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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3

CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING

4

COMMITTEES ON FINANCE AND TRANSPORTATION

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Room 696, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Friday, May 16, 2003
10:00 a.m.

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RESOLUTION NO. 020607 - Resolution authorizing the
City Council Committees on Finance and
Transportation to hold hearings to examine
S.E.P.T.A.'S Market Street Elevated
Reconstruction Project in West
Philadelphia, its fiscal impact on local
businesses, and its overall effect on the
community and the City at large.

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16 PRESENT:

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COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL, Chair
COUNCILMAN MICHAEL A. NUTTER

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2 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Good
3 morning. Thank you all for your patience.

4 This is a continuation of a hearing
5 with regard to a resolution introduced with regard
6 to S.E.P.T.A., the problems that we've had with
7 regard to the construction project that goes from
8 46th to 63rd Street, how it affects the businesses
9 in particular and the community in general.

10 We'll ask the Clerk to read the
11 Resolution.

12 THE CLERK: Resolution Number
13 020607. Resolution authorizing the City Council
14 committees on finance and transportation to hold
15 hearings to examine S.E.P.T.A.'s market street
16 elevated reconstruction project in west
17 Philadelphia. It's fiscal impact on local
18 businesses and it's overall effect on the
19 community and the City at large.

20 THE COURT: Thank you very much. We
21 note that we have the General Manager, Faye L.
22 Moore, here; and we're very happy to welcome her
23 this morning. Always happy to have Frances Jones
24 and always happy to have other representatives
25 from S.E.P.T.A.

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2 Before we begin the discussion of
3 the questions we listed at the end of our program
4 and ask Miss Moore to come forward, is there
5 anyone here from the community who did not get to
6 speak last week and who would like to do so?

7 Please come forward. Is there
8 anyone else? We will permit that testimony, and
9 then we will go directly into the questions and
10 the response part of our hearing, as we said we
11 would last time.

12 Thank you, Mr. Traylor. We see you
13 are here as well. Francis Jones. Thank you for
14 all other members.

15 So please come forward, take the
16 witness seat, identify yourself for the record.
17 There are three of you. And then we will go into
18 our question and answer part.

19 Good morning. Please identify
20 yourself to the record and begin your testimony.

21 MS. CLOUDEN: Good morning.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Good
23 morning.

24 MS. CLOUDEN: I'm going to let my
25 husband go first.

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2 MR. CLOUDEN: Good morning. My name
3 is Horace Clouden.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Would you
5 spell your last name for us.

6 MR. CLOUDEN: C-l-o-u-d-e-n.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.

8 MR. CLOUDEN: I was involved in the
9 project I guess since it began in '98. I was one
10 of the residents that resides within the Zip Codes
11 that they were asking anybody that sought
12 employment on the...

13 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I'm sorry.
14 Please continue.

15 MR. CLOUDEN: ...that sought
16 employment on that project. I attended the
17 meetings from 1998 to 2000 until I realized that I
18 needed to be a union card-carrying member.

19 At that time I had stressed that --
20 I had stressed to the people in charge that, you
21 know, you had wasted my time for two years, coming
22 back and forth attending meetings and not even
23 knowing that I had to become a union member.

24 My question to S.E.P.T.A., since
25 they took my name, address, and Social Security

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2 Number, how much money did they make off of my
3 information?

4 Because I was attending the
5 meetings; I was attending the workshops; they were
6 introducing us to people that seemed to want us to
7 sign up in training programs which had nothing to
8 do with the project.

9 At one time from, I guess, 2000 to
10 2003, I was contacted off and on about we might
11 have a training program and we might offer you a
12 stipend to come, so they kept me on the list, on
13 the mailing list, to find out later on at a
14 meeting that there was two different types of
15 programs.

16 One was just strictly an academic
17 program, getting us ready to take a union test;
18 and the other one was a program where it was a
19 20-week program which trained you to do four
20 different types of trades.

21 My background is that I have
22 knowledge of plumbing, electrical, heating and air
23 conditioning, and carpentry. And I was wondering
24 why couldn't I just test out in these programs
25 instead of wasting 20 weeks of my time coming out,

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2 of my pocket, going -- you know, spending money
3 out of my pocket, going to locations where I can
4 just -- I feel can just test out.

5 Now, back in 2002 I took a test to
6 get into one of the unions, one of the trade
7 unions. And I'd just like to let the public know:
8 It's nothing more than just a high school
9 equivalency test. There's no major math that you
10 have to know to pass that test.

11 I mean, if you just sat down and
12 took it, you wouldn't believe how easy it is to
13 take a union test. But like all tests you take,
14 there's a certain portion that they always stack
15 against you; and of course, this test had a
16 section in it that they did stack the odds, where
17 the questions that they seek for a particular part
18 of it, there's no way that you could come up with
19 an answer.

20 So, again, since I attended the
21 hearing last week, and I heard S.E.P.T.A. say that
22 they had a number of 540 applicants, and 190 were
23 card-carrying members, I am not of that number
24 that was a card-carrying member. And I was just
25 strung along to the point where -- And I'm talking

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2 years out of my life. I was 42 when this project
3 started. And now --

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: So are you
5 licensed in any of those fields?

6 MR. CLOUDEN: No, I'm not because of
7 the way -- I could -- I could have been if the
8 people that they contracted -- that contacted us
9 in the beginning knew what they were doing. And I
10 think that was --

11 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Well, I
12 think that -- I think we'll respond, but in order
13 to be hired on these jobs, you still have to be
14 licensed in your respective fields.

15 And I think that what we wanted --
16 What I wanted to do is deal with hiring as a whole
17 separate issue. And I'm even prepared to continue
18 this hearing, if we have to, to deal with all of
19 the M.B.E. or minority business enterprise,
20 D.B.E., disadvantaged businesses and W.B.E. for
21 women, to deal with the whole issue of minority
22 participation.

23 But that much, that much is around
24 the City. You've got to be licensed in order to
25 be hired on these jobs. That much I know.

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2 So, I mean, maybe if you took the
3 test, if you applied to get your license, if you
4 did classes that would take you there, you know...
5 But for the jobs around the City, they ask you to
6 be licensed.

7 And that's an issue that we have to
8 deal with, and one... For example, in Mantua we
9 were doing a Lucien Blackwell Mantua
10 revitalization project. We just did a job
11 training program.

12 So you have to find one way or
13 another to get the license, whether it be a
14 so-many week training program or whether you take
15 the test. But those are just in anything, you
16 know. You've got to get your license.

17 MR. CLOUDEN: I understand what
18 you're saying, but they did not come to us saying
19 we had to be licensed. And for two years,
20 starting in 1998, they just needed numbers to
21 appear at these different sites to have seminars
22 or workshops in that event.

23 I mean, I understand exactly what
24 you're saying. But for those people that are in
25 charge, they should have known that and just come

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2 right out front and said: Hey, if you don't have
3 a license, you have to obtain a license and come
4 back.

5 I would have respected that and went
6 on, you know. And even to the point where I've
7 been to school and became certified and have
8 different licenses in different things; and even
9 to the point of trying to get a job for the City
10 on an entry level, I mean, what more can we do
11 when they just say to you you need experience.

12 But here, you done spent two, three,
13 four years of your life in a school, paying
14 thousands of dollars for a entry level job; and
15 the only thing they have to say is, you need
16 experience. I mean, it's all not fair. But
17 that's just like -- that's how I'd like to end it
18 because...

19 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
20 Mr. Clouden.

21 And I'd also like to note that
22 Councilman Goode, who's head of Transportation --
23 As all of you know, this is a joint
24 Finance/Transportation Committee hearing. He is
25 not present but certainly is represented in the

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2 person of Solomon Jones, who is his person; and
3 we're glad to have him.

4 Thank you, Mr. Clouden.

5 MS. CLOUDEN: Good morning.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Good
7 morning.

8 MS. CLOUDEN: My name is Gail
9 Clouden.

10 What my husband didn't say -- and
11 I'm going to piggyback on him. He didn't say he
12 retired from the phone company at 40 years old.
13 That's what he didn't say to you.

14 So when he talks about wasting his
15 years, he truly means that, especially when we
16 heard, I think at the last meeting, people are
17 talking about four more years.

18 My husband didn't need the job, need
19 the job like some people do. And that's why I
20 needed to say the things that I'm going to say
21 today.

22 I have a business at 4601 Market
23 Street, and I live on 53rd Street, and I shop on
24 61st Street.

25 I have the opportunity to witness

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2 the separate and unequal practices of S.E.P.T.A.
3 firsthand.

4 Before I go into what I wrote there,
5 I need to say the S.E.P.T.A. project has reminded
6 me of South Africa, the vision that I've had for
7 years of South Africa.

8 We are not slaves. This is not the
9 1700s, this is not the 1800s, 1955, or 1962. We
10 are not begging, and we shouldn't have to boycott
11 S.E.P.T.A.

12 You have interrupted our lives, you
13 have interrupted the community on a daily basis,
14 and then you go home. You continue to give jobs
15 to white companies, to whites so that their
16 quality of life improves, and you seem to believe
17 that that's okay, that it's okay to do that, that
18 we should be satisfied with nothing or the few
19 little pieces that we get.

20 You feel that it's okay to treat us
21 as second class citizens, and that's not okay. It
22 is not enough for a few of us to get while others
23 don't, to keep others in line or somehow make them
24 feel they should be grateful.

25 As I said, I have the opportunity,

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2 and I'll say it again, to witness the separate and
3 unequal practices.

4 My husband and I take young people
5 from here to Alabama to revisit the past. And
6 darn if it doesn't feel like the past in
7 Philadelphia in the year 2003. And it hurts me to
8 sit here and have to say that.

9 We just took children on a black
10 college tour where we continue to tell children:
11 You can be anything you want to be. And there's a
12 part of us that hurts because we know it's not
13 true.

14 VOICE IN THE AUDIENCE: Take your
15 time.

16 MS. CLOUDEN: The first time -- The
17 first meeting that I attended was with my husband
18 about four years ago at 63rd and Walnut Street,
19 where I was proud to see African Americans that
20 appeared to be in positions of power, S.E.P.T.A.
21 people representing our community, I thought.

22 I didn't question anything. I just
23 listened. I attended several other meetings over
24 the past four years. And at each one, there were
25 people from my community voicing concerns. And I

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2 just listened.

3 I listened to female African
4 American S.E.P.T.A. employees that seemed to have
5 very good jobs with power positions that I'm sure
6 make good salaries telling African American men,
7 sometimes in what I felt was the most insulting
8 ways how unqualified they were, without ever using
9 those words.

10 They talked about how our men
11 couldn't -- how the men in our community couldn't
12 pass urine tests, how they didn't have driver's
13 license, how they couldn't -- one of the last
14 meetings -- read a ruler, while the men attending
15 just asking for an opportunity, sometimes an
16 opportunity to bid, didn't seem to lack any of
17 those things that had been mentioned, nor did they
18 have any problems that they spoke of. It seem
19 that had no one cared. S.E.P.T.A. sisters, all of
20 our men don't have drinking and drug problems.

21 I continued to attend. Some morning
22 workshops were given. I attended one at 3801
23 Market, First District Plaza, where I heard more
24 complaints from a different group in my community.
25 And now there was a different set of African

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2 Americans hosting. I continued to listen.

3 There was still no real help for my
4 community. Sometimes my husband and I would
5 receive three, four, and five notices and other
6 times none. We would see a flyer at 4601 Market
7 that had been placed there that day, the day of
8 the event, or the day before the scheduled event.
9 Sometimes a pile of flyers after the event would
10 be placed there.

11 I have very serious concerns about
12 the S.E.P.T.A. project, because I think a grave
13 disservice is being done to my community.

14 I listened as a group of people,
15 acting as what I would consider gatekeepers, from
16 S.E.P.T.A. as they took the opportunity to stand
17 in front of people from my community at Kirkbride.

18 I believe at that gathering it may
19 have been 200 to 300 angry, annoyed, and curious
20 residents, businesses owners, and potential
21 employees, and of course security.

22 Many came and listened and voiced
23 their concerns, only to be told by S.E.P.T.A.
24 gatekeepers. Now the group had widened. It was a
25 Hispanic, it was an African American male, it was

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2 a Caucasian female that had S.E.P.T.A. contracts.

3 They were talking about what they
4 had done and that they were willing to offer
5 training. There was one man that my husband spoke
6 to and my husband could test out.

7 My husband was offered to be in a
8 graduation ceremony, as if he had been through the
9 training program. I'll go back to that night
10 again.

11 After everyone was introduced at
12 that evening event at Kirkbride, we were informed
13 that we could not ask questions until the end.
14 There was one man that kept trying to speak or ask
15 questions, and he was told that they would take
16 questions later. I don't know if he laughed or
17 was asked to leave. I don't know because we were
18 separated.

19 People were asked to go to different
20 rooms based on concerns. Again, I say, separate
21 and still unequal. We never really got to listen
22 to other people's issues and concerns, even though
23 they all affect us.

24 I have listened patiently to
25 opportunists, to road blockers, to gatekeepers and

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2 neutralizers for four years. And the last I heard
3 the project may go four more years and possibly
4 more. I've listened enough to know that I need to
5 say something, and that I'm qualified now, after
6 listening.

7 To the Caucasian S.E.P.T.A.

8 administrators: You can't continue business as
9 usual by using the poor and the uneducated and
10 putting the educated against the uneducated.

