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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3

PUBLIC HEARING

4

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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6

Room 401, City Hall
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 Thursday, November 16, 2000
 9:00 a.m.

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9 BILL NO. 000675 - An Ordinance authorizing transfers
 in appropriations for Fiscal Year 2001 from the
 10 Grants Revenue Fund, the Director of Finance -
 Provision for other grants to the General Fund...

11 BILL NO. 000676 - An Ordinance authorizing transfers
 in appropriations for Fiscal Year 2000 within the
 12 General Fund from certain or all City offices,
 departments, boards and commissions to certain or
 13 all City offices, departments, boards and
 commissions.

14 BILL NO. 000680 - An Ordinance authorizing and
 directing transfers in appropriations for Fiscal
 15 Year 2001 within the General Fund from certain or
 all City offices, departments, boards and
 16 commissions to certain or all City offices,
 departments, boards and commissions.

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18 PRESENT:

19 COUNCILWOMAN JOAN L. KRAJEWSKI, Chair
 COUNCILMAN DARRELL CLARKE
 20 COUNCILMAN W. THACHER LONGSTRETH
 COUNCILMAN RICHARD T. MARIANO
 COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER
 21 COUNCILMAN MICHAEL A. NUTTER
 COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
 22 COUNCILMAN ANGEL ORTIZ

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2 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Good morning.
3 The Committee on Appropriations is now in session.
4 Will the Clerk please read the bill.
5 THE CLERK: Bill No. 000675, an
6 ordinance authorizing transfers in appropriations
7 for Fiscal Year 2001 from the Grants Revenue Fund,
8 the Director of Finance - Provision for other grants
9 to the General Fund, certain or all City offices,
10 departments, boards and commissions.
11 And Bill No. 000676, an ordinance
12 authorizing transfers in appropriations for Fiscal
13 Year 2000 within the General Fund from certain or
14 all City offices, departments, boards and
15 commissions to certain or all City offices,
16 departments, boards and commissions.
17 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: I would just
18 like to note that we do have a quorum. We have
19 Councilman Ortiz, Councilwoman Miller, Councilman
20 Longstreth, and Councilman Mariano and myself.
21 Is there anyone from the Administration?
22 (Witness comes forward.)
23 MR. DUBOW: Good morning Councilwoman
24 Krajewski. I'm Rob Dubow, I'm the City's Budget
25 Director and I'm here to offer testimony on Bills

2 No. 000676 and 000675. I'll start with 000675?

3 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Yes.

4 MR. DUBOW: Bill No. 000675 request
5 transfers totaling \$10,153,459 from the provisions
6 of other grants in the Grants Revenue Fund to four
7 departments in the General Fund.

8 The first request is for an increase of
9 \$7 million in the Department of Licenses and
10 Inspections to offset the cost of demolishing
11 imminently dangerous buildings. The wet summer
12 increased the number of buildings that were in need
13 of immediate attention.

14 An increase in the Mayor's Office
15 appropriation in the amount of 2.4 million is also
16 requested to cover Class 100 and other associated
17 expenditures. In an effort to increase the
18 effectiveness and collaboration across City
19 entities, a number of new positions were created
20 within the Mayor's Office, including the Secretary
21 of Education, the Secretary of Boards and
22 Authorities, the Secretary of External Affairs, and
23 the Director of Neighborhood Transformation. These
24 new functions ensure that critical, cross-cutting
25 initiatives are given the centralized focus and

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2 leadership needed.

3 An increase in the Fairmount Park
4 Commissions's appropriation is requested in the
5 amount of \$434,322 to offset costs resulting from
6 extensive Hurricane Floyd damage. These costs are
7 eligible for reimbursement by the Federal Emergency
8 Management Agency if the work is completed by March
9 21, 2001.

10 The final request in this bill is for an
11 additional \$319,137 for the City Planning
12 Commission, to expand its planning capability to
13 meet the extensive needs of the Neighborhood
14 Planning Initiative.

15 I'll go on to 000676 now.

16 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Yes.

17 MR. DUBOW: Bill 000676 is required for
18 the FY 2000 year-end closing of the financial
19 records to the City. As you know, year-end transfer
20 ordinances are introduced in City Council every
21 year. When the year ends, the Accounting Bureau in
22 the Office of the Director of Finance closes the
23 books on that year's financial transactions and
24 begins to complete the annual financial report of
25 the City. In the course of preparing that report,

3 reconciliations which need to take place between the
4 total to be shown in the financial report and the
5 appropriations for each department.

