify yourself for
6 the record, because these hearings are
7 being recorded.

8 MR. GASKINS: Good evening,
9 distinguished panel. My name is Wayne
10 Gaskins. I represent the Letter to the
11 Community Program in the Germantown area
12 on Cheltenham Avenue. Although I'm not a
13 resident any longer of Philadelphia, our
14 school sits in the district of
15 Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller, and our
16 program, which many people are familiar
17 with, is one that you see here.

18 For 16 years, I've flown back
19 and forth from Arizona to teach at this
20 school. We've shepherded 787 children
21 through our school, who comes from every
22 socioeconomic background that you can
23 imagine.

24 None of our kids have been to
25 prison. None of our kids have been to

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2 jail. Most of our kids sit in the top
3 five percent academically.

4 Two years ago, we were honored
5 at City Council. I see some of the panel
6 that's here tonight that were there for
7 the second time in ten years for what we
8 do with children, intervention,
9 prevention and engagement.

10 We have them in a martial arts
11 training school, which gives them a lot
12 of an outlet for their youthful
13 exuberance, but also we teach them in
14 skills that are going to be related to
15 the real world, whether it's
16 academically, faith-based in their home,
17 in their communities. We have computers.
18 We do tutoring.

19 We've taken our children to
20 Panama, Switzerland, Japan out of our own
21 pockets. For 16 years, what a lot of
22 people talk about today is what we've
23 done. For 16 years, we've taken children
24 who would have been at risk and would
25 have been committing various and sundry

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2 crimes, as they have told us. Their
3 feelings was, a lot of the parents, a lot
4 of their school teachers, a lot of the
5 adults don't really care about them.

6 The proof is, there's been no
7 consistency with them, where we've been
8 consistent for 16 years. We've taken
9 children as young as three years old.
10 Some of our three-year-old children then
11 are now in college.

12 Our last student,
13 Mr. Christopher Rouse, was kicked out of
14 five high schools. His mother is a crack
15 head, his father is an alcoholic, his
16 brother is a dealer, and his grandmother
17 was a crack head as well. After being
18 kicked out of five high schools, he
19 finished top of his class at Gratz. He's
20 now in his third year at Lincoln
21 University. He went through our program.

22 But he's not an anomaly. He's
23 not an aberration. He is the norm of
24 what we do with children. Yet, we've
25 done this for a lot of children in

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2 Germantown and throughout the City of
3 Philadelphia without any funding
4 whatsoever. Most of the money comes from
5 the instructors, such as myself, Mr. John
6 McClary, or through the volunteers within
7 the instructor group.

8 A lot of the children have been
9 saying, they hear the mantra that
10 children is the future, but yet they're
11 left to their own devices, and if we
12 don't teach them, if we don't engage
13 them, somebody else will.

14 We've never put one child out
15 of our school for lack of affordability.
16 We've never told any parent that they
17 could not continue to have their children
18 come there. But by doing so, we've had
19 some young men say, If it were not for
20 you, I would have murdered at least three
21 people by now. I would have robbed,
22 burgled and done everything I could,
23 because I was heading down that
24 direction.

25 Now, everybody knows what the

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2 problem is. Everybody talks about the
3 solutions, et cetera, but there are
4 programs out there such as this one, and
5 this situation has been -- Dr. Paul
6 Vallas has been to our school. The
7 essays that were written about how
8 certain types of behaviors affected you
9 academically, the two winners of that
10 program for the School District both came
11 from our schools. They were from two
12 different sections of the City. Both of
13 the winners came from our school.

14 Our program is not theoretical.
15 It is measured, it is quantifiable. It
16 is predictable behavior. So we not only
17 address things related to their mind,
18 their spirit, their mental, their
19 spiritual conditions, we've done it
20 consistently over 16 years, and what
21 these students know and what a lot of
22 people in the community know, if these
23 young men and women look at us for
24 leadership, they see it consistently all
25 the time in spite of, not because of.

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2 And they also know for the simple things
3 that we've asked for for this school --
4 and I talked to Councilman Miller about
5 this, and she's engaged some people and
6 given us some direction -- simple things
7 like having an additional bathroom, we
8 haven't gotten; the school having no
9 heat, we haven't gotten. But we keep the
10 lights on, the doors open for those kids
11 in the community. So what they see, we
12 don't talk a good game, we walk it like
13 we talk about, without any funding.

14 Tonight I'm here to say we
15 would like to help you in the prevention
16 of gun violence, because our kids are so
17 strong. Four days before they were
18 honored -- and Councilman Miller will
19 testify to this -- four days before they
20 would go down to City Hall and be
21 recognized for what they've done in the
22 community and schools, four of our
23 students were attacked by two guys with
24 guns. They gave up nothing. They
25 weren't hurt, and they didn't hurt the

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2 muggers. They didn't hurt them, but one
3 of the guys with the gun ends up being on
4 the ground. One of our students,
5 Christopher Rouse, who was the one who
6 graduated at the top of his class, told
7 another one of his colleagues who had the
8 young man with the gun on the ground,
9 Don't hurt him, you know what we're
10 trained to do, refrain from violent
11 behavior.

12 Now, five years ago, both of
13 those young men would have killed the
14 young man with the gun. Five years
15 later, they did not do that.

