

BUDGET FY 2023
5/25/2022

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Remote location using Microsoft® Teams
Wednesday, May 25, 2022
10:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT DARRELL L. CLARKE, CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN CHERELLE L. PARKER, VICE-CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
COUNCILWOMAN KENDRA BROOKS
COUNCILMAN ALLAN DOMB
COUNCILWOMAN JAMIE GAUTHIER
COUNCILWOMAN KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON
COUNCILMAN DEREK S. GREEN
COUNCILWOMAN HELEN GYM
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILMAN DAVID OH
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILWOMAN MARIA D. QUINONES-SANCHEZ
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA
COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS

BILLS: 220240, 220284, 220285, 220286, 220287,
220288
RESOLUTION: 220300

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2 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you
3 and good morning everyone, as we proceed
4 with our callbacks Wednesday, May 25th.

5 Before we begin our public
6 hearing, I'll make the following
7 announcements: Due to the continuing
8 threat of the public health of COVID-19,
9 City Council Committees are currently
10 meeting remotely. We're using Microsoft
11 Teams to make these remote hearings
12 possible.

13 Instructions for how the public
14 may view and offer public testimony of
15 public hearings of Council Committees
16 are included in the public hearing
17 notices that are published in the Daily
18 News, Inquirer and Legal Intelligencer
19 prior to the hearing and can also be
20 found on PHLCouncil.com. I now note
21 that the hour has come.

22 Ms. Patel, will you please call
23 the roll to take attendance. And
24 Members that are in attendance, please
25 indicate you are present.

1 THE CLERK: Councilmember Bass.
2 (No response.)
3 THE CLERK: Councilmember
4 Brooks.
5 (No response.)
6 THE CLERK: Councilmember Domb.
7 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Good morning,
8 Mr. Chair, colleagues and all attendees.
9 Present.
10 THE CLERK: Councilmember
11 Gauthier.
12 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Good
13 morning, Mr. Chair and colleagues and
14 Philadelphia. Present.
15 THE CLERK: Councilmember
16 Gilmore Richardson.
17 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
18 RICHARDSON: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
19 Good morning, colleagues. I am present.
20 THE CLERK: Councilmember
21 Green.
22 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Good
23 morning, Mr. Chair, colleagues. I am
24 present.
25 THE CLERK: Councilmember Gym.

1 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Good
2 morning, Mr. Chair. Good morning,
3 colleagues. I am present.
4 THE CLERK: Councilmember
5 Johnson.
6 (No response.)
7 THE CLERK: Councilmember
8 Jones.
9 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
10 morning, Mr. Chair, Philadelphia. I'm
11 present.
12 THE CLERK: Councilmember
13 O'Neill.
14 (No response.)
15 THE CLERK: Councilmember Oh.
16 (No response.)
17 THE CLERK: Councilmember
18 Parker.
19 (No response.)
20 THE CLERK: Councilmember
21 Sanchez.
22 (No response.)
23 THE CLERK: Councilmember
24 Squilla.
25 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Good

1 morning, everyone. Present.

2 THE CLERK: Councilmember

3 Thomas.

4 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good

5 morning, Mr. Chair. Good morning,

6 everybody. I'm present.

7 THE CLERK: And, Council

8 President Clarke.

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Good

11 morning, Ami. This is Cherelle Parker.

12 I couldn't get off of mute. I'm

13 present, Mr. Chairman.

14 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: So noted.

15 Thank you. A quorum of the Committee is

16 present and the hearing is now called to

17 order. This is a continued public

18 hearing on the Committee of the Whole

19 regarding Bill Nos. 220284, 220285,

20 220286, 220287, 220288, 220240 and

21 Resolution 220300.

22 Ms. Patel, can you please read

23 the titles of the bills for the

24 resolution.

25 THE CLERK: Bill No. 220284, an

1 ordinance to adopt the Capital Program for
2 the six Fiscal Years 2023 to 2028
3 inclusive.

4 Bill No. 220285, an ordinance to
5 adopt a Fiscal 2023 Capital Budget.

6 Bill No. 220286, an ordinance
7 adopting the Operating Budget for Fiscal
8 Year 2023.

9 Bill No. 220287, an ordinance
10 amending Section 10-1001 of The
11 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Fees of
12 Commissioner of Records," to increase
13 certain fees for the recording of deeds and
14 mortgages and related documents, under
15 certain terms and conditions.

16 Bill No. 220288, an ordinance
17 amending Section 19-1403 of The
18 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Imposition of
19 Tax," by creating a Philadelphia County
20 Demolition Fund to increase and encourage
21 economic development by demolishing
22 blighted properties within the City,
23 imposing a related fee for recorded
24 documents and related items; and making
25 technical changes; all under certain terms

1 and conditions.

2 Bill No. 220240, an ordinance
3 substantially increasing the budget and
4 number of areas and neighborhoods around
5 the City served by the Community Life
6 Improvement Program, CLIP, to improve the
7 health, safety and cleanliness of every
8 neighborhood and enhance the quality of
9 life for all residents.

10 And Resolution No. 220300,
11 resolution providing for the approval by
12 the Council of the City of Philadelphia, a
13 Revised Five Year Financial Plan for the
14 City of Philadelphia covering Fiscal Years
15 2023 through 2027 and incorporating revised
16 changes with respect to Fiscal Year 2022,
17 which is to be submitted by the Mayor to
18 the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental
19 Cooperation Authority, pursuant to the
20 Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement,
21 authorized by an ordinance of this Council
22 approved by the Mayor on January 3, 1992 by
23 and between the City and the Authority.

24 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you.
25 Today we continue the public hearing on

1 the Committee of the Whole to consider
2 the bills read by the Clerk that
3 constitute proposed operating capital
4 spending measures for Fiscal Year 2023,
5 a Capital Program and Forward-looking
6 Capital Program for Fiscal Year 2023
7 through Fiscal Year 2028.

8 Before we begin hearing
9 testimony from witnesses we have for
10 today, everyone who has been invited to
11 the meeting to testify should be aware
12 that the public hearing is being
13 recorded. Because the hearing is
14 public, participants and viewers have no
15 reasonable expectation of privacy. By
16 continuing to be in the meeting, you are
17 consenting to being recorded.

18 Additionally, prior to
19 recognizing Members for their questions
20 or comments they have for witnesses, I
21 will note for the record that at the
22 time, that we will use the chat feature
23 available in Microsoft Teams to allow
24 Members to signify that they wish to be
25 recognized. In order to comply with the

1 Sunshine Act, the chat feature must only
2 be used for that purpose.

3 Today we will hear testimony
4 and question-answering from the School
5 District, the Police Department, the
6 Office of Property Assessment, the
7 Citizens Police Oversight Commission and
8 Behavioral Health. The School District
9 is available until 12:00 p.m noon while
10 the Police Commissioner is available
11 until 1:00.

12 Ms. Patel, will you please read
13 the first person to testify, if there's
14 any other additional testimony or we'll
15 go right to questions.

16 THE CLERK: The first person to
17 testify is Uri Monson, CFO, School
18 District.

19 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Good
20 morning, Uri. If you just want to state
21 your name for the record, then you can
22 proceed. Thank you.

23 MR. MONSON: Good morning. Uri
24 Monson, Chief Financial Officer for the
25 School District. We submitted responses

1 to all the questions that were both
2 asked at the hearing as well as
3 subsequent ones that were forwarded to
4 us by the Council President's Office.
5 And at this point, we're just happy to
6 respond to any questions.

7 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you.
8 I see Councilmember Gilmore Richardson.

9 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

10 RICHARDSON: Yes. Good morning. Thank
11 you so much, Mr. Chair. And thank you
12 so much.

13 I wanted to thank the School
14 District for submitting the responses to
15 the questions that I sent in advance of
16 today's hearing. I have had the
17 opportunity to review those responses
18 and just wanted to get a couple of
19 additional questions on the record as a
20 result of the responses received.

21 And so, firstly in the first
22 question you talked about and I asked
23 for a list of all the catchment areas,
24 including the full boundary of each of
25 those catchment areas, and you sent the

1 information that is available on the
2 website, and we were able to see that
3 information with cross-streets.

4 But what I wanted to know for
5 the record is when will the School
6 District undertake the process of
7 reviewing all of the catchment areas,
8 including the full boundaries for each
9 of the catchment areas that have been
10 listed? I think the challenge is that
11 we know that some of that data is
12 incorrect, and my concern is that it's
13 happening citywide. And I simply want
14 to ensure that we are correcting the
15 catchment areas and the boundaries for
16 each of those catchments in a timely
17 fashion. So if the School District can
18 provide us with the timeline for that
19 and how long they believe that process
20 would take, that would be exceedingly
21 helpful.

22 MR. MONSON: (Muted).

23 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

24 RICHARDSON: Uri, I think you're on
25 mute.

1 MR. MONSON: I think Alicia is
2 actually going to respond or Dr. --

3 MS. PRINCE: Okay. So we are
4 currently engaging in a facilities
5 planning process that will undertake
6 both an assessment of our buildings, our
7 utilization of our buildings and then as
8 well as if there are any catchment
9 changes that need to be made as part of
10 that utilization. And so, that process
11 is currently underway.

12 In the spring of next year we
13 will have a Facilities Master Plan. And
14 from there, we will begin the
15 implementation process for that
16 Facilities Master Plan, which again will
17 be over multiple years to implement the
18 full process of that plan. But we are
19 currently in the phases of the actual
20 process at this time.

21 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

22 RICHARDSON: Okay. Great. And what I
23 wanted to do as a part of that process
24 recognizing that you'll sort of
25 determine the future of our School

1 District facilities as a part of that
2 process, that we get a commitment on the
3 record from the School District not to
4 close any school buildings since you are
5 undertaking this catchment and boundary
6 area process in conjunction with the
7 facilities process.

8 I think that will be unfair to
9 communities and neighborhoods that are
10 seeking to have their children enrolled
11 in their closest local public school.
12 It is not their fault that this process
13 will take several years even though
14 their boundary may be incorrect. And
15 so, I wanted to get on the record during
16 this hearing a commitment from the
17 School District that since you cannot
18 undertake that process prior to
19 reviewing all of your facilities, that
20 we have a commitment from all of you
21 that you're not going to close any
22 schools because that process is
23 happening after this facilities process.

24 MS. PRINCE: I appreciate the
25 feedback, Councilwoman. I think we --

1 as a part of this, I can't say what will
2 happen through this process, right,
3 because part of this, the deep community
4 engagement that will happen through
5 this. And so, I don't want to tie us to
6 a commitment that then doesn't put us in
7 the best interest of serving our
8 students, making sure our facilities are
9 at their most optimal level, making sure
10 that they really need the academic and
11 programmatic needs of our students.

12 So what I can say is that we're
13 committing to a process that is deeply
14 engaging of the community, the
15 Philadelphia community as a whole, in
16 order to really get us to a place with
17 the Facilities Master Plan that allows
18 us to address the outstanding needs that
19 we have with our facilities and also
20 making sure that it aligns with our
21 academic programming to best serve our
22 students.

23 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

24 RICHARDSON: Sure. I just wanted to get
25 that on the record because I'm certain

1 we'll be circling back to that, and I
2 want to be very clear about where I
3 stand on that issue.

4 And so, in Question No. 3 that
5 I submitted to you all in advance of
6 this callback hearing, we talked about
7 the cases where families are routed to
8 an incorrect school via the online
9 registration system. And it states that
10 the school -- if the school is not
11 correct, that your system will generate
12 an error report with the names of the
13 students enrolled in the wrong school,
14 and then a School District person
15 receives the report, contacts the
16 caretaker, the parent, the guardian,
17 advises them of the correct school and
18 enrolls the student in the correct
19 school.

20 And so, I'm going to
21 respectfully disagree with that response
22 because that did not happen in my
23 circumstance. It did not happen in my
24 neighbor's circumstance next door
25 because I did ask them that this weekend

1 after I got your responses. And I found
2 out their child attends Blankenburg,
3 which is 2.1 miles away and not Gompers.
4 And so, that is not happening.

5 And so, what I wanted to ask is
6 again for Question No. 3 and the
7 response there, if the boundary is not
8 correct which is the issue that you all
9 have identified, then the system will
10 not generate an error that indeed that
11 child is being sent to the wrong school.
12 So my question is how is No. 3, the
13 response to No. 3 correct, when the
14 system is not saying that the boundary
15 is incorrect?

16 You all didn't know that my
17 boundary was incorrect until I brought
18 it to your attention. And I brought it
19 to your attention two years ago, was
20 never fixed in two years. And so, when
21 I went back to enroll my son now two
22 years later it's still not fixed. And
23 so, after the hearing when I -- just
24 this past hearing when I brought it to
25 your attention again, which I'm telling

1 you this is happening to so many
2 families across the City and it's
3 impacting the enrollment in most of our
4 public schools, no one ever followed up
5 with me from the District to say here's
6 the packet, this is what you do.

7 I contacted you all via email
8 and said, how will I be able to enroll
9 my son. And then you sent me the
10 packet. Thank you, Laurel. Thank you.
11 I'm happy you were there. And then I
12 received the packet. But no one even
13 followed up with me after a public
14 hearing so I know no one is following up
15 with the parents. So help me out with
16 No. 3.

17 MS. PRINCE: Sure. I'm going
18 to also ask my colleague Melanie Harris
19 to join us as well who also is
20 responsible for the system, but I'll
21 just provide some insight. So as for
22 the boundary, the boundary is set there
23 for the catchment and for those schools,
24 so you're being directed to the
25 catchment school that you are assigned

1 to.

2 You do have the opportunity,
3 which is what has been set in place, to
4 opt out of that particular school if it
5 is not a school that you would like to
6 be in because it is a Renaissance
7 Charter School so we have done that
8 process, and we do that --

9 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

10 RICHARDSON: Point of information.
11 Point of information quickly, Alicia.
12 Where is that listed on your website?
13 So when you go to the school finder app,
14 you put in your address and then the
15 schools come up. Where is the opt-out
16 button? Where is it?

17 MS. PRINCE: So there's a
18 little piece at the bottom and it may
19 not be clear. And so, I will own that
20 we maybe need to make it in a clearer
21 place that says, if you choose not to
22 attend a Renaissance Charter School, you
23 have the option to opt into your
24 neighborhood school or what is not a
25 Renaissance Charter School. But

1 Renaissance Charter Schools are
2 catchment schools, and that's how they
3 were designed.

4 And so, that's one of the
5 reasons you're being opted into that
6 school. But parents have, families,
7 guardians have the opportunity to opt
8 out that school and then opt into the
9 school of their choice if it is not the
10 Renaissance Charter School that they
11 have been opted into. And so, typically
12 when you see an error, an error would
13 happen. And in the case that was in
14 response to your question, an error
15 would happen and for instance, if you
16 are supposed to -- you are always
17 supposed to be in catchment for Gompers,
18 for some reason it's coming up as the
19 other neighborhood school, then that's
20 when you would see that error.

