COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

COMMITTEE ON RULES

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Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, April 30, 2008
10:30 a.m.

- - -

PRESENT:
COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA
COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE
COUNCILMAN FRANK DiCICCO
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM GREENLEE
COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY
COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN

BILL 080077 - An ordinance continuing a neighborhood improvement district beyond the date of termination of such district in an area that generally includes both sides of Ridge Avenue from Main Street to 7220 Ridge Avenue...

BILL 080251 - An ordinance establishing a neighborhood improvement district in an area that generally includes the east and west sides of Aramingo Avenue starting at 2700 Aramingo Avenue to 3995 Aramingo Avenue...

- - -

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good morning, everyone. This is a public hearing of the Rules Committee.

I would ask Mr. McPherson to please read the title of Bill No. 080077.

MR. McPHERSON: An ordinance continuing a neighborhood improvement district beyond the date of termination of such district in an area that generally includes both sides of Ridge Avenue from Main Street to 7220 Ridge Avenue and certain blocks of streets that intersect that portion of Ridge Avenue and which is known as the Roxborough District; continuing the designation of the Roxborough Development Corporation.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Do we have someone from the Administration to testify?

(Witness approached witness table.)

MR. GUET: Good morning, Madam President. My name is Bernard Guet. I'm the Executive Director for the Roxborough

Development Corporation. I don't know if I qualify with representing the Administration.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm sorry. Who are you, sir?

MR. GUET: Bernard Guet. I'm the Executive Director for Roxborough Development Corporation.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: All right. Please proceed.

MR. GUET: Okay. I'm here to provide testimony in support of Bill No. 080077 introduced by Councilman Curtis Jones.

This bill is to allow the neighborhood improvement district along Ridge Avenue from Main Street to Domino Lane to be renewed for another five years.

I have with me copies of the bylaws that we -- and I need to go through a little explanation and a final short statement for the record.

A little background: On March

13 here in this Chamber, the first hearing took place, and while everybody basically was in agreement with the renewal of the BID or NID to serve the community, if everybody agrees that that was doing a good job, some people expressed concern and said that RDC should improve its communication and transparency with all the property and business owner.

Councilman Curtis brought about this together at the meeting on March 19 and more recently at the public forum. After the first meeting and having taken note of the concern, the Board of Directors of the Roxborough Development Corporation decided to make a number of amendments with bylaws to address the issue that were brought forward.

I have given the copies of the bylaws. I don't need to go in detail, for time's sake. However, I can tell you we did -- the main thing we did, we did an advisory committee so that every BID

member, every business or property owner, will be able to come and represent the views of the business community to the RDC Board. There is going to be also a general membership meeting at least once a year, maybe more if the advisory committee decides so. We did other things, like posting the RFPs and so on, posting the financial statement on the website. So we address all the concern, and yesterday at the public forum there was no opposition.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you very much.

Are there any questions or comments from members of the Committee?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

MR. GUET: Thank you, Madam President.

(Witness approached witness table.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are

you going to testify, sir?

MR. FRISHKOFF: Good morning, Madam Chairwoman.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good morning.

MR. FRISHKOFF: Andrew Frishkoff from the Department of Commerce. We had testified previously at the hearing, so we have no additional testimony at this time.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

Do we have anyone else to testify on this bill?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Seeing no one, I would ask Mr. McPherson to please read the title of Bill No. 080251.

MR. McPHERSON: An ordinance establishing a neighborhood improvement district in an area that generally includes the east and west sides of Aramingo Avenue starting at 2700 Aramingo

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Avenue to 3995 Aramingo Avenue.

(Witnesses approached witness table.)

MR. FRISHKOFF: Good morning.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good morning again.

MR. FRISHKOFF: My name is Andrew Frishkoff. I'm the Director of Neighborhood Economic Development for the City of Philadelphia's Commerce Department. I've asked John MacDonald and Randy Hofer of Impact Community Development Corporation to sit here with me to answer any specific questions that the Committee may have, but I am here to provide testimony in support of Bill No. 080251. This bill will allow for the approval of the establishment of the Aramingo Avenue Shopping District as a neighborhood improvement district.