16 So these young people look for
17 us to be able to say, Are you
18 consistently going to be there, are you
19 going to abandon us when we need you, and
20 when we grow up, if we send our younger
21 brothers, sisters and cousins, et cetera,
22 to you, will you still be there?

23 Each year that I come back and
24 forth, it's a crisis. For 16 years I've
25 done it. My last trip here was supposed

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2 to be for five days. I've been here for
3 a month and a half, looking for funding
4 for this school.

5 If this school closes down, you
6 lose a treasure, you lose an ally, you
7 lose an advocate not only for the kids
8 but for the very programs that you're
9 trying to put into effect.

10 Our kids grow up in a different
11 world today. To get respect on the
12 street, either you have to be thugged up,
13 gangstered up or you got to walk around
14 with a gang. If you got a gun, you got
15 power.

16 We teach our kids to go in a
17 different direction, but in their world,
18 that's what they know works. We have to
19 give them an alternative, and we've done
20 it for so many years, but for us to
21 continue to be your allies, we need
22 money. That's just the bottom line. And
23 as simple as having heat at our little
24 school, there is no heat. A young lady
25 came in last night and said, Why does

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2 everybody have a coat on? It's because
3 there's no heat. It's that serious. But
4 nonetheless, our children still come.
5 They get on their computers. They do
6 their homework. They do their training,
7 because we tell them, it may not be the
8 most comfortable environment for you, but
9 it is a consistent environment for you to
10 learn.

11 So tonight what I'm asking for
12 for the panel here, if you can hear this,
13 these things that we have consistently
14 done, this program that has been
15 consistently lauded by the City,
16 citations from the City, from the
17 Superintendent of schools, it's been
18 lauded, but it has not been funded.
19 There are a lot of viable programs, but
20 none with a history like ours, 16 years,
21 and not a dime from either City, State or
22 private sector. It's time to make these
23 people your ally in your fight to either
24 diminish -- because you're never going to
25 eliminate it in total, but you can

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2 diminish the violence that goes on. You
3 can change the mindset of a lot of these
4 young men who want to grab a gun because
5 that's the only way of getting some
6 power.

7 We empower our young people.
8 What we're asking you for tonight is for
9 you to be able to empower us to continue
10 the work that we've begun.

11 Thank you.

12 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you
13 very much. Thank you.

14 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: The
15 Karate School has been there for a lot of
16 years.

17 What's the name of the school?

18 MR. GASKIN: Best Karate
19 School. It's been there now for -- on
20 that location it's been there for 15
21 years, and total 17 years.

22 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Right.
23 And it's on Chelton Avenue right near
24 Fresh Grocer, right across the street.

25 MR. GASKINS: It's between

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2 Pulaski and Morris right on Cheltenham
3 Avenue.

4 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Right.
5 And we've seen the children perform.
6 They're very skilled. We helped them
7 when they were going to Japan a couple
8 years ago. And I think it's a really
9 good program. Just the other night I had
10 a community meeting on Monday night and
11 they came to the meeting, and they were
12 telling me that night that they have a
13 young man that comes and spends the night
14 at their place because he doesn't want to
15 go home, because his mother is a drug
16 dealer.

17 MS. GASKINS: Yes. The
18 trophies that he won in Japan, his family
19 sold the trophies for drugs.

20 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: So they
21 really do a lot to help the young people
22 in the neighborhood, and they help people
23 of all races, all colors. And I really
24 think it's a good program, and I thank
25 you for coming.

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2 They happened to drop in my
3 office yesterday and I told them -- they
4 wanted to meet and I said, My schedule is
5 so full. In fact, I'll be in North
6 Philly tomorrow night, and he came. So
7 thank you.

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

10 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: We'll
11 talk later.

12 MR. GASKINS: Thank you.

13 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Anyone
14 else? Young lady from Mothers in Charge,
15 would you like to say a few words?

16 MS. BRUNSON: Good evening,
17 everybody. I would like to say I'm
18 very --

19 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Would you
20 identify yourself for the record, please.

21 MS. BRUNSON: I'm sorry. My
22 name is Theresa Brunson and I work with
23 Mothers in Charge as their Director of
24 Community Education.

25 We have a female mentoring

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2 program that we're running out of
3 University City High School, and we find
4 that, as most of you already know, the
5 children or young people want attention
6 from adults, whether it's just to talk to
7 them, tell them their hair looks nice,
8 something. They just want to be
9 involved -- they want adults involved in
10 their lives, and that's what we try to
11 do.

12 We also try to do a lot of
13 things in the community. Even though a
14 lot of people say they know us for
15 marching and candlelight vigils, we're
16 trying to show people that we do a broad
17 base of activities, most of it centering
18 around violence prevention.

19 But I did want to ask Greg,
20 with regard to the children who are put
21 into your program, you said there were
22 400. How many of the ones who are
23 actually arrested for gun charges are
24 actually put into your program?

25 MR. THOMPSON: All of them.

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2 The program is designed to work with
3 young people who have committed crimes
4 with guns, and also they have been
5 adjudicated. That means that they've
6 been found guilty of the crime. So all
7 of them that were in the program have gun
8 charges. And that represents a thin
9 slither of the problem in Philadelphia.
10 Not just Philadelphia but in every major
11 urban city in the country.
12 African-American males and Latinos in
13 particular are getting guns everywhere.
14 It's not just here. It's everywhere, all
15 over the country.

