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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, February 7, 2008
9:20 a.m.

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PRESENT:

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COUNCILWOMAN JOAN L. KRAJEWSKI, CHAIR

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COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE

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COUNCILMAN FRANK DiCICCO

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COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.

14

COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.

15

COUNCILMAN JACK KELLY

16

COUNCILWOMAN MARIA QUINONES-SANCHEZ

17

COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER

18

COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO

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BILL 080009 - An ordinance authorizing
transfers in appropriations for Fiscal Year
2008 within the Grants Revenue Fund...

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BILL 080010 - An ordinance authorizing
transfers in appropriations for Fiscal Year
2008 from the General Fund...

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V A R A L L O Incorporated

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Litigation Support Services

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Eleven Penn Center

1835 Market Street, Suite 600
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

215.561.2220 215.567.2670

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COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Good morning. The Committee on Appropriations is now in session.

Will the Clerk please read the title of the bill.

THE CLERK: Bill No. 080009, an ordinance authorizing transfers in appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008 within the Grants Revenue Fund from the Director of Finance - Provision for other grants to the Police Department, the Law Department and the City Commissioners; and

Bill No. 080010, an ordinance authorizing transfers in appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008 from the General Fund, certain or all City offices, departments, boards and commissions and from the Grants Revenue Fund, the Director of Finance - Provision for other grants to the General Fund, certain or all City offices, departments, boards and commissions.

COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank

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2 you.

3 Is there anyone from the
4 Administration here to testify?

5 MR. AGOSTINI: Yes, Madam
6 Chair, members.

7 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Good
8 morning.

9 MR. AGOSTINI: Good morning.
10 My name is Stephen Agostini. I am the
11 Budget Director for the City of
12 Philadelphia, here to offer testimony on
13 the bills before you, 080009 and 080010.
14 They are transfer ordinances, submitting
15 them for your consideration.

16 Ordinance No. 080009 transfers
17 9.475 million within the Grants Revenue
18 Fund from the Director of Finance's -
19 Provision for other grants to the Police
20 Department, the Law Department and the
21 City Commissioners. There are four
22 transfers under that, and if you would
23 bear with me, I will go through them very
24 quickly.

25 The largest transfer is to the

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2 City Commissioners, Classes 100, 200 and
3 300 for \$5.32 million. The Grants
4 Revenue Fund request is for the Help
5 America Vote Act of 2002, which would
6 provide financial assistance to the City
7 county from the U.S. Election Assistance
8 Commission.

9 The second transfer is for the
10 Police Department, a Grants Revenue
11 appropriation of 3.6 million from the
12 City's Productivity Bank loan funds,
13 which would be applied to the
14 Department's Information Technology
15 Systems Review and Consolidation project.

16 The Law Department is also
17 requesting 560,000 in its Class 200.
18 These funds originated from the approved
19 Productivity Bank loan, will enable the
20 Law Department to acquire, configure and
21 deploy a department-wide case and
22 document management system.

23 Also for your consideration,
24 Bill No. 080010 requests transfers for
25 the following items: Records Department

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2 Class 200 to 300/400 for \$336,494. This
3 is to maintain the same level of service
4 that it has provided in the past,
5 particularly in the Central Duplicating
6 Unit.

7 There are also included in this
8 larger transfers. The largest is the
9 Department of Human Services Class 200
10 funds, totalling \$8 million and
11 represents the Administration's
12 commitment to supporting education
13 through the expansion of school-based
14 services. And then \$3.65 million
15 transferred to the Office of Supportive
16 Housing's Class 200 funds for service
17 provider cost of living adjustments and
18 service expansion.

19 And then, finally, the Office
20 of Fleet Management requests a Class 400
21 transfer of 1.1 million to restore the
22 previously reduced vehicle purchase
23 appropriation to purchase Police and Fire
24 vehicles.

25 We would kindly ask for a

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2 suspension of the rules so that the bills
3 can be considered.

4 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank
5 you.

6 Are there any questions from
7 members of the Committee?

8 Councilwoman Miller.

9 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank
10 you, Madam Chair.