11 You can't continue by putting our
12 men against our women, by putting our community
13 against one another blocks by blocks or groups by
14 groups. You can't continue by giving a few
15 businesses resources while others go under. It's
16 wrong. It can't continue because it's wrong.

17 To my sisters and brothers,
18 S.E.P.T.A. employees, business owners that have
19 received a contract, I ask you if it's worth it
20 to lie, to lie at night after night, sleepless,
21 and wondering what lie, what half truth or untruth
22 you will tell today or this week.

23 Is it enough to get and not share?
24 Is it enough not to care to do your best for your
25 community?

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2 To all of you, I say, to refurbish
3 the el is not a bad thing, but to do it at the
4 expense, the ill health, the detriment of my
5 community is wrong.

6 To refurbish the el system so that
7 white riders moving back to our City and riding
8 through our City will feel safe and secure is not
9 right. To make them feel better at my community's
10 expense is just plain wrong, and I say don't do
11 it.

12 No one has talked about the electric
13 poles outside of businesses and people's homes on
14 Market Street. They're about three feet from
15 their windows and doors.

16 No one has spoken about health
17 issues that may come from toxins or the poles or
18 the electrical surges. I say you can't
19 holistically destroy my community. It's wrong.
20 It's wrong. And if you take part in that, then
21 you're wrong as well.

22 Some of my sisters and brothers that
23 are working for S.E.P.T.A., you owe us. You owe
24 our ancestors. You owe those that have walked
25 before you to stand up and do what's right and

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2 stop lying because it's the right thing to do.
3 And I thank you.
4 (Applause.)
5 MS. CLOUDEN: Thank you.
6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
7 Miss Clouden. Thank you. Good morning.
8 Please identify yourself for the
9 record. Thank you.
10 MR. JOHNSON: Good morning. My name
11 is Jimmy Johnson. I live in the 5400 --
12 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: What's your
13 name, again?
14 MR. JOHNSON: Jimmy L. Johnson.
15 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Okay.
16 MR. JOHNSON: And I live in the 5400
17 block of Market Street. My wife has a steak shop.
18 I have a landscaping business.
19 What's going on over there is,
20 S.E.P.T.A. has all of Market Street torn up. Now
21 there's nowhere to park. And then you have the
22 Parking Authority coming through and they're
23 writing tickets. This is mainly my beef. They're
24 writing tickets up. And they're riding around in
25 trucks.

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2 Last year it was straightened out.
3 This year they have started back doing it again.
4 And that's the biggest problem in that block.
5 There's nowhere to park unless you going to put
6 them up on top of the el.

7 And I have a ticket, and she has a
8 ticket.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I
10 believe --

11 MR. JOHNSON: There's nowhere to
12 park.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I believe
14 we have somebody from the Parking Authority.
15 Mr. Dixon. We met with him in this regard, and
16 we're going to -- That's one of the questions that
17 we talked about, to which we will respond, so
18 Mr. Johnson, if you'll wait around, we'll try to
19 deal with that before you leave.

20 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thanks.

22 MS. MIXON: Basically, that was my
23 same concern. I've been there roughly about eight
24 months, and nobody's ever come by to clean the
25 street. And the other day I received a violation

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2 for having my car parked in front of my door.
3 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Okay. Tell
4 me your name, please.
5 MS. MIXON: Lyncie Mixon. Lyncie is
6 L-y-n-i-c. Mixon: M as in Mary, i-x-o-n.
7 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Okay. If
8 you will wait as well --
9 MS. MIXON: Sure.
10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: -- we will
11 try to deal with these issues before we leave out
12 of this Chamber this morning.
13 MS. MIXON: Thank you.
14 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.
15 Mr. Jerry Jordan, Debra McGregor.
16 And Reverend Barnes, let me ask you: Would you
17 like to testify or would you like to wait until we
18 get to the faith-based part of the discussion?
19 REVEREND BARNES: I'll wait.
20 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Okay.
21 Thanks.
22 Mr. Jordan?
23 MR. JORDAN: Yes. Good morning.
24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Good
25 morning.

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2 MR. JORDAN: To Council.

3 I have a restaurant at 5211 Market
4 Street, the West Philadelphia.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Yes, sir.

6 MR. JORDAN: And I am very, very
7 appalled of the lack of consideration that we are
8 getting at 52nd Street.

9 I went from \$7,000 a week, and I
10 have receipts to prove it, down to \$2,000 a week.
11 I was open seven days a week. Business got so bad
12 I had to close two days a week.

13 I have 12 employees. As I say,
14 nowhere to park, nowhere at all, north, south,
15 east or west. And all of my business mostly comes
16 from driving.

17 And S.E.P.T.A. says once this
18 project gets through, it's going to be good for
19 the neighborhood and for the people. But there's
20 one thing that S.E.P.T.A. forgot. You have 80
21 percent of the S.E.P.T.A. riders that don't even
22 shop on Market Street.

23 You have about 20 percent that will
24 shop on Market Street or go to the restaurants on
25 Market Street. Other than that, they're not

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2 coming around at all.

3 And I think since S.E.P.T.A. knew
4 about this project, I believe between '97 or '98,
5 what they was going to do, they could have had the
6 government or someone to come out and survey the
7 area, not just go on the word or hearsay based.

8 No one ever been out there to
9 survey. No one from the state, no one from the
10 City been out there to survey or nothing. And we
11 all pay taxes, like everybody else.

12 And there's one thing I really can't
13 understand. The Federal Government -- It was just
14 on the news two days ago. And I appreciate people
15 going to school, going to college. The government
16 is giving \$3,000 grant -- don't have to pay it
17 back -- grant. The state, Governor Rendell has
18 \$17 million that he's giving grants around
19 Pennsylvania and Philadelphia.

20 The City of Philadelphia has had a
21 lot of companies come into Philadelphia, gave them
22 tax breaks, they gave them grants. Federal
23 Government bailed out the airline. Oh, we got to
24 keep this airline running. But nobody come up to
25 52nd and Market -- this has been going on for a

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2 year -- and said anything.

3 And once they finish digging at 52nd
4 and Market, say for two or three months, they
5 coming back again because they have to put the
6 poles in the center of the street, so we going to
7 be tied up again.

8 And I have letters from the bank
9 that I put \$200,000 to remodel that place. It
10 holds a hundred people. And it cost me \$1,000 a
11 week to put in the bank for the loan.

12 I have a letter of intent of
13 foreclosure. And I think that S.E.P.T.A. is
14 responsible, because number one, we own the bricks
15 of our buildings. We do not own the sidewalks and
16 we do not own the streets.

17 So I think that we should be able to
18 get some kind of relief or something, not
19 S.E.P.T.A. saying we're going to do what we can do
20 and we're going to try.

21 We been hearing this for over and
22 over and over again. It's time for something to
23 be done on this.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Mr. Jordan,
25 let me thank you. And I thank you for keeping in

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2 communication with us.

3 MR. JORDAN: Yes.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: And

5 certainly we want to work with you. We can not

6 afford to have you close. And we want to work

7 with you...

8 MR. JORDAN: Okay.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL:

10 ...personally to make sure that that doesn't

11 happen. It's not fair. It's not right. And we

12 want to work with you to make sure that doesn't

13 happen. We're going to deal with all these issues

14 one by one.

15 MR. JORDAN: Okay.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: And as it

17 affects various individuals, feel free to raise

18 your hand and come back, so that I know you want

19 to respond to that specific issue.

20 Because my staff and I tried to meet

21 with the Streets Department, the Parking

22 Authority, to try to deal with some of these

23 issues before we came today. So we need you to

24 give us feedback as to whether or not,

25 Mr. English, it will work and Reverend Barnes.

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2 MR. JORDAN: And just one last
3 thing. I would appreciate it in the near future
4 if City Council can try to get something that a
5 lot of the businesses can have a break from the
6 taxes for a while, like they do with the other
7 businesses. And I know this for a fact: That
8 would be also a help.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Well, we've
10 contacted the Mayor in that regard to the
11 businesses on the S.E.P.T.A. project.

12 I don't think we received a
13 response. But we did that some time ago and said
14 that the businesses were in trouble. So we'll
15 follow up with the Mayor to see what we can do
16 specifically with regard to the el project.

17 MR. JORDAN: All right. Thank you
18 very much.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.
20 My staff, please note that. Thank you very much.

21 Is Debra McGregor there? Then
22 William Hamlin. Mr. Hamlin. And finally Greg
23 Spearman. And then we'll go to question and
24 answer, just three more individuals. Thank you.

25 MS. MCGREGOR: Good morning,

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2 Councilwoman Blackwell.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Good
4 morning.

5 MS. MCGREGOR: Councilman Nutter,
6 and other Members.

7 My name is Debra McGregor. I'm a
8 retired physician. I found myself living at 63rd
9 and Market, after downsizing a life and cashing in
10 a 401-K.

11 I decided to stay because the
12 neighborhood is vibrant, the young people go to
13 school. They have two-parent households.
14 Everyone is contributing to the neighborhood in a
15 way that you would want to be a part of.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Excuse me
17 one moment.

18 Let the chair note that Councilman
19 Nutter is here. And as you know, he has that part
20 on the north side of 60th to 63rd. And we also
21 note Councilwoman Tasco's office is represented as
22 well.

23 Thank you. Please continue.

24 MS. MCGREGOR: Thank you. Thank.

25 Having served in the Federal

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2 Government, I've been mindful of large projects
3 and their implementation.

4 And as I became a community member
5 and watched the dispersal of resources, it did not
6 make sense, the amount of money that is being used
7 for this entire project and the types of symbols
8 that are used to explain their dispersal of funds
9 for the community.

10 Point in fact: When we asked for an
11 example of the use of funds for the community, we
12 were told that donuts were bought by the vendor
13 for the meetings, that photographers were hired
14 for the meetings, the sound system for the
15 meetings.

16 We had marketing campaigns that
17 looked more like church raffles. And again, the
18 symbols of their involvement with the community
19 don't match the amount of funds.

20 In previous testimony, I have asked
21 for what I've described as a forensic assessment
22 of the project. I want to make sure that all
23 parties here know that's not an internal
24 assessment. That's an assessment done by an
25 independent organization to ask the questions that

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2 individuals cannot ask en mass and get coherent
3 answers to. We would like coherent answers to
4 where is the money going.

5 With regards to reparation and the
6 description of Congress -- House of Representative
7 Chakka Fattah's involvement, we were told that
8 there would be a line item budget -- a line item
9 in the budget for these matters.

10 With little investigation, we
11 realize that Chakka Fattah is a Democrat in a
12 Republican House. He has opposed the President's
13 war and still is opposing the President's war.

14 And as a community we ask: How much
15 influence will he have to get his line item
16 assignment to the community through the machinery
17 of the Federal Government?

18 So I've mentioned globally a
19 forensic assessment; more specifically, an
20 assessment of our likelihood of getting any relief
21 through the Federal Government.

22 And finally, with regards to the
23 wonderful statement made by the woman who sat in
24 this chair just a few minutes ago about our
25 S.E.P.T.A. sisters, we really would like to have

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2 an assessment of the community relations skill set
3 that is represented by those people put in front
4 of us during community meetings.

5 We are circled, almost like a
6 volleyball game, with high-paid S.E.P.T.A.
7 management engineers and technical staff, with
8 answers to individual questions but no coherent
9 strategy for this community.

10 So we would like at this point to
11 have an assessment of the community relations
12 plan. We would like to involve the City Planner,
13 Rick Redding, for that section of the town. And
14 we'd like to see what the overall plans and goals
15 are for the outcome after the S.E.P.T.A. project
16 is completed.

17 And if, in fact, the current staff
18 is not able to do that, we ask Council to request
19 independent consultants to help us get this
20 coherent approach to our needs. Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
23 very much.

24 William Hamlin.

25 We also have some information that

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2 we received last evening with regard to -- with
3 regard to community government relations; we'll
4 make available to you. We have some copies of
5 some things that we are happy to share with you.
6 Mr. Hamlin.

7 MR. HAMLIN: My name is William
8 Hamlin. I'm a graduate of the University of
9 Pennsylvania's Master's Architecture Program and
10 card-carrying member of that graduating class.

11 I'm the person that did the original
12 layout for 52nd Street with the canopies, also
13 11th Street el station, sidewalks, and concourse,
14 and the prototype system signage.

15 Also did the Cleveland Transit
16 Authority's -- Cleveland Transit Administration's
17 upgrade for the A.D.A. requirements, and the
18 drafting or the CAD implementation of the Traffic
19 Management Control Center for the Atlanta
20 Olympics.

21 I live at 4538 Sansom Street. I've
22 been trying to do -- I've been trying to find out
23 how to be involved in the S.E.P.T.A. project for
24 almost three years now. And I've done my own
25 little research.

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2 What I went and got was the best
3 procurement manual or got -- best procurement
4 policies, like the manual for the implementation
5 of the contract.

6 And what I'm most concerned about is
7 the lack of business development in the West
8 Philadelphia area and the impact areas four blocks
9 south and north of Market Street.

10 In... In 4 -- In Chapter 4 on
11 Page 3, Chapter 7, there are guidelines as to how
12 to include maximum amount of D.B.E. participation
13 and says, and I quote:

14 The recipients must obtain as much
15 possible D.B.E. participation needed to meet their
16 overall goals through race neutral measures.

17 Race neutral measures include such
18 activities as training, technical assistance,
19 bonding assistance, business development, or
20 mentor protege programs.

