

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Monday, April 11, 2011
10:15 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL
COUNCILMAN DARRELL CLARKE
COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.
COUNCILMAN BILL GREEN
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM K. GREENLEE
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILMAN JAMES KENNEY
COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILWOMAN MARIA D. QUINONES-SANCHEZ
COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN
COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO, JR.
COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO

BILLS 110135, 110136, 110137 and 110138
RESOLUTION 110161

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1
2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good
3 morning. This is a continued public
4 hearing of the Committee of the Whole.

5 I would ask Mr. McPherson to
6 please read the bills that are before us.

7 MR. McPHERSON: Bills under
8 consideration are Resolution 110161, the
9 City's Five Year Plan; Bill No. 110135,
10 Capital Program 2012 through 2017; Bill
11 No. 110136, the Capital Budget for 2012;
12 Bill No. 110137, the Operating Budget for
13 Fiscal 2012; and Bill No. 110138,
14 adjusting the wage tax.

15 Today we are taking testimony
16 on Bill No. 110137, the Operating Budget
17 for 2012, and our first department is the
18 Police Department.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:
20 Commissioner, would you please approach
21 the witness table.

22 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Yes,
23 ma'am.

24 (Witnesses approached witness
25 table.)

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: May I
3 just say that I'm really delighted that
4 you're staying with us, Commissioner.

5 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Thank
6 you.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
8 you. Please identify yourself for the
9 record and proceed with your testimony.

10 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Thank
11 you, Madam President. Charles H. Ramsey,
12 Police Commissioner. To my right is the
13 First Deputy of Field Operations, Richard
14 Ross. To my left is Deputy Commissioner
15 Jack Gaittens, who oversees operational
16 support, and, of course, our Deputy Mayor
17 for Public Safety, Everett Gillison.

18 Good morning, Madam President
19 Verna and all distinguished members of
20 City Council. On behalf of the
21 Philadelphia Police Department, thank you
22 for this important opportunity to discuss
23 the present and future of policing in
24 Philadelphia. With me today, as I
25 already mentioned, Deputy Commissioner

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 Rich Ross, Deputy Commissioner John
3 Gaittens and Deputy Mayor Everett
4 Gillison.

5 The Philadelphia Police
6 Department's Fiscal Year 2012 General
7 Fund budget request is \$550,686,244, with
8 the below-listed allocations. Salaries
9 and overtime expenses for Class 100 funds
10 comprise 97 percent of the PPD's budget;
11 534,842,399 in Class 100; 7,114,147 in
12 Class 200; and 8,729,698 in Class 300 and
13 400 funds.

14 The FY 2012 budget request is
15 approximately \$20.7 million more than the
16 current target Fiscal Year 2011 budget.
17 Class 100 funds increased by 20.4
18 million, of which 14.2 million is the
19 result of the last contract award between
20 the City and the Fraternal Order of
21 Police, Lodge 5, which granted sworn
22 personnel a three percent raise. Also
23 included in this figure is 5.5 million
24 for a new class of 120 recruits. Class
25 300/400 funds increased by approximately

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 274,000 to provide uniforms and equipment
3 for the new recruit class.

4 The Police Department is
5 committed to supporting the
6 Administration's goal of 25 percent
7 minority, woman and disabled-owned
8 business participation in City
9 contracting. The Police Department's
10 FY12 participation goal is 20 percent.
11 In FY12, the Department is anticipating
12 contracting two large projects, for which
13 we strive to significantly increase our
14 levels of participation from the previous
15 years.

16 The Philadelphia Police
17 Department has continued to make progress
18 in driving down crime in the City. In
19 Calendar Year 2010, using 2007 as a basis
20 of comparison, according to our Uniform
21 Crime Reports statistics submitted to the
22 FBI, homicide has decreased by 21.7
23 percent, robbery has decreased by 18.5
24 percent, shooting victims have decreased
25 6.9 percent, total Part I violent crime

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 has dropped 12 and a half percent, and
3 total Part I crime has dropped 8 percent.

4 Our special investigative
5 units, such as Homicide and the Special
6 Victims Unit, continue to demonstrate
7 excellence with a 70 and 73 respective
8 clearance rate for homicides and sexual
9 assaults. The Special Victims Unit, in
10 collaboration with our Forensic Science
11 Lab, was also able to solve nearly half
12 of the 159 cold cases selected for
13 additional DNA testing dating back to the
14 year 2000 through a grant received by the
15 National Institute of Justice.

16 I'm also proud to report that
17 every unit in the Department's Forensic
18 Science Bureau, such as Crime Scene,
19 Firearms Identification and the DNA lab,
20 has achieved accreditation through
21 Forensic Quality Services Forensic
22 Accreditation Program in 2010. This
23 brings our Bureau in compliance with
24 national and international standards,
25 including the FBI's National Quality

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 Assurance standards for DNA, to ensure
3 that best practices in the forensic
4 sciences are followed.

5 Our lab has worked aggressively
6 over the past three years in reducing our
7 forensic backlog. At the end of 2010 as
8 compared to 2008, the ballistics evidence
9 backlog decreased by 74 percent, from
10 2,878 cases to 741 cases. The chemistry
11 backlog decreased by 78 percent, from
12 3,784 to 827 cases. The DNA backlog
13 decreased by 29 percent, from 3,332 cases
14 to 2,368 cases. Specifically, the
15 non-stranger rape DNA backlog decreased
16 by 98 percent, from 428 cases to 10
17 cases.

18 The Department has worked
19 steadily to accomplish our crime
20 prevention, reduction and investigation
21 goals despite attrition and slowed hiring
22 for sworn personnel. We've implemented
23 numerous operational efficiencies and
24 service improvements while maintaining
25 our focus on uniform patrol. For Fiscal

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 Year 2008 through Fiscal Year 2011, the
3 Department has seen a wage increase for
4 sworn personnel and at the same time been
5 able to reduce overtime expenditures by
6 \$19.2 million.

7 For the first time in the
8 Department's history, during Fiscal Year
9 2011 operational units received
10 individualized overtime spending plans,
11 enabling commanders to monitor and better
12 control their resources. The
13 Department's Overtime Management Unit,
14 which was established in January of 2009,
15 has done an excellent job, both
16 internally with providing feedback and
17 oversight for all of our units and
18 externally through partnerships with the
19 District Attorney's Office and the
20 Courts. We have taken a coordinated
21 approach to monitoring the usage of
22 overtime, and it's making a significant
23 difference in how the Department is doing
24 its job.

25 We have continued to refine our

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 policing strategy in 2010, expanding our
3 Police Service Area neighborhood policing
4 model, targeting violent crime and
5 establishing a department-wide training
6 for problem-solving with the community.
7 This past September we were also able to
8 launch a specialized casino detail within
9 the 26th Police District, staffed
10 entirely with current police personnel.

11 Multiple pilot initiatives
12 involving patrol units were also
13 implemented during the course of the
14 year. Evidence-based policing
15 collaborations with Temple University's
16 Department of Criminal Justice began with
17 the implementation and evaluation of foot
18 patrols in the summers of 2008 and 2009
19 in the City's most violent intersections.
20 Temple's partnership with the PPD evolved
21 in 2010 with the arrival of a Bureau of
22 Justice Assistance SMART Policing
23 research project, which measures the
24 effectiveness of foot patrols,
25 offender-focused tactics and

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 police/community problem-solving
3 interventions to reducing violent crime.

4 Other pilot initiatives

5 included what has become Philly Rising, a
6 multi-agency effort providing coordinated
7 City services to the neighborhoods most
8 affected by crime and disorder. Philly
9 Rising began with a pilot initiative in
10 the 26th Police District in 2010 and is
11 now expanding in 2011 to at least three
12 other sites, with more slated for later
13 in the year.

14 The core of our policing

15 strategy remains in uniform patrol. We
16 have made several important adjustments
17 in our deployment to support maximizing
18 the number of uniform patrol personnel
19 available during peak crime periods. We
20 have created a new shift from 8:00 p.m.
21 to 4:00 a.m. in select districts in order
22 to combat violent crimes in the time
23 period in which the majority occurs. We
24 also have deployed additional personnel
25 from specialized units back into patrol

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 units for the spring and summer months to
3 ensure that we have adequate staffing in
4 the areas where police presence is needed
5 the most.

6 In summary, we're doing as much
7 as we can to become more efficient and
8 effective, as well as create more
9 opportunities for improvements in how we
10 deliver service. The Department is
11 becoming more evidence-based and
12 collaborative in its approach to fighting
13 and preventing crime. This past October,
14 the Department received one of two
15 honorable mentions from the International
16 Association of Chiefs of Police
17 Excellence in Law Enforcement Research
18 Award for our research collaboration
19 involving foot patrol with Temple
20 University. The PPD, in partnership with
21 the Center City District, was also
22 honored by the IACP with the 2010 Chief
23 Michael Shanahan Award for Excellence in
24 Public/Private Cooperation.
25 Collaboration will be the cornerstone of

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 our policing strategy as we move the
3 Department forward into the future.

4 These challenging fiscal times
5 demand that we take a different approach
6 to crime and public safety. We cannot
7 suppress it in the short term. We must
8 work in partnership with our communities
9 in planning and implementing long-term
10 sustainable progress, and we're working
11 toward the goal.

12 Thank you very much for your
13 consideration, and I'm available to
14 answer any questions you or anyone else
15 may have. Thank you.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
17 you, Commissioner.

18 What is your current attrition
19 rate?

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GAITTENS:
21 We are anticipating 190 this year and
22 then Fiscal '12, we anticipate 200.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
24 Commissioner, you mention in your
25 testimony that you will be starting a new

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 recruit class of 120 in the new fiscal
3 year. When do you expect to start the
4 class?

5 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: The class
6 will start on or about July 1st, I
7 believe July 4th -- July 11th is the
8 actual start date for the 120 new police
9 recruits.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And
11 when will they be ready for active
12 patrol?

13 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: They will
14 graduate. We start them in July. They
15 will come out in February of 2012.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: How
17 many recruit classes do you expect to
18 have during Fiscal 2012?

19 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Right now
20 we're budgeted for the one.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: On
22 Page 9 of your budget detail, it reflects
23 an increase of over \$6 million for
24 regular uniformed overtime. Can you tell
25 us why you need these additional funds?

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GAITTENS:

3 Good morning, Madam President, members of
4 Council. I'm Deputy Commissioner Jack
5 Gaittens.

6 Looking at the overtime, you
7 are correct, it is a \$6.2 million
8 increase. Of that, \$3 million is
9 allocated for the Casino Unit that the
10 Commissioner referenced in his testimony.
11 As you are aware, the fact that we were
12 only able to hire 120 and two classes
13 were cancelled last year, that leaves us
14 with a significant challenge as far as
15 keeping the staffing on the street up to
16 date. So the Casino Unit will be
17 primarily staffed with overtime. So
18 there's \$3 million right there.

19 As the Commissioner also
20 pointed out, there is a three percent
21 salary increase and an additional one
22 percent increase in stress in the last
23 fiscal year for the FOP award. So that
24 will account for another \$1.1 million
25 right there.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 Going into the summertime,
3 looking at potential increases in
4 staffing needs on the weekends and for
5 other special events, we figure in a
6 couple million dollars there. So it
7 basically is for overtime for addressing
8 crime problems in addition to the Casino
9 Unit and the raise.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: How
11 many police are assigned to the casino
12 detail?

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ROSS:
14 Deputy Commissioner Richard Ross.

15 We actually have about 12
16 police officers that rotate in and out of
17 the casino, and right now it's actually
18 working out very well, according to the
19 casino personnel.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
21 you.

22 Commissioner, would it be more
23 cost effective if you used the additional
24 overtime funds to hire new officers?

25 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well, I

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 mean, ultimately I would leave that up to
3 our finance people for the actual
4 figures, but with overtime, you do have
5 to take into account that you're not
6 paying for benefits and other types of
7 costs, uniforms and the like, when you're
8 dealing with overtime versus brand new
9 hires. But certainly we have
10 representatives here from Finance if
11 you'd like to get into more detail about
12 the comparison between the two.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: I
14 will ask that question before the end of
15 the hearing, because we have other
16 Councilmembers that would like to be
17 recognized.

18 What do you estimate your
19 court-related overtime will be in Fiscal
20 2012?

21 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: We don't
22 specifically break it out by court,
23 although that's a huge amount of the
24 overtime expenditure. But let me just
25 say this: With the new procedure put in

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 place by our District Attorney, the Zone
3 Courts, we do anticipate that that's
4 going to have a positive impact on our
5 court overtime in the future. So far,
6 it's working well. We also, through our
7 management overtime -- Overtime
8 Management Unit, Inspector Flacco, we
9 check as subpoenas come in to see whether
10 or not the DA really needs that many
11 police officers for a particular case,
12 and we're really trying to tighten up the
13 court overtime, because that's a
14 considerable amount of our overtime
15 expenditure, is in court.

16 So we'll never get it down to
17 zero, obviously, but we certainly want to
18 make sure that we have no waste in that
19 area. We can tell you what we've spent
20 historically in court, although the funds
21 themselves aren't really broken out that
22 way, and I'll let Deputy Gaittens address
23 that.

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GAITTENS:

25 Yes. For several years, we were spending

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 in excess of \$20 million for court. As
3 the Commissioner said, we started an
4 initiative to try and really reduce our
5 court overtime and the other associated
6 overtime. From Fiscal '08 to '09, we
7 reduced net overtime by almost \$8
8 million. From '09 to '10 was another 7.4
9 million reduction, and from '10 to '11,
10 we anticipate 3.9 reductions, for a total
11 of \$19.4 million in the reduction.

12 Now, during that period of
13 time, there were several wage increases
14 to the Fraternal Order of Police. In '08
15 there was a four percent increase. In
16 '09 two percent in the beginning of the
17 fiscal year, two percent salary increase
18 in January and a one percent longevity.
19 Then in Fiscal '10, there was no
20 increase. Fiscal '11, three percent
21 salary increase and one percent stress
22 increase. And in Fiscal '12, there will
23 be a three percent salary increase. So
24 we're looking at 16 percent increase in
25 our Class 100 costs.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 Now, during that time, we've
3 had to absorb those costs into our
4 budget, but we've targeted the hours,
5 because sometimes when you're talking
6 about decreasing overtime, it's better to
7 talk about hours than the dollar amounts.

8 In Fiscal '08, we spent 1.8
9 million hours in overtime; '09,
10 1,677,000; and in '10, 1,000,461. So the
11 hours have decreased significantly.
12 Looking at the decrease from '08 to '10,
13 we are down 342,598 hours, and as the
14 Commissioner said, Inspector Flacco has
15 done an outstanding job with his people,
16 very closely monitoring all aspects of
17 the overtime.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
19 you.

20 Commissioner, you are
21 requesting \$19 million in uniform IOD
22 heart and lung payments for Fiscal 2012.
23 This represents an increase of \$2.3
24 million over your Fiscal 2011 estimate.
25 Can you explain why these additional

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 funds are needed and what steps the City
3 is taking to reduce these costs?

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GAITTENS:

5 Yes, ma'am. As you're aware, heart and
6 lung has been very problematic for us for
7 several years now. We have actually
8 reached a high at one point. August 30th
9 of this past year, there were 330
10 officers IOD. That means not working at
11 all, average during per day. So very
12 significant number there.

13 We have been working for the
14 past several months with the Fraternal
15 Order of Police working together to try
16 and knock that number down. And after
17 the first series of meetings, we reduced
18 it from 330 down to 275. From there, it
19 went down to 260, and as of our last
20 meeting March 21st, it was down to 258.
21 We hope to continue -- we are going to
22 continue to meet with the FOP, and we
23 hope we can drive that number down
24 significantly from there. But as you
25 said, the budget was laid out to reflect

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 the possibility that we were still going
3 to be up around the 320 IOD range. So
4 it's a significant cost factor.

5 From the legislative angle, we
6 do have Lieutenant Fran Healy working
7 with the City Administration to see what
8 we can do. One of the aspects that's
9 problematic under heart and lung is,
10 there is no definition on what a
11 temporary injury is. With the Regulation
12 32, if you get to three years, then it's
13 pretty much you've run your course.
14 Under heart and lung, we have one officer
15 that was five years and four months,
16 another officer is four years and seven
17 months. But in other jurisdictions
18 outside of Philadelphia, there are some
19 officers that have been on nine, ten, 11
20 years heart and lung.

21 So one of the things that we
22 would like to see is some definition of
23 the term "temporary" in the heart and
24 lung, although that does create other
25 issues. Then if somebody is no longer

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 temporary, they're permanent and now
3 you're talking about a disability
4 pension. So there are many issues to be
5 considered here.

6 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: And if I
7 can just add one thing. I want to just
8 again mention the cooperation we've had
9 from the FOP in trying to bring these
10 numbers down. They have been very
11 receptive to sitting down with us and
12 talking about these individual cases and
13 helping us get people back to work, and I
14 have no reason to believe that will not
15 continue into the future, and that will
16 be very helpful. Also, some of that cost
17 reflects the increase in salary that took
18 place as a result of the last contract.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

20 Commissioner, I believe we have 6,469
21 police officers?

22 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Our
23 budget strength is 6,624. With the COPS
24 grant is 6,674, and as of today, 6,476.
25 Yes, ma'am. One hundred and fifty-five

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 in Aviation, but that's not carried in
3 our regular budget.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: On
5 average, how many uniform personnel do
6 you have available for active duty each
7 day?

8 COMMISSIONER Ramsey: Well, it
9 depends on the tour of duty and also if
10 you're talking about full-duty status
11 versus the limited and restricted-duty
12 status, which we can give you. The heart
13 and lung, as Deputy Commissioner Gaittens
14 mentioned before, is 258, limited duty is
15 84, and restricted duty is 91.

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GAITTENS:
17 And in addition to that, on the average
18 day, 147 sworn are off sick, 362 --

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: I'm
20 sorry. You're going much too quickly.

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GAITTENS:
22 I'm sorry. On the average day, by 2010
23 statistics, an average of 147 officers
24 are off sick, 362 are off on vacation, 23
25 are off on other types of leave. So we

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 would be taking the 258 injured on duty,
3 plus the other forms of absence, 532. So
4 we're talking about 790.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And
6 how many would you say are on limited
7 duty?

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GAITTENS:
9 Limited duty, 84.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
11 you very much.

12 The Chair recognizes Councilman
13 Greenlee.

14 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
15 you, Madam President.

16 Good morning, everyone.

17 (Good morning.)

18 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:
19 Commissioner, in your testimony you talk
20 about the new shift, the 8:00 p.m. to
21 4:00 a.m. shift in select districts. Can
22 you tell us what those districts are?
23 Have you figured that out?

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ROSS:
25 Basically they're the busiest districts

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 we have, the targeted districts. We have
3 obviously everything in Southwest
4 Philadelphia pretty much, the 16th, 18th,
5 19th and the 12th, the 22nd District.
6 You also have the 35th, the 14th and the
7 39th and 24, 25 and the 1st -- I mean,
8 the 3rd District down in South Philly.

9 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: So a lot
10 of them, okay. Now, you say about the
11 additional personnel from the specialized
12 units into patrol units. Are they some
13 of the same areas you're talking about
14 for the spring and summer?

15 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ROSS: Yes,
16 Councilman, they are. Pretty much we try
17 to keep them in some of our busiest
18 areas, and right now, as the Commissioner
19 may have indicated, we started that a
20 little earlier. We started that in April
21 of this year instead of just the summer
22 deployment to augment our forces out
23 there.

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.
25 Also in the testimony you talk about

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 Temple University's Criminal Justice
3 Department working on studies and
4 particularly the effectiveness of foot
5 patrols. What came out of that?

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ROSS:

7 Well, as you may recall, we started that
8 project initially in 2009 where Temple
9 came on board after the fact and did a
10 little kind of a cursory study. We
11 decided in the forefront to do the same
12 thing in 2010 where we brought Temple on
13 board to measure it from the outset to
14 help us determine what some of the
15 problem corners were, and what we did
16 was, as a result of this project, we were
17 able to determine that comparing it to
18 some of the comparison areas -- a lot of
19 technical stuff that goes into doing
20 this -- but it's a 22 percent reduction
21 in violent crime that came from that, as
22 well as reductions in property crime,
23 increases in narcotics arrests, as well
24 as some of the intangible things that
25 come out of it. We did officer surveys

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 to kind of glean from them exactly what
3 we believe or what they believe was
4 essential in terms of going forward. We
5 also got some very positive feedback from
6 some community folks, who it was very
7 refreshing to see that when we had to
8 pull some of them back, they were
9 actually asked for by name, some of the
10 foot beat officers. So that just goes to
11 show how they touched a lot of the people
12 in the community. So we're very positive
13 about that.

14 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I know
15 the community particularly feels very
16 strongly about foot patrols --

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ROSS:
18 That's correct.

19 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: -- and
20 their effectiveness.

21 Just one more question on the
22 overtime issue. Does a lot of that
23 reduction have to do with court time or
24 are there other places that particularly
25 have --

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: It's a
3 combination, court and certainly watching
4 the just day-to-day expenditure of
5 overtime. We meet every other week. On
6 Fridays after our morning briefing,
7 Inspector Flacco comes in, and he can
8 break it down to us in terms of where we
9 are with the spending in various units
10 within the Department.

11 Now, occasionally, we'll have
12 something like a flash mob incident from
13 just a week ago, two weeks ago. That's
14 unanticipated, where you have to hold
15 people over or bring people in early,
16 that sort of thing. But we even track
17 that, so that when we're having this
18 conversation now or several months from
19 now, we can point specifically to the
20 incident that caused the spike on a
21 particular date. So it's really a
22 combination of watching all different
23 aspects of overtime.

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Now,
25 speaking of flash mob, I know you've

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 talked about that issue before here. How
3 do you feel -- I know you do a lot of
4 monitoring. You feel you have that as
5 much under control as you can? I know
6 you never know when something is going to
7 happen.

8 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: It's a
9 day-to-day battle, but we've been very
10 fortunate. We've had parents and we've
11 had youngsters that have actually let us
12 know that there was something going on.
13 It's hard -- you can't monitor all these
14 social networks constantly, but
15 fortunately, we have people that have
16 stepped up to let us know that there's
17 something going on that's going to cause
18 us problems, and that's been very, very
19 helpful to get a jump on it. It doesn't
20 mean it will happen every time, but at
21 least it has happened on several
22 occasions, and that's good.

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Great.
24 Actually, one more. The mounted patrol,
25 is that about the same as you've had

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 before?

3 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Yes.

4 Well, the mounted patrol, as you know,
5 we're in the process of re-establishing
6 the Mounted Unit. We have five mounts
7 right now. We have a group of officers
8 that are getting refresher training this
9 week. A group went last week. We're
10 working with the Police Foundation.
11 They're spearheading a fundraising drive
12 to get us off the ground to build the
13 stables and to support the first two
14 years of funding for the Mounted Unit.

15 So we're very optimistic that
16 we'll be able to get the unit fully up
17 and operational within the next couple of
18 years, but by this fall, we actually
19 should have a fair number of mounts out
20 on the street.

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

22 Great. Thank you.

23 Thank you, Madam President.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA:

25 You're welcome.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 The Chair recognizes Councilman
3 Jones.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
5 Madam President.

6 Good morning.

7 (Good morning.)

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: I want to
9 publicly recognize, this is the year of
10 recognition of progress when I think it
11 is warranted, because we have no problems
12 citing things that we think need
13 improvement. But I want to thank you and
14 the brass and management of the Police
15 Department for swiftly dealing with the
16 issue of police brutality. It might be
17 almost counterintuitive for a
18 Commissioner to run into the fray and
19 deal with an issue head on, but whether
20 it was at churches, whether it was at
21 barber shop tours, which we went on with
22 you, whether it was at the hearing that
23 Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller put forth
24 on the issue, you and the management of
25 the Police Department were all a part of

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 trying to create corrective actions and
3 solutions and lessons learned, and some
4 of those things have resulted in proposed
5 legislation. Some of those realizations
6 have resulted in corrective actions
7 towards officers, where warranted, and I
8 think has begun to restore some of the
9 confidence that the police are in the
10 community and there to help the
11 citizenry. So I thank you for that. And
12 we're glad that you stayed as well.

13 I want to segue a bit into
14 school violence. I read in the newspaper
15 that the Mayor and you are considering
16 placing armed police officers in some of
17 our schools. In the 4th District, we
18 have been, along with the 3rd District,
19 which is Councilwoman Blackwell's
20 district, we've been experiencing an
21 uptick in juvenile violent activities and
22 occurrences. Now, compared to when I was
23 a youngster at Overbrook, we had armed
24 police officers at Overbrook at that
25 time, and Officer Starks -- I remember

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 him -- who is now retired, he was the
3 Clint Eastwood of our school. But I
4 don't know, and I need to hear your
5 rationale on, A, whether this is a
6 necessary action and, B, how would the
7 selection criteria happen, if you could
8 respond to that.

9 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well,
10 thank you, Councilman. This is a very
11 important issue, and I understand the
12 controversy, if you will, surrounding
13 having police officers formally assigned
14 to the schools. Ultimately this will be
15 a decision that will be made, the Mayor
16 working with Superintendent Ackerman and
17 others, to decide whether or not this is
18 appropriate. I personally feel that the
19 time has come for this to occur. But let
20 me back that up with what we're looking
21 at.

22 We do have police officers now
23 that are assigned to some of our more
24 problematic schools. Some are full time,
25 although the majority are not, but some

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 are full time and some move between
3 schools. We have about 78 officers that
4 are assigned to the schools in some
5 capacity.

6 I too when I was a youngster
7 remember a school police officer assigned
8 to the high school that I attended.

9 I think what's important is
10 that we carefully select the people who
11 would be assigned to this duty. We do
12 not need people who have an attitude of
13 going in, locking up kids and all the
14 kinds of things that would go along with
15 that. Obviously if there's a serious
16 crime or something committed, that's
17 different. But most of what goes on in
18 schools are things that ought to be
19 handled by the school.

20 We need people with the right
21 attitude. They need to see themselves as
22 role models, as mentors for young people
23 to really enhance the security and the
24 safety environment of the various
25 schools.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 When you read that week-long
3 series that appeared in the Inquirer, I
4 think it did a lot to highlight the
5 severity of the problem in our schools,
6 and it's not going to get better on its
7 own. We have to re-establish control and
8 create a safe environment. At some
9 future point in time, we can talk about
10 withdrawing that and having it go back to
11 total contract security or what-have-you,
12 but right now I think in many of our
13 schools, it has reached a point where
14 this move would be necessary, and I do
15 personally support it.

16 We're in the process of looking
17 at what that would look like. There are
18 training programs, school resource
19 officers, that the federal government
20 actually has training programs available.
21 When I served in the District of
22 Columbia, the Metropolitan Police
23 Department was charged with the
24 responsibility back in 2005 to take over
25 security for the DC public schools that

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 were in the same or similar situation we
3 find ourselves here in Philadelphia, and
4 it's worked out very, very well. The
5 principal is still in charge of that
6 school.

7 So this isn't something that
8 can be done in isolation. We have to
9 work with the schools, with parents, with
10 other stakeholders to make this a
11 reality, but we've got to come up with
12 something, in my opinion, beyond what
13 we're currently doing, because what we're
14 currently doing is simply not working and
15 is not creating the safe environment that
16 we need for our kids to be able to learn.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: I welcome
18 your involvement in the stabilization of
19 the educational environment. The jury is
20 still out about armed police officers
21 inside the school. I think that a
22 combination of responses might be
23 something that you participate in. One
24 of them is obviously working with the
25 principals and teachers, but I would also

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 encourage more involvement from the
3 parents and from the community.

4 I had an opportunity to go down
5 in Councilman Clarke's district, and
6 Everett Gillison was down there with us,
7 and his district, like my district and
8 like many other districts around the
9 City, is going through a community
10 cultural issue, and I don't know if we
11 can police our way out of it. I think
12 stabilizing the situation from time to
13 time is necessary, but there needs to be
14 an exit strategy as opposed to an
15 occupying force, that we need to occupy
16 the schools with a positive influence.
17 And I don't know how that happens. I
18 don't have the answer to it today, but I
19 am very concerned that some of our
20 schools have been designed by the same
21 architects that have designed prisons.
22 Some of our schools because of the
23 violence that comes from the community --
24 we're not acting like it was parachuted
25 down by martians. There is a culture of

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 where you have to go through metal
3 detectors. I mean, this is the kind of
4 thing that I'm very, very, very concerned
5 about and look to you and look to our own
6 resources within the community to try to
7 manage our way out of.

8 So we welcome the help to
9 stabilize it, but I don't know -- it's
10 like taking over a country. I don't know
11 if we're going to be there forever and
12 want us to gain control of the schools
13 and then figure a -- "sustainable" is the
14 word Deputy Mayor Gillison likes to
15 use -- a sustainable way to transition to
16 some kind of community management.

17 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well,
18 just let me say again that I realize that
19 we have to do this in partnership with
20 others and there has to be a strong
21 collaboration in order for this to work,
22 but the reality is is that the schools
23 have been taken over in many cases. Not
24 all schools. Many of our schools run
25 just fine and don't need this kind of

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 intervention, but there are some schools
3 that are right now being run by gang
4 members and others that would do harm to
5 other children, assault staff and so
6 forth, and that is simply unacceptable,
7 period, and we need to be in a position
8 to take action in those instances where
9 it's necessary. And it's not one size
10 fits all. Not every school is in need of
11 that, but there are some that are. And
12 we need to do so in collaboration. And
13 then down the road once things are
14 stabilized, then obviously we'd have that
15 discussion around any adjustments that
16 need to be made in security. I'm
17 certainly not proposing that this be a
18 permanent thing, because I'd like to
19 think it works and you don't need it
20 anymore, so then we can go about doing
21 something else.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Well, in the
23 case of the 4th District -- and I can't
24 speak for any other district -- I'd like
25 to have a collaborative effort that

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 involves the community, involves
3 parent-teachers associations. So as we
4 walk this path, that people are eyes wide
5 open and understand the consequences,
6 because the unintended consequences are
7 the ones that it is better to explain in
8 the front end than have to explain over a
9 bad occurrence.

10 So if we could work together
11 with our offices and parent-teachers
12 associations that are already out there
13 to figure out which schools, to figure
14 out what the threshold of violence is or
15 lack of control in the school, that we
16 kind of all work together to address it,
17 I think that at the end of the day, it
18 will be the kind of decision that we
19 collectively make that we can all stand
20 behind as we go forward.

21 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Thank
22 you, sir, and certainly I look forward to
23 working along with you and others as we
24 begin to try to figure out what we need
25 to do to make our schools safer for our

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 kids.

3 One final thought on this.

4 When you talk about armed police officers
5 in schools and so forth, I tend to think
6 of the Police Athletic League, where
7 we've got 33 armed police officers around
8 the City working in locations with young
9 people on a daily basis and making a huge
10 difference, and they aren't seen as just
11 cops. They're role models, they're
12 mentors, they're a positive influence
13 with our children, and I would like to
14 think that the same thing can be
15 accomplished if we do get involved more
16 deeply in security for the schools.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Appreciate
18 it.

19 Segueing, my last question is,
20 we're doing an Aging in a New Age
21 conference in conjunction with WHYY to
22 talk about the paradigm of aging in
23 Philadelphia and graying in Philadelphia,
24 and we're asking each department to kind
25 of take a look at, with fresh eyes, the

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 concept of aging, and in your case with
3 the law enforcement and the Police
4 Department, crimes against seniors and
5 how they are evolving with the
6 possibility of naturally occurring aging
7 communities and how we address that, also
8 from everything from what happens by way
9 of home invasions and are they on a tick
10 up. I had distress of reading about home
11 invasions and particularly targeted
12 against seniors to see if there is a
13 pattern with that. Also some softer
14 crimes, but nonetheless harmful, that
15 Councilman Greenlee has addressed in many
16 ways, which is deeds and fraudulent
17 transference of deeds. We've heard
18 nightmare stories in these Chambers about
19 people walking on hospital wards, looking
20 at people that are ill and incapacitated
21 and actually trying to falsely transfer
22 deeds.

23 So we want -- we would ask you
24 and your department to participate in
25 that, and what we hope to do is come out

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 of that with a white paper, an action
3 plan, whether it is to deal with things
4 administratively or addressing them
5 through loopholes in laws that can be
6 helpful and particularly for this
7 vulnerable population.

8 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well,
9 thank you, sir, and we certainly will
10 participate, and as one of those
11 individuals aging in Philadelphia myself,
12 I look forward to it. Thank you.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
14 Madam President.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:
16 You're welcome.

17 The Chair recognizes Councilman
18 Green.

19 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
20 Madam Chair. For once I get to say, I
21 hope I get that Curtis Jones type time
22 for questioning.

23 So good morning.

24 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Good
25 morning.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are
3 you complaining?

4 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Not at all.
5 Not at all. Just asking for equal
6 treatment with Councilman Jones.