11 I'd like to ask a question
12 regarding the City Commissioners and the
13 bill that refers to the polling place.

14 Good morning.

15 MR. LEE: Good morning. How
16 are you?

17 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Good.

18 I should tell you, you should
19 state your name for the record.

20 MR. LEE: My name is Bob Lee.
21 I'm the Voter Registration Administrator
22 for the City Commissioners' Office.

23 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Mr. Lee,
24 I just want to know, here it says that
25 some of this funding will be used at

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2 polling places to make them accessible,
3 handicapped accessible.

4 MR. LEE: That's correct. We
5 have a number of programs that we're
6 running with these federal funds. One of
7 those was to survey all of the polling
8 places and determine which ones only had
9 one step at the entrance, had a 36-inch
10 width door. We purchased about 80
11 ADA-compliant curb ramps, three- to
12 six-foot curb ramps, that we're using at
13 those locations.

14 The ADA requires that you have
15 a one-inch-per-foot slope on any ramp, so
16 anything larger -- any entrance with more
17 than one step of seven inches, we really
18 can't put temporary ramps there. And the
19 problem is, you need such a length of a
20 ramp that basically most of the sidewalks
21 or properties in the City do not have the
22 space to put those kind of ramps up.

23 What we also did was -- and
24 this was prior to the November '06
25 election -- we got a hold of the School

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2 District, and they were very cooperative,
3 and they went out and built permanent
4 ramps at 40 school facilities that made
5 80 additional polling places accessible.

6 So through the use of the
7 permanent ramps at the schools and the 80
8 temporary ramps, we probably have
9 increased the access at more than, say,
10 130 polling places. Our problem is,
11 naturally, this is an old city. The ADA
12 requirement is very strict. They not
13 only require designated parking, they
14 require designated van parking, which
15 means you have to have a wide designated
16 berth space in between. So we're having
17 a very difficult time locating and
18 securing accessible polling places.

19 However, the plans -- we have a
20 couple lawsuits going on, naturally.
21 Justice Department, there's a private
22 plaintiff. The private plaintiff has
23 allowed us to designate our polling
24 places in varying degrees. They have
25 kind of laid off the parking and they're

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2 more concerned with accessibility of the
3 building, and that's what we've been
4 concentrating on. However, there is also
5 the Justice Department that has much more
6 stringent requirements, some of which are
7 almost impossible to find in some areas
8 of the City unless you have new
9 construction.

10 We also currently are working
11 with the Capital Programs Office. Our
12 employees and architects and designers
13 from Capital Programs went out and
14 visited, I would guess, about 30 City
15 facilities to see what kind of permanent
16 modifications, constructing of ramps that
17 are ADA compliant, and we'll be
18 reimbursing those departments for the
19 cost of installing those ramps.

20 Finally, we've asked the Law
21 Department to come up with some kind of
22 legal agreement that we can use to make
23 permanent modifications at private
24 facilities. The Department of State,
25 which administers these grants, has said

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2 that we can use the funds to make
3 permanent modifications to private
4 facilities, provided the owner of the
5 private facility signed a contract and
6 agreement that would commit that we could
7 use that as a polling place until the
8 cost of those modifications had
9 depreciated down to zero.

10 That's something that's
11 probably about five or six months away
12 yet. We don't have any kind of contract
13 drafted. We also have to do a lot more
14 surveys of these locations that are more
15 than one step.

16 We did go out and resurvey
17 everything that was between two steps and
18 four steps, and we probably only found
19 that about half of them might feasibly be
20 modified.

21 So we're having a very
22 difficult time, but where we can, we're
23 modifying buildings rather than moving
24 them. We understand fully the importance
25 of keeping the polling place in the

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2 election district, because we know that
3 most of our voters walk, a good
4 percentage of them walk, especially the
5 elderly, and we don't want to move
6 anything out of the division where we
7 don't have to.

8 The law says we either have to
9 have it in the division or the adjacent
10 division. There's been pressure through
11 both the courts and other areas for us to
12 move polling places, some at great
13 distances, which is a contention of the
14 litigation right now. There may be some
15 more relocation of polling places that
16 come down as a result of the court
17 litigation.

