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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3

COMMITTEE ON THE DISABLED AND

4

THE HANDICAPPED

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Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, June 12, 2007
1:40 p.m.

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PRESENT:

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COUNCILWOMAN CAROL ANN CAMPBELL, CHAIR
COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.

12

COUNCILMAN JACK KELLY

13

COUNCILMAN JUAN RAMOS

14

COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN
COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO

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RESOLUTION 070211 - Resolution authorizing
City Council's Committee on the Disabled and
the Handicapped to hold hearings to
investigate and determine how many disabled
and/or handicapped school age children are
transported to and from school...

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COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: Good

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afternoon. I'm Councilwoman Carol Ann

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Campbell and in attendance is Councilman

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Kelly and Councilwoman Tasco.

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THE CLERK: This is Resolution

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No. 070211, resolution authorizing City

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Council's Committee on the Disabled and

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the Handicapped to hold hearings to

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investigate and determine how many

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disabled and/or handicapped school age

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children are transported to and from

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school under the supervision of the

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Philadelphia School Reform Commission;

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and to determine the means, method and

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criterion used by the Philadelphia School

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Reform Commission to ensure the safety of

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this group of children in transit; and to

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determine what are the special

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transportation needs of this group of

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children and what can be done to address

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these needs.

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COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: Would

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any Committee members wish to make a

25

statement?

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2 (No response.)

3 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: The
4 first witness I believe is Mr. Lombardi.

5 MR. LOMBARDI: Good afternoon.

6 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: Good
7 afternoon.

8 MR. LOMBARDI: Good afternoon,
9 Councilwoman Campbell, members of City
10 Council Committee on Transportation and
11 Public Utilities (sic). My name is John
12 Lombardi. I am the Administrator for
13 Transportation Services for the School
14 District of Philadelphia. I am pleased
15 to offer testimony on Resolution 070211.

16 Councilwoman, much of the
17 testimony in this resolution is similar
18 to the former resolution. If I may, may
19 I start in the couple paragraphs down
20 where it says "currently," because it's
21 just a repeat of what I already
22 indicated?

23 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: Yes.

24 MR. LOMBARDI: Thank you.

25 Currently, the School District

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2 transports 7,355 students who are either
3 receiving special education services or
4 are assigned to an early intervention
5 program or approved private school.
6 These students travel to and from school
7 each day on 555 school bus routes and 90
8 cab routes. Of the 555 bus routes, 110
9 of the buses are equipped with lifts to
10 accommodate the non-ambulatory students.
11 Approximately seven non-ambulatory
12 students are assigned to each bus. In
13 addition, of the 555 special education
14 bus routes, 90 percent of the buses are
15 equipped with some type of safety
16 restraint. The Office of Transportation
17 Services complies with the terms and
18 conditions of each individual student's
19 IEP, Individual Education Program, as it
20 relates to travel. For example, most
21 students receiving special education
22 services are assigned to a bus route that
23 has a bus attendant who travels the route
24 every day. Some routes are assigned
25 additional bus attendants when a

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2 student's IEP requires more support
3 during the travel to and from school. In
4 addition, some students travel with
5 therapeutic support service workers as
6 part of the implementation of the
7 student's positive behavior plan.
8 Finally, 90 percent of the students are
9 picked up from home, eliminating the need
10 to wait for a school bus at the corner
11 stop.

12 The School District takes very
13 seriously the safety of all students it
14 transports. To that end, bus drivers are
15 not allowed to travel on limited-access
16 highways, the Schuylkill Expressway,
17 I-95, when there are students present.
18 All drivers must obey all traffic laws,
19 and the use of stop arms and crossing
20 arms is mandated. Further, drivers must
21 have a valid commercial driver's license
22 and comply with all federal and state
23 transportation mandates. In an effort to
24 continually improve the service provided
25 to our students, drivers must attend

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2 ongoing staff development and training
3 sessions, and all drivers are tested
4 every four years in order to maintain
5 their school bus certification, which is
6 the state law.

7 Thank you for the opportunity
8 to testify before this committee. I am
9 happy to answer any questions that you
10 may have.

11 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: Thank
12 you for your comments.

