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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

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COMMITTEE ON STREETS AND SERVICES

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Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, October 23, 2007
10:15 a.m.

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PRESENT:

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COUNCILMAN FRANK DiCICCO, CHAIR

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COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE

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COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER

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COUNCILMAN JUAN RAMOS

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COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO

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BILL 070683 - An ordinance amending Chapter
10-700 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
"Refuse and Littering," by adding a section
creating a reward program for the provision of
information leading to a determination that an
individual has engaged in short dumping, all
under certain terms and conditions.

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COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Good

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morning. This is the public hearing on

4

the Committee of Streets and Services.

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We have a quorum. Present are

6

Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller,

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Councilman Frank Rizzo and Councilman

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Darrell Clarke.

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I would ask Mr. Abernathy to

10

read the title of the first bill.

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THE CLERK: Bill No. 070683, an

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ordinance amending Chapter 10-700 of The

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Philadelphia Code, entitled "Refuse and

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Littering," by adding a section creating

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a reward program for the provision of

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information leading to a determination

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that an individual has engaged in short

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dumping, all under certain terms and

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conditions.

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COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Is there

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anyone testifying on this?

22

Thank you. Good morning, Madam

23

Managing Director. Please begin with

24

your testimony.

25

MS. JONES: Thank you. Good

1 10/23/07 - STREETS - BILL 070683
2 morning, Councilwoman Miller, Councilman
3 Rizzo, Councilman DiCicco and Councilman
4 Clarke, members of the Committee on
5 Streets and Services. I am Loree Jones,
6 Managing Director. I'm joined today by
7 Deputy Streets Commissioner Carlton
8 Williams, as well as Keep Philadelphia
9 Beautiful Executive Director Phoebe
10 Coles. Thank you for the opportunity to
11 provide testimony on the reward program
12 for short dumping.

13 As you know, short dumping
14 refers to the illegal dumping of trash
15 and debris. Short dumping negatively
16 impacts the quality of life in our City's
17 neighborhoods, and several City agencies
18 spend millions of dollars each year to
19 enforce prohibitions against illegal
20 dumping and to clear the debris from City
21 sidewalks, streets, parks and land.

22 The Streets Department,
23 Fairmount Park Commission, Department of
24 Licenses and Inspections, Police
25 Department and Managing Director's Office

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2 are all involved in our fight against
3 illegal dumping. The Streets Department
4 cleans our roadways and sidewalks of
5 illegal dumping. My office has a
6 dedicated staff that regularly clean and
7 service over 30,000 vacant lots
8 throughout the City, many of which are
9 impacted by illegal dumping. Areas of
10 Fairmount Park are also impacted by
11 illegal dumping on a regular basis that
12 requires Fairmount Park crews to clean
13 our parks of trash and debris.

14 The City enforces prohibitions
15 against illegal dumping by issuing
16 citations and violations when we can
17 identify the offender. Since Fiscal Year
18 2005, the Philadelphia Police Department
19 has responded to over 1,500 complaints
20 regarding short dumping and litter in our
21 City.

22 It is important to note that
23 private citizens assist in our fight
24 against short dumping as well.
25 Volunteers help clean our parks, roadway

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2 systems and vacant lots. We thank them
3 for joining our fight against illegal
4 dumping and for their generous donation
5 of time and effort and their dedication
6 to keeping our City clean.

7 At the direction of Mayor John
8 F. Street, the City recently started a
9 citywide clean-up program. The goal of
10 the citywide clean-up program is to clean
11 each block of the City over an eight-week
12 period. Teams of Streets Department
13 employees are dispatched to neighborhoods
14 on the areas' regularly scheduled trash
15 day. One sanitation division is
16 scheduled for this special cleaning each
17 week of the program. The teams are
18 comprised of SWEEPs officers, sanitation
19 workers with backpack blowers, mechanical
20 brooms and street flushers. The teams
21 clear trash and debris from our
22 neighborhoods and then Clean Block
23 Officers distribute notices informing
24 residents that their block has been
25 cleaned and providing information on

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2 keeping their neighborhood clean and
3 litter free.

4 For highly littered areas and
5 areas with the proliferation of short
6 dumping, the Streets Department is
7 coordinating with other City agencies
8 specializing in cleaning, including
9 Licenses and Inspections, the NTI Vacant
10 Lot Program and the Police Department, to
11 address the City's most pressing litter
12 problems. In addition, Fairmount Park
13 and the Recreation Department are
14 participating in the operation by
15 cleaning their properties in coordination
16 with the citywide schedule.