The creation of neighborhood improvement districts is consistent with the City's Strategic Plan, especially with the core service areas of jobs and

economic development and healthy and sustainable communities. NIDs are also consistent with the goals of the Commerce Department's neighborhood economic development strategies to help re-establish neighborhood commercial corridors as central places to work, shop and meet neighbors. NIDs strengthen local business and residential communities through cleaning, beautification, public safety and marketing activities.

NIDs work best when a broad majority of the assessed businesses and property owners understand and support the NID's revenue and service plans. This bill will provide an assessment rate of 15 percent of current real estate taxes for Aramingo Avenue Shopping District property owners. This will yield an expected $262,000 per year.

The previous version of the bill had estimated 282,000, but it's my understanding that we've now -- some

businesses are opting out and we now have fewer businesses that are in the proposed amendment that you have before you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm sorry. What would the figure be again?

MR. FRISHKOFF: Two hundred sixty-two thousand dollars per year is the new estimate.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

MR. HOFER: Excuse me. Randy Hofer from Impact Services Corporation.

Just to clarify "opting out" of the business, the Urban Industry Initiative and our group got together, because there were manufacturers along Aramingo Avenue, primarily on Wheatsheaf Lane. They were the ones that were then excluded, because they weren't retail destinations. So we did take that out of the record as a combined effort. That's why the budget was reduced by the approximately $20,000.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank

you.

MR. FRISHKOFF: The proposed first-year services include area cleaning, safety ambassadors, marketing and improved signage. These activities are consistent with those of other NIDs in the City. The Commerce Department is supportive of these proposed services as long as they have the backing of the affected businesses.

A number of the organizers and supporters of the proposed Aramingo Avenue Shopping District are here today to testify on behalf of Bill No. 080251. While I will be happy to answer any questions you may have, it is these dedicated businesspeople and community leaders who have invested their time and energy into developing the proposed District. They are the local experts who can best present the vision and the particulars about the proposed NID.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

To your knowledge, have any of the affected property owners objected to the creation of the District? If so, what is the percentage of the number compared to the total number of property owners, and can you tell us what is the percentage of property-assessed value these owners have as compared to the total District?

MR. FRISHKOFF: None have approached the Commerce Department with concerns, but I'll defer to Randy and John.

MR. HOFER: The only letter we received was from an individual store on Allegheny Avenue, which was Jean's Crafts, and they objected to the assessment. Her assessment was $138, I believe, for the year. She was not understanding what that was involving, being a small business, so she did come to the last Aramingo Business meeting and

they did end up signing a document for support of that, which I have in my possession and it's also in your package.

We have not received anything in writing from anyone else. I know there might be someone here from a corporation or another establishment that might testify in either opposition or not understanding what it's all about, but we don't have anything in writing as opposition.

I do have 52 percent -- I'm sorry; 52 stores out of the 106 stores signing that they would basically want us to promote this and have it created on the Aramingo Shopping District. They are the major stores, the retailers, and, again, that's in your package.

We were going to try to present all of our information and then maybe take all of the questions, if that would work out, but off the bat right now, we don't have any opposition other than what I stated.

MR. MacDONALD: It's also important -- excuse me. John MacDonald with Impact CDC as well.

Some of the stores that are on the strip really are corporate entities with a home office in other states and, as a result, they would have been here or signed, but they didn't have the power to do that.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

The proposed budget for the District for the first year is, as you indicated, $262,000. Are there any other projected costs? If so, what might provide an additional source of funding or financing?

MR. MacDONALD: It's been our history in working with other commercial areas that we have the ability to generate some outside funding through grants and other types of support as opposed to the direct support of the local businesses. For example, at K&A,

they're kind of struggling just to keep their heads above water and a district would not work there, don't have enough stores, where on Aramingo Avenue we do. So I think it's a lot easier to make all these things happen on Aramingo. And if additional resources are necessary, we think we could generate those funds.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

Paragraph 10 of Exhibit A states that the District's initial assessment fee will be 15 percent of the real estate taxes due on any commercial property within the service area. When is the first assessment due for the affected properties?