13 This Committee is charged with
14 investigating and making a determination
15 as to how many disabled and handicapped
16 school-age children are transported to
17 and from school on a daily basis. Would
18 you tell me how many disabled and
19 handicapped children are transported each
20 day under the supervision of the School
21 District?

22 MR. LOMBARDI: Seven thousand
23 three hundred fifty-five students.

24 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: Will
25 you reiterate that, please?

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2 MR. LOMBARDI: Seven thousand
3 three hundred fifty-five.

4 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: What is
5 the definition of "disabled" used by the
6 School District?

7 MR. LOMBARDI: I'll ask my
8 colleague, Mr. Pardini, from our Office
9 of Specialized Services to respond to
10 that.

11 MR. PARDINI: Joseph Pardini,
12 Director of Specialized Services.

13 We would use the same
14 definition as an ADA or an IDEA
15 legislation for the 13 categories of
16 handicapping conditions.

17 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: How are
18 these definitions used in determining the
19 transportation needs of this group of
20 children?

21 MR. PARDINI: Well, when the
22 IEP team meets or a 504 plan meets, they
23 consult with the occupational therapist
24 or the physical therapist or the nurse to
25 determine whether there's any additional

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2 needs for the child during the
3 transportation to and from school; for
4 example, whether the child needs a
5 harness or the student needs to be
6 assisted on and off the bus. Those
7 consults are done between the
8 occupational therapist, the physical
9 therapist and the IEP team.

10 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: Are
11 trained personnel on the buses?

12 MR. PARDINI: Bus attendants
13 are trained by the School District. They
14 also work in the classrooms with the
15 teachers so they can receive additional
16 training in the classroom working with
17 the students.

18 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: But are
19 they trained in taking care of or
20 providing for children that are disabled?

21 MR. PARDINI: Yes.

22 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: Are
23 children who are disabled by sight
24 allowed to bring guide dogs onto school
25 buses?

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2 MR. PARDINI: If it was a
3 requirement within the IEP, yes.

4 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: You
5 said "if." There aren't any children
6 that use guide dogs?

7 MR. PARDINI: I'm not aware of
8 any at this point, Councilwoman.

9 MR. LOMBARDI: Neither am I,
10 Councilwoman.

11 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: Okay.
12 The statistics you provided in your
13 testimony speaks to the totality of
14 students who are transported, but does
15 not provide this Committee specifically
16 with the number of disabled students
17 transferred completely. Was that 7,000
18 the complete amount, according to your
19 latest records?

20 MR. LOMBARDI: Seven thousand
21 three hundred fifty-five are the number
22 of special education students that we
23 transport. Non-ambulatory students,
24 about -- I won't say about. Six hundred
25 fifty non-ambulatory students.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: Okay.

3 The statistics were current as of when?

4 MR. LOMBARDI: May 2007.

5 That's the latest data we have from our
6 IT division.

7 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: Do you
8 have any supporting documentation that
9 would indicate to us the number of
10 disabled students that are transported by
11 your office?

12 MR. LOMBARDI: Any supporting
13 documentation? I can probably obtain
14 through our IT division information about
15 specific students, yes, ma'am, numbers
16 and such.

17 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: I meant
18 do you have any with you?

19 MR. LOMBARDI: No. I didn't
20 bring any with me, ma'am, no. I just
21 brought the totals.

22 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: What
23 type of buses are used by the School
24 District which you've referred to as
25 being 90 percent equipped with safety

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2 restraints?

3 MR. LOMBARDI: We purchase
4 transit style buses. They are
5 manufactured by Blue Birds.

6 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: I
7 couldn't understand what you said.

8 MR. LOMBARDI: We purchase
9 transit style school buses, which are the
10 SEPTA-looking buses. They're
11 international manufactured and Blue Bird
12 manufactured. The 90 percent buses that
13 are referred to in my testimony, those
14 buses are equipped with some seat belts,
15 some harnesses for students based on
16 their individual needs that's provided on
17 the Individual Education Plan for that
18 student.

19 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: That's
20 the type of safety restraints you're
21 referring to?