21 Mel, do you want to provide any
22 additional insight around that?

23 MS. HARRIS: Thank you, Alicia.
24 Just to reinforce what you said, the
25 addresses that we are talking about on

1 Councilwoman Gilmore Richardson's block
2 are not in the Gompers boundary. So as
3 you stated, they are in the Renaissance
4 Charter boundary for Mastery schools for
5 K to 6 and for Blankenburg for 7 to 8.
6 So it is correct that we -- the system
7 right now can only zone you for one
8 school, so it is, you know, we are
9 working to have it zoned between both
10 the Mastery and between Blankenburg.
11 But unless something were to be an
12 actual official boundary change, there
13 is no zoning for Gompers for that block
14 and that's why the system does not
15 reflect that.

16 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

17 RICHARDSON: Okay. So I just want to
18 be -- I heard the bell and I want to be
19 respectful. I will come back on the
20 second round for the School District.
21 But I want to be very clear for the
22 public on why I am harping on this
23 issue. This is one of the most
24 important issues for the Philadelphia
25 public school system as we speak.

1 The School District of
2 Philadelphia is seeking to undertake a
3 process around determining the future of
4 facilities in school buildings that will
5 be open in our communities. And as of
6 right now, the boundaries are not
7 correct and the catchment areas are not
8 correct for most of our public schools,
9 which is leading to a decrease in
10 enrollment for our local public schools,
11 which is leading to a decrease in
12 support in services and staffing for our
13 local public schools.

14 And if this issue is not
15 corrected, we will be in a situation and
16 a circumstance where we will be facing
17 the closure of our closest local public
18 schools for families again. And I will
19 not let this issue go because I believe
20 it is one of the most important issues
21 we are facing in our education system.

22 And in addition to that, the
23 School District is not adequately
24 marketing to families all of the public
25 schools that are available to them.

1 When you're routing families to the
2 catchment school, which I understand
3 very, very closely that families have to
4 be routed to the school that's in their
5 catchment, but you are never listing the
6 closest local public school on the site
7 at all.

8 And then in addition to that,
9 you make the process so cumbersome for a
10 family to apply to their closest local
11 public school. And then when it's
12 wrong, it's not corrected. And if it's
13 just a regular family to fight to get
14 into a school, no one's going to go
15 through these lengths to get their child
16 into a school, no one. I had to jump
17 through hoops just to get the -- I had
18 to ask you all for the application after
19 a public hearing when you notated my
20 address was incorrect and not in the
21 right space.

22 So if I had to do this
23 publicly, I can't even imagine what
24 families have to do privately. This is
25 one of the most important educational

1 issues and I will not give up on this.

2 I will be in the queue for Round 2.

3 Thank you.

4 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,
5 Councilmember, and we'll come back to
6 you.

7 Councilmember Jones. But
8 before we go into next question, for the
9 record I want to note that Councilmember
10 Brooks is present for the hearing.

11 Councilmember Jones.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
13 Mr. Chairman. And I want to thank my
14 colleague for her passion about the
15 schools in those catchment areas. Many
16 of them are in the 4th District and that
17 confusion to parents that can conflict
18 with students and what they can attend.
19 I'm going to totally support you.

20 My question is a little
21 different. Number one, when it comes to
22 Out-of-School Time and facility usage
23 such as fields and track, football,
24 baseball and gymnasiums, how do we close
25 the gap on how small nonprofit sports

1 teams can utilize them and where are we
2 at with that before we actually finalize
3 your budget?

4 DR. HITE: Councilman Jones,
5 this is Bill Hite. And thank you for
6 the question. And I'm going to have Uri
7 respond to the question, but I think
8 it's really important for me to come on
9 and respond to a point that Councilwoman
10 Gilmore Richardson made earlier.

11 And I understand -- and I don't
12 want this to take away from your time,
13 but it is really important to clear up
14 this point, that there may be
15 disagreement with the boundaries and we
16 understand that disagreement, that a
17 school is closer to me than the school
18 that I'm assigned, but that doesn't mean
19 the boundaries are incorrect. So people
20 are being assigned to the boundaries
21 that are associated with their address.
22 We may disagree with what they are and
23 there's a process to then change those.

24 But by the same token, I don't
25 want people to think by and large

1 boundaries are incorrect. There may be
2 a lot of disagreement with the way the
3 boundaries are established, but the
4 point that was made about them being
5 incorrect is not accurate.

6 Then I would also ask Uri or
7 Alicia to respond because we think we
8 have some good news around the facility
9 sharing and usage.

10 MS. PRINCE: Thank you --

11 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

12 RICHARDSON: Point of information,
13 Mr. Chair. I would like to respectfully
14 respond to Dr. Hite's statement.

15 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Okay.
16 Before we do that, this will not reflect
17 Councilmember Jones' time. We'll allow
18 him to continue. And for the record,
19 also I want to note that Councilmember
20 Bass is also present.

21 Please proceed, Councilmember.

22 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

23 RICHARDSON: First, thank you, Whip
24 Jones, for this flexibility and,
25 Mr. Chair.

1 And, Dr. Hite, I do appreciate
2 your response in the work that we have
3 done together. But I must say for this
4 particular issue because it is
5 personally impacting me and I found out
6 from other families in my neighborhood
7 it's impacting them as well, that I must
8 respond to that statement. The School
9 District's team told me that I am in --
10 my boundary is incorrect, okay.

11 So for my address my catchment
12 school is Mann, okay. The closest local
13 public school which is 0.7 miles away is
14 Gompers School. The School District is
15 stating inside the school finder app,
16 and I can give you my address right now
17 and you can go to the website and you
18 can do it yourself, but it's stating
19 that we're supposed to be at
20 Blankenburg, which is 2.1 miles away and
21 would require bus service. So you're
22 telling me that is disagreement on what
23 school I should be at because Gompers is
24 0.7 miles away and Blankenburg is 2.1
25 miles away and it will require bus

1 service and in a completely different
2 neighborhood? The School District told
3 me after I contacted you all that that
4 was indeed incorrect. And that if we
5 did not go to the Renaissance Charter,
6 then we should have been routed to go to
7 Gompers. So that was the information I
8 received from your team. So are they
9 incorrect?

10 DR. HITE: Well, I don't know
11 who told you that, Councilwoman Gilmore
12 Richardson. But your assigned school is
13 Mann that's assigned to your address
14 and --

15 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

16 RICHARDSON: Yes.

17 DR. HITE: -- you don't want
18 your child going to Mann. We all
19 understand that, and then --

20 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

21 RICHARDSON: But to be clear, I don't
22 have anything against Mann Mastery
23 Charter --

24 DR. HITE: I understand.

25 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

1 RICHARDSON: -- because my big girl went
2 there for middle school and she's now at
3 a very good magnet public school. I
4 want to be clear this is not personal,
5 okay. But I attended Gompers School. I
6 think they are a stellar school and I
7 wanted my baby girl to go there, and
8 they're the closest local public school
9 to my house.

10 So my thing is I don't
11 understand why it's such an issue to get
12 your child to go to the closest local
13 public school to your house.
14 Blankenburg would be three times the
15 distance from Gompers from my house.
16 I'm just being honest. I'm not -- and
17 it's not personal, but that's what your
18 team told me.

19 DR. HITE: Yeah. So I
20 appreciate that. And I don't know who
21 told -- who on my team told you that,
22 but that requires a boundary change.
23 And so, we would have to change the
24 boundaries as a part of the broader
25 facilities conversation that was

1 mentioned. I think when I first came
2 on -- I came on a little late, my
3 computer, I had some computer issues --
4 so that's going to be a part of a larger
5 conversation that I heard Alicia Prince
6 talk about with respect to the
7 facilities.

8 But I just wanted to make the
9 point that the system is designed to
10 direct individuals to the school that is
11 listed on their address and that school
12 in your case, and this has nothing to do
13 with the quality of schools and I know
14 you're not talking about anything about
15 the types of schools or quality of
16 schools, but then if a parent doesn't
17 want that child in that school that's
18 assigned to that boundary, then there's
19 a process that we have to go through to
20 ensure that we are transferring that
21 student to what we hope is the most
22 appropriate place for that family. And
23 that was the only point I was making.

24 It doesn't mean -- it may mean
25 lots of people don't like what that

1 choice is, but it doesn't necessarily
2 mean the boundary is incorrect. That
3 was the only point I was trying to make.

4 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

5 RICHARDSON: Okay. And I respectfully
6 receive that answer. I just want to
7 stand up for the families in Wynnefield
8 right now who want their children to go
9 to Gompers, who would love for their
10 children to go to Gompers. We know when
11 Gompers has seen a decrease in
12 enrollment even though they've increased
13 to middle school and 8th grade, and
14 we're very concerned, the families in
15 Wynnefield, that we're looking at a
16 potential closure of Gompers because of
17 what's happening with this catchment.

18 And I want to get that on the
19 record because I'm going to stand up for
20 the families in Wynnefield who cannot
21 speak on this hearing. And I've heard
22 from so many of them, even families from
23 my son's school who's saying that they
24 get no information to apply to Gompers
25 and they're being directed to

1 Blankenburg. And I'm telling you if
2 it's happening over here, I know it's
3 happening citywide because you all never
4 knew about this until I brought it to
5 your attention, one. And two, it hasn't
6 been corrected in two years.

7 So thank you, Mr. Chair.

8 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,
9 Councilmember, and it's always a
10 pleasure hearing your questions and
11 passion. So much appreciated.

12 Councilmember Jones, we'll
13 start over with you.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
15 again. And thank you, Member Gilmore
16 Richardson, for your passion on this
17 issue. We have to be advocates for our
18 students, our children. And when people
19 get stuff wrong, it's okay to correct
20 it, you know. I mean, at the end of the
21 day that's what we're here for.

22 So my questions, one, are the
23 facilities usage working out an
24 agreement for those teams and nonprofits
25 that cannot afford the fees to kind of

1 rent our School District facilities?
2 And then secondly, we want to finalize
3 in the 4th District the budgets of the
4 respective schools in our cluster, both
5 capital and operating, and one of your
6 staff I believe not this Monday because
7 we're closed but next Monday is going to
8 do that, and I just want to confirm
9 that. So the time is yours.

10 MS. PRINCE: Thank you,
11 Councilman Jones. Good morning and good
12 to see you. So I wanted to follow up on
13 that. I wanted to thank both you and
14 Councilman Thomas for the conversations
15 that you had with both me and our Chief
16 Operating Officer around this topic. We
17 agree that there is a need to support
18 the organizations like those smaller
19 organizations who are nonprofits who may
20 not fall into getting funding for use of
21 facilities but are doing outstanding
22 work for our students in our
23 communities.

24 As such, we will be dedicating
25 \$3 million in our budget to go towards

1 keeping five facilities in each of the
2 10 Councilmanic Districts open for this
3 upcoming school year and through the
4 summer, so for this upcoming fiscal
5 year. So that means they will be open
6 through the summer and then they will
7 have extended hours during the week
8 until 8:00 pm. We will be gathering
9 that list based on the high usage,
10 right. So we're going to figure out
11 what those facilities are and we'll be
12 sharing that out in the near future
13 around what those facilities will be
14 that will be open for extended hours
15 both for the school year and through the
16 summer.

17 So we thank you for your
18 advocacy. We thank you for your work
19 with us through this and we're excited
20 for this next step in the District's
21 work.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: I appreciate
23 your update. It's good news. The Bad
24 News Bears of the 4th District will be
25 pleased to be able to use facilities

1 that get them to run, jump and bounce
2 their way out of doldrums of the summer
3 to go to Junior Olympics, AAU
4 competitions, so I am truly grateful. I
5 look forward to seeing the documents and
6 the particulars of what facilities we
7 are talking about.

8 The second part is to confirm
9 that we have our Monday morning roll
10 call. We will be closed obviously for
11 the holiday this Monday, but we were
12 told that someone from the School
13 District would come and kind of do a
14 budget presentation for the schools in
15 the 4th District. State Representative
16 Parker, State Representative Cephas,
17 often Councilmember Green and Gym and
18 Kathy Gilmore Richardson have been a
19 part of those Monday morning roll calls.
20 Would love to get a sense of where we
21 are.

22 Why is that important? Because
23 that tells a principal how many climate
24 managers they might be able to hire, how
25 many librarians, how many NTAs and

1 things like that. I think they still
2 call them NTAs, but how they can be
3 flexible to the needs of their
4 individual schools. So we're curious
5 about that and looking forward to that
6 presentation.

7 MS. PRINCE: Thank you,
8 Councilman. I know we have a scheduled
9 time with you to meet around the -- you
10 and the State Representative and Senator
11 Hughes around the capital projects
12 happening in the 4th District. And so,
13 we look forward to having those deeper
14 conversations as well.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
16 Mr. Chairman.

17 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you
18 so much, Councilmember, for your
19 questions.

20 I know we have a question from
21 Councilmember Domb and then we'll go
22 back to Councilmember Gilmore
23 Richardson.

24 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,
25 Mr. Chair, and good morning --

1 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:
2 Councilmember Domb, before you get
3 started, if we could just recognize also
4 for the record that Councilmember
5 O'Neill's present. Please proceed.
6 Thank you.

7 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you.
8 Good morning, Mr. Chair.

9 And good morning, Dr. Hite. Dr
10 Hite, recognizing that nothing's perfect
11 and recognizing that we have a lot of
12 areas to improve, I feel like this might
13 be one of the last times I see you,
14 okay, and that's sad because I think
15 you've done a really good job. And so,
16 I just want to -- I'd like you to share
17 with us in snippets basically what you
18 think are the three or four biggest
19 accomplishments you've had in the School
20 District and what you recommend to us
21 going forward.

22 DR. HITE: Thank you,
23 Councilman Domb, for the comments and
24 thank you for giving me the opportunity
25 to talk about this issue. And so, first

1 and foremost 10 years, a decade ago,
2 when I arrived, and several of your
3 colleagues on Council I'm sure remember
4 this clearly, that we were facing a
5 pretty significant revenue shortfall and
6 had structural issues that took us well
7 into the next three to five years.

8 And if you fast-forward now, we
9 have not only addressed the revenue
10 issues and redesigned -- not redesigned,
11 but reimagined the District in order to
12 serve young people. We now have
13 investment grade credit rating. We now
14 have a fund balance that goes beyond --
15 thanks to the Governor's budget and the
16 work of Council and others, it now goes
17 beyond exploration of the stimulus
18 monies.