6 Once the report is completed, it's
7 audited by the Controller, who serves as the City's
8 independent auditor. The Controller to give a
9 favorable opinion regarding the annual financial
10 report. Legal appropriations for each department in
11 each fund must be consistent with the annual report.
12 Enactment of the FY 2000 year-end transfer ordinance
13 will make possible the reconciliation that is
14 required in order to permit the Controller to issue
15 a favorable opinion.

16 I'll summarize the reasons for the major
17 transfers in the bill.

18 There are a total of 13 transfers that
19 involve a change in total appropriations. These
20 transfers represent net increases of \$12.9 million.

21 The largest requested increase is \$8.3
22 million in the Police Department, with the bulk of
23 that being transferred to Class 100 largely to cover
24 higher than expected overtime costs related to
25 aggressive law enforcement efforts, including

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2 increase arrests, investigations, and subsequent
3 court appearances. Another \$299,770 would be

4 transferred he the department's Class 200
5 appropriation to fund unexpected expenditures
6 including consulting costs for the police officer
7 recruit test, horseshoing services, cellular phone
8 charges, and the cost of a third helicopter pilot.
9 These increase costs re offset by small surpluses
10 totaling a little over \$280,000 in the Class 3- and
11 400.

12 We're also requesting class \$3.6
13 million for the Department of Licenses and
14 Inspections Demolitions appropriation for additional
15 demolitions that occurred in FY 2000. Last year the
16 department performed 1,284 demolitions, including 18
17 demolitions of large commercial structures. The
18 average cost of the large structures was over
19 \$95,000. The demolition of these imminently
20 dangerous large structures was critical, not only to
21 avoid collapse, but also because the abandoned
22 structures attract drug activity and are vulnerable
23 to potential arson.

24 An increase of \$725,317 is requested in
25 the Director of Finance Indemnities appropriation to

4 An increase of \$312,310 is requested in
5 Fairmount Park with \$161,624 internally transferred
6 from Class 100, 300, and 400 largely to cover
7 additional clean-up costs for Hurricane Floyd.

8 We're also requesting \$111,487 in the
9 appropriation for the Sheriff's Office to cover
10 costs related to security coverage for the First
11 Judicial District as well for the computer equipment
12 and upgrades to ensure compliance with the City Y2K
13 guidelines.

14 We're requesting an increase of over
15 32,000 in the Class 100 appropriation for the
16 Mayor's Office, with \$15,887 internally transferred
17 from other classes. The increase would cover the
18 Class 100 shortfall that occurred during the
19 transition to the new Administration.

20 An increase of \$29,545 is requested in
21 the Personnel Department's 300 and 400
22 appropriation, with \$18,160 transferred from Classes
23 100 and 2000. These funds are need to cover the
24 purchase of hardware and software for the city-wide
25 Workforce Request System.

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2 An increase of \$438,182 is requested in
3 the Class 200 appropriation for the city
4 Commissioners with \$430,914 transferred from 100,

5 300, and 400 to Class 200. The transfer would cover
6 voting machine maintenance expenses resulting from a
7 late change of the balloon configuration for the
8 1999 General Election and date change 2000 Primary
9 Election.

10 A final increase in appropriation is
11 requested for the Class 200 appropriation for the
12 Procurement Department in the amount \$194,957. The
13 department would transfer \$192,624 from Classes 100,
14 300, and 400 to Class 200 to cover additional
15 advertising expenses.

16 Those increases in appropriation are
17 made possible through reductions in four different
18 appropriation. The largest proposed reduction in
19 the ordinance is \$9.3 million from the Department
20 of Revenue Sinking Fund Commission appropriation.
21 This reduction is possible because new debt was not
22 issued as anticipated and interest costs were lower
23 than anticipated.

24 A reduction of approximately \$2.7
25 million is requested in the appropriation for the

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2 Director of Finance Fringe Benefits line because of
3 the lower than projected costs for employee health
4 and medical benefits.