22 MR. LOMBARDI: Yes, ma'am.

23 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: Which
24 students travel with therapeutic support
25 or service workers?

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2 MR. PARDINI: That would be
3 CBH. Community-based mental health
4 organizations have some students who
5 receive therapeutic support services and
6 sometimes they need the person to ride
7 the bus with them to and from home in
8 order to implement their behavior plan.

9 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: How are
10 they determined?

11 MR. PARDINI: That would be
12 through an interagency meeting in the IEP
13 team meeting.

14 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: Do you
15 ever put children that are categorized as
16 special needs in the category of
17 disabled? Because sometimes they are.

18 MR. PARDINI: I'm sorry. I
19 didn't quite understand.

20 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: What I
21 asked you was, do you ever put children
22 that are special needs children in the
23 category of disabled?

24 MR. PARDINI: Yes. They would
25 be receiving -- they would have a

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2 disability as far as under IDEA, they
3 have special needs or a disability, yes.

4 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: Tell
5 me, what is the behavior on the buses of
6 these children that are disabled usually?

7 MR. PARDINI: That would --
8 every child is different. Every bus ride
9 is going to be different. Children have
10 different -- it depends on the day they
11 had. They could have a bad bus ride
12 home. But that's why they have behavior
13 plans, to work with them if there's
14 behavioral issues for the children.

15 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: No.
16 That's not what I asked you. What I'm
17 asking you, is it never any incidents or
18 is it sometimes or is it quite often?

19 MR. PARDINI: There's sometimes
20 there's incidents, and they're reported,
21 and then we -- if it's a continual
22 incident with the same student, we have a
23 meeting at the school to deal with the
24 behavior on the bus to figure out how we
25 can present a positive behavior plan for

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2 the student on the bus, whether that
3 includes now asking if the child has a
4 therapeutic support staff, to increase
5 the hours for the therapeutic support
6 staff to ride the bus or whether we need
7 additional bus attendants on the bus to
8 help us support the students.

9 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: Thank
10 you.

11 Any questions from the
12 Committee?

13 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Yes.

14 Good afternoon. Earlier in
15 your testimony, Chairwoman Campbell asked
16 the number of young people transported by
17 the Philadelphia public school system.
18 When you submit the back-up
19 documentation, please indicate the number
20 of children that are Philadelphia public
21 school students.

22 MR. LOMBARDI: Sure.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Separate
24 from private school students, parochial
25 students.

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2 Commonwealth reimbursed the City for
3 transportation of students. Does the
4 same apply for disabled students or is
5 there a separate funding stream for young
6 people who are disabled?

7 MR. LOMBARDI: It's the same,
8 ma'am. The only difference in the
9 reimbursement is for the non-public
10 student, the reimbursement is greater for
11 the non-public student than it is for the
12 public and the charter school student.
13 There's a formula that drives the
14 reimbursement. And for the non-publics,
15 they affix a dollar amount to each
16 student. It's \$385 now. So we get what
17 the formula provides, plus \$385 for the
18 non-public student. So it is greater for
19 the non-public school student.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay.
21 Well, thank you for your testimony. So
22 we'll look forward to the documentation
23 that you're providing to the Chair.

24 MR. LOMBARDI: Yes, ma'am.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL:

3 Councilman Kelly.

4 COUNCILMAN KELLY: Thank you,
5 Madam Chair.

6 Mr. Lombardi, I just have a
7 quick question to you. You mention 90
8 percent of the buses are equipped with
9 safety restraints. What about the other
10 ten percent? They don't have any
11 restraints in them?

12 MR. LOMBARDI: No, sir.

13 COUNCILMAN KELLY: You use
14 regular buses?

15 MR. LOMBARDI: Yes, sir.

16 COUNCILMAN KELLY: Can you tell
17 me what kind of students are using them?

18 MR. LOMBARDI: Regular ed
19 students, just students who are eligible
20 because of the distance requirement,
21 their hazardous route that they couldn't
22 walk to school, the desegregation
23 student. So it's the regular ed student
24 who are riding the buses.

