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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - BUDGET

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Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, April 24, 2007
10:15 a.m.

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PRESENT:

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA

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COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL

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COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE

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COUNCILMAN FRANK DiCICCO

14

COUNCILMAN WILLIAM GREENLEE

15

COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY

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COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER

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COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO

18

COUNCILMAN DANIEL SAVAGE

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BILLS 070114, 070115 and 070116

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RESOLUTION 070128

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V A R A L L O Incorporated

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Litigation Support Services

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1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good
3 morning, everyone. I regret the delay.
4 This is a continued public hearing of the
5 Committee of the Whole, and I would ask
6 Mr. McPherson to please call the first
7 department to testify.

8 MR. MCPHERSON: District
9 Attorney's Office.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good
11 morning and welcome.

12 MS. ABRAHAM: Good morning,
13 Madam President. It's good to see you
14 all.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
16 you.

17 MS. ABRAHAM: My name is Lynne,
18 L-Y-N-N-E, last name Abraham,
19 A-B-R-A-H-A-M, and joining me is Al
20 Toczydlowski, our Deputy, and he will
21 spell his name for the record because I
22 can't.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
24 you.

25 MR. TOCZYDLOWSKI:

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2 T-O-C-Z-Y-D-L-O-W-S-K-I.

3 MS. ABRAHAM: Madam President
4 and members of Council, I think of all
5 the things that are brutal and grotesque
6 in this era of shooting and killing
7 across this nation. Philadelphia
8 certainly stands among the top two or
9 three in the country for shootings and
10 killings. As a matter of fact, with
11 regard to black homicides in this
12 country, Pennsylvania is number one, with
13 Philadelphia providing the majority, if
14 not the overwhelming majority, of black
15 homicide victims and perpetrators in this
16 Commonwealth.

17 Recent studies are absolutely
18 astounding with regard to the number of
19 shootings and killings that are occurring
20 in Philadelphia, and last night will give
21 you just a perfect picture in small
22 letters about how things are going in
23 Philadelphia.

24 In the 22nd District at 7:12
25 p.m. at 30th and Cumberland, one male was

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2 shot in the chest and died. In the 39th
3 District at 30th and Allegheny at 7:22
4 p.m. on the highway, a male was shot in
5 the lower body. Shooting in the 19th
6 District at 5322 Race Street on the
7 highway at 8:20, 19-year-old male shot in
8 the upper leg. 25th District shooting at
9 9:10, 3rd and Indiana, 16-year-old female
10 shot in both legs. In the 22nd District
11 at 8:54 p.m., 948 Carver Street,
12 21-year-old male shot in the upper leg
13 and transferred to Albert Einstein
14 Medical Center. The 22nd District at
15 32nd and Diamond Street on the highway at
16 9:27 p.m., an 18-year-old Hispanic male
17 shot in the lower body. At 10:51 p.m., a
18 shooting at 7736 Fayette Street in West
19 Oak Lane, a 32-year-old male shot in the
20 abdomen, in critical condition. And in
21 the 12th District at 10:58 p.m. at 54th
22 and Lindbergh on the highway, 22-year-old
23 male shot in the right leg. He is in the
24 hospital.

25 Over the weekend we had ten

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2 homicides, one early last evening. That
3 makes it 11 by my count, bringing the
4 total of homicides in Philadelphia this
5 year to 128.

6 This is a time when in addition
7 to the shootings and killings, we have
8 for every fatality at least five and
9 sometimes more than five people who pick
10 up guns and either point them at, use
11 them or critically injure another person
12 in this city.

13 Against this backdrop of 406
14 homicides last year, a pace that rivals
15 and exceeds last year's pace, and on top
16 of all of the other crime that faces
17 Philadelphians, from house stealing to
18 child abuse to domestic violence to
19 narcotics activity to life quality crimes
20 to robbery, rape, kidnapping, assaults
21 and the whole panoply of white-collar
22 frauds that are perpetrated against
23 citizens, the Mayor proposes,
24 astoundingly, for at least the second
25 time in two years -- as a matter of fact,

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2 I think it's fairly clear that out of the
3 eight years he's been in office, the
4 majority of those times he has sought to
5 limit, if not completely demolish, the
6 morale of the office and the effect of
7 the office by cutting, trimming,
8 obliterating positions. This year's
9 budget, if passed by Council in its
10 present form, will mean that 13
11 additional prosecutors will be laid off.

12 We have already seen over the
13 course of years what has happened in our
14 office because of these cuts. And I'm
15 not unmindful that Council last year, and
16 for which I am extraordinarily grateful,
17 restored to our budget half of what the
18 Mayor cut, and that went a long way to
19 helping us. But, for example, our
20 Economic Crime Unit, which handles house
21 stealing, which many Councilpeople are
22 interested in, crimes of will forgeries
23 and deed forgeries and scams against the
24 elderly and cyber crimes like identity
25 theft and phishing and all the other --

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2 phishing with a P-H-I-S-H-I-N-G, for the
3 record, phishing with fake websites,
4 we've lost half of that unit because of
5 funding cuts, and that means that these
6 long-term, very complex investigations of
7 scams and frauds, which are
8 multi-faceted, multi-defendant, extremely
9 burdened by tons of paperwork, have had
10 to wait in line and sometimes, in fact
11 most of the times, our Chief, Lisa
12 Caulfield, has told me we just refer them
13 to the civil authorities and say, Get a
14 lawyer and do the best you can. This is
15 a terrible thing to inflict upon seniors,
16 the vulnerable and others who are taken
17 advantage of.

18 That's just one of the things
19 that we've lost. We've lost our truancy
20 prevention program. We've lost our local
21 intensive narcotics effort program.
22 We've had to cut down on other units.
23 There are 21 lawyers in the Homicide
24 Division who are struggling with hundreds
25 of cases, more than the actual numbers of

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2 homicides, because in many of the cases,
3 although the number of dead is 406, the
4 numbers of perpetrators, accomplices
5 co-conspirator can be three, four, five,
6 six or more. And sometimes the case, as
7 one of the cases was this past year,
8 there were four defendants accused of
9 murdering a young girl in Southwest
10 Philadelphia. There were four trials.
11 The prosecutor went from one courtroom to
12 the other to the other to the other,
13 without a break, for weeks upon weeks,
14 months, trying each of the four
15 defendants separately, because unlike in
16 former times when all the defendants were
17 joined in one room, many defendants now
18 are separated, so the case has to be
19 retried and retried and retried before
20 different judges and different jury
21 panels. It is not uncommon for our
22 prosecutors in our major trials, our
23 major felony rooms, our career criminal
24 rooms and our homicide rooms to be
25 literally exhausted from just handling

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2 the sheer weight and number of cases.

3 There's an interesting
4 by-product to all of this. In the New
5 York Times this past January, I was
6 watching Mayor Bloomberg celebrating the
7 fact that in New York City he was able to
8 add to his budget a \$3.9 billion surplus
9 to help him in his -- now, this is an
10 astoundingly large budget, so this is not
11 Philadelphia and I'm not trying to make
12 the comparison, but this is instructive,
13 I think.

14 The budget for New York was
15 57.1 billion, a huge, huge number. But
16 almost four billion of that came from
17 monies encouraged by the real estate boom
18 in New York, which allowed it to be added
19 to the budget and they cut taxes.

20 This is an important signal,
21 because Philadelphia can do the same
22 thing. We can encourage an economic
23 boom, a building boom of not only condos
24 but of businesses in the City and
25 encourage people to not only come here

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2 but stay here. We won't lose our brain
3 power by having young people come here,
4 go to college and other schools here and
5 then leave the City. We will encourage
6 people to come and stay here if we are
7 perceived to be a safe city.

8 The perception right now is
9 quite the opposite. We are on every blog
10 in this country as an unsafe city. It's
11 not just the local headlines that call us
12 Killadelphia and other terrible things,
13 and 52nd and Market being dubbed "death
14 row" by the Philadelphia Daily News.
15 It's not just that that's bad enough and
16 hurtful enough for those, like many of
17 us, who have spent our entire lives in
18 Philadelphia and intend to remain here.
19 It's a disparaging mark on all of us from
20 around the country. It allows the people
21 looking at Philadelphia as a possible
22 place, saying, I don't think I'll come to
23 Philadelphia.

24 If you look at violence in our
25 schools, which is portrayed, as it should

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2 be, as difficult and dangerous for
3 teachers and students alike, people say,
4 Well, I don't think I want to put my
5 children in the Philadelphia public
6 school.

7 A woman came up to me and said,
8 Oh, thank goodness we can stay in
9 Philadelphia. My child got in a certain
10 school, which she perceives as safe. She
11 said, We were thinking of leaving the
12 City. It's a young woman with a child in
13 grade school, which I happened to visit
14 just the other day.

15 There are wonderful children in
16 this city. They want to live in a safe
17 environment. They don't want to be
18 frightened by the things they see and
19 hear in their neighborhoods and
20 surrounding their every aspect of their
21 life.

22 So I think what we need to do
23 is take a leadership role. I'm not
24 afraid to do the hard things that need to
25 be done. We've absorbed cost cuts in the

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2 past, and what it meant was cutting
3 manpower, shifting people out of units,
4 seeing people leave the office for the
5 fat salaries of \$135,000 a year at law
6 firms, and by the time they leave us,
7 after only a few short years, they make
8 more and they live outside of the City
9 and take their children out of
10 Philadelphia public schools and don't pay
11 the kinds of real estate and other taxes
12 that we have.

13 We need to take a leadership
14 role and we need to tell the Mayor, This
15 is the end of the road. We're going to
16 override your cutting of the District
17 Attorney's budgets and any other budget
18 you think is appropriate and say, You
19 know, it is a wrong thing to add a COLA
20 and then take a whopping 2.1 percent out
21 of our budget and leave us with a budget
22 shortfall which means that I have to lay
23 off 13 lawyers. This city can't afford
24 it. The people can't afford it.

25 And I want to show you

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2 something that I think will help you sort
3 of crystalize what we're talking about,
4 the wide swaths of Philadelphia. I
5 brought this map -- and I would ask, by
6 the way, the court reporter, since I have
7 my notes of testimony, I'm not reading
8 from them, if my testimony which I have
9 submitted to Council can be marked as
10 Exhibit A and entered into the record.

11 May that be done, Madam
12 President?

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Yes.
14 She will transcribe your testimony in
15 full --

16 MS. ABRAHAM: Thank you.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: --
18 your written testimony.

19 MS. ABRAHAM: This is a map
20 done for me in early, I believe it was,
21 early February by the Police Department
22 at my request that shows the City of
23 Philadelphia map with all aggravated
24 assaults by gun and homicides by 2006.
25 And I'll certainly allow Councilmembers

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2 to see it. There's also a density map of
3 shootings, so that the orange colors are
4 from three to six shootings in a given
5 area, the purple is seven to 12 shootings
6 in a given area, and the red is 13 to 24.
7 Those are the boxes that you see, the
8 colored boxes.

9 In addition to that, sprinkled
10 throughout Philadelphia but mostly
11 concentrated in the areas with the other
12 multi-colored boxes are black crosses
13 symbolizing the 406 homicides that
14 happened in the City of Philadelphia.
15 And you can see that there are only a few
16 neighborhoods that are left relatively
17 unscathed. They are, for the most part,
18 the 8th and the 7th, which I believe is
19 Councilman Brian O'Neill's -- part of his
20 councilmanic district, the very edges
21 along the river wards of the 15th and the
22 24th and the 26th, the 6th and the 8th a
23 little bit, and the lower portions, the
24 Southeast and Southwest portions of the
25 1st and the 4th and a bit of the 9th.

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2 Every other -- I'm sorry. I forgot about
3 the 5th, upper Roxborough, the 5th
4 District. As you can see elsewhere, in
5 Germantown, North Philadelphia, East
6 Philadelphia, West Philadelphia,
7 Southwest Philadelphia, South
8 Philadelphia in the 17th and the 3rd and
9 in the Southwest portion of Philadelphia,
10 the whole area covered by those blocks
11 symbolize where a lot of the shootings
12 and killings occur.

13 This does not track or mark
14 robberies without a gun, rapes without a
15 gun, rapes with or without a gun,
16 assaults by fist or bat or knife. It
17 doesn't include any kinds of narcotics
18 trafficking or narcotics investigations.
19 It doesn't include burglaries. It
20 doesn't include most of the crimes, which
21 are fairly well dispersed. The point of
22 this map is to show you where our
23 shootings and our homicides take place.
24 It is not meant to project a full picture
25 of all the crime in Philadelphia. It's

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2 much more extensive than that and much
3 more complex.

4 Commissioner Johnson advised me
5 that last year 70,000 people were
6 arrested and that, I think it's, \$150
7 million worth of drugs were confiscated
8 and over 6,000 guns. So you know that we
9 are in a huge market, a demand market for
10 drugs.

11 By the way, just so you should
12 not think that I'm forgetting one thing,
13 last year although we had 406 homicides,
14 I think we had 548 drug overdoses. The
15 interesting thing about drug overdoses,
16 quite the contrary from homicides by
17 shooting and other trauma, by knife or
18 other implement, is that whereas in the
19 homicides by violence in this city
20 committed mostly against and by young
21 black men against other young black men,
22 with the ages of 14 to 35 being the
23 greatest concentration of victims, the
24 drug overdoses -- 548 I believe is the
25 number -- were mostly all white, just the

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2 opposite. Overdoses, because we have
3 such a huge drug economy that fuels a lot
4 of our crime and drives a lot of the
5 crime.

6 And you can tell that we are
7 trying to do the best job possible when
8 our prison is at almost 9,000. That was
9 the prison that was built to take the
10 case of the overcrowded and decrepit and
11 ancient Holmesburg Prison, which had
12 about 3,700 prisoners in it at last
13 count, 3,700, 4,000. Mayor Rendell and
14 Council approved building the new
15 Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility, et
16 cetera, and expanding that, CFCF. That
17 building, the new prison, was built to
18 have about 5,100, 5,200. We have 8,800
19 people and a lawsuit to start releasing
20 prisoners back into society, untried
21 sometimes, sometimes early paroled,
22 earned time, good time -- you can call it
23 anything you want -- without any safety
24 measures to ensure the security of the
25 public. It's thousands of people on

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2 wanted cards, 50,000 bench warrants,
3 people who are out walking around and
4 almost nobody is looking for them.

5 And this is not a slight on the
6 Probation or Parole Department, which is
7 overwhelmed, and before this body in a
8 committee I testified we absolutely want
9 and need more probation and parole
10 officers. There's no after-care program.
11 There's nobody looking for these people
12 who are on wanted cards, except a small
13 cadre of police, who are overwhelmed with
14 other things.

15 This is absolutely the worst
16 possible time that anybody can think of
17 to cut a prosecutor's budget. If you
18 think that the Police can do it all by
19 themselves, I've not made my point. And
20 you know, all of you in Council know,
21 that the Police Department can't do it by
22 itself. This is the agency that takes
23 the case from the Police Department,
24 works with Police, reinvestigates it,
25 brings it to trial, and we just can't go

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2 any further. And if we have these budget
3 cuts, I will tell you, there will be
4 severe consequences to the public safety.

5 This is nothing that a
6 prosecutor wants, and that's why it's so
7 important that Your Honors exercise the
8 kinds of authorities that you have to
9 give us what we need. Not everything we
10 want by far, but everything that we need
11 we believe to at least maintain and at
12 least improve some of the services we're
13 able to give to our citizens.

14 I want to see Philadelphia have
15 the same kind of tax benefits that New
16 York has. It may not be the same size,
17 but I want us to have a real estate and a
18 population boom, not a population
19 decline. This is too important for the
20 future of Philadelphia to be left to the
21 numbers crunchers and the bean counters.
22 This has to be done with forward-thinking
23 leadership, and Council can do that, and
24 I ask you to do so.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank

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2 you very much.

3 Before I start my line of
4 questioning, I want to applaud you and
5 your office for doing an absolutely
6 fantastic job.

7 MS. ABRAHAM: Thank you, Madam.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm
9 sorry. Did you say something?

10 MS. ABRAHAM: I said thank you,
11 Madam.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Oh,
13 I'm sorry. I thought you said wait a
14 minute. I thought you wanted to add
15 something to what I said.

16 MS. ABRAHAM: Oh, no. I said
17 thank you.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Let
19 me ask you, with the additional monies
20 that City Council gave your department
21 last year, were you permitted to spend
22 that money?

23 MS. ABRAHAM: I believe that we
24 had -- well, the answer is eventually.
25 We had a huge fight, because after Your

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2 Honors appropriated the money, the Budget
3 Office told us they weren't going to let
4 us spend it. And we moved might and main
5 and used the good offices of Council, for
6 which I thank you, to finally get that
7 money.

8 I mean, Mr. Toczydlowski can
9 give you the chapter and verse, but I
10 know it was extraordinarily frustrating
11 to have Council award us half of what was
12 cut from our budget and then be told by
13 the Budget Office that you, City Council,
14 didn't have the authority that you
15 inherently have and you do have passing a
16 veto-proof budget. So we had a big fight
17 with them, but eventually we got to spend
18 the money.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Did
20 you request additional funding from the
21 Administration during their budget
22 process, and, if so, what was their
23 response?

24 MS. ABRAHAM: I'm going to let
25 Mr. Toczydlowski answer that.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
3 you.

4 MS. ABRAHAM: Thank you.

5 MR. TOCZYDLOWSKI: Council
6 President Verna, what we did was, when we
7 received our budget pages, we responded
8 with a memo advising them that we did not
9 accept the budget pages that they had
10 proposed and instead wanted an increase,
11 which is set forth in our budget pages
12 that were provided to Council -- our
13 budget message that was provided to
14 Council. We did not hear back from them
15 after we sent the memo.