16 MS. BRUNSON: What is the
17 recidivism rate after they completely
18 finish with the program?

19 MR. THOMPSON: The data says
20 that -- the program goes for six months.
21 Thirteen was rearrested while they were
22 in the program. Sixty-eight was arrested
23 after they got out of the program. We
24 keep the data until they're 21 years old.

25 So it's still a really, really

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2 good rate in terms of what we do, but,
3 again, there are different strategies and
4 resources that we put together for the
5 young people to follow once they
6 discharge from the program.

7 The other thing that's
8 important to mention is, Don't Fall Down
9 in the Hood is a program where the
10 students can come back. They do not have
11 to just leave and never come back. They
12 have what we call all rights and
13 privileges to the program, and a lot of
14 students come back. And then we also
15 have employment opportunity, which we
16 call our teen leadership. And so young
17 people who have exemplified a strong
18 level of leadership while they were in
19 the program are now working for us.

20 So it is those different kinds
21 of things that we continue to do to keep
22 the young people involved, and then
23 finding them jobs also in the community
24 as well. That's what our community-based
25 partnerships are about, with the funeral

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2 homes and the lawyers and the hospitals,
3 all of those partnerships that we work
4 very hard to develop, we are channeling
5 our most responsive, our most dedicated
6 young people to those areas, because like
7 we all know, the issue is jobs and just
8 giving them something positive to do.

9 MS. BRUNSON: Thank you very
10 much. Thank you all.

11 MR. THOMPSON: It's good to see
12 you, too.

13 MS. BRUNSON: You, too.

14 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Let me
15 recognize Mr. Edward Wright, who is the
16 staff person for Councilwoman Carol
17 Campbell, and he's new, so we welcome you
18 and thank you for coming out tonight.

19 Any other comments or questions
20 from the audience?

21 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Councilwoman
22 Tasco, I'd like to ask the gentleman, did
23 anybody ever talk to the young people
24 involved in the gun issue on how they
25 acquired the gun? Did they have

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2 suggestions on how we could deal with
3 this issue? Did they buy it from the
4 trunk of a car in the neighborhood? Did
5 they go to Upper Darby?

6 MR. THOMPSON: There's an
7 extensive interview process that we do,
8 and some of the strategies that we use we
9 use very strategically to make sure that
10 we extrapolate the kind of information
11 that we need.

12 We are finding that the young
13 people are receiving the guns from
14 uncles, fathers. We're finding that they
15 are receiving the guns from drug dealers
16 and gangs, and also some of them are
17 actually stealing the guns from their
18 house. I have four kids over the last
19 six months whose parents work for law
20 enforcement, and they stole their
21 parents' guns. And here we have two
22 narcotics officers and two Philadelphia
23 police officers whose kids just took
24 their guns out of the house.

25 So it is a wide range, but for

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2 the most part, the guns are coming from
3 illegal sources in the community and
4 they're coming from their friends, their
5 families and they're coming from drug
6 dealers and also drug addicts in the
7 community.

8 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Well, I was
9 startled yesterday. We had a hearing
10 where a gentleman, one of our witnesses,
11 brought a gun that he bought in a
12 department store that was a knock-off of
13 a very popular automatic weapon, pellet
14 gun. And I could tell you, it made me
15 sit back in the chair, because it looked
16 so real. And I remember growing up you
17 couldn't buy a beebee gun. I begged my
18 father to get a beebee gun. You couldn't
19 do it because they weren't legal. And
20 apparently either there's a loophole in
21 the law or the merchants just don't
22 realize that they're selling this gun
23 that is not legal in the City of
24 Philadelphia and the County of
25 Philadelphia.

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2 So I'm telling you, I think
3 many of us saw that gun, it looked as
4 real as it could be. I'll tell you, if I
5 were a police officer on the street,
6 Sergeant, and somebody approached me with
7 this pellet gun, I don't know how I'd
8 react.

9 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Yes, sir.

10 REPRESENTATIVE EVANS: If I
11 could add, listening to Greg and what I
12 expressed earlier, Madam Councilperson,
13 when we talked about putting some of the
14 policies in place, and as I was listening
15 to the Sergeant with the shooting that
16 just occurred, I think he said -- was it
17 around the movie theatre, did you say?

18 SERGEANT RILEY: 1400 Oxford,
19 which is at the new movie theatre.

20 REPRESENTATIVE EVANS: I want
21 you to think about something for a
22 second. Fifty-one million dollars, \$51
23 million -- I think that's at Broad and
24 Carlisle, right?

25 SERGEANT RILEY: Broad and

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2 Oxford.

3 REPRESENTATIVE EVANS:

4 Fifty-one million dollars was invested in
5 that particular location. Mayor Rendell,
6 Governor Rendell, Mayor Street and
7 Councilman Darrell Clarke. I was there
8 the other day. It took 12 years to
9 develop that from 1995. The question is,
10 how long do you think that will survive
11 over a period of time if we do not get a
12 handle on this issue of violence?
13 Fifty-one million dollars investment was
14 put into that area.