5 The two other reductions in
6 appropriations in the proposed bill are \$511,000
7 reduction in the Director of Finance appropriation
8 because of delay of enhancements in the FAMIS and
9 ADPICS systems and a \$417,906 decrease in the
10 Licenses and Inspections appropriation in Classes
11 100, 300 and 400 primarily due to difficulty in
12 finding qualified candidates to fill positions.

13 The other 18 transfers in the bill are
14 between classes within departments and result in no
15 net change in FY 2000 departmental appropriations.

16 The largest internal transfer is a \$7.4
17 million shift between classes in the First Judicial
18 District. The ordinance would transfer the First
19 Judicial District's surplus to Class 200 to provide
20 additional monies to the Administrative Office of
21 the Pennsylvania Courts for renovations of First
22 Judicial District space as well as technology and
23 telecommunication upgrades. And that transfer is
24 consistent with our zero growth budget agreement
25 with the courts.

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2 Those are all my comments. I hope
3 they've been helpful and I respectfully request your
4 favorable consideration of these bills. I also
5 request a suspension of the rules to permit

6 consideration of these ordinances on the First
7 Reading Calendar at City Council's next meeting.

8 I'll be happy to answer any questions
9 that you have, and we have representatives from the
10 various departments covered by the bills.

11 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank you, Mr.
12 Dubow. I've seen your testimony. There's a request
13 for an increase in the Mayor's Office in the FY
14 2001. Some of the increase will be used fund Class
15 100 expenditures.

16 MR. DUBOW: That's correct.

17 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: You state that
18 a portion of the money will used for other
19 associated expenditures. Could you elaborate on
20 some of the other expenditures?

21 MR. DUBOW: Certainly. Part of what's
22 happening with centralization in the Mayor's Office
23 and the increase activity there is that there's an
24 increase in consulting activity that comes through
25 there also. So for example, some of the

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2 neighborhood transformation work that's being done
3 by consultants is charge to the Mayor's Office
4 budget. Some of the strategic planning consultant
5 work would also come through the Mayor's Office

6 budget. In Classes 300 and 400, it's stuff like
7 computers and equipment for additional employees.

8 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Would this
9 particular shortfall be addressed in the future
10 fiscal years?

11 MR. DUBOW: Yes, we plan to have the
12 increase budget request in FY '02 and then in all
13 the years of our plan.

14 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Are there any
15 questions from members of the committee?

16 (No questions.)

17 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank you.

18 Are there any members from the
19 Administration to testify?

20 MR. DUBOW: We've submitted written
21 testimony from a number of agencies and we request
22 that move that into record.

23 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: We'll add that
24 to the record.

25 MR. DUBOW: Thanks.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank you.

3 Any other questions on Bills 000675 or
4 000676?

5 Now we'll here testimony on -- Clerk,
6 please read bill.

7 THE CLERK: Bill No. 000680, an
8 ordinance authorizing and directing transfers in
9 appropriations for Fiscal Year 2001 within the
10 General Fund from certain or all City offices,
11 departments, boards and commissions to certain or
12 all City offices, departments, boards and
13 commissions.

14 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Is there
15 anyone to testify on Bill 000680? Please come
16 forward. Anyone from Administration?

17 (Witness comes forward.)

18 MR. DUBOW: I'm Rob Dubow, City's Budget
19 Director. I submitted written testimony which I'll
20 summarize really quickly.

21 The Administration has just two
22 concerns with the bill. The first is that we've
23 traditionally had problems filling these positions.
24 For example, over the last 10 years, we've averaged
25 around 968 filled positions even though we've been

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2 budgeted for a thousand. One of our concerns is
3 that we won't be able to fill the positions. And
4 then the second is that some of the places from
5 which we want to take money this ordinance, the
6 money has been expended so if we do want to do this,

7 we need to figure out other places or other ways to
8 do the transfer. What we propose is that we work
9 with personnel and police to figure out how we can
10 better fill these positions and the consideration of
11 increasing the number of crossing guards into our
12 2002 budget. So if we do it, we actually are able
13 to fill the positions.

14 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: I believe
15 Councilman Ortiz --

16 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: He's going to let
17 me go.

18 Well, you know, you seem like a nice
19 guy, but you come here and you insult our
20 intelligence. Hal and I and all other the Council,
21 we go to these meetings and people hand us their
22 names and their applications. They want to be
23 crossing guards. Don't come up here and tell us
24 that you can't get crossing guards. We can walk out
25 this front door and get 10 people that want to be

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2 crossing guards. We got the corners, we have the
3 money, it's funded for crossing guards; let's put
4 the crossing guards on the street.