7 I'm just curious -- this is not
8 really related to any of the questions
9 that I have for you, but on April 28th,
10 we'll be having hearings with LEHB, which
11 is the Law Enforcement Health Benefits
12 group that runs the health insurance for
13 sworn officers, I think only sworn
14 officers. I don't think it includes
15 civilians, but I could be wrong about
16 that. At any rate, it is a model of
17 efficiency in terms of the way health
18 insurance is run in the City of
19 Philadelphia. It appears to me to be the
20 best model that we have in the City,
21 based on the work we've done, in terms of
22 how much they're able to actually save
23 the City as a consequence of going back
24 and challenging what the insurers or
25 doctors or hospitals have charged us.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 Are all of you as sworn
3 officers, do you deal through LEHB or are
4 you in the exempt plan?

5 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: I'm in
6 the exempt plan, but I believe the others
7 are all in the same sworn plan.

8 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Well, you're
9 a sworn officer also, aren't you,
10 Commissioner?

11 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Yes, but
12 I --

13 COUNCILMAN GREEN: I recommend
14 you look into LEHB, because the benefits
15 are far greater with much lower
16 deductibles and at about the same cost as
17 the rest of City employees. So if I were
18 a sworn officer and could take advantage
19 of that, I can tell you I would.

20 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Thank
21 you, Councilman Green. I appreciate
22 that.

23 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Councilman
24 Greenlee asked some questions about
25 technology and foot patrols and other

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 things, and I'm just wondering, are there
3 specific metrics being used to measure
4 the effectiveness of the approaches you
5 noted like foot patrols, like some of the
6 things that you guys have talked about at
7 past budget hearings, offender-focused
8 tactics, police/community problem-solving
9 interventions? Do we have a comparison
10 of where that is existing in another
11 neighborhood where we don't do that but
12 had similar background statistics?

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ROSS:

14 Absolutely, Councilman. In fact, that
15 was part of the measurement that was used
16 in using like areas to determine the
17 effectiveness of the foot patrols, as
18 well as other SMART policing tactics that
19 we use. So the Temple experiment
20 actually required that we grid out a
21 similar type area, whether it be two by
22 two, three by three block areas, and we
23 measure that so that we can get an
24 accurate account and reflection of how
25 successful it would be. Obviously it

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 would be futile if we measured a busy
3 area versus an area that is less busy.
4 So that's one of the criteria that was
5 used.

6 And so we used X amount of
7 comparison groups to make that
8 determination, but we didn't stop there.
9 We also -- you're familiar with our
10 CompStat process and we call it crime
11 briefing. We grid out those particular
12 foot beat areas as well, not only to
13 measure for the City and the commanders
14 in question in terms of how successful it
15 would be, but it was also nice to take it
16 the next step where we brought a couple
17 of those foot beat officers down and
18 showed them their particular grid that
19 they walked, and it was very satisfying
20 for some of those foot beat officers to
21 see, particularly in particular
22 timeframes, how effective they were
23 being.

24 So, I mean, we used a myriad of
25 measurements to actually determine how

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 successful we would be, most of it
3 dealing with the SMART policing concept
4 that you're alluding to.

5 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Right. So
6 specifically, though, I'm sort of
7 wondering -- obviously we can see the
8 impact in reduction on crime, but I'm
9 also wondering about outcomes in terms of
10 resources other than the foot patrol
11 officer that otherwise don't have to go
12 in to that area in terms of saving
13 resources for other areas where
14 there's --

15 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ROSS:
16 Absolutely.

17 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Have you
18 measured that? Have you measured the
19 sort of like this year we had to put this
20 many resources into a specific area, like
21 two years ago, last year we only had to
22 send in patrol cars for crimes 300 times
23 versus 3,000 times -- I'm sure it's not
24 that dramatic -- and so those resources
25 were available to deploy other places in

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 the City, saving, or we had -- what kind
3 of savings are available or what kind of
4 officer man hours we essential freed up
5 for the rest of the City because of the
6 foot patrols there? In other words, in
7 terms of measuring a return on investment
8 of focusing resources like that so that
9 we can say, You know what, this makes
10 tremendous amount of sense, we can show a
11 return for each foot patrolman we put out
12 there in terms of the resources available
13 to other areas of the City essentially
14 without increasing costs or even with a
15 slight increase in sworn officers that
16 were responding to other calls more
17 quickly, et cetera, et cetera. I mean,
18 if you haven't done that kind of
19 analysis, I'd be very interested in you
20 sort of looking at that for next year's
21 budget so that we can really talk about
22 let's invest in more of this so that we
23 have resources available for the other
24 areas of the City type analysis.

25 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ROSS: I

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 mean, it's a great question, Councilman,
3 and in terms of exact manpower hours, I
4 can't give you a number for that, and
5 it's something that warrants study in the
6 future, but I will tell you anecdotally
7 that clearly when we grid out a
8 particular area and those officers are
9 there for an extended period of time,
10 particularly when they're there for one
11 or two shifts and they have counter
12 officers that walk the same beat, you
13 know, clearly the community and some of
14 the people who are less desirable really
15 get an understanding that these officers
16 are going to be here, and not only are
17 they going to be here, they're going to
18 get to know who the, quote/unquote,
19 players are, who the good people are,
20 which is Commissioner Ramsey's edict, and
21 obviously that's very, very important.
22 But also we also always talk about how
23 we're able to offset the resources, what
24 you alluded to previously, in terms of
25 our citywide resources as well as some of

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 our tactical resources in the district.

3 I don't have the actual
4 manpower numbers for you, but I can tell
5 you that when those officers are there
6 for a significant amount of time, that it
7 clearly makes a difference.

8 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Yeah. I
9 understand the anecdotal. Just looking
10 forward I wonder if we could actually
11 study it.

12 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Yeah. I
13 think, one, that's a great question, and,
14 yes, we will, because when you have the
15 foot patrol officers, for an example, to
16 answer calls, you don't have to use your
17 motorized patrol units to the same
18 extent. They can do other things. Units
19 that are mission-oriented, such as
20 Highway Patrol and Strike Force, we don't
21 have to use them as much in a given area.
22 So we save on that. They can do other
23 things.

24 You raised the right -- you're
25 asking the right questions, and these are

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 the kinds of things that I think will
3 have some very positive results when we
4 begin to show it.

5 The one intangible, though,
6 that's going to be a little more
7 difficult to measure, although we could
8 even do this through surveys, the citizen
9 attitude towards the police in those
10 target areas, because they do get to know
11 the officers. And all of our new
12 recruits, by the way, you mentioned
13 earlier, Madam President, the 120, they
14 all start on foot patrol. Every police
15 officer that comes to us starts on foot
16 patrol. Don't even think about getting a
17 car for that first year or so. I want
18 them out there on foot. I want them to
19 know the community. I want them out
20 there doing just good old-fashioned
21 police work that involves making positive
22 contact with the community.

23 I think we created a whole
24 generation of cops that got in cars,
25 rolled up windows and just did 30 miles

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 an hour up and down streets and never got
3 to know the people that they're serving,
4 and that's just flat-out wrong. So the
5 way to do it is by foot patrol, and you
6 get a lot of side benefits as a result of
7 that. And we'll take and peel back the
8 layers of the onion, Councilman, and
9 really take a look and see, because I
10 think you raised some interesting points,
11 that we need to actually get credit for
12 it, quite frankly, because if it's good
13 stuff happening, we're kind of
14 shortchanging ourselves when we don't
15 look at it and show you clearly the
16 benefits.

17 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.

18 Along those or sort of similar lines, I
19 think it was two years ago we talked
20 about Oklahoma City and I think it's
21 Alameda, California and other places
22 where the officers basically have
23 handheld devices, can fill out all their
24 reports, without going back to the
25 station, on a secure network that is

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 controlled by the Police Department or
3 controlled by the particular city, and
4 studies have demonstrated that without
5 officers having to go back and forth into
6 the district, it has increased police
7 presence by 20 to 24 percent in cities
8 that have done that.

9 Can you talk about our plans to
10 roll that out in the City of Philadelphia
11 and whether or not you've had a chance to
12 talk to any of the chiefs in other
13 jurisdictions that have successfully
14 implemented this?

15 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Yes, sir.
16 I have been able to speak to other chiefs
17 from jurisdictions that have this kind of
18 technology. They tend to be the smaller
19 or medium size, but it can be done in a
20 big jurisdiction, too.

21 One of the things that has to
22 happen is, one, our wireless network has
23 to be shored up to a point where it could
24 handle the volume, because we are such a
25 large agency. There's also some

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 encryption issues that are being
3 addressed right now, because we have to
4 be SEGUS compliant to meet the state
5 standards of being able to transmit data
6 wirelessly but in an encrypted
7 environment, and we are working on all
8 those kinds of things now.

9 I'm a huge believer in
10 technology. The more we have, the
11 better. We're now working with Traffic
12 Court to be able to print our moving
13 violations electronically. We're getting
14 the license plate readers so that we can
15 scan for hot cars and things of that
16 nature. I would like to see a records
17 management system where an officer takes
18 the report, wirelessly transmit it to a
19 supervisor for review and then it goes
20 into the central database. All those
21 things are things that we are working on.

22 And in addition to that, as an
23 aside, I'm the President of Major City
24 Police Chiefs, and we've taken a very
25 strong stand with the FCC around getting

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 bandwidth set aside for law enforcement
3 across this country in the 700 megahertz
4 range. That will give us the bandwidth
5 we need to be able to do a lot of things
6 that need to happen. The President has
7 signed off on it. I think in his budget
8 \$4 billion has been set aside to build
9 out the infrastructure.

10 All those kinds of things are
11 going to make a difference for police
12 across the country, because we didn't
13 even talk about streaming video and all
14 the other things that can happen as a
15 result of these advances in technology,
16 which will save on man hours, efficiency.
17 I mean, it's just incredible what it will
18 do once it's up and fully operational.

19 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And really
20 not -- hopefully it will just make the
21 police more effective and more responsive
22 rather than -- that's the kind of
23 efficiency we're looking for, is
24 productivity increases so that we can
25 respond more quickly when people need

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 police officers. And do you have any
3 kind of estimate as to once we roll out
4 the wireless network, you do allow people
5 to file reports electronically from the
6 street? I understand the necessary
7 supervisor step, but do you have any
8 estimate of how much it can increase
9 police man hours on the street?

10 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: I don't
11 have anything right now, but that's one
12 of the things that we would have to take
13 a look at, how long it normally takes for
14 an officer to complete a report, how long
15 it would take if you've got an arrest
16 situation. I know we do video
17 arraignments now. That has saved a
18 tremendous amount. We don't have to take
19 people down any longer. But that's all
20 things that we'd have to take a look at,
21 where are we now, you process, map it.
22 We're doing it now on a manual system,
23 but then where will we get the
24 efficiencies and what used to take maybe
25 an hour takes a half an hour, or

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 whatever, it took two hours, could now
3 take one hour. We've not really figured
4 all that out yet.

5 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Well, to the
6 extent you're looking for it -- and I
7 know probably we'll have to come back to
8 Council for some of the funding for stuff
9 like that. To the extent you can
10 estimate some measurable productivity
11 increase in terms of man hours on the
12 street, I think that would allow me to
13 help you advocate for this funding, which
14 I want to do.

15 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Will do,
16 sir.

17 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Also, I'd
18 like to commend you and your
19 Communications Director for what I read
20 about on Technically Philly a few months
21 ago, your increased focus on technology,
22 including tip gathering and Google
23 calendars to provide information about
24 community meetings and your new website,
25 and I just wanted to give you the

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 opportunity to talk about that, what kind
3 of impact do you think it's had on
4 policing, has it led to tips that you
5 wouldn't have otherwise gotten.

6 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Yes, sir.

7 We've actually -- our website,
8 phillypolice.com, we have gotten some
9 tips. We started something maybe I think
10 it's three weeks ago now called Video
11 Villains where it's very common now when
12 you watch the news, you see the video of
13 somebody committing a robbery or an
14 assault or what-have-you. We're getting
15 that out now in a more timely fashion,
16 and certainly it's available on our
17 website for people to review. It's not
18 based on the seriousness of the crime.
19 It's actually based right now on clarity
20 of the video, because we still recover a
21 lot of videos that the clarity is very
22 poor and you really can't make anything
23 out. But a lot of it now is very, very
24 good. So now you can not only look at
25 the current ones, but you can go back

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 historically and look at some of the
3 other videos that we've got.

4 We also are in the process of
5 putting together photographs of people
6 wanted for crimes like homicide, rape and
7 so forth, and we're going to be showing
8 that actually up on State Road in the
9 Penitentiary. I mean, a lot of these
10 guys know the other guys that are out
11 here doing wrong, and, again, working
12 through the District Attorney, should
13 they provide valuable information, it may
14 impact the case that they have. So we're
15 using technology that way as well.

16 We started something with our
17 roll calls where now we've got the flat
18 screen TV and a PC hooked up, so it's
19 specific to that district and their
20 particular people that are wanted for
21 various crimes, and that's constantly
22 being scrolled through during roll calls
23 to be able to do it. We put good news
24 stories out. We put -- we're getting
25 into Facebook now. We have a Facebook

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 page, Twitter. There's so many different
3 sites now.

4 You know, I'm kind of a 20th
5 century guy. I still got one foot firmly
6 planted in the 20th century and trying to
7 get the other one in the 21st. So some
8 of this stuff I don't understand, but
9 Karima Zedan, who is sitting behind me
10 here, and her staff have been
11 instrumental in really pushing us out
12 there, and if you visit our website, I
13 think you'll like what you see.

14 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Yes. So in
15 2008 and 2009 and I think again last
16 year, we talked about special units, and
17 generally you've been saying there are
18 still too many special units and you're
19 working to reduce the number of those to
20 make more officers available for patrol.
21 Can you tell us where that stands? Are
22 you satisfied with the progress we've
23 made there? Is there much more progress
24 to make?

25 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: I don't

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 know if there's a lot more to make. I
3 think the units we have now are units
4 that all obviously fill a very important
5 function, but what we have done is, I've
6 drawn from those special units for our
7 spring/summer crime-fighting efforts,
8 beginning April 4th, I believe it was,
9 was the first day where we had a group of
10 officers from these units and detectives.
11 They're going to be assigned to uniform
12 patrol and they're assigned to detective
13 divisions for a 90-day period. The end
14 of that 90 days they come back, and the
15 other half of the unit goes out to do the
16 same thing, so that we can bolster our
17 presence out on the street.

18 We still need Highway Patrol,
19 Traffic Division, Strike Force,
20 Narcotics. I mean, we have a lot of
21 issues here we need to address. Those
22 with redundant missions are the ones that
23 I was referring to before, and those we
24 did do away with or absorb elsewhere. So
25 I'm pretty comfortable with that, but

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 right now we're just trying to do what we
3 can with what we have and use the
4 specialized people to help bolster
5 uniform patrol.

6 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.

7 Mr. Chair, I have additional
8 questions, but I'll yield at this time
9 and come back. Thank you.

10 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
11 Councilman.

12 Councilman Clarke is actually
13 next. It has nothing to do with him
14 sitting up here as opposed to in his
15 seat. He just happens to be in the
16 ranking.

17 Good morning.

18 (Good morning.)

19 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: I just had
20 a couple of quick questions, one of them
21 a followup. On the casino district, I
22 was wondering if you can give me the
23 statistics of the various tiers of
24 crimes, primarily car break-ins, the
25 things that we heard during the course of

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 the casino debate prior to the opening of
3 the casino and the most up-to-date
4 statistics. And if you don't have them
5 now, I'll understand, but I'd like to be
6 able to show --

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: Point of
8 information.

9 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Yes,
10 Councilman.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: On your
12 question, I think I understood him to say
13 that there was \$3 million towards that
14 specific endeavor and that was for 12
15 officers, which in my Council math says
16 250 per officer, and if you could find
17 out if I was right or off base with that.
18 Thank you.

19 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: That's an
20 addendum to the question.

21 Basically, the financial
22 implications that the Councilman just
23 brought up, and I did hear you reference
24 that, to some degree, but what I'd like
25 to know -- if you have it now, that's

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 fine, and if you can get it to me --
3 basically prior to casino opening, post
4 casino opening, what those numbers are.
5 Just visually I don't see a significant
6 amount of change other than a parking lot
7 full of cars, but I really don't see
8 those impacts and the crime and some of
9 the other statistics.

10 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Sure. We
11 can get to you the actual numbers of
12 crimes committed in and around the casino
13 itself. We've not seen a significant
14 spike. There have been some car
15 break-ins. There have been some
16 robberies that have taken place that
17 obviously made the paper with people who
18 had won and then were later robbed. But
19 it actually has not been as bad as we
20 thought it would be initially. So we've
21 been able to stay on top of it.

22 As far as the \$3 million go,
23 there are a detail of 12 people that we
24 use, but these aren't the same people.
25 We rotate people in and out, because

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 obviously you got days off, you got other
3 considerations. Sometimes we have to
4 augment with additional people where
5 we've had periods of time where the
6 Traffic Unit has had to come in for
7 traffic control issues, although that,
8 again, because of where it's located, we
9 have not had the kind of traffic problems
10 we originally had anticipated. But
11 that's the money set aside.

12 With this being as new as it
13 is, we weren't quite sure exactly what we
14 would need in terms of overtime. The
15 goal is not to spend all the money. The
16 goal is to spend what we need to spend
17 and only what we need to spend, and I
18 think in future years, we can have a more
19 realistic projection in terms of overtime
20 that would be used specifically for that
21 purpose. But I think everybody was
22 anticipating a lot more activity and a
23 lot more issues and problems around the
24 casinos when they first opened up, but so
25 far, we have a very good working

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 relationship with the people from the
3 casino itself, the community and others.
4 And we've had some issues, but it really
5 has not been the like huge spike.

6 Rich, you want to add anything?

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ROSS: No.

8 Councilman, in fact, we've got some
9 feedback from residents in the 26th
10 District over there that they were
11 pleasantly surprised. I mean, you know
12 about that first day where it was very
13 chaotic, where folks were parking just
14 about anywhere, and we put an end to that
15 legally, but for folks who parked
16 illegally, they were ticketed, and I
17 think the message was sent very quickly.

18 We've had some minor incidents
19 in and around the parking lot, most of
20 which we were successful in solving and
21 making apprehensions on right away. But
22 from Mike Cram in that district, we've
23 gotten a lot of positive feedback about
24 the policing in and around the area. I
25 had an extensive conversation with the

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 head of security there, our former Chief
3 Inspector, Tony DiLacqua, and he tells me
4 that his executives there are more than
5 happy with the Philadelphia Police
6 Department and their response to issues
7 there.

8 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you.
9 Commissioner.

10 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: I just
11 want to add one quick thing that Deputy
12 Gaittens just brought to my attention
13 while we were sitting here apparently.
14 Dr. Radcliffe from Temple University is
15 watching the broadcast and stated that
16 he's in the process now of looking at
17 crime around the casinos and the impact
18 that it's had. So it would be something
19 coming out, which is even better than us
20 looking at it, from an independent third
21 party taking a look and looking at the
22 issues. I didn't know that, but that's
23 good.

24 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Good. All
25 right. Thank you. As soon as we can get

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 those statistics, the better. I've been
3 in a couple of meetings recently, and
4 actually one of the leading opponents of
5 the casinos acknowledged privately that
6 it did not turn out the way he had
7 anticipated as it related to problems for
8 the surrounding community.

9 Second thing, the PSAs. First,
10 I want to commend you on the advent of
11 the PSAs within I know in my district, in
12 the Hartranft community area, and it's
13 been extremely successful. I think it's
14 actually been even more successful than
15 anticipated, because we were fortunate
16 enough to have Officer Tyshaan Williams,
17 who has been great. I found that in
18 spite of the fact that as reported, there
19 is a significant number of individuals,
20 government workers, involved. We
21 actually had an appreciation dinner the
22 other night that Tyshaan put together for
23 the municipal workers and the community,
24 and it turned out well and the people are
25 really working together over there.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 My question is that given the
3 success of that particular model -- and I
4 know there's discussions about expanding
5 the process -- are we looking at the --
6 and, again, this is a somewhat detailed
7 question. Are we looking at the
8 financial impact as it relates to that
9 targeted area, the lessening of the
10 number of calls; i.e., 9-1-1, other
11 issues related to municipal functions?
12 Because just visually I see a significant
13 drop on the problem. At least the
14 perception is that there's a reduction
15 because of the great proactive work
16 that's being done over there, and if
17 that's factual, will we be looking at
18 accelerating the pace of that expansion
19 of that particular program?

20 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Yes, sir.

21 There are two things. PSAs, which stands
22 for Police Service Areas, has already
23 expanded citywide. That is a citywide
24 project. Officer Williams was actually
25 in a meeting -- every other week, we have

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 a meeting with the various divisions
3 around the Police Service Area
4 implementation. There are crime-fighting
5 strategies, there are problem-solving
6 plans and the like, and Officer Williams
7 was at the last meeting and we talked
8 extensively about -- I mean, I wish I
9 could clone him. I mean, he's that good.

10 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: He's great.

11 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: He is
12 absolutely fantastic. But the whole idea
13 is to have lieutenant, sergeant and X
14 number of officers assigned on a regular
15 basis to a Police Service Area, where
16 they get to know the community, get to
17 know people who are there to help them,
18 people who are out here causing harm, all
19 the various nuances of that particular
20 community. Officer Williams is an
21 outstanding example of that.

22 We're already doing that
23 citywide, and we've been monitoring. I
24 think you're referring to Philly Rising,
25 which is the effort that's underway

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 through the Managing Director's Office
3 that coordinates all the City resources,
4 not just Police.

5 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Correct.

6 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: But also
7 Mental Health, L&I, Streets, all of them
8 working together to correct some of the
9 conditions that actually help support
10 crime in the sense of creating an
11 environment that's conducive to certain
12 kinds of criminal activity.

13 We've got a couple pilots going
14 now. I don't know if the Deputy Mayor
15 wants to speak more to that particular
16 issue or not, but that is what's being
17 rolled out and what's being expanded, and
18 the goal is to make it a citywide effort.
19 But that is going to be measured. We are
20 going to be looking at 3-1-1 calls,
21 police calls that come in, all kinds of
22 things to see are we really having an
23 impact and are we really making a
24 difference in those communities that have
25 been impacted by the Philly Rising

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 program.

3 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Thank
4 you, Councilman. Everett Gillison,
5 Deputy Mayor for Public Safety.

6 The Philly Rising matter, just
7 as the Commissioner has said and I think
8 what you're talking about, we have four
9 models now that we have up and running,
10 four pilots. One, obviously we're
11 continuing with the first one. That
12 started over a year ago before we even
13 called it Philly Rising, but we knew what
14 we wanted to do and we went in to try to
15 get the thing done and to prove the model
16 worked. We've now expanded it. We're
17 now in Councilman Jones' district in the
18 4th, over in the 19th District. We are
19 also in the 15th Police District out by
20 Kensington and we are using downtown
21 because of its unique problems. We're
22 looking for trying to make sure our model
23 of how we engage the community -- and
24 however that's defined. In different
25 areas of the City, the community is

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 different. The downtown one is primarily
3 a business district with some residential
4 on the back side. But we're trying to
5 make sure that the model works, that we
6 can bring the City resources to bear on
7 this issue in a sustainable way to solve
8 the problem, and that's what we're trying
9 to do.

10 So, yes, we have it in those
11 four pilot areas. It is our hope that
12 once we continue to refine the model and
13 to make sure that we have the right
14 people always engaging the problem at the
15 right time, that we will take it to other
16 areas that are usually started by the
17 Police making recommendations, then
18 working with the community, where we're
19 going to go, and also getting input from,
20 quite frankly, Councilpeople, as we did
21 with you when we first started to sit
22 back and say, This is where we are going
23 to go, this is how we're going to try and
24 deal with additional issues that we have
25 found and to make sure that we can

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 continue moving this model forward.

3 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Okay.

4 Yeah. The reason why I reference it as
5 PSA, that's the way it started out.

6 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: That's
7 correct.

8 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: No. It
9 did, yes, sir.

10 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Now
11 we've actually -- we've got almost a year
12 and we're almost into this now by 13, 14,
13 almost 15 months, and it's Philly Rising
14 and it's -- we're at the point now where
15 we have routinized what we're doing and
16 making sure that the model that we are
17 bringing to bear on the problem and the
18 area, the geographic area we're trying to
19 target, that's what we're trying to deal
20 with. So you have Philly Rising
21 neighborhoods now that are sprouting up.

22 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: We actually
23 did this like 15, 16, it was called
24 Partners for Progress and it was a
25 similar approach. It was successful, ran

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 out money. You know, so the story goes,
3 but we just couldn't sustain it. So I
4 guess I can talk to you later on about a
5 target.

6 The Mayor and myself were at a
7 community meeting Saturday. It was a
8 similar situation. It was a myriad of
9 problems, public safety, all the other
10 quality of life issues, and both he and I
11 promised that we would come back and talk
12 about it. So it would be good if we can
13 look at that particular area.

14 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I'm
15 sure I'll get the call, then.

16 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: I just
17 imagine, because he showed me a card when
18 I saw him later on that night with a list
19 of issues.

20 One last question.
21 Commissioner, you may have -- I see you
22 have your lawyer here, so this is
23 somewhat of a legal question. In terms
24 of your response to an arrest -- well,
25 let me start out, in terms of laws, I

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 know that the state constitution governs
3 the laws as it relates to the Crimes Code
4 in the State of Pennsylvania, and then we
5 in the City of Philadelphia on occasion
6 have decided that we were going to go
7 outside of the constitutional
8 Pennsylvania box and implement gun laws
9 in particular. We have recently passed
10 and the Mayor signed based on information
11 from our people, the legal department,
12 that this was within the constitutional
13 bounds of the City, this whole Florida
14 Loophole.

15 As the Police Commissioner, are
16 you bound by solely the Pennsylvania
17 state constitution as it relates to laws
18 or can you follow laws as it relates to
19 the City of Philadelphia that we believe
20 are within the bounds of the -- so bottom
21 line is, somebody gets caught with a gun
22 walking around the street. They don't
23 have a Pennsylvania permit to carry. Our
24 people say it's not legal for him to do
25 that. Can you make an arrest, one,

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 without the District Attorney? Because I
3 know that the District Attorney has a
4 different viewpoint.

5 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well,
6 let's see. I don't think I can take the
7 Fifth at this hearing, so let me refer to
8 not only my Deputy Mayor but also a
9 lawyer.

10 We could confiscate guns and we
11 could put them on the property, but
12 whether or not a person can actually be
13 charged and we can go through the whole
14 process is a different, more technical
15 legal issue that I would rather have a
16 lawyer.

17 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON:
18 Councilman, again, Everett Gillison,
19 Deputy Mayor for Public Safety.

20 One of the things that I
21 promised the City Solicitor I would not
22 do, even though I am an attorney, is to
23 act like an attorney at these matters.
24 So I will defer on that, but I will say
25 to you that some of the strategies and

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 tactics in order to make sure that we get
3 to where you and I believe we would like
4 us to go necessarily doesn't always have
5 to go through arrest, but can actually
6 get us into the area by confiscation and
7 by seeking and forcing return of property
8 challenges and working with the other
9 stakeholder in this matter, which is the
10 District Attorney, to see exactly how he
11 wants to proceed. Those issues are still
12 being discussed, quite frankly, and we
13 are going forward.

14 The good thing is is that when
15 someone is -- I haven't been informed by
16 the Police Department we have found
17 someone yet that is walking around with a
18 gun that they only got as a result of the
19 Florida Loophole, but we are proceeding
20 along the path that we would end up
21 confiscating the weapon and then forcing
22 the return of property hearing, which
23 would then allow us to be in court and
24 then take the appropriate action as we go
25 forward.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 So there's always different
3 ways legally to skin the cat without
4 having to get to that ultimate question,
5 without getting to the District
6 Attorney's Office and see exactly how he
7 wants to do it, whether it's by arrest or
8 whether we would just use this as a
9 return of property challenge and go from
10 there.

11 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: And I don't
12 want people to misunderstand. I'm not
13 necessarily looking to have a person
14 arrested, because there are various
15 levels of charges. It could be a summary
16 offense.

17 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: That's
18 correct.

19 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: But there
20 is actually a gentleman that called the
21 District Attorney's Office and he had a
22 Florida permit, and we all know him
23 in-house, that said that he wants to be
24 arrested because he's challenging the
25 law. He then contacted the Police

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 Department, same individual, and says he
3 has this gun, Florida permit, he's
4 carrying the weapon, he wants us to
5 arrest him because he's challenging the
6 law. Then he contacted my office and
7 told the folks that he's coming to my
8 office and he wanted to have me arrested.

9 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I would
10 suggest that why don't we discuss our way
11 of handling that after we get finished
12 this. I'd be rather interested by
13 putting it in the position I think we'd
14 be in very solid grounds as we go
15 forward.

16 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Okay.

17 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: But let
18 me just take time to just thank you and
19 members of the Council for trying to deal
20 with this issue of gun violence and come
21 up with some reasonable, sensible gun
22 laws. I really do applaud you for doing
23 it. Irrespective of where the
24 Commonwealth may stand, as a city I think
25 we're making the right moves.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you.

3 Thank you, Commissioner.

4 Thank you, Madam President.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
6 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Miller.

7 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Yes.

8 Good morning.

9 (Good morning.)

10 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I wanted
11 to follow up on a couple of questions
12 that Councilman Clarke asked, and the
13 first is the PSA. Is the PSA structure
14 model accomplishing what you wanted it to
15 accomplish?

16 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Yes,
17 ma'am. And the PSAs, or Police Service
18 Areas, will continue. It's separate from
19 Philly Rising, was very much a part of
20 Philly Rising, but one is not in place of
21 the other. They do work together.

22 I'm very pleased, more than I
23 thought I would be, to be honest with
24 you. When we have these meetings, which
25 occur approximately every other

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 Wednesday, where we bring a division in,
3 I'm very encouraged with the percentage
4 of time that officers are able to stay in
5 their assigned areas, get calls for
6 service. It's 70, 75, in some cases 80
7 percent, which is much higher than what I
8 had originally thought it would be.

9 There have been numerous
10 examples of, during the course of these
11 meetings, of building relationships where
12 we initially started off with three or
13 four people at a meeting and now we're at
14 30, 40. Eventually we'll get even higher
15 in terms of turnout. That's a positive.
16 And, again, I think also the
17 responsibility that's placed on the
18 lieutenants and the officers is something
19 that -- I mean, they're stepping up to
20 it, the action plans. The community is
21 stepping up with its part in terms of
22 working and trying to help resolve some
23 of the issues.

24 So, yeah, it's working well.
25 It's always going to be a work in

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 progress in a sense, but I'm very pleased
3 with where we are right now.

4 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: When you
5 first came to Philadelphia, I believe
6 there was, what, about 12 police
7 districts that were -- was it 12 that
8 were --

9 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Nine. It
10 was nine originally and now it's 12.

11 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: All
12 right. I actually want to -- when you
13 talk about a decrease in crime in your
14 testimony, I'd like to know if you could
15 do a decrease or where crime is by area,
16 by police district.

17 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: We can
18 provide you with that, ma'am.

19 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER:
20 Particularly those nine. Three of the
21 nine were mine.

22 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Yes.

23 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay.
24 And with Philly Rising, it sounds like
25 one of my questions was answered when you

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 were talking -- when Deputy Mayor was
3 talking to Councilman Clarke, and I think
4 you said that you've been in the pilot
5 area for 15 months; is that true?

6 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: The
7 original one, yes.

8 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay.
9 And in the testimony, it says that these
10 areas, these Philly Rising neighborhoods,
11 are based on the most affected by crime
12 and disorder. So my question was
13 originally, how long do you stay when you
14 go into an area, but you said --

15 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: The
16 answer -- again, Everett Gillison, Deputy
17 Mayor for Public Safety.

18 The answer is is that we never
19 leave. The way that we are trying to
20 make sure that we handle this issue is
21 not to have things start and end, but
22 rather change the way that we actually
23 handle the processes from how government
24 responds. How the Police Department
25 responds is a culture change to the

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 community policing model. We're not just
3 going to, as the Commissioner referenced
4 earlier, get someone in a car and drive
5 by at 30 miles an hour. That's a
6 disconnect. There is a way to actually
7 engage and stay engaged with the public,
8 which is the heart and soul of community
9 policing. Well, it's the heart and soul
10 of how a city should respond as well.
11 And that's why Philly Rising is not a
12 start and end, it is a way of doing
13 business that should change, and as we go
14 forward, we'll be able to roll out.

15 Now, we should be able to
16 measure what our effects are across the
17 board, and the Police have been able to
18 show in the first area somewhere between
19 a 12 and 18 percent drop in the Philly
20 Rising area that we've been in the
21 longest. It's those kind of metrics and
22 measures that we are after. So each
23 place we go in this model, as we apply
24 the model to the area, we want to see
25 what effect are we having, and that's

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 going to be a way that we respond to
3 those people in that area consistently.
4 And that's why it's not just a start and
5 an end; it's a way of doing business
6 change that we're doing with the City of
7 Philadelphia.