18 We held over 150 hearings where
19 the staff reviewed filings by the
20 plaintiffs for proposed movements. One
21 of the moves was to move a polling place
22 from the 38th Ward to the 52nd Ward,
23 which meant you would have had to walk
24 through Fairmount Park, go down across
25 Kelly Drive, swim the Schuylkill, cross

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2 the Schuylkill Expressway, climb back up
3 the other side. The plaintiffs brought
4 in interns from Harvard or somewhere and
5 they looked at a map and they seen the
6 line between the two and they thought
7 that you could easily use that because it
8 was adjacent.

9 So that's the difficulty we've
10 been having. But we probably will have
11 more hearings on polling place locations,
12 but it's the Commissioner's position that
13 we not move any polling place that we
14 don't have to move, if we can either
15 modify it or find an additional
16 accessible polling place in the division.

17 The ward leaders have been very
18 helpful and through their committeemen.
19 Where the plaintiffs have asked us to
20 move places, they've been able to help us
21 find something that is more accessible.

22 We'll try to take any location
23 that increases accessibility even if we
24 can't meet the strict ADA standards, so
25 that at least we get substantial

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2 compliance.

3 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: When you
4 say private places, are you helping
5 churches?

6 MR. LEE: We can do it through
7 churches, but like I said, it's about six
8 months away. The funding for that
9 program has to be spent no later than
10 June 30th of '09. So we have to get the
11 Law Department to move on the contract
12 drafting, at which time we'll be going
13 out and surveying, and we would also take
14 recommendations, naturally, from the ward
15 leaders and elected officials as possible
16 locations that could be modified. But
17 you have to keep in mind that the number
18 of steps is a key element, because if you
19 have to put a ramp, a foot for every inch
20 in rise, you need to make sure that
21 there's enough space on the sidewalk or
22 on the property in order to construct the
23 ramp. And once you go so far in length,
24 you have to have a level landing, you
25 have the handrails. The requirements are

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2 pretty strict.

3 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Can you
4 send out a new list of polling places
5 that are not accessible because you've
6 added a ramp or -- I have a school with
7 one step, and I didn't know that a ramp
8 was -- I had no idea that there was --

9 MR. LEE: I can find out, if
10 you give me the ward and division.

11 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: 59th
12 Ward, 18 --

13 MR. LEE: What's the school?

14 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER:
15 Lingelbach Elementary.

16 MR. LEE: I'll find out if
17 we're already sending a ramp.

18 What we do is, when they
19 deliver the machines, they're delivering
20 a ramp with it, and then we notify the
21 ward leaders through a blanket letter
22 saying that some of your polling places
23 may have a ramp delivered. That's
24 another contention. We've instructed the
25 poll officials -- and hopefully with the

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2 assistance of the committeemen out
3 there -- that we're going to send a ramp
4 and don't put it down unless you need it.
5 We've gotten complaints from seniors that
6 they have difficulty traversing the
7 slope, six-foot ramp. Some of them lose
8 their balance, as opposed to climbing one
9 step.

10 So what we'd rather have happen
11 is that the poll workers and the
12 committeemen, upon a wheelchair user
13 appearing to vote, that they place the
14 ramp there for them, and when they're
15 done voting and they leave, then they can
16 pick the ramp up, but keep it near the
17 entrance. The litigants and the
18 plaintiffs don't like that idea. They
19 want the ramp down permanent, so does
20 Justice, but we've told them we've had
21 complaints from seniors about traversing
22 them ramps when we only have a single
23 one-step entrance.

24 But I will check on 5918.

25 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Yes. I

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2 think we need an update, though. I don't
3 remember getting a recent update. I
4 remember getting a list that said --

5 MR. LEE: If we're sending a
6 ramp there, your polling place -- you
7 know, there's two letters on the end of
8 the list. If we're sending a ramp, the
9 first letter will be an R for ramp and
10 the second letter represents the parking
11 circumstances at the polling place.

