

Committee on Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs
February 17, 2021

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON PARKS, RECREATION
AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Remote location using Microsoft® Teams
Wednesday, February 17, 2021
10:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS, CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN JAMIE GAUTHIER, VICE-CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN KENDRA BROOKS
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILWOMAN MARIA D. QUINONES-SANCHEZ
COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS

BILL: 200617

1 - - -

2 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good
3 morning. I understand that state law
4 currently requires that the following
5 announcement be made at the beginning of
6 every remote hearing as follows: Due to
7 the current public health emergency,
8 City Council Committees are currently
9 meeting remotely. We are using
10 Microsoft Teams to make these remote
11 hearings possible.

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

21 And, Clerk, will you please
22 call the roll to take attendance.
23 Members that are in attendance will
24 please indicate that you are present
25 when your name is called. And also,

1 please say a few brief words when
2 responding so that your image will be
3 displayed on screen when you speak.

4 Madam Clerk.

5 THE CLERK: Councilmember
6 Gauthier.

7 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Good
8 morning, Madam Chair. Good morning,
9 colleagues. Good morning, everyone.
10 Happy to be here today.

11 THE CLERK: Councilmember
12 Quinones-Sanchez.

13 (No response.)

14 THE CLERK: Councilmember
15 Johnson.

16 (No response.)

17 THE CLERK: Councilmember
18 Thomas.

19 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
20 morning. Present.

21 THE CLERK: Councilmember
22 Jones.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
24 morning, Madam Chair, Members and
25 viewing audience.

1 THE CLERK: Councilmember

2 Brooks.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Good
4 morning, Madam Chair. Good morning,
5 colleagues. Good morning, guests. Good
6 morning, Philadelphia.

7 THE CLERK: And, Chair Bass.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.

9 A quorum of the Committee is present and
10 this hearing is now called to order.

11 This is the public hearing of the
12 Committee on Parks, Recreation and
13 Cultural Affairs regarding Bill No.
14 200617.

15 Madam Clerk, will you please
16 read the title of the bill.

17 THE CLERK: Authorizing an
18 initial 10-year conversion of the
19 current term with up to 2 five-year
20 renewal terms for a lease agreement the
21 City has entered into with the First Tee
22 of Greater Philadelphia for operating,
23 managing and maintaining the John F.
24 Byrne Golf Course, all under certain
25 terms and conditions.

1 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.

2 Before we begin to hear testimony from
3 the witnesses we have for today,
4 everyone who has been invited to the
5 meeting to testify should be aware that
6 this public hearing is being recorded.
7 Because the hearing is public,
8 participants and viewers have no
9 reasonable expectation of privacy. By
10 continuing to be in the meeting, you are
11 consenting to being recorded.

12 Additionally, prior to
13 recognizing Members for the questions or
14 comments they have for witnesses, I will
15 note for the record at this time that we
16 will use the chat feature available in
17 Microsoft Teams to allow Members to
18 signify that they wish to be recognized.
19 In order to comply with the Sunshine
20 Act, the chat feature must only be used
21 for that purpose.

22 Madam Clerk, will you please
23 call the first panel of witnesses we
24 have to testify this morning.

25 THE CLERK: William Hyndman, V,

1 Executive Director of the First Tee of
2 Greater Philadelphia, followed by
3 Kathryn Ott Lovell, Commissioner of the
4 Department of Parks & Recreation.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good
6 morning, and please state your name for
7 the record and begin with your
8 testimony.

9 MR. HYNDMAN: Good morning.
10 William Hyndman from the First Tee of
11 Greater Philadelphia. And we're going
12 to start with a 60-second video.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.

14 (Video playing.)

15 MR. HYNDMAN: I'm not sure if
16 the volume is playing on that.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: It looks
18 like we have some technical
19 difficulties. Do you want to --

20 MR. HYNDMAN: Yeah, we had
21 tested it and it worked, but I'm going
22 to go ahead. And that was a video of
23 our students and their words speak
24 volumes, and they're much better
25 spokespeople than I am. That's why I

1 had a clip of them.