21 Breaking contracts up into small
22 pieces, small businesses can readily perform and
23 award private contracts D.B.E. through regular
24 competitive process.

25 One type race neutral measure will

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2 be the prompt payment provision which will require
3 overall -- over -- will be required for all
4 subcontractors, D.B.E.s and non D.B.E.s alike.

5 In Virginia, as a goal -- as a model
6 case, they went to a public housing development
7 and provided 40 percent of the contract dollars to
8 members of the public housing project, to build
9 Section 8 housing.

10 In the S.E.P.T.A. contract, to the
11 best of my knowledge, there's not one percent of
12 that contract has gone to -- that's to the best of
13 my knowledge at this point -- not one percent of
14 those contracts have gone to people in the
15 impacted area four blocks north or south of the
16 Market Street elevated line.

17 And I'm wondering why, in terms of
18 the overall contract, we are not being able or
19 promoted into the participation of this contract
20 which will have a tremendous economic benefit to
21 my community.

22 This is the community where I was
23 raised in and continue to live in. Thank you.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
25 Mr. Hamlin. Thank you for your work on 52nd

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2 Street and in our City overall.

3 (Applause.)

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Jackie
5 Willis, and then Greg Spearman. And then we'll go
6 to question and answer. Thank you so much for
7 coming in, and we thank you for your commitment
8 and your husband's as well, to our community.

9 Would you say your name and spell
10 your last name for the stenographer.

11 MS. WILLIS: Jackie Willis,
12 W-i-l-l-i-s.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.

14 MS. WILLIS: I'm representing
15 Wilcrest Products at 60th and Market Street.

16 And please bear with me because I
17 didn't know I would get this opportunity, and I'm
18 pleased to have it, so I have kind of scanty
19 notes, but I'll read from it.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Spell
21 Wilcrest for us.

22 MS. WILLIS: W-i-l-c-r-e-s-t.

23 We have been involved with the
24 S.E.P.T.A. project since the very beginning. We
25 were some of the first -- We've been in the

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2 business community for 30 years at 60th and
3 Market.

4 And we were called in very early
5 concerning this project. We were made certain --
6 many promises, and we have attended just about all
7 of the meetings.

8 So, some of my concerns are this:

9 One thing, we have lost about 60 to 75 percent of
10 our businesses. Deliveries have been difficult.
11 And in the case of 60th and Market... It's just
12 hitting 52nd street now, but we've been bearing
13 with this since 2000, and it has really been
14 hurtful to the businesses.

15 In community meetings it was
16 promised that three and four blocks at a time
17 would not be blocked off. That didn't prove to be
18 true. There were months when two and three -- at
19 least a month sometimes, when two or three blocks
20 would be blocked off at a time; many times side
21 streets closed, and traffic not allowed to flow
22 while work was taking place.

23 At the beginning of the work, a
24 great deal of time appeared to be wasted, from our
25 observations; and we used to make observations.

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2 They would dig up holes, fill them up, dig them up
3 again.

4 The Water Department was very
5 uncooperative. They parked trucks on the sidewalk
6 right in front of my business. They finished --
7 promised to finish shortly, and did not; left iron
8 pipes in front of the store when they left at the
9 ends of the day.

10 We found workers moving from place
11 to place without finishing the job, just wasting
12 time, and tying up blocks not only with their big
13 trucks but with their personal SUVs in places
14 where we used to park; and we would have to go
15 around on the side and park.

16 Speaking in support of the community
17 outreach people employed by S.E.P.T.A., they have
18 been responsive in listening to our concerns,
19 maybe because we were there at the beginning and
20 we know a lot of them.

21 Michael Tucker, Carol Smith have
22 been especially helpful under Jim Baker. Frances
23 Jones, Rhonda Johnson, Lily Clayette. All of them
24 I could pick up the phone and call when urgent
25 things were happening.

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2 But it's bigger than them. Policies
3 have to be changed way up there above them.
4 Piles -- But they've been very helpful. Piles of
5 dirt were -- And this is January '01. Piles of
6 dirt were parked in front of the store. A ditch
7 was opened in front of the store since before
8 Christmas. These are just notes I took. And this
9 January 24th the ditch was still there.

10 John Lahan and Sons workers were
11 very disruptive. One day we noticed from 11:00 to
12 2:00 p.m. the workers sat in the truck playing
13 cards, holding up space from customers.

14 When we mentioned it, well, they
15 talked about the fact that, you know, workers have
16 certain jobs to do and they have to wait until
17 this job is done; but still, it just didn't look
18 right.

19 Now, in October 18, '02, we had a
20 power surge. Now, P.E.C.O. took the
21 responsibility; but somehow, I still feel those
22 poles might have been responsible. It did about
23 \$2,000 to \$3,000 worth of damage. It could have
24 burned our building down if we hadn't caught it.
25 P.E.C.O. only pays \$500 for that.

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2 So, in spite of all of this anguish
3 and loss of money, loss of customers, this killed
4 all of our machines, our security systems, and
5 blew out the lights, cash register, and so forth.

6 I had a good response. Frances
7 Jones was responsible for me at least getting some
8 movement from P.E.C.O. But \$500 was just one
9 machine lost.

10 So, we have been suffering and we
11 have been hurting. And I thank you for this
12 opportunity. I didn't get it the first time
13 because I was out of town and, you know, I wasn't
14 ready. But thank you very much. These are just
15 some incidents.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
17 Miss Willis. And we're happy to follow up in any
18 way we need to, too, to continue to respond about
19 any additional loss that you received.

20 Certainly, if you let us know and
21 get us some documentation, we'll follow up for you
22 as well. We love your business for many, many,
23 many years.

24 Greg Spearman, I think it's your
25 turn. And then we will go to our question and

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2 answer. Sir, do you want to come up as well? And
3 then I think we can go to our question and answer
4 period and deal with these specific issues that
5 you mentioned.

6 Greg, do you want to defer? Do you
7 want to be last? We have another gentleman here.

8 MR. SPEARMAN: That's all right. Go
9 ahead. Go ahead.

10 MR. RABS: No; you first.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.

12 MR. RABS: Yes; good morning. My
13 name is Creighton Rabs.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Spell your
15 name.

16 MR. RABS: C-r-e-i-g-h-t-o-n. The
17 last name is spelled R-a-b-s.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
19 Mr. Rabs.

20 MR. RABS: My comments regarding the
21 resolution that I understand Councilman Goode is
22 proposing -- I just want to first of all state my
23 support, even though I actually live out in the
24 suburbs, but I do take the el on a regular basis.

25 I would like to just mention to

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2 those who are affected, I do -- I absolutely
3 sympathize with what you're going through. I am,
4 however, not surprised at some of S.E.P.T.A.'s
5 tactics. This is almost a modus operandi for this
6 agency on many of its more recent construction
7 projects, in particular the Rail Power Project
8 which has inconvenienced regional rail riders.

9 It wasn't until a few days before
10 the most recent schedule change that people were
11 notified that there would be weekday service
12 disruption.

13 I don't... At the very least, if
14 they knew a few months in advance that there were
15 going to be disruptions, it would have been nice
16 if they said: Okay; these changes will take
17 effect now; a few months down the road there will
18 be other weekday service disruptions. That did
19 not happen.

20 So, I am seeing some parallels to
21 that project and what's happening along Market
22 Street. I mean, I have in the past stopped at
23 some businesses along West Market. And I can --
24 And believe me, I certainly -- I can certainly
25 respect what many of these people are going

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2 through right now.

3 And with regard -- And as I read in
4 the paper recently, Council -- your colleague,
5 Mr. Nutter, made some remarks about the escalator
6 situation at 60th Street.

7 I say with all due respects to
8 Mr. Bond, I don't believe he is the most qualified
9 person to be talking about escalators on
10 S.E.P.T.A. property as I -- and as I referenced
11 the incident that happened at Cecil B. Moore
12 several years ago, in which he was one of the
13 people responsible for basically botching that
14 investigation up.

15 Be that as it may, the last thing I
16 want to say is offer advice to some of those of
17 you from West Philadelphia who have testified here
18 today, there is a S.E.P.T.A. Board of Directors
19 meeting that will take place on Thursday at 3:00
20 p.m., S.E.P.T.A. headquarters, 1234 Market Street.

21 My advice, as someone who has had
22 other issues dealing with S.E.P.T.A., you may want
23 to consider testifying briefly in front of the
24 S.E.P.T.A. Board of Directors, because quite
25 honestly, they are ultimately the ones who have

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2 the power over who gets what -- over contracts and
3 whatnot.

4 So, I mean -- And most of those
5 people, like myself, most of the people on that
6 board live out in the suburbs. On the other hand,
7 I don't think they really care about what happens
8 in West Philly.

9 VOICE IN THE AUDIENCE: What's that
10 address again?

11 MR. RABS: I thank you for your
12 time, Councilwoman.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
14 very much.

15 He said at S.E.P.T.A. 1234 Market.

16 Let me also note that we already
17 mentioned Councilman Nutter, and we also mentioned
18 Councilman Goode. We'd like to also mention that
19 Councilman Cohen and Councilman Ortiz's office are
20 also represented.

21 All right. The final person, then,
22 to testify today is Mr. Greg Spearman. Thank you.

23 MR. SPEARMAN: Okay. Good morning,
24 Councilwoman.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Please

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2 identify yourself and then spell your last name
3 for our stenographer.

4 MR. SPEARMAN: My name is Greg
5 Spearman, S-p-e-a-r-m-a-n, a resident of West
6 Philadelphia, and Market Street is my community,
7 my immediate community. I do my best to shop in
8 West Philadelphia on all the business corridors as
9 much as possible.

10 It is -- We all know we just got to
11 hit Home Depot at sometime and some of the bigger
12 companies, but I definitely try to shop as much as
13 I can in West Philadelphia, to circulate the
14 dollars.

15 But what I wanted to talk about
16 namely was the relief that everybody is asking for
17 from S.E.P.T.A. And this is directly to
18 S.E.P.T.A. And that's all it's all about, is
19 sensitivity and relief.

20 The neighbors in the community come
21 in here. And you can go out on the street right
22 now. We don't need no pictures. Go out there now
23 and you'll see the disregard that the contractors
24 and the workers have for the community. I mean,
25 they just at will do what they want.

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2 You got trash. You got old mud on
3 52nd and Market. They never cleaned it. They
4 never cleaned it. And that's common sense in
5 economic development. The better a business
6 corridor looks, the more people come out to the
7 business corridor.

8 I think we need to institute working
9 at night. 90 something percent of the businesses
10 are closed at night. So, why would you close off
11 intersections and cause this catastrophe during
12 the daytime?

13 I think working on Sundays should be
14 included. I watched how 60th and Market
15 intersection was shut down for a hole a little
16 bigger than the size of a car, which was right up
17 on the curb sides, which was -- essentially would
18 have been about two parking spaces. They shut
19 down the whole intersection at 60th and Market.

20 And when we made complaints about
21 it -- and you was there, Frances, too -- the
22 engineer said it was something structural or
23 something like that. I mean, for a hole, I mean,
24 they had to do a nuclear blast, with a hole like
25 that.

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2 We got 52nd and Market that's
3 actually been shut down now for God knows how
4 long. And Mr. Jordan has testified to that. And
5 we haven't seen any real construction except for
6 the last couple -- since the last hearing that we
7 had here last week, that they started doing any
8 kind of real drilling out there in that hole.

9 And I think the City, the state or
10 the federal government and S.E.P.T.A. included
11 need to seek building some kind of ramp or some
12 kind of override for these intersections so that
13 they can be open during the day.

14 If we -- And I say the state and the
15 federal because I think that maybe we could
16 incorporate the Armed Services, because if it was
17 a battle zone and it was a hole like that, they
18 would have something to cover so that they can get
19 these here trucks and whatnot across it.

20 That's why I said the state and the
21 Federal. And somebody needs to pay for this.
22 Otherwise, we're going to have good businesses
23 such as Wilcrest and Jordan's and many others
24 going out of business. And this doesn't make no
25 sense.

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2 Is it going to be a cost? Sure,
3 it's going to be a cost. But why they're not
4 working in that hole? These intersections need to
5 be open. Not every intersection, but definitely
6 the intersections where the el stops.

7 Because commerce is very important
8 and these intersections are vital to the longevity
9 of these businesses. And it doesn't make sense
10 for one to close up intersections such as 52nd and
11 Market and 60th Street and 56th Street for over a
12 month, when you can use a little bit of common
13 sense and have them open at least on business
14 hours.

15 And that's what I asked of you,
16 Councilwoman: At least get an engineer in the
17 City out there and see if it's feasible. See if
18 it's feasible for either the City or S.E.P.T.A.
19 Somebody has to take this on for the community's
20 sake; and that's all I have to say.

21 (Applause.)

22 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
23 very much.

24 We'd now ask Ms. Moore to come
25 forward, the General Manager of S.E.P.T.A. Again,

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2 we're glad to have her here today so that we can
3 deal with some of these specific issues.

4 We will call on Reverend Barnes when
5 we get to the faith-based section of the
6 discussion.

7 Now, I'll ask you to identify
8 yourself for the record and those who are with
9 you.

10 MS. MOORE: Good morning. I'm Faye
11 Moore, S.E.P.T.A.'s General Manager.

12 Here with me this morning is Dominic
13 Sabatini. He's the... I guess the project lead
14 for the Blue Line, which is the el project; and of
15 course, you know Frances Jones.