15 That's why this effort led by
16 Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller and
17 Councilwoman Marian Tasco and the kinds
18 of policies we are trying to put in
19 place, we're trying to put what we
20 consider short-term and long-term
21 policies in place. And we didn't read
22 over the entire thing, but, for example,
23 the other day, the District Attorney
24 announced the local State Firearm Task
25 Force, which the State put up \$5 million,

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2 working in conjunction with the Attorney
3 General, and that \$5 million is for the
4 purpose to fund a joint local State
5 Firearm Task Force, which is concentrated
6 in Southwest Philadelphia. And I spoke
7 to the Attorney General just yesterday
8 about this, and the reason it
9 concentrated in Southwest Philly -- they
10 started in Southwest Philly. The concept
11 is basically to see exactly what happens
12 there and then expand to the other areas.

13 The second part of what we have
14 in the initiative here called the Parent
15 Involvement Program, run by the
16 Philadelphia School District, 1.7 million
17 under the Blueprint, and the idea was to
18 put parent desks in locations to work
19 with parent involvement, sort of what
20 Alicia said.

21 In addition, the Department of
22 Health, the Pennsylvania Injury Reporting
23 and Intervention System, 1.3 million
24 targeted to hospitals for the purpose of
25 trying to gather information and figure

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2 out how we can find another way of
3 alternatives. And what I said to
4 Councilman Rizzo when he mentioned the
5 role of the patrol of the Philadelphia
6 interstate, the State put up 7.5 million,
7 and I know that's an issue you mentioned.

8 I mention all of these
9 different initiatives at City and State
10 level. It's the one thing I don't think
11 we have ever done. And I was listening
12 to Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller. And I
13 know the question that people are
14 constantly asked is, When is enough
15 enough and when will we reverse this?
16 Well, I strongly feel that, one, what I
17 don't think we have ever done is had a
18 single focus about reducing violence. I
19 think we have had an unfocused approach,
20 and I think it's been more of a piecemeal
21 approach. And I think for the first
22 time, working in conjunction with the
23 City and the State -- and both
24 Councilpeople have been around as long as
25 I have -- I don't think we've ever had

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2 this joint kind of effort. And what I
3 will suggest to people, because I know
4 people are really listening, wondering
5 out there, Is this going to really work,
6 I believe if we keep trying to put these
7 policies in place, this will reverse the
8 trend, but what we have to do is stick
9 with a plan and a game plan to stay
10 focused on it. I feel very strongly
11 about that.

12 I mean, I think over the last
13 couple of years, I mention these
14 different initiatives and Councilwoman
15 Marian Tasco described what the Council
16 is doing and we talk about what the State
17 is doing, and I know people wonder like
18 overnight -- I mean, last year it was 380
19 homicides. This year, 375. But if you
20 think about it, this is 2006. In my
21 view, the Faheem Thomas-Childs shooting
22 was the tipping point.

23 Now, I don't think we have been
24 as focused as we have been in the last
25 two years and the things that we have now

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2 put in place. I mean, is there more we
3 can do? There's far more things we can
4 do. There's far more things we will do.
5 This testimony I think helps us.

6 I'm hearing about your program
7 for the first time. I just said to
8 Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller, How can
9 we be helpful to you. The Blueprint is
10 an initiative that your program probably
11 could qualify. I don't want to speak on
12 that. It depends.

13 So I want people to understand,
14 we're trying to do this from a
15 two-pronged approach. We're trying to do
16 the policing issue, which is very
17 important. That's more immediate. But
18 in the conversation what we're also
19 trying to do is to reverse the behavior.
20 So simultaneously we're trying to do
21 both. We're trying to put the presence
22 of more police and police officers and
23 everything we need to do there, but we're
24 also recognizing that we have to reverse
25 the trend.

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2 Councilwoman Marian Tasco
3 talked about up at Olney. I can't think
4 of who she introduced me to, the
5 minister.

6 Who was the person up at Olney
7 when you did that shop? What's that
8 name?

9 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Cortez.

10 REPRESENTATIVE EVANS: That
11 Teen Center.

12 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: The Teen
13 Center.

14 REPRESENTATIVE EVANS: At this
15 Teen Center in Olney, they had a Teen
16 Center in Olney. And we're doing it.

17 So I said to people, I think
18 it's important with this hearing -- and
19 particularly since the press is here --
20 to really understand about what's trying
21 to put these policies in place, which in
22 return I would argue is going to make
23 this a safer City. I would argue the
24 things that we're trying to put in place
25 will make this a safer City and reverse

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2 what has taken place.

3 Now, the real measuring stick
4 will obviously be the future, will
5 obviously be the future to see if this is
6 going to be working. If it's not, then
7 we make adjustments. But really the
8 Blueprint didn't come into existence
9 until 2004, and here we're in 2006, and
10 the implementation of these policies have
11 only been within the last year.

12 I know the cameras, when I was
13 just talking to Donna Reed Miller, I was
14 going down, I think it was, Wayne Avenue
15 over at Happy Hollow, I remember
16 seeing -- I know up at Broad Street, you
17 can begin to see that those things are
18 falling in place. And the cameras to me,
19 the technology is also used, in my view,
20 for the purposes of prevention, because
21 the idea is, you want to prevent.
22 Obviously if you catch the bad guy, it
23 helps the police, and that's a good
24 thing, but on the other hand, if you
25 notice the little blue lights, if people

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2 were paying attention -- I was noticing
3 that as I was coming down Broad Street.
4 If you're the bad guy, I can tell you --
5 I think that's a good thing on Donna Reed
6 Miller's part. She took the lead. I saw
7 them along Broad Street. I think it's
8 Broad and Erie. I think it's on Broad
9 and Erie.