17 Despite our best efforts,
18 however, illegal dumpers continue to
19 break our laws and blight our
20 neighborhoods. In addition to the social
21 costs of illegal dumping, there's a
22 financial cost. Taxpayers bear the
23 burden for the City to provide cleaning
24 services for those who knowingly break
25 our laws. Several million dollars, as I

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2 mentioned, each year are expended to
3 clean our streets, parks and lots of
4 trash and debris that's illegally dumped.

5 The Administration, therefore,
6 supports the concept of a reward program
7 for information leading to the arrest,
8 conviction or issuance of fines that
9 could ultimately reduce short dumping in
10 our City. We look forward to working
11 with City Council to discuss methods to
12 best implement the program.

13 Good morning, Councilman Ramos.

14 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Good
15 morning, Councilman Ramos. He's also a
16 member of this Committee. Welcome.

17 Carlton, why don't you proceed
18 with your testimony, then we'll take it
19 from there.

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:
21 Thank you, Councilman.

22 Good morning, Councilwoman
23 Miller and honorable members of City
24 Council and the Committee on Streets and
25 Services. My name is Carlton Williams,

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2 Deputy Commissioner of the Streets
3 Department. I'm here today to present
4 testimony on illegal dumping in the City
5 of Philadelphia.

6 Illegal dumping of trash and
7 other refuse such as construction --

8 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Excuse me,
9 Mr. Williams, not to interrupt. Do you
10 have copies of your testimony?

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:
12 Yes, I do have copies of my testimony.

13 Illegal dumping of trash and
14 other refuse such as construction debris,
15 discarded tires, used furniture and
16 appliances and all sorts of hazardous
17 materials and substances is a serious
18 problem in the City of Philadelphia, with
19 direct and significant impacts on the
20 health, safety and welfare of all who
21 live, work and visit here. Many of our
22 streets, sidewalks and vacant lots have
23 become chronic dumping grounds for tens
24 of thousands of tons of illegally dumped
25 trash and debris.

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2 Illegal dumping creates fertile
3 breeding grounds for the proliferation of
4 rodents, disease and safety hazards to
5 children, as well as other contamination
6 exposure to soil and storm water runoff.
7 Also, in many cases where a concentration
8 on chronic dumping exists, there are
9 higher rates of crime, graffiti and
10 blighted conditions that contribute to a
11 progressive degradation of the quality of
12 life in affected neighborhoods. These
13 effects can reverberate throughout an
14 area's economy, raising the costs of
15 doing business and ultimately bringing
16 about the demise of many businesses and
17 commerce and jobs that they provide.

18 In FY07, the Streets Department
19 serviced nearly 1,600 short dump
20 locations in the City of Philadelphia and
21 removed more than 19,000 tons of debris
22 from these locations. In addition, the
23 Streets Department collected and disposed
24 of more than 184,000 illegally dumped
25 tires. The total costs of removal and

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2 disposal is \$1.9 million annually. These
3 are direct expenditures by the Streets
4 Department and do not include additional
5 costs from other City agencies and
6 departments.

7 I thank you for the opportunity
8 to testify today.

9 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Thank you
10 and good morning.

11 How do other municipalities
12 handle the removal of illegally discarded
13 tires? Are there any incentives in other
14 counties or municipalities? Are there
15 places where people can take tires to?
16 Anything like that going on that you know
17 of? And if not, that's okay. I'm just
18 curious.

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:
20 Right. I can look into it what other
21 counties do. I know in the City of
22 Philadelphia, six times a year we offer
23 our annual tire round-ups where
24 neighborhood communities and businesses
25 or neighborhood groups can bring tires to

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2 a certain designated location where we
3 park a compactor to take the tires away,
4 and we actually pay the community service
5 groups for their participation. I
6 believe it's 50 cents a tire.

7 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Yeah. I
8 remember now that you said that, I
9 remember hearing something about that.
10 Where are those locations?

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:
12 Well, we announce them at designated
13 locations within the community. So they
14 can randomly change. Each year when we
15 announce the program, we have a
16 designated spot throughout the City of
17 Philadelphia. So there's no one
18 particular location, but we announce it
19 through our scheduled program.

20 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: And how
21 many tires? I notice in your testimony
22 184,000.

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:
24 184,000.

25 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: And it

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2 costs us a million point nine. I'm
3 wondering, would it be in our better
4 interest if we were to give -- I'm just
5 using this number -- a dollar per tire
6 but have a place where people can go to
7 on a regular basis? Because someone is
8 not going to store their tires in their
9 home or backyard for months waiting for
10 that -- and I'm not being critical of the
11 program. Please understand that. But if
12 we're paying \$1.9 million to remove them
13 anyway, if we went for a buck a tire,
14 assuming everyone cooperated, and we know
15 that that's not necessarily going to be
16 the case, but it might not be a bad pilot
17 program if we had more centers or
18 locations that people can do it pretty
19 much on a regular basis and offer an
20 incentive, a dollar, two dollars per
21 tire.