16 I do want to initially give my
17 regrets or apologies for the last meeting. I
18 couldn't attend. I am also desperately trying to
19 ensure that we try to get \$55 million so that we
20 don't have to do some serious cuts, raise fares,
21 and otherwise adjust services for S.E.P.T.A.

22 I also need to mention that
23 Mr. Bond, who was here with us earlier and was at
24 the prior meeting, had a death in the family. He
25 was here with us for a while, but he had to leave

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2 so that he could attend the funeral of his
3 grandmother, who lived to be one hundred years
4 old.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: God bless
6 her.

7 MS. MOORE: Yes. So I do want to
8 extend his regrets.

9 Now, with that, we can handle it any
10 way you'd like.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: All right.
12 We made some questions, and we also have questions
13 with regard to the testimony of Mr. Traylor, First
14 Deputy Commerce Director, who is with us today.

15 So we'll begin with the first
16 question we submitted to you. And we'll
17 incorporate all that everyone here has mentioned.

18 First question is -- And with regard
19 to S.E.P.T.A. reopening parts of Market Street,
20 Greg Spearman just talked about one solution with
21 reopening parts of Market Street that are closed.

22 And we received your response
23 talking about the foundation of the street. But
24 we likewise suggested -- and you can say your
25 response in your own words.

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2 But in a response to... We believe
3 that if you -- We suggest if you came up with a
4 shuttle, maybe a small shuttle like the Philly
5 Flash or the Penn bus, the Lucies, a small shuttle
6 that are lightweight, and maybe had a shuttle
7 operative from 8:00 until 7:00 on weekdays and
8 Saturday, and 8:00 to 4:00 on Sundays, that maybe
9 it could help.

10 So we've tried to come up with ways
11 that we think we could try to provide some
12 assistance. So we're suggesting that shuttle.
13 Obviously, Mr. Spearman suggested another --
14 suggested -- made another suggestion with regard
15 to placing plates down in the intersection.

16 We're happy to go with either
17 solution, but we thought that might be helpful.
18 We also thought that with regard to another
19 question... Maybe I'll make a few suggestions and
20 let you respond to them because they're going to
21 enter into other areas that we need to respond to.

22 We believe that S.E.P.T.A., just
23 as in all work sites, could have lights placed and
24 that that is your or the contractors'
25 responsibility, not the City's.

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2 Because we're not talking about
3 permanent lights. We're talking about lights like
4 they have hanging here in this hallway when
5 somebody's doing work.

6 We need those areas lit because the
7 pastor even talked last week about his church
8 being robbed for the first time in all these
9 years. So we're asking for that.

10 We're asking S.E.P.T.A. to work with
11 us on... And we've also met with the Parking
12 Authority who's happy -- and they were given in
13 writing a letter that says they won't ticket
14 people.

15 So we've been trying to work since
16 we had our last meeting to try to help out. So
17 they're happy to work with us, the Parking
18 Authority, and just coordinate it with the Police
19 Department. They're happy to do that.

20 But we believe that you should be
21 responsible for those lights that hang during the
22 construction phase or your -- or the people doing
23 the work. As I said, we're happy to try to deal
24 with the Parking Authority.

25 The other thing is parking. People

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2 have continued to complain about parking. We've
3 asked the Parking Authority to consider permanent
4 parking during the length of this contract for
5 areas like Haverford Avenue -- That's wrong --
6 49th street along Haverford Avenue, where you have
7 a very, very long stretch, maybe a mile and a
8 half, to allow parking for people down there.

9 We're also asking people who own
10 land that has not been developed at 46th and
11 Market to provide parking. We're also talking
12 about a lot at about 56th -- tell me, staff, if
13 I'm wrong -- about 56th and Market to be used for
14 parking.

15 There's also a lot we need to ask
16 you all about. We call it Paul Lyons lot because
17 he wanted to do a garden there. We believe
18 S.E.P.T.A. is dumping on that. You have mounds of
19 dirt there at 54th and Market.

20 And we're also talking about in the
21 6100 block of Market Street, where you already
22 have arrows allowed to advertise even more so that
23 people can park in the middle of the block.

24 So we believe if we find these
25 parking -- if we allow lots and parking sites

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2 where the street is open in the middle of the
3 street and advertise that, that we can do
4 something about parking to accommodate people if
5 we use a shuttle.

6 We've also talked about a shuttle,
7 either fixing the escalators or taking the shuttle
8 out of the area. So you've either got to fix them
9 or you need to have a shuttle there that will
10 shuttle people.

11 And it would have to be several
12 buses because you've got to allow people to be
13 able to get their connection out of the site. So
14 whether it goes to 34th or 30th street, they
15 deserve to have the opportunity to make their
16 connection.

17 So for whatever time the el would
18 come there, you've got to have a shuttle there or
19 fix the escalator. We can live with it either
20 way, but you can't not allow seniors and other
21 people who are complaining that they can't get up
22 those steps. So we need to have a shuttle there
23 to help people who have to use the el.

24 We read what you said about moving
25 the fence back. And I'll say this to those who

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2 are here, that the S.E.P.T.A. proposals we got
3 late yesterday some of their proposals.

4 And one is to roll the fence back on
5 53rd street to Lindenwood for the 52nd Street
6 businesses in about two weeks -- I've forgotten --
7 to move that fence back to open up that street
8 more.

9 So I need all of you to listen to me
10 and then listen to them because we need you to
11 tell us what you agree with, what you think is
12 feasible and what you think isn't, because we've
13 been trying to work on these issues as well.

14 And we still believe that you need
15 to contract with the Mercy Health Special Services
16 District to clean, and you've got to deal with
17 S.E.P.T.A. Police or them or somebody in policing
18 the area.

19 Just saying that owners can't be
20 responsible for cleaning when they didn't create
21 it, you've still got to do that. You've still got
22 to make it possible for sanitation and private
23 pickup. They can't get the trash done. That's
24 S.E.P.T.A.'s responsibility to work that out, to
25 clean the area, to allow trash to be picked up.

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2 Streets Department, we've met with
3 them. Streets and Parking Authority are happy to
4 take our suggestions, as long as we all agree
5 that's what has to be done. And the... And we
6 need to talk to... We're going to ask Reverend
7 Barnes to come up to talk about that, his aspect,
8 the part that affects churches, and with regard to
9 Mr. Traylor, and then we can have a full
10 discussion.

11 We'll ask you to get ready to talk
12 about a date for completion of the project, date
13 it started and date when it's expected to be
14 completed.

15 We're also asking that the
16 Information Center at 54th Street be manned with
17 somebody who knows what they're doing. I mean,
18 not just somebody who's going to sit there and
19 open and close when they choose.

20 It's got to be really a S.E.P.T.A.
21 Information Center, where you have someone who can
22 do something, who can take complaints, who can
23 report things right away, and who can respond to
24 the community immediately; not now because it's
25 not working.

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2 There's also a Mayor's Office of
3 Communication. M.O.C.'s Office. Mayor's Office
4 of Community Services, on 58th and Market. And
5 we're asking that you also keep them informed, as
6 that is an arm further up the street.

7 And then I'm talking to some of the
8 suggestions, too, also made by Mr. Traylor. We
9 believe in terms of the regular monthly business
10 outreach and businesses given a week's notices,
11 that that should not be questioned.

12 But on all the communication
13 suggestions, we're asking that my office,
14 Councilman Nutter's office be involved in all of
15 those discussions, as well as anything dealing
16 well faith-based, obviously Reverend Barnes.

17 But this monthly round table for
18 City agencies. Any discussion on this project, we
19 want to be included. And we believe that my
20 colleague, because he represents part of the area,
21 should likewise be included.

22 And we disagree with the post
23 construction plan being funded by the City. We
24 believe that S.E.P.T.A. should deal with anything
25 dealing with this project.

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2 And finally, let me say that we've
3 been contacted -- and I'll say this, too, for Miss
4 McGregor. We've been contacted by Senator Arlen
5 Spector, who is looking into the possibility of
6 giving us some business subsidies as well.

7 So, we've talked to many people.
8 Last week, obviously, we heard reports from
9 Congressman Brady and Congressman Fatah, but we
10 were also contacted by Arlen Spector. And the
11 U.S. Senator is trying to see what he can do to
12 put something together to help our businesses.

13 We hear what you're saying. We know
14 that we'll ask about of the life of this project,
15 when it started and when it expects to end. But
16 nobody can live two weeks without a check, much
17 less six or seven years.

18 So having said that, those are just
19 some of our suggestions that we make. We have
20 many of them in detail. And we're happy to have
21 you respond.

22 I know when they had a project, they
23 had a project manager, a Mr. Lou Grizoglio.

24 MS. JONES: Grizoglio.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Grizoglio,

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2 who worked well with regard to some other -- He
3 was a suggestion person, who worked well with
4 community related projects, and other matters.
5 And his name was suggested as someone who is very
6 good with communicating what can happen.

7 So having said that, we'll ask our
8 first question. How long will the project be? We
9 know it was delayed. When do you start? When do
10 you expect to finish? And we're happy to begin
11 the discussion. And when we get to the
12 faith-based response, we'll ask that Reverend
13 Barnes come up to testify and respond to that as
14 well.

15 MS. MOORE: Councilwoman Blackwell,
16 since Dominic is here and since he is our person
17 for the project, we're going to sort of push the
18 mike over to him so that he can address most of
19 the concerns.

20 MR. SABATINI: Good morning.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Good
22 morning.

23 MR. SABATINI: In terms of the
24 project completion, the current schedule for
25 substantial completion --

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2 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Can't hear
3 you well.

4 MR. SABATINI: I'm sorry.

5 The current scheduled completion,
6 substantial completion date for the project is the
7 ends of the year 2007.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: 2007.

9 When did you start?

10 MR. SABATINI: The project with the
11 AB buildings, I believe, started in the year 2001.
12 I'm not positive about that.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Okay.

14 Thank you.

15 Would you like to respond with
16 regard to opening parts of Market Street and with
17 regard to the escalators?

18 MS. MOORE: Councilwoman, can I ask
19 a question first? You mentioned a shuttle. Could
20 you give me some idea of what the shuttle
21 parameters or what the course would be. Are you
22 talking going through the construction area? Are
23 you talking the perimeter?

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I think we
25 could do both, because they're small and light

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2 shuttles. If they run every 15 minutes, maybe we
3 could accommodate everyone, those who need to go
4 to their cars, those who need to go to temporary
5 parking places, as well as to allow them to shop
6 in the stores.

7 Now, my suggestion is that we bring
8 it up as an idea today and a suggestion; and then
9 when we continue the hearing until the next time,
10 my attorney will give me a date.

11 THE CLERK: Should be June 6th.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: For June
13 6th. June 6th.

14 That we then be ready to have a
15 formal reporting on the whole route.

16 But it seems to me that that might
17 be able to solve our problems. Or we have
18 Mr. Spearman's suggestion on board to put metal
19 plates down in the intersections.

20 It seems to me if you come up with a
21 little lightweight shuttle, it might be easy to
22 run it every 15 minutes. People can get to their
23 cars, they can park, they can shop in businesses.
24 We have some activity. And it just might be a
25 suggestion that might work.

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2 I'd like to take credit for it but
3 it wasn't mine. It was a gentleman from the
4 Streets Department.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL:

6 Mr. Spearman.

7 MR. SPEARMAN: My suggestion was a
8 little more than just putting metal plates down.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I'm sorry.

10 MR. SPEARMAN: It was some kind of
11 portable ramp that could be lifted up and taken
12 away maybe with some type of backhoe.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL:

14 Mr. Spearman is saying a portable ramp that could
15 be put down and removed.

16 MR. SPEARMAN: Yeah. That's what
17 I'm talking about.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: That could
19 be constructed.

20 MR. SPEARMAN: Yeah. I talked to
21 the engineer, the gentleman up front.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: He spoke
23 with Mr. Hamlin, the engineer, about it.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Okay.

25 Thank you. So we have some suggestions on the

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2 table.

3 MR. SABATINI: If I might...

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Yes, sir.

5 MR. SABATINI: I'd be interested in
6 hearing a little more of the details of what
7 they're thinking, in terms of a structure that
8 would overlay the intersection.

9 Are you talking about bridging
10 underneath the el or bridging over the el?

11 MS. MOORE: Sir, are you going to be
12 around after this?

13 MR. SPEARMAN: Pardon me?

14 MS. MOORE: If you're going to be
15 around after this, we'd like to explore it.

16 MR. SABATINI: I will elaborate, if
17 I might, on your question about the street
18 openings.

19 First of all, in terms of 52nd
20 Street, based on the last meeting, we went back
21 and reassessed how we can facilitate opening 52nd
22 Street. And we looked at various options.

23 Part of those options involve
24 opening a single lane versus accelerating the
25 work. In that particular intersection, there's

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2 some 20 odd utilities in that underground there,
3 that are some form of reconstruction, either
4 relocation, tie-ins, or being replaced. So it's a
5 significant amount of work.

6 In terms of looking at it in a
7 single lane proposal, you would have to keep one
8 section of the street plated over. And as you
9 move from one side of the street to the other,
10 you'd have to move the plate over to facilitate
11 construction.

12 Based on that, the construction
13 probably would take approximately 12 weeks. And
14 what we would do is some significant shoring of
15 the existing water main where we've been having
16 some issues with sinkholes in that area.