19 We have contracts with every
20 labor union with the one exception. And
21 so, pleased that our fiscal position is
22 much better because being in a better
23 fiscal position has allowed us to do a
24 lot of other things like put nurses into
25 every school, increase the programs of

1 art and music, do financial literacy as
2 a part of their K through 12 curriculum.
3 And so, first and foremost I think that
4 that in and of itself has provided us
5 with the ability to serve children
6 better. And while we still need a lot
7 more moving forward, that is a market
8 difference than where we were a decade
9 ago.

10 The second thing is we have
11 more children graduating, period, and
12 that we were in the mid 60s when I
13 arrived. We're now over 80 percent of
14 young people who are graduating from our
15 schools, and that is a testament to the
16 educators that are working with young
17 people on a daily basis.

18 And then the third thing is
19 that we have a large number of schools
20 that individuals may not have thought of
21 as viable places for their children to
22 be educated where we now have
23 individuals, those schools are crowded,
24 those schools now have multiple families
25 trying to attend. That used to be a

1 small number of schools that were
2 located predominantly in the center of
3 the City, but now that list has grown
4 dramatically where we have schools that
5 are now highly sought after by
6 individuals who are even moving into now
7 different communities in order to attend
8 those schools. So very pleased with
9 that.

10 And then I have a couple of --
11 I have quite a few other things in terms
12 of some structural things that have
13 happened here. Some of the coordination
14 that we've done with the City agencies,
15 particularly around addressing student
16 trauma and providing social and
17 emotional support and the technology
18 that now all of our young people have
19 access to and educators are using on a
20 daily basis, I think is a step in the
21 right direction for the future.

22 I think if I were to give
23 advice on what the City of Philadelphia
24 could do on behalf of our young people,
25 I mean, I think it is really to ensure

1 that we continue on this path to ensure
2 that regardless of where children live
3 in the City, they have access to a high-
4 quality school, that high quality is
5 defined by not a building that is in
6 disrepair but a building that is a 21st
7 century educational environment where
8 children are learning from great
9 teachers that reflect their
10 demographics, that they have all of the
11 supports that are needed, and as a City
12 we have to continue our collective
13 advocacy to ensure that we have the
14 resources to provide those types of
15 supports and opportunities for young
16 people.

17 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Very good. I
18 will say this, Dr. Hite. I'm very
19 appreciative of your service to our
20 City. We're going to miss you.
21 Dr. Watlington seems great. Looking
22 forward to working with him, but I will
23 say that I've enjoyed working with you
24 and wish you well in the future, and I
25 can't thank you enough for what you've

1 done for the kids of this City and the
2 School District and the residents of the
3 City. I think you've done a great job
4 and you have a great team. So best
5 wishes to you and really thank you for
6 what you've done. Appreciate it.

7 DR. HITE: Thank you,
8 Councilman Domb. Really appreciate it.

9 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,
10 Mr. Chair.

11 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,
12 Councilmember.

13 We're going to go back to
14 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson.

15 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

16 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you so
17 much, Mr. Chair. And I thank my
18 colleague Councilmember Domb for those
19 great questions. And I too want to give
20 Dr. Hite kudos because when you came 10
21 years ago, I was here. I was a
22 legislative aide in City Council and I
23 was in those meetings as well, and I
24 thank you for your service and all that
25 you have done for the School District of

1 Philadelphia, even the work that we've
2 done together on CTE and just all of the
3 movement we've made with conflict
4 resolution.

5 I don't want my angst about
6 this boundary issue and catchment issue
7 to overshadow the fact that I think we
8 have worked together very well and you
9 have done so much on behalf of the
10 School District over the last 10 years.
11 So thank you for your service since this
12 will probably be the last time, and I'm
13 looking forward to working with
14 Dr. Watlington.

15 For my last question, and I
16 just want to get this on the record
17 because it will be important for when
18 you are gone, Dr. Hite, that we continue
19 to tackle this issue. In my questions
20 that were submitted in advance, I asked
21 when the most recent boundary change
22 happened. And the response was the
23 recent boundary change was at Propel
24 Academy for School Year 2021-2022.

25 So I'll simply request of the

1 District that when a boundary change or
2 attachment change happens, that members
3 of Philadelphia's City Council receive
4 that information, understand what the
5 boundaries are because that information
6 will be vitally important to the
7 District Councilmembers. There could be
8 information that they could give as a
9 part of that process that will help to
10 determine that area more closely.

11 And so, I just want to ensure
12 we receive the information in writing
13 and are made aware of any boundary or
14 catchment changes moving forward. And I
15 would just ask for the record,
16 particularly for the families in
17 Councilmember Jones' District where I
18 reside in Wynnefield, that some written
19 notification goes out to all the
20 families that are applying for
21 kindergarten no matter what school they
22 apply to, so they know what their
23 options are because right now in the
24 system it is not correct. And because
25 so many families have reached out to me,

1 I did reach out to all of you to get
2 that information.

3 I have shared it with some of
4 the PreK schools in our community, but I
5 know I'm probably missing some families.
6 So I just respectfully request that all
7 the families that are in Wynnefield
8 received the same information that I
9 received and requested from all of you
10 as you undertake the boundary and
11 catchment process so that we figure out
12 where the hiccups are, make the
13 corrections and then go into the
14 facilities process.

15 And then I think at a later
16 date, we can circle back and work with
17 the Board and others to look at those
18 challenges and issues around the schools
19 where children are routed. Because if
20 the School District is doing the
21 marketing and the communication for the
22 Renaissance Charter schools, it's hard
23 to say that you all are ensuring that
24 families know about the options of the
25 other schools as well.

1 If I did not ask about Gompers
2 which is technically my closest local
3 public school, I would not have been
4 routed there. And then of course, for
5 7th and 8th grade, even though Gompers
6 goes up to 7th and 8th grade, in the
7 system it still sends families to
8 Blankenburg, so that is a challenge no
9 matter what. So for 7th and 8th grade,
10 that's definitely wrong, okay.

11 And so, that's something that
12 we have to work on and correct in the
13 system, utilizing GIS technology and the
14 technology available that you use via
15 Google to ensure that that is corrected
16 moving forward and not just for this
17 boundary, but for every boundary because
18 I don't want us to be in a circumstance
19 where we're facing school closures
20 because you say, well, we only have 200
21 kids that enrolled at Gompers this year
22 so we really don't have the enrollment
23 for this size of the building when
24 really they're not being routed to apply
25 to that school in the first place, okay.

1 And so, I'm just trying to show
2 that this issue is a symptom of a much
3 larger issue that we're going to be
4 faced with when this facilities process
5 is concluded and then families will come
6 back to us and say why are they trying
7 to close my school. And I'm going to go
8 back to this hearing and I'm going to go
9 back to the last hearing and say, this
10 is something we have tried to prevent.

11 So I just respectfully request
12 that we are updated in writing with all
13 of the movement on this process and that
14 all the families in Wynnefield are
15 contacted and receive this packet and
16 information. Thank you, Dr. Hite and to
17 the School District team. I look
18 forward to continuing to work with all
19 of you not only as a School District
20 graduate of three School District
21 schools and not only as a former teacher
22 in the School District of Philadelphia,
23 but now as a parent that in the fall
24 will hopefully have three kids at two
25 different schools in the School District

1 of Philadelphia. So I come to this with
2 a very deep and intimate knowledge.
3 Okay.

4 This is my world. Okay. And I
5 love the public school system, and I'm
6 going to do everything that we can to
7 get this right and to make this right.
8 Because while all of you may have worked
9 there, I lived this all my life. I've
10 lived the Philadelphia public school
11 system all my life and we have to get
12 this right. So thank you very, very
13 much.

14 DR. HITE: Thank you,
15 Councilwoman, and we will make sure we
16 get that information to you and to the
17 families in Wynnefield.

18 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you.
19 Thank you very much. And I'm just going
20 to have one quick follow-up question and
21 I know we have a timeline on the lead in
22 the water and the fountains that are
23 going to be installed throughout the
24 District. But is there going to be a
25 timeline that we could work with the PFT

1 and other stakeholders on how we're
2 addressing the asbestos and the lead
3 paint and mold issues moving forward?
4 Is that something that we could get sort
5 of a guideline sort of how it was for
6 the water fountains?

7 DR. HITE: Councilman Squilla,
8 I know my colleague Alicia Prince and
9 Reggie McNeil are here online. So I
10 want to make sure one of them responds
11 to this question so that we can give you
12 the most accurate response.

13 MS. PRINCE: Good morning,
14 Councilman Squilla. We actually have a
15 regular working relationship and
16 commitment to engagement with the PFT
17 around this. So our Chief Operating
18 Officer has regular meetings as well as
19 people on his team have regular meetings
20 with representatives from PFT. They
21 have a regular dialogue around this and
22 how the work will be done, so we do have
23 a commitment for that on how the
24 asbestos work will be done.

25 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Is it

1 possible to be able to put a schedule
2 together or I know -- because the last
3 we heard that sort of an area that's of
4 concern was that it's sort of not really
5 the resource issue but a capacity issue,
6 so how do we need to contract that out
7 and what is a timeline to get that done?

8 MS. PRINCE: We have a shared
9 schedule with them as well, and then
10 this is based off how we are doing AHERA
11 reports and then the work that's done
12 with that. So that is a federal
13 standard that we have to follow for this
14 work. And so, we follow that and that's
15 how that's done. And the PFT is
16 involved in those conversations as well
17 as the schedules.

18 DR. HITE: And, Councilman
19 Squilla, I just want to make sure that
20 we clear up any confusion around this.
21 And so, the capacity challenges were
22 around being able to do all of the
23 hydration stations at one time. We have
24 to do the AHERA work regardless, right.
25 But the capacity concerns were really

1 around -- while we have a goal to add
2 thousands more, we want to make sure --
3 the capacity to do that just doesn't
4 exist.

5 And so, the District is
6 contracting out and trying to accelerate
7 that process as quickly as possible.
8 But we do have a timeline based on the
9 current capacity that is available.

10 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Right.
11 And I saw that for the fountains. And
12 so, you know, again nothing's ever fast
13 enough for everybody, but we at least
14 have an idea of how we are going to
15 progress. And I was wondering if we
16 could have something like that for
17 asbestos. That was sort of my question,
18 but I guess maybe as we work together we
19 will eventually get there. But I
20 haven't seen a timeline on when each
21 school would be addressed and how long
22 that would take to make sure we have it
23 all proved and is that something we're
24 working toward?

25 MS. PRINCE: That is something

1 that we're working towards. We will
2 continue to do this work and we follow
3 the standards to do it and to make sure
4 that it is happening within the
5 timelines based off any damaged asbestos
6 or any areas where we have to do that
7 work with the priority going into those
8 areas first that pose any hazard to
9 children, which are students and then
10 that are exposed items. So we do have
11 that process in place. And again, we
12 partner with the PFT around the
13 scheduling that we have in place for
14 that.

15 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Okay.

16 Thank you and we'll work together on
17 that process. I know it's not going to
18 be easy and it's going to be a while
19 before we get it completed, but it's
20 something that's very important for the
21 safety of all, not only students, the
22 workers, staff and so on.

23 So is there any other questions
24 for the School District before we go on
25 to the next?

1 (No response.)

2 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Seeing

3 none, thank you so much, Dr. Hite.

4 Thank you for all your efforts and what

5 you have given us here in the City of

6 Philadelphia and looking forward to I

7 guess the new leadership as it comes in,

8 and then hopefully being able to work

9 off of what you have put in place and to

10 continue to grow our School District, so

11 thank you so much.

12 DR. HITE: Thanks, Mr. Chair,

13 and thank you to all members of Council

14 for all of your support all of these

15 years. Thanks a lot.

16 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you.

17 Ami, do you want to see who's next

18 available?

19 THE CLERK: The next person to

20 testify is Danielle Outlaw, Police

21 Commissioner.

22 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: I'm not

23 sure if you had anything to add

24 testimony-wise, if you're available.

25 But if you are, you could state your

1 name for the record and then proceed.

2 (No response.)

3 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

4 Councilmember Sanchez, did you have a
5 question?

6 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

7 I was queuing up for the Police
8 Commissioner.

9 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Okay. All
10 right. I think we're just waiting for
11 her to reconnect. There she is.

12 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: Good
13 morning. I apologize.

14 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: No
15 problem. Commissioner, if you just want
16 to state your name and then proceed.
17 And then the first question will be from
18 Councilmember Sanchez.

19 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW:
20 Certainly. Good morning, everyone.
21 Danielle Outlaw, Philadelphia Police
22 Commissioner.

23 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:
24 Councilmember Sanchez, do you want to
25 start with your questions?

1 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

2 Good morning, Commissioner. How are
3 you?

4 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: Well.
5 Thank you. Good morning.

6 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

7 Good morning. So last week I sent out
8 an email, I believe I cc'd you all, in
9 conversation as we prepare to what
10 undoubtedly will be a very chaotic
11 summer as we see some of the tragic
12 incidents that have been occurring,
13 whether it's in our schools or in our
14 rec centers.

15 I sent out a notification and I
16 know it was recognized and acknowledged
17 by Tumar Alexander. I am of the belief
18 that the summer schedule as developed by
19 our Children and Youth Unit which
20 depends on and relies on Police
21 Department personnel being at all Parks
22 & Rec centers is not a sustainable plan.
23 We all know that in the summer there is
24 a vacation schedule of the Police
25 Department, and we also know that any

1 incident that occurs means that you have
2 to redeploy your folks.

3 This summer schedule that is
4 dependent on police is not only
5 unsustainable but in my view is
6 irresponsible in divisions like East
7 Division where I need folks fighting
8 crime in areas that are around. So as
9 part of my proposal, and I want you to
10 respond to it, what I said is let us
11 hire Scotlandyard, let us hire Allied
12 Barton to properly staff and set a tone
13 in all our parks and recs with that
14 personnel with police supporting those
15 high crime recreation centers.

16 So I want your reaction to that
17 plan and the fact that the current
18 plan's reliance when you have sat here
19 and over and over and told us you're
20 short-staffed is not a sustainable
21 model.

22 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: Thank you
23 for that. And I am looking forward to
24 our meeting with all the meeting of the
25 minds so we can come up with a

1 comprehensive strategy. And I say that
2 not saying that we don't have one.
3 Obviously, the PPD has one in
4 partnership with those who are providing
5 programming, but I mean more so like the
6 strategy that we put together for Center
7 City, recognizing that we all had shared
8 goals, we wanted to reach the same
9 outcomes and ensure the safety of people
10 returning to work. This was supposed to
11 roll out in October and it's still in
12 place.