2 But I'm going to give a quick
3 background. The First Tee is a youth
4 development organization who serves
5 30,000 kids and aims to set each up for
6 success to deal with life's challenges.
7 55 percent of our students are diverse
8 and 40 percent are female. 100 percent
9 of our kids who complete our program
10 graduate high school.

11 We help at no cost over 38
12 schools in the Philadelphia School
13 District. First Tee is not a golf
14 organization or a golf course management
15 company. However, we use the lifelong
16 game of golf as the vehicle to
17 seamlessly teach kids essential life
18 skills and core values so they can
19 become the best versions of themselves.
20 Golf with the help of First Tee opens
21 many doors for our innercity kids,
22 skills, fun, personal development, jobs,
23 internships, scholarships, networking,
24 mentors, time off electronics, exercise
25 and a game to play with friends and

1 family for their entire lifetimes and
2 that list goes on.

3 First Tee runs two of the
4 City's golf courses. Because over 10
5 years ago, Walnut Lane had no management
6 company interested in bidding to run the
7 course because it was a perpetual
8 financial loser. First Tee ran programs
9 at Walnut Lane and stepped in so that
10 our kids were not abandoned. Similar to
11 John F. Byrne Golf Club, Walnut Lane had
12 been neglected, but First Tee stood to
13 make it a viable entity for our students
14 and public golfers.

15 With over \$1.2 million
16 investment and a little more to go,
17 Walnut Lane turned back into a community
18 asset, a stage for First Tee kids to
19 develop and a business which was not a
20 burden on our nonprofit organization.
21 When John Byrne Golf Club was on the
22 verge of closing permanently in 2019 and
23 at the suggestion of Parks & Recreation,
24 First Tee moved forward to bid to run
25 the course. Reluctant at first but

1 eager now, we are excited for the
2 future.

3 We see this as the perfect
4 partnership for the City of
5 Philadelphia. One less property to
6 manage, it is in good hands with a
7 caring steward. We have raised over
8 \$1.5 million to renovate the clubhouse,
9 make ADA accessible, add a student
10 classroom and repair the golf course.
11 In a little over a year with a small
12 \$200,000 investment and by employing
13 local Philadelphians who personally care
14 about the facility, there could not be
15 more positivity and excitement from
16 residents.

17 Lastly, golf has been
18 considered by many the sport of the
19 elite and well-to-do. First Tee
20 counters that notion because our golf
21 courses are for everybody and we sit
22 with welcoming arms. We charge low
23 rates, help aspiring golfers learn, are
24 friendly and are a model in diversity.
25 With discord across the country, one

1 thing our organization and supporters
2 are certain is that an investment in our
3 kids is one nobody disagrees with.

4 John Byrne gives First Tee
5 another springboard for our students to
6 fully develop their potential and the
7 opportunity also provides a place where
8 Philadelphia golfers and nongolfers can
9 enjoy the stunning natural beauty the
10 course offers. Thank you for
11 considering First Tee to have a long-
12 term lease to run the John F. Byrne Golf
13 Club.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.
15 Thank you for your testimony.

16 Commissioner. We're going to
17 hold questions until the end -- or I'm
18 sorry, Councilman Curtis Jones has a
19 question. I see your hand is raised,
20 and I know you have to drop off, so if
21 you have a question.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: (Muted).

23 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: You're on
24 mute. You're muted.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,

1 Madam Chair.

2 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Sure.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: I just want
4 to go on the record and say that what
5 the testimony you just heard is true.
6 Walnut Lane was on the verge of becoming
7 a 9-hole golf course as opposed to a
8 full golf course when they stepped in
9 and really breathed life back into that
10 course. It is an asset to the City, but
11 also to the immediate community in the
12 Roxborough area, where people get to
13 enjoy outdoor golfing.

14 Personally when I first got
15 elected, I didn't consider golf a sport.
16 People dressed too nice for that to be a
17 true sport. But I've quickly found out
18 that it was because I assaulted the
19 grass on that course, divots the size of
20 craters were created by me. But with a
21 little bit of tender loving instruction
22 by our Walnut Lane, I can actually hit a
23 golf ball a little better and I bought a
24 bunch of used clubs right out of the
25 center, and I enjoy the park more

1 because of that experience. So anyone,
2 any citizen that gets an opportunity to
3 experience that kind of exercise,
4 outdoor experience, it is an asset to
5 Parks & Rec and it is an asset to our
6 City.