5 (Applause.)

6 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: We've been playing
7 this game for two administrations. I'm tired of

8 playing this game. I understand you're just a torch
9 bearer for the Administration. Go back downstairs
10 and tell them we want the crossing guards. We're
11 dealing with kids' lives here. I for one am totally
12 frustrated with this, as I'm sure everyone is. The
13 money is there. The people want the jobs. Let's
14 give them the jobs, okay, please. It's insulting.

15 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Just one
16 moment, please. We don't shoot the messenger.
17 Gentleman, please.

18 The Chair recognizes Councilman Ortiz.

19 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Let me give you a
20 very short time line because we go back before this.
21 September 28, 1996, '96, we sent a letter -- I sent
22 a letter to Richard Neil after a kid got killed
23 because of the lack of crossing guards. He was
24 going with his grandfather and was going to cross to
25 meet his grandfather. Got killed. Lack of crossing

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2 guard. We had hearings at that time. That
3 administration promised to fill the corner. They
4 didn't do it. I don't know why because, as Rick
5 says, people are there.

6 In '99 AOP got over a thousand, 1500,
7 calling for more crossing guards from across the

8 City. We had a meeting in which the Administration
9 promised crossing guards. We had hearings here over
10 the last four years about crossing guards. We have
11 right now supposedly new revenue of over \$200
12 million coming in. If you say that, some of the
13 money, we'll pull it from the grants fund. We'll
14 put the \$350,000 from the grants fund and do it that
15 way.

16 MR. DUBOW: And that's what I said. We
17 need to find someplace else. I didn't say we
18 couldn't afford it.

19 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: So don't say that we
20 can not find people to be on the corners. Do not
21 say that to us, because they're there.

22 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: I happen to
23 agree with you, Councilman. Before these bills are
24 passed, we'll make sure that that money is put in
25 there.

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2 Councilwoman Miller.
3 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I just want to add
4 my ditto to my Council colleagues. Crossing guards
5 are an important part of every day life for children
6 and parents out in our neighborhoods. And I, too,
7 want to call for the additional funds, call on the
8 department to find those funds so that we can have

9 some school crossing guards. Thank you.
10 (Applause.)
11 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Are there any
12 other questions from the members of the committee?
13 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: We'll make an
14 amendment to the bill taking 350,000 from the Grant
15 Fund over to the Police Department, okay?
16 MR. DUBOW: Okay.
17 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank you.
18 I believe we have Patricia Schoolfield.
19 (Witness comes forward.)
20 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Good morning.
21 MS. SCHOOLFIELD: Good morning,
22 Councilwoman.
23 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: My name is
24 Patricia Schoolfield. I'm the vice president Local
25 1956. I'm sitting in for Betty McDonald. She is

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2 out of town, so I want to apologize for her.
3 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: You may
4 continue.
5 MS. SCHOOLFIELD: I heard testimony this
6 morning about how crucial that we need crossing
7 guards. It is crucial that we need crossing guards
8 because we are the eyes and ears for the children

9 out there. The children really look for us to be on
10 that corner. It's a lot of corners on there that's
11 not covered. It's children that come out there in
12 the morning like quarter after 7 and they are
13 unattended, so the motorists do not pay the children
14 any mind when they come across the street. The
15 children really look forward for us to be out there
16 in the morning. We are like parents to them. We
17 are their protectors out there, and it is very
18 crucial that we need more crossing guards because
19 it's a lot of corners out there that's not even
20 covered. So I'm asking that we can get the funding
21 to get more crossing guards out there.

22 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: I believe
23 Councilman Ortiz.

24 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Thank you. I have a
25 question, but do you think we would have problems

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2 finding people to be crossing guards in our
3 neighborhoods?

4 MS. SCHOOLFIELD: No, I don't because
5 there are parents that come up to me on my corner in
6 the morning where there is a guard needed, there's
7 no guard there and ask me how could they put in an
8 application or how could they become a crossing
9 guard. So it's like every day it's parents out

10 there asking to be crossing guards.

11 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Will you promise that
12 you will work with the police department to make
13 sure that we fill all 1,037 positions that we are
14 allocated for?

