

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON LAW AND GOVERNMENT

Room 676, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, February 18, 2015
10:10 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILMAN WILLIAM K. GREENLEE, CHAIR
COUNCIL PRESIDENT DARRELL L. CLARKE
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL
COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.
COUNCILMAN BOBBY HENON
COUNCILMAN ED NEILSON
COUNCILMAN DENNIS O'BRIEN
COUNCILWOMAN MARIA D. QUINONES-SANCHEZ
COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN
COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO

BILLS 140230, 140721, 140747, and 150005
RESOLUTIONS 140244, 140732, 140764, and 150017

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COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Good morning, everyone. The microphones work much better in here, it sounds like.

Everybody hear me? Everybody hear all right? Okay.

Can I have everybody's attention, please. If you're going to have conversation, you're going to have to go -- because it's even harder to hear in here because we got a lower ceiling.

So welcome to our temporary hearing room here. This is the Committee on Law and Government called to order. We have a quorum with Councilman Goode, Councilman O'Brien, Councilman Neilson, and Council President Clarke.

We have a very long witness list today on four different bills and resolutions, so we're going to get started right away.

Ms. Marconi, will you please read the title of the first bill and resolution before us today, please.

THE CLERK: Bill No. 140721,

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.
2 an ordinance providing for the submission
3 to the qualified electors of the City of
4 Philadelphia of the proposal set forth in
5 a Resolution approved by Council
6 proposing an amendment to the
7 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter relating
8 to the creation of a new Department of
9 Planning and Development, headed by a
10 Cabinet-level Director, to oversee the
11 City's planning, zoning, licensing,
12 inspection, enforcement, and housing
13 functions; continuing the existence of
14 the City Planning Commission,
15 Philadelphia Historical Commission,
16 Zoning Board of Adjustment, Board of
17 Building Standards, and Board of License
18 and Inspection Review as boards or
19 commissions in such new Department, with
20 certain changes to the powers and duties
21 of such boards and commissions; creating
22 a new Intergovernmental Housing
23 Commission in such new Department; and
24 conforming other provisions of the
25 Charter to such reorganization; and

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.
2 authorizing the appropriate officers to
3 publish notice and make arrangements for
4 the special election; and
5 Resolution 140732, resolution
6 proposing an amendment to The
7 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter relating
8 to the creation of a new Department of
9 Planning and Development, headed by a
10 Cabinet-level Director, to oversee the
11 City's planning, zoning, licensing,
12 inspection, enforcement, and housing
13 functions; continuing the existence of
14 the City Planning Commission,
15 Philadelphia Historical Commission,
16 Zoning Board of Adjustment, Board of
17 Building Standards, and Board of License
18 and Inspection Review as boards or
19 commissions in such new Department, with
20 certain changes to the powers and duties
21 of such boards and commissions; creating
22 a new Intergovernmental Housing
23 Commission in such new Department; and
24 conforming other provisions of the
25 Charter to such reorganization; and

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.
2 providing for the submission of the
3 amendment to the electors of
4 Philadelphia.

5 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
6 you. Could you call the names of the
7 first witnesses, please.

8 THE CLERK: Brian Emmons and
9 Rick Sauer.

10 (Witnesses approached witness
11 table.)

12 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And while
13 they're approaching, I want to recognize
14 Council President Clarke, the sponsor of
15 this bill and resolution.

16 Council President.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
18 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I
19 will be brief because I know a number of
20 individuals have to leave, and these two
21 gentlemen here have a very important
22 event. I would be there, but I have to
23 be here. So my wishes with you. Good
24 work.

25 Mr. President -- Mr. Chairman,

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 briefly just kind of go through, give you
3 a little -- very brief historical
4 perspective on this.

5 Approximately two and a half
6 years ago, members of my staff and myself
7 talked about the challenges associated
8 with the development process and the
9 permitting and the permit issuance and
10 the approval process, and after having
11 heard for years, myself both in the
12 capacity as a staffer and subsequently a
13 Councilperson -- one of my prime
14 staffers, Mr. Wetzel, actually ran the
15 Redevelopment Authority that was in that
16 process prior to being here, and we
17 understood that there were significant
18 challenges as it relates to the
19 bureaucracy of government. And sometimes
20 people just kind of throw up their hands
21 and say, it is what it is and just go
22 through the process, as challenging as it
23 may be, and they actually hired
24 expeditors, paid people to stand in line,
25 and all the other things associated with

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 the challenges of going through this
3 bureaucracy. But we basically said, you
4 know what, we're going to try to see if
5 we can do something about this to fix
6 this, to make this a more user-friendly
7 environment.

8 So what we did, we started
9 doing an analysis of municipalities
10 across the country, and we found some
11 very interesting and exciting processes
12 throughout the municipalities, and we
13 found out that in most instances, there
14 was a single point of contact as it
15 relates to the responsibility and the
16 roles of various agencies, be it
17 commissions of planning, be it zoning, be
18 it approval process, but at the end of
19 the day, the buck stops somewhere. And
20 when we looked at our organizational
21 chart, that was not there in our
22 organizational chart. We had things over
23 here that reported to nobody, things over
24 here, commissions, state authorities that
25 we had no official jurisdiction over. It

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 was essentially a process that created
3 this environment that we had.

4 So in credit to the Nutter
5 Administration, they understood that
6 early on, that there were some
7 challenges, and they actually -- and I
8 hate to use this term, but they actually
9 kind of ignored the Charter structure,
10 whereas the Charter has the Managing
11 Director and all the other departments.
12 They basically said, we're going to do
13 this internally. We're going to put the
14 person in charge was the Deputy Mayor,
15 Mr. Greenberger, and that Deputy Mayor
16 will be responsible for these various
17 entities. Not in the Charter, but
18 executive branches can do that sometimes.
19 And it enhanced the process to a large
20 degree.

21 The challenge with us is that
22 every Mayor over the last three, going
23 back to Ed Rendell, came in, they
24 established a process, and that process
25 suited what they needed to do, but the

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 next Mayor comes in and they change the
3 process and we have Deputy Mayors and
4 secretaries, we have Chief of Staff under
5 the Rendell Administration, which was in
6 charge of everything. So we said what we
7 need to do is codify this process.

8 So we came up with a proposal
9 that essentially did the following: It
10 laid out creating a cabinet-level
11 official, because we think that this
12 whole development and approval process is
13 that important. And under that, we put a
14 number of divisions that addressed all of
15 those particular issues, and you'll see
16 it in your organizational chart in the
17 information that's available.

18 So over the last year, there
19 have been substantive conversations with
20 a number of people.

21 And I'm going to stop talking
22 in a minute because I know you guys got
23 to go.

24 We believe that it has
25 stimulated good discussion, spirited

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.
2 discussion. The simple reality is,
3 people are engaged in the process. It
4 may not be like some people want, but we
5 do things the way we do them. Other
6 people do the things they want. But at
7 the end of the day, I think it's got us
8 to a point where we've established a
9 process that will allow us to get a
10 consensus on this, and we hope to
11 continue to have conversations on this
12 very important initiative.

13 So, Mr. Chairman, with all
14 that, I just want to say that I'm excited
15 to participate in the process. I want to
16 thank the members of the Committee for
17 their continued work product, and we look
18 forward to having a spirited conversation
19 today about where we need to go to make
20 sure that we are the most user-friendly
21 city in the City of Philadelphia.

22 So thank you very much.

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
24 you, Mr. President.

25 Before you start, just for the

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 record, Councilman Henon, a member of the
3 Committee, is present, and also present
4 is Councilwoman Bass and Councilwoman
5 Blackwell.

6 And, gentlemen, just to let you
7 know -- I'll say this to everyone --
8 anyone that has submitted written
9 testimony, that will be made fully part
10 of the record. We'd greatly appreciate
11 any summarizing of statements, but your
12 whole statement will be made part of the
13 record.

14 So, Mr. Emmons, why don't you
15 start. Please identify yourself.

16 MR. EMMONS: Thank you. Good
17 morning. My name is Brian Emmons and I'm
18 the Vice President of the Building
19 Industry Association, which represents
20 the region's residential home builders,
21 residential contractors and suppliers.
22 We'd like to thank Chairman Greenlee and
23 members of the Law and Government
24 Committee for allowing us to participate
25 in this hearing about the proposed

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 Charter change reorganizing agencies
3 dealing with planning and development in
4 the City of Philadelphia.

5 I want to start by thanking
6 Council President Clarke for showing
7 leadership in putting a meaningful
8 discussion on how the City manages and
9 oversees development onto the agenda and
10 recognizing the need for additional
11 public discourse by calling for a second
12 public hearing. It is vital for every
13 organization, the City of Philadelphia
14 included, to continuously strive for
15 improvement. That means rethinking every
16 process to determine if there is a more
17 updated and efficient means to facilitate
18 the economic growth of our city. The BIA
19 is supportive of the creation of a
20 cabinet-level Office of Planning and
21 Development.

22 The BIA believes it is vital to
23 take this opportunity to streamline the
24 permitting process and to fully implement
25 "one stop" shopping. In other words, all

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2 of the personnel from the various
3 departments currently required for
4 prerequisite sign-offs for zoning and
5 building permit applications should be
6 housed in one division and speak with one
7 coordinated voice. We don't think the
8 new Department can or should absorb the
9 Streets or Water Department, but with
10 permitting processes can certainly be
11 coordinated more successful with the
12 others.

13 The BIA agrees strongly with
14 the amended portion of this bill that
15 maintains the Department of Licenses and
16 Inspections and charges that entity with
17 public safety matters such as code
18 enforcement, vacant and dangerous
19 building inspections, and structural
20 demolition. The BIA encourages the City
21 to continue to investigate and implement
22 best practices when it comes to public
23 safety. There is no such thing as safe
24 enough. We must all do what we can to
25 ensure that safety does indeed always

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2 come first. Further, it is imperative
3 that this Department be fully funded and
4 staffed and that the proper training and
5 supervision be put in place. This cannot
6 be emphasized enough.

7 Further, the BIA agrees with
8 the amendment that extends the start date
9 of this bill to January 1st, 2017 and is
10 encouraged by the inclusion of a
11 provision that the Transition Team
12 composed of various stakeholder groups be
13 formed and have a Transition Plan in
14 place by May 1st, 2016.

15 The success of this bill is
16 incumbent on having the operation details
17 clearly expressed and vetted. The BIA
18 also believe that this plan should be
19 subject to a public hearing to ensure
20 that all stakeholder groups have a voice
21 at the table and are provided the
22 opportunity for meaningful engagement. A
23 fully functioning, transparent, efficient
24 government is key to the success of
25 Philadelphia.

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2 Although the BIA is supportive
3 of the organizational restructuring in
4 this bill, we do have reservations
5 regarding the requirement for the consent
6 of City Council in reference to the Mayor
7 appointment of a cabinet-level position.
8 We believe this is an issue best resolved
9 between Council and the Administration.

10 This overall reorganization
11 effort is critical to creating efficient
12 government processes that will promote
13 the strong economic growth of the City.
14 The members of the Building Industry
15 Association support this initiative and
16 look forward to continuing to work with
17 Council President Clarke and the City
18 Council to realign the organizational
19 system to promote the City's community
20 development needs.

21 Thank you for your
22 consideration.

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
24 you, Mr. Emmons.

25 Mr. Sauer, before you start,

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2 the record will reflect Councilwoman

3 Sanchez also present in the room.

4 Mr. Sauer, please.

5 MR. SAUER: Good morning,

6 Council President Clarke, Chairman

7 Greenlee, and members of Council. My

8 name is Rick Sauer and I'm the Executive

9 Director of the Philadelphia Association

10 of Community Development Corporations,

11 which is a citywide association of 100

12 organizations working to revitalize

13 neighborhoods and improve the quality of

14 life of the residents here in

15 Philadelphia.

16 We strongly believe that the

17 City needs to better align public

18 agencies involved in the development

19 process, and PACDC supports the overall

20 organizational structure and goals of the

21 proposed amended bill and resolution

22 before you today because we believe it

23 can help create stronger coordination,

24 communication, and planning between the

25 various agencies that deal with housing

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.
2 and community development. However,
3 we're not going to take position on
4 language regarding Council approval of
5 the mayoral appointment of the Director
6 of Planning and Development, as we think
7 this is a political issue that's best
8 resolved between Council and the Mayor.

9 We do support the creation of
10 the Department of Planning and
11 Development and its Director as a
12 cabinet-level position. We think
13 creating this Department at the highest
14 level of government reflects an
15 acknowledgment that decisions about the
16 built environment of our city has
17 significant impacts on the quality of
18 life of all our residents as well as
19 their economic opportunities, and this
20 new Department, which will house the
21 agencies vital to that work but which
22 formerly performed duties under separate
23 leadership and management, should improve
24 collaboration and communication.

25 We also welcome the creation of

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.
2 the Division of Development Services.
3 It's important that Philadelphia have
4 strong development standards and rules
5 that protect the public's interest and
6 safety. Navigating the many agencies
7 that enforce those standards, however,
8 such as the Water Department, Streets
9 Department, L&I, ZBA, among others, takes
10 extraordinary patience and perseverance.
11 Creating this new Division and helping
12 developers of both small and large-scale
13 development projects navigate this
14 complex web of agencies and advance their
15 projects in full compliance with all
16 rules is long past due.

17 PACDC also supports the
18 creation of the new Division of Housing
19 and Community Development. Currently
20 OHCD, which performs the vital work of
21 planning, policy-setting, and
22 administering state, federal, and city
23 funds for affordable homes and community
24 development, exists due to an Executive
25 Order. So we support making the agency

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2 permanent in the Charter.

3 We also support the creation of
4 a new Intergovernmental Housing
5 Commission, which, if implemented
6 effectively, should improve the
7 coordination and collaboration among the
8 various public agencies involved with
9 housing. The limited resources we have
10 for affordable homes is spread across
11 multiple agencies that serve different
12 purposes, including the Redevelopment
13 Authority, the Housing Authority, and
14 several others. The current leadership
15 at those agencies have already begun to
16 improve interagency communication and
17 collaboration, so this new
18 Intergovernmental Housing Commission
19 would serve as an obvious place to
20 formalize that important work and ensure
21 that it continues into the next
22 Administration and with future agency
23 leadership.

24 It is our understanding that
25 the implementation of this language will

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.
2 be done through a separate ordinance to
3 name members of the Commission and
4 further clarify its purposes. So as you
5 draft that ordinance, we strongly urge
6 that it names all public and quasi-public
7 housing agencies as part of this new
8 Commission and that there are seats on
9 the Commission for community
10 representation as well. This new
11 Commission should also be charged with
12 creating a longer term, longer range
13 strategic plan to meet Philadelphia's
14 housing needs for affordable, mixed
15 income, and market-rate homes, including
16 both the development of new homes and the
17 preservation of our existing housing
18 stock.

19 Finally, PACDC recommends there
20 be some consistency in the leadership of
21 the various housing agencies. This would
22 be achieved through implementation,
23 obviously not through the legislation
24 before you today, but we hope that the
25 next Administration considers the value

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.
2 of having common board membership or
3 staffing at the agencies that must
4 coordinate closely. So, for example, the
5 new Deputy Director of Housing and
6 Community Development could be the chair
7 of the boards of the Redevelopment
8 Authority, the Housing Authority, PHDC,
9 et cetera.

10 Thank you for considering our
11 comments.

12 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
13 you, Mr. Sauer.

14 Any questions from members of
15 the Committee?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Seeing
18 none, thank you both very much.

19 Ms. Marconi, our next two
20 witnesses.

21 THE CLERK: Alan Greenberger,
22 Gary Hawkins.

23 (Witness approached witness
24 able.)

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Mr.

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2 Hawkins here? I guess not.

3 Mr. Greenberger, good morning.

4 DEPUTY MAYOR GREENBERGER: Good
5 morning.

6 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Please
7 identify yourself and proceed.

8 DEPUTY MAYOR GREENBERGER: Good
9 morning, Councilman Greenlee, members of
10 the Committee on Law and Government. I'm
11 Alan Greenberger, Deputy Mayor for
12 Economic Development, and in this
13 position, I serve as the Director of the
14 Commerce Department and Chairman of the
15 City Planning Commission.

16 I'm here to offer testimony on
17 the proposed reorganization of planning
18 and development that is before you, to
19 which a series of significant changes
20 have been proposed in the form of
21 amendments since it was first introduced
22 and heard before this Committee on
23 December 9th of last year.

24 In the amended proposal, the
25 Department of Licenses and Inspection is

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 kept separate from this newly proposed
3 Department of Planning and Development,
4 and all permitting, inclusive of
5 approvals by L&I as well as Streets,
6 Water, and other regulatory entities,
7 remain with the agencies that have that
8 authority now. We support this change.

9 We also support the creation of
10 a Division of Development Services, which
11 coordinates all of the necessary
12 pre-development approvals for real estate
13 development projects. These are the
14 approvals that always preclude actual
15 construction work and are essential to a
16 developer's ability to get financing,
17 community support, and zoning when
18 needed. As projects become more
19 complicated, securing these approvals can
20 be time-consuming and can be a source of
21 frustration. This function has been
22 incorporated into the amended proposal in
23 the form of a Division of Development
24 Services to continue our work in this
25 area.

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2 While we believe these proposed
3 changes are absolutely a step in the
4 right direction, we do have some concerns
5 about other aspects of the proposal
6 before you today.

7 The position of Director of
8 Planning and Development, a cabinet-level
9 position whose responsibilities are
10 currently within my portfolio, is now
11 designated in this proposal as an
12 appointment to the Mayor with the advice
13 and consent of the Council. The City
14 Charter does not generally provide for
15 confirmation of any high-level
16 Administration officials. The sole
17 high-level official confirmed by Council
18 is the Solicitor, and this is
19 specifically because the Solicitor must
20 maintain an attorney-client relationship
21 with both Council and the Administration.
22 With all new deference, no particular
23 reason exists here to change the basic
24 roles of the executive and legislative
25 branches of government under the Charter.

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2 With respect to the Development
3 Support Division, further study is needed
4 to determine whether the language
5 proposed here gives the Division all the
6 tools and authority it needs to bring
7 City agencies and other entities to the
8 table.

9 On the planning and zoning
10 side, we support the idea of aggregating
11 the Zoning Board of Adjustment, the Art
12 Commission, the Historical Commission,
13 and the Planning Commission under a
14 single administrative unit. Each
15 commission should retain its independence
16 under current law and manner of
17 appointment, but because they all deal
18 with land use, design, and preservation,
19 there is value in their co-location in
20 terms of organizational structure.

21 However, the Planning
22 Commission also has significant staff and
23 coordinating responsibilities already,
24 whereas the other commissions have
25 minimal staffing whose role is solely to

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 assist the operation of the Commission
3 itself. Furthermore, the relationship
4 between the City Planning Commission and
5 the new Division of Zoning and Planning
6 remains very much in tension with regard
7 to zoning bills, comprehensive plan, and
8 the capital budget and program. One
9 potential solution is that the Planning
10 Commission, through its Executive
11 Director, be responsible for matters of
12 planning and zoning and the
13 administration, not the decision-making,
14 of the other independent commissions and,
15 therefore, making a separate head of
16 Planning and Zoning redundant in this
17 proposal.

18 On the housing side, we
19 continue to have questions about the
20 impact of shifting OHCD personnel to
21 civil service and separately about the
22 role and responsibilities of the
23 Intergovernmental Housing Commission.
24 Furthermore, the Commission's
25 composition, manner of appointment, and

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2 ultimate role should be spelled out in
3 this proposal.

4 I appreciate the opportunity to
5 discuss this proposal a number of times
6 with the Council President and his
7 receptiveness to addressing many concerns
8 that were raised. However, a proposal of
9 this scale with so many potential
10 implications and unaddressed issues, some
11 of which I have identified today, needs
12 more time and collective input from a
13 broader range of impacted stakeholders
14 who may have feedback different even than
15 what I have offered here.

16 Given the complexity of the
17 proposal and the number of technical and
18 possibly substantive details to work out,
19 we continue to recommend that the process
20 include the time needed for appropriate
21 public consideration before voters are
22 asked to approve these changes to the
23 Charter. Therefore, we ask that the bill
24 and resolution not be voted out of
25 Committee yet, but we look forward to

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 continuing to work with Council President
3 and stakeholders on this proposed change.

4 That concludes my testimony.

5 I'm happy to answer questions.

6 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
7 you, Mr. Greenberger. Before I recognize
8 Councilman Neilson, I want the record to
9 reflect Councilwoman Tasco, a member of
10 the Committee, is present, as is
11 Councilwoman Reynolds Brown.

12 Councilman Neilson.

13 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Good
14 morning, Mr. Greenberger.

15 DEPUTY MAYOR GREENBERGER: Good
16 morning.

17 COUNCILMAN NEILSON:

18 Mr. Greenberger, in your testimony you
19 had stated that you don't agree a
20 cabinet-level position such as this, that
21 this legislation would create, should be
22 reviewed by City Council. Are you aware
23 that the President of the United States,
24 all his cabinet-level positions are
25 confirmed by the Senate to make certain

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2 that -- do you agree with that -- to make
3 certain that the people of the United
4 States are protected and those people are
5 qualified for that position, as yourself
6 is for this one, of course?

7 DEPUTY MAYOR GREENBERGER: I'm
8 aware that that's what the U.S.
9 Constitution demands, yes.

10 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: And the
11 Pennsylvania Constitution provides the
12 same for the Pennsylvania Governor.

13 Why would this City not protect
14 the citizens of Philadelphia to make
15 certain that our cabinet members are
16 qualified for the position? Because
17 we've read articles of the past and
18 present -- I'm not going to throw names
19 out -- that people were put in positions
20 that really aren't qualified. And if you
21 go through the history of City Council,
22 of those people that the Mayor asked us
23 to confirm, not once has anybody been
24 turned away. So why would you object to
25 such a, what I feel, is a great

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2 protection, and it doesn't take what we
3 read in the papers, power from the Mayor
4 at all? Why would you not support such a
5 thing to make certain that our citizens
6 here in Philadelphia are protected?

7 DEPUTY MAYOR GREENBERGER: I
8 think that if you want -- the question I
9 have is why single this one out. Why not
10 do it for all of them?

11 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: I agree
12 with you, and I'm working with
13 Councilmembers now to put such a proposal
14 forth. I'm glad you agree with that.
15 But this is --

16 DEPUTY MAYOR GREENBERGER: I
17 didn't say I agree with it. I just
18 simply said the Charter says otherwise
19 right now, and to single this one out
20 against all others doesn't strike me as
21 being the right way to do this. If you
22 want to make a Charter change of that
23 scale, then propose the whole thing.

24 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: And that
25 will be coming. Thank you,

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 Mr. Greenberger. I appreciate your
3 support for that. Not on the record,
4 though, but maybe, but --

5 DEPUTY MAYOR GREENBERGER: Not
6 on the record.

7 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: That's why
8 this is in there. That's why this is in
9 there. This is a provision that I
10 thought development in the City of
11 Philadelphia is such an important driver
12 for our economy here in the City and I
13 would rather have us go through it and
14 make certain that an individual like
15 yourself come forward. Because we know
16 your qualifications. You do great work,
17 and I thank you for that, and I would be
18 more than glad to put your name up for
19 nomination and confirm you if this
20 legislation goes through. Can't wait for
21 that. I will be talking in your favor.

22 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
24 you, Councilman.

25 Councilman Goode.

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2 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
3 Mr. Chairman.

4 Good morning, Mr. Greenberger.

5 DEPUTY MAYOR GREENBERGER: Good
6 morning.

7 COUNCILMAN GOODE: As it
8 relates to matters within this
9 legislation, is the organizational
10 structure within this Administration
11 different than the previous
12 Administration?

13 DEPUTY MAYOR GREENBERGER: To
14 my knowledge, it is, yes.

15 COUNCILMAN GOODE: And are
16 either or both of those organizational
17 structures consistent with the
18 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter?

19 DEPUTY MAYOR GREENBERGER: I
20 believe it is, yes. The Mayor has got
21 leeway to organize the government as he
22 sees fit, but there are Charter mandates
23 about positions that must be appointed
24 and how budgets must flow.

25 COUNCILMAN GOODE: But they're

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2 not totally consistent with the Charter?

3 DEPUTY MAYOR GREENBERGER: I
4 don't believe they're inconsistent. I
5 think the Mayor has that leeway, but I'm
6 not the Charter expert on the law in
7 this.

8 COUNCILMAN GOODE: How was this
9 organizational structure developed, by
10 who and over what period of time?

11 DEPUTY MAYOR GREENBERGER: I
12 wasn't there, so I can't answer you as
13 the first person on this. All I know is
14 that the Mayor set up a series of Deputy
15 Mayors, who each have portfolios, and
16 that he asked that those Deputy Mayors
17 coordinate certain departments that have
18 a relationship to each other.

19 COUNCILMAN GOODE: So perhaps
20 it was done by a transition team over a
21 period of months?

22 DEPUTY MAYOR GREENBERGER: I
23 can't answer you. I wasn't there. I
24 don't know.

25 COUNCILMAN GOODE: So you don't

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2 know how long it took?

3 DEPUTY MAYOR GREENBERGER: I
4 don't.

5 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
6 Mr. Chairman.

7 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
8 you, Councilman.

9 Any other questions for
10 Mr. Greenberger?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Seeing
13 none, thank you, sir. Thank you for your
14 testimony.

15 Ms. Marconi.

16 THE CLERK: Ed Dunham, Nancy
17 Winkler.

18 (Witness approached witness
19 table.)

20 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:
21 Mr. Dunham. Ms. Winkler is not here?
22 Okay.

23 Mr. Dunham, please identify
24 yourself for the record and proceed,
25 please.

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2 MR. DUNHAM: Yes, sir. Good
3 morning, Mr. President, Mr. Chair,
4 Councilmembers. I am Ned Dunham, a
5 Philadelphia lawyer primarily and a Chair
6 of the Independent -- Special Independent
7 Advisory Commission. I'm here to speak
8 both for Glenn Corbett, who is the Chair
9 of that Commission, and for Peter Vaira,
10 the Executive Director, in respectful
11 opposition to the proposed ordinance.

12 I'm going to be faithful to the
13 mandate of the very good appellate judge.
14 He said when you're testifying, be brief,
15 be blunt, and be gone, and I'll read a
16 very short statement in that vein.

17 We do not oppose the ordinance
18 with its recent amendments, which we
19 understand took L&I out of the proposed
20 department, for its content. Rather,
21 it's the process that we're concerned
22 about. We oppose it because it is -- the
23 process seems to be just too quick to put
24 it on the May ballot.

25 We come to this opposition

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2 because on the Special Commission that
3 was composed of professionals and
4 academics, 22 of them, in the fields of
5 management, City financial oversight,
6 labor, construction, demolition,
7 information technology, and law, we
8 worked for ten months to put together our
9 recommendations. We conducted hundreds
10 of interviews, reviewed thousands of
11 documents, had a number of conversations
12 with various members of various City
13 departments in their offices, and came to
14 understand just how complex the process
15 will be involved with the critical
16 structural and financial management and
17 cross-governmental issues involved here.

18 The proposed ordinance presents
19 similar challenges and we think deserves
20 a thorough and transparent public
21 hearing, along with the other
22 governmental reorganization proposals
23 being advanced, and there are a few of
24 them, and should not be rushed doing a
25 Charter change without Philadelphia

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2 voters having an understanding as to what
3 they're voting for.

4 The suggestion of a commission
5 composed of professionals and
6 representatives of the affected City
7 departments to make recommendations to
8 the City leadership, as suggested here
9 today, will be further suggested, in our
10 view, as the most practical and
11 democratic way to proceed. We know this
12 process works.

13 Thank you very much.

14 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
15 you. Mr. Dunham, you stated a couple
16 times that you think this is a rushed
17 process. In your opinion, what would be
18 the timeframe that you think it should
19 take?