16 MS. ABRAHAM: And, more
17 importantly, they didn't ask us what we
18 needed before they gave us the budget
19 pages. They just sent us budget pages.
20 They didn't say, Come in, what do you
21 want, what do you need, what would you
22 like to have and then we'll talk about
23 what we might be able to give you. We
24 just get these e-mails through the
25 computer telling us what their decision

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2 is.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I
4 know you didn't read your written
5 testimony. However, could you tell us
6 how much additional funding you need or
7 are asking for?

8 MS. ABRAHAM: Yes. If you will
9 consult, just for the record, Page 6, it
10 says our Class 100 budget is 27,764,122.
11 The COLA, which is due by operation of
12 law on 7/1/07, would require 1.110,565 or
13 \$1,110,565 for next year. The Mayor's
14 budget proposed to put that COLA in, but
15 then he decreased the budget by two and a
16 half percent, which means he cut 643,316
17 from that 1.11 million. So his proposal
18 would mean that he's only going to add
19 really \$467,249 to the budget, and that
20 means that we'd have to make up the
21 643,316 from our existing revenues, or 13
22 prosecutors, because we have no way of
23 making that up under our existing scheme
24 except by laying off people. We can't
25 cut our lawyers' salaries. They're

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2 working for too low a salary in the
3 meantime.

4 Our budget calls for adding
5 \$1.373,316 to the Mayor's proposal, which
6 will restore the \$643,316 he cut, plus an
7 additional \$730,000, which would mean
8 that we would add six prosecutors and a
9 paralegal for the three new felony
10 courtrooms that the Court of Common Pleas
11 has opened to handle the backlog and to
12 which we had to assign attorneys from
13 existing rooms, leaving the lawyers in
14 those rooms without any kind of support
15 or back-up. That's 330,000.

16 An additional just one
17 prosecutor. Even though the homicides
18 are going through the roof and even
19 though we could easily use three or four
20 prosecutors, we don't want to look like
21 we're asking for pie and ice cream.
22 We'll just take the crust. We're not
23 going to be happy with it, but we want to
24 be realistic, because we read budgets
25 just like Council does. Another two

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2 detectives and a prosecutor for homicide
3 and two prosecutors, a paralegal and two
4 detectives for the Economic Crime Unit,
5 which has lost half of its people. We
6 had nine. We have essentially five now.
7 That's four people and a Chief. And the
8 interesting thing about that is that
9 three of those five people have been in
10 that unit less than eight months.

11 So you know these are
12 complicated cases when your constituents
13 call up and say, My house has been
14 stolen, and it turns out it's not just
15 your constituent but a lot of
16 constituents. The amount of work in
17 these cases -- some of which, by the way,
18 we have sent down to our federal
19 authorities where Lisa Caulfield, our
20 Chief, who is behind me, is the lead
21 prosecutor along with the federal
22 prosecutors on these widespread scams --
23 it's tremendously labor intensive, paper
24 intensive, time intensive. And while
25 she's down there, she has to pay

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2 attention to the case on trial and put
3 off or defer the other cases. And that's
4 where we are right now. So we just can't
5 get to the numbers of cases that we have.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Last
7 year after our budget hearings -- and we
8 did have a little briefing from you in
9 the Caucus Room -- I truly was very, very
10 impressed listening to many of the issues
11 that you brought to light, particularly
12 the relocation program. You mention the
13 need for funding by the City for the
14 Witness Relocation Program, yet you do
15 not include this in your funding request
16 and I'm wondering why.

17 MS. ABRAHAM: Well, we asked,
18 if you'll recall, Madam President, we
19 thought that the City could not put this
20 in our budget last time we asked for it,
21 and here's what we suggested: We
22 suggested a revolving fund that wouldn't
23 be in the District Attorney's budget but
24 a pile of money. And coincidentally,
25 just so that Councilmembers will know

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2 this, we got a half million dollars from
3 the Attorney General's Office. We just
4 put in -- and I have the copies of the
5 letters here -- to the state House a
6 request for an emergency appropriation,
7 because the money is gone. It's the end
8 of April, but we're out of money. To put
9 in 250,000 more dollars for prosecutors,
10 including us, to be able to relocate our
11 witnesses.

12 And remember, they're not on
13 salary, these witnesses. We don't keep
14 them forever. This is not -- we're not
15 paying people for their testimony, but we
16 do want them to be safe.

17 We suggested that the City not
18 put a line item in our budget but create
19 a revolving fund on an as-needed basis
20 and we could draw from that fund the
21 money that we would use, with supporting
22 documentation, for witness relocation.

23 This year, as in the ten prior
24 years that I've asked for this, I've
25 asked for that money, and it is in my

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2 testimony in the written record I've
3 suggested to you. But the way I did it
4 was not to put it in our budget but to
5 suggest, again, that the Council, through
6 the City Budget Office, set aside a fund,
7 which will revolve every year, and what
8 we hope is that we won't be able to -- we
9 obviously won't want to exhaust all the
10 fund, but on an as-needed basis, we can
11 dip into the fund. And we hope that the
12 way it's administered, we won't be coming
13 back for a significant period of time
14 asking for additional funds in that
15 revolving fund. That's why it's not in
16 our budget.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Very
18 well.

19 All of the democratic mayoral
20 candidates have pledged to hire
21 additional police. If in fact 200 or 300
22 more officers were hired, in your
23 opinion, what would that do to the
24 criminal justice system?

25 MS. ABRAHAM: Well, let me say,

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 without getting into mayoral politics at
3 this juncture, I believe that it would be
4 extremely helpful on the street to have
5 more police. There's no doubt about it,
6 because as I understand the Police
7 Commissioner the last time I heard him
8 speak on this issue, we're about 600
9 officers short. That would mean more
10 eyes and ears on the street, but it means
11 more arrests. So that if we had 70,000
12 arrests, according to the Police
13 Commissioner, last year, that would mean
14 thousands of more arrests whenever we
15 would get those extra police. And
16 considering all the aspects of the
17 criminal justice system, it would be
18 catastrophic. We just couldn't deal with
19 the cases. We'd have to dismiss the
20 cases, decide which ones we were going to
21 prefer charges on, assign prosecutors,
22 who already get 40, sometimes 50 cases a
23 day in a municipal courtroom, which is
24 impossible. It would be so disastrous.

25 You have to be careful what you

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 ask for. When somebody glibly says I'm
3 going to put 200 more police on the
4 street --

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: How
6 about a thousand?

7 MS. ABRAHAM: Any figure you
8 want. The more, the merrier. I'm in
9 favor of it, cameras, shot spotters.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I
11 know. I would think we'd need another
12 prison.

13 MS. ABRAHAM: Oh, we are going
14 to need another prison, but the weight on
15 the Probation Department, on Pretrial
16 Services, the prosecutors, the defense,
17 the judges, on everybody, it's a system.
18 It's a system. So as with other things,
19 you have to be careful what you ask for,
20 because you have to be able to pay the
21 bill.

22 I support it if all of the
23 other factors are in place, because we do
24 need, we are desperately short of police
25 officers. There are districts in this

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2 city where in the evening hours there may
3 be five police officers in a whole
4 district. That's it, because they've all
5 been shifted to the places on this map
6 where violent crime are rampid. For
7 example, the 80 police officers that the
8 Mayor redeployed, he didn't just
9 manufacture them. He took them from
10 other districts, where they're
11 desperately needed, and put them in
12 Southwest, where they are very much
13 needed.

14 It's not a question of need.
15 It's a question of which neighborhood do
16 you strip of a police officer so that you
17 can put them someplace else. And
18 criminals are clever. They listen to the
19 police radios. They know where the
20 police officers are. They know what
21 neighborhoods are not guarded and they
22 commit crimes there. It's real simple.
23 Crime flourishes in a weakened situation
24 and where the possibility of being
25 arrested is small. And having a witness

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2 come testify against you for fright has
3 been severely reduced by absolutely being
4 literally and figuratively scared for
5 their own life.

6 You have a terrible situation.
7 It's never going to get better unless we
8 operate in a way that's sustainable,
9 that's affordable and that's workable,
10 and that means that all the players have
11 to be at the table.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
13 you very much. I see that there are a
14 number of Councilmembers that want to be
15 recognized.

16 The Chair recognizes Councilman
17 Rizzo.

18 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you,
19 Madam President.

20 Madam District Attorney, I
21 agree with you completely. It's
22 impossible for any organization to
23 deal -- and I'll use an example. In my
24 opinion, this is an emergency, and when
25 an emergency occurs, budgets are

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2 increased. When the roof fell in here in
3 the Council Chamber, I'm sure that Public
4 Property didn't have the money just
5 sitting someplace to deal with the
6 emergency. And as long as we have this,
7 in my opinion, crime emergency in the
8 City of Philadelphia, there's a lot of
9 stuff in the back room that goes on that
10 costs money.

11 So I don't know how you do what
12 you do, but it's marvelous that you even
13 can deal with this escalating crime
14 without having additional funding. It's
15 just --

16 MS. ABRAHAM: It's getting
17 tougher every minute, Councilman.

18 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: It's hard to
19 believe that intelligent people don't
20 realize, like you mentioned, if there are
21 more arrests, somebody has to be the
22 prosecutor, and that costs money in our
23 city.

24 So I will do my part and I'm
25 sure my colleagues will do what's right

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2 here to make sure that you have the
3 funding to deal with this escalation in
4 crime in our city.

5 MS. ABRAHAM: I thank the
6 Councilman.

7 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: One thing I
8 did want to follow up on, there was an
9 idea that I thought was pretty good. One
10 of my colleagues -- and I can't remember
11 who it was -- made a suggestion that we
12 talk to the federal government to see if
13 we could possibly take advantage of the
14 existing federal Witness Protection
15 Program or the Witness Relocation Program
16 if they have one. I believe that's one
17 and the same.

18 MS. ABRAHAM: Not quite, no.
19 It's not the same.

20 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Not quite?

21 MS. ABRAHAM: No.

22 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: But the feds
23 do have both of those?

24 MS. ABRAHAM: They have a
25 witness -- here's what the federal

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2 authorities do: When the federal
3 authorities -- I'll use myself as an
4 example. If I'm a needed witness and
5 there was concern for my life and safety,
6 they will take me out of my present
7 living situation. They'll give me a new
8 name, a total new identity, a new Social
9 Security card. They will give my
10 children and my husband new names and a
11 new Social Security card. They will move
12 me someplace, Iowa, Montana. I don't
13 know. Wherever they move people. And I
14 have to live under an assumed name, and
15 never, and I mean never, come back unless
16 I value my life so little that I don't
17 care that I come back to my old
18 neighborhood and reap the consequences.
19 They move me someplace else. All contact
20 with my prior life is over. That is a
21 Witness Protection Program.

22 A Witness Relocation Program
23 isn't totally different. We don't change
24 anybody's identity, because we can't. We
25 don't give them new Social Security cards

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2 or get them a job or move their family
3 into a new house which the government
4 paid for and give them a stipend, which
5 they do. You get paid to live in this
6 new location for a period of time until
7 you get settled.

8 All we can do is take a family
9 who takes advantage of our witness
10 relocation, is that we take them out of
11 their present situation, their home, put
12 them in a hotel temporarily, and then we
13 look for housing someplace else for them,
14 either someplace in the relatively broad
15 confines of this country where they can
16 get back to court to testify. We don't
17 change their name. We don't give them a
18 new Social Security card. We do not pay
19 them a stipend. We do not get them a
20 job. We do pay for their housing and
21 food for a small period of time until the
22 case is over and maybe a little bit
23 longer. We move them. We can move the
24 person that night if they come forward.
25 But that's the extent of it. And they're

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 not kept on the payroll. They're not --
3 we are not paying for testimony. We are
4 paying only to move a person from Point A
5 to Point B so that they can testify in
6 safety. Whether they decide to come back
7 or not is entirely up to them. As far as
8 we're concerned, they can stay wherever
9 it is that they are moved, but we don't
10 support them.

11 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Right.
12 Thank you. Thanks for explaining that.
13 It's very interesting --

14 MS. ABRAHAM: Just so -- Mr.
15 Toczydlowski wanted me to just answer
16 your question. The federal government
17 will not pay witness relocation or
18 witness protection for non-federal
19 crimes.

20 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: But my
21 point, is there any opportunity to
22 discuss with them since they have
23 allegedly a very good process here -- I'm
24 not suggesting that ours isn't, but would
25 there be any savings in joining in a

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2 program that already exists and, from
3 what I understand, runs fairly well?
4 Would there be any opportunity? Would
5 they at least entertain joining into that
6 program?

7 MS. ABRAHAM: Well, Councilman,
8 obviously as an elected official, you
9 certainly, I'm sure, could and indeed
10 should go down and talk to the local
11 prosecutor. He, Pat Meehan, may refer
12 you to the Department of Justice in
13 Washington, because he doesn't have the
14 authority to do anything, but you're
15 certainly welcome to explore it.

16 As a matter of fact, I
17 understand that almost every federal
18 program has been cut. That's why
19 Philadelphia is not getting the funding
20 it used to get. And I don't believe that
21 Mr. Meehan will share any funding with
22 you, because legally he can't, but if you
23 want to see if there are any economies,
24 please do so.

25 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: That's

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 exactly where I'm going. Not that they
3 would pay the tab to relocate or
4 temporarily relocate, but to take a look
5 at their process. They might find ours
6 better than theirs, but sometimes it's
7 amazing when two organizations get in the
8 same room what can't develop as a result
9 of that short time together that there
10 may be some interaction. I wouldn't feel
11 appropriate doing that, but possibly
12 there's someone in your organization that
13 would at least reach out to Mr. Meehan
14 and see if there's any relationship that
15 could lead to improvements, and, if not,
16 we'll just leave it alone and do what
17 we --

18 MS. ABRAHAM: Well, trust me,
19 we meet regularly and we've already
20 discussed this, and there doesn't seem,
21 to our mutual understanding, that there
22 are any economies, because their system
23 is so different, with the Marshal service
24 and the other agencies that they have
25 working for them. In other words, the

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2 U.S. Attorney doesn't move somebody. The
3 Marshal service or some other agency
4 moves them. We don't have a Marshal
5 service. We move them. We hire the
6 moving company. The moving company packs
7 their furniture.

8 Remember, Councilman, we're
9 operating on \$500,000. We're not
10 operating on millions as they are. We
11 have wonderful people, headed by Leland
12 Kent, doing this. I think you may have
13 spoken to Mr. Kent on a number of
14 occasions. This is a monumental
15 Herculean effort done by essentially two
16 people. Nobody is getting fat on this
17 program, especially the witnesses and the
18 victims.

19 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you,
20 District Attorney Abraham. And, again, I
21 think your organization is to be
22 commended for the great work that they
23 do, and I hope that you get the resources
24 that you need to continue this good work.

25 Thank you.

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2 MS. ABRAHAM: Thank you very
3 much.

4 COUNCILMAN RIZZ0: Thank you,
5 Madam President.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
7 You're welcome.

8 The Chair recognizes Councilman
9 Savage.

10 COUNCILMAN SAVAGE: Thank you,
11 Madam President.

12 Good morning, Your Honor.

13 MS. ABRAHAM: Good morning,
14 Mr. Savage. How are you?

15 COUNCILMAN SAVAGE: First, I
16 would like to thank you for a great job
17 you're doing with the limited resources
18 you are working with.

19 MS. ABRAHAM: You're welcome.

20 COUNCILMAN SAVAGE: I want to
21 go back to the witness relocation. How
22 would the ideal program look?

23 MS. ABRAHAM: Well, the ideal
24 program would certainly be a little more
25 generous than the present program. Let's

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 assume giving the scenario I gave you
3 before. I'm a -- I'm not, but I'm a mom
4 with children and other collateral
5 relatives living in my household.
6 Because my household may be the subject
7 of retaliation; in other words, somebody
8 may burn my house down with my children
9 in it, it's not only I, the witness, who
10 has to be moved, everybody in my
11 household has to be moved, aunts,
12 grandmoms, sisters, children, family, me.
13 Everything has to be moved. Everything
14 in my house has to be moved. I have to
15 be taken out of my house and moved
16 someplace. I may move in with a
17 relative, if that's possible. I may not
18 have any relatives who can bear the crush
19 of people in my household. So we have to
20 go to an agency that has housing
21 available. Sometimes we go to private
22 agencies. More often we partner with
23 public agencies who have, let's say,
24 public housing someplace other than in
25 Philadelphia. For example, we try to

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 negotiate that, and in the interim, I and
3 my family and my relatives and
4 everything, my furniture is in storage,
5 I'm in a hotel, which the Witness
6 Relocation Program is paying for until I
7 can be settled someplace else. That can
8 be a short time or a long time.
9 Depending on how long it takes for the
10 case to come to trial, if it's a year or
11 two, we can't afford to keep you in a
12 hotel for a year or two. So we'll put
13 you -- we'll move you, your house, your
14 household goods, your children and you
15 wherever that other place is. If it's
16 public housing, it's a public housing
17 place in some other state or some
18 far-away city.

19 And then during the pendency of
20 the case, we tell our victims and
21 witnesses, Don't come back to the old
22 neighborhood, don't call anybody, don't
23 visit anybody, don't write anybody, don't
24 tell anybody where you are. And we have
25 to constantly reinforce that idea that

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2 you're here now, don't let anybody know
3 where you are, because this is for your
4 protection.