15 MS. SCHOOLFIELD: You said will I
16 promise to work with them?

17 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

18 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank you very
19 much for coming in.

20 Are there any other questions from
21 members of the committee?

22 Are there any other witnesses? I
23 believe Barbara Johnson. Is there anyone else to
24 testify for or against the bill?

25 (Witnesses comes forward.)

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2 MR. JORDAN: Good morning. My name is
3 Augustus Jordan and I'm here on behalf of
4 Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth. I
5 came today to urge the Council to pass a bill that
6 will increase the number of school crossing guards
7 within Philadelphia. The message is simple: We
8 need more crossing guards to ensure our children's
9 safety.

10 According to Pennsylvania Department of
11 Transportation 1999 statistics on pedestrian
12 accidents within Philadelphia County, there were
13 four children killed and 1,017 children that were
14 injured last year alone.

15 When we look at times when children are
16 traveling to and from school as well as during lunch
17 periods, the numbers are as follows: 33 injuries
18 occurred to preschool-age children. One death and
19 157 injuries occurred to children between the ages
20 of 5 and 9. And 100 injuries occurred to children
21 between the ages of 10 and 14.

22 To recap, in 1999 alone within
23 Philadelphia County during times when children
24 normally walk to or from school or cross streets
25 during their lunch periods, one child was killed and

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2 290 children were injured. This indicates a clear
3 and present need for more crossing guards to prevent
4 these accidents from occurring in the future.

5 I urge the Council to do the right thing
6 to supporting an increase in funding for additional
7 crossing guards. Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank you very
10 much.

11 Good morning.

12 MS. JOHNSON: Good morning. I'm Barbara
13 Johnson. I'm the Family Resource Network
14 Coordinator for the West Philadelphia Cluster. I've
15 heard overview this morning for the need for
16 crossing guards, however, I would like to talk to
17 you about it on a micro in our cluster.

18 We asked for an assessment around our
19 eight elementary schools last June, June of '99.
20 Because there's only one person in the crossing
21 guard office, Sergeant Thompson, we had to have wait
22 until September to get the assessment started. It
23 is still not complete. So in addition to wanting
24 and needing the crossing guards, it takes forever
25 for a decision to be made because there's a lack of

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2 personnel to begin the process.

3 As a result of his assessment, just a
4 part of it, it was determined that we did need
5 additional crossing guards in the area that we
6 requested the assessment in. In addition to that,
7 there are areas that have been waiting for crossing
8 guards for at least two years.

9 Now, we've had several accidents in our
10 cluster where children have been maimed and injured.

11 So there's a terrific and just tremendous need for
12 addition crossing guards. I'm sure it's in need all
13 of the City, but in the West Philadelphia area
14 there's a great need. Thank you.

15 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank you very
16 much.

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Good morning,
19 gentlemen.

20 MR. HODGE: Good morning everyone in
21 Council. My name is Samuel Hodge. I am a part of
22 the Grass Cluster and I'm also a volunteer crossing
23 guard at Bethune Elementary School. I've identified
24 what Council has said in regard to identifying a
25 need and I believe you see it. The only thing that

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2 maybe Council is not an aware of, even though
3 there's funding allocated, it creates a tremendous
4 problem when a crossing guard is also out sick.
5 When that crossing guard is out sick or disabled,
6 especially disabled, if they're disabled for a year
7 then that corner is vacant also for a year.

8 The other thing that I also can bring to
9 the attention based on my interest is when I first
10 went to Bethune, I saw an excessive amount of
11 traffic around the school and also for approximately

12 two years there was no crossing guard there.
13 Listening to what was said about the funding that
14 was allocated, crossing guards should have been
15 available not only at Bethune, but also schools
16 around the City of Philadelphia.

17 I also, based on my activities, found
18 out that the police precincts are supposed to back
19 up the crossing guards when they're out. That
20 rarely happens. I also went as far as contacting
21 crossing guard headquarters. Crossing guard
22 headquarters also based on what I found now states
23 that their hands become tied based on issues dealing
24 with unions. I don't down unions. I don't
25 anything. And I wish I had as much support for the

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2 children as I see here today. I'm requesting just
3 based on what I do know and knowing of injuries to
4 children that not only the funds be allocated, but
5 also that additional funding be made so that there
6 can be people that can replace other people that are
7 out ill and areas where children are, quote/unquote,
8 jeopardized.

