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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3

PUBLIC HEARING

4

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, February 11, 1998
9:44 a.m.

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11 BILL NO. 980001 - An Ordinance to adopt a capital
12 program for the six fiscal
13 years, 1999 through 2004,
inclusive;

14 BILL NO. 980002 - An ordinance to adopt a Fiscal
15 Year 1999 capital budget

15

- - -

16

17 PRESENT: PRESIDENT JOHN F. STREET, Chairman
18 COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER
19 COUNCILMAN MICHAEL A. NUTTER
20 COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO
21 COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO
22 COUNCILMAN FRANK DICICCO
23 COUNCILMAN RICHARD T. MARIANO
24 COUNCILWOMAN JOAN L. KRAJEWSKI
25 COUNCILWOMAN AUGUSTA A. CLARK

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P R O C E E D I N G S

3

PRESIDENT STREET: Good afternoon.

4

(No response.)

5

PRESIDENT STREET: Oh boy, we've got a

6

slow group today. Good afternoon.

7

(Audience responds "Good morning.")

8

PRESIDENT STREET: Oh, good morning.

9

First of all, I'd like to offer my

10

apologies to those members of the Administration

11

and the general public who came here this morning,

12

expecting that we would start promptly at 9

13

o'clock. You knew we weren't going to start

14

promptly at 9 o'clock. I'm sure people brought

15

their coffee, bagels, and low-fat doughnuts, and

16

all of the rest.

17

But it does appear that we have a

18

quorum now and are ready to begin.

19

This is a meeting of the Council

20

Committee of the Whole. We will hold a public

21

hearing today; we will not have a public meeting.

22

And there are often members of the general public

23

who are here and who do not understand our

24

process.

25

So for those of you who might fall into

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 that category, what we will do today is take all
3 of our budget bills that are advertised, but we
4 will only take testimony today on the capital
5 budget and the capital program.

6 We will take testimony on Bill No.
7 980001, an ordinance to adopt a capital program
8 for the six fiscal years, 1999 through 2004,
9 inclusive; and Bill No. 980002, an ordinance to
10 adopt a Fiscal Year 1999 capital budget. We will
11 not take any testimony on the operating budget or
12 on any of the other bills. We will do the capital
13 program today.

14 This afternoon, I believe, at 2
15 o'clock, we will have testimony from the members
16 of the general public. At this time, I would like
17 to inquire as to whether or not Councilmembers
18 have copies of the statements of the Finance
19 Director, the Chairman, the Executive Director of
20 the City Planning Commission and the Capital
21 Program Office.

22 If every Member -- is there any Member
23 does not have that testimony? I would like to
24 make sure all of you have it.

25 (Those without copies indicate same.)

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002

2 PRESIDENT STREET: Okay, can we get
3 some additional copies of the testimony?

4 And while we're at it, I'd like for us
5 to get maybe an extra 25 or maybe even 50 copies
6 of this testimony so that it can be made available
7 to any member of the general public who is here
8 who would like to read over the testimony. And we
9 certainly can have it available for the public
10 hearing that will take place this afternoon at 2
11 o'clock.

12 It is my understanding that there have
13 been several members of the general public who are
14 signed up to testify at our public hearing
15 scheduled for 2 o'clock. We will go this morning
16 as long as we need to, to finish up the testimony
17 from the representatives of the Administration
18 that are here.

19 Councilmembers, of course, will be free
20 to ask any question. It is my understanding that
21 representatives of all of the departments are here
22 so that if a Councilmember has a question and
23 wishes to direct it to the department head, then
24 the department heads are here.

25 I also understand that questions that

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 are asked of representatives of the Administration
3 might be referred to a representative of a
4 department that is here if the witness thinks it's
5 appropriate to do so.

6 So what we will do is, we will have a
7 summary of the testimony, Councilmembers will ask
8 questions as long as they wish, and then if we
9 have time, we will recess and come back at 2
10 o'clock.

11 It is my understanding that
12 representatives of the Administration will be with
13 us at 2 o'clock. So if any question comes up and
14 we actually need somebody from the Administration
15 to answer a question that might get raised from a
16 member of the general public, someone will be here
17 to answer those questions.

18 Is there any Member of Council who has
19 any question about what we propose to do at this
20 time?

21 (No questions from Council at this
22 time.)

23 PRESIDENT STREET: Seeing no one, then
24 I suspect we can get started.

25 Miss Kaplan, who will be first? In

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002

2 what order do you propose that this testimony be
3 given?

4 MS. KAPLAN: I will be first, and then
5 Emily Bittenbender will be following me. And then
6 we will have questions and answers. Or we can
7 have questions and answers, as we usually do, that
8 interrupt our testimony.

9 PRESIDENT STREET: Well, what I would
10 like to do, if we can, is to get through the
11 testimony of all the witnesses since it's very
12 brief, and then we just have a kind of a free-for-
13 all of questions from any Councilmember on any
14 subject that is in front of us.

15 So at this time, the Chair recognizes
16 Miss Barbara Kaplan.

17 MS. KAPLAN: Good morning, Council
18 President Street, Members of Council. I'm Barbara
19 Kaplan. I'm the Executive Director of the City
20 Planning Commission.

21 I also have with me this morning Dean
22 Kaplan, who is the Budget Director of the City
23 Planning Commission. I also have with me Emily
24 Bittenbender, who is the Director of the Capital
25 Program Office; and Ernie Leonardo, of the

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 Planning Commission Staff, who is the Chief of the
3 Comprehensive Planning Division that has the major
4 responsibility for preparing the capital program.

5 I'm pleased to present to Council the
6 1999-2004 capital program and the 1999 capital
7 budget, as recommended by the City Planning
8 Commission, and to show some of the progress we
9 have made and that we will continue to make toward
10 to the renewal of our physical plant and
11 infrastructure.

12 This \$3.2 billion capital program,
13 prepared by the Planning Commission, builds on the
14 initiative begun at the beginning of this
15 Administration of substantially increasing the
16 rate of reinvestment in the City's capital stock
17 of buildings, streets, recreation centers,
18 libraries, and the myriad of other facilities
19 which serve our citizens.

20 Our restored financial health allows us
21 to present a fiscal 1999 capital budget requiring
22 \$127.5 million of new tax-supported loan funding.
23 This investment is supplemented by self-sustaining
24 federal, state, and other non-tax-supported funds,
25 resulting in a total proposed budget year spending

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002

2 of \$731 million for 114 projects.

3 Neighborhood improvement projects,
4 which are allocated 22 percent of the budget year
5 funding, focus on the basic renewal of community
6 assets such as streets, water, recreation, fire,
7 police, library, and health facilities.

8 Featured in the increased program for
9 site improvements in support of housing
10 initiatives this year is \$1 million for the first
11 year of funding for streets and utilities for
12 Schuykill Falls.

13 The recommended capital budget also
14 includes funding of \$1,570,000, which is more than
15 double the amount of money that we were able to
16 program last year for sidewalks, lighting, and
17 parking in neighborhood commercial centers.

18 We have some slides. If we can just
19 put out the lights.

20 (Lights are turned off.)

21 MS. KAPLAN: Okay. One of the things
22 that has been a special initiative of the last
23 couple of years has been the Library's Changing
24 Lives Campaign, which has been a private -- very
25 successful, private fund-raising campaign that has

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 been also coupled with an increase in the City's
3 commitment to the renewal of library facilities.
4 And the goal here is to renew all of the branch
5 libraries within the next couple of years.

6 This is a very dramatic example. These
7 are the front steps of the Lehigh Branch Library,
8 at Sixth and Lehigh. Not a pretty sight.

9 This is the interior where they had
10 plaster problems. And the whole place was really
11 suffering considerable damage.

12 And this is what it looks like now. It
13 is a truly wonderful example. And if we want to
14 set an example for our children, to encourage them
15 to read and have positive associations about
16 reading and the places where books are kept, I
17 can't think of a better example.

18 It gets even better on the inside.
19 This is inside the front door.

20 This is the ceiling restored, that same
21 ceiling that had plaster crumbling.

22 And this is a sense of what it looks
23 like in the reading room, that same reading room
24 we saw a view of with the ceiling. We have
25 wonderful ways to display new books, to make them

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 attractive.

3 This is a children's computer area
4 where everything is at the right height and the
5 right size. And this is just one example. We
6 have the Tacony branch in the 6700 block of
7 Torresdale Avenue. This also had a major
8 restoration of, \$1 million.

9 The McPherson Square Branch, 601 East
10 Indiana, another beautiful structure, half a
11 million dollars.

12 This is a new library. This is the
13 Ogontz Library, in the 6000 block of Ogontz
14 Avenue. This has been a long-awaited project.

15 And this is what the inside looks like.
16 It's extremely attractive. It kind of simulates
17 the impression and the effect of a bookstore, and
18 it makes books much more easily accessible.

19 Again, in the Ogontz Library, the
20 computer stations, the book racks.

21 And this is for the children, what they
22 call "kids' computer cars," where the kids are
23 invited to sit right down and step up to the
24 computer.

25 And the Recreation Department, this is

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 the new recreation facility, at 12th and
3 Carpenter. This was built to replace the kind of
4 very makeshift recreation facilities that were
5 associated with the Ridgeway Library, both in the
6 basement and in the rear yard. And this is the
7 replacement for that facility.

8 We've also, in the last couple of
9 years, been embarking on a major effort to restore
10 and renew a lot of our swimming pools. We have a
11 lot of pools in the City. A lot of them were
12 built 20, 30 years ago. They're definitely in
13 need of major rebuilding.

14 This is the pool at 33rd and Diamond.
15 The whole pool was restored, and there was a new
16 building built for changing rooms.

17 As I indicated, we have an increased
18 commitment to provide infrastructures; basically
19 streets, sidewalks, curbs, lighting, sometimes
20 sewer laterals to support the housing that's
21 developed with different federal housing programs
22 and with money from the Community Development
23 Block Grant.

24 This is in the Cecil B. Moore Home
25 Ownership Zone, where the City won a competition

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 to be one of only 25 cities in the country to
3 receive special funding for low- and moderate-
4 income home ownership program.

5 And this is that housing under
6 construction, and we will be supporting that go
7 with the capital program.

8 Excuse me, I made a mistake. I
9 switched those slides.

10 This is the Raymond Rosen Replacement
11 Housing at 23rd and Diamond. This is what we are
12 building to replace the towers that were imploded
13 a couple of years ago. And I think everybody will
14 agree this is a much better solution to the public
15 housing program.

16 And this is the Cecil B. Moore Home
17 Ownership Zone Program.

18 These are a couple of other sites that
19 we will be developing housing on and that will
20 receive support. The Women's Community
21 Revitalization Program site at Sixth and Berks and
22 a site that Frankford Group Ministries will be
23 developing in the 1800 block of Wilmont Street.

24 This is the Schuylkill Falls
25 Development, where the City's received a major

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 grant to redevelop this housing site, to renovate
3 the low-rise units, build new housing units in a
4 mixed-income kind of plan where the towers had
5 been, and then also to find some additional sites
6 to replace housing off site.

7 And \$1 million of the infrastructure
8 funding we have in the program this year will be
9 used to begin to build new roadways into this
10 project. One of the problems with this site is
11 that it was always very inaccessible, and that
12 will change, and we need to put in the new
13 roadways before the new housing's developed.

14 This is on Ninth Street, the Italian
15 Market, in South Philadelphia. This is the
16 before.

17 And this is the after the new street
18 paving. There's also a companion program that's
19 going on where there are incentives for the owners
20 of the properties to improve their facades with
21 some matching contributions to defray the cost of
22 that.

23 This is a supermarket site in the
24 Empowerment Zone, in the APM area, at Fifth and
25 Berks and Germantown Avenue. It's a cleared site,

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 ready for construction. The financing is in
3 place, and there is a supermarket operator. And
4 the capital program will be supporting some of the
5 infrastructure costs.

6 This is in the northwest area of the
7 City, the Wadsworth Avenue commercial strip, which
8 will receive about \$460,000 in the capital program
9 to make improvements to the street and to the
10 parking arrangements for this area.

11 This commercial strip actually is very
12 well occupied, but it's starting to show certain
13 signs of age, and we think this is a good
14 investment to be making to improve this before we
15 start to have problems of vacant stores and severe
16 deterioration.

17 This is Frankford Avenue, in the
18 Margaret Orthodox area. The el, you can see --
19 it's kind of hard to see actually in this slide.

20 This is after reconstruction of the el,
21 and we're starting to see some restoration of the
22 facades alongside it.

23 This shows what's happening to the
24 buildings a little bit better, but the el
25 reconstruction project is finally coming to an

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002

2 end.

3 And, in fact, we will be starting the
4 reconstruction of the el in West Philadelphia on
5 Market Street, and that will have a major impact,
6 a positive impact, in that neighborhood because
7 you're going from a double-column structure to a
8 single-column structure, which will mean that
9 there will be much more light penetrating to the
10 street, and it will be much easier to drive under
11 that structure which, I'm sure, everyone will
12 appreciate.

13 This is in the Mayfair Frankford
14 Avenue, Frankford Avenue, which is another
15 commercial strip that right now is fairly healthy
16 but needs some improvements.

17 And those are all the neighborhood
18 kinds of projects.

19 In economic development, we're really
20 focussing on four main areas: industrial
21 development, hospitality and tourism, neighborhood
22 commercial development, and defense conversion.

23 And 34 percent of all the budget year
24 funding from all sources is devoted to economic
25 development. Of particular importance are

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 projects that support the City's tourism industry.

3 The completion of funding of the City's
4 \$10 million pledge to the Liberty Bell Pavilion in
5 the Gateway Visitors Center on Independence Mall
6 is included in the budget year.

7 There's funding of \$146 million in
8 self-sustaining funds provided for continued
9 improvements at the airport.

10 The City is also proposing to continue
11 its commitment to the Avenue of the Arts, both
12 north and south, through an additional investment
13 of \$15 million in budget year funding, while
14 additional support is provided in the historic
15 district to Penns Landing and to improvements in
16 the Convention Center area.

17 This is in the area of industrial
18 development. In addition to the money we're
19 spending on tourism, this is the new PNC Bank
20 expansion near the airport, on Tinicum Boulevard.
21 This will begin to establish a major job corps
22 near the airport. A thousand employees have
23 already been located here in Phase I, with more to
24 come.

25 This is Tinicum Boulevard, which is a

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 \$2 million investment that will enable additional
3 development sites to be opened up for the second
4 phase of PNC Bank and for additional hotels.

5 This is a spec building, an industrial
6 space/warehouse space at American and Somerset,
7 in the Empowerment Zone. This was a PIDC project,
8 with \$3 million coming from a combination of DRPA
9 and State funding.

10 And this is in the Market Street East
11 area, the opening of the Hard Rock Cafe, where
12 about \$4 million of City capital funds went in to
13 make the improvements in the lower levels of the
14 Reading Head House that enabled this retail space
15 to be created.

16 In terms of infrastructure renewal, the
17 projects included in the capital budget account
18 for 34 percent of the budget year allocations.
19 This area of investment includes those facilities
20 which serve all Philadelphia residents, regardless
21 of the specific neighborhoods where they live.

22 It includes such facilities such as the
23 Art Museum, the Zoo, Fairmount Park, major
24 highways and bridges, SEPTA projects, including
25 the Market Street East El reconstruction that I

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 mentioned, the Girard Avenue Light Rail, and the
3 Frankford Transportation Center project.

4 The largest proposed new investment is
5 the \$85 million replacement of the House of
6 Corrections, which has \$56 million included in the
7 budget year, and the rest of the money is
8 available from previous years' allocations.

9 This is the Berks Station on the
10 Frankford El, where reconstruction is needed. The
11 design is about 90 percent complete. And you can
12 see the rusted structure.

13 You get a better view of what it looks
14 like here.

15 And this is the Tioga Station, which
16 has been renovated, which is part of the overall
17 \$493 million Frankford El reconstruction.

18 Then we have other views of the Tioga
19 Station.

20 This is the interim station that SEPTA
21 constructed in record time at 84th Street, in
22 Eastwick. It's an interim station on the
23 High-Speed Line, and it was constructed in record
24 time, principally to serve the employees going to
25 the new PNC facility that I showed you in a couple

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002

2 slides ago.

3 Looking forward, we have the Suburban
4 Station concourse renovations over the next few
5 years. SEPTA has devoted a very large portion of
6 capital funding to this. The project will cost
7 about \$38 million, and only a very, very small
8 portion of that will be a contribution from City
9 tax-supported dollars.

10 And this will not only be the portion
11 of the concourse in front of Suburban Station
12 itself, but the part of the concourse that goes
13 from about 15th Street to 17th Street. So,
14 obviously, this a transportation thoroughfare
15 that's used by riders of the Broad Street Subway,
16 riders of the Frankford El.

17 As this is the busiest transit
18 concourse in the City, and we really ought to have
19 it look the way it ought to look. And it will
20 eventually have new shops and will be
21 air-conditioned and just provide a much better
22 environment for the transit passengers.

23 This is the Overbrook Station, on City
24 Avenue. Renovations are in design. We got
25 especially federal transportation money here under

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 the ISTE A Enhancements Program. This is about a
3 \$4 million renovation of the station.

4 This is the 54th Street Bridge over the
5 Amtrak train line. This is a \$2 million
6 reconstruction that has been completed.

7 A major project is the Strawberry
8 Mansion Bridge. Phase I is under construction now
9 and should be complete in September. The first
10 phase is the deck replacement for \$3 million, and
11 Phase II will involve repainting the entire
12 structure and putting in a kind of a Boardwalk
13 promenade. That will be another \$5 million.

14 And this will give you a sense of the
15 deteriorated structure.

16 This is in the Logan Circle area. The
17 first phase of improvements here are complete. We
18 expanded the green area and reduced the asphalt to
19 kind of make this a more attractive accompaniment
20 to the Square itself.

21 This is a \$650,000 project, a
22 significant portion of which was contributed
23 through federal iced tea enhancement funding.

24 This is the Walk Philadelphia signage
25 which now accompanies the vehicular signage, the

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002

2 Direction Philadelphia signage that we have in
3 various places throughout the City.

4 City Hall. We didn't put any new
5 appropriation in the budget this year because
6 there's a backlog of almost \$30 million of funds
7 that need to be spent. This turned out to be a
8 much more complicated project, I think, than
9 anybody thought, just in terms of the order in
10 which these projects need to be done and how they
11 ought to be programmed.

12 This is the east portal. We're
13 beginning to replace mechanical systems in the
14 building, literally from the top to the bottom.

15 This is in the basement.

16 At the Zoo, this is the new handicapped
17 ramp to the Small Mammal House, and it's just an
18 example of how we've been gradually making
19 facilities throughout the City more accessible.

20 This is the new HVAC system at the
21 Small Mammal House.

22 On the West River Drive, we have money
23 to provide fencing for safety and esthetic
24 purposes.

25 We have bulk heading underway now in

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 Schuykill River Park. We had to shore up the bank
3 before we could put in the park improvements.

4 This is on Kelly Drive. This is Lloyd
5 Hall, which is the new facility to replace
6 Playstead Hall, and we will have meeting space,
7 indoor meeting space, and recreation space, as
8 well as bike rental, and some food service when
9 that's complete.

10 This is another view.

11 At the Art Museum, the first phase of
12 the landscape restoration project, which also
13 included a rebuilt auto entrance to the west side,
14 has been completed. And the next phase is the
15 replacement of the Eakins Plaza at the base of the
16 steps, which is very badly deteriorated and is
17 such an important gathering place for the City for
18 various events.

19 This is at 34th and Diamond, in
20 Fairmount Park. This is the Edgely Fields
21 Complex, which has nine baseball fields, four
22 soccer fields, two rugby fields. It needs
23 drainage and field renovation. We're starting the
24 first phase of that with the money that's
25 recommended here.

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002

2 FDR Park, a similar ball field
3 renovation project. Drainage is a major problem
4 here.

5 Then in East Park, this is the Laurel
6 Hill Mansion, one of the Fairmount Park mansions.
7 This needs HVAC work undertaken.

8 In the area of government
9 effectiveness, a lot of this isn't terribly
10 photogenic, but this does account for 8 percent of
11 the budget year funding. It includes projects
12 which allow the City to do its job more
13 effectively and more efficiently.

14 The Water Department's automatic meter-
15 reading program, for which the final phase of
16 funding is proposed, is the largest project in
17 this category.

18 The City's innovative energy
19 conservation program in the budget year focuses on
20 the start of a comprehensive energy management
21 program at the Art Museum, with an appropriation
22 of \$300,000.

23 We also have \$200,000 for the ongoing
24 Green Lights Program, which will provide for
25 installation of energy-efficient lighting at

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002

2 Riverview and at the Family Court.

3 We also have in here, which we didn't
4 mention, is \$83,000, not a large appropriation,
5 but it's to replace City Council's public address
6 system. And I think that will be a major
7 improvement.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. KAPLAN: You can thank the
10 Department of Public Property for requesting it on
11 your behalf.

12 This is also the geographic --

13 PRESIDENT STREET: Could I have this
14 mike on, please?

15 Thank you. We were clapping,
16 Councilwoman Clark, because we've just been
17 informed that \$83,000 has been placed in this
18 program to replace our public address system.

19 COUNCILWOMAN CLARK: Here?

20 PRESIDENT STREET: Yes, in this
21 building.

22 COUNCILWOMAN CLARK: I can't hear you.
23 What? What?

24 (Laughter.)