20 MR. DUNHAM: I think in talking
21 to people that we've talked to, we think
22 it's going to take at least as long as
23 the Special Independent Commission took,
24 and that was ten months.

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Say it

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2 again. I'm sorry.

3 MR. DUNHAM: We think it's
4 going to take at least ten months.

5 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Ten
6 months?

7 MR. DUNHAM: Ten months. It
8 could be done sooner we think, but that's
9 not a reach to say it should take that
10 long.

11 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Any other
12 questions?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Seeing
15 none, thank you.

16 Oh, Council President. I'm
17 sorry. We don't have those lights, so we
18 can't quite tell.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
20 Sorry, Mr. Chair.

21 Thank you so much for your
22 testimony and your participation in the
23 process. I just wanted to clarify, and I
24 said earlier that the challenge with
25 change in the City of Philadelphia,

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2 particularly when we as legislators are
3 required to have a process that is
4 inclusive, is that you have to talk to
5 pretty much everybody, and that's a good
6 thing. So this issue with respect to
7 having a rush job or not taking enough
8 time, we have taken a lot of time. We
9 talked to a lot of people.

10 But the interesting thing about
11 that process is that you talk to a group,
12 and the next meeting, the next group has
13 a totally different perspective. Last
14 week we talked to a group representing an
15 organization and there was a debate
16 within that particular organization about
17 what direction to go about a particular
18 matter relating to this bill. And that's
19 a good thing, but at some point in time,
20 you have to move ahead to some degree
21 when you can get a consensus or we'll
22 discuss this and discuss this. And as I
23 said earlier, this wasn't something that
24 I just woke up one morning and said, you
25 know, I'm going to do this. This was as

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2 a result of my many years in government
3 and the consistent concerns raised by
4 people that had to utilize these parts of
5 government.

6 So it was driven by the
7 constituents, it was driven by
8 stakeholders, and we're hoping that we
9 can include as many people as possible,
10 but at some point, I think the reasonable
11 people would agree that we do have to do
12 something to change this. And I'm hoping
13 that nobody feels rushed. I've been
14 extremely open, willing to meet with
15 anybody.

16 But I just want to thank you
17 for your participation.

18 MR. DUNHAM: Well,
19 Mr. President, we certainly appreciate
20 that. We thought ten months, quite
21 frankly, was a long time, but we found it
22 was absolutely necessary, because we also
23 had a lot of competing interests,
24 vigorous debate. We weren't sure where
25 we were going to come out until about

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2 three weeks before the end. It was that
3 difficult of a process.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

5 Thank you so much.

6 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
7 you.

8 Any other questions?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Seeing
11 none, thank you.

12 Ms. Marconi.

13 THE CLERK: Craig Schelter,
14 Michael Sklaroff, Joe Schiavo.

15 (Witnesses approached witness
16 table.)

17 MR. SCHELTER: Do you have
18 enough copies up there?

19 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: It looks
20 it, yeah. And that will be made part of
21 the record. Feel real free to summarize.

22 Mr. Schelter, please identify
23 yourself and proceed.

24 MR. SCHELTER: Good morning,
25 Mr. Chairman Greenlee and members of the

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2 Law and Government Committee. My name is
3 Craig Schelter. I'm the Executive
4 Director of The Development Workshop,
5 Incorporated. We are a 501(c)(6)
6 non-profit trade association dedicated to
7 fostering development, improving the
8 City's tax base, and growing
9 Philadelphia. Our members include
10 developers, lenders, architects,
11 planners, engineers, attorneys,
12 associated real estate professionals, and
13 former City development officials.

14 We appreciate the opportunity
15 to testify at this hearing in hopes of
16 commenting on City Council amendments to
17 the bill and resolution above that will
18 dramatically reorganize City agencies
19 dealing with planning and development in
20 the City.

21 Since the last hearing December
22 9th, 2014, we have spent considerable
23 time and energy meeting with members of
24 community groups, other development
25 organizations, staff of City planning and

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2 development agencies, and family victims
3 of past systemic oversight failures. It
4 is indeed unfortunate that the
5 Council-proposed amendments were just
6 delivered to us this past Saturday,
7 Valentine's Day, at 5 o'clock in the
8 midst of President's weekend, literally
9 giving us one business day to respond.

10 Those meetings have reinforced
11 our core belief that this stage of reform
12 via a major change in the Philadelphia
13 Home Rule Charter requires more than a
14 simple response to amendments. It
15 requires a more deliberate input of
16 stakeholders across the community,
17 including the informed input of community
18 groups, housing advocates, developers,
19 institutions, and other officials from
20 the legislative and executive branch of
21 our government.

22 Towards that end today, we
23 offer a simple, clear amendment to the
24 bill and, more importantly, the voters of
25 Philadelphia. The suggested ballot

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2 question might read as follows: Should
3 the City create a commission to consider
4 establishing a cabinet-level position of
5 Director of Planning and Development and
6 restructuring of City planning and
7 development agencies to be appointed by
8 the Mayor and City Council?

9 We urge your serious
10 consideration of this proposal,
11 thirty-five words rather than the
12 140-plus word sentence in the current
13 draft ordinance. This is an approach
14 that the Development Workshop would
15 enthusiastically endorse.

16 Such an amendment would provide
17 for a discussion and debate to deal with
18 unresolved issues remaining, including
19 the independence of the Planning
20 Commission, Zoning Board of Adjustment,
21 Historical Commission, and Art
22 Commission, which coincidentally we did not
23 see mentioned in the short title of the
24 bill;

25 The importance of the Street

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2 and Water Departments in the development
3 of the coordination process;

4 The proper management,
5 staffing, training, funding of the
6 Department of Licenses and Inspection, as
7 both the development licensing and
8 front-line protector of health, safety,
9 and public welfare in Philadelphia's
10 built environment;

11 The fleshing out of the
12 proposed, as yet to be defined,
13 Independent Housing Commission;

14 The fundamental underfunding of
15 the City Planning Commission staff to
16 complete its currently assigned task to
17 complete district plans and zoning
18 remapping of the City, as was
19 acknowledged by City Council when it
20 approved the new Zoning Code two years
21 ago. This new structure just proposed
22 will have the Planning Commission support
23 three separate offices in addition to its
24 assigned functions under the Planning and
25 Zoning Division under the new Director of

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2 Planning and Development;

3 Lastly, and probably most
4 importantly, it creates a climate where
5 the best talent cannot be recruited for
6 the position of Director of Development
7 given that both the person selected to
8 lead Planning and Development by the
9 Mayor and the driver of the transition
10 plan to implement the plan are dependent
11 on the specific review and approval of
12 City Council.

13 In conclusion today, sadly, we
14 do not support either the bill or the
15 resolution as redrafted. However, our
16 members continue to be ready, willing,
17 and able to participate in further
18 councilmanic and stakeholder discussions.

19 We believe that certain
20 elements of this reorganization can be
21 accomplished today without a formal
22 Charter change or, in fact, exist today
23 as with the proposed Development Services
24 Committee.

25 We could not believe that a

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2 decision today by this Committee should
3 be driven solely by the placement
4 deadline for the ballot May 19th, 2015,
5 especially since the Mayor, who will be
6 forced to implement these changes, is not
7 known to any of us today.

8 Thank you for your
9 consideration. And I'd also like to say
10 that Michael Sklaroff would have been
11 here, but he's in bed with a very, very
12 serious flu, so he will not be testifying
13 today.

14 Thank you.

15 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I'm sorry
16 to hear that. Okay.

17 Mr. Schiavo.

18 MR. SCHIAVO: Good morning,
19 Council President Clarke --

20 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Maybe
21 just a little closer to the microphone.

22 MR. SCHIAVO: Thank you. Good
23 morning, Council President Clarke and
24 honorable members of the Committee.

25 Thank you for the opportunity to offer

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2 testimony on this important bill and
3 resolution. My name is Joe Schiavo and
4 today I'm speaking on behalf of the
5 Philadelphia Crosstown --

6 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:

7 Mr. Schiavo, maybe just still a little
8 closer. It's still a little -- the
9 acoustics aren't the greatest. This is a
10 courtroom. I'll leave it at that.

11 MR. SCHIAVO: Today I'm
12 speaking on behalf of the Philadelphia
13 Crosstown Coalition, a coalition
14 comprised of 19 Philadelphia civic
15 organizations. I serve the Coalition as
16 Chair of its Zoning and Land Use
17 Committee. I'd be glad to read off the
18 names of the associated organizations, if
19 you wish.

20 Relative to Bill 140721 and
21 Resolution 140732, the Coalition, in
22 partnership with the Development Workshop
23 and the Central Delaware Advocacy Group,
24 has submitted a joint letter to all
25 members of this Committee as well as all

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2 members of Council. It's noteworthy that
3 this letter and the positions expressed
4 within represent an unusual collaboration
5 among interests; that is, big development
6 and civics, that have rarely found
7 themselves on the same side of the
8 meeting table.

9 On the issue of the proposed
10 ballot referendum creating a new
11 cabinet-level Department of Planning and
12 Development and the recently amended
13 resolution outlining the commissions,
14 boards, and offices organized under the
15 new Department, we are united in our
16 recommendation that the proposed
17 reorganization plan deserves the benefit
18 of an advisory commission, inclusive of
19 public participation to formulate the
20 best possible next steps for
21 Philadelphia's operational structure.

22 The Crosstown Coalition views
23 the discussion of the reorganization of
24 the City's operational structure as a
25 unique opportunity to review, study,

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2 improve, and coordinate the process by
3 which all aspects of land use and real
4 estate development move through the
5 various commissions, boards, agencies,
6 and offices that share responsibility as
7 land use decision-makers. As we
8 demonstrated during the process of
9 rewriting the Philadelphia Zoning Code,
10 when provided the opportunity and forum,
11 we can reach a consensus on complex
12 issues of regulation and governance.

13 The amendments we received late
14 in the day this past Saturday included
15 the extraction of the Department of
16 Licenses and Inspections from the
17 original proposal. Now the amended
18 resolution momentarily sidesteps the
19 ongoing public safety concerns but,
20 consequently, neglects to incorporate
21 critical development-related L&I
22 functions in the organizational chart of
23 the proposal, failing to address the
24 development communities' criticism that
25 the City's decision-making offices and

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2 agencies operate in silos without
3 coordination among key decision-makers.
4 Extraction of L&I from the proposal is a
5 non-solution and demonstrates that the
6 resolution is not yet comprehensive in
7 its proposed measures.

8 These issues and decisions are
9 too complex and too critical to our
10 city's future to be considered without
11 due diligence. An important discussion
12 has begun, but it's premature to close it
13 by finalizing the language of the
14 proposed Charter change without a
15 thorough vetting and consideration of the
16 ramifications of the proposed changes and
17 consideration of alternative options for
18 the reorganization.

19 We, the Crosstown Coalition on
20 behalf of our constituent organizations,
21 urge this Committee to recommend all
22 further action on Resolution 140732, the
23 reorganization proposal, be paused and
24 Bill 140721 be amended to propose a
25 ballot referendum authorizing an advisory

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2 commission to issue recommendations for
3 the organizational structure, staffing,
4 and funding of the City's agencies
5 charged with public safety, planning,
6 development, zoning, housing, licensing,
7 inspections, and enforcement.

8 I thank you for your
9 consideration.

10 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
11 you.

12 I just had one question.
13 Mr. Schelter, in your testimony and on
14 your last, I guess you'd call it, bullet
15 point there, you talk about the issue of
16 the review and approval of City Council,
17 and I won't get into the plus or minus of
18 that. That's a different -- sort of
19 different thing, but you say that it
20 creates a climate wherein the best talent
21 cannot be recruited for that reason. Why
22 can't it be recruited if Council
23 approves? And I'm not saying we should
24 or shouldn't. I'm just trying to figure
25 out why you say that.

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2 MR. SCHELTER: I say this based
3 upon the fact that during my 34 years in
4 the public sector and Philadelphia
5 government, 15 at the Planning Commission
6 and 19 at PIDC, I served on an urban land
7 institute national council, what's called
8 the Public-Private Partnership Council,
9 and that Council was made up of members
10 from 50 different cities of development
11 directors, planning directors, mayors,
12 you name it, that were involved in
13 development, and one -- this was a group
14 that met twice a year where we had
15 discussed issues in individual cities,
16 and one of the things we found when we
17 would make recommendations to our Mayor
18 or to help others in recommendations to
19 their Mayors and City Councils was that
20 the Development Director was somebody who
21 can respond to one boss, and that's the
22 Mayor, and that when those people come to
23 a city and commit to that city, they need
24 to know that the Mayor is in a position
25 to say, You're going to run this show.

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2 And when I looked at the amendments that
3 are in this particular bill, I see that
4 Council is talking subsequently about by
5 ordinance naming the salary of this
6 individual. These people are highly
7 successful and they are highly qualified,
8 and if somebody was looking to fill a
9 job, to wait for it to go through a
10 Council ordinance to establish their
11 salary relative to all the other issues.

12 The second thing is that the
13 transition plan which is required in the
14 amendments to this ordinance, as I
15 understand it, is something that a new
16 Mayor would name. It would name a
17 transition committee that would give a
18 recommendation, and that by May 1st of
19 the first year of the new Mayor being in
20 office, they would submit a plan to City
21 Council. And I would submit to you
22 having been on the transition committee
23 for Michael Nutter, having worked on
24 transition committees for Ed Rendell,
25 having worked with five other Mayors, in

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2 the period of time between an election
3 takes place and they're sworn into
4 office, that's when they focus on the
5 organization of their government. That's
6 when they put together the people that
7 they can have available to run these
8 things, and the first thing they have to
9 do is come and get a budget through City
10 Council. That's the first big task they
11 have.

12 I don't believe, on my
13 experience, that you could do this
14 reorganization plan during this period
15 with a new person, who may or may not
16 know Philadelphia -- we had an instance
17 of one who came and was gone two or three
18 months later in this Administration --
19 and have this thing in a position whereby
20 May 1 it's ready to go for Council
21 approval in terms of organization.

22 I look back to when this
23 Council established the ordinance to
24 create the Zoning Code Commission. That
25 Zoning Code Commission, I think they

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2 worked for three years, a year before
3 Nutter was elected and years afterwards.
4 It took that kind of time to get an
5 understanding. And even when Council
6 approved it ultimately, there was a year
7 transition between when a new Zoning Code
8 went into effect and it was legally in
9 effect for developers.

10 So all I'm saying is, you have
11 suggested a very ambitious time schedule
12 here that's aggressive. I don't believe
13 you can do it by the 1st of May. That's
14 based on years of experience.

15 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you
16 for your opinion.

17 Council President Clarke.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
19 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 Good morning, Mr. Schelter.

21 MR. SCHELTER: Good morning.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I
23 just want to make sure I understand. The
24 salary issue, you object to Council
25 establishing the salary by ordinance? I

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2 just want clarity on that.

3 MR. SCHELTER: No. I don't
4 know when any of that would happen. In
5 my reading of the amendments, we're
6 creating a new specific structure where
7 we don't know who the Mayor is going to
8 be. I'm just saying --

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Just
10 salary. You referenced the salary issue,
11 and it sounds like you said that was one
12 of the impediments of attracting the
13 top-notch person. So exactly what did
14 you mean by that?

15 MR. SCHELTER: Let's say --

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
17 Traditionally when there's an RFP out or
18 a national search, there is some range
19 with respect to the salary that's known
20 to the person that would apply for the
21 position. So I'm not quite understanding
22 why it would be --

23 MR. SCHELTER: I guess I've
24 known situations where people recruited
25 and they come in and one of the things

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2 they say is, Gee, I'd love to do -- what
3 is the salary, and at that point you say,
4 Well, gee, we don't know. We need to go
5 talk to City Council about what the
6 salary would be, and then how quickly
7 could that ordinance be put into effect.
8 That's up to City Council. I don't know.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I
10 mean, as a person that has been in
11 government for 30 years, I know a little
12 bit about how things work. When the
13 Mayor does the national search recruiting
14 any individual -- more recently we did
15 the Director of OPA; Richie McKeithen was
16 the individual that we selected -- there
17 was a salary range suggested in that
18 search, and when that person came,
19 Council approved that person. We
20 actually confirmed that, with respect to
21 Mr. Neilson's question in an earlier
22 conversation about Council confirming and
23 Mayor, not necessarily a cabinet-level,
24 but high-ranking official.

25 So with respect to the

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2 approval, I mean, the Mayor basically
3 determines what the salary of that person
4 will be. I can't recall any of us at any
5 point in time -- and I've been a member
6 of Council for 15 years -- having that as
7 an issue with respect to the selection of
8 that person that the Mayor chooses to be
9 in a position. I mean, that's -- I don't
10 see that as an impediment.

11 MR. SCHELTER: It may not, but
12 as Councilman Goode asked at the December
13 9th hearing, every -- how various other
14 Mayors had established the planning and
15 development function within the
16 government. Every one I've worked with
17 has done it differently. Everyone had to
18 have flexibility based upon the staff
19 that was available in the days of a
20 strong Commerce Director, strong Managing
21 Director. Those were all functions, and
22 then Deputy Mayors became the
23 organization du jour and the notion of
24 Director, and we had said --

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And

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2 that's not in the Charter, by the way.

3 MR. SCHELTER: We have said to
4 you we support your notion of a Director
5 of Planning and Development. I'm not
6 questioning it. It's all the details
7 that are the ones I think that need to be
8 further discussed. And in my experience,
9 the kind of timeframe to do that is
10 longer than has been prescribed in the
11 amendments today, and I say that
12 respectfully.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I
14 take it -- we've known each other a long
15 time.

16 MR. SCHELTER: Right.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
18 We've worked together.

19 And the transition plan, your
20 concern is that the timing of the
21 transition plan is not sufficient?
22 Because we put that in for a reason, and
23 maybe you don't know. When we met with a
24 number of -- and as I said, we met with a
25 lot of people about this issue, and a

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2 couple of the developers actually brought
3 something to our attention. It made a
4 lot of sense.

5 Essentially the change and the
6 realignment of this government is
7 somewhat aggressive. I don't think it's
8 overly aggressive, but in terms of the
9 actual places where you would have to go
10 and the roles and responsibility. Their
11 concern was on Friday I left my job and
12 when I came to work Monday, there would
13 be a different alignment of the
14 government structure. So the question
15 was how do you implement this over time.
16 So we came up with this strategy that
17 allowed a transition timeframe. So over
18 the period of six months. And then that
19 could actually start now if this
20 particular Mayor was interested in
21 starting that process now in terms of
22 actually laying the groundwork for where
23 these people would be physically located,
24 that there was time to adjust to the
25 physical realignment of these particular

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2 departments who would ultimately be
3 responsible under the particular
4 department. So that's why we put this
5 transition timeline. Personally, I think
6 it's more than enough time. You're
7 talking -- if we do this in May, you're
8 talking basically a year if this
9 Administration chose to participate in
10 that process. Even if somehow this was
11 pushed back to November, there would
12 still be time, from our perspective, to
13 put in the transition plan and ultimately
14 implement that plan.

15 MR. SCHELTER: Under ideal
16 conditions, I wouldn't disagree with you,
17 but for an outgoing Administration to put
18 their stamp on this, not knowing who the
19 new Mayor is going to be, I think that is
20 a total unknown. And one definite
21 experience I went through on this was
22 between Mayor Rendell and Mayor Street.
23 And Rendell had a way of going about it,
24 and when Mayor Street came in, it was
25 about NTI, and that was a fundamental

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2 redirection that he took. And no matter
3 what Ed Rendell would have said in terms
4 of structuring an organization for
5 development planning, the major focus was
6 going to change when a new Mayor came in.
7 I have not heard any of the mayoralty
8 candidates say what their focus is going
9 to be.

10 I don't think the things that
11 you have in here are wrong, the idea of
12 an Intergovernmental Housing Commission,
13 but certain things are not included in
14 that in the amendments, such as the Land
15 Bank. I mean, that was an obvious one
16 that we had raised before. Wouldn't you
17 want to have the Land Bank there when we
18 know that there are a few hundred sites
19 citywide, city-owned land where
20 development could take place, ten houses
21 on a site, to get things going in
22 neighborhoods throughout the City. None
23 of that is defined right now.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
25 Land Bank is going to be housed in PHDC.

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2 MR. SCHELTER: Pardon?

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
4 Land Bank will be housed in Philadelphia
5 Housing Development Corporation. That is
6 currently underway.

7 MR. SCHELTER: Okay. I guess
8 all I'm saying is generally people don't
9 understand a lot of this because the
10 housing portion is not fleshed out.

11 The planning function that you
12 talk about in the amendments is pretty
13 well fleshed out, and there it's a matter
14 where you got an incredibly small staff
15 that -- the Workshop testified last year
16 at budget hearings, and both you and
17 Councilman Kenney asked what it would
18 take to speed up the district planning
19 process and the zoning remapping process
20 in the City that was giving lots of
21 District Councilpeople fits, was giving
22 developers fits before the Zoning Board,
23 and the Planning Commission provided a
24 letter back to Council saying it would
25 take a million dollars plus over three

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2 years to complete that function.

3 Under this proposal, if you
4 were going to reorganize and have the
5 Commission be the administrative head for
6 the Zoning Board and serve as the
7 Director of Planning and Development and
8 their own functions, I don't believe they
9 have enough staff to do it. When I was
10 Planning Director, I had 65 people on the
11 staff. As I understand it today, there
12 are 40 people on the staff. So if part
13 of this reorganization was also a
14 commitment of Council to fund those
15 positions, that would be great, and I
16 think that you raised that question last
17 year of -- that that needs to be done.
18 And I think the process between Council
19 and the Mayor is one where you work that
20 out. I'm not privy to those discussions.
21 All I'm saying is that in places like the
22 Planning Commission and L&I, unless you
23 have the staff in place to do what you
24 want to do, the policy can be terrific up
25 here, but down here in the weeds -- and

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2 the last 12 years since becoming
3 consultant, that's where I function, is
4 down in the weeds, like where do things
5 work and where do they not work. I'm
6 just not easy about it, and that's what
7 I'm reflecting in my testimony.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

9 Okay. Thank you.

10 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
12 you.

13 Any other -- Councilman Goode.

14 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
15 Mr. Chairman.

16 Good morning, Mr. Schelter.

17 MR. SCHELTER: Good morning.

18 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I'm confused
19 about the last part of your testimony.
20 You say especially since the Mayor, who
21 will be forced to implement these
22 changes, is not known to any of us today.
23 And I was concerned about it when I read
24 it and then you said it twice in response
25 to questions.

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2 What difference does it make
3 who the Mayor will be in order to do a
4 Charter amendment?

5 MR. SCHELTER: I think it makes
6 a difference because every Mayor brings a
7 different perception to their job in
8 terms of what they do in planning and
9 development.

10 COUNCILMAN GOODE: But this is
11 a question of what should go into the
12 Charter.

13 MR. SCHELTER: Excuse me?

14 COUNCILMAN GOODE: This is a
15 question of what should go into the
16 Charter.

17 MR. SCHELTER: Right, and I
18 don't believe that you -- that there is
19 one way of -- I don't believe there's one
20 way of doing it. So to put it into the
21 Charter, that for me is a big deal. I
22 mean, I remember when I first came to the
23 City in 1968 and one of the things -- I
24 don't know if you still do it today, but
25 I had to stand up and be sworn in that I

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2 would uphold, obey, and defend the Home
3 Rule Charter, and I had to go home and
4 read the whole Charter that night to know
5 what I was doing. And the idea then of
6 you don't make changes in the Charter for
7 big things without a broader commission
8 or advisory panel or whatever to be --
9 and I'm just saying --

10 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I get all
11 that. I'm really trying to dig into not
12 what you think is wrong with the
13 legislation or wrong with this process,
14 but what you think actually should
15 happen, and I don't understand the
16 statement that we don't know who the
17 Mayor will be. Why should that be an
18 issue related to what goes in the
19 Charter?

20 MR. SCHELTER: Okay. It would
21 be an issue because you want to know -- I
22 would want to know if I were in your
23 position --

24 COUNCILMAN GOODE: We're going
25 to have several different Mayors who are

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2 term limited, and so what goes into the
3 Charter is supposed to be semi-permanent.
4 So what difference does it make who gets
5 elected this year in terms of what should
6 go into the Charter?

7 MR. SCHELTER: Let me go back
8 to the Zoning Code Commission, if I may.
9 When the Zoning Code Commission was
10 established, every member of Council had
11 a member that was put on that Commission
12 to have the input of all the individual
13 Councilpeople. It also had the
14 departments of the government in terms of
15 L&I, Planning Commission --

16 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Did that
17 have anything to do with who the next
18 Mayor is going to be?

19 MR. SCHELTER: Yes, because of
20 the nature and personality and
21 professionalism of the various people
22 that they had in place. And that can
23 change dramatically from Mayor to Mayor.
24 Some Mayors have wanted --

25 COUNCILMAN GOODE: What does

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2 that have to do with what goes into the
3 Charter? You still haven't answered that
4 question.

5 MR. SCHELTER: What it has to
6 do is that we went -- in the Charter
7 today, you have a Managing Director, a
8 Finance Director, and a Commerce
9 Director, three individuals who have a
10 lot of influence on an Administration,
11 and we don't know who any of those people
12 are going to be in terms of the people
13 they name and in the --

14 COUNCILMAN GOODE: So let me
15 frame it a different way. So we need to
16 know who the Mayor is going to be before
17 we change the Charter?

18 MR. SCHELTER: Yes, I believe
19 that. And one of the things that's
20 actually in --

21 COUNCILMAN GOODE: But can you
22 explain it? I don't understand it. Why
23 would we need to know who the next Mayor
24 is going to be before we change the
25 Charter?

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2 MR. SCHELTER: Because the two
3 leaders of government in this city, I
4 would want them both sitting at a table
5 structuring anything that happened so you
6 have a way of moving an effective,
7 practically considered government.

8 COUNCILMAN GOODE: So then
9 should we change the Charter every time
10 we elect a new Mayor?

11 MR. SCHELTER: Excuse me. I
12 didn't -- I'm having hearing aid problems
13 this morning.

14 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Should we
15 change the Charter every time we elect a
16 new Mayor?

17 MR. SCHELTER: No. I'm not
18 suggesting that at all.

19 COUNCILMAN GOODE: That's
20 exactly what you're saying.

21 MR. SCHELTER: I'm just saying
22 that this change is a very big change,
23 and given where we are today --

24 COUNCILMAN GOODE: But it has
25 nothing to do --

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2 MR. SCHELTER: And given the
3 unknowns today and to have this
4 Commission start with the new Mayor, I
5 think that's the appropriate thing to do.

6 COUNCILMAN GOODE: But that
7 assumes that the new Mayor is not going
8 to have a transition team, which the new
9 Mayor is. You may sit on that transition
10 team as well and make decisions about the
11 organizational structure, probably
12 separate from what's in the Charter. And
13 so why would we need to know who the next
14 Mayor is going to be before we amend the
15 Charter? And if that is the case, then
16 we would have to amend the Charter every
17 time there's a new Mayor. I just think
18 the statement doesn't make any sense. I
19 was trying to get clarity on it.

20 MR. SCHELTER: To me this is a
21 big change that this will be in place
22 for -- could be in place for a long time,
23 and the first time you do it, just like
24 the first time of rewriting a new Zoning
25 Code, you took the time to do it right.

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2 It was still a transition period that was
3 difficult, and that's going to be an
4 ongoing problem based upon --

5 COUNCILMAN GOODE: So let me
6 ask it one more way. So that Charter
7 amendment is still not dependent upon who
8 is elected Mayor?

9 MR. SCHELTER: No. I think you
10 could elect anybody else for Mayor, but
11 that person and that Administration that
12 they bring to the table should be part of
13 it, and I submit that an outgoing
14 Administration that's not --

15 COUNCILMAN GOODE: You're
16 suggesting that we change it every time
17 there's a new Mayor. Thank you.

18 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
20 you, Councilman.