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:
23 Yes, Councilman. I just want to clarify
24 also that the 1.9 million covers all
25 illegal dumping, and tires are inclusive

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2 of that. So that's all the tonnage that
3 we pick up each and every day. But that
4 is something that at our drop-off
5 locations that we can consider. We have
6 six located throughout the area.

7 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: In any
8 case, I mean for a couple hundred
9 thousand dollars or quarter million
10 dollars, just arbitrary number, and we
11 can get most of the majority of that
12 stuff off our streets, it's certainly
13 going to save us some money and time and,
14 more importantly, it removes that blight,
15 which is the bigger problem. And I know
16 my colleagues have some questions.

17 The other concern I have, and I
18 raised this in the past, is aside from
19 the short dumping that goes on on vacant
20 lots, the biggest issue that I confront
21 in my district is people who take their
22 household trash and dump it at either a
23 recreation facility, because they figure
24 that someone from Rec is going to pick it
25 up in the next day or two, or at any

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2 location, most locations where we have
3 the public trash receptacles. I mean,
4 South Broad Street -- I saw Ms. Jones
5 shaking her head. We had those problems
6 on South Broad Street that we keep the
7 receptacle there. We take it away
8 because they become magnets for folks to
9 drop off household trash.

10 I asked this question a few
11 years ago and I'll ask it again. I'm
12 wondering if it would make sense for us
13 to have enforcement agents, someone from
14 the SWEEP unit or whatever, literally
15 watching these locations, because I think
16 once a few people begin to get fined in a
17 neighborhood, word spreads fast. And a
18 lot of it is a result of people who live
19 in apartment buildings where there's
20 really no place for them to place their
21 trash. If you happen to live on the
22 first floor, you have access to the yard.
23 That's one thing. But the floors above
24 it, there's no place for trash, and maybe
25 we need to get a little bit more involved

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2 with multi-family apartment rental
3 property owners, where they're going to
4 have to start paying to have their trash
5 removed daily by a commercial pick-up.
6 And they'll say it's going to cost money,
7 but you know and I know they're going to
8 pass it on to the tenant anyway and that
9 ultimately someone is paying for it and
10 it's the taxpayer. So I don't buy that
11 argument, but that is one of the
12 problems. And I know South Broad Street,
13 you wake up and go down South Broad
14 Street on a Sunday morning, it looks like
15 a bomb hit it from everybody who comes
16 out and just dumps their trash. We get
17 people who come from Jersey as well on
18 their way into work in the morning, open
19 up their trunk and deposit their trash on
20 our streets, because they moved out of
21 the City because it wasn't a clean place.
22 So in any event, I really think
23 that's something that I would like to
24 work, along with my colleagues on this
25 committee, to see if there's some

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2 incentives for the tires and also to
3 really step up enforcement.

4 I get the little old lady who
5 occasionally gets a ticket because she
6 didn't sweep her sidewalk, and in most
7 cases, it really wasn't their fault, but
8 if we can get the bigger issue where the
9 short dumping of the household trash
10 that's being left at intersections on
11 corners throughout our City, I think we
12 can probably settle a lot -- we can
13 handle a lot of our other trash issues.

14 But, again, we can work
15 something out. I'd be more than willing
16 to put some time into that as well.

17 Councilwoman Miller.

18 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank
19 you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20 I just want to pick up on the
21 tire issue. Now, currently you're able
22 to put one tire out on your weekly trash?

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

24 No. We don't collect tires in the
25 rubbish.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: You don't
3 collect them at all?

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:
5 We don't collect them at all, no.

6 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: And I
7 agree with Councilman DiCicco. No one is
8 going to keep that tire in their backyard
9 and wait for those six times a year, and
10 we should have places where people can
11 go. Are there any available now? For
12 example, can someone go to Domino Lane in
13 the northwest and drop off a tire?

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:
15 Presently right now we don't have the
16 locations. Most of our people that have
17 to discard tires have to get rid of them
18 privately. But, again, that's something
19 that we can look into in terms of having
20 a disposal location more frequently so
21 residents can go and have access to
22 taking tires and won't have to hold until
23 certain points of the year.

24 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Because I
25 know in my district what I routinely see

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2 is a tire in front of a house or more
3 than one tire under like a SEPTA
4 overpass, like under the R-8 or R-9 line.
5 Someone will take it to the bridge and
6 dump it there. And I just think that we
7 have to do a better job of helping people
8 understand, and I know it won't be a
9 solve all, but at least we can help them
10 understand what they can do with a used
11 tire.

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:
13 We can definitely look into that,
14 Councilwoman.