25 PRESIDENT STREET: See?

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002

2 MS. KAPLAN: It's definitely a needed
3 project.

4 This is a work station at the Planning
5 Commission's geographic information system. We
6 have funding in this program for the Mayor's
7 Office of Information Services that will enable
8 them to install a server that will allow the
9 benefits of this program to be used by more City
10 departments. And I think that will be a
11 significant benefit.

12 And this is an example of a work
13 station that was installed at the Municipal
14 Services Building. It's similar to what would be
15 installed at the One Parkway Building, for which
16 funding has been allocated in this budget.

17 In the area of health and safety, it's
18 about \$14 million in 1999, and it includes basic
19 improvements at the City's adult care facilities,
20 Riverview, the Philadelphia Nursing Home, and the
21 Stenton Homeless Family Shelter.

22 We've also continued funding for
23 underground tank removal and replacement for
24 hazardous material abatement and for improved
25 handicapped accessibility at City and at SEPTA

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002

2 facilities.

3 This is an example at Riverview of a
4 new ramp for the handicapped that's been installed
5 there.

6 And these are the old bathrooms at
7 Riverview.

8 This is a new bathroom. The fixtures
9 aren't in, but I think you get the idea of what
10 the difference will be.

11 And last but not least is the Bernard
12 Samuel fire boat, which is 50 years old. And the
13 City does need to begin to replace its fire
14 boats. We've put funding in for the second year
15 of the budget year for that.

16 In conclusion, the Planning Commission
17 believes that the recommend 1999-2004 capital
18 program and the 1999 capital budget will allow the
19 City to continue on the course laid out at the
20 beginning of this Administration to revitalize the
21 City's neighborhoods and its economic base by
22 continued renewal of our physical plant.

23 This capital program provides for a
24 high level of investment in Philadelphia's future
25 and, at the same time, strategically allocates

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 limited resources to ensure the City's capacity to
3 deliver effectively and efficiently needed public
4 services.

5 Thank you.

6 Now Emily Bittenbender would like to
7 make a statement about the Capital Program Office
8 and the implementation of capital projects.

9 MS. BITTENBENDER: Good morning,
10 President Street and Members of City Council. My
11 name is Emily Bittenbender, and I am the Director
12 of the Capital Office for the City of
13 Philadelphia. I am here today to present our
14 operating and capital budget requests for fiscal
15 year 1999.

16 PRESIDENT STREET: Can we get the
17 lights back on? I mean, we actually don't need to
18 be sitting here in the dark.

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: It's an energy-
20 saving program, Mr. President.

21 (Lights turned back on.)

22 PRESIDENT STREET: All right.

23 MS. BITTENBENDER: The requests are --

24 PRESIDENT STREET: And we can hear you
25 better now.

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2 MS. BITTENBENDER: You can you hear me
3 better? Okay.

4 The requests are for an appropriation
5 of \$2,409,000 in the operating budget, with
6 another request of \$7,460,000 in the capital
7 budget.

8 The ongoing operations of the Capital
9 Program Office are supported by both budgets
10 because the City accounting rules only permit
11 certain types of positions to be charged as
12 capital expenditures.

13 The proposed Fiscal Year '99 operating
14 budget represents an increase of \$30,137 to cover
15 negotiated civil service wages increases. It also
16 includes \$1,031,000 to support 226 positions,
17 \$1,268,000 for the repair and maintenance of City
18 building systems, for staff training and computer
19 software, which will enhance our program
20 management capabilities.

21 The proposed Fiscal Year '99 capital
22 budget includes \$6,124,000 to support 85
23 positions, as well as the cost for consultants to
24 provide technical assistance to our 4 project
25 management team.

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2 Our four project management teams serve
3 eleven client agencies and they currently oversee
4 all of the capital efforts from the budget
5 development and construction closeout for Public
6 Safety, Health and Human Services, Criminal
7 Justice facilities, as well as Center City
8 government buildings and lease space throughout
9 the City.

10 At the beginning of the new fiscal
11 year, our portfolio will be expanded to encompass
12 the capital projects for Fairmount Park. And our
13 budget request reflects the transfer of the Park's
14 Design and Planning Division staff into the
15 capital program.

16 This transfer is very much in keeping
17 with the successful approach that the
18 Administration has taken to consolidate a number
19 of central support services, and it's particularly
20 apt in the case of the Capital Program Office and
21 the Park because the Park has an average annual
22 capital budget of \$7.3 million, and it has a
23 dedicated staff of 17 people managing it.

24 The Fairmount Park Commission is the
25 only department with a total average capital

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2 budget of \$22 million that has its own project
3 staff. We believe that bringing the staff into
4 the CPO will create greater efficiencies in the
5 management of the capital projects.

6 Also included in Fiscal Year '99's
7 request is \$1,086,000 for environmental
8 remediation involving underground storage tanks
9 replacement projects as well as asbestos
10 abatements.

11 And \$250,000 is also requested in the
12 City's effort to comply with the Americans With
13 Disabilities Act requirements, but it should be
14 noted that during Fiscal Year 2000, these requests
15 will be included or incorporated into each of the
16 capital projects requested.

17 The appropriations that I'm requesting
18 will assist the Capital Program Office in the
19 furtherance of our mission, which is to improve
20 the pace at which capital improvements are
21 completed, to eliminate the unnecessary project
22 costs, and to provide a single point of
23 accountability for the vast majority of the City's
24 capital undertakings.

25 In fulfilling our mission, we will be

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2 building on a significant stride that the City has
3 made in the last six years in the management of
4 the capital program.

5 Even with our considerable efforts to
6 date, however, the process is still too laborious
7 and takes too long, in spite of the fact that 80
8 percent of the Capital Program Office's projects
9 in any given fiscal year are \$500,000 and less.

10 The CPO is committed to working with
11 our partner agencies, such as our client
12 departments, the Law Department, Procurement, the
13 NBEC, and Risk Management in order to expedite
14 smaller programs as well as the larger, more
15 costly, and complicated projects that often
16 involve site selection and multi-year schedules.

17 By organizing, standardizing, and
18 computerizing our operations, we are improving the
19 capital project development process, accelerating
20 the rate of capital project completion, and
21 reducing our project backlog.

22 During the seven months of our
23 existence, the Capital Program Office has
24 implemented a number of management initiatives
25 that will move us towards our goal.

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2 We worked with our client departments
3 much earlier this year in the development of their
4 Fiscal Year 99 capital budget requests and in
5 order to improve the City's accuracy of the cost
6 estimates that accompany those requests in order
7 to avoid unnecessary delays that frequently occur
8 due to the lack of funding for the projects.

9 We're charged with the process to
10 select the design professionals, and this included
11 more oversight by senior management and the
12 issuance of a comprehensive request for proposal
13 this year. Committees were put together to
14 evaluate and recommend the consultants as well as
15 the development of an in-house contracts
16 management unit to allow a faster pace of
17 shepherding our contracts through the 17 stopping
18 places in the city.

19 As a result, we were able to begin our
20 Fiscal Year '98 project six months earlier than
21 our Fiscal Year '97 projects, and we were able to
22 conform 34 of our contracts prior to the start of
23 the fiscal year.

24 We also purchased and customized a
25 management information system that allows us to

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2 track the status of our project budgets and
3 schedules regularly. By creating an organized
4 approach to the frequent review of project status,
5 we have enhanced our ability to correct problems
6 earlier on in a project's life.

7 One gauge of the accelerated process is
8 the consistent growth in the rate of monthly
9 expenditures. Between Fiscal Year '93 and Fiscal
10 Year '96, the average monthly expenditure for
11 capital projects was \$20.2 million. From Fiscal
12 Year '97 and through the first five months of
13 Fiscal Year '98, the average was 28.3 million or a
14 40 percent improvement.

15 These efficiencies have enabled the
16 Capital Program Office to address our 137-project
17 backlog that existed when we began operating in
18 July of '97. The backlog consisted of those
19 projects funded prior to Fiscal Year '97 that were
20 one month behind schedule. By the end of the
21 second quarter of Fiscal Year '98, we've succeeded
22 in reducing that backlog by 68 projects. And,
23 hence, we are six months ahead of schedule in our
24 goal.

25 The CPO intends to continue this high

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2 level of performance and eliminate the entire
3 backlog by the end of Fiscal Year '98. The
4 successful completion of this initiative will
5 allow us to dedicate our staffing resources to
6 completing our goal of completing each fiscal year
7 project that's fully funded of under 500,000 in
8 one year.

9 As these and other improvements in the
10 Capital Program process take hold, we look forward
11 to quickening the pace of capital spending even
12 more and decreasing our project costs. Our Fiscal
13 Year '99 performance goals, which are attached for
14 your information, clearly reflect that emphasis
15 and the mission with which we have been entrusted.

16 I thank you very much for your
17 attention today, and I'll be happy to take any
18 questions that you may have.

19 PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you very much.
20 Miss Kaplan, are you all at the table
21 finished?

22 MS. KAPLAN: Yes.

23 PRESIDENT STREET: Mr. Kaplan, you're
24 not speaking?

25 MR. KAPLAN: I don't have anything

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2 today.

3 PRESIDENT STREET: All right.

4 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
5 Tasco.

6 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Good morning. I
7 just have a couple of questions.

8 The dollars set aside for Community
9 College to acquire the facility in northwest
10 Philadelphia, is that enough money to cover the
11 acquisition, or are you doing part of the
12 acquisition?

13 MS. KAPLAN: I guess last year when I
14 had the conversation with the President of the
15 College, this is the amount of money that he
16 indicated that he was expecting from the City as a
17 contribution.

18 I believe at that time he indicated to
19 me that probably in terms of the acquisition of
20 the site and the improvement, renovation and
21 customization that they might have to do of some
22 of the buildings that they were taking over to
23 make them suitable for the College's purposes, the
24 total project might range somewhere between 9 and
25 \$13 million.

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2 But that this was the contribution as
3 requested over two years this year and next year.
4 That's what was requested by the College and
5 that's what we had provided.

6 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Okay, thank you
7 very much.

8 Item 66, Port Proceeds Account
9 Transfer. It's stated that you're going to
10 transfer the port proceeds money from the capital
11 account to the City's operating budget to provide
12 for a variety of economic stimulus initiatives.
13 Do you have those initiatives outlined and in
14 place?

15 MS. KAPLAN: There is a list of these.
16 It was not included in your material. I don't
17 know if there's someone here from the Commerce
18 Department that could tell you what those are.

19 One of the project's intents is in your
20 district, that is money set aside for
21 infrastructure improvement should they be needed
22 for the development of the former Temple Stadium
23 site as for housing. If there's a need for that,
24 that is one of the items that would come out of
25 this funding.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Well, who
3 determined where the economic stimulus money would
4 go? I mean, I didn't request any infrastructure
5 money for Temple Stadium. No one conferred with
6 me or my district where the economic stimulus
7 money should be allocated.

8 I mean, how was that decision made
9 without my input?

10 MR. KAPLAN: Two things, the Commerce
11 Director is on his way here and will be able to
12 give you a more detailed answer.

13 The second issue is that the economic
14 stimulus money -- I believe that what Commerce and
15 PIDC have jointly developed is a proposed list of
16 potential projects.

17 I don't believe they've made any final
18 decisions and I don't -- it's my understanding
19 that they don't have any intention of spending any
20 of the economic stimulus money, especially on that
21 project, without conferring with the Council and
22 with the neighborhood, in that case or in others.

23 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Well, it would
24 seem to me that the Commerce Department would have
25 a conversation with the District Councilperson

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2 relative to what projects in the district should
3 be promoted and funded. We haven't had any
4 conversation at all with the Commerce Department
5 about any economic stimulus money in the Ninth
6 City Councilmatic District.

7 So I have a concern about that.
8 Usually we do have some conversation. They come
9 and talk to us about the needs in our district. I
10 haven't had any conversation with anybody about
11 that.

12 MS. KAPLAN: As Dean Kaplan indicated,
13 what exists now is a possible list, and certainly,
14 there will be that opportunity for discussion with
15 each Councilperson who may be affected.

16 And because that money would be
17 transferred to PDIC, there would be an opportunity
18 for different allocations to be made as projects
19 are more fully developed. Because one of the
20 things that happens with those economic
21 development projects is that what looks like a
22 project sometimes drops out, and then money's
23 available for something else.

24 So I think it's a long way from being
25 specifically committed to any particular projects,

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2 and there certainly would be opportunity for
3 consultation with the Councilperson.

4 COUNCILWOMAN Verna: Is that for
5 Councilpeople who may have something on that list
6 that they're dealing with? I would like to see
7 the list, and I think that every District
8 Councilperson should certainly be sharing some of
9 the stimulus money.

10 MS. KAPLAN: Well, we can certainly
11 share --

12 COUNCILWOMAN Verna: You said you have
13 a list. I would like to see it.

14 MS. KAPLAN: We can certainly share
15 with you the proposed list. And the Commerce
16 Director will be here, and perhaps when he comes,
17 a process can be developed for that type of
18 consultation.

19 COUNCILWOMAN Verna: Thank you. I
20 didn't mean to interrupt you. I just think that
21 since we're talking about that, I would want my
22 feelings to be known.

23 COUNCILWOMAN TASCIO: The other question
24 I have is: Could you give me an update of what's
25 happening in the Logan area?

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2 MS. KAPLAN: Yes. The Army Corps of
3 Engineers has been engaged by the Redevelopment
4 Authority, although we at the Planning Commission
5 are providing the general oversight to that
6 project.

7 The purpose of hiring the Army Corps of
8 Engineers is for them to do environmental testing
9 of the site and to be able to prepare a report
10 that indicates not only what is there but what the
11 implications are for how this site needs to be
12 treated before it can be developed.

13 There have been previous studies done
14 which took a look at the question of why did the
15 homes sink, why was there subsidence. And the
16 information indicated that there was fill of
17 porous material and that that was the problem.

18 What they didn't do in those previous
19 studies was look for the presence of any toxic
20 material; you know, whether there's anything that
21 really has to be removed like heavy metals or lead
22 or anything else.

23 And the other question that was not
24 answered was once -- now that we know why this
25 subsidence was created, what would we have to do

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2 to make that a development site again so that the
3 same problem would not occur under a future
4 development.

5 And it may be that parts of the site,
6 you know, are more severely -- you know, because
7 they're more severely affected than others, that
8 certain parts of the site have a lesser
9 development capability than other parts of the
10 site, or that we might have to spend money, you
11 know, for certain remediations to make the site
12 buildable. And that's what the Army Corps is
13 going to us.

14 I wish they were telling us faster. I
15 know what your concern is.

16 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: I just want to go
17 back to the economic stimulus initiative dollars.
18 How long will this money last? When does it run
19 out? Does it ever run out?

20 MS. KAPLAN: Well, I believe that this
21 money is transferred to the operating budget, and
22 a contract is made with PIDC. So that avoids the
23 problem that you typically have in the operating
24 budget where at the end of the year, that
25 appropriation runs out and you have a surplus, or

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2 a deficit in other cases, and you have to
3 reappropriate the money.

4 This would be made -- put into a
5 contract at PDIC, as has previous stimulus money
6 over the last couple of years, and then the
7 money's allocated to specific projects.

8 I think, in virtually all of those
9 cases, there's been consultation with different
10 Council people in whose districts these projects
11 have been located. And in some cases on major
12 projects, authorization of the whole Council has
13 even been required, depending on, you know, what
14 the nature of the project was.

15 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Well, I guess the
16 question I'm trying to ask is like the UDAG money,
17 it ran out at some point in time. When does this
18 money run out?

19 Suppose I don't want to use the
20 economic stimulus money for Temple Stadium,
21 suppose I want to save it for Logan? How does
22 that happen?

23 And if I use it for the Temple Stadium,
24 and we come down the pike maybe five, six years
25 now and we want to do development in Temple, will

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2 this money still be available? I mean at Logan.

3 MR. KAPLAN: I think that's a good
4 question for the Commerce Director to answer more
5 fully.

6 But as a general kind of answer, the
7 economic stimulus money, I think, has been used in
8 two major ways. I think it's proposed to be used
9 in two major ways for this. One is some specific
10 projects which the Commerce Director and PDIC are
11 in the process of identifying and which he can
12 discuss in more detail.

13 And there's also, as you know, in
14 economic stimulus, a pool of kind of business
15 development funds that they've used to aid
16 specific firms when a firm want to relocate and
17 stay in the City or a firm wanted to come into the
18 City. And they have, I know, a list of those
19 projects, several of which are not funded now
20 because economic stimulus funding is limited.

21 To answer the second part of your
22 question, there is not a real a source of economic
23 stimulus funding over time; however, we can find
24 different bits and pieces to put into the program.

25 So the short answer is, no, the money

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2 is not unlimited forever. I think that the
3 program has been very successful, and the
4 Administration has tried different ways to fund
5 it. I think if Councilmembers have specific
6 projects they would like to use that money for,
7 that it's perfectly legitimate for PDIC and
8 Commerce and that Member to talk about using funds
9 for that purpose.

10 But I think that there is -- certainly
11 the Mayor's priority now, given the very good
12 economic development climate of the City, is to
13 try to fund projects which are good, legitimate
14 projects throughout the City now, when there are
15 developers in town who are willing to do projects
16 and businesses which are interested in expanding
17 and staying here while the economy is strong.

18 So that's part of the idea of this
19 particular contribution to the Economic Stimulus
20 Program.

21 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Okay, thank you.
22 Then I'll save my questions for the Commerce
23 Director.

24 PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair recognizes
25 Councilwoman Verna.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: Thank you very
3 much, Mr. President.

4 On page 5 of the budget detail book, it
5 shows that there's \$1.5 million in environmental
6 remediation funding for brown fields. Can you
7 share what sites have been selected for this
8 program?

9 MS. KAPLAN: At this point, I don't
10 know that there are any specific sites. The
11 Commerce Department and the Planning Commission
12 and the Managing Director's Office have lists of
13 sites that we believe are brown field sites in the
14 sense that they contain toxic materials and need
15 to be cleaned up before they can be redeveloped.
16 We don't always have people interested in these
17 sites.

18 If the site is not posing a kind of
19 serious threat to anybody, we tend to have this
20 money as a fund for when somebody wants to develop
21 these sites or we can find somebody to develop
22 these sites. Then that money is available to
23 clean up those sites or to match money that we
24 could get from the State Commerce Department, or
25 sometimes the private person puts up part of the

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2 share also.

3 So there's probably a lot of sites, but
4 I don't know that these are earmarked for
5 anything. If you have a site in your district
6 that's a source of concern, it would be good to
7 communicate that to Duane Bumb in the Commerce
8 Department.

9 One site -- I believe there was a City
10 Council hearing on it last week as a property
11 bill, the Sovereign Oil site, which has become
12 infamous in the American Street area. And it's
13 not in this program because we already have the
14 funds from previous years and some State money as
15 well to clean up that site, but that's -- and now
16 we're moving to clean it up because we have
17 somebody that's interested in the property.

18 I mean, there was some EPA cleanup a
19 few years ago to get rid of the worst problem, but
20 the remainder of the cleanup will happen between
21 State funds and City funds.

22 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: Thank you. Can
23 you tell us what specific projects are planned to
24 the tune of over \$12 million for the Avenue of the
25 Arts?

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2 MS. KAPLAN: Okay. There are -- I
3 think most of this money will go into the
4 Orchestra Hall itself, the "Regional Performing
5 Arts Center," as it's now known.

6 And, you know, there's been a
7 fund-raising commitment for that -- a fund-raising
8 campaign for that, and this portion of the funds
9 -- of City funds would go towards that facility.

10 PRESIDENT STREET: We've been carrying
11 \$10 million for that for a long time. Is this the
12 same \$10 million?

13 MS. KAPLAN: No, this is new money.

14 PRESIDENT STREET: Is this 10 in
15 addition?

16 MS. KAPLAN: We now have now 22.

17 PRESIDENT STREET: Is it now 22?

18 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: Now it's 22
19 million?

20 MS. KAPLAN: I would have to defer to
21 the Commerce Director to give you the total of all
22 the money that we have appropriated for the Avenue
23 of the Arts, how much has gone into the Regional
24 Performing Arts Center.

25 One thing that I do know is that with

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2 some of the funds we have on hand from previous
3 years, with some of these additional monies, we're
4 paying \$14.5 million to take over the mortgage on
5 the land that has been assembled for this
6 facility.

7 Because in doing that, it would relieve
8 the project of \$100,000 a month of debt service
9 that they're now paying on the mortgage for the
10 land while wait to complete the rest of the fund-
11 raising for the facility and design it and
12 actually commence construction.

13 And I can't tell you exactly how the
14 rest of that money would go into the Hall, but
15 that's what it's intended for.

16 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: A point of
17 information. What was the answer? Is it 10
18 million new dollars or 10 million old dollars?

19 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: It's 10 million
20 old dollars.

21 MS. KAPLAN: I think the amount that we
22 have put in, the Commerce Department will tell you
23 directly, but I think it is well over \$20 million
24 toward the Hall itself. Now, there have been
25 other projects as well.

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2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Go ahead, I'll take
3 my own time.

4 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: What is proposed
5 with the \$2 million for the, quote, renewal, end
6 of quote, in the Convention Center area?

7 MS. KAPLAN: There are properties at
8 the corner of 12th and Arch; it's actually half of
9 the block -- or a third of the block from Arch
10 Street west -- along Arch Street west from 12th
11 Street that the City wants to acquire.