21 Just one more thing. I don't
22 want to keep beating on this time issue,
23 but I asked Mr. Dunham this question. He
24 said maybe approximately ten months this
25 could be done. You mentioned the Zoning

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2 Code Commission, and with all due
3 respect, they worked real hard, but that
4 was, what, three years, something? What
5 would you say is a reasonable time that
6 this, in your vision, could get done?
7 Approximately. I'm not looking for an
8 exact date.

9 MR. SCHELTER: I think you
10 should be able to achieve this in a year.

11 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:
12 Mr. Schiavo, would you agree with that or
13 do you think -- you got to speak into the
14 microphone.

15 MR. SCHIAVO: I agree that it
16 could certainly be done in a year because
17 there's good groundwork already that's
18 been done under the Corbett report and
19 L&I's 2015 Plan for a Safer City.
20 There's an outline there to how to
21 proceed with certain aspects of a
22 reorganization. So groundwork is done
23 that would help move the process along.

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay. So
25 about a year. Okay. Thank you.

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2 Any other questions?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Seeing

5 none, thank you both.

6 Ms. Marconi, who else do we

7 have?

8 THE CLERK: Kiki Bolender, Jeff

9 Braff, Joe Grace.

10 (Witnesses approached witness

11 table.)

12 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: After

13 these three witnesses, is there anyone

14 else here that wants to testify on this

15 bill?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

18 Thank you.

19 Ms. Bolender, I think you were

20 called first. Why don't you identify

21 yourself for the record and proceed.

22 MS. BOLENDER: Thank you,

23 Councilman Greenlee. My name is Kiki

24 Bolender. I'm principal of Bolender

25 Architects.

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2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: A little
3 closer. This isn't the greatest.

4 MS. BOLENDER: Is that good?

5 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: That's
6 better.

7 MS. BOLENDER: Principal of
8 Bolender Architects and a small business
9 owner, and I'm here as a volunteer as
10 Chair of the Design Advocacy Group of
11 Philadelphia. DAG respectfully asks the
12 Committee on Law and Government to use
13 its powers to staunch the flow of
14 ill-advised and unnecessary Charter
15 changes, especially as embodied in Bill
16 140721.

17 Your committee is, in many
18 ways, the most serious one in Council, as
19 it looks after the very structure of our
20 local democracy, and it's a committee
21 made up of serious people for serious
22 tasks. I would guess that 95 percent of
23 voters in the upcoming elections would
24 put fixing the school system on their
25 very top priorities this year. We depend

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2 on Harrisburg for that, and we cannot
3 afford to look like Bumpkin City,
4 amending our local Constitution at every
5 whim.

6 Today you're considering a
7 Charter change to create a Commission on
8 Women, an idea that already sounds like
9 something from maybe 1974, not 2015; a
10 Commission on Pre-K instead of hunkering
11 down and making it happen; and a Charter
12 change to the City Planning department
13 that has been advanced without
14 substantive consultation with people who
15 do the work of planning in our city or
16 experts in the field who have been
17 advised on best practices. Rather, the
18 public was shown a list of mostly western
19 cities, without commentary, to convince
20 us to go along. Sacramento; Coconino
21 County; Flagstaff, Arizona.

22 A wise former City executive
23 likes to say if you want to look like
24 you're doing something, reorganize.
25 That's why this flood of Charter changes

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2 looks like to the voters and maybe even,
3 more importantly, to Harrisburg -- I'm
4 sorry. This flood of Charter changes
5 looks like Bumpkin City to the voters and
6 maybe even, more important, to Harrisburg
7 where we get our school funding.

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Excuse
9 me. Look like what city did you say?

10 MS. BOLENDER: B-U-M-P-K-I-N.

11 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Bumpkin.

12 MS. BOLENDER: It rhymes with
13 pumpkin.

14 Here's the chart. We have a
15 Director. They want to know how we spend
16 our money. We have a Director. We have
17 a First Deputy. We have a Deputy, and
18 then someone who was embarrassed to write
19 at Planning Commission, we have an
20 Executive Director. So we have four
21 layers of highly paid officials in a
22 bureaucracy that is about to be embodied
23 in our Charter, in our Constitution.

24 This chart looks like a big money waster.

25 Then you have one position in

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2 the Mayor's cabinet singled out for
3 approval by the City Council, the
4 Director of Planning and Development.

5 This is a city that needs development,
6 that needs a better tax base, a city --
7 and I know you all disagree with me on
8 this, and this is not meant to be
9 insulting in any way, but a city whose
10 arcane custom of councilmanic prerogative
11 is already a red flag to developers, part
12 of a maze they must navigate to build in
13 the City. Add that to our high
14 construction costs and you might as well
15 invite that Governor from Florida to just
16 come to Philadelphia and say really
17 you're better off building elsewhere.

18 So DAG urges you to end what
19 appears to many of us to be a tussle for
20 power between the Mayor and City Council
21 and to drop this Charter change and
22 seriously consider the many changes that
23 need to be made in the way we make our
24 buildings safe and make development
25 happen.

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2 Thank you very much.

3 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:

4 Mr. Braff.

5 MR. BRAFF: Good morning. Jeff
6 Braff. I'm President of the Center City
7 Residents Association. We are one of the
8 19 civics that are part of the
9 Philadelphia Crosstown Coalition. You
10 heard Joe Schiavo's testimony. I'm not
11 going to add to that, except to ask --
12 there have been a lot of questions about
13 how much time will it take to get a
14 better bill. You heard ten months. You
15 said a year. I flip the question around.
16 What is the rush? What is the rush?

17 We got the amendments on
18 Saturday, late Saturday afternoon, very
19 substantial amendment to what we were
20 given, to what our civic association had
21 a chance to think about, and we get
22 substantial revisions just days before
23 this session today. What is the rush?

24 Thank you.

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:

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2 Mr. Grace.

3 MR. GRACE: Good morning,
4 Councilman Greenlee, members of the Law
5 and Government Committee. I first want
6 to thank the Chairman of the Committee
7 and each member of Council just for the
8 courtesy of allowing the Chamber of
9 Commerce to come today. We did not
10 originally request to be on the witness
11 list, but our Board leadership did ask me
12 to come over today. So I want to thank
13 the Chairman and I want to thank each
14 member of the Committee for allowing us
15 the courtesy to do that.

16 Thank you for the opportunity
17 to testify briefly this morning on the
18 prospect of creating a new cabinet-level
19 Department of Planning and Development.
20 My testimony will be brief.

21 The Chamber would first like to
22 commend Council President Clarke and his
23 staff for their many months of work to
24 propose the creation of a new streamlined
25 government structure and process to

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2 handle development here in Philadelphia.

3 We have been briefed on many of
4 these issues contained within the
5 proposed reorganization by Council's
6 technical staff, and we do appreciate the
7 degree to which Council has surveyed
8 planning and development agencies in
9 cities across the country to assess
10 latest best practices in terms of
11 governance of planning and development.

12 There is much to commend in the
13 proposed legislation, including the
14 overall intent to bring together related
15 agencies under one City government roof
16 to assist the development process in
17 Philadelphia to spur growth and job
18 creation. We often hear from our members
19 who are developers in the development
20 community about the often-Byzantine
21 process they are subjected to as they
22 seek various approvals from City agencies
23 to move forward with their projects.

24 We also note in the most recent
25 amendments over the weekend to the

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2 legislation that the bill now requires
3 the Mayor to establish a transition team
4 with public and private stakeholders to
5 prepare a transition plan to implement a
6 new Department of Planning and
7 Development, with this plan to be
8 submitted to Council for review and
9 approval by May 1st of next year. We
10 support the concept of this transition
11 team and we do respectfully offer the
12 assistance of the Chamber to serve in
13 that process.

14 Having said that, and having
15 listened carefully in recent days and
16 also today at this hearing to various
17 stakeholders in our development
18 community, including members of the
19 Chamber of Commerce, we do believe more
20 time is necessary, Mr. Chairman, to work
21 together and study all facets of this
22 significant reform and change to the
23 City's development and planning process.

24 The City works best, we
25 believe, when all interested parties have

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2 the time and the opportunity to be heard
3 on proposed legislation affecting their
4 business or their interest.

5 Therefore, we would
6 respectfully ask that this Council and
7 this Committee not move forward today to
8 approval of the legislation, which does
9 require a change to the Charter and a
10 ballot question for the voters'
11 consideration. We would very much look
12 forward for the opportunity to
13 participate in a working group of public
14 and private partners to improve this
15 legislation prior to its passage and
16 submission to the voters.

17 Thank you for the opportunity
18 to testify this morning and, again, thank
19 you for your courtesy this morning as
20 well.

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
22 you.

23 Ms. Bolender, I have to ask you
24 one question. I mean, everyone else here
25 has said that they think maybe at some

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2 point they might not like the timing, but
3 they'd like to see something happen. I
4 wasn't clear from what you said. You
5 seem to be against everything we're doing
6 today and said it's going to make us
7 Bumpkin City, whatever that means. But
8 just on this bill, we're talking about
9 this bill today right now, do you think
10 ever there should be a ballot question on
11 this or you just think this is something
12 we shouldn't be dealing with? I wasn't
13 real clear from what you said.

14 MS. BOLENDER: I'm sorry if
15 that was unclear. I think you should
16 definitely be dealing with it. It's the
17 world I work in, and anything that could
18 be done to make it work better based on
19 best practices elsewhere, based on the
20 deep experience of people here in
21 Philadelphia, anything that could be made
22 to make planning and development more
23 smooth and more equitable for the whole
24 city is a good idea. I don't see the
25 reason for a Charter change, and I do

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2 think the Charter changes are being used
3 indiscriminately.

4 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay. So
5 you're different from everybody else. I
6 think everybody else doesn't seem to have
7 a problem with the Charter change. They
8 have a problem with the timing, I
9 believe, was what we mostly heard. I
10 mean, you have a right to your opinion.
11 I just want to make clear that's a little
12 different from what we heard from even
13 the other people.

14 MS. BOLENDER: Many people are
15 afraid of offending the Council
16 President.

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: They're
18 what? I'm sorry.

19 MS. BOLENDER: Many people are
20 afraid of offending the Council
21 President. No disrespect is meant,
22 but --

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I know he
24 scares me, but --

25 MS. BOLENDER: He's a scary

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2 guy.

3 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Jeez, I
4 didn't know. I have to tell him how
5 intimidating he is.

6 They're scared of the Council
7 President. I don't have anything else to
8 add.

9 Councilman Goode.

10 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
11 Mr. Chairman.

12 Very briefly. Not taking issue
13 with what people think the timing should
14 be, I'm still curious about what do you
15 think the timing should be, knowing the
16 reality of the fact that there will be a
17 new Administration, they will have a
18 transition team, they will put their own
19 organizational structure in place and
20 probably take less time to do so than is
21 found in this bill.

22 So what exactly do you think
23 should happen and what exactly do you
24 think is going to happen?

25 MR. GRACE: Councilman, I'll

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2 take a shot at that. We would hope that
3 the transition group, the working group
4 could be assembled quickly and to do the
5 work before this proposal was submitted
6 to the voters. It would strike us that
7 there would be more participation, public
8 and private stakeholders in the process,
9 many of -- some of whom testified this
10 morning, before it went the next step,
11 which would be submitting it to the
12 voters.

13 COUNCILMAN GOODE: So would you
14 be okay with a November ballot question?

15 MR. GRACE: I think I heard the
16 Council President or someone -- forgive
17 me, I'm not sure who up there today --
18 floated that idea of November. I
19 think -- I don't want to certainly
20 disagree with someone like Mr. Schelter
21 that's been working in this community for
22 so long on how long this would take. I
23 think he said 12 months. Mr. Dunham said
24 ten months. I think if all rolled up our
25 sleeves and got to work, we'd all welcome

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2 that opportunity to do that.

3 COUNCILMAN GOODE: The question
4 is --

5 MR. GRACE: As soon as
6 possible, Councilman.

7 COUNCILMAN GOODE: The question
8 is, would you be okay with a November
9 ballot question?

10 MR. GRACE: Provided that all
11 the stakeholders felt that we could work
12 through the issues in time. That's our
13 chief concern this morning, that the
14 stakeholders be able to work on the
15 process before it gets to the public
16 referendum.

17 COUNCILMAN GOODE: So let's say
18 there was a November ballot question and
19 on that first Tuesday in November the
20 ballot question is approved and new Mayor
21 is elected. What do you think really
22 happens at that point? Do you think that
23 the new Mayor does not actually appoint a
24 transition team and create his or her own
25 organizational structure for that

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2 January?

3 MR. GRACE: I don't want to
4 presume, Councilman -- I do understand
5 your question -- on what a next Mayor
6 will do.

7 COUNCILMAN GOODE: That is Mr.
8 Schelter's testimony about how it works.

9 MR. GRACE: Pardon me?

10 COUNCILMAN GOODE: That is Mr.
11 Schelter's testimony about how it works.

12 MR. GRACE: And I respect
13 Mr. Schelter and I respect you.

14 COUNCILMAN GOODE: That the
15 first week in November after a new Mayor
16 is elected, who will take office the
17 first Monday in January 2016, that
18 Mayor-elect will have a transition team
19 that will take a short period of time,
20 decide how to organize their government.
21 Is that enough time?

22 MR. GRACE: For the next -- is
23 it enough time for the next Mayor to
24 abide by the results? Let me make sure I
25 understand your question. To abide by

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 the results if it went on the November
3 ballot?

4 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Is it enough
5 time for that Mayor to actually organize
6 their organizational structure?

7 MR. GRACE: I'm not sure,
8 Councilman. I'm not going to speculate
9 and tell you that I think I know the
10 answer to that. I served in a previous
11 Administration and I remember what that
12 whirlwind was like when everyone came
13 together to get ready to serve in a term.

14 COUNCILMAN GOODE: The only
15 reason I ask the question is because all
16 of the witnesses keep raising the issue
17 of time, but, in effect, what's going to
18 happen is if the ballot question is in
19 May, the ballot question is in November,
20 if there is no ballot question, the first
21 week in November a Mayor will be elected
22 and they will take a -- and for those
23 people who believe that the Mayor is
24 going to be elected in May, there's still
25 that period of time between May and

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2 January, which is a shorter period of
3 time or a comparable period of time to
4 what is being suggested by the
5 legislation. So I'm trying to figure out
6 what time period. If you talk about
7 nine, 12 months that you decide what a
8 ballot question is going to be, how
9 things are going to be structured, then
10 what you're actually saying is let's
11 leave it to a process that's not going to
12 be open and transparent, but let's let
13 the Mayor-elect do it over that period of
14 time between November and January. That
15 is, in effect, what you're saying in
16 reality.

17 MR. GRACE: I think what we
18 would most like to see -- and I know I've
19 already said this, and I do understand
20 what you're saying -- is that that public
21 and private stakeholder process happen --
22 in some ways it started at this hearing
23 and perhaps in December at the December
24 hearing a little bit, more this morning
25 than at the December hearing, but the

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2 public and private stakeholder process,
3 for that to happen before this got to
4 that next step of going onto the ballot
5 for voters. I know you're diligently,
6 respect that, trying to get at how much
7 time is needed. For us it's more that
8 process.

9 COUNCILMAN GOODE: So, lastly,
10 let's get beyond process then. Do you
11 actually believe the Home Rule Charter
12 should be amended?

13 MR. GRACE: On this issue?

14 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Yes.

15 MR. GRACE: We'd like to
16 participate in that stakeholder process
17 to help a collective group of public and
18 private individuals to help reach a
19 consensus.

20 COUNCILMAN GOODE: But do you
21 believe that the Home Rule Charter needs
22 to be amended to achieve that
23 public-private stakeholder process? In
24 other words, if that public-private
25 stakeholder process begins now, looking

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2 at what should happen in terms of the
3 next Administration, the question is, do
4 you believe that that requires a Charter
5 amendment and do you believe a Charter
6 amendment is necessary?

7 MR. GRACE: My colleague here,
8 who almost -- just whispered what I was
9 going to say. It sort of depends on what
10 comes out of the process, Councilman, and
11 that's, I think -- and I should let my
12 colleague -- I don't want to duck your
13 question. I think it depends on what
14 comes out of the process, Councilman.

15 COUNCILMAN GOODE: That's not
16 the only thing it depends upon, because
17 one process is private, the other process
18 is open and transparent.

19 MR. GRACE: I think this one
20 could be very, respectfully, sir, very
21 transparent if the Council and the
22 development community and the Mayor's
23 Office are making appointments of the
24 right individuals in the community, the
25 community -- the Association of CDCs

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2 testified here this morning. I think we
3 would all want to work together for it to
4 be as open and transparent as is
5 possible.

6 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
7 Mr. Chairman.

8 MR. BRAFF: Let me just echo
9 what Mr. Grace said. I'm not an expert
10 on the Charter at all, but it really does
11 depend on what the stakeholders, working
12 with Council, come up with as to whether
13 the changes -- and I think people would
14 recognize the changes could be good --
15 would merit and require a Charter change.
16 We don't know that.

17 MS. BOLENDER: And I think the
18 people of Philadelphia will have opinions
19 about putting development more thoroughly
20 under control of City Council.

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And if
22 there was a ballot question, they could
23 make that decision at the polls, correct?

24 MS. BOLENDER: Tell me what you
25 really think about that. Are these

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2 questions phrased to be approved or
3 disapproved, and how many people are
4 deeply into this issue?

5 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: So the
6 people shouldn't matter? The people
7 shouldn't have a voice in it?

8 MS. BOLENDER: I think you know
9 what I'm saying.

10 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: No, I
11 don't know what you're saying. I didn't
12 understand Bumpkin City, so I've lost you
13 for a while.

14 MS. BOLENDER: Flagstaff,
15 Arizona where I spent some of my misspent
16 youth is Bumpkin City, not Philadelphia.
17 Okay? I'm not sure what you're saying.
18 If you put something on the ballot, it is
19 likely to pass. I don't know. Somebody
20 here probably has those numbers. Not
21 everybody -- everybody is going to look
22 at it and say this will make development
23 better in Philadelphia, this will make
24 the City stronger, and they'll vote yes.

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

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2 There have been questions -- you're
3 right, most of the time it's approved,
4 but there have been questions that have
5 been disapproved over the years, right?
6 Okay. I just want to make sure my
7 history is right.

8 Councilwoman Tasco.

9 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Good
10 morning, everyone. I just want to be
11 clear. This probably is a new change,
12 and the question for me is, do you agree
13 with the proposal to create this office
14 to change? Do you agree with it, that
15 it's a good idea?

16 (Mr. Grace shaking head in the
17 affirmative.)

18 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: So the
19 issue is you don't have enough time to
20 discuss the idea?

21 (Mr. Grace shaking head in the
22 affirmative.)

23 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Do you
24 have -- and that's to all of you.

25 Do you have ideas for changing

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2 the content of the bill? Have you talked
3 about something you'd like to see in the
4 bill, something you'd like to take out of
5 the bill, and have you discussed that
6 with the Council President?

7 MR. GRACE: I'll take one brief
8 shot at that, Councilwoman. We think the
9 idea of reorganizing and streamlining, I
10 think was the word we used, the process
11 of the City approving development in the
12 City has merit. We do often hear from
13 our members that say it's very difficult
14 to go to this agency and that agency and
15 to go through a process to obtain
16 approval of their plans.

17 We would hope -- and because we
18 certainly have heard from members of ours
19 who are in the development community who
20 would like to participate in this kind of
21 working group or transition process, that
22 some of those members could bring very
23 specifics to bear on we like this element
24 of the plan, we think this element of the
25 plan could need some tweaking. And so

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2 that's the kind of -- and you heard from
3 some expertise clearly this morning. We
4 certainly think that's maybe some more
5 expertise that we could offer from some
6 of our members that are in the
7 development world every single day, that
8 we could bring specifics to the table,
9 Councilwoman, if we were able to
10 participate in that kind of a stakeholder
11 process. Just not prepared to do so this
12 morning because our members haven't yet
13 been in that process yet.

14 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Okay. And
15 let me also address the issue that
16 someone raised about the Mayor.
17 Candidates for Mayor pay attention to
18 what's being done in terms of Council and
19 government making changes. Right after
20 the May primary, pretty much he or she
21 who might be Mayor begins to look at what
22 is coming down the pike in the future
23 that's new and not familiar and won't
24 wait until after January to begin their
25 planning or discussion about the issue.

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2 Certainly now I'm sure all these
3 candidates will pay attention to what's
4 going on here with this bill. So it's
5 not something that takes a long time.

6 I think that what goes on the
7 ballot is not the framework of operation.
8 It just states do you support the change
9 in the bladdah-bladdah-bladdah. It's
10 maybe a five-line, but the plan is not on
11 the ballot. So you get the permission
12 from the voters, from the public that,
13 okay, they want a change and they want to
14 set up a new department. They may not
15 know all the details, and some of them
16 may not have that much interest in that,
17 but knowing that this is something that's
18 been approved by the Council, that it may
19 be a good thing, and the organization of
20 the structure will come later. So if you
21 keep putting it off, you might not ever
22 get to it. And if you think it's a good
23 idea, then we may have to begin with
24 asking the public do they support this
25 idea and then move forward to have the

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2 plan drafted, because they won't be
3 voting on the plan, if I'm correct.

4 Thank you.

5 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
6 you, Councilwoman.

7 Councilman Goode.

8 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
9 Mr. Chairman.

10 Very briefly, just to follow up
11 on Councilwoman Tasco's comments and try
12 to simplify this. From your perspective,
13 how does the average citizen weigh in on
14 this issue?

15 MR. GRACE: I would think the
16 average citizen, what they read through
17 the news media, online, through
18 newspapers. If they're a member of a
19 community group, they might learn a
20 little bit about this proposal.

21 COUNCILMAN GOODE: How do they
22 have a say?

23 MR. GRACE: How will they have
24 a say?

25 COUNCILMAN GOODE: From your

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.
2 perspective.

3 MR. GRACE: I think it can be
4 difficult to get the level of information
5 to the average voter for them to make
6 that informed decision.

7 COUNCILMAN GOODE: That's not
8 the question I'm asking. I'm saying from
9 your perspective, how does the average
10 citizen weigh in on this issue of how
11 development should be organized within
12 local government?

13 MR. GRACE: I'll take one more
14 shot at it. It just occurred to me that
15 if the public and private stakeholder
16 process is structured but broad enough --
17 and I'll single out again the
18 Philadelphia Association of CDCs.

19 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I said the
20 average citizen.

21 MR. GRACE: You knew where I
22 was going. They represent a lot of
23 average citizens in those CDCs.

24 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I'm not
25 talking about people who represent

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 average citizens, because we represent
3 average citizens. I'm talking about how
4 does the average citizen actually weigh
5 in?

6 MS. BOLENDER: I think
7 Councilman Goode has an excellent
8 question, and as someone who ran a
9 project during Zoning Code reform about
10 citizen input, it's not easy, and I think
11 that getting citizens organized to let
12 their Councilpersons knows what their
13 concerns are is time-consuming and takes
14 a lot of listening, and I think in
15 response to an earlier question, May is
16 yesterday and November is tomorrow as far
17 as that's concerned. But I think it's a
18 very, very good question. How does the
19 average citizen get together, to get
20 their stories together to let their
21 elected representatives know what works
22 in their communities, I think it takes
23 time.

24 MR. BRAFF: And if I could take
25 a shot as the President of a civic

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2 association. We have had -- we do a
3 weekly e-newsletter that goes out to --
4 we have a thousand household members.
5 Weekly e-newsletter. We've covered this
6 issue twice to let our members know
7 what's going on. We don't do it on every
8 issue because we can't. It's a volunteer
9 organization. We deem this issue to be
10 important enough to let people know about
11 it. It's a little bit wonky, but at
12 least let people know about it, and then
13 we encourage them to contact their
14 Councilperson.

15 In our group we're in both the
16 2nd Councilmanic District and the 5th,
17 notify their Councilpeople, and then our
18 Board will take positions on certain
19 issues, not on all, and, in fact, this
20 past Friday I was meeting with a number
21 of your staffers on this very bill. Of
22 course, it changed after Friday and we
23 heard rumors that there might be an
24 amendment. We didn't get the amendment
25 until Saturday.

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2 But so we -- it is difficult,
3 and when you talk about average, I don't
4 know is CCRA the average? I don't know.
5 And certainly this is kind of a wonky
6 issue, but we make an effort to let
7 people know and then encourage them to
8 contact their Councilpeople.

9 COUNCILMAN GOODE: A simple
10 point I'm trying to make is that
11 sometimes when people talk about public
12 and private stakeholders, they're not
13 talking about the involvement of average
14 citizens. They're talking about the
15 involvement of special interests and a
16 very connected few and a private process
17 as opposed to an open and transparent
18 process.

19 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: I have a
21 question offline I should have asked
22 Mr. Schiavo about the Crosstown
23 Coalition. What is your membership and
24 how broadly inclusive is your
25 organization of the City of Philadelphia?

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2 (Witness approached witness
3 table.)

4 MR. SCHIAVO: Thank you for the
5 question. Would you like me to read off
6 the names of the civic associations that
7 make up the 19 civics involved in the
8 Crosstown --

9 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Let me ask
10 you a question. Do you have any civic
11 associations involved from 19150, 19136,
12 19121, 19139? Because they're all part
13 of the City too. And what is the
14 outreach to those communities for your
15 organization in terms of representing
16 some of the communities? Have you
17 reached out to any of those communities?
18 That's the area I represent and I don't
19 know if you cover that area.

20 MR. SCHIAVO: Well, I regret
21 that given the zip codes I'm not going to
22 be able to respond, but I'd be glad to
23 read the names of the constituent
24 organizations, and perhaps we can draw a
25 conclusion together about whether we're

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2 broad-based as -- we describe ourselves
3 as 19 civics, but you can decide if we're
4 broad-based.

5 Woodland Terrace is one of our
6 associations, Saunders Park, West
7 Powelton, Washington Square West, South
8 of South Street, South Broad Street
9 Neighborhoods Association, Society Hill
10 Civic Association, Queen Village
11 Neighbors Association, Passyunk Square,
12 Packer Park Civic Association, Overbrook
13 Farms, Northern Liberties, Logan Square
14 Neighbors Association, Hawthorne
15 Empowerment Coalition, Fishtown Neighbors
16 Association, East Falls Community
17 Council, East Passyunk Civic Association,
18 Center City Residents Association,
19 Central Roxborough Civic Association,
20 Bella Vista Neighbors. And that is the
21 list of 19. I serve as Chair of their
22 Zoning and Land Use Committee and I live
23 in the Old City area, but Old City
24 doesn't currently have a civic
25 association. And I will mention the

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2 letter that we sent to members of this
3 Committee and Council was also signed by
4 the CDAG, the Central Delaware Advocacy
5 Group, and that adds civic associations
6 as far south as Pennsport and also as far
7 north as Olde Richmond, Port Richmond,
8 and New Kensington.

9 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Okay.

10 Thank you very much.

11 MR. SCHIAVO: You're welcome.

12 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Any other
13 questions from members of the Committee?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Is there
16 anyone else here to testify on this bill?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: If we
19 just wait for 30 seconds, because I want
20 to talk to the Council President, and
21 he's scary, so I have to take a minute to
22 talk to him.

23 (Brief pause.)

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I'm
25 sorry. Just to try to keep things

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2 moving, I know there's people in the room
3 for other bills and it gets crowded in
4 here. So what we're going to do is move
5 into a public meeting on this bill and
6 resolution and entertain amendments.

7 The Chair recognizes -- so
8 we're now in a public meeting on Bill No.
9 140721 and Resolution 140732.

10 Councilman Goode.

11 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
12 Mr. Chairman. I move that the amendments
13 to Bill No. 140721 as circulated to
14 members of the Committee be approved.

15 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Has there
16 been a second?

17 (Duly seconded.)

18 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: It's been
19 moved and seconded for the adoption of
20 the amendments.

21 All in favor?

22 (Aye.)

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Hearing

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2 none, the amendments are adopted.