7 And thank you for allowing me
8 to say what I had to say, Madam Chair.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.
10 Thank you for the validation of the
11 programs that we worked so hard to get
12 into the neighborhoods to make sure that
13 kids have access to. So I'm glad to see
14 that the program is here. And I'm glad
15 to see that your golf game is hopefully
16 going to get better, going to get
17 better.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: I didn't
19 promise that, Madam Chair. I just said
20 I can hit a ball now. Golf is more than
21 just hitting a ball.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: It sure is.
23 It sure is. Thank you, Councilman.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I think

1 we're going to try to have the video
2 now. So, Lonnie, if you want to tee
3 that up.

4 COUNCIL TECH SUPPORT: Okay.
5 Can you see a screen?

6 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Yes.
7 (Video playing.)

8 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: It looks
9 like we still don't have the sound.

10 COUNCIL TECH SUPPORT: Still
11 don't have a sound?

12 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: There it
13 is.

14 (Video playing without
15 sound.)

16 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Lonnie.

17 MR. HYNDMAN: Lonnie, I think
18 we gave it a good try, but it just
19 didn't work out.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I don't
21 know if it's something that could be
22 sent around individually to Members, but
23 that would be great if we can get it out
24 to the Committee, get the video out so
25 they can take a look at it individually.

1 MR. HYNDMAN: We can do that.

2 It's just a YouTube 60-second video.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Oh, great.

4 Fantastic. Thank you very much.

5 Commissioner, would you like to
6 state your name for the record and
7 proceed with your testimony.

8 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Thank
9 you. Good morning, Chairperson Bass and
10 members of the Committee on Parks,
11 Recreation and Cultural Affairs. My
12 name is Kathryn Ott Lovell. I'm the
13 Commissioner for Philadelphia Parks &
14 Recreation. And I'm here to testify in
15 support of Bill No. 200617, an ordinance
16 authorizing a 10-year conversion of the
17 current term with up to 2 five-year
18 renewal terms of a lease agreement the
19 City entered into with the First Tee of
20 Greater Philadelphia for the John F.
21 Byrne Golf Course at 9550 Leon Street.

22 First Tee of Greater
23 Philadelphia was the successful bidder
24 on a September 6, 2019 request for
25 proposals for the operation, management

1 and maintenance of the John F. Byrne
2 Golf Course. The City acting through
3 the Department of Parks & Recreation
4 entered into a one-year lease with up to
5 3 one-year renewal terms on August 14,
6 2020.

7 In order to capitalize and
8 secure \$600,000 in initial capital
9 improvements to the golf course, First
10 Tee has requested a conversion of the
11 lease as provided for in the RFP to the
12 longer term 10 years with up to 2
13 five-year renewals. This long-term
14 lease will allow First Tee to
15 expeditiously proceed with the initial
16 planned capital improvements to the
17 course, including ADA upgrades, sand
18 trap rebuilds, equipment purchases,
19 course irrigation installation and cart
20 path repairs.

21 First Tee has already made
22 significant clubhouse, roof and window
23 repairs as well as course bridge
24 renovations. First Tee estimates that
25 their total capital spending over the

1 next three to four years could exceed
2 \$1.5 million to \$2 million, and is
3 aggressively raising the necessary
4 funding. The operating in capital
5 outlay by First Tee will ensure adequate
6 upkeep of a valued municipal golf course
7 that was in serious need of upgrade and
8 renewed onsite management.

9 First Tee's exemplary track
10 record over the past 11 years managing
11 Walnut Lane Golf Course is a true
12 example of the commitment fund-raising
13 capability and community service that
14 First Tee brings to this management
15 model. In First Tee's initial year of
16 2020, during the pandemic it increased
17 the previous year's golf rounds played
18 from 10,000 to over 26,000 rounds. In
19 addition, First Tee held robust league
20 play and perhaps most importantly, 2,000
21 children played golf at Byrne at no cost
22 whatsoever to their families.