15 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Right.
16 Currently, I know that there is a fine of
17 up to \$5,000 and you can confiscate a
18 vehicle if someone is caught dumping
19 illegally; is that not correct?

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:
21 That's correct.

22 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I've had
23 constituents that have said that when
24 they've tried to report people, they
25 won't take the report even if they have a

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2 license tag. What is the reporting
3 process?

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

5 Well --

6 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: And who
7 do they call? The Police Department?

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

9 Yes. Well, there's two departments
10 that's primarily responsible. Police
11 Department Neighborhood Services
12 Division, when you have the ability or
13 you are looking for an arrest or a
14 conviction. The Police Department has to
15 have enough evidence to arrest and the DA
16 will prosecute and then convict, and then
17 that's when the fine and the penalty is
18 then assessed. In order for them to do
19 that, they do have to have the evidence
20 of catching someone in the act, either
21 via license plate number, description of
22 the vehicle. An eyewitness testimony
23 definitely helps when it comes down to
24 prosecuting those who are illegal dumping
25 in our City.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: So the
3 person that has the license tag has to
4 also be willing to testify?

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:
6 Well, it's definitely a court -- when we
7 met earlier this year with the DA's
8 Office, it definitely helps support the
9 testimony.

10 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Because
11 I've had actually constituents say that
12 they've caught them, they have a license
13 tag, but people have told them that
14 that's not enough, and I don't know what
15 else they're supposed to do.

16 I know that a woman called me
17 and we personally went out there to try
18 and find this truck. It was a truck that
19 belonged to a person who lived in that
20 neighborhood who did, I'll just say,
21 light construction, and he would bring
22 his debris over to this particular lot
23 and dump. And he was smart enough to
24 cover his tags, but they had a
25 description of the truck. So me and

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2 another staff person would ride through
3 the neighborhood every night trying to
4 find the truck so we could get the tags.
5 And we ultimately, after probably a
6 couple months, we were able to find the
7 truck. Because he was a big headache,
8 and other people in the neighborhood knew
9 who he was, knew what he was doing and
10 were complaining.

11 So we were able to get the
12 truck, find the truck finally, and we
13 sent him a letter, because we found -- we
14 got the tags. We traced the tags. So we
15 knew who the truck belonged to. The
16 owner of the truck really was not the
17 driver. It was a person that was
18 actually rooming in his home. And we
19 sent him a letter and threatened him, and
20 we had the lot cleaned and we have not
21 had a problem with that truck ever since.

22 And then we've had people that
23 have been threatened at gunpoint. Right
24 now the sites are monitored by the Police
25 Department, correct, if it's a really bad

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2 site?

3 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

4 Well, yeah. And I don't want to
5 contradict the citizen that called it,
6 but the Neighborhood Service Division has
7 been very responsive and supportive of
8 the illegal dump sites that we have
9 targeted throughout the City that's
10 frequently used, and they've been great
11 in terms of trying to provide that level
12 of support to prosecute them.

13 Again, it's very difficult
14 sometimes because of the time of day that
15 these people come into our City and
16 neglect our laws and abuse our
17 environment. But it's an ongoing
18 process, and we've gotten tremendous
19 support from the Neighborhood Services
20 Division.

21 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I know
22 that many times the dumpers are
23 neighbors. I have a couple sites in my
24 district that if I offered to give you a
25 reward right now to go find that street,

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2 you couldn't find it, because it's so off
3 the beaten path. And we've cleaned it
4 for years. We clean it. And I was there
5 one day and there was the police officer
6 from -- I don't know the unit, but he
7 told us that he has actually seen people
8 that live right in the neighborhood bring
9 in sofas on top of their cars and things
10 like that and just constantly dumping
11 there. And this is probably one of the
12 most notorious places for short dumping.
13 And we go, we clean it. We give flyers
14 out. We tell people about the new fine,
15 the ability to confiscate their vehicle.
16 And that may cut down on a little, but it
17 just continues to happen there, and we've
18 even thought about putting up -- one of
19 the State Reps has actually said he'll
20 pay to have a video camera installed at
21 that site. So we're thinking about doing
22 that.

23 But it has to be people in the
24 neighborhood, because it's not a street
25 that people know how to get to unless you

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2 are from that particular area. And I
3 don't know that we'll be able to stop
4 this until we really, really catch some
5 people and the word spreads in the
6 neighborhood that maybe your car was
7 confiscated, because it's just a
8 notorious dump site.