3 Councilman Goode.

4 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
5 Mr. Chairman. I move that the amendments
6 to Resolution 140732 as circulated to
7 members of the Committee be adopted.

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Second?

9 (Duly seconded.)

10 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: It's been
11 moved and seconded.

12 All in favor?

13 (Aye.)

14 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Hearing
17 none, the resolutions for Bill No. 140732
18 are adopted -- I'm sorry; the amendments
19 for Resolution No. 140732 are adopted.

20 We will now go back into the
21 public hearing, and Bill No. 140721, as
22 amended, and Resolution 140732, as
23 amended, will be held to the call of the
24 Chair.

25 We will now go into our next

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2 bill and resolution.

3 Ms. Marconi, please read the
4 title of the bill and resolution.

5 THE CLERK: Bill No. 140747, an
6 ordinance providing for the submission to
7 the qualified electors of the City of
8 Philadelphia of the proposal set forth in
9 a Resolution approved by Council
10 proposing an amendment to The
11 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter to provide
12 for the preparation of language access
13 plans by all City agencies; and
14 authorizing the appropriate officers to
15 publish notice and to make arrangements
16 for the special election; all under
17 certain terms and conditions.

18 Resolution 140764, proposing an
19 amendment to The Philadelphia Home Rule
20 Charter to provide for the adoption of
21 language access plans by all City
22 agencies; and providing for the
23 submission of the amendment to the
24 electors of Philadelphia.

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

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2 you, Ms. Marconi.

3 Who is our first witnesses
4 on the -- let me just explain as people
5 are leaving what we just did on this bill
6 and resolution. We put in the amendments
7 of Council President Clarke and now we
8 have referred it back to Committee and
9 another hearing will be set based on
10 those amendments, that bill and
11 resolution as amended.

12 Ms. Marconi, who do we have for
13 this bill and resolution?

14 THE CLERK: Jennifer Rodriguez.

15 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Why don't
16 we call a couple.

17 THE CLERK: Beth Shapiro,
18 Natasha Kelemen.

19 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: If I
20 could ask everybody that's leaving to
21 please leave quietly.

22 (Witnesses approached witness
23 table.)

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Ms.
25 Rodriguez, if you'd like to start.

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2 Please identify yourself for the record
3 and proceed.

4 Again, if I could ask everybody
5 to leave quietly here. It's not the
6 easiest place to hear.

7 Thank you, Ms. Rodriguez.

8 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Good morning --
9 or -- yes.

10 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: It's
11 still morning, barely.

12 MS. RODRIGUEZ: -- Chairman
13 Greenlee, Councilwoman
14 Quinones-Sanchez --

15 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: A little
16 closer to the microphone.

17 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Can you hear me
18 well now?

19 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: There you
20 go.

21 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Good morning,
22 Chairman Greenlee, Councilwoman
23 Quinones-Sanchez, and members of the
24 Committee on Law and Government. My name
25 is Jennifer Rodriguez and I am the

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.
2 Executive Director of the Mayor's Office
3 of Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs.
4 I'm here to testify regarding Resolution
5 140764 and Bill No. 140747, a proposed
6 amendment to the Philadelphia Home Rule
7 Charter which would provide for the
8 adoption of language access plans by all
9 City agencies.

10 After many decades of
11 population decline and low immigrant
12 influx, over the past several decades our
13 city has experienced a surge in
14 foreign-born residents, leading
15 organizations like the Brookings
16 Institute to categorize Philadelphia as a
17 reemerging immigrant gateway.

18 According to the Delaware
19 Valley Regional Planning Commission's
20 data snapshot on immigration published in
21 2013, Philadelphia has the greatest
22 number of foreign-born individuals of any
23 municipality in the region. At 172,000,
24 we have nearly seven times more
25 foreign-born persons than Trenton, New

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2 Jersey, which has the second largest
3 immigrant population in the Delaware
4 Valley. The rate of growth has been
5 high. Foreign-born residents make up
6 approximately 11 percent of our city's
7 population, and over one-third of them,
8 38 percent, arrived in the United States
9 in the year 2000 or later.

10 This rapid change in our
11 demographic profile brings tremendous
12 economic and cultural vitality to the
13 City, yet it also presents significant
14 challenges, especially in our efforts to
15 provide access to services and in helping
16 immigrants to more fully participate in
17 our communities.

18 One of the most notable
19 challenges is that of language.
20 Immigrants in Philadelphia come from many
21 different countries, and many of them are
22 limited English proficient. In fact, 21
23 percent of residents in Philadelphia
24 speak a language other than English at
25 home, and 9.5 percent of them speak

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English less than very well. Of the 138,000 residents that speak Spanish, 51,000 do not speak English fluently, and of the 70,000 that speak Asian and Pacific Islander languages, 44,000 do not speak English fluently.

Providing consistent language assistance across all City agencies would ensure that all residents in Philadelphia have meaningful access to services and resources. It also supports the growth of our city by making it a more welcoming place for immigrants whose economic, social, and cultural contributions have a significant and positive impact in our city. This Charter change is also aligned with federal and local policies that have been implemented over the years.

The federal government has issued two mandates that guarantee meaningful access to federally funded programs to persons of limited English proficiency: Title VI of the Civil

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2 Rights Act of 1964 and there's also
3 Executive Order 13166 issued by President
4 Clinton in 2000 and reaffirmed by
5 President Obama in 2011, which requires
6 that recipients of federal funds provide
7 meaningful access to their limited
8 English proficient applicants and
9 beneficiaries. These mandates are
10 unfunded, but the U.S. Department of
11 Justice has issued guidance to assist
12 entities in fulfilling them. The
13 Department of Justice sets forth a
14 four-factor reasonable analysis that
15 balances, number one, the proportion of
16 limited English proficient persons
17 eligible to be served or likely to be
18 encountered; number two, the frequency
19 with which limited English proficient
20 individuals come in contact with the
21 programs or departments; and, number
22 three, the nature and importance of the
23 program activity or service being
24 provided by departments or programs to
25 people's lives; and, number four, the

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2 availability of resources and the cost to
3 the grantee recipient or agency.

4 In Philadelphia, City efforts
5 to implement a coordinated approach to
6 meet the needs of limited English
7 proficient individuals date back to 2001
8 when Mayor John Street issued Executive
9 Order 04-01, which required departments
10 to determine resources needed to provide
11 limited English proficient individuals
12 access to federally funded programs in
13 order to comply with mandates. Following
14 those efforts, the Managing Director's
15 Office issued Directive 62, which
16 outlined a formal language access policy
17 and plan to be followed by operating
18 departments.

19 More recently, Mayor Michael
20 Nutter has signed two Executive Orders
21 that underscore the importance of
22 ensuring meaningful access to services
23 for limited English proficient
24 individuals across the City. Executive
25 Order 08-09 mandates that all City

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2 services be available to individuals
3 regardless of their citizenship or legal
4 immigration status. Executive Order
5 09-08 mandates that all City departments,
6 agencies, and boards provide language
7 access services and develop plans to
8 guide implementation of these services.

9 To support the needs of the
10 various departments, our office contracts
11 with language access vendors that provide
12 telephonic and in-person interpretation
13 and document translation. In addition to
14 these basic tools, MOIMA, our office,
15 supports the language access needs of
16 departments through technical assistance
17 and training. For example, we assisted
18 the Department of Finance in the
19 development of outreach materials for
20 both the homestead and LOOP tax credit
21 programs. We trained the Philadelphia
22 Police Department promoted staff on
23 Directive 71, which outlines the protocol
24 to be followed during encounters with
25 limited English proficient individuals.

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2 Our vendors also recertified
3 approximately 200 Police Department staff
4 as members of a volunteer interpreter
5 core.

6 In the years since the City's
7 language access program was created, the
8 City has made significant progress in
9 delivering language access services to
10 the thousands of residents who are
11 limited English proficient. Despite many
12 accomplishments, we recognize that there
13 is more work to be done in order to
14 ensure that every resident can have ready
15 and meaningful access to services and
16 programs throughout all of City
17 government regardless of their ability to
18 speak English.

19 As we continue to experience a
20 high rate of immigrant settlement that we
21 have observed over the last decade, it
22 will become increasingly important for
23 the City to ensure that we have the
24 necessary infrastructure and resources to
25 welcome and integrate these newcomers

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2 into the City's fabric. We are committed
3 to work with City Council, the immigrant
4 community, and stakeholders to ensure
5 that limited English proficient
6 individuals have access to quality public
7 services regardless of the language they
8 speak.

9 Thank you.

10 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

11 Thank you. And if I could just say, if
12 there's any written testimony, it will be
13 all made part of the record, and just to
14 move things along, if we could summarize,
15 I'd appreciate it.

16 Whoever -- I'm drowning in
17 paper here. Ms. Shapiro.

18 MS. SHAPIRO: My name is Beth
19 Shapiro. I'm a Senior Staff Attorney
20 with Community Legal Services in
21 Philadelphia, and we are a non-profit law
22 office that provides free legal services
23 to over 12,000 low-income Philadelphians
24 every year. We regularly represent
25 clients who are not proficient in

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 English, and we work closely with
3 organizations that serve immigrant and
4 refugee communities. In 2014, we
5 represented low-income clients who
6 collectively speak at least 26 languages.

7 For over 16 years, we've
8 identified language barriers as a
9 critical factor in some clients' legal
10 services problems, and we've worked with
11 our limited English proficient clients to
12 overcome these barriers as they navigate
13 City and City-funded programs and
14 services.

15 The City of Philadelphia needs
16 to communicate accurately to carry out
17 daily government functions, obtain
18 information, process information, and
19 educate residents. Public trust and
20 government trustworthiness depend upon
21 the accuracy of government
22 communications. Individuals should
23 expect their government to be accessible,
24 informative, and effective.

25 For the City to operate

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.
2 effectively in this way, City agencies
3 must be available and accessible to all
4 persons. The right to receive public
5 information and public services should
6 not rest solely on how well at any given
7 moment they can read, speak or understand
8 English. Whether investigating and
9 prosecuting a crime, collecting taxes or
10 registering a new business, City
11 government must be able to communicate
12 appropriately and effectively.

13 Jennifer has already provided
14 some information about the legal
15 obligations that the City is under, so I
16 will skip that portion of my testimony.

17 We applaud the City of
18 Philadelphia for the strides made to
19 improve access to City services for
20 immigrant and limited English proficient
21 persons, such as establishing citywide
22 contracts for in-person interpretation,
23 telephonic interpretation, written
24 translation services, and we urge City
25 Council and all City offices,

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 departments, boards, and commissions to
3 take advantage of these resources and to
4 focus more attention on individual steps
5 they can take to ensure that they are
6 providing appropriate, competent, and
7 timely language services when
8 communicating with limited English
9 proficient persons.

10 CLS supports this resolution to
11 amend the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter
12 to require that all City government
13 offices, departments, boards, and
14 commissions prepare and implement City
15 language access plans. Practical
16 language access plans benefit City
17 government and residents by emphasizing
18 City employees' legal obligation to
19 communicate effectively and by providing
20 clear instructions on how to use the
21 City's language resources routinely in
22 City business. And I'd like to just
23 quickly highlight a few key components of
24 language access plans to illustrate how
25 they make a difference in ensuring access

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.
2 to City government.

3 First, language access plans
4 inform the public how City offices and
5 agencies will provide language assistance
6 to conduct City business. This can take
7 many forms, including signs at service
8 counters, website postings, translated
9 statements on agencies' billing notices
10 and written materials, and multi-lingual
11 prompts on phone systems.

12 Second, language access plans
13 formalize the protocol for using
14 competent language services. Without a
15 clear protocol, employees don't know what
16 to do when a person with limited English
17 skills appears before them and they will
18 spend wasted time searching for help or,
19 worse, just turn the person away. This
20 happens to our clients. In contrast, a
21 language access plan sets forth exactly
22 how to obtain the needed language
23 assistance within that agency and when to
24 use each of the language resources that
25 may be available.

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2 Third, language access plans
3 establish training, expectations, and
4 requirements. City staff who have
5 regular contact with the public and their
6 managers, for example, must receive
7 hands-on training on using the City's
8 interpretation and translation resources.
9 Training that demonstrates the simple
10 process of just dialing and using a
11 telephone interpreter service makes a
12 huge difference in those employees'
13 willingness to use these resources and,
14 therefore, in the ability of City
15 employees to do their job effectively.

16 Language access training should
17 also be a component of every new
18 employee's orientation.

19 These and other important
20 components of language access plans can
21 be found on the Language Access Checklist
22 that I attached to my written testimony
23 submitted to you. We strongly support
24 this resolution and ask you to vote in
25 favor of this Charter amendment.

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 Thank you.

3 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
4 you.

5 Ms. Kelemen. And, again, we
6 have your written testimony.

7 MS. KELEMEN: Natasha Kelemen,
8 Executive Director of the Pennsylvania
9 Immigration and Citizenship Coalition.
10 We are a coalition of 50 member
11 organizations, including grassroots
12 community groups, advocacy organizations,
13 service providers, faith communities.

14 PICC expresses its full support
15 of the proposed amendment to the Home
16 Rule Charter to ensure equal access to
17 City services in City government for
18 limited English proficient residents of
19 Philadelphia.

20 For more than 15 years, PICC
21 has worked through local committees to
22 advocate for improved access to services
23 for limited English proficient residents.
24 While progress has been made within a
25 number of City departments, the City of

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 Philadelphia is still far from having
3 well-established and institutionalized
4 best practices across all City agencies.
5 PICC member and partner organizations
6 continue to regularly report situations
7 in which the City's failure to comply
8 with language access requirements results
9 in adverse, often serious, outcomes for
10 Philadelphia residents.

11 Incorporating language access
12 requirements into the Philadelphia Home
13 Rule Charter will help to
14 institutionalize best practices within
15 language access across City agencies and
16 across Administrations. While we support
17 the assignment of a designated entity to
18 monitor and assist City agencies in
19 developing, implementing, and evaluating
20 their language access plans, we believe
21 that City government will be most
22 effective in addressing language access
23 when each City agency develops an
24 internal culture, knowledge base, and
25 comfort level with employing best

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2 practices on a daily basis. Each City
3 agency must build internal capacity to
4 best address language access needs, and
5 it is the role of the designated citywide
6 entity to move this process forward.

7 Our work with various City
8 departments on language access has shown
9 that systems for evaluating language
10 access and for tracking utilization of
11 services are very lacking. The City's
12 designated entity for language access
13 should ensure that all City agencies are
14 building capacity to monitor and evaluate
15 their progress in communicating with LEP
16 residents, and reports should be made
17 available to the public on a regular
18 basis. And we believe that once a year
19 would not be enough, that this should be
20 done on a quarterly basis.

21 At last year's City Council
22 hearing on ICE holds in which more than
23 250 community members participated, this
24 demonstrated that language access is not
25 just about access to City services. It

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 is about ensuring that City government
3 provides limited English proficient
4 residents with the opportunity to engage
5 in the civic dialogue and policymaking
6 process and communicate directly with
7 elected officials about the issues they
8 care the most about.

9 Thank you.

10 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
11 you.

12 Any questions?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Seeing
15 none, thank you all very much.

16 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Let me ask
17 a question. I'm sorry. We would have to
18 create a department to oversee the
19 implementation of this or on whose
20 jurisdiction?

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:
22 Councilwoman Sanchez, why don't you
23 address that.

24 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
25 you, Mr. Chair.

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2 What we're putting forward to
3 the electorate is aligned with the
4 federal and state government. We are not
5 creating a new entity. We're asking the
6 Managing Director, who has currently
7 taken the lead in our language access
8 plans as implemented now, continue to do
9 so.

10 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: To
11 continue to do so?

12 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: The
13 Managing Director's Office.

14 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Okay. So
15 it becomes institutionalized with the
16 amendment to the Charter and not up to
17 the discretion of any leadership?

18 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Yes.

19 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Okay.
20 Thank you.

21 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: If I
22 could add one thing more, Mr. Chair. I
23 want to publicly thank Councilman Goode,
24 who has taught me in my time in Council
25 the importance of really giving and being

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.
2 an inclusive government, and we believe
3 that along with the work that this
4 Administration has done and the Office of
5 Multicultural Affairs and this amendment,
6 to institutionalize what the federal and
7 state government have already outlined as
8 language access plans are extremely
9 important, and I want to ask the
10 Committee members to support that.

11 In the last two years, the City
12 departments have begun to report out
13 hiring, what languages are spoken by
14 department, and we think what we want to
15 do -- what this will allow us to do is
16 kind of create more consistent planning
17 and reporting out by the departments in a
18 process that they've already begun
19 through the implementation of the Mayor's
20 Executive Order.

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Is there
22 any particular budget allocation for this
23 or is this part of the Managing
24 Director's budget?

25 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Yeah.

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 Currently there is -- the language line

3 is -- Jennifer Rodriguez can speak in

4 more detail, if you wanted -- is covered

5 and there is some attributions back to

6 certain departments around utilization.

7 We do expect that in the full

8 implementation of this, there may be some

9 budget requests that are made by

10 departments, but I think if we agree with

11 the spirit of where we're trying to go,

12 they will be minor and things that we can

13 absorb and assume.

14 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

15 Thank you.

16 Did you want to add something,

17 Ms. Rodriguez?

18 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Currently the

19 Mayor's Office --

20 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: A little

21 closer.

22 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Currently the

23 Mayor's Office has an allocation that we

24 manage on behalf of the City departments.

25 City departments do have high volume of

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 language access services utilization.

3 They do contribute to that budget.

4 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
5 you.

6 Any other questions?

7 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Yes.

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:
9 Councilman Neilson.

10 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Thank you,
11 Councilwoman, for bringing this to our
12 attention. You mentioned about state and
13 federal law. Does the state and federal
14 law mandate to do this and we're not
15 complying fully? Am I getting that out?

16 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: No.
17 They're I think what Ms. Rodriguez
18 referred to as unfunded mandates. This
19 is a federal requirement that any
20 institution that receives federal dollars
21 have language access, and the state law
22 follows that. So it's required, but
23 there's really no additional allocation.
24 It assumes that the government will, in
25 the normal operations of its government,

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 provide it.

3 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Thank you.

4 And, Ms. Rodriguez, this allows
5 us to tap into some additional federal
6 and state dollars by making certain that
7 we -- I know there's restrictions on some
8 of the federal dollars we receive and
9 some of the state dollars we receive and
10 what we can spend it for. So through the
11 budgetary process, this will allow us to
12 tap into more of those resources?

13 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Actually,
14 there's not necessarily any new resources
15 for language access. As Councilwoman
16 Quinones stated, it is an unfunded
17 mandate and we are creatively asked to
18 fulfill it. I think as Councilwoman
19 Quinones mentioned, there are staff
20 members within departments that speak a
21 number of languages. The vendors that we
22 have contracted supplement and really
23 provide the tools with in-person
24 interpretation or telephonic
25 interpretation and document translation.

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2 But new funding for this, no.

3 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Thank you.

4 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

5 you, Councilman.

6 Councilman Henon.

7 COUNCILMAN HENON: Go ahead.

8 MS. SHAPIRO: May I add

9 something? Two things in response to

10 your questions. One is that the way that

11 agencies in any government office at any

12 level and non-profit agencies are doing

13 this is by considering it a part of their

14 business. So just like budgeting a

15 portion of their monies to the lights and

16 that sort of thing, they're budgeting it

17 to language access services.

18 On the legal front, I also want

19 to -- this is a portion of the testimony

20 that I did not say orally. I want to

21 note that Pennsylvania has a law that

22 requires the appointment of certified or

23 otherwise qualified interpreters for

24 administrative due process hearings. It

25 applies at the state and the local level.

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2 So any City hearings where people are
3 coming to file appeals, say, for their
4 taxes or anything like that, the state
5 does require the appointment of
6 interpreters. So it's another legal
7 obligation the City has.

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
9 you.

10 Councilman Henon, you had a
11 question.

12 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,
13 Mr. Chairman.

14 Good afternoon, everybody.
15 Ms. Rodriguez, just for continuity,
16 because I think it should be a priority
17 for language access to the citizens of
18 Philadelphia. Has there been an effort
19 to coordinate on a priority scale with
20 OIT within the departments, the multi
21 departments here in the City of
22 Philadelphia?

23 MS. RODRIGUEZ: I'm sorry.
24 Could you repeat yourself.

25 COUNCILMAN HENON: Are you

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.
2 coordinating with OIT to make sure that
3 this is a priority, language access, with
4 the multi departments so we could
5 properly -- we're able to -- as we're
6 building up our systems and
7 infrastructure across City government,
8 we're able to have that and provide that
9 access to the general public?

10 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Sure. So I
11 have met with the Office of Information
12 Technology as they are reworking or
13 restructuring the website and we have
14 talked about the need for translation in
15 the website. A lot of the work that we
16 do, however, is not necessarily
17 technical, technology driven, although
18 the City of Philadelphia 3-1-1 smart
19 phone application is available in 17
20 languages, which I believe to date we
21 might be on the forefront of that on a
22 national basis. A lot of the work that
23 we do is really one on one with the
24 different departments, helping them
25 really understand how to do outreach and

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 how to communicate with limited
3 proficient individuals, and it's really
4 coordinating the services. So a
5 department will come to our office and
6 will say, We need access to telephonic
7 interpretation or to in-person
8 interpreters, and we will coordinate to
9 make sure that they're set up with an
10 account so that they can access the
11 services independent of our office to
12 facilitate their day-to-day activities.

13 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
14 you.

15 Any other questions?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Seeing
18 none, thank you all very much.

19 Ms. Marconi, I think we just
20 have one more on our list here.

21 THE CLERK: Sonja Kerr.

22 (Witness approached witness
23 table.)

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: You don't
25 look like Sonja Kerr, but I guess you're

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 representing her.

3 Is there anyone else here other
4 than this gentleman that wishes to
5 testify?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Good.

8 Then we'll move on, because we still have
9 two more bills and resolutions with a lot
10 of witnesses. So we want to try to move
11 as quickly as possible.

12 Sir, please identify yourself
13 for the record and proceed.

14 MR. FORTENBERRY: My name is
15 Jason Fortenberry.

16 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: A little
17 closer to the microphone, please.

18 MR. FORTENBERRY: My name is
19 Jason Fortenberry.

20 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Everybody
21 has got to speak close to the microphone.

22 MR. FORTENBERRY: My name is
23 Jason Fortenberry, Staff Attorney at the
24 Public Interest Law Center of
25 Philadelphia. I'm here on behalf of

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 Sonja Kerr, who is under the weather
3 today and sends her regards.

4 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: You get
5 paid sick leave there, don't you?

6 MR. FORTENBERRY: Yes, we do.

7 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: There you
8 go.

9 MR. FORTENBERRY: But she's in
10 the office.

11 Briefly, I believe our comments
12 have been presented to Councilwoman
13 Quinones. I thank you for the
14 opportunity to speak in support of
15 Resolution 140747, an amendment to the
16 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter requiring
17 the preparation of language access plans
18 by all City agencies. As I said, my name
19 is Jason Fortenberry. I work at the
20 Public Interest Law Center of
21 Philadelphia. Our non-profit law firm
22 serves many individuals who need access
23 to City services and who do not speak
24 English as their first language.

25 The City of Philadelphia, as

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.
2 mentioned before, is home to an
3 increasing number of persons who need
4 language access. At present, about 21
5 percent of our fellow Philadelphians need
6 language access. I applaud the work the
7 City has done to this date to assist with
8 language access, but there needs to be
9 more done.

10 For example, the City of
11 Philadelphia's website, our face to the
12 world in this modern technology that we
13 live in, is not up to par. The website
14 does not convert or translate the entire
15 website into a particular language. If
16 you click on language access or one of
17 the listed languages, there are varying
18 results. The Spanish button gives you a
19 page first in English to get your "I
20 speak Spanish" card and then you get to
21 Spanish. The Korean page does not exist
22 at all. The Chinese page is empty too.
23 We can do better.

24 I've included some samples of
25 the websites that translate the entire

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 website into whatever language is
3 requested that have been provided to
4 Councilwoman Quinones.

5 Another concern from the Public
6 Interest Law Center is training.
7 Currently no training for City workers is
8 required. Like any other employees of
9 any business, people are busy, training
10 is difficult to fit in, but mandatory
11 training as part of a language access
12 plan would help ensure that employees
13 know what to do and how to do it and when
14 to do it when they encounter a citizen
15 who speaks another language other than
16 English.

17 In conclusion, the City of
18 Philadelphia should adopt Resolution
19 140747 and require creation of language
20 access plans by all City agencies.

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
22 you.

23 Any questions?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Seeing

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 none, is there anyone else here to
3 testify on this bill or resolution?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Seeing
6 none, before I go to the next one,
7 Councilwoman, the amendments are both for
8 the bill and resolution or just...

9 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: For the
10 resolution, and it's more clarity
11 language.

12 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: So just
13 the resolution is going to be amended.
14 We will do that at the public meeting.
15 Thank you.

16 Ms. Marconi, will you please
17 read the title of the next bill and
18 resolution, please.

19 THE CLERK: Bill No. 150005, an
20 ordinance providing for the submission to
21 the qualified electors of the City of
22 Philadelphia of an amendment to The
23 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter
24 establishing and defining the
25 responsibilities of an independent

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 Commission on Universal Pre-Kindergarten;
3 fixing the date of a special election for
4 such purpose; prescribing the form of
5 ballot question to be voted on; and
6 authorizing the appropriate officers to
7 publish notice and to make arrangements
8 for the special election.

9 Resolution 150017, resolution
10 proposing an amendment to the
11 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter to provide
12 for the creation, appointment, powers and
13 duties of a Commission on Universal
14 Pre-Kindergarten and providing for the
15 submission of the amendment to the
16 electors of Philadelphia.

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
18 you. If you could call the first couple
19 witnesses. I'm going to recognize --
20 Councilwoman, did you want to speak too?

21 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Yes.

22 THE CLERK: Eva Gladstein, Kate
23 Woods, Kevin Dow.

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Why don't
25 you folks approach while Councilwoman

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 Blackwell -- why don't you speak up here.

3 I want to recognize

4 Councilwoman Blackwell, the sponsor of

5 this bill and resolution. But if the

6 witnesses could come to the table in the

7 meantime.

8 Councilwoman.

9 (Witnesses approached witness

10 table.)

11 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank

12 you very much. Good afternoon, everyone.

13 For all of those on the Committee, I put

14 a copy of my opening statement in your

15 folder. And I want to thank Eva

16 Gladstein and, oh, it's so nice to see

17 Kevin Dow. You should come back. And I

18 want to thank you all for all your work

19 on this. I'd love to say that I did all

20 the work and Stephanie Marsh, but I

21 didn't. Thank you all for all the work

22 you've done on this, because it's such an

23 important issue.

24 Reading is an act of pleasure

25 and a source of relaxation. The

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 preparation for reading occurs years
3 before a child enters preschool, for the
4 child is primed for reading while
5 listening and getting acquainted within
6 its mother's womb. It is for this reason
7 that everyone in any formal or non-formal
8 family situation has an active role to
9 play in the introduction of reading to
10 anyone who does not possess the skill or
11 who is deficient in the skill. A child
12 acquires the appetite for reading in
13 preschool.

14 Transitioning from a non-reader
15 to a reader is a thrilling experience at
16 any age. Worlds open up and new vistas
17 arise. There is an attraction and even
18 an addiction to reading, evidenced by the
19 popularity of reading groups and reading
20 clubs throughout the world. So we are
21 all here today, all of us, as advocates
22 for universal preschool and kindergarten,
23 the three or four years before a child
24 enters grade school.

25 We want to make it possible for

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 every child to enjoy the preschool
3 experience. We also want to ensure that
4 the preschool adventure invites every
5 child to explore and learn in a
6 wholesome, secure, stimulating, and
7 educationally sound environment.