23 First Tee teaches life skills
24 by teaching golf throughout the City
25 regardless of their background, their

1 ability or their past experience. All
2 that First Tee requires is that a child
3 has a desire or interest to learn and
4 play golf. As Bill Hyndman stated, 55
5 percent of all First Tee students come
6 from an ethnically diverse background
7 and 40 percent are female. First Tee's
8 commitment as a nonprofit organization
9 to the City's children and its ability
10 to fundraise is a combination that will
11 ensure the long-term success of the
12 Byrne Golf Course.

13 First Tee has proven at Walnut
14 Lane Golf Course that it can take over
15 management of a municipal golf course
16 and make that course work for all
17 parties involved, the City, the
18 neighborhood, the children, visitors and
19 staff, all at no direct cost to
20 taxpayers.

21 Parks & Rec respectfully for
22 the opportunity to permit First Tee to
23 extend its already successful track
24 record at Byrne over the next 10 years.
25 For that reason, we support this

1 legislation and I respectfully request
2 this Committee to approve Bill No.
3 200617. I'm also requesting a
4 suspension of the rules so as to allow
5 for the first reading at the next
6 session of Council. Thank you, and
7 we'll be glad to answer any additional
8 questions you may have.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you
10 both for your testimony.

11 Quick question, can you speak
12 to diversity in terms of the number of
13 children that are served? What is the
14 diversity among the youth that are
15 served by First Tee and also among
16 instruction? I know that they don't
17 really do a brick-and-mortar operation
18 or maintenance or anything like that for
19 the fields, but can you talk about maybe
20 the instructional staff and what that
21 looks like for First Tee?

22 MR. HYNDMAN: Yes, Councilwoman
23 Bass. Our First Tee instructional
24 staff, we have 30 part-time and full-
25 time paid coaches. Approximately 50

1 percent of that staff is
2 African-American. I will also note that
3 40 percent are female, and we have some
4 former students that are part of our
5 instructional staff.

6 We think it's very important
7 for our staff to mirror our target
8 population. We are working on
9 increasing -- let me just go over
10 participant numbers. Of the diverse
11 students, 70 percent are
12 African-American; 20 percent are
13 Hispanic and we're working to add
14 programs at other facilities like
15 Juniata where there's a Hispanic
16 population, and that's also important
17 for us in our schools, in the 38 schools
18 that we're affiliated with.

19 We have our programs either in
20 that school, part of the middle schools'
21 golf team or high schools' golf team.
22 We're part of some gym classes. And for
23 any of the Councilpeople on this call,
24 we're always available to expand our
25 programs into schools that may be in

1 your District. And then what we do
2 after the introduction of those programs
3 that's part of a gym class, some of
4 those schools will participate at field
5 trips to the golf courses.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. Very
7 good. Very good. It sounds like it's
8 quite diverse, and really that the young
9 people who are in First Tee can see a
10 connection between themselves and the
11 instructors, which I think is very
12 important.

13 MR. HYNDMAN: Yes.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So thank
15 you. Thank you.

16 Councilwoman Brooks. Chair
17 recognizes Councilwoman Brooks for a
18 question, followed by Councilwoman Jamie
19 Gauthier.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Thank
21 you, Madam Chair.

22 I have a question about the
23 First Tee employees. I'm glad that you
24 gave us the demographics, but do they
25 live in Philadelphia? I think you said

1 the percentage, 30 full-time and part-
2 time coaches, are they Philadelphia
3 residents?

4 MR. HYNDMAN: I don't have the
5 specific number. Probably 60 percent of
6 our coaching staff live in Philadelphia.
7 Our organization, our reach is Greater
8 Philadelphia, so we also have programs
9 in Camden and the surrounding suburbs of
10 Philadelphia. But we've got -- I'll
11 tell you what, if you go to our website,
12 you can look at our coaches. We have a
13 former NFL football player. He coaches
14 in Camden for us.

15 We have a former Major League
16 baseball player. We have a Philadelphia
17 police officer. We've got multiple
18 Philadelphia school teachers. We have
19 financial advisors. It's really a great
20 group of coaches that serve as mentors
21 for our kids. And it's been a drive of
22 ours to just continue to find coaches
23 specifically with diverse backgrounds
24 because that's what the majority of our
25 population is that we're serving.

1 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: I'm
2 really excited to hear that. My
3 Undergrad degree is in Therapeutic
4 Recreation.