17 The other alternative, and the one
18 you see in the writeup, is to actually accelerate
19 the work. Currently it's planned to take six
20 weeks with the intersection closed.

21 And what we're proposing is that we
22 accelerate the work. The contractor would be
23 working additional time, ten-hour days including
24 Saturdays, and the work would be completed in four
25 weeks.

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2 Also, at the current time, because
3 of the work at 52nd Street intersection, the 5100
4 block is essentially what we define as a soft
5 closure, in that you can't have through traffic
6 through there, so it's available to residents or
7 local businesses for their usage.

8 Also, we did assess the parking
9 impacts in that area, and we understand the
10 impacts on the local residents and businesses.

11 And we're proposing to move the
12 fence back from 53rd street to Lindenwood Street
13 to also create more parking access in that area.

14 In terms of creating a single lane
15 in Market Street, we did evaluate that. We
16 reassessed it. It is a major safety concern
17 because you have heavy construction equipment
18 which moves in and out and swings into that one
19 operating lane.

20 Also, there's major issues. We have
21 tried this, but there is a significant amount of
22 confusion with the public, in that they tend to
23 approach the open lane from both directions, and
24 there's been potential head-on collisions.

25 Also, in terms of busing operations,

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2 it becomes unfeasible to operate buses in a single
3 lane mode.

4 However, I think probably, in terms
5 of the schedule, it would be beneficial to have an
6 understanding when this work would be complete.

7 And if I might look in my notes...

8 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: You said
9 that, as my staff reminds me, even if we can work
10 out the intersections being open, with lots and
11 places for people to park during this
12 construction, we're still going to need some
13 transportation, some kind of shuttle service, to
14 allow people to get to and from cars and to do
15 some shopping in areas where the street adjacent
16 or parallel to the construction where that area is
17 not available. So, we think we still need that.

18 Now, you're saying that... You're
19 basically saying that it may be feasible for us to
20 do what has been suggested, in terms of opening up
21 the intersections.

22 MR. SABATINI: Yes, in terms of a
23 single lane. However, I do want to advise you
24 that the construction process will take longer,
25 from the standpoint that you'll have to plate over

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2 one half of the street because the contractor will
3 have to remove that plate each morning to do his
4 work, and also because there's tie-ins that go
5 across the intersection. And he'll have to
6 eventually move to the other side. So it will
7 take a significantly longer period of time if you
8 take that approach.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I think if
10 folks are waiting till '07, a little more time
11 isn't going to make a big difference, when we've
12 got to get some business... We have to have some
13 business activity now in order to survive.

14 Mr. English. And I'll repeat your
15 question. I'm sorry we don't have a move-around
16 mike. Yes, sir.

17 MR. ENGLISH: My question that he's
18 asked, as far as the safety aspect, you're saying
19 with the one lane open. How come it changes as
20 soon as you get on the other side of 63rd street
21 which is outside of Philadelphia?

22 They work; the traffic remains open
23 so people from Upper Darby and Millborne can come
24 through. Why are they working in the middle of
25 the street?

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2 They got flag people getting all the
3 traffic by -- The equipment swings. You actually
4 have to stop there a few minutes for it. But
5 nothing can work right in the City but you all can
6 do a spectacular job right outside the City. It
7 really hurts.

8 (Applause.)

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Please
10 identify yourself for the record, Mr. English, to
11 the stenographer. State your name.

12 MR. ENGLISH: Cliff English, from
13 West Market Village Association.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Cliff
15 English, West Market Village Association. That's
16 E-n-g-l-i-s-h.

17 MR. SABATINI: I think that's a
18 reasonable question.

19 And the answer would be that if you
20 look at the way the columns span when you go
21 beyond 63rd Street, they span over to the
22 sidewalks. And there's a much wider area of
23 street available to create two lanes, versus when
24 you go down Market Street, the columns are
25 actually in Market Street.

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2 So it makes it much more difficult
3 to creating a single lane. But to operate two
4 lanes and perform construction at the same time
5 would be very difficult in that scenario.

6 So, essentially what I guess what
7 I'm saying is, you have a different configuration
8 of the columns when you go east on Market Street,
9 versus -- from 63rd, versus going west on 63rd.

10 MR. ENGLISH: They do change, sir
11 but they don't change like that. They gradually
12 started to change.

13 But as far as the street being open,
14 that aspect changes as soon as you get to 63rd
15 Street, not the block and a half up where the
16 columns are still the same. They're still working
17 the same. That's all.

18 I'm saying they just took extra care
19 making sure that that traffic would be able to get
20 outside the City; that's all. I mean, to get
21 into. But we can't move at all, you know.

22 MR. SABATINI: Just to alert you,
23 unfortunately, there will be new columns in the
24 center of Market Street west of 63rd Street. And
25 when they start to install those, you'll start to

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2 experience similar problems.

3 MR. ENGLISH: Are you saying they're
4 going to have anything outside the City blocked
5 off where they can't come through?

6 MR. SABATINI: There will be
7 occasions where you'll have similar circumstances,
8 yes.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.

10 MR. ENGLISH: Thank you, sir.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.

12 MR. SABATINI: And in terms of
13 the -- I'm sorry. Did I answer? In terms of the
14 plating over, I'm not sure I was absolutely clear.

15 But in opening up a lane, which
16 essentially ruins north-south, we would propose
17 plating over one side, and then essentially west
18 or east side. And then as construction ensues, we
19 would move the plates over to the other side. And
20 obviously, that would be a longer construction
21 process.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: We heard
23 you. And we're willing to live with the longer
24 process in order to get some immediate relief.

25 MS. MOORE: Councilwoman, would it

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2 be beneficial if we sort of sent drawings of what
3 it could look like over?

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Absolutely.

5 MS. MOORE: Okay. Why don't we plan
6 on doing that? That way you have a pictorial of
7 what it could look like, just to make sure that is
8 what everybody would want.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: That's
10 great.

11 MS. MOORE: Okay.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: So we will
13 do that, and we'll show them at our next hearing.

14 MR. SABATINI: You could -- I'm
15 sorry. Didn't mean to interrupt you.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: You begin.
17 I've said most of what I have.

18 MR. SABATINI: In reference to the
19 street lighting issues, in responding to those
20 concerns, we have evaluated the street lighting
21 issues, and we are working in conjunction with the
22 City engineers in charge of the street lighting.

23 First of all, we had our electrical
24 contractor evaluate those City lights that are
25 being impacted by construction.

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2 And our intent is to repair or
3 replace those existing lights. It's approximately
4 some 25 odd lights. And hopefully that will help
5 to restore it to its original level.

6 Our other intent is to work with the
7 City engineer to evaluate how to install
8 additional lights and work in conjunction with
9 them, in terms of the best way or appropriate way
10 to install supplemental lighting.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: When do you
12 think we might... As someone said, what's the
13 time frame on that?

14 MR. SABATINI: I think, to give you
15 a specific time frame, probably I'd have to get
16 back to you on that. However, we are in current
17 conversations even as of this moment with the City
18 engineer to implement this process, so we will
19 expedite it as quickly as we possibly can.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: All right.
21 We'll stay in touch with them on a date and be in
22 touch with everyone here.

23 Next we're dealing with policing and
24 cleaning the site, and then escalators.

25 MR. SABATINI: In terms of the

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2 site -- I'm sorry. In terms of the site cleaning,
3 we have two contracts currently in place, one for
4 the foundations contract and one for the Cobbs
5 Creek contract.

6 Embedded in those contracts are the
7 requirements for daily housekeeping and cleaning
8 of the site, making sure that all the construction
9 equipment, the construction materials are stored
10 neatly within the boundaries of the construction
11 fence lines.

12 The contractors are responsible for
13 daily housekeeping of those sites.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: They're not
15 doing it, Mr. Sabatini.

16 MR. SABATINI: Right.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: They're not
18 doing it. They're not putting they're stuff away.

19 MR. SABATINI: Right.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: They're not
21 being clean.

22 As we said at our last meeting, they
23 were urinating, wouldn't even put porta-toilets
24 out in the 5500 block of Market Street. They're
25 urinating in front of people's homes. And they're

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2 not cleaning. They're not putting stuff away at
3 the end of the day, and they're just not cleaning.

4 MR. SABATINI: And we appreciate,
5 and we respect and appreciate your concerns. And
6 we have, just as of the last meeting, met with our
7 contractors. And we're putting stricter
8 enforcement into the cleanup process, that they're
9 required by contract to perform, and also --

10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: This is why
11 that we asked that you contract with Acourse, a
12 cleaning company managed through the partnership
13 C.D.C, a community organization. I mean, it
14 doesn't have to be them. We recommend them
15 because they're part of the community.

16 MR. SABATINI: Right.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: And they
18 have a community development corporation business.
19 But certainly I don't think anybody's seen it
20 spotless this week. It has been better? Has it
21 been better since we had our last meeting?

22 MR. SPEARMAN: No, no. Got a whole
23 lot of mud.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: So
25 nothing's happened. It's been dirty from the

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2 inception of the contract.

3 They're been working a couple years.
4 And if they're not cleaning now, I don't know what
5 changes it, other than you getting a cleaning
6 company.

7 As I said, we'd recommend Blaine
8 Stoddard and partnership C.D.C. Acourse Company
9 but certainly the people can't live like this
10 until '07. You've got to give us some dignity and
11 respect the community and have it cleaned.

12 MR. SABATINI: Well, as we talked
13 and you mentioned Mercy, our intent is to refer
14 the contractors to them. Obviously, since they
15 have a binding contract at this point in time, it
16 gets complicated. But if they're not effectively
17 meeting the requirements of the contract,
18 certainly that process can be pursued.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.
20 So they're going to pursue contacting the
21 partnership.

22 MS. MOORE: And any other names --
23 You had mentioned Mercy earlier. Any other names,
24 give those to me.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: It's all

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2 the same company. They run that for Mercy Health
3 Special Services District.

4 This is the first Neighborhood
5 Special Service District in the City. We helped
6 create that out of a need in the community to have
7 this service.

8 But the Acourse company does all
9 that in the partnership. And the C.D.C. is in
10 charge of that as well.

11 Thank you.

12 Next was escalators.

13 MS. JONES: Good morning. We're
14 going to talk about the community. We're going to
15 talk about that.

16 The escalator... As far as the
17 escalator is concerned at 60th Street, in the
18 package of material -- and we'll make sure there
19 are enough copies so that everybody gets it -- we
20 have in the package a list of the six operable
21 escalators, and the date of installation, and
22 where they are.

23 And most of those are in the upper
24 areas, at 46th street, 52nd Street. 56th Street
25 and 60th street up on the mezzanine is operable.

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2 As we know and you know, 46th street lower level
3 and 60th street lower level has been -- both of
4 those escalators have been condemned.

5 And as we previously stated, neither
6 of those units can be salvaged. And in addition,
7 both have exceeded their useful life. And as we
8 said earlier, the parts are not available.

9 What we can do and what we can
10 recommend is the alternate service that runs on --
11 both on 60th street which is Route 46 bus, and on
12 Market Street which is the Route 51.

13 However, both escalators at 46th
14 Street and the lower escalator on 60th Street,
15 we've said, are inoperable.

16 And Councilwoman, we understand that
17 the gravity of the issue with the senior citizens
18 using that location.

19 What we can do is to step up any
20 assistance with those that would be eligible for
21 CCT which is our Customized Community
22 Transportation, as well as shared ride, get all
23 that information to you, as well as provide the
24 alternate service.

25 However, we do know that the

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2 stations are going to be rebuilt. And when we
3 rebuild those stations there will be escalators
4 and elevators at that -- at that location, as well
5 as all of the stations that we are rebuilding.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: So you're
7 saying the other locations, 46th, 52nd, 56th and
8 60th... 46th and 60th Street are unable to be
9 repaired; the others will be reopened --

10 MS. JONES: Are --

11 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Ma'am, I'm
12 looking at Reverend Barnes, too, because his
13 church is at 6014 Market Street.

14 So, are you saying you're willing to
15 do shuttle to -- out of the -- to shuttle people
16 there? I mean, what do we do?

17 You're saying you're willing to open
18 the six operable ones but not 46th Street and
19 60th. They are inoperable and they have to be
20 totally replaced.

21 MS. JONES: They have been condemned
22 and they will be replaced when we rebuild the
23 station.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Right.

25 MS. JONES: And to be perfectly

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2 honest with you, Councilwoman, it is an issue
3 of -- And we've talked about it; we've looked at
4 it; we've talked about it internally -- it is
5 being a good steward of the federal dollars that
6 we have been entrusted with.

7 If, in fact, we were to spend a
8 million, \$2 million to replace that escalator, we
9 would not be a good steward and have some
10 repercussions from the federal government, because
11 what we would be doing would be to put in an
12 escalator, if in fact we could, and then tearing
13 it out in two or three years when we rebuild the
14 station. That is something that we're prohibited
15 from doing.

16 We share the concerns. And what we
17 can offer is the alternate service and the service
18 to seniors.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Now, this
20 CCT service, we want to -- We're asking and we
21 don't want a million and a half dollars spent,
22 although in a \$567 million project, we sure are
23 suffering.

24 We want a new el. We want
25 everything.

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2 MS. JONES: Right.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: But we sure
4 don't want people to suffer until '07 to get
5 there. We can't handle that. We can't survive
6 that.

7 So what we're saying is, will you
8 supply the shuttle buses from that site to the end
9 of the project? And will you supply them such
10 that the people can get them in the same time they
11 normally would, to make the connection at the end
12 of the project?