9 MS. JONES: And, Councilwoman,
10 that's why I think we're so encouraged by
11 your proposed legislation. If we could
12 work together to tighten up the
13 enforcement and to give people
14 incentives, we think we can make a dent
15 in it. Part of what we're addressing is
16 really an attitude and that people think
17 it's okay to litter in the City and to
18 dump debris. We have great City crews
19 that are always willing to go out and
20 clean up and we've made a commitment to
21 keep our neighborhoods clear of blight,
22 but we really need to be working
23 together, maybe being a little bit
24 creative in the way we're really
25 responding.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I agree.

3 MS. JONES: And it's going to
4 be enforcement, but it's also going to be
5 changing people's attitudes about what's
6 okay. If what you're saying is true,
7 people are really driving around their
8 corner. They're keeping it in their own
9 neighborhood.

10 So I'm hoping that we can be
11 creative in working together to do some
12 real enforcement on this issue.

13 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I'm
14 looking forward to that, too.

15 Let me ask one question,
16 because I know that most people when
17 there's illegal dumping, many people
18 think they should jump on the phone and
19 call L&I. And actually what should
20 someone do?

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:
22 Well, the department that's responsible
23 if we want an arrest made for the typical
24 what we call short dumper, which is a
25 person who loads up their car, whether it

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2 be contractor debris, landscaping
3 material, what-have-you, we want to
4 actually catch that person, and the only
5 way we can enforce the higher penalty of
6 fine for the DA to prosecute is if the
7 police make an arrest. So the
8 Neighborhood Services Division from the
9 Police Department is the primary agency
10 responsible for making an arrest and a
11 conviction of someone who is illegal
12 dumping in our City. They can contact
13 L&I, but L&I would probably refer them to
14 that division as well.

15 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay.
16 And Neighborhood Services still exists?
17 I know that there was some shuffling
18 around at some of the police districts.

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:
20 Yes, they still exist.

21 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay.
22 I've been taking a picture of a house all
23 summer. Someone is cleaning out that
24 particular house. They had a tenant who
25 moved, and what they did, they took all

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2 the debris from the house and put it in
3 the side yard, and it's right there on
4 the main -- it's in the front of the
5 house, because the yard is pretty wide.
6 And I've sent them into the police
7 district. I've sent them -- at this
8 point -- and trust me, I know that people
9 get cited, but they ignore the citations,
10 and that's when I know that I feel that
11 we need stronger enforcement, because
12 this house has had this debris for four
13 months and it's still there. It's still
14 there today, and this guy, this owner,
15 just doesn't think he has to move it.

16 How do we get those kind of
17 people in court and how long does it
18 take?

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

20 Well, that is an L&I issue when they're
21 starting to store it on their own private
22 personal property. When we're talking
23 about illegal dumping and short dumping,
24 we're talking about people who literally
25 leave their property, go to an area rec

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2 center, go to an abandoned street and go
3 to an area park and dump tires and debris
4 and discard the material and take off.
5 But people who then place the material on
6 their own property and use it as storage
7 bins then becomes a private property
8 issue, which then L&I comes out and
9 writes several code violation notices
10 until those issues are resolved. And the
11 course then runs itself until either the
12 court has resolved or they either
13 confiscate the property or it goes to
14 court for the property.

15 So those are the differences in
16 which -- when people may get confused
17 about who to call. The difference is
18 that when people take their debris and
19 actually take it to a piece of public
20 property or someone else's private
21 property and start dumping, that becomes
22 a fine that is enforceable by the
23 Neighborhood Services Division. But when
24 we're talking about their own private
25 property where they're just storing stuff

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2 in the backyard like you just stated,
3 then that becomes an L&I issue.

4 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay. So
5 most police stations, if they don't have
6 a sanitation officer, they have the
7 community relations officer that someone
8 can call, correct?

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:
10 That's correct.

11 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay. I
12 have a whole lot of questions, but they
13 don't all have to be answered today,
14 because we're not going to solve this
15 today. I think it's great that we've
16 decided that we do need to work together
17 to try to come up with this whole
18 program. I believe offering people an
19 award or reward would help stem the tide.

20 I consistently drive to those
21 streets in my district that I know are a
22 haven for illegal dumpers just to see if
23 there's anything that we're doing that's
24 discouraging people, and the only thing
25 some of what has worked so far is

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sometimes we'll do a before and after picture. We'll do a picture before we clean and a picture after. We put the \$5,000 -- we put the information on there about the fine and the confiscation of the vehicle, and in one neighborhood, that has absolutely worked. And we did a door-to-door lit drop. In other neighborhoods, people just kind of ignored it. But our goal is to stop the illegal dumping, period.

13 So thank you. I don't have any
14 more questions right now. Loree, you and
15 I can get together afterwards.

16 MS. JONES: Thank you.

17 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Councilman
18 Rizzo.

19 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you.