8 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: If I
9 could add one thing, ma'am. I think that
10 one thing, just to add to what the Deputy
11 Mayor is saying, is that at some point,
12 there is a transition to a more
13 maintenance type of way of dealing with
14 issues than it is the initial infusion of
15 resources, because once the issue -- same
16 thing in PSAs. Once you correct the
17 issue, which may take quite a bit of
18 resource to do, once that's corrected,
19 now you've got to be able to maintain it,
20 and that's working with the community,
21 because ultimately they're the ones that
22 have to maintain the quality of a
23 neighborhood, and also with the agencies
24 that are there in support of the
25 community.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 So you never leave, but you
3 kind of transition into more of a
4 maintenance mode, if you will, where you
5 continue to provide resources, you
6 continue to attack a problem, because in
7 many instances, you don't -- when we
8 teach in our problem-solving, total
9 elimination of a problem is not always
10 realistic, but you can have a positive
11 impact on it and you can reduce the harm
12 from the particular problem. And so it
13 depends on what you're dealing with, but
14 at some point you do have a maintenance.
15 And you're always going to have some
16 level of maintenance. You can never just
17 totally pull all resources out of an
18 area. So once you're there, you're
19 there, just to varying degrees.

20 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Well,
21 that's really good to hear, because then
22 that's the difference between the
23 Partners for Progress and the Operation
24 Sunrise that Philadelphia used to have.
25 In my district was where a young child

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 was shot and the school crossing guard
3 was also shot. You guys remember that.
4 And there was a lot of attention to that
5 area, like a 20,000-person anti-violence
6 march and then came in and did all kinds
7 of things in the area, and lots of people
8 brought a lot of resources in the area,
9 and then it stopped. But, of course, I
10 don't -- part of it actually was my
11 district and then Councilman Nutter's
12 district, where the supposedly offenders
13 lived. My district was where the folks
14 were shot.

15 So I don't really know what's
16 happening in certain parts of the
17 district, but I don't think -- I do
18 believe that people have to continue to
19 be involved, the people that live there.
20 You can't resolve the issue if they're
21 not involved in this.

22 So I was just wondering, by
23 neighborhood when you're going to expand,
24 is there some type of date to expand?
25 When are you coming to the 8th District?

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 That's what I want to know.

3 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON:

4 Councilwoman, I am sure that we will be
5 in touch. That's all I can say to you
6 right now, but believe me, we'll be in
7 touch.

8 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: All

9 right. Good.

10 I have a couple more questions.

11 You don't fund YVRP, do you, Youth
12 Violence Reduction?

13 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: That's

14 out of my office and the Managing
15 Director's Office.

16 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: That's

17 going to continue?

18 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON:

19 Absolutely. We have -- there's some
20 federal grants this year that are
21 expiring, and the budget that has been
22 proposed actually has -- the
23 Administration is putting and covering
24 that deficit. I believe it's up to \$1.5
25 million. That's correct, \$1.5 million

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 we're suggesting in this budget that we
3 put in in order to help fund YVRP.

4 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay. I
5 have a couple more questions, but...

6 That's it, Council President.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: I
8 know that Councilwoman Blackwell wanted
9 to be recognized, but she had to go to a
10 meeting.

11 The Chair recognizes Councilman
12 Goode.

13 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
14 Madam President.

15 Good morning, Commissioner, and
16 good morning to the Deputy Mayor and the
17 Deputy Commissioners.

18 (Good morning.)

19 COUNCILMAN GOODE: First,
20 congratulations on your success, and I
21 wish you continued success.

22 I was looking at the statistics
23 contained within your testimony and I
24 note that the homicide rate has gone down
25 21.7 percent, but that the amount of

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 shootings has gone down 6.9 percent. Can
3 you reconcile that? I mean, is it a
4 matter of --

5 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Yes.

6 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Is it a
7 matter of people not shooting to kill?
8 Is it a matter of people having bad aim?

9 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well, I
10 think it's a couple things. One, and I
11 have to say that we've got some of the
12 best trauma centers in the world here in
13 Philadelphia. They save a lot of lives
14 here in Philadelphia. And I have to say
15 that.

16 If you look at our statistics
17 this year, though, it's just the
18 opposite. We're up slightly in
19 homicides. Of course, we picked up eight
20 in January with the Dr. Gosnell case.
21 We're actually four over where we were
22 last year if you took that away, but our
23 shootings are actually down 10 percent.
24 So the mortality rate is up. We're
25 actually having more shootings where the

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 intent is exactly to kill, head shots,
3 multiple gunshots. We had an individual
4 last week that was hit, I think, 10 or 12
5 times in the body, fortunately has not
6 expired, but that shows the level of
7 violence toward that particular
8 individual. So we do monitor that very
9 carefully.

10 Retaliations are up slightly,
11 and a lot of what we do when Deputy Ross
12 is having his crime briefings, when we
13 have a shooting, is look to see whether
14 or not this is one that's probably going
15 to result in some form of retaliation,
16 and a lot of times you can anticipate
17 that and we try to get out there very,
18 very quickly and try to stop that from
19 occurring.

20 So our homicides were down
21 compared -- up until just recently. Our
22 shootings are down. But the two don't
23 really go hand in hand, because there are
24 so many factors that figure in to what
25 ultimately results in a homicide.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Which sort
3 of leads to my next question. I'm always
4 interested in the update in terms of
5 demographics of who is being shot and who
6 is being killed. So if you could submit
7 through the Chair any recent demographics
8 you have with regard to age and race and
9 sex and graduation rate, but the one
10 thing I'm most interested about in terms
11 of the data is how many people were shot
12 by people that they know, acquaintances,
13 and where we're at in terms of that and
14 whether that affects our ability to be
15 even more successful in terms of driving
16 down those numbers.

17 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Yes, sir.
18 I can do that, and I can get that
19 information to you. I don't know if we'd
20 have the graduation rate of the
21 individuals that were victims, although
22 we could work with the schools to see
23 what we could come up with that. But the
24 demographic hasn't changed all that much,
25 18 to 24, African American male. In many

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 instances, in the majority of instances,
3 there is some relationship between the
4 victim and offender. I don't mean
5 relationship in terms of family, but in
6 terms of having some kind of knowledge of
7 one another or something that is --
8 whether it's an argument over drugs or
9 maybe it's over a girl or whatever, but
10 they've had some kind of contact with one
11 another. That doesn't seem to change.
12 The majority are gunshots. As of today,
13 76 percent of the homicides we've had are
14 due to gun violence. That's a 13 percent
15 increase actually over last year. I can
16 break it down by race, by sex, all those
17 kinds of things for you and get it over
18 to you through the President.

19 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I appreciate
20 that. But just lastly, as I said, I'm
21 really interested in to what extent if
22 these are young black men or young men of
23 color who know each other who at some
24 point decide to shoot or kill each other,
25 what can we do differently about that and

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 how does that affect our ability to be
3 even more successful than we've been.

4 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: I agree.

5 I mean, when you take a look at the
6 different modus -- for an example, so far
7 this year, 25 of the homicides are a
8 result of arguments, four a result of
9 retaliation. Of course, we have a lot of
10 undetermined, because until you make the
11 arrest and do more interviews, you don't
12 always know what actually kicked it off.
13 But conflict resolution short of using a
14 nine millimeter is really part of the
15 issue. It seems like there's a
16 propensity to go right to the gun or to
17 some other form of violence whenever
18 there is some kind of dispute between
19 individuals, and that seems to be pretty
20 consistent.

21 I'll let Deputy Ross kind of
22 jump in here. He deals with this on a
23 daily basis.

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ROSS:

25 Yeah. Councilman, one of the problems --

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 and clearly some of those stats don't
3 change from year to year with regard to
4 what the Commissioner talked about in
5 terms of folks knowing one another, but
6 there's a certain component or element of
7 that where we never know the answer to,
8 because we get quite a few people who get
9 shot who said, I don't know, I was
10 walking down the street and the guy with
11 a hoodie shot me, or I didn't see the
12 gunshots, or some of them just flat out
13 tell you, I'm not telling you. I mean,
14 they will just -- we've had guys go as
15 far as to lie about even being shot and
16 they're in the hospital ER, you know.

17 So, I mean, some of them are
18 just steadfast in their resolve to not
19 tell you, and that lends itself to our
20 problems, which is the retaliation
21 category that the Commissioner spoke
22 about, because you kind of know
23 intuitively where that's going, and to
24 try to some extent to get in front of
25 that is what we spend a lot of our time

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 on.

3 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Okay. Thank

4 you.

5 Thank you, Madam President.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:

7 You're welcome.

8 The Chair recognizes

9 Councilwoman Blackwell.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank

11 you, Madam President.

12 I only wanted to take a moment

13 to say thank you. I know how often I

14 call, and I always get support, and I

15 call all of you. I call Deputy

16 Commissioner Bethel. I call our

17 captains. But we are thankful for all of

18 that. And we note that the FOP is also

19 here. We're glad to see them, and we

20 appreciate the relationship and the

21 partnership we have to try to make things

22 better in our city. Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Thank

24 you, ma'am.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 Chair recognizes Councilman Kenney.

3 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

4 Commissioner and all the folks
5 at the table, the one thing that I do
6 notice relative to responsiveness in line
7 with what Councilwoman Blackwell said is
8 that I can go to captains and get
9 response, which is really a terrific
10 thing, because I don't think I've ever
11 called any of you about anything. When I
12 see you, we have conversation, but to be
13 able to call line captains, they get back
14 to you, they respond to you, I mean, that
15 to me speaks volumes as to how the
16 command structure is working, because
17 I've always felt that the captain level
18 was the level that should be the
19 responsive one. So I haven't had a bad
20 incident with a captain. At least I get
21 an answer. If it's not the answer I'm
22 looking for, at least I get a response
23 since you've gotten here.

24 So I just want to thank you for
25 that captain-level response, because

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 that's important. Thanks.

3 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well,
4 thank you. And I know that the one thing
5 that I certainly emphasize and Deputy
6 Ross as well is making sure that these
7 unit commanding officers respond not only
8 to elected officials but when citizens
9 send letters or calls. It may not be
10 what you want to hear all the time and it
11 may not quite be the response that you're
12 looking for, but you get a response, and
13 that's critically important. And you're
14 right, it should be at that captain or
15 unit CO level. But if there's ever an
16 issue that you need to bring to one of
17 our attention, then please feel free to
18 do so.

19 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
21 you.

22 I was wondering if Ms. Rhynhart
23 was still in the room.

24 The Chair recognizes Councilman
25 Green.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
3 Madam Chair.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: I'm
5 sorry. Councilman Jones was next and I
6 didn't see him. Yes, he is being given
7 preferential privilege today.

8 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Madam Chair,
9 I respectfully request the clock.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:
11 Councilman Jones.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you so
13 much, Madam President.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:
15 You're welcome, sir.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: We're really
17 encouraged about the resurgence of the
18 mounted police. One of the issues
19 particularly germane to the 4th
20 Councilmanic District is parkland, and I
21 wanted to get your assessment of -- we
22 did away with the 92nd, I believe it was,
23 Precinct who had exclusive domain over
24 parks and we kind of patch-worked it in
25 with other districts, and I wanted to

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 know, A, how that was working out by way
3 of statistics and then, B, if this
4 mounted patrol would somehow have a role
5 within our park system.

6 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Yes, sir.

7 So far, it's working out, and the 92nd
8 District was an example of one of the
9 units that Councilman Green mentioned
10 early on that we just simply could not
11 afford to hold on to. It was a valuable
12 asset to us, but we really couldn't
13 afford with the manpower that we
14 currently have. I'm told at one point we
15 had like 8,000 policemen in Philadelphia,
16 and obviously we don't have that any
17 longer, so we had to make some tough
18 choices.

19 Yes, those responsibilities
20 have been given to the districts, and so
21 far, we've not had any significant
22 problems as a result of them absorbing
23 that responsibility. One of the things
24 that I think will be beneficial with the
25 mounted patrol will be our ability to be

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 able to patrol areas that are not easily
3 accessible by car or by mountain bike,
4 and that's a lot of our trails, jogging
5 trails and things of that nature, we will
6 be able to reach on horseback. But I
7 also want the horses in neighborhoods. I
8 want them seen in North Philly. I want
9 them seen in West Philly. I want them
10 seen in South Philly. I want them in
11 neighborhoods as well, so that people
12 have a chance to see them. They are an
13 effective crime-fighting tool because of
14 where the officer is sitting, looking
15 down on things. I've seen them where
16 theft from auto, for example, people
17 breaking in cars, I mean, they're just in
18 a better position to do a lot of things.
19 And it also enhances our visibility. I
20 mean, you have people always say, I never
21 see the cops. Well, if you can't see
22 somebody sitting on a horse, I can't help
23 you. I mean, it just really does a lot
24 of positive things for us here in the
25 Department.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 But, yes, sir. It will give us
3 the ability, whether we're talking about
4 Cobbs Creek or anywhere else, we will be
5 able to have a presence out there, and I
6 think that's really needed.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: Well, we're
8 encouraged about it to begin and possibly
9 more. The parks obviously are our
10 treasure, and the security of us in the
11 park who use it as we start to look at
12 traditional areas such as Belmont
13 Plateau, but also now that we're opening
14 up Schuylkill River Trail and other
15 places, we don't want those to become
16 targets of opportunity because we don't
17 have that kind of presence. So we
18 appreciate your effort there.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: And,
20 Commissioner, wouldn't you say that
21 they're absolutely marvelous for crowd
22 control?

23 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Yes.
24 Absolutely. And when we have a Philly
25 celebration or something like that, and

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 even just the weekends on South Street
3 where we have the enormous crowds and it
4 comes time to shut that down and move
5 people along. One horse is equivalent to
6 about ten people when it comes to crowd
7 control, and there's just -- you just
8 don't have the same kind of conflict as
9 you would if you've got people trying to
10 move people. A horse can do it and
11 people don't feel threatened, it's not
12 confrontational, yet they move. And a
13 horse will clear an area out in, you
14 know, a third of the time that it would
15 take us to do it otherwise.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: I just
17 wanted to segue quickly and allow my
18 colleague to get some time in, but where
19 I wanted to go is from the CSI standpoint
20 as it affected our view of budgets so we
21 know more about the Forensic Science
22 Bureau. How are you on personnel there?
23 It's my understanding that you may have
24 dropped down and lost a couple of
25 chemists, from 15 to 12, and medical lab

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 techs, we are down to one, and if that
3 impedes upon our ability to solve crimes
4 through science.

5 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well,
6 certainly one of the areas that we have
7 asked for an exemption during the hiring
8 freeze was in the area of forensic
9 sciences, among a couple of other areas
10 of our operations. It's important that
11 we be able to bring people on board. We
12 have an excellent staff now, but, again,
13 because of volume and workload, we have
14 to make sure that we have an adequate
15 number of scientists available to us.
16 It's not something where you can just
17 hire off the street. I mean, these are
18 people with a high degree of expertise
19 and training that we need.

20 So I'll turn it over to Deputy
21 Gaittens to kind of get more specific
22 about where we're at in terms of any
23 shortages.

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GAITTENS:
25 You are correct, sir, and that's always a

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 problem with turnover in our lab. Young
3 people come in, graduate chemists,
4 scientists, and they get their experience
5 and then they go elsewhere where they can
6 make a little bit more money. We do have
7 some positions open right now, both at
8 the graduate chemist and biologist
9 trainee level. There are five positions
10 that we're looking to get filled almost
11 immediately. As the Commissioner said,
12 for certain positions, we absolutely have
13 to have them. Police communications
14 dispatchers, the correctional officers,
15 anybody involved in prisoner processing
16 and, again, in the forensic science area.

17 They are making such great
18 strides in DNA and the other type of
19 investigations they do now that we're
20 closing cases and we're getting the right
21 people off of the streets. So that is an
22 area where we do stay on top of that.
23 It's just sometimes it takes a while to
24 get a list out or a test and to hire the
25 people, but we deal with the turnover as

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 best as we can.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Do you
4 specifically go out and recruit or do you
5 rely on the City's Personnel Department
6 for that?

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GAITTENS:
8 We do both, to be honest with you. We
9 have to go through the Central Personnel
10 for the testing process, but I know the
11 personnel over at our lab are always
12 looking. We have a new lab director over
13 there and he's got a lot of energy, so I
14 have no doubt that he's reaching out.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: We
16 appreciate boots on the ground, but there
17 also need to be lab coats in the medical
18 part to close the deal, if you would. So
19 thank you very much, and I will be paying
20 particular attention to that.

21 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Thank
22 you.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
24 Madam President.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 You're welcome.

3 The Chair recognizes Councilman
4 Green.

5 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
6 Madam Chair.

7 I note Ms. Rhynhart is back in
8 the room, if you wanted to ask that
9 question of her.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Do
11 you mind?

12 MS. RHYNHART: Sure.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
14 you.

15 Ms. Rhynhart, you heard
16 testimony about the possibility of police
17 being assigned to the various schools.
18 How would we be impacted with Act 46?

19 MS. RHYNHART: I think that's
20 something that we'll have to look at.
21 Act 46 has certain requirements if we
22 give funding to the schools for certain
23 things, that we can't in the future ever
24 reduce that. So I don't know at this
25 point. It's something that we'll have to

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 look at and get back to you.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
4 you. And I assume that it would be
5 entirely up to the Mayor if we find that
6 we're not moving as rapidly as we could
7 or should for police to come on board. I
8 know the Commissioner has said he
9 anticipated that we would have probably
10 the first class -- not the first class,
11 but active patrol in February of 2012.
12 Supposing that doesn't happen for some
13 reason -- I mean, I can't understand why
14 it's taking so long to develop a test,
15 so -- you don't have to answer me. It's
16 a comment.

17 MS. RHYNHART: Okay.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: If in
19 fact for some reason -- and there could
20 probably be a number of reasons -- that
21 February comes and goes and we don't have
22 any additional police, do you think the
23 Mayor would be willing to extend the DROP
24 program so that the officers would be
25 able to stay an additional year?

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 MS. RHYNHART: The question is
3 a few parts. I don't think I can speak
4 for the Mayor on that. I know that has
5 been done in the past, so that would be
6 something that could probably be
7 considered, but I can't speak for him on
8 that. I can speak for the fact of how
9 important it is for us to get this police
10 class up as quickly as possible and that
11 we've already started working to get that
12 police class in place.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Do we
14 have someone now who is going to be
15 putting the test together? Have we hired
16 anybody?

17 MS. RHYNHART: Yes. I
18 believe --

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Oh,
20 I'm sorry.

21 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Yeah.
22 This is off our current list.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: I'm
24 on fire. Sorry.

25 MS. RHYNHART: Right. That's

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 okay.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:

4 Because that really annoys me, too.

5 Maybe, Ms. Rhynhart, you could
6 stay at the table at the same time.

7 MS. RHYNHART: Sure.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:

9 Commissioner, you indicated that the
10 attrition rate would be 190 officers in
11 Fiscal 2011. How many have we lost this
12 year to date?

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GAITTENS:

14 Year to date we are approximately 145 in
15 attrition this year, this fiscal year,
16 correct.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: And I
18 assume that those that we lost may have
19 been because of DROP?

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GAITTENS:

21 Yes, ma'am, although the numbers of
22 people in the DROP have gone down
23 significantly in recent years. I can
24 look up the exact total as to how many
25 we're going to lose this year.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 In Fiscal '12 the number of
3 uniform personnel who were eligible to go
4 out in the DROP was just 47 and in the
5 Fiscal '11, it was 51. Now, what we
6 experience is although you start the
7 beginning of the fiscal year saying it
8 will either be 51 or 47, some people
9 actually leave before they go through the
10 full four-year term. So there will be --
11 by the time we get to the end of the
12 year, they'll have gone out before the
13 full four-year.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:

15 Commissioner, when you indicated the
16 amount of uniform personnel that are
17 available for duty each day and I
18 asked -- and I think you indicated we
19 have 147 that are out sick, 362 on
20 vacation, 23 for any other reason to
21 leave. My calculations would indicate
22 that at the end of the year, we would
23 have 5,754 police officers actually on
24 duty. That's ten percent of the force
25 that are not available on any given date.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 Is that so? I mean, my calculations may
3 be way off, but do you see that as a
4 reasonable issue?

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GAITTENS:

6 No. Out of the 6,400 that we have, on
7 any given day we have 532 that are off
8 sick, vacation or other leaves, plus an
9 additional --

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: You
11 speak awfully fast.

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GAITTENS:

13 I'm sorry. I'm sorry, Madam President.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: I
15 know I used to take shorthand, but I
16 can't write that fast.

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GAITTENS:

18 On any given day, the average is 258 IOD,
19 147 sick, 362 vacation, 23 other leave.
20 So that is about 790. So on any day, 790
21 officers are off in one way or another.
22 That's out of 6,496.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: And
24 then you add those who are on limited
25 duty.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GAITTENS:

3 Right, and that's another --

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Not
5 on the street.

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GAITTENS:

7 -- 84 plus another 91, correct.

8 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: But the
9 key numbers, ma'am, to when you look at
10 where we are at the end of the year, when
11 you look at the long-term absences, such
12 as injured on duty, limited duty where
13 you can't perform the full range of
14 functions and the same with restricted
15 duty, but when you look at vacations or
16 sick, you could be sick for a day, two
17 days, you come back. Vacations, finite
18 period of time. When we look at those,
19 we really don't count them as on the more
20 permanent side. That's just on any given
21 day, you start off short, and that is a
22 fact. What hurts us more than anything
23 is the long term. That's where the heart
24 and lung and things of that nature come
25 into play. That really hurts us. You're

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 going to have vacations. You're going to
3 have sick. That all figures into your
4 relief factor, we call it, which is about
5 1.7, 1.8 in our department. So, in other
6 words, 1.7 officers to give you for every
7 FTE, every full-time employee.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Okay.

9 I just think you are one of the most
10 important departments in the City and I
11 would hate to think that we could
12 possibly be short.

13 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well, I
14 mean, it's too high, in my opinion, with
15 the limited duty, restricted duty, heart
16 and lung. I'm certainly not making
17 excuses for that, but we have been very
18 fortunate to be working with the FOP
19 trying to get those numbers down.

20 I don't think when it comes to
21 like heart and lung, for an example,
22 there is no number that's particularly
23 excessive. The goal has to be that
24 there's nobody in that status that
25 doesn't deserve to be in that status.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 Heart and lung is not a place for you to
3 go rest for a month or two to come back
4 to work. Everything has to be
5 legitimate. If it's 200, it's 200. If
6 it's 300, it's 300, but everybody who is
7 in it is legitimately in there and we
8 don't have any abuse of the system, and
9 that's what we're looking at, is to make
10 sure that people get back to work as soon
11 as they're physically able to get back to
12 work.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
14 you.

15 The Chair recognizes again
16 Councilman Green.

17 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
18 Madam Chair.

19 Commissioner, how many hostlers
20 are in the Police Department?

21 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: How many
22 what? Hostlers?

23 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Yes. We are
24 looking -- and what is a hostler?

25 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GAITTENS:

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 A hostler is the person who takes care of
3 the horse, grooms them, walks them, feeds
4 them.

5 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay.

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GAITTENS:

7 We have --

8 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Sorry. It
9 was a new position and I hadn't seen it
10 before.

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GAITTENS:

12 Right. We intend to hire five when we
13 build up the Mounted Unit. As of right
14 now, there is one. So as the Mounted
15 Unit expands, we'll need to bring more
16 people on, yes.

17 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So there is
18 currently, I think, six hostler
19 positions?

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GAITTENS:

21 That is correct.

22 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And then one
23 hostler group leader?

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GAITTENS:

25 That is correct. That's the supervisor.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And how many
3 horses are we going to have?

4 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well,
5 ultimately we're looking at about 30
6 horses, a unit of about 25 people.
7 Horses, like any other animal, there'll
8 be some days when they got to be shoed or
9 there's something wrong with them or
10 whatever and the vet has got them. So we
11 take about 30 mounts to support a unit of
12 about 25. That includes the supervisors
13 that would be there, and the total unit
14 would be about 25 personnel. And plus
15 you've got extended shifts and so forth.

16 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Where are
17 you planning on building a stable?

18 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well,
19 we're looking at a couple locations, but
20 the one location that has drawn the most
21 attention that the Deputy Mayor has
22 really been working with Public Property
23 and others is right across from Shamony
24 Stables. They're currently there in
25 Fairmount Park.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Where is
3 that?

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GAITTENS:
5 Shamony and Green Lane, right where the
6 old Shamony Stables is. Directly across
7 Shamony Drive, there's an old ball park
8 there and that's where the footprint of
9 the new Mounted Unit will be.

10 COUNCILMAN GREEN: We still
11 have stables that we own from the old
12 Mounted Unit in the Northwest section of
13 the City and also in -- when I was being
14 taken around by Fairmount Park, I saw the
15 stables that are in Northeast Philly, I
16 think just off Frankford Avenue. Is
17 there a reason we wouldn't put those back
18 in service?

19 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Yes.
20 Everett Gillison, Deputy Mayor for Public
21 Safety.

22 I too went on the grand tour
23 and actually went to visit about nine
24 different sites around the City, saw the
25 various places. The Krewstown, which was

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 the last one that was deactivated, the
3 amount of money, quite frankly, the
4 amount of money that it would take to try
5 to retrofit what was there would be in
6 excess of what just building new, and
7 under today's standards, we get it done
8 cheaper and actually faster building new
9 than it is to try to take something that
10 is old, what we saw, and running in all
11 new pipes and everything else that you
12 need to do. So the reason is, quite
13 frankly, it was a cost decision.

14 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay. In
15 the Communication Services Bureau, the
16 detail shows that there were nine
17 Criminal Investigative Research Analyst
18 Trainee positions, which were included in
19 last year's budget and vacant as of
20 December. Have any of them been filled?

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GAITTENS:
22 As of this point in time, there was one
23 that was hired. We will utilize those
24 positions in the Realtime Crime Center.
25 We are currently in negotiations with

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 both Microsoft and IBM to get this
3 project underway. So the bottom line is,
4 we will hire those positions once we get
5 that center up and running.

6 COUNCILMAN GREEN: In response
7 to budget questions last year, the
8 Department indicated that the positions
9 were needed to -- basically the
10 positions -- that without these
11 positions, the Department would have to
12 remove sworn personnel from street duty
13 to cover these responsibilities. The
14 reason they haven't been hired, though --
15 so my question really related to whether
16 or not we didn't hire them and had nine
17 police officers off the street. The
18 position has not been filled because we
19 don't have the center up yet?

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GAITTENS:
21 That is correct.

22 COUNCILMAN GREEN: What is the
23 Realtime Crime Center going to do?

24 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well, the
25 Realtime Crime Center is really kind of

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 strongly connected to something you said
3 earlier in the first round of questioning
4 as it relates to the technology. This
5 will give us the ability to be able to
6 see what's going on in realtime and make
7 adjustments in deployment as we see fit.
8 It will be the central repository for
9 information that will come in. There's a
10 data warehouse that's associated with it.
11 We'll have people there that will
12 analyze, recognize early on trends,
13 patterns that may be developing. If
14 there's an individual we want questioning
15 for a particular thing, we'd be able to
16 get a photograph of that person pushed
17 right out to the radio patrol car. I
18 mean, it becomes the hub of everything
19 that's going on in realtime. It has a
20 link analysis feature where if you have
21 an individual who may be the victim of a
22 homicide or whatever or maybe wanted in
23 connection with something, where have
24 they been arrested previously, who have
25 they been arrested with, all those kind

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 of things, known associates, things that
3 we can get information out to the
4 investigators and others in the field as
5 quickly as possible so that we can
6 resolve the issue as quickly as possible.
7 So that becomes our nerve center for
8 everything that's going on that's crime
9 related.

10 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.

11 I want to make a suggestion for your
12 website, and you may already do this, so
13 I apologize if you do. But there's been
14 a lot of burglaries, home break-ins in
15 the Northwest section of the City and a
16 lot of neighbors and other people are
17 going to the trouble, especially with
18 cars parked on one side of a park or the
19 other, writing down license plate
20 numbers, taking pictures of cars that are
21 there, sort of doing that sort of thing
22 themselves, and then if somebody gets
23 robbed, they share the information with
24 them. There are particular people that
25 are seen walking the neighborhood that --

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Don't
3 live there.

4 COUNCILMAN GREEN: -- sit in
5 the park for three hours watching cars
6 leave and go, and other neighbors keep an
7 eye on that.

8 And so the question is, if
9 people could download anonymously from
10 their cell phones or iPhones, other
11 things, pictures that -- you know, just
12 suspicious character in my neighborhood
13 or suspicious character on my block or
14 suspicious character been standing on the
15 corner for the last four hours at this
16 location, especially with GPS data
17 available, it would just give
18 investigators something to look at when a
19 crime actually happens in that area and
20 you wouldn't have to look at it
21 otherwise. I think people would feel
22 much more comfortable having that outlet
23 than calling 9-1-1 when they're just kind
24 of like -- people don't call when it just
25 doesn't feel right, because there's

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 nothing to report. Just sort of a way of
3 cataloguing for the police to go back and
4 later look at information that neighbors
5 felt nervous about, but didn't want to
6 rise to the level of a call, then you
7 lose the scrap of paper you wrote the
8 license plate number on. I just have
9 that as a suggestion.

10 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Yes, sir.

11 And thank you for that suggestion. One
12 of the things that a Realtime Crime
13 Center will do and one of the features
14 will be the ability for somebody through
15 Twitter, Facebook or texting to be able
16 to reach you directly that way, short of
17 calling 9-1-1 or 3-1-1, and we can react
18 a lot quicker and check out various
19 complaints. And that's one of the things
20 that a Realtime Crime Center, we'd have
21 people that would be at 24/7 monitoring
22 all those different systems, whereas with
23 a website, I mean, you're not looking at
24 it constantly 24 hours a day, but in the
25 Realtime Crime Center, there would be

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 people there. And if you want to send an
3 alert through Twitter, through Facebook,
4 through text messaging, we'd be able to
5 provide them with a way to be able to do
6 that, and there would be somebody there
7 to be able to see it immediately and if
8 needed to send the police or whatever, we
9 could do that.

10 COUNCILMAN GREEN: That
11 wouldn't be anonymous, though, and so
12 there is a way -- I'm just suggesting a
13 portal or channel or even if it's just an
14 e-mail address or a text number that -- a
15 text that's anonymous and allows people
16 to say at this location, something
17 nervous.

18 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well, I'm
19 certainly not as well versed in
20 technology as you are, but we'll set it
21 up in a way in which if a person wants to
22 leave personal information, they can, and
23 if they don't, then they don't have to,
24 because the goal, again, is to get the
25 information, not to always be able to

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 find the individual, although that's
3 always helpful when you can. But we
4 certainly can work through that as we
5 begin to design the technology for it.

6 COUNCILMAN GREEN: In many
7 neighborhoods that I have been around in
8 the City where crime is highest, I think
9 cell phones -- the Internet is not -- 41
10 percent of our citizens don't have
11 Internet access, and so cell phones are
12 sort of communication that give people
13 access, and so the ability to anonymously
14 do things like that via text message I
15 think would lead to people, especially
16 where there's community outreach and foot
17 patrol and the PSAs get up and running,
18 if that is communicated to citizens, Hey,
19 when you see something suspicious, you
20 can text a picture to this, I think it
21 would generate leads that might prove
22 useful. If you do it, I'd be curious to
23 know what the results are.

24 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: I agree.

25 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So thank

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 you.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:

4 You're welcome.

5 The Chair recognizes Councilman
6 Jones.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
8 Madam President.

9 And Shamony Drive is in the 4th
10 Councilmanic District, which is, more
11 importantly, strategically located on a
12 lot of those trails. In fact, by horse,
13 you can get all the way up to Chestnut
14 Hill from there, hitting Manayunk, East
15 Falls and other areas, or go as far south
16 as Cobbs Creek. And I think one of the
17 strategic reasons why you would want to
18 put it there is horse transport. You
19 have fewer miles to transport animals,
20 and I just wanted to give you that
21 insight as to that.

22 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Yeah. It
23 cuts down -- one of the problems they had
24 with Krewstown is the time it took to
25 transport back into the City, and now

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 you're talking overtime again, you're
3 talking a lot of different issues that
4 we've been discussing here today. That's
5 a more centrally located place.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: In fact,
7 about a mile from there is the Johnstone
8 Stable where they used to train the
9 mounted police once upon a time, and the
10 park guards, they used to learn
11 equestrian skills there.

12 I'd like to talk about a little
13 bit Operation Pressure Point, which deals
14 with nuisance bars, I understand. There
15 was an article talking about how
16 difficult it is to shut down bars. Can
17 you give us some insight on that?

