

1

2

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING
COMMITTEE ON LAW AND GOVERNMENT

3

4

5

- - -
Wednesday 10/10/01
2:19 p.m.
Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, PA
- - -

6

7

8

9

RESOLUTION NO. 000476 - Authorizing the Committee
on Law and Government to investigate whether the
City-administered health plan, current and in the
past, has provided the most comprehensive and
cost-efficient coverage to City employees for the
premiums paid, and whether the City could provide
more comprehensive and less costly coverage to the
approximately 8,000 employees and retirees
currently covered by this plan if the other option
were pursued.

15

16

PRESENT: COUNCILMAN DAVID COHEN, Chair
COUNCILMAN ANGEL L. ORTIZ, Vice Chair
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL
COUNCILMAN MICHAEL A. NUTTER
COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO
COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA

19

20

21

- - -

22

23

VINCENT VARALLO ASSOCIATES, INC.
Registered Professional Reporters
Eleven Penn Center, Suite 600
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 561-2220

24

25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

I N D E X

PAGE

Linda Berkowitz..... 3
Deputy Secretary of Financial Oversight

1 10/10/01 LAW & GOV'T RES. 00476

2 COUNCILMAN COHEN: The Committee on Law
3 and Government considering Resolution 476 is now in
4 session. There is a continuing quorum: Councilman
5 Nutter is present; I'm David Cohen, the chairman of
6 the committee; to my left, not really, but he sits
7 there to my left, is Councilman Ortiz, the vice
8 chair of the committee.

9 The committee would like to call very
10 briefly Miss Berkowitz to the stand.

11 (Witness comes forward.)

12 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Miss Berkowitz, one
13 major thread that's run throughout these hearings is
14 the question as to the documentation by the City
15 Administration of a certain statement made during
16 labor negotiations, that the Administration had
17 documentation to establish that consolidating all
18 the health plans, the four union plans, together
19 with those of the non-represented employees would
20 produce more efficient and more economical returns.

21 The committee has endeavored on a number
22 of occasions to obtain that documentation. You've
23 indicated that as a result of your study, you could
24 only find one document that might relate to that,
25 though you weren't certain that it did, but you

1 10/10/01 LAW & GOV'T RES. 00476

2 what decision you feel you have to make based upon
3 whatever conclusions you are referring to. Are you
4 in a position to give us --

5 MS. BERKOWITZ: I am not in a position to
6 give that document to the committee

7 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Based on what you
8 stated before?

9 MS. BERKOWITZ: That is correct.

10 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Okay, thank you.

11 MS. BERKOWITZ: Thank you.

12 We have no further questions of the
13 witness. The committee stands in recess.

14 I've got to call the president to bring
15 two more members to have a quorum because the
16 chairman intends to present to the committee for its
17 consideration the adoption by the committee of a
18 report, which has been circulated to the members of
19 the committee and which has already been attested to
20 by six of the eight members of the committee. The
21 other two I've not yet been able to reach today,
22 though I've been in telephone contact with their
23 office

24 So the committee will stand momentarily in
25 recess while the chairman makes a call to the

1 10/10/01 LAW & GOV'T RES. 00476

2 president's office to get two members of the
3 committee who are meeting with her at this point.

4 Incidentally, I will note for the record
5 that the President of City Council is one of the
6 signatories that I referred to when I mentioned the
7 six Councilmembers on the committee.

8 The committee will stand in recess for
9 three minutes, till I make the call.

10 (Committee stands in recess.)

11 - - -

12 (Proceedings resume.)

13 - - -

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 10/10/01 LAW & GOV'T PUBLIC MEETING

2 COUNCILMAN COHEN: The committee session
3 is now resumed. The committee is joined by
4 Councilman Frank Rizzo, City Council President Anna
5 Verna, and Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell. This
6 constitute six members of the committee and is far
7 more than a quorum.

8 I ask for a motion that the Committee on
9 Law and Government adopt the interim report that has
10 been distributed to committee members in connection
11 with Resolution 000476 and that it recommend the
12 report for approval by the Council at the next
13 stated meeting, which is tomorrow.

14 Is there such a motion?

15 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I move that the report
16 be adopted, Mr. Chairman.

17 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Is there a second?

18 (Duly seconded.)

19 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Any discussion?

20 (No response.)

21 COUNCILMAN COHEN: If not all, in favor,
22 please say aye.

23 Those opposed, say nay.

24 There are no nays, there are six ayes.

25 The report is adopted and will be reported to the

1 10/10/01 LAW & GOV'T PUBLIC MEETING

2 Council for approval by the whole of the Council.

3 the committee now stands in recess until
4 Wednesday, November the 14th, at 2 p.m., when there
5 may be a supplementary report covering other
6 material made public.

7 Thank you very much, everybody. For
8 attending. Thank you especially to Council
9 President and to Councilwoman Blackwell. I hated to
10 interrupt the meeting that I know that was ongoing.

11 Thank you very much.

12 - - -

13 (Hearing ends at 2:32 p.m.)

14 - - -

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing
proceedings of the Council of the City of
Philadelphia's meeting of the Council Committee on
Law and Government held on Wednesday, October 10,
2001, at 2:00 p.m, are contained fully and
accurately in the stenographic notes taken by me
upon, and that this is a true and correct transcript
of same.

RE: Resolution No.000476

_____,
Josephine Cardillo
Registered Professional Reporter
and Notary Public

(The foregoing certification of this
transcript does not apply to any reproduction of the
same by any means, unless under the direct control
and/or supervision of the certifying reporter.)