20 I've got a couple questions for
21 you, but are you familiar with, I think
22 it's called, the tire tax, what that is
23 supposed to accomplish? I believe when
24 you buy tires, there's a disposal charge
25 added to your bill. I don't know whether

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2 that's for the purchase of the new tires,
3 the old tires. Do we benefit or is that
4 federal or state? What exactly happens
5 with that money?

6 MS. JONES: I actually don't
7 know where that money goes. I know I've
8 paid it. But I can look into where it
9 actually goes, because when I purchased
10 before, it was almost \$5 a tire or
11 something that was tagged on. And what I
12 assumed happened with that is the vendor
13 that I had purchased the tires from used
14 that -- took my old tires, disposed of
15 them, and if it costs that vendor to
16 dispose of them, they use that \$5.
17 That's what I assumed they did with it,
18 but I can check to see if the City --

19 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: That sounds
20 logical, but in our business, not
21 everything is logical.

22 One of the questions that I
23 have, years ago one of the big
24 problems -- sometimes people have good
25 intentions. They'll go to the yard, to

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2 the sanitation yard. Like the one that
3 I'm familiar with is Domino Lane. They
4 have a pickup truck full of junk that
5 they want to dispose of. They're turned
6 away. They're told you can't dump it
7 here. Well, guess what? They go two
8 blocks away and they dump it on Umbria
9 Street. Also, there's a drop-off point
10 at Domino Lane. It looks pretty raggedy,
11 by the way. I went by there the other
12 day. It really looks like it needs some
13 attention paid to it and cleaning it up a
14 little bit, because it's starting to get
15 to be -- how can you make a drop-off
16 point look attractive, but maybe you need
17 some barrier fencing or something to hide
18 it from the roadway, because it's pretty
19 bad.

20 What exactly can you discard?
21 And if we communicate it to the public,
22 in the community newspapers especially,
23 what can you bring there, what you can't.
24 Why can't you bring tires there?

25 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

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2 Well, a couple of things. Because some
3 of the contractors sneak in. Our
4 drop-off locations are set up for
5 residents to bring trash, and when we
6 allow trucks full of material to come in,
7 they could -- for instance, the tire tax
8 that you talked about earlier, if I
9 charge Ms. Jones a fee and then I decide
10 to take it to the drop-off location, of
11 course, the City is then paying for the
12 tab and she's charged. I know you're
13 talking about your common resident with
14 three or four tires, but then it becomes
15 a stickler when you start bringing trucks
16 in with different type of debris.

17 COUNCILMAN RIZZ0: But you can
18 manage that. That's a matter of
19 management. In other words, if you're
20 going to bring a half-ton pickup truck in
21 is one thing, but if you're going to
22 bring a ten-ton dump truck in, you reject
23 possibly those.

24 But what can the average person
25 bring to those drop-off points? I mean,

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2 I don't think many people really know.

3 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

4 They can bring -- first of all, we allow
5 their cars in with household trash.

6 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Just cars?

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

8 Yes, just cars, not trucks, because,
9 again, we get into the issue of whether
10 they're a contractor cleaning out a home
11 and working for someone, and actually
12 they may be charging the citizen. Those
13 fees are then used in our drop-off
14 facility to discard their trash when
15 they're supposed to discard it. So we
16 have to draw some line where there's some
17 standards and guidelines in place of what
18 we accept at those drop-off centers,
19 because, as you know, their tonnage right
20 now is about \$60 a ton. And so if we
21 just started allowing trucks and vehicles
22 inside those locations with different
23 types of materials, then there becomes no
24 limit. They can come daily. So we don't
25 place a number of times that they come in

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2 to the drop-off location. So they come
3 daily throughout a week and discard all
4 of their material. It then becomes a
5 problem for the City and a tax burden for
6 the City of Philadelphia.

7 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I think that
8 would be a good campaign if you want to
9 put some ads in the local newspapers,
10 like the Roxborough Review, et cetera,
11 explaining to the residents. And I
12 believe, honestly, there's a way to
13 manage it where you have to show your
14 driver's license with your local address
15 in it, that you're not a contractor from
16 Chester. Because somebody has a Ford 150
17 and they want to put a couple washing
18 machines that they just disposed of in
19 the back of it, I see a lot of washers
20 and dryers and things, and I don't think
21 they put those in the trunk of a car.

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:
23 Right. That's correct.

24 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Unless our
25 people are putting them there.

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2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

3 When we collect it with our bulk truck,
4 we use that also as a storage facility
5 for us to then take it for that scrap
6 metal.

7 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: That's why I
8 said it's starting to look a little
9 raggedy.

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

11 Well, we do have a plan, first of all, to
12 clean up, number one, but, number two, to
13 make an investment to do repaving and
14 restriping so that people have a clear
15 direction of where to go and to improve
16 the center itself.