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ROSS:

19 Yeah. Councilman, a lot of that has to
20 do with the State Police involvement. I
21 mean, when we were at our height, our
22 peak in using Pressure Point,
23 particularly as it relates to bars and
24 their enforcement, we were working in
25 conjunction with the State Police,

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 because they have the ultimate authority
3 to do that. We don't have the authority
4 as local municipal officers to go in and
5 do these spot checks like that. We
6 actually can do spot checks, but that's
7 the extent of it, where we could walk in
8 and basically just take a look, see
9 what's going on, but we cannot do
10 basically any kind of analysis beyond
11 that. That's within the purview of the
12 State Police.

13 So, I mean, we're going to have
14 some discussions with them about that. I
15 mean, obviously Pressure Point as it
16 relates to our crime deployment will
17 continue, but with specifically your
18 question about bars, we kind of had to
19 back off of that a little bit.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: In light
21 of -- have you had -- and maybe we can
22 facilitate a joint hearing between the
23 Pennsylvania delegation here in Philly
24 and this organization in Council to talk
25 about that particular issue by way --

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 because it is a common issue, no matter
3 what district you're in. You have great
4 establishments. Some of them operate
5 within the purview of the defined laws on
6 the books, and some of them need a little
7 bit of coaxing to do. And what we're
8 noticing is a lot of transfer of
9 ownership in a way that makes us take
10 pause, and we might want to have a
11 hearing, a joint hearing, with some of
12 the legislators at the state level. So
13 if it's a need to address it at the
14 Commonwealth level, we can, or if it's
15 tightening up L&I restrictions here, we
16 can. So that might be something we would
17 be interested in.

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ROSS:

19 Well, I think I can speak for the
20 Commissioner in saying we would welcome
21 that. I mean, Councilman, one of the
22 things that the Commissioner would ask is
23 that a lot of these proprietors
24 understand that we don't, as a policing
25 agency, have an interest in penalizing

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 these owners for calling 9-1-1. I mean,
3 which is all we really ask a lot of
4 times. And that it is counterproductive
5 when a problem that you anticipate gets
6 pushed outside of your establishment and
7 then what results is a shooting or
8 something like that.

9 So to the extent that those
10 conversations could make it clear to
11 those owners that that's not the intent,
12 that when you call and these calls are
13 documented, they're not done so to
14 penalize you later for something that's
15 going to hurt your license.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Again, some
17 taverns in communities are an integral
18 part of the socialization of that
19 community. Some taverns and bars and
20 nuisance bars in particular need to be
21 addressed.

22 A young man that I watched grow
23 up in the neighborhood you come from was
24 at 5th and I want to call it Olney and
25 was shot, robbed outside of a bar, and it

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 was fatal. And I'm saying to you that if
3 we notice that in or around these
4 establishments we have higher incidents
5 of violent crime, we need to address it,
6 and either they shape up or we get them
7 to ship out.

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ROSS: I
9 couldn't agree with you more. And that
10 gentleman that you alluded to, I watched
11 him grow up, as he grew up eight or nine
12 doors from me. So I know exactly what
13 you're talking about.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
15 Madam President.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
17 You're welcome.

18 Are there any other questions
19 from members of the Committee?

20 (No response.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I
22 don't believe so.

23 Commissioner, there's just one
24 issue that I always bring up, and I would
25 be very guilty if I didn't bring it up

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 today. The 12th Police District, I think
3 that is such a large, large district. Is
4 there any intention or hope that we will
5 be doing something about that?

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ROSS:

7 Councilwoman, all I can say is, we feel
8 your pain on that one. I mean, it's a
9 large, very busy district with its share
10 of issues and we have, since the
11 Commissioner has arrived in town, put a
12 number of officers in there and assigned
13 a number of officers there that weren't
14 there previously in terms of aggregate
15 numbers, which we think has helped
16 immensely. Obviously it's one of the
17 ones that has always included our pilot
18 foot patrol district.

19 So we're always looking at that
20 district, always trying to put key
21 leadership there. I think one of the
22 issues, because it's contiguous to some
23 other busy districts, in terms of trying
24 to subdivide it, it would almost be
25 counterproductive to some extent, because

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 the ones right next to it are equally
3 problematic. But we just are always
4 mindful of the need to put resources in
5 there and not look at it from the
6 standpoint of, Well, we used to have 150
7 and that's good enough. We're constantly
8 evaluating and reevaluating that district
9 in particular and there are about two
10 others that are always high on our list
11 year after year after year. I don't have
12 to tell you. And we're not, under
13 Commissioner Ramsey's leadership, bashful
14 about putting whatever we think is
15 necessary in that district.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
17 you. Because long before the Eastwick
18 Homes were built, I mean, it just seems
19 that it's expanding more and more, and I
20 was just hoping that there was some hope
21 that we would be able to do something
22 about it. It's a shame, because the
23 police cars have no place to park. It's
24 a bad location. It really is a bad
25 location. However, I'm sure we're not

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 going to be able to do anything about
3 that today.

4 I want to thank you all from
5 the bottom of my heart, and I'm sure
6 everybody feels the same way. Without
7 all of you, I don't know what we would
8 do. And we want you to know we're
9 extremely grateful for all the hard work
10 you do. I know whenever I have a
11 problem, I see somebody in the audience
12 and I don't want to embarrass him, but
13 when my back is against the wall, I call
14 him and the problem is addressed
15 immediately, and I want to thank you for
16 that.

17 Thank you all very much.

18 This Committee will stand in
19 recess until 1:30.

20 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Thank
21 you, Madam President.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
23 you.

24 (Short recess.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 afternoon. Thank you for your patience.

3 This is a continued public hearing of the
4 Committee of the Whole.

5 Our next group to testify will
6 be the Fire Department.

7 Commissioner, if you would
8 approach the table please, identify
9 yourself for the record and proceed with
10 your testimony.

11 (Witnesses approached witness
12 table.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: Good
14 afternoon. Welcome.

15 COMMISSIONER AYERS: Good
16 afternoon.

17 Council President Verna and
18 members of the City Council, for the
19 record, I am Fire Commissioner Lloyd
20 Ayers. With me is David Beatrice, Deputy
21 Commissioner for Administrative Services,
22 and members of my executive team and
23 staff. It is our pleasure to testify
24 before this Committee.

25 The Philadelphia Fire

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 Department plays a large role in keeping
3 Philadelphia safe. In 2010, the
4 Department continued to see low numbers
5 in fire incidents, fire-related accidents
6 and injuries, and fire fatalities.

7 The Department also responded
8 to over 223,000 calls for emergency
9 medical services, with 76 percent of
10 those calls leading to transportation to
11 a hospital. Philadelphia continues to
12 see an increasing need for service in
13 this area, and the Department will
14 continue to work through the challenges
15 of providing emergency medical services
16 to citizens and visitors of this city.

17 In Fiscal Year 2011, the
18 Department was also able to initiate
19 several innovative projects, including
20 the installation of roughly 7,000 smoke
21 alarms and visiting over 8,000 households
22 over the course of three months, with all
23 funding coming through a FEMA grant,
24 Assistance to Firefighters grant.
25 Additionally 2,000 alarms have been given

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 to the Department through the Federal
3 Emergency Management Agency, and we have
4 started installation and distribution in
5 conjunction with the Change Your Clock,
6 Change Your Battery program. In 2010, we
7 saw the third lowest number of fire
8 fatalities in recorded history in the
9 City of Philadelphia. We strongly
10 believe that the Department's
11 comprehensive fire prevention program
12 will continue to drive down our fire
13 incidents, injuries and our fire
14 fatalities.

15 In an ongoing effort to enhance
16 the delivery of emergency medical
17 services, the Department initiated an
18 emergency medical services pilot program
19 on August 3rd of last year. This
20 involves 9-1-1 EMS responses within a
21 defined catchment area by an Advanced
22 Life Support response vehicle designated
23 as AQR1. AQR1 is staffed with two
24 paramedics and is in service seven days a
25 week, from 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. This

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 timeframe has been designated so as to
3 insert an additional Advanced Life
4 Support resource into the Emergency
5 Medical Services delivery system, when
6 the Advanced Life Support system status
7 units are not in service.

8 The Department's electronic
9 incident reporting system is now
10 operational for all fire and first
11 responder incident responses, allowing us
12 to eliminate paper documentation for
13 reporting purposes. This also allows us
14 to be in compliance with federal
15 reporting standards through the National
16 Fire Incident Reporting System. It is
17 important to note that the number of
18 reported and classified structure fire
19 incidents will increase over the course
20 of the next year with the implementation
21 of this new reporting system, as the
22 definition of a "structure fire" has
23 changed under the federal system. This
24 includes additional incidents -- this
25 will include additional incidents.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 However, this does not equate to
3 additional incidents that the Department
4 is required to respond to or will it
5 require additional resources.

6 During the fall of 2010,
7 Northrop Grumman completed Phase 2 of the
8 Computer-Aided Dispatch upgrade, which
9 changes the way in which we dispatch our
10 vehicles. We can now use the global
11 positioning of our vehicles and apparatus
12 as opposed to a station location;
13 therefore, enabling us to better deploy
14 our resources. This phase also allows
15 the Department to map wireless 9-1-1 cell
16 phone calls, giving us better location
17 knowledge of an incident.

18 In March of this year, the
19 Department began conducting high rise
20 training for all command officers and
21 selected fire service companies. The
22 purpose of this training is to ensure
23 readiness for low frequency yet high-risk
24 events in the Department.

25 For Fiscal Year 2012, the

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 Department is requesting a total
3 operating budget of \$198,127,969. This
4 budget breaks down as follows:
5 \$189,705,676, or 96 percent, from the
6 General Fund; \$2,219,293, or one percent,
7 from the Grants Fund; \$6,203,000, or
8 three percent, from the Aviation Fund.

9 The below allocations show the
10 total and percent funding class breakdown
11 of our budget: \$174,722,934, 88 percent
12 of the budget, in Class 100 funds;
13 \$6,511,617, three percent, in Class 200
14 funds; \$9,891,007, five percent, in Class
15 300/400 funding; \$7,002,411, or four
16 percent, in Class 800 funds.

17 In the wake of recent federal
18 court decisions that scrutinize the
19 development of firefighter exams and the
20 creation of eligibility lists, the Office
21 of Human Resources is in the process of
22 soliciting proposals to develop a new
23 civil service examination for the
24 entry-level position of firefighter. As
25 such, we anticipate being able to hire a

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 new firefighter class in early 2013.

3 Additionally, the Department
4 will hire an estimated 25 to 30
5 paramedics in Fiscal Year 2012. We began
6 the testing and hiring process earlier
7 this fiscal year and anticipate bringing
8 in this new class April 18th. The
9 Department will also continue to have
10 open enrollment periods for paramedics to
11 ensure we are constantly bringing in
12 well-qualified individuals to serve in
13 this capacity.

14 The Department will continue to
15 purchase and train individuals on our new
16 personal escape system and proposes
17 spending \$1.7 million in Fiscal Year 2012
18 to fund the remainder of this project.
19 The apparatus allows our personnel to
20 have the ability to get out of a building
21 via a safety rope escape system when
22 necessary.

23 The Department is requesting
24 \$125,000 to replace 125 self-contained
25 breathing apparatus bottles for fire

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 service personnel. These new bottles are
3 needed to pass the certification process,
4 which involves a stress testing procedure
5 to ensure our bottles are safe for use by
6 our personnel.

7 Lastly, the Department is
8 requesting an additional \$2.6 million in
9 overtime to ensure we can meet the
10 operational needs of the Department.
11 These funds will help to alleviate issues
12 with not having hired a new class in the
13 past three years. We have seen an
14 attrition rate of roughly 80 to 90
15 members per year, but have been unable to
16 hire a class due to legal and financial
17 issues. As stated earlier, we anticipate
18 being able to hire again in early Fiscal
19 Year 2013.

20 With regards to our upcoming
21 projects in Fiscal Year 2012, the
22 Department would like to note the
23 following anticipated projects or
24 programs. Due to the new leasing program
25 in the Office of Fleet Management, the

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 Department will be able to receive four
3 ladders, 20 pumpers and 12 new medic
4 units. Without this leasing program, the
5 Department would continue to be in
6 serious need of upgraded equipment.

7 The Department anticipates
8 being able to competitively bid for new
9 deployment software, which will assist in
10 our ability to quickly and decisively
11 make changes to where our companies and
12 units are performing their duties.

13 The Fire Department is
14 committed to supporting the
15 Administration's goal of 25 percent
16 minority, woman and disabled-owned
17 businesses participating in City
18 contracting. The Fire Department's
19 Fiscal Year '12 participation goal is 20
20 percent.

21 For your information, we have
22 attached the following tables and maps
23 with Council districts indicated: A
24 station location table; engine locations;
25 ladder locations; medic unit locations;

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 fire fatality locations; emergency
3 medical service incident density;
4 structure fire density; fire service
5 representative locations; fire alarm
6 distribution locations.

7 This concludes my testimony. I
8 would like to take this opportunity to
9 thank this Council for its continued
10 support of the members of the Department.
11 I speak not only for myself, but for all
12 of the members in saying that your
13 support is much appreciated. Thank you
14 very much. I will now be glad to answer
15 any questions.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
17 you.

18 When are the Advanced Life
19 Support units in service?

20 COMMISSIONER AYERS: The
21 Advanced Life Support services units are
22 in service at various times. We have
23 24-hour medic units Advanced Life
24 Support. We also have 12-hour Advanced
25 Life Support units. So they are system

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 status and they are -- they're time
3 staggered.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You
5 mention in your testimony that you have
6 initiated an EMS pilot program designed
7 as the Advanced Quick Response Unit in
8 order to have an ALS presence when ALS
9 units are not in service. You state that
10 this unit is non-transport. Can you
11 explain what the AQR1 unit does and how
12 the person is transported to the
13 hospital.

14 COMMISSIONER AYERS: Yes,
15 President. The AQR vehicle is Advanced
16 Quick Response. Their job is to be
17 dispatched to a medic call. They run
18 along with -- it could be a fire company
19 as well as an Emergency Medical Services
20 system that is BLS, and what they do is,
21 they respond. They'll probably get there
22 before the Basic Life Support unit.
23 They'll start the intervention. They'll
24 make sure that the patient is stabilized,
25 and then the transport is actually done

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 in the Basic Life Support vehicle. So
3 they actually get there, package the
4 patient, and then they'll make sure that
5 the patient gets to the hospital.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Well,
7 would they be able to administer drugs?

8 COMMISSIONER AYERS:
9 Absolutely.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: They
11 could?

12 COMMISSIONER AYERS: They are
13 fully equipped to get there and
14 administer all of regular Advanced Life
15 Support. The thing with that is, they
16 remain within a catchment area. If they
17 were a carry unit at this point, they
18 would be drawn off into the system. And
19 now what we have is a unit that actually
20 stays in a certain catchment area and
21 services that area.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: So I
23 assume they're replacing rover that we
24 talked about last year?

25 COMMISSIONER AYERS: They're

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 not replacing. They're in addition.

3 This is a pilot.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: We
5 still have rover?

6 COMMISSIONER AYERS: It is the
7 rover unit. So I guess it's a different
8 terminology.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
10 you.

11 How many EMT positions are you
12 budgeted for in Fiscal 2012?

13 COMMISSIONER AYERS: Council
14 President, you're talking about
15 paramedics, correct?

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: EMTs,
17 yeah. Paramedics.

18 COMMISSIONER AYERS: We are
19 budgeted for 280 paramedics.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Don't
21 change your page yet.

22 How many EMT vacancies do you
23 currently have?

24 COMMISSIONER AYERS:
25 Seventy-two vacancies.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: On
3 average, how long does it take to fill an
4 EMT position?

5 COMMISSIONER AYERS: On
6 average, it takes approximately seven
7 weeks to go through the normal process
8 and school at the fire -- at fire school.
9 Then they'll be precepted for several
10 other weeks and then they'll go into
11 service. So it's maybe about three
12 months to actually get them into service.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: On
14 Page 5 of your budget detail, it reflects
15 a reduction of 98 uniform positions.
16 What positions are being eliminated?

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BEATRICE:
18 This is Dave Beatrice.

19 The 98 represent firefighter
20 positions. They're not being eliminated.
21 We are just recognizing the fact that
22 until the new exam goes through, we
23 probably would not be able to fill those
24 positions until early Fiscal '13. So
25 those positions were taken out of the

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 full funding and the funding was placed
3 into overtime. So they're not being
4 eliminated.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Well,
6 I would appreciate it if you would look
7 at Section 45, Page 5.

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BEATRICE:
9 Yes.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: But
11 doesn't it reflect -- it actually
12 reflects full-time elimination of 98.

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BEATRICE:
14 They're not being counted in the
15 authorized position this year. The
16 funding is being placed into the overtime
17 line for the 98.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Can
19 you explain that?

20 MS. RHYNHART: I can.

21 (Witness approached witness
22 table.)

23 MS. RHYNHART: Good afternoon.
24 Rebecca Rhynhart, Budget Director.

25 For the budgeted positions, as

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 you know, we budget to dollars and not to
3 actual positions. But when we look at
4 the position counts, we try to be as
5 accurate as possible to the maximum
6 amount of positions that can be filled
7 during a given year. And because in
8 Fiscal '12 it's not anticipated that
9 we'll be able to add firefighters, those
10 positions were removed from that maximum
11 position count for '12. In Fiscal '13,
12 we would assume to see those positions go
13 back in as they -- because it would then
14 be reasonable to assume that the
15 positions would be filled.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
17 you. We're not accustomed to that
18 process.

19 MS. RHYNHART: Right.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
21 you.

22 Commissioner, how many
23 firefighter positions are currently
24 vacant?

25 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BEATRICE:

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 There are no vacant firefighter
3 positions. Every slot in the Department
4 has someone assigned to it. It is the
5 extra positions that would be -- if you
6 had the positions, they would fill in
7 when another firefighter or member would
8 go out on vacation or sick leave.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: I
10 don't quite understand that.

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER Beatrice:
12 If you were looking back to the budget
13 before where you had the higher
14 authorized number, you would probably
15 look at it as being 80 vacancies. Now
16 that we're going to actual positions, you
17 wouldn't see the 80 vacancies. You would
18 see the funding in overtime, though. The
19 funding was not taken away for those
20 positions.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: So
22 I'll ask you in a different way. How
23 many current positions are presently
24 filled?

25 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER Beatrice:

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 Twelve hundred and sixty-eight
3 firefighter positions in Division 1.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: And
5 how does that compare to last year?

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BEATRICE:
7 Compared to last year, we probably lost
8 the 80 members on average due to
9 attrition. So the number would have been
10 last year approximately 80 to 90 higher
11 at this time.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Eight
13 positions?

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BEATRICE:
15 Eighty to 90.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Oh,
17 80?

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BEATRICE:
19 Eighty to 90. Sorry.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Let's
21 do some calculation.

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BEATRICE:
23 Sure.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:
25 Twelve sixty-eight. Okay?

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BEATRICE:

3 Yeah. That was on the increment run
4 listed in the budget in Division 1.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: And

6 if you add the 280 for the EMT
7 positions --

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BEATRICE:

9 Well, all the firefighters are EMTs.
10 Instead of EMTs, are you referring to the
11 paramedic positions, 280?

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Yeah.

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BEATRICE:

14 All right. The paramedic, we have 72
15 less than the 280. So we have the 208
16 paramedics in Division 5.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:

18 Making it very confusing to me.

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BEATRICE:

20 We'll be glad to provide further detail
21 at a later time.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: What

23 is your current attrition rate for the
24 firefighters?

25 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BEATRICE:

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 Eighty to 90 members a year.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: We
4 said that before.

5 And how many of them are on
6 DROP and how many do you anticipate will
7 be going on DROP?

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BEATRICE:
9 I don't have that in front of me, because
10 of the rush we had a few months ago
11 probably threw it out of balance, but
12 usually every year, except for that, we
13 probably had 50 a year included in part
14 of the 80 that left. I think the past
15 few months ago we've had a big rush, but
16 we wouldn't anticipate them leaving for
17 another four years. But next year we'll
18 probably lose the normal 50 or so.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
20 Personnel Director testified that the new
21 firefighters list will not be available
22 until either November or December of this
23 year and the next class will not start
24 until sometime in the early part of
25 Calendar Year 2012.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 With this being said, how do
3 you propose to reduce your uniform
4 overtime budget by \$4.2 million, as
5 reflected on Page 5 of your detail?

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BEATRICE:

7 That 4.2 million, the bulk of that is a
8 one-time reduction because of \$3.8
9 million of that was due to the Lawrence
10 paramedic decision. So you would have to
11 reduce it down.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: What

13 is the operational impact to the
14 firefighting capabilities of your
15 department of not being able to replace
16 firemen until Calendar 2012? And with
17 that being said, will we see more
18 brownouts?

19 COMMISSIONER AYERS: The impact

20 as related to the class being hired in
21 the last quarter of 2012, we actually
22 have minimum staffing and we hire on
23 overtime. This is the reason that the
24 overtime was added into our budget. And
25 moving forward, we expect that the

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 current brownout level will be what it
3 is, unless there's some other type of a
4 reduction that comes our way. Right now
5 this is our budget going forward. We
6 expect to staff using overtime and we
7 expect the brownouts to stay where they
8 are right now.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You
10 know, and with the paramedics, I know,
11 Commissioner, you have said time and time
12 again that you found it very difficult to
13 recruit them?

14 COMMISSIONER AYERS: Yes.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Could
16 you be having a hard time recruiting them
17 because -- even if we do get them,
18 they're trained here and then they go to
19 another county. Could it be because
20 they're really burned out and the salary
21 that we offer is certainly a lot less
22 than what the other counties offer?

23 COMMISSIONER AYERS: Well, one
24 of the things that we've seen over the
25 past year, Madam President, is the fact

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 that many of those things that we did to
3 counter that effect was, one, the
4 recruitment, making sure that we had a
5 battalion chief in charge of the
6 recruitment, going to all of the schools,
7 going to other jurisdictions, also a
8 national advertisement, making sure that
9 we got advertisement in the emergency
10 medical services magazines, so people
11 would see that Philadelphia was hiring.
12 And also we stopped and we looked at who
13 actually responded to that, and we had a
14 list of over 50 people, 50 names, which
15 we were very satisfied with. We went
16 from zero to 50 or very few to 50, and
17 now that enabled us to hire this class
18 that's coming up on the 18th. And we
19 have others that's on the list right now
20 currently that we will be hiring as soon
21 as we can get this next group into the
22 City service. So we feel really good
23 about what we've done.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: That
25 sounds very encouraging to me, because I

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 think every year you came in and
3 testified that you had difficulty
4 recruiting. I truly believe that most of
5 them get burned out and the salary level
6 of what other counties pay are more than
7 ours. But that to me is very
8 encouraging.

9 COMMISSIONER AYERS: Well, we
10 went away with your instruction and
11 encouragement from Council to do certain
12 things. We had information from other
13 City sources, and we followed those
14 instructions and we stayed the course and
15 now we too are very encouraged.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
17 you. Thank you very much.

18 The Chair recognizes Councilman
19 Greenlee.

20 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
21 you, Madam President.

22 Good afternoon, everyone. I
23 just want to go back. Actually, my
24 questions are kind of, I guess, followups
25 to what the President was asking.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 I'm confused, and maybe it's
3 just I don't understand the terms. On
4 this Advanced Quick Response issue, you
5 say it's in service from 8:00 p.m. to
6 8:00 a.m., which is when the ALS system
7 status units are not in service. I guess
8 I'm just -- maybe I don't understand the
9 term. I guess what's the difference?
10 I'm trying to figure out what the
11 difference is.

12 COMMISSIONER AYERS: Well, the
13 difference is the demand on our Emergency
14 Medical Services system. When the demand
15 goes down, one of the things that happen
16 is, the system status units actually go
17 offline, and they maintain -- we still
18 maintain the adequate number of response
19 units needed to face that demand.

20 The AQR was put in a pilot that
21 we put into service in a catchment area
22 so that they would augment what we
23 already had in that area. So this is
24 something that's a pilot project. It's
25 more than what we had in the system

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 before August the 4th, and they've been
3 in service since then, and we've been
4 getting some encouraging numbers. What
5 they showed us is that -- what the
6 responses from AQR showed us is that they
7 remained in the catchment area, they're
8 able to service that catchment area and
9 they're not bogged down by other calls in
10 other areas of the system. So we see it
11 as a very positive improvement to our
12 system.

13 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And how
14 many catchment areas are there?

15 COMMISSIONER AYERS: Just one.
16 This is a pilot. This is the first one.

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.
18 You're just doing it in the one thing. I
19 think I follow that. Thanks.

20 COMMISSIONER AYERS: Yes, sir.

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Now, you
22 talk about the fire fatalities, the third
23 lowest. In real numbers, that's what the
24 33 is here?

25 COMMISSIONER AYERS: That's

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 correct, 33, 32 and 30.

3 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Do you
4 know how many of those were where lack of
5 smoke detectors or working smoke
6 detectors were involved?

7 COMMISSIONER AYERS: The
8 majority, and this year we're looking at
9 80 percent. Last year we were around, I
10 believe it was, 75 percent of those
11 deaths. And we believe that continuing
12 to educate our public, continuing to do
13 the integrated risk management, going
14 into the -- knocking on the doors of
15 homes in the most challenged areas, we
16 have been getting those deaths down.

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.
18 Great. On the firefighter exam that
19 you'll have, who actually puts that
20 together? Is the Fire Department, are
21 you involved in that setting up?

22 COMMISSIONER AYERS: No. That
23 is done by Human Resources. They are
24 tasked with that and they have that
25 complete responsibility.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: They
3 don't ask you -- I mean, since it's a
4 firefighter exam, wouldn't the Fire
5 Department have some input in that?

6 COMMISSIONER AYERS: They reach
7 out and they have their own experts, and
8 they put the exams together, and they
9 have that challenge. And, again, as we
10 mentioned earlier, there are certain
11 requirements based on court verdicts and
12 things like that across the country,
13 decisions across the country, and they
14 have to follow those very unique and
15 sensitive guidelines.

16 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Last
17 thing, just so I'm clear on the
18 paramedics, I think Deputy Commissioner
19 had mentioned before there was 72
20 vacancies, they're going to hire the 24,
21 right?

22 COMMISSIONER AYERS: That's
23 correct.

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: You're
25 going to have the open enrollment, so the

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137
2 goal is to get to that 72?
3 COMMISSIONER AYERS:
4 Absolutely.
5 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And I
6 think I heard you say to Council
7 President you're confident that can
8 happen?
9 COMMISSIONER AYERS: Yes, I'm
10 very confident.
11 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: All
12 right. Okay. We all are, I guess.
13 Thank you. Thank you very
14 much.
15 COMMISSIONER AYERS: Thank you.
16 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
17 you, Madam President.
18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:
19 You're welcome.
20 The Chair recognizes Councilman
21 Rizzo.
22 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you,
23 Madam Chair.
24 Good morning -- good afternoon.
25 I'm sorry.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 COMMISSIONER AYERS: Good
3 morning, Councilman -- afternoon,
4 Councilman.

5 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Morning and
6 afternoon.

7 Could you please -- I'm going
8 to read your testimony on Page 2. "We
9 have seen an attrition rate of roughly 80
10 to 90 members per year, but have been
11 able to hire a class due" -- and this is
12 the question: What legal issues do you
13 have that you can't hire a class?

14 COMMISSIONER AYERS: We don't
15 have legal issues at this point. The
16 legal issues are actually following the
17 process that some of the legal issues
18 around the country presented and --

19 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: In your
20 testimony you say you can't hire a class
21 due to legal and financial issues.

22 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: If I
23 may, I'll answer on behalf of the
24 Commissioner.

25 Everett Gillison, Deputy Mayor

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 for Public Safety.

3 Over the last basically two and
4 a half years, there have been several
5 Supreme Court decisions. One in
6 particular came out in the fall that
7 indicated that due to either one
8 challenge or another on either side,
9 minority staffing issues and/or what is
10 sometimes euphemistically called reverse
11 discrimination, those issues have to be
12 dealt with in a positive way.

13 The New Haven decision that
14 came out in the fall actually is the one
15 that we are now and all over as managers
16 across the City, we are all in
17 consultation with one another to make
18 sure that we are following to the letter
19 the law as the Supreme Court has defined
20 it. Sometimes that is incongruent with
21 one another, but we're finding that there
22 are several companies that are out there
23 that will help design tests that will be
24 sensitive to all parties.

25 So we are in the process, and

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 that's what our Human Relations
3 Department is doing, putting together an
4 RFP that is going to allow a company to
5 be selected by the City who will design
6 the test to the standards that everyone
7 believes is fair and has been recognized
8 by the Supreme Court of this country as
9 being fair to all.

10 Once we get that RFP not only
11 answered, then selected, then have the
12 test designed, going forward we believe
13 that's the challenge going forward, and
14 that's why it will take as long as it
15 will take.

16 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: If we did
17 not have financial issues, you're telling
18 me that we still couldn't hire --

19 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: That's
20 exactly correct. We would not hire.

21 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Why can we
22 hire paramedics?

23 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: We are
24 hiring paramedics.

25 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Why can we

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 if --

3 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: The
4 paramedics are in a completely different
5 situation. The paramedics was as a
6 result of a lawsuit that was filed by the
7 paramedics in the City, that we ended up
8 having to wait and get some clarity on
9 how the paramedics should be hired, but
10 that has been straightened out. That's
11 been dealt with, and now we are hiring
12 paramedics. As the Commissioner has
13 indicated, we are hiring paramedics as of
14 next week.

15 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Okay. I'll
16 accept your answer, but I can't imagine
17 that legal issues that happen in New
18 Haven and other places would prevent us,
19 with all the lawyers we have, with moving
20 forward with a hiring process that's
21 legal. So I just -- I have a tough time
22 understanding. Maybe it's me not
23 understanding, but I want to go on to my
24 next question.

25 We would have hoped that the

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 brownout issue would have been resolved.

3 You all know it's still very

4 controversial, but what I want to ask

5 you, could you explain to me and to the

6 Council how overtime -- and I come from a

7 utility background, and I can tell you

8 that many, after case studies of serious

9 accidents and fatalities, are people that

10 have worked too many hours.

11 How do you fill these positions

12 with overtime? Are they strictly days

13 off? Could a firefighter be responding

14 to a fire after working 18 hours?

15 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: No.

16 COMMISSIONER AYERS: We have

17 limits on the amounts of overtime that

18 can be worked and the length of time that

19 you have to be off before you can work in

20 overtime. So we actually monitor that.

21 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: My question,

22 could a firefighter be asked to fill a

23 slot that already put in a shift?

24 COMMISSIONER AYERS: After?

25 Could you complete the question?

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: If I worked
3 Saturday, could the battalion chief come
4 or could someone come and say, We need
5 you to work a double?

6 COMMISSIONER AYERS: If you
7 haven't worked two shifts already, the
8 answer is yes. If you worked two shifts
9 already, the answer is no.

10 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So you
11 could -- how many hours is one shift?

12 COMMISSIONER AYERS: One shift
13 is 14 or 10 hours, 10-hour days, 14-hour
14 nights.

15 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So a person
16 in a busy engine or ladder company could
17 work over 20 hours -- let's say that
18 they're at their 20th hour and the alarm
19 could go, and they'd have to work after
20 being on the clock for 20 hours? And I
21 said a busy place, because everybody
22 assumes firefighters, which they don't, I
23 know, you know, all over the City aren't
24 in a situation where they're idle. They
25 could be at their 14th hour just

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 returning from a run and two hours later
3 going out on another run.

4 COMMISSIONER AYERS: Yes, but
5 thank goodness, Councilman, those days
6 are over. We are not quite that busy
7 anymore. We are busy. We do have
8 companies --

9 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: It could
10 happen.

11 COMMISSIONER AYERS: It could
12 happen, because it's situational, yes.

13 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: And you
14 agree with me, Commissioner, that a
15 person after being on the clock,
16 especially in a busy location, being on
17 the clock 18, 19 hours could jeopardize
18 their judgment or safety?

19 COMMISSIONER AYERS: We allow
20 the firefighters to work 24 hours
21 straight. After 24 hours, they get off.
22 If it was an overtime that was available
23 for a firefighter, that firefighter would
24 not be able to make the overtime. If
25 they took on an extra alarm in the 23rd

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 hour of that shift, they would be setting
3 up, doing all of those things that they
4 normally would do, and immediately the
5 incident commander, along with the
6 logistics officer, will be scheduling
7 relief for those persons that worked that
8 shift to leave the fire ground and be
9 replaced by the oncoming shift. So we
10 would be looking for relief for that
11 person.

12 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: My last
13 question. It took this Council to deal
14 with some property issues. I remember
15 sitting in this Chamber when the
16 Carpenter Lane fire station floor was
17 falling through, and to tell you the
18 truth, at that hearing it was not a
19 priority by either Public Property or the
20 Fire Department. I don't think either of
21 you realized how big a deal you really
22 had, because the issue was made by my
23 colleague Councilwoman Miller about the
24 condition of that. Until then, that
25 firehouse was business as usual. It took

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 this Council to bring that to your
3 attention and also some push from a few
4 of us to address that issue.