8 Preschool should exist in the public
9 realm, free from fees and registration
10 charges.

11 I know I'm going fast, but we
12 have so much to do.

13 All-day preschool is a
14 stabilizing and beneficial resource in
15 many areas where parents or guardians
16 work long hours or fluctuating shifts and
17 have traditionally fewer educational
18 options for their young children.

19 There should also be a
20 provision for an innovative and
21 structural curriculum. The schools
22 should be staffed by administrators,
23 teachers, assistants, and supplementary
24 personnel trained in early childhood
25 education.

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 Preschool offers a solid
3 foundation for a child's future. It
4 builds confidence and encourages social
5 interaction. Many studies have
6 positioned to say that children who
7 attend preschool are more likely to
8 graduate from high school on time and be
9 ready for careers and college. These are
10 the expressed goals of our public
11 education system.

12 And so I invite you today to
13 register your approbation and express
14 your feelings about the possibility,
15 feasibility, and desirability of offering
16 universal preschool to our present and
17 future generations.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
21 you, Councilwoman.

22 Ms. Gladstein, if you could
23 start. And, again, I'll renew my
24 request. If you have written testimony,
25 if you could just summarize your

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 statements, because we have many, many
3 people who want to speak on both this and
4 the subsequent bill and resolution.

5 So, Ms. Gladstein, please
6 start.

7 MS. GLADSTEIN: Thank you.

8 Good -- it's not morning anymore. Good
9 afternoon, Chairman Greenlee and members
10 of the Committee. My name is Eva
11 Gladstein. I'm Executive Director of the
12 Mayor's Office of Community Empowerment
13 and Opportunity. We want to thank
14 Councilwoman Blackwell for introducing
15 this measure and to the Committee for
16 providing us the opportunity to testify.
17 If the measure is approved, it would
18 create an independent commission that
19 would recommend an implementation and
20 funding plan for achieving universal,
21 high-quality pre-kindergarten for three-
22 and four-year-olds without taking away
23 funds from K through 12 education, which
24 I know has been an important focus of
25 City Council.

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2 This measure is consistent with
3 Shared Prosperity Philadelphia, our
4 citywide plan to fight poverty. One of
5 the five strategies in that plan is to
6 ensure that children enter school ready
7 to learn, and we see this as an
8 appropriate next step for moving that
9 plan forward.

10 There's a large gap between the
11 need and current resources. Philadelphia
12 is home to 43,500 three- and
13 four-year-olds. About 34,000 of those
14 live in households whose income is low or
15 moderate, below 300 percent of the
16 poverty level, making them eligible for
17 publicly funded pre-kindergarten, but
18 just under 11,000 actually have access to
19 it. There's a gap of about 20,000 three-
20 and four-year-olds.

21 As you know, we have been
22 convening stakeholders on this issue
23 since 2013, and I think there's been some
24 confusion about all of the activity,
25 because there's so many people pushing in

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2 this direction. So I'm not going to go
3 into what some of the other efforts have
4 been, but today you'll see
5 representatives of Pre-K for PA, of READ
6 by 4, and of the Economy League talking
7 about some of the other work that is
8 supportive of this effort, which is a
9 common thread through many initiatives
10 right now in terms of bolstering the
11 ability of young children to flourish.

12 I did want to address the fact
13 that this is framed as a ballot measure
14 to amend the Charter since there have
15 been questions, I guess, for all of the
16 bills that are coming up before the
17 Committee today. We're supportive of
18 this being a ballot measure, because what
19 we want to make sure that we're
20 institutionalizing the desire to move
21 forward on universal pre-kindergarten,
22 but we also understand that there are
23 many decisions to make and it's not
24 something that can be done in a short
25 period of time.

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2 We've looked at a number of
3 other cities and what they have done.
4 There are questions about whether or not
5 you try to cover 100 percent of the
6 eligible children, whether or not you're
7 providing services within the school or
8 in the community, and there are certainly
9 issues about how to fund an effort like
10 this, with what we hope would be a
11 mixture of federal, state, as well as
12 local resources or even private
13 resources.

14 Therefore, we think it's very
15 important to create a task force that can
16 work on this. And the way the measure is
17 structured right now, the report would go
18 to the next Mayor, not this Mayor. So
19 this is a way of institutionalizing this
20 effort and sustaining it throughout
21 Administrations.

22 It also calls for the fact that
23 if Council does not accept the first
24 recommendation, there's a process to come
25 up to continue to work to a

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.
2 recommendation that can be accepted by
3 Council and the Mayor in the future.

4 So that's -- I'm paraphrasing
5 and shortening my testimony. I know
6 you'd like that.

7 We encourage the Committee to
8 support the measure, which will provide
9 Philadelphia residents with the
10 opportunity to determine on the May
11 ballot whether or not this is an
12 important priority for the City.

13 And with that, I'll thank you
14 and be available for questions.

15 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: We'll
16 hear from everyone and then we'll take
17 whatever questions.

18 Ms. Woods, former committee
19 woman in the 15th Ward, please.

20 MS. WOODS: Good ward. Thank
21 you for --

22 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Little
23 closer to the mike.

24 MS. WOODS: Thanks for the
25 opportunity to be here today and to share

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 some of our feelings on this important
3 ballot measure. My name is Kate Woods.

4 I'm the Senior Vice President and Chief
5 Compliance Officer for Enclara Pharmacia.
6 I'm also a member of the Governor's Early
7 Learning Investment Commission and have
8 been so since 2008.

9 The ELIC is a group of 75
10 business leaders from across the state,
11 15 from the Greater Philadelphia region,
12 who believe it is important we prepare
13 children with the knowledge and skills
14 required to compete in a growing global
15 economy. Since 90 percent of the human
16 brain is developed by age five, our
17 members realize that we miss a critical
18 window by waiting to educate children
19 until they reach kindergarten.

20 If you're interested in seeing
21 who is on the ELIC, I have included a
22 roster with my written testimony. It's
23 an amazing group of people, and I've come
24 today to express our collective support
25 for Councilwoman Blackwell's legislation

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2 to amend the City Charter to create a
3 Commission on Universal Pre-Kindergarten.

4 You really don't need me or any
5 other business person to tell you that
6 the United States is facing changing
7 workforce demands and that tomorrow's
8 workforce is entering school today. But
9 what's interesting for us in Philadelphia
10 is that 65 percent of our young people
11 will stay right here in this region and
12 they'll become part of our local
13 workforce in less than 20 years. For the
14 next two decades, they'll be learning how
15 to think and act in the global
16 marketplace.

17 By 2018, we'll also have a 25
18 million worker gap due to the impending
19 retirement of a mass amount of baby
20 boomers.

21 In Philadelphia, we have some
22 particular vulnerabilities to this worker
23 gap and the challenge that we face,
24 because today's workforce has a need for
25 employees well trained in science,

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technology, engineering, and math, what we all commonly refer to at this point as STEM skills. But just as important as STEM skills are basic skills, and you learn those basic skills in early learning environments. Those skills allow adults to work on teams, display leadership, think critically, and to adapt to changing situations. They're known as executive function skills, and all of our employees need them, not just our CEOs. They are valued on college applications more highly than any other college major in a survey of over 300 employers.

Tests measuring the different forms of executive function skills indicate that they begin to develop shortly after birth. So waiting until five to instill them in children is too late. Our children will fall behind and our region will fall behind.

Research also confirms that the brain is particularly receptive to

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2 learning math and logic between the ages
3 of one and four. As business leaders, we
4 realize that it is costly to us as a
5 society to wait to invest in our
6 citizens. We know that school districts
7 can save substantial amounts of money
8 when children start school ready to learn
9 since schools don't need to invest as
10 much in costly remediation and grade
11 repetition.

12 Children who attend quality
13 early learning programs are up to 48
14 percent less likely to be placed in
15 special education and 51 percent less
16 likely to be held back in school. That
17 results in grave amounts of savings to
18 our taxpayers. They are also far more
19 likely to graduate from high school.

20 Without quality early childhood
21 education not only will many kids
22 struggle in school and fail to graduate,
23 but they will likely make bad life
24 decisions that lead to crime, teen
25 pregnancy, and dependence on government

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2 programs.

3 Finally, let me take a moment
4 to address what I think is a hugely
5 underrated immediate need, and that's the
6 need of our working parents and citizens.
7 Access to quality early learning
8 environments work for them right now, not
9 20 years from now. Parents who are
10 confident their children are being cared
11 for and educated in high-quality learning
12 environments are more likely to be
13 engaged employees and they're more likely
14 to be productive citizens.

15 It is for these reasons and
16 many more that the ELIC asks you to
17 support Councilwoman Blackwell's
18 legislation, as her legislation would
19 simply allow for further study on how to
20 increase quality and access for
21 high-quality programs in Philadelphia.
22 We cannot think of any reason not to
23 support this.

24 Thank you very much for
25 listening to me today. It's my hope that

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2 the passage of this legislation will be
3 the next step in making Philadelphia a
4 stronger, more vibrant community.

5 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
6 you.

7 Mr. Dow.

8 MS. GLADSTEIN: I just wanted
9 to add that we also passed up testimony
10 from District Attorney Seth Williams, who
11 was scheduled --

12 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Right.
13 That will be made part of the record,
14 yes.

15 MS. GLADSTEIN: Thank you.

16 MR. DOW: Chairman Greenlee,
17 the members of the Council, and the
18 Committee on Law and Government, thank
19 you for allowing me to be here today.
20 Councilwoman Blackwell, thank you for
21 sponsoring this legislation and the warm
22 welcome. I really appreciate it.

23 My name is Kevin Dow. I am the
24 Senior Vice President of Impact and
25 Innovation at the United Way of Greater

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2 Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey.

3 Today, first and foremost, I am here as a
4 parent of two young children ages three
5 and four and, secondly, on behalf of the
6 United Way and all of our stakeholders to
7 call for your support of quality early
8 education in Philadelphia.

9 United Way believes that
10 children deserve access to quality early
11 education. As most of you know, research
12 demonstrates that an investment in early
13 education provides measurable gains for
14 children and families throughout their
15 lives. An investment in early education
16 also means cost savings as a result of
17 the reduction in spending for special
18 education for our children who fall
19 behind, social services for those who
20 fall out of line, and unfortunately the
21 heavy costs of incarceration for those
22 adults who find themselves on the wrong
23 side of the line. High-quality early
24 childhood development and learning
25 interventions have proven to buffer the

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2 negative effects of poverty and provide
3 lifelong benefits, particularly for the
4 poorest and most vulnerable.

5 Investing in early childhood
6 education can pay off tremendously. For
7 every dollar invested in high-quality
8 early education, returns can be anywhere
9 from \$7 to \$17, just depending on when
10 you enter into that investment. In
11 addition, for every \$1 invested in early
12 education, a buck 79, 179 percent return
13 on investment, is generated in economic
14 local activity -- local economic
15 activity. Research shows that children
16 enrolled in high-quality early childhood
17 programs are more likely to graduate from
18 high school on time, get and then hold a
19 job, earn a higher salary, and is less
20 likely to commit a crime than their peers
21 who do not participate.

22 United Way is committed to
23 supporting quality early learning and
24 ensuring children enter kindergarten
25 ready to learn. For nearly 18 years,

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2 starting in 1997 with Child Care Matters,
3 a collaborative among stakeholders that
4 was successful at improving both the
5 systems child care providers operated in
6 but also the improvement of quality of
7 those very same agencies and centers.

8 We followed that up in 2002
9 with our Early to Learn, a comprehensive
10 effort to improve early education
11 quality, and now with our Success By 6
12 program launched in 2007, United Way has
13 worked to enhance quality care in
14 Philadelphia and the region. Since its
15 inception, Success By 6 has provided
16 resources to support hundreds of child
17 care centers throughout Greater
18 Philadelphia to build and sustain quality
19 options for children who need and deserve
20 it most. This translates to over 21,000
21 children directly impacted by our
22 efforts. In Philadelphia, Success By 6
23 has assisted 69 Keystone STAR 3 and 4
24 centers that serve more than 4,300
25 children annually, on an annual basis.

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2 Additionally, the United Way
3 has also served as a catalyst for the
4 community by using our unique position to
5 advocate for policy change at all levels
6 of our government. I hope you have heard
7 of the Pre-K for PA Campaign, where the
8 United Way is a founding partner with
9 over 11,000 advocates, stakeholders, and
10 residents throughout Pennsylvania calling
11 for adequate funding for quality
12 pre-kindergarten for all three- and
13 four-year-olds.

14 We live in a city where 27
15 percent of our residents live below the
16 federal poverty level and 77 percent of
17 children ages three and four live in
18 families with incomes below 300 percent
19 of the poverty guidelines. What does
20 this mean, ladies and gentlemen? This
21 means that there are 40,000 three- and
22 four-year-olds in our city. Only about
23 14,000 of them have access to publicly
24 funded pre-K. That means almost 26,000
25 kids don't have access to a quality early

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2 educational program. That's more than 65
3 percent of our kids who are falling
4 behind right from the start. Because so
5 many of these children, our children,
6 face challenging circumstances, the need
7 for quality child care is critical.

8 My wife and I are fortunate to
9 be able to afford quality early childhood
10 care for our children. I recognize that
11 this is a privilege not everyone in our
12 community enjoys. So I am committed as a
13 parent, as a leader in this community, as
14 you are, and as a representative of the
15 United Way to find local and state
16 resources to ensure all Philadelphia's
17 children, not just those who live in
18 families that can afford it, have access
19 to quality pre-kindergarten.

20 Quality early education is a
21 necessity for our children to achieve in
22 school and later in life. Educators have
23 done their part. Researchers have done
24 their part. We know what works. We know
25 how vital early education opportunities

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2 are for our children. It can be done.

3 United Way of Greater
4 Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey is
5 appreciative of your hard work and looks
6 forward to continuing to be a part of
7 this important public policy discussion.

8 Thank you for the opportunity
9 to testify and be here with you today on
10 this critical factor for our children.

11 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
12 you.

13 Councilwoman Tasco.

14 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you
15 very much.

16 I'm just trying to figure out
17 what we're doing here with this Charter
18 change. Maybe Councilwoman might want to
19 answer. What does it do in terms of
20 funding for pre-K? I mean, we all
21 believe pre-K is necessary and important,
22 but what it takes are the dollars to make
23 those programs available.

24 So what does this Charter
25 change mean and what does it do?

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2 MS. GLADSTEIN: This would
3 create a commission that would recommend
4 an implementation and funding plan. So
5 this ballot question would not be asking
6 the citizens to vote on any particular --
7 on any funding at this point. Again,
8 that's why I said we think there needs to
9 be a commission to make decisions.

10 Other cities have determined to
11 fund pre-K in a variety of ways, and this
12 legislation doesn't make that
13 determination at all. It doesn't steer
14 one way or the other. It simply creates
15 a commission with experts appointed by
16 Council and the Mayor, and that
17 commission would come up with an
18 implementation and a funding plan, which
19 may very well require another ballot
20 measure or may not, depending on what the
21 funding source would be.

22 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Well, let
23 me ask you a question. Your department
24 is the department that was created many,
25 many years ago to address the issue of

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2 poverty and providing programs for
3 citizens to overcome the issue of
4 poverty. Why would we have to create a
5 new commission when your department can
6 do that? I mean, you have the authority
7 to address this issue just based on the
8 formulation of your commission.

9 MS. GLADSTEIN: Again, we're
10 supportive of the measure in that it
11 institutionalizes the Commission into
12 coming Administrations, this Mayor, even
13 the next Mayor, even the Mayor after that
14 depending upon how long that would take,
15 and we don't know what formation our
16 office will take as well in future
17 Administrations, and it also provides for
18 a certain level of expertise among the
19 Commission members, and we feel that
20 having it in the Charter would ensure
21 that the most informed people would be
22 able to -- would be willing and able to
23 participate on the Commission rather than
24 us simply asking them out of their good
25 graces to participate.

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2 So formalizing it in the
3 Charter with a timeline, a requirement of
4 presenting a plan to Council, and an
5 implementation and a funding plan is
6 something that I think will strengthen
7 the work as opposed to our just asking a
8 group of volunteers to put their minds to
9 it.

10 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Well, it
11 seems to me that you could appoint a
12 committee to address the issue of pre-K
13 within your Office of Community
14 Empowerment and Opportunity, which was
15 known as MOCS, and it's been in existence
16 since --

17 MS. GLADSTEIN: Fifty years.

18 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: -- in the
19 '50s, 50 years. So do you think this
20 office is going to be abandoned? Isn't
21 it required by the federal government?

22 MS. GLADSTEIN: Yeah. I'm not
23 suggesting that the City would not have a
24 community action agency, as we've had one
25 for 50 years. The makeup of the agency

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2 itself and its priorities might shift
3 with the Mayor. That's all I'm saying.
4 We have an oversight board right now with
5 many talented individuals on it. I think
6 the task force would have to have
7 specific expertise in different areas
8 that we don't have right now. And I
9 think it would have more authority if
10 there were appointees from both the Mayor
11 and City Council, and that's not
12 something we would necessarily be able to
13 do as our office.

14 MS. WOODS: Councilwoman, may
15 I? Coming at this from a business
16 person's perspective who has been
17 involved in this issue for seven or eight
18 years at this point, myself and other
19 members of the ELIC Commission feel very
20 firmly that if people, both regular
21 citizens and our elected officials,
22 really delved into the importance and the
23 science behind high-quality early
24 learning --

25 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: I'm not

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2 arguing that point.

3 MS. WOODS: Oh, I know you're
4 not. I know you're not.

5 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: I'm
6 arguing how do we get there.

7 MS. WOODS: Right. Well, our
8 point is that oftentimes everyone agrees
9 that pre-K/early quality education is
10 needed, but with all the other struggles
11 that we face with elementary education,
12 high school issues, it gets lost. It
13 just gets muddled, and people say, We'll
14 deal with that later because those
15 children are young. And we feel that if
16 it's separated and focused on exclusively
17 in its own domain, that we'll finally get
18 some traction on the issue, because
19 everybody, everybody knows it's
20 important, but we all seem to struggle
21 with how to focus on it when we have so
22 many other pressing needs.

23 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: So if we
24 approve this Charter change, we set up
25 another office or is the pre-K committee

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2 assigned to your department?

3 MS. GLADSTEIN: As I read the
4 Charter change, it does not set up
5 another office. It sets up a commission,
6 an independent commission, and how that
7 would be managed can be determined. But
8 it's not setting up an office.

9 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Would it
10 come under your department?

11 MS. GLADSTEIN: It would be up
12 to the Mayor to decide where to place it.
13 I think our office is natural at this
14 point in time in this Administration.

15 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: It's just
16 that I don't see personally a need to
17 create another department when you have a
18 department that has been charged and
19 whose mission is to deal with issues of
20 this nature, and it's the commitment of
21 the Mayor or whoever the Mayor might be
22 to empower your office to undertake this
23 matter. Because if you say that that's
24 where the Commission would land, it seems
25 that you have the authority now to

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2 undertake this project.

3 MS. GLADSTEIN: I would just
4 share that, as I said, that's under this
5 Administration. I don't know what
6 another Administration would do.

7 I think it's important for the
8 citizens to vote on this to indicate
9 their interest in it, which a ballot
10 measure would do. I think it's equally
11 important for City Council to say that
12 this is something that they would support
13 by appointing members of the Commission,
14 and if it was simply a matter of the
15 Mayor, the Executive Order, that that
16 would not necessarily be so obvious, and,
17 again, we don't know if future Mayors
18 would support this effort as well.

19 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Well, as I
20 remember MOCS, it was set up to deal with
21 the issues of poverty, and certainly
22 under the new structure, I'm not sure if
23 that addresses those issues that it was
24 originally set up for, and I don't see
25 why -- because we all care about pre-K.

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2 There's no question that this Council --
3 because we fight all the time for funding
4 for our schools and for early childhood
5 education ever since I've been here. So
6 the intent -- I mean, the feeling of this
7 Council is one of support for that. My
8 issue is the process, just how do we get
9 there. And maybe I don't understand why
10 we're making that Charter change. I have
11 to think about that.

12 Thank you.

13 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Anyone
14 else?

15 Councilman Neilson.

16 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Thank you,
17 Mr. Chairman.

18 Thank you for your testimony.
19 Kevin, you mentioned how you're a little
20 fortunate with your kids. This is
21 something I fought for in the House of
22 Representatives up there. It's a shame
23 kids have to get lucky to be able to have
24 these services provided as pre-K.

25 And, Eva, this is something

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2 that we spoke about in my office and my
3 passion here for the kids and knowing
4 that that foundation is so important in
5 later years. Sometimes we lose kids. An
6 issue that I spoke about was dyslexia and
7 having kids identified at an early young
8 age, and I hope if and when the voters
9 approve this measure, that we would take
10 the stance with disabilities in trying to
11 make certain any program that we think
12 about putting onto the public handles the
13 autism, handles the leading disabilities,
14 because you mentioned in your testimony
15 about how it will divert a lot of our
16 children from special education, that
17 this can save the City money, and I would
18 just hope we do due diligence and come
19 back with a fast report instead of just
20 making another commission with 27 members
21 to just have a group discussion, because
22 we can have that group discussion here in
23 City Hall every day. I'm hoping this
24 just puts us to something that gets us
25 somewhere so we can start helping kids

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2 instead of just talking about helping
3 kids.

4 So I thank you for your
5 testimony today, and I thank you -- you
6 shared something, Kevin, about your
7 heart. Having five kids and becoming a
8 grandfather already and having my second
9 grandchild again in March, I care about
10 the future of Philadelphia, and my family
11 all lives in Philadelphia. I never left,
12 and I hope never to have to send my kids
13 somewhere else to get an education except
14 anywhere else but here in Philadelphia.

15 But thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
17 you, Councilman.

18 Any other questions or
19 comments?

20 (No response.)

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Seeing
22 none, thank you all very much.

23 Ms. Marconi, who else do we
24 have here?

25 THE CLERK: Steven Wray, Diane

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2 Castelbuono, and Patricia DeCarlo.

3 (Witnesses approached witness
4 table.)

5 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Mr. Wray,
6 you were called first, if you want to
7 start. Please identify yourself and
8 proceed.

9 MR. WRAY: Thank you,
10 Councilman. My name is Steve Wray and
11 I'm the Executive Director of the Economy
12 League of Greater Philadelphia. Thanks
13 to Councilwoman Blackwell and to the rest
14 of Council for considering this important
15 issue.

16 For the Economy League, this
17 starts -- and I've given full testimony.
18 I'm just going to do some excerpts.

19 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Please.
20 Thank you.

21 MR. WRAY: For the Economy
22 League, this started with our World Class
23 Greater Philadelphia initiative, with
24 which we work with business and civic
25 leaders to develop and pursue a shared

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2 regional agenda based on three broad
3 areas: business growth, infrastructure,
4 and education and talent development.

5 It might come as a surprise
6 that early education and pre-kindergarten
7 is one of the first topics we began
8 working on as a part of a broad regional
9 economic development effort, but it
10 actually makes a lot of sense. The
11 persistent educational achievement gap in
12 Greater Philadelphia represents a major
13 obstacle to growth and opportunity in
14 this region. For decades, we've tried to
15 get a handle on this through efforts to
16 increase test scores, high school
17 graduation rates, and college attainment
18 rates. And while these are all very
19 important, we know that the achievement
20 gap starts before children even enter
21 kindergarten. In fact, recent studies
22 have found vocabulary differences between
23 poor and higher income children start as
24 young as 18 months. These gaps often
25 persist as children start school, and too

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2 frequently those who are behind don't
3 catch up and the dominos begin to fall.
4 Kindergarten readiness is a strong
5 predictor of third grade reading scores,
6 which strongly correlates with the
7 child's likelihood of graduating from
8 high school.

9 Business leaders understand
10 that high-quality pre-K is the first
11 crucial step in building a strong
12 educated workforce and a public
13 investment with quantifiable, reliable
14 returns. Educators understand that pre-K
15 saves K to 12 school systems money
16 through reduced needs for special
17 education services, reduced grade
18 repetition, and better performance and
19 fewer behavioral problems in school. And
20 law enforcement officials in this city
21 and around the country strongly support
22 increasing access because they've seen
23 the proof that it leads to less abuse and
24 neglect, fewer high school dropouts, and
25 ultimately fewer crimes committed and

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2 less involvement with the criminal
3 justice system.

4 Despite all those benefits,
5 currently just one in three three- and
6 four-year-olds are enrolled in
7 high-quality pre-K in the City of
8 Philadelphia. In broad terms, two
9 primary obstacles stand between these
10 children and high-quality early
11 education, a shortage of programs and a
12 steep price tag. But at the end of the
13 day, this is about competition, and one
14 of the driving forces behind our World
15 Class initiative is the idea that this
16 region can't wait for the state or the
17 federal government to lead on issues that
18 are crucial to the health of our economy
19 and the success of our region. Pre-K is
20 one such issue. There's a lot of good
21 signs in Harrisburg and Washington, but
22 we still can't wait.

23 We would encourage the City to
24 follow the lead of a number of our
25 competitor cities and regions and

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2 consider steps that it might take to
3 address the shortage of good programs and
4 lack of affordability of high-quality
5 early learning in the City.

6 A couple of examples. In
7 Denver, for example, their public program
8 provides income-based tuition support for
9 pre-K and has allowed 70 percent of
10 four-year-olds in the City to enroll.

11 Research on the Denver program shows that
12 children who participate are better
13 prepared for kindergarten and outperform
14 their peers who did not participate on
15 third grade reading assessments. In
16 other words, the program is having
17 lasting impacts for individual children
18 and schools.

19 In Boston, this year we took
20 100 Philadelphia leaders to the Boston
21 area. In Boston, we heard about how the
22 new Mayor has created an advisory
23 committee to figure out how to double the
24 number of children served in their
25 universal pre-K program by 2018. These

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2 public pre-K programs are long-term
3 investments that will have an impact on
4 these cities and regions for years to
5 come.

6 If Philadelphia is to
7 successfully compete with Boston, Denver
8 and other cities like New York, Seattle
9 around the United States that are
10 expanding early learning access, the City
11 should play a leading role in increasing
12 access to high-quality pre-K.

13 Thank you for your time and
14 attention to this issue.

15 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you
16 for your testimony.

17 We'll hear next from the School
18 District.

19 MS. CASTELBUONO: Hi. Good
20 afternoon. My name is Diane Castelbuono.
21 I'm the Deputy Chief for Early Childhood
22 Education with the School District of
23 Philadelphia. You have a copy of my
24 written testimony, so I will be brief.

25 The School District of

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2 Philadelphia enthusiastically supports
3 all efforts to provide high-quality
4 pre-kindergarten programming to all
5 three- and four-year-olds in
6 Philadelphia, which would include the
7 creation of the proposed commission
8 before you.

9 In recognition of this fact,
10 that national research and local evidence
11 about high-quality universal pre-K,
12 that's an investment that benefits
13 children, families, schools, and the
14 entire city.

15 The School District of
16 Philadelphia remains the largest single
17 pre-K provider in Philadelphia, providing
18 high-quality pre-K to almost 9,000
19 children from low-income families each
20 year. Even in the face of shrinking
21 resources, the School District has
22 maintained its investment in pre-K this
23 year. This is not only a decision that
24 is in the best interest of children and
25 families, but it's one that makes good

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2 fiscal sense, as you heard from some of
3 the other testifiers. Well-respected
4 national economists have published many
5 studies demonstrating that investments in
6 high-quality pre-K more than pay for
7 themselves in the long run in the form of
8 reduced costs for remediation in the
9 early grades as well as reduced costs for
10 special education services.

11 Many of the costly remedial
12 interventions that the School District
13 must provide in kindergarten and the
14 early grades could be reduced if every
15 child participated in high-quality pre-K.

16 I do want to emphasize that the
17 significant short- and long-term benefits
18 of pre-K documented in the research only
19 pertain to high-quality programs. That
20 means that public funds for pre-K should
21 only be spent on programs that can meet
22 the quality performance standards
23 associated with Pennsylvania's Keystone
24 STARS rating system or the federal Head
25 Start performance standards.