17 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Let me tell
18 you another issue, Managing Director,
19 that really bothers me personally. When
20 you talk about the City being
21 responsible, it's kind of like people
22 going to the incinerator and being
23 rejected. There's various salvers that
24 have yards. And I'm not suggesting that
25 the one in Roxborough is the person

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2 that's perpetrating this, but there is a
3 lot of salvers on Umbria Street and I
4 notice that on Umbria Street it's become
5 a dump for abandoned cars. My
6 speculation is that somebody tries to
7 bring a vehicle there and they don't have
8 the right documentation and instead of
9 taking it back, they just dump it because
10 the word is out, the word, believe me,
11 dump it there because the City for free
12 will take it away, and they do. The
13 Abandoned Car Unit pays attention, which
14 they do an excellent job, but I'm hoping
15 that we do some detective work to trace a
16 vehicle. There's hidden serial numbers.
17 There's numbers that -- our Police
18 Department are the experts at that. But
19 to let these people that are
20 intentionally dumping cars at various
21 locations get away with it is a crime in
22 itself. We have an obligation to make
23 sure we get those people. Because
24 somebody actually dumped along Umbria
25 Street a tractor-trailer, the trailer

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2 part. The whole trailer was full of
3 trash, and before they could move the
4 tractor-trailer, the sanitation people
5 had to go for the Police Department and
6 take all of the trash out, because the
7 truck stayed there for maybe three, four
8 months and people started to fill it up
9 with trash, trash bags.

10 So I would really hope that you
11 would instruct the Police Department's
12 Abandoned Car Unit in those areas that
13 are notoriously places where you drop
14 cars to try to put some of those people
15 in jail that are doing that.

16 MS. JONES: I'll ask them to do
17 that.

18 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Please.

19 And let me see. That is the
20 last thing. Thanks.

21 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Councilman
22 Clarke.

23 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
24 Mr. Chairman.

25 Good morning.

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2 MS. JONES: Good morning.

3 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Real

4 briefly, yesterday, as you know --

5 Ms. Jones, you were actually there --

6 there was an announcement of the City's

7 roll-out of its first video surveillance

8 cameras, and they were going to deal

9 primarily with crime at this point, but

10 during the course of discussions, there

11 had been some thought that we may, as a

12 part of the application, deal with some

13 of these short dumping, the issues that

14 Councilwoman Miller brings before us

15 today, and some of the other issues on

16 some of the commercial corridors like

17 Councilman DiCicco talked about earlier,

18 people bringing out house trash and other

19 types of inappropriate debris to put in

20 cans that were intended for pedestrian

21 use.

22 If we were tomorrow to ask the

23 City/Streets Department in particular to

24 come up with recommendations for

25 locations and strategies to allow us to

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2 apply a camera program to help us enforce
3 those particular issues of short dumping
4 and dumping around sites such as
5 Councilman Rizzo discussed, how
6 realistically do you think we could
7 expect to get an answer in very short
8 order?

9 MS. JONES: I think very
10 quickly. I think the Streets
11 Department -- I know that the Streets
12 Department already has a list of the
13 problem locations, and they obviously --
14 they have the list, as the Deputy
15 Commissioner mentioned, of those
16 locations that they've already asked
17 Police to focus on for the routine
18 regular short dumping. So there's that
19 part of it. We could also reach out to
20 Council, and Council would know, District
21 Councilmembers would know, which areas of
22 their district they have the kind of
23 short dumping that Councilman DiCicco
24 described earlier.

25 One of the things, as was

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2 discussed in yesterday's press conference
3 about the video surveillance cameras, is
4 we believe that working with Police and
5 with Police as the lead agency, we can
6 put cameras around the City and primarily
7 impact violent crime, nuisance crime, but
8 then also have an impact on really
9 detering people from short dumping and
10 doing other kinds of really nuisance
11 activities. And so we think that that
12 will have an impact as well. We can
13 definitely do an overlay of what the
14 Police Department is recommending with
15 these locations that the Streets
16 Department could pull out of their file
17 for us.

18 But I think that the other
19 thing to note is that in addition to just
20 the crime issues, we wanted to also have
21 cameras, and police were making sure that
22 we're having cameras in areas where there
23 are large gatherings of people, so around
24 schools, around recreation centers, at
25 transit hubs, and those also might get at

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2 some of those areas where people are just
3 dumping their household trash in street
4 trash cans. So we could definitely share
5 the information that Streets has with the
6 Police Department in placing cameras.