5 Whenever there is a court case,
6 we have to bus, fly or transport that
7 person, that witness, from wherever it is
8 that they are back to the courthouse, put
9 them in a hotel pending their testimony,
10 feed them, of course. You have to feed
11 them when they're in a hotel. Take them
12 back and forth to court under guard.
13 When they're finished their testimony
14 completely, put them back on a bus, a
15 train or a plane, send them back to
16 wherever it is that we've put them, and
17 they stay there either forever or
18 whenever they believe in their own good
19 judgment they decide that they want to
20 come back after the case is over, they
21 come back. Because sometimes breaking
22 the ties of familiarity and being in a
23 city that you know with all your other
24 friends and relatives here, it's hard to
25 keep people away from people and things

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 that they know and love. Sometimes
3 people come back; sometimes they never
4 come back.

5 But after the case is at an
6 end, we're not supporting them. And
7 frequently before the case is at an end,
8 we're not supporting them. We can't
9 support people for two years or more if a
10 case takes that long to come up.

11 So we do the best we can. We
12 are good stewards of the public's funds.
13 And if you'd like, I can have Mr. Kent
14 come speak to you and tell you nuts and
15 bolts how it all works, chapter and
16 verse. It's pretty much what I've said
17 to you with just a little more detail.
18 But that's how it works.

19 COUNCILMAN SAVAGE: Yeah. I'd
20 like that.

21 I also have a couple more
22 questions for you. How much additional
23 staffing is needed to handle the
24 increased caseload?

25 MS. ABRAHAM: Well, obviously

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2 more than what we've asked for. For
3 example, in the Economic Crimes Unit,
4 we've lost four people. We're only
5 asking for two. We could have and
6 probably should have asked for four. And
7 actually, because there's so much
8 white-collar crime, major frauds,
9 embezzlements, will forgeries, house
10 stealing, tons of scams and frauds,
11 Internet frauds, we used to have a whole
12 unit devoted to cyber crime or part of a
13 unit. We have one person doing cyber
14 crime. So if you're a victim of identity
15 theft and you come to us and say, Listen,
16 my computer has been compromised or my
17 identity has been stolen, we might be
18 able to help you if we don't have to get
19 too much into the cyber crime aspect of
20 it, because we've lost those people.
21 We've lost other people from our Economic
22 Fraud Unit. The Homicide Division could
23 use at least two more people than we've
24 asked for. Our Major Trials Unit could
25 use lots more people, because the crush

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 of cases is just too much.

3 But we're not here to ask for
4 something that we know is impossible. It
5 would be insulting and absurd. Are we
6 short? Yeah, we're short. We're
7 desperately short. We can't get
8 everything we'll need. We'll take a stop
9 gap. It's not something we're happy
10 about. We'll just have to live with it,
11 but something has got to suffer.

12 COUNCILMAN SAVAGE: How many
13 homicide arrests and convictions were
14 there last year of the cases that
15 occurred?

16 MS. ABRAHAM: I believe the
17 clearance rate, the clearance rate, was
18 around 60 percent. We're still trying
19 cases from '05 and '06. So we have a
20 significant backlog, plus the -- I'll
21 give you an example. For example, this
22 year is a particularly bad year for this
23 weekend so far. I think of the ten
24 killings we had over the weekend, there's
25 only been one arrest. That's another

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 aspect of stop snitching, witness
3 protection, fear of coming to court. But
4 it was a significant number. It was
5 hundreds of cases. I can get you the
6 exact figures.

7 COUNCILMAN SAVAGE: Yeah. I
8 would love to have that.

9 MS. ABRAHAM: Sure.

10 COUNCILMAN SAVAGE: Thank you,
11 Your Honor.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
13 you very much.

14 The Chair recognizes Councilman
15 Greenlee.

16 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
17 you, Madam President.

18 Good morning.

19 MS. ABRAHAM: Good morning,
20 Councilman.

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: A couple
22 questions. First just so I kind of
23 understand this, was it your testimony
24 that 13 prosecutors would have to be laid
25 off if the budget comes as is now?

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 MS. ABRAHAM: That's right.

3 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And does
4 that include or is that -- are the new
5 people that you would want for the new
6 courtrooms, the felony courtrooms, is
7 that additional or would those 13 try to
8 make --

9 MS. ABRAHAM: The courtrooms
10 are already staffed. I mean, they opened
11 on January 1st. And you can't tell a
12 judge, I'm sorry, we're not going to
13 staff your courtroom. What has happened
14 is, we've taken it out of the existing
15 rooms we're short, and without this
16 money, we have to make up the COLA that's
17 been cut, the two and a half percent.
18 We'd have to make up that money someplace
19 and the only place we can make it up is
20 layoffs, and we'd lay off people. That's
21 the way we do it. There's no other way
22 to do it. You can't do it any other way.

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And have
24 you thought about or figured out where
25 those prosecutors will come from? I

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 mean, how would --

3 MS. ABRAHAM: Well, I'll tell
4 you something, Representative, I don't
5 want to think that for this reason: It
6 is beyond my comprehension that this body
7 would allow the Mayor to get away with
8 this.

9 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I
10 understand. I'm just thinking worst case
11 scenario here.

12 MS. ABRAHAM: I'm being
13 optimistic. I'm an eternal optimist. I
14 don't even want to get to the point where
15 I have to start looking at my staff and
16 say, Well, he's gone, she's gone, this is
17 out, this program is over. I want to be
18 optimistic, because this city is too
19 important to be left to the bean
20 counters. I'm not even talking about a
21 legacy. Forget the legacy. That's over.
22 It's what makes this city livable for
23 Councilwoman Blackwell's neighborhoods
24 and your neighborhood and Councilman
25 Savage's neighborhood and the citywide

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 people who are elected for the whole
3 city, what makes the whole city livable.

4 I can't imagine 13 fewer
5 prosecutors trying to cope with the crime
6 that we'd have. It would be totally
7 disastrous. So the answer is no.

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay. I
9 understand.

10 MS. ABRAHAM: I don't believe
11 in magical thinking, but I don't want to
12 be depressed this early in the morning on
13 such a beautiful day.

14 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.
15 Another question on the whole witness
16 relocation, and I know in your testimony
17 you say it's commonplace for eyewitnesses
18 to be murdered, change their testimony,
19 whatever.

20 MS. ABRAHAM: They do.

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I'm sure.
22 Do you either have raw numbers or rough
23 percentages of how many cases either get
24 dismissed or lost through that? I'm just
25 trying to --

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 MS. ABRAHAM: I think it's a
3 significant portion, Councilman. And
4 it's not just homicides. It's violent
5 crime. Because of the fear of -- it's
6 astounding to me. You know, I've lived
7 in the heart of town. I've lived in West
8 Philadelphia. I've lived most of the
9 time in town or someplace close to it.
10 I'm amazed when I talk to people in
11 various neighborhoods who view town as
12 terra incognita. It's unknown,
13 unknowable and they have this irrational
14 fear of coming into town and going into a
15 courthouse. They also have a fear of
16 getting on a bus or a subway or any other
17 mode of conveyance. Maybe he'll be on
18 the same bus or subway with me and he'll
19 know who I am, but I might not know who
20 he is. Of walking into that courtroom
21 filled with people, wall to wall people,
22 feeling the weight of somebody's eyes on
23 your back.

24 Jurors don't even want to come
25 to town. You ask our Jury Commissioner

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 I put a bill in a couple weeks ago
3 addressing that. And you had mentioned
4 in your testimony something that we had
5 noticed in looking into this issue, that
6 there's times that your office just
7 basically says, Look, you have to pursue
8 it civilly, if you will. How do you make
9 that determination? Is it severity,
10 number of cases?

11 MS. ABRAHAM: I'll answer your
12 question by asking the Chief of that unit
13 who does this every single day of her
14 life, Lisa Caulfield. She'll come up and
15 tell you exactly how it goes so you'll
16 know right from the Chief's own
17 experience.

18 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
19 you.

20 MS. CAULFIELD: Lisa Caulfield,
21 C-A-U-L-F-I-E-L-D. Good morning,
22 Councilman.

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Good
24 morning.

25 MS. CAULFIELD: Basically what

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2 we do is, we are receptive to anyone that
3 calls. And the reason for that is, we
4 like to get the information, who to go
5 to, who was the notary, who other parties
6 were involved. And we keep that
7 information for the future. So the
8 people that we end up referring elsewhere
9 are those who call with an isolated
10 one-house incident. Often times they
11 know the party who stole the house from
12 them. Those cases we would refer to the
13 Police. Often they don't involve an
14 extensive investigation. Maybe there's a
15 known party. And, most importantly,
16 everyone gets referred to a civil lawyer,
17 because that is the only way that title
18 can be restored.

19 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay. I
20 guess sometimes on those isolated cases,
21 sometimes you find it's relatives that do
22 it?

23 MS. CAULFIELD: Sometimes the
24 allegations are that it's a relative.
25 Now, eventually in the future, that one

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 isolated case might develop into the fact
3 that it's not isolated anymore, and
4 that's as a result of other people
5 calling, information being received and
6 links being developed. And then our
7 unit, who does their own investigating --
8 we don't use the Police Department --
9 then we would handle it, and it grows
10 much bigger and bigger.

11 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: All
12 right. Thank you.

13 One last one, if I could.
14 Ms. Abraham, you talk about the Nuisance
15 Task Force, and this is something I think
16 we all deal with. I always found -- and
17 I can give a few names -- that your
18 people in there have always been
19 extremely helpful in addressing -- a lot
20 of times there's quality of life crimes,
21 but they're obviously very important.

22 How much of a cut-back have you
23 had to do so far in that?

24 MS. ABRAHAM: I think we've cut
25 back three people from PNTF. And that

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 means that I think it's -- what is it?

3 Six people cover the whole city. Beth

4 Grossman, the Chief, is here. So six

5 people cover the City instead of -- I

6 think at one time we had ten. It's a big

7 city.

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: It just

9 takes longer, I guess, to look through

10 the cases then, right?

11 MS. ABRAHAM: It not only takes

12 longer, but you have to quantify and

13 qualify your cases, not only numerically

14 but which cases are the most pressing

15 that have to be dealt with now.

16 In addition to that, what we

17 attempt to do is find out by looking at a

18 particular location whether or not this

19 is the subject or object of other law

20 enforcement agency interests. Sometimes

21 the location can be something in the

22 federal sphere that they happen to be

23 interested in, in which case we'll pull

24 our resources with theirs.

25 This is all, again, trying to

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 make sure that people live a quiet and
3 decent life, wherever the problem
4 property happens to be.

5 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: As I
6 said, that has certainly been, I think, a
7 success in what you've been doing,
8 because we received a lot of calls about
9 that and it seems like a lot are taken
10 care of.

11 MS. ABRAHAM: It would be
12 better if we had ten lawyers instead of
13 six.

14 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I'm sure.
15 All right. Thank you.

16 MS. ABRAHAM: Thank you,
17 Councilman.

18 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
19 you, Madam President.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:
21 You're welcome.

22 The Chair recognizes
23 Councilwoman Miller.

24 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank
25 you. Thank you, Madam President.

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2 Good morning. How are you
3 doing?

4 MS. ABRAHAM: Good morning.
5 Quite well. Thank you, Councilwoman.

6 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I also
7 want to thank you for your proactive
8 approach on crime prevention. I think
9 those programs are so, so important.

10 I wanted to ask you a question
11 just for clarity. Your Go Truancy
12 Program, is that Truancy Court?

13 MS. ABRAHAM: Well, it was when
14 we ran it. You may remember that Lynn
15 Nichols from my office, we got a small
16 amount of money that we scraped together
17 and put a truancy program together, and
18 as a matter of fact, it became so
19 successful that she was hired away by the
20 school Board to do the truancy program in
21 school. But then they ran into budget
22 problems, so she's back working with us.

23 But we don't do Truancy Court
24 really to any great extent. In other
25 words, we're not the -- we don't go to

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2 the parent and say to the parent -- sit
3 down and have one-on-one meetings with
4 the parent, which is what Lynn did, and
5 tell the parent, Look, this is the
6 importance of having your child go to
7 school. It's a knowledge-based economy
8 anymore, and this is what you need to do.
9 And we had extensive outreach even only
10 in one or two districts of the whole City
11 school system. It was a great program,
12 but we couldn't get funding for it, so we
13 cut it.

14 So we don't really have anybody
15 assigned to truancy anymore. There may
16 be some Dependency Court issues because
17 of truancy, because a child can be
18 declared a ward of the court or the
19 parents' authority can be taken away by
20 the court system in Dependency Court, but
21 we don't go to Dependency Court. We go
22 in Delinquency Court. So we're not even
23 there.

24 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: So this
25 is the court -- I know there was one in

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2 West Philadelphia High. There was one in
3 Pickett Middle. So those no longer
4 exist?

5 MS. ABRAHAM: Not from us.
6 We're not involved in it really at all.

7 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay.

8 MS. ABRAHAM: And you know
9 something? One of the markers for
10 possible criminal involvement later on is
11 truancy, because if they're not in
12 school, they're into mischief.

13 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: You're
14 right.

15 MS. ABRAHAM: It's as simple as
16 that. So this was a great
17 crime-preventive tool, which the Mayor
18 couldn't see funding. So he cut it and
19 we cut it. Simple as that.

20 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I thought
21 it worked.

22 MS. ABRAHAM: It did work. And
23 the thing that we needed was that we
24 needed it brought to scale. In other
25 words, it didn't work alone in one area.

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2 It needed to be expanded citywide. And
3 since we couldn't even get the funding
4 for one area of the City, there wasn't
5 any pretext about trying to keep the
6 program going without funding. We just
7 stopped it. But it works. All those
8 preventive programs work.

9 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: That's
10 unfortunate that it's no longer there.

11 I want to go back to the
12 question on the house stealing. As most
13 people are aware, my office was directly
14 involved in a situation maybe three weeks
15 ago, and what we realized was that
16 someone from the medical community has to
17 be involved in this, because it appeared
18 that -- because we knew about more than
19 just the one property that belonged to
20 Tom Mascaro that was highlighted. But
21 Tom at the time was very, very, very
22 sick, but then a couple other properties
23 we were aware of that this one individual
24 took, everybody was sick. I mean, very,
25 very critically ill, not expecting to

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2 live type sick.

3 So we just feel that someone
4 from the medical community must be giving
5 them information, because how else would
6 you know? I mean, how do I know today
7 who is sick over in Hahnemann Hospital?
8 I don't.

9 Have you picked up on any of
10 that or has any of that come to light?

11 MS. CAULFIELD: Well, I can't
12 comment on the facts of any open
13 investigation that we have, but if that
14 information was relayed to our office,
15 then that is something that we would look
16 into.

17 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Well, we
18 did tell the detective. Many of my staff
19 members were interviewed by the detective
20 from your office that's working on the
21 case. But it just seems to me that
22 someone from the medical community must
23 be involved in this, because how else
24 would you know? And then they came back
25 again last week, you know.

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2 So these people are very, very,
3 very bold. And the real reason why they
4 came to my office was because they wanted
5 help on code violations from the
6 properties they stole. We're like if you
7 steal a property, why would you come to
8 the City to get help? Just go in and fix
9 it.

10 Okay. Do you know how many
11 houses were actually stolen last year and
12 how many people were prosecuted as a
13 result of that? Are being people
14 prosecuted?

15 MS. CAULFIELD: I don't have
16 the exact numbers on those two particular
17 questions. I do know that over last year
18 we had over a hundred calls regarding
19 allegations of houses being stolen. My
20 unit has open investigations and we have
21 open cases, but I don't have the exact
22 numbers. And in addition to my unit
23 having open cases, the office as a whole
24 also has open cases for those more
25 isolated cases I mentioned earlier.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Moving to
3 straw purchasing --

4 MS. ABRAHAM: You know
5 something? Sometimes, Councilwoman,
6 we'll never know that a house was stolen
7 because the person has died. They don't
8 have a will. They go to a nursing home.
9 They move someplace with the family.
10 They die. The family either doesn't know
11 or doesn't care about a property.
12 Somebody else sees it. They go to the
13 Recorder of Deeds Office. They go get a
14 \$2 deed from, say, a stationery store.
15 They copy the information. They take it
16 to an unscrupulous notary. They get the
17 thing transferred for a small or a fake
18 amount of money, flip it to somebody
19 else, and so it goes.

20 So we'll really never know how
21 many houses are the subject of house
22 stealing. The only time we'll know about
23 it, if Mrs. X or Mrs. Y who is deathly
24 ill comes home and -- remember the famous
25 case of Della Clark? She was sick unto

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2 death in a nursing home. She got better
3 miraculously. She comes home to find
4 somebody else is in her house, and the
5 people say, Well, you sold this house, I
6 live here. She said, I didn't sell you
7 anything. And that's how that whole
8 house stealing business came into
9 prominence.

10 She survived. Had she not,
11 however, it's possible that had she no
12 will and her children didn't care about
13 her property or didn't know about it, we
14 never would have discovered the kinds of
15 scam that she and others like her
16 experience at the hands of really a
17 relatively small ring.

18 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: That's
19 one reason why I continue to think that
20 someone from the medical community is
21 involved, because how would these people
22 get that information, unless it was a
23 neighbor on your block and if you were
24 really familiar with the person? But it
25 was just so ironic that everybody was

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2 critically ill on the ones that we became
3 aware of, because even Tom Mascaro had
4 actually received his last rights. It
5 was bad.

6 MS. CAULFIELD: Again, if that
7 information was conveyed to the
8 detective, then that's something that
9 would be looked into.

10 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay. I
11 guess if we catch more and publicize it,
12 maybe that will deter some of what's
13 going on.