12 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay. I
13 don't know whether other people have
14 gotten an update on the assessment --

15 MR. LEE: The list that we have
16 right now is the one from the last
17 November election, because we just now
18 sent out the acceptance cards to all the
19 owners asking if they're going to let us
20 have it, and they will be coming back
21 over the next month. And then we
22 probably won't have an updated list for
23 this election, a final list, until about
24 20 days before the election, because,
25 naturally, changes are allowed to be made

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2 up to 20 days before the election. But
3 the bulk of them should be done probably
4 in about a month.

5 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: All
6 right.

7 MR. LEE: But I will check and
8 see if we sent a ramp here and give your
9 office a call.

10 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: All
11 right. Thank you.

12 MR. LEE: You're welcome.

13 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank
14 you, Madam Chair.

15 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI:
16 Councilwoman Sanchez.

17 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Hi,
18 Bobby.

19 MR. LEE: Hello.

20 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: What of
21 this money is being used for us to comply
22 with our recent Department of Justice
23 settlement and how much of it as it
24 relates directly to the language access
25 issue?

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2 MR. LEE: Probably not much at
3 all, and there's a reason for that.
4 Because the federal mandate is that the
5 funds not be used to settle a lawsuit.

6 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: But the
7 federal requirements around language
8 access, how are --

9 MR. LEE: Those are being ate
10 up by our operating budget. Basically we
11 used HAVA money to design and print a new
12 language interpretation services poster
13 that was placed at every polling place in
14 the City explaining the City's new
15 telephonic interpretation service. The
16 contract for training and certifying
17 bilingual interpreters, we are
18 piggy-backing off of a contract by the
19 Managing Director's Office through
20 Global. There's no cost to that. The
21 Managing Director's Office or the Law
22 Department, somebody else is bearing the
23 cost in that.

24 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: How are
25 we going to ensure that we're

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2 institutionalizing some of these federal
3 requirements? Because right now you're
4 saying the Law Department is taking care
5 of it because we were under litigation.
6 When does this all fold into the
7 Commissioner's Office?

8 MR. LEE: As long as the Law
9 Department has a contract with Global and
10 they're willing to give us these services
11 free, we're going to accept them.
12 There's no sense us entering a separate
13 contract with Global and paying for them,
14 too.

15 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I'm not
16 suggesting that we contract an outside
17 service. I'm suggesting how are we
18 looking to institutionalize our federal
19 requirements?

20 MR. LEE: I don't know what you
21 mean by "institutionalize," but --

22 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Having
23 it in-house.

24 MR. LEE: I've been here 24
25 years, and every one of them years and

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2 every day of one of them years I've made
3 sure that everything I do complies with
4 all laws, both federal, state and local.
5 So we have programs in place to make sure
6 we comply with all the federal laws, all
7 the state laws. Sometimes their efforts
8 may fall short. They fall short because
9 interpreters may not show up when they
10 commit to show up. They may fall short
11 where poll workers are not hanging
12 posters when they need to be hanging
13 posters.

14 But this office does, through
15 due diligence, everything it can possibly
16 do to make sure that they have the proper
17 materials, to make sure that we solicit
18 interpreters and to make sure that those
19 services that are needed are out there.
20 Naturally, on Election Day, you have
21 1,681 divisions. Seven o'clock in the
22 morning it's like shooting off 1,681
23 shuttles. You don't know what's going to
24 happen at any one of them and how long
25 it's going to be until things settle

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2 down.

3 But as far as institutionalize,
4 compliance with law is already part of
5 our institution. That's why we're there.
6 We make sure that all the laws are
7 complied with as much as possible. And
8 even though some may have some
9 allegations, including the Justice
10 Department, that doesn't necessarily mean
11 what they're saying, everything is true
12 or everything is right, as we can see by
13 the departure of two of their people.

14 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Okay.

15 MR. LEE: And I'm referring to
16 Mr. Tanner and Mr. Gonzales.

17 But in any event, we will do --
18 I personally oversee the solicitation and
19 the appointment and the training of our
20 interpreters. I know what's been done
21 there over the last three years. It's
22 substantially improved over the last
23 three years.