5 Do we have any other Carpenter
6 Lane firehouses where they should get
7 some immediate action and not after a
8 Council budget hearing pushes both Public
9 Property and the Fire Department and the
10 Administration to do something about it?
11 Obviously after it was inspected, it was
12 deemed a very bad, dire situation. It
13 had to pretty much be emptied until it
14 was repaired.

15 Do we have any other
16 circumstances? Because I'm getting
17 e-mails from firefighters, police
18 officers telling me about the terrible
19 condition, especially in our police
20 stations. The fire stations are a bit
21 different because they're used
22 differently than a police station, but do
23 we have any other circumstances that need
24 some immediate attention?

25 COMMISSIONER AYERS: There's a

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 list that we have that's managed by
3 Capital and we have that list
4 prioritized, and we go down that list and
5 service those stations that have issues
6 related to floor problems, roof problems,
7 health and safety problems around alarms.
8 So that list is right now being worked.

9 So I would say, yes, we have
10 stations that need repair and that we are
11 taking care of it in a prioritized
12 manner. And we do appreciate the fact
13 that Council monitored and pushed us to
14 make sure that that got done at 9
15 Station.

16 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: My point
17 again to end was that Carpenter Lane was
18 on that list, but it didn't get taken
19 seriously until people went back out
20 there and realized we could have an
21 apparatus in the basement. So my point
22 being is that Carpenter Lane was on
23 there, and I hope that that list is being
24 taken seriously, that we don't have a
25 serious situation in one of the

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 firehouses. And when Public Property
3 gets here, we'll talk more about the
4 police facilities, but I can tell you
5 that there's some concern out there about
6 that list, that that list is getting
7 pretty stale.

8 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: If I
9 may, Everett Gillison, Deputy Mayor for
10 Public Safety.

11 Quite frankly, Councilman, I
12 was here at the hearing. The next day I
13 went out to inspect, along with the
14 Commissioner. I took Public Property
15 with me and CPO. We inspected. We had
16 an engineering study that was done. We
17 worked and we looked at it, and then we
18 looked at the list.

19 Since that time and as a
20 result, I have taken not only the Fire
21 Department but the Police Department as
22 well and we go over the, what I call, the
23 top list of what we need to address and
24 how we need to address it.

25 Obviously a lot of this is

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 prioritization, and, quite frankly, along
3 with the Police Commissioner and the Fire
4 Commissioner and the Prisons
5 Commissioner, the three of us will sit
6 down and make that, and ultimately it
7 will come down to my call, depending on
8 what we see needs to be done.

9 When I went out to that
10 particular station, we were given three
11 different ways of analyzing how to handle
12 the problem. It was an easy way, a
13 harder way and then the hardest way, and
14 we chose the hardest way, because I
15 didn't want to have to go back and do it
16 again. So that's why it took as long as
17 it took, because instead of just
18 repairing the problem, we fixed the
19 problem. And sometimes it takes a little
20 longer, but that's what we do.

21 And so, yes, we are looking at
22 it. Yes, we are prioritizing it. Yes, I
23 am aware, having been a member and been
24 in this city for all my entire life, I'm
25 aware of the conditions that exist all

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 over in Public Safety, and we have not
3 only worked the plan that we came in with
4 by prioritizing different things in
5 different opportunities, but in seeking
6 consolidation, in seeking data that will
7 give us the best way forward. That's our
8 approach. That's what we're trying to
9 do. And, quite frankly, if we had the
10 ability to float many, many, many bonds,
11 I am sure the Budget Director will tell
12 you, if you were to ask her, that Public
13 Safety would probably suck up a billion
14 dollars worth of building that needs to
15 be done in this city. We don't have it,
16 so we have to prioritize, and that's what
17 I try to do as I go forward. But I do it
18 with Council obviously being there as a
19 partner.

20 Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller,
21 Councilwoman Tasco, yourself brought up
22 that fire station to our attention. I
23 went out personally with all those
24 involved, and we ended up addressing it.
25 Sometimes that's what it takes, but I can

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 tell you that we've done this now in a
3 way that I get reports on a bimonthly
4 basis of where we are and where we stack
5 with our public facilities, and I thank
6 you for that.

7 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Deputy
8 Mayor, it sounds like there's a better
9 eye on the ball now. It sounds like that
10 you're paying attention to that list and
11 not just letting it --

12 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Point of
13 information.

14 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Could you
15 wait until I finish, please.

16 That now we are waiting for
17 a -- now we are looking at that list,
18 we're prioritizing, which is very
19 important. But I think prior to your
20 involvement in that particular issue,
21 that that wasn't happening.

22 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: We have
23 the availability. I mean, we're looking
24 at -- as I've always told people, you
25 have to do it just like you look at a

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 house. It's roofs, stop the water from
3 coming in, stop the foundations from
4 washing away and see where we are. So
5 it's roof, walls and foundations. That's
6 what we have to deal with. We've had a
7 lot of different things from the PICA
8 report from prior to my getting here, and
9 I look at that as well as other things
10 that we really have to do. It's just --
11 it is a little bit overwhelming, but we
12 live in a finite world and we just have
13 to prioritize as we go through.

14 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you,
15 Madam Chair.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
17 You're welcome.

18 Councilman Green, do you have a
19 point of information?

20 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Yes. Thank
21 you, Madam Chair.

22 Deputy Mayor, I appreciate the
23 statements that you're making. They're
24 the same statements that were made last
25 year in budget hearings and the same

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 statements that were made the year before
3 in budget hearings. Since 2008, we have
4 been talking about in City Council Fire
5 Department hearings the PICA reports from
6 2006 and 2007, which identify health,
7 safety and life-critical issues in fire
8 stations and police stations. The money
9 has been appropriated, appropriated for
10 those fixes by this body in capital
11 plans. You have the resources available.
12 What the Capital Program Office has done
13 is not release available dollars to those
14 issues, but on January 1st of this year,
15 two and a half million dollars was
16 released for planting trees to the Parks
17 and Recreation Department. I would
18 suggest that these issues are more
19 important than those issues and that
20 choices are being made. Resources are
21 available. They're just not being
22 deployed in a way that I think is more
23 appropriate. And so I just wanted to put
24 that on the record, felt the need to put
25 that on the record given your response to

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 Councilman Rizzo's questions.

3 Thank you, Madam Chair.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
5 you.

6 The Chair recognizes
7 Councilwoman Blackwell.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
9 you, Madam President.

10 I only rise to say, as has been
11 said before, that we remain concerned
12 about the brownouts. We thank the
13 Commissioner for all they do. I see the
14 Firefighters Union are here, Bill Gault
15 and company. And this will always be an
16 issue, brownout. And I know we don't
17 reduce the employees, but we still limit
18 their opportunity for success.

19 So we continue to say to the
20 Administration, to the Mayor that we'd
21 like to go back to the days where we
22 don't have brownouts in spite of the fact
23 that we're going to get additional
24 classes, so forth.

25 We thank the Commissioner and

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 his team for all that they do, but we
3 want to keep this issue alive.

4 Thank you, Madam President.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

6 You're welcome.

7 The Chair recognizes Councilman
8 O'Neill.

9 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Thank you,
10 Madam President.

11 Commissioner, when Council
12 President was asking the panel about the
13 number of people that leave each year,
14 the sub-number, the sub-category was the
15 number of people that leave that are in
16 DROP. This is not a normal year. And I
17 think the number was around 50. Do you
18 know how many it is right now for this
19 year, people that you expect to lose by
20 the end of the fiscal or over the next
21 calendar year, let's say, whatever you
22 use as that year?

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BEATRICE:

24 I would expect the same to leave for the
25 next three years. I think we're looking

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 four years from now to see a big loss.

3 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Okay. So
4 that group of approximately 50. In
5 conjunction with the fact that through
6 our inability -- and I'm not saying that
7 it's an inability that is in question. I
8 mean, we're taking you at your word. You
9 can't get this test done quickly enough,
10 but it's delaying something you otherwise
11 want to do and also that the Council
12 wants to do, which is really in the best
13 interest of the City, is to get more
14 firefighters on the street.

15 We have approximately 50
16 firefighters that will be going out on
17 DROP that we can extend for a year if
18 they're willing to and we're willing to,
19 all or most of those that would accept.
20 I mean, that's an enormous -- that's like
21 a class. How many is in a normal class?
22 That's a full class right there. You get
23 your class in, they're already
24 experienced. You save the money of
25 running the class, the six-month delay of

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 the class, if we had everything ready to
3 go today.

4 Is there any way we can,
5 working together, get that to happen?

6 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON:

7 Councilman, I can tell you that that is
8 something that we will be discussing and
9 we keep it under discussion. If you
10 recall, when the Mayor came on board, we
11 ended up doing that with the police.

12 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Yes. I
13 remember that.

14 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: So
15 depending on the conditions and depending
16 on the recommendations both from the
17 Commissioner and myself, I'm sure the
18 Mayor will take that under advisement.
19 But I hear your point and it's a point
20 well taken.

21 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: And I
22 think Council, not just leadership, not
23 just the President, but Council in its
24 entirety supports that initiative, and I
25 think it would just go a long way to do a

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 whole lot of good all over the place. So
3 I appreciate your response, and as this
4 budget process moves forward, hopefully
5 we can have some more communication on
6 that.

7 Commissioner, the other
8 question I have is one that I'm going to
9 use the example -- start out with an
10 example of something I grew up with where
11 there were a lot, now I understand
12 there's very few, and that's false
13 alarms. But it used to be a major, major
14 problem for the Fire Department, and it
15 was considered a very, very bad deed if
16 you did it, if you got caught, because of
17 the cost, what was involved from a
18 manpower standpoint and how it affects
19 public safety generally.

20 Now, I say that because I hear
21 from different EMTs and firefighters who
22 are working as EMTs that particularly
23 with the low staffing, with everybody
24 needed that you have available out
25 fighting fires, delivering EMT services,

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 whatever it is, you're really down to the
3 bone or below, digging into the bone
4 right now with your numbers of personnel,
5 that we don't handle false 9-1-1 alarms
6 on the medical side the way we easily
7 could handle a false alarm. It's a real
8 lot easier to see somebody sets a false
9 alarm, there's no fire, but it's a little
10 trickier, but I think we have to be up to
11 the challenge in today's circumstances.
12 And you have the perfect front line. You
13 have your firefighters and your
14 paramedics.

15 When somebody is using 9-1-1
16 for less than a 9-1-1 call and that next
17 call that comes in is a real 9-1-1 call,
18 nobody in this room hasn't been with a
19 family member, somebody very close to
20 them when two minutes, three minutes,
21 four minutes you know is making a
22 difference and you see those
23 firefighters, those medics come in and
24 you just feel like the world has been
25 lifted off your shoulder, you have a

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 chance of this person surviving.

3 If you were to know that it
4 could be another five or ten minutes if
5 somebody who had a cold yesterday at 2
6 o'clock in the morning is calling 9-1-1,
7 we're taking an engine or a ladder out of
8 service, we then are taking the EMT. And
9 I just think the time has come for 9-1-1
10 false alarms. And we almost have the
11 same ability. I mean, essentially the
12 same. We got trained personnel comes
13 there and they know this wasn't a 9-1-1
14 call, it wasn't life threatening. And I
15 don't know how we deal with it. I don't
16 know how other jurisdictions deal with
17 it, but I've talked to personnel in your
18 department more about this in the last
19 year or two than ever before, and it
20 seems to be building, the frustration of
21 knowing how short you are in personnel
22 and that this -- while it may not have
23 been as prevalent as when we had the big
24 numbers of personnel years ago and it was
25 just a lot of people used it, we can't

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 afford anybody doing this anymore. It
3 has to be the zero tolerance of the false
4 alarms on the fire side. And I just ask
5 if any of you could comment on that.

6 I'd really appreciate some kind
7 of training going in, some kind of
8 feedback on a regular basis from your
9 personnel. Because while we all feel
10 sorry for that person that just said they
11 smell gas and they know we'll run out in
12 the equivalent of smelling gas, it's the
13 person around the block, down the street
14 or in the case of a brownout maybe even
15 much further away that is being deprived
16 of those same services in a timely
17 manner.

18 COMMISSIONER AYERS: Thank you,
19 Councilman O'Neill. Several things that
20 we are in the process of doing now to
21 address that very situation. One of
22 those things is quality control, and our
23 battalion chiefs who actually -- excuse
24 me; paramedic chiefs who actually go out
25 and go to the individual homes where

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 calls come in, where they don't require
3 the 9-1-1 emergent service, it's really
4 where they require some type of care,
5 doctor's care, and we get involved with
6 their families and sometimes we even get
7 involved with the police.

8 The second thing that we're
9 doing is, we read in the budget that
10 we're preparing the GPS software now.
11 The actual bid is going out to get that
12 software in place so that we can use the
13 global positioning system so that we can
14 better, more effectively and efficiently
15 dispatch our units.

16 The third thing that's being
17 done right now is the RFP that's going
18 forward now to use priority style
19 dispatching, where we don't just first
20 call come in, first call go out, FIFO.
21 What this does is actually stack calls,
22 those who are less -- those calls that
23 are less emergent, say the heart attack
24 versus the headache and I just don't feel
25 good and I believe I have the flu. So

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 we'll actually be able to become more
3 effective and efficient shortly as we
4 start to build that into our system.

5 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: See, I
6 want to know -- I understand what you're
7 saying, but I don't think it's
8 responsive.

9 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I hear
10 you.

11 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: What
12 debriefing do we do from the personnel
13 that go out there? I'm talking about the
14 person that might have the flu who is
15 telling us something that is requiring a
16 9-1-1 call with a ladder or an engine and
17 then an ALS behind it. Because they're
18 gaming the system basically, and we can't
19 afford to have anybody gaming the system
20 anymore.

21 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON:
22 Councilman, I hear you. I hear you.
23 Believe me, it's been part of the
24 frustration of and really getting to know
25 the job. And I do hear you, because

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 basically what you're talking about is
3 something we all know. I'm a gunshot
4 victim. Then we get there, no gunshot
5 and it's just a carry to go to the
6 hospital, believing falsely that they
7 will get immediate service once they get
8 to the hospital. And the question is,
9 what can we actually do legally and
10 otherwise to stop that practice. It's an
11 excellent point.

12 I believe that you're right.
13 It's something that I will start to not
14 only inquire of my fellows from all over
15 the country, but also start to look and
16 see what kind of -- what can we do here
17 within the system we currently have.

18 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Well,
19 thank you and --

20 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: We hear
21 your frustration, and we understand that.

22 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: We
23 criminalized false alarm fires a long
24 time ago.

25 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GILLISON:

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 Right.

3 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: I think
4 it's time to criminalize and send a
5 message out that one is no different,
6 because public safety is that adversely
7 affected.

8 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Yeah.
9 And I'm sure that there's a number of
10 things in the criminal -- I was just
11 thinking that there's a couple of
12 statutes that are applicable already in
13 the matter. I'll take a look at it and
14 I'll have my staff look at it. It's
15 something I'll be able to get back to
16 you, but thank you.

17 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Thank you
18 very much. I appreciate it.

19 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Point of
20 information.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
22 Chair recognizes Councilman Rizzo for a
23 point of information.

24 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I would like
25 to back up what Councilman O'Neill is

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 saying, because just to digress a second,
3 just to make a point. We spent millions
4 of dollars in data gathering at 9-1-1
5 center, and I understand how the call
6 comes into Police and they transfer it to
7 Fire, but I've been saying for years to
8 the people that run 8th and Race that
9 when a phony call comes in, assist the
10 officer, just to see police cars, Deputy
11 Mayor, there's no followup. We know the
12 phone number. We have caller ID. We
13 have all the information of where that
14 call came from. I just don't understand
15 why a supervisor isn't immediately
16 dispatched to that location where the
17 call came from and find out who made the
18 phony call. We have the data. We have
19 the name, but at least put the fear of
20 God in them that they can't continue to
21 do that.

22 How many times have unfounded
23 fire engine runs and fire runs been
24 responsible for serious injury?

25 So, honestly, I think we have

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 the data. Let's start sending some
3 people into the location where the phony
4 call came from.

5 Thank you, Madam President.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

7 You're welcome.

8 The Chair recognizes Councilman
9 Green.

10 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
11 Madam Chair.

12 We received copies of the
13 reform team reports for various
14 departments last summer and I wanted to
15 ask some questions about the Priority
16 Dispatch System initiative identified by
17 the Fire Department's reform team. My
18 understanding is that this system will
19 help the Department better distinguish
20 between emergency and non-emergency
21 calls, help improve response times for
22 true emergencies, and increase cost
23 effectiveness.

24 The reform team report noted
25 that the Department planned to issue an

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 RFP for an EMS call prioritization system
3 in the summer of 2010. Has that RFP been
4 issued?

5 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: No, not
6 as of yet, although it is scheduled to be
7 released within the next week or two or
8 ten days, I believe. It was not released
9 last summer.

10 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay. And
11 given all the benefits that the reform
12 team identified, is there a reason it was
13 not released?

14 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I just
15 didn't feel we were in the process at
16 that point of releasing it. We had a lot
17 more information we had to get answers
18 to. I think we have those answers, and
19 that's why it's ready to go. So right
20 now it's ready to go and it's going to
21 hit the streets.

22 COUNCILMAN GREEN: What do you
23 mean "we didn't have the information"?

24 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: The
25 additional -- we know what the benefits

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 are. We also have to know how to pay for
3 it. We also have to know how to schedule
4 the rollout. One of the things that we
5 were debating internally, quite frankly,
6 was even if we ended up having a call
7 prioritization, there would have to be a
8 public campaign to change how we approach
9 and to tell people in the public how
10 we're going to change over. I actually
11 was in conference with a couple people in
12 Syracuse, New York having just gone up
13 there to visit, and they actually did it
14 in a way that they made an impression on
15 me that said, You need to have at least a
16 year media campaign to tell people about
17 this before you would even start. So --

18 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So they know
19 how to word their calls to still being at
20 the top of the list?

21 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: No.
22 Hopefully that we would be able to show
23 that they would be able to understand
24 that a lot more questions up front are
25 going to be asked before you can just get

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 hot-synced from one person to the next so
3 that there would be a response. Where
4 this has been done well, from what I have
5 been able to learn during the fall and
6 part of the winter, where it was done
7 well, media campaigns have been hand in
8 hand, and that's an additional cost that
9 we had to anticipate.

10 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And is that
11 in this year's budget?

12 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: That is
13 part of the RFP, to see exactly how much
14 people would respond. I'm waiting for
15 those. I'll be waiting with obviously
16 bated breath to see how various companies
17 will handle that and what are they
18 bringing forward.

19 COUNCILMAN GREEN: How much is
20 in this year's budget related to the RFP?

21 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I don't
22 have that offhand. We're doing this -- I
23 mean, this is one of those -- this will
24 be a combination between either my office
25 and/or DOT, since it is a software

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 package that goes along with another
3 innovation that DOT would be handling on
4 behalf of the Department.

5 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So it's a
6 Fire Department program, though.

7 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Yes.

8 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So really if
9 we had program-based budgeting, it would
10 be allocated to your department.

11 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: That's
12 correct.

13 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And is this
14 the new deployment software noted in your
15 testimony or is that something different?

16 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: That's
17 something else.

18 COMMISSIONER AYERS: It is not.
19 The new deployment software is based on
20 GPS.

21 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So when do
22 you expect, if the RFP goes out next
23 week, that you will select a vendor?

24 COMMISSIONER AYERS: I could
25 not tell you the exact time. I've

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 learned that just now that it is not next
3 week, but it is close.

4 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Well, when
5 will it be released?

6 COMMISSIONER AYERS: I couldn't
7 tell you. I will get that information
8 back to you.

9 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay.
10 There's a lot of great ideas out there
11 and a lot of room for potential changes
12 in efficiency and improvements and we
13 seem to talk about the same ones year
14 after year without ever having
15 implemented them. It's time to get stuff
16 off the drawing board and get it into
17 practice.

18 I think in response to -- I
19 don't know whose question, because I was
20 not here -- there was testimony that
21 basically we're talking about the force
22 level for the Fire Department and the
23 question was related to why you're
24 reducing budgeted positions for
25 firefighters, and in response to that

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 question, I think Ms. Rhynhart said that
3 the position count would go up again in
4 2013.

5 I'd like someone to explain
6 that in light of the budget detail, which
7 shows exactly level funding for the
8 entire five years of the Five Year Plan
9 for Class 100, which is salaries or wages
10 and benefits, at 168,191,934 for FY12
11 with the same exact number for FY16.

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BEATRICE:

13 Dave Beatrice again.

14 The position number was reduced
15 by 98. The funding that went along with
16 the 98 positions was taken out of the top
17 line where they show the positions but
18 added to the overtime level. So the
19 funding wasn't reduced.

20 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Overtime is
21 in Class 100 also.

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BEATRICE:

23 Yes, but --

24 COUNCILMAN GREEN: We have
25 168,191,934 in FY12, same thing in '13,

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 same thing in '16.

3 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BEATRICE:

4 There's two questions. One is why does
5 it stay the same all those years, but the
6 fact that we reduce the 98 is not part of
7 that. The funding -- if we had showed
8 the 98 positions, we would have the same
9 amount of funding. We just revised the
10 funding internal.

11 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So your

12 testimony is that going back up in
13 firefighter count in 2013 is the
14 Administration's plan?

15 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BEATRICE:

16 Yes.

17 COUNCILMAN GREEN: By how many

18 positions?

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BEATRICE:

20 By the 98. And the funding for those
21 positions would come out of the overtime.

22 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay. So we

23 can pay for 98 positions through
24 decreased overtime, and that's an
25 analysis that the Department has already

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 completed?

3 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BEATRICE:

4 That's the analysis when we took the --
5 when we removed the 98 positions, we just
6 moved the corresponding funding down a
7 line.

8 COUNCILMAN GREEN: I hear what
9 you're saying. Have you done that
10 analysis on paper?

11 MS. RHYNHART: Good afternoon,
12 Councilman.

13 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Good
14 afternoon.

15 MS. RHYNHART: The cost of
16 paying overtime is time and a half, so
17 it's more expensive to use overtime.

18 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Yes. I'm
19 familiar with --

20 MS. RHYNHART: Right. So when
21 we hire -- we want to hire more
22 firefighters. When we hire them, the
23 overtime costs would go down. So it is
24 cost effective to hire -- more cost
25 effective to hire more full-time people.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So the real
3 question, though, is, if what you're
4 saying is true, what is the break point
5 for hiring additional firefighters
6 versus -- is it only 98? If we hired
7 115, would that reduce overtime more and
8 would it more than pay for itself?
9 That's my question.

10 What is the break point for --
11 there must be -- at a certain point when
12 you hire people, you reach a diminishing
13 point of returns because you have to pay
14 benefits and other things that you
15 wouldn't otherwise have to pay. My
16 question is, has the Administration done
17 an analysis of how many more firefighters
18 would reduce overtime that provides a
19 break point for what the appropriate
20 number of firefighters is if this is the
21 only money available?

22 MS. RHYNHART: I think that's
23 something that we look at. It's not -- I
24 don't know if there's a formal analysis
25 to hand to you, but the ideal situation

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 would be to get overtime until it's just
3 handling sort of the surges.

4 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So let's
5 just take this department, because it's
6 something we should really talk about in
7 every department. Who did that analysis
8 for this department and who informed you
9 as to the number -- let's just follow the
10 process of how you reached the conclusion
11 that 168,191,934 can be the same in FY12
12 and FY16 and result in 98 additional
13 firefighters and how that that's a
14 perfect match with reduced overtime.

15 MS. RHYNHART: First of all, I
16 said that -- I didn't say there was a
17 written analysis that someone produced.
18 I said it's something that we continually
19 do look at. The fire --

20 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So somebody
21 told you, the Budget Office, that that
22 was the case?

23 MS. RHYNHART: Let me just
24 finish my train of thought here. That we
25 haven't, as you know, been able to hire

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 firefighters. We want to get
3 firefighters on, full-time firefighters
4 on. We have seen -- we want to hire the
5 firefighters, reduce the overtime. In
6 terms of if we hire faster than the pace
7 of attrition, will that lower overtime to
8 even a greater degree? I mean, that is
9 something that I'm not -- we could look
10 at further. I think that the plan now is
11 to get new firefighters on as quickly as
12 possible, so we're going towards the same
13 goal of getting the overtime down.

14 In terms of if we hired 300
15 firefighters, would that be better than
16 hiring just the pace of attrition?
17 That's where -- I think that's where
18 you're going. I mean, there might be
19 some level of it, I'm sure the ideal
20 level of the firefighters, but right now
21 we're looking at just staffing them up to
22 get the overtime down and replace the
23 attrition that's happened over the last
24 few years.

25 COUNCILMAN GREEN: But don't

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 you think that's an appropriate question
3 for us to ask and for the Administration
4 to know?

5 MS. RHYNHART: Yes, definitely.
6 Definitely. I think it's a good
7 discussion and I think it's something
8 that is part of the discussion and the
9 analysis that should happen.

10 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Well, so are
11 you undertaking to do that analysis?

12 MS. RHYNHART: If you're asking
13 for what is the ideal size of the City's
14 firefighting force in order to keep
15 overtime at the lowest possible amount?

16 COUNCILMAN GREEN: No. The
17 specific statement has been made that if
18 we hire 98 people by 2013, which is our
19 plan, in addition to the force level that
20 we have today, which has been testified
21 is our plan, then we will save that same
22 amount of money through reduction in
23 overtime. So my question is, shouldn't
24 we look at a matrix of new firefighters
25 to reduction in overtime over a series of

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 different levels of new firefighters,
3 whether it's just replacing attrition,
4 whether it's increasing -- we've had
5 attrition the last few years and no new
6 firefighters.

7 MS. RHYNHART: Right.

8 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So we've got
9 a lot of catching up to do. But there
10 should be a point which we can be told
11 where we'll have the least overtime and
12 the most effective force and all that
13 stuff, and it seems to me that if we're
14 not -- that should be the basic analysis
15 done by every department when coming here
16 requesting funds related to numbers of
17 positions, and for one of our crucial
18 departments, we don't have it today, and
19 we haven't had -- it's not like I haven't
20 asked this question every year for three
21 years.

22 MS. RHYNHART: I think that
23 what you are asking for in terms of
24 what's the ideal -- I think you are
25 asking for what's the ideal workforce --

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 what is the ideal size of the
3 firefighters over through 2016 --

4 COUNCILMAN GREEN: I'm not.

5 I'm not, because we have a size of the
6 force. We have -- that's sort of a --
7 that's a life-safety, health issue
8 combining it with an overtime versus
9 full-time position. I'm saying, given
10 where we are today, additional
11 firefighters versus -- the bigger
12 question is important too and it's
13 something that you should know the answer
14 to and we should know the answer to, but
15 the simple question is, how many people
16 should we hire to get -- what is the
17 break point for additional firefighters
18 versus reduction in overtime, where it
19 costs us more to have additional
20 firefighters than the benefit we get in
21 reduced overtime? Where is that break
22 point? Is it 98? Is it 150? What's the
23 answer to that question? That's what I'm
24 asking.

25 MS. RHYNHART: Okay. I mean, I

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 think at this point, we've been looking
3 at staffing up, but I hear what you're
4 saying in terms of that level of -- that
5 analysis of where is that break point.

6 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Is that
7 something that the Department can
8 undertake to provide us prior to the
9 close of the budget hearings?

10 MS. RHYNHART: I think we could
11 look at it. We could provide you
12 something.

13 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.

14 Madam Chair, I have more
15 questions, but I'll come back to them. I
16 don't want to -- unless I don't know if
17 other people have questions, so I yield.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
19 you.

20 The Chair recognizes
21 Councilwoman Sanchez.

22 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
23 you, Madam Chair.

24 Good afternoon. Can you for
25 the record tell -- we were very pleased

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 obviously in Council to hear that PICA
3 was going to undergo the study. Can you
4 tell us where that's at?

5 COMMISSIONER AYERS: Yes. The
6 study was completed. Several of the
7 recommendations has started through
8 Capital. The exact count on the number
9 of roofs, some of the other things that's
10 done with the air exchange systems and
11 other things, I can get you that exact
12 number. We did get a report from
13 Capital.

14 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: It would
15 be important for us as we look at these
16 so that we're not always asking the same
17 questions as what was the low-hanging
18 fruit that you're going to do this year
19 in terms of what the report showed and
20 that that be reflected, and then what are
21 some of the longer term ones, because
22 that would be important for us to know
23 that.

24 COMMISSIONER AYERS: Yes,
25 Councilwoman.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Going
3 back to the situation with the
4 paramedics. Just last week I was in the
5 hospital for a couple of hours and I
6 happened to run into one of the
7 paramedics that I know, and we were
8 talking a little bit. And this goes back
9 to what President Verna was saying. Have
10 we done an analysis of what the counties
11 are paying and of their work rules and
12 requirements versus ours? Because one of
13 the things that I hear is that once a guy
14 comes in, they have 20 minutes before
15 they have to go back out and make another
16 run in terms of when they come into the
17 hospital and that there's -- the reason
18 folks don't want to do that job is
19 because then there's paperwork, there's
20 filing and everything else.

21 So have we done an analysis to
22 make sure that we're not requiring much
23 more to make this job more unattractive,
24 let alone the salary, which would be an
25 important piece for us to know?

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 COMMISSIONER AYERS: I can't
3 say that we have a fresh analysis. We
4 have looked at it in the past, and what
5 we're experiencing now is the fact that
6 people do want to come into Philadelphia
7 and work, even with the workloads that we
8 have. Our system has been recognized not
9 only as a very busy system in the
10 country, which it has, but also a very
11 good system in the country, in that the
12 paramedics, their skill levels, the work
13 that they do, is evidenced by our
14 training of our parajumpers for the U.S.
15 Air Force. They come here on a regular
16 basis now to train from New Mexico, our
17 men and women that's going over into
18 Afghanistan and other places to rescue
19 those pilots and other folks who are
20 down. We actually this year had them
21 double the class size. Well, actually
22 used two classes. So this will be a
23 first.

24 We have a lot of work that's
25 done with other systems on penetration,

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 trauma and things like that.

3 So our system is not looked at
4 as a system that's like totally broke
5 down, distressed. It's looked and
6 regarded as a professional system, does a
7 good job but, as most systems, challenged
8 with the resource levels because of what
9 the economies are. And what we do is, we
10 staff at the level that we can at this
11 point, and we don't have a problem with
12 getting overtime or anything like that.
13 I've heard the conversations. We're not
14 having a problem with folks just up and
15 leaving the system. We do have an
16 attrition rate. We do look at the fact
17 that some folks leave the paramedic
18 system and go into other systems that are
19 less stressed, but it's not something at
20 this point that we're completely
21 concerned about. But we will continue to
22 monitor, take a look at it.

23 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: No. I
24 agree with you. I mean, all the guys and
25 ladies that I've confronted are highly

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 professional. I just think about the
3 tension, the pressure for the paramedics.
4 Again, I happen to be in the hospital a
5 couple of hours and one -- and obviously
6 it was Temple, which is a trauma unit,
7 but I had like the same team come back
8 like four or five times just in that
9 little time that I was waiting in the
10 emergency room. You know, it was like,
11 Whoa. And they're like, Well, we have a
12 certain amount of time before we got to
13 go out and do another run.

14 So I've witnessed it myself
15 being in the emergency room four hours
16 last week. Tension.

17 COMMISSIONER AYERS:

18 Councilwoman, we absolutely will continue
19 to study that. We are moving forward
20 with a PICA study that's going to examine
21 the entire Fire Department, EMS as well
22 as the fire side.

23 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: And what
24 is the status of that?

25 COMMISSIONER AYERS: The RFP

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 has actually been let. So we're looking
3 forward to within 30, 60 days hopefully
4 getting started.

5 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: And then
6 when will the report be back?

7 COMMISSIONER AYERS: It should
8 be somewhere eight months. It could be
9 as long as a year. Hopefully as soon as
10 eight months.

11 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Okay.
12 The sooner, the better. I mean, we keep
13 having these brownout discussions. We'll
14 continue to have those discussions. A
15 lot of us are waiting on that study so
16 that we can look at the department and
17 staff it appropriately and fund it. I'm
18 glad that this year there is additional
19 resources to the Fire Department, because
20 that's a start.

21 One of the issues that I've
22 brought out in the past and I notice this
23 year again it's listed as to be awarded
24 by RFP, is our collections. We're paying
25 \$4.8 million for our billing. And I know

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 that many times I've had to call your
3 office to personally intervene on our
4 billing.

5 What is our collection rate and
6 what is it that we're missing in terms
7 of -- when we talk about resources, this
8 is an area that I think we have
9 tremendous room for growth in terms of
10 our collections. And my experience has
11 been with the agency, you know, where
12 there's something as simple as a birth
13 date unmatched and, therefore, people end
14 up getting billed. There's probably a
15 lot of uncollected monies out there. Are
16 we really going to get this done this
17 year?

