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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC MEETING
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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- - -
Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Weds., 6/17/98, 9:55 a.m.
- - -

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RESOLUTIONS APPOINTING CENTER CITY DISTRICT BOARD
MEMBERS:

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No. 980280 - D'Alessio No. 980281 - Gold,
No. 980282 - Boone No. 980283 - Sullivan,
No. 980284 - Young No. 980285 - Vasconcellos,
No. 980286 - Pizzi

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RESOLUTIONS APPOINTING HOSPITAL & HIGHER ED.
FACILITIES AUTHORITY OF PHILA. BOARD MEMBERS:

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No. 980471 - Burden No. 980472 - Clifford
No. 980473 - Stamatakis No. 980474 - Turnbull
No. 980475 - Bogle

12

RESOLUTIONS APPOINTING PHILA. MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
BOARD MEMBERS:

13

14

No. 980476 - Batoff No. 980477 - Montique
No. 980478 - Dawkins No. 980479 - Street
No. 980480 - Wachs

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RESOLUTIONS APPOINTING SOUTH STREET/HEAD HOUSE
DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA BOARD MEMBERS:

16

No. 980483 - Funk No. 980484 - Boyle
No. 980485 - Finkelstein No. 980486 - Fiorelli
No. 980487 - Hambrose No. 980488 - Hamel
No. 980491 - Montone

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PRESENT: PRESIDENT JOHN F. STREET, Chairman
 COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL
19 COUNCILMAN DAVID COHEN
 COUNCILWOMAN ANNA C. VERNA
20 COUNCILMAN MICHAEL A. NUTTER
 COUNCILWOMAN HAPPY FERNANDEZ
21 COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN TASCO
 COUNCILMAN FRANK DICICCO
22 COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO

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- - -
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1 COM. OF THE WHOLE - RESOLUTIONS ON BOARD APPOINTMENTS

2 I N D E X

3 Page

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5 Paul Levy. 9

6 Center City District Board of Directors

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1 PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

2 P R O C E E D I N G S

3 PRESIDENT STREET: We will have a
4 quorum shortly. Councilman Rizzo is on the way
5 down.

6 Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.
7 This is a hearing of the Council Committee of the
8 Whole. We now have a quorum present.

9 Today we have a number of resolutions
10 in front of us reappointing, for the most part,
11 people to the Boards of Directors to the Center
12 City District, to the Hospitals and Higher
13 Education Facilities Authority of Philadelphia,
14 and to the Philadelphia Municipal Authority, and
15 to the SEPTA Board, and to the Board of Directors
16 of the South Street/Head House District.

17 What I would like to do now is to ask
18 every Councilmember to get into his or her hands a
19 notice of the public hearing. I want to make sure
20 -- that's why I want you to have them. I want all
21 Councilmembers to have in their hands the notice
22 of the public hearing.

23 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I don't have one.

24 PRESIDENT STREET: You'll have one
25 shortly.

1 PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

2 Councilman Cohen now has one.

3 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Yes.

4 PRESIDENT STREET: And does everyone
5 have one?

6 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: Yes, sir.

7 PRESIDENT STREET: The second
8 resolution is Resolution No. 960856, a resolution
9 appointing Lewis Dawley to the Center City
10 District. This resolution will not be considered
11 by us because he is now in Washington D.C. doing
12 other things -- someone said making a lot of
13 money.

14 I'd like you to also take look at the
15 next resolution, 960858. This resolution also
16 will not be considered by us.

17 So that's Peterson and Dawley.

18 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: So are they
19 withdrawn?

20 PRESIDENT STREET: They will not be
21 considered at any time, all right?

22 All right, the first one also, which is
23 Resolution No. 960855, appointing Michael Curran
24 to the Center City District Board of Directors,
25 will not be considered at this time, either.

1 PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

2 So they will not be considered. We
3 might say they're being withdrawn. I'm not sure
4 what the proper designation is.

5 And then we have Resolution No. 980280,
6 appointing Walter D'Alessio, and the next one
7 appointing Nancy Gold, and the next one appointing
8 William Boone all to the Board of Directors of the
9 Center City District.

10 Are you following me? D'Alessio, Gold,
11 and Boone are the next three in order. Those are
12 reappointments to the Board of the Center City
13 District.

14 And the next three -- John Sullivan,
15 Ahmeenah Young, and Edward Vasconcellos -- are all
16 new appointees to the Board of the Center City
17 District.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: What about
19 William Boone?