24 We have a problem that we
25 solicit people to act as an interpreter

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2 for ward leaders first, because the
3 committeemen know the people in their
4 neighborhood, they know who is available,
5 they know who is willing to work. And
6 we're only paying them \$75 for a day, so
7 it's hard to get people to begin with.

8 Second of all, we also in the
9 last election got some recommendations
10 from members of the community, Concilio.
11 We find that usually the people nominated
12 by ward leaders, you can depend on them
13 showing up more than you can people that
14 either call in in response to an
15 advertisement we ran soliciting
16 interpreters or people recommended by
17 community organizations. Generally, the
18 reliability of those recommended by ward
19 leaders and committeemen far exceeds the
20 reliability of the people.

21 We ran ads in newspapers asking
22 for people to serve as interpreters. We
23 ran them in the five bilingual
24 English-Spanish newspapers. We had radio
25 announcements, the City's in-house --

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2 emails to all the City departments. The
3 Law Department tried to get some
4 solicitation.

5 The number of volunteers that
6 came through those efforts was very
7 small. The great majority of the
8 interpreters we get are through the ward
9 leaders, and some of them have been
10 serving for years, some of them 15, 20
11 years.

12 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Are we
13 looking at increasing -- what's the
14 limitation of increasing what we pay
15 folks? It is a 13-hour day.

16 MR. LEE: Well, I personally
17 think we ought to be playing all our poll
18 workers more money. Now, five years ago,
19 Senator Tartaglione had legislation that
20 was introduced and passed that would
21 allow us to double the pay of our poll
22 workers. Our poll workers, the Judge of
23 Elections is paid \$100, the other four
24 members are paid \$95. There are some
25 cities and states that are paying double

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2 and triple what we're paying. Right now
3 we don't have the funds in our budget to
4 increase poll worker pay, although --

5 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Are we
6 required to go to the state or is that a
7 decision that we make locally?

8 MR. LEE: The state sets the
9 limits on what you can pay them. The
10 local people have to give us the money.
11 If we don't get the money, we can't raise
12 their pay.

13 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Point of
14 order, Madam Chair.

15 What is the state limit?

16 MR. LEE: I believe it's \$200.

17 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Thank you.

18 MR. LEE: Two hundred dollars.

19 The judge gets 100 right now. I believe
20 five years ago we requested an increase
21 in funds to pay the poll workers to give
22 them an increase. And believe me, the
23 poll workers ask us every training
24 session, When are we getting our raise?
25 Because they know the state raised the

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2 limit.

3 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Thank you.

4 MR. LEE: And our response is,
5 We don't have the appropriation.

6 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Are you
7 going to incorporate it in this year's
8 budget?

9 MR. LEE: Three years in a row.
10 We didn't get an answer.

11 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Okay.

12 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: I
13 believe Councilman Jones would like --

14 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Excuse me,
15 Madam Chair. I do have a question.

16 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: I
17 didn't see your light on. I'm sorry.
18 Councilman DiCicco, then Councilman
19 Jones.

20 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Thank you,
21 Madam Chair.

22 Mr. Lee, you mentioned about
23 the agreement with the property owners on
24 the ramps and that it would be amortized,
25 I guess, over a certain amount of time?

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2 MR. LEE: Right.

3 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Is that
4 transferrable, meaning if the property
5 owner were to sell his or her property,
6 would the new owner be bound by that?

7 MR. LEE: That's something the
8 Law Department will have to consider when
9 they're drafting this. That's out of my
10 league.

11 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: I think we
12 might want to look into that. It may not
13 be in the many cases, but we just want to
14 be on the safe side. If we're making
15 that investment, we'd like to at least
16 know that we can carry it out for a
17 certain number of years.

18 MR. LEE: Right.

19 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: So if you
20 can look into that, I'd appreciate it.

21 Thank you. No other questions.

22 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI:
23 Councilman Jones.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
25 morning, Madam Chairman and members of

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2 the Committee. Thank you for allowing me
3 to participate in this. I am not on
4 Appropriations, but I'm interested
5 nonetheless.

6 My questions are one comment
7 for Commissioner Evans and a series of
8 questions for the Prisons Commissioner,
9 the Acting Prisons Commissioner.

