

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

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
PUBLIC UTILITIES

- - -

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, April 17, 2008
1:10 p.m.

- - -

PRESENT:

COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR., CHAIR
COUNCILMAN FRANK DiCICCO
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM GREENLEE
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL
COUNCILMAN DARRELL CLARKE

RESOLUTION 080396 - Resolution authorizing
Council's Committee on Transportation and
Public Utilities to hold hearings on the
safety of the Philadelphia subways, elevated
trains, buses and commuter rail lines...

- - -

V A R A L L O Incorporated
Litigation Support Services
Eleven Penn Center
1835 Market Street, Suite 600
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103
215.561.2220 215.567.2670

1

2

COUNCILMAN JONES: Good

3

afternoon. We are going to get started.

4

I want to thank everybody for coming out.

5

Welcome. This is the hearing from the

6

Committee of Transportation and Public

7

Utilities.

8

Will the Clerk please read the

9

title of the resolution.

10

THE CLERK: Resolution

11

authorizing Council's Committee on

12

Transportation and Public Utilities to

13

hold hearings on the safety of the

14

Philadelphia subways, elevated trains,

15

buses and commuter rail lines and the

16

measures that SEPTA, the City, the

17

Department of Public Property and the

18

Police are taking to protect all riders

19

on the public transportation system.

20

COUNCILMAN JONES: I'd like to

21

also recognize the Vice-Chair of

22

Transportation and Public Utilities,

23

Councilman Greenlee, and I'd like to also

24

recognize Councilman DiCicco.

25

I wanted to open up with a

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 couple of remarks. One, a good friend of
3 mine, a Philadelphian by the name of
4 Gordon Linton, who is a former State
5 Representative from the Northwest, said
6 to me -- and he became -- he went on
7 after he was State Rep to become the
8 Deputy for the Federal Transportation
9 Administration. He said that public
10 transportation is an invisible resource
11 that only becomes visible when it does
12 not occur, and today's hearings is a
13 clear example of that point.

14 Ninety-nine percent of the time
15 we take for granted the invisible
16 transportation system of SEPTA when it
17 moves quickly and on time. But the
18 tragic events that have led us to this
19 hearing today should be a wake-up call
20 for us all, and, in fact, we're going to
21 start by saying that this is not a
22 point-the-finger-at-anyone session. This
23 is an assessment of where we are and
24 where as a municipality and a public
25 utility do we need to be -- a public

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 transportation system do we need to be.

3 It is an opportunity for us to
4 work together and examine creative
5 solutions to continue to make
6 Philadelphia a vibrant city and an
7 economic success, and one of the key
8 staples of that is a safe transportation
9 system.

10 I want to also say that a
11 constituent of mine brought into my
12 office a thick chain. It looked to me
13 like a dog chain. And the only problem
14 with that was, they did not own a dog.
15 She took it out of her pocket of her
16 son's coat. She explained to me in
17 dismay -- and he goes to one of those
18 fine schools that you get off of the
19 bus -- and I won't point out the
20 school -- on Broad Street, and every day
21 he has to take that Broad Street Line,
22 and it has become a rite of passage
23 unfortunately, a violent rite of passage,
24 for him to ride that subway and he and
25 his friends know that they somehow have

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 to defend themselves. And right out of a
3 chapter of West Side Story, he felt that
4 this was the way that he needed to
5 conduct himself.

6 Well, young people should not
7 have to face that every day in order to
8 have an education, whether it's victims
9 of crime or people seeking an education.
10 We depend upon this system to get here to
11 there, and we have to make it safe, and
12 it's all of our job.

13 And so we're here today to
14 start that process, and I'd like to start
15 calling witnesses, because we have a long
16 line of testimony, and I'd like to first
17 hear from the Administration.

18 For the record, I have Brian
19 O'Neill, who is also a member of this
20 Committee.

21 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Good
22 afternoon, Mr. Chairman.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
24 afternoon.

25 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: And

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 other members that are here. My name is
3 Everett Gillison and I am the Deputy
4 Mayor for Public Safety.

5 The City of Philadelphia has a
6 crime strategy that is being implemented
7 by the Philadelphia Police Department.
8 That strategy, in part, deals with
9 collaboration with other law enforcement
10 agencies. Among those agencies are the
11 SEPTA and SEPTA Police. The new Police
12 Commissioner has been working with other
13 agencies, SEPTA included, to strengthen
14 and improve those relationships, and you
15 will hear shortly from the Commissioner
16 himself about how the Philadelphia Police
17 Department is sharing the information
18 regarding the crimes on SEPTA property
19 and how they are working together on
20 joint efforts.

21 The City is committed to
22 protecting all of its citizens, and we
23 are constantly making adjustments to
24 ensure quick responses to crime patterns
25 and also crime trends.

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 But this concludes the portion
3 of my testimony. I thank you for the
4 opportunity to appear today to testify on
5 behalf of the Administration, and I will
6 be happy to answer any questions that you
7 might have of me, but please feel free to
8 listen further to the Commissioner before
9 and then we would take questions jointly.