13 That plan was significant
14 because it does utilize outside eyes and
15 ears. It requires partnership with
16 other agencies, other police departments
17 but also working with private security
18 to service force multipliers,
19 acknowledging that we can't be
20 everywhere. So it is definitely
21 possible. We are rolling out
22 deployments for the summer, whether
23 based on overtime or straight time so we
24 can ensure coverage within problematic
25 areas for our rec centers and extending

1 PAL hours on weekends as well.

2 But I think you're absolutely
3 right. If there are other ways that we
4 can look to be more efficient and
5 effective, it really helps us with our
6 summer deployment strategy moving
7 forward so we can put the resources
8 where we know we need to be visible and
9 stationary 24/7.

10 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

11 Would you agree that it's not cost-
12 effective to have a police officer on
13 overtime when we can hire again some of
14 this other security to again set the
15 tone and consistency? My concern is
16 that once these pools and everything
17 opens up, I think from the beginning if
18 we don't set the tone that first week,
19 we're going to be playing catch-up the
20 whole entire time.

21 You know and I'm going to
22 continue to push for East Division and
23 Northeast Division because you know
24 stuff is popping all over the place
25 here. I don't want the Police

1 Department to be blamed when something
2 pops off because they were at K&A taking
3 care of what we're taking care of or
4 doing something else.

5 And so, for me this is a shared
6 responsibility but it's not a
7 sustainable model with police who, you
8 know, my first question to the Captain
9 is what's your census? If you're down
10 40 men and then you have vacation, how
11 do we expect that Captain to deploy to
12 all these places. And I want all of
13 these young places to be safe, but I
14 just want them to be consistently safe
15 from the beginning with a tone that
16 these are going to be safe spaces in the
17 summer and that we're not going to
18 tolerate, right, certain behaviors.

19 Again, I can't even tell you
20 how frustrating it is for me because I
21 know everybody means well, but we're
22 planning in ways that I don't think are
23 the most cost-effective. And again,
24 hearing you, you've had to redeploy for
25 Neighborhood Services and we can't get

1 cars removed. You've had to redeploy
2 for the Center City special beat and we
3 couldn't get certain things done. I
4 really need the Police Department to
5 acknowledge this and not put our
6 captains and our officers in harm's way
7 by making them responsible for something
8 they can't do.

9 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: No,
10 you're absolutely right. And I think
11 just in general relying on deployment
12 via overtime isn't the most impactful,
13 period, because you're not going to have
14 that consistency. It may not always be
15 the same officers, our ability to
16 establish lasting relationships in
17 communities is impacted because of the
18 constant transferring and rotation of
19 the officers through those assignments.
20 So, no, you're absolutely right. And if
21 there is again a more efficient way that
22 we can get to the same outcome, we're in
23 full support of that.

24 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
25 Well, I look forward to those

1 conversations. Again, these are
2 already -- the warm days are coming. We
3 all dread them. I actually now look
4 forward to rainy days because I am
5 scared about what is going on. And I
6 think that all of the activities around
7 young people, you know, historic number
8 of schools open this summer, all of the
9 work that our folks are doing around
10 parks and recs and all of those
11 activities, we want to support them but
12 we want to support them in a consistent
13 way so that we get off to a good summer,
14 and then we're able to sustain it. So I
15 appreciate it and I look forward to
16 those conversations.

17 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just
18 wanted to put that stuff on the record
19 as we narrow down this budget
20 conversation. And as we plan for the
21 summer, I think is just vitally
22 important that we acknowledge that those
23 PlayStreets, that those rec centers,
24 that those schools that are going to be
25 open are going to be manned, but this

1 redeployment, overtime deployment, to do
2 it is not efficient and cannot be
3 sustained and can't be consistent
4 because we have too many things that pop
5 off that require redeployment strategies
6 at a commander level.

7 And I want to be as supportive
8 as possible, but acknowledging that
9 given the challenges that we have we
10 need a different strategy for this
11 summer. I want everyone to be safe and
12 I want everyone to play the role that
13 they should be playing this summer.

14 So thank you very much,
15 Mr. Chair.

16 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,
17 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

19 RICHARDSON: Yes. Thank you so much,
20 Mr. Chair.

21 And thank you, Commissioner
22 Outlaw and to your team. I really just
23 wanted to come on to mention just a
24 couple things. First, kudos and thank
25 you to Deputy Commissioner Dales. When

1 I say he is always there, it doesn't
2 matter whether it's 12:00 in the
3 afternoon or 1 o'clock in the morning,
4 he always picks up. So I wanted to say
5 thank you, thank you, thank you and
6 acknowledge Deputy Commissioner Joel
7 Dales. You are stellar, you're a
8 superstar and we truly appreciate you.
9 So I wanted to start with the thank you.

10 I wanted to get two quick
11 updates relative to any assistance the
12 Police Department has provided either to
13 the families or connecting the families
14 of the victims from the shooting at
15 Gratz as that investigation unfolds
16 and/or any assistance to that local
17 community, that School District
18 community, working in tandem with the
19 staff at the school.

20 And then third, curfew
21 violations. Any updates on curfew
22 violations?

23 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: Thank you
24 for those two questions. Actually,
25 D.C. Dales, do you want to hop on and

1 accept your accolades. We are in
2 agreement with you. And then if you
3 want to provide some responses again to
4 how we work with referring to resources
5 and how closely we work with Chief
6 Bethel, that'll be great.

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DALES:

8 Absolutely. And thanks, Councilwoman.
9 I really appreciate that. In reference
10 to Gratz High School, we had a deep
11 conversation with the principal as well
12 as the captain and myself. The
13 principal, he is satisfied with the
14 coverage he has around his school. He's
15 been in constant communication with the
16 officers and the captain.

17 Also, had a conversation with
18 Bethel and his staff, so they have
19 counselors in place for those who attend
20 the schools. We have CCIP who falls
21 under the MDO's office, they are pretty
22 much also involved as well as far as
23 providing resources and counseling for
24 the students.

25 In reference to the

1 investigation, we are making progress in
2 reference to the incident itself. I
3 also would like to add that when the
4 shooting occurred the police officers
5 assigned to that school, they were two
6 blocks away from the actual location
7 where the shooting occurred. The area
8 where it occurred, they haven't had
9 issues at that location. And anyone
10 from that school will tell you that most
11 of the issues are either in front of the
12 school or further down the street on
13 Hunting Park, so that's where we are
14 with that.

15 The second question in
16 reference to curfews, we are still
17 seeing an increase in Southwest Division
18 and Northwest Division. This summer our
19 plan is to implement a curfew initiative
20 so we will be doing that. And all
21 commanders, they know where the resource
22 centers are located. We will make sure
23 that we try to actually utilize it to
24 the fullest this summer.

25 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

1 RICHARDSON: All right. Well, thank you
2 so very much and I look forward to
3 working with you all. As the months and
4 weeks progress into the summer months,
5 I'm very concerned about our young
6 people, particularly as we move into the
7 warmer weather and just some things that
8 I've seen walking around downtown
9 outside of City Hall. We have a lot of
10 work to do this summer. And I want to
11 ensure we can keep our young people
12 safe.

13 And then obviously, I know all
14 of our thoughts and prayers are with the
15 families and the victims out in Texas.
16 And just as a parent with young people
17 in elementary school, it's hard to let
18 them go to school today. But I'm sure
19 you all are working on assessing
20 additional security plans and keeping
21 all of that in place for all of our
22 schools as well. So thank you very,
23 very much.

24 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,
25 Councilmember. And thank you, Deputy

1 Dales.

2 Councilmember Jones, did you
3 have a question?

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'd like to
5 echo what my colleague said about Deputy
6 Commissioner Dales. He made an offer at
7 an event to come out and be a part of
8 the 4th District. Usually when people
9 say that to me, I take it with a grain
10 of salt and once you invite them, they
11 come or they don't come. But every time
12 I've asked him to come out, he has
13 attended community vigils where people
14 have been murdered.

15 And it's important when you,
16 Ms. Commissioner and Deputy
17 Commissioner, come out. It's a hard
18 part of your job, but it gives a sense
19 of commitment to the community when they
20 see you, and they see the Deputy
21 Commissioner, that things aren't out of
22 control and that we have an opportunity
23 for them to get better. So I wanted to
24 say that to you and thank you for doing
25 what you do.

1 I did have a staff person,
2 which is not in my District, Kensington,
3 and I listen every week when Member Domb
4 or Member Sanchez or Member Squilla talk
5 about the area, but unfortunately, I had
6 to see it up close and personal. And
7 what I would only add is that it's not
8 just impacting the people of Kensington.
9 The circumstances there have created a
10 vortex, if you would, that goes all the
11 way out to the suburbs of attracting
12 young people to that area, people from
13 my District. They get caught up in the
14 drama that is there, and I always
15 thought the concept of bringing in
16 whether it's National Guard or others
17 would be a little bit of a stretch,
18 until I had to kick the tires, until I
19 had to see it up, close and personal.

20 And I want to lend whatever
21 support I can to that effort because
22 it's bigger than Kensington, bigger than
23 Frankford. It is a citywide and
24 regional issue that we have to pay
25 attention to. Having said that, I don't

1 need a response to that. But what I
2 also want to add is that we have heard
3 you loud and clear about your need for
4 the crime lab expansion. That is on my
5 top things to do along with the Police
6 Oversight Commission for this budget
7 cycle. We are in negotiations with the
8 Administration about how we deal with
9 that.

10 We cannot expect you to do the
11 job you are doing without giving you the
12 tools to get it done. So I want you to
13 know I heard you during the 100 Shooter
14 Review. Thank you. I heard of the DA.
15 And any time you, the DA, the Defender
16 all agree that this is a problem, we
17 need to pay attention. I want you to
18 know I heard you. This is one of those
19 things where you don't have to respond,
20 but I just want you to make note that
21 we're in this together and we want as a
22 Council and as a Administration to do
23 our part.

24 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,

1 Councilmember Jones.

2 And I just have a question,
3 real quick question as obviously as the
4 summer rolls in and we have some of our
5 challenges. We're seeing some of these
6 I guess activity around small
7 businesses. And are we working with our
8 commercial corridors or what is the best
9 way to work with our commercial
10 corridors as far as looking at them,
11 especially small businesses and some of
12 the minority-owned communities that are
13 fearful from theft?

14 We had another incident last
15 night up in South Philadelphia on 9th
16 Street where people went in and robbed
17 the place and the people in it. Are we
18 working on some type of coordination
19 with these small businesses how to best
20 address that or can we come up with a
21 system of engagement? I know we have a
22 a pilot up in Old City where we do have
23 beat officers that's on that strip up
24 there. And I know that those businesses
25 and residents actually love it. Is that

1 something -- I know with our staffing as
2 it is and summer challenges, is that
3 something we could do in the summertime
4 and some of these other corridors?

5 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Point of
6 information, point of information,
7 Chairman Squilla.

8 I just wanted to for the record
9 thank you so very much for getting that
10 question regarding the presence of
11 community policing in neighborhoods
12 across the City, and particularly our
13 neighborhood-based commercial corridors
14 and also relevant to all of the public
15 assets in Districts across the City.

16 And with that being said,
17 Commissioner Outlaw, when you respond to
18 Chairman Squilla's question, can you
19 also give us a little bit more detail as
20 it relates to the Police Department's
21 desire to ensure that community policing
22 is implemented across the City in
23 neighborhoods across the City in a
24 proactive way, not simply in responding
25 to crime, but that everyone in every zip

1 code in every neighborhood deserve to
2 have access to beat officers, bike
3 patrol or in the car but they're out
4 walking, however you all determined that
5 it should occur, but that every
6 neighborhood deserves that.

7 Thank you, Chairman Squilla. I
8 wanted to get that on the record because
9 you know that is the crux of the
10 Philadelphia Neighborhood Safety and
11 Community Policing Plan that you,
12 Councilmember Jones, the President,
13 Thomas along with Gilmore Richardson
14 stood and announced in West Philadelphia
15 in front of 1989 63rd Street. And I'm
16 interested in hearing that response as
17 well. So thank you so much,
18 Mr. Chairman, for the leeway and I'll be
19 listening.

20 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,
21 Leader. And, Commissioner, thanks.

22 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: No
23 problem. So the answer is yes to that.
24 I mean, obviously commercial corridors
25 are something that we pay attention to

1 around the clock, meaning regardless of
2 the season. But these are conversations
3 that we've been having with our ability
4 to deploy. Same thing with staffing.
5 We've done a lot of work in identifying
6 those commercial corridors where there's
7 overlap in our problematic areas, so
8 places where we already know, our
9 officers are or should be on a constant
10 and a consistent basis to see if we can
11 kill multiple birds with one stone.
12 That's a bad analogy, but basically make
13 sure that our presence covers many
14 areas.

15 We do have a liaison out of our
16 DVIC. I know we have Chief Smith, Walt
17 Smith, here on the call as well who
18 liaises with small businesses to make
19 sure that communication is shared both
20 ways.

21 But, D.C. Dales, talk a little
22 bit about our deployment models, what we
23 would like to be able to do, having
24 people on bicycles as we get additional
25 numbers and we bolster our strength

1 honestly.

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DALES:

3 Thanks, Commissioner. As we get
4 additional numbers when the new academy
5 class graduates, the gameplan is to put
6 a majority of those officers on foot
7 beats like we have been doing in the
8 past. I also want to make it perfectly
9 clear that we are utilizing bikes and
10 beats across the City. We cannot use as
11 many as we did in the past, because
12 again, we are short on staffing.

13 However, that does not excuse the fact
14 that we cannot practice community
15 policing, which we will continue to do.

16 Just to let you know, I do hold
17 the captains accountable for ensuring
18 that their police officers are and
19 supervisors are engaged in the community
20 and keep them included in reference to
21 crime fighting because they can -- the
22 best thing they can do is be our eyes
23 and ears, right, so we're making sure
24 that they are doing that and holding
25 events where the communities are also

1 involved.

2 Another thing too is it's very
3 important that community members, all
4 business leaders, they stay in constant
5 communication with their Captains and
6 wherever they're located, find out who
7 the Captain of that district is, connect
8 with them. If you have issues, it's
9 important that they know because they're
10 going to be the ones who deploy officers
11 in certain areas. It could be a day
12 where let's say, for example, one
13 particular business corridor is not
14 covered and they need coverage along
15 that corridor and they're not aware of
16 the issues that are happening, but you
17 know about it. So bring it to the
18 Captain's attention. The Captain can
19 deploy appropriately, put either a foot
20 beat out there or a bike out there or a
21 car, whatever resource they have
22 available, they can actually cover down
23 at that problematic location. So I just
24 can't stress enough, please stay in
25 touch with your District Captains. If

1 you don't know who they are, find out
2 who they are. They hold town hall
3 meetings every month, and that gives the
4 community an opportunity to share with
5 the Captain what areas they are
6 experiencing problems.

7 And again, I'm a big fan and,
8 Councilmember Parker, you know how I am
9 with community beats, as far as bikes
10 and foot beats, I'm really big on that.
11 But as of right now, our staffing is not
12 as strong as it was in the past, but we
13 are balancing it out.