10 MR. LEE: Thank you.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: Are they
12 here?

13 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Is
14 there anyone here from the Prisons?

15 Thank you. Please state your
16 name for the record.

17 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Louis
18 Giorla, Acting Commissioner of
19 Philadelphia Prisons.

20 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank
21 you.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES:
23 Commissioner, welcome.

24 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Thank
25 you.

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2 COUNCILMAN JONES: A couple of
3 things. One, I'm interested in the
4 training provided to incarcerated persons
5 that are designed to give them a viable
6 way to come back into society and earn a
7 living. My question is, who has the
8 contract to do the evaluation and
9 assessment and then training of those
10 individuals?

11 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: At this
12 time, it's a -- they're a compilation of
13 groups, both in-house, our Inmate
14 Services programs, who do an initial
15 assessment and the classification of
16 inmates' job assignments and referrals to
17 a number of programs. We do make
18 referrals to the Mayor's Office of
19 Reentry for Ex-Offenders. We have three
20 contract agencies -- Impact Services;
21 JEVS, Jewish Employment and Vocational
22 Services; and the GPUAC -- to provide
23 identification upon release, some
24 vocational training, GED training, and
25 there is also -- those trainings are also

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2 offered in-house. We have a program
3 known as the Jobs Project, which refers
4 sentenced inmates to a period of both a
5 therapeutic living environment and
6 vocational training, and it's conducted
7 by the treatment teams of our social
8 workers and the outside contractors.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: If I
10 understood you correctly, you have JEVS?

11 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Yes, sir.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: GPUAC?

13 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Yes, sir.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: Some
15 in-house?

16 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Yes, sir.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: And what was
18 the other?

19 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Impact
20 Services.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Impact
22 Services. And what are the skills
23 provided? What are the range of skills
24 that are taught?

25 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: There are

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2 programs in environmental maintenance,
3 computer use, building maintenance,
4 customer service, and they're combined
5 with life skills training.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: And how do
7 you measure success in those training
8 programs?

9 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: At the
10 present time -- well, I think our measure
11 of success would be recidivism. At this
12 time, we're conducting a study to
13 determine what programs are successful
14 and what our recidivism rates are and how
15 they're affected.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: So at this
17 point in time, you have no declarative
18 evidence of success ratios?

19 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: No, sir.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: How do you
21 work with the private sector to determine
22 what skill sets would be useful in the
23 marketplace?

24 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: The JEVS
25 program also provides a Steps to Success

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2 and a Workplace Readiness or a Ready for
3 Work evaluation that provides the inmates
4 with resume preparation.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: And you have
6 no statistics to say how that's working?

7 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: I have
8 reports available from the JEVS program
9 that I would gladly share with you. I
10 don't have those figures today, sir.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'm going to
12 stop this at this point and say I'll see
13 you again during budget time, and those
14 are the questions I'm going to ask you.

15 COMMISSIONER GIORLA:
16 Certainly.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Finally,
18 what is the average stay of an inmate in
19 your facility?

20 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: The
21 average length of stay for an inmate is
22 approximately 91 days. Now, that's an
23 average of everyone that's admitted, and
24 we're talking between 35 and 40 thousand
25 admissions per year. There are subsets

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2 within that category, sentenced inmates,
3 those held on violent felonies, and those
4 numbers can be broken down even further,
5 but the average is 91 days.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: So are
7 programs designed for people with that
8 length of stay or longer?

9 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Most of
10 the vocational programs are geared
11 towards sentenced inmates because we know
12 that they're committed and we have a time
13 frame for their commitment. The
14 vocational cycles, the job cycles, are
15 either three weeks, six weeks or 12
16 weeks, and that's to accommodate --
17 that's to see that they, if possible,
18 complete them before they're released.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: That
20 concludes my questioning for now.

21 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Yes, sir.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: I just want
23 to make a statement. I understand we're
24 going to go into --

25 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Pull

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2 your mike up a little.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: I understand
4 we're going to go in depth about the
5 after-school programs at another time.