12 They're kind of a blighting nuance. We
13 would like to acquire that and add that to some of
14 the land that's been assembled that's now a
15 parking lot to, first of all, remove those kinds
16 of undesirable influences from the front door of
17 the Convention Center; and, secondly, to be able
18 to have a development site which potentially --
19 not right away, but eventually -- could be used
20 for a hotel.

21 We have appropriated some money for
22 this in the past, but it is -- it's enough to
23 acquire the properties, but it is not enough to do
24 the relocation of tenants and the demolition.

25 So that's what this additional \$2

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2 million is for, to complete that.

3 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: All I keep hearing
4 about is the new hotels that we're striving for.
5 And when I see what's happening in our residential
6 areas, it truly, truly concerns me.

7 MS. KAPLAN: Well, this money is for
8 site acquisition, not to build a hotel there; it's
9 to be able to put that land under our control.

10 When we originally set out to build a
11 Convention Center, we made a very calculated
12 decision that we weren't going to acquire any more
13 land than we absolutely needed to do the facility
14 and the Marriott Hotel. We felt that the private
15 market would kind of take care of this unpleasant
16 little grouping of buildings.

17 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: Mm-hm, it hasn't
18 happened.

19 MS. KAPLAN: It has not worked that
20 way. And I think we feel that to protect our
21 investment in the Convention Center, we really
22 need to acquire these properties and be in control
23 of it. I mean, we would sell these properties to
24 a developer at fair-market value. You know, this
25 isn't going into the hotel, and there is no hotel

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2 developer in sight.

3 And, as I said, the hotel would not be
4 right now. We have a number of hotels on the
5 drawing boards, but I think people feel that this
6 would be a good site for a hotel because it would
7 be right across from the front door of the
8 Convention Center.

9 But I think the primary purpose is, you
10 know, to get rid of blight and to kind of control
11 our destiny by being in charge of this parcel. I
12 think originally, in going back to 1983, we didn't
13 think it was going to be necessary, but nobody's
14 kind of come along and done a private development
15 there.

16 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: Thank you.

17 I note that you have only \$34,000 set
18 aside for the Eastwick Rail Station.

19 MS. KAPLAN: That's the City's share.

20 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: How much will it
21 cost? Tell us what this is for. And how do you
22 plan to accommodate the parking at that location?

23 MS. KAPLAN: Okay. This is -- you saw
24 in the slide the interim facility they had put in
25 at 84th Street. This was to --

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2 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: I was distracted;
3 I didn't see it.

4 MS. KAPLAN: Oh, in your district,
5 there was an interim facility that was put up in
6 record time to be able to provide SEPTA service on
7 the High-Speed Line. And SEPTA did that in record
8 time. But it's been intended for many years to
9 have a permanent station there. One reason it
10 hadn't happen was there didn't seem to be enough
11 ridership to justify the expenditure.

12 But the total cost of that is
13 \$5,769,000. And the City's share is very tiny,
14 \$34,000. So I mean, like all SEPTA projects, the
15 leverage is really extraordinary.

16 And it will be done over three years.
17 That won't be all in one year.

18 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: And that will
19 certainly help PNC?

20 MS. KAPLAN: Oh, yes. I mean, we have
21 developers that are interested in other hotels in
22 that area to feed off the airport trade. So there
23 will be other employees, too, who would take
24 advantage of that.

25 And the other idea is that -- the other

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2 hope is that once you have the station there, it
3 becomes an incentive for other people to locate in
4 that area.

5 COUNCILWOMAN Verna: I think that's
6 very good.

7 And then, finally, we see the 800-
8 megahertz system coming on line. Are we sure that
9 the system that we're getting isn't already
10 outdated?

11 MS. Kaplan: I hope not.

12 COUNCILWOMAN Verna: Can you tell us
13 just when we'll be seeing something specific
14 happening?

15 MS. Kaplan: I can't give you the
16 details on that, but -- is Vince Costello here
17 from Public Property?

18 COUNCILWOMAN Verna: I know we've been
19 talking about this for several years now.

20 MR. Kaplan: A major portion of the
21 800-megahertz funding is, you know, the ability to
22 use some of the --

23 PRESIDENT STREET: Excuse me, Mr.
24 Kaplan.

25 MR. Kaplan: I'm sorry.

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2 PRESIDENT STREET: Would you please
3 identify yourself for the record.

4 MR. KAPLAN: I'm Dean Kaplan, the
5 City's Budget Director.

6 A major portion of the 800-megahertz
7 funding package was the ability to use capital
8 dollars that we receive as part of the 9-1-1
9 surcharge for the 800-megahertz system, which was
10 not allowed by State law originally.

11 The legislation involving that, as you
12 may have read, has just passed the State. It's
13 expected to be signed by the Governor. That's
14 something that the Managing Director's Office has
15 worked very hard to achieve.

16 Now that that funding is in place -- as
17 you may know from last year's meeting, we had sent
18 out RFPs. And the Managing Director's Office and
19 the Public Department have been reviewing those.
20 They are negotiating with a set of vendors. And
21 now that the funding's in place, they'll be able
22 to complete those negotiations, we expect, by the
23 end of the fiscal year.

24 So we are hopeful that that will be
25 completed now that we have a funding package in

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2 place, and we'll probably begin on that project in
3 the next fiscal year.

4 COUNCILWOMAN Verna: Thank you. I
5 noticed the \$4 million for the purchase of
6 vehicles for the Water Department is in the Water
7 Department's budget. Why wouldn't that be in
8 Fleet Management?

9 MS. Kaplan: Well, I'll let Dean answer
10 that. We had a lot of discussion about that.

11 MR. Kaplan: The only real reason is
12 because the Water Department is a separate
13 enterprise fund, so the Water Department itself --
14 the Fleet Management does not have a Water Fund
15 capital appropriation, so it's in the Water
16 Department appropriation because it's funded
17 through water sewer charges and not through
18 general-obligation debt or any other source.

19 COUNCILWOMAN Verna: And did I
20 understand Miss Kaplan to say that the \$40 million
21 will complete the installation of the automatic
22 meter readers throughout the City?

23 MS. Kaplan: Yes. That's the last
24 phase of the funding, and the Water Department
25 feels that will be adequate to complete the

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 project.

3 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: I think they've
4 done a great job in expediting the installment of
5 the new meters. I know that they've done that in
6 my district and it's working out very, very well.

7 Thank you, Mr. President.

8 PRESIDENT STREET: Councilwoman Verna,
9 that's because South Philly gets everything.

10 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: You bet your
11 life.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: You all get
13 everything.

14 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: The sports, the
15 trash-to-steam if they could put it there, and
16 everything else, uh-huh. But I don't get the
17 money you get.

18 PRESIDENT STREET: I couldn't go two
19 places. Sorry I brought it up.

20 (Laughter.)

21 PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair recognizes
22 Councilwoman Krajewski.

23 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank you. My
24 question is to Miss Bittenbender. I see where
25 you're requesting 22 new positions?

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2 MS. BITTENBENDER: No, those are 22
3 positions in the operating -- are you talking
4 about operating or capital?

5 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Well, you're
6 requesting 22 positions in capital.

7 MS. BITTENBENDER: No, they're
8 existing.

9 I think the change may come about
10 because there are 17 people for Fairmount Park
11 that have been transferred in this year from their
12 portion of the capital budget into our budget.

13 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: I believe, Mr.
14 President, that last year several Councilmembers
15 were questioning the fact of whether so many
16 consultants were necessary, and they were going to
17 do an analysis on that. Did we ever receive
18 that?

19 PRESIDENT STREET: Actually,
20 Councilwoman Krajewski, I cannot remember. We can
21 check our files and determine whether or not a
22 specific response was given to such a question,
23 but I do not know right offhand. We can check for
24 you.

25 MS. BITTENBENDER: I'll look into that.

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2 I know that we did respond for --

3 COUNCILMAN KRAJEWSKI: I'll appreciate
4 that, to get that answer.

5 MS. BITTENBENDER: Sure, not a problem.

6 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: I want to know
7 what they will be doing. And when do you plan
8 (inaudible) --

9 PRESIDENT STREET: Councilwoman, is
10 your microphone on?

11 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Are the
12 District Councilpeople involved with these new
13 positions?

14 Not positions. I'm talking about
15 building. Sorry.

16 MS. BITTENBENDER: For the hiring?

17 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: No, the
18 proposal of building, where you were planning -- I
19 believe at one time you were looking for different
20 sites within my district and I wasn't aware of it.

21 MS. BITTENBENDER: Yes, the various
22 Councilpeople are involved.

23 Typically, what we do is formulate or
24 complete our analysis, both for building and
25 operating dollars, and we put together a list of

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 potential sites that we will be looking at. And
3 we review it with the Administration, then come
4 directly to the Councilpeople to begin working on
5 the project with them.

6 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: When you are
7 looking for different locations, my question is:
8 Is the District Councilperson involved in that
9 decision?

10 MS. BITTENBENDER: Absolutely.

11 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Because I know
12 there have been times where there were plans that
13 were made that I was unaware of. And I believe I
14 did bring you into the office to ask you those
15 questions.

16 MS. BITTENBENDER: Yes. You and I have
17 had a conversation, I believe, a few months ago,
18 about some potential sites.

19 And we will be coming back to you soon
20 and talking to you again, because we have just
21 recently completed both costing analysis of
22 various construction methods as well as site
23 constraints on projects that -- especially for
24 those sites and whether their buildings go
25 horizontal or vertical.

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2 So we will be coming back to working
3 with you.

4 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: The bottom
5 line I'm trying to say, Mr. President, is that if
6 anything like that is going on in my district, I
7 do not want any plans made unless I am involved in
8 it; or any District Councilperson, for that
9 matter. Thank you.

10 One more question. To Miss Kaplan, is
11 there any plans on capital improvements for the
12 Police Academy?

13 MS. KAPLAN: No, I don't -- no, I don't
14 think they requested --

15 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: I have been to
16 the Police Academy and I do believe they need an
17 awful lot of work there.

18 MS. KAPLAN: I don't believe they were
19 -- I'll double-check that. I don't believe they
20 requested any money for that.

21 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Well, I'm
22 requesting you take a tour to see the Police
23 Academy because it really needs a lot of work.
24 The rest rooms are outrageous.

25 I believe Mr. Costello is coming up.

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2 POLICE COMMISSIONER COSTELLO: Good
3 morning, Council President Street and
4 Councilmembers. I'm Thomas Costello, the Deputy
5 Police Commissioner.

6 Councilwoman, in the past year, every
7 building at that facility has been painted inside
8 and out. We have put up a modular building that
9 contains eight classrooms, and we have funding in
10 our capital program from last year for additional
11 rest room facilities. And that --

12 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: What about the
13 heating system and the air-conditioning?

14 POLICE COMMISSIONER COSTELLO: The
15 heating system is -- there is work being done on
16 the heating system. I'll get you the exact
17 details on what that is, but there is work being
18 done on that.

19 My recollection was that because of the
20 time of year, they couldn't do it now, and it will
21 be done before next winter.

22 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: I believe last
23 year they were freezing.

24 POLICE COMMISSIONER COSTELLO: There
25 were problems in the system, yes.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: But you'll get
3 that to the Chair Person?

4 POLICE COMMISSIONER COSTELLO: Yes, I
5 will.

6 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank you.

7 PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you very much.

8 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
9 Fernandez.

10 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr.
11 President.

12 First, you noted in your testimony, but
13 I wanted to underscore and say cheers for the fact
14 that you've speeded up the backlog and that you've
15 set a goal for this year of doing away with the
16 backlog. I think --

17 MS. BITTENBENDER: Thank you,
18 Councilperson.

19 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: That's always
20 been a problem. And I think, you know, again, you
21 deserve credit for good management and moving
22 things along.

23 MS. BITTENBENDER: Thank you very much.

24 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: I had a
25 question about the Youth Study Center.

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2 I think that ever since I've been here,
3 every year there's promises that it's about to
4 happen, that there'll be a replacement for the
5 structure. You know, for ten years, even before I
6 got here, there have been promises.

7 So I think it was last year, it was
8 those \$30 million in the capital budget. They
9 were talking about purchase of the property being
10 imminent, and every year I've gotten promises, for
11 six, seven years.

12 This year the Youth Study Center
13 disappeared from the capital budget. And when we
14 looked back in the quarterly report, it says stuff
15 is on hold. So, you know, I'd really like to know
16 from the Administration, what's the scoop?

17 Why is it, you know, not only not even
18 in the budget, but it's like disappeared.

19 MS. BITTENBENDER: Councilperson, there
20 is \$30 million of funds from last year that has
21 been carried forward and still remains in the
22 capital budget.

23 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: Could you tell
24 me what line that is.

25 MS. KAPLAN: Just to clarify, at this

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 point in the budget process, we don't show the
3 carry-forward funding because we didn't want -- we
4 don't know how much would be carried over until --
5 you know, we wanted to give the departments a
6 little longer to implement the project.

7 So that by the time Council has to act
8 on the budget, then we would provide the
9 information on the carry-forward projects. But
10 the money is still available from the current
11 year.

12 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: Mm-hm. Well,
13 again, what's the status of the project? Every
14 year -- we all know what a sad state --

15 MS. BITTENBENDER: Yes.

16 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: -- that
17 facility is in, so what's the scoop?

18 MS. BITTENBENDER: The scoop is that
19 there was a report and analysis that was completed
20 last year on the facility. And during that time
21 period, the population had maintained itself at
22 about 107 for almost an entire year since. Since
23 this fall, the population has had a dramatic
24 spike, and the Youth Study Center has been
25 experiencing between 150 and 180 inmates.

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2 The Capital Program Office is currently
3 working with the City Administration to go back
4 and revise that analysis. The \$30 million in
5 carry-forward money was appropriated in order to
6 cover 150 beds, and now there needs to be
7 expansion of that project taken, and additional
8 City funds will need to be identified in order to
9 cover that expansion.

10 We are also in the process -- we will
11 be, you know, very soon going to speak with the
12 Councilpeople in that area to talk to them again
13 about the finalization of that report. And at
14 that time, you know, we can come to you and tell
15 you publicly what the plans are.

16 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: Well, just for
17 the record, I've been following this issue for at
18 least, at least ten years.

19 MS. BITTENBENDER: Yes, I understand
20 that.

21 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: And the
22 population goes up and down. And the major factor
23 is not the amount of kids getting in trouble in
24 the neighborhoods; the issue is how well the
25 courts and the Youth Study Center and the other

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2 agencies work together to get kids moved through
3 the Youth Study Center instead of having it turned
4 into basically a long-term holding pen.

5 And that's not the function of the
6 Youth Study Center. It's basically where kids who
7 are too dangerous to be in the neighborhood or a
8 community-based facility or at home are to be held
9 in a very short-term time while they are awaiting
10 their hearings.

11 And if you look at those trends,
12 there's no reason why we need the Youth Study
13 Center any bigger than the one we have as long as
14 the courts and the other agencies are actually
15 fulfilling their responsibilities.

16 I'd also like to note for the record
17 that I will stand opposed to any expanded, large
18 Youth Study Center because it's not the capital
19 costs that are the problem. The problem is the
20 ongoing operating costs, and if you build a bigger
21 facility, the courts will continue not to
22 function, and we will fill it at the cost of what,
23 \$25,000, at the rate of \$25,000 a year per child?

24 MS. BITTENBENDER: Yeah, I think it's
25 \$300 a day.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: It shouldn't
3 be there. So I would just like the public record
4 to reflect that it's not a capital budget issue;
5 it's an operating budget issue that we will be
6 carrying those several -- I can't remember now the
7 numbers, but it's a large operating cost.

8 And we can't afford to keep kids
9 incarcerated in the Youth Study Center instead of
10 really dealing with their issues and getting them
11 moved into a facility where they can get some
12 care.

13 MS. BITTENBENDER: Councilwoman, let me
14 please assure you that when these analyses are
15 done, that both operating and capital go hand in
16 glove. And, you know, the tricky part really
17 comes on the operating part.

18 But please note for the record that
19 that is absolutely understood.

20 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: Perhaps with
21 Mr. Kaplan sitting there, can you pull from your
22 head what's the current operating cost for the
23 Youth Study Center, how many millions?

24 MR. KAPLAN: No, I can't, but I can
25 think of the overall juvenile justice number. But

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2 I think --

3 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: No, for the
4 Youth Study Center.

5 MR. KAPLAN: Yeah, I think about \$13
6 million a year. So it is, obviously, a
7 significant operating cost. And to the extent
8 that the population is higher, obviously, that
9 increases significantly.

10 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: The other
11 issue I wanted to raise is --

12 PRESIDENT STREET: Councilwoman, I seem
13 to remember that it may cost us as much as 65, 70
14 dollars a day per resident at the Youth Center.
15 So this is a monumental expense.

16 And I think your point is well taken
17 because when we came here and discussed the Youth
18 Study Center last year, there was testimony in
19 this record that they were talking about expanding
20 the size of the Center to 200 or something so that
21 it could even grow to about 300. And I remember
22 very well quite a bit of discussion about it.

23 But your point is on target. This is a
24 very, very costly facility to operate. And it is
25 -- the size of it is really not to be taken

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2 lightly.

3 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: Right.

4 PRESIDENT STREET: It's very expensive.

5 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: And that will
6 go on forever once you have it.

7 The other issue I wanted to raise was
8 the libraries. I think we saw your slides about
9 how great and what a real addition it makes to the
10 libraries once they're, you know, refurbished. I
11 know the Lehigh Library just really helped change
12 that whole block, having that get fixed up.

13 And, also, in a time of technology,
14 when so many more people are starting to use the
15 Internet, I see the libraries and access to the
16 Internet in the public libraries as a very
17 important service that's needed in a city that has
18 so many low-income people that might not be able
19 to afford both a computer and the monthly Internet
20 charges.

21 So the role that the libraries play are
22 important and I think they're going to be even
23 more important. So I was concerned when some of
24 the people in the Friends of the Library had said
25 that this was some reduction in the capital

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2 dollars allotted.

3 The numbers I had was originally -- it
4 was 47 -- 4.7 million, and it was reduced to -- do
5 I have my numbers right here? It was reduced to
6 3.6?

7 Last year you had projected, right, 4.7
8 million for the branch renovation, but now this
9 year's capital program is suggesting that 3.6 or
10 even -- right, 3.6. I'm wondering if that's
11 accurate, and if so --

12 MS. BITTENBENDER: Councilperson, this
13 year's total for the Free Library is actually
14 \$4,447,000 as a total.

15 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: What page
16 would that be on? I'm looking at page 36.

17 MR. KAPLAN: You may be speaking
18 specifically about the branch renovation program.
19 That's about 3.7 or so; is that about right?

20 And that would be the City's share of
21 that.

22 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: The City's
23 share, right.

24 MR. KAPLAN: When the Free Library
25 began the branch renovation program, the hope was

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2 to spend about \$5 million a year on branch
3 renovation. And in some years, we spent more than
4 that. In the last two years, we've spent a bit
5 less than that.

6 Obviously, like all the other capital
7 programs, the Library's program is one that we
8 have to fit into the overall available general
9 obligation funding of the City. It's one we've
10 given a lot of priority to, though, because it is
11 leveraging such a large amount of private money.

12 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: Right.

13 MR. KAPLAN: And in fact, the Library's
14 request -- you know, everyone comes in with a
15 request. The Library's request in the past year
16 was lowered less than that of any other
17 department.

18 What we are going to be doing over the
19 next couple months with the Library is sitting
20 down with them and looking at their progress so
21 far in the first three years -- almost three years
22 of the renovation program, the costs of the
23 projects to date, and determine whether -- you
24 know, obviously, our hope is to complete the
25 originally planned renovations in the five-year

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2 time frame.

3 That may or may not be completely
4 related to the actual dollars spent. I'm
5 relatively hopeful that we're going to find these
6 renovations are somewhat less expensive than we
7 had originally hoped. But I think over the entire
8 five-year period, we're relatively optimistic that
9 we should be able to fund all of the originally
10 planned renovations.

11 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: Well, I would
12 just like to say for the record that I think it's
13 very important to keep on schedule.

14 And if there basically was a promise,
15 particularly with all of this private money that's
16 part of the match, and all of the money that
17 people are raising in neighborhoods, and people
18 are putting -- I'm saving pennies in a big bucket
19 so that when it's our neighborhood library's turn,
20 you know, we can all give a little bit.

21 But I think, with private citizens and
22 foundations and people doing their share, and
23 mainly the very important role that these
24 libraries play in our neighborhood, particularly
25 again with the new technology that's being added

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2 to give people access to the Internet, again,
3 which I think, the President mentioned in his
4 speech.

5 Four, five years ago, almost nobody was
6 using the Internet. Now, you know, it's moving
7 very fast, so we need to have our neighborhood
8 libraries equipped sooner. I'd rather we were
9 ahead of schedule rather than behind.

10 So I hope you'll take a careful look at
11 that.

12 MR. KAPLAN: We'll do that.

13 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: And see if all
14 the scheduled libraries could get done this year.

15 PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you very
16 much.

17 The Chair recognizes Councilman Nutter.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Mr.
19 President.

20 Miss Kaplan, I think I'd like to go
21 back first to page 7 of the capital budget book,
22 the blue-covered document, line number 47, Avenue
23 of the Arts, North and South Broad Street.