14 MS. ABRAHAM: I'll tell you, I
15 have testified about this subject not
16 only here but in -- I've talked to people
17 in Harrisburg, and there seems to be an
18 unwillingness to change fundamental
19 things. For example, I know we now are
20 supposed to have cameras in the Recorder
21 of Deeds Office so that when people come
22 in and look at indexes, they may be
23 photographed. But most also very
24 important is, the notaries of
25 Pennsylvania are an interestingly

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2 resilient lobbying group. We have
3 suggested that if you have a notary, when
4 I come into a notary and want somebody to
5 notarize something, I have to produce
6 some kind of an identification, driver's
7 license. They put it on a copying
8 machine. They take a photograph of my
9 face and my license. Even if it's a fake
10 license, at least it's my face. It's
11 something. And attach it to the
12 paperwork so that three months later, six
13 month later, a year later when an
14 investigator comes back and says,
15 Ms. Jones, did you notarize a paper for
16 Susie Smith? They say, How do I know?
17 I've notarized a thousand papers. How do
18 I know what she looks like? If you have
19 a notary who will attach a photograph of
20 the person coming in and asking it to be
21 notarized, then you'll know about it, and
22 they can go back on their records and
23 look.

24 But notaries are frequently in
25 on the scams that are perpetrated when a

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2 notary is needed, because they get a fee.
3 I'm not saying they all do or even lots
4 of them. Some. I don't want the
5 notaries association to tell me I
6 slandered them. They do get -- we did
7 prosecute notaries in Philadelphia who
8 got a nice piece of change for notarizing
9 something they knew to be fake and then
10 claimed they didn't know who they
11 notarized it for.

12 So unless or until the notary
13 is required to take some kind of
14 identification -- they say it's too time
15 consuming, they don't want to do it --
16 not a whole lot will change. But we
17 started working in that direction.

18 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay.
19 Good. Well, the person that came to my
20 office actually had a driver's license
21 with that name. So they took the time to
22 get ID and whatnot. It was just that he
23 came into an office where most of us
24 personally knew the person that he was --
25 what do you call that? Well, he was

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2 being a fraudulent person, but we
3 happened to know the person --

4 MS. ABRAHAM: You knew his true
5 identity.

6 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: -- very,
7 very well.

8 MS. ABRAHAM: You knew his true
9 identity.

10 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Right.
11 Right. So we knew it wasn't him, or else
12 he probably would have gotten away with
13 it.

14 And one of the other areas of
15 interest is the instances of the straw
16 purchasing. I think the more and more
17 that's publicized that people are being
18 arrested for purchasing guns for someone
19 else -- and in your testimony you refer
20 to the arrest of 14 people in the last
21 three months. How many straw purchasers
22 were arrested last year?

23 MS. ABRAHAM: I don't have that
24 figure for last year, Councilwoman, but
25 this is what really motivated this

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2 special program. We got five and a half
3 million dollars from Senator Vincent Fumo
4 to hire 12 detectives. And what has
5 happened is that the Attorney General's
6 Office and I are working together to hire
7 these detectives who do virtually nothing
8 else but look at guns, trace gun straw
9 purchasers, trace the guns essentially,
10 and that's what they're doing. So we've
11 had the capacity to investigate
12 specifically straw purchasers because we
13 got a grant to do so.

14 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay.

15 MS. ABRAHAM: Again, it's
16 resource directed. So 14 people in three
17 months, 52 guns, two AK-47's, a whole
18 host of 357's and 44's, some of which
19 were used in some pretty significant
20 crimes.

21 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Well,
22 that's really good.

23 MS. ABRAHAM: And this will be
24 citywide.

25 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: That will

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2 be good to see more and more.

3 And also on Page 8 of your
4 testimony where you're talking about the
5 elimination of some of the initiatives,
6 what part of the Blueprint would be
7 dismantled, the Blueprint for a Safer
8 Philadelphia?

9 MS. ABRAHAM: I'm sorry. I
10 didn't hear your question.

11 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: What part
12 of the Blueprint for a Safer Philadelphia
13 would be dismantled? On Page 8 in the
14 last paragraph you said "discouraging or
15 eliminating such programs enables us to
16 absorb budget cuts."

17 MS. ABRAHAM: I think,
18 Councilwoman, the programs that I spoke
19 about were all the programs that preceded
20 the business about the Blueprint. The
21 Blueprint is, first of all, funded in a
22 major way by the state.

23 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Right.

24 MS. ABRAHAM: Not by the City,
25 I regret to say. I think Representative

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2 Dwight Evans has been able to get \$16
3 million to fund the Blueprint. And it
4 doesn't come to us. In other words, this
5 is not money that the District Attorney's
6 Office gets. This funds all the street
7 workers, the outreach workers for the
8 Youth Violence Reduction Partnership and
9 so forth. We have a Gun Court that's
10 part of the Blueprint, which we get a
11 small amount of funding for, which has so
12 far done about 1,200 gun cases in the two
13 years that it's -- almost two years that
14 it's been up and running.

15 So it would only be -- we'd
16 have to ask the state to fund a
17 prosecutor or two if we lose some funding
18 here, but most of it is the other
19 outreach, the other programs that we're
20 doing, the Don't Fall Down in the Hood,
21 the juvenile drug court, the curriculum
22 that we have written for the School
23 District of Philadelphia, which Mr. Mosey
24 here has authored and helps to teach and
25 get going in the school system. Lots of

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2 things would suffer in the area of
3 preventive programs.

4 Remember, if we can prevent a
5 youngster by putting him into treatment,
6 therapy, diversion such as youth aid
7 panels, the Good Shepherd Mediation
8 Program, truancy, mental health and other
9 treatment protocols and we can prevent
10 children from graduating to the next
11 level of violence, we've saved a whole
12 community. But you can't do it without
13 resources.

14 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: So you're
15 saying that the 600-and-some-odd -- that
16 the 2.5 percent decrease would eliminate
17 that --

18 MS. ABRAHAM: It would come
19 from someplace. I can't say yet, because
20 I told you I didn't want to dwell on
21 that, but it would have to come from
22 wherever we could find it necessary to
23 trim 13 prosecutors.

24 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: All
25 right. Thank you.

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2 Thank you, Madam President.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

4 You're welcome.

5 Councilman DiCicco, your light
6 was on. Did you want to be recognized?

7 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Yeah. I
8 just have a quick question.

9 Good morning --

10 MS. ABRAHAM: Good morning,
11 Councilman.

12 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: -- Madam
13 DA.

14 Congressman Fattah put in some
15 reward money, I believe, for guns that
16 are turned in.

17 MS. ABRAHAM: Right.

18 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Is that
19 program being run through your office?

20 MS. ABRAHAM: No.

21 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Is that
22 through the Police?

23 MS. ABRAHAM: It's the Citizens
24 Crime Commission. I think it's called
25 Groceries for Guns.

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2 Let me just observe something,
3 Councilman. I think that any time you
4 can get a gun out of somebody's
5 neighborhood, it's a good thing, but
6 those programs do absolutely nothing,
7 nothing to stop violent crime. It's
8 somebody has a gun from World War I in
9 their cellar and they turn it in for 200
10 bucks, that's a good deal. It doesn't do
11 anything about getting the kinds of guns
12 that are used on the street. Nobody is
13 going to turn in a Glock, a 44, an AK-47
14 for some groceries.

15 So these programs are -- and
16 I've been through all the programs. I've
17 stood next to the Commissioner, every
18 Commissioner, ad nauseam on gun turn-in
19 programs. They're nice, but they don't
20 work. We're happy to have the guns out
21 of houses, but it doesn't really stem
22 crime.

23 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: The reason
24 I asked is, actually about two weeks
25 before the Congressman announced that

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2 program, I had a conversation with the
3 Mayor. I was looking at it from a
4 different angle, putting up reward money
5 for information that would lead to either
6 the arrest and/or conviction of
7 individuals who are selling guns or
8 making guns available. Get to the source
9 of where the guns are coming from. And
10 the Mayor at the time -- and I'm not
11 going to quote the amount of money he
12 said he would be willing to support it,
13 because I'm actually meeting with him
14 today on another matter, but I'll remind
15 him about it.

16 Do you think that's something
17 that would be helpful? I understand
18 about turning in guns. I'm talking about
19 information. Because there's a black
20 market out there and that's where this
21 stuff is probably coming from, for the
22 most part, I would think.

23 MS. ABRAHAM: Thinking just
24 quickly without really analyzing your
25 suggestion, it would have to only be if

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2 the person would be willing to be an
3 anonymous source and it would have to be,
4 it seems to me, that the person would
5 disable himself or herself from being a
6 witness, because a witness who is paid
7 for information is something that we
8 would -- for example, let's say -- and
9 I'm not asking for it, so don't give it
10 to me -- that we would give out money to
11 people who turn in guns that are being
12 used in violent crime, and let's say a
13 gun that was turned in was used in a
14 violent crime and the defense attorney
15 says, Well, where did this gun come from,
16 we couldn't lie and say we don't know.
17 We'd have to produce the witness. The
18 witness would then immediately say, I
19 never said anything.
20 Nobody is going to do something
21 for 200 bucks when they're going to put
22 their life on the line. So that I don't
23 know that it will work as a witness
24 program. If it's just information, then
25 the next question is, how will this be

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2 administered so that the Police
3 Department doesn't look as though they're
4 offering information that is unseemly for
5 a Police Department to be engaged in that
6 kind of business? In other words, the
7 Police -- it may have to be through the
8 Citizens Crime Commission or some other
9 agency.

10 And then the question is, what
11 happens if the gun is used in a homicide?
12 Suppose a gun is turned in. It doesn't
13 just disappear. It goes to the Firearms
14 Identification Unit. They test-fire it.
15 They match it up against all outstanding
16 cases. And if they have the nationwide
17 system for ballistics which they entered
18 into the national computer system and a
19 it comes up used in a crime, that person
20 has to explain how it was they came into
21 possession of that gun.

22 I think this needs a lot more
23 thought, because it's not enough to know
24 just what you've suggested to me. I need
25 to know more details and then think about

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2 how that would work.

3 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Again, I
4 think we're probably saying the same
5 thing, but what I'm suggesting is, Frank
6 DiCicco happens to know that someone in
7 his community is a distributor of guns.

8 MS. ABRAHAM: Right.

9 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: And I give
10 that information up that Joe So-and-so
11 who lives on Federal Street is selling
12 guns that may not have been used in a
13 crime yet, but I'm talking about cutting
14 off the source of the guns coming into
15 the City. If we gave a reward to that
16 person who identified the source of the
17 sales -- and I'm not talking a couple
18 hundred dollars. Maybe a thousand, maybe
19 5,000, something significant to stop the
20 proliferation of guns coming into the
21 City, because the bad guys who are buying
22 the guns know where to buy it or from
23 whom they're buying.

24 MS. ABRAHAM: Right.

25 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: I think if

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2 we can get to that, that may stem the
3 flow of guns coming in. It may not. I
4 don't know that, but I think we have to
5 try a lot of different things.

6 MS. ABRAHAM: You're right.

7 Two quick things just come to mind.
8 Number one, this five and a half million
9 dollars we got from Senator Fumo and the
10 rest of the Legislature will help in
11 that, and perhaps you and Joe Labar from
12 my office can sit down and discuss your
13 idea.

14 The other thought is that let's
15 say Frank DiCicco gives information about
16 Joe Blow on Federal Street. The Police
17 couldn't do anything with just that
18 information. They'd have to start an
19 investigation. They'd have to keep you
20 as a confidential informant. They'd have
21 to show that you were reliable. They'd
22 have to somehow get involved with that
23 person you're thinking about to prove
24 that that person in fact has the guns
25 that you claim that they have and that

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2 he's not an old enemy you're trying to
3 get back at for pay.

4 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: I
5 understand.

6 MS. ABRAHAM: And do an
7 undercover investigation, get a search
8 warrant and/or an arrest warrant, execute
9 the warrant, maybe find guns, maybe not,
10 and then go from there. That still
11 doesn't eliminate the possibility that
12 your name couldn't be brought up, but it
13 might.

14 I'll look at anything. I'll
15 tell you something, Councilman, I'm not
16 closing my door to any idea that will
17 help stop the proliferation of illegal
18 guns on my street. I'll look at
19 anything, tell you whether it works or
20 whether it doesn't or whether it's
21 promising. So if you want to --

22 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: I'd like
23 to further discuss that with you.

24 MS. ABRAHAM: That's fine. I'd
25 be happy to discuss it.

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2 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Thank you,
3 Madam President.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
5 You're welcome.

6 The Chair recognizes Councilman
7 Rizzo.

8 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you,
9 Madam Chair.

10 District Attorney Abraham, I
11 just have a couple questions about the
12 ability to track a gun, its origin. I
13 believe I heard in one of the media
14 reports that the guns used at Virginia
15 Tech had the serial numbers ground away,
16 but I think eventually they determined
17 where the guns were purchased.

18 How many guns does the District
19 Attorney's Office see that they've been
20 ground away where there's no way to trace
21 them? How big an issue is that to law
22 enforcement and to prosecutors?

23 MS. ABRAHAM: Actually,
24 Councilman, it's not all that many guns
25 whose numbers cannot be raised or

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2 restored. It takes a lot of hard work to
3 eradicate a serial number from a firearm.

4 That being said, however, there
5 are some guns that have firearms
6 identification removed by somebody who
7 really is in the business of wanting to
8 transfer guns without the ability to be
9 traced. It hasn't been a humongous
10 problem. It's been a problem, but it
11 hasn't been a huge problem.

12 Our guns pretty much, the 6,000
13 guns that the Police Department
14 confiscates almost on a yearly basis,
15 pretty much almost all of them, but not
16 all, but pretty much all of them have an
17 identifiable number that either can be
18 raised or is plainly visible.

19 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So it is
20 absolutely helpful -- I mean, it's
21 obvious that any time that you have a gun
22 and you can identify the serial number,
23 that is a big help in the investigative
24 process, correct?

25 MS. ABRAHAM: Absolutely. And

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2 just remember, those guns were purchased
3 legally in West Virginia. They were
4 not -- I've heard ad nauseam people
5 telling me all over the country these
6 were purchased illegally. No, they were
7 not. They were purchased lawfully in
8 West Virginia.

9 The flaw in West Virginia,
10 similar to Pennsylvania, is that because
11 of HIPAA or Americans with Disability or
12 one of these privacy things, the federal
13 firearms form asks when you go to a gun
14 dealer, any gun dealer in Pennsylvania,
15 Have you ever been involuntarily
16 committed? Now, that's to a mental
17 institution. Well, first of all, the
18 flaw with that is, as in Virginia, if
19 you're not involuntarily committed, you
20 can say no, I've never been involuntarily
21 committed. If you commit yourself, in
22 other words, to a mental institution
23 because you're paranoid schizophrenic,
24 you can answer the question truthfully.
25 That's one flaw. Because being

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2 self-committed is just as bad as if
3 you're involuntarily committed, except
4 you've decided to do it yourself before
5 your family or somebody else
6 involuntarily commits you.

7 Second thing, let's say I've
8 been involuntarily committed to a mental
9 institution by some judge. I get out. I
10 go to a gun store. It says, Have you
11 ever been involuntarily committed to a
12 mental institution? I sign no. I put X
13 in the box named no. There's no way that
14 anybody can find out that I've been
15 involuntarily committed to a mental
16 hospital, because that's all protected by
17 my privacy right. So what's the reason
18 for that box on the form? Because
19 sometimes people who don't have all their
20 senses about them might one day write yes
21 to that question.

22 COUNCILMAN RIZZ0: Tell the
23 truth.

24 MS. ABRAHAM: But most people,
25 including Gene Segrist and most of the

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2 people we deal with, they write no, and
3 there's no way you can check whether
4 that's true or false, because it's all
5 protected by privacy. So it's a snare
6 and a delusion. It's totally fake.
7 That's not going to prevent anybody from
8 getting a gun, and it didn't happen in
9 Virginia either -- West Virginia.

10 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you.

11 Thank you, Madam President.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
13 you very much.

14 I would like Dianne Reed to
15 come up to the table, please.

16 And while she is coming up,
17 Ms. Abraham, we did have the courts
18 testify the other day, and we all know
19 that there is an overcrowding problem in
20 the prisons, and I believe they were
21 asked how long it takes for a detainee to
22 actually be brought to trial. We were
23 told four to nine days. The problem is,
24 however, if that individual had, say,
25 four or five bench warrants for different

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2 charges, they would actually not list all
3 four or five at the same time but at
4 different times.

5 Is there any reason for that?

6 MS. ABRAHAM: Different judges,
7 yes. Because if I failed to appear
8 before five different judges, like five
9 different Councilpersons, every judge has
10 his own prerogatives, and frequently the
11 judge will write on the bench warrant "to
12 be heard by Smith only." I hope that's
13 not anybody who -- "Smith only," which
14 means that only Judge Smith can hear her
15 own bench warrant or detainer. So,
16 therefore, Judge Jones can hear Judge
17 Jones' detainer, or if it's in a general
18 bench warrant room, if there were such a
19 thing, they'd have to get in touch with
20 Judge Smith to say, Do you mind if Judge
21 Jones hears your detainer.

22 And the problem is, when each
23 judge has their own calendar, judges get
24 cranky when other judges try to
25 second-guess what they want to do in a

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2 case. So, therefore, there's a natural
3 delay between those five or six or ten
4 judges. And there also may be bench
5 warrants or detainers from outside the
6 City as well. So that's why it takes a
7 long time.

8 So that four or five days is
9 not necessarily an accurate statement.
10 It could be weeks or even longer until a
11 case is heard, all five detainers.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
13 you.