7 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: I would
8 suggest that you do that sooner than
9 later, because I anticipate as soon as
10 the first round of cameras get placed for
11 security purposes, that we Councilmembers
12 are going to shortly start getting calls
13 about people concerned that there's
14 nothing on their block or there's nothing
15 in their particular commercial corridor.
16 So what I would like to see is you guys
17 catch up to the security-related issue,
18 because it's going to be very, very
19 aggressive in the request, I believe. So
20 I suggest that you come up with that
21 overlay sooner than later, because there
22 are going to only be so much resources to
23 pay for these cameras. So if you want to
24 be a part of that discussion, you
25 probably need to come up with that sooner

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2 than later.

3 MS. JONES: I'll do that.

4 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you.

5 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I didn't
7 hear all what Councilman Clarke said, but
8 there was always some discussion around
9 the use of video surveillance cameras at
10 these dump sites. And the cost just
11 keeps going up and up and up. I can't
12 believe it's almost \$9 million just for
13 those small amount of cameras, but it
14 is -- I think that the dump sites are
15 just as important as the crime and
16 nuisance camera. I mean, these dump
17 sites are notorious, and people call me
18 as much about a dump site as they do
19 about a drug corner, because it's
20 unsightly.

21 And I think, Carlton, in your
22 testimony you did talk about it breeds
23 bad behavior. If a neighborhood is
24 clean, then the concept is people care
25 and it's clean and safe. It does impact

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2 safety. And when it's not, when it's
3 just trash and dumping everywhere, people
4 think they can come in the neighborhood
5 and do whatever they want.

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

7 Councilwoman, just yesterday those list
8 of locations that the Councilman was
9 talking about, we can provide. There's a
10 frequent list that we have. We call
11 them, quote, the dirty dozen, and the
12 reason why we called it the dirty dozen,
13 because the moment we clean them up, the
14 next day or the next two days, they're
15 right back again. And so those locations
16 is where we would like to target those
17 areas, one being at Chew and Washington
18 Lane, in which I'm happy to say that the
19 Police Department made an arrest
20 yesterday up at that location for someone
21 who came in and just dumped in the middle
22 of the day in broad daylight landscape
23 materials.

24 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I'm glad
25 they got caught, and in a minute, we're

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2 looking at doing some development at that
3 location, so that's what will help solve
4 that problem. But I am so glad if
5 someone was caught dumping there. Thanks
6 for the info.

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:
8 You're welcome.

9 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: I also
10 think -- and I don't know how you do
11 this, but it would be important that we
12 publicize that someone was caught and
13 really make it a public service kind of
14 announcement type of thing and stress the
15 fact that we're not going to continue to
16 tolerate this.

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:
18 I'm glad you mentioned that. Yesterday
19 also --

20 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: See, we're
21 making you very happy today.

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:
23 -- (continued) Fox News did a special on
24 illegal dumping, and he interviewed our
25 department and members of our department

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2 about the problems associated with it, so
3 we can bring attention to this issue
4 also. As the Managing Director just
5 mentioned, Ms. Phoebe Coles from Keep
6 Philadelphia Beautiful, her organization
7 did a public service announcement with
8 Mr. Pat Croce to inspire residents to
9 come forward and to talk about and report
10 illegal dumping in neighborhoods and also
11 inspiring residents to take pride in
12 their local neighborhoods.

13 So those are definitely some of
14 the suggestions that we support and agree
15 with.

16 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Very good.
17 Thank you.

18 Any other questions for these
19 witnesses?

20 (No response.)

21 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Is there
22 anyone else who wishes to testify?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Seeing
25 none, we will now go into our public

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2 meeting.

3 I'm going to ask the Vice-Chair
4 of this Committee, Councilman Ramos, to
5 call on the Bill 041070 (sic).

6 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Thank you,
7 Mr. Chairman. I move that Bill No.
8 070683 be reported out of Committee with
9 a favorable recommendation --

10 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Whoa. I'm
11 sorry. I read the wrong bill. I got the
12 wrong bill. You're correct. I stand
13 corrected.

14 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: That's Bill
15 No. 070683 be reported out of Committee
16 with a favorable recommendation and
17 further move that the rules of Council --

18 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: No
19 suspension.

20 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Okay. Be
21 reported out of Committee with a
22 favorable recommendation.

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Thank you.
25 It's been properly moved and

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2 seconded that Bill No. 070683 be reported
3 out of this Committee with a favorable
4 recommendation.

5 All those in favor signify by
6 saying aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Those
9 opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: The bill
12 is approved.

13 This concludes the public
14 meeting on the Committee of Streets and
15 Services.

16 Thank all of the members for
17 attending.

18 (Committee on Streets and
19 Services adjourned at 10:55 a.m.)

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that the

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contained fully and accurately in the

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stenographic notes taken by me upon the

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foregoing matter on October 23, 2007, and that

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this is a true and correct transcript of same.

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MICHELE L. MURPHY

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RPR-Notary Public

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