25 COUNCILMAN KELLY: They

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2 wouldn't be classified as disabled, then?
3 MR. LOMBARDI: No, sir.
4 COUNCILMAN KELLY: That's what
5 I just wanted to understand.
6 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: As the
7 expert for the City in this area, what
8 can be done to improve the safety of this
9 group of children?
10 MR. LOMBARDI: Well, we comply
11 with all of the federal and state
12 mandates that are out there,
13 Councilwoman. Most recent enactments of
14 laws were regarding the stop arm on
15 school buses, the cross arm in front of
16 the bus. Probably the biggest thing in
17 our industry that concerns us as school
18 bus transportation providers are the
19 number of cars that pass school buses
20 when they're picking up or discharging
21 students. The eight-way lights are
22 flashing and there are cars going by
23 completely ignoring them. And the police
24 have ticketed many cars, but there's just
25 still too many. And it's not a

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2 Philadelphia phenomena. It's all across.
3 Each year in October the state
4 conducts an initiative on that matter,
5 and we're asked to participate, and we
6 do, and we report to the state how many
7 cars are found to be passing school
8 buses, and there's a national mission of
9 it, and fines have increased for doing
10 those types of things, but there's just
11 too many of that occurring. As I
12 mentioned in the previous testimony, many
13 of the kids who are injured as a result
14 of a school bus incident are either
15 crossing the street or being discharged
16 from a bus where the cars are ignoring
17 the eight-way flashers. So that's an
18 area. That's a big area of concern.

19 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: But
20 what I asked you was, as the expert, what
21 do you think can be done to improve the
22 safety of this group of children?

23 MR. LOMBARDI: Greater
24 enforcement and greater follow-up on the
25 part --

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2 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL:

3 Enforcement of what?

4 MR. LOMBARDI: Enforcement of
5 the laws regarding passing school buses
6 that are picking up and discharging
7 students.

8 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: You
9 think that's the only area that they
10 would be in harm's way, would be from the
11 cars passing?

12 MR. LOMBARDI: That's probably
13 the most significant one, ma'am.

14 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: Okay.
15 Thank you very much.

16 I want to note that Councilman
17 Ramos is here.

18 Councilman Ramos.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN:
20 Councilwoman, I have a follow-up
21 question.

22 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: Okay.
23 I'm sorry. Councilwoman Reynolds Brown.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: To the
25 issue of safety and the importance of

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2 education at every level when it comes to
3 anything we're doing for young people,
4 does the School District have a standard
5 operating procedure wherein parents and
6 students are simply educated about some
7 of the disturbing facts of what happens
8 with children when they simply don't take
9 the time and follow traffic safety
10 regulations, if you will?

11 Because the thing is, with
12 information, even among students
13 themselves recognizing what they have to
14 do, knowing that you have no control over
15 drivers who are going to violate the arm
16 that's put out and the flashing lights,
17 is there any kind of standard orientation
18 that happens every single year when they
19 return to school for parents and students
20 around this issue?

21 MR. LOMBARDI: We have a school
22 bus safety team that visits the schools
23 throughout the year. It's been scaled
24 back this past year, but we hope to
25 reinstate it to its full capacity for the

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2 upcoming year. These individuals are
3 school bus drivers, they're bus
4 attendants. There's a team. There's a
5 program. There's a presentation that's
6 presented to the kids to emphasize the
7 importance of behaving themselves on
8 school buses, don't get out of your seat,
9 no eating, no drinking, horsing around,
10 hitting each other and so on.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And that's
12 on the bus, but now we're talking about
13 once they are discharged from the bus.

14 MR. LOMBARDI: It also includes
15 when you exit the bus, make eye contact
16 with the driver, make sure that the stop
17 arm is out, don't pass until the driver
18 gives you the okay to pass across the
19 street. So those types of things are
20 discussed. We go through the fire drill.
21 We do fire drills twice a year. It's
22 state law. And when we visit the schools
23 and we provide our program, there's also
24 a mock fire drill exercise that we go
25 through where the kids go out the back of

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2 the bus through the emergency exit.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: So talk to
4 me more about this team. Is it a team
5 per region? Is it one team for the
6 entire district? Just speak in some
7 greater detail about this team which
8 is --

9 MR. LOMBARDI: It's a team of
10 school bus drivers and bus attendants.
11 These are individuals who work -- most of
12 our drivers work split shift part time
13 and they're off in the middle of the day,
14 and these individuals go out to the
15 schools in the middle of the day.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Upon
17 request or as assigned?