20 Boone, Gold, and D'Alessio are being
21 reappointed. Sullivan, Young, and Vasconcellos
22 are new appointees to the Board of the Center City
23 District. And Charlie Pizzi is also a
24 reappointment, okay? You following this? Pizzi's
25 at the top of the second page; he is a

1 PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

2 reappointment.

3 All of the members -- the next one,
4 two, three, four, five, these are all appointees
5 to the Hospitals and Higher Education Facilities
6 Authority of Philadelphia. All of these are
7 reappointments.

8 And then the next one, two, three,
9 four, five, these are the appointments to the
10 Philadelphia Municipal Authority. These are all
11 reappointments. They are people who have already
12 been serving.

13 And the last one on page 2 is
14 appointing Richard Voith to the SEPTA Board. This
15 is a proposed reappointment. And on the top of
16 the next page, there's a resolution appointing
17 Jettie Newkirk, this is also a reappointment. We
18 will not consider those two today primarily
19 because they were not notified -- I can't -- they
20 were not notified of this hearing, according to
21 the Mayor's office, and there are Councilmembers
22 who wish to ask them questions.

23 So on those two resolutions, 980481 and
24 980482 we will recess until 8:30 tomorrow morning
25 for those people who wish -- listen to me -- for

1 PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
2 those people who might wish to ask them
3 questions. We will have a continuing quorum on
4 those two resolutions tomorrow. And for those
5 people who wish to ask them questions, please be
6 here at 8:30 in the morning.

7 Councilman Cohen.

8 COUNCILMAN COHEN: (Inaudible, off
9 mike.)

10 PRESIDENT STREET: Councilman Cohen,
11 can you use your microphone.

12 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, the question
13 of their appointment or reappointment to the Board
14 is a public matter. I do not wish to question
15 either of the two current members of the Board
16 seeking reappointment privately. I do not wish to
17 question them privately.

18 PRESIDENT STREET: It will be in a
19 public hearing.

20 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I know, but I wish
21 to question them at a time when all of us or a
22 quorum will be present.

23 PRESIDENT STREET: Councilman, you'll
24 be able to ask for a quorum call.

25 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I'm just serving

1 PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

2 notice.

3 PRESIDENT STREET: That's fine.

4 COUNCILMAN COHEN: It's not that I have
5 a private question to any of them in connection
6 with whether or not they should be reappointed.

7 PRESIDENT STREET: I understand that,
8 Councilman Cohen. As a matter of protocol and as
9 a matter of a procedure of this committee, I'm not
10 taking up those resolutions today because they
11 haven't been notified and are not here. We will
12 do it tomorrow morning at 8:30, and those members
13 who have questions should be here. It is always a
14 right of a member to ask them questions.

15 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, I just wanted
16 to, you know --

17 PRESIDENT STREET: Councilman Cohen,
18 I've never known you to be shy or bashful about
19 asking for a quorum.

20 Now, can I ask you to take a look at
21 the last seven resolutions on the third page.
22 They are all resolutions appointing people to the
23 Board of Directors of the South Street/Head House
24 District. All are appointees to the Board of
25 Directors to the Head House District.

1 PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

2 Now, what I would like to do is ask --
3 are John Sullivan, Ahmeenah Young, and Edwards
4 Vasconcellos in the room? Are those people in the
5 room? If so, would you please take the witness
6 stand.

7 I only see one person.

8 All right, Mr. Levy, you want to come
9 up? Maybe you can give us an explanation.

10 (Paul Levy comes forward.)

11 PRESIDENT STREET: So what we are about
12 to do is convene a public hearing on Resolution
13 No.'s 980280, 980281, 980282, 980283, 980284,
14 980285, 980286, 980471, 980472, 980473, 980474,
15 980475, 980476, 980477, 980478, 980479 and 980480,
16 and 980483, 980484, 980485, 980486, 980487,
17 980488, and 980491.

18 The Chair recognizes Mr. Paul Levy.

19 MR. LEVY: Good morning, Council
20 President Street. These, as you indicated, are --

21 PRESIDENT STREET: Speak much more
22 directly into the microphone.

23 MR. LEVY: Good morning. My name is
24 Paul Levy.

25 Four of these resolutions are Center

1 PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
2 City District Board of Directors renewals of
3 existing terms, and three of these represent new
4 appointees to fill vacancies. One of our renewals
5 was here.