9 Everyone in front of Council here, I'm
10 pretty sure we all have children or grandchildren,
11 and I've seen children hurt and I believe none of us

12 what to see it happen. I'm also a strong believer
13 in God, and I believe this Council is trying their
14 best to do what they can do.

15 I support this and I'm requesting that
16 not only the crossing guards be allocated, but also
17 that the investigate what to do about crossing
18 guards who are out sick and disabled and those
19 Corners are vacant for an extended period of time.
20 Thank you very much.

21 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank you very
22 much.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. JACKSON: Good morning. My name is
25 Sam Jackson. I have a 7th-grader who a tends

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2 Pickett Middle School in the Germantown area. I've
3 been involved in Safe Corridors Program in
4 Germantown for the last four years. One of the
5 things we realize is that our children are not being
6 protected. Now, everyone here, including those who
7 came not because of the crossing guard issue
8 probably have children here in Philadelphia. We
9 need to come together and protect our children. I
10 want to commend Councilman Ortiz and Councilwoman
11 Miller for taking the steps to bring this bill out
12 and have these crossing posts fund. One thing we

13 must do --

14 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Thirteen

15 Councilpeople have signed this bill, not just two of
16 us.

17 MR. JACKSON: Well, I appreciate all the
18 Council, but I'm saying it was you and Councilwoman
19 Miller who brought this in the beginning. I
20 appreciate that.

21 Now, what we're doing here today is
22 listening to a lot rhetoric and we're not doing
23 anything to protect the children because today,
24 unfortunately, we may lose children because of a
25 post that has not been filled. I hope you will

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2 continue and not let anything stand in the way of
3 getting these posts and probably more filled because
4 we need far more than what we can we're asking for.
5 And I thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank you very
8 much.

9 Is there anyone else here to testify?

10 (Witnesses come forward.)

11 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Good morning.

12 MS. BRIDGES: First of all, I wasn't

13 prepared to give testimony. I came for support, but
14 I was asked to give testimony. I represent the
15 Hartranft School. That's at Eighth and Cumberland.
16 Our crossing guard is also out sick and she's been
17 out for over a month and we haven't been able been
18 able to get a police officer to cover the corner
19 either. We are at Eighth and Cumberland. The next
20 crossing guard is not until Fourth and York. We
21 have Germantown and Cumberland, it's a busy two-way
22 intersection. Last year I think a car ran into the
23 day care center. We have children going to middle
24 school, children coming from different areas over
25 there to get to our school. I don't understand that

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1 11/16/00 - APPROPRIATIONS - BILL NO. 000680
2 we can't get a crossing guard, but when ride up
3 Aramingo, there's a crossing guard on every corner.
4 I'm just asking that you take another look at that
5 and see the situation that we have with that and you
6 know, why can't we have the crossing guards.
7 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank you very
8 much. Could you please state your name for the
9 record.
10 MS. BRIDGES: My name is Dianne Bridges
11 and I'm a parent advocate for Hartranft School.
12 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank you very
13 much.

14 MS. BRIDGES: You're welcome.
15 (Applause.)
16 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Good morning.
17 CECILIA JAMES: My name is Cecilia is
18 Cecilia James and I'm with the Alliance Organizing
19 Project. I also work homeless school with John
20 Welch, and for the last two years, two and a half
21 years, we have been trying to get a crossing guard
22 at Fifth and York. We had a crossing -- excuse me.
23 Are they listening? Do they know what I'm saying?
24 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Excuse me one
25 moment. They're listening.

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1 11/16/00 - APPROPRIATIONS - BILL NO. 000680
2 MS. JAMES: I need your undivided
3 attention. Thank you.
4 For the last two years, two and half
5 years we've been trying to get a crossing guard at
6 Fifth and York. We previously had one there. She
7 retired, and they did not replace one. We had an
8 action at the John Welch Elementary School, the
9 Alliance Organizing Project, with over 200 parents.
10 We had Councilman Mariano came out, Ortiz came out,
11 and we had Thomas, we had the police officers and
12 everyone to come out to the meeting and promising us
13 and letting us know that we can get a crossing

14 guard. On March 2, '99 when Street had his town
15 meetings, he also committed and promised to get a
16 crossing guard. Since then we have talked to
17 Councilman Mariano. Councilman Ortiz came to our
18 school meeting on Thursday to talk to the parents
19 and to talk to us concerning the matter for a
20 crossing guard.