6 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Yes.
7 Yes.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: So I will
9 not question it now, but I will only say
10 that out of the 33 schools in my region
11 and my district, I'm concerned that seven
12 of them are being eliminated. I'm
13 receiving a number of calls from parents
14 who --

15 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: As are
16 all of us.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: -- have
18 stated to me that this is not just an
19 educational program but it is an economic
20 development tool that allows single
21 parents to be participants in the
22 workplace. So I'm viewing it both from
23 the educational side but from the
24 economic development side, and I look
25 forward to that information in the

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2 future.

3 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: I
4 understand that the Administration is
5 going to meet with each and every
6 Councilperson in their district.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
8 Madam Chairman.

9 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: We'll
10 bring that up then.

11 Councilman Rizzo.

12 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you,
13 Madam Chair.

14 Commissioner, congratulations
15 on your appointment.

16 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Thank
17 you.

18 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: There's a
19 program that I have an interest in. It's
20 your worker release inmate program, where
21 you have programmed inmates that if they
22 can find an outside opportunity, a job,
23 that they can leave the jail, work, come
24 back at the end of the day. There's a
25 number of inmates up there that have been

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2 programmed for that opportunity, but no
3 jobs. We were very close to getting
4 Fairmount Park Commission -- matter of
5 fact, the money was in the budget -- to
6 allow some of these inmates that were
7 programmed for work release to go work in
8 the park, learn a skill and have
9 opportunities possibly to work for some
10 of the subcontractors that support the
11 park, some of the vegetation management
12 companies, landscape companies and
13 others. Apparently, at the end of the
14 administration, it got into -- the
15 program got into a little trouble. It
16 never was implemented.

17 So I'd appreciate it if you
18 would revisit that possibly and see if we
19 can get that back on track, because the
20 Park is anxious to hire initially six
21 employees that would work along with the
22 employees at Fairmount Park. And you and
23 your staff have informed me -- and I
24 think it's common sense -- that if those
25 inmates have a little bit of money in

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2 their pocket when they're released, they
3 may not go back to what got them
4 incarcerated to begin with, especially if
5 there's an opportunity for employment at
6 the point when they're released, a good
7 opportunity.

8 So I'd appreciate it if you
9 would look into that to see if we can get
10 that back on track.

11 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: I can
12 report some progress in that regard. We
13 do have a program under the auspices of
14 the Horticultural Society that raises
15 vegetables for food cupboards in the
16 City. Along with that they teach
17 landscape skills to a number of sentenced
18 inmates, both male and female. In the
19 last couple weeks, we've met with a
20 number of landscape contractors to
21 provide employment opportunities, and
22 I'll certainly look into the Park
23 Commission's participation in that.

24 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: The Park
25 Commission is very anxious, because,

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2 again, this isn't just volunteer labor.

3 This is a per hour that would be put in
4 their account, or however you handle
5 that, so when they're released, that they
6 do have some financial ability.

7 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Yes, sir.

8 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you,
9 Commissioner.

10 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank
11 you.

12 Councilman Goode.

13 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
14 Madam Chair.

15 Good morning, Commissioner.

16 One quick question. This request is for
17 \$500,000. How much is spent on reentry
18 within the Prisons budget itself?

19 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: This
20 entire request will be for reentry
21 services through three of the contractors
22 that I alluded to earlier, Impact
23 Services --

24 COUNCILMAN GOODE: My question
25 was, this request is for \$500,000.

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2 Annually how much is spent on reentry
3 within the Prisons budget itself?

4 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: The total
5 figure I'm not sure at this time, sir.

6 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Can you give
7 me a guess?

8 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: I would
9 estimate upwards of \$3 million.

10 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you.

11 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank
12 you.

13 Are there any other questions?
14 Councilman Clarke.

15 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
16 Madam Chair.

17 Mr. Agostini, real quick
18 question. My understanding is that there
19 was a submission of a transfer ordinance
20 in the last Administration that was not
21 introduced and subsequently did not have
22 a hearing on. Were there any cost
23 savings in any of the departments where
24 the funds were to be transferred from in
25 the last Administration's transfer

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2 ordinance, and, if so, how much was
3 the -- I hate to use the term "windfall,"
4 but how much revenue remained in that
5 particular department as a result of the
6 non-issuance of that transfer?