MR. HOFER: Actually, we're just trying to get a timeline as when the next hearing would happen and then passage of the bill. Then we would put a timeline associated with collection. So that is in the process of being worked out.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

If during the next five years -- five years is the life of the District unless its term is renewed -- the properties are assessed upwards or downwards, does this assessment fee remain constant as adjusted for inflation?

MR. FRISHKOFF: Currently, the way the bill reads, it would be 15 percent of whatever the property tax assessed value was.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

Any questions or comments from members of the Committee?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Gentlemen, thank you. Thank you very much.

Our next witness?

MR. McPHERSON: Our next witness is Andrew Frishkoff. Oh, no.

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David White.

(Witness approached witness table.)

MR. WHITE: Good morning.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good morning, sir. Please identify yourself for the record and proceed with your testimony.

MR. WHITE: My name is David White.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good morning.

MR. WHITE: Good morning, Madam Chairwoman and members of City Council. My name is David White and I'm the Branch Manager for Sovereign Bank and I'm also the President of the Aramingo Business Association. I am providing testimony in support of Bill No. 080251.

I want to tell you about how the Neighborhood Improvement District Business Plan was created and how the District will be managed. Other speakers will tell you about the planned NID

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services, outreach summary, the total cost and assessment that we have agreed upon.

The Business Association was organized with help from Impact Services three years ago. Despite having created a forum by which we can share views and take voluntary action, we have come to the conclusion that this large and growing retail district needs financing for services and improvements that is multi-year, reliable and under our control. Pennsylvania's NID law meets our needs perfectly. The plan was developed in a series of open meetings to which all commercial stakeholders were invited.

Commercial properties in our proposed service area paid over $1.8 million in property taxes last year. Philadelphia is good for us and we are good for Philadelphia.

Nevertheless, we need to strengthen and enhance our already

productive partnership with the police. We need to keep the area clean as suburban shopping centers. We need to create and follow a master plan to upgrade our overall appearance. Our businesses need to increase their market share and to draw customers from further distances. The NID will enable us, despite divided property ownership, to function as an integrated shopping center. The proposed services are supplemental to the City's and do not replace them.

Impact Community Development Corporation shall fulfill all the duties and responsibilities of a Neighborhood Improvement District Management Association as set forth in the Community and Economic Improvement Act. In its capacity as the NIDMA, Impact Community Development Corporation also shall annually submit an audit of all income and expenditures to the Department of Community and Economic Development and to

City Council within 120 days after the end of each fiscal year and submit a report, including financial and programmatic information and a summary of audit findings, to City Council and to all assessed property owners located in the District, as required by the Community and Economic Improvement Act. In addition, Impact Community Development Corporation shall be responsible for collecting all assessment fees levied within the District.

A written agreement will be signed by the City and Impact Community Development Corporation containing the following provisions: The respective duties of the City and Impact Community Development Corporation with respect to the District as set forth in Paragraph 11 above; the City's agreement to maintain within the District the same level of municipal programs and services that were provided within the District before its establishment; a sunset provision under

which the agreement will expire five years from the date of this ordinance becomes law and will not be renewed unless the District is continued beyond that date pursuant to the reenactment of the ordinance establishing the District; and Impact Community Development Corporation's agreement to be responsible for the collection of all property assessment fees levied within the District and the City's agreement to file any necessary liens for non-payment of property assessment fees as set forth in the Act.

We appreciate the assistance provided by Councilman Frank DiCicco's staff and request your approval of this NID Business Plan.

Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you very much.

Any questions or comments from members of the Committee?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you, sir.

MR. WHITE: Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Christine.

MS. HAMMAKER: Good morning, Madam Chairwoman and members of City Council. I am here today to provide testimony in support of --

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm sorry. You're going to have to identify yourself.

MS. HAMMAKER: I'm sorry. It's Christine Hammaker. I am here today to provide testimony in support of Bill No. 080251.

My name is Christine Hammaker and I am the Store Director for the Toys 'R Us store on Aramingo Avenue and I am also Vice-President of the Aramingo Business Association.

I am going to chair the cleaning committee and will coordinate cleaning efforts with the businesses in

the Aramingo Avenue Shopping District and Impact Community Development Corporation. Impact CDC currently has two cleaning machines and will provide staff and equipment to clean the service area. Pictures of the existing cleaning machines are attached.