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BEATRICE:

19 The RFP went out last week.

20 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Oh, it
21 did?

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BEATRICE:

23 Hopefully the new contract will start
24 July 1st. Hopefully.

25 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: What is

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 our collection rate right now with that?

3 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BEATRICE:

4 There's various collections rates.

5 There's collections rates for Medicaid

6 patients, Medicare. So I don't want

7 to -- the total average, I really don't

8 want to say off the top of my head, but

9 when we get that to you, we would break

10 it down by the different collections.

11 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Yeah. I

12 think it's important, because when we're

13 out in the community, people are always

14 talking about uncollected debt,

15 uncollected debt, and I think this is one

16 of the areas where there's a lot of money

17 to be captured that we're not capturing,

18 that then we don't need to have a

19 discussion about brownouts, because

20 you're bringing in -- and I know this

21 goes into the General Fund, but I think

22 there's a whole universe of money out

23 there that we're not collecting here.

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BEATRICE:

25 Okay.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Once we
3 have this testing and the list, we talked
4 about this year -- and I guess this is
5 what Bill's point was. We're going to
6 have one class in April of 2011. What is
7 the next class after that that we will be
8 able to hire?

9 COMMISSIONER AYERS: This is
10 for the paramedics. We'll be able to
11 hire as soon as we can do the next
12 process.

13 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: No, no,
14 no. Now that we have a new test, once we
15 get our new test and we issue it for the
16 firefighters.

17 COMMISSIONER AYERS: Okay.
18 Once the new test process is to the point
19 where we can hire, we expect that to be
20 somewhere around the end of Fiscal Year
21 '12, and those firefighters, those men
22 and women that are hired during that
23 process, they'll go through a full --
24 excuse me; yeah, a full-week process --
25 no, no. They'll go through a full-week

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 EMS process, then they'll go through a
3 subsequent 12-week process where they'll
4 actually do the firefighting side, and
5 then they'll be getting stations and
6 coming into the Philadelphia Fire
7 Department service.

8 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So we'll
9 get one new class this fiscal year, and
10 then what's the new class after that? Or
11 no?

12 COMMISSIONER AYERS: Okay. One
13 of the things that we do is, we look at
14 the total number of positions available
15 at that time and the total budget
16 available, and we will hire as many as
17 the budget allows us. We have done in
18 the past double classes to catch up with
19 the numbers of firefighters that were not
20 on the rolls. So we have done double
21 classes in the past. So we'll look at
22 the budget and the amount that are
23 needed.

24 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: And
25 while I continue to be encouraged by the

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 lower amount of fires, there have been
3 some pretty visible fires, and I know one
4 of the issues last year was to cut into
5 overtime on the prevention side. Are we
6 going to be able to -- I mean, I've
7 enjoyed working with your department and
8 the folks getting out there. Are we
9 going to be doing anything different?
10 Because all of these fires, obviously
11 people did not have smoke detectors, but
12 I know that in terms of getting staff,
13 prevention staff, on the ground for
14 weekends and evening meetings, there was
15 an issue in overtime. Are we going to be
16 okay this year with that?

17 COMMISSIONER AYERS: The issue
18 for overtime remains. I monitor the
19 overtime pretty closely as related to
20 non-operation overtime, that
21 administrative type overtime, and what we
22 have done is began to transfer some of
23 the responsibility to the field units,
24 the individual company actually taking on
25 the responsibility of the administrative

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 person.

3 So we're continuing to do as
4 much as we can, but some of the, i.e.,
5 expertise from our fire prevention
6 division is not there. But our teams
7 have been very capable. They've been
8 getting out there, knocking on doors, but
9 also attending those community meetings,
10 setting up tables with fire prevention
11 and getting the job done.

12 Again, thank you for what
13 you've done with us in the community over
14 many years, and we appreciate that.
15 We've seen a great drop within your
16 jurisdiction, and that's what it's all
17 about, working to get these fires down.

18 We've had some catastrophic
19 fires this year. Most of those fires are
20 tragic. We stop, we evaluate those
21 fires. We see some of the things that
22 could have been done to prevent the fire
23 in the first place, and we will continue
24 to do those things to help our community
25 to become even more safer.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
3 you. Thank you again. I know this is
4 hard work.

5 Thank you, Madam Chair.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
7 you.

8 Councilwoman Miller.

9 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank
10 you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

11 Good afternoon, Commissioner
12 and Fire Department.

13 COMMISSIONER AYERS: Good
14 afternoon, Councilwoman.

15 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I just
16 have a few questions. Most of my
17 questions have actually been answered.

18 I want to thank you for all
19 that you do and your department does, and
20 I agree with Councilman Green, certainly
21 the repair and the upkeep of police and
22 fire stations are probably more important
23 and those kind of public safety issues
24 are more important than tree planting.

25 But, Commissioner, can you

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 explain this chart to me on the back? I
3 was reading the chart and I was trying to
4 understand. Like you have an engine
5 number, you have a ladder number and then
6 some places there's a battalion chief,
7 there's a number. Is that the number of
8 the person? I don't really understand
9 it.

10 COMMISSIONER AYERS: Thank you.

11 The medic unit is the fourth number. You
12 have the engine company, like Engine 2,
13 Ladder 3. There's no chief at that
14 location, but there is a medic unit at
15 that location, which is 31.

16 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay. So

17 then if there's a number under battalion
18 chief, that's the battalion chief's
19 number?

20 COMMISSIONER AYERS: That is

21 correct.

22 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Like

23 their badge number?

24 COMMISSIONER AYERS: No. That

25 is their number as far as the district

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 within which they manage. So that would
3 be -- the first one is Engine 5, Ladder
4 6, Battalion 11. And Battalion 11 is
5 responsible for all of the companies
6 within that battalion, of which Engine 5
7 and Ladder 6 are two.

8 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay. So
9 we have, what, about 83 fire stations
10 and --

11 COMMISSIONER AYERS:
12 Eighty-three companies, that is correct.

13 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: And 11
14 battalion chiefs?

15 COMMISSIONER AYERS: That is
16 correct.

17 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: And
18 that's divided up?

19 COMMISSIONER AYERS: Yes.

20 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Now, for
21 example, at Highland Avenue, No. 37,
22 Highland Avenue and Shawnee Street, they
23 don't have any numbers. So what does
24 that mean?

25 COMMISSIONER AYERS: They're a

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 single-engine company.

3 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Which
4 means they can only fight what type of
5 fires?

6 COMMISSIONER AYERS: They fight
7 all fires. There's just no one else at
8 that location based on the layout of the
9 Fire Department at this time.

10 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: All
11 right. This fire language is not easy to
12 understand.

13 COMMISSIONER AYERS: I
14 apologize.

15 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: They're
16 just as capable as any other station,
17 correct?

18 COMMISSIONER AYERS:
19 Absolutely. They are firefighters.
20 Those men and women are trained to do
21 within their fire safety and education
22 district everything that any other fire
23 engine would be able to do within their
24 fire safety and education district.

25 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 And I want to thank you guys for the work
3 that you did on Carpenter Lane. We
4 actually thought that the fire engine
5 would actually be in the basement had it
6 not been repaired by this time. So thank
7 you for all the work that you did there.

8 In your testimony, you talked
9 about -- I missed some of it. I missed
10 some of your answer. I know Councilman
11 Rizzo asked you questions and Councilman
12 Brian O'Neill asked you questions about
13 the EMS units and the staffing from 8:00
14 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. What does that really
15 mean? Does that mean that, tying it in
16 with your last paragraph, does that mean
17 that there's always an EMS unit available
18 seven days week?

19 COMMISSIONER AYERS: When you
20 say "the last paragraph," are you talking
21 about page --

22 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I'm
23 talking about the second bullet on the
24 first page.

25 COMMISSIONER AYERS: I have

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 you. All right. Yes. We have units
3 available 24 hours, but the numbers of
4 units are -- it varies based on the
5 demand from the City. Like during the
6 day, we have 50 units available during
7 certain periods. It drops down at
8 certain other periods, like after 8
9 o'clock, and during weekends, we have
10 sometimes different counts.

11 But AQR, what this is about, is
12 the new pilot program has one Advanced
13 Life Support unit, which is a non-carry
14 unit, but they have two paramedics on
15 board that respond in a catchment area,
16 and in that catchment area, they support
17 all of the other units that are currently
18 there servicing that community. So
19 they'll be in service or out of service
20 based on what the demand is.

21 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay. So
22 if someone has an emergency and they've
23 called 9-1-1, tell me how that exactly
24 works, how this AQR -- well, under the
25 AQR, how does this ALS -- all these

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 acronyms.

3 COMMISSIONER AYERS: We
4 apologize, but that's our world.

5 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I know.
6 I know.

7 COMMISSIONER AYERS: What
8 happens is, a call will come into the
9 9-1-1. The Fire Communications Center
10 will field that call, listen to what
11 they're asking for. If the call is
12 requesting or requires an Advanced Life
13 Support response, what will happen is the
14 AQR will be dispatched along with a BLS,
15 and they'll get to the scene -- Basic
16 Life Support -- they'll get to the scene
17 and they'll make the intervention for
18 that person. They'll start to do the
19 assessment. If it's required that they
20 have to do internal intervention, like
21 provide fluids or IV or anything like
22 that, they'll start it. If it's a heart
23 attack, they'll start the CPR. They'll
24 put on all of the AED and all of those
25 things, and they'll begin to assess the

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 person, package the person.

3 The Basic Life Support unit
4 will be there as well. They'll be
5 responding as well, and they'll be
6 preparing to take that person. And as
7 soon as the paramedics are finished their
8 intervention, they'll put that person on
9 the stretcher and take them to the
10 hospital.

11 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay. So
12 this means -- does any of this mean that
13 we have enough EMS units open?

14 COMMISSIONER AYERS: This is
15 actually a pilot to ensure that we have
16 an ALS presence in the catchment area in
17 South Philly, in that area, during the
18 hours of 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m., making
19 sure that they're there, and also to cut
20 down the time that it would take to get
21 the ALS unit to that location. And right
22 now we've seen that the numbers as far as
23 how successful they have been, we're
24 pleased with the numbers, and we'll be
25 looking and seeing what kind of budget we

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 have. Maybe we can implement that in
3 some other areas.

4 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay.

5 I'm going to probably meet with you one
6 on one, but I want to thank you for
7 contributing your defibrillators to the
8 Rec Department.

9 COMMISSIONER AYERS: You're
10 very, very welcome. The City is very
11 welcome. We're glad that we could
12 actually make it happen so that we can
13 have indeed a safer city.

14 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Right.
15 That's really great. Okay. Thank you.

16 Thank you, Madam Chair.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
18 you, Councilwoman.

19 What if you get two calls in
20 the same area and you have the Basic
21 system and the other? I mean, do we --
22 what happens if two people -- if you have
23 two people in the same area who need
24 support? Do we always send both systems
25 out to the same location?

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 COMMISSIONER AYERS: There is a
3 process or an order for the way that we
4 send out our Basic units and our ALS
5 units, but if we have a situation that
6 you just said where the ALS -- the AQR is
7 on location with a BLS giving service, as
8 soon as the other call comes in, the next
9 available ALS, as we do throughout the
10 entire City, will be dispatched to that
11 person in need. So we'll always be
12 dispatching a unit towards the need.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
14 you.

15 Councilwoman Reynolds Brown.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you.
17 Thank you, Madam Chair.

18 Good afternoon, gentlemen.

19 COMMISSIONER AYERS: Good
20 afternoon, Councilwoman.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Let me
22 thank you for that fire safety 101. It's
23 quite informative.

24 I want to go back to the
25 observations made by Councilman Green,

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 stacked with the concerns raised by
3 Councilman Brian O'Neill, and ask the
4 question, where are we as a city when it
5 comes to best practices in terms of
6 dealing with this, what for me is new
7 information around false -- would you
8 consider them false alarms? Would they
9 fall into that category, the
10 circumstances described by Councilman
11 Brian O'Neill?

12 COMMISSIONER AYERS: Some are
13 false and some are calls that are
14 non-emergent.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN:
16 Non-emergent.

17 COMMISSIONER AYERS: Calls that
18 are non-emergent does not necessarily
19 mean that it's false, does not
20 necessarily mean that that that person
21 does not need medical care. It's just
22 that they don't need the acute medical
23 care, like a heart attack, a stroke,
24 things like that. What the Councilman
25 was speaking to is how we handle people

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 who we know have issued a false alarm or
3 a false call.

4 We have -- we monitor that, and
5 when we see that we get a location or
6 people who do that consistently, we have
7 a chief that actually goes out, a
8 paramedic chief that goes out, talks to
9 that person or to their family.

10 Sometimes we get it where folks are --
11 they have dementia or other issues. We
12 try to get resources within the community
13 to help them, their church or community
14 groups to try to help them with their
15 issue. We try to make sure that they are
16 receiving hospitalization or things like
17 that they may need. But if it's
18 persistent to the point where it's clear
19 like this person is having a problem --

20 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Clear
21 violation.

22 COMMISSIONER AYERS: -- we
23 bring their family in and we bring the
24 police in, and we let them know that it's
25 going to be a problem if they continue

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 this action.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: So there's
4 no standard operating procedure as such
5 or some measurement where you draw the
6 line? It's based on just case management
7 of a certain --

8 COMMISSIONER AYERS: It is case
9 management, but there is a line that's
10 drawn, and I'll have to talk with CQI and
11 with those investigators to find out
12 exactly what the number is.

13 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Point of
14 information, Madam President.

15 I still don't think the
16 Commissioner understands my inquiry here.
17 I'm talking about the person -- you
18 actually, Commissioner, described the
19 person perfectly. They have a cold, they
20 may have the flu. We should not have an
21 engine or a ladder ever at that person's
22 house, and people should be made aware of
23 it. There should be much more of a
24 public information campaign about it.

25 But, secondly, every

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 firefighter or paramedic who comes back
3 from these runs should have just a
4 debriefing quickly. Was that really a
5 call that was a 9-1-1 call? And I'm not
6 sure I'm making my point to the
7 Commissioner. This is not somebody
8 that's not serious enough to require
9 Advanced Life Support. I'm talking about
10 it's not serious enough to be a 9-1-1
11 call, period. It doesn't mean the person
12 is not sick. A whole lot of people are
13 sick that don't require 9-1-1, but
14 there's a whole lot of people who are
15 sick that use 9-1-1, and the firefighters
16 and paramedics see it all the time. And
17 when you're talking about 10,000 runs
18 that some of these people have and we're
19 not even through the calendar year, every
20 one of these that we can eliminate -- it
21 goes beyond what I was talking about
22 earlier, which is helping someone else
23 who needs help for real and is a real
24 9-1-1. But we're wearing down, as we've
25 heard many people ask, we're wearing down

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 these and causing burnout with these
3 paramedics and firefighters that are
4 working on their units, and this is a
5 contributor to it.

6 So, I mean, I think unless this
7 is a top priority, we're going to be
8 sitting here next year talking about
9 what's a false alarm and what's not.
10 It's the equivalent -- when a piece of
11 apparatus has to go out there, that's no
12 different than if they had to go out to a
13 fire, and one is getting treated a lot
14 differently than the others, and yet
15 we've never had in our worst history had
16 the number of false alarms for fires that
17 we have for people requesting 9-1-1
18 services, engine, ladder, medic, as we do
19 now. It's off the radar screen, as far
20 as I'm concerned, and we got to not only
21 put it on the radar screen, but put it
22 right at the top. Thank you.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Do we
24 have any indication as to how many such
25 calls that are not emergency calls that

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 we receive?

3 COMMISSIONER AYERS: Yes, we
4 do. We call it non-emergent calls, and
5 we differentiate that between Advanced
6 Life Support calls.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And
8 how many such calls do you think the Fire
9 Department receives that are
10 non-emergency calls?

11 COMMISSIONER AYERS: It's a
12 high percentage, and that high percentage
13 is, it's above -- it's around 70 to 80
14 percent. And one of the things that
15 we've done about that is, we have a
16 program which we call Community First,
17 and in that program, one of the things
18 that we've done with limited resources is
19 to print up brochures and pamphlets and
20 to take them to every hospital waiting
21 room, every community medical service
22 office. We've carried them on our units,
23 our medic units, to distribute to the
24 public. We've had them available at each
25 and every firehouse. And what it does,

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 those pamphlets, talk to people about the
3 limited availability of our medic units
4 for everybody, that the medic unit that I
5 might need for my sister or my brother is
6 the same medic unit that you might need
7 for your sister or your brother, and that
8 we need to understand that it's a shared
9 limited resource and we have to use it
10 properly. That's what that does.

11 We've been on the radio with
12 it. We've been -- we've had it in the
13 paper. We need to be a little bit more
14 prominent with those things. So we have
15 done those things.

16 But the other piece to this is
17 the fact that we get emergent calls that
18 don't necessarily need the highest level
19 of our paramedic care does not mean that
20 they are not emergencies and it does not
21 mean that we need to just look at an
22 emergency call for someone who needs,
23 say, to get their finger broke because --
24 I mean, excuse me, finger set because
25 it's broke. We might look at that as a

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 non-emergent call, but that person needs
3 to get to the hospital. In our 9-1-1 --
4 excuse me; in our Community First
5 program, what we tell them is that they
6 could also take a neighbor's car if they
7 have a broken finger, that they could
8 take a taxi if they have a broken finger.
9 But if they have a broken arm, we know
10 that we need to take them, because that
11 broken arm could be a compound fracture
12 that could puncture a vein and we need to
13 be there.

14 So it's different levels of
15 emergency. The system that we talked
16 about, which is called Priority Dispatch,
17 is one of the things that we've done.
18 We're close to getting it in, and what it
19 does is, it monitors what the call is.
20 It says a series of questions that stacks
21 calls versus using every call as first
22 in/first out, and that's one of the
23 things that we're doing to deal with
24 this. Those folks who are doing criminal
25 things, we go after them, but the

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 majority of it is education.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: But
4 giving these pamphlets to people in the
5 emergency room, as I understood you to
6 say, I mean, don't you think that's after
7 the fact?

8 COMMISSIONER AYERS: It is, but
9 we get the opportunity at whatever point
10 we can to educate our people.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I
12 think there has to be a better way of
13 communicating with people.

14 COMMISSIONER AYERS: The
15 citizens in Philadelphia -- again, I
16 think the Deputy Mayor talked about the
17 package that goes along with this, and we
18 acknowledge the Councilman and
19 everybody's interest in this and what we
20 have to do, but we are moving forward
21 with a program that we believe will be
22 effective in taking care of this
23 non-emergent calls, getting them to other
24 places so that our firefighters won't
25 have to get on those engines and get out

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137
2 into the street and our paramedics won't
3 have to be overwhelmed with sniffly
4 noses. We understand the problem, and we
5 are addressing it.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Madam
7 President?

8 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Point of
9 information.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:
11 Councilwoman Brown, I'm sorry.
12 Councilman Rizzo has a point of
13 information.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay.

15 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Just 30
16 seconds.

17 Commissioner, get me once -- I
18 forget the expression. You know the
19 expression.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Get
21 me once --

22 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Get me once,
23 not twice.

24 Why can't we just do something
25 that's very commonsense? You identify

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 the fact that a person got transported
3 that in fact they didn't need. Why don't
4 you just simply send them a letter so the
5 next time they try to pull the same
6 stunt, they're on record that they might
7 not get service if the paramedic or unit
8 arrives and it's determined that they
9 caught their fingernail in the drawer?

10 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Thank
11 you very much. Everett Gillison, Deputy
12 Mayor for Public Safety.

13 As I indicated earlier, I heard
14 exactly what the Councilman was talking
15 about. I understand what he's talking
16 about, and I think that we are at the
17 point where we have to address it in a
18 more proactive way.

19 To your question or your
20 statement, Councilman Rizzo, the issue
21 with the notice -- because I would call a
22 letter a notice requirement -- we would
23 never be able to put down that you may
24 not get service, because now we're going
25 to get into legal issues that I don't

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 even want to get into. But, however, I
3 think that if we are putting together the
4 analysis -- the first year I sat in this
5 chair I heard that 75 percent of the
6 calls to our EMS system are non-emergent,
7 75 percent. Last year we did 233,000.
8 We have to do a better job of educating
9 the public that there are consequences,
10 not just the consequences that we're
11 talking about, but to those that
12 Councilman O'Neill is referring to, those
13 that know how to game the system. I'll
14 use your words. We have to speak to
15 those people in a way that will not only
16 get their attention, but to dissuade them
17 from acting in that way.

18 I hear it. I think we have a
19 way of dealing with it, and we can go
20 forward. Just give me an opportunity to
21 come back and I'll provide something to
22 the Chair.

23 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thanks,
24 Madam Chair.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 Councilwoman Brown.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,
4 Madam President. It's clear that that's
5 an issue that matters deeply to all of
6 us.

7 And if I could offer my two
8 cents on the education piece. The
9 Department has done an extraordinary job
10 with regards to fire prevention, visiting
11 senior citizen centers, just a variety of
12 places where people gather, and it has
13 made an enormous difference when you look
14 at where we are now with regards to the
15 drop in fires, and that speaks to
16 prevention and education.

17 So as you seek to roll out your
18 next comprehensive strategy, never, ever,
19 ever forget, or please remember, our
20 schools, because young people can be a
21 conscience for our adults as well. And I
22 know that visiting your schools is a part
23 of what you do anyhow, so add this as
24 another leg or layer of information that
25 we need to give, not just to seniors and

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 adults but to young people as well,
3 because they can have a real role in
4 this, coupling with rec centers, et
5 cetera, et cetera, churches, the clergy,
6 just a comprehensive strategy across the
7 board, given that the number is as high
8 as it is.

9 COMMISSIONER AYERS: Yes.

10 Thank you, Councilwoman.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: You are

12 welcome.

13 You spoke on the first page of
14 your testimony about the FEMA grant.
15 What's the status of that? Are we
16 fortunate enough to have that again going
17 forward since that's a real factor in the
18 reduction of fire fatalities?

19 COMMISSIONER AYERS: We
20 currently have a grant application in,
21 and we're waiting to find out the
22 results.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: So that's
24 a multi-year grant or year-to-year, or
25 what?

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 COMMISSIONER AYERS: It's
3 year-to-year, and this grant, Assistance
4 to Firefighter grant that we had, was
5 given to maybe five cities across the
6 country, which we were one of.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay. So
8 that was a prize, if you will.

9 COMMISSIONER AYERS:
10 Absolutely.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Given so
12 many cities across the country.

13 My last question would be, if
14 you had to ID or list your one or two top
15 achievements or accomplishments for year
16 past, what would they be?

17 COMMISSIONER AYERS: For the
18 past year?

19 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER AYERS: I would
21 say the opportunity to have our
22 firefighters, our men and women, do the
23 great work that they did with those smoke
24 alarms and knocking on doors and facing
25 the challenge of a changing fire service,

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 and really understanding the new
3 mentality, fighting the fire with
4 prevention, fighting the fire before it
5 happens, because that's what we're doing
6 now, and I think that they really get it.
7 They enjoy it. The community loves them.
8 They love the community. They know the
9 community more, and they've been an
10 integral part of just getting out there
11 and being what we've always been, a part
12 of the community.

13 The fire doors are up now.
14 Folks are flowing in and out, asking
15 questions, and we've become a group who
16 know how to reference the 3-1-1 system
17 versus the 9-1-1 system, getting help
18 before the tragedy.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: The
20 paradigm shift has been all good in every
21 way, and I join my colleagues in
22 acknowledging -- commending you on this
23 major milestone, the third lowest number
24 of fire fatalities in recorded history,
25 and the new paradigm where fire

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 departments, fire stations are a real
3 face, engaged and integrated into the
4 community.

5 COMMISSIONER AYERS:

6 Absolutely.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you
8 very, very much.

9 COMMISSIONER AYERS: Thank you.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,
11 Madam President.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
13 you.

14 Commissioner, I think in just
15 having brief discussions with a couple of
16 my colleagues, we're really not too
17 clear, and maybe you could explain it to
18 us a little more in detail, what the AQRI
19 is or 1 so that we fully understand what
20 that is.

21 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Let me
22 see if I can help. Deputy Mayor Everett
23 Gillison.

24 Madam President, the AQR
25 vehicle is a pilot program. Think of it

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 this way: We wanted to see how quickly
3 we could get advanced medical services to
4 a certain geographic area and measure and
5 obviously see what that would actually do
6 to our response times, by having a roving
7 unit, one that we would be able to be
8 always in contact with through GPS
9 locations and dispatch, in this catchment
10 area. We're not running them part of the
11 entire system. So all we're doing is
12 augmenting. We're not taking away from
13 anything we were currently doing. We
14 added one more unit, and it's a roving
15 unit. It's in a Ford Explorer. So it's
16 not in a box. It's Ford Explorer with
17 two guys, men or women, in it as
18 paramedics.

19 When a call comes out in this
20 geographic area, they go, and they can
21 get there faster because smaller unit.
22 It's based on an Army mentality of
23 getting them there as quickly as we can
24 in a small, effective unit, stopping --
25 getting that quick intervention. And

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 then the carry unit, if they come on and
3 they need to be carried, the carry unit
4 will go. These guys scrub back up and
5 then they go right back out on the
6 street. So it's constant pressure to get
7 to people as quickly as possible. The
8 idea is, let's get some data to see if
9 those kinds of units can help us in the
10 City of Philadelphia.

11 We have also found out as a
12 result of doing this project that
13 sometimes the unit will get to the scene
14 and it can call off the BLS unit faster,
15 because they're not unit. They can
16 actually handle what's needed, handle
17 what's wrong with the citizen, it's not a
18 carry situation. We can call that person
19 off. So constant communication in
20 realtime. We are handling things and
21 we're getting data to see how we can help
22 the system going forward.

23 So don't imagine that it's
24 something out there that's instead of.
25 We took our regular paradigm of what we

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 were giving by way of resources and we
3 added this to see how could a smaller,
4 lighter, more quicker unit can get to
5 places and will it be able to get us out
6 of situations we don't need to be in and
7 situations that we do need to be in, how
8 fast we got there, get that intervention,
9 run those lines and then make sure that
10 the BLS that would have normally
11 responded get them in and get them out,
12 and this unit can then go right back on
13 the street. That was the question, and
14 we're still getting the data from this
15 pilot as we go forward. So I hope that
16 that --

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: I get
18 back to my question, I guess, an hour
19 ago. Is this the same as --

20 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: The
21 rover.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: --
23 what the Commissioner called rover last
24 year?

25 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Yes.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 We were talking about a roving unit that
3 we would have, but it was a larger -- we
4 were looking last year at a larger pass.
5 This year we're just talking about using
6 a smaller geographic area that we kept it
7 in there.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And
9 the AQR does not transport?

10 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: That's
11 correct. It does not.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: All
13 right. Now, can they administer --

14 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Yes.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: --
16 oxygen, whatever?

17 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Yes.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Okay.
19 Once they do that, then the patient is
20 transferred?

21 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: If
22 you're doing those kinds of running the
23 lines of oxygen and medical and
24 everything else, the BLS unit, the big
25 carry unit, would come in and they would

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 just give that person -- the paramedics
3 would just hand that off to the BLS for
4 transport to a local hospital.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: So it
6 wouldn't be the ALS?

7 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: No.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It
9 would be the Basic Life Services?

10 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: The BLS
11 is the one that's coming behind it.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
13 Commissioner seems to have something.

14 COMMISSIONER AYERS: Yes. The
15 Advanced Life Support team that are on
16 location stays by that patient's side
17 until that patient is transported to the
18 hospital, no different than if this was
19 an ALS unit with the carry unit. The
20 difference is that this unit is going to
21 get there more rapidly. So the patient
22 never loses the ALS care even though it's
23 a BLS unit on scene.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: ALS
25 transports them?

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: No.

3 COMMISSIONER AYERS: The BLS
4 unit is two firefighters. AQR is two
5 paramedics. When the medic unit comes on
6 the scene to an ALS case, they just
7 switch and the paramedic gets in with the
8 patient in the BLS, which is now actually
9 instantly converted to ALS, and takes
10 them to the hospital.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
12 That's an explanation.

13 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Madam
14 President?

15 COMMISSIONER AYERS: I'm sorry
16 I took a long time to get to that.

17 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Point of
18 information.

19 The first on the scene -- or
20 ALS, they can do intervenous and other
21 things. They're turning it over to
22 somebody -- this is just a question.
23 They're turning it over to somebody who
24 can't do that, who is not qualified to do
25 those kinds of things.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 COMMISSIONER AYERS: No. They
3 never turn them over. If it's an ALS
4 run, the Advanced Life Support team,
5 those paramedics, they're going to stay
6 with that person, but they're going to
7 use the firefighters/EMTs --

8 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Oh,
9 they're actually going to the --

10 COMMISSIONER AYERS:
11 Absolutely. They're just using their
12 vehicle.

13 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: In the
14 last five iterations of this, they were
15 going somewhere else because they're fast
16 and quick and they can cover other
17 scenes. It was only the BLS doing the
18 transport.

19 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: If it's
20 necessary. If it's necessary.

21 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Say it
22 louder, Deputy Mayor.

23 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Yes.
24 The whole idea is if it's necessary. The
25 idea is that we're trying to get the

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 data, because a lot of the times what
3 we're finding is, we get these guys out
4 there, they treat, they don't need to
5 really get in. They could actually say
6 this is not something that's needed to
7 be. We can leave it to the BLS to carry,
8 and these guys can scrub and go back out.
9 Sometimes we don't have that option.
10 Sometimes they need that care, so then
11 they just get into the unit and then they
12 go.

13 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: I think we
14 covered a whole lot with the followup.
15 Thank you, Madam President.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
17 You're welcome.

18 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I got to ask
19 the question.

20 In a case where that rover
21 decides that he needs to go with the
22 patient to the hospital, what do you do?
23 Put the keys of the other unit under the
24 mat? What do you do?

25 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: No.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 The BLS --

3 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: What do you

4 do with the unit?

5 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Who is

6 going to take the keys to the Ford

7 Explorer?

8 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Yeah.

9 COMMISSIONER AYERS: They

10 follow them to the hospital. The

11 firefighters drive it and they follow

12 them to the hospital.

13 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Oh, okay.

14 Thank you.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

16 Councilman Green.

17 COUNCILMAN GREEN: I'm still

18 not sure I understand that, but I don't

19 see the point in discussing it any

20 further. I mean, the Deputy Mayor talked

21 about trying to look at the data and

22 analyzing it, and I don't know what data

23 he's talking about or how data is kept on

24 calls like that, but I think you can

25 expect questions during the course of the

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 year on that data, how it's being
3 collected and how you're measuring
4 whether or not this is more or less
5 expensive, because the description of it
6 doesn't sound like it could be saving us
7 a whole lot of money, because you now
8 have a bunch of people going on every
9 call to the hospital if the BLS got there
10 first and that's what was needed. So --
11 okay.

12 Both the Five Year Plan and
13 your testimony noted the increasing
14 number of calls for emergency services,
15 76 percent of which, so three-quarters of
16 all calls, end up in transport to the
17 hospital. So if BLS units show up, it's
18 more than likely that somebody is going
19 to need to go to the hospital.

20 At any rate, calls have risen
21 by 50,000 calls per year over the past
22 decade. That kind of increase suggests a
23 systematic problem that we need to
24 address through a cross-departmental
25 approach. And in much of the earlier

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 testimony by the Administration, they
3 were trying to look at cross-departmental
4 approaches. It's something that the
5 former Managing Director was very focused
6 on, trying to eliminate silos and work
7 across departments.

8 So how are we analyzing the
9 root causes of this increased EMS calls
10 and hospital transports to try to
11 determine what could help address them,
12 such as access to primary and
13 preventative care, and to what extent are
14 we looking at models like the Camden
15 Coalition of Healthcare Providers, which
16 is using a data-driven approach to
17 deliver better care to residents and also
18 drive down costs?

19 I don't know if you know the
20 answer to that question today, but it's
21 certainly something that I'm going to
22 want to cover with Health and others when
23 they come in, because it seems like just
24 responding to people who are constantly
25 carried by our ambulances to the hospital

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 doesn't make a whole lot of sense. We
3 should be reaching out to those people,
4 getting them priority on appointments
5 into our health centers so that they can
6 address their medical problems in a way
7 that doesn't result in all these calls.

8 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: You're
9 absolutely right, and it's something that
10 Deputy Mayor Schwarz and I, along with
11 members of the team, have been looking at
12 and trying, under Camille Barnett -- she
13 was one of those that would sit in on our
14 meetings -- trying to figure out which
15 are different ways that we could deal
16 with going forward. That's something
17 that the Deputy Mayor and I are both
18 looking at. We're actually looking at
19 different ways of responding to carry
20 only kind of matters, thinking outside
21 the box. A lot of times citizens, we're
22 finding just from some of the data that
23 our CAD system is producing for us now
24 that just says that this is a carry
25 that's not emergent but just needs to get

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 to the hospital, what's a different way
3 of getting there is something that I'm
4 considering, and even working with the
5 taxicab association, maybe getting a flat
6 rate to say that if a person needs to get
7 to the hospital and we can figure out the
8 way to get the reimbursements, because
9 all of this usually comes down to
10 understanding the Medicaid, Medicare
11 reimbursement rate in order to get
12 someone to the hospital. All of that is
13 part and parcel of this discussion.