6 PRESIDENT STREET: You got to speak
7 louder.

8 MR. LEVY: I apologize. Again, my name
9 is --

10 PRESIDENT STREET: Don't start all over
11 again. Just pick up where you left off.

12 MR. LEVY: I was finished. There are
13 four renewals and three new nominees to fill
14 vacancies.

15 PRESIDENT STREET: I understand. What
16 about Sullivan and Vasconcellos, why aren't they
17 here?

18 MR. LEVY: Both of them had
19 appointments out of town and were unable to make
20 this morning's hearing.

21 PRESIDENT STREET: Is there any Member
22 of Council wishes to defer consideration of these
23 two people, Sullivan and Vasconcellos, under the
24 circumstances?

25 (No response.)

1 PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

2 (Ahmeenah Young comes forward.)

3 PRESIDENT STREET: Ms. Young, thank you
4 for being here. Are there any questions for Ms.
5 Young?

6 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
7 Fernandez.

8 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: Yes. Mr.
9 President, could Mr. Levy tell me how many people
10 are on the Center City District Board of
11 Directors?

12 MR. LEVY: Yes. The Center City Board
13 of Directors consists of 23 individuals.

14 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: How many of
15 those people that are currently on it are women?

16 MR. LEVY: Well, I did a calculation on
17 what the percentage would be if you approve these
18 resolutions this morning. Would that answer your
19 question?

20 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: Of course,
21 yes.

22 MR. LEVY: If you approve the
23 resolutions this morning, there will be 5 women,
24 which would constitute 22 percent of the board.

25 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: And of these

1 PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

2 five women, are there any minorities of various
3 types?

4 MR. LEVY: If you approve the
5 resolutions, there will be 7 African-Americans on
6 our board, which is 30 percent of our Board.

7 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: Well, I would
8 like to suggest that as you consider these three
9 numbers 855, 856, and 858, if those names are not
10 going to be acted upon, that you consider
11 continuing to increase representation on your
12 board of women and minorities.

13 MR. LEVY: Yes, we will certainly set
14 that as a goal. We share the goal you
15 articulated. Each time, the percentages have been
16 increasing in terms of both female and minority
17 reputation.

18 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr.
19 President.

20 PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair recognizes
21 Councilwoman Tasco.

22 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you.

23 Good morning.

24 Does your board also reflect other
25 ethnic groups in the City, Asian groups or any

1 PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

2 other groups doing business in the Center City

3 area?

4 MR. LEVY: The Board of Directors first
5 represents the major property owners who pay into
6 the district, and about 66 percent of our revenue
7 comes from major office buildings to diversify the
8 board.

9 At this moment, our board reflects
10 simply Caucasian and African-Americans, but that
11 is a goal that we would like to achieve. We need
12 to draw from property owners or business interests
13 or organizations involved in Center City by
14 municipal law.

15 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Is Chinatown a
16 part of the Center City District?

17 MR. LEVY: No, Chinatown is not a part
18 of the district.

19 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: But there are
20 Asian-Americans who own businesses in your
21 district, right?

22 MR. LEVY: There are, that's correct.

23 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: So I would like to
24 see you broaden the board to reflect the business
25 district as it is composed.

1 PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

2 MR. LEVY: Understood.

3 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you.

4 PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair recognizes
5 Councilmember Rizzo.

6 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Mr.
7 President.

8 Mr. Levy, do any of the Board of
9 Directors get compensation or expenses for their
10 services?

11 MR. LEVY: No. All of our Board of
12 Directors serve strictly as volunteers. So there
13 is no compensation or any reimbursement of any
14 kind.

15 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Of any kind?

16 MR. LEVY: Of any kind.

17 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Mr.
18 Levy.

19 Thank you, Mr. President.

20 PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you very much.

21 Does anyone have any questions of Ms.
22 Young?

23 (No questions.)

24 PRESIDENT STREET: On Miss Young's
25 behalf, I'd like to say that I've known her for a

1 PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
2 number of years, and she can't play golf at all.

3 (Laughter.)

4 PRESIDENT STREET: But she says she
5 can. And if I didn't have a bad right arm, if I
6 didn't have arthritis in my wrist, I would show
7 her.

8 MS. YOUNG: Yet another excuse.

9 PRESIDENT STREET: Always, until I die.
10 Excuses, excuses, excuses.

11 But in all fairness, she has been
12 involved at the Pennsylvania Convention Center
13 Authority in a responsible position for a long,
14 long time. I happen to have had the pleasure of
15 being around at the time she first was appointed,
16 and she does a great job, and we welcome her to
17 this board.