The initial service area started at Allegheny Avenue and Aramingo Avenue, and a tour of the area was completed by Impact CDC and Councilman DiCicco's office. Upon conclusion of the tour, it was decided in the best interest of the community and businesses that the service area for cleaning should begin at Lehigh Avenue, 2700 block Aramingo, and continue to Wheatsheaf Lane, 3900 block Aramingo Avenue. This will signify a gateway entrance to the Aramingo Avenue Shopping District.

It was also decided with Councilman DiCicco's office to extend the service area over to Gaul Street on the east and Tulip Street on the west, from

Westmoreland to Castor Avenue, enabling cleaning efforts of many dumpsters in the rear of businesses on Aramingo Avenue. There have been numerous reports of overfilled dumpsters and blowing debris into the PRIDE industrial area west of Tulip Street. This also would make the cleaning areas contiguous of PRIDE, which Impact CDC also maintains, and the Aramingo District.

Primarily services to be provided in the Aramingo Avenue Shopping District are as follows: Provide uniformed, radio-equipped ambassadors to assist customers and security personnel; provide sidewalk cleaning; help promote the area with events and advertising support; review and develop directional signage; advocate for business services and support; assist in developing and implementing a security plan for the Business District.

The services will be financed by an equitable assessment based on

assessed value of all benefiting properties. As a result, less valuable properties will pay as little as $15 per month and more valuable properties will pay a higher rate. The average assessment for 86 amended properties as per agreement with the Urban Industry Initiative is estimated to be $250 per property per month. The ten largest property owners account for 65 percent of the annual budget. The amended first-year revenue projection and budget is 262,612. Details of the budget are listed below.

The Aramingo Avenue Shopping District appreciates the support and assistance provided by Councilman Frank DiCicco's staff, and we respectfully request approval of this NID Business Plan.

Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you very much.

Are there any questions or

comments from members of the Committee?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you again.

Mr. McPherson, please call the next two witnesses.

MR. McPHERSON: Joe Lyons and Bill Dion.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Is Joe Lyons here?

MR. HOFER: Randy Hofer again for Impact Services.

Joe could not be here. I was going to read his testimony.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: That's fine.

MR. HOFER: And also Mr. Dion is not able to make it. I'm going to just paraphrase a letter that they sent in support.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And if you'd like, we could submit that to the stenographer and it will be transcribed in full.

MR. HOFER: Right. They're in your package, yes.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Please proceed.

MR. HOFER: I can read Joe's testimony into the record.

"Good morning, Madam Chairwoman and members of City Council. My name is Joe Lyons. I am here today to provide testimony in support of Bill No. 080251. I am the Human Resources Manager for Home Depot on Aramingo Avenue and I am also the Treasurer of the Aramingo Business Association and Board member for Impact Community Development Corporation.

"Attached is an outline of the results of our outreach and meetings held associated with the development of this neighborhood improvement district.

The outline summarizes by date all meetings held; special presentations of the BID plan; mailing of monthly Business Association minutes; e-mail reminders to members for meeting dates;

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phone calls to confirm meeting dates; support signatures from store owners and management in the Aramingo Avenue Shopping District.

"On behalf of the Aramingo Business Association, I appreciate the opportunity to provide the details of our outreach summary. I hope it is seen as an important part of the effort we provided to inform and update the Aramingo Avenue Shopping District owners."

In the timing sense, I just wanted to go over a couple details. As you can see in your package, we have an extensive number of pages concerning all of these dates and outreach activities. In '06, '07 and '08, there were 24 meetings held, Business Association meetings, which the discussion of the improvement district in each one of them and we have minutes providing that.

The other part that we did as a pre-mailing before the business

improvement district information went out from City Council's Chief Clerk, we sent a letter from Impact Community Development Corporation in advance to outline what was going to come in the mail. This went to every single store on Aramingo Avenue, as well as every owner from the BRT list. So this was well in advance of what they would be receiving from the Chief Clerk's Office. And I just wanted to put that in for testimony.