5 Kathryn, we've had extensive
6 conversation about my love for sports
7 and recreation, even though I don't play
8 as many sports as I would like to.

9 But working in that field, my
10 next question is related to wages. Do
11 you know what the lowest-paid employees
12 make at your organization? What's the
13 tier?

14 MR. HYNDMAN: The lowest wage,
15 some of our coaches that are in high
16 school which start out at \$10 an hour,
17 most of the coaches or all coaches once
18 they complete what we call Level 1
19 training go to \$15 an hour. And then
20 the wages go up to \$50 an hour.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: That's
22 good. I'm glad to hear that.

23 MR. HYNDMAN: And one of the
24 things that we're working on too because
25 it's been a great development of our

1 program staff who has hired some of our
2 students, and some of our students have
3 become coaches that are high schoolers,
4 we're starting some financial literacy
5 classes. So we're going to offer those
6 to our students who we're also helping
7 get jobs. Some of the kids graduate
8 from Caddie Academy and then we help
9 them get jobs at local golf courses.
10 The kids that are working for us, we're
11 working on the financial literacy
12 classes that we are also going to offer
13 to our parents.

14 And one of the new things with
15 the pandemic, one of the silver linings
16 is when we were trying to do meetings
17 and put a lot of effort into having a
18 meeting and ask for parents and kids to
19 come out at night, you have very low
20 attendance. And now it's Zoom or
21 Microsoft Teams, we can reach a lot of
22 our students and parents and get a lot
23 of participation. So I think the
24 financial literacy and other educational
25 aspects will be very successful for us.

1 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: That's
2 really good to hear. I'm excited to
3 hear about that. And my final question
4 is how do you partner with schools? Do
5 you seek out partnership or do the
6 schools reach out to you directly? And
7 if they reach out to you directly, I
8 would like a little bit more information
9 about that. And I would definitely come
10 do a tour of the course, because I drive
11 past there all the time and I always
12 wondered what it looked like on the
13 other side of the gate.

14 MR. HYNDMAN: Yeah. You
15 certainly need to see it on the other
16 side of the fence. And I would
17 encourage you, you would have to come to
18 see a class, come see the kids. And I
19 want to reiterate, we are not a golf
20 organization. We are a youth
21 development organization, so we are
22 teaching kids essential life skills and
23 it's amazing how they learn many of
24 these life skills seamlessly. They have
25 no idea that they're working on their

1 interpersonal skills or their game,
2 their confidence and they're speaking in
3 front of the class and telling something
4 about their partner. And from an early
5 age of 5, they are developing great
6 skills. And I forget your question, the
7 main question.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: How do
9 you partner with schools and do the
10 schools need to proactively reach out to
11 you?

12 MR. HYNDMAN: So it's really a
13 combination. A lot of times it's word
14 of mouth. Sometimes it's a student
15 that's in a program. They introduce us
16 to their school. We have grants
17 available so we won't charge any school
18 for a program. We have a specific
19 program for elementary schools. We're a
20 part of their gym class, and actually it
21 goes up to middle schools where there's
22 plastic golf clubs and tennis balls.
23 It's a lot of fun, but we incorporate
24 learning about our core values like
25 judgment you talked about, using

1 judgment in your daily life. And then
2 you're using judgment in how you hit a
3 golf shot and that's how we correlate
4 golf.

5 And the key is with the kids to
6 have fun so they get hooked on golf.
7 And then when they become teenagers,
8 they will want to continue
9 participation. So it's word of mouth.
10 But what's most important is there's an
11 advocate at the school. And I think
12 there's a misconception about golf. And
13 so, people aren't interested in it.
14 They think it's too expensive.

15 Our two golf courses in
16 Philadelphia are extremely affordable.
17 For kids, they're free. People that
18 have trouble paying for clubs, a lot of
19 times we'll give them clubs. So we are
20 working on that accessible aspect and we
21 just want to be able to spread the word
22 so that our kids that see it in a gym
23 class can come and participate at the
24 golf course.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Thank you

1 so much.

2 MR. HYNDMAN: Thank you.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
4 Councilwoman.

5 Chair recognizes Councilwoman
6 Gauthier.

7 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
8 you, Madam Chair.