13 So if it goes -- If the project's
14 from 46th to 63rd, then you have to be taken down
15 to 34th to 30th Street to catch the next
16 connection so you don't wait all day, so that it's
17 coordinated in a timely fashion, so that it works
18 for everybody who would normally get the el.

19 MS. MOORE: I'm take that one.
20 Isn't the whole concept of shuttle buses one that
21 we want to work on and be prepared? And when we
22 get back together, we'll do it because --

23 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.

24 MS. MOORE: Because the shuttle bus
25 is not as simple as just running it up and down.

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2 It's a coordinated activity.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I know.

4 We've got to deal with the whole route, deal with
5 the Streets Department and all of that.

6 MS. MOORE: Exactly, yes.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: And come up
8 with a route.

9 MS. JONES: In addition, understand
10 it would not be a route that would go in the
11 construction area.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: We'll work
13 all of that out. We can work out some suggestions
14 and bring it back to all of you, from the
15 community who can come.

16 And in fact, we'll try to contact
17 you in between so we can work it out and come back
18 to the hearing with something that may be tight.

19 So, Mr. English.

20 MR. ENGLISH: Are you actually
21 saying that the lower half of the 60th Street el
22 cost a million dollars to repair?

23 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL:
24 Mr. English, they were saying if they -- Yeah, if
25 they repaired it, they could spend maybe a million

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2 and a half to repair something that's inoperable.
3 It's because they're no longer usable, unless I
4 misheard.

5 MS. MOORE: That's correct.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Because the
7 el at 46th Street, the escalator, and 60th Street
8 are not able to be repaired. So they don't want
9 to waste their money. We're not asking them to
10 waste their money. We're just trying to get
11 service.

12 MR. ENGLISH: Five more years until
13 '07, '08. That's five more years. So I was
14 actually trying to find out a dollar figure on
15 what they're saying it would actually cost.

16 MS. JONES: We're saying that the
17 escalator can not be repaired. It would have to
18 be torn out and completely replaced.

19 We would be putting in the same kind
20 of escalator that we would put in when we put the
21 station in.

22 And what I'm saying to you is even
23 if we -- even if we could, one escalator costs
24 approximately \$700,000 to \$1 million, yes.

25 MS. MOORE: And that's

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2 conservatively speaking. Some of the escalators
3 that we are purchasing from other locations, they
4 are running a million and a half and two million.

5 And you're also talking about just
6 about nine months to twelve months, if we are
7 lucky, in lead time of getting that escalator
8 delivered.

9 So we're still talking -- Even if we
10 could do it, we're talking some significant amount
11 of time between the point in time we do the specs,
12 order them, et cetera.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: And let me
14 say to those who are in their offices that I
15 apologize that we've been conducting this
16 informally so that you don't hear the questions as
17 you are supposed to.

18 But the question was from Mr. Cliff
19 English as to what the price was to replace els
20 and you heard the answer -- the escalator, from
21 \$700,000 to a million dollars. And that's the
22 question, and that's the answer.

23 MS. JONES: In addition,
24 Councilwoman, we learned that weather is very much
25 detrimental to escalators. And those escalators

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2 on the lower level, and they were exposed,
3 constantly exposed, to the conditions of the
4 weather. And so we learned that.

5 When new escalators are installed,
6 we anticipate we won't have those kinds of
7 problems. But as you can see, the ones that we're
8 talking about are down at 46th and 60th Street
9 where they are exposed to the elements.

10 MR. ENGLISH: Okay. Thank you.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Reverend
12 Barnes, are we okay so far?

13 REVEREND BARNES: So far in
14 reference to what?

15 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: The
16 discussion about the shuttle bus. And we'll come
17 back next meeting, and we can also meet in the
18 middle to make sure that it's acceptable.

19 REVEREND BARNES: Another meeting?

20 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: To all who
21 are concerned. We can even meet in the middle if
22 we need to, as the discussion progresses.
23 S.E.P.T.A. can get back to me. We can meet
24 informally, and we can come back to a hearing, and
25 then bring it to the full body to see if others

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2 have any suggestions.

3 REVEREND BARNES: Councilwoman
4 Blackwell.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Reverend
6 Barnes, please identify yourself for the record.
7 This is Reverend Barnes from Christian Faith, 6014
8 Market Street.

9 REVEREND BARNES: I just want to say
10 that a shuttle bus system process is definitely
11 going to be vital for that entire corridor, not
12 just for the faith-based community.

13 But getting people in and out is
14 going to be very important. I don't know how long
15 it's going to take. Have to go back and sit and
16 discuss that. But our hope is that that's
17 something that can be done in a relatively short
18 period of time.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Reverend
20 Barnes is saying he hopes we can work out a
21 shuttle system in a short amount of time because
22 it will be vital to transportation on 60th Street.

23 Thank you.

24 MS. MOORE: Councilman, if you will
25 allow me two minutes outside, I'll get people

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2 started while we're here.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.

4 Thank you.

5 So let's delay for a moment.

6 Mrs. Moore is going to try to get this discussion
7 going.

8 So, Councilman Nutter.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
10 Chair. I apologize that I have not...

11 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Oh, it's
12 okay. We've been moving.

13 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: ...kept you
14 complete company here at the table, but I have
15 been keeping track.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Mrs. Moore
17 is going to step outside and get some of that
18 discussion going, if you want to wait until she
19 returns.

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. I
21 actually had a question with regard to lighting.
22 I know some of the City people are here, so I do
23 have some other questions.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: With regard
25 to lighting, Mr. Sabatini dealt with that in

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2 detail. Why don't you ask him a question while
3 she's out.

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Did he? Okay.
5 I'm sorry.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: And he can
7 repeat the answer.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I'm reading a
9 letter dated May 15th to the Chair.

10 And the response on question two has
11 to do with lighting to be placed throughout all
12 sections of the construction, including but not
13 limited to businesses and residents near 60th and
14 Market Streets.

15 I think the larger issue, with
16 regard to lighting, was pretty much the length of
17 the Market Street El.

18 The response, which is a different
19 response from a couple weeks ago... The response
20 two weeks ago was: All lights are working; it's
21 adequate; and that you weren't doing anything.

22 The new response seems to be:
23 You're having a discussion with the City engineers
24 about it; you're looking at a schedule; and the
25 conditions survey has been completed.

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2 What is the present status of new
3 lighting under the el?

4 MR. SABATINI: The present status is
5 in conjunction with the City engineer, we need to
6 determine where we need to install the
7 supplemental lighting and how we will implement
8 that, how we will tie in to the existing circuitry
9 along the el.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: We already have
11 lights attached to the structure. Wouldn't you
12 just run the power off of those?

13 MR. SABATINI: That's a possibility.
14 However, that has to be confirmed that it has
15 adequate capacity to do that.

16 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: When will you
17 determine that?

18 MR. SABATINI: That's a process
19 starting now. And I will be back with a schedule.

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: When?

21 I guess what I need is, I know you
22 started the process. I'm very happy about that.

23 What I need is a date when you
24 actually make a decision, and then give me another
25 date when you're actually going to start

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2 installation, and then give me another date when
3 they'll actually be working. That's what I'm
4 interested in.

5 MR. SABATINI: Well, in terms of the
6 plan, I think that by the end of next week we can
7 have a plan in front of you, what we intend to do,
8 bearing in mind that it needs to be worked out in
9 conjunction with the City lighting engineer.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. They're
11 here. Why don't we work it out? I mean, what
12 else needs to be discussed at this point?

13 MR. SABATINI: I think first of all,
14 as I mentioned before, we have done a condition
15 assessment and we intend to -- Those lighting
16 fixtures, existing lighting fixtures, are not
17 functioning. We intend to repair those. And we
18 can start that work very quickly.

19 The next step --

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I mean, I was
21 told a month ago that all the lights work.

22 MR. SABATINI: Well, apparently
23 there are some light fixtures that are not
24 functioning properly.

25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: All right; fine.

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2 But those are the ones that are exterior.

3 MR. SABATINI: I don't know the
4 specific locations?

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: To the
6 superstructure. You have lights that run on both
7 sides...

8 MR. SABATINI: Correct.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: ...of the
10 outside of the superstructure.

11 The issue here is, directly under
12 the el, it is very dark. That's what we've been
13 talking about.

14 So first you told us that you
15 weren't going to do anything because it was
16 adequate light.

17 We continued to ask questions about
18 it. Now you're having discussions with the City
19 Streets Department and the Lighting Division.

20 You think by the end of next week
21 you'll have a plan. What I'm asking you is, once
22 you have a plan, when will you start to actually
23 install the lights? That's what I want to know.

24 MR. SABATINI: Well, you know, it
25 would be difficult to make that commitment right

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2 now, but I think we need to determine the plan and
3 then determine the schedule. But I think it would
4 happen very quickly.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I'm sorry. I
6 missed when you first came on, and I did not --

7 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: They did
8 commit.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I didn't catch
10 your name.

11 MR. SABATINI: Oh. Dominic
12 Sabatini.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: And I will
14 tell my colleague that they did commit to repair
15 25 that are out. So we have a commitment. And
16 that they're meeting with City engineers to work
17 that out, but they made that commitment earlier.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. That's
19 very good.

20 So you'll have a plan at the end of
21 next week. In the meantime you'll continue
22 meeting with the City engineers.

23 And let's, for argument's sake, say
24 that there's adequate capacity out there to make
25 it happen.

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2 And I know it's difficult to
3 prepare. There are so many issues at this kind of
4 hearing. But I'll operate on the premise that you
5 saw the letter dated May 15; is that correct?

6 MR. SABATINI: I'm not sure which
7 letter it is.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: It was a letter
9 from the General Manager.

10 MR. SABATINI: Oh. Oh. All right.
11 So, yes, I did.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I gave my
13 colleague a copy of your letter.

14 MR. SABATINI: Yes, sir. Yes, I've
15 seen that letter.

16 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. And since
17 you've been working on this, I mean, you must have
18 anticipated that one of us was going to ask you a
19 question about this, right?

20 MR. SABATINI: I did.

21 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. So,
22 schedule by the end of next week. And
23 installation when?

24 MR. SABATINI: Well, I don't think
25 I'm in a position to give you a specific date at

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2 this point.

3 MS. MOORE: Councilman, if the plan
4 dictates that new ballasts are needed, we'd have
5 to coordinate with the City lights -- the light
6 commissioner -- Streets Commissioner.

7 We'd have to then double check with
8 P.E.C.O. So there are a series of meetings and
9 things that we'd have to do, in addition to
10 ordering the ballasts, et cetera. If we have the
11 plan --

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Let me make sure
13 I'm understanding something. You said that if
14 it's determined that new ballasts are needed.

15 MS. MOORE: Right, in addition to
16 the 25 or so that will either be repaired or
17 existing.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: That's existing.

19 MS. MOORE: Yes. But if it's
20 determined that if you do the additional survey,
21 you determine you need more lights.

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right.

23 MS. MOORE: Then you also have to
24 figure out what type of lighting, is it additional
25 ballasts, can you just immediately insert into the

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2 existing circuits, do you need new circuits.

3 That's why Dominic is having a
4 difficult time trying to give you a date certain
5 because without the plan we don't know whether we
6 are just replacing the 20, 25 that need to be
7 replaced, whether we have to add additional ones,
8 and if we have to add additional ones can we do it
9 on the existing infrastructure.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I'm sorry I
11 missed the first part of the discussion.

12 Let me make sure I'm understanding.
13 The 25 that need to be replaced, are these similar
14 to the Cobrahead lights that already exist on the
15 el superstructure?

16 MS. MOORE: My understanding, yes.

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. So let's
18 assume that you fix those or repair those.

19 That will still not solve the
20 darkness problem under the el because these lights
21 are not under the el. They light up the travel
22 lane outside the el.

23 So isn't it pretty much a given that
24 you'd have to put new lighting down the center
25 line of Market Street? Isn't that the only way

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2 you're going to -- Isn't that the only way you're
3 going to light up under the el?

4 MR. SABATINI: Right. And I think
5 the question is the determination, to what extent.
6 And that's why we're working in conjunction with
7 the City engineer.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I understand
9 that.

10 MR. SABATINI: To determine that
11 extent.

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I understand
13 your reluctance to give me a specific date.

14 So now I'm going to ask you to give
15 me an estimate or a range, based on your
16 background and experience, and based on your work
17 with the City -- and they're here as well.

18 I mean, you have to understand
19 something: While my own personal plan is to try
20 to be around for a while, other powers and
21 authorities much higher and above may have a
22 different game plan. So I'm trying to get as much
23 done as possible. And we're all here together.

24 In my lucid lifetime, I'd like to
25 get this done, as quickly as possible.

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2 (Applause.)

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So if you're
4 here, and my City friends are here, you have to be
5 able to give me an estimate or a range, based on
6 all the knowledge and expertise and background
7 here, of if we have a plan next Friday, it should
8 take us "X" amount of time to figure out why.

9 And after we know why, then we're
10 going to seek to install around and about Z. Give
11 me a time frame that makes some sense and gives me
12 a comfort level about what we're doing here.

13 I don't want to have to keep chasing
14 after you about this. I'm not going away. I'm
15 not going to stop asking about it. You can talk
16 to your two friends on either side of you. They
17 will tell you that. Save yourself the hassle.

18 MS. MOORE: That's a fact.

19 MS. JONES: That's a fact.

20 MR. SABATINI: I know there's some
21 symbolism to me being in the middle. But in any
22 event...

23 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thorn
24 between the two roses.