18 MR. LOMBARDI: Upon request,
19 ma'am. We send a letter out to the
20 school principal and we --

21 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: So it's
22 the principals who have to take the
23 leadership role?

24 MR. LOMBARDI: Yes. They would
25 request it. And we visited hundreds of

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2 schools over the years and presented our
3 program to thousands of students.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: So you're
5 saying it's been scaled back. What does
6 that mean?

7 MR. LOMBARDI: We've had to
8 scale back some of that program this
9 year, but we hope to reinstate it for the
10 next year.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: I still
12 don't know what that means.

13 MR. LOMBARDI: We couldn't
14 visit as many schools as we would have
15 liked to this year.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: So a team
17 consists of how many individuals?

18 MR. LOMBARDI: There's two
19 teams right now. There were six on each
20 team, six individuals. So we were trying
21 to get as many kids as possible.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: So they're
23 deployed throughout the system based on a
24 request registered by the principal?

25 MR. LOMBARDI: Yes, ma'am.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: In your
3 recording of incidents, are you able to
4 sort of track where you have higher
5 incidents of --

6 MR. LOMBARDI: Yes, ma'am.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: -- young
8 people being in danger or not?

9 MR. LOMBARDI: Yes, we do,
10 ma'am. We have statistics on behavior
11 referrals. Mr. Pardini mentioned about
12 if students act up on the bus. Whether
13 it's a special education student or a
14 regular ed student, there's a method for
15 reporting that. There's a form that's
16 used. The driver completes it, refers it
17 to the principal for follow-up action.
18 When it involves regular education
19 students, the same procedure takes place.
20 There might be a counseling session with
21 the parent. There might be a suspension
22 from the bus as a result of their
23 behavior on the bus.

24 So that process is in place and
25 we do identify schools where there are

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2 greater number of kids. If it's a
3 specific student that has a record for
4 two or three referrals, we'll contact the
5 principal regarding that student and ask
6 for specific follow-up for that student.

7 So, yes, ma'am, there is a
8 follow-up process for that. We send
9 letters out each month to all the
10 regional offices and all the principals
11 of the schools regarding incidents that
12 occur on the buses, and it refers to a
13 specific school, a specific route number
14 and there are specific students who are
15 identified, and that goes out on a
16 monthly basis to all the schools, public
17 and non-public and charter as well.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay. So
19 if we move to the tenor of this
20 legislation with the goal being to
21 improve safety, has there ever been any
22 discussion of a requirement for if the
23 teams are not able to be deployed, then
24 principals actually making that a part of
25 the return-to-school first day, first

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2 week, first month orientation? Ever any
3 discussion in that way?

4 MR. LOMBARDI: I don't recall,
5 but it's certainly something that we
6 could investigate. I might say that on
7 the public school side, we transport
8 about ten percent of our population. So
9 there aren't a lot of public school
10 students that use school buses. And if
11 you factor out the number of public
12 school students who are special
13 education, there's about 5,000 of those.
14 The number of regular ed students who are
15 riding a bus is not that significant, but
16 it's certainly something that we could
17 consider at the beginning of each school
18 year to have some type of orientation for
19 those that ride the bus.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And
21 because young people who don't ride the
22 bus benefit from that type of information
23 and education as well.

24 MR. LOMBARDI: Yes, ma'am.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay.

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2 Thank you again.

3 MR. LOMBARDI: You're welcome.

4 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL:

5 Councilman Ramos.

6 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Thank you,

7 Madam Chair.

8 How does the transportation of
9 our disabled/physically challenged
10 children compare in the services that we
11 provide to other cities, other
12 jurisdictions?

13 MR. LOMBARDI: I mention --

14 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Is there an
15 association out there that grades how
16 good the system is working?