10 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: And on
11 Girard.

12 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Broad and
13 Girard.

14 REPRESENTATIVE EVANS: So what
15 I'm saying to you, that's just relatively
16 new. We've done that in the last, what?

17 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Last
18 week.

19 REPRESENTATIVE EVANS: Last
20 week. So if you look at the technology,
21 look at the increase of manpower, you
22 look at the Blueprint, look at parent
23 involvement, look at the hospitals, you
24 look at all of these kinds of things. Do
25 not take that lightly. And I think it's

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2 important for us to send a message to the
3 public that we, City and State, are going
4 to do everything humanly possible,
5 humanly possible to make this a safer
6 City, that we recognize if it is not a
7 safer City, you will not have a \$51
8 million investment in the heart of North
9 Central Philadelphia. They deserve a
10 movie theatre there. They deserve this
11 in the community.

12 So to me, this is the number
13 one issue in this City, and we have to
14 use all our collective effort politically
15 and anything else we have to do. Because
16 if you haven't visited that movie
17 theatre, you need to go visit that. It's
18 a gorgeous movie theatre. A lot of jobs
19 were created, a lot of retail. And
20 across the street from there, with State
21 Senator Shirley kitchen and
22 Representative Curtis Thomas, we're
23 investing over \$5 million in Progress
24 Plaza. We're going to put a supermarket,
25 retail.

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2 So if you look at what's
3 happening at Progress Plaza and you look
4 at the Pearl Theatre, I mean, you begin
5 to look at this. So it's not like we're
6 just talking about on the concept of
7 criminal justice. The criminal justice
8 system by itself won't solve this
9 problem. So we got to put it in the
10 contextual aspect of, we got to do these
11 things, we got to have Mothers in Charge,
12 but we need you.

13 And I got to say this to the
14 audience: I'm equally as frustrated as
15 Donna Reed Miller in what she said, and
16 when the police officer says the shooting
17 with this Tech-9, you know, look, I wish
18 we had an instant answer, but I'm saying
19 to you with these hearings we're doing,
20 we've been trying to say to people, we're
21 trying to put these policies in place
22 that can reverse what has taken place.
23 And what you see here is the collective
24 leadership working together, your
25 collective leadership, the State and the

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2 City government working together. In my
3 experience -- and I've been in the
4 Legislature probably longer than anybody
5 who is in this room -- I have never seen
6 this joint kind of effort.

7 So I would suggest to people,
8 don't take this lightly in what we're
9 trying to do. We are doing all we're
10 trying to do. I mean, neither one of
11 these Councilpeople are from this
12 legislative district, so it's not their
13 district, and the Councilpeople-at-Large,
14 but we're here. I'm not just trying to
15 pat ourselves on the back. I'm saying,
16 the real measuring stick will be the
17 reduction in murders and the reduction in
18 the shootings. That's what we should be
19 measured by.

20 So I don't want you to think
21 we're just trying -- we should be
22 measured by the reduction. And we are
23 moving in that direction, I believe, in
24 spite of the fact that Donna said 377,
25 just the shootings there that occurred.

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2 New York, whose homicide rate
3 is as low as it was in 1963, you know how
4 many years it took them to reverse what
5 is happening? They hired more police
6 officers. They did economic development.
7 They did a lot of things. And the Mayors
8 all stayed consistent and made that a
9 focus.

10 And that's not a campaign seat,
11 Frank.

12 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I love it if
13 it is.

14 MR. GASKINS: Does that mean
15 you're running?

16 REPRESENTATIVE EVANS: December
17 the 11th, right across the street, come
18 on over.

19 MR. GASKINS: If I may, I
20 attended another meeting a number of
21 years ago in which they gave statistics
22 on what happens when a single shooting
23 takes place. If a person is shot, the
24 police comes out, X amount of dollars. I
25 don't know whether it was 8,000 or

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2 10,000. That person was taken to the
3 hospital by ambulance, et cetera, and
4 they billed a medical process, another
5 \$20,000. If the person is apprehended
6 that caused the crime itself, they go
7 through the adjudication process, now
8 we're talking -- they're locked up X
9 amount of years, we're talking about
10 \$200,000. Each shooting may cost
11 \$250,000, \$300,000.

12 Now, a lot of criminals, a lot
13 of people who like to do the gun thing,
14 one of my closest friends, a forensic
15 psychologist at USC, University of
16 Southern California, she said in talking
17 to her boys, as she called them, What
18 would prevent you from doing this?
19 Almost every single person said, If there
20 was any possibility there would be
21 immediate consequential actions to their
22 actions, they would have either thought
23 twice or not done it. One guy said, I'm
24 living in LA, 11 million people, 8,000
25 cops, chances of you catching me are

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2 between slim and none. If I get caught,
3 I'm under 16, what can you do to me? If
4 I am caught and you do get me, I can plea
5 bargain anything, including murder, and
6 he says, And Ms. Davis, I got four
7 bodies. So I know how to get around that
8 too. And he said, In my world, we all
9 know this better than most people walking
10 the street.