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2 The District currently partners
3 with over 50 local early education
4 providers in Philadelphia, some of whom
5 you'll also hear from today, all of which
6 are rated at STAR 3 or STAR 4, the
7 highest quality levels in the Keystone
8 STARS system. Despite the very broad and
9 diverse set of partners we work with, the
10 District still struggles to find
11 high-quality partners for every
12 neighborhood in the City. Providing
13 additional funds for universal pre-K
14 would make it worthwhile for existing
15 high-quality providers to expand their
16 current services into new neighborhoods
17 and for new providers to join the ranks
18 of high-quality care.

19 In summary, universal pre-K
20 would be a long-term investment that
21 would have significant returns for our
22 children and families as well as the City
23 as a whole.

24 Thank you.

25 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.
2 for your testimony.

3 Our next witness is Patricia
4 DeCarlo.

5 MS. DeCARLO: Good morning.
6 Good afternoon, members of City Council,
7 community organizations, and all those
8 interested in improving educational
9 outcomes for our children. My name is
10 Patricia DeCarlo. I'm the Executive
11 Director of Norris Square Community
12 Alliance, previously known as Norris
13 Square Civic Association.

14 For the past 15 years, NSCA has
15 been providing bilingual early childhood
16 education through a program known as Head
17 Start. It took us four years to go from
18 the request of parents in the
19 neighborhood needing a bilingual program
20 for their preschoolers in order for them
21 to go to work, attend school or train to
22 get a job. We did not know what programs
23 or funding existed to provide this
24 critically needed service nor what it
25 took to set up a program that could

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2 assist parents get a job while teaching
3 their kids how to read, write, and speak
4 two languages. It's been a long
5 struggle, but well worth it.

6 Fifteen years later, we're a
7 Head Start grantee and a School District
8 sub-grantee with five centers and three
9 partners. We currently serve 889
10 children between the ages of three to
11 five. When our children graduate from
12 our centers, they generally know how to
13 read, write, and speak Spanish and
14 English -- nobody has a confused brain,
15 by the way -- even when they came
16 speaking one language. We're
17 continuously told by elementary schools
18 in the neighborhood and the charter
19 schools that they can tell our kids were
20 educated from NSCA's Head Start when they
21 arrive in kindergarten because they can
22 all read. The latest proof of the
23 amazing learning capacity of little
24 children -- because that's the other
25 thing, we really think little kids can't

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2 learn. They can -- of the capacity of
3 little children is my assistant's
4 youngest child Nia. None of her three
5 older siblings speak Spanish. They only
6 speak English. Nia has been in our
7 program less than six months. She now
8 comes upstairs to the office, she can
9 count to 30 in perfect Spanish, also in
10 English, but it's always nice if you can
11 do two languages instead of one. That's
12 an advantage, trust me. Recite colors
13 and shapes in Spanish as well.

14 My biggest regret is that as
15 many families that have been helped by
16 the program, the overwhelming majority of
17 hard-working parents from the community
18 who get up every day to go to work to
19 provide a better life for their children
20 are not eligible for our program. You
21 see, Head Start targets those families
22 below the poverty level. It only allows
23 10 percent of the families to be at 130
24 percent of poverty. That's equivalent to
25 a family of four earning a little over

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2 \$29,000 per year. So if you've got
3 parents that get up early in the morning,
4 are hard-working, they're not eligible.

5 So to me it really says that we
6 need to invent an additional program that
7 is going to serve those parents, because
8 it doesn't make sense that those parents
9 have to pay a child care person to have
10 them sit in front of a TV and watch TV,
11 because that's generally what happens.

12 But the State of Pennsylvania
13 has funded a program you all know about
14 called Pre-K Counts. It provides
15 educational services to children three to
16 five years of age, although not the
17 supportive services to families. It also
18 allows the parent who works or studies to
19 bring their children to the program and
20 pay a fee according to their income. So
21 it's a higher level of income, but still
22 not enough.

23 In the City of Philadelphia,
24 there's 124,706 families with children
25 between the ages of zero to five.

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2 There's only 8,900 Head Start slots in
3 Philadelphia, and that leaves in 10,200
4 Pre-K Counts and 4,100 slots with CCIS,
5 which is for the working parents who pay
6 a fee. That still leaves 60,300 families
7 in Philadelphia who work without an
8 opportunity to have their children attend
9 a high-level educational program for
10 their children.

11 Just this past year alone, our
12 program had to turn away approximately
13 ten families per center because they
14 worked and made over the 130 poverty
15 level. Let me tell you about one such
16 parent. She worked and studied college
17 in the evening. Shortly after graduating
18 from college, her husband was shot and
19 she was left a widow with a child to
20 raise on her own. She's worked hard and
21 been promoted at her job. She earns too
22 much to have her child attend a Head
23 Start or a Pre-K Counts. So her mother
24 takes care of her child. Her parents are
25 now older, want to return to Puerto Rico.

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2 What is she to do? She's going to have
3 to pay a babysitter to watch TV.

4 Thank you.

5 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
6 you.

7 Any questions?

8 Councilwoman Tasco.

9 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Let me
10 just ask you, each of you, what do you
11 envision this Commission doing? What
12 would be the role of this Commission, and
13 how does it reach the goal that we all
14 want would be adequate pre-K for our
15 young children?

16 MS. DeCARLO: So for me it's
17 figuring out a reasonable way of
18 producing income, producing funds in the
19 City of Philadelphia to pay for such an
20 expense, and there's all kinds of
21 creative ways that they can do that.

22 Number two, that it's to figure
23 out the way of making sure that City
24 government agencies' regulations that get
25 a little whacky sometimes are put in line

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2 with the rest of the regulations already,
3 because my biggest fear is there's a
4 federal government with its regulations,
5 then there's a state government with its
6 regulations, and now if there's a City
7 one with its regulations, that we make
8 sure that they're aligned so that we
9 don't create a bureaucratic monster. So
10 that would be my hope for that
11 Commission.

12 MS. CASTELBUONO: I would
13 reiterate those same and maybe add
14 possibly streamlining the application
15 process for parents, making sure that
16 that didn't become a barrier to enrolling
17 in universal pre-K, as well as ensuring
18 that we had appropriate coverage across
19 the City and how do we allocate enough
20 seats in our underserved parts of the
21 City.

22 MR. WRAY: I'm not sure I can
23 add much more than what those were, but I
24 think one of the things that the
25 Commission should be looking at are the

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2 ongoing efforts at the state and at the
3 federal government and looking at how the
4 City supplements those and leverages
5 those dollars to maximum effect across
6 the entire City. I mean, that's -- I
7 think you're going to see some action in
8 Harrisburg. It's a bipartisan issue.
9 I'm a member of the Early Learning
10 Investment Commission as well. We're
11 also a founding partner in Pre-K for PA.
12 I think something is going to happen.
13 How much and how far, we'll see, but
14 there's an opportunity to make sure that
15 the state is hearing Philadelphia's voice
16 on this issue as well and that
17 Philadelphia is willing to step up and
18 add some of its dollars to what the state
19 will be contributing.

20 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: We have a
21 Department of Community Empowerment and
22 Opportunity, and my concern is that we're
23 creating a commission to do something
24 that the existing department can
25 undertake. So why are we creating a

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2 commission when we have an
3 institutionalized office charged with all
4 kinds of responsibilities and can
5 undertake this issue? That is my
6 concern. Are you looking for a different
7 department? Would it be a separate
8 department or would it come under this
9 Office of Empowerment, this Commission?

10 MS. CASTELBUONO: I think that
11 would certainly -- I would defer to City
12 Council and the Mayor's Office on those
13 kinds of questions. However, I do think
14 there is a benefit to having citizens
15 weigh in on a broad ballot measure, as
16 Ms. Gladstein said earlier, to say that,
17 yes, this is important to this city and
18 to have a broad and diverse
19 representative of folks serving on a
20 commission that maybe then could help
21 inform and direct the work of a City
22 department in those efforts.

23 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: But that
24 can be done through a resolution and also
25 be a part of a department that already

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2 exists that has the authority to address
3 your issue.

4 MR. WRAY: Councilwoman --

5 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: If it
6 chooses to.

7 MR. WRAY: I mean, I think I
8 can see your point. I think it also --
9 how the language is written, and I'm not
10 an expert on all the language in the
11 bill, can direct it to that office so
12 that you're not duplicating effort.

13 I think the other advantage of
14 a commission -- and we've seen this in
15 some of the other cities that are doing
16 this -- you can put a deadline on it.
17 And there can be a time whenever you're
18 dealing with an office that there's no
19 deadline. We need a deadline on this.
20 We can't afford to wait -- every three-
21 or four-year-old that misses out on
22 high-quality pre-K is in danger of not
23 being able to compete over the long term.
24 We need to have a deadline on this and we
25 need to move it fairly quickly.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: You mean a
3 deadline on this resolution?

4 MR. WRAY: No; a deadline on
5 having a plan, having a specific plan
6 identified.

7 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Well, this
8 office already exists. It's just a
9 matter of the charge and the will of the
10 Administration and the office to get it
11 done.

12 MS. DeCARLO: But I think that
13 exactly speaks to the point -- we're
14 having an election for a new Mayor, and
15 so this puts a little bit more certainty
16 and structure into whomever is elected
17 Mayor, makes sure that this is a priority
18 that gets done. If you don't do that,
19 then it's the Community Empowerment
20 Office can do whatever the next Mayor
21 wants it to do or not do.

22 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: They just
23 have to follow the guidelines set forth
24 by the federal government when the
25 department was established. It was the

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2 MOCS office.

3 MS. DeCARLO: Right.

4 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: He changed
5 the name, but the responsibilities and
6 the charge should be the same as it was
7 when it was initially set up under the
8 federal government.

9 MS. DeCARLO: So my
10 understanding of the MOCS office is that
11 at different times, it has chosen to
12 focus its energy into different issues
13 and areas. So sometimes it's a community
14 service or it's early childhood. So that
15 can change. So the Charter question to
16 come off of the election to me -- because
17 I agree with you, we really need this. I
18 think what it does is, it sets up a
19 formal structure that the new Mayor,
20 whoever he may be, is going to have to
21 pay attention to it.

22 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
23 you.

24 Councilman Neilson.

25 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Thank you,

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2 Mr. Chairman.

3 Ms. Castelbuono, your testimony
4 indicates that the School District spends
5 \$90 million -- or \$80 million a year, 10
6 of which is provided by the City Council,
7 and serves 9,000 low-income kids and
8 allocates seats only in underserved
9 neighborhoods. Can you explain that a
10 little more? Does that mean every
11 neighborhood doesn't get part of that or
12 just certain neighborhoods? Because, I
13 mean, Ms. DeCarlo pointed out in her
14 testimony how people with the littlest
15 smallest job get shut out of your
16 program. Who is the School District
17 shutting out -- the state runs School
18 District -- shutting out of early
19 childhood education? Who are they
20 serving in Philadelphia and who aren't
21 they serving in Philadelphia?

22 MS. CASTELBUONO: We are funded
23 for 9,000 slots and we allocate 9,000
24 slots. They are across the entire City
25 of Philadelphia. However, there are

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2 certain small pockets of neighborhoods
3 where there is not a physical location
4 for a site.

5 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Can you
6 tell us what they are on the record?

7 MS. CASTELBUONO: I can send
8 you a map. I can't actually tell you by
9 zip code where they are. We do have
10 sites all across Philadelphia, but there
11 are still people who need, as Ms. DeCarlo
12 said, there are still people who need
13 more seats, and we simply do not have
14 enough funding to offer seats to
15 everybody.

16 Our families are prioritized.
17 We serve Head Start families and Pre-K
18 Counts families. You must meet certain
19 income eligibility requirements in order
20 to enroll in one of these programs.
21 That's by the federal and state statute.
22 But once the seats are filled, they are
23 filled.

24 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: When you
25 mention that -- I'm sorry to cut you off.

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2 I don't want to cut you off.

3 If the funding by the state and
4 the federal, what you speak about, for
5 the low income, what is the actual School
6 District putting into this program, if
7 anything at all? And you are the
8 department handling it and we're talking
9 about coming up with a plan. What is
10 your plan for your department to ask the
11 School Reform Commission for additional
12 funding and are you willing to fight for
13 that funding like this Council has been
14 and like I had in the past, continuous
15 fight, the Board? What action plan do
16 you have to make something like this
17 happen to push forward to allow people to
18 have their kids in pre-K?

19 MS. CASTELBUONO: Well, let me
20 say we are a big supporter of Pre-K for
21 PA, the advocacy campaign.

22 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: We all can
23 say that on the record. And we love --
24 thank you for that. And we can go
25 around. What is your plan, is what I'm

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 asking.

3 MS. CASTELBUONO: The School
4 District does allocate \$10 million of its
5 federal Title I resources towards this
6 and we do --

7 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Federal
8 money. What resources --

9 MS. CASTELBUONO: Federal Title
10 I resources that we could be spending on
11 K through 12, but we allocate it to pre-K
12 because we believe that's a significant
13 investment there. We also provide -- we
14 allocate facility space in our buildings
15 for pre-K programs. So many of these are
16 operated in our facilities. And we are a
17 full supporter and would like to offer
18 more services, but within the existing
19 budget, we do not have the resources to
20 offer additional slots. We are the
21 largest provider of pre-K services in the
22 City.

23 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: And you're
24 the largest federally funded provider of
25 pre-K, right?

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2 MS. CASTELBUONO: Yes.

3 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: So it's
4 not the same of a commitment. I don't
5 feel it is, and I'm sure others do.

6 The existing facilities that
7 you provide space in, over the last few
8 years, we saw that the District closed
9 schools because of lack of filling of the
10 schools. Are you just using space that
11 was underutilized? Some of your
12 facilities are underutilized, testimony
13 in Harrisburg was by Dr. Hite, and that's
14 why he closed some of the school
15 facilities. And so the allocation of
16 space within a neighborhood, within a
17 school really doesn't cost the School
18 District anything, does it? I mean, to
19 turn the lights on, is that what we're
20 talking about and heating a room? I
21 mean, what is the cost to the School
22 District of allocating facilities? I'm
23 just going by your testimony. I know
24 it's frustrating, but I want to get it on
25 the record.

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2 MS. CASTELBUONO: I understand.

3 I don't have those figures in front of
4 me, but we do have 57 specific sites
5 within our schools and we do allocate
6 space. There is overhead, there is
7 custodial, there's utilities, that's
8 correct. And, again, the \$10 million
9 that we provide in Title I funding is K
10 through 12, could also be spent on K
11 through 12, but we allocate it to pre-K.

12 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: And I'm
13 sorry, Ms. Castelbuono, to seem a
14 little -- I must apologize, but it's not
15 too often that we have a state agency
16 such as the School Reform Commission,
17 whereas its titled here School District
18 of Philadelphia. We know it's a state
19 agency. We don't get that much
20 opportunity to have you come in, and I'm
21 sorry to come up, beat you up a little
22 bit, because I know in your heart you
23 feel just as everybody here does today
24 how important this is and the lack of
25 resources, and hopefully we'll see that

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2 changed as you indicated. I was part of
3 the coalition when I was in Harrisburg,
4 and I look forward to working and make
5 this work for all the kids.

6 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
8 you, Councilman.

9 Any other questions or
10 comments?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Seeing
13 none, thank you all very much.

14 Ms. Marconi, who else do we got
15 here?

16 THE CLERK: Leslie Winder,
17 Teresa Mansell, Michelle Kazmierski.

18 (Witnesses approached witness
19 table.)

20 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Whoever
21 would like to start, please speak right
22 into the microphone and identify
23 yourself.

24 MS. MANSELL: My name is Teresa
25 Mansell. I am the Director of a child

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2 care program in West Philadelphia, in
3 Mill Creek, and I agree with a lot of
4 what has already been said here, so I'm
5 not going to repeat and I'll just kind of
6 touch on what hasn't been or what I
7 haven't heard, and, that is, the Keystone
8 STARS system that is used to -- which is
9 the standard that programs like Child
10 Space follow to ensure that we are
11 providing high-quality child care.
12 Keystone STARS 3 and 4 programs
13 understand the importance of providing
14 positive experiences to help children's
15 developing brains. In addition to the
16 basic health and safety regulations
17 licensed facilities adhere to, we must
18 also provide healthy stimulation and
19 provide positive interaction throughout
20 the day, and we do that every day.

21 A curriculum that supports
22 learning and encourages healthy
23 development is required. Teachers create
24 lesson plans that reflect the day's
25 learning objectives and learning

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2 standards that the state sets for us.
3 And staff is required to obtain
4 additional training and/or credentials to
5 enhance pedagogy. Additionally, an
6 independent assessment is done by a
7 certified ERS assessor, environmental
8 rating scale, and these assessors observe
9 our teachers in the classroom and assign
10 scores based on health and safety,
11 positive relationships and stimulation,
12 and learning from experience. So, in
13 other words, they hold us accountable for
14 the high quality that we provide.

15 Child Space West is a STAR 4
16 facility located, again, in West
17 Philadelphia, and Child Space operates
18 two other four-star programs in
19 Philadelphia. And I think that universal
20 pre-K would benefit the families of the
21 young children that we provide care for.

22 MS. KAZMIERSKI: Good
23 afternoon. My name is Michelle
24 Kazmierski. I'm here as a parent. My
25 daughter attends school at SPIN up in the

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2 Greater Northeast. I have four daughters
3 ranging in the age from 26 all the way
4 down to the age of five.

5 I previously lived in a state
6 which had universal pre-K and my two
7 older children were able at that point in
8 time to attend that school even though at
9 that time I was above the income level,
10 which would have prevented my children
11 from going here in Philadelphia. Now, my
12 two younger children, of course, I paid
13 for my six-year-old to go to pre-K.

14 Since that time when my younger child was
15 born, I was in an accident and I was
16 actually previously on permanent
17 disability due to my injuries, and at
18 that point in time, I was unable to
19 socially interact with my daughter to
20 take her out and do normal things that a
21 child at that age would do.

22 Now, with my limited abilities
23 at that time, it was very difficult for
24 me to do the things with her that I did
25 with my older children. So when she

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2 started SPIN, which I was eligible for,
3 she was socially awkward, had no interest
4 in learning, and she was very hyper.
5 She's now in the end of her second year
6 there. She's about to go to kindergarten
7 in September. She was evaluated and is
8 now kindergarten ready. She has learned
9 to follow the rules, learned her A-B-C's
10 and her numbers. She has friends at
11 school and has learned all about their
12 cultures as well as sharing about her
13 own. I've become very proud of her with
14 her changes there and what they have
15 taught her. She was also evaluated for
16 her speech and was recommended by her
17 teacher, and now she has been working
18 with C's on her speech and she sees a
19 therapist once a week.

20 I believe without SPIN and the
21 availability of pre-K, Frances would be
22 starting kindergarten unprepared. I also
23 believe that she has had a jump-start and
24 will be going to kindergarten with
25 confidence and an already established

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2 acceptance of other people who are
3 different than her. She follows the
4 rules with no problem. She is a good
5 helper at school. And I believe all
6 children should have the opportunity to
7 start kindergarten with these qualities
8 and the confidence regardless of income
9 levels.

10 Our goal is the children and
11 secure our future here in Philadelphia,
12 and what a better way to expose all of
13 our children to the confidence and head
14 start that pre-K gives them.

15 Let's be realistic. Different
16 people with different income levels do
17 not usually interact as much as we would
18 like them to. Children need to learn
19 young and be put together to learn how to
20 respect each other or work together to
21 accomplish things. From my personal
22 experience with the pre-K programs, that
23 is what it's all about. It gives these
24 children the opportunity to work with
25 each other, to respect each other, and

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2 not just to learn educationally but also
3 they learn to respect each other, their
4 cultures, respect adults and authority,
5 and it prepares them for when they start
6 kindergarten that there's nothing
7 interfering with their confidence level
8 starting.

9 And I've been sitting here and
10 I've been listening to a lot of people
11 talking about the funding or who is
12 responsible for all this, and just in my
13 opinion as a single parent, where there's
14 a will, there's a way. And just the
15 importance of a pre-K program, in my
16 opinion, is, it needs to be here. It's
17 not a question, which I heard you all
18 said, that we all believe it's important,
19 but just get past the point of that and
20 figure out how it's going to get done.

21 That's all. Thank you.

22 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
23 you.

24 Please identify yourself. Talk
25 right into the microphone, please.

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2 MS. WINDER: Good afternoon,
3 Councilman Greenlee and members of the
4 Committee for Law and Government. Thank
5 you for allowing me time to share my
6 thoughts of Bill No. 150005 and
7 Resolution No. 150017 calling for the
8 voters to decide if Philadelphia should
9 establish and define the powers and
10 responsibilities of a Commission on
11 Universal Pre-Kindergarten. My name is
12 Leslie Winder and I'm here testifying on
13 behalf of Public Citizens for Children
14 and Youth where I serve as Board Chair.
15 I'm also Director of Strategic
16 Partnerships at Solutions for Progress, a
17 Philadelphia-based, mission-driven
18 company producing practical solutions to
19 complex problems of poverty. But, more
20 importantly, I'm a mom. I'm a working
21 mom, and while many years removed from
22 the world of pre-K, I remember quite well
23 the challenges in finding affordable,
24 accessible, high-quality pre-K options
25 for my then young daughter.

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2 The research and support of
3 quality early education has continually
4 mounted over the past 50 years. Other
5 nations around the world have invested
6 wisely in their youngest learners with
7 impressive results. To his credit,
8 President Obama has been persistent in
9 his support of high-quality early
10 learning programs. In addition, the
11 broad diverse statewide coalition, Pre-K
12 for PA, is working to ensure greater
13 investment in all of Pennsylvania's
14 children. High-quality pre-K helps
15 children prepare for school, helps their
16 schools achieve more, and it boosts our
17 economy both short term and long term.

18 Hopefully initiatives at the
19 federal and state levels will be
20 successful and deliver more opportunities
21 to the children in every city in our
22 state and nation. However, Philadelphia
23 is very wise to begin exploring our own
24 capacity to deliver opportunity for our
25 children. Currently in our city too many

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2 children arrive to school unprepared for
3 kindergarten. Some children arrive,
4 through no fault of their own, two,
5 three, and even four years
6 developmentally behind their peers who
7 are prepared for kindergarten. The
8 children who arrive behind struggle to
9 catch up and some find themselves in
10 special needs classrooms for a few years.
11 Some never catch up and are much more
12 likely to drop out.

13 Successful quality pre-K
14 programs have been launched, funded and
15 successfully implemented at the municipal
16 level. We're all most familiar with New
17 York City where Mayor de Blasio is
18 certainly an inspiration. However, we
19 are not New York. We don't have as much
20 local taxable wealth as New York City
21 and, therefore, it might be useful to
22 take a look at Union City, New Jersey.

23 Union City has managed to
24 reverse a grim educational trajectory
25 with targeted strategic investments,

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2 including high-quality pre-K. Along with
3 increased New Jersey state investments,
4 Union City found local dollars to fund
5 pre-K programs. Union City is one of
6 America's poorest cities with an
7 unemployment rate nearly 50 percent
8 higher than the national average. The
9 population is mostly Latino and the
10 dropout rate was horrific. But now the
11 situation is completely reversed. In
12 2011, 90 percent of the students
13 graduated and nearly 75 percent enrolled
14 in college.

15 Citywide preschool is playing a
16 pivotal part in Union City's K through 12
17 success. Preschool has powerful lifelong
18 impacts. Key skills are being taught
19 during pivotal moments in children's
20 brain development. Decision-making,
21 impulse control, and conflict resolution
22 as well as pre-literacy and pre-math
23 skills are all skills in any quality
24 preschool curriculum. Outside evaluators
25 give Union City's pre-K program high

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2 marks. However, Union City School
3 District Early Education Director Adriana
4 Birne says it best: "I think of
5 preschool as the Magic Kingdom. Whatever
6 is happening in the rest of these
7 children's lives, this is a wonderful
8 place to be."

9 So we know quality pre-K
10 programs are great for children,
11 especially at-risk children who may be
12 suffering adverse effects of poverty in
13 other parts of their lives. Quality
14 pre-K is also great for the K through 12
15 schools because it can deliver more
16 children prepared to learn in
17 kindergarten. But there are other
18 winners. Parents such as myself of young
19 children also benefit. They know their
20 child is in a safe, nurturing educational
21 environment. This peace of mind enables
22 parents to go to work and fosters greater
23 productivity while at work. All other
24 taxpayers also win as the positive
25 effects of quality pre-K ripple up

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2 through the years. We would document
3 increased literacy rates, reduced dropout
4 and incarceration rates and, finally, a
5 boosted quality for our future workforce.

6 In conclusion, I urge this
7 Committee to pass Bill No. 150005 so we
8 as a city can begin a serious dialogue
9 among leaders and experts about how to
10 fund and implement quality pre-K. There
11 are numerous municipal models to study
12 and other cities are succeeding. It is
13 time for Philadelphia to find a way for
14 the many young children eager to be ready
15 for kindergarten.

16 And let me just add that the
17 public and parental support for this is
18 great. As you may know, PCCY is leading
19 the 10K for Pre-K to get this on the
20 ballot, and just this morning we were
21 delivered an additional 200 signatures
22 for the ballots that are going around.
23 There is such a demand for it, and we
24 urge you to please consider this.

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Again, I

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2 don't think anybody questions the need.
3 Maybe your question is why couldn't we
4 have been doing this while we're planning
5 to do it, if you know what I mean. And I
6 think that's sort of what I'm hearing up
7 here, that while we're planning to have a
8 hearing and get witnesses to talk
9 about -- to move ahead on aggressive
10 pre-K services that will have to be
11 approved on May 19th and then we start
12 then, why couldn't we have started when
13 we start thinking about having a ballot
14 question, if I'm making sense.

15 MS. WINDER: I think you are.
16 There have certainly been a number of
17 discussions. There are a number of
18 coalitions, but as Eva Gladstein said, to
19 institutionalize this, if we don't know
20 what's going to happen with the new
21 Administration coming forward and where
22 the emphasis is or key hot buttons might
23 be, and we want to make sure that this is
24 something that continues moving forward.

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay. I

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2 understand. I got you.

3 Councilwoman Tasco.

4 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: I'm with
5 the Councilman.

6 What do you envision this
7 Commission doing? At the end of the day,
8 what is it you want that Commission to
9 do? Either one of you. And what is your
10 understanding that the Commission can do
11 and will do?

12 MS. MANSELL: As a provider of
13 high-quality child care, what I would
14 envision the Commission doing is kind of
15 coordinating the whole landscape of the
16 different agencies that are involved in
17 pre-K or in child care. So I could go to
18 one agency and talk about issues that I
19 have specific to pre-K.

20 My concern with it being a part
21 of CEO is what are the other things that
22 they're doing. And I was first -- when I
23 first learned about this Commission, I
24 thought, great, it will always be there
25 and I'll always be able to access it.

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2 But poverty is a huge issue with lots of
3 different tentacles, but if there's one
4 commission that is focused on early ed, I
5 won't have to worry about the housing
6 part of it specifically, so -- I'm not
7 saying that the way I want -- that didn't
8 come out the way I wanted to say it. But
9 there are lots of things that happen in
10 pre-K that would be helpful to have one
11 commission that's looking specifically at
12 pre-K. So if there's zoning issues that
13 come up or if there are Department of
14 Health issues that come up, L&I issues
15 that come up, that Commission would be
16 able to see the whole landscape and make
17 informed decisions about what to do. My
18 concern would be it would get lost in
19 CEO, if that makes sense.

20 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: I
21 understand.

22 Anyone else?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
25 you.

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2 Any other questions for this
3 panel?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Seeing
6 none, Ms. Marconi, who else do we have
7 here?

8 Thank you.

9 THE CLERK: Jennifer Plummer
10 Davis, Chris Caputo, De'Wayne Drummond.
11 (Witnesses approached witness
12 table.)

13 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Good
14 afternoon, everyone. Again, we still
15 have a whole other set of bill and
16 resolution, so if I could ask everybody
17 to be as brief as possible.