17 MR. LOMBARDI: Yeah. We're a
18 member of the Council of Great City
19 Schools, which is a national organization
20 that really focuses on major cities. I
21 think the criteria for subscription is,
22 there needs to be at least 60,000
23 students in your school district. So
24 we're talking about the New Yorks, the
25 Philadelphias, the Chicago. And, you

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2 know, I network with many of those
3 transportation directors on a regular
4 basis and we talk about costs, we talk
5 about different types of the operation,
6 things in the operation that occur, and I
7 believe that we're right on schedule and
8 on par with just about everybody in the
9 country.

10 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: When it
11 comes to the pure issue of safety and the
12 treatment and the way they're
13 transported --

14 MR. LOMBARDI: Yes.

15 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: -- how do we
16 rank?

17 MR. LOMBARDI: There's no such
18 rank. There's not exactly a ranking,
19 Councilman, but I will say that the form
20 that we established for the referral of
21 kids, I've sent them to other major
22 cities and they've duplicated it and put
23 it in place in their operation.

24 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: How would
25 you classify it? Would you classify it

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2 as very good, excellent, comparatively
3 speaking to New York, LA, Chicago?

4 MR. LOMBARDI: Well, I'm the --

5 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Give
6 yourself credit where credit is due.

7 MR. LOMBARDI: I'm the
8 Transportation Administrator and I think
9 we have the best drivers in the country.
10 I think that we have the most devoted
11 people in the country. I think that
12 they're committed to doing the job. I
13 just think we have a great organization.
14 We have great people who are dedicated.
15 No matter when you ask them to do
16 something, they'll do it. No matter what
17 time of the day, whether it's a weekend,
18 whether it's an evening, I mean, they're
19 there. They're committed to our kids.

20 Some drivers, they transport
21 kids from kindergarten to 21 years old.
22 At the Widener School up in Broad and
23 Olney, we have drivers that never come
24 off the route. They've been on the same
25 route every year. They're that

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2 committed.

3 So, I mean -- and I've done
4 reviews of other school districts for the
5 Council of Great City Schools. I've been
6 to Rochester, New York and New Orleans
7 and San Diego. When we're sitting around
8 talking about transportation operations,
9 our operation is right there with the
10 latest technologies and the compliance
11 with all the laws and rules and
12 regulations. And there's things that we
13 do with regard to licensing of drivers
14 that I don't know anyone in the country
15 does. We started this some 15 years ago.
16 We send a listing of all of our bus
17 drivers, all of our people, all of our
18 contractor people, to PennDOT every two
19 weeks to verify that their license is
20 valid. I don't know anyone in the
21 country that does that. Most people
22 check when they get hired and they check
23 them monthly maybe. We do it on a
24 biweekly basis, and we do it with the
25 database in Harrisburg that's completely

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2 accurate. Someone can show you a license
3 that looks like it's valid, but if it's
4 been suspended, you may not have any way
5 of knowing that. So we go right to the
6 source for that.

7 But that's one of the things
8 that we do that no one else does as a
9 measure of safety to make sure that all
10 the drivers have all their credentials.

11 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Thank you.
12 Thank you for everything you do in such a
13 challenging type of job. I have had kins
14 in my family that have used your
15 services. I believe I still have a
16 nephew that does, and we're very grateful
17 the way that you care for them and look
18 out for their safety.

19 MR. LOMBARDI: Thank you.

20 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: No system is
21 perfect, but I've seen it in my own
22 family how this service has been done
23 with a lot of care.

24 Thank you.

25 MR. LOMBARDI: Thank you,

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2 Councilman. I will say, Councilman, I
3 had a full head of hair 27 years ago when
4 I started.

5 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: Thank
6 you very much.

7 MR. LOMBARDI: Thank you,
8 Councilwoman.

9 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: This
10 hearing is over. This is going to be
11 referred back. We're going to recess it
12 to the call of the Chair.

13 Thank you very much for coming.

14 MR. LOMBARDI: Thank you.

15 MR. PARDINI: Thank you.

16 (Committee on the Disabled and
17 the Handicapped adjourned at 2:10 p.m.)

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stenographic notes taken by me upon the

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foregoing matter on June 12, 2007, and that

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this is a true and correct transcript of same.

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MICHELE L. MURPHY

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