11 Now, the gun thing, I listened
12 to the initiative about Governor Rendell
13 when he says one gun a month. Down in
14 Arizona, people walk down the street with
15 guns on their hips. It's legal to own a
16 gun in Arizona. You don't hear of car
17 jackings. That doesn't happen.
18 Break-ins in houses, very seldom. And
19 the other side of the problem, Sheriff
20 Joe, which people may or may not like
21 him, when people go to Tent City, they
22 would rather spend two or three years in
23 state prison in Arizona than to go to
24 Tent City. His punishment is immediate,
25 painful and consequential. You go there

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2 and you get a tent for 40 people, he puts
3 80. You get green eggs and ham, you get
4 no MTV, you get no weights, you get no
5 movies. You're sitting in the desert, in
6 the middle of the desert, where it's
7 grueling hot, and the dogs are in
8 air-conditioned kennels.

9 Now, that may be a little to
10 the extreme, but most of the people there
11 know he doesn't play with this. And the
12 laws exist that says you commit a crime,
13 you will be punished immediately and
14 there's consequences for the actions for
15 what you've just done. So you don't need
16 more law. Enforce the ones that you
17 have. But most of the guys we've had
18 come through our school have said, The
19 reason why I roll with a gun is because I
20 can, and if I'm caught, I know there's
21 little they're going to do to me.

22 And then where did you get the
23 gun from? Why do you need to have
24 somebody in Montgomery County buying 15
25 automatic weapons, whether they're rifles

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2 or handguns? Why does he need 15
3 handguns in one purchase? If all you
4 need is a home defense weapon, which is a
5 shotgun or something for your home for
6 home defense, if you can have that, why
7 does somebody need to buy 15 or 20,
8 unless his intention is at some point to
9 work his way through the inner city,
10 knowing this criminal can't buy one, this
11 guy can't buy a gun for \$200 or \$300, but
12 now since I've now bought a Block 40 for
13 500, I can sell it to him for 1,500
14 because I know he can afford it, because
15 he's dealing on the corner down in the
16 bad lands or in my old neighborhood,
17 which is called Little Babe Ruth. He can
18 go down there and stand on the corner and
19 says, I got five Block 40's, I'll sell
20 them to you for \$1,500 a piece, and
21 people will just go ahead and peel them.

22 If the people who are buying
23 the guns are coming into the City, is
24 anybody keeping track of who is buying
25 these guns? If you need to get a license

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2 to drive a car and that's a vehicle that
3 can be just as injurious, but it's made
4 for a good purpose, buying a pistol, 15
5 of them, is anybody keeping track of who
6 bought those weapons? And what happens
7 to those weapons -- They broke into my
8 house and I lost them. Well, if anybody
9 commits a crime with the gun that you
10 bought, you're being held accountable as
11 well, because now you're an accomplice to
12 what has just happened by default. You
13 let your guns out of your purview. You
14 let it out of your sight. You didn't
15 have control of it. You're held just as
16 accountable as the person who pulled the
17 trigger.

18 Is anyone addressing those
19 issues that would help you in the
20 reduction of crime? These boys are not
21 getting these guns just from their
22 uncles. Their uncles are getting the
23 guns. Well, where are the uncles getting
24 them from, or their fathers, their drug
25 dealers? Somebody is buying them. It's

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2 not just everybody is losing their weapon
3 in the house. Somebody is buying an
4 awful lot of weapons in these gun shops
5 around the City, bringing them in the
6 City, knowing if there's a need, I will
7 fill it. If there's a market, I will
8 supply it.

9 REPRESENTATIVE EVANS: I think
10 to answer your question obviously do you
11 know, I think that I'll say no to you,
12 because I don't think we -- and I go back
13 to what Alicia says rather than point
14 fingers. I don't think we as a city or
15 state, in spite of the fact that we have
16 been trying to do all these things, have
17 had that kind of single focus. I think
18 you're correct on what you're saying. I
19 think we have failed, because the most
20 essential role for any government is to
21 provide safety and security, and I think
22 we have lost that.

23 I think we are now getting
24 serious about it. I mean, you heard what
25 Councilwoman Marian Tasco said, the

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2 things we're now trying to do with the
3 Blueprint. I mean, the Blueprint didn't
4 exist, unfortunately, until Faheem
5 Thomas-Childs got killed, which was
6 February 2004. This mobilization that is
7 occurring with hiring more police
8 officers and stuff, just think, it just
9 happened in the last year.

10 I mean, we have, I think,
11 failed from a collective public policy
12 standpoint to do the kinds of things that
13 we need, and I think we're now trying to
14 play catch-up. We are now trying to play
15 catch-up. I think it should be certain,
16 I think it should be swift, and it should
17 be determined. I agree.

18 No one out there should have
19 this attitude -- look, even if they don't
20 have a job, there's no reason to kill
21 somebody under any circumstances. And I
22 think too long, too often we have not
23 been as aggressive as we could.

24 I do think we have things on
25 the books that we have to enforce, and it

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2 starts from somebody parking in a
3 handicapped spot, doing those kinds of
4 things. And I do think that has to
5 change and I do think we have to try to
6 give confidence to people at whatever
7 level of government we're in. And, you
8 know, we're just at a different level.
9 They're the city, we're at the state. We
10 really have to work in conjunction.

11 And from the state perspective,
12 I think the State has -- we've been
13 fighting. I think the State has done a
14 real disservice in handicapping the City,
15 not letting it have its authority, taking
16 its authority away. It should have the
17 ability to regulate gun policies, if it's
18 one gun a month or whatever restriction.