14 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,
15 Deputy Dales, for that. Obviously, it's
16 a, you know, big concern for a lot of
17 residents. But as we go in, and I know
18 we've talked about this in the past, and
19 I know just for the record the
20 Department has put together an ATV
21 detail, again as resources allow, is
22 that something too that we'll be doing
23 this summer knowing that some of the
24 challenges we have faced?

25 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: The

1 answer is yes. Before I kick it off
2 again to D.C. Dales who has operations,
3 so it is what it is. You can expect to
4 see us out there in some part beginning
5 Memorial Day weekend and into the
6 summer, again doing what we can with
7 what we have and also recognizing that
8 the resources as Councilmember Quinones-
9 Sanchez mentioned, sometimes the
10 resources may have to shift. But the
11 answer is yes to that and hopefully
12 again, beginning this Memorial Day
13 weekend.

14 D.C. Dales, anything you want
15 to add to that?

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DALES: No,
17 we're going to continue to run the
18 detail after Memorial Day as well, so as
19 many times as we can, we're going to do
20 it.

21 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you
22 for that because obviously that's
23 important to a lot of residents
24 throughout, and I know we had a couple
25 serious incidents recently and it's just

1 a challenge. And hopefully, as we move
2 through we'll come up with other models
3 and other municipalities that are doing
4 things that are working.

5 I know we had a previous
6 meeting even with some of our boom cars
7 and other things that are causing
8 challenges not only here in Philadelphia
9 but across the river in Jersey and we
10 had a meeting with both the Jersey
11 political people and their law
12 enforcement and us to try to come up
13 with a way to do that.

14 Hopefully, if we could get this
15 camera, sound camera passed and
16 installed, we'll be able to help with
17 those things also. So these are major
18 challenges that we face, and I really
19 appreciate your ability to work with us
20 to try to address them, and willing to
21 work with you in whatever additional
22 resources you need, whether it's sound
23 meters or training or whatever and
24 whatnot to make sure that we're able to
25 do the best we can moving forward.

1 I still -- and, Councilmember
2 Jones, did you have -- oh, Councilmember
3 Parker, I'm sorry. Councilmember
4 Parker.

5 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank you
6 so much, Mr. Chairman. And let me lend
7 my voice to the choir to say thank you,
8 Commissioner Outlaw, and a special thank
9 you to Deputy Commissioner Dales.
10 Commissioner Outlaw, Dales gets all of
11 the arrows, all of the slings, he gets
12 it all right because we -- listen, we're
13 familiar with seeing him in the
14 neighborhood because you know he was a
15 Captain in the 9th Councilmanic District
16 and that's where I first met him.

17 And that was -- to be quite
18 frank, that was a time when community
19 policing wasn't always embraced by the
20 brass, right, because some people looked
21 at it as not being an effective
22 deployment of available officers. But
23 if members of the viewing public ever
24 listened to Deputy Commissioner Dale's
25 testimony about how he felt when he was

1 first deployed in community policing but
2 then how because he built those
3 relationships with the community, he got
4 information that sometimes even
5 investigators couldn't get to help solve
6 crimes before they occurred because he
7 was a trusted voice in the community.

8 And I wanted to say that on the record
9 because, Dales, if it wasn't going good,
10 I would say that to you and you would
11 catch hell on the record as well.

12 With that being said,
13 Commissioner, I needed to get this on
14 the record. Because as I just looked
15 through the Neighborhood Safety
16 Community Policing Plan, I looked and we
17 document at that time with data that we
18 have received from your office that we
19 had over 400 vacant positions, but
20 recently in a meeting in Center City
21 that number has increased.

22 So just for the record now, and
23 I want you to put on the record the
24 number that we are down in your
25 complement here in the City. Now, I

1 heard that number was like 750-plus,
2 Commissioner; is that accurate? Is it
3 750 or more?

4 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: D.C.
5 Coulter.

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER:
7 Good morning. Good morning,
8 Councilwoman. Our current number as of
9 this morning is 522. We track it daily.
10 We're woefully aware of what those
11 numbers are and what we're trying to do
12 to bring them back up. But 522 is the
13 number from our sworn strength.

14 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Okay. So
15 we are down 522. Deputy Commissioner
16 Coulter, tell me, if you will, if I have
17 heard a number that was close to 750,
18 what would that relate to? Does that
19 bring anything to mind? But that was a
20 number that I just heard in a recent
21 meeting.

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER:
23 Councilwoman, the only thing I could
24 think of that that would be both sworn
25 and civilian combined, that might be

1 closer to an accurate number. That
2 would be counting vacancies at
3 dispatchers and crossing guards and
4 other places. But sworn number is exact
5 and like I said, it's tracked every
6 single day.

7 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Okay.

8 No, thank you. Thank you for that
9 clarification. So 522 in sworn
10 officers, and that 750 number could be
11 indicative of including civilian
12 vacancies also. So thank you so much
13 for putting that on the record.

14 Commissioner Outlaw, I'm going
15 to ask for you to come back just for the
16 record here, and I don't know if
17 D.C. Dales would need to come back, but
18 I do need to get you to respond to this
19 issue on the record. Because we have
20 called and made a formal ask for 300
21 police officers to be deployed minus the
22 efforts of your current policing
23 strategy relative to the 57 blocks,
24 relative to Operation PinPoint, that the
25 300 police officers we've called as we

1 envision 30 per District to ensure that
2 every zip code in the City was getting
3 access to beat officers and bike patrol
4 in every neighborhood.

5 Would you affirmatively say
6 that the only barrier to your ability to
7 do that is having access to those
8 officers right now to deploy them in a
9 citywide community policing strategy but
10 because they don't exist, now you are
11 trying to do the best you can with what
12 little you have. Would you say that my
13 statement is accurate, Commissioner?

14 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: That is
15 correct, yes.

16 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Okay. I
17 just needed you to just get that on the
18 record because when residents of the
19 City of Philadelphia are questioning us
20 as their Councilmembers, particularly
21 those of us who represent Districts, and
22 they want to know where their bike
23 patrol and their beat officers are, it
24 is our access to bodies. And I
25 appreciate you affirmatively stating

1 that for the record.

2 And I have to say this, my new
3 Captain in the 35th at Broad and Olney,
4 I want to say to you, Commissioner
5 Outlaw, don't mess with her. Don't mess
6 with Massey. She is -- Councilmember
7 Jones, I wouldn't play with Massey. You
8 couldn't pay me to mess with her, but
9 you are not going to be sitting in the
10 car using the example that Commissioner
11 Outlaw gave the other day, officers
12 sitting in the car, although there's
13 technical information that she noted has
14 to be put in as it relates to data
15 entry, she talked about the need to be
16 out and walking and Massey demands that.
17 So special thank you to her on the
18 record. Thank you, Commissioner.

19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: (Muted).

21 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: You're on
22 mute, Mr. Chairman.

23 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you.

24 Thank you, Councilmember, and I
25 appreciate that.

1 And real quick before we go to
2 Councilmember Jones, I know you
3 mentioned crossing guards and that's a
4 big issue, and I now understand that
5 they're under the Streets Department
6 budget, but that is a major -- crossing
7 guards also is a major concern and it
8 also adds to the challenges of police
9 when they have to fill in those
10 positions. So we need to make sure we
11 hire those crossing guards and the 911
12 operators.

13 You know, I called again
14 yesterday 911 and nobody answered, and
15 it was around 5 o'clock last night. And
16 the challenges because of staffing and
17 if that's the minor thing we could do,
18 we need to really get that up and
19 coming. So is there anything that we
20 could do to enhance the ability to hire
21 more in those two spots, crossing guards
22 and 911 operators?

23 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW:

24 D.C. Coulter.

25 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER:

1 The biggest help that everybody in
2 Council and everybody out there could do
3 is to encourage constituents, get family
4 members, children. One of the barriers
5 that we don't have in both of those
6 areas is that you don't have to be 21,
7 that we can have people who are 18. So
8 we're looking forward to working with
9 future current high school graduates,
10 people who are looking for jobs and not
11 moving on to college. Because in the
12 end, we need people -- we'll always need
13 people because they are both high
14 turnover positions, one, because of
15 family situations and status. Crossing
16 guards, some people tend to take those
17 jobs until their kids are in school
18 full-time, and then they move on to
19 full-time employment.

20 And with dispatchers, it's a
21 tough job, it's shift work, it's
22 holidays and stuff. So people sometimes
23 move on as well. Some people make it a
24 20-, 30-, 40-year career. So any
25 encouragement during all of our

1 recruitment campaigns to folks that are
2 looking not just for a job but a
3 profession to make a difference, it
4 would help us all the way around because
5 our officers on the street, I mean, it's
6 kind of a system that feeds off each
7 other. We need somebody to answer the
8 phone, but then we also need somebody to
9 send it to.

10 So in all three of those areas
11 whether it's recruitment of police
12 officers, crossing guards or people for
13 police radio, any help that we can give
14 there at any community meeting, any time
15 you're with your constituents when
16 people are looking for either work or
17 talking about children or grandchildren,
18 they're great places to start. It's a
19 great way to move into City government
20 regardless of what they think they want
21 to do in the future. It's that great
22 entry into the process.

23 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: We agree
24 with you and we'll be happy to help.
25 But also, at least the crossing guards

1 there's already 600 people on that list
2 for those spots. And I know that's
3 probably an administrative question and
4 not a question for you, but we need to
5 get a test in place now because we know
6 we're going to run through that 600 and
7 we're not going to fill up the 400
8 spots. And we need to be able to make
9 sure that the new test is ready and the
10 same -- is it a civil service position
11 for the 911 operators?

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER:

13 Yes, it is.

14 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: So how

15 many people are on that list?

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER:

17 We go through a list as quickly as we
18 get it. The enrollment periods are open
19 about every two months now. So we're
20 working off a current list now that we
21 hope to put 30 in July. We have a class
22 in right now. We've had no inability to
23 put classes in there just not quite as
24 large as we would like to. We have the
25 capacity to put 36 in. Most times we

1 have about 20 to 22 qualified at the
2 time that it's time to go in. So we're
3 working with Central HR to get names
4 from a current list and also have them
5 announcing the next series already to
6 make sure that there's a backup list in
7 place for when we go through this group.

8 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: All right.

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULTER:

10 We have looked at the testing process
11 looking at, you know, some of the
12 requirements for the typing and numbers
13 and stuff to say that they're things
14 that are skills that people, we can work
15 on once we have them within and we don't
16 want those barriers to keep somebody out
17 because they might type one word a
18 minute less than what's required on the
19 testing process. So we're working to
20 look at the ability to bring people in
21 knowing that those speeds and the
22 proficiencies will increase while
23 they're on the job instead of keeping
24 them out. So we're looking at every way
25 we can to bring people in.

1 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: That's
2 great. I think we need to do that with
3 the crossing guards too to get a new
4 list up and running and start it. So
5 hopefully, that'll also happen. And we
6 need to get these people in these
7 positions. There's nothing worse than
8 not having the ability to put people in
9 spots for safety reasons when we have
10 already a list that's there and maybe we
11 could start a new list to be prepared
12 for when we do run out of the current
13 list. So thank you so much for that.

14 And, Councilmember Jones.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
16 Mr. Chairman.

17 Commissioner, it's a quick
18 question but it probably requires a more
19 lengthy answer. I'm wondering about
20 logistically how you interface with
21 other law enforcement groups within the
22 City. So, for example, I know on state
23 highways that we rely on the state
24 police to kind of patrol those areas,
25 but more succinctly with SEPTA, with the

1 PHA police force, with probably even the
2 Sheriff's Department. Tell me how you
3 guys coordinate that personnel, that
4 manpower to kind of keep us safe?

5 What comes to mind is when we
6 deal with SEPTA platforms and subways,
7 how does that interface happen, not only
8 with manpower, personnel, but
9 technology?

10 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: Thank you
11 for that question. We coordinate and
12 communicate actually very regularly,
13 weekly. We have standing weekly
14 meetings when we talk about violent
15 crime. Obviously, when we're talking
16 about our shootings, our shooting
17 reviews. When I first got here, I
18 touted how critical that was because
19 there's so much overlap between our
20 areas of jurisdictions and I would even
21 add to that our universities here as
22 well as our hospitals, other agencies
23 that have their own police departments.
24 And it's important for us that they
25 receive the same data that we're working

1 off of.

2 Meeting on a weekly Tuesday

3 basis is critical to make sure that

4 we're all on the same page and that we

5 all leave that meeting with actionable

6 items or deliverables to know that,

7 okay, PHA has to come back and secure

8 this property or whatever it is. As it

9 relates to SEPTA, same thing. We have a

10 great working relationship with them.

11 When I think of our subways or

12 whatever immediately sometimes as far as

13 technology, we think of cameras, if

14 there are incidences, critical

15 incidences or crimes, other crimes that

16 occur there, our people immediately

17 contact SEPTA, get access to their

18 cameras to assist with the

19 investigations. We share information.

20 So I'm actually very proud of how

21 closely and how coordinated we are

22 because it's too many of us working in

23 this City to not communicate on a

24 regular basis and that's actually how

25 we've been able to get a lot of what

1 we've done and accomplished.

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
3 Commissioner.

4 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,
6 Councilmember Jones.

7 Councilmember Domb.

8 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,
9 Mr. Chair.

10 And good morning, Commissioner.

11 It's still good morning. I have a
12 couple quick questions for you. I want
13 to follow up on Councilman Squilla's
14 question on the ATVs because it seems
15 like it's starting to heat up and we've
16 seen unfortunately I think a few deaths
17 recently somewhat attributed to the ATV
18 activity.

19 And I guess my question is if
20 we're going to have the details step up,
21 can we also have a media campaign that
22 tells people what's going on, shores up
23 public support for this, enforce
24 enforcement and are we getting
25 cooperation on this from the District

1 Attorney's Office?

2 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: I mean,
3 sure. We're always happy to be
4 transparent and share what our efforts
5 have been, so I think that that was all
6 hanging fruit. That's a no-brainer.
7 D.C. Dales or D.C. Naish, do you want to
8 step in and talk about the follow-up
9 piece about the prosecution piece?

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NAISH:
11 Yeah. Thank you, Commissioner. And,
12 Councilman Domb, you and I have spoken.
13 The problem with ATVs is relentless and
14 it's continual and it's very troubling.
15 Because as you indicated, it results in
16 a number of things, the public
17 perception fear of what's going on, on
18 the street as well as the danger to the
19 community as well as the officers.