7 MR. AGOSTINI: Madam
8 Chairwoman, Councilmember, we're still
9 reviewing those transfer requests, so
10 it's hard to sort of pin a number on what
11 was saved from that, because we may bring
12 back some of those items for your
13 consideration.

14 MR. DUBOW: Rob Dubow, Finance
15 Director.

16 What we actually wound up doing
17 was, anything that had been in the budget
18 before was put into the transfer
19 ordinance. The items that were not in
20 the transfer ordinance were not in the
21 budget. So there's no savings from items
22 that we didn't include compared to
23 budget.

24 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Say that
25 again.

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2 MR. DUBOW: Okay. There
3 weren't any items -- I think your
4 question is, were there items that were
5 in the budget but that we didn't put into
6 the transfer ordinance and so did we get
7 savings as a result of that. Is that
8 what you're asking?

9 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: That we
10 didn't -- from departments. There were
11 departments that the transfers were going
12 to come from, and the question is, since
13 we did not take revenue out of those
14 departments to accommodate the transfer,
15 are those departments essentially flushed
16 with cash?

17 MR. DUBOW: As I understand, we
18 were taking it from the Grants Fund from
19 our fund balance, so it wasn't coming
20 from specific departments. So there were
21 none.

22 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: So there is
23 more than anticipated in the Grants
24 Revenue Fund, the fund balance?

25 MR. DUBOW: There was -- yes,

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2 there was enough in fund balance to help
3 fund these transfers. If we had gone
4 beyond this, we would have started to
5 reduce the fund balance below the levels
6 we had projected and it would have taken
7 our plan out of balance.

8 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: So all of
9 the proposed transfers of the fund
10 balance are in these particular
11 transfers?

12 MR. DUBOW: Correct. All that
13 had been anticipated in the plan are in
14 these transfers.

15 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Okay.
16 You've answered my question. Thank you.

17 Thank you, Madam Chair.

18 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Are
19 there any other questions from members of
20 the Committee?

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank
23 you very much.

24 Is there anyone else here to
25 testify for or against?

1 2/7/08 - APPROPRIATIONS - BILL 080009, ETC.

2 (No response.)

3 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: That
4 ends our public hearing on
5 Appropriations. Now we will go into our
6 public meeting.

7 The Chair recognizes Councilman
8 Clarke on Bill 080010.

9 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
10 Madam Chair.

11 Madam Chair, I make a motion
12 that Bill No. 080010 be reported out of
13 the Committee with a favorable
14 recommendation and a request for rules
15 suspension as to allow reading at the
16 next session of Council.

17 (Duly seconded.)

18 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: All
19 those in favor?

20 (Aye.)

21 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI:
22 Opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI:
25 Therefore, Bill 080009 will be reported

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2 out of this Committee with a favorable
3 recommendation, with the rules of Council
4 being suspended as to permit -- 10. I'm
5 sorry. Let me repeat that. 080010 will
6 be reported out of this Committee with a
7 favorable recommendation, with the rules
8 of Council being suspended as to permit
9 first reading at the next session of
10 Council.

11 All those in favor?

12 (Aye.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI:

14 Opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: The
17 Chair recognizes Councilman Clarke for
18 Bill 080009.

19 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
20 Madam Chair.

21 Madam Chair, I move that Bill
22 No. 080009 be reported out of Committee
23 with a favorable recommendation and a
24 request for rules suspension as to allow
25 reading at the next session of Council.

1 2/7/08 - APPROPRIATIONS - BILL 080009, ETC.

2 (Duly seconded.)

3 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: All

4 those in favor?

5 (Aye.)

6 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI:

7 Opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI:

10 Therefore, Bill 080009 will be reported

11 out of this Committee with a favorable

12 recommendation and the rules of Council

13 be suspended so as to permit first

14 reading at the next session of Council.

15 Thank you very much.

16 (Committee on Appropriations

17 adjourned at 10:00 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

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foregoing matter on February 7, 2008, 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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