14 MS. ABRAHAM: Remember, judges
15 are independently elected.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I
17 know.

18 MS. ABRAHAM: You know. You
19 remember.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: We're
21 well aware of that.

22 Ms. Reed, would you agree that
23 there is a crisis of violence in the
24 City?

25 MS. REED: Dianne Reed, Budget

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2 Director.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Did
4 you hear my question?

5 MS. REED: I did hear your
6 question. I do understand the question.
7 I would say that it's not really my role
8 to comment on crime in the City.
9 Obviously the statistics are up to 1990s
10 levels.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Well,
12 I think we all read the papers. We all
13 watch the news. We all know what's going
14 on. I absolutely cannot understand why
15 the Finance Department would not even
16 have the courtesy to speak to the
17 appropriate personnel in the DA's Office
18 to inquire what is it that you feel that
19 you need, what are your priorities, how
20 can we assist you. Instead of that, you
21 arbitrarily do cuts, without knowing what
22 the cuts will have to be and how all of
23 the citizens of Philadelphia would be
24 affected by those cuts. That truly
25 annoys me.

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2 MS. REED: Council President --

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Not
4 the courtesy of a visit after an
5 application is filed.

6 MS. REED: If we were to do so,
7 we would be treating the District
8 Attorney's Office differently from every
9 other department in the City.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Oh,
11 please.

12 MS. REED: And I should also --

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
14 Please. So you just don't talk to any
15 department. You just arbitrarily cut.

16 MS. REED: No, because we have
17 a budget that we have to make. And we'd
18 also like to add that there are not --

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: But
20 you fully understand that we have a
21 crisis on our hands.

22 MS. REED: There are not three
23 new felony courtrooms in Fiscal '08. The
24 courtrooms that were opened in January
25 are supposed to close in June, and FJD

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2 has not made a determination about
3 whether or not those courtrooms will
4 continue.

5 MS. ABRAHAM: We've not been
6 told that. We've been told that there's
7 a backlog and they're going to be kept
8 ongoing. It will be a real surprise to
9 us if they're going to close those
10 courtrooms.

11 MS. REED: We also note that
12 the number of positions that the DA has
13 been given in Fiscal '08 is the same that
14 they have this year. They were given an
15 artificially high number of positions in
16 '07. They used a million dollars of that
17 money to give raises to staff.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And
19 so they should have.

20 MS. REED: They also have in
21 '06 spent a million four above the level
22 of Class 100 spending that they were
23 given and so actually spent more in
24 Fiscal '06 than had been budgeted, by a
25 million four. They customarily move

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2 staff members in and out of the
3 Forfeiture Fund, which has -- \$10.4
4 million of forfeiture was available from
5 Fiscal '05 and '06 roll-overs, including
6 4 million from '07. About 4 million of
7 that has been spent, of which the DA has
8 spent 1.4 million. And, you know, they
9 don't really need a roll-over fund
10 because they have a roll-over fund in the
11 Forfeiture Fund. So that they have
12 funding available that nobody, except the
13 Police Department, has available to fund
14 personnel actions.

15 A couple of other things I
16 would mention about this. We're about
17 \$300,000 apart here. The DA has not
18 mentioned that there was a deal when they
19 took a two and a half percent
20 across-the-board cut for '06, which
21 included funding for computers in '06 and
22 '07 at \$300,000 a year. We have
23 continued that in the out years. So, in
24 fact, \$300,000 is available there.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Mr.

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2 Toczydlowski, would you like to comment
3 on that.

4 MR. TOCZYDLOWSKI: Thank you,
5 Council President. Albert Toczydlowski.

6 Let me just start with I don't
7 understand some of the comments, since
8 we've never been over budget in all the
9 years that Lynne Abraham has been the
10 District Attorney. So we're talking
11 about overspending. I don't understand
12 that comment at all.

13 Secondly, with forfeiture, the
14 \$10 million, 60 percent goes to the
15 Police Department, 40 percent goes to the
16 District Attorney's Office. By law it
17 must be spent to enforce the Drug Act.
18 So it cannot be spent for just anything
19 that we want to, like witness protection.
20 And, frankly, we spent a half a million
21 dollars from the Attorney General this
22 year for witness protection. So I don't
23 know how long Ms. Reed thinks that money
24 would last if we used it for witness
25 protection. Frankly, the City should

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2 fund witness protection as a separate
3 item.

4 Also, under the law, the state
5 law, you cannot supplant our budget with
6 forfeiture money. So it's, I think,
7 illegal to say that we can cut you and
8 you have to use forfeiture money to make
9 up the difference. I, frankly, think
10 that's against state law.

11 MS. REED: We were not
12 addressing the Witness Protection
13 Program. The DA has never asked the City
14 for funding for the Witness Protection
15 Program. There is in fact a Department
16 of Justice program that only
17 Philadelphia --

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
19 Excuse me. Didn't we fund them last
20 year?

21 MS. REED: Pardon?

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
23 Didn't you request that last year?

24 MS. ABRAHAM: Yeah. We've
25 requested it every year for ten years.

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2 It's in my budget message every single
3 year. The way that we discussed it, as I
4 remember talking to members of Council,
5 was that revolving fund. We suggested
6 not a line item in the budget, because
7 it's unnecessary. It would be better to
8 have a fund available, a pot of money if
9 you want to call it that, so that when
10 we -- assuming the Attorney General
11 continues to give us the money, which is
12 by no means assured, but assuming -- and
13 we get 50 percent. There's only \$1
14 million statewide for witness protection.
15 Of the 67 counties, we get half of it,
16 one out of 67. The other 66 counties get
17 the rest, and there's a \$250,000
18 shortfall that we've asked the state
19 Legislature to put in the Attorney
20 General's budget for witness relocation.

21 So the answer is, I've never
22 asked for the line item in the budget. I
23 thought it would be a better way of
24 managing finances to put this money in a
25 separate item. I don't care, in the

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2 Finance Department's budget, anybody's
3 budget where it can be tapped as needed,
4 could be supported by documentation. It
5 wouldn't have to be like by your leave or
6 with your permission.

7 But I think the important thing
8 is the first question you asked, which
9 the Budget Director forgot, or at least
10 she forgot to answer, and, that is, that
11 this office has never had the courtesy of
12 really sitting down with a Budget
13 Director -- and if they haven't asked
14 other departments what they need just so
15 that they can get a handle on what's
16 happening in their own city, that's on
17 them. If they don't know what's
18 happening in the City and where people's
19 needs are, that's a lack of leadership on
20 the part of the Mayor.

21 The Budget Director should at
22 least go around to all the constituent
23 agencies that they are funding and say,
24 What are your problems, what are your
25 needs. Maybe they'll be persuaded to

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2 take money from this department and put
3 it over there because there's a critical
4 need.

5 And she didn't answer whether
6 there's a crime emergency. You don't
7 have to read a paper to know there's a
8 crime emergency in Philadelphia. This is
9 a state of emergency. I started off by
10 saying it's grotesque. It's grotesque to
11 have ten citizens murdered on the streets
12 of Philadelphia in a 50-hour period and
13 all we sit here and do is just yap about
14 it. I mean, that's not the way to do it.

15 The Budget Director should
16 speak to elected officials. I'm an
17 elected official. She can come and go.
18 The Mayor can say, Good-bye, Dianne,
19 tomorrow, love you, but I'm going to miss
20 you. But as a Budget Director, you at
21 least find out what are the most pressing
22 needs, and then consistent with your
23 budget, you look at what are the most
24 pressing needs. To be ignored and
25 written off by a series of Budget

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2 Directors and just being given a figure
3 and then have to come to Council is just
4 the wrong way to run a city. That's why
5 the City is in trouble.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Do
7 you have any statements to make,
8 Ms. Reed?

9 MS. REED: We would happily
10 meet with the District Attorney had a
11 meeting been requested of us. We have
12 budget analysts who are in constant
13 contact with all departments.

14 The District Attorney for '07
15 did not get a decrease of any kind, and
16 City Council gave it \$600,000 more than
17 had been in the Mayor's requested budget.
18 This year because --

19 MS. ABRAHAM: We did get --
20 excuse me. We did get a decrease last
21 year. We came to you and asked you for
22 money because the Mayor cut our budget.
23 We did get it.

24 And, by the way, I don't want
25 Ms. Reed to think that I forgot the

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2 Productivity loan about the computers,
3 but, you know, this is an office which
4 the last time we got a Productivity loan,
5 which was five years before last year, we
6 were using computers that were six and
7 seven and eight years old, which doesn't
8 cut it. So we did get a Productivity
9 loan, and I thanked the Mayor for it,
10 because at least now from the
11 six-year-old computers last year we got a
12 whole raft of computers. Now we're
13 partially up to the 21st century. And we
14 still have some more computers to get.

15 I'm not forgetting that, but
16 you can't send a computer into a
17 courtroom. You need a human being. And
18 it's true, as you know, I came in here
19 last year and specifically asked Council
20 for a raise. I didn't say I wanted more
21 money to build an Empire State Building.
22 I said our people, they were then
23 laboring under \$125,000 pay average for
24 law firms; now it's 135. We're not even
25 going to get that. They start at 46,000.

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2 That's where they are, and that's what
3 the issue is.

4 How much do you want a person
5 with a spouse and children who has
6 \$200,000 worth of debt to want to work
7 for the City for 46K? I'm sorry. It
8 doesn't work. I mean, these people --
9 everybody ought to kiss their local
10 prosecutor, not me. Kiss the Assistant
11 DAs, who work the way they do trying to
12 make the City safe for 46,000 a year, and
13 they have to live in the City and they
14 have to pay all the taxes and they have
15 to pay for private school or send their
16 kids to public school, they have the
17 whole brunt of student loans, just for
18 the honor and privilege of working for
19 46,000.

20 So, yes, I did, unashamedly,
21 came in and asked you for money for
22 raises. And you know what? I thought
23 they would have a food fight they were so
24 happy to get a few percentage, a couple
25 thousand bucks, a couple of thousand

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2 dollars gross in their pay package just
3 so they could keep up maybe with the cost
4 of living, which wasn't very easy to do,
5 but at least it looked like somebody
6 cared that they were working for the
7 people of Philadelphia.

8 MS. REED: The number of
9 District Attorneys that has been budgeted
10 for '08, which is 419, is 23 positions
11 higher than the 20-year average from 1985
12 to the present, which included the entire
13 period where the homicide rate was much
14 higher, so --

15 MS. ABRAHAM: She's incorrect.
16 She's thinking about -- look, I'm sorry.
17 I'm not mad at Ms. Reed. We don't have
18 419 people on our law staff. We have
19 paralegals. If she's talking about
20 lawyers, of which we have -- look, we
21 started off several years ago with 322.
22 We're at 280-some lawyers. A paralegal
23 is not a lawyer. A paralegal is a
24 paralegal. If she's including
25 paralegals, yes, but paralegals can't go

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2 into court either. They can assist a
3 lawyer. They can do legal work, and
4 they're extraordinarily valuable to us,
5 but they can't be litigators.

6 We're short about 30 lawyers
7 from where we were when crime wasn't as
8 high as it is now.

9 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Point of
10 information.

11 (Council President Verna
12 speaking without microphone.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
14 Chair recognizes Councilman Kenney.

15 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you,
16 Madam President.

17 It's just bewildering to sit
18 here and listen to this conversation.
19 I'm sorry I was late, but I was listening
20 to it in my office. Judge Abraham is the
21 law enforcement professional. Why are we
22 crunching numbers with the Budget
23 Director when we're in the midst of the
24 situation and she's telling us what she
25 needs? And I don't think she's been

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2 overly greedy over the years. I mean,
3 I'm willing to commit now to what she was
4 taken away, what she's requesting, and
5 additionally, I had requested to the
6 Mayor a while ago between a \$3 and \$5
7 million revolving fund for witness
8 protection. Let's put it in her budget
9 and let her do her job.

10 I mean, this is nuts. We're
11 having this discussion, which is part of
12 the budget process, but people are
13 getting shot in the street and she's
14 trying the last -- one of the last
15 defenses we have are her people in a
16 courtroom and we're going to quibble over
17 ten-year averages on positions? It's
18 nuts. I mean, we waste money every day
19 in other areas that we don't even blink.
20 I mean, and she's sitting here -- she's
21 got to come over here every year and beg.
22 It's nuts.

23 I don't know how anybody else
24 feels, but I'd rather make the commitment
25 right now that we give her what she wants

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2 to do her job, because I don't think
3 there's anything more important than the
4 job she's doing, and we could end this
5 kind of silly dance that we do every
6 year.

7 MS. REED: Councilman Kenney,
8 the DA has \$3 million of forfeiture
9 funding available to use right now. They
10 customarily use 90 percent of their
11 forfeiture money on Class 100, every
12 category of Class 100 that you could
13 imagine.

14 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Well, she
15 probably needs it for that purpose. So
16 why don't give her the 3 million she
17 needs for witness protection.

18 MS. ABRAHAM: We have drug
19 units. I mean, we have -- stand up,
20 Elois. This is Elois Howard. She's our
21 Deputy for narcotics. Her detectives and
22 her District Attorneys are paid out of
23 forfeiture dollars.

24 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I mean --

25 MS. ABRAHAM: That's what it's

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2 used for.

3 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: The DA only
4 has ten fingers to stick in the dike of
5 this leak. I mean, if she's moving money
6 around to pay for Class 100, let's give
7 her the 3 million she needs to do the
8 witness protection. I mean, we can't get
9 people to come to court because they're
10 afraid of getting their house
11 fire-bombed.

12 I honestly think the whole
13 conversation, with all due respect, is
14 insane and ridiculous. We should take
15 her request, give her what she's asking
16 for, give her a little more for witness
17 protection and let her get out of here
18 and do her job, which I know she wants to
19 do.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
21 you.

22 The Chair recognizes Councilman
23 Greenlee.

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
25 you, Madam President.

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2 At the risk of piling on,
3 Ms. Reed -- and I know this isn't just
4 your decision, but you said something
5 earlier -- and I agree with Councilman
6 Kenney. Maybe we're elongating this too
7 much. But you said we would be treating
8 the District Attorney differently. We
9 should, shouldn't we? I mean, first of
10 all --

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: But
12 why wouldn't she talk to her?

13 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Well, I
14 was just going there, Madam President.

15 I mean, since she's an
16 independently elected official -- and I
17 won't even limit it to the District
18 Attorney. The Clerk of Quarter Sessions
19 was in here last week. I mean, in
20 fairness -- and I'm not in any way
21 disrespecting a Commissioner, but the
22 Commissioner is under the Mayor. Isn't
23 it appropriate that we're not having this
24 discussion now? Why didn't you reach out
25 or somebody reach out to her earlier?

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2 Maybe you'd sit in a room and scream at
3 each other. Maybe you would, but maybe
4 you would come to something instead of
5 being here and just -- I don't mean to
6 just pick on you, but to just say the
7 comment, We'd be treating the District
8 Attorney differently. I think you should
9 treat the Public Defender, you should
10 come to her and say the same thing.
11 Forget who she is. The Public Defender
12 should be treated the same way. You
13 should go to these people.

14 I'm not trying to tell you how
15 to do your job, but I think we're all a
16 little frustrated here that we're having
17 this discussion now.

18 Don't you think it's
19 appropriate to reach out ahead of time?

20 MS. REED: We do reach out. We
21 communicate with all departments and ask
22 them for information. We say, Here's the
23 budget number we need from you for the
24 next year. If you want additional
25 funding, please give us a justification

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2 request, and we get that. I mean, that's
3 how -- we have 81 units that we have to
4 deal with. So we haven't done that. We
5 also have no budget detail from the
6 District Attorney for this year, so...

7 MR. TOCZYDLOWSKI: Well, that's
8 not correct. In fact, we forwarded the
9 budget pages with the requested increase
10 back. When you sent us the budget pages
11 with your budget, the Mayor's budget, we
12 sent you a memo saying we disagreed and
13 here are our budget pages showing the
14 requested increase. Those are not the
15 pages you ever give to Council, though.
16 You give them the original pages that
17 your office prepared.

18 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And just
19 e-mails are fine, but how about the
20 personal contact by somebody? If not
21 you, somebody. Because let's face it, we
22 know not everybody is the same. And the
23 crime situation in the City obviously
24 attracts, I think deservedly so, more
25 attention.

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2 And, again, I'm not trying to
3 tell you how to do your job. You've been
4 doing what you're doing longer than I
5 have, but -- I'm trying to be nice today.

6 I'm trying to be nice today,
7 Councilman Kenney.

8 But I guess I just don't
9 understand why at this point -- obviously
10 if there were e-mails back and forth, you
11 guys disagreed. What's wrong with a
12 little bit more detailed conversation? I
13 guess that's what I'm getting at.

14 MS. REED: I'm happy to have
15 more detailed conversation.

16 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: But
17 before today.

18 MS. REED: I'm happy to do it.
19 I can't change the past, but I'm happy to
20 have a conversation.

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Well, I
22 guess I'm just asking why we have to be
23 here right now.

24 MS. ABRAHAM: Well, there's
25 going to be a new Mayor next year. I

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2 don't know who the Budget Director is
3 going to be. Whoever the new Budget
4 Director is, I'd like the courtesy of a
5 phone call before they send me the
6 numbers that they've already decided that
7 I'm going to get and at least ask us what
8 the situation is, and I think the same
9 courtesy is available to other
10 independently elected officials. You
11 don't have to meet with every single
12 person in the world, but at least you
13 ought to give the courtesy to people who
14 run independently and have an important
15 job to do, and I certainly think that the
16 District Attorney's Office has, is and I
17 believe always will be an important job
18 to the health and safety and economic
19 development of this and every other city.