20 As far as the investigations go
21 and in cooperation, we have our
22 investigators from Major Crimes that are
23 dedicated to working closely with the
24 District Attorney's Office to develop
25 cases where we can to bring prosecutions

1 for individuals that are responsible for
2 criminal activity. They can be very
3 challenging to make those cases, but we
4 work really hard at the DA's Office.
5 District Attorney Krasner has dedicated
6 ADA Chance Lee to specifically work
7 closely with our investigators, so we
8 have a direct connection with somebody
9 who will not only be there to help us to
10 guide through the case, but also to do
11 the prosecution.

12 And then on the prevention
13 portion and getting the word out, I know
14 that Deputy Dales, we work continually
15 reporting out on the number of
16 confiscations. We do it in many
17 different ways through -- and I'll let
18 Joel talk about it, but we do it through
19 visually, we have the presence. We also
20 look at where -- we try to anticipate
21 where they're going to be. And Joel's
22 really been the expert on this, so I'll
23 turn this over at this point to Joel.

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DALES: You
25 did pretty good, Ben. No, we pretty

1 much utilize social media to let the
2 community know the results of the
3 detail. We also put out to the media as
4 well to let them know that we are going
5 to be running a detail during certain
6 days, but I don't want to let the riders
7 know when we are and when we're not
8 going to implement the detail.

9 So just to let you know, we
10 will be running the detail more
11 frequently. It's going to be not on the
12 same days. We're going to mix it up, so
13 that way we want to keep the riders
14 offguard, but we are planning to run a
15 detail throughout the summer.

16 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. Great.
17 And I just want to mention that I guess
18 it was last Wednesday night I did a
19 ride-along on the 22nd and I saw you out
20 there, D.C. Dales. And I'm just going
21 to mention that I think I saw seven
22 shootings that occurred that night in a
23 four-hour period. It's just horrible.
24 Most it seems like it's all related to
25 drugs, by the way. I'm no expert, but

1 that's what it seemed like to me.

2 But I will tell you that I was
3 very impressed, Commissioner, and the
4 Deputy Commissioners, with your team,
5 with all the officers I came into
6 contact with. They really made me proud
7 to be a Philadelphian. They did a
8 tremendously great job. They were
9 unbelievable, professional. I saw
10 everyone in action. It was really great
11 to see and I'm very proud of the Police
12 Department, so thank you for all you're
13 doing. I think we just need more of
14 you, but thank you so much for all
15 you're doing. Thank you.

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DALES:
17 Thank you, sir. I appreciate it.

18 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you.
19 I'm finished.

20 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: All right.
21 Thank you. Thank you, Councilmember. I
22 wasn't sure if you were done there, but
23 I appreciate your questions.

24 Is there any other questions
25 for the Commissioner or the Police

1 Department?

2 (No response.)

3 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Seeing
4 none, Commissioner Outlaw, thank you so
5 much for your testimony and
6 participation today. We really
7 appreciate your support and looking
8 forward to continue to work together to
9 help keep our City and communities safe.
10 Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: Thank
12 you.

13 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Ami, do
14 you want to read the next person, people
15 to testify.

16 THE CLERK: Next to testify we
17 have Mary Hortsmann, Senior Director for
18 Policy & Initiatives at MDO and Anthony
19 Erace, Acting Director, Police Advisory
20 Commission.

21 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: (Muted).

22 COUNCILMAN OH: Chairman,
23 you're on mute.

24 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: All right.
25 I guess there is no testimony on that.

1 I guess if we have questions -- I want
2 to ask I guess questions for Mary, if
3 you're available. Is Mary there?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Hi, Mary.
6 How are you?

7 MS. HORTSMANN: Hello,
8 Councilmember. How are you?

9 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Good.
10 Good. You heard -- just going to follow
11 up on the previous questions for hiring
12 of 911 and crossing guards and the
13 process of getting those folks in with
14 the shortage of -- we know the list for
15 the crossing guards is somewhere around
16 600 on their current list and we know
17 there's over 400 openings.

18 And then it sounded like for
19 the 911 operators, they have an ongoing
20 list or they have a current list and
21 they're preparing for a new list to try
22 to start filling those. Are we doing
23 the same for crossing guards, preparing
24 a new list?

25 MS. HORSTMANN: We are. So

1 we're actually working with Central
2 HR -- thank you for the question. We're
3 working with Central HR to be able to
4 have continuous postings or close to it,
5 so we're always recruiting new crossing
6 guards, and we're also working with them
7 to do direct outreach to people who are
8 currently on the list so that we're
9 really pushing this summer to recruit
10 more crossing guards so that we're ready
11 for next fall.

12 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Do you
13 think we'll be able to get through this
14 list this summer to try to fill those
15 vacancies?

16 MS. HORSTMANN: We do expect to
17 be able to get through the full list
18 this summer and then be able to repost
19 for new positions also this summer.

20 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: So would
21 we be having a test for the next list
22 before the end of the summer to be able
23 to do that?

24 MS. HORSTMANN: I'll have to
25 double check if we require a test for

1 crossing guards, but we do expect
2 opportunity for folks to apply.

3 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Okay.

4 Yeah, if you can let the Chair, the
5 Council President know when they could
6 start applying for the new list because
7 we do have a bunch of people interested
8 through our schools. Our schools have
9 reached out, parents, friends of
10 parents, neighbors who'll be willing to
11 apply for these positions. And I know
12 that, you know, as you weed your way
13 through the current list, that you're
14 not going to be able to fill all the
15 open positions that you have. So I
16 think it's important to start that
17 process so we can get that information
18 out to those folks so they could start
19 applying. And then hopefully, we could
20 fill that and the 911 operator positions
21 by the end of the summer because it does
22 become more of a burden on the police
23 also, in that they have to make up for
24 the lack of crossing guards and/or
25 people aren't able to get through 911 to

1 actually service those concerns. So
2 thank you for that and I appreciate it.

3 Councilmember Jones.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
5 Mr. Chair.

6 I just want to first of all
7 thank the Citizens Police Oversight
8 Committee for transitioning into the new
9 undertaking they're about to go through.
10 A couple of details: One, have we
11 worked out how their budget is going to
12 be received and how much we've agreed?
13 There was some back-and-forth about the
14 amounts. How close are we to
15 compromise?

16 MS. HORSTMANN: Great. Thank
17 you so much for the question,
18 Councilmember, and thank you for your
19 leadership on standing up the Citizen
20 Police Oversight Commission. So I just
21 want to add that I am here with Anthony
22 Erace, the Acting Director for the
23 Citizen Police Oversight Commission.
24 And so, he may be able to provide more
25 insight.

1 The Administration is proposing
2 2.4 million and change for the FY23
3 budget, so it's 2,402,570 in total which
4 represents a \$1.5 million increase over
5 two years ago. And so, we are working
6 with the Citizen Police Oversight
7 Commissioners and staff to transition
8 the operations of the Police Advisory
9 Commission to the new independent
10 office, and we welcome a dialogue with
11 City Council on making sure that it's
12 appropriately funded.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: That's a
14 good start, but we were thinking more
15 north of 3 million, so let the
16 negotiations begin. I think it's a
17 justifiable negotiation because we want
18 to give them the tools to be successful.
19 What we don't want to do is hamstring a
20 new Commission to not be in competition
21 for the best possible staff, best
22 possible support staff, best possible
23 investigators, that that will be needed
24 to successfully meet the expectations of
25 City Council and the entire City of

1 Philadelphia. So we'll put a pin in
2 that. But before we do our final vote,
3 that's going to be on my list of
4 priorities to the Administration.

5 And then can we talk about how
6 we're involved in it and did the newly
7 minted voted-on Commissioners meet? No,
8 we're not allowed to be in those
9 meetings. They're trying to get their
10 legs under them. But could you give me
11 some peek behind the curtain as to how
12 we're doing?

13 MS. HORSTMANN: That's a great
14 question. And I know they've really hit
15 the ground running. So they have
16 appointed a Chair, Jahlee, and they're
17 also appointing a Vice-chair, Afroza
18 Hossain. So I'll turn it over to
19 Anthony Erace, who's the Acting Director
20 to talk more about where the
21 Commissioners are in their progress.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Before you
23 begin your testimony, I just want to
24 thank you profusely for the services,
25 the class, the insights that you've

1 given all of us in Council and for the
2 advocates. It is duly noted. I want to
3 note for the record that I see you. So
4 thank you.

5 MR. ERACE: (Muted).

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: I think
7 you're on mute.

8 MR. ERACE: Thank you,
9 Councilman. It's great to be here and
10 happy to answer any and all questions
11 that you guys have. So, so far --

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: State your
13 name for the record.

14 MR. ERACE: Oh, sorry. Anthony
15 Erace. Last name, E-r-a-c-e. So, so
16 far the Commissioners have all met.
17 They have elected a Chair Jahlee
18 Hatchett and Vice-chair Afroza Hossain.
19 They have been given all the tools to
20 sort of come together and create their
21 internal operating procedures. The
22 first training session on the
23 functionality has already taken place,
24 and the second and third one are being
25 scheduled as we speak.

1 And as that is taking place,
2 the foundational hiring that we did as
3 the Police Advisory Commission is
4 allowing us to increase front-facing
5 service to the residents of Philadelphia
6 already. So as the process of them
7 getting their legs, we have a new
8 auditing and monitoring unit, enhanced
9 oversight of the Police Department's
10 disciplinary process. That was done in
11 conjunction with the Police Department.

12 We have an expanded policy unit
13 and we're about to start with our
14 investigative hirings and expansion. We
15 have to talk to the Police Department
16 about how all that's going to work and
17 that will obviously take some time. But
18 we're off and running and it's a good
19 start and the Commissioners are talking
20 to each other and getting their legs
21 together, and I think it's going to be
22 pretty special.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: As I look at
24 national news, as I look at other
25 municipalities, as we establish this

1 Commission, you know, it's not a
2 question of if. It's a matter of when
3 we will be involved in making critical
4 decisions that give confidence to the
5 City of Philadelphia and the difference
6 between municipalities that wind up
7 taking it to the streets, taking it to
8 civil unrest and the ones that do not is
9 a sincere belief that there is a process
10 in place to get fair reviews.

11 The work of the Commissioners
12 is vital to keeping good faith with the
13 citizens of Philadelphia and keeping
14 us -- I just remember the season of
15 unrest in Philadelphia. And it just put
16 a priority on the work that you've done
17 and the work that you and the Commission
18 are about to do. I just know that it's
19 critical to giving a fair level playing
20 field perceptionally and actually to the
21 public, so godspeed.

22 MR. ERACE: Thank you very
23 much, Councilmember. We're on it for
24 everyone.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES:

1 Mr. Chairman.

2 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,
3 Councilmember. And thank you for your
4 testimony.

5 Is there any other questions
6 from anybody for Senior Director of
7 Policy of MDO?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Seeing
10 none, thank you so much for your
11 answering the questions and your help.

12 Ami, do we want to bring in the
13 next person to testify or answer
14 questions.

15 THE CLERK: The next person to
16 testify is James Aros, Jr., Chief
17 Assessment Officer.

18 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: James, are
19 you available?

20 MR. AROS: Good morning,
21 Mr. Chair.

22 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Good
23 morning. I don't know if you have any
24 follow-ups to your previous testimony or
25 are you just available?

1 MR. AROS: I don't have any
2 additional testimony for the record. We
3 submitted some answers in writing to
4 questions that we received from Council
5 after the first hearing, but I'm
6 prepared to answer any follow-up
7 questions that Council has right now.

8 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Okay. I
9 could start with just a quick question.
10 Again, we were told I think after the
11 last hearing that notices would go out
12 some time in September. Is that still
13 the case because you said that the
14 company you were working with was having
15 some issues with the supplies?

16 MR. AROS: Yeah. So the
17 September 1st date we put out there is
18 kind of the back-end of where we expect
19 at this point to be able to mail. We're
20 optimistic that we can do it sooner than
21 that and we would certainly want to do
22 it sooner than that should we be able
23 to. We don't have any updated
24 timelines, but the September 1 date was
25 the date we put out there as kind of

1 like this is where we think might be the
2 latest. But it would not be our plan to
3 specifically mail out on September 1st
4 or by September 1st if we're able to
5 mail out much sooner.

6 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Okay.

7 Also, as far as the staffing to handle
8 the number appeals, do you believe you
9 have the ability to handle these appeals
10 in a timely fashion?

11 MR. AROS: We do have a number
12 of staff. We do have a few -- excuse
13 me. Let me start over. We do have a
14 few vacancies, but we are planning to
15 address -- I'm sorry. When you say
16 appeals, are you speaking about --

17 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Well, I
18 meant FLR, First Level --

19 MR. AROS: Okay.

20 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Yes. I'm
21 sorry. The appeals are the BRT and
22 that's another question for them.

23 MR. AROS: Right. Yeah, we're
24 planning on being able to answer them as
25 timely as possible. Obviously, we will

1 have to see what the volume is that
2 comes in and then strategically plan
3 around that. Based on previous
4 reassessments, we have an idea of what
5 we may expect. But we will be able to
6 hopefully effectively resolve most of
7 those within a few months as we have in
8 the past.

9 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Okay. And
10 just for the record, I had introduced a
11 towing legislation that will allow
12 people to pay the previous bills. And
13 this is something we're going to have to
14 work out with Revenue. But if there's
15 an appeal in process, when do the -- and
16 it's not from you guys, so it's from
17 Revenue who sends the tax bill out since
18 the tax bill -- when do we perceive that
19 these appeals will not be done most
20 likely before the bills go out because
21 you could have up to October 1st to
22 appeal? So do we know when the bills
23 will actually go out for the residents?

24 MR. DUBOW: Hi. Rob Dubow,
25 Finance Director. We can get back and

1 confirm with you. But it's usually kind
2 of late, November, early December-ish
3 when the bills go out.

4 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: All right.
5 So then we'll know basically if
6 everybody has their appeal in by October
7 3rd or whatever that Monday is, we'll
8 know who has appealed at that time. And
9 since they are appealed at that time,
10 would Revenue be able to follow the
11 legislation, to send out the appeal,
12 send out the bill with the old
13 assessment on that instead of the new
14 assessment?

15 MR. DUBOW: Yes, I understand
16 the question. But let me check with
17 Revenue and we'll get back to you in
18 writing with an answer to that.

19 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: And the
20 only reason why I'm asking that is
21 because people who pay their bill, it's
22 one thing who could pay the previous
23 tax, the ones that the bill goes to the
24 mortgage companies, they pay whatever
25 bill is sent to them and it doesn't

1 matter what our law says and we ran into
2 that last time. And I see Carla's on
3 there too. And thank you, Rob. If you
4 could get back to us, that would be
5 great.

6 And, Carla, real quick -- and I
7 see Council President is also back.
8 Welcome back, Council President. The
9 BRT, as far as the appeals coming in in
10 October, are we going to be prepared to
11 handle the number of appeals and is
12 there a possibility of adding more dates
13 or more hearings to try to be able to
14 hear these appeals in a timely manner?