14 So, yes, I'll be glad to sit
15 down. I can include you in some of that
16 information. That would be great.

17 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Yeah. I
18 just -- I know you say you and Deputy
19 Mayor Schwarz are talking. I'd be
20 interested in what solutions you've come
21 up with to solve these problems, if any.

22 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: As of
23 right now, there aren't any solutions to
24 this. This is actually part and parcel
25 of a review of even trying to figure

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 out -- it started as a result of what
3 does the federalization of healthcare
4 come in. So we don't have a solution to
5 offer at this time.

6 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay. The
7 EMS pilot program you mention in your
8 testimony -- no. That's all AQR
9 questions. I'm going to skip them.

10 The 280 budgeted fire service
11 paramedic positions, 73 were unfilled as
12 of December. The vacancy allowance for
13 the EMS division is 920,000 and the
14 requested salary spending is 120,000
15 lower than FY11.

16 How many currently vacant EMS
17 positions could the Department fill this
18 year given the requested appropriation
19 and the vacancy allowance for those
20 positions?

21 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON:
22 Councilman, Everett Gillison, Deputy
23 Mayor.

24 Obviously we have the 24 that
25 are going in next week and we are trying

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 to get -- now that we are trying to staff
3 up on a rolling basis, we're hoping to
4 get the remaining in this year.

5 COUNCILMAN GREEN: You can't
6 because you have a vacancy allowance of
7 920,000.

8 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I've
9 been -- I haven't been told that I can't
10 get -- if I get another 50 paramedics, I
11 have not been told that I can't get those
12 in. So I will --

13 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Based on
14 your requested budget, that's impossible.

15 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I
16 will --

17 COUNCILMAN GREEN: If you could
18 crunch the numbers and provide it to the
19 Chair, I would appreciate it.

20 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Not a
21 problem.

22 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Or you'd
23 have to hire them all on the last day of
24 the year, would be another way you'd be
25 within your budget and meet your vacancy

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 allowance requirement.

3 There's been a lot of back and
4 forth in the press and other places about
5 the effective brownouts in the Fire
6 Department, and it looks -- there have
7 been increased firefighter injuries, I
8 think, in stations or around stations as
9 a result of -- if the first responder was
10 a brownout station, more firefighters
11 have gotten injured than sort of a
12 regular call.

13 Do you have -- we talked a lot
14 about data. Do you have statistics on
15 firefighter and civilian injuries,
16 looking just at stations where there was
17 a brownout compared to stations where
18 there's not a brownout and then comparing
19 that to past years where there were no
20 brownouts?

21 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I can
22 tell you that we have and we have been
23 following closely firefighter injuries
24 and civilian injuries. I can give to the
25 Chair the analysis of what effect, if

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 any, there would be with brownouts. But
3 I would disagree that there's been any
4 increase in firefighter injuries, but I
5 will provide the data to the Chair.

6 COUNCILMAN GREEN: What data do
7 you have?

8 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: We just
9 have a general -- something that the
10 Commissioner has been giving me on a
11 monthly basis on firefighter injuries. I
12 don't have that with me today.

13 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So it
14 doesn't disaggregate, though, injuries on
15 jobs where the initial call would have
16 come from a browned-out station?

17 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: It does
18 not. I'd have to go back and take a look
19 at that.

20 COUNCILMAN GREEN: It does not?

21 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: It does
22 not.

23 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Well, it
24 seems to me that that's the analysis that
25 has to be done to try to do some kind of

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 apples to apples analysis.

3 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: We will
4 provide it to you. I mean, we know --

5 COUNCILMAN GREEN: But you'll
6 go back and do that analysis and provide
7 it to the Chair?

8 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Yes.

9 COUNCILMAN GREEN: That would
10 be helpful.

11 Excuse me for one second.

12 We just received vacant and
13 unfilled position data from Finance and
14 others. So we have a lot of questions on
15 vacant and unfilled positions. What
16 we're going to do is go through and
17 compare what questions we had prepared
18 with the new data we have, and if we have
19 any further questions in that regard, we
20 will send a written request.

21 Thank you.

22 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Very
23 well.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
25 you very much.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 I guess the more testimony we
3 receive, the more questions come to mind.

4 Commissioner, with people
5 getting to know about the non-emergency
6 calls and calling 9-1-1, has there any
7 thought been given to having some
8 education on this through the public
9 service announcements on TV? I thought
10 that's what we had this TV station for.

11 COMMISSIONER AYERS: Well, we
12 will absolutely look into it. We have
13 not had a lot of television coverage. We
14 have had some radio coverage that's been
15 limited. And we'll take that under
16 advisement to get it done.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And
18 perhaps people would come to the
19 realization that maybe there would be a
20 minimum fee attached to a non-emergency
21 call. If you have a hang finger and
22 you're calling 9-1-1, that there would be
23 a minimum fee attached and it would not
24 be waived. I mean, we've got to do
25 something. I think we come here every

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 year and hear the same issues, and yet
3 there's never been a positive step taken
4 forward to address it. I'm not saying
5 all, but most of the complaints are still
6 very much alive.

7 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Madam
8 President, I understand your frustration.
9 The one thing that I would always bring
10 as a statement is that the Department has
11 done the 9-1-1 for emergency only. The
12 Commissioner has a whole lot of those
13 brochures that he goes to place to place.
14 We're on the radio getting it out and
15 getting the information out. But are we
16 on Channel 3, 6, 10 and 29? No.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: No.
18 We have Channel 64, which is the public
19 service station.

20 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: That's
21 correct.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: I've
23 never heard anything mentioned on radio
24 about this. I'm not saying it's not on
25 radio, but I've never heard anything. I

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 don't know if anybody else has. But
3 there -- and just to take the brochure to
4 the emergency room, it's after the fact.

5 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON:

6 Obviously we have to get out ahead of it.
7 We agree. This is not one of those
8 things that we are in disagreement of.
9 What we're trying to do is make sure that
10 people understand the magnitude of the
11 issue, understand that there are limited
12 resources and that we're trying to use
13 them in the most effective way possible.
14 Is there something we can do better?
15 Absolutely, we will. That's where we are
16 and that's what I can promise you as
17 Deputy Mayor for Public Safety.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

19 That's why the paramedics burn out and
20 they look elsewhere for another job.

21 Okay. Any other questions?

22 Councilman Green.

23 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
24 Madam Chair. I actually don't have
25 additional questions for this department,

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 but I just want to note somewhere for the
3 record that I was looking forward to the
4 Prisons Department testimony.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

6 They're coming.

7 COUNCILMAN GREEN: I'm going to
8 have to miss that, as I have an event at
9 5 o'clock. And so I want to apologize
10 for that. I think Prisons has worked
11 very well in CJAB, Criminal Justice
12 Advisory Board, has worked with all the
13 stakeholders, the DA, Police, Courts, et
14 cetera, to try and reduce the cost of
15 that system. It is still my contention
16 that if we continue on the current
17 course, the additional two and a half
18 million that the Prisons say they can
19 reduce from the budget this year, which
20 then just increases sort at a regular
21 rate of inflation for the next five
22 years, is too much in the Five Year Plan,
23 and within two or three years, we can
24 close a prison in the City of
25 Philadelphia if we keep up the progress

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 we've made, which will save another 25,
3 30, 40 millions dollars a year in that
4 department.

5 I think the Commissioner has
6 done a good job. I know they don't want
7 to budget in something that dramatic, but
8 those would be questions I ask, and I
9 look forward to seeing what questions are
10 asked and what the responses were from
11 Prisons. If maybe the Commissioner would
12 be kind enough to address that question
13 when he is finished his testimony or when
14 he's finished hearing from other people,
15 I'd appreciate it.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
17 you.

18 Are there any other questions
19 of the Fire Department?

20 (No response.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
22 Seeing none, thank you very much. Thank
23 you.

24 COMMISSIONER AYERS: Thank you,
25 President.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

3 You're welcome, sir.

4 We will now hear from the
5 Prisons.

6 (Witnesses approached witness
7 table.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

9 Commissioner, you've been extremely
10 patient. Thank you.

11 Please identify yourself for
12 the record and proceed with your
13 testimony.

14 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Good
15 afternoon, Council President Verna,
16 members of City Council. I am Lou
17 Giorla, Prison Commissioner. I'm here
18 today with several members of the Prison
19 System's executive staff to testify in
20 support of our 2012 Fiscal Year Operating
21 Budget.

22 The Fiscal Year 2012 budget
23 request is for the second year lower than
24 the year before. Our 2012 proposed
25 budget of \$231,172,870 is \$3 million

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 below our actual FY10 spending.

3 \$119,058,997 is requested in Class 100;
4 \$106,043,372 in Class 200; 4,768,744 in
5 Class 300 and 400; and 1,301,357 in Class
6 500.

7 I am pleased to report that the
8 Philadelphia Prison System's average
9 daily population has declined during
10 these two years.

11 And I'll try and stay away from
12 acronyms.

13 The average daily population
14 fell from a historic high of 9,321 in
15 Calendar 2009 to 8,274 in 2010. To date
16 this year, the prison census has declined
17 even further and thus far averages 7,698.

18 As a result, the Prison System
19 is no longer forced to use triple cells
20 to house inmates at House of Correction
21 or the Riverside Correctional Facility.
22 Recreation and programming areas modified
23 for use as housing units at the Detention
24 Center have been vacated. Likewise, due
25 to a greatly reduced female population,

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 nearly all female inmates are now housed
3 at the Riverside Correctional Facility.
4 This move allowed the Prisons to
5 depopulate the Cannery, a female housing
6 site on Torresdale Avenue. Due to the
7 improvement in Prison conditions, the PPS
8 was able to settle a federal overcrowding
9 lawsuit filed in 2009, without
10 significant sanctions.

11 This reduction in the prison
12 population is the result of reforms
13 proposed and enacted by the First
14 Judicial District working with the
15 Administration and the other partners of
16 the City's criminal justice community.
17 While great progress has been made, the
18 reform effort is still underway.

19 This year the Prisons and the
20 Courts instituted a remote printing
21 process. Paper documents such as
22 sentencing orders formerly generated at
23 court and delivered by courier are now
24 electronically sent to the prison,
25 directly from the courtroom in some

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 cases. In many cases, this simple
3 information exchange took days. It now
4 takes minutes.

5 A second initiative to automate
6 the workflow of parole petitions is in
7 the planning phase. When completed, this
8 joint effort of the Courts, Defender
9 Association, District Attorney's Office,
10 Adult Probation and the Prisons will
11 reduce the time it takes to review and
12 process county parole petitions filed on
13 behalf of prison inmates. The new
14 electronic process will contribute to
15 keeping the prison census at or below
16 present levels.

17 In another process improvement,
18 the Prisons will expand the use of video
19 stations located at each facility in the
20 State Road complex. Increasing the
21 number of hearings held via video will
22 reduce the necessity to transport many of
23 the hundreds of inmates scheduled for
24 court daily. Other uses of the video
25 system such as automated attorney

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 consultations and a web-based official
3 visiting service are being explored.

4 During the 2012 fiscal year,
5 the Prison System will implement an
6 electronic health record system for
7 inmates. The system will completely
8 replace the paper files now being used.
9 The reduction of time to update files,
10 pull them when needed and store them when
11 not will provide savings in labor costs,
12 the allocation of storage space and, of
13 course, the use of paper.

14 Operationally, continued
15 emphasis is being placed on meeting or
16 exceeding professional standards.
17 Four -- and I have to correct this. Five
18 of our six Prison System facilities hope
19 to renew their accreditation with the
20 National Commission on Correctional
21 Healthcare this year on schedule. The
22 other facility is also accredited, but
23 not yet due for renewal. During our most
24 recent inspections of the PPS by the
25 state Department of Corrections, our

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 Alternative and Special Detention

3 Division was 100 percent compliant with
4 all state jail standards, a first for the
5 Philadelphia Prisons.

6 In 2010, the Prisons again
7 awarded over 300 General Education
8 Diplomas. However, a sample proficiency
9 test of sentenced inmates also found that
10 nearly half were unable to qualify for
11 any of our four GED preparatory programs.
12 In response, the System has added a basic
13 literacy program to channel appropriate
14 inmates into our preparatory classes.
15 Classroom instruction will be
16 supplemented with tutoring by GED program
17 graduates who are still in custody.

18 Meanwhile, the other end of the
19 educational spectrum is not being
20 ignored. The Community College of
21 Philadelphia has initiated classes for
22 sentenced inmates who can perform at a
23 more advanced level.

24 Working with the Pennsylvania
25 Horticultural Society, the Defender

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 Association and the Office of
3 Reintegration Services for Ex-Offenders,
4 the Prisons transformed our in-house
5 horticultural program into a community
6 vocational training and employment
7 program. The program still provides
8 seedlings and thousands of pounds of
9 fresh vegetables to City Harvest, the
10 Horticultural Society's partnership with
11 local gardeners and food cupboards, but
12 now eligible inmates who complete the
13 program are paroled on the day of
14 graduation and immediately placed in a
15 full-time job.

16 As Councilmembers may be aware,
17 the Prison System ranks second among City
18 agencies in the total amount of
19 contracted services. The Prison System
20 is committed to supporting the
21 Administration's goal of 25 percent
22 minority, woman and disabled-owned
23 business participation in City
24 contracting. During the last full
25 reporting cycle, Fiscal Year 2010, the

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 Prisons had a participation rate of 29
3 percent. A historical breakdown of the
4 M/W/DSBE participation is attached.

5 Although the Prisons are not
6 considered a revenue-producing
7 department, certain initiatives help
8 defray a portion of our costs. Room and
9 board fees from the Work Release Program
10 generate \$163,397. Administrative fees
11 for inmate check preparation and
12 commissary order processing total
13 \$252,852, and inmate phone calling raises
14 \$1,338,939.

15 Two years ago during budget
16 testimony I testified that if the prison
17 population was not reduced, we might now
18 have a jail census of well over 10,000.
19 Thankfully, we have moved in the other
20 direction. The ongoing population
21 reduction initiatives discussed here lead
22 me to believe the prison census will
23 remain relatively stable or even fall
24 over the next fiscal year.

25 Thank you for this opportunity

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 to testify. I will be pleased to answer
3 any questions you or the Councilmembers
4 may have. If there is information I am
5 unable to provide, I will submit it to
6 you as soon as possible following this
7 hearing.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
9 you very much, and thank you for the
10 wonderful job you're doing.

11 On Page 2 of your testimony,
12 you mention that inmate telephone calling
13 raises \$1.3 million. Can you tell us
14 where this appears in the
15 Administration's revenue estimates?

16 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: That is a
17 portion of the telephone calling contract
18 that DOT administers. It's combined with
19 public telephone calling at the Airport.
20 So it's not listed on the Prison's budget
21 as a revenue item, but it's combined
22 with -- our portion is 1.3 million.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm
24 sorry. It's provided with?

25 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: It's

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 provided in the DOT. I believe it's in
3 the DOT revenue section. It's a combined
4 contract.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
6 you.

7 On Page 18 of your budget
8 detail, you are requesting \$63.5 million
9 for prisoner healthcare. Here we go
10 again. Why are these costs not going
11 down as you reduce and stabilize your
12 census population?

13 COMMISSIONER Giorla: Despite
14 the fact that our census population has
15 declined, our number of admissions has
16 stayed relatively stable. We're still
17 admitting close to 35,000 inmates a year.
18 A large portion of our medical costs are
19 front-loaded. Most inmates are released
20 within the first three to four weeks. We
21 do diagnostic testing, mental health
22 evaluations, prescribe medication, and
23 everybody who is released gets a 15-day
24 supply of medications that they're on
25 when they leave.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 During the last fiscal year,
3 our costs rose about a little more than
4 half a percent. There was a slight labor
5 increase, labor cost increase, included
6 in there. And if you want a more
7 detailed explanation, we can send it to
8 you.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I was
10 going to ask that question. When an
11 inmate or a prisoner comes in, is it
12 mandated or do they automatically receive
13 a physical?

14 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Everyone
15 who comes in gets a physical screening.
16 We perform a series of tests, vital
17 signs, weight, ask them about any chronic
18 conditions. We run a check when we can
19 on those with local pharmacies to
20 determine if they're on any current
21 medications that they may not be
22 identifying. We try and supplement any
23 medications they may have. If they
24 display any behavioral health issues,
25 they're immediately referred to our

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 behavioral health staff. Some cases they
3 may be placed in our licensed inpatient
4 unit in an emergency basis and evaluated
5 there.

6 But everybody who comes through
7 the door, with the exception of returning
8 weekend inmates, gets an evaluation. We
9 do history and physicals sometime out if
10 the inmate stays in custody, and we do
11 annual physicals if they stay past a
12 year.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Well,
14 you answered my question.

15 Can you give us a breakdown of
16 the medical costs between sentenced
17 prisoners and detainees?

18 COMMISSIONER Giorla: Based on
19 our --

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: If
21 you don't have it, you could always send
22 it to us.

23 COMMISSIONER Giorla: No. I
24 have it. I know you asked this earlier
25 on in the hearings. The average --

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It
3 seems like we ask the same questions
4 every year.

5 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Well, the
6 average detentioner inmate detainee costs
7 us about \$8,000 a year, 7,900 or so in
8 medical costs, and the average sentenced
9 inmate about \$11,000 a year. Sentenced
10 inmates, of course, stay longer on
11 average. And that's based on our average
12 daily population. It's not broken down
13 by each of those 35,000 admissions.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: What
15 percentage of your population are
16 detainees?

17 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: About 78
18 percent.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And
20 on the average, can you tell us how long
21 a detainee stays?

22 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: We
23 haven't -- we measure length of stay
24 overall, males and females. That
25 includes detentioners and sentenced

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 inmates, and we're trying to construct
3 breakdowns of those statuses. But the
4 average male inmate stays about 89 days.
5 The average female inmate about 57 days.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Why
7 does it take so long?

8 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Well, the
9 court -- you know, how cases are
10 processed is one of the things. When I
11 mention about automating parole petitions
12 is another one. A lot of the paperwork
13 transfer among agencies and departments
14 increases the length of stay. Sometimes
15 court continuances increase the length of
16 stay. A lot of the people we have in
17 custody, the numbers of more serious
18 offenders is growing, what we call closed
19 custody or maximum security inmates.
20 They take longer to get to trial. They
21 usually have the more complicated cases
22 and it takes longer to conclude. Several
23 of them are repeat offenders, so they may
24 have multiple holds to deal with.

25 One of the reasons our

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 population has declined is because the
3 courts have initiated a couple of
4 programs that consolidated those cases,
5 but you may run into someone who is a
6 violent offender and may be a multi-state
7 offender. So they may have to conclude a
8 case in another jurisdiction or have us
9 satisfy that before our case is
10 adjudicated. So it's the multiple holds
11 that really have an effect on the length
12 of stay.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Page

14 19 of the detail shows that you expect to
15 spend \$13.7 million for inmate housing.
16 With the reduction in your population,
17 why do you still need these housing
18 contracts?

19 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Many of

20 our facilities, particularly
21 Curran-Fromhold, are beyond their
22 capacity and we still have triple
23 celling. Some of our facilities -- I
24 should say that we've been beyond
25 capacity for quite some time, and it is

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 beyond our designed capacities and beyond
3 some of our modified capacities for
4 sometime. So that's what necessitated
5 these. We still need them because we
6 haven't created enough space in the State
7 Road complex to accommodate all these
8 inmates.

9 We only have, I think, about
10 400 inmates outside our facilities right
11 now. That number was much higher a
12 couple of years ago. We've drawn those
13 down as carefully as we can over time,
14 because we have custody classifications
15 for our main facilities. Not all inmates
16 are suitable for all facilities. It
17 would be easy if we could pull them all
18 back and just put them in one facility
19 together, but professional standards,
20 legal liability, custody classifications
21 prohibit that.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

23 Getting back to the detainees, when
24 they're arraigned, is that by television?

25 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: In some

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 cases they're arraigned by CCTV at the
3 police sites. Usually they're not
4 arraigned with us. The video
5 capabilities that we have are for
6 extradition hearings, state intermediate
7 punishment hearings, Traffic Court
8 hearings and in some cases status
9 hearings with the judges. We're looking
10 to expand those, but the CCTV that's
11 being done for arraignments is done by
12 the Police Department.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
14 you very much, and, again, I think you're
15 doing a great job.

16 The Chair recognizes Councilman
17 Greenlee.

18 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
19 you, Madam President.

20 Good afternoon, Commissioner.

21 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Good
22 afternoon.

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I concur
24 certainly with the Council President's
25 comments on the job you're doing up

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 there. Thank you. I just had a couple
3 of quick questions on the education
4 aspect that you talked about.

5 Who actually runs these
6 programs? Who does the training for the
7 inmates as far as the GED classes and/or
8 the literacy, the basic literacy
9 programs?

10 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: We have a
11 number of different employees that
12 conduct those programs. Pennypack House
13 School, which is an arm of the School
14 District, supplies high school education
15 to our juvenile inmates and adult basic
16 education and GED preparation to some
17 adults, and they do summer classes. We
18 have an automated computer, somewhat
19 independent study program called PLATO,
20 Program Logic and Training, that is
21 another GED preparatory program.

22 The basic literacy is going to
23 be done by a group of correctional
24 officers that we're going to train as
25 monitors, and it's going to be

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 supplemented with inmates who graduated
3 to GED. They'll be used as tutors and
4 mentors.

5 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: That's
6 great.

7 Do you have a feel or any idea
8 how many of the inmates that go from --
9 that don't meet the original
10 qualifications for the GED classes when
11 they go through these basic literacy
12 programs how many move up and actually
13 get a GED?

14 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: We're not
15 sure yet, because we're just in the
16 infancy stage with that program. What we
17 did was, we conducted -- we had some
18 funds available, so we conducted some
19 diagnostic testing, did a snapshot of our
20 sentenced population. We tried to get
21 500 inmates, but many of them declined to
22 participate. We ended up with 271. Of
23 those, 30 percent tested below, I would
24 say, below fourth grade level in reading
25 and math, some a lot lower. So that was

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 the impetus for the basic literacy
3 program.

4 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And I
5 think you answered the other question I
6 was going to have. This is obviously a
7 voluntary program, right?

8 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: For
9 detentioner inmates, it is. Some
10 inmates, sentenced inmates, are
11 stipulated by the court to enroll in GED
12 classes. They get priority, because we
13 follow the court orders first, but
14 everything else is voluntary.

15 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And last
16 thing. I know when Community College was
17 in here, they talked about the program
18 that you had up there. How many inmates
19 have participated in that?

20 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Right now
21 15. It's the first program. What we did
22 was, we selected a cohort. We house them
23 at the same facility on the same units so
24 they would be able to more or less
25 participate in classes and study

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 together. Thirteen of the 15 completed
3 the course. Two were released prior to
4 the completion of the course and have
5 enrolled in full-time classes at
6 Community College.

7 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: That's
8 great. Okay. That's good news. Thank
9 you. Thank you very much.

10 Thank you, Madam President.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:
12 You're welcome.

13 The Chair recognizes Councilman
14 Rizzo.

15 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you.
16 Thank you, Madam Chair.

17 Again, not just you, but the
18 leader is the one that gets the most
19 praise, but what a great organization of
20 people that you have working with you
21 there. Nobody knows better than me how
22 hard --

23 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: I'd like
24 to thank you on behalf of all the men and
25 women of the Philadelphia Prisons. Thank

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 you.

3 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Real
4 important.

5 You know, refresh my memory.
6 The last time we had an incident at the
7 jail, there was a complaint that the
8 community wasn't notified, and I
9 understand that to ring a siren, you had
10 to get to the state to give you
11 permission, from what I understand, to
12 ring the siren.

13 Well, again, we in government
14 sometimes need to get with it. If you go
15 out to Drexel or you go to Penn or any of
16 the universities, if there's an incident,
17 they send text messages to everybody in
18 the community.

19 Would you consider -- and I
20 understand there are services that
21 provide where you could solicit the
22 community to enroll in a text message.
23 Even though the sirens are great, maybe
24 some day we can get away from having to
25 actually ring a siren in the community.

4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

One of my staff told me they understood that you had to get some approval from the Commonwealth to be able to sound a siren whenever there was an incident.

COMMISSIONER GIORLA: The information is somewhat correct, Councilman. There is legislation pending which would require all county correctional facilities to have at least a siren and engage in any electronic means to notify the surrounding community. The incident you referred to happened on October 12th, 2010 when an inmate escaped from Curran-Fromhold. Since that time, we've met with all the adjoining communities that abut our complex. One of the main requests from the Holmesburg Civic Association was the institution of a siren alarm or whoop siren alarm that we had previously in place and was discontinued in 2001.

We reinstituted that alarm. We began testing that on February -- around

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 February 11th, and it's been -- it's in
3 use. It was demonstrated on April the
4 1st, Friday, April the 1st. It's tested
5 every first Friday of the month at noon.

6 In addition, we've taken
7 advantage of the RSAN system offered by
8 the City's Office of Emergency
9 Management. We've instituted an internal
10 level text message notification for our
11 internal staff, high-ranking staff. We
12 also -- there is an opt-in sign-up
13 registration that can take place by
14 e-mail to receive text messages. It's
15 Ready Notify Philadelphia. We have about
16 100 subscribers at this point. We've
17 been out to all the -- we've been back
18 out to the community organizations to
19 publicize this. We brought the Office of
20 Emergency Management.

21 We try to meet all their
22 requests. We have instituted a message
23 hotline, so when somebody hears the
24 alarm, they can call in and find out what
25 the situation is, even if they aren't

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 registered for the text messaging. So
3 hopefully we won't have to use the
4 system, but -- and this kind of meets all
5 the stipulations of the upcoming
6 legislation.

7 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Well, I'm
8 glad to hear that, but, again, like the
9 President said earlier, we need to tell
10 people about these opportunities and our
11 TV station. Believe it or not, there's
12 people that actually look at that, and
13 the price is right.

14 So I think that we should
15 encourage as many people -- you're
16 telling me that the average public at
17 this point cannot get on to the Ready
18 Notify?

19 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Yes. Any
20 member of the public --

21 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: But get a
22 prison alert?

23 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Yes.
24 There's a prison -- there's several
25 registries on that website, one for

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 SEPTA, one for the Office of Emergency
3 Management, I believe for Philadelphia
4 Police and Fire, and also Prisons. The
5 Prisons registry is relatively new. It's
6 only been in place for about a month.

7 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: And you will
8 absolutely report on that if there's an
9 incident that the public needs to know?

10 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Oh, we
11 already have. As a matter of fact, a
12 couple weeks ago we had a mistaken report
13 that an inmate had been seen in the
14 community, and we activated that for the
15 public. We sent that out as a public
16 registry. It was a mistaken report. We
17 confirmed that it was inaccurate, but we
18 sent it out initially just to warn the
19 community.

20 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Well, that's
21 good to hear, because I was a bit
22 troubled by the fact that the community
23 wasn't as aware as they should have been
24 on that particular incident, and it
25 sounds like you've done a lot to make it

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 better for the future.

3 I was very impressed when I was
4 out at one of the universities and there
5 was a pocketbook snatch on Walnut or
6 Chestnut, and within seconds, every
7 student in that area had a cell phone and
8 got a text alert to be looking for a
9 particular individual and also be
10 careful. So I guess that's the same
11 thing. Can that go -- since I carry a
12 BlackBerry, I just assume that that's the
13 same with a cell phone?

14 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Yes, sir.

15 It can go via a canned cell phone
16 message. It can go via a text message.
17 There's also a service that the Streets
18 Department uses to notify people when
19 trash pick-up is delayed or trash pick-up
20 has been cancelled. It sends out --

21 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: The one I
22 get the day after.

23 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Like
24 robocalls. We were using that system,
25 too. When we initially started the

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 alarm, we blanketed a one-mile radius
3 around our complex. We called everyone
4 an hour before the alarm went off to tell
5 them what it was. Now, that was in
6 addition to publications in the Northeast
7 Times and the Daily News.

8 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Terrific.

9 It sounds like you're really ahead of the
10 game here. Great.

11 Thank you, Madam Chair.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:

13 You're welcome.

14 The Chair recognizes Councilman
15 Goode.

16 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
17 Madam President.

18 Good afternoon, Commissioner.

19 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Good
20 afternoon.

21 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Just a few
22 questions.

23 Beyond healthcare and
24 court-mandated matters, what is your
25 current assessment process for inmates,

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 whether they are sentenced or detainees?

3 What type of things do you assess? What

4 do you need to know about them as they

5 come in?

6 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: We look

7 at their medical history, their mental

8 health history --

9 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Beyond

10 medical.

11 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: -- their

12 education, their social connections with

13 the community, whether or not they're

14 married, whether or not they ever served

15 in the military. We try and make sure

16 that if they're available, they have

17 information that will allow them to try

18 and make bail. And if they're sentenced,

19 within a few days we refer them to our

20 Inmate Services providers, who begin to

21 work on educational and work programs.

22 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I'm really

23 going in the direction of education and

24 work programming, but even more broadly,

25 what sort of assessment criteria do you

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 have related to reentry efforts?

3 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Right now
4 our Inmate Services case managers, our
5 social workers, make referrals to
6 programs that they think are appropriate.
7 Over the last year or, I guess, probably
8 about a year and a half, we've had a CPR
9 program for sentenced inmates, Community
10 and Personal Responsibility, that the
11 Reintegration Services for Ex-Offenders
12 administers and teaches in our
13 facilities. That's been coupled with a
14 few of our existing in-house programs,
15 like GED, Roots to Reentry and some other
16 work programs, so that more or less it
17 offers some life skills, some job
18 preparation and really some post-release
19 preparation for the inmates.

20 COUNCILMAN GOODE: What portion
21 of your budget is dedicated to reentry?

22 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: I think
23 \$1.6 million directly. We direct fund to
24 RISE, but the other efforts that I
25 referred to, the educational efforts,

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 they're separate from that and they're
3 funded as well.

4 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Well, let me
5 ask a different question, because you
6 said you fund RISE.

7 COMMISSIONER GIORLA:
8 Partially.

9 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I guess the
10 question is, what percentage of your
11 budget that's actually spent within the
12 Prisons is spent on reentry? And I'll
13 ask the question to you and the Deputy
14 Mayor, along with some perspective on how
15 much of reentry actually needs to not
16 just begin but actually take place within
17 prison.

18 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: I'd have
19 to compute those figures and supply them
20 to you, Councilman, because it's blended
21 in with a lot of our other services, from
22 everything from health education, you
23 know, and HIV education to GED, to
24 vocational training, to referrals to
25 RISE. It's woven in and out of our

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 operations.

3 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Okay. I
4 guess I'll ask the question in a
5 different way, and still await a written
6 answer. Let's not call it reentry but
7 call it preparation for reentry. What is
8 the minimum requirement in terms of
9 preparation for reentry, aside from
10 someone who is having served their
11 sentence?

12 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Thank
13 you, Councilman. Everett Gillison,
14 Deputy Mayor for Public Safety.

15 I can't break that number out
16 for you, but it is something that I will
17 try and put together. But the way that
18 we approach it philosophically is that as
19 soon as the person gets to the prison and
20 once they've gone through what I call the
21 first four or five days, really it's
22 three weeks, between five days and three
23 weeks -- because if they come in and get
24 out, there's really not too much we can
25 do to help them, but anything beyond

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 three weeks is when we start ramping up.
3 And philosophically we'd like to do the
4 assessments, make sure that they are
5 assessed properly, at least starting down
6 the path of putting together a plan, and
7 that's when RISE and other services that
8 we have in the prison from JEVs or others
9 that touch the inmate. They become part
10 of the process of how we're going to tell
11 them and to work with them so that we can
12 make sure they don't come back, and the
13 way to do that is while they're in the
14 jail.

15 So that's been our approach
16 from the beginning. And right now RISE
17 touches people. Probably the social
18 workers get them first. We now have
19 broken down the barrier between the
20 school system and finding out where they
21 were in the school system. They're now
22 giving us data on people in realtime so
23 that we don't have to take anyone's word
24 for it. We can say, You were last in
25 grade nine and you are testing at grade

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 six. But we also are doing TABE testing.
3 We're also trying to make sure that we
4 can find out how we can help them
5 educationally. But on the other side,
6 RISE is looking at using some of the
7 money we've won from Wachovia to do
8 financial literacy, as well as just
9 regular reading literacy programs so we
10 can get people where they are, identify
11 where their deficits are, find out what
12 their interests are and try to start to
13 move them in a different way. We do that
14 behind the walls now.