24 Now, do I understand that within the
25 \$12.5 million on the first line that that is the

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2 money for the Regional Performing Arts Center; is
3 that correct?

4 MS. KAPLAN: That's right.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. And just so
6 this portion of the record at least -- or for my
7 questioning purposes, so I'm clear on this, this
8 is an additional 12 and a half million dollars?

9 MS. KAPLAN: Yes.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And what is the
11 current investment in this project by the City?

12 MS. KAPLAN: I think I'd like to defer
13 that to Mr. Mullin, from the Commerce Department.

14 MR. MULLIN: My name is Steve Mullin,
15 Commerce Director with the City.

16 The total capital dollars in the
17 overall Avenue of the Arts South project is \$20
18 million. The bulk of that has been used for land
19 acquisition along the Avenue.

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. Well, I
21 understand, but how much of the money is in the
22 Regional Performing Arts Center project
23 specifically?

24 MR. MULLIN: By the way, I was talking
25 about land acquisition there. There was also -- I

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2 believe it's either 12 or \$15 million for the
3 streetscape improvements that I was not including
4 in that.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right.

6 MR. MULLIN: I'll have to get the exact
7 numbers on the amount that has been spent thus far
8 for acquisition of land for the Regional
9 Performing Arts Center, but I believe that -- my
10 estimate is that's on the order of \$15 million.

11 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So you believe we
12 already have \$15 million in capital funds invested
13 in the Regional Performing Arts Center.

14 MR. MULLIN: In the acquisition of the
15 land, yes.

16 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Land acquisition
17 for the Regional Performing Arts Center. Okay,
18 and what's the 12 and a half million in this
19 budget for?

20 MR. MULLIN: The 12 and a half million
21 in this budget is for parts of rest of the
22 project, including the construction of the
23 facility.

24 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, what are the
25 other parts, the non-construction parts?

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2 MR. MULLIN: Uh, it's. . .

3 PRESIDENT STREET: Try the word
4 "infrastructure."

5 MR. MULL: Pardon me?

6 PRESIDENT STREET: Try the word
7 "infrastructure."

8 MR. MULLIN: "Infrastructure" is
9 correct, that's right.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay, what's the
11 total cost of the Regional Performing Arts Center
12 Project?

13 MR. MULLIN: I'm sorry, could you
14 repeat that?

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What's the total
16 cost of the Regional Performing Arts Center
17 Project?

18 MR. MULLIN: I don't know if that has
19 been completely finalized yet. I believe I'll be
20 able to find out what that number is.

21 PRESIDENT STREET: Mr. Mullin, isn't it
22 somewhere like 150 million, 140, 160 million, in
23 there? I mean, it's a pretty big number.

24 MR. MULLIN: It's on the order of 150
25 million-plus, that's correct.

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2 PRESIDENT STREET: Now, you can get us
3 the real number --

4 MR. MULLIN: I'm sorry.

5 PRESIDENT STREET: But you can give us
6 some frame of reference?

7 MR. MULLIN: Yes.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. And this is
9 a public-private project? Are there private
10 dollars in this project?

11 MR. MULLIN: Yes, there are private
12 dollars, both in State public and in City public
13 dollars that are included.

14 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay, and what's
15 the level of fund-raising at this point?

16 MR. MULLIN: That I will have to check,
17 but it is not 100 percent yet. I'd say maybe it
18 would be -- this would only be a rough --

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So is it accurate
20 to say that there might be 40- or 50-million-
21 dollar gap in funding?

22 MR. MULLIN: I think that is on the
23 order of magnitude -- again, without saying the
24 exact numbers, but I think that's on the order of
25 the magnitude of what still remains to be funded.

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2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: That's my
3 understanding. And what's the prospect of closing
4 the 40- or 50-million-dollar gap, and who plans to
5 do that?

6 MR. MULLIN: Did you ask, What are the
7 odds of doing that? That would --

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: No, I'm not a
9 gambling person.

10 MR. MULLIN: Sorry, I didn't hear what
11 you --

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What are the
13 prospects of filling the gap? And who do you
14 believe is going to fill the gap of 40 to 50
15 million dollars for this project?

16 MR. MULLIN: I think the prospects are
17 considered to be very, very high. And the
18 potential sources continue to be private
19 fund-raising and institutional support.

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What's the
21 projected completion date of this project?

22 MR. MULLIN: That I will have to get
23 for you. I don't have that detail.

24 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, why do they
25 need our 12 and a half million dollars now?

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2 MR. MULLIN: "Now," meaning the FY '99
3 capital?

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Yeah.

5 MR. MULLIN: I think the idea is to try
6 to make sure that we have all of the funding in
7 place during fiscal -- hopefully, as early in
8 fiscal '99.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, that's based
10 apparently on the belief that the 40 or 50 million
11 dollar funding gap is also going to be closed in
12 FY '99?

13 MR. MULLIN: I think that's -- I
14 believe that that's the hope and expectation, yes.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I guess lastly on
16 this particular topic --

17 PRESIDENT STREET: Excuse me,
18 Councilman, could I interrupt on that topic.

19 You know, I think that this whole
20 Regional Performing Arts Center might be worth a
21 briefing, and I say that because I hear a lot of
22 questions.

23 And what I propose to do is to
24 circulate among the Members of Council some
25 proposed briefing times so that Councilmembers can

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2 sort of hold those times open. Because I think
3 it's probably not a bad idea to have Bill Rouse
4 and Stephanie Nadoff come in to do it.

5 I don't know that we need to do that at
6 a public hearing, but it might not be a bad idea
7 to have them come in and just sort of tell us
8 where we are on all of that, because it is
9 something that is widely discussed.

10 And it shows up -- I've asked these
11 questions in the past. Every year, you know, we
12 see at least \$10 million here and, you know, we
13 get into this -- some parts of this discussion
14 depending on, you know, the circumstances.

15 So I think we all need to know
16 precisely where we are on the Regional Performing
17 Arts Center. There are -- those are the people
18 responsible for it, and I think they should come
19 in and just give us a briefing as to where we
20 are. And I'll be responsible, along with the
21 Administration, for setting aside a time so that
22 Councilmembers can get fully briefed on it.

23 Because this testimony is very
24 confusing. And nobody here -- I mean, I can tell
25 that Councilwoman Verna and Councilman Nutter and

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2 I have some questions. We don't really want to
3 belabor it, but we really do have to understand
4 it, we have to understand it, because there is a
5 very significant amount of public dollars that
6 sort of keeps rotating in and rotating out.

7 I'm informed by Mr. Certo here that the
8 way we used to do the budgeting that sort of laid
9 out the money in the past years would give us a
10 little clearer picture. We don't do that now.

11 So on the one hand, the document is a
12 little simpler. It doesn't give us much
13 information, but it does breed a whole new level
14 of questions because now we're sort of trying to
15 figure out what it is we remember.

16 So I will make the commitment to the
17 Members of Council to get that briefing together
18 so that everybody can know where we are in the
19 Regional Performing Arts Center.

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, I appreciate
21 it, Mr. President, because based on the Q and A, I
22 mean I'm perplexed to understand at this moment
23 why we continue to put so much money in this
24 particular project that has seemingly its own
25 problems. It's had its fits and starts.

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2 And I also had on my list an issue that
3 my colleague Councilwoman Fernandez raised, which
4 had to do with the library branch renovations. I
5 mean, they are our libraries.

6 I don't think this is our Regional
7 Performing Arts Center, and the fact that it has
8 its own problems and we seem to be scurrying
9 around, trying to find additional dollars to
10 finish up what everyone seems to agree is an
11 appropriate project, which is our branch
12 libraries, I'm a little perplexed to understand
13 why we put 12 and a half million dollars into this
14 one, which is clearly not ready to go, when we've
15 got other ones that are ready to go that clearly
16 don't have the funding support that they need.

17 And there is an inherent conflict
18 between this project and its particular location
19 in the context of a larger project on South Broad
20 Street versus the rest of the City.

21 And so I'm having a little trouble
22 understanding why at this moment in a project that
23 clearly is not going anywhere tomorrow, why we put
24 an additional 12 and a half million dollars in it
25 when we've already invested some money in it. And

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2 the people who really want the project, it seems
3 to me, have to do a little more work to get it.
4 So I'll wait for the briefing.

5 Why don't we go to the next line, on
6 line 48, New Facilities for Independence National
7 Park. This seems to be the much talked about
8 Liberty Bell Pavilion. Is this also involving the
9 Constitution Center?

10 MS. KAPLAN: Well, there are three
11 blocks to the mall. The Constitution Center under
12 the new plan, the Parks Services has proposed,
13 would be in the third block.

14 This does not contribute to the third
15 block improvement in any way or to the
16 Constitution Center. This money would go toward a
17 new complex that would house the Liberty Bell and
18 a new Visitors Center that is called "The Gateway
19 Visitors Center." It's intended to be a gateway,
20 not for the Park, but for the City and for the
21 region.

22 Now, the --

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Is this going to
24 replace the little round building over here on
25 JFK?

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2 MS. KAPLAN: That's another -- the
3 Visitors Center at JFK, there are plans to
4 renovate a portion of the ground floor of City
5 Hall, to accommodate the Visitors Center that's
6 now in the round building.

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So there will be a
8 Visitors Center in City Hall --

9 MS. KAPLAN: Right, which would be --

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And then there'll
11 be another Visitors Center down at --

12 MS. KAPLAN: Right, the Visitors Center
13 down at Independence Mall. The Parks Service has
14 had a Visitors Center, I guess, since about 1976.
15 It is located, unfortunately, on Third Street and
16 Chestnut, and a lot of people don't -- it's not in
17 the mainstream of the way people arrive and use
18 the facilities of the Park.

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right.

20 MS. KAPLAN: It also only serves the
21 Parks Service, and the City's relegated to a
22 little card table in the corner. And the Parks
23 Service has certain restrictions about what they
24 can do in that Visitors Center, what kind of
25 information they can give out, etc.

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2 The Pew Trust did a tourism study and
3 looked at in what way they could become involved.

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right, okay.

5 MS. KAPLAN: They said that they would
6 spearhead the effort. They thought the important
7 thing that could happen for tourism was to have a
8 new -- in addition to putting up this money for
9 the Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing
10 Corporation, GPTMC, they wanted to spearhead the
11 effort for a new Visitors Center that would be for
12 the City, the region, and the Park.

13 It's a \$30 million facility. The Pew
14 Trust has put up \$10 million, the State has put up
15 \$10 million, and we're putting up \$10 million.
16 But not all our money is going into the Gateway
17 Visitors Center. Roughly half and half, although
18 it hasn't been exactly decided, will go into the
19 Liberty Bell and building a new complex of
20 buildings to house the Liberty Bell, which would
21 be on the first block at the corner of Sixth and
22 Chestnut.

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay.

24 MS. KAPLAN: With Pew's fund-raising,
25 the total cost of this, to remake the first two

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2 blocks of the Mall, which is not just the Visitors
3 Center and the Liberty Bell Pavilion, but also
4 includes relandscaping and everything, and the
5 Parking Authority has to fix the garage. It's
6 about a \$65 million project altogether.

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay.

8 MS. KAPLAN: All but about \$3.8 million
9 of that funding has been identified, including our
10 \$10 million; \$1 million of which was programmed
11 last year and the remaining \$9 million.

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, my question
13 on this is -- and maybe this goes to the ownership
14 question of the Liberty Bell. But for many of the
15 activities going on in the Independence Mall area,
16 it just strikes me, I guess, as a little strange.
17 These are not only Philadelphia but national
18 treasures.

19 And so I wonder why we have to pay for
20 a location for a national treasure such as the
21 Liberty Bell, in contrast to what I either believe
22 or assume happens in Washington D.C. I mean, I
23 assume that the citizens of Washington D.C. don't
24 pay for the Washington Monument, the Smithsonian,
25 and the half million other various monuments and

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2 buildings and other activities that go on in
3 Washington D.C.

4 And so I'm just trying to understand
5 why the citizens of Philadelphia have to pay for a
6 location for the national treasure of the Liberty
7 Bell.

8 MS. KAPLAN: Well, we do own the
9 Liberty Bell.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I thought we might.

11 MS. KAPLAN: And we own Independence
12 Hall and the park behind it.

13 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What do the feds
14 contribute to any of that?

15 MS. KAPLAN: Right now, there is no
16 federal contribution to it. It is hoped that they
17 would come up with some of the remaining funding
18 that's missing. Virtually all of the money that's
19 been raised, aside from the City's 10 million and
20 the State's 10 million, has come from private
21 foundations or contributors. I think the
22 Annenberg Foundation contributed \$10 million, as
23 well.

24 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Have we ever asked
25 the federal government for any funding for this

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2 wonderful place in the City?

3 MS. KAPLAN: The federal government's
4 contribution to Independence Park has been
5 significant over the last few years. Principally
6 that's been in the renovation of Independence Hall
7 which, you know, some of the side buildings are
8 still undergoing renovation.

9 And in redoing the utilities for the
10 entire park, it's very expensive because they're
11 all underground and have to be dug up and
12 replaced, so I think about \$75 million of federal
13 commitment was obtained through Congressman
14 Foglietta to do that.

15 Now, I would certainly agree with you,
16 we don't get the kind -- I mean, we don't get what
17 they get in Washington for all those federal
18 facilities, but that was a fairly substantial
19 contribution within a very short period of time.
20 I mean, I think when that project has taken place,
21 by the time it's finished, it will have been about
22 a three, three and a half year project.

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. I mean, is
24 that something we can explore, though, the
25 prospect of some additional federal funding to

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2 help us?

3 MS. KAPLAN: The Parks Service has
4 asked in their budget request for the additional
5 money that we're hoping, you know, to complete
6 this project. And I'm sure the lobbying forces
7 are at work to try to see that that happens.

8 We've also gotten the federal
9 government to agree to take over Washington Square
10 and make it part of Independence National Historic
11 Park, which will be a relief to the Fairmount Park
12 budget, both operating and capital. We had to
13 make a certain contribution to bring it up to
14 standard.

15 But we also did get through Congressman
16 Foglietta, I think, \$2.6 million from the federal
17 government for that. The deal was they wouldn't
18 take it over and make it part of the Park System
19 until it was brought up to a certain standard.
20 The problem was that all of the paving stones had
21 deteriorated, and that project is going on right
22 now. I think it's about a \$4 million project to
23 replace.

24 So once it's up to standard -- and, as
25 I said, we did get federal contribution to bring

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 it up to standard -- then it will no longer be our
3 responsibility; the Parks Service will take that
4 over.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: If I can, at least
6 this round, ask this one last question.

7 The pictures in the first part of the
8 presentation, were some very good examples of the
9 benefits of the capital budget and program over
10 time.

11 I did want to ask, though, what is, in
12 your view, Miss Kaplan, the infrastructure renewal
13 plan for our residential areas throughout the City
14 or those areas that surround many of the
15 facilities that we put dollars into to make
16 improvements?

17 We make wonderful facilities, or we try
18 to make our facilities look as best as they can.
19 Unfortunately, as the case may be, many of the
20 neighborhoods around those facilities are still in
21 very poor condition. And so, you know, you have
22 to get there.

23 MS. KAPLAN: Well, right. I mean, we
24 have been -- I think there's two issues. There's
25 sort of neighborhood infrastructure: streets,

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2 street lights, those kinds of issues.

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right, street
4 stuff.

5 MS. KAPLAN: As well as -- well, before
6 we even get to streetscape, just make sure that
7 the streets are in good repair and, you know,
8 everything's working, everything's in good enough
9 shape to be working properly and delivering proper
10 service. And then there's also the question, you
11 know, of housing and what can be done about that.

12 One of the things we have tried to do
13 in this Administration -- and we include it as a
14 neighborhood project -- is to increase the amount
15 of money that we allocate for the resurfacing or
16 reconstruction of neighborhood streets. We don't
17 include the major arterials or the streets that
18 are eligible in the Federal Aid Highway Program,
19 but the tertiary streets, the street that really
20 serve houses.

21 This year we have \$13 million in the
22 budget for that. If you compare it to last year,
23 it will show a decrease in that amount. But, in
24 fact, it's not really a decrease because it was
25 last year's. And I believe maybe a year or two

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2 before that, we were under a court order to use a
3 portion of those funds to construct ramps for the
4 handicapped.

5 I think last year, out of 17 or \$18
6 million, about \$4 million of the total went to the
7 construction of the curb ramps and not into the
8 street reconstruction. So we're roughly trying to
9 maintain the same level of funding. So that's one
10 way that we think we've made some progress in
11 recent years.

12 The other thing, we can't spend City
13 capital dollars directly on housing. And so what
14 we've tried to do is to make the housing dollars
15 that we get through the Community Development
16 Block Grant and through other special federal
17 programs like I showed, the Cecil B. Moore Home
18 Ownership Grant, try to make that money go further
19 by using some City capital dollars to pay for
20 total reconstruction of the infrastructure in
21 those areas.

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right.

23 MS. KAPLAN: And that's a fairly
24 expensive proposition.

25 For example, we showed the slides of

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2 Raymond Rosen. And, you know, we tore down
3 high-rise structures. Well, there weren't City
4 streets through that site, so if we're going to
5 now replan that site for these town houses that I
6 showed you in the slide, you have to put in, you
7 know, all new streets, curbs, sidewalks, street
8 lights; all of that infrastructure is new.

9 And we are paying for that out of the
10 City capital program so that the housing dollars
11 can, you know, go into housing. Because we have
12 no way to get more of those housing dollars.

13 Schuylkill Falls, in fact, in your
14 district, where we got a huge amount of money --
15 I think it was \$48 million to renew the housing
16 development, to build new housing. It didn't
17 include infrastructure, site improvements, a
18 recreation facility that is intended, so we will
19 be supporting that.

20 The first million dollars is in those
21 capital program. Over the next two years, we'll
22 be allocating additional funds to pay for those
23 improvements. You know, so we are trying to do
24 that.

25 We also put money in site improvements

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2 for commercial strips which are neighborhood-
3 based, and we do put some money in even where
4 we're not building new housing. Where there's a
5 significant amount of rehab activity occurring in
6 a neighborhood, then that justifies the use of
7 City capital funds to come in and do even curbs,
8 trees, sidewalks, that kind of thing.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right, but most of
10 those usually are also project-based.

11 MS. KAPLAN: Right, or at least
12 sometimes we're doing like 25 houses in 4 blocks,
13 even if they're scattered.

14 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I guess what I'm
15 asking is, in the areas where we don't have the
16 benefit of either a Schuykill Falls or a Raymond
17 Rosen, where we have to create new -- what I'm
18 really talking about is some of the older areas of
19 our City where you don't have housing development
20 going on. I mean, they're just stable
21 neighborhoods areas.

22 I mean, what is the plan if there is
23 one. And if there's not, then for the moment,
24 that's okay.

25 MS. KAPLAN: Right now, the only thing

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2 we would have is the money we're putting in, the
3 \$13 million a year or whatever we're putting in
4 for street resurfacing.

5 You know, there's no specific money in
6 there for curbs and sidewalks because that's
7 viewed as the private owner's responsibility. The
8 Streets Department does restore and renew the
9 lighting fixtures and the signs, you know, kind of
10 on the life cycle replacement, you know, kind of
11 schedule.

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: This will be my
13 last question --

14 MS. KAPLAN: But there is no plan like
15 to go into an area and, you know, do it. I think
16 large --

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay, is it
18 possible to go in and do something like that?

19 MS. KAPLAN: I think it's certainly
20 possible to consider it. I mean, one of the
21 problems I think that we will run into is the
22 question of what's an eligible capital cost.

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right, I
24 understand.

25 MS. KAPLAN: But I think we certainly,

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2 you know --

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Is that something
4 that the City should be doing as we go forward?

5 MS. KAPLAN: I think it's certainly
6 worth, you know, consideration.

7 We're working on this project with the
8 Planning Commission, sort of trying to look at how
9 the City can improve its competitive position sort
10 of in the region to compete for people, you know,
11 to retain and attract people to keep our
12 population up, just the way we do with jobs.

13 And, you know, that's one of the
14 things. You know, people say, Well, the housing's
15 obsolete. Well, sometimes the housing's obsolete,
16 but sometimes it's more that the neighborhood
17 infrastructure's obsolete.

18 So certainly it is certainly something
19 that's worth some serious consideration.

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you.

21 PRESIDENT STREET: Councilman, you
22 still have four minutes left.

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: For tomorrow,
24 right?

25 PRESIDENT STREET: No, for next budget

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2 year.

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: FY 2000.

4 PRESIDENT STREET: FY 2000. Just
5 kidding.

6 (Laughter.)

7 PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair recognizes
8 Councilmember Rizzo.

9 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Mr.
10 President.

11 Okay, Miss Kaplan, on page 32, budget
12 line 95, could you explain the \$5 million for
13 renovations of Eastern State Penitentiary?

14 MS. KAPLAN: Yes. The Mayor has sort
15 of made a challenge to the prison society and the
16 preservation groups who are interested in
17 preserving and renovating Eastern State
18 Penitentiary. And the Mayor has said that if they
19 could raise \$4 million, we would give them \$1
20 million, so it's kind of a challenge.

21 Thus far, they haven't raised any funds
22 that we know about. We did put in some capital
23 money last year, I think about 450,000, to try to
24 put a roof on some of the structures there, to
25 prevent damage from water. And that is happening

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2 now just to, you know, seal up the facility and
3 make it weather-tight.