15 MS. PAGAN: Yes, yes to all of
16 that. So for starters, we are actually
17 encouraging everyone to file their
18 appeal as soon as possible just in case
19 there's a delay in mailing the
20 assessment notices, so that's one. So
21 we'll take appeals as early as possible.
22 That's best.

23 Two, our history has shown us
24 that we usually need approximately three
25 to five more temp staff to be hired to

1 handle this type of appeal filing
2 volume, so we do expect to bring on
3 temporary staff beginning in mid to late
4 September to handling the processing and
5 scheduling of the new incoming appeals.
6 And actually, the Board, we've had
7 preliminary meetings on going back to
8 split hearing sessions come January, so
9 we can have six oral hearings in a week
10 rather than five -- excuse me, rather
11 than three oral hearings in a week and
12 maximize the appeal hearing schedule and
13 then reserve Fridays for those people
14 that file non-oral appeals.

15 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Is there
16 any legal ramifications if people
17 appeal -- say they appeal now for their
18 assessment, when can those appeals be
19 heard or do we have to wait to a certain
20 time to hear those appeals?

21 MS. PAGAN: Well, typically we
22 start hearing in January 1 of that
23 calendar year. But what's unique to
24 this year, we actually have an opening
25 in our appeal hearing calendar between

1 October and December. So we have those
2 slots open. We are encouraging people
3 to file early. Because if so, they can
4 have a hearing this fall or winter
5 instead of waiting until 2023, yep.

6 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: That is
7 great because I think that's important,
8 so we're going to request people to
9 start filing those appeals as soon as
10 possible. And hopefully, they can get
11 them heard before the end of the year
12 before the bills even go out --

13 MS. PAGAN: That's right.

14 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: -- and
15 then we could coordinate Revenue to do
16 that, so thank you so much.

17 Councilmember Pres -- Council
18 President, if you want to take over.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
20 Councilman Squilla, I'm actually
21 enjoying you so much in chairing this
22 hearing. I think I'll just let you
23 go -- no, I'm just kidding. Councilman,
24 thank you. Thank you so much. I
25 appreciate you for filling in. We had

1 an unexpected issue they had to deal
2 with, but I appreciate you so much for
3 filling in for us. Thank you.

4 And, Mr. Erace and Ms. Pagan, I
5 did have one question. But before I ask
6 that, Chair recognizes Councilwoman
7 Sanchez.

8 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
9 Thank you, Council President. I know we
10 got our responses back from some of the
11 questions that were asked. Some of the
12 questions that I asked were not
13 addressed there, which were what were
14 some of the legal parameters or access
15 points -- maybe this question is for
16 Rob -- about us accepting these
17 assessments, our ability to smooth them
18 out over several years. There were
19 several legal questions and I believe
20 you guys were getting a legal opinion
21 that you would share with Council. I
22 have not seen that.

23 MR. DUBOW: Okay. Let me make
24 sure that that did get over because
25 Law -- I think what the answer said was

1 that we cannot smooth out over yours.

2 That that would be a uniformity clause
3 issue.

4 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

5 And we got a legal opinion to that?

6 MR. DUBOW: Yeah.

7 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

8 Even though we were delayed three years,
9 I mean, you smoothed out a tax cut for a
10 certain extent over three years by
11 delaying.

12 MR. DUBOW: Yeah. But that's
13 because we didn't -- we weren't taking
14 assessments that we had and smoothing
15 them out over time. I think when you do
16 that, that's what creates the problem.

17 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

18 So you know, Rob, you've seen the map
19 and, look, we know certain areas have
20 grown. The map tells a story that is
21 not a good story around how Black and
22 Brown areas are impacted versus the rest
23 of the City. What are the possibilities
24 of us saying we're going to go back in
25 60 days and change these numbers? What

1 are the possibilities?

2 What are our options because,
3 look, I'm very firm and secure that
4 Council is going to put together all the
5 relief measures to protect people, and
6 Districts like mine will be protected
7 because if we go increase the Homestead
8 and so forth, but residents of West
9 Philadelphia whose properties went up
10 150 percent, and their properties were
11 350,000 are not going to see the same
12 relief as neighborhoods of Hunting Park
13 and others. I mean, this is a very
14 problematic map on the surface. What do
15 you think of the map when you see the
16 map?

17 MR. DUBOW: No, I agree with
18 you that there are definitely places
19 where you want to figure out how to
20 provide as much relief as possible given
21 what the map is showing in terms of
22 increased assessments in their areas
23 with lower income or areas with higher
24 percentage of Black and Brown property
25 owners. So --

1 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

2 I know --

3 MR. DUBOW: Sorry. Go ahead.

4 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

5 Yeah, I know we're going to keep stating
6 the formula. It is really hard for me
7 to accept, and again not debating the
8 value increase on some of the land and
9 some of the structure, we can debate
10 land value which I'm in favor of versus
11 what we use in terms of structure, but
12 the amount of increase in neighborhoods
13 and the little smoothing that happened
14 in other neighborhoods is so glaring.

15 Why did that happen, that South
16 Philly and Northeast were almost
17 untouched and then the core of the City
18 were -- we had neighborhoods in
19 transition literally house-by-house,
20 that reality is different. How do we
21 accept this on face value?

22 MR. DUBOW: Yeah. And I think
23 that it has to do -- and I'll let AJ
24 chime in too. It has to do with kind of
25 the relationship of where assessments

1 were in certain errors versus what was
2 happening with values given where the
3 market was going. I think that's what's
4 driving it. But, AJ, if there's
5 something you want to add to that.

6 MR. AROS: No, I think that
7 captures most of the explanation. You
8 know, the City has seen substantial
9 growth. That growth was not uniformly
10 distributed throughout the City. So if
11 you look at an aggregate number, that's
12 going to reflect differently in
13 different areas of the City and the
14 growth in the market overall compared
15 with growth and assessments, some of
16 that will be captured by a result of
17 areas that may have been undervalued and
18 relative to a level of assessment prior
19 to this reassessment. So those are the
20 main factors that that would account for
21 some of the increases in assessment.

22 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
23 If I'm a conspiracist, which I'm not, I
24 would say that because of your land
25 reassessment before where South Philly

1 and Northeast and others were captured
2 before, I would say that whatever
3 formula used, again we're going to keep
4 debating the formula, then you did not
5 increase those areas as much because you
6 did the land, because that's what it
7 looks like.

8 It looks like we went through
9 the commercial, we went through the
10 land. When people got their land
11 assessments in South Philly, they went
12 berserk and now they get their
13 assessment, it's sort of like we hold
14 them harmless. We hold the folks who
15 got the land increase and that's if
16 you're a conspiracist, right. I'm
17 trying not to be because I want us to
18 get to an accurate assessment. I think
19 this is an important part of the health
20 and the predictability of our future
21 budgets, let alone the increase in the
22 School District.

23 The way that it -- again, the
24 map is the map. It's a bad map.

25 MR. DUBOW: And they can't

1 see -- I'm not arguing the map, but they
2 weren't held harmless. They also had
3 increases. They weren't as big
4 increases in the other area, but there's
5 no Council District that didn't see
6 substantial increases.

7 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

8 Yeah, again they -- their increases
9 still are not close to their actual sale
10 values in comparison to the others.
11 Historically, one of the reasons we are
12 where we are is historically Black and
13 Brown communities have been overassessed
14 based on value because of how we value
15 land versus how we value structure. So
16 it feels to me like you're using this to
17 correct the historical problems that
18 have been there all in one shot as
19 opposed to what formula, because you
20 developed the formula. So, right, this
21 is a creation of somebody from the
22 outside.

23 You come up with a formula
24 where you have to take into
25 consideration the context of a three-

1 year delay, the historical
2 discrimination that has happened and
3 then you try to put it all together and
4 you get a map that looks just as bad, if
5 not, worse. Again, you want to capture
6 value, but it really feels so unfair.

7 And again, Districts like mine
8 and I have all the faith this Council
9 will do what it always has to do in
10 terms of relief measures, but I just
11 think, you know, I was hoping that this
12 would look differently and feel
13 differently, and it just doesn't seem
14 fair. And again, I'm very concerned
15 about those neighborhoods where even at
16 90 percent -- a 90,000 Homestead and
17 whatever else we do, folks on those
18 fixed incomes are going to be hit the
19 hardest.

20 So thank you very much, Council
21 President. Thank you very much, Rob.
22 We'll continue to debate this formula,
23 make sure we don't have unrealized
24 abatement value and all these other
25 things. And as Council President said,

1 we'll have to do what we got to do.

2 Thank you.

3 Thank you, Council President.

4 MR. DUBOW: Thank you.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Thank you. Thank you, Councilwoman.

7 Actually, I want to follow up
8 on the Councilwoman's question. One
9 thing in particular, I know the
10 Councilwoman for years has been dealing
11 with side yards for residents, long-term
12 residents, people that have essentially
13 taken the responsibility irrespective of
14 ownership that deal with these side
15 yards and has been recognized. And then
16 eventually, we've been in a position
17 using the Land Bank or some other tool
18 to actually get that into the ownership
19 of those individuals for potential
20 gardens and side yards.

21 Those people at the time did
22 not know that there would be a
23 significant spike in the cost of land
24 versus improvements. So we're now
25 starting to hear some concerns raised,

1 well, I own this side yard, it's now
2 extremely expensive for taxes, I'm
3 concerned, you know, I'm not sure I want
4 to keep this. But we want him to keep
5 it.

6 And I don't like to make work
7 for people, but couldn't there be a
8 possibility that individuals that got a
9 side yard -- and this might sound a
10 little goofy but I'm just dealing with
11 the practical realities of these
12 neighborhoods and folks that deal with
13 this -- that if a person registered the
14 property that they got as a side yard
15 and have every intention to keep it as a
16 side yard garden, that there can be a
17 specific category where they wouldn't be
18 taxed as a traditional parcel of land
19 where some speculator or some other
20 developer or whomever was eventually
21 going to develop the land, would that be
22 too much to ask to even entertain?

23 And understandably, the person
24 would have to be registered as a
25 registered side yard, garden side yard,

1 the whole nine yards. And again, I'm
2 not trying to make work for people. But
3 these people, I mean, they got these
4 lots, and I referenced Councilwoman
5 because she's been beating me and
6 everybody else over the head forever
7 trying to get these people the side
8 yards. Now, they're getting hit with
9 these crazy tax bills potentially. I
10 guess I'm asking Mr. Aros that question.
11 I know he's saying, why is he asking me
12 this question, but I got to ask
13 somebody.

14 MR. AROS: No. So I think
15 there's two parts here. There's an
16 assessment piece and then there's a tax
17 policy piece. So from the assessment
18 side, if somebody has what we would
19 consider a side yard, in some cases a
20 side yard might be a small sliver of
21 land or it might be a house full lot
22 that was demolished next door that
23 they've just maintained over the years
24 and community garden or they hold events
25 for the neighbors or whatever, but it's

1 in some cases a private owner's name.
2 They've gotten it over the years
3 perhaps.

4 So a property like that where
5 there is no implicit deed restriction or
6 the restriction on the ability of the
7 owner to resell it for what may be a lot
8 across the street that a developer
9 bought, what they paid for it, from an
10 assessment side we would have no other
11 way to value that other than what it
12 could be at the fair market value.

13 If there were, you know,
14 they're obviously nonprofit
15 organizations that have lots that
16 qualify for exemptions where partial or
17 total amount of the assessment is
18 exempted, so whatever value we put on it
19 they're not paying on that. But those
20 are, you know, your 501(c)(3)s, your
21 churches, those kind of things. And so,
22 there are specific qualifications.

23 There's nothing on the
24 assessment side that would allow us to
25 exempt or value that property lower than

1 what it could sell from the fair low
2 market just because somebody chooses to
3 use it as a gathering place for the
4 neighborhood. We recognize how valuable
5 that is for the community and there
6 might be a tax policy piece that could
7 give them some sort of exemption that we
8 would be out of the conversation on.
9 But without a deed restriction or
10 something that tells us it's different
11 in the potential to sell it, then say
12 the lot across the street.

13 And I know over the years, and
14 I'm sure you've seen this in your
15 District and others, we have developers
16 coming and buying land for more than
17 what homes that are 100 years old are
18 selling for, so that becomes an issue
19 too, right. But for us to -- if that
20 person wakes up tomorrow and says, you
21 know what, I feel like selling this and
22 they can and get the price that somebody
23 across the street pays for a lot, we
24 have to value that the same way, so
25 that's the assessment piece. I'll turn

1 it over to Rob if he has anything from
2 the tax policy side he wants to add.

3 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
4 Point of information, Council President
5 Clarke. Point of information.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
7 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Sanchez.

8 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
9 All these side lots come with deed
10 restrictions and sometimes amortized
11 mortgages. So if you're saying that is
12 the case, then there has to be a way to
13 do that because all of these have
14 mortgages attached to them or deed
15 restrictions.

16 MR. AROS: So if there is a
17 deed restriction that we don't know
18 about or one that subsequently we're
19 made aware of, that would affect the
20 ability to resell the property. And
21 there's a bill last week that I spoke on
22 that was a different situation. But
23 overall arching theme of deed
24 restrictions, we would look to take any
25 deed restrictions into account when

1 valuing property obviously because those
2 could affect the potential resale price
3 or resale opportunities for parcels.

4 So if we were able to identify
5 those or we're made aware of those, we
6 would take those into consideration.
7 We're not always made aware ahead of
8 time that certain parcels have deed
9 restrictions. And with 500,000-plus
10 properties in the City, reading every
11 deed is not something we do as well as
12 properties sell all the time. But if
13 folks own these properties where the
14 Council Districts, the representatives
15 want to reach out to us, we have a
16 better ability now than we had in the
17 past to keep track of these sort of deed
18 restricted properties for whatever
19 reason there's a deed restriction, and
20 we would certainly look to use that in
21 our valuation process if we're made
22 aware of it.

23 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
24 I guess we're going to have to ask
25 everybody, Council President Clarke, to

1 do an initial review, right, and create
2 this category. I appreciate you
3 bringing this up because for residents
4 in South Kensington, that was a huge, it
5 is a huge issue because some of these
6 properties are now \$80,000, \$90,000 and
7 they're just finding out.

8 So thank you very much, Council
9 President, for bringing that up and
10 putting it on the record. Thank you.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

12 You're welcome. You know, I've been
13 getting the calls still like I'm sure
14 you have. And thank you for the deed
15 restriction question. I know we just --
16 well, we did that a couple years ago
17 because a lot of the development,
18 nonprofit or the affordable housing
19 initiatives we adjusted because of the
20 deed restrictions and the resale value
21 of those properties, and thank you all
22 for working with us on that.