21 We need crossing guards throughout the
22 City. This particular -- as far as Ms. Bridges,
23 like she was saying from Hartranft, from Eighth
24 Street to Fourth and York there's no crossing guard.
25 We've had accidents. We have concerned parents. A

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1 11/16/00 - APPROPRIATIONS - BILL NO. 000680
2 lot of them working today, but we have concerned
3 parents that have the interest for a crossing guard.
4 We have concerned parents that have a desire to work
5 as crossing guards.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. JAMES: We have people that we know
8 put in applications and are on the waiting list for
9 a job to be a crossing guard. So there's no such
10 thing that you don't have people that's applying for
11 these positions because we do. And we need crossing
12 guards throughout the City for our children. We
13 don't want to wait until someone gets killed and
14 they'll put someone on the corner.

15 And as I said, and I thank you very
16 much, Councilman Ortiz, for coming out to our
17 meeting, talking to our parents and for Mariano for
18 being there for us. But we need a crossing guard
19 and Alliance Organizing Project have been working
20 for the last two years, the parents have been
21 working together. We do get a police officer every
22 now and then, but you do have to call every morning
23 and ask for one to be there. Thank you.
24 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank you very
25 much.

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1 11/16/00 - APPROPRIATIONS - BILL NO. 000680
2 (Applause.)
3 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: The Chair
4 recognizes Councilman Ortiz.
5 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Let me say that in
6 the testimony that the Administration gave, they
7 said that they find it difficult to fill the
8 crossing guard positions. And I know that that
9 cannot be so because everywhere I go across the
10 City, there are people that want to be crossing
11 guards and are available. Now, the other part is
12 that now after today and after we vote this out in
13 two weeks out of Council, get money to hire all of
14 these extra crossing guards will be there. So we

15 hope that you begin talking now to the police
16 department and to the police captain to say, "No
17 more excuses, the money has been appropriated, we
18 need the crossing guards." Thank you.

19 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank you. I
20 just want to note -- I beg your pardon. Go ahead.
21 State your name for the record.

22 MS. VASQUEZ: My name is Carmen Vasquez.
23 I have five grandchildren at John Welsh. The other
24 day my grandson came and told me when he came from
25 school that he almost got hit by a car. And that

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1 11/16/00 - APPROPRIATIONS - BILL NO. 000680
2 worries parents, parents that go to work. So I
3 believe they should have a cop no matter what until
4 we do have crossing guards.

5 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank you.
6 (Applause.)

7 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: I would just
8 like to note that Councilman Nutter is also present.

9 (Witnesses come forward.)

10 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Good morning,
11 ladies.

12 MS. BARNES-SINGLETON: Good morning. My
13 name is Katherine Barnes-Singleton. I just wanted
14 to make a addendum to what was said by Mrs. James
15 and Mrs. Bridges and also by Councilman Ortiz. It's

16 not an issue in our community that our people don't
17 want to work with our children as crossing guards.
18 But recently, my personal experience has been that
19 several people have been hired as crossing guards
20 and sent to other neighborhoods to serve in that
21 capacity. So we asked that, especially since
22 there's a crucial need in North Central Philadelphia
23 is where I'm speaking of, that those people that are
24 on hired to be given priority that if they desire to
25 work in their community, they be allowed to. Thank

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1 11/16/00 - APPROPRIATIONS - BILL NO. 000680

2 you.

3 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. SMILEY: Good morning. My name is
6 Nicole Smiley from Bethune Elementary School. I'm
7 here to fight for a crossing guard at Old York Road
8 and Erie Avenue. We're called safe corridors, we're
9 not crossing guards. But in order for us to get out
10 there and do our job, we do need some more a
11 crossing guards. We can't protect these children
12 from getting across the streets and stuff, you know,
13 getting back and forth to home because we don't have
14 enough crossing guards in our area. And it's
15 mandatory that we get them. And if ya'll can, you

16 know, like help us get these crossing guards from
17 like Old York Road and Erie Avenue to Broad and
18 Erie, we would appreciate it. Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Is there
21 anyone else here to testify?