18 MS. YOUNG: Thank you so much, Council
19 President.

20 PRESIDENT STREET: Does anyone have any
21 questions of these witnesses?

22 (No questions.)

23 PRESIDENT STREET: Where's Councilman
24 DiCicco?

25 MR. LEVY: Thank you.

1 PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

2 PRESIDENT STREET: Councilman DiCicco,
3 were you involved in working with the South
4 Street/Head House District in the selection of the
5 members of this board?

6 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Yes, Mr.
7 President. And it was through my recommendation,
8 working along with the Board of Directors of the
9 South Street/Head House District, that we're now
10 able to include people who are actually residents
11 in addition to property or business openers.

12 For a long time, it had been the desire
13 of the community to have more community
14 representation, and we're finally beginning to
15 attain that goal by the inclusion of several
16 members of the board nominees before us today.

17 PRESIDENT STREET: Are you recommending
18 these people to the Council Committee of the
19 Whole?

20 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Yes,
21 wholeheartedly. And we've done criminal
22 background checks, psychological background
23 checks. And for whatever reason, they want to be
24 on this Board.

25 PRESIDENT STREET: Do they get

1 PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

2 reimbursement, do they get paid?

3 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: No, they just get
4 a lot of criticism, that's all.

5 PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you very
6 much.

7 Does anyone else have any questions of
8 Councilman DiCicco or of any of the people who
9 have worked on the resolutions before us?

10 (No questions.)

11 PRESIDENT STREET: Now, there are a
12 number of other resolutions appointing people to
13 the various boards. Are there any questions of
14 any of these people? Some are here, some are
15 not.

16 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
17 Fernandez.

18 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: Mr. President,
19 I'm concerned about the Hospitals and Higher
20 Education Facilities Authority of Philadelphia
21 Board.

22 There are two minorities here, to my
23 knowledge, but there are absolutely no women.
24 Could someone state for the record how many people
25 are on the Hospitals and Higher Education

1 PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

2 Facilities Authority and what the --

3 PRESIDENT STREET: There are five.

4 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: There's only
5 five?

6 PRESIDENT STREET: And their names are
7 here.

8 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: Well, again,
9 for the record, I would think there are some very
10 well-qualified women who could make some of these
11 decisions and qualify for an appointment.

12 PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you very much.
13 Anything else?

14 (No response.)

15 PRESIDENT STREET: If there's nothing
16 else, this will end the public hearing at this
17 time.

18 - - -

19 PRESIDENT STREET: And to begin our
20 public meeting, the Chair recognizes Councilwoman
21 Verna.

22 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: Thank you, Mr.
23 President. Is it your wish that we withdraw the
24 first three bills -- resolutions?

25 PRESIDENT STREET: Yeah, they're

1 PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
2 considered withdrawn. Just ignore them in the
3 motion.

4 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: Thank you.

5 Mr. Chairman, I move that the following
6 resolutions be reported out of committee with a
7 favorable recommendation: Resolutions 980280,
8 980281, 980282, 980283, 980284, 980285, 980286?

9 PRESIDENT STREET: Yes, I'm sorry.

10 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: 980471, 980472,
11 980473, 980474, 980475, 980476, 980477, 980478,
12 980479, 980480, 980473, 980484, 980485, 980486,
13 980487, 980488, and 980491.

14 PRESIDENT STREET: Is there a second?

15 (Duly seconded.)

16 PRESIDENT STREET: All those in favor,
17 let it be known by saying aye.

18 Those opposed, say nay.

19 The ayes have it. It is so ordered.

20 Resolutions 980481 and 980482, will
21 remain in front of this committee, which shall be
22 in recess until tomorrow morning, at 8:30 a.m.

23 Thank you very much for your attention.

24 (Adjourned at 10:28 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing
proceedings of the Council of the City of
Philadelphia of Wednesday, June 17, 1998, were
reported and accurately by me, and that this is a
correct transcript of same.

RE: COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

RESOLUTION NO.'S 980280, 980281, 980282,
980283, 980284, 980285, 980286, 980471,
980472, 980473, 980474, 980475, 980476,
980477, 980478, 980479, 980480, 980483,
980484, 980485, 980486, 980487, 980488,
980491.

_____,
JOSEPHINE CARDILLO,
Registered Professional Reporter