25 MS. SABATINI: Correct.

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2 MS. JONES: Thank you.

3 MR. SABATINI: I hear your
4 impatience to have that resolved. We were
5 discussing what would be a time frame. And I
6 think an order of magnitude time frame would be 90
7 days, and that would be aggressive on our part.
8 That's what we're discussing at this point in
9 time.

10 The problem is, in particular, first
11 of all, these are --

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: 90 days is the
13 whole summer.

14 MR. SABATINI: Yeah, but you're
15 talking -- I'm sorry. I think, if I'm correct,
16 we're talking from 45th out to 63rd Street?

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I would assume.

18 MR. SABATINI: It's a significant
19 area. The type of lighting fixtures you're
20 talking about would be similar to the current
21 street lighting fixtures you have out there now.

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I'm not talking
23 about any kind of lighting fixtures. You can go
24 and take and run some extension cords out there,
25 for all I care, with the little -- And I'll get

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2 you some 150 watt bulbs. I don't care.

3 I'm not saying it's got to be the
4 most -- We're not trying to build the Taj Mahal
5 under the el. Eventually, it's all going to go
6 away. I just want some more light.

7 MR. SABATINI: And I can appreciate
8 that.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Let's not make
10 it any more complicated than it needs to be. And
11 I know you've got safety issues you have to deal
12 with. And you can't just go run extension cords.
13 That's slightly facetious.

14 But somewhere between, you know, the
15 most beautiful designed job in the world and
16 something that I might do is the reality of: We
17 have an emergency situation. We need more light
18 up there.

19 Figure out how to string them, run
20 the cord, plug them in, and let's keep moving. I
21 don't -- I can't have it dark out there all summer
22 long. It's too hot. It's too crazy. It's too
23 dark.

24 MR. SABATINI: Understood.

25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So what are you

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2 going to do?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Save him, Miss
5 Moore. Save him from himself.

6 (Laughter)

7 MS. MOORE: I'm not so sure I'm
8 going to save it.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Save him from
10 himself, please. He's drowning out there.

11 MS. MOORE: I do understand, just
12 based on conversations we have internally, I
13 understand the need for the additional days.

14 I also understand what you're
15 saying. We'll work immediately after this with
16 the lights commissioners -- Streets Commissioners.
17 And we'll come back. We'll come back with
18 something. We know that between now and next
19 Friday we can give a plan.

20 MS. JONES: Right.

21 MS. MOORE: That was the initial
22 target of everybody busting it to make sure we
23 could indeed do that.

24 That plan now, if we go with the
25 idea that it does not have to be pretty, it just

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2 has to be functional, maybe that shortens the time
3 frame that we need before we can get lights.

4 We're actually looking at something
5 that was in correlation with what was existing
6 already.

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: We're not
8 looking for historically correct figures of what
9 was out there in the 1860s. We just want more
10 light.

11 And I think when the engineers sit
12 down and understand that this is more about speed
13 than it is style, make it functional, make it
14 safe, and get it out there as quickly as possible.

15 But no one is going to criticize you
16 and say: Oh, my, God; those are the ugliest
17 lights I've ever seen under the el. No. Be
18 grateful that it's light.

19 * I mean, these are the kinds of
20 issues where -- I mean, we have so many other
21 things we can argue about. We don't need to argue
22 about what type of fixtures we're looking at here.
23 We don't have to go searching through catalogs.

24 Make it functional. Make it safe.
25 Make sure they work. That's all we want.

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2 MS. MOORE: And if the ultimate goal
3 is to make sure there is lighting underneath the
4 el, it does not have to be lighting under the el,
5 as long as the area under the el is lit?

6 VOICES: Yes.

7 MS. MOORE: Let me ask it again.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: That's a tricky
9 one. Let me step back for a moment. I think what
10 I'm hearing you say is if you can figure out a
11 way, off of the superstructure, to direct light
12 under the el and light up that area...

13 MS. MOORE: Correct.

14 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: You're making a
15 distinction between that and an attachment
16 underneath the el to that. No; it's the light
17 under the el. I don't care how you get it there.

18 MS. MOORE: Okay.

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: You can bring
20 500 helicopters out there if you feel like, and
21 have them shoot the light down underneath.

22 As long as it's bright, I don't care
23 how you do it. I really don't. And I think the
24 Councilwoman is in agreement. Light under the el
25 is the issue.

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2 How you figure out how to do it,
3 that's your business.

4 MS. MOORE: Okay. All right.

5 MS. JONES: Yes.

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Second, this
7 escalator issue, question number four --

8 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: This is the
9 shuttle issue.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: This is the
11 shuttle issue? We've been through all that?

12 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Yes.

13 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. I don't
14 want to cover any territory a second time.

15 Thank you. Is that what Miss Moore
16 was going out to deal with?

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Yes.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: On the shuttle
19 issue?

20 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: We'll deal
21 with that as an issue. We have our completion
22 date.

23 MS. MOORE: Policing.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: We talked
25 about policing. They agreed to contact the

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2 partnership C.D.C. about cleaning.

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: About cleaning.

4 Okay. All right.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: We've

6 already met with the Parking Authority about

7 ticketing.

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: So we tried

10 to do as much as we could.

11 And you all agreed to put somebody

12 who can work in the office and make it real good

13 open, all-day office, right?

14 MS. JONES: Currently we have a

15 staff person in the CIC office, and we're going to

16 make sure that the office is more accessible and

17 the kind of information that's needed around the

18 project.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: And they've

20 got to be -- I don't know who's in there so it's

21 not personal. But nobody uses that office. We

22 all communicate with one another. So that person

23 is not viewed as a person who has any information

24 who can communicate, who can call you and say: We

25 got an emergency.

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2 You know, it's viewed as an office
3 that's open sometime and sometime somebody just
4 sits in there.

5 So we really need a working body who
6 can communicate, who will communicate with the MOC
7 office at 58th Street, and so that people can go
8 up there and communicate back with this person if
9 they're closer to 58th Street, and who can call
10 you for emergencies, who can take complaints, a
11 real viable office, so that... We know we have
12 Greg out there. We know we have Mike Tucker and
13 Reverend Baker and that, but an office that
14 functions for the rest of the life of our
15 contract.

16 MS. JONES: Yes. What we're doing
17 now is putting together an aggressive outreach
18 plan with the -- including the office so that
19 there's more activity going there, there's more
20 outreach going there, that we're interacting with
21 the schools with our existing safety program but
22 getting that information out to the schools, as
23 well as working with the existing block captains
24 and the town watch around the construction area.
25 And so there will be better coordination of the

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2 office and better use of the office with the staff
3 person that's there.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: And I will
5 say for the benefit of my colleague, all the audit
6 outreach business relocation funds, post
7 construction plans, all of those areas of
8 communication with the departments and with
9 Commerce, I've asked that we be included in all
10 the meetings, all discussions.

11 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay.

12 MS. JONES: That's fine.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: There's
14 also a meeting with regard to Reverend Barnes. I
15 understand you have a data base with 75 churches.

16 MS. JONES: Right. Right.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Now, we
18 have Reverend Barnes here, who is our main contact
19 person. We have a sample letter --

20 MS. JONES: Exhibit A.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: -- that you
22 have drawn up. Have you seen that, Reverend
23 Barnes?

24 REVEREND BARNES: No, I haven't.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: We'll make

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2 some copies of that.

3 MS. JONES: Councilwoman, I just
4 forwarded him a package of the information.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Okay.

6 MS. JONES: Which includes a sample
7 letter with the date of the next faith-based round
8 table which we are coordinating.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: And so we
10 want Reverend Barnes to be an integral part of
11 that. And in addition, any complaints lodged that
12 are submitted to the offices, please let us know
13 so that we have good communication.

14 MS. JONES: Absolutely.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Mr. Hamlin,
16 and to my colleague: Forgive us for doing this so
17 informally, but we're really trying to have a
18 working meeting.

19 MR. HAMLIN: My question has been
20 for over two years, every meeting I've gone to
21 I've asked about the level -- your attempts to
22 fulfill the level playing field requirements for
23 inclusion of doing business with S.E.P.T.A. and
24 the local community.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Mr. Hamlin,

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2 an architect, is asking about minority
3 participation.

4 I would like to ask everyone, if it
5 is acceptable, since we don't have anyone here
6 from the City, from our Council employee whose job
7 it is, that we defer all of the minority
8 participation issues to our next meeting, and then
9 do a whole talk about jobs.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Because we
12 need time to really get into it. And then
13 Mr. Baker, whomever, can bring their statistics,
14 so everybody's prepared to talk about minority
15 participation, who gets jobs, how it happened that
16 we got this far, and what we can do in the future
17 for inclusion. Is that acceptable to everybody?

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: That's fine.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: All right.
20 So we'll do that. That will be an integral part
21 of our next meeting.

22 MS. JONES: In addition,
23 Councilwoman, Exhibit D, a special attachment, is
24 a list of issues or concerns that were not a part
25 of the questions that were submitted from the

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2 Council but a list of issues that Councilman
3 Nutter and Councilman Ortiz had from the last
4 meeting, which includes a list of firms, submitted
5 proposals for MSE professional service, as well as
6 a list of trades work by African American
7 employees as of January 2003, and a written
8 response to why the goals for the number of
9 workers and the number of work hours different.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Madam Chair...

11 MS. JONES: So that is Exhibit D.
12 And we will be prepared to have a discussion on
13 that at the next meeting.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Exactly.
15 And it will give my colleague time to respond.

16 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: That's right.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: And you
18 know, I'm finding that part of our problems in
19 this City -- This is not specifically targeted to
20 S.E.P.T.A. -- but in general we see that the...
21 We hear of goals and we see goals, but people in
22 the community say: I don't see these people out
23 there.

24 I mean, they're already unemployed.
25 So they see them, and they just don't see the

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2 minority inclusion that's listed on paper in real,
3 in flesh.

4 So, I really want to have a real
5 discussion with regard to that so that everybody's
6 clear and understands and we all agree on and/or
7 understand at least what's happening.

8 MS. JONES: Yes. Okay.

9 Councilwoman, for the record, I'd
10 just like to say that we've had, we're having, and
11 will continue to have meetings with Reverend
12 Barnes around developing a marketing plan for the
13 faith-based community in the project area.

14 So that has been a part of an
15 ongoing process, but we've had two meetings since
16 our Council, last Council meeting with Reverend
17 Barnes.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you
19 very much. I guess we've talked about some
20 issues.

21 I'd like to bring up another issue,
22 too, and that is my Angorra Station. That's my
23 station. That's my area.

24 Now, we show you as proof
25 advertisements that give different dates,

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2 different hearing dates. Now, this means that
3 S.E.P.T.A. should not close our station because
4 you didn't even -- You know, whomever was putting
5 your notices out did not update them.

6 You had some on els and buses, and a
7 different set of meetings and dates on another.
8 We have our proof here. And it means that we
9 really need a discussion.

10 And you know, the community... This
11 Angorra Station is across from a library, a
12 shopping mall, a senior citizen home. And it's
13 really vital to that neighborhood.

14 And the community contention is that
15 it may be underutilized. And I know you're saying
16 there's 25 people using it in instead of 50 people
17 within a time log.

18 But the community contends it wasn't
19 marketed for such, that S.E.P.T.A. really did not
20 aggressively let community people know this is a
21 viable station; come use Angorra Terrace; you can
22 get there.

23 And we know the el gets you there in
24 a quicker amount of time. But the community is
25 really, really upset, and in fact told me that

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2 albeit we were in discussion -- I haven't checked
3 this particular one. I've been around looking at
4 lots and many other things, but I have not checked
5 this, I will tell you.

6 But they're saying that somebody was
7 out there taking up parts of the track already,
8 even though we're in discussion. I don't know. I
9 can't verify it. It could just be a rumor.

10 But certainly we would like to have
11 consideration on this. And even if you need
12 the... I know we gave you a petition with
13 hundreds of signatures. But even if you need...
14 Even if we could make some agreement where you try
15 it longer and see if the community can use it or
16 something like that, maybe we can come to some
17 meeting of the minds to give us time to see what
18 is possible.

19 MS. MOORE: Councilwoman, since we
20 have started the public hearing process, that
21 process has to conclude. There's nothing that
22 staff can do or any individual board member even,
23 to stop that process.

24 What we will do is make sure that
25 the hearing examiner gets the information that was

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2 forwarded, the signatures, et cetera. We'll make
3 sure that your voice is heard when we get the
4 information to the hearing examiner. But at this
5 stage, the public process has to conclude.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: All righty.
7 Well, we will hope that... Reverend Barnes.

8 REVEREND BARNES: I want to respond.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Okay.
10 Then, Reverend Barnes, then, take one of the
11 microphones, and we'll ask the gentleman... Come
12 here, even though it's our witness table. We'll
13 do it informally. But would you come around to
14 the table so that you can respond.

15 REVEREND BARNES: Councilwoman
16 Blackwell, do you have time for Miss McGregor?

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Yes. Just
18 come forward, and let's do it. Also, while she's
19 coming forward, Miss McGregor also asked for
20 forensic assessment.

21 Are you able to provide this
22 forensic assessment, with regard to summer jobs?
23 Well, the community initiatives part, I think you
24 have.