4 What we have said is, in view of all of
5 the other capital needs that we have in the City,
6 you know, we did not want to commit more resources
7 to this unless there was a demonstrated effort
8 that they could really -- they've been saying that
9 they could raise money. We're sort of putting
10 their feet to the fire and saying, Well, okay, if
11 you raise money, we will put up a share of this.
12 So that's what this is.

13 They are actually on a shoestring,
14 doing some fairly significant tours through the
15 prison. They had, I think, about 17,000 visitors
16 last year doing this sort of thing, with no
17 budget. They got a big article in the New York
18 Times, in the tourism section, about Eastern State
19 Penitentiary.

20 PRESIDENT STREET: I actually saw that
21 article. And when I saw the caption, I didn't
22 know it was talking about our Eastern State
23 Penitentiary.

24 MS. KAPLAN: And you thought that it
25 was a great place.

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2 PRESIDENT STREET: And I saw this thing
3 and I thought, This is a wonderful thing they're
4 doing there. And then I got further down in the
5 article, and I said, This is over on Fairmount
6 Avenue. But, actually, I did happen to see the
7 article.

8 MS. KAPLAN: And actually, what -- I
9 live near there. So amazingly not -- and it's
10 gotten enough publicity that the commercial
11 trolley tours that go by now go right past the
12 prison because everybody wants to see it, even if
13 they don't have time to go in for a tour.

14 So it has attracted some attention even
15 nationally. It's not that far from the Art
16 Museum. A lot of out-of-town visitors who do go
17 to the Art Museum can find their way there. And
18 this, I think, is considered a World Heritage
19 site. It's a very significant site.

20 Unfortunately, you know, it's
21 extraordinarily expensive to be able to really
22 restore the building, so what we're doing is sort
23 of a holding action, hoping that other resources
24 from other sources, other than the City, will be
25 found to put into this development.

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2 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Well, 5 million
3 seems like a lot, though.

4 MS. KAPLAN: We will put 1 if they put
5 4. And it may take them a while to get the 4.

6 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So what you're
7 saying is that once this gets in the budget, it
8 gets carried forward each year.

9 MS. KAPLAN: Right, but not spent until
10 they come up with a match.

11 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: My next question is,
12 you mentioned that --

13 PRESIDENT STREET: Councilman, is your
14 microphone on?

15 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: It is.

16 PRESIDENT STREET: Well, I was having
17 difficulty hearing you.

18 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: My next question is,
19 when I heard the Liberty Bell mentioned, it
20 reminded me that we have a lot of art and valuable
21 possessions here in the City of Philadelphia.

22 And in conversations with the Public
23 Art Office, I find that they desperately need to
24 do an inventory to determine what they have, what
25 condition it's in, what we believe we have, and I

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2 understand that that is not going to be funded.

3 MS. KAPLAN: No, I think it was, it
4 was. It's in the Commerce Department. Let me see
5 if I can find it. We've already funded the first
6 phase of that, and I believe the rest of the money
7 is in here to complete it.

8 Oh, it is line 52, \$200,000 to complete
9 inventory.

10 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: That is in here
11 right now?

12 MS. KAPLAN: Yes.

13 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Well, that's good to
14 hear because I was told differently, that it was
15 not in the budget.

16 MS. KAPLAN: I think -- excuse me? I
17 couldn't hear you.

18 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I was told that it
19 was not in the budget. So you're telling us it
20 is?

21 MS. KAPLAN: No, I think what happened
22 was, you know, we do this in stages and conference
23 with departments, and we send out a first draft to
24 all of the departments before Christmas.

25 And at that time, either it wasn't

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2 included or only partial funding was included, and
3 they kind of appealed and gave us more
4 information, and we provided the rest of the fund
5 -- the rest of the funding got in when we did the
6 final version.

7 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: And the people that
8 work there know this?

9 MS. KAPLAN: Yes. Carol Lawrence knows
10 this.

11 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Okay, my final
12 question is, we talked about the Youth Study
13 Center. And there's been some concern out there,
14 especially since it's a shift operation, about
15 additional employee parking.

16 Do you know if there been any requests
17 to expand the off-street parking for the Youth
18 Study Center?

19 MS. KAPLAN: No. That did not come up
20 in the budget discussions that we had.

21 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you.

22 No further questions, Mr. President.

23 PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair recognizes
24 Councilmember DiCicco.

25 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you, Mr.

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2 President. What happened to your clock?

3 PRESIDENT STREET: Oh, we've been
4 trying to survive without it. I'm sure when that
5 operating budget shows up, we'll --

6 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Oh, okay, it's in
7 there somewhere.

8 PRESIDENT STREET: -- we'll dust off
9 that clock.

10 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Okay, thank you.
11 My question is -- now, I'm not sure who would be
12 prepared to answer this, probably either Barbara
13 Kaplan or Steve Mullin.

14 It's about the line item number 47,
15 Avenue of the Arts, specifically the north
16 improvements. Could you just give me an overview
17 of what those improvements are and how far north
18 we're going.

19 MS. KAPLAN: Okay. These are really
20 streetscape improvements for Broad Street, from
21 City Hall north to Lehigh Avenue. Now, we're not
22 going to --

23 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: What hundred is
24 it?

25 MS. KAPLAN: We're not going to do

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2 every single block all the way to Lehigh Avenue,
3 and I'll explain, but it was always intended that
4 we would do a streetscape treatment on North Broad
5 Street the way did on South Broad Street.

6 There are two difficulties, or two
7 issues, that we needed to come to grips with. One
8 is, there's a much longer distance that was laid
9 out. And the second one was that, you know, and
10 nobody was going to walk like -- it wasn't really
11 a walkable distance, and that there are a lot of
12 blocks in that area that are, you know, for
13 industrial uses or that don't really need a
14 streetscape because somebody's not really going to
15 really walk there.

16 But a plan was done by the Delta Group
17 under contract to the Streets Department with a
18 lot of community and business participation. And
19 then they came up with an overall concept which
20 treats certain major -- provides custom treatments
21 for specific intersections where there is a lot of
22 commercial activity or where it's anticipated that
23 there will be activity, either commercial activity
24 or arts activity on North Broad Street, such as
25 Girard Avenue, Cecil B. Moore Avenue, where

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2 there's already a lot of activity because of the
3 Apollo, Broad and Susquehannah. And you know, a
4 couple of others.

5 And these concepts for these specific
6 intersections have been included in a plan.

7 There's also a concept for the interior
8 block treatment to be applied wherever there's a
9 block where there's development activity or arts
10 activity that needs us to come along and complete
11 the package by putting in that kind of treatment.

12 Now, we did get money from the State, 3
13 million, I think, 3.15 million or something like
14 that, which we showed in last year's capital
15 budget. And this year we're putting in the
16 \$2.5 million of City money. So we have a
17 significant amount of money to start that project.

18 And, as I said, there is a concept
19 plan. What we now have to do is to go into design
20 and bid documents, but we can definitely start
21 implementation of that in the budget year.

22 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Okay, thank you.
23 I'm aware of the improvements, and I think they're
24 necessary, and I would encourage that. And while
25 they're all taking place in the Fifth District --

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2 (Laughter.)

3 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: And I know that a
4 certain portion of money went into the First
5 District and part of the Second District as far
6 south as Washington Avenue, but that's just about
7 a mile south of City Hall.

8 And when I look at North Broad Street
9 going to Lehigh, I would also like to encourage --
10 and I've had some discussions, I believe with you,
11 Miss Kaplan, and Steve and, I believe, Dean about
12 doing some additional improvements, maybe not as
13 elaborate as the improvement on South Broad Street
14 going to Washington Avenue, but going from
15 Washington Avenue to maybe Patterson. And that
16 way, the First and Second District can share part
17 of that capital budget improvements.

18 Because, you know, I've had some ideas
19 about Passyunk Avenue, which you've been very
20 helpful with, all of you, and I thank you for
21 that.

22 But I would like to, going forward, see
23 what we can do about finding some money in capital
24 improvements to enhance the appearance of Broad
25 Street going south.

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2 MS. KAPLAN: Well, we might take a
3 similar approach as with North Broad Street, where
4 we focus on those activities.

5 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: At Broad and
6 Snyder, that intersection?

7 MS. KAPLAN: Yeah. It's a similar kind
8 of situation, correct.

9 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Okay, thank you.
10 Thank you, Mr. President.

11 PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you.

12 I'd like to ask some questions about a
13 much more long-range kind of concern that we
14 always have to have. And I'd like for somebody
15 to, for my own recollection, explain it -- and for
16 the edification of Councilmembers and others who
17 might be observing us here, explain where our
18 capital debt limits come from.

19 MS. KAPLAN: I'll turn that over to
20 Dean.

21 PRESIDENT STREET: I used to know this.

22 MR. KAPLAN: The City has --

23 PRESIDENT STREET: Trick question.

24 MR. KAPLAN: It is, of course, a trick
25 question.

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2 The City has several different numbers
3 which we call our capital debt limit. The formal
4 capital debt limit is the amount the City's
5 allowed to have as borrowed indebtedness overall,
6 and that's related to the tax rateables in the
7 City, currently a little bit over \$9 billion.

8 A percentage of that, which I believe
9 is about \$1.5 billion is the number that the
10 City's allowed to borrow G.O. borrowing for, and I
11 don't know that number exactly but I will get it
12 and forward it to you. So that's the cap that the
13 State law sets as to what the City can borrow to
14 finance various G.O. projects.

15 And currently, we have spent about half
16 of that, so there's about 7 or \$800 million
17 remaining, which sounds like a lot of money until
18 you realize that we're looking at a capital budget
19 G.O. borrowing every year of about \$125 million.

20 So that is an issue which, in the next
21 four or five years, we're going to have to look at
22 very closely.

23 PRESIDENT STREET: Where do we find
24 these debt limits in State law?

25 MR. KAPLAN: I don't know exactly, but

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2 I'll get a cite for you and forward it. I believe
3 it's in the First Class City Bond Act, but not
4 being an attorney, I could be very wrong.

5 PRESIDENT STREET: Get what you can.
6 And it is my understanding that in order to do
7 this capital program, you're talking about
8 borrowing 127.5 million of new tax-supported loan
9 dollars?

10 MR. KAPLAN: Yes.

11 PRESIDENT STREET: When do you
12 anticipate such a question?

13 MR. KAPLAN: As the normal procedure
14 would be to take a -- we've proposed to Council a
15 loan authorization ordinance. We would go to the
16 voters in May, and we're proposing to go to the
17 bond market in September.

18 PRESIDENT STREET: Do you propose to go
19 to the bond market in May of 1998?

20 MR. KAPLAN: Probably in September of
21 1998.

22 PRESIDENT STREET: Do you propose to go
23 to the voters in May of 1998?

24 MR. KAPLAN: Yes.

25 PRESIDENT STREET: What I'd like for

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 you to do is produce some kind of analysis which
3 shows over the next five years or so what our debt
4 capacity looks like and where we are in it, with a
5 view toward giving anybody that might have some
6 question about any of this the comfort that we
7 need to know that we aren't overspending on the
8 capital side. And I'd like for you to also
9 include in that analysis what the operating budget
10 implication of all of this is.

11 And I say that because -- and I guess
12 I'm also speaking to Councilman Nutter here and
13 other members who have raised this. And you could
14 correct me if I'm wrong.

15 You're proposing to spend an additional
16 \$127 million. That could be 135, it could be 140,
17 it could be 110. So if Council decided we think
18 127 is too aggressive, right, I mean, we could say
19 we want to take all of that money for those
20 recreation centers out of the budget. Just
21 kidding.

22 Or, I mean, we could recommend, you
23 know, some reduction in the spending.

24 Is it fair to say we could also
25 recommend some increases in the spending?

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2 MR. KAPLAN: Obviously, Council has
3 that opportunity. I think when I provide this
4 analysis, you'll see that we're -- I believe we're
5 pushing the limit on what we're borrowing now.
6 This is probably the maximum we may borrow.

7 PRESIDENT STREET: Well, now, you can't
8 have it both ways. I thought you said that we
9 were in good shape.

10 MR. KAPLAN: I think we are in good
11 shape, but I don't think we want to go out and add
12 10 or \$20 million a year for the next several
13 years, either.

14 PRESIDENT STREET: All right. What I
15 would like for you to do is provide an analysis
16 based on your best judgment that justifies the
17 \$127 million and suggests to us that it shouldn't
18 be anymore than that and that it shouldn't be any
19 less than that either.

20 Because, in every case, people are
21 exercising some judgments about what should be
22 spent and how it should be spent. And I think it
23 would be useful for us to know why it is you're
24 recommending that we spend this amount of money,
25 and not some amount less and not some amount

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2 more. Okay?

3 MR. KAPLAN: Okay.

4 PRESIDENT STREET: Now. . . I think my
5 time is up. I will now go back to Councilwoman
6 Tasco.

7 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you. I have
8 a couple of questions for Miss Bittenbinder.

9 Could you tell me, what does your
10 department do, what duties in your department are
11 duties that were within the Procurement
12 Department. What is the relationship there?

13 MS. BITTENBENDER: There's no
14 duplication.

15 The Procurement Department and the
16 Capital Procurement Office work hand in glove to
17 bid out public works. And basically, we design
18 the projects and we give them to the Procurement
19 Department to advertise for bid and they manage
20 that bidding in award process.

21 The Procurement Department and the
22 Capital Program Office do work together in order
23 to find efficiencies and accelerate the rates of
24 bidding and contracting.

25 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Okay. The \$1

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002

2 million to support 22 positions, is that 22

3 additional positions --

4 MS. BITTENBENDER: No, they --

5 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: -- in addition to
6 the 85 positions?

7 MS. BITTENBENDER: Yes, that's correct.

8 The 22 people that are paid out of Operating are
9 employees that we do not have justification for
10 them to be paid out of the capital budget because
11 they either do not directly manage capital
12 budgets, they're more the operations side of the
13 department.

14 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Are they included
15 in the 85? That's what I wanted to be clear on,
16 maybe I didn't --

17 MS. BITTENBENDER: No, they're not.

18 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: So you have 22
19 operating positions that are positions from the
20 operating side of the budget?

21 MS. BITTENBENDER: That's correct. It
22 should be noted in the 85 paid out of Capital,
23 there are 6 employees who reside in the Department
24 of Public Property and they are from the
25 Communications Division, but we pay for them out

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2 of Capital because there's eligibility there, but
3 yet, we do not manage those employees.

4 And also included in the 85 are 17 from
5 the Fairmount Park Commission.

6 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Okay, thank you.

7 Mr. Mullin, could you tell me, what are
8 the projects that would be funded in the Economic
9 Stimulus Program? And how are those projects
10 developed and determined to be funded?

11 MR. MULLIN: By that, I understand from
12 the earlier conversation, you were talking about
13 the port proceeds portion?

14 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm,
15 item 66 on page 33 in the Capital Program, the
16 yellow book.

17 MR. MULLIN: The yellow book, let's
18 see.

19 We have not concluded a full listing,
20 but the types of projects that we have thought
21 about including in this allocation include things
22 that we -- that in the past we have included in
23 the Neighborhood Economic Development section or a
24 portion of allocation of the Stimulus Program
25 projects, such as fundings for projects associated

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2 with the Schuylkill Falls Hope Six project, the
3 West Parkside Retail Project with the Empowerment
4 Zone, additions to Partners in Progress which
5 we've funded in the past through stimulus
6 programs, housing projects, potential housing
7 projects, including one in your district as a
8 possibility and the infrastructure there.

9 COUNCILWOMAN TASCIO: I want to know
10 what housing project you're talking about,
11 because I haven't had any conversation with you --

12 MR. MULLIN: Right.

13 COUNCILWOMAN TASCIO -- about putting
14 any money in the budget for a housing project in
15 my district.

16 MR. MULLIN: I know we haven't. We're
17 familiar with some discussions, and these again
18 are only -- these are not allocations that are set
19 in stone or commitments that we make.

20 COUNCILWOMAN TASCIO: Well, how much did
21 you allocate for the housing project in my
22 district?

23 MR. MULLIN: We -- Barbara says she
24 thinks it's about 4 million; I would have said
25 about 3 or 4 million.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Okay. And so how
3 did you all come to that determination that you
4 should allocate the money to a project?

5 MR. MULLIN: I guess two steps. One
6 is, this was a project that if it's something that
7 looks like a project that would get the kind of
8 consensus and approval and wanted to move forward,
9 this would be the type of source of funding out of
10 all the types of sources that we could identify.
11 This would be the type of project that we would
12 say would fit here, and it looks like it would be
13 a good type of expenditure out of here.

14 Again, this is not meant to mean to say
15 that we have said yes, absolutely.

16 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Well, when were
17 you all going to talk to me about it?

18 MR. MULLIN: Pardon me?

19 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: When were you
20 going to talk to me about it?

21 MR. MULLIN: Uh --

22 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: See, what you all
23 do is put us in the position of being the bad guy.
24 So you determined that you're going to appropriate
25 money for a project in my district without any

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 conversations, and we may have another group that
3 may want to do some work, and then we pull the
4 money from the project, and then we are the bad
5 guy.

6 MR. MULLIN: Right, right.

7 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Without any
8 conversation with the District Councilperson, you
9 appropriate money for a project in my district
10 without any conversation.

11 MR. MULLIN: Yeah, that's why I want to
12 try to make it very clear, there's nothing that's
13 appropriating money out of the allocations of the
14 money. We are proposing an overall appropriation
15 of -- I want to say 39 million, whatever the
16 number is there.

17 But the allocations of that -- in other
18 words, what will be spent is still under
19 determination. We wouldn't want to propose
20 anything that people are not -- without going
21 though with the various District Councilpeople.

22 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Well, see, now
23 I'll get a news article tomorrow that says that
24 the City in the capital budget has \$4 million for
25 a developmental of housing.

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2 MR. MULLIN: No, it is not in the
3 capital budget. There is not --

4 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Well, I'm just
5 saying, you know, because when I asked earlier
6 what was the money going to be for, my good friend
7 Barbara Kaplan said that there's money there for
8 the Temple Stadium site. And that poses a problem
9 for me up there with that Temple Stadium site
10 because we're nowhere near talking about any
11 development on the Temple Stadium site.

12 So then what? The people in my
13 district are going to call me, they're not going
14 to call you. And I have to explain to them how it
15 got there.

16 MS. KAPLAN: Let me just clarify
17 something. This money is being transferred from
18 the capital budget to the operating budget, so
19 it's not in the capital program. And when we make
20 appropriations in the capital program, they do
21 have to be fairly specific for specific projects.

22 This money that will be transferred to
23 the operating budget, as I indicated before,
24 probably there will be a contract with PIDC for
25 them to administer the money. And that money will

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2 be -- is flexible at that point and, you know,
3 subject, as I indicated earlier, to, you know,
4 some of the ideas that people have for how this
5 money could be used may fall out.

6 I mean, a lot of development projects,
7 you know, are very uncertain. Sometimes they seem
8 like a good idea and then they're not financeable
9 or they're not wanted or for other reasons, they
10 drop out.

11 So that this is -- this isn't -- these
12 projects are, first of all, not in the capital
13 budget. And, second of all, they're certainly not
14 set in stone, you know, the way the line items you
15 see here are for other specifically mentioned
16 projects.

17 So there's plenty of opportunity for
18 those projects to be discussed, you know, and for
19 various decisions to be made as to whether this
20 money would even be allocated for those purposes.

21 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Certainly, I would
22 like to have some discussion regarding any of the
23 stimulus money that is targeted for the Ninth
24 Councilmatic District because there may be other
25 priorities that we may have other than what you

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 might think. And I don't know who you're talking
3 to in my district. And, certainly, our
4 constituents hold us accountable for what goes on
5 in the district.

6 Thank you very much.

7 PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair recognizes
8 Councilmember Rizzo.

9 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Mr.
10 President.

11 I'd like to go back to a question that
12 I asked earlier, for some clarification. And
13 since Mr. Mullin's here, I'll direct the question
14 to him.

15 I asked the question about the
16 inventory of art and the condition of it
17 throughout the City. And Barbara Kaplan's answer
18 was that there is money in the budget, \$200,000.
19 Now, I read that it's for a conservation of art.

20 From what I understand, \$200,000 does
21 not include an audit. This is not enough money to
22 complete a City-wide audit of all of the art that
23 may be out there.

24 So I need to hear from Mr. Mullin, will
25 \$200,000 cover the conservation of all existing

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2 art and also provide a City-wide audit to find out
3 what we have and what we don't have?

4 MR. KAPLAN: Let me -- now I understand
5 what you're getting at. I apologize that I didn't
6 get it the right way before.

7 There has already been an audit of all
8 of the -- I think it's still being completed, but
9 the money has been allocated from previous capital
10 programs for the Art Commission to undertake that
11 inventory.

12 And we have also put some money in the
13 past, and the additional \$200,000 in this year, to
14 begin to address those pieces of public art that
15 we found out through the inventory really need
16 some attention.

17 I believe one of the pieces that will
18 be done this year is the football -- the Punter
19 statue by the Stadium. It is considered to be in
20 very bad condition and needs immediate attention.

21 I think the only piece that we did not
22 fund shown is -- and it's shown in the out-year as
23 an additional -- an assessment of memorials and
24 markers that are placed throughout the City, some
25 of them not necessarily -- most of them probably

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2 not placed with City money because they may have
3 come from a veterans' organization or some other
4 private, nonprofit organization for a specific
5 purpose.