18 Please identify yourself and
19 proceed.

20 MS. DAVIS: Good afternoon. My
21 name is Jennifer Plummer Davis and I am a
22 Board member of the Delaware Valley
23 Association for the Education of Young
24 Children, known as DVAEYC. I'm also an
25 advocate for young children and their

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2 families, and I am here to speak to you
3 today about the importance of supporting
4 universal pre-K, specifically quality in
5 an early childhood setting which promotes
6 school readiness.

7 When I visualize the ideal
8 setting for a high-quality program, I
9 think of the Louis Armstrong song version
10 of "What a Wonderful World." He sings of
11 hearing babies cry and watching them grow
12 and then thinking what a wonderful world.

13 Well, a wonderful early
14 childhood world to me would have these
15 six principles: leadership, staffing,
16 environment, curriculum, interactions,
17 parents and community.

18 Number one is leadership.
19 That's key for an early childhood program
20 to succeed. As a retired School District
21 of Philadelphia educator and
22 administrator with over 20 years in the
23 field, the leader must come with
24 education credentials, experience, and
25 knowledge. He or she should have a

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2 passion and believe that they can make a
3 difference in the lives of children and
4 families. The leader must have a vision
5 for greatness and moving the program
6 forward. The leader's vision must
7 promote the importance of early education
8 and the role it plays in building a
9 foundation for children and their success
10 in school.

11 My second principle for a
12 successful early childhood setting is
13 staffing. High-quality programs are
14 sufficiently staffed to meet and promote
15 the needs of the whole child and family.
16 Staff should be highly qualified with the
17 education background in early education
18 and childhood development. Staff must
19 participate in continuous professional
20 development on current trends and the
21 ever-changing and growing fields of
22 education. The staff-to-child ratio is
23 also critical to a quality program.
24 Preschool children should be able to
25 receive individual attention without the

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2 teacher compromising the entire class.

3 Number three, the third
4 principle is the environment. The
5 environment of an early childhood program
6 must be safe, supportive, and engaging.
7 Young children should be in a setting
8 that encourages and promotes exploration,
9 intentional learning, and play. In early
10 childhood we say children learn through
11 play. The play we speak about is the
12 foundation for building skills in
13 literacy, math, science, and social and
14 emotional development. It is guided and
15 self-directed.

16 Number four, the curriculum.
17 The curriculum used in any program must
18 be developmentally appropriate and
19 research-based. The curriculum must
20 address all areas of childhood
21 development and learning. It should
22 address strategies on what and how staff
23 and parents can do to help children
24 achieve the desired goals. Finally,
25 curriculum should have an aligned ongoing

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2 assessment to monitor progress.

3 Number five, interactions. A
4 very important indicator of a quality
5 program is the interactions between the
6 teachers and the children. Interactions
7 between children and adults allow
8 children to develop an understanding of
9 self and others and are characterized by
10 a nurturing, warm, positive, respectful,
11 and responsive classroom. Teachers must
12 provide a variety of learning
13 opportunities that children enjoy.

14 Children are encouraged to try their best
15 and their worth celebrated with positive
16 feedback.

17 Number six, the final
18 principle, parent and community
19 engagement. Families are more
20 comfortable when their young children are
21 enrolled in a program that reflects and
22 honors the culture, values, and language
23 of the community. A high-quality program
24 must be connected to families and the
25 community. The involvement of the larger

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2 community such as stores, community
3 centers, and the library build bridges
4 with programs. Children learn and grow
5 from these experiences.

6 Finally, I would like to close
7 by saying research has shown that early
8 childhood education is part of the
9 continuum of a child's development
10 because a child's early learning
11 experiences build a foundation for all
12 future learning. So this afternoon I'd
13 like to thank you for allowing me to
14 share my vision of a wonderful early
15 childhood world and also for universal
16 pre-K.

17 Thank you.

18 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Please.

19 Go ahead.

20 MS. CAPUTO: Good afternoon.

21 I'm Christine Caputo, Interim Chief of
22 Public Service Support at the Free
23 Library of Philadelphia, and I'm
24 delighted to join you today to voice the
25 Library's support for the Universal Pre-K

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2 Commission bill. We believe this bill
3 would initiate essential steps toward
4 ensuring that high-quality early
5 childhood education becomes embedded in
6 the educational system of Philadelphia
7 and would increase access for more
8 children, bolstering their readiness to
9 learn and succeed in school.

10 In my role at the Library, I
11 manage citywide programming, outreach,
12 and community collaborations with a focus
13 on children and families. The Library
14 plays a key role in preparing children
15 under five for early learning and success
16 in school. In fact, it is one of the
17 objectives of our strategic plan and a
18 significant piece of our day-to-day work.

19 The Library also plays a unique
20 role in having the opportunity to build
21 the love of reading and learning in
22 children from before they could even hold
23 a book and to make sure that any child or
24 family in the City has access to
25 high-quality children's materials and

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2 books. We host story times across the
3 City for families and young children,
4 which engage not only a child's love of
5 reading but also inform parents and
6 caregivers of their essential role in
7 encouraging and participating in that
8 fledgling desire. These programs serve
9 not only infants and toddlers but also
10 preschool, three- and four-year-olds, and
11 older children. In addition, our Library
12 staff visits child care programs, early
13 learning centers, and Head Starts across
14 the City.

15 Library programs that build
16 literacy skills in young children include
17 many different programs, which I will
18 condense in the essence of time here.
19 But things like our Words At Play program
20 where we're working with families to
21 enhance vocabulary development in young
22 children; our Read Baby Read library card
23 initiative for babies at medical centers;
24 and our professional development for
25 families and child care professionals.

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2 One of the most significant
3 ways that the Library is working to
4 impact literacy rates among our youngest
5 readers is through the Read! By 4th
6 Campaign. Read! By 4th is part of the
7 national effort on the campaign for
8 grade-level reading and in Philadelphia
9 is a citywide effort of more than 50
10 partner organizations which aims to
11 improve the reading level of our City
12 students by the end of third grade.

13 In 2012, 54 percent of third
14 graders in the School District of
15 Philadelphia were not reading on grade
16 level. Identifying this as a crisis, the
17 stakeholders came together to formulate
18 strategies by which to guide the change
19 we need in Philadelphia. Seeing the
20 Library's uniquely suited ability to
21 capture and grow the audience of children
22 and parents, along with the existing
23 relationships with many of the partners
24 in the City, the Free Library was
25 selected as the backbone organization for

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2 this important initiative.

3 School readiness and the
4 success of the Read! By 4th Campaign
5 depend largely on early and continual
6 exposure to reading and quality literacy
7 programs, including pre-K education.

8 The strategies implemented by
9 the Read! By 4th Campaign will affect
10 children as they transition from
11 preschool into kindergarten,
12 strengthening the continuum of
13 high-quality care necessary to improve
14 education for all of the children of
15 Philadelphia. The earlier we begin to
16 instill a love of reading and education
17 in our children, the greater their
18 chances to thrive and succeed. It is
19 these long-term efforts, coupled with the
20 work we do each and every day, that puts
21 the Free Library in a unique position to
22 support the adoption of this bill. By
23 supporting this proposal, each of us in
24 this room has the opportunity and
25 responsibility to effect change for our

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2 children.

3 As an expert in early literacy
4 and learning, I see this proposal as a
5 landmark way of ensuring the future
6 success of our city and of our
7 communities.

8 Thank you.

9 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
10 you.

11 MR. DRUMMOND: Good evening.

12 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: It's not
13 evening yet. Please.

14 MR. DRUMMOND: Good afternoon.
15 I just wanted to see if I could get your
16 attention.

17 My name is De'Wayne Drummond.
18 I am the President of the Mantua Civic
19 Association, and today I took a personal
20 day off because pre-K means a lot to me.

21 In 1983, I entered in the Head
22 Start program at Martin McMichael
23 Elementary School. That was the best
24 thing that my mother, a single parent,
25 ever did for me.

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2 I left the Head Start program
3 in 1985 and had a smooth transition into
4 kindergarten, and I did pretty good all
5 the way up to high school and also went
6 to college.

7 So pre-K does work. It works
8 so much that I even put my two children,
9 Jayden and Deanna Drummond, into this
10 program, and it did something. It made
11 me realize that I am a man. It made me
12 realize that I could be a good father and
13 impact my community, and my two beautiful
14 daughters, Head Start and pre-K, opened
15 up my eyes to cultural diversity and just
16 don't always focus on poverty. So it
17 gave me a chance and an opportunity to
18 give my children outlets.

19 So last year, 2014, I put them
20 in a sport that they wanted to be in. It
21 was wrestling. And they became the
22 Pennsylvania state champ wrestling for
23 women for 50 pounds and 90 pounds.

24 So pre-K do work. I have A and
25 B students. It helped me be

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2 self-sufficient. There's resources in
3 pre-K programs that help not only the
4 child but the parent and the family and
5 community. So pre-K is based off of
6 family, parent, and community framework.

7 Yes, a foundation has been laid
8 surrounding pre-K in Philadelphia, but,
9 yes, it does need to expand so all the
10 children three to five years old can have
11 an opportunity.

12 Thank you.

13 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
14 you.

15 Real quick, because the
16 stenographer has to take a break.

17 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: I just
18 want to be very clear in my questioning,
19 because I want to have an understanding
20 on what you understand this bill will do
21 or this Charter change will do, because
22 we don't have any money. Okay? We all
23 support pre-K. I'm a great-grandmother.
24 Grandmother, son, grandchild,
25 great-grandchild, pre-K. I'm for that.

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2 This issue for me is, we have an office
3 that already exists that can take on this
4 issue of advocacy for pre-K and form a
5 special committee to do it, because the
6 committee's role will be to talk and
7 discuss about how we can get more money
8 for pre-K. There's nothing magical that
9 they can do. They're not going to be
10 able to get any more money, but it is an
11 advocacy group. We have a department
12 that can do that, and that is my concern.

13 I support pre-K. I don't want
14 anybody writing, saying she doesn't
15 support little kids and babies getting
16 pre-K, bladdah-bladdah-bladdah, she's a
17 mean old lady. I'm not. I'm talking
18 about government and what you may be led
19 to believe and what your expectations
20 are. That's all my concern.

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
22 you. Nobody thinks you're a mean old
23 lady.

24 We're going to take a quick
25 break for the stenographer. Please

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2 nobody go anywhere. Ms. Gladstein, we're
3 going to ask you to just come back for a
4 minute once we come back from the break.
5 So about five, ten minutes. Okay? But
6 thank you all for testifying.

7 (Short recess.)

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you
9 all very much. Unless there's someone
10 else who wants to testify, please, on
11 Bill No. 150005 and Resolution 150017,
12 we're going to move on. No one else to
13 testify?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Good.

16 Ms. Marconi, will you please
17 read the title of the next bill and --
18 the final bill and resolution we're going
19 to have today, thank goodness, please.

20 THE CLERK: Bill No. 140230, an
21 ordinance providing for the submission to
22 the qualified electors of the City of
23 Philadelphia of the proposal set forth in
24 a Resolution approved by Council
25 proposing an amendment of The

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2 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter relating
3 to the creation, appointment, powers and
4 duties of a Commission for Women; and
5 authorizing the appropriate officers to
6 publish notice and make arrangements for
7 the special election.

8 Resolution 140244, resolution
9 proposing an amendment to the
10 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter to provide
11 for the creation, appointment, powers and
12 duties of a Commission for Women; and
13 providing for the submission of the
14 amendment to the electors of
15 Philadelphia.

16 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
17 you. Our first witness is?

18 THE CLERK: Rue Landau.
19 (Witness approached witness
20 table.)

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: While
22 she's approaching, I want to recognize
23 the sponsor of this bill and resolution,
24 Councilwoman Reynolds Brown.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,

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2 Mr. Chairman.

3 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Oh, and I
4 understand Councilwoman Tasco, as she
5 nudged me very subtly there, is also --
6 in fact, I'll take it back, she is a mean
7 woman. Okay?

8 Councilwoman Reynolds Brown.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you
10 very, very, very much.

11 Twelve days from now we will be
12 celebrating Women's History Month. This
13 afternoon Councilwoman Tasco and I rise
14 to introduce this legislation. And what
15 is the back story? Given the still
16 abysmal record of Philadelphia corporate
17 boards; in fact, March 2013, Pat Coulter,
18 then Director of the Urban League of
19 Philadelphia, authored a piece revealing
20 that women comprise an abysmal 10 percent
21 of executive board seats in Philadelphia.
22 Nationally women rank at 16 percent, and
23 in Congress women hold 17 percent.
24 Overall, we know still that women in the
25 United States still earn an unacceptable

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2 77 cents for every dollar earned by men.

3 My expression with this reality
4 is that in politics, we know that if
5 you're not at the table, you're on the
6 menu. The issue of lack of women at the
7 table is the root of a greater problem
8 that is plaguing our public dialogue.

9 When women are not at the
10 table, public debate that amounts to an
11 all-out assault on women's rights take
12 center stage when it doesn't even belong
13 in the theatre. When women are not at
14 the table, we debate about whether women
15 have the right to affordable
16 contraception. When women are not at the
17 table, we debate whether bosses should
18 dictate the individual procedures and
19 medicines women should take to cover.
20 When women are not at the table, we
21 debate whether women should be forced to
22 jump through hoops and get mandatory
23 invasive procedures before they can make
24 a decision about their own body. When
25 women are not at the table, we end up

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2 with prominent figures calling women
3 revolting names in the public square.

4 And when women are not at the table, we
5 cannot count on advocacy of girls. In
6 fact, it's most often empty.

7 In March of 2011, President
8 Barack Obama published a national
9 document based on extensive research
10 "Women in America: Indicators of Social
11 and Economic Well-Being," where they
12 looked at a number of factors facing
13 women. Today, Councilwoman Tasco and I
14 introduced this legislation, which we
15 believe will be a historic opportunity to
16 bring women to the table of City
17 government in an official leadership
18 capacity.

19 Already stated, women continue
20 to earn 77 cents for every dollar earned
21 by men. Despite representing 52.8
22 percent of the City population, despite
23 representing 52.8 percent of the City
24 population, women occupy only 11 percent
25 of corporate boards, and for women who

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2 look like me, it's less than 1 percent.

3 If we continue at the pace we're going,

4 my 18-year-old daughter will be 75 years

5 old before we see women of equal to our

6 male counterparts.

7 By way of history, we should
8 know that the Mayor's Commission started
9 under my colleague's father, former Mayor
10 W. Wilson Goode. It was led by Barbara
11 Daniel-Cox, and then that was followed by
12 Mayor Green, who appointed Diane Kiddy,
13 and then my records tell me that under
14 Mayor Rendell and Mayor Street and our
15 current Mayor, we do not have a Women's
16 Commission. So an official arm of City
17 government will do the daily groundwork,
18 building relationships, and leveling the
19 playing field for women at all levels
20 across the Philadelphia workforce. This
21 legislation is another step in the
22 direction to ensure the continued
23 movement towards both equity and equality
24 for women in Philadelphia, and for that
25 and many reasons more, I ask for the

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2 support of members of this Committee.

3 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
4 would be very, very, very, very remiss --
5 we've been working on this for at least
6 two years -- to acknowledge Rosalie
7 Leonard of the technical staff for
8 working very closely with my staff and
9 the Administration and advocates,
10 countless advocates, on this important
11 matter.

12 Thank you very much.

13 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
14 you, Councilwoman.

15 Councilwoman Tasco.

16 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Good
17 afternoon, ladies and young ladies.
18 Thank you for staying here today and your
19 patience, and certainly you've learned
20 something about City Council government
21 and how we operate, right? Thank you.

22 I just want to say I thank the
23 ladies for the women who have come
24 together to promote this Charter
25 provision, and I'd just like to say that

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2 I was a member of the Women's Commission
3 appointed by Mayor Green when he became
4 Mayor in 1981. So I was a member of that
5 Commission, and we worked on a lot of
6 issues, and certainly I believe that this
7 Commission is needed and your actions put
8 forth to move women further along in our
9 City and in this nation.

10 So thank you all for your
11 patience today and for your advocacy.

12 Thank you.

13 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
14 you.

15 If there's no other comments,
16 Ms. Landau, you've been very patient all
17 day. Please proceed.

18 MS. LANDAU: Thank you. Thank
19 you very much, and thank you for hearing
20 from me first. I do have a 2 o'clock
21 meeting that I'm going to try to get to.

22 Chairman Greenlee and members
23 of the City Council Committee on Law and
24 Government, good afternoon instead of
25 good morning. I am Rue Landau, Executive

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2 Director of the Philadelphia Commission
3 on Human Relations, and I'm here to
4 express support for this measure, which
5 seeks to resurrect an entity expressly
6 focused on the concerns and plight of
7 women in this great city. And I'd like
8 to thank Councilwomen Blondell Reynolds
9 Brown and Tasco for advancing this
10 legislation.

11 I'd also like to take a minute
12 to introduce you to my new Deputy
13 Director of our Compliance Division, Pam
14 Gwaltney, also another strong woman
15 serving the City of Philadelphia.

16 It could be argued that our
17 agency, the PCHR, already does some of
18 this work of ensuring that women are
19 protected from discrimination and that
20 instituting a Commission for Women would
21 not be necessary, but that's not true.
22 We are the agency authorized to
23 investigate and levy judgments against
24 those who would violate the City's civil
25 rights laws. We help ensure that

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.
2 discrimination does not occur against
3 women who are pregnant, nursing or
4 recovering from childbirth in work,
5 housing and/or public accommodation
6 instances. We uphold the Domestic and
7 Sexual Violence Unpaid Leave Law. We are
8 charged with enforcing all aspects of the
9 City's Fair Practices Ordinance, which
10 includes protection from sex and gender
11 identity discrimination.

12 All of these things help to
13 improve the livelihood of women in this
14 city, yet the PCHR is not expressly
15 responsible for reviewing proposed
16 policies and legislation on the front end
17 of things. Our role largely was
18 established to react to claims of
19 discrimination, to address the back end
20 of situations that may have gone awry.
21 Given that reality, a Commission for
22 Women would be a constructive front-end
23 partner, providing guidance that would
24 lessen the need for intervention in the
25 first place. We may not be able to

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2 eliminate discrimination altogether, but
3 we certainly could, in tandem,
4 proactively narrow the chances of it
5 occurring.

6 Looking deeper, it is evident
7 that the conditions that led to the
8 creation of such commissions across the
9 country, beginning with President
10 Kennedy's call to examine the needs and
11 welfare of America's women back in 1962,
12 have shifted, but not disappeared. In
13 fact, for many women here, structural
14 inequities leave them and, by
15 consequence, their families at a
16 socioeconomic disadvantage that continues
17 to threaten this City's potential
18 prosperity. Put simply, when women do
19 well, we all do well. And that goal does
20 not have to come at the detriment of men.
21 Creating the climate for parity need not
22 be a zero-sum game. Providing thoughtful
23 reflection on how to get there in
24 tangible, cost-effective ways would serve
25 the taxpayers of the City well in the

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2 long run, and I see that as the central
3 charge and essential mission of any
4 proposed Philadelphia Commission for
5 Women.

6 There are other recognized,
7 government-convened Commissions on Women.
8 Chester, Montgomery, and Delaware
9 Counties each have one, as does the
10 Commonwealth itself. As the largest city
11 in Pennsylvania, one with a majority
12 female population at 53 percent, enacting
13 a similar commission here holds logic and
14 promise.

15 It's no secret that
16 Philadelphia struggles as the poorest
17 large city in the United States or that
18 women often are among those most
19 entrenched in generational poverty. U.S.
20 Census Bureau figures reflect that deep
21 poverty impacts women disproportionately
22 more than men. In this city, nearly one
23 in four adults live at or below the
24 poverty line, and female-headed families
25 are three times likely to live in

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.
2 poverty, a statistic that holds across
3 all races. For transgender women,
4 particularly those of color, securing and
5 maintaining viable employment can be an
6 elusive task. According to a 2006 study
7 funded by the UCLA Center for the Study
8 of Women and the University of California
9 Institute for Labor and Employment,
10 transgender women report losing respect
11 and income during and after their
12 transition. Reports locally to the
13 Mazzoni Center and others show these
14 women are left vulnerable to abuse and
15 crime as a result.

16 Nationwide, nearly seven in ten
17 women responsible for children under 18
18 are in the workforce. In Philadelphia,
19 one in eight households have a member
20 under 65 with a disability of some sort,
21 many of whom requiring additional help in
22 their day-to-day lives. Consequently, as
23 the often default caregivers and
24 families, pressures on women can be
25 immense, impacting both physical and

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2 mental health for them and everyone in
3 the household. And those who have
4 low-wage jobs tend to have greater
5 familial responsibilities, but fewer
6 workplace benefits, according to a recent
7 Kaiser Family Foundation reporting. The
8 outcomes of these stresses often turn up
9 in our case files, be it intergroup
10 conflicts or eviction fights as families
11 teeter on the edge of survival. Leaving
12 these conditions unaddressed does not
13 benefit a world-class city, and
14 Philadelphia certainly is that. But to
15 truly lay claim to that mantle would
16 require focusing on these vexing
17 challenges.

18 We know economic opportunities
19 often tell the tale of disparities, and
20 that without careful examination, it will
21 be that much more difficult to reverse
22 the painful trajectory we witness.
23 Despite prevailing demographics, fewer
24 than one in three businesses here are
25 owned by women, according to the U.S.

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2 Census, and that's for existing
3 industries. Even with the proliferation
4 of globally recognized research
5 institutions and hospitals in our area,
6 STEM programs for science, technology,
7 engineering, and math, they still leave
8 behind too many school-aged girls and
9 women seeking positions for leadership in
10 these burgeoning fields.

11 Conversation continues about
12 Philadelphia's expanding role as a 21st
13 century energy hub and the potential
14 employment possibilities such a
15 designation would yield. Yet, according
16 to the Clinton Foundation, women
17 represent less than half of the clean
18 energy workforce. Conversely, the Center
19 for Energy Workforce Development reports
20 that 55 percent of the energy industry's
21 workforce, from line workers to plan
22 operators to engineers, will need to be
23 replaced within the next ten years.
24 Still, it won't matter if this area
25 becomes eds, meds, and energy central if

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.
2 half of our population can rise to its
3 minimum or stagnant wage employment.
4 Addressing these and other rapidly
5 unfolding scenarios smartly and
6 effectively could be the work of the
7 Commission for Women, because evaluating
8 policies that come with rising
9 immigration or shifting employment
10 sectors, for instance, would help
11 alleviate the persistence and growing
12 poverty Philadelphia currently faces.
13 Better alignment of workplace rules and
14 procedures can help avoid costly
15 litigation for taxpayers. Deeper thought
16 on improving access to services, be they
17 medical or educational, will help
18 decrease burdens incurred and increase
19 our tax base. These are just brief
20 examples of how authorizing another set
21 of eyes to consider the implications of
22 such matters could help make the
23 difference for a wealthier and ultimately
24 a healthier Philadelphia.

25 Yes, updating the City Charter

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.
2 is a serious step, but statistics bear
3 out that we are facing serious challenges
4 ahead. It could directly support avenues
5 that lead toward greater equality by
6 offering a research-based perspective to
7 City Council and future mayoral
8 administrations to better inform
9 decisions by both. That's a win-win
10 situation.

11 Thank you for allowing me to
12 testify on this important measure and
13 I'll be happy to respond to any
14 questions.

15 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thanks,
16 Ms. Landau.

17 Any questions or comments?
18 (No response.)

19 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Seeing
20 none, thank you. You got your meeting
21 now. And thank you for all you and the
22 Commission do.

23 Ms. Marconi, our next group.

24 THE CLERK: Wendy Voet, Dena
25 Herrin, Nina Ahmad.

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2 (Witnesses approached witness
3 table.)

4 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Wendy Voet
5 will be submitting her testimony. She
6 had to return to her office.

7 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.
8 And I should put on the record that there
9 also will be written testimony from
10 Melonease Shaw, President and CEO of
11 Maven; Shalimar Thomas, Executive
12 Director of the Philadelphia
13 African-American Chamber of Commerce; and
14 Diane Wilson of Girls Incorporated.

15 Please, whoever would like to
16 go first.

17 MS. HERRIN: Good afternoon,
18 Chairman Greenlee and members of the
19 Committee on Law and Government. Thank
20 you for agreeing to hear my testimony
21 today. My name is Dena Herrin. I am the
22 Executive Director of Girls Inc. of
23 Greater Philadelphia and Southern New
24 Jersey. We are a non-profit organization
25 whose mission is to inspire all girls to

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2 be strong, smart, and bold. Girls Inc.
3 offers research-based, developmentally
4 appropriate programs for girls ages six
5 through 18. These programs focus on
6 leadership and community service,
7 science, technology, and math, financial
8 literacy, sports, healthy lifestyles, and
9 decision-making, and media literacy.

10 This year we will serve 2,000 girls in
11 and around Philadelphia, working with 30
12 community partners and 70 volunteers.

13 We are one of 83 affiliates of
14 the National Girls Inc. organization that
15 serves 138,000 girls across the country.

16 We know that girls face
17 significant challenges as they navigate
18 their way to adulthood. In the United
19 States, one in four girls will not finish
20 high school; 78 percent of girls are
21 unhappy with their bodies at age 17;
22 three in ten girls will become pregnant
23 before the age of 20; and one in five
24 will be a victim of childhood abuse.

25 It is our responsibility to be

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2 in their corner, advocating and educating
3 to correct these challenges and to make
4 sure that as women, they live, study, and
5 work in an environment that provides
6 equal opportunities, protections, and the
7 responsibilities that accompany those
8 rights. The contributions of girls today
9 and as women tomorrow are essential to
10 achieving a just society. Today, gender
11 equity is still not a reality, and we
12 affirm our support for equal rights and
13 commit our resources to the act of
14 promotion of gender equity.

15 It is our conviction that
16 gender equity will only be achieved when
17 both girls and boys and men and women
18 have the opportunity, the resources, and
19 the freedom to become the people they
20 want to be.

21 We affirm that girls and women
22 have a right to their fair share of
23 public and private resources. Tax
24 dollars spent to foster positive youth
25 development must be allocated equitably

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2 to girls and boys and, further, Girls
3 Incorporated believes that additional
4 resources are required to address the
5 special strengths and needs of girls and
6 women through gender-specific services.

7 Councilmembers Reynolds Brown
8 and Tasco's proposed legislation
9 establishing a Commission for Women in
10 the City of Philadelphia is long overdue
11 and much needed to promote equal rights
12 and opportunities for the women of our
13 city. The underrepresentation of women
14 in positions of leadership, particularly
15 in the boardroom, and the fact that they
16 only earn 70 cents for every dollar that
17 men earn must be addressed. Girls Inc.
18 of Greater Philadelphia is fully
19 supportive of this legislation and will
20 happily and actively engage with the
21 Commission in any way we can to ensure
22 its success.

23 Thank you.

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
25 you.

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2 Ms. Ahmad.

3 MS. AHMAD: Good afternoon,

4 Chairperson Greenlee and Committee

5 members. My name is Nina Ahmad and I'm

6 the President of the Philadelphia Chapter

7 of the National Organization for Women,

8 acronym NOW. I'm honored and pleased to

9 be here today to speak in support of the

10 proposed amendment to the Philadelphia

11 Home Rule Charter to provide the

12 creation, appointment, powers and duties

13 of a Commission for Women, and providing

14 submission of this amendment to the

15 electors of Philadelphia on May 19th,

16 2015.

17 I'm a proud member of NOW,

18 which is the largest and most

19 comprehensive feminist advocacy group in

20 the United States, and its goal has been

21 to take action, to bring equality for all

22 women.

23 I'm going to skip over all the

24 things we do, so you can look it up, in

25 the interest of time. But the Commission

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2 for Women will be an important conduit
3 for furthering NOW's goal of achieving
4 equality for women.