9 Good morning to the panel. I
10 love the work that First Tee is doing,
11 and it seems like you have a great
12 partnership with the City. I was
13 looking at some of the EOP goals for the
14 contract around capital improvements,
15 operations and maintenance and
16 concessions. And I just wanted to hear
17 you talk more about those goals and how
18 they were decided or agreed upon.

19 MR. HYNDMAN: Well, First Tee
20 will make every effort that we can to
21 reach the Minority Business and Women
22 Business Enterprise goals that are in
23 our contracts. And one of the things
24 that we will do because the majority of
25 our capital spend will occur hopefully

1 in this near future where we'll spend
2 well over \$1 million, we're going to be
3 posting notifications within our
4 clubhouse for all of our golfers to see
5 that may have an MBE or WBE business to
6 help with some of the needs that we're
7 going to have at our two golf courses
8 going forward. But they're important to
9 us.

10 And we realize it's so
11 important to be all about community, and
12 that's why at John Byrne, 95 percent of
13 the employees live in Philadelphia. 95
14 percent of them live within three miles
15 of our golf course. And so, if we can
16 do business with local community
17 members, it just ends up being just such
18 a great partnership.

19 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: And can
20 Parks & Rec speak to how the goals in
21 the contract were decided upon?

22 COMMISSIONER OTT LOVELL: Sure.
23 Hi, Councilwoman. So the Office of
24 Economic Opportunity, OEO, helps to set
25 those goals for us. So my understanding

1 is that they do a scan of sort of the
2 potential vendors and opportunities that
3 may exist after talking to us and First
4 Tee about their operations and
5 understanding where their spends will
6 be. They then do a scan to help
7 determine the feasibility of working
8 with the potential MBE and WBE vendors
9 and then set the ranges based on that,
10 so they help set the ranges and then
11 ultimately improve them as well.

12 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
13 you. I don't have any more questions.

14 THE CLERK: Hi. This is
15 Sabrina. Councilwoman's trying to get
16 back on.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I'm back.
18 Please accept my apologies. All the fun
19 of virtual hearings.

20 Councilwoman Gauthier, I do
21 apologize. I missed your question.
22 Were you done? Were you complete? Did
23 you have additional questions?

24 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: I'm
25 done. Thank you so much.

1 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: You're very
2 welcome.

3 Was there anyone else to
4 testify here today?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So there
7 was no one else to testify. Any
8 additional questions from members of
9 Council?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.
12 Seeing that there are none, this is
13 going to conclude the hearing and we're
14 going to go into the public meeting at
15 this point. There being no further
16 questions from members of the Committee
17 and no other witnesses to testify. And
18 I ask if there's anyone else present in
19 this hearing whose name we failed to
20 call and that wishes to offer their
21 testimony, please feel free to speak at
22 this point.

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And hearing
25 none, I want to thank all the panels and

1 witnesses for their participation today
2 and we value your opinions. I now
3 invite all panels and witnesses to
4 please disconnect from the meeting
5 before we go into our public meeting.

6 We will now pause the
7 proceedings briefly as multiple
8 participants leave the hearing.

9 (Brief recess.)

10 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So the
11 witnesses, we ask you to disconnect from
12 the hearing. Thank you.

13 This concludes the hearing of
14 the Committee on Parks and Recreation.
15 We will now go into a public meeting to
16 consider the action to be taken on the
17 bill before this Committee today.

18 Madam Clerk, can you please
19 call the roll to establish a quorum.

20 THE CLERK: Councilmember
21 Gauthier.

22 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
23 Present.

24 THE CLERK: Councilmember
25 Quinones-Sanchez.

1 (No response.)

2 THE CLERK: Councilmember
3 Johnson.

4 (No response.)

5 THE CLERK: Councilmember
6 Thomas. Councilmember Thomas

7 (No response.)

8 THE CLERK: Councilmember
9 Jones.

10 (No response.)

11 THE CLERK: Councilmember
12 Brooks.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Present.

14 THE CLERK: Chair Bass, I
15 believe we need one more Councilmember.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Yes, we
17 need one more Member. So we're going to
18 pause for just a moment while we get one
19 more Member for our quorum.