6 Those are the ones don't have the
7 inventory of, and that's what got delayed into the
8 out-years of the program.

9 I think you'll see it there. There's
10 75 -- you can't tell it from the blue book, you
11 have to look in this. If you look there, you'll
12 see the \$200,000 in the budget year and then the
13 \$75,000, I think, that was for that assessment of
14 memorials and markers that had been deferred to a
15 later year. But the big assessment of the public
16 art that is City-owned and, you know, on public
17 property, that money is funded.

18 I think in the course of doing that
19 study, the people doing it kind of came to
20 understand that we had all these other sort of
21 markers that were out there and memorials and not
22 necessarily originally placed by the City, but
23 that we really ought to know where they are
24 because most of those are on public land. And by
25 default, we're probably responsible for them.

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2 And so that's what's been deferred.

3 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I would hope, Mr.
4 Mullin, that the folks in that Public Art Office
5 know that because of the fact that many people
6 have an interest in these memorials that have been
7 placed on public land. And, you know, we've had
8 this discussion or the impression that this is on
9 the shelf and not going to be addressed.

10 MR. MULLIN: Right. I will talk with
11 Carol there. I was under the impression that she
12 realized that the accelerated schedule that they
13 were originally requesting was put in -- it was --
14 actually, it was around where the initial amount,
15 which, as Barbara mentioned first, was increased.
16 But we basically had to put in the out-years --
17 namely 2000, 2001, and 2002 -- the continuation of
18 those programs. But I'll talk to Carol about
19 that, to make sure she knows.

20 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Do you feel as
21 though that that really should be delayed, knowing
22 that --

23 MR. MULLIN: I voted in City Planning
24 for this allocation here. And I probably would
25 have -- I mean, I've supported my office's and the

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2 Public Art's Office request, but I think that this
3 is a good first and second step, but a third and
4 fourth will still be needed, and we're also trying
5 to see whether or not there's some other potential
6 sources that we can speed up, especially the
7 non-publicly-owned memorials.

8 COUNCILMAN RIZZ0: Thank you, Mr.
9 Mullin. Thank you, Miss Kaplan.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Mr. Mullin, let's
11 go back to page 14, line 66, Port Proceeds Account
12 Transfer, the Economic Stimulus Program.

13 I assume this must be the money that --
14 I seem to recall toward the tail-end of the June
15 session, I believe we had an appropriations bill
16 for upwards of \$30 million for the Economic
17 Stimulus Program.

18 MR. MULLIN: At the end of last fiscal
19 year?

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right toward the
21 end of --

22 MR. MULLIN: Yes, yes.

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And this is that
24 money?

25 MR. MULLIN: No, this is -- this would

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 be monies for FY '99, beginning July 1. These are
3 monies that are currently found in the Port
4 Proceeds Account in the capital -- stored in the
5 -- accounted for in the capital account.

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: All right. Well,
7 what happened to that appropriations bill?

8 MR. KAPLAN: I believe the \$30 million
9 you're referring to are proceeds from the tax lien
10 sale, which were similarly appropriated to the
11 Commerce Department and transferred to the PDIC
12 for the Economic Stimulus Program. The Commerce
13 Director would have to give you a detailed
14 breakout of how those were spent.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, let's talk
16 about that first. So you're saying that the PDIC
17 has upwards of \$30 million in economic stimulus
18 fund proceeds.

19 MR. MULLIN: The Commerce Department,
20 through the appropriation last June, amended -- we
21 amended our stimulus contract with PDIC to add 30
22 million, and that 30 million was broken down at 15
23 million in the business retention and attraction
24 loan pool, \$10 in neighborhood economic
25 development and \$5 million in housing.

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2 And those funds -- I don't know the
3 exact amount that's left now, but those funds had
4 been used, and I can get you the total amount.

5 But overall, the stimulus program has
6 received in the last two and a half, three years,
7 approximately \$65 million.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And is it your
9 testimony that that \$30 million has either already
10 been spent or allocated already?

11 MR. MULLIN: No, definitely not spent.
12 And I don't know the exact proportion, but I would
13 say some proportion and probably on the order of
14 at least half or more in each of those accounts.

15 The total 5 million, for example, in
16 housing has been committed. John Kromer has
17 several projects that extended the earlier
18 stimulus housing programs. And the neighborhood
19 economic development, I would say, is about half
20 committed. And I think the business retention and
21 attraction is about two-thirds or more committed.

22 And by "committed," that means
23 identified for projects through PIDC through the
24 City, and it does not necessarily mean expended.

25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. That, I

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2 guess, takes us back to the initial questions. I
3 think, prior to your arriving here, that
4 Councilwoman Tasco and Councilwoman Krajewski
5 raised questions about dollars being committed to
6 various projects, apparently prior to the
7 respective District Councilmember's knowing that a
8 project is apparently moving along and is
9 attracting or carrying some funding with it.

10 You said you can get us a full
11 accounting of the \$30 million?

12 MR. MULLIN: Yes.

13 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. And why is
14 it that lists get developed and projects get
15 developed for funding prior to virtually any
16 contact with the appropriate Councilmember? Why
17 does that happen?

18 MR. MULLIN: Well, I'd like to -- there
19 are really -- I mean, these are two separate
20 things, I believe.

21 The 30 million in the previous stimulus
22 years, those were when City Council made the
23 appropriation and the Commerce Department made the
24 contract with PDIC.

25 What we did was we gave broad

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2 categories, basically the broad categories that I
3 just mentioned: neighborhood economic
4 development, business retention and attraction,
5 and housing. And the first year we had the
6 Administration and the Mayor's Business Action
7 Team, Services to Businesses, those broad
8 categories.

9 And through the course of the economic
10 development calendar and year, various projects,
11 deals, transactions, retention cases, programs
12 would either be designated, be developed, be
13 thought about, and we'd identify, Well, perhaps we
14 can find some stimulus funding or perhaps we can
15 find some funding from block grant or any of the
16 other sources that we have.

17 So that's how those in the previous
18 years have been developed.

19 In this year, when we're talking about
20 the port proceeds, one of the things that we
21 wanted to try to take a look at was, are there
22 some projects that we know of at whatever level,
23 even if it's just people just talking very -- you
24 know, very, very preliminarily.

25 Right now, are there some projects that

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2 don't seem to fit block grant, for example. They
3 aren't in areas that are block grant-eligible,
4 don't seem to fit capital because they won't
5 involve our ownership. And they're the types of
6 projects that we might -- if they came up, we
7 might say, Well, let's take a look at stimulus
8 funding as a possibility.

9 All we were doing in this particular
10 case was saying, Here are some things that we know
11 are out there, as we sort of culled around
12 internally who's working on what or who knows
13 something there. We said, How many of these
14 programs or how many of these projects are there
15 that we might want to look at and propose in
16 advanced as opposed to ex post?

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, let me ask
18 you this question. I mean, has the thought ever
19 occurred to anyone that prior to or in conjunction
20 with all this thinking and ruminating about
21 various ideas and projects, that you might
22 actually want to go and talk to the people who
23 represent specific areas of the City and see what
24 their concerns are or needs are or where they
25 might have a project that's having potential

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 funding problems or that's having trouble getting
3 off the ground? Did that ever --

4 MR. MULLIN: Absolutely.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Absolutely thought
6 about it or --

7 MR. MULLIN: Yes.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Or absolutely,
9 you'd like to do it?

10 MR. MULLIN: Yes, absolutely. Both
11 thought about it -- and part of what I think I had
12 definitely expected and I think what we were
13 estimating was during the course of the budgetary
14 deliberations, we would talk about these projects
15 or these types of projects here as part of the
16 discussion about the port proceeds and the
17 allocation.

18 The two that are specified, that
19 Barbara has already mentioned, the two that are
20 specified from this source of funds that are
21 actually in the capital budget are the Food
22 Distribution Center and the Avenue of the Arts
23 North Streetscape match.

24 But those are the only ones that are
25 identified in the capital budget as specific

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 projects that we would ask that ultimately through
3 this, we would ask for actual appropriation.
4 Everything else would be, Here are some potential
5 projects.

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, then I may
7 have missed a part of that testimony. Are you
8 saying that those two projects are coming out the
9 of the 38 --

10 MR. MULLIN: No.

11 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: -- 750? Or they're
12 totally separate allocations?

13 MR. MULLIN: They're coming from the
14 same port proceeds pot, but that 3 million's being
15 taken off of the top.

16 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What's the Business
17 Development Program, \$10,850,000?

18 MR. MULLIN: That's the Business
19 Retention and Attraction Loan Program. That's
20 basically the lending program that we have that
21 augments the --

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So now it has its
23 own separate allocation of funds. What do you
24 plan to use the \$27,900,000 of the Economic
25 Stimulus Program on?

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2 MR. MULLIN: The 27 million, that is --
3 that's the preliminary list of, say, about 15 or
4 16 possible uses that include the housing project
5 that we were discussing here earlier.

6 Again, but those are not set in stone.
7 It's sort of, Here are some things that we have
8 been working on. I mentioned two. We've been
9 talking about increasing the amount to Partners
10 for Progress, some potential funds for the reuse
11 of the Sovereign Oil site that has already been
12 discussed here in Council.

13 We've been talking about increasing the
14 -- one example of a project that we're looking at
15 would be in commercial corridors, looking at
16 developing some type of program with less fettered
17 funds, that would allow us to help the development
18 of parking.

19 As you know, in some of the cases in
20 your district, if we don't own the land, just
21 virtually every one of our sources of funding
22 doesn't allow us to do something that in some
23 commercial districts is just about the life blood,
24 and that is to help provide parking.

25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So are there less

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 restrictions on these dollars than there have been
3 in previous economic stimulus fund dollars?

4 MR. MULLIN: No, I don't think -- I
5 don't say "less" than those. These would be the
6 same as the stimulus dollars in the sense that
7 they have less restrictions than the block grant
8 primarily on what area you can use or the capital
9 funds.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, where did
11 these dollars exactly come from? I mean, why do
12 we have this money?

13 MR. MULLIN: I do recall something from
14 my days as Finance Director, but that's a little
15 bit rusty, and if I could ask Dean Kaplan to
16 identify that.

17 MR. KAPLAN: The funds are called the
18 port proceeds because they were generated -- they
19 came to the City --

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I see that on the
21 paper.

22 MR. KAPLAN: Yes, right, because they
23 came to the City in approximately 1989, '90, when
24 the City's port facilities were sold to PURPA.
25 And the City received in return for that, \$41.75

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 million. And that money has moved around several
3 times until the accountants were happy with where
4 it was. It ended up, about 1991, in the capital
5 account, and there it has been.

6 So these are one-time funds we have
7 received in return for consideration of the City's
8 port facilities, which are now owned and
9 administered by the State.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Mr. Kaplan, is it
11 your testimony that we've had this some \$38
12 million since 1991?

13 MR. KAPLAN: Almost \$42 million, yes.

14 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And we're just
15 getting around to trying to do something with it?

16 MR. KAPLAN: I'm sorry. Actually, the
17 Commerce Director has reminded me from his days as
18 Finance Director that there were actually some
19 additional proceeds which were spent at the time
20 of the transaction in the early '90s, and I don't
21 know specifically what those expenditures were
22 for, various economic development --

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, where was
24 this money last year? Or the year before?

25 MR. KAPLAN: It's been in the City's

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002

2 capital account?

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And there were
4 never any plans for it?

5 MR. KAPLAN: I think that there was
6 always the intent that at a time when there were
7 sufficient economic development projects that
8 could use this funding, that it would be used for
9 that purpose.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Wrong answer, Mr.
11 Kaplan. Because just about every year I've been
12 here, there has been a need for capital dollars,
13 and many projects have gone by the wayside because
14 I was told that there was no money for them.

15 So I don't know how someone now, seven,
16 eight years later, makes a decision that all of a
17 sudden, there is now sufficient need for dollars
18 or there are enough projects that need funding
19 that we're going to roll out \$38 million. That's
20 a little perplexing to me.

21 I guess I should have never been told
22 that there was not enough money, yet somewhere,
23 there was \$38 million sitting around, waiting to
24 be used. There's a conflict in that statement.

25 MR. KAPLAN: Well, I think that -- my

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2 understanding of the historical idea about these
3 dollars is that since this is one-time money, that
4 it would tend to be used for things which were
5 one-time opportunities, and the Economic Stimulus
6 Program is a --

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, everything in
8 the capital -- most things in the capital budget
9 are one-time.

10 I mean, you know, I don't think we plan
11 every other day to put a new roof on the place or
12 fund a project at a certain level. I assume that
13 we're not going to build a couple of regional
14 performing arts centers. I mean, most things are
15 one-time, right?

16 MR. KAPLAN: I think most of the things
17 in the capital budget are actually recurring in
18 some way; although the cycle, in some cases, is
19 quite long.

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right. I mean,
21 most things you have in here -- I mean, on this
22 line item, you've got useful life for both of
23 these lines 25 years. I mean, that's kind of not
24 every now and then.

25 MR. KAPLAN: I think, though, that in

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002

2 the case of the Economic Stimulus Program, you
3 were talking about specifically one-time
4 opportunities, you know, to leverage other funds.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay, I understand.
6 But it's your testimony that we've had this money
7 since '91 sitting in various accounts, and this
8 year, we've decided to roll it out in this
9 fashion.

10 MR. KAPLAN: Yes.

11 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: That's your
12 testimony?

13 MR. KAPLAN: Yes.

14 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay.

15 MR. MULLIN: I might add one thing,
16 Councilman Nutter.

17 In the first year of the Economic
18 Stimulus Plan, we did identify port proceeds, \$30
19 million, for a local source of stimulus funds. As
20 it turns out, we didn't make any of the transfers
21 that are contemplated this year.

22 In fact, we ended up taking money from,
23 I guess, fund balance and the general fund for the
24 first year's appropriation to the Commerce
25 Department for the initial stimulus program.

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2 But back in those days, we had also
3 taken a look to see whether or not -- or
4 identified the port proceeds as non-capital
5 dollars being, I'll use the term, "parked" in the
6 capital accounts.

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, then what I'm
8 going to ask you is to make a commitment here,
9 this morning, that prior to any expenditure of the
10 \$38,750,000 that's listed in this line item, that
11 you meet with each and every Member of City
12 Council to talk about projects that they have in
13 their respective areas, to see where there is some
14 additional funding support that may be needed and
15 in many instances where they have been told that
16 there was no money available for those projects.

17 You obviously now have money. You
18 have, by your own testimony, no specific projects
19 to use them for, other than a created list by some
20 other people, none of whom sit on this side of the
21 railing.

22 So I'd like to know that the dollars
23 are there, they've not been allocated, they've not
24 been spent, and that Members of Council have an
25 opportunity to see what their needs are and that

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2 we now know that there is now funding available.

3 Can you make that commitment?

4 MR. MULLIN: I can make the commitment
5 to -- to go over all of these lists.

6 And I'd even add one thing further. At
7 that time, we can go over the details of what has
8 been spent on the stimulus program to date. We've
9 given some information to Councilmembers there,
10 but we can continue to update that.

11 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I would appreciate
12 that, if you could do that through the Chair.
13 Thank you.

14 PRESIDENT STREET: Is there any other
15 Member that has a question?

16 (No further questions from Council at
17 this time.)

18 PRESIDENT STREET: If not, this
19 Committee stands in recess until 2 o'clock, until
20 2 o'clock.

21 (Lunch break taken at 12:45 p.m.)

22 (Hearing resumes at 2:38 p.m.)

23 PRESIDENT STREET: Good afternoon,
24 ladies and gentlemen. This a recessed hearing of
25 the Council Committee of the Whole.

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2 And, hopefully, as I give an
3 explanation as to what is going on in Council
4 chamber today, Councilmembers who are now in their
5 offices will hear me speaking and know that we are
6 about to proceed with our public hearing.

7 We are taking testimony today on
8 Ordinance Number 980001 and Bill No. 980002.
9 These ordinances provide for the adoption of a
10 capital program for six fiscal years and for the
11 adoption of a Fiscal '99 capital budget. So what
12 we are talking about today is the City's capital
13 budget and capital program.

14 And most of you are probably aware of
15 the fact that the capital budget and program are
16 the two documents which really set forth the
17 City's long-term spending program for its capital
18 needs. So those are the two things that are
19 before us.

20 I have in front of me a list of a
21 number of different -- I guess about 15 people,
22 who have signed up to testify. If there are those
23 here who would like to testify, I would ask you to
24 give your name to one of our staff members, and we
25 will certainly be more than willing to have you

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2 testify today.

3 If Councilmembers are in their offices
4 and if you can hear us, I would appreciate it if
5 you would come to the Council chamber. We're
6 asking all Councilmembers to come to the Council
7 chamber.

8 I do know that Councilwoman Verna has
9 an emergency and will be unable to be with us this
10 afternoon because she has a matter that she
11 absolutely has to take care of. I spoke with her
12 just a minute ago.

13 Our first witness, by the way, will be
14 Terry Gillem, Friends of the Free Library.

15 (Terry Gillem comes forward.)

16 PRESIDENT STREET: Can I see the hands
17 of all the people who are here in support of the
18 libraries?

19 Oh, so we have a library crew here
20 today. All right.

21 Actually, I'm looking on my list, and I
22 see a number of people here. As a matter of fact,
23 the first seven people are here in support of the
24 libraries.

25 Miss Gillem, would you like to identify

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2 yourself for the record, and proceed with your
3 statement.

4 MS. GILLEM: Sure. My name is Terry
5 Gillem. And I'm a member of the Board of the
6 Friends of the Free Library. My testimony today
7 is, in short, that the capital budget proposal for
8 library renovations is not adequate.

9 Specifically, the Board of the Friends
10 of the Free Library is concerned that the funding
11 proposed in the capital budget is \$900,000 less
12 than the amount that is needed to renovate the
13 nine branches that have been scheduled for the
14 next year. And as a result, three branches will
15 have to be postponed to the following year. And
16 Janet Elfring, who's with me from the Friends, can
17 talk about which three branches have been targeted
18 for that delay.

19 As Members of Council know, the
20 renovation of all the branches of the library
21 system is one of the great success stories in
22 Philadelphia today. Mayor Rendell and City
23 Council have pledged \$5 million a year in capital
24 dollars so that every library in every
25 neighborhood can be renovated by the year 2000.

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2 In response, the Library has raised
3 over \$30 million from foundations, individuals,
4 and other private sources, to supplement the
5 public dollars for this project. In addition,
6 grass-roots efforts across the City are raising an
7 additional \$20,000 per branch to contribute to the
8 renovation campaign. And those efforts are being
9 matched by the Pew Charitable Trust.

10 All of these private efforts are based
11 upon the City's commitment to contribute \$5
12 million per year to the project. This means that
13 each public dollar is leveraging approximately
14 \$1.25 in private dollars for library renovations.
15 This is a remarkable ratio.

16 It is safe to say that virtually no
17 other City capital dollars for public projects are
18 being leveraged quite as effectively as library
19 renovation funds, which makes the budget all the
20 more perplexing.

21 Why would the City want to cut money
22 from an effort that is successfully leveraging
23 private monies, helping neighborhoods, and
24 building grass-roots support across the City? We
25 cannot understand it, and that is why we are here

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2 today.

3 We understand that the City has many
4 competing needs for its funds; however, this
5 project meets every criteria for smart and
6 responsible government funding. It strengthens
7 neighborhoods, it improves the quality of life for
8 taxpayers at all levels of income, it benefits the
9 education system, and it leverages significant
10 private dollars. I cannot think of another
11 capital project that meets the needs of so many
12 people.

13 The Friends of the Free Library urge
14 Members of City Council to add \$900,000 to the
15 capital budget for library renovations.

16 I would be pleased to answer any
17 questions that you have.

18 PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you very much.
19 Miss Gillem, I have to tell you, we have heard
20 this before. And I have -- I mean, I can say that
21 I have absolutely no intentions of supporting a
22 capital budgeting program that doesn't contain the
23 \$900,000.

24 And based on the testimony that we
25 heard earlier --

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2 (Applause.)

3 PRESIDENT STREET: Based on the
4 testimony that we heard earlier, it seems to me
5 that we shouldn't have a lot of difficulty finding
6 the wherewithal to increase the Library's capital
7 limited budget funding by \$900,000.

8 And I will tell you, you know -- and I
9 guess you're probably going to find that this
10 Council is about as sympathetic to the Library as
11 anything that we do. The Library, in our
12 judgment, is critical to the future of the City,
13 it's critical to the neighborhoods, and we have to
14 find a way to support the Library.

15 And this really is a nominal amount of
16 money, given the overall spending program that we
17 have. And you know, I just think we ought to be
18 able to find a way to do it.

19 MS. GILLEM: That's great, thank you.

20 PRESIDENT STREET: I think we ought to
21 be able to find a way to do it.

22 And if there are other Councilmembers
23 who have a comment that you would like to make at
24 this time, the Chair is open to -- okay,
25 Councilman Nutter.

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2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Mr.

3 President.

4 And I think that that kind of statement
5 and kind of commitment is what all of us were
6 leaning to in the questioning this morning of the
7 City Administration.

8 I think that with members of the public
9 in the audience -- and I believe that there were
10 members of the Administration who were asked to be
11 at the public hearing this afternoon with members
12 of the public -- I would venture to ask, can we
13 just get this completed this afternoon as we sit
14 here now and get the commitment from the
15 Administration?