5 As articulated by Councilwoman
6 Blondell Reynolds Brown, this is a
7 historic opportunity to bring women to
8 the table of City government in an
9 official leadership capacity. Such a
10 commission will be charged with promoting
11 civic, educational, and economic policies
12 for women and providing advice and
13 recommendations to the Mayor and City
14 Council on policies and programs that
15 advance equal rights and opportunities
16 for women in the City.

17 I am really here to testify
18 about the potential that such a
19 commission is poised to unleash, the
20 potential of women to help transform our
21 City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly
22 Affection into a truly world-class city.

23 NOW advocates for a wide range
24 of economic justice issues affecting
25 women, from the glass ceiling to the

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sticky floor of poverty. Women in the
United States are paid only 77 cents for
every dollar a man makes, with
Pennsylvania ranking 40th in the size of
gender wage gap. Fixing the wage gap
isn't just an ethical thing to do for
women and their families. Ensuring
paycheck equity will benefit the entire
nation. Equitable pay for women and men
would generate additional family income
of 447 billion, which the Institute of
Women's Policy Research said is 2.9
percent of the 2012 gross domestic
product. Unleashing this added income
would fuel our economy and help lower the
almost 30 percent poverty rate in our
city. Pay equity is one of the critical
issues the Women's Commission can
champion and create a level playing
field.

I am here as a mother of two
daughters, and it is imperative that I am
part of the solution that ensures that
they have a fair shot at life and

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2 gender-based impediments don't stand in
3 their way, hindering their opportunity to
4 shine. This is the promise and potential
5 I'm talking about. Every girl and woman
6 should have this opportunity to shine in
7 whatever endeavor they choose.

8 Today is my mother's birthday.
9 She passed away six years ago, and I
10 forever hear her voice urging me to take
11 action so equality for all women becomes
12 a reality. Adopting this resolution will
13 be a fitting birthday present for her.

14 So I urge this esteemed
15 Committee to resolve to adopt Resolution
16 140244 to amend the Home Rule Charter to
17 establish a Commission for Women and
18 ensure that it is asked as a ballot
19 initiative.

20 I'm grateful to Councilwoman
21 Blondell Reynolds Brown and Councilwoman
22 Tasco for introducing this resolution and
23 organizing this hearing.

24 Thank you to the entire
25 Committee for this opportunity to testify

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2 today. Thanks.

3 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you
4 both.

5 Any questions or comments?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Seeing
8 none, again, thank you. Thank you for
9 your patience.

10 Ms. Marconi, our next group.

11 THE CLERK: Katherine Black,
12 Varsovia Fernandez, and Shaniyah Lonon.

13 (Witnesses approached witness
14 table.)

15 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Good
16 afternoon. Kathy, why don't you start.

17 MS. BLACK: Good afternoon,
18 everyone. My name is Kathy Black,
19 Katherine Black. I am speaking today on
20 behalf of the Coalition of Labor Union
21 Women, the women's movement within the
22 labor movement, and I was the President
23 for many years, currently serving as
24 Treasurer. Thank you, Councilwomen Tasco
25 and Reynolds Brown, for taking this

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2 important initiative and for all you do
3 day in and day out to protect and advance
4 women's rights and for the chance of
5 testifying today.

6 So in the interest of time, I'm
7 going to summarize and cut to the chase,
8 which I prefer anyway, and you've got my
9 written testimony.

10 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
11 you.

12 MS. BLACK: I just want to
13 summarize three quick areas of concern
14 that we hear about from our members, and
15 we have members in the Coalition of Labor
16 Union Women from dozens of different
17 unions that covers the labor universe.
18 Things that we hear from them that point
19 to the need for local government scrutiny
20 and intervention, and those fall under
21 the categories of true pay equity, access
22 to higher paying typically male-dominated
23 jobs, and the need for more social policy
24 to support family economic health.

25 I say true pay equity because a

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2 union contract does guarantee will pay
3 for equal work, but even in the union
4 world, most union women are still
5 segregated into female-dominated job
6 classifications in education, public
7 health, clerical work, et cetera. And
8 those jobs are compensated not based on
9 the skills and responsibilities that
10 those jobs require, but historically on
11 who has held those jobs, and they are
12 still seriously underpaid. There's been
13 more strides in the union world in this
14 area than there has outside it and some
15 large corporations and public sector, but
16 we still have a long way to go. The
17 Commission can be instrumental here.

18 Access to higher-paying male
19 jobs, again, women are segregated out of
20 these jobs in many cases. In fact,
21 decades ago in the heyday of the modern
22 women's movement and when there was more
23 federal training money around, women did
24 much better at getting into the skill
25 trades, the industrial trades,

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2 engineering, firefighting, all these
3 male-dominated occupations that pay much
4 better than the ones that women are
5 typically found in. That training money
6 and scrutiny dried up a long time ago.
7 Philadelphia was a great model for it
8 with TOP-WIN and some other projects
9 actually, and unfortunately now the women
10 in those professions, the number of women
11 has shrunk dramatically. It's not true
12 in every union in every field, but
13 overall we've lost a lot of ground, and I
14 think the Commission could really help in
15 that regard. And some of the worst
16 sexual harassment stories I've ever heard
17 in my life -- and in 35 years in the
18 labor movement, I've heard some
19 doozies -- come out of women who have
20 felt really isolated and uncomfortable in
21 male-dominated professions where they did
22 not feel wanted and were actively lobbied
23 against in some pretty graphic ways.
24 And then, finally, I just
25 wanted to mention that we hope the

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2 Commission, once it's formed, will weigh
3 in on social policies that impacts women
4 and families and our ability to balance
5 the demands of the workplace and the
6 home. As we've heard so many times
7 during the wonderful campaign to enact
8 paid sick days legislation -- thanks
9 again, Bill Greenlee; I'll thank you
10 every chance I can -- the U.S. lags far
11 behind the rest of the developed world in
12 terms of social policy that support
13 families. And there was something on
14 Facebook yesterday. I don't know if you
15 saw this, but apparently Egyptian workers
16 3,500 years ago had paid sick days. I
17 had to check to see if it was from the
18 Onion, but it wasn't. It wasn't. So
19 we're not just years behind; we are
20 millennia behind, and the Commission
21 could really help correct that.

22 Given the current political
23 landscape at the state and federal
24 levels, we can't hope for any action from
25 them. Just as it was with paid sick

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2 days, it's going to take local government
3 and progressive places like Philly to
4 enact legislation that will give women
5 and families the economic stability they
6 need to protect their families and be
7 productive members of the workforce. And
8 we love the idea of a large diverse
9 commission and, sure, we want to see more
10 women on corporate boards, but don't
11 forget the union women, the working
12 women, both when you're making the
13 appointments for the Commission and
14 taking up issues for the agenda.

15 Thanks so much for doing this
16 and for the opportunity today. We look
17 forward to working for it and with you.

18 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
19 you.

20 MS. CORREA: Good afternoon,
21 distinguished members of the Committee on
22 Law and Government, members of Council,
23 and other guests. My name is Katherine
24 Correa and I'm here speaking on behalf of
25 Varsovia Fernandez, who is to my right

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2 over here, President and CEO of the
3 Greater Philadelphia Hispanic Chamber of
4 Commerce. Varsovia has been here the
5 whole time, but she's a little bit under
6 the weather. She's lost her voice, hence
7 I'm speaking.

8 According to the U.S. Census
9 2014 estimate, over 52 percent of
10 Philadelphia County residents are female.
11 While it is a well-known fact that women
12 earn 70 cents for every dollar a man
13 makes, Latinas earn just 52 cents for
14 every dollar a man makes. But workplace
15 gender inequality is not just in
16 paychecks, but at the top levels of
17 industry and government. As we look at
18 the boardrooms and management positions
19 in the private sector and City Council
20 itself, it is clear that the female
21 majority population is not similarly
22 represented at these high-level
23 positions.

24 It is nearly impossible to find
25 a sector in which women approach 50

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2 percent of representation. As of 2013,
3 seven out of the 18 senior administrators
4 at UPenn are female. Only 16 percent of
5 Fortune 500 companies have female board
6 members and, as previously stated, only
7 11 percent of board seats at
8 Philadelphia's top 100 companies. Times
9 have changed, and it is time to give us a
10 voice within the City that allows us to
11 provide ongoing advice and feedback
12 pertaining to women's issues as it
13 relates to policy and leadership.

14 Low participation of women on
15 boards and positions of leadership is no
16 longer acceptable. These numbers do not
17 reflect the role women currently play in
18 society and do not provide the
19 representation in our best interest.
20 Today we are not at the table to drive
21 our own markets, and as Councilwoman
22 Reynolds Brown usually says, if you are
23 not at the table, you're on the menu, and
24 we don't want our daughters on the menu.

25 According to the Pew Research

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Center, in 1997, 56 percent of women ages 18 to 34 and 26 percent of middle-aged and older women said that in addition to having a family, being successful in a high-paying career or profession was very important or one of the most important things in their lives. In 2011, two-thirds -- that's 66 percent -- of women ages 18 to 34 rated career high on their list of life priorities. This tells us that women have not abandoned their desire to share work and family.

A Commission for Women would be a tool to help us enhance the structural deficiencies our system has in supporting working families by promoting civic, educational, and economic policies for women to help them succeed in leadership roles. A Commission would help create family-friendly work policies that allow fathers to spend equal time with their children while giving women the opportunity to grow in career and leadership.

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2 We strongly believe that the
3 health and strength of society lies in
4 family and leadership. We have a
5 responsibility as the City to do a better
6 job of creating pathways for gender
7 equality in the workplace that enable new
8 family structures to succeed. More women
9 in positions of influence will allow for
10 a more robust dialogue that would better
11 represent our communities. I also think
12 that we've had enough of an uphill climb
13 and it's time to make changes towards
14 progress. A Commission for Women would
15 allow us to complement existing brotherly
16 love with sisterly affection towards
17 opportunity and prosperity.

18 There is no simple way to
19 quickly enhance this pervasive issue, but
20 a Commission on Women as described in
21 proposed Bill 140230 and Resolution
22 140244 would be a tool for progress.

23 We thank you again for the
24 opportunity to address City Council this
25 afternoon.

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2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
3 you.

4 Any questions or comments?

5 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Just one
6 comment, Mr. Chairman. I would like to
7 thank everyone who has spoken on this
8 important issue, and I want to underscore
9 my thanks to you, Kathy, for reminding us
10 that working women and women representing
11 the labor community need to be a part of
12 that mix that ultimately get appointed by
13 members of Council. So I will look to
14 Hadji Maloumian to make sure that we
15 include language that speaks to that
16 specifically.

17 Thank you.

18 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
19 you.

20 Any other questions or
21 comments?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Seeing
24 none, thank you both.

25 Now, Ms. Lonon, I know your

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 name was called, and I see Gwendolyn
3 Bailey also. Why don't you come up
4 together, because you're both from the
5 Girls Justice League; is that right? So
6 why don't you come up together.

7 (Witness approached witness
8 table.)

9 MS. BAILEY: Good afternoon.
10 Before I begin, I just want the young
11 women who are participants in the Girls
12 Justice League Summer Institute and
13 Saturday Institute to just wave your
14 fingers a little bit so people know
15 you're here.

16 They've been really patient.

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: That's to
19 say the least, yes.

20 MS. BAILEY: I'm here today as
21 Chair of the Board of Directors for Girls
22 Justice League, a girls' rights
23 organization. Thank you, Councilwoman
24 Reynolds Brown, also a Girls High grad,
25 and Councilwoman Tasco, for your

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2 longstanding leadership and advocacy on
3 behalf of girls and women in Philadelphia
4 and for your vision in proposing the
5 Women's Commission.

6 One aspect of the work and
7 vision of GJL is to have girls fully
8 empowered to confront and inform the
9 systems that affect their futures.
10 Girls' voices are far too often missing
11 from conversations, and decisions are
12 being made that affect their futures
13 without them. The proposed Commission
14 for Women is potentially one of the
15 systems that will have impact on the
16 lives of girls and young women.

17 As a body that will inform City
18 government about the needs of women and
19 help ensure their rightful place at all
20 tables, we believe that it is imperative
21 that girls be part of the Commission.
22 Girls? Yes.

23 The girls before you one day
24 will sit in your seats, participate in
25 government, and be formidable

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2 stakeholders in their communities. Their
3 voice has a place in our city, and one
4 immediate mechanism for inclusion of that
5 voice would be for Council to consider a
6 Commission for Women and Girls.

7 It is our responsibility to
8 ensure that our City's legacy is one that
9 has capable leaders, both male and
10 female, to guide the best interest of
11 Philadelphia citizenry. I can think of
12 no better mechanism than to guide, ally,
13 and include young women on the
14 Commission.

15 I urge the Commission to
16 increase the visibility of girls by
17 changing the name to Commission on Women
18 and Girls, include within its intended
19 activities promoting and protecting the
20 rights of girls as well as adult women,
21 young adult women, creating a mechanism
22 that allows for girls' representation on
23 the Commission.

24 Thank you so much.

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

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2 you.

3 Please identify yourself and
4 proceed.

5 MS. LONON: I'm Shaniyah Lonon.
6 I'm a 10th grader at String Theory
7 Charter High School.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: At whose
9 charter high school?

10 MS. LONON: String Theory
11 Charter High School.

12 I'm here on behalf of Girls
13 Justice League, a non-profit organization
14 for girls and young women in Philadelphia
15 and surrounding areas. I'd like to thank
16 Councilwoman Reynolds Brown and
17 Councilwoman Tasco for this opportunity
18 to address the proposal to establish a
19 Girls Commission for Women. We
20 appreciate the effort that you have made
21 in women's equality in Philadelphia.
22 However, we believe that this equality
23 should expand to include girls, those who
24 identify as cisgender and as transgender.

25 It's important to remember that

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 women weren't always adults. When they
3 were younger, they had to grow up through
4 personal experience in schools and in
5 their communities where they were told
6 that they weren't as valuable as boys and
7 men.

8 At a recent Girls Justice
9 League meeting, the girls discussed the
10 problems that we have with school
11 discipline policies, daily sexual
12 harassment on the street, lack of
13 encouragement and support in our academic
14 pursuits, racism, and not feeling safe in
15 our schools.

16 In order to help girls grow
17 into strong women, this Commission should
18 help facilitate our growth by reinforcing
19 our importance in this community, by
20 fighting on our behalf against the issues
21 that we face now, instead of waiting for
22 us to become adults to provide support.

23 Therefore, we propose that this
24 proposed Philadelphia Commission for
25 Women include a focused attention to the

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 needs of cisgender and transgender girls
3 in the mission statement.

4 In addition, we'd like to see
5 the Commission focus on developing
6 policies that address the needs for
7 girls.

8 We would also recommend having
9 girl advisors to the Commission to
10 clarify our needs.

11 Thank you for your time. We
12 hope you consider our testimony as you
13 move forward with this proposal.

14 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you
15 very much.

16 Any questions or comments?

17 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Yes.

18 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:
19 Councilwoman.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: The only
21 comment I would make, in President Barack
22 Obama's comprehensive report "Women in
23 America: Indicators of Social and
24 Economic Well-Being," it was actually
25 produced by the White House Council on

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.
2 Women and Girls. So we will certainly
3 take that under close advisement.

4 Thank you.

5 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
6 you, Councilwoman.

7 Thank you both.

8 Ms. Marconi, who else do we
9 have?

10 THE CLERK: Reverend Dr. Lorina
11 Marshall-Blake and Stephanie Singer.

12 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Is there
13 anyone else here other than these two to
14 testify?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: So these
17 will be our last two witnesses.

18 (Witness approached witness
19 table.)

20 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:
21 Commissioner, you can come up too.

22 (Witness approached witness
23 table.)

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Please.

25 DR. MARSHALL-BLAKE: Good

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 afternoon, Chairman Greenlee and all the
3 other members of the Committee,

4 especially my sheroes, Councilwoman

5 Marian Tasco and Blondell Reynolds Brown.

6 And, guys, you're my heroes too. You're
7 my heroes too. Let me clean it up quick.

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Our
9 feelings were hurt there for a minute.

10 DR. MARSHALL-BLAKE: First let
11 me express my thanks and appreciation to
12 the Committee for the opportunity to
13 testify today. As stated, I'm Reverend
14 Dr. Lorina Marshall-Blake, the President
15 of Independence Blue Cross Foundation and
16 Vice President of Community Affairs for
17 Independence Blue Cross. Again, in my
18 testimony it talks about Blue Cross and
19 all the wonderful things that we've done,
20 but I've been there for over 24 years and
21 it's in my capacity as an executive of
22 Independence Blue Cross and as a woman
23 who has worked diligently to enhance the
24 empowerment of women in business, in
25 government, and the community for 35

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 years that I address you today.

3 As an officer and member of the
4 executive team of Independence Blue
5 Cross, I am proud to state that
6 Independence Blue Cross is in full
7 agreement with the tenets of this
8 legislation and its intent to ensure that
9 women have equity and are equal on every
10 level.

11 I've personally been involved
12 with Independence, as I said, for 25
13 years, first serving as a member of their
14 Board of Directors, and while serving as
15 a member of their Board, I was offered
16 the opportunity to become an officer and
17 a member of the executive team. This
18 occurred in 1991. So thus the
19 empowerment of women is nothing new to
20 Independence. It is indeed a way of
21 life.

22 Now, when we look at what
23 they're doing and as you think about the
24 Commission, some of the things that we're
25 doing to empower women, we believe that

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 empowering women is not only the right
3 thing to do, it's also good business.
4 Women make up about 70 percent of our
5 workforce. So we are passionate about
6 investing in the women who work at our
7 organization and in their professional
8 development. By doing so, we feel we can
9 attract and retain the best talent in our
10 region and offer women dynamic and
11 meaningful career opportunities. This,
12 in turn, helps us perform at our best for
13 the customers we serve.

14 Again, there's some other ways.
15 We have an associate resource group, some
16 people call infinity group, the Women of
17 Independence, which focuses on
18 professional development opportunities
19 for women. We also proactively look for
20 opportunities to place current,
21 up-and-coming women leaders in
22 professional and executive development
23 programs so that they can challenge
24 themselves and take their talents to the
25 next level. In addition, we focus on

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 developing future talent in our region
3 through our high school and college
4 internship programs and co-ops. Last
5 year, there were about 120 girls and
6 young women who participated in these
7 programs last year.

8 We also invest significantly in
9 women's health, because we believe that
10 health is fundamental to women's
11 empowerment. Through the Independence
12 Blue Cross Foundation, we support
13 non-profits that are building healthier
14 communities, including organizations
15 focused on women and girls' health. We
16 are passionate sponsors and proud
17 supporters of the United Way's Women
18 Initiative and the Pennsylvania
19 Conference for Women and believe in the
20 powerful difference it makes in the lives
21 of women and girls in our region.

22 Above all, we are deeply
23 committed to our mission of enhancing the
24 health and wellness of the people and
25 communities we serve. We believe that a

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 healthy community is one in which women
3 feel empowered to achieve their full
4 potential and thrive as leaders and role
5 models, and we support and invest in
6 organizations that share our passion for
7 this work.

8 Therefore, it is with
9 excitement, it is with enthusiasm and our
10 commitment to the women of this city that
11 we lend our support to the creation of
12 the Women's Commission and that it would
13 be included in the upcoming 2015 Primary
14 Election ballot on May 19th.

15 Now, that's my one hat. Let me
16 flip to my other hat, literally.

17 I'm pleased to appear again
18 before you as the President of the Omega
19 Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha
20 Sorority Incorporated to present
21 testimony. Again, as some of you know,
22 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is the oldest
23 Greek letter organization -- we'll leave
24 that alone, amen.

25 But the Omega Omega Chapter of

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority has over 400
3 members. The Chapter was chartered 89
4 years ago in Philadelphia. Since its
5 inception, Omega Omega has been a strong
6 advocate for the advancement and
7 promotion of equal rights for women.
8 However, our membership is also engaged
9 in a variety of volunteer service and
10 philanthropic activities that provide
11 scholarship; grants; support for the
12 arts; educational, family, children, and
13 girls' activities; senior citizen support
14 initiatives; and environmental, mental
15 health, cultural, and advocacy programs,
16 all of which are designed to enhance the
17 quality of life for all citizens in
18 Philadelphia.

19 It is precisely because of our
20 historical and current commitment to the
21 advancement of women and the communities
22 we serve that the Omega Omega Chapter of
23 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. supports
24 the resolution to create a Women's
25 Commission for the City of Philadelphia

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 and a change in the Home Rule Charter to
3 establish a Women's Commission as a
4 permanent fixture in the government in
5 this city.

6 Councilmembers, we are aware of
7 the time constraints related to the
8 passage of this resolution. However, we
9 would be remiss if we did not identify
10 areas of the resolution which might be
11 strengthened in Chapter 17 of Article IV,
12 Commission for Women, Section 4-1700.

13 The Commission should be empowered with
14 the specific ability to conduct research,
15 investigations, and public hearings to
16 appropriately advise the Mayor and City
17 Council on issues related to its mission.

18 With regard to Item (b), we
19 want to make note of the fact that we are
20 particularly pleased to see the
21 requirement for the Commission -- I like
22 this -- to engage the corporate support
23 in its work. I personally serve as the
24 President of IBC and, as stated earlier,
25 Independence Blue Cross is actively

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 engaged and committed to this

3 legislation.

4 As written, the Commission
5 would be subject to the availability of
6 funds for the appointment of staff and
7 resources for its work. The availability
8 of funds may unnecessarily constrict the
9 will of the sponsors if the resolution is
10 indeed designed to make the Commission an
11 established part of the City
12 Administration. So just be concerned
13 about budgetary issues.

14 The annual report to the Mayor
15 and the Chief Clerk of City Council
16 should also specifically require findings
17 and recommendations for a change in
18 policy and procedure as identified by the
19 Commission's work.

20 In conclusion, Omega Omega has
21 taken note that the United States Census
22 Bureau -- and it's already been said --
23 has identified the 2013 Philadelphia
24 population as 1,553,165. Of that total,
25 52.7 percent of the City's population is

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.
2 female. Therefore, the legislation being
3 considered stands to affect more than
4 half of the City's population. It is
5 indeed surprising and somewhat
6 regrettable that Chester County and
7 Delaware County, with much more smaller
8 populations, have seen fit to create a
9 Women's Commission to identify the unique
10 development needs of their female
11 population while Philadelphia, with much
12 larger female demographics, has yet to do
13 so in the form of an executive
14 administration.

15 Therefore, we encourage support
16 of Bill No. 140230 and Resolution No.
17 140244 be passed and that this important
18 legislation be placed on the May 19th,
19 2015 ballot.

20 Thank you.

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
22 you.

23 Commissioner.

24 COMMISSIONER SINGER: My name
25 is Stephanie Singer. I am a single mom.

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 I have been a woman in mathematics, I
3 have been a woman in business, and a
4 woman in politics, and in none of these
5 three places is the playing field level.

6 I have been in a lot of rooms
7 where I'm the only woman in the room. I
8 have been in even more rooms, I would say
9 almost every room, where men's voices
10 dominate the conversation out of
11 proportion to their numbers. And it has
12 not escaped my notice that in this room,
13 exactly the opposite, and somehow I don't
14 find that comforting.

15 It's stunning to me that all
16 the testimony here has come from women
17 and no men have testified, and that's
18 because the obstacles that women face,
19 sure, they hurt women. They really do
20 hurt women, but they hurt all of us. We
21 are missing out on brilliant work by
22 brilliant mathematicians because of the
23 obstacles they face as women. We are
24 missing out on goods and services of
25 companies that would be developed by

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 brilliant entrepreneurs, hard-working
3 entrepreneurs because of the obstacles
4 they face as women, and we are missing
5 out on some sorely needed leadership in
6 the City from really, really talented
7 women because of the obstacles they face
8 as women.

9 Thank you so much, Councilwoman
10 Tasco, Councilwoman Reynolds Brown, for
11 proposing this question to be put on the
12 ballot, and I urge the Committee to put
13 this question on the ballot.

14 Thank you.

15 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Any
16 questions or comments?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Seeing
19 none, thank you.

20 Again, no one else here to
21 testify?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: That will
24 complete the hearing of the Committee on
25 Law and Government. Again, for the

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.
2 record, Bill No. 140721, as amended
3 today, and Resolution 140732, as amended
4 today, will be held to the call of the
5 Chair.

6 We will now go back into our
7 public meeting, and the Chair recognizes
8 Councilman Goode.

9 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
10 Mr. Chair. I move that the amendment to
11 Bill 140747 be approved.

12 (Duly seconded.)

13 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: It's been
14 moved and seconded.

15 All in favor?

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Hearing
20 none, the amendment is approved.

21 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I move that
22 Bill No. 140747, as amended, be reported
23 out of this Committee with a favorable
24 recommendation and the rules of Council
25 be suspended so as to permit first

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 reading at our next Council session.

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: It's been
5 moved and seconded.

6 All in favor?

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Hearing
11 none, Bill No. 140747, as amended, is
12 reported out of this Committee favorably
13 with a rules suspension.

14 Councilman Goode.

15 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I move that
16 the amendment to Resolution No. 140764 be
17 approved.

18 (Duly seconded.)

19 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: It's been
20 moved and seconded.

21 All in favor?

22 (Aye.)

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Hearing

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 none, the resolution is approved.

3 Councilman.

4 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I move that
5 Resolution 140764, as amended, be
6 reported out of this Committee with a
7 favorable recommendation.

8 (Duly seconded.)

9 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: It's been
10 moved and seconded.

11 All in favor?

12 (Aye.)

13 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Hearing
16 none, Resolution No. 140764, as amended,
17 is reported out of this Committee
18 favorably.

19 Councilman Goode.

20 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I move that
21 Bill 150005 be reported out of this
22 Committee with a favorable recommendation
23 and suspension of rules to allow for
24 first reading at our next session of
25 Council.

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 (Duly seconded.)

3 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: It's been
4 moved and seconded.

5 All in favor?

6 (Aye.)

7 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Hearing
10 none, Bill No. 150005 reported out of
11 this Committee favorably with a rules
12 suspension.

13 Councilman Goode.

14 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I move that
15 Resolution 150017 be reported out of this
16 Committee with a favorable
17 recommendation.

18 (Duly seconded.)

19 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: It's been
20 moved and seconded.

21 All in favor?

22 (Aye.)

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Hearing

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 none, Resolution 150017 reported out of
3 this Committee favorably with a rules
4 suspension -- no. Resolution is reported
5 out of this Committee favorably.

6 Councilman Goode.

7 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I move that
8 Bill 140230 be reported out of this
9 Committee with a favorable recommendation
10 and the rules of Council be suspended so
11 as to permit first reading at our next
12 Council session.

13 (Duly seconded.)

14 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: It's been
15 moved and seconded.

16 All in favor?

17 (Aye.)

18 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Hearing
21 none, Bill No. 140230 is reported out of
22 this Committee favorably with a rules
23 suspension.

24 Councilman Goode.

25 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I move that

1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.

2 Resolution 140244 be amended.

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: It's been
5 moved and seconded.

6 All in favor?

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: The
11 amendment is adopted.

12 Councilman Goode.

13 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I move that
14 Resolution 140244, as amended, be
15 reported out of this Committee with a
16 favorable recommendation.

17 (Duly seconded.)

18 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: It's been
19 moved and seconded.

20 All in favor?

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Hearing
25 none, Resolution 140244, as amended,

City of Philadelphia Committee on Law & Government
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1 2/18/15 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 140230, etc.
2 reported out of this Committee favorably
3 with a rules suspension.

4 After a brisk four and a half
5 hours, that concludes the meeting of the
6 Committee on Law and Government.

7 Thank you all very much.

8 (Committee on Law and
9 Government concluded at 2:40 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

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

MICHELE L. MURPHY
RPR-Notary Public

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STREHLOW & ASSOCIATES, INC.
(215) 504-4622

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