And the outreach, again, we went out store by store, and we received 52 signed store signatures, which was a combination of store owners and most managers. We didn't take any just clerk. It was managers or assistant management, that they would just approve the idea of the creation and support that of the Aramingo Shopping District. So those three pages were attached also.

MR. MacDONALD: I'm not sure. Did you actually find the copy of the letter in your package? Because I didn't

see it in mine, so that one -- the one that you had from Joe, his testimony. I don't think that made it into the package. So we'll give it to the stenographer.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I don't know if it was in the package. I would just like the stenographer to have a copy of it.

MR. MacDONALD: Sure.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Is it all right if we give her that copy?

MR. HOFER: Absolutely.

And I just had three support letters here. I just wanted to paraphrase a couple of the closing comments.

The first one is from the City of Philadelphia 24th Police District. It came from Captain David Mockus, Commanding Officer. His last paragraph states, "I am glad that our beat officers and community relation officers will have an opportunity to engage on a regular and

ongoing basis with the ambassadors and be managed by a trusted community partner. We believe that Impact Community Development Corporation has the capacity and experience with the targeted community to successfully provide this much-needed service."

The next letter is from Wolfson Verrichia Group. They are developers in the area coming into the former Tioga Pipe site, which is now going to be in construction for a major retailer.

The last paragraph for them states in the letter, "The Aramingo Avenue Shopping District will bring safety ambassadors on bikes, regular cleaning of sidewalks in the District and District-wide marketing. We believe that these components are critical to the success of our venture on Aramingo Avenue. We look forward to working with the Aramingo Avenue Shopping District towards the growth of this vital section of the City." And that's signed by

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Steven B. Wolfson, Chairman and CEO of Wolfson Verrichia Group, Incorporated.

Our last support letter is from the Urban Industry Initiative, UII, and the statement here basically on the third paragraph is, "We feel the Aramingo Avenue Shopping District will have a similar effect on the neighboring commercial corridor. The District will parallel our efforts with the manufacturing community, providing the retail community with continuous attention and additional concentrated support and services. We are encouraged by Impact Community Development Corporation's efforts and the advocacy for establishing this improvement district and are confident in the Corporation's ability to successfully organize and operate the proposed District's services, manage assessments and maintain focus on community development." That is signed by Stephen Jurash, President and CEO.

That concludes our testimony. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you very much.

Do we have any other witnesses to testify?

MR. HOFER: Not from our side.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Okay.

Do we have anyone else that would like to testify?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Anyone else would like to testify on this bill?

Please approach the witness table.

(Witness approached witness table.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good morning. Please identify yourself for the record.

MS. HENNESSEY: Good morning. My name is Chris Hennessey. I own Steffen's Pet Center, which is on the

periphery of the area in question. I am a corner store, and I guess one of my questions is, right now the police -- anything that's happening is happening in the strip malls. I'm not part of the strip mall. I am two blocks away from the beginning of where the strip malls are. And even though I know my assessment is low, but I am a first-floor store, second-store apartment and I'm wondering what benefit this will truly help any of the stores in the outlying areas. So I suppose my question is more to the Impact people.

COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Ma'am, exactly where is your property?

MS. HENNESSEY: Aramingo and Allegheny. I am on the corner. I am on the corner. I am not in the mall areas close to the big businesses.

COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Are you on the --

MS. HENNESSEY: I am close to the --

MR. HOFER: She's at the corner of Aramingo and Allegheny, which is --

COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Can you identify yourself.

MR. HOFER: I'm sorry. Randy Hofer, Impact Services.

We had prior conversation. She's actually on the location of what's called the Gateway, because we're coming up from Lehigh, and obviously the major intersection of Aramingo and Allegheny, she's right on the corner. So her concerns prior to her testimony involve police support and different things. I said our safety ambassadors are the liaison between the two groups. Obviously if there's an incident, she could call 9-1-1 immediately, and our safety ambassadors will be then given cell phone numbers to the stores. At that point, that would be the second call, and they would kind of come down since they'll be on bike patrol north and south with two of them, they could come

there to kind of take care of things prior to the police maybe coming, depending upon their response time.