20 I do see that Councilmember
21 Thomas was on the line, so I'm not sure
22 if he's having technical difficulties.
23 But we will pause the proceedings until
24 we get a quorum.

25 Madam Clerk, if you could reach

1 out to the members of the Committee who
2 are not on and let's try to get them on.

3 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: I can
4 give him a quick call.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.
6 Thank you.

7 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
8 Councilmember Thomas is going to jump
9 back on.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.

11 (Brief recess.)

12 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.
13 We're still waiting for a quorum.

14 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: I think
15 Councilmember Thomas is here now.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:
17 Councilmember Thomas, are you here?

18 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: I'm
19 present. I apologize.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. Very
21 good.

22 Madam Clerk, can we go through
23 the roll call one more time just to
24 establish a quorum.

25 THE CLERK: Yes.

1 Councilmember Gauthier.

2 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

3 Present.

4 THE CLERK: Councilmember
5 Quinones-Sanchez.

6 (No response.)

7 THE CLERK: Councilmember
8 Johnson.

9 (No response.)

10 THE CLERK: Councilmember
11 Thomas. Councilmember Thomas.

12 (No response.)

13 THE CLERK: Councilmember
14 Jones.

15 (No response.)

16 THE CLERK: Councilmember
17 Brooks.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Here.

19 THE CLERK: Chair Bass.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I'm here.

21 So Councilmember Thomas. Hold on. Let
22 me see if we can get him again,
23 Councilwoman Gauthier.

24 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: He has
25 technological issues. He's getting on,

1 on a different device.

2 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay. Very
3 good. We'll wait. Just let us know
4 when he logs on. If you can just let us
5 know when he logs back on.

6 (Brief recess.)

7 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: I'm sorry.
8 Can you hear me?

9 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: We can hear
10 you now. You know what, we're going to
11 give it one quick second and
12 Councilwoman Sanchez is also getting on.

13 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: I
14 apologize.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: No, no.
16 It's happening today. It's one of those
17 days. And Councilwoman Sanchez is also
18 joining us, so we'll give her a quick
19 second --

20 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
21 My apologies, Madam Chair. I'm here.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Not a
23 problem. Madam Clerk, can you go
24 through a roll call again so we can
25 establish quorum.

1 THE CLERK: Councilmember

2 Gauthier.

3 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

4 Present.

5 THE CLERK: Councilmember

6 Quinones-Sanchez.

7 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

8 Present.

9 THE CLERK: Councilmember

10 Johnson.

11 (No response.)

12 THE CLERK: Councilmember

13 Thomas.

14 THE CLERK: Present. Sorry.

15 Present.

16 THE CLERK: Councilmember

17 Jones.

18 (No response.)

19 THE CLERK: Councilmember

20 Brooks.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Present.

22 THE CLERK: And, Chair Bass.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Present.

24 Very good. Okay. We have established a

25 quorum.

1 And the Chair recognizes
2 Councilwoman Gauthier for a motion on
3 Bill No. 200617.

4 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
5 you, Madam Chair.

6 I move that Bill No. 200617 be
7 reported from this Committee with a
8 favorable recommendation and further
9 move that the rules of Council be
10 suspended to permit the first reading of
11 this bill at our next session of
12 Council.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Can I get a
14 second?

15 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
16 Second.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: For the
18 record, Councilwoman Quinones-Sanchez
19 offered the second. It has been moved
20 and properly seconded that Bill No.
21 200617 be reported from this Committee
22 with a favorable recommendation and
23 further move that the rules of Council
24 be suspended to permit first reading of
25 this bill at the next session of

1 Council.

2 All those in favor of this
3 motion will signify by saying aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Anyone
6 opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: The ayes
9 have it, and the motion carries.

10 This concludes the business
11 before the Committee on Parks,
12 Recreation and Cultural Affairs. We
13 want to thank everyone for attending and
14 we appreciate your support and service.
15 Thank you very much. Have a great day.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Thank
17 you, everyone. Have a great day.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.
19 You too.

20 (Committee on Parks, Recreation
21 and Cultural Affairs concluded at
22 10:40 a.m.)

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 this is a correct transcript of the
same.

TANEHA C. CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

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

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