10 Thank you.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: Please. I'm
12 sorry, Commissioner.

13 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Thank
14 you. Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and
15 other members of the Committee on
16 Transportation and Public Utilities. My
17 name is Charles Ramsey and I'm the Police
18 Commissioner of the Philadelphia Police
19 Department. First, let me thank you for
20 allowing the Police Department the
21 opportunity to be heard regarding this
22 resolution.

23 The focus of the crime-fighting
24 strategy I put forward on January 30,
25 2008 is a bold, aggressive plan for a

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 long-term sustainable approach to
3 reducing violent crime in Philadelphia.
4 A major component of this strategy is
5 collaboration with other major law
6 enforcement agencies, including SEPTA
7 Transit Police. To that desired end,
8 members of the Philadelphia Police
9 Department and members of the SEPTA
10 Transit Police were already collaborating
11 to improve our existing relationship to
12 better combat crime as a team before the
13 tragic death of Mr. Conroy.

14 As I'm sure you're aware, SEPTA
15 Transit Police has primary jurisdiction
16 for patrolling the public transportation
17 system. However, the Philadelphia Police
18 Department is committed to supporting
19 SEPTA Police in fighting crime in all
20 corners of Philadelphia, including the
21 public transportation system. We have
22 improved the sharing of information
23 regarding crimes occurring on SEPTA
24 property and are working together on
25 joint efforts.

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 At present, each of the six
3 police divisions have put together a plan
4 to specifically address how they patrol
5 in and around public transportation
6 systems, both above and below the ground.
7 Each plan was developed based upon crime
8 patterns, trends, as well as the
9 geographical makeup and transit
10 infrastructure in each division.
11 Particular attention is focused on the
12 Center City area and all subway lines.
13 In fact, in response to a juvenile crime
14 pattern identified several weeks ago,
15 SEPTA and the Philadelphia Police
16 Department collaborated and immediately
17 increased police patrols during school
18 dismissal times. In addition, the
19 Philadelphia Police Department monitors
20 on a daily basis all incidents which
21 occur on public transportation systems
22 throughout the City. This allows us to
23 make comprehensive adjustments to ensure
24 enforcement is swift and responsive to
25 crime patterns and trends. Both

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 Philadelphia and SEPTA Police met with
3 the Guardian Angels to discuss possible
4 ways they could assist in our joint
5 efforts.

6 In closing, let me state that
7 the Philadelphia Police Department has an
8 excellent partnership with the SEPTA
9 Transit Police. Together, we are
10 committed to protecting all riders on the
11 public transportation system and
12 throughout Philadelphia.

13 This does conclude my
14 testimony. Thank you once again, and at
15 this time, I'll be happy to answer any
16 questions that any members may have.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: I guess
18 we'll entertain some questions at this
19 point while we have you up here.

20 Would you like to?

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
22 you, Mr. Chairman.

23 Good afternoon, Commissioner,
24 Mr. Gillison.

25 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Good

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 afternoon.

3 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you
4 for your testimony. It certainly looks
5 like you're proactive in a lot of ways on
6 this problem.

7 You talk a little bit about the
8 times of the incidents, and I think we
9 all knew from what we heard from our
10 constituents, what we read in the paper,
11 that certainly that dismissal time is one
12 of the key times. I don't know if you
13 can give us numbers. How much do you
14 increase patrols during that time,
15 roughly, would you say?

16 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well,
17 each division is different. What I have
18 is the actual plan for the different
19 divisions that we have, and depending on
20 the incidents and the amount of kids
21 using the particular line or the
22 particular station, it does vary.

23 I know that prior to the
24 homicide that took place, the line that
25 runs along Broad Street, we already had

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 had several incidents occur that involve
3 teenagers, and one of my inspectors, Joe
4 Sullivan, had taken it upon himself to
5 begin a permanent assignment of people at
6 stations.

7 To give you an idea, in the
8 35th District, for an example, from 8:00
9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday,
10 Broad and Olney, one beat officer, and
11 then at 4:00 to 8:00 Monday through
12 Friday, two that we would deploy down
13 there actually on the platform; Broad and
14 Lindley, two tactical officers from 3:00
15 to 6:00; Broad and Wyoming, two tactical
16 officers, and then another site that
17 between the coordination is covered
18 totally by SEPTA.

19 So what I'm trying to say is
20 that what we've tried to do is deploy our
21 people in a way that's consistent with
22 the kind of complaints and also working
23 very closely with SEPTA to make sure
24 we're not wasting resources by doubling
25 efforts. We're actually working

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 together. If there's an area that they
3 need some additional support, we provide
4 it. If there's one they can handle
5 themselves, they handle it.

6 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
7 you.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.
9 May I ask a couple of just
10 basic questions. How many stops are on
11 Broad Street are we talking about?

12 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: There's
13 four that I just mentioned there. Nine
14 that I have that I see here that we've
15 got covered.