19 Something as simple as
20 ballistic fingerprinting they voted
21 against in Harrisburg, just ballistic
22 fingerprinting, which I would think would
23 help law enforcement people. Do
24 ballistic fingerprinting, doing these
25 kinds of things. I mean, on the one

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2 hand, these people are talking about
3 being pro law enforcement, but I would
4 argue they're not. I would argue they're
5 soft on law enforcement, because if they
6 don't allow -- someone called me today.
7 It wasn't from Larry's paper. I think it
8 was from the other paper -- called me
9 today, there was a shooting in Radnor, I
10 think.

11 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Villanova.

12 REPRESENTATIVE EVANS:
13 Villanova. Was it a police officer?

14 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Shot on
15 police.

16 REPRESENTATIVE EVANS: Yeah,
17 shot on police. Now, the reason they
18 called me, because they was talking about
19 there was a shooting in Radnor.

20 Was there a shooting today at a
21 police officer in Philadelphia somewhere?

22 They were asking me about the
23 comparison about this situation. Now, I
24 want you to understand, we did a survey
25 in the suburbs. "We," when I say the

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2 House, the democrats. We only tested
3 republicans and predominantly white
4 audiences. The numbers showed that 90
5 percent -- we did not survey the City.
6 It showed 90 percent of the people in the
7 suburbs had safety and security as a fear
8 element in the suburbs. We tested
9 republicans, that's all we tested, in the
10 suburbs.

11 So I keep trying to explain to
12 people, this is not an issue -- I did a
13 program the other day. People was
14 talking about is this in the City of
15 York, in Allentown. A police officer a
16 couple months ago was shot in Reading, in
17 Williamsport, Pennsylvania, in Hazleton.
18 See, the problem is, you just don't read
19 about it here. See, they read more about
20 Philadelphia than you read about in those
21 particular -- you don't necessarily read
22 the Reading Eagle, so you would not
23 necessarily know those things that take
24 place.

25 So I'm telling you, this is a

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2 statewide problem. This is a statewide
3 problem.

4 I'll close with this last
5 thing, Councilwoman. I was in New York
6 about a week ago at John Jay College,
7 which specializes in criminology, and I
8 was there with the Police Chief from
9 Providence, some other researchers from
10 around the country. They're saying there
11 is an uptick on violence around the
12 nation. There's an uptick. The numbers
13 are going up, right? That's happening.

14 So this is not unique to the
15 City of Philadelphia, but there's got to
16 be some policies that we put in place
17 that kind of sticks our finger in the
18 knife before this thing really gets out
19 of hand.

20 MR. THOMPSON: There are two
21 things that I want to say about your
22 comments. The first thing I want to say
23 is, a few months ago I took the boys up
24 to the State Capitol, and that particular
25 day that we were there, they were

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2 voting -- or there was a bill on the
3 floor where they were trying to get a
4 registration for people who wanted to buy
5 more than, I think, one or two guns, and
6 my boys was really focused on it because
7 they was listening to the debates. And
8 the debates that was going on was, it's
9 redundant, they already have to register
10 their guns, we don't need to create
11 another registry. I mean, the Senators
12 and the Representatives were back and
13 forth, back and forth.

14 So when the vote finally took
15 place, overwhelmingly it failed. It
16 failed. And the boys stepped back and
17 said, See, Mr. Greg, they want us to have
18 guns. They want us to have guns.

19 And then the second point that
20 you made in terms of swift and justice
21 and so forth and so on, inside the public
22 school system and also the laws that
23 govern how we handle juveniles sends
24 another message to our juveniles. A kid
25 can cut somebody, shoot somebody -- well,

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2 not shoot somebody, but cut somebody,
3 beat somebody up, break somebody's jaw,
4 and their parent can pick them up from
5 the police station. And that is another
6 message that our young people take into
7 their adulthood. And then when we think
8 about and when we look at -- I just had
9 my young people do a study on Texas Death
10 Row. If you guys get a chance, Google
11 "Texas Death Row." Just Google that
12 tonight and look at the men who have
13 already been executed in the State of
14 Texas.

15 But what Texas does that's so
16 interesting is, they have this profile,
17 and on the profile it gives their level
18 of education and what they did. And when
19 you look at the Latinos and
20 African-Americans, they are 8th to 10th
21 grade, laborers and cooks already
22 executed. And then they have a list that
23 are waiting execution. It is the same
24 way in the City of Philadelphia. When I
25 talk to my young boys about their fathers

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2 and their uncles who sit at Graterford
3 and Camp Hill and Houtzdale, they'll tell
4 me they never graduated from high school,
5 that their father never graduated from
6 high school, and they had to scrape and
7 break to try to make ends meet, and the
8 cycle continues.

9 So when we look at how the
10 messages that are so clear that
11 constantly puts our young people in a
12 position where they believe that, you
13 know, nothing is really going to happen
14 to me because I yell at you for now, but
15 once they become adults, that's when they
16 become a part of our system.

17 There's one more point I want
18 to make. Never before in the history of
19 the United States has there been as many
20 people in jail now. There's over seven
21 million that are incarcerated, and 85
22 percent of that seven million is
23 African-American, and we represent 12
24 percent of the population.

25 So when you look at the gun

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2 violence and violence and jail and
3 incarceration, it's more than, of course,
4 the gun. It is all of the other affects
5 that are around.