22 MS. SMILEY: I would like submit this to
23 the Council.

24 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank you.
25 That ends our public hearing on Appropriations.

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2 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3 PUBLIC MEETING

4 COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

5 - - -

6 Thursday, November 16, 2000

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8 Public Meeting conducted by the
9 Committee on Public Property and Public Works, held
10 in Room 401, City Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,
on the above date, to consider action on the
following:

11 BILL NOS. 000675, 000676, 0006808

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PRESENT:

14 COUNCILWOMAN JOAN L. KRAJEWSKI, Chair
15 COUNCILMAN DARRELL CLARKE
16 COUNCILMAN W. THACHER LONGSTRETH
COUNCILMAN RICHARD T. MARIANO
COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER

17 COUNCILMAN MICHAEL A. NUTTER
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILMAN ANGEL ORTIZ
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1 11/16/00 - APPROPRIATIONS - PUBLIC MEETING 34
2 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Now we will go
3 into our public meeting. The Chair recognizes
4 Councilman Ortiz.
5 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Thank you, Madam
6 Chair.
7 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: For the purpose
8 of recognizing on Bill 000675.
9 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Madam Chair, I move
10 that Bill 000675 be moved out of committee with a
11 favorable recommendation and a recommendation that
12 the rules of Council be suspended so as to permit
13 first reading at the next session of City Council.
14 (Duly seconded.)
15 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: All those in
16 favor?

17 (Aye.)
18 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Those opposed?
19 (No response.)
20 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Therefore, Bill
21 000675 will be reported out of this committee with a
22 favorable recommendation with a suspension of rules
23 so as to permit first reading at the next Session of
24 Council.
25 The Chair recognizes Councilman Nutter

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1 11/16/00 - APPROPRIATIONS - PUBLIC MEETING
2 for the purposes of Bill 000676.
3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Madam Chair, I move
4 that Bill NO. 000676 be reported out of this
5 committee with a favorable recommendation and a
6 further recommendation that the rules of Council be
7 suspended so as to permit first reading at our next
8 session.
9 (Duly seconded.)
10 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: All those in
11 favor.
12 (Aye.)
13 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Those opposed?
14 (No response.)
15 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Therefore,
16 Bill No. 676 will be reported out of this committee
17 with a favorable recommendation with a suspension of

18 rules so as to permit first reading at the next
19 Session of Council.

20 The Chair recognizes Councilman Ortiz
21 for purpose of an amendment to Bill 000680.

22 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Madam Chair, we have
23 an amended Bill 000680 and from the front section we
24 eliminate everything up until Page 6 and we begin
25 with 2.48, the Department of Revenue Sinking Fund

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1 11/16/00 - APPROPRIATIONS - PUBLIC MEETING
2 Commission, from there we will Debt Service
3 \$350,000. And after that, we eliminate everything
4 after that section up until we get to the section
5 that says Police Department 2.12 Personal Services
6 350,000, and that remains the same.

7 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank you.

8 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I move the approval
9 of the amendment.

10 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Do I hear a
11 second?

12 (Duly seconded.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: All those in
14 favor of the amendment, aye.

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: All those
17 opposed?

18 (No response.)
19 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Therefore, the
20 amendment passes.
21 The Chair recognizes Councilman Ortiz.
22 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Madam Chair, I move
23 that Bill 000680, as amended, be reported out of
24 committee with a favorable recommendation and a
25 recommendation that the rules of Council be

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1 11/16/00 - APPROPRIATIONS - PUBLIC MEETING
2 suspended so as to permit first reading in the next
3 Session of City Council.
4 (Duly seconded.)
5 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: All those in
6 favor?
7 (Aye.)
8 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Those opposed?
9 (No response.)
10 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Therefore,
11 Bill 0000680 will be reported out of this committee,
12 as amended, with a favorable recommendation with a
13 suspension of rules so as to permit first reading at
14 the next Session of Council.
15 (Applause.)
16 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank you all
17 very much for coming in. This ends the meeting on
18 Appropriations.

19 (Adjourned at 9:35 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing

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proceedings of the Council of the City of

6

Philadelphia of November 16, 2000, were reported

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fully and accurately by me, and that this is a

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correct transcript of the same.

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RE: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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Lisa C. Bradley, RPR
and Notary Public

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