MS. HENNESSEY: I mean, we already pay city taxes, as all the small stores do, and --

COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: We hope.

MS. HENNESSEY: We thought that that was part of what we were provided by the City rather than being assessed again. And I know it's a small amount, but who knows what will happen in the future when something like this starts.

COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: They would have to come back at the end of -- when does this sunset?

MR. HOFER: Five years.

COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Five years. So no adjustments, correct me if I'm wrong, would be made without having to come back to City Council.

MR. HOFER: Correct.

COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: So you'd have five years before any adjustment

that may be proposed would have to come back to this body, Council body, whoever is here, in five years to make that decision.

I understand your concerns about paying taxes. Every time we go to implement these types of districts, most people have similar concerns and comments, but I can tell you as a Councilperson who has about four or five, maybe even more districts within his boundaries that have been created over the five years, they have all been beneficial and I don't know of anyone who has come back since and complained that the additional tax, if you will, that is being paid has not pretty much paid itself off in the long term in terms of not only additional safety, policing issues, but in terms of maintenance. Because there's just a finite amount of money that we as a city could do in terms of offering basic city services. So what this is is a supplement to those

services, and the money goes right back directly to your district.

As an example, if we were to increase your real estate taxes tomorrow, the benefits to you directly would be none, at best would be minimal, if any, because that money gets put into a pool that gets eventually spread out across the entire city, where in this case, using your term, the additional tax is money that goes back specific to your community to be used in a manner in which the District believes is in the best interest of the people who are paying into it. So it doesn't go to South Philadelphia, West Philadelphia or anywhere else, but to your particular community.

MS. HENNESSEY: Well, thank you for letting me voice my concerns.

MR. HOFER: Sure. If I may, there's one other area of support that we didn't bring up today. It's all in your packages, though. The marketing effort

for the stores on the Avenue. We're planning events. We've been very successful at the Kensington and Allegheny Market Fest. We're doing our 8th annual June 14th, and that brings approximately 4,000 people to the area in a one-block direction from K&A each year. And as a service to the stores on Aramingo, we're bringing that concept over also as festivals, events, different marketing events, as well as advertising.

So I can assure you -- I believe your assessment is $133; is that correct?

MS. HENNESSEY: Yes, minimal.

MR. HOFER: So it's very minimal. We can help the stores recoup some of their income by bringing customers and shopping to the district. So that is planned also. National Night Out is held right in Home Depot's parking lot. So you're welcome to come with that. I believe your business is one of the only few dealing with your product,

so we can definitely help you with that.

MS. HENNESSEY: Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

Do we have anyone else that would like to testify on this bill?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Seeing no one, before we go into our public meeting, I just want to applaud the group for working so hard. It's very seldom that we have a group come in and just about everybody is in accord and on the same vein, but apparently you've worked extremely hard on it, and I congratulate you.

This will conclude our public hearing. We will now go into our public meeting.

Excuse me. For those of you who were here regarding Bill No. 080251, please know that that bill will be

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continued or recessed until June the 11th at 10 o'clock. Thank you.

(Pause.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: We are now in our public meeting, and the Chair recognizes Councilman Clarke regarding Bill No. 080077.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Madam President. I move that Bill No. 080077 be reported out of Committee with a favorable recommendation.

(Duly seconded.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been moved and seconded that Bill No. 080077 be reported out of Committee with a favorable recommendation.

All in favor will say aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The ayes have it. The motion carries. And Bill No. 080251 will be recessed until

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June the 11th at 10:00 a.m.

I'm sorry. It was just called to my attention that Councilman DiCicco has an amendment.

COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Thank you, Madam President. I offer an amendment and ask for its approval. It's been distributed to members of this Committee, on Bill No. 080251.

(Duly seconded.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: All in favor will say aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

Again, I reiterate, this bill as amended will be recessed until June the 11th at 10 o'clock.

Thank you all very much.

(Committee on Rules adjourned at 11:15 a.m.)

CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the proceedings, evidence and objections are contained fully and accurately in the stenographic notes taken by me upon the foregoing matter on April 30, 2008, and that this is a true and correct transcript of same.

_____

MICHELE L. MURPHY

RPR-Notary Public

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