16 Let's just do it now and get it over
17 with, and then the people here who took the time
18 to come would know that their efforts resulted in
19 something and that there really is nothing to
20 worry about anymore.

21 Is Mr. Kaplan or the Chief of Staff or
22 the Finance Director or someone from the City
23 Administration here, or Elliot? I mean, somebody
24 just needs to say yes, and we need to end the
25 discussion.

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2 (Mr. Kaplan steps forward.)

3 PRESIDENT STREET: Well, I see we have
4 one volunteer.

5 MR. KAPLAN: I'm Dean Kaplan, the
6 Budget Director. And in addition to getting the
7 trick questions -- that's the other role I play.

8 I think that our answer from this
9 morning stands. I think that we have said that we
10 would sit down with the Library, look at the
11 current spending schedule, look at the original
12 five-year plan for funding, and determine what the
13 schedule is for completing all the branches in the
14 five years that we had talked about.

15 I don't -- I cannot make a commitment
16 with you today without talking to the Mayor about
17 it.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, these
19 projects are ready to go; is that right, Mr.
20 Kaplan?

21 MR. KAPLAN: Are all the projects ready
22 to go?

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Yes.

24 MR. KAPLAN: I don't know whether
25 everyone is ready to go. There is a schedule

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2 which the Library has put together with their
3 consultant for doing certain branches in certain
4 years, yes.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, let me ask
6 you something.

7 MR. KAPLAN: We could probably fund
8 more next year if you would like.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I'm sorry?

10 MR. KAPLAN: We could fund more next
11 year. In other words, we could fund them all in
12 four years, we could fund them all in six years.

13 I mean, if you're asking would those
14 projects be able to --

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: We're not asking
16 you to change the schedule. You have a schedule,
17 the schedule seems to be agreed to. Now we're
18 just having a money discussion.

19 Now, you were at the table earlier this
20 morning when we had the discussion about, for
21 instance, the Regional Performing Arts Center.
22 Now, are you going to sit at that table and tell
23 us that the library project is less ready to go
24 than the Regional Performing Arts Center, which
25 has a 40 to 50 million dollar budget gap?

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2 MR. KAPLAN: No, I'm not.

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Is that the
4 argument?

5 MR. KAPLAN: That's not the argument.

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So are you saying
7 that in a \$127 million capital budget, we can't
8 figure out a way to do \$900,000 for the libraries
9 that are ready to go, have programs, have projects
10 all scheduled to go? And then in lieu of that,
11 you'd rather come and tell us that, Well, three
12 won't get done this year, and another two won't
13 get done the next year, and some others won't get
14 done the following year?

15 I mean, who are you going to tell that
16 to? And are any of the eight libraries in my
17 Councilmatic District on the list for this year?

18 MR. KAPLAN: I don't know that. I
19 don't know the projects for this year or next year
20 by district. I can get that for you.

21 The answer is I wouldn't disagree with
22 anything you've said, but I think that that's a
23 conversation that I need to have with the Mayor
24 before I can answer your question in the
25 affirmative.

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2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Is the Mayor in
3 town today?

4 MR. KAPLAN: I don't know.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, why don't we
6 try to do this. We expect to be here for a little
7 while. I mean, we really should solve this. I
8 mean, it's really ludicrous. It's \$900,000.

9 There are 50-some libraries in this
10 City. No one is disputing the value in what we
11 get out of this, and there are many other projects
12 in this document that have some serious questions
13 on them.

14 Why don't you try to get this resolved
15 this afternoon. Many of these people are going to
16 be here for a while. So you could do yourself, I
17 think, a whole lot of good and do these folks a
18 lot of good if we just get an answer to this
19 particular question.

20 MR. KAPLAN: I'd be glad to.

21 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Because you know --
22 I mean, we're going to be here for like a month
23 and a half. You know where this is going to go,
24 and you know how it's going to end up in the final
25 analysis. I don't know why you want to put

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2 yourself through this.

3 This is only the second day of budget
4 hearings. And I haven't even read all the stuff
5 yet. So, I mean, we could really have a good time
6 with us. Try to get an answer this afternoon
7 before the hearing is over.

8 MR. KAPLAN: I'd be glad to do that.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay, thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair recognizes
12 Councilman Mariano.

13 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Can I have Mr.
14 Kaplan back regarding the Library?

15 PRESIDENT STREET: Mr. Kaplan.

16 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Could you stay
17 here about the Library?

18 I wholeheartedly agree with Councilman
19 Nutter, but I know that one of these libraries is
20 the one right near my house, Bushrod Library. And
21 I need to read a lot, so tell the Mayor that this
22 is one that has to be done this year. And I'm
23 sure Councilman Nutter feels that way about Fox
24 Chase and all the other ones.

25 MR. KAPLAN: I didn't bring the list

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2 with me, but I believe in the budget detail you
3 received, there's a list of the proposed projects
4 for '99, and there may be a list for the prior
5 year, but we can get that to you.

6 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Yeah. I know
7 you're the guy here that jumps on the sword, but
8 when you do talk to the Mayor, tell him that we're
9 pretty united on this. The libraries have to be
10 done.

11 MR. KAPLAN: I think we've heard you.

12 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: They have to be
13 done.

14 MR. KAPLAN: I think we've heard you.

15 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Okay, thanks.

16 PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair recognizes
17 Councilmember Rizzo.

18 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Mr. Kaplan, also,
19 you can let the Mayor know that a member of the
20 Minority Party also shares this concern, and we'd
21 like to see this addressed and resolved as quickly
22 as possible many.

23 MR. KAPLAN: Okay, thanks.

24 PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair recognizes
25 Councilwoman Miller.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Hi. And, you
3 know, Chestnut Hill Library is in my district, so
4 I appreciate the same sentiment as my colleagues,
5 that this is an important project. I mean, it's
6 one of the few institutions that services both
7 children and families. So we'd like to see this
8 happen as quick as possible.

9 MR. KAPLAN: Well, I think,
10 Councilwoman, you know, as my Councilwoman, that
11 that's my local library. And I believe it's on
12 the last year of the program, so I am particularly
13 sensitive to that. Thank you.

14 PRESIDENT STREET: Janet Elfring.

15 MS. ELFRING: I'm Janet Elfring, and
16 I'm the Executive Director of the Friends of the
17 Free Library.

18 And I really just wanted to back up the
19 testimony of Terry Gillem, with some of the
20 details and primarily confirming the
21 Councilpeople's statements that the three
22 libraries that will be postponed without the
23 \$900,000 are Bushrod, Chestnut Hill, and Fox
24 Chase, and we do have members from both Bushrod
25 and Chestnut Hill here who are willing to talk.

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2 Nancy Quigley, from Fox Chase, was
3 going to be here but she couldn't make it and she
4 will send in her testimony.

5 Branch Friends groups all over the City
6 have been raising money for their branches, with
7 the expectation that the public part of the money
8 would be there to support the private part that
9 they're raising. They have an expectation of when
10 their library will close, they've planned for it,
11 and they are waiting for the computer technology
12 for their children.

13 And one of our concerns is that if
14 three branches are put off this year, either that
15 bumps some more forward, or else next year, we
16 would have to have 13 branches closed at the same
17 time, and that impacts on the whole City.

18 So the Friends, as a whole, are really
19 concerned about the overall schedule and the
20 impact on the whole City and the service impact.

21 PRESIDENT STREET: You should tell them
22 to keep writing letters and do all the stuff that
23 they always do, but they have received some hope
24 today.

25 MS. ELFRING: We'll tell them how

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2 strong the Council support is. Our Friends are
3 well aware that Councilpeople are very close to
4 the Library.

5 PRESIDENT STREET: You have a lot of
6 support.

7 MS. ELFRING: Thank you very much, Mr.
8 President.

9 PRESIDENT STREET: Betty Davis, Friends
10 of Chestnut Hill Branch.

11 MS. DAVIS: Yes, sir, Mr. President, I
12 have been going to that library for 70 of my 77
13 years now, and I have a great feeling for the
14 library, believe me.

15 PRESIDENT STREET: You have been going
16 to that library for how many years?

17 MS. DAVIS: 70.

18 PRESIDENT STREET: 70 years?

19 MS. DAVIS: Yeah, mm-hmm.

20 PRESIDENT STREET: Oh, I don't believe
21 it.

22 MS. DAVIS: Yeah, ever since I was able
23 to walk.

24 PRESIDENT STREET: That's unbelievable.

25 MS. DAVIS: I had to walk just about a

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2 mile and a half up to the library, up the hill and
3 then down the hill.

4 PRESIDENT STREET: See, folks, this is
5 what I'm working toward.

6 (Laughter.)

7 PRESIDENT STREET: I want you to see
8 right here, this is what I'm working towards.
9 This is the reason why when you come in my office,
10 you see fruit. That's right.

11 I wish to be able to, at age 70, walk
12 in here, sit at the table and say, Give money to
13 the Library and mean it and be in great, great
14 health and in great shape and look as good as Miss
15 Davis looks. That's what I'm working toward.

16 MS. DAVIS: You will, I promise you.

17 I'm the Chairman of the Garden
18 Committee, and I work out on the grounds. And
19 many is the time that I've gone up there to the
20 library and I've looked up to the corner of the
21 roof, and I see the water just pouring down on the
22 outside of the building, eroding the stone and the
23 stucco. And we need a new roof.

24 And we have one of those old Carnegie
25 buildings. And somehow or another, the architect

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2 slipped a little bit there and he did something
3 about gutters which are inside of the building,
4 and the water goes down to the basement. They
5 fill up with debris and --

6 PRESIDENT STREET: Is that repair
7 covered in the \$900,000?

8 MS. DAVIS: That's -- uh, I don't know
9 about the money on that, but it is something that
10 we've been pleading for.

11 PRESIDENT STREET: I see Miss Elfring
12 is shaking her head "yes."

13 MS. DAVIS: Okay. But with the new
14 wiring that's needed, we'll also need to have the
15 building repainted in order to keep the window,
16 the panes in place, get all of that sort of thing
17 done.

18 So I plead with you.

19 PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you very much.

20 MS. DAVIS: Thank you for your support.

21 PRESIDENT STREET: I appreciate your
22 coming.

23 MS. DAVIS: My pleasure.

24 PRESIDENT STREET: Ben Lovett. As a
25 matter of fact, there are several people from

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002

2 Bushrod: Anso Thomas and Alex Petkov. Can all
3 the Bushrod people, you want to come out
4 together?

5 (Ben Lovett and Anso Thomas, Bushrod
6 Library, come forward.)

7 MR. LOVETT: Good afternoon,
8 Councilmembers. My name is Ben Lovett, and I'm
9 President of the Friends of Bushrod.

10 This is Alex Petkov, he's the past
11 Co-President. Anso Thomas is an officer of the
12 Friends of Bushrod.

13 In addition to being in the Friends of
14 Bushrod, Anso and I are tag team assistants for
15 the Free Library Foundation. Every day we go to
16 work and see children on technology. We don't
17 have adequate resources.

18 I don't want to keep repeating what
19 everyone has said. Bushrod is in, you know, bad
20 structural condition. We also have very bad
21 leaks. Last summer, there was a real problem when
22 they started to look on the computers. We
23 actually had to appoint staff to change paper
24 towels on the air-conditioning unit.

25 We are one of the branches that has

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 been deselected from the list. We need this done
3 as soon as possible, the renovations.

4 We have computer clubs every Saturday,
5 and it's sort of embarrassing when we talk about
6 new technology and we can't show it to them. We
7 see kids every day who come directly from school,
8 and you can't really say to them, Go up to Welsh
9 Road or Frankford, they're renovated and we're
10 not.

11 I know now that we have a lot of
12 support, and I'll be happy to tell that to our
13 Branch Head and everyone there.

14 I don't know if you want to say
15 something else, Anso.

16 MR. THOMAS: Yeah. I just want to
17 mention that this is not the first time that we
18 have --

19 PRESIDENT STREET: Please identify
20 yourself for the record.

21 MR. THOMAS: Yeah, my name is Anso
22 Thomas, and I'm also an officer of the Bushrod
23 Branch.

24 I just want to mention that this is not
25 the first time Bushrod has had to protest

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2 injustices here. Back in 1993, newly-elected
3 Mayor Ed Rendell proposed a \$2 million cut to the
4 Free Library. And, you know, Bushrod's hours
5 would have been halved if we didn't fight for it.
6 So I just want to mention that.

7 And this is really important that we
8 get this budget through. I mean, Bushrod has been
9 through a lot, and we deserve every benefit and
10 ounce of that money, 'cause, you know, we have
11 been doing a lot.

12 And I hope that your support will go
13 through. And I thank you for that, actually.

14 MR. LOVETT: I just wanted to mention
15 that we're almost at our total goal for our
16 grass-roots program, which requires branches to
17 raise their own funds. We have had innumerable
18 fund-raisers, from book and bake sales, flea
19 markets, to the Adopt-a-Shelf Program where people
20 adopt a shelf.

21 We've raised all of our money, and we
22 sort of feel as though the City is trying to back
23 out on their part.

24 (Alex Petkov, Bushrod Library, comes
25 forward.)

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2 MR. PETKOV: I'm going to repeat a few
3 of the things, but I wish you would bear with me.

4 You know, in ordinary times, there are
5 13,000 patrons a month that use the Bushrod
6 Library, but these are not ordinary times. The
7 Northeast Regional Library is being renovated, and
8 these patrons are utilizing our facilities so that
9 we have now about 25,0000 patrons a month using
10 the Bushrod Library.

11 Our neighborhood is changing. We still
12 have many senior citizens who use the library
13 extensively. However, younger families with
14 children of all ages are moving into the area
15 because of the affordable real estate. It would
16 do your hearts good to see all the younger
17 children upstairs in the children's library, ably
18 assisted by a wonderful children's librarian and a
19 high school technical team who assist.

20 Downstairs after school, the library is
21 teeming with teenagers constantly calling on the
22 head librarian and the staff for information and
23 help.

24 Bushrod serves many schools: Carnell,
25 Fels, Northeast, Central, both public and many

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 parochial schools. Are the Bushrod children to be
3 denied moving into the 21st century and to be
4 deprived of the technology of the future? Bushrod
5 Library must be renovated.

6 A year ago, my wife and I moved into
7 Center City, but our hearts and minds remain with
8 Bushrod, and we are still members of the Bushrod
9 Friends. My wife was President of the Friends for
10 two and a half years.

11 All of the Friends labored long and
12 hard with Fred Rosenschweib (ph.), the head
13 librarian, to raise for The Big Change, which is
14 the name of the grass-roots drive to raise money
15 for the renovations. Each library branch has a
16 quota. Fred is doing a great job to raise the
17 money for The Big Change, and he will have it by
18 early spring, as Ben mentioned.

19 This money is supposed to be along with
20 matching funds from the Pew Trusts for the
21 renovation of all the City's libraries. Why
22 should Bushrod Library be left out? And we are
23 just as important as any other library in the
24 City.

25 Approximately five years ago, a

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 previous City Council, because of grass-roots
3 support, wisely restored the money that was cut
4 from the budget. That cut would have forced some
5 of the branch libraries to be open only 20 hours a
6 week. By their confidence in the libraries, they
7 showed that the Philadelphia libraries are an
8 integral and important part of our education and
9 cultural system.

10 Bushrod needs your help again. Please
11 don't disappoint us, don't let us down. Think of
12 the restoration of the funds not as extra
13 spending, but as an investment in the future of
14 our children and this City.

15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you very much.

18 MR. PETKOV: And, incidentally, Mr.
19 President, I just want to mention that Ben Lovett
20 here is the President of Friends of Bushrod. He
21 is a senior at Central High School.

22 And this is an example of what can come
23 out of working with the children, helping the
24 children. Thank you.

25 PRESIDENT STREET: If Ben is a senior

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002

2 at Central, he might actually know my son.

3 MR. LOVETT: I have an English class
4 with your son.

5 PRESIDENT STREET: All right. He's a
6 senior and he has an English class with my son,
7 who does very well in English. Thank you very
8 much.

9 MR. LOVETT: Thank you.

10 PRESIDENT STREET: It's very refreshing
11 to see a young man who's still in high school,
12 who's president of a Friends Organization branch
13 of the library. That is really, really
14 refreshing. What it does is, it signals long-term
15 support for the libraries, and we appreciate that
16 very much, and somebody is doing a good job out
17 there.

18 MR. PETKOV: That's what they ought to
19 put on the television.

20 PRESIDENT STREET: Yeah, somebody is
21 doing a good job.

22 Did I understand that Miss Quigley is
23 not going to be here?

24 MS. ELFRING: She couldn't make it,
25 that's right.

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2 PRESIDENT STREET: Okay, but we will
3 note for this record that Nancy Quigley of the Fox
4 Chase Library was scheduled to come but couldn't
5 come, but if she had been able -- if she had to
6 been here, I'm sure she would have been an
7 enthusiastic supporter of the restoration of the
8 \$900,000 so that the Fox Chase Branch Library's
9 renovations would not have to be delayed.

10 You can tell her that if she likes, she
11 can send in her statement, and we will make it a
12 part of this record. But, obviously, we
13 appreciate her sentiments.

14 Jay Roberts. Is Jay Roberts here?

15 (No response.)

16 MR. PRESIDENT: Peggy Fairchild?

17 (Peggy Fairchild, Northeast Older
18 Adults Center, comes forward.)

19 PRESIDENT STREET: All right, our
20 favorite people.

21 MS. FAIRCHILD: We hope everybody
22 continues to feel that way, Mr. President. I'm
23 talking not only to you but to all the Members of
24 City Council, even those who are in their offices
25 and watching on closed-circuit television.

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2 We want you to know that we are so
3 grateful that there is a request in the capital
4 budget for the construction of a new building for
5 the Northeast Older Adults Center, and we want to
6 thank everybody who helped in this effort. And we
7 urge all of you to support this request.

8 For those of you who may not be too
9 familiar with the situation, the present center is
10 located at 7522-28 Castor Avenue in a strip
11 shopping center. The facility was formed by
12 combining four stores into one building.

13 This is a two-level building,
14 street-level and basement. The basement has no
15 windows and no outside doors. With the limited
16 physical capabilities of older adults and the
17 disabled, it is difficult for us to use the
18 basement facilities. And can you imagine what
19 would happen in the case of an emergency.

20 There are five older-adult centers
21 operated by the Department of Recreation. Our
22 center is the only one that does not have a
23 separate dining room. This means that tables and
24 chairs must be set up every day for lunch. And
25 then in order to make room for afternoon

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2 activities, take them down again and put them
3 away. The members help with this work, and that's
4 not an easy job for older adults.

5 From the day our center was opened, it
6 was realized that it was woefully inadequate for
7 the population that it serves. We have hundreds
8 of members in their 60's, 70's, 80's, and 90's, as
9 well as the disabled, who regularly attend our
10 center. Many have developed physically,
11 emotionally, and intellectually by the close
12 friendships which they have formed with each
13 other.

14 By keeping older Philadelphians
15 mentally alert and physically active, our
16 well-being keeps us from becoming a burden on the
17 City's resources and the citizens at large.

18 As you know, demographic information
19 shows that an extremely large number of elderly
20 live in the Northeast, and a number of these
21 people are using our facilities. They keep
22 growing. Despite the adverse conditions, our
23 limited staff, and our vast number of volunteers
24 have diligently provided services.

25 Our present center on Castor Avenue is

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2 owned by the City. When we are relocated, this
3 building can be sold, and the proceeds used to
4 offset the cost of a new building. Also, there's
5 no need to be concerned about the operating costs
6 for the new building. Our staff and related
7 expenses will just be transferred.

8 During the public hearings on the
9 capital budget on February 5, 1997, we were
10 assured that we would have input concerning any
11 and all plans that were made for our center. We
12 are submitting for the record, and we hope it will
13 be entered into the record, a report that was
14 issued by the National Institute of Senior
15 Citizens, a membership unit of the National
16 Council on Aging Incorporated, in Washington D.C.

17 Though this report was issued back in
18 1986, the ideas expressed or still pertinent.
19 These guidelines reiterate the importance for
20 consultation with those who will use the
21 building. The design should accommodate the
22 activities and fulfill the needs of the people.

23 The design of the building is not our
24 only consideration. Geographical location is also
25 important. It must be convenient to public

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2 transportation since most of our members do not
3 drive. Because of the diminishing physical
4 condition of many of us, the walk from the bus to
5 the building cannot be very far or uphill.

6 And I just want to add one thing. I
7 have been on the Board of Directors of the
8 Philadelphia Corporation for Aging for several
9 years now. Presently, I am an officer. I also
10 chair a committee that is planning on the
11 improvement of community-based programs.

12 I am not at this point speaking for
13 PCA; I'm here speaking for the Northeast Older
14 Adults Center. I only bring this up to show you
15 that from my experience, I know what is good for
16 older people.

17 Our next speaker is Sam Luciano, who
18 will talk to you about something that will not be
19 good for the older people.

20 Thank you. Are there any questions?

21 PRESIDENT STREET: How much money is in
22 the capital program for the Northeast Older Adults
23 Center?

24 MS. FAIRCHILD: I think it's 1.6
25 million, which is just for the construction. I

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 think that also in the budget under the Recreation
3 Department was listed an additional money for
4 design and engineering, but it was not broken
5 down. I mean, there's a total amount, but it's
6 not broken down into how much is going for each
7 segment.