6 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Boy, I'm
7 glad you were here to give that answer.
8 I was much more reactionary. But you
9 have some very sane -- both of you,
10 because you look at the State Legislature
11 and some of the things that you did talk
12 about, our Representatives from
13 Philadelphia have tried to get those
14 measures introduced and have not been
15 successful. And certainly we have a very
16 strong NRA in this state that holds
17 control over the State Legislature.

18 But one day I think it has to
19 turn around. I always give the story of
20 State Representative David Richardson,
21 and I'll end this evening. Alicia has
22 something to say.

23 In years past prior to State
24 Representative David P. Richardson's
25 legislation, when a family went on

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2 welfare, their house was liened. If they
3 owned their property, the State liened
4 their property. So they had to pay back
5 what -- if they ever went off welfare,
6 they to pay back or the house was sold to
7 satisfy the payments they received from
8 welfare. And it really only impacted, to
9 a large degree, Philadelphia.

10 He could not get the
11 legislation passed to lift the lien law
12 in the state, and for years the State
13 only -- it happened to my aunt when she
14 passed. I couldn't afford to pay the
15 lien when she had gone on welfare, so we
16 lost the house.

17 When the steel mills closed
18 upstate and a lot of those families up
19 there in the western part of the state
20 had to go on welfare and those state
21 legislators saw that their constituents
22 were going to have their homes liened,
23 that law was passed.

24 So as this violence moves
25 across the state, as State Representative

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2 Evans said, this is not just Philadelphia
3 because we have more people, but it's all
4 relative to where you are across the
5 state. Maybe some of the people and
6 voters in those areas will begin to send
7 a message that the laws have to change,
8 because their families will be impacted
9 by the violence that will probably
10 increase across the state.

11 So we appreciate what those
12 people in Harrisburg, whether they're
13 from Philadelphia or other parts of the
14 state, who have tried to be supportive of
15 the call from our Representatives from
16 Philadelphia to help us with this whole
17 issue of gun violence and how to control
18 guns, we say thank you for your
19 leadership and what's going on.

20 We certainly thank all of you
21 for coming out this evening. Before I
22 recess, I'll call on Alicia, but I want
23 to thank certainly the gentleman back
24 here from Don't Fall Down in the Hood.
25 You're doing a fine job with these young

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2 men, and I know it's a challenge. I
3 always have great admiration for people
4 who work with young people, because it
5 takes a lot of patience and a lot of
6 commitment and personal time to make a
7 difference. I want to thank you.

8 I want to thank the Sergeant
9 for coming out. We appreciate your
10 passion, and thank you for coming to sit
11 in for the Captain.

12 And Jackie from CHOICE, we
13 thank you for coming. We thank CHOICE
14 for being involved with the Blueprint for
15 a Safer Philadelphia.

16 And we want to thank MEE
17 Productions for putting all the
18 information on this little disc. I mean,
19 I'm still on 3-by-5 cards. I mean, this
20 is just great.

21 So, Alicia, would you like to
22 say something?

23 MS. JACKSON: Yes. And I
24 apologize for not having more of these,
25 but they will come out formally in

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2 January. So just be waiting and ready.

3 I want to leave you with some
4 strategic information, one would be the
5 toll-free number, which is
6 1-888-570-BLUE. That's 1-888-570-BLUE.

7 In addition to that, we have a
8 website, which is www.philly,
9 P-H-I-L-L-Y, Blueprint, all one word,
10 phillyblueprint.com.

11 And just as the Representative
12 mentioned, the collaboration that's going
13 on is unfounded. I mean, it's never
14 happened before, to the extent that it's
15 being recognized nationally. We have
16 people calling us trying to figure out
17 what we're doing in Philadelphia with the
18 Blueprint from places like Norristown,
19 Washington, D.C., Minneapolis. Folk are
20 interested in this kind of an alliance
21 where we are focusing on efforts and
22 really trying to do this from a
23 collaborative standpoint, a consistent
24 standpoint. And, again, ten years is
25 significant when you're talking about

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2 working on a public health issue like
3 violence.

4 So thank you very much.

5 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you.

6 And Sergeant Riley, you wanted
7 to say something?

8 SERGEANT RILEY: Yeah. Before
9 we leave, I just wanted to mention, I
10 mentioned Woodstock Street, 1700
11 Woodstock Street earlier. There was a
12 shooting earlier today, 5:15, and that's
13 where I last saw the Captain. He asked
14 me to come here. It was over an
15 argument. A young man, 19-year-old, shot
16 another young man. Now I just learned a
17 little while ago in this meeting that --
18 now, it's not 100 percent. I'm not 100
19 percent sure, but I was called and told
20 that the gentleman that was shot died.

21 So I just want to leave you
22 with that thought. Let's think about him
23 for a minute, not only him but the young
24 soul that took his life.

25 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: And as

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2 this gentleman said, it does cost. It

3 costs not only in dollars, but human

4 life. It's just a ripple effect.

5 Families on both sides are going to have

6 the pain, the loss.

7 We thank you for coming out

8 tonight. We will let you know if we have

9 a follow-up. Probably we will do one,

10 the last one, in the spring at Martin

11 Luther King High School, but we will

12 recess this Committee to the call of the

13 Chair.

14 Thank you very much.

15 (Joint Committees on Public

16 Safety and Public Health and Human

17 Services adjourned at 8:35 p.m.)

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