20 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Just one
21 last question, Ms. Reed. Don't you agree
22 that not every department that comes in
23 here is exactly the same? Because you
24 said we'd be treating the District
25 Attorney differently. Aren't there

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2 different priorities? Can't there be --
3 go ahead.

4 MS. REED: Yes. Obviously we
5 held the uniformed employees harmless, as
6 well as the courts and prisons.

7 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

8 MS. REED: And we also held the
9 Defender's Association harmless for this
10 year.

11 MS. ABRAHAM: Swell. That's
12 swell.

13 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Point of
14 order, Madam President.

15 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I'm
16 through. Thank you.

17 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Point of
18 order, Madam President.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Yes.
20 I'll recognize you in a minute. I just
21 wanted to make a statement.

22 I think, Ms. Reed, I think
23 every other department that has testified
24 this year, I have asked that you get
25 together with whoever is in charge of

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2 that department and we shouldn't be doing
3 this at the last minute. It's something
4 that should take place prior to many of
5 these hearings.

6 The Chair recognizes Councilman
7 DiCicco.

8 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Thank you,
9 Madam President.

10 Ms. Reed, would you just repeat
11 what you said, that you did reach out to
12 the uniformed --

13 MS. REED: No, no. We held
14 them harmless.

15 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Held them
16 harmless, the uniform?

17 MS. REED: Yes. Police and
18 Fire, the courts, the prisons and the
19 Public Defender, because the Public
20 Defender has needed some catch-up --

21 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Isn't the
22 District Attorney's Office a key
23 component in the prosecutorial system
24 that you just talked about? Police make
25 arrests. They get a public defender in

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2 the case that the defendant can't defend
3 him or herself. They go in front of a
4 judge, which is the court system, and
5 then there's a prosecutor, which is the
6 DA's Office. Why wouldn't they be held
7 harmless? Because without the DA, the
8 system begins to come apart.

9 Aren't they a key component to
10 that whole process of law enforcement?

11 MS. REED: We looked at their
12 staffing levels compared to the past and
13 how much money they were given in '07.
14 The fact that in the deal that was made
15 in '06 they now have additional funding
16 above the level in the '06-'07 deal, they
17 actually don't need any money.

18 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: We can go
19 around forever. In '05 or 1990 or
20 whatever year, we had a certain number of
21 police. As situations come upon us that
22 are beyond our control, as crime
23 increases, we generally try to figure out
24 ways in which we can deal with it, either
25 it's by hiring more police -- in this

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2 case, we're all talking about it, all
3 five mayoral candidates are talking about
4 hiring more police. So it's the current
5 situation that we have to deal with. And
6 we are a city -- and I hate to say this,
7 because I know it will be printed and has
8 to be and it's going to be over the
9 airwaves, and this for me is difficult
10 because we've been trying to build this
11 city and bring people in. But we got to
12 face reality. We are a city in crisis,
13 and we have to do as much as we can to
14 get this city back in a position that
15 we're no longer a city in crisis when it
16 comes to crime.

17 Why wouldn't the DA's Office be
18 held harmless? And you can give me
19 stats, "Well, in '05," but this isn't
20 '05. This is '07. We're halfway through
21 '07, leading into '08, and every day our
22 murder rate continues to increase, in
23 addition to all the other crimes that we
24 have.

25 MS. REED: The number of

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2 courtrooms, however, is not increasing.
3 This testimony says there are three new
4 courtrooms. There are not three new
5 courtrooms. So there are only so many
6 courtrooms. The level of activity is
7 going to be tied to the number of
8 courtrooms.

9 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Why don't
10 we have more courtrooms or why aren't we
11 talking about more courtrooms? Because
12 we cut the court's budget as well.

13 MS. REED: No, we did not.

14 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: We did
15 not?

16 MS. REED: No.

17 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Didn't
18 Mr. Lawrence testify a week ago, Madam
19 President --

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Yes.

21 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: -- that
22 their budget is being cut?

23 MS. REED: They're losing
24 federal funding, and we don't usually
25 replace grant funding out of the General

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2 Fund, especially when we have a funding
3 crisis. We have those very huge wage tax
4 cuts in the out years. We're taking out
5 \$150 million in '11 and '12 and we're
6 going to take out another 68 in '13,
7 which is kind of around the corner, and
8 that kind of constrains what we can do
9 and we have to make our choices in the
10 present.

11 MS. ABRAHAM: Just to make sure
12 the record is complete, there's one
13 waiver courtroom, two majors courtrooms,
14 and the court system took Judge Reynolds,
15 Judge Gregory Smith and Judge Joseph Dych
16 from civil and put them in criminal.
17 There are three new courtrooms. Don't
18 tell me I'm not sending people into
19 courtrooms. These are not phantom
20 courtrooms. These are real courtrooms.
21 And the Defender Association got an
22 increase this year in the budget to staff
23 those three courtrooms. So if we're
24 dealing with phantom courtrooms, please
25 tell me. I have to tell my DAs that

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2 these judges aren't sitting in these
3 three courtrooms.

4 MS. REED: There are two new
5 courtrooms in '07.

6 MS. ABRAHAM: Three.

7 MS. REED: There are not new
8 courtrooms in '08.

9 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: This is
10 ridiculous.

11 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: I agree,
12 Councilman Kenney.

13 Thank you, Madam President.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I
15 think that we have heard about enough.
16 The Finance Department will do what the
17 Finance Department does and then I think
18 it's up to members of City Council to do
19 what they think that they should do. But
20 quibbling over three courtrooms, you
21 don't send a prosecutor into court and
22 say, Okay, here's your trial list for
23 today, there's a homicide case,
24 incidentally, to be heard. That
25 prosecutor has a lot of preparation to do

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2 before he or she goes into the courtroom.
3 We're quibbling over nothing.

4 I think we have heard about as
5 much as we have to.

6 Councilman Rizzo, if you have
7 something pertinent --

8 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Yes, it's
9 pertinent. I wouldn't ask it if it
10 weren't.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: --
12 and if it's something different, but
13 we're just hearing the same old, same
14 old, same old, and I'm sick of it.

15 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I just want
16 for the record to ask the Budget Director
17 about the budget process, about protocol.

18 Isn't it normal in a budget
19 process that a department submits the
20 budget to the Budget Office and then
21 there's a sit-down with the individuals?
22 Is government so much different than the
23 private sector? I've been through a few
24 budgets in my life.

25 Could you explain the protocol

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2 that normally occurs when an
3 organization, private sector, government,
4 does a budget? I never heard of a budget
5 being put together without the operating
6 people involved in that process.

7 MS. REED: Yes. Once the
8 budget call has come out and
9 justification requests above the
10 suggested budget level are submitted, we
11 meet with all the departments that have
12 asked for that, if they want a meeting.
13 The District Attorney and the other
14 elected officials have generally not
15 wanted a meeting until after they've made
16 a submission to City Council.

17 COUNCILMAN RIZZIO: Thank you,
18 Madam President.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
20 you very much.

21 MS. ABRAHAM: Thank you, Madam
22 President.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Madam
24 DA, again, we applaud you for all the
25 wonderful work you and your staff do.

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2 MS. ABRAHAM: Thank you.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm
4 sorry that you had to go through this
5 process, as we did, today, but there's
6 always manana.

7 MS. ABRAHAM: Thank you.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
9 you.

10 MR. MCPHERSON: The next
11 department is the Defender Association.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good
13 morning.

14 MS. GREENLEE: Good morning,
15 Council President.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
17 Please identify yourself for the record
18 and proceed with your testimony.

19 MS. GREENLEE: My name is Ellen
20 Greenlee. I'm the Chief Defender of the
21 Defender Association of Philadelphia.
22 Key members of my staff present here
23 today are Charles Cunningham on my
24 left --

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 morning.

3 MR. CUNNINGHAM: Good morning.

4 MS. GREENLEE: -- First
5 Assistant Defender; Selim Tawadros, who
6 is our Controller; Donna Paganucci, who
7 is Assistant Controller; our Business
8 Manager, Linda Kosinski; and my Executive
9 Assistant, Christine Adler, all of whom I
10 mention because they are so valuable not
11 only to this process but to the work of
12 the Defender Association on an ongoing
13 basis.

14 Let me express first my
15 appreciation, Council President, for the
16 opportunity again to present to you and
17 to the members of City Council our budget
18 presentation and to report just briefly
19 on some of the significant work of the
20 Association during the last year. We
21 appreciate this opportunity.

22 As you are well aware over all
23 these years, the Defender Association is
24 a non-profit that contracts with the City
25 and we provide representation to indigent

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2 adults and juveniles who are charged with
3 crime. We also represent the mentally
4 ill in civil commitment hearings, as well
5 as in their criminal matters, and we
6 represent as child advocates almost 5,000
7 dependent and neglected children who are
8 in contested custody matters.

9 In 2006, we received 66,000 new
10 cases and we appeared as counsel at
11 368,000 court hearings, which is a rather
12 incredible number but an accurate number.
13 We also provided 70,000 ancillary
14 services that include social service
15 interviews, investigations, and appeals
16 to the Superior and Supreme Court.

17 We take great pride in the high
18 quality of legal services our staff
19 provides through our contract with the
20 City. We are recognized nationally as a
21 training office for defenders and we take
22 great pride in being able to train young
23 people to do the work that we do.

24 As you are aware, as a private
25 non-profit funded solely by the City, we

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2 must provide for all associated costs of
3 conducting our business, including
4 salaries, benefits, insurances, rent,
5 furniture, equipment and everything else
6 that goes into running a business. The
7 City is requesting for us an
8 appropriation of \$35,722,902 for Fiscal
9 Year 2008. We have communicated with the
10 Budget Director. We have met with the
11 Budget Director and expressed our needs
12 in terms of what the City is budgeting
13 for us.

14 There are still a few unmet
15 needs. The Budget Director may well
16 think that they have already been met,
17 but in any event, we hope to continue our
18 conversation about some of the things
19 that we need to continue operating
20 successfully in Fiscal Year '08.

21 The largest of -- what we need,
22 by our calculation, is an additional 1.2
23 million. The major items comprising that
24 are, first of all, an increase in our
25 rent. This is the fifth year of our

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2 lease at 1441 Sansom Street. Our rent
3 will increase as of July 1st from 1,775
4 to 1,875. So that's a dollar a square
5 foot rent increase. And we also face
6 escalation costs of we estimate to be
7 about \$20,000 a year which are owed for
8 '04, '05 and '06, as well as, of course,
9 '07. That has nothing to do with our
10 being delinquent, but with our landlord
11 being kind of slow in getting things
12 done, and they still haven't come back
13 with a final estimate as to what the
14 escalation costs will be. But that's
15 probably -- that's one of the more
16 significant things.

17 We also need to -- and I would
18 say that of that 1.2 million, 931,000,
19 the vast majority of that funding, goes
20 to staffing and to salaries. We are
21 looking to in September increase the
22 starting salary for attorneys from 46,500
23 to 48,500. And I know the District
24 Attorney has talked about the difficulty
25 in getting young attorneys who come to us

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2 with huge debt to be able to live on this
3 kind of salary and pay off their debts,
4 because as I'm sure you're aware,
5 forty-eight five would be about one-third
6 of what Ballard Spahr is paying new
7 people who come into their office.

8 But we are eager to increase
9 the starting salary to 48,500 so that we
10 can remain close to the District
11 Attorney. I know she said 46, but that's
12 not the salary that they will have this
13 year. They will be a little bit over
14 forty-eight five. So we're trying to
15 keep pace with the DA and with the
16 Solicitors, our counterparts on the civil
17 side. That will also implicate, of
18 course, some step increases for attorneys
19 already on staff.

20 We have some additional
21 staffing needs, which we have discussed
22 with the Budget Director and I reiterate
23 here. We're looking for full funding for
24 seven attorney positions. We have an
25 authorized staff of 216. It's probably a

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 little bit more now with the opening of
3 those three courtrooms that we talked
4 about. But there are seven positions
5 that are not funded, because the City
6 makes allowance for attrition, but we're
7 not having that attrition. So we have
8 requested and request again that we get
9 full funding for those seven attorney
10 positions, salary and benefits.

11 We also in our Child Advocate
12 Unit have the need to add two social
13 workers and one social work supervisor.
14 This has to do with changes in the rules,
15 in the dependency rules that went into
16 effect in February 1st of '07, which
17 requires us to make -- to actually pay
18 much closer attention in terms of
19 visiting our clients in their placements
20 or in their homes, and we have the need
21 for three additional social workers in
22 the Child Advocate Unit.

23 And the other staffing
24 situation, which we've discussed with the
25 Budget Director, has to do with our

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2 information technology department, where
3 we need funding for one programmer and
4 one desktop support person, because we
5 have a staff that it's almost up to 500
6 and we have a very thin IT staff.

7 So as I mentioned, what we're
8 looking for -- and we would certainly
9 like to continue our discussions with the
10 Budget Director -- 1.2 million, primarily
11 in staffing, but certainly rent plays a
12 significant part of that.

13 Just a few highlights, Council
14 President, in terms of our work this past
15 year. One of the continuing highlights I
16 think of our work has been the success of
17 our Homicide Unit over the last 14 years.
18 Our Homicide Unit has received 1,246
19 appointments in capital cases and has an
20 unblemished record of having no client
21 receive the death penalty, while at the
22 same time in Philadelphia during that
23 period of time there have been probably
24 close to 100 people who have received the
25 death penalty.

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2 I point this out because the
3 work of this unit sets the standard for
4 effective representation in homicide
5 matters and all other matters and,
6 practically speaking, not only do they
7 save lives, but they save costs and save
8 money in terms of direct appeals and post
9 conviction appeals that are not needed
10 because of the representation that they
11 provide. So there's significant savings
12 there. Not necessarily to the City,
13 because part of that would be part of
14 state funding.

15 As we're aware also from the
16 District Attorney's comments and from
17 what we read in the press, prison
18 overcrowding has been a very significant
19 issue over the last year, especially
20 where we reach record numbers of close to
21 9,000 people in the county prison. Our
22 efforts in terms of trying to keep that
23 prison number down are shared really
24 among our Prison Services Unit, which
25 interviews our clients in custody, which

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2 tracks their sentencing and their release
3 dates and also looks for people who are
4 being held beyond the date that they
5 should be there. So we keep a watch on
6 that to get people out when their dates
7 are due for them to get out.

8 A bigger part of the effort and
9 which has been additionally funded by the
10 Budget Director and the City this year
11 was to fund two paralegals to work on
12 getting people out as quickly as we can
13 and into alternative programs. So our
14 Probation, Parole and Alternative
15 Sentencing Unit, which works in
16 conjunction with our Adult Social
17 Service, are engaged in efforts to pursue
18 alternatives to incarceration, along with
19 the other stakeholders, including
20 Probation, the District Attorney, the
21 courts and the other stakeholders in the
22 system.

23 We're attempting to reintegrate
24 prisoners and to reduce recidivism. For
25 example, we've increased the number of

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2 early parole petitions during the past
3 year. Also, the Intermediate Punishment
4 Unit placed 944 clients into alternative
5 programs. Thirteen hundred and 50
6 clients have been released to various
7 community-based treatment programs.
8 Eleven hundred and 30 other clients were
9 placed through the Forensic Intensive
10 Recovery Program for substance abuse
11 and/or dependency treatment, and 200
12 other clients were placed in another 52
13 different facilities.

14 So there are thousands of
15 people that we have been working to get
16 out just as quickly as we can and, for
17 the most part, to get them into
18 alternative programs so that they may be
19 more effectively reintegrated and we may
20 work in the efforts to reduce recidivism,
21 which seemed to be working.

22 One final item, Council
23 President, our newest initiative concerns
24 the reorganization of our Mental Health
25 Unit to provide more comprehensive

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2 treatment of criminal cases implicating
3 our mentally ill clients. This responds
4 to the continuing growth in incarceration
5 of the mentally ill. According to
6 Professor John Goldkamp of Temple
7 University who has done a study recently,
8 25 percent of persons being admitted to
9 the county prison have mental health
10 histories, and all are recommended for
11 treatment after admission to the county
12 prison.

13 So the prisons have become what
14 is the newest mental hospitals after the
15 state closed all those facilities. In
16 order to respond to these clients who
17 have criminal cases, we have separately
18 designated two attorneys with specific
19 skills in dealing with the mentally ill
20 to work one on one with clients in
21 conjunction with the staff of Adult
22 Social Service. This new approach of
23 one-on-one representation has facilitated
24 the disposition or diversion of a record
25 number of cases in the last few months

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2 since we put it in place. It is clear
3 that we will need to increase our
4 resources to be able to meet the
5 ever-increasing needs of this client
6 population.

7 This is just a small sample of
8 the high-quality, compassionate
9 representation our staff provides our
10 clients. Every staff member contributes
11 to our efforts, and we thank them all
12 publicly here today for their hard work.
13 I thank you also, Council President and
14 members of Council, for listening to our
15 presentation today. That's all we have.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
17 you very much.

18 On Page 2 of your testimony,
19 you state that the proposed FY08 is not
20 adequate to cover your needs. At this
21 time, you are not requesting any
22 additional funds from City Council, but
23 you would like to discuss your needs with
24 the Budget Director and continue your
25 budget negotiations; am I correct?

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 MS. GREENLEE: That's correct.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Very
4 well. Then all I can say is, I wish you
5 the best of luck in your negotiations,
6 and hopefully you'll be able to work
7 things out to your satisfaction.

8 MS. GREENLEE: Thank you.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
10 you. And you're to be commended, along
11 with your staff, for doing a fabulous,
12 fabulous job.