8 PRESIDENT STREET: Miss Kaplan? Is
9 Miss Barbara Kaplan here? Can I ask you to come
10 to the table, please, and explain to us what is
11 going on in the program with the Northeast Senior
12 Citizens Center.

13 (Ms. Kaplan comes forward.)

14 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Is that in the
15 orange book or blue book?

16 PRESIDENT STREET: The orange book, on
17 page 55, line 119, in the Recreation Department
18 Play Facilities.

19 MS. KAPLAN: I'm Barbara Kaplan.

20 PRESIDENT STREET: All right. How are
21 you?

22 MR. KAPLAN: Fine. The construction
23 money was placed in the second year of the budget
24 because a decision was made that there's no
25 design, there's not even a decision on a site yet.

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2 So that it was not ready for
3 construction, and I understand that there have
4 been discussions with Councilman Mariano, that he
5 would allocate some money from his Councilmanic
6 funds to provide \$186,000 for the design of this
7 facility.

8 And I've been in communication with
9 Peggy Fairchild, and I had said to her, Don't
10 worry about the exact amount of the construction
11 fund, it's an estimate at this point, and by the
12 time do the capital budget next year, we should
13 have a better sense of exactly the correct -- what
14 the correct number is to budget for the
15 construction.

16 And we placed the project in the
17 Recreation Department because it's the Recreation
18 Department that presently operates the existing
19 facility and that works with this particular group
20 of senior citizens and that would operate the new
21 center. We felt that they should provide the
22 oversight for its construction.

23 PRESIDENT STREET: So the only thing in
24 the budget is an estimate on their construction
25 costs.

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2 MS. KAPLAN: Right.

3 PRESIDENT STREET: For next year's
4 budget.

5 MS. KAPLAN: Mm-hmm.

6 PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair recognizes
7 Councilmember Mariano.

8 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Thank you, Mr.
9 President.

10 Mr. President, about two weeks ago, we
11 had a meeting about this with the Recreation
12 Commissioner and the Mayor's Chief of Staff and
13 Dean Kaplan, and we're pretty close to having it
14 worked out.

15 Because of the political nuances of
16 this deal, we don't really want to talk about
17 locations and different things like that. But the
18 older adults that Peggy knows and the people from
19 the older-adults center, we're on the same page.

20 The money for the design and
21 construction, from what I understand, is going to
22 be coming out of my budget to be put back in from
23 their budget. It will be in the next, in '99, but
24 I think we're going to probably be able to break
25 ground by May of '99. That sounds like a good

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2 month.

3 PRESIDENT STREET: May of '99?

4 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: It sounds like a
5 good month.

6 PRESIDENT STREET: That's not a bad
7 month, April, May. It's a good month.

8 Okay, any other questions?
9 Councilwoman Fernandez.

10 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr.
11 President.

12 I had to be out of the chambers for an
13 issue on child care, but my staff briefed me on
14 this issue then of -- I understand the
15 Administration is not able at this point to make a
16 commitment to make sure that those three are going
17 fully ahead this year.

18 Could you review what is the
19 Administration's --

20 PRESIDENT STREET: Councilwoman, we're
21 past the Library, we're passed that.

22 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: You're past
23 the Library?

24 PRESIDENT STREET: Yeah. We're now on
25 the Northeast Older Adults Center.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay, I'm
3 sorry. Good. Thank you.

4 PRESIDENT STREET: Okay?

5 MS. FAIRCHILD: Thank you.

6 PRESIDENT STREET: All right, thank you
7 very much. It sounds like the District Councilman
8 has it under control.

9 Mr. Luciano?

10 (Sam Luciano, Northeast Older Adults
11 Center, comes forward.)

12 PRESIDENT STREET: Is Ida Shugerman
13 also with the center? Why don't you come up, both
14 of you can come up at the same time.

15 MR. LUCIANO: Good afternoon, President
16 Street, Councilmembers, and ladies and gentlemen.

17 To your surprise, we're not here asking
18 for money anymore; it's been put in the budget.
19 But we have a problem here that I think is very
20 serious as far as our center's concerned.
21 Councilman Richard Mariano sent us a letter
22 proposing to combine a gym in the new building for
23 the Northeast Older Adults Center.

24 We have never been combined with
25 anybody since Day One. I mean, they tried to

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 combine us with the center at Holme Avenue across
3 from Nazareth Hospital with children; we said no.
4 They tried to combine us with Gloria Day, which,
5 thank God, we said no to, because they were going
6 to build 208 units with 500 more seniors and Mr.
7 Schmidt doubled it. They're going to have over a
8 thousand members. We would have needed Convention
9 Hall if we would have okayed that.

10 Children and older adults is like
11 trying to mix oil and water; it just doesn't work.
12 According to the way I was told, we would be down
13 there during the day, and the children would be
14 there at night. That's going to cost you money
15 because you're going to have to staff that place
16 at night.

17 Not only that, we are self-contained.
18 We have a free lunch period in which we donate 50
19 cents a person. We have dances, a senior band, we
20 pay 50 cents. That money builds up. We have
21 painted the building with that money, we clean the
22 windows with that money, we buy new trays, we did
23 the tile floors. We don't ask the City for
24 money. We have cut your experiences done. We
25 have cut your expenses down, I repeat.

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2 And you put the kids in our building at
3 night, there go our pool tables, no doubt about
4 it, there goes everything we own, our audio system
5 and everything else, 'cause kids -- although
6 they're your sons, my sons, your daughters, your
7 daughters -- they're destructive. One way or
8 another. For us, we're too old to have them
9 around us.

10 The building should be built for a
11 senior center, for senior people to get in and
12 out. It's a specially-built building. We don't
13 want gymnasium in there. This is not for us.

14 I commend -- if Mr. Mariano's behind
15 it, I commend him for trying to get a gym for the
16 children, but it should be somewhere else.

17 And I don't know why you need a gym,
18 anyway. You have -- within the ten-block area,
19 you have the Northeast High School, you can use
20 their grounds. You have the Solis-Cohen, you have
21 the Rhawnhurst, you have the Spruance, you have
22 Jardell, Houseman, Lawncrest, Fox Chase.

23 Incidentally, you just out put money in
24 for the Eddie Pollack Building. In fact, Eddie
25 Pollack was my neighbor. I didn't know him

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2 personally, but I live in Park Crest, and so did
3 they. And when I go to church every Sunday, I
4 cross the place where he was murdered, and that's
5 not a nice thing.

6 So if you say kids are not destructive,
7 you have Rhawnhurst, the Rhawnhurst Center, they
8 fight like crazy, they got cops watching them like
9 crazy. Rhawnhurst is at Solly Avenue and
10 Bustleton Avenue. They have broken into the
11 building and caused damage to their own building,
12 and they have the police spot checking all the
13 time.

14 And Rhawnhurst -- if you would put the
15 gym with us, definitely Rhawnhurst would be coming
16 down to our gym. They have a whole city block.

17 You own the ground, you could put
18 building there. Just put a building with a locker
19 room; I don't know how much that would cost, but
20 it certainly wouldn't cost what we need, you know
21 what I mean.

22 So, therefore, this is my plea, we want
23 -- we want -- we request that the Mayor -- and
24 the Mayor is with us a hundred percent. He made a
25 statement when he told Schmidt from Gloria Day

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2 that forget about it, we're not going to join 'em,
3 he turned to somebody in his staff -- now, our
4 people were there and they reported it. He turned
5 to them and said, I don't want this center
6 combined with anything or anybody. Those were the
7 plain words from the Honorable Mayor Rendell. And
8 I take him at his word for it.

9 Now, I thank you people for listening
10 to me, and I hope that you stop this gym going
11 with us 'cause I know our registration is going up
12 and up and up. One day -- I was there last week
13 and five people joined in one day, in one day.
14 That's how good our center is.

15 Three years ago, I didn't know how to
16 play the piano. Two months ago, I played for an
17 hour and a half in a nursing home because their
18 entertainment didn't show up. And I ain't the
19 greatest guy in the world, but this is what the
20 Center taught us. We have people back here, we
21 have piano players like crazy, we have dancers.

22 We use the facility at night. Twice on
23 Friday nights, we have dances. And we have dances
24 on Tuesday afternoon. All this makes money for
25 the Center. We cannot share a building anyway,

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 because on Friday nights, we have the dances in
3 the hot weather. So that people don't die from
4 the heat, they keep the Center open in the very
5 hot weather. And in the emergency situations,
6 they open our Center.

7 So my plea here is now. Everything is
8 fine the way it's written in the budget as it is.
9 And I'm asking you not to change and not to add
10 that gym to our building.

11 PRESIDENT STREET: Okay, thank you.
12 Can we have Miss Ida --

13 MS. SHUGERMAN: Shugerman.

14 PRESIDENT STREET: -- Shugerman. And
15 afterwards, I'd like you both to be available to
16 answer questions.

17 MS. SHUGERMAN: Good afternoon, Council
18 President John Street and all Councilmembers. I
19 have notes in front of me, but I don't want to be
20 repetitious, so I'm just going to highlight some
21 of my feelings, okay?

22 We are a caring group, and we --
23 considering the space that we have, I feel as we
24 are performing miracles. As you know, we already
25 have one large room, and that is our main activity

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2 room, and there is everything that goes on in that
3 room.

4 But I do want to talk about our
5 kitchen. Our kitchen is just not adequate. And
6 we serve the handicapped people first because many
7 of those handicapped people use canes and walkers,
8 and then the other members are served.

9 And we set up about 16 tables and
10 chairs, and each table is numbered, and there's
11 eight people that sit around the tables. We have
12 to get in line and we pick up our trays and we go
13 to our kitchen area to get our food.

14 It's important for all of us to have
15 the proper kind of kitchen. It's also proper for
16 us to have a dining room. It's also important for
17 us to have an auditorium and a stage, and I could
18 go on and on.

19 But I do want to say this: That on
20 December the 23rd, 1997, we had a celebration of
21 over-90-aged seniors. One of them could not
22 attend because -- now, don't laugh -- he had to
23 work. And what was his job? He was a barber.

24 Also down in our basement, we have a
25 poolroom. The men play cards in the hallway. And

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2 when it rains, we have to get out a bucket and a
3 mop to wipe up the water.

4 When I see all of the activities, my
5 heart swells. I don't have to tell you what a
6 song does to your heart. Our Starlighters Choral
7 group is growing by leaps and bounds. They put on
8 shows, and we do like to entertain, and we all
9 have a little bit of ham in us.

10 So I hope that you have a visual
11 picture of what our Center is like. And if you're
12 ever you're at 7225 Castor Avenue, please come and
13 visit us and see what goes on there, because we're
14 like kind of handicapped people. We are very
15 active. And I could go on and on, but I don't
16 want to be boring either, but I think you have a
17 pretty good idea of what our needs are.

18 Every --

19 PRESIDENT STREET: No, I don't want to
20 cut you off, but I think we have a little bit of
21 an idea of what your needs are. I think the City
22 does recognize that a new facility is in order and
23 I think that you obviously have the support of
24 your Councilperson, and you will have the support
25 of this Council.

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2 We appreciate the contributions that
3 you have made to our City and to the neighborhood
4 over these years, and we're going to do everything
5 we can to make sure that, you know, we take care
6 of the problem.

7 We, of course, will be working with the
8 District Councilperson. He has already, of
9 course, has talked to me about this on a number of
10 occasions, and I've made a commitment to work with
11 him, to see that you get what you need out there.

12 MS. SHUGERMAN: I hope that I have the
13 assurance of everybody here that the money will be
14 there for us when we find the proper site, because
15 it is necessary.

16 And I do thank you for listening.

17 PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you very much.

18 MR. LUCIANO: One thing I forgot to
19 say. The new building is a proposed \$1.6
20 million. The building we are in now, in my
21 estimate, is worth about a half a million
22 dollars. It's four stores there worth at least
23 \$120,000 a store, so one third of your money is
24 coming back.

25 PRESIDENT STREET: Mr. Luciano, we

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 don't know -- I understood Miss Kaplan to say that
3 we aren't sure how much it's going to cost because
4 we really don't have a site yet.

5 But I think the commitment is that, you
6 know, within some reasonable bounds -- and we
7 always have to be reasonable, that the facility is
8 going to be replaced -- and it will be a decent
9 facility for you.

10 So I mean, I think it's really hard to
11 know what the actual amount of the money will be.
12 Because until you get a site, you just really
13 can't know.

14 MR. LUCIANO: Well, at this point, a
15 lot of people in our Center's lost faith. I have
16 not lost faith with this City Council, nor with
17 the Honorable Mayor Rendell. I've not lost faith
18 at all.

19 I spoke to Rendell, you know, and I --
20 I've had three courses in human behavior. I can
21 tell by your body language when you're telling me
22 the truth most of the time.

23 PRESIDENT STREET: Okay, thank you very
24 much.

25 The Chair recognizes District

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002

2 Councilman Mariano.

3 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Thank you, Mr.
4 Street.

5 Mr. Luciano, I hope -- I'm sitting
6 right here. I didn't take that course but my body
7 language -- I slouch 'cause I'm small.

8 But, you know, I'd like to thank
9 everybody for coming down. And this is a tedious
10 process, and I'd just like to respond to you.
11 Please keep the faith. And what you need to
12 understand is that we recognize, as a government
13 and the elected individuals, the needs of our
14 seniors.

15 I, for one -- my parents are dead, my
16 grandparents are dead, so I try to listen to my
17 seniors in Juniata and here when I go. And I see
18 the needs.

19 And, you know, you talked a little bit
20 about the Gloria Day site, and that didn't work
21 out for this center, but it was nice of Mr.
22 Schmidt to project that. And there could have a
23 substantial savings of money there for the City.

24 But, as an elected official, I have to
25 listen to all of my constituents, not just my

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2 seniors. I have to listen to the athletic
3 associations, the civic associations, and I pretty
4 much take all of that in context and, you know,
5 then I Mullin it over for a while, and I talk to
6 some of the wiser, older Councilmembers like
7 Councilman Longstreth, Councilman Cohen, and
8 Councilman DiCicco, and I try to figure out
9 exactly what's the best for the neighbors and
10 what's the best for the people.

11 We realize that this site's going to
12 get done. Now -- just let me finish, please.

13 Now, we realize this site's going to
14 get done. But as an elected official who was
15 elected by all the people, I have to listen to all
16 of the proposals. And it wouldn't really be fair
17 for me to cut off everybody and just say I know it
18 needs to be here.

19 So over time, you're going to hear a
20 lot of things and you're going to hear a lot of
21 different proposals for up there.

22 We're trying to do it with the
23 Recreation Department, and I have a commitment
24 from the Mayor to build this site. And there's
25 some money coming out of my budget, and I approved

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2 that, and I have the commitment from the Council
3 President for this project.

4 And just keep in mind that you can't
5 make everybody happy all the time. And I'm
6 willing to try to do that, but there's only
7 certain things as a City Councilman that I can
8 do. And, again, keep the faith, and we'll try to
9 make this the site that you want and the building
10 that you want.

11 Now, I'm not going to go on record
12 saying that it's definitely going to be one thing
13 or it's going to be one place because I don't want
14 you to ever think my body language looks like I'm
15 lying 'cause that wouldn't be proper to lie to
16 somebody.

17 You know, I mean, really, you've been
18 around and you deserve all of these good things
19 because you paid your dues. You've been around,
20 you're probably a hard worker.

21 But just remember, there's a lot of
22 people up there, and they have a lot of concerns.
23 So we have to go through a process, that's all I'm
24 saying, and everyone must be heard.

25 MR. LUCIANO: Well, the thing is, I

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2 have the faith. The only thing I'm worried about
3 is this gymnasium.

4 And as far as this body language
5 business, I've been a boss for years and years and
6 years. I run a maintenance department where we
7 had companies all over the United States, and I
8 went to other plants and supervised the
9 construction of others things, and you have to
10 learn.

11 I hired and fired. And you have to
12 learn when somebody's telling the truth when you
13 hire them, and you have to tell when to fire them,
14 when they're not telling you the truth. You have
15 to know all of this or you have to be good at it
16 or try to be good at it.

17 No, the faith is here 100 percent, 100
18 percent. It's the gym that we do not want. We do
19 not want the recreational gym.

20 PRESIDENT STREET: Mr. Luciano, thank
21 you very much. Thanks, I appreciate it.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. FAIRCHILD: May I ask you one
24 question, Mr. President.

25 PRESIDENT STREET: Yes.

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2 MS. FAIRCHILD: Did you enjoy the candy
3 that we left for you on the day that the Mayor
4 presented his budget to City Council?

5 PRESIDENT STREET: I probably didn't
6 eat it.

7 MS. FAIRCHILD: Oh, that's too bad.

8 PRESIDENT STREET: I'm not a big candy
9 person.

10 And I might also share with you that
11 this is the 30th -- January of 1998 is the 30th
12 anniversary of my having lost almost 90 pounds.

13 (Applause.)

14 PRESIDENT STREET: The 30th
15 anniversary. Because I'm a person who use to
16 weight over 260 pounds and used to wear a size 52
17 suit. And I lost a lot of weight and during the
18 course of trying to keep all of this weight off, I
19 swore off almost all candy. I don't eat a lot of
20 candy.

21 MS. FAIRCHILD: Well, then I hope the
22 other members --

23 PRESIDENT STREET: I'm sure did they
24 did and I'm sure my staff gobbled it up too. I'm
25 not a big candy person, but I thank you.

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2 Rosemary Matthews, PCCY. Rosemary
3 Matthews. Oh, here she is. I didn't see her.

4 (Rosemary Matthews, Philadelphia
5 Citizens for Children and Youth, comes forward.)

6 PRESIDENT STREET: Please identify
7 yourself for the record.

8 MS. MATTHEWS: Yes, I'm Rosemary
9 Elizabeth Matthews, from the Philadelphia Citizens
10 for Children and Youth.

11 Council President Street and other
12 Councilpeople, I am Rosemary Matthews, and I am
13 testifying on behalf of Philadelphia Citizens for
14 Children and Youth, the region's child advocacy
15 organization.

16 I am here to speak to you briefly about
17 the capital budget of the Free Library. I want to
18 begin by commending all of you and the
19 Administration for the rebirth of the libraries
20 throughout the City. The Library, its staff,
21 leadership, Board and Friends have made a huge
22 contribution to the lives of all of us who live in
23 the City's neighborhoods.

24 For many years, we have come before you
25 and urged the kind of support for libraries and

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2 recreation centers that would make a difference in
3 the quality of life of Philadelphians. You have
4 responded.

5 The private sector, private
6 foundations, and individual communities are
7 partnering with you in a remarkable venture in
8 rebuilding the future. The current plan to
9 revitalize all libraries throughout the City is
10 important. Many of us are suffering the temporary
11 closing of our local library because we know it
12 will be temporary, and when it reopens, we will
13 have first-class opportunities.

14 We were concerned to learn that there
15 is not enough money in the budget to cover the
16 three libraries that were planned to be renovated
17 next year. So we urge you to put the funds back
18 and not let the progress and promise that have be
19 made jeopardized.

20 Philadelphia's library resurgence has
21 been unique in this nation. Don't let it slide.
22 For our children, our families, and our
23 neighborhoods, we thank you.

24 PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you very much.

25 Is there anyone else in the Council

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2 chamber today who wishes to testify? Is there
3 anyone else?

4 The Chair recognizing Councilman
5 Nutter.

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Mr.
7 President.

8 Have we gotten that response from
9 either Mr. Kaplan or the Mayor as to the Library
10 issue again?

11 (Mr. Kaplan comes forward.)

12 MR. KAPLAN: I believe so. I'm Dean
13 Kaplan, the Budget Director.

14 I was able to speak briefly with the
15 Mayor and I was able to communicate to him both
16 the comments of the City Council President and the
17 other Members of Council today as well as the
18 public comments.

19 And the Mayor asked to have the meeting
20 as soon as possible with the Executive Director,
21 President of the Free Library, and myself this
22 week.

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And do you expect
24 that a decision will be made out of that meeting?

25 MR. KAPLAN: Do I expect that? I don't

1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/BILL 980001, 980002
2 know. I would assume that that's the reason that
3 we'll be meeting, yes.

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. And you'll
5 report back to the Council President or to the
6 body in the course of the budget hearings as to
7 what comes out of that meeting?

8 MR. KAPLAN: Absolutely.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay, thank you.

10 PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair recognizes
11 Councilwoman Fernandez.

12 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: Yes, Mr.
13 President.

14 My earlier question was, could you
15 supply us with a list of all the branches that
16 have been renovated, then the ones that were
17 originally scheduled or may be scheduled for this
18 year, and then what's up for next year?

19 MR. KAPLAN: Yes.

20 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: And is it
21 correct that they would all be completed by, what
22 is it, FY 2000?

23 MR. KAPLAN: I believe the original
24 plan was to renovate all of the branches by FY
25 2000.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: Well, I'd like
3 to see that list, please.

4 MR. KAPLAN: Yes.

5 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: Thank you.
6 Because my concern was that if we get backed up
7 next year, then that last year, there could really
8 be a lot of libraries closed, and then we'd really
9 be backed up. You know, we could really get
10 constipated.

11 PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you very much.

12 This Committee stands in recess until
13 Tuesday, February 17, at 9 o'clock a.m.

14 Thank you.

15 (Adjourned at 5:15 p.m.)

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RE: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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JOSEPHINE CARDILLO, RPR

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