23 So if you can just give it a
24 little more thought. You know, I know
25 I'm hitting you cold on this one, but it

1 sounds like we might be able to figure
2 something out. I'm just, you know, you
3 want to encourage people to take care of
4 these properties. They have no interest
5 whatsoever. And if at some point they
6 do sell it for some exorbitive number
7 and break the deed restriction, then we
8 have to figure out a way.

9 And, Rob, I didn't know if you
10 had anything to add on the tax policy.

11 MR. DUBOW: I hear what you
12 want to do. I don't want to give an
13 answer --

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I
15 got you.

16 MR. DUBOW: -- because I'd like
17 to work with Revenue and Law and figure
18 out some options and get back to you
19 obviously quickly because we're in the
20 process.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
22 That's fine. Yeah, I understand. One
23 last one, so it may be a lot to it,
24 maybe not a lot. We're getting the
25 calls as we always do when there's tax

1 increases for real estate about these.
2 Some people would say anomaly. Some
3 people would say inconsistencies and
4 assessments on the same blocks. Who do
5 I refer these people to other than my
6 staff, right? Because people are now
7 saying, well, you know, I don't
8 understand it, why this assessment on
9 that property and you got some people
10 who are actually going online looking at
11 blocks and seeing the different
12 assessments.

13 Have you all before you release
14 your assessments done an analysis on
15 what you're getting ready to put out to
16 see if there are any inconsistencies or
17 anomalies as it relates to your
18 assessment process in these various
19 neighborhoods?

20 MR. AROS: Yeah. So we do a
21 standard set of performance measures at
22 the beginning and at the end of any
23 reassessment that we do. In some cases,
24 an anomaly is the fact of us needing to
25 catch up on some of the data. So if a

1 property was recently renovated and we
2 didn't get a permit or we haven't had a
3 chance to revalue that, that's coming
4 down the line. But at the time an
5 assessment is released, it may not
6 reflect that.

7 And in some cases, folks will
8 say, well, I'm the same as these, but
9 there might be slight variances or we
10 would have data that says, here's a
11 difference between your property and
12 your neighbors that we value it
13 differently that would explain it, and
14 then occasionally there may be a case
15 where either through a clerical error or
16 a keystroke error that there was a value
17 that needs to get adjusted to a
18 different number and it should be more
19 in line with other neighbors. So if
20 somebody adds a zero or two or something
21 like that, we could adjust those outside
22 of any formal or informal appeal process
23 or if we come across it ourselves
24 without even being made aware of it, we
25 would go and adjust that.

1 In some cases, if there's
2 variances are large and in some cases
3 not, often that's attributable to
4 differences about the property that we
5 have in our database, but the neighbors
6 know we'll go on their blocks better
7 than anybody else so they know who did
8 an unpermitted renovation, they know who
9 bumped out their kitchen and added this
10 and that and they don't want to rat
11 their neighbors out, but we do get folks
12 that email us and say, my neighbor did
13 this and that, you need to raise their
14 assessment, and we can't take somebody's
15 word on it without us actually getting
16 some information that it actually
17 happened, but that does certainly
18 account for some of the perceived
19 inequities that folks have or that they
20 think that they see when they look at
21 the assessments.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

23 Okay. All right. So I'll just tell
24 them to call that, what's that, 989-9200
25 number. What's that number that you

1 gave --

2 MR. AROS: Yeah. 686-9200 is
3 the OPA and Revenue hotline number. And
4 if they want to file for the First Level
5 Review once that's available or file
6 right now to the BRT, they can do that
7 if they think their value is out of line
8 from where it should be.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

10 Okay. All right. Thank you. I don't
11 have any more questions.

12 Are there any other questions
13 from members of the Committee?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I
16 don't see any --

17 MS. PAGAN: I have one. I
18 wanted to follow up --

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Hold
20 on, Ms. Pagan. You got to get elected
21 before you can answer. No, I'm sorry.
22 Go ahead.

23 MS. PAGAN: I just wanted to --
24 it's kind of hard to jump in on all of
25 this remote hearing. But I just wanted

1 to follow up to one of the questions
2 that Councilman Squilla had, and then I
3 know that Rob Dubow was working on --
4 usually, the BRT sends a monthly fee to
5 the Department of Revenue and that's how
6 people's tax bills are flagged to show
7 they have a pending, an appeal.

8 So I'm an advocate of course of
9 this special billing with Revenue, and I
10 know that Revenue is updating to a new
11 Prism system. So, yes, please include
12 the BRT in that conversation. And, yes,
13 we do send monthly fees for Revenue, so
14 those parcels with the bills are
15 flagged. That's all.

16 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you.
17 Thank you, Carla. That's good to know
18 because I guess during the hearing maybe
19 we could have both you and Revenue
20 testify on how we could get that to
21 work.

22 MS. PAGAN: Okay. Great.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
24 Thank you. Thank you, Ms. Pagan. Thank
25 you, Councilman.

1 Chair recognizes Councilman

2 Domb.

3 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,

4 Council President.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 You're welcome.

7 COUNCILMAN DOMB: And good

8 morning -- good afternoon I guess. Just

9 a quick question, I have two questions.

10 AJ, the IA00 report suggested that OPA

11 form an advisory group of real estate

12 professionals from different sectors to

13 help keep the office aware of market

14 changes between assessment cycles. And

15 I'm wondering what steps have we taken

16 towards kind of building those

17 relationships and forming that group?

18 MR. AROS: Sure. So that was

19 one of the key takeaways that -- I won't

20 say key because I think they're all key,

21 but that was one of the takeaways as

22 something that we hadn't necessarily

23 thought of independently or prior to the

24 audit. The audit also mentions long-

25 range planning, so that's going to be

1 part of that.

2 Right now we have good
3 resources available I think for the
4 commercial, industrial sectors. The
5 residential side, I would say we -- it's
6 hard to get that one resource that is
7 knowledgeable about the whole City, but
8 I think that is where based on just our
9 own experience and what we've seen from
10 the report, that's somewhere I think we
11 can build out.

12 Obviously, we do a lot of
13 research and reading studies and
14 articles that are published from
15 external sources about the market and
16 what it's doing and influences, but we
17 have much more communication and
18 resources dedicated right now to getting
19 information from the commercial sector
20 than residential. So I think along with
21 the IA00's recommendation, that's
22 something we will look to build upon in
23 the hopefully near future, but in the
24 coming years for certain.

25 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. Thank

1 you. All right. The next question may
2 not be for you. It might be for Rob
3 Dubow. I know that many of our office
4 buildings in the core of the City seem
5 not that occupied. They're still
6 vacant, 20, 30 or even 40 percent
7 vacant, and it breaks my heart not to
8 see these people come back to their
9 offices. We want them to come back to
10 the offices. It's important.

11 But are we concerned about some
12 of these office building owners coming
13 in for reassessments and trying to get
14 their values lowered because their
15 vacancy rates have increased
16 dramatically and have we put away any
17 money in the budget for that
18 possibility?

19 MR. DUBOW: Yeah, we did in
20 doing our projection substantially
21 increase the appeal loss, assuming that
22 we would see that. So, yeah, that is
23 built into our budget.

24 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. I just
25 want to make sure we have that covered.

1 That's great. Thank you very much.

2 Okay. Thank you all.

3 Thank you, Council President.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

5 Thank you, Councilman.

6 Okay. That concludes our
7 questions for OPA. I want to thank you
8 all very much for your testimony and
9 look forward to having further
10 discussions on a number of different
11 matters. Thank you.

12 MR. AROS: Thank you.

13 MR. DUBOW: Thanks.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

15 Ms. Patel, our next witness to testify
16 is?

17 THE CLERK: The next person to
18 testify is Dr. Jill Bowen, Commissioner
19 at DBHIDS.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

21 Thank you. Commissioner.

22 DR. BOWEN: Good afternoon.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: How
24 are you doing?

25 DR. BOWEN: Doing well. I am

1 here today with the Deputy
2 Commissioners, Dr. Pritchett and
3 Dr. Wright and other members of the
4 leadership team to answer any follow-up
5 questions.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
7 Okay. I actually didn't have a follow-
8 up question.

9 Are there any members of the
10 Committee that had follow-up questions
11 for Dr. Bowen and her team?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
14 Dr. Bowen --

15 DR. BOWEN: Yes.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: --
17 sorry to tell you, right now we don't
18 have any questions for you. I know
19 that's breaking you up right about now.

20 DR. BOWEN: No, that's fine.
21 We were available. We intend to do a
22 briefing for City Councilmembers
23 shortly.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
25 right. Were there any follow-up -- as I

1 recall earlier I know we had a rather
2 extensive conversation with you. Were
3 there any follow-ups that were requested
4 by members of the Committee at your
5 last --

6 DR. BOWEN: They were
7 submitted, yeah --

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Have
9 you --

10 DR. BOWEN: -- in writing. We
11 submitted in writing.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You
13 followed up in writing?

14 DR. BOWEN: Yes, we did.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
16 Okay. All right. Well, thank you. I
17 appreciate that. I appreciate that very
18 much. Now, I have a little bit of --
19 thank you. Hold on, hold on, Dr. Bowen.
20 Councilman Domb does have a question.

21 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,
22 Council President.

23 I didn't want to let you get
24 away, Dr. Bowen, without at least a
25 question here. So I don't -- you may

1 not have the answer for me today, but
2 you can get it to us. I'm just curious
3 to know how much of your budget in terms
4 of dollars and also in terms of the
5 percentage of your budget is committed
6 to the Kensington-related work? And I
7 don't expect you to have the answer
8 right now. But if you could get it to
9 us, that'd be appreciated.

10 DR. BOWEN: Great. Good to do
11 that. Thank you.

12 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you
13 very much.

14 Thank you, Council President.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
16 Thank you. Okay. Well, thank you.
17 Thank you very much, Dr. Bowen and your
18 team, and thank you for your follow-up
19 in writing to the questions to members
20 of the Committee. I appreciate it.

21 To my colleagues, I'm going to
22 take a little bit of inhouse
23 housekeeping. Councilman David Oh would
24 like to offer an amendment.

25 Ami, did we have anyone else to

1 testify?

2 THE CLERK: No, Council

3 President, we don't.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

5 Okay. Councilman David Oh would like to
6 offer an amendment to one of the budget
7 bills. So in order to do that, we would
8 have to move into our public meeting.

9 Councilman Oh, are you ready?

10 COUNCILMAN OH: Yes, Council
11 President, I'm ready.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

13 Okay. So at this time we would like to
14 move from the public hearing into the
15 public meeting for the purposes of
16 Councilman Oh to offer an amendment with
17 no vote. We're now moving into our
18 public meeting.

19 Chair recognizes Councilman Oh.

20 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very
21 much, Council President. I'd like to
22 offer an amendment to Bill No. 220286.
23 The amendment has been circulated on
24 May 3rd. I am not asking for any action
25 at this time. And for clarification,

1 the amendment is to withhold \$10 million
2 from the \$100 million budgeted for SEPTA
3 in order to reimburse them and encourage
4 them to put that money into increasing
5 transit police salaries and hiring
6 transit police.

7 Thank you very much, Council
8 President.

9 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Second.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Let
11 the record reflect that the amendment
12 was offered with no vote. We will hear
13 that at the next Committee of the Whole
14 meeting with respect to the FY23 budget.

15 We will move from our public
16 meeting back into the public hearing.
17 Are there any other comments and
18 questions by members of this Committee?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
21 Hearing none --

22 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER:
23 Mr. President, this is Cherelle Parker.
24 If I may, sir?

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

1 Yeah, sure. The Chair recognizes Leader
2 Parker.

3 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank you
4 so very much, Council President Clarke.

5 I just wanted to note for the
6 record as I listened to both Rob Dubow
7 and AJ talk about assessments here in
8 the City of Philadelphia, I want us to
9 acknowledge that this is a citywide
10 challenge. And when we start talking
11 about this concept of equity,
12 Mr. President, Black and Brown people in
13 particular are getting screwed on both
14 sides of the coin.

15 I am reading right now in front
16 of me an article that talks about an
17 issue that we raised here relative to
18 appraisal bias and thanks to the
19 leadership, Mr. President, of Ira
20 Goldstein and all members of the
21 Appraisal Bias Task Force. I'm proud
22 that we're going to be releasing the
23 findings of our report that give
24 concrete recommendations on what the
25 City should do and how we should do it

1 to mitigate appraisal bias in our City.

2 But in that same article,

3 Mr. President, it talks about the

4 assessment bias and in areas like the

5 9th Councilmanic District and the 6th

6 Councilmanic District in particular when

7 we look at that map, although this is a

8 citywide issue, Mr. President, many of

9 these assessments are being inflated by

10 investors out of town buying houses that

11 become vacant because of reverse

12 mortgages and many other predatory

13 practices. And in some instances,

14 Mr. President, they are almost willing

15 to double the amount that they are

16 paying for these properties. So I just

17 wanted to get that on the record.

18 Councilmember Johnson has

19 introduced a comprehensive saving homes

20 legislative package of recommendations

21 for how we as a Council can work to

22 mitigate this impact on residents across

23 the City.

24 Councilman O'Neill has

25 introduced the proposed increase to the

1 Homestead to 90,000. And I just wanted
2 to get on the record, Mr. President,
3 that this is impacting Philadelphians
4 from all walks of life in neighborhoods
5 across the City.

6 Thank you, Mr. President. And
7 I apologize. It sounds much worse than
8 it is. It's not COVID. It's only
9 allergies and hay fever, but I usually
10 get this about two or three times a
11 year. So thank you for your patience,
12 Mr. President.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
14 Thank you, Councilwoman. I'm glad you
15 said that because I was going to get you
16 on that phone as soon as I hung up to
17 make sure you were okay. I'm glad to
18 hear that it's only allergies. Thank
19 you. Councilwoman, can you -- Leader,
20 can you make sure that we get that
21 report circulated so we can all have an
22 opportunity to review it when it's
23 available?

24 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Yes,
25 Mr. President.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

2 Thank you. We appreciate that.

3 So with there being no
4 additional questions or comments, this
5 Committee will stand in recess until
6 Wednesday, June 8th at 10:00 a.m, at
7 which time we will reconvene on
8 Microsoft Teams.

9 To the colleagues, we will be
10 having significant levels of
11 conversation. So hopefully at that
12 point in time on the 8th we'll be in a
13 position to start taking action on some
14 of the legislative items before us for
15 the FY23 budget. Thank you all very
16 much. Thank you witnesses for your
17 testimony. Thank you, colleagues. And
18 again, please be safe. Thank you very
19 much.

20 (Committee of the Whole
21 concluded at 12:23 p.m.)

22

23

24

25

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

I, hereby certify that the
proceedings and evidence noted are contained
fully and accurately in the stenographic notes
taken by me in the foregoing matter, and that
this is a correct transcript of the same.

TANEHA CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

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