15 We haven't been able to do it
16 for a mass number of people. You heard
17 we have 35,000 people come in and leave
18 every year. We're trying to get it so we
19 can handle a cohort, starting with about
20 150 to 200, and just working through the
21 system. We're changing the culture
22 inside the prison to handle that, and as
23 we do that, we'll touch more people.

24 So the long answer is, we are
25 doing the issues of assessment and we are

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 breaking down the various barriers so we
3 can share data in the short run, but in
4 the long run, we should be able to get
5 that data to help put together a tool
6 which will help people identify where
7 they need to be to be work ready, because
8 that's what we really know is the
9 ultimate outcome. We got to get these
10 guys into some kind of gainful
11 employment, realistic employment given
12 the skills they have.

13 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Just a
14 couple more related questions. As you
15 quantify that, can you look back at the
16 extent to which the prison population has
17 been driven down and how much of that is
18 related to that type of work or related
19 to other things that won't have the same
20 type of returns. And I guess the
21 followup to that as you answer that is,
22 to the extent that we begin to invest and
23 quantify what we're investing and
24 preparing people for reentry, if that
25 continues to drive the prison population

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 down, can we look at what those
3 investments look like now and throughout
4 the Five Year Plan and whether that money
5 is actually going to be reinvested in
6 trying to drive the prison population
7 down through that type of investment.

8 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I
9 understand. I smile because obviously I
10 think the Prisons Commissioner has done a
11 wonderful job in trying to drive the
12 population down. It allows him to come
13 in and request less money, but the
14 savings if we -- if the economy was in a
15 different place, maybe we could use some
16 of those savings to reinvest even at a
17 higher rate to drive down the population
18 even more, getting to the education,
19 getting to those issues.

20 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I guess the
21 first part of the question was, all this
22 savings and lowering of the prison census
23 didn't come through those efforts. It
24 came from some sort of one-time
25 mechanisms in some cases, transferring of

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 inmates and those type of things, I
3 believe. So I guess the question was, do
4 we know how much of lowering the prison
5 population has come from those type of
6 efforts, and then if so, do we have a
7 plan to reinvest and/or are we just going
8 to look to reduce the Prison's budget?

9 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Well,
10 it is my hope, quite frankly, that we
11 would be able -- I can tell you that the
12 one thing that the District Attorney
13 actually worked on quite well was get the
14 transfers up to state, people who were
15 state prisoners, getting the law changed
16 so that they would be up in state. That
17 was about a quarter of the numbers. It
18 was almost 500 of the 2,300 that was
19 taken out. It was process change,
20 though, by getting the stakeholders
21 together in CJAB, to have the Courts, the
22 DA, the Public Defender and the Prisons
23 work on solutions to just getting people
24 who had multiple holds in a room with
25 their attorneys and having them processed

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 faster, so that they would not have to
3 wait for a seriatim date in court. You
4 would have one judge, then another judge
5 would act, then another judge would act,
6 and another judge would act, and that
7 would take sometimes four, five, six
8 months. We now, through the efforts of
9 the court -- and I think they're to be
10 commended -- the court actually said, Put
11 that all before one judge. And then you
12 had to have the cooperation of the DA and
13 the Public Defender to say, We have to
14 get all of those processes together and
15 have their DA, their Defender who was
16 representing them, into the courtroom to
17 represent them for what is basically a
18 multiple-hold discussion and a
19 resolution. Sometimes that means that
20 people went upstate. Sometimes on the
21 other hand and I think the majority of it
22 has been that they've gotten their cases
23 rolled into one matter, given a sentence,
24 but that sentence was actually probably
25 going to be shorter than they would have

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 actually been there had they gone through
3 these multiple jurisdictional issues
4 going between one judge and the next.

5 So I understand the point, and
6 we can try and quantify how much that has
7 been. I know that about a quarter of
8 them went up to state, but the others
9 have been process changes within the
10 system that have allowed us to get people
11 through the system faster and get them
12 out and get them into programming where
13 they need to be. So I'll try and do as
14 best we can giving you some analysis on
15 that point.

16 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I look
17 forward to you quantifying it. In those
18 cases where there are actual efficiency,
19 I think maybe we should take those
20 savings. In the cases when we begin to
21 invest more and find it as being a model,
22 I think we should reinvest those savings.

23 Thank you.

24 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Point
25 well taken. Thank you.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
3 you.

4 Commissioner, how many doctors
5 and nurses do we have under contract with
6 the Prisons?

7 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: I'll see
8 if I can provide you with that
9 information.

10 Over 350 medical personnel.
11 That includes support staff, records
12 clerks, LPNs, RNs, physicians, physicians
13 assistants, nurse practitioners and
14 administrators.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
16 you.

17 And as far as the prison
18 guards, we're okay with that? We have
19 ample prison guards?

20 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Well, we
21 have about 92 officer vacancies at this
22 point. We have a class of 25 who
23 graduate on Wednesday. We are
24 processing -- we're trying to put
25 together a class of 40 behind that, and

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 we'll request what we need thereafter.

3 We've reduced our budgeted
4 positions from 2,360 to 2,310, primarily
5 due to the fact that we've been able to
6 vacate some areas and the associated
7 security posts for those areas have been
8 removed from the census. We think we'll
9 stay stable through the fiscal year, but
10 even subtracting those from the budget,
11 we still think we have -- well, we still
12 have 92 vacancies for correctional
13 officers.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:

15 That's an awful lot.

16 COMMISSIONER Giorla: It's a
17 lot, but it's not as high as we've been
18 in the past, and we're continuing trying
19 to fill. Our attrition rate has
20 decreased slightly. We used to lose
21 anywhere between 12 and 15 staff, mostly
22 correctional officers, a month. That's
23 down around eight or nine at this point.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: And
25 you're satisfied with that?

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: No. I'd
3 like to have those 92 correctional
4 officers.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Well,
6 I think if you need them, I think now is
7 the time to say it.

8 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: We're
9 working on it, Madam President.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Are
11 you working with Finance?

12 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: We're
13 working with both Finance and Human
14 Resources and the Deputy Mayor's office
15 to fill those vacancies.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: We
17 heard it.

18 Okay. Are there any other
19 questions from members of the Committee?

20 (No response.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Okay.
22 Seeing no one, thank you very much, and I
23 thank you for your patience.

24 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Thank you
25 very much.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
3 you.

4 The Committee will stand in
5 recess until 5:30.

6 (Short recess.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good
8 afternoon. This is a continued public
9 hearing of the Committee of the Whole.

10 Our first witness, please.

11 MR. MCPHERSON: Cathy Scott.

12 (Witness approached witness
13 table.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
15 Please identify yourself for the record
16 and proceed with your testimony.

17 MS. SCOTT: Thank you.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Do
19 you have copies of your testimony?

20 MS. SCOTT: Yes. They are
21 there.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
23 Great.

24 MS. SCOTT: Good afternoon,
25 President Verna and members of City

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 Council. My name is Catherine Scott. I
3 am President of AFSCME District Council
4 47, and we represent for people who work
5 for the City of Philadelphia, members in
6 Local 2186, 2187 and the First Judicial
7 District, Local 810, probation officers
8 and other professional employees. Thank
9 you for the opportunity to provide
10 testimony about the proposed FY 2011 to
11 '12 budget. I think -- is it '12 to '13?

12 The Administration's budget
13 presentation seems to be an ideal time
14 for City Council to ask questions about
15 the operating philosophy of individual
16 departments and the role that the
17 Administration through the Finance
18 Department has in those operating
19 philosophies.

20 As you may recall, I have
21 raised questions in my testimony
22 concerning previous budgets about the
23 contracting out of work performed by
24 members of District Council 47, Locals
25 2186 and 2187. In fact, on March 2nd of

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 this year, I testified concerning
3 Resolution 100848 on the failure of the
4 City to do a cost-benefit analysis, not
5 just before contracting out work but also
6 doing that analysis for work which is
7 presently contracted out.

8 Today I would like to focus on
9 the Department of Public Health and, more
10 specifically, the health centers. Let me
11 start by saying that our union supports
12 the health centers and the vital services
13 they provide Philadelphians on a daily
14 basis, but we believe that serious
15 questions have to be asked about how the
16 Department management staffs its
17 services.

18 Presently, the City has a
19 pharmacy in each of the eight health
20 centers. As required by Pennsylvania
21 law, there are eight pharmacy managers,
22 all of whom are civil service employees.
23 But of the eight additional pharmacist
24 positions needed, only three are civil
25 service employees, who are paid an

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 average of \$77,624 per year,
3 approximately \$105,570 per year with
4 benefits, all benefits and other taxes
5 included. Five are contract pharmacists
6 for which the City pays 110,000 per year,
7 plus benefits and administrative fees per
8 pharmacist, approximately \$137,500 per
9 year. The City has two positions
10 approved to hire, but no civil service
11 test listed. So the operating philosophy
12 is to contract out five pharmacist
13 positions, costing an additional \$32,930
14 per pharmacist or \$159,650 per year. Any
15 cost-benefit analysis alone would
16 indicate it is fiscally more prudent to
17 hire City civil service pharmacists.

18 Add to that the increased
19 efficiencies because of reduced turnover
20 and training time required -- reports
21 indicate that contract pharmacists fill
22 fewer prescriptions per day than Civil
23 Service pharmacists -- and it becomes
24 very clear that this staffing philosophy
25 is fiscally and managerially unsound.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 Let us look at another staffing
3 philosophy. As we all know, in most
4 health facilities there is a greater use
5 of certified registered nurse
6 practitioners and physician assistants to
7 aid physicians in providing health
8 services. The Medical Evaluation Unit at
9 one time had a medical director and
10 physician assistants to perform routine
11 physicals and other employee medical
12 clearance services. Physicians
13 assistants make an average of \$59,638 per
14 year. The two medical services directors
15 make \$140,507 each. There would not
16 appear to be the need for two medical
17 services directors at the Medical
18 Evaluation Unit, a potential savings of
19 \$80,400 for one position, if a physicians
20 assistant were to perform the work.

21 Turning to the physician civil
22 service positions, the City presently
23 employs 34 and pays an average of \$68,334
24 for part time and \$97,620 for full-time
25 physicians per year. The City presently

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 employs eight certified registered nurse
3 practitioners, who work in the Family
4 Planning area and who are paid an average
5 of \$73,056, a difference of \$24,454 per
6 year per person. Clearly, the Health
7 Department's heavy reliance on physicians
8 is contrary to the current medical
9 establishment trend for provisions of
10 services, especially with the expansion
11 of services which certified registered
12 nurse practitioners can provide.

13 Since our union has not
14 received current contracted-out services
15 information for medical services in the
16 Health Department, we are unable to
17 update our analysis from the previous
18 contracts we received. However, the same
19 staffing philosophy appears to exist as
20 in previous years.

21 As you can see from Attachment
22 A, which just looks at City employees,
23 the Health Department's current staffing
24 model is costly. Our union has raised
25 these issues many times with the

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 Department to try to identify cost
3 savings in both contracting out and
4 staffing, to no avail. Perhaps City
5 Council can obtain some explanation from
6 the Administration for why the Health
7 Department's staffing philosophy, which
8 includes its heavy reliance on
9 contracted-out work, is not being
10 examined for a cost-benefit analysis.

11 Thank you for the opportunity
12 to testify, and I am happy to answer any
13 questions. And as I said, there is an
14 Attachment A that shows the number of
15 positions in the health centers, as well
16 as the average salaries for comparison.
17 I've also attached copies of the job
18 descriptions. I realize this is a lot of
19 information, but the job descriptions I
20 think make it also very clear that we do
21 have professional staff who would be able
22 to provide services, such as physicians
23 assistants and certified registered nurse
24 practitioners, and they are really not
25 being used in any way effectively by the

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 health center.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

4 Councilman Greenlee.

5 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

6 you, Madam President.

7 Ms. Scott, I know you say in
8 the end you've raised these issues with
9 the Administration, to no avail. Have
10 they said anything, like kind of why --
11 like particularly I'm thinking with the
12 health centers. It seems to make sense
13 that they don't -- that they could be
14 civil service employees. Has there been
15 any answer? They don't think they can
16 get the people through anything?

17 MS. SCOTT: Well, it would be
18 very hard to really characterize their
19 answers in a way that you and I would
20 think would be logical. I'm trying to be
21 kind. Part of it is, we've always done
22 it that way or we've done it that way for
23 a lot of years and it's very hard to
24 change philosophies. But that's really
25 what they should be doing. They should

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 be looking at what is the most efficient
3 way of providing services. Presently
4 they really only use certified registered
5 nurse practitioners in Family Planning.
6 There are a lot of other areas that
7 registered nurse practitioners could be
8 used. I'm sure all of us when we go to
9 see our physicians and we go to
10 hospitals, the first person we see is not
11 the physician and so -- but this is not a
12 philosophy that really exists and, you
13 know, it is a challenge.

14 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay. I
15 got you. And that's, like you say,
16 that's one of the things we raised in
17 that hearing that was based on trying to
18 get some of those answers. And they sent
19 us some answers. I don't think they
20 addressed that, but we'll have to check
21 into that.

22 Thank you.

23 MS. SCOTT: Thank you.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

25 Cathy, would you have any objection to

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 our sending a copy of your testimony to
3 the Health Commissioner so that when he
4 comes in to testify, he will be prepared
5 to answer many of the questions that you
6 have asked?

7 MS. SCOTT: I'd be happy for
8 you to do that.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
10 you.

11 Also, would you know how many
12 doctors have received residency waivers?
13 I know years ago that was a common
14 practice. I don't know if it still is.

15 MS. SCOTT: I do think it is a
16 common practice still, and there are some
17 positions in the Health Department where
18 there are residency waivers.

19 I would like to point out for
20 contracted doctors, I believe if we
21 looked at them, almost all of them would
22 not be City residents. But civil service
23 physicians is a classification where a
24 residency waiver is available.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 you.

3 The Chair recognizes
4 Councilwoman Blackwell.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
6 you, Madam President.

7 It's so unbelievable that we
8 hear all of this horrendous information,
9 and certainly I believe that we should
10 demand some answers to this, certainly
11 before this budget is passed. We want
12 answers. My goodness, we have people in
13 this city who need jobs and then we
14 have -- and we have it all outlined and
15 defined for us, and yet we spend all this
16 money for people, God knows where they
17 live or what their situation is. It's
18 just unbelievable that we can hear this
19 kind of testimony today.

20 So we really want answers to
21 this certainly before we consider passing
22 this budget.

23 MS. SCOTT: And one of the
24 questions that was -- thank you,
25 Councilwoman Blackwell. One of the

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 questions that was asked in a previous
3 year, I believe Councilman Clarke asked
4 it, was whether physicians or other
5 medical practitioners who work in the
6 health centers are qualified for the
7 federal program where their school loans
8 would be forgiven. And I did do research
9 on that and provided it to him, and the
10 answer is yes, that -- and this would be
11 an inducement to have people come and
12 work in the Philadelphia health centers,
13 because we all know that medical school
14 is very expensive.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: And
16 certainly we agree with that. That's a
17 very important issue. There's so many
18 ways we could do better, and yet we stay
19 here and suffer and be made to feel that
20 we have to come up with answers when
21 they're right here in front of our faces.
22 We just have to have the Administration
23 to hear it and work with us, work with
24 District Council 47 and try to get some
25 of this done. So we're looking forward

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 to continued discussion.

3 MS. SCOTT: Thank you.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
5 you.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:
7 Cathy, do you know what the waiting
8 period is for District 10's health
9 center?

10 MS. SCOTT: Well, the waiting
11 period -- different health centers have
12 different waiting periods.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: I
14 know, but District 10.

15 MS. SCOTT: District 10 is
16 terrible. I believe it's up to four
17 months to get an appointment.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: What
19 if you got --

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: But I
21 think for an initial appointment it's
22 even longer than that.

23 MS. SCOTT: Yes. Yes. Yes.
24 It's a long time. It really is, yes.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 Chair recognizes Councilman Rizzo.

3 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you,
4 Madam Chair.

5 It's amazing to me. Normally
6 it's the other way around, but what I've
7 learned is that you -- and you might have
8 already said this, and I was distracted,
9 but I'm impressed with the fact that 47
10 has gone to the Administration, not once,
11 not twice, numerous times about the cost
12 savings that you've identified, and it
13 didn't get anywhere. I think you did
14 mention that. So I want to thank you,
15 because it's just hard for me to believe
16 that you could be presenting things like
17 a physicians assistant, the most common
18 practice in medicine, that they don't
19 listen.

20 And the other issue is the
21 permanent residency waivers that -- I
22 don't know how many of those we have, but
23 I was told by a young physician that
24 tried to apply for that job and he got
25 nowhere with it, and I was told, not

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 maybe last year or the year before, that
3 those positions -- that they couldn't
4 find anybody that wanted, a
5 Philadelphian, that wanted to work in the
6 Health Department as a part-time doctor.

7 So I think Council Lady
8 Blackwell is absolutely correct, the
9 Administration, we need to hear from
10 them. Is anybody even here from the
11 Administration?

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: No.

13 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: That's not a
14 good thing either. But all I can say is
15 thanks very much for bringing these
16 issues to our attention, and you can bet
17 we're going to deal with them.

18 MS. SCOTT: Well, thank you.
19 I'd appreciate it. The last time we met
20 with the health -- we were very
21 persistent in raising these issues in the
22 Health Department and with the Health
23 Commissioner, and the last time we were
24 really pushing on an answer to these
25 questions was the last labor management

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 meeting we had, which was in May of '09,
3 with the Commissioner of Health.

4 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Madam

5 President, I know that we haven't had the
6 Health Department yet, but I think we
7 ought to put them on notice that we might
8 have a recall for some of the folks, Clay
9 Armbrister, some of the other folks that
10 we need to hear from on this issue. So I
11 plan to send you a memo on who I think
12 appropriate that we need to get back
13 here. Okay?

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
15 you.

16 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
18 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Miller.

19 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I think
20 I'm going to save my questions for the
21 Health Department, because this is
22 specifically regarding Health Center No.
23 9. I don't know what the wait time there
24 is, but I know it's not -- you can't call
25 today and get an appointment next week.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 MS. SCOTT: Right.

3 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER:

4 Occasionally when I leave my house very
5 early in the morning, if I go in that
6 direction, I see a long line of people as
7 early as 6 o'clock standing in line to
8 get into the health center. The first
9 time I saw it, it pretty much shocked me.
10 But I guess with more and more people
11 being unemployed, the health center is
12 their place that they go to.

13 So I think it's important that
14 you bring issues like this. We don't
15 normally know this information. So I
16 just too want to thank you. But I just
17 want to get more information regarding
18 Health Center 9.

19 Thank you.

20 MS. SCOTT: Thank you.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

22 Cathy, you may or may not know the
23 answer, but how many doctors do we have
24 that are under civil service regulations
25 and how many doctors do we have under

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 contract?

3 MS. SCOTT: Well, we have 34
4 who are civil -- that's the Appendix A
5 that I have. There's a list of positions
6 that we represent, and the numbers on the
7 far left is the number of people that are
8 holding civil service positions. So
9 there are 34 part-time physicians. I
10 can't give you the number of contract
11 doctors, because unfortunately we haven't
12 gotten from the Administration the
13 current contracts that we would be able
14 to do the analysis of how many contract
15 physicians there are. However, I do know
16 that some doctors are both civil service
17 and contract doctors working at health
18 centers. So they are paid some of the
19 time as City civil service employees and
20 then they continue working at the same
21 health center, I guess, being paid as a
22 contract employee, because they are
23 contract employees.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm
25 sorry. How does that work?

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 MS. SCOTT: Well, they don't
3 have -- most of them do not have -- I
4 don't think any of them have individual
5 contracts with the City. The City
6 contracts with hospitals and other
7 services that provide physicians to them.
8 And so I assume that they are employees
9 of the hospital that has the contract to
10 provide physicians. But they don't lose
11 a beat. They're right there working
12 almost full time.

13 It's a very difficult structure
14 to understand and even more difficult to
15 try to figure out why they're doing it
16 that way.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I
18 believe you said there are 34 part time?

19 MS. SCOTT: Yes.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Do we
21 know how many full time there are? You
22 said you don't know about those that were
23 contracted out. How about civil service?

24 MS. SCOTT: I don't believe
25 there are any full-time civil service

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 physicians. We'll double-check it,
3 but -- there are none.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
5 you.

6 Any other questions from the
7 Committee?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:
10 Seeing none --

11 MS. SCOTT: Thank you very
12 much.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: -- I
14 thank you. But I will send a copy of
15 your testimony to the Health
16 Commissioner. I know Councilmembers
17 would be interested in getting answers to
18 your many questions, and I think he's
19 going to have to answer them.

20 MS. SCOTT: Thank you.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
22 you.

23 MR. McPHERSON: Our next
24 witness is David Tukey.

25 (Witness approached witness

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 table.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good
4 evening, sir. Please identify yourself
5 for the record.

6 MR. TUKEY: My name is David
7 Tukey. I'm from West Mount Airy Tree
8 Tenders. If the Madam Chair would permit
9 me, I'd like to divert a little bit from
10 reading my text and speak to the
11 Councilmembers a little more informally.
12 It's very short text to read over. You
13 can do that in your spare time, but I did
14 want to dialogue with the Councilmembers
15 a little bit in light of the questions
16 that were asked last week when the
17 Director of the Parks and Recreation
18 Department testified and in light of some
19 of the questions here.

20 Some of the questions that
21 Councilman Green raised last week had to
22 do with different kinds of funding that
23 was backlogged for safety in firehouses
24 and police stations, and trees have to do
25 with safety as well. Last week and also

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 last year they talked about the backlog
3 of removal of hazardous trees over our
4 City streets, over 1,700 trees, that can
5 cost anywhere from \$400 to several
6 thousand dollars to remove depending upon
7 the size of the tree and its location.

8 Right before me somebody
9 testified about public health, which is
10 also a serious matter. It turns out that
11 trees pertain to public health as well.
12 The more trees that are in cities, the
13 more air pollutants are withdrawn from
14 the atmosphere.

15 There are also psychological
16 impacts. It turns out that children that
17 have trees outside their classrooms learn
18 better. It turns out that trees outside
19 office buildings have their office
20 workers work more productively. So trees
21 have a wide range of impacts.

22 But why should the City spend
23 our tax dollars to pay for trees for
24 Philadelphia? It turns out based on
25 various economic studies that have been

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 conducted that for every dollar a city
3 spends on tree, both planting and
4 maintenance over the tree's life of 30
5 years or more, the city receives in
6 benefits for \$2. That's 100 percent
7 return, which is better than any bank
8 will ever give you in our lifetime.

9 Also, the capital nature of a
10 tree appreciates over time, unlike
11 capital equipment, which depreciates.
12 Because of this fact, cities around the
13 country are able to use city street tree
14 value on its books as part of securing
15 loans, and trees that are in cities more
16 profoundly affect that city's ability to
17 get debt better when it's necessary.

18 The other thing that's
19 interesting about the testimony that was
20 by the Commissioner last week and also
21 last year, last week there wasn't as much
22 about tree planting, and it's very
23 important that we plant as many trees as
24 possible. There are 1,700 removals, but
25 a lot of trees that need to be planted.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 The City's goal is an average tree canopy
3 of about 30 percent. In Mount Airy we're
4 above 30 percent already. Chestnut Hill
5 is above 30 percent already. But some
6 neighborhoods are around eight percent or
7 even five percent. To reach the citywide
8 average of 30 percent, we have to plant a
9 lot of trees. But as the Commissioner
10 noticed last week from the department,
11 they aren't planting a lot of trees,
12 because the backlog of removals is so
13 severe. And they're having volunteers
14 plant trees. In this case I believe he
15 mentioned staff from the University of
16 Pennsylvania planting trees. In my case,
17 in West Mount Airy, over the last six
18 years we have planted 450 trees on City
19 streets, which is small by comparison to
20 West Philly that may plant over 2,000 in
21 a given year. But a lot is being done by
22 volunteers, but we can't do that without
23 City money to purchase trees. We used to
24 have money from the state through the
25 Growing Greener II bond issue. That

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 source of revenue has dried up and
3 they've been scurrying around to find
4 sources of revenue other places,
5 sometimes without avail. So we do need
6 City money to plant trees. We have the
7 wherewithal to plant them using
8 volunteers at only \$100 a tree compared
9 to contracted work where it might be \$400
10 or \$500 a tree.

11 Also, we can use volunteers
12 from the City to plant the tree and not
13 have contractors from outside
14 Philadelphia do this work.

15 We also need to have money to
16 make sure we have adequate inspection of
17 those plantings. In many cases, those
18 plantings by contractors are not adequate
19 by arborist standards. They're planted
20 improperly, where baskets are not
21 removed, burlaps not removed, the root
22 flare is not visible. All kinds of
23 things can be a problem. So not only do
24 we have to take care of removals and
25 plant new trees, but we need inspectors

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 to make sure all this work is done
3 adequately.

4 Lastly, a matter of public
5 safety has to do not with hazardous trees
6 but with parts of trees that can be a
7 hazard. I wish Councilman Green were
8 here. I would refer to the commuter
9 route I take from Mount Airy up to
10 Chestnut Hill all the time, and there's
11 some rather sizable limbs overhanging
12 these streets along a major commuter
13 corridor, very sizable, 15-inch caliber
14 diameter branches, 40 feet in length that
15 are dying, dead or decayed. I know from
16 personal experience when a tree fell on
17 my car that I was driving out by Radnor
18 in a rainstorm, it's a very frightening
19 experience to be hit by a tree or a large
20 branch when it falls.

21 Removals is only part of the
22 problem. The tree may be sound, but a
23 part of it may be bad, and we need a
24 department that has adequate staff to
25 take care of dangerous branches as well.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 I would hate to have a large
3 40-foot limb, 18-inch caliber diameter at
4 the base fall into a City school bus and
5 have that bus driver swerve and get into
6 an accident because of that.

7 In conclusion, I'd like to
8 remind you that investing in city trees
9 has benefits that are profound. They
10 affect public health, they affect school
11 children, they affect productivity of
12 workers, they affect all kinds of things,
13 and they have a two-to-one ratio of
14 benefits to investments. So please
15 consider that when you think about the
16 trees.

17 Lastly, an aphorism from Asia.
18 The best time to plant a tree was 20
19 years ago. The next best time is today.
20 Let's seize the moment.

21 Thank you.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
23 you very much.

24 Are there any questions from
25 members of the Committee?

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 (No response.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

4 Seeing none, we thank you for taking the
5 time to come in to testify. Thank you
6 very much.

7 MR. McPHERSON: Our next
8 witness is Donald Kelly.

9 (Witness approached witness
10 table.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good
12 evening, Mr. Kelly. Please identify
13 yourself for the record and proceed with
14 your testimony.

15 MR. KELLY: Thank you. Don
16 Kelly, Director of Community and Economic
17 Development with the Urban Affairs
18 Coalition.

19 So good evening all. Thank you
20 for the opportunity to testify here on
21 behalf of the Urban Affairs Coalition.
22 I'd just like to say a few words of
23 testimony regarding your challenging task
24 of fashioning a budget during these
25 uncertain and difficult times. On the

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 one hand, we don't envy your position.

3 On the other hand, we can sympathize with
4 it, because we're going through a similar
5 experience.

6 Let me begin by expressing my
7 appreciation to OHCD Director Deborah
8 McColloch and her staff for including
9 continuing support for the Urban Affairs
10 Coalition's Anti-Predatory Lending
11 program in its proposed budget for Fiscal
12 Year 2012 and to Councilwoman Marian
13 Tasco for paving the way for this program
14 through her leadership in combatting
15 predatory lending and giving Philadelphia
16 homeowners with less than perfect credit
17 a mainstream alternative where loans can
18 be obtained from reliable lenders for
19 needed home repairs and improvements.

20 In the midst of a very
21 conservative bank lending environment,
22 the Urban Affairs Coalition has been
23 working with the City, City-funded
24 housing counseling agencies, home
25 inspection firms and banks to update and

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 modernize the PHIL-Plus and the Mini-PHIL
3 Home Improvement Loan Program so that it
4 can thrive. Towards this end, we have
5 included the Philadelphia Neighborhood
6 Housing Services as one of the approved
7 home inspection firms.

8 To reduce the possibility of
9 contractor rip-offs, we have instituted a
10 requirement that there be a final home
11 inspection as well as a beginning home
12 inspection for the larger of these two
13 loans, which is the PHIL-Plus loan.

14 We've expanded the target
15 credit score range from the previous 580
16 to 620, which had been originally the
17 next strata just below where banks left
18 off, to 580 to 660, which now serves the
19 newest strata that falls short of bank
20 normal underwriting standards.

21 We allowed participating
22 lenders to require up to ten percent
23 equity for PHIL-Plus loans. Previously
24 they had been prohibited from requiring
25 equity, but because of the more

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 conservative situations, they now feel
3 that they really need to be able to do
4 that. On the other hand, we've now
5 agreed that their agreement to prohibit
6 an imposition of any equity requirement
7 for the smaller loan, which is the
8 Mini-PHIL, up to \$10,000.

9 We've enlisted a community
10 development financial institution as a
11 participating lender joining the bank so
12 that people have an alternative route for
13 obtaining these loans, and that's the
14 Philadelphia Neighborhood Housing
15 Services.

16 And we've set out to encourage
17 greater use of a project management
18 option whereby the home inspection firm
19 could manage the project from A to Z for
20 those homeowners who feel intimidated and
21 inadequate in dealing with contractors
22 and supervising their work.

23 And, finally, we begun this
24 week to launch a spring marketing
25 campaign that includes ads on SEPTA buses

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 and public service announcements.

3 As you know, an important
4 principle in the strategic use of limited
5 public funds is that of leveraging. How
6 much in private sector capital can we
7 leverage towards public purposes with our
8 limited public dollars? I'm sure you ask
9 this question all the time. We ask this
10 question as an agent of the City and this
11 program.

12 In the case of the
13 Anti-Predatory Lending program, the City
14 has supported the Urban Affairs Coalition
15 to create and administer the program
16 since July 2003 at an average of \$60,000
17 a year to operate it. In addition, there
18 has been \$168,676 in claims that have
19 been paid under the City-funded Reserve
20 Fund for defaulted loans. These claims
21 were made by and paid to banks. The
22 total program cost on these counts since
23 2003 is \$648,676. For this investment,
24 358 private-sector loans have been made
25 that would not have been made otherwise,

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 totalling \$7.175 million. So the
3 leveraging ratio of private dollars to
4 public dollars is, therefore, 11 to one.

5 We hope you agree that by most
6 public policy design standards, this has
7 been and continues to be a wise and
8 strategic investment of public funds. So
9 we thank you for your continued support.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
11 you very much.

12 The Chair recognizes Councilman
13 Goode.

14 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
15 Madam President.

16 Good evening, Mr. Kelly.

17 MR. KELLY: Hi, Councilman.

18 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you
19 for your testimony and for the good work
20 you do at GPUAC. Just a couple of
21 questions.

22 What is the status of the
23 Business Builder Program?

24 MR. KELLY: The Business
25 Builder Program had a four-year life and

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137
2 it finished its term in January of this
3 year.

4 COUNCILMAN GOODE: How much
5 money did it lend out?

6 MR. KELLY: Less than a million
7 dollars.

8 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Could you
9 forward some of that information to the
10 Chair for Council?

11 MR. KELLY: Sure.

12 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Last simple
13 question is, during its lifespan, did it
14 make any referrals to or receive any
15 referrals from the Small Business Loan
16 Guarantee Program at PIDC?

17 MR. KELLY: I'm not aware of
18 any deals coming from or to PIDC.

19 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Are you
20 familiar with the Loan Guarantee Program
21 there?

22 MR. KELLY: Yes. Yes, I am,
23 but not -- I don't know it well, but I
24 know they have a Loan Guarantee Program.

25 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you.

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 Thank you, Madam President.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
4 you.

5 Are there any other questions
6 from members of the Committee?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:
9 Seeing none, I thank you for coming in.

10 MR. KELLY: Thank you.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: We
12 don't have any other names of witnesses.
13 Is there anyone here that would like to
14 testify?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: I
17 would think -- does the Committee agree
18 that we should wait another ten minutes,
19 then we'll send Rodney downstairs so if
20 there are any unexpected visitors, they
21 can be told that the hearing is over.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: That's
23 fine.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Okay,
25 Donna?

1 4/11/11 - WHOLE - BILL 110137

2 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: That's

3 okay.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: Okay.

5 (Brief recess.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: This

7 Committee will stand in recess until

8 tomorrow, April the 12th at 10:00 a.m.,

9 at which time we will hear from Public

10 Property.

11 Thank you.

12 (Committee of the Whole

13 adjourned at 6:20 p.m.)

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1
2 CERTIFICATE

3 I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
4 proceedings, evidence and objections are
5 contained fully and accurately in the
6 stenographic notes taken by me upon the
7 foregoing matter on April 11, 2011, and that
8 this is a true and correct transcript of same.

9
10
11
12
13 -----
14 MICHELE L. MURPHY
15 RPR-Notary Public
16
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