25 MS. MCGREGOR: Councilwoman, Debra

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2 McGregor. The item that I made reference to was
3 collapsed into -- two items were collapsed into
4 one, and so the resultant Item Number 9 is
5 inaccurate. I'm referring to S.E.P.T.A.'s letter
6 to you dated May 15th, Page 7, Item 9.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Yes.

8 MS. MCGREGOR: The forensic
9 assessment in the form of a report from the agency
10 is like a dead person doing their own autopsy.
11 That's not what we're asking for.

12 We would like an independent
13 assessment of the contract, of the scope of
14 services promised by contractors and consultants,
15 and we would also like the change orders. Our
16 sources tells us the change orders are coming in
17 and are very expensive.

18 We would also like to have the
19 budget to date and the dispersal to date. We feel
20 as the community we've been put on the cheap, not
21 enough money coming to the agencies that are
22 designated to provide services. And the level of
23 services are not at the professional level that we
24 would expect from a project at the level of a half
25 a billion dollars.

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2 So, separate out teenage jobs. I
3 mention that as an afterthought. Go back to the
4 front of the half a billion dollars. Tell us
5 who's getting the money, who's putting in change
6 orders, what is the scope of services, and how
7 much has been spent to date. Thank you.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
9 Miss McGregor.

10 S.E.P.T.A., what can you do for us?
11 Can you get us this information for our next
12 meeting? And in addition, respond to summer jobs
13 and let us know what we can do for summer jobs,
14 et cetera, issues that aren't technically related.

15 MS. MCGREGOR: Councilwoman,
16 apologies. I forgot.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Yes, ma'am.

18 MS. MCGREGOR: This is data to be
19 provided to an independent reviewer.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I
21 understand. I heard you.

22 MS. MCGREGOR: We do not need the
23 self report card they are providing because they
24 are providing it.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I'm sure

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2 they must have that someplace.

3 MS. MOORE: Yes, ma'am.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: And I
5 assume so. They had to hire independent people to
6 get this far. So we'll ask them to make that
7 information available at our next meeting, on or
8 before.

9 MS. MOORE: Yes.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Okay.

11 Thank you. Reverend Barnes.

12 REVEREND BARNES: I'd probably be a
13 little more comfortable sitting down somewhere.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Please.
15 Sit here, sir. Or you can sit here at our witness
16 table?

17 REVEREND BARNES: I won't be
18 comfortable sitting up here.

19 (Laughter.)

20 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Well,
21 you're welcome, anyway.

22 REVEREND BARNES: Thank you.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.

24 REVEREND BARNES: First of all, my
25 first probably comment -- I'm not going -- And I'm

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2 not going to be long but... I think there is an
3 assumption that because there's a response to our
4 church from S.E.P.T.A., that you are resolving the
5 issues as it relates to the faith-based community
6 in the City of Philadelphia, as it's relating to
7 this construction project.

8 And I'm going to ask first of all
9 that Frances Jones and the rest of the
10 organization stop using Christian Faith Baptist
11 Church and Reverend Barnes as your guinea pig to
12 resolving issues, as it relates to the faith-based
13 community.

14 I do not represent the religious
15 community that's being affected by the S.E.P.T.A.
16 contract.

17 I'm a person here who's the pastor
18 of a church that's on Market Street that's being
19 affected by the S.E.P.T.A. el construction
20 project. We are one church.

21 Yes, there has been faith leadership
22 breakfasts that have been conducted. Most of
23 those ministers, pastors, and churches probably
24 did not submit to you that they had any problems
25 with the project.

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2 And that's probably why you don't
3 see that many of them at this session or these
4 public hearings, because they don't exist on
5 Market Street.

6 So, why would you have meetings with
7 faith-based organizations that are not impacted?
8 I know the understanding from the beginning is to
9 talk to the faith-based organizations to get a
10 feeling or their opinion about the project.

11 But if they're not living, if their
12 churches don't exist on Market Street and are
13 directly impacted by the project, they're not
14 going to submit to you problems and concerns.

15 We're on Market Street.
16 Philadelphia Baptist Church is on Market Street.
17 I think it's Ward Memorial, another church is on
18 Market Street. United Missionary Baptist Church
19 is on Market Street. New White Rock Baptist
20 Church, small church, is on Market.

21 There's only about seven churches
22 maybe from 43 to 63rd that are affected directly
23 by this project. So to send out letters to 75
24 religious leaders to have a breakfast meeting
25 about what's going on right now is irrelevant.

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2 Really, it is relevant. Let me finish. It's
3 irrelevant.

4 You need to deal with what's going
5 on on Market Street. I don't need to attend a
6 faith-based breakfast. We've been dealing with it
7 for two years, so we need to know what's going to
8 happen now for people who are affected, not just
9 the church. It's not just the church.

10 The only reason why I'm actually
11 here is because business owners came to me and
12 reverse: I went to the business owners. We came
13 together because of what's going on on Market
14 Street, not because faith-based organizations were
15 affected.

16 We do realize that the church is a
17 separate entity. We're not a traditional business
18 entity, so how you respond in terms of a marketing
19 strategy to assist the church and all that must be
20 handled somewhat differently.

21 But we do not want to be used today
22 and any time in the future as your way of
23 responding to the faith-based organization and
24 have that being seen as a response, you know.

25 I'm a nice person. Most pastors and

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2 ministers tend to be. I don't know what your
3 perception is of religious organizations, black
4 pastors in the City of Philadelphia. I really
5 have no idea about that. There seems to be a
6 perception that if you talk to us, we're going to
7 be okay.

8 We want the same answers as the
9 business owners are asking for on Market Street.
10 We are one group. We are working together; and
11 that's it. I may not understand all the
12 complexities.

13 (Applause.)

14 REVEREND BARNES: But I do know that
15 we are being affected, and we're looking for some
16 immediate results.

17 MS. JONES: I'd like to respond,
18 Reverend Barnes.

19 REVEREND BARNES: No; let me finish.

20 MS. JONES: I'd like to respond to
21 those issues that you've brought up thus far, and
22 then we'll take any additional issues or concerns.

23 There's no confusion on our part
24 about who the faith-based organizations are, as it
25 relates specifically to Market Street. We know

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2 who those are.

3 REVEREND BARNES: Frances, let me
4 explain something to you real quickly. In this
5 packet that you just gave me, there's a notation
6 in here... There's a notation in here about how
7 you assisted Christian Faith Baptist Church.

8 MS. JONES: Mm-hmm.

9 REVEREND BARNES: 1999 we gave an
10 outdoor evangelism event. You provided some
11 project materials table, which was the cost was
12 probably zero dollars.

13 We submitted a two-page request to
14 S.E.P.T.A. at that particular time -- This is
15 three years ago -- to provide assistance, as a way
16 of responding to the community, because the church
17 organized ten churches, business owners. All came
18 together for this festival event.

19 So the request was for you to
20 respond to assist as a major sponsor of the event
21 that would be seen by the entire community as you
22 responding some way, since there's a great outcry
23 about there not being a response. That event and
24 those -- in the past and in the future were not
25 supported by S.E.P.T.A. in the way that we

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2 requested. Your total amount of support for the
3 first event was zero dollars.

4 The second event, I think somebody
5 reached into their back pocket and came up with a
6 \$50 bill and put it in my hand. The third event
7 we got a generator for the event, maybe \$150,
8 \$200.

9 Your response to the Christian Faith
10 Baptist Church should not be seen as you
11 responding to the faith-based group.

12 We are part of the entire group.
13 So, from today and in the future, I don't want you
14 to use Christian Faith. Okay?

15 MS. JONES: Your point is well
16 taken.

17 REVEREND BARNES: Don't use
18 Christian Faith.

19 MS. JONES: Your point is well
20 taken.

21 (Applause.)

22 REVEREND BARNES: Just in closing,
23 we've been dealing with this issue for a year and
24 a half or two. And many of us have not been as
25 vocal, and we felt it was not -- it was not

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2 necessary to be as vocal as we are today, because
3 we felt that we had some assurances from
4 S.E.P.T.A., promises that were made on the front
5 end so that we would never have to get to where we
6 are today. Those assurances were and those
7 promises were not kept.

8 Even as it relates to this escalator
9 issue, no one asked for the rebuilding of a fancy,
10 brand new escalator. The \$700,000 -- and we have
11 not seen those numbers in print -- I think you're
12 talking about a brand new escalator. We weren't
13 talking about that. We were talking about
14 something that would get people up and down.

15 If you can put temporary lighting,
16 as Councilman Nutter and you had just discussed,
17 that's not going to be fancy and elaborate, you
18 can do the same thing with an escalator.

19 We're not talking about a \$700,000
20 escalator. We're talking about something that
21 will get people up and down. I don't think that's
22 going to cost \$700,000.

23 I really believe -- And I'm going to
24 close and get out the way and let some other
25 folks -- I know you have some other business to

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2 take care of.

3 But I think it's been an insult to
4 the entire community. And the reason why we know
5 it has been an insult to the intelligence of these
6 business owners and the faith-based initiative is
7 that we are actually in this room today and that
8 we were here on May the 7th.

9 I really believe you felt that folks
10 were not going to understand the complexity and
11 were not going to understand what the needs really
12 are.

13 And we are expecting after today
14 that there be a response to our concerns in a way
15 that makes some sense, and that means some real
16 solutions to the problems. Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
19 Reverend Barnes. My suggestion is that then we
20 not have a meeting on the 29th, and that we move
21 forward as one community. It's one less activity
22 for us to do.

23 MS. MOORE: That's fine.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.
25 So we agree on -- Oh, and we already talked about

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2 the -- Did we talk about deliveries? Somebody
3 mentioned deliveries today. Or is that working
4 okay now?

5 And let me just go through my notes
6 to make sure we've talked about everything we need
7 to discuss.

8 MS. JONES: We're available,
9 Councilwoman, if some other issues come up at some
10 later point prior to the next meeting date, to
11 address your issues.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Okay. I
13 hope that we will have more meeting about
14 subsidies for our businesses, more information at
15 that time.

16 We announced also last time that the
17 Power 99 and Unity Day WDAS had the meeting with
18 S.E.P.T.A. and they weren't prepared to,
19 apparently to... Agreement wasn't set in stone
20 yet, so they weren't prepared to announce it, but
21 that they are prepared to -- But it's a work in
22 progress.

23 MS. JONES: Yes.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Let me ask
25 one more thing. We need to know where S.E.P.T.A.

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2 Police start and the Philadelphia Police end, for
3 policing this area. We don't have to have that
4 today, but that's one other issue that we would
5 like to work out by our next meeting.

6 So at our next meeting, then, maybe
7 I can summarize some things we think we've
8 accomplished today and what we'll also come back
9 with at our next meeting.

10 Today we talked about the issue of
11 the plates, Mr. Spearman, and opening one lane of
12 traffic.

13 We talked about a shuttle.

14 We talked about the Mercy Health
15 Special Services District cleaners or Course
16 company and a partnership C.D.C.

17 We talked about lighting.

18 We talked about policing, S.E.P.T.A.
19 versus Philadelphia and how that fits in.

20 And we talked about coming back to
21 have a full discussion on all the minority
22 participation issues that were discussed early.

23 Did I leave anything out, staff, or
24 folks who are our guests? And if I did, I'll
25 review my notes. And we talked about Angorra

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2 Terrace also.

3 VOICE IN THE AUDIENCE: A moratorium
4 on taxes.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Oh, yes.
6 My staff, make sure. We talked about going back
7 to the Mayor to see where we are on tax issues
8 with regard to the businesses affected, the
9 affected businesses.

10 We also talked about the Parking
11 Authority not issuing tickets, which they've
12 already agreed to in principal. We have to work
13 out where we want them or where we don't.

14 And we talked -- And we've also met
15 with the Streets Department with regard to lots.
16 So we have to follow up on lots and where people
17 can park. And we really seriously think that 49th
18 Street is a real great spot for that end.

19 So we talked about lots and streets
20 where we can have parking for customers and/or
21 businesses, so we can get that done.

22 And did I neglect anything? And we
23 also said that we're happy to meet in the middle.
24 Let me ask my staff attorney when we can meet
25 again, because if we have to meet in the middle

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2 it's okay.

3 I know everybody is busy with
4 Election Day. That's why I am here, because this
5 is the day we have to get ballots and all that
6 kind of stuff. And then Monday is the day before
7 Election.

8 All righty. It looks like the first
9 date we can get is June 6th. We will have
10 Community Development Block Grant hearings for
11 those who are interested in that on June 2nd; am I
12 correct?

13 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: That's correct.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: On June 2nd
15 we will have Community Development Block Grant
16 hearings.

17 So is there are any other issue that
18 I did not mention that we discussed today? Okay.
19 If there is, we'll review our notes and make sure
20 that we contact S.E.P.T.A.

21 We appreciate all of your taking
22 your time and energy. And I believe that with the
23 collaboration, when we all work together, that we
24 can get something that works and makes life better
25 for us all.

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2 So, thank you. This hearing is
3 recessed, then, until June 6th at 10:00 a.m.
4 Thank you. We'll be in touch.

5 (Hearing continued to June 6, 2003,
6 10:00 a.m.)

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2 CERTIFICATE

3

4 I HEREBY CERTIFY that the proceedings and
5 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the
6 stenographic notes taken by me upon the public
7 hearing of The Philadelphia City Council, taken on
8 May 16, 2003, and that this is a true and correct
9 transcript of same.

10

11

12

13

14

15 _____
DAVID A. DEIK, RPR and

16 Commissioner of Deeds

17

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