13 MS. GREENLEE: Thank you,
14 Council President.

15 MR. CUNNINGHAM: Thank you.

16 MS. GREENLEE: Thank you very
17 much. Thank you for your time.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
19 You're welcome. Good luck.

20 The next department?

21 MR. MCPHERSON: The Law
22 Department.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good
24 afternoon. Welcome. Identify yourself
25 for the record and proceed with your

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 testimony, please.

3 MR. DIAZ: Thank you, Madam
4 President. Romulo L. Diaz, City
5 Solicitor. Thank you for the opportunity
6 to testify today in support of the Law
7 Department's budget request for Fiscal
8 Year 2008. I'm accompanied by Donna
9 Mouzayck, First Deputy City Solicitor;
10 Don Marino, Chair of Litigation; Vanessa
11 Garrett Harley, Chair of Social Services;
12 Dan Cantu-Hertzler, Chair of Corporate
13 and Tax; and Brian Albert, Director of
14 Administration.

15 In the interest of time, I will
16 summarize my prepared statement.

17 In FY2008, we will support
18 critical reforms and initiatives,
19 including collection of delinquent tax
20 and non-tax revenues owed to the City,
21 improved assistance to voters with
22 limited English proficiency,
23 implementation of citywide greenhouse gas
24 emission reductions by 2010, development
25 of local gaming facilities, and enhanced

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2 airport services as a result of
3 increasing operational capacity and
4 eliminating delays.

5 Overall, the Law Department
6 requests \$15,091,866 in the General Fund
7 for FY2008, a net increase of \$70,855
8 from estimated obligations for FY2007.
9 The Department will decrease its General
10 Fund staffing levels from 197 in FY2007
11 to 191 in FY2008 to account for the
12 transfer of positions to the new
13 Philadelphia Board of Ethics.

14 I will refer Councilmembers to
15 my written testimony for our request in
16 connection with other City funding
17 sources.

18 I am proud of the Law
19 Defendant's many accomplishments in
20 FY2007, but will mention only a few of
21 them. We developed comprehensive
22 procedures for implementing contract
23 reform and issued the first contracts for
24 legal services resulting from an open and
25 competitive process. This fiscal year we

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 are projecting \$119 million in tax
3 collections, which would represent the
4 third straight year of \$119 million or
5 more in such collections. In addition,
6 we project FY2007 Code Enforcement
7 revenues will reach 3.2 million and
8 Regulatory Affairs collections will reach
9 1.6 million.

10 We developed and negotiated the
11 legal framework and contracts for
12 Wireless Philadelphia, which will make
13 low-cost wireless Internet service
14 available to all Philadelphians, and
15 later this afternoon we will be pleased
16 to participate in the signing ceremony
17 associated with the Schuylkill River Park
18 settlement.

19 All of these, I think, are
20 reflective of our continued commitment to
21 meeting the service needs of our City
22 clients and the expectations of City
23 residents.

24 Finally, we are proud of our
25 continued commitment to diversity. With

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 respect to contracting, 44.15 percent of
3 our contracts were awarded to minority
4 and women contractors in FY2006, and we
5 are currently on target to improve those
6 results in FY2007. In addition, the Law
7 Department continues to place a high
8 priority on maintaining a diverse
9 workforce. Of the total Law Department
10 staff of 323 as of February 2007,
11 including attorneys, legal assistants and
12 support staff, 66 percent are women and
13 47 percent are minority. In short, the
14 Law Department of the City of
15 Philadelphia reflects the people we serve
16 through our commitment to diversity and
17 opportunity.

18 That concludes my oral summary,
19 Madam President, and I request that my
20 written statement be entered into the
21 record. I would be pleased to respond to
22 any questions that you or other
23 Councilmembers may have at this time.
24 Thank you.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 you very much.

3 Each year the Law Department
4 testimony states how well you are doing
5 in collecting delinquent revenues. Will
6 you please provide to us in writing, if
7 you don't have it now, with a detailed
8 breakdown of the type of revenue by fund
9 that you collected in FY06, what you
10 project to collect in FY07 and FY08?

11 MR. DIAZ: I would be pleased
12 to do it. I can give you a summary of
13 that now, if you'd like.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: That
15 would be wonderful.

16 MR. DIAZ: In connection with
17 FY06, for delinquent taxes, fines and
18 fees, the number that I mentioned to you
19 where we have had -- we will be three
20 years now of 119 million or more. We
21 collected in FY06, our actual collections
22 were \$122.8 million.

23 For FY07, our target -- I'm
24 sorry. Our current projection is that we
25 will collect --

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm
3 sorry. Can we do them separately, taxes
4 and fees separately?

5 MR. DIAZ: Well, I don't have
6 the breakout in terms of taxes versus
7 fees. I can provide that for the record.
8 We separately -- and I thought this is
9 what you were referring to. I know that
10 you've indicated an interest in the past
11 in connection with where the Regulatory
12 Affairs and the Code collection numbers
13 appear in the Law Department budget, and
14 I think I've indicated previously that
15 while we understand that it's important
16 for us all in the Law Department to try
17 to bring in additional revenues to the
18 City, the contributions that we make with
19 respect to the Regulatory Affairs
20 collections and the Code Enforcement
21 collections do not show up on the Law
22 Department budget numbers, but I'm happy
23 to prepare those and submit them to you
24 in greater detail for the record.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: That

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 would be wonderful. Thank you very much.

3 Councilman Greenlee, since you
4 and I are the only ones here, I've asked
5 my question. Do you have any questions
6 of the Law Department?

7 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: No
8 questions of the Law Department.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Oh,
10 boy. Are you getting away easily.

11 MR. DIAZ: I suppose this is
12 not the time for me to volunteer to stay
13 and answer a lot of other questions I've
14 prepared for.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
16 Right. Thank you very much.

17 MR. DIAZ: Thank you, Madam
18 President and Councilman.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
20 you.

21 MR. McPHERSON: The next
22 department will be the Office of City Rep
23 and Director of Commerce.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
25 you very much. We're now happy to

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 present Ms. Naidoff, our City Rep and
3 Director of Commerce.

4 MS. NAIDOFF: Thank you very
5 much, Councilwoman Blackwell and
6 Councilmembers. I'm happy to be here
7 with you this afternoon. My name is
8 Stephanie Naidoff and I'm the City
9 Representative and Director of Commerce.
10 With me shortly will be our Deputies,
11 Mjenzi Traylor, First Deputy; Duane Bumb,
12 Senior Deputy; Charles Isdell, the
13 Director of Aviation; Janis Pierce,
14 Deputy City Representative; Eva
15 Gladstein, Director of Neighborhood
16 Transformation Initiative.

17 I am here today to present
18 testimony on behalf of the Department's
19 FY08 Operating Budget request of \$268.8
20 million, an increase of 6.3 million over
21 FY07 estimated obligations.

22 The FY08 Operating Budget
23 request of 268.8 million includes the
24 General Fund at 46.3, the Grants Fund at
25 5.3 million, the Hotel Tax Fund at 46

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2 million, the Aviation Fund at
3 153,222,000, and the Community
4 Development Fund at 18,003,000.

5 Within the General Fund, Class
6 100 is 1.5 million; Class 200 is 10.3
7 million; Class 300 is 78,617; Class 400
8 is 15,278; Class 500 is 2.1 million; and
9 Class 900 is 32.3 million.

10 Of the 46.3 million General
11 Fund share, 70 percent, or 32.3 million,
12 consists of the Convention Center Lease
13 Service Fee, which accounts for the
14 majority of the budget request increase
15 over FY07. The remaining 14 million
16 consists of \$4 million in economic
17 stimulus funds, 2.5 million for the
18 second and last year of the Promote
19 Philadelphia initiative, 2.5 million for
20 Innovation Philadelphia, and 5.006
21 million for basic department operations.

22 I will skip through some of my
23 testimony, and hopefully you will read it
24 in the record. We describe the Office of
25 the City Representative, which you have

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 heard me describe before, and the
3 Philadelphia Cultural Fund, which last
4 year made 245 grants to local arts and
5 culture institutions.

6 On the business development
7 side of our office, we function as the
8 coordinating entity for the City's
9 economic development programs and
10 initiatives. We directly manage the
11 Keystone Opportunity Zone program,
12 economic development-related capital
13 improvements, international business
14 development and business services through
15 the Mayor's Business Action Team. We
16 also work closely with PIDC and PCDC on
17 loan programs and other business
18 services. The Neighborhood
19 Transformation Initiative is housed in
20 our offices to better coordinate economic
21 development activities throughout the
22 City.

23 I'll go right to some of the
24 new initiatives. First, the \$150 million
25 bond initiative, which was passed by this

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 Council last fall. The FY08 Operating
3 Budget and the Five-Year Financial Plan
4 provides for debt service support for up
5 to 150 million in bond proceeds through
6 the City's Cultural and Commercial
7 Corridor Bond Ordinance. Approximately
8 one half of the borrowing will provide
9 funding for critical needs of the City's
10 cultural assets. A \$60 million Cultural
11 Corridors Fund will support capital
12 projects for City-owned institutions,
13 public amenities and other organizations
14 that promote City objectives along five
15 cultural corridors, which you've heard me
16 talk about before. And additionally,
17 there's a \$5 million citywide Capital
18 Grants Fund available for capital
19 projects for small and mid-sized
20 organizations throughout our
21 neighborhoods. They will be awarded
22 through a competitive grants process, and
23 we're happy, Councilwoman Blackwell, that
24 you will be part of that.

25 The grants will range from

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 10,000 to 250,000. And organizations
3 that are interested can find all the
4 necessary information on our website
5 under Phila.gov/capitalgrantsfund.

6 The other half of the bond
7 proceeds will be used to implement the
8 ReStore Philadelphia Corridor program
9 under the direction of NTI. The goal is
10 to strengthen the historic role of
11 neighborhood commercial corridors as
12 central places to shop, to work and to
13 meet neighbors. Potential uses of the
14 bond proceeds will include infrastructure
15 improvements that make these corridors
16 more welcoming places, such as new
17 sidewalks, crosswalks, lighting, signage,
18 greening and street furniture. The bonds
19 will also fund programatic resources,
20 such as two property acquisition pools,
21 targeted redevelopment grants and
22 business support programs.

23 The next initiative I'd like to
24 discuss is our Promoting Philadelphia
25 initiative. Philadelphia provides a

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 significant amount of funding to support
3 its vibrant and very important
4 hospitality and tourism sector. GPTMC is
5 funded through the Hotel Tax and is a
6 national model for the support of the
7 hospitality and tourism industry. It
8 continues to utilize a portion of the
9 Hotel Tax to advertise and market the
10 region's tourism assets, including arts
11 and cultural destinations. These
12 promotional efforts, as well as the
13 successful efforts by the PCVB to attract
14 conventions, meetings and international
15 tourists, are paying huge dividends. The
16 number of visitors has grown every year
17 and is now up to 27 million visitors, and
18 with average spending of 883 per visitor
19 for an average two-night stay, the total
20 economic impact exceeds \$6 billion per
21 year.

22 To continue the success and in
23 an effort to reach new markets, the FY08
24 budget contains \$2.5 million for our
25 Promoting Philadelphia campaign called

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 "uwishunu," and it represents the second
3 half of the City's two-year commitment to
4 a first-of-its-kind marketing initiative
5 that uses new media and up-to-the-minute
6 marketing techniques to promote the
7 region as a tourist destination and great
8 place to live.

9 My written testimony contains
10 much more information about it, but I
11 would urge you all to look at
12 uwishunu.com, a fabulous website, and
13 you'll see what we're talking about in
14 terms of reaching the young and not so
15 young tech savvy travelers who place a
16 high value on insider or local knowledge
17 when they come to visit Philadelphia.

18 Our knowledge industry
19 activities are another important part of
20 our development of our Economic
21 Development Blueprint objectives.
22 Philadelphia has a competitive advantage
23 in the knowledge industry. Our
24 outstanding universities, research
25 facilities and highly skilled workforce

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 make Philadelphia a valuable location for
3 21st century knowledge industry business.
4 This advantage was recognized in our
5 Blueprint, and growth of the City's
6 knowledge industry is one of our key
7 objectives. Through a combination of
8 knowledge industry initiatives such as
9 Campus Philly, Innovation Philadelphia,
10 workforce development programs and
11 targeted incentive programs, we believe
12 Philadelphia can grow the knowledge
13 industry jobs necessary to expand our
14 residential population and our economy.

15 The City of Philadelphia's
16 student attraction and retention
17 initiative was established four years ago
18 as the Knowledge Industry Partnership and
19 now is organized as a non-profit
20 organization Campus Philly. It attracts
21 new students to attend college here, to
22 engage them in all Philadelphia has to
23 offer while they are here and then
24 encourage them to remain in our workforce
25 after they graduate from our colleges and

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 universities.

3 Following a strategic review in
4 FY06 and the consolidation of services in
5 FY07, Campus Philly is well positioned to
6 leverage the \$1 million in funding
7 commitment already provided by the Mayor
8 to attract additional private and public
9 sector funds to expand the region's base
10 of young knowledge workers.

11 Since its inception in 2001,
12 Innovation Philadelphia has aggressively
13 worked to cultivate the region's
14 innovation economy through a variety of
15 early-stage investment, economic
16 development and marketing programs. With
17 strong support from the City, Innovation
18 Philadelphia has helped to leverage more
19 than \$60 million worth of venture capital
20 and federal grants to IP-supported
21 companies.

22 In the current fiscal year,
23 Innovation Philadelphia has realigned its
24 priorities and will target the young
25 professional population, those 25 to 34

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 years of age, via events and web
3 resources, promoting job opportunities in
4 Philadelphia, outreach to alumni of
5 Philadelphia area colleges who have moved
6 elsewhere, and activities that showcase
7 Philadelphia's young professionals and
8 entrepreneurs. Also in FY08 IP will
9 pursue several creative economy
10 initiatives, including a study of the
11 size and economic impact of the region's
12 for-profit creative economy. The City
13 has earmarked 2.5 million in the FY08
14 budget to support Innovation Philadelphia
15 and continue these efforts to grow the
16 City's innovation economy.

17 The next initiative is our New
18 River City initiative, which was also
19 included in our Blueprint. Already the
20 Administration's commitment to public
21 investment, planning, site assemblage and
22 infrastructure improvements has helped to
23 stimulate widespread private investment
24 among the waterfront. In accordance with
25 PIDC's mixed-use master plan, the City

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 will continue to pursue the redevelopment
3 of the Navy Yard. In addition, the City
4 continues to support efforts to implement
5 plans along the Schuylkill River, being
6 led by Schuylkill River Development
7 Corporation. On the Delaware, in
8 addition to the Central Delaware Planning
9 initiative, the City is actively engaged
10 on the North Delaware in close
11 partnership with the Delaware River City
12 Corporation.

13 In the upcoming fiscal year,
14 the City will begin utilizing the \$125
15 million in Water and Sewer Bond Reserve
16 funds approved by City Council last
17 November to catalyze the development of
18 New River City public water and sewer
19 infrastructure. Creating opportunities
20 for private developers to commit
21 significantly greater levels of capital,
22 in anticipation of market-rate returns,
23 Commonwealth and federal resources will
24 augment the City's financial commitment.
25 The City will contract with PIDC to

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 administer the New River City program,
3 and progress reports will be provided to
4 City Council annually.

5 The Aviation Fund: The
6 Division of Aviation oversees the various
7 planning, operational and development
8 activities associated with both
9 Philadelphia International Airport and
10 Northeast Philadelphia Airport. The
11 Division of Aviation is submitting an
12 FY08 Operating Budget request of
13 153,222,000, an increase of 8 million
14 over the FY07 estimated obligation level.
15 The additional funding is required due to
16 increases in existing operational,
17 security and maintenance requirements.
18 The overall total FY08 Aviation Fund
19 request is 345,277,000, including
20 appropriations in the Police, Fire, Fleet
21 Management, Public Property, Law,
22 Procurement and Finance Departments, as
23 well as debt service appropriations.

24 PHL continues to be a driving
25 force in the local economy, providing

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 jobs for approximately 34,000 employees
3 working for over 200 employers.
4 Twenty-nine air carriers provide nearly
5 700 daily departures from Philadelphia to
6 over 120 cities, including 38
7 international destinations.

8 Calendar Year 2006 included
9 several milestone events for PHL. A
10 record-setting 31.8 million passengers
11 utilized our airport, and the airport
12 managed a total of 516,000 aircraft
13 operations.

14 The above accomplishments are
15 due primarily to the addition of low-fare
16 competition at PHL. Southwest Airlines
17 commenced service in May 2004, and its
18 PHL operation has grown to 66 daily
19 flights. U.S. Airways, the airport's hub
20 carrier, continues its strong presence
21 with 425 daily departures, and they
22 recently added some new international
23 service, for which we are very grateful.
24 They are also seeking a route to China
25 and have indicated that if they are

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 awarded that, Philadelphia would be their
3 site for that route.

4 There is a terminal expansion
5 program. The most significant part of it
6 is the \$250 million expansion and
7 renovation of Terminals D and E. There's
8 a master planning process that deals with
9 the existing airfield and how it can be
10 expanded in the future. And there's also
11 an airspace review process, because
12 currently PHL is the fourth most delayed
13 airport in the country. The proposed
14 long-term solution is a major airfield
15 redevelopment project referred to as the
16 Capacity Enhancement Program. In the
17 fall of 2007, the FAA will issue a draft
18 environmental impact statement report,
19 and public hearings will follow. A
20 record of decision is anticipated in
21 2009.

22 Meanwhile, we're extending the
23 north/south runway, Runway 17-35, and
24 construction on that has commenced. That
25 total project cost is estimated between

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 60 and 65 million.

3 The Use and Lease Agreement,
4 which became effective in 1974, expired
5 in June of 2006. We've recently
6 completed negotiations with the airlines
7 and have submitted the new agreements to
8 City Council for approval.

9 Thank you for the opportunity
10 to testify on the FY08 Operating Budget,
11 and I'll be happy to answer any questions
12 you might have.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
14 you.

15 MS. NAIDOFF: Sorry to go so
16 fast through it.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Oh,
18 no. Thank you very much.

19 So for the 150 million bond
20 initiative as well as the New River City
21 initiative, they are both F Year '08
22 projects. I mean to be funded in F Year
23 '08; is that correct?

24 MS. NAIDOFF: Yes. They will
25 be funded over a period of two years.

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 We're asking for the appropriation in
3 this year, though.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Okay.
5 So, therefore, it won't be -- well, we're
6 getting ready to go in F Year '08. So
7 we'll be ready to talk about it in more
8 details. The projects are getting
9 prepared now to be funded; is that
10 correct?

11 MS. NAIDOFF: That's correct.
12 The New River City projects will
13 commence, with your approval, they will
14 commence in July, July 1 of '07, and the
15 Cultural and Commercial Bond projects are
16 in development now, and as they are
17 decided, the projects will be awarded.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Okay.
19 Yes. We look forward to working with you
20 very closely on that for our districts
21 and our commercial corridors.

22 MS. NAIDOFF: We'll be happy to
23 do that.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
25 you.

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 Mr. Bumb, are you going to tell
3 us something?

4 MR. BUMB: No, no.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: We
6 would love to hear it.

7 He looked rather eager. I know
8 it's a question I want to ask, just too
9 tired.

10 Okay. Councilman Greenlee.

11 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
12 you, Madam Chair.

13 Just a quick question, and this
14 at some point probably needs more
15 discussion, but on the airport.
16 Particularly every once in a while we'll
17 get some complaints about U.S. Airways'
18 service, lost baggage, delays. Do you
19 interact with them a lot or do those
20 complaints tend to just be handled by
21 U.S. Air?

22 MS. NAIDOFF: We interact with
23 them a lot. And I don't know if
24 Mr. Isdell is here, but perhaps he would
25 like to comment on it. We do meet with

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2 them on a regular basis. They obviously
3 have a lot of things that they would like
4 to do to improve service and to add
5 routes, and as we continue in those
6 discussions, we are talking about the
7 problem areas as well, and the airport
8 has provided a lot of support for them.

9 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

10 Good afternoon, Mr. Isdell.

11 MR. ISDELL: Good afternoon,
12 Councilman and Madam Chair. I would just
13 echo what the Commerce Director has said.
14 We receive complaints, which we share
15 with U.S. Airways' local management, and
16 we have some capital projects that are --
17 some of which are underway, some of which
18 we're going to try to finance later this
19 year to improve their baggage system,
20 both the outbound and inbound baggage.

21 Other things we've done to
22 soften the travelers' experience during
23 these difficult times, like the ice
24 storms that we've had this year, we've
25 done a number of improvements ourselves

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 in the baggage claim area. We actually
3 have big screen TVs in there. We've
4 replaced carpeting. We improved the
5 lighting, added seating. But we do know
6 from passenger comments that that's not
7 really the goal. That makes it a little
8 less painful, but the idea is to get your
9 bag and be on your way.

10 So we're working both on the
11 infrastructure and also with some extra
12 staffing in that area to get information
13 to people about how long they will have
14 to wait, along with everything else.

15 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: My
16 slightly sarcastic remark is, it's good
17 for big TVs, but if your baggage is in
18 Detroit, that's probably not the
19 greatest.

20 MR. ISDELL: True.

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Have the
22 complaints increased over time, have they
23 lessened?

24 MR. ISDELL: In recent weeks
25 because of the particular -- there were a

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 series of mishaps. Besides the two ice
3 storms, there was a changeover of U.S.
4 Airways' reservation system where they
5 were merging the America West system, the
6 company based in Phoenix that actually
7 purchased U.S. Airways, with the old U.S.
8 Airways system, and they had a number of
9 glitches with that. There was also an
10 unrelated baggage problem that had to do
11 again with their own infrastructure. And
12 during those periods, yes, we got a
13 number of additional complaints, but it
14 is sort of an erratic thing and it has a
15 lot to do with weather and also time of
16 year.

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And I
18 guess the other complaint I heard -- I
19 don't know if you get this, too. And I
20 travel a little bit. Not tremendously.
21 But that they're not exactly customer
22 friendly in the way they interact with
23 people now. I know you can't solve all
24 that. I'm just throwing this out there.

25 MR. ISDELL: Well, we do have a

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 couple of initiatives to try to address
3 that. And it is true. We try to bear in
4 mind that the U.S. Airways staff has seen
5 severe reductions, reductions in the
6 total workforce as well as reductions in
7 their salaries during the two
8 bankruptcies in recent years. So you do
9 have some people that are hard-pressed.
10 And we know that U.S. Airways in response
11 to Stephanie and the Mayor's pleas have
12 increased their staffing in Philadelphia
13 recently.

14 We also offer on an annual
15 basis, we do customer service training
16 for our own City employees, but we offer
17 the opportunity to the tenants, including
18 U.S. Airways, to participate in those
19 sessions. And we have had -- and we're
20 actually going to reresurrect it later
21 this year. We've had an incentive
22 program that was airport-wide, not just
23 for our employees, where employees were
24 rewarded for particular acts of kindness
25 or customer service with donated things,

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 like a hotel weekend package or tickets
3 to a ball game, that type of thing. I
4 think we had some success with that, and
5 it may be timely to reinstate that to get
6 the motivation back.

7 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: That's
8 good. And I'm glad to see that they're
9 doing more non-stop transatlantic
10 flights. That's good. So we don't have
11 to go to Newark or Kennedy to get there.

12 All right. Thank you very
13 much.

14 MR. ISDELL: Thank you.

15 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
16 you, Madam Chair.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: You're
18 welcome.

19 Are there further questions?

20 (No response.)

21 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: We
22 look forward to working with you on the
23 New River initiative and the Commercial
24 Corridor and Cultural Fund issues.

25 MS. NAIDOFF: And we with you,

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 Councilwoman.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
4 you. Thank you very much.

5 MR. MCPHERSON: The next
6 department is the Board of Ethics.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: We
8 want you to know we're all very ethical
9 here and we're doing the right thing.
10 This is about two and a half weeks prior
11 to Election Day, so note that we're all
12 in order.

13 MR. GLAZER: It's not ethical
14 to have us on last, Madam Chair.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
16 you. Good afternoon. Please identify
17 yourself for the record and begin your
18 testimony.

19 MR. GLAZER: Good afternoon,
20 Madam Chair, members of City Council. My
21 name is Richard Glazer. I'm Chair of the
22 Philadelphia Board of Ethics. Thank you
23 for the opportunity --

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Excuse
25 me. Could we ask for order as Commerce

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 leaves. We could call you back and ask
3 you 20 questions.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. GLAZER: Thank you for the
6 opportunity to speak on the proposed
7 budget for the Philadelphia Board of
8 Ethics. With me today is Shane Creamer,
9 Interim Executive Director of the Board.
10 I also acknowledge sitting to my right is
11 Board member Stella Tsai. And, finally,
12 present with us is Brian Albert, who is
13 the Director of Administration for the
14 Law Department, who has been acting in
15 that role on our behalf.

16 The Ethics Board's FY2008 total
17 appropriation request is \$1 million.
18 This amount had been specified in Section
19 2-300 of the City Charter, which states
20 that the Ethics Board's budget shall be
21 at least \$1 million for the first two
22 fiscal years following the effective date
23 of the Charter amendment.

24 The Ethics Board's proposed
25 Operating Budget for FY2008 includes

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 \$540,000 for Class 100; 425,000 for Class
3 200; 10,000 for Class 300; and 25,000 for
4 Class 400. Needless to say, these
5 allocations are based on our best
6 estimates of staff needs and operating
7 requirements as the Board continues to
8 establish its office.

9 For FY2007, the Ethics Board's
10 budget was subsumed by the Law
11 Department's budget because the Board was
12 not installed until after the start of
13 the fiscal year. For FY2008, the Ethics
14 Board is department number 45.

15 I appeared before the Committee
16 of the Whole only five months ago at the
17 confirmation hearing for the members of
18 the new Ethics Board. Since that day,
19 the new Board has made much progress. In
20 the first 30 days since the Board was
21 sworn in on November 27, 2006, it held
22 four public meetings, issued three
23 advisory opinions offering guidance on
24 the City's campaign finance law and
25 approved regulations requiring the filing

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 of campaign finance reports. Since then,
3 the Board has published a plain English
4 explanation of the campaign finance law
5 in the newspapers, provided two training
6 sessions to candidates and treasurers on
7 the campaign finance law and presently is
8 actively engaged in its oversight
9 function to ensure compliance with the
10 law.

11 With the assistance of Public
12 Property, the Board has opened its new
13 office on the second floor of the Packard
14 Building and construction is underway.
15 We have an Interim Executive Director and
16 an Office Administrator. The Board is
17 actively interviewing candidates for
18 Executive Director and General Counsel.
19 We are also working with the Personnel
20 Department to create civil service job
21 descriptions for additional staff
22 positions that do not appear to have a
23 current description.

24 Over the next year, we hope to
25 continue to hire staff to enable the

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 Board to properly carry out its mandates
3 under the law. The Board will also
4 prepare to take over responsibility for
5 all aspects of the financial disclosures
6 filed by City officials, employees and
7 board and commission members and the
8 campaign finance disclosures filed by
9 candidate committees and political action
10 committees. Both the financial
11 disclosures by officials and the campaign
12 finance disclosures are currently being
13 processed and archived by the Records
14 Department, which has provided tremendous
15 support to the Board over the past six
16 months.

17 Philadelphia has worked long
18 and hard to establish the essential
19 elements of a robust ethics program. We
20 now have clear contract reform and
21 campaign finance rules to limit the
22 influence of large political contributors
23 on decision-makers, an independent Board
24 of Ethics that oversees these new rules
25 and sufficient resources for the Board to

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 enforce the rules.

3 It was no small effort to get
4 the City's ethics reform measures to
5 where they are today. It required the
6 active participation and support by
7 voters, City Council, the Mayor and many
8 independent organizations over four years
9 to accomplish. It is now the Board's
10 responsibility to implement these reforms
11 with diligence, competence and fairness.

12 Thank you. This concludes my
13 testimony. I will be happy to answer any
14 questions you may have.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
16 you.

17 You mention that you will
18 handle all financial disclosures. Will
19 you assume some of the roles that our
20 Commissioners do now? We call them on
21 everything. When we're not sure, we call
22 them, and if they're not lawyers, they
23 just act like they are.

24 MR. GLAZER: There is an
25 interplay between the City Commissioners

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 and the Board, and I'll let Interim
3 Executive Director Creamer describe in
4 more detail that interplay.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
6 you.

7 MR. CREAMER: Good afternoon,
8 Madam Chair. Shane Creamer, Interim
9 Executive Director to the Philadelphia
10 Board of Ethics.

11 We've been working closely with
12 the City Commissioners staff on
13 coordinating the requirements that
14 candidates and political committees have
15 under the City's campaign finance law to
16 file the same information in an
17 electronic format with the Ethics Board
18 via the Records Department whenever they
19 have to file with the City Commissioners.
20 We have -- I speak almost daily with the
21 City Commissioners staff, and we've tried
22 to communicate clearly to candidates and
23 committees what the requirements are.
24 And whenever either the City
25 Commissioners staff or the Ethics Board

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 make communications generally to advise
3 campaigns on filing requirements, for
4 example, we tend to check with one
5 another to make sure that we include a
6 message for, if it's coming from me, a
7 message from the City Commissioners, or
8 if it's coming from the City
9 Commissioners, they'll include a mention
10 of the requirements under the City's
11 campaign finance law.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: At
13 this point, we can call the Commissioners
14 and ask them any question and don't feel
15 we will be judged. So what would be your
16 role within that regard? I mean, will
17 you say, You're wrong, or will we be put
18 in a position, a feeling if we ask you a
19 question, then you'll come back and say
20 we're wrong and we read it in the papers?

21 MR. CREAMER: Well, I hope
22 you'd feel free to call us, too. And I
23 take questions daily from candidates from
24 City officials and from various political
25 committees and treasurers who have

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 questions about the campaign finance law.
3 And, no, we're not going to judge harshly
4 what is in the reports, and I think our
5 approach so far has been a proactive
6 approach where if we have issues with a
7 filing or if there's a failure to file or
8 missing information, we give the
9 candidate or the committee an opportunity
10 to correct the mistake, if it's a
11 mistake, or the omission if it's an
12 omission.

13 And with respect to the
14 electronic filing, for example, the Cycle
15 7 reports for 2006 was the first occasion
16 on which everyone had to file an
17 electronic format with the Ethics Board
18 via the Records Department, and because
19 it was so brand new for everyone and
20 because there were some technical issues
21 with the implementation, we pushed the
22 deadline back two weeks to give people
23 ample opportunity to complete their
24 filings, and during that two-week period,
25 the Records Department gave, I think,

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.
2 hundreds of hours of support to campaigns
3 and treasurers to help them complete the
4 electronic filings. And since then,
5 we've offered two campaign finance law
6 seminars. The most recent one was last
7 Wednesday for candidates and their
8 treasurers to explain what the rules are.

9 And, again, our approach is, we
10 want to make sure everybody clearly
11 understands what the rules are. If there
12 are issues at this point with what
13 someone may have filed, we want to be
14 proactive with them and give them an
15 opportunity to take corrective steps.
16 And it would only be after we've
17 exhausted those efforts that we would
18 consider any possible sanctions.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: What
20 will you or do you have the capacity to
21 do now and what will you have the
22 capacity -- I guess if we're entering
23 Fiscal Year '08, I assume in Fiscal Year
24 '09 you're saying you'll be fully
25 operational with staff, et cetera? What

1 4/24/07 - WHOLE - BILL 070114, ETC.

2 can you do now and what will you do then?

3 MR. GLAZER: Well, we are
4 actually doing a great deal now with very
5 little, and at this point, the total
6 personnel in place is four of the
7 five-member Board, an Interim Executive
8 Director and an Office Administrator. We
9 fully expect to be hiring both an
10 Executive Director and a General Counsel,
11 both of which are in exempt positions.
12 Once our full-time Executive Director
13 will be in place, he or she will have the
14 opportunity to have input in the
15 development of staff.

16 We have looked at best
17 practices around the United States and
18 have compared our statutory mandates and
19 our budgets with those of other cities to
20 get some sense as to what fully staffed
21 might mean, and we believe we have a
22 sense of that, but it's quite early in
23 the process.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
25 you.

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2 Councilman Greenlee.

3 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
4 you, Madam Chair. Along the lines you
5 were asking, I think it is appropriate to
6 thank Mr. Creamer for his help. I've
7 talked to him a number of times myself.

8 As like Councilwoman Blackwell,
9 I always called the Commissioners. I
10 thought Tim Dowling knew everything, so I
11 just talked to Tim Dowling all these
12 years. Tim still knows a lot, by the
13 way.

14 But I particularly want to
15 mention those seminars. At least I was
16 smart enough to get a treasurer that was
17 smarter than me, and the treasurer has
18 said that those seminars were extremely
19 helpful. I think they were very good.
20 And I also want to commend you. I was
21 worried in the beginning you were trying
22 to play "got you" when we were first
23 doing things, and when we first got that
24 letter that I think said we had to
25 file -- I think the first letter said we

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2 had to file that day or the day after or
3 something, and then by the time I called
4 you, you had indicated you already
5 granted the two-week extension, because I
6 think we were all about to go crazy with
7 that.

8 So I appreciate the
9 cooperation. I think we're all still
10 learning this stuff, but I think in the
11 long run, we're all trying to get to the
12 same place. We're trying to do things
13 the right way. So thank you.

14 MR. CREAMER: I appreciate
15 that. And with questions on interpreting
16 the state Election Code, I still refer
17 those questions to Tim Dowling. He is
18 still the expert on that.

19 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.
20 We're all on the same page, then.

21 MR. CREAMER: That's right.
22 But if there are questions under the City
23 campaign finance law, I would hope that
24 people would come to the Ethics Board and
25 to me. And we have spoken many times

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2 with the questions you have had. I've
3 spoken with your treasurer, Jack French,
4 any number of times and he did come to
5 the first training seminar.

6 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I'm sure
7 he did.

8 MR. CREAMER: And I always
9 welcome questions from Jack. He's got
10 good insight into this. It's good to get
11 the perspective from candidates and
12 treasurers for my benefit so I can
13 understand what it's like for the other
14 side that's completing the information
15 and trying to submit the reports and
16 comply with the law. It's good to
17 understand what issues come up. And I
18 can only get that through the
19 interactions we get at the campaign
20 finance seminar or through questions I
21 get from candidates or officials or their
22 treasurers.

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And I
24 know a lot has happened very quickly, so,
25 again, I appreciate the cooperation.

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2 MR. CREAMER: Thank you.

3 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
4 you.

5 Thank you, Madam Chair.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
7 you, Councilman.

8 As there are no other
9 questions, unless you would like to tell
10 us something we don't know, which is kind
11 of everything, then this hearing will be
12 recessed until Wednesday, April 25th at
13 2:30 where we will hear public testimony.

14 Thank you, all.

15 MR. GLAZER: Thank you.

16 MR. CREAMER: Thank you.

17 (Committee of the Whole
18 adjourned at 1:15 p.m.)

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