16 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: We
17 cover all of them, Councilman, but I
18 think that as far as particular
19 responsive to the matter, it would be 24
20 in total, is what I've heard.

21 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY:
22 Twenty-four, yeah.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: On that
24 question, how many charter and public
25 schools are along that route? Do we have

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 any coordination? Do we know that
3 information?

4 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I
5 believe that the School District is
6 scheduled to testify, and they probably
7 would be in a better position to answer
8 that question as far as how many
9 particular either charter schools and/or
10 public schools that would be along that
11 route. I don't think that we have -- I
12 would be able to research that and get
13 that to you.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: And while
15 you're doing that, I would imagine -- and
16 we can save some time. Since you don't
17 know how many are there, you don't know
18 what their dismissal times are, I would
19 imagine?

20 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I
21 believe that would be in collaboration
22 with the Police. I'm sure the police
23 officers from those districts and the
24 captains would know that information,
25 since they're deploying officers during

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 that time.

3 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: There is
4 flexibility there, because the captains
5 know when we have our problems with the
6 young riders getting out of school, and
7 each one is adjusted accordingly.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: And in so
9 doing, have you made recommendations to
10 the School Board about their dismissal
11 times, which can be -- if you calculate
12 the route that most of the students being
13 let out of school travel, there are
14 certain convergences at major hubs such
15 as Broad and Olney, Broad and Girard,
16 Broad and Erie and other places like
17 that. Is there any coordination in those
18 logistics to be able to kind of say if
19 young people from Central don't get along
20 with young people from another school and
21 we find that to be a pattern, that a
22 15-minute, 20-minute, ten-minute one way
23 early, ten-minute another way late allows
24 for them to miss each other entirely?
25 And I want to know if any logistic

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 coordination between the School Board,
3 between SEPTA, between SEPTA Police, has
4 that occurred?

5 (Witness approached witness
6 table.)

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOX: Good
8 afternoon.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
10 afternoon. State your name for the
11 record, please.

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOX: First
13 Deputy Commissioner Patricia Georgio-Fox,
14 Philadelphia Police Department.

15 There have been many occasions
16 with which we have approached the School
17 Board with requests to alter dismissal
18 times due to various problems, gang
19 fights, the summer warmer weather.

20 To date for this year, we have
21 not yet approached them for any kind of
22 alteration due to SEPTA issues. The
23 issues of violence as they surround
24 schools, particularly at dismissal time,
25 have been addressed in the past and the

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 schools have frequently made adjustments
3 for us, so that several high schools in a
4 given area don't release at the same
5 time. And it's something we're very much
6 aware of. I don't believe that we've
7 looked at that in terms of the subways.

8 The ability for us to be able
9 to track what percentage of students use
10 those subways is very difficult.
11 Certainly we'd be happy to entertain
12 that. If SEPTA and the School Board felt
13 that was necessary, we'd engage in that.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: Well, as a
15 suggestion, as a young person growing up
16 in the streets of Philadelphia -- and
17 it's not true now, but West Philadelphia
18 at one time didn't get along with
19 Overbrook High School, and never the
20 tween should meet. And if we know those
21 things and we can calculate
22 transportation times and when they let
23 out, you can avoid some of that.

24 So you said you've done that in
25 the past?

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOX: We
3 have done it various times throughout
4 school years when problems above ground
5 have pointed -- made themselves very
6 clear to us. If Lincoln and CEP were
7 getting out at the same time, for
8 example, and that caused us to have
9 geographic problems, neighborhood
10 disputes, we asked one of those schools,
11 and frequently got success in having them
12 alter their dismissal times.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: When is the
14 last time you did that?

15 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOX: I
16 know we did it last spring, and we
17 actually -- we've been very successful
18 with the School Board, who has been very
19 cooperative with us.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Councilman
21 Greenlee.

22 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Just very
23 quickly on that same point, Mr. Chairman.

24 I just wanted to verify what
25 the Deputy Commissioner is saying. I've

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 seen it on a number of occasions where
3 the individual captain works with the
4 couple schools. Just one quick example,
5 there were some problems between Boone
6 School and the Mennonite High School,
7 which is a private school, and the
8 captain in that district -- actually, it
9 crossed districts, between 9th and the
10 23rd -- got with the principals of those
11 schools and worked that out. I mean,
12 there was near riots right around 25th
13 and Poplar for about a week, and through
14 the intervention the Deputy Commissioner
15 was talking about, it really has -- and
16 it's just a matter of ten, 15 minutes
17 changing the time. So that does work.
18 You're absolutely right, Mr. Chair.

19 Thank you.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Councilman.

21 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Thank you,
22 Mr. Chairman.

23 Commissioner, somewhere around,
24 I think it's, around 15 years ago, New
25 York City merged their -- I think they

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 merged three police departments, the
3 Police Department, the Transit and --

4 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Housing.

5 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: --

6 Housing, but it was about that time that
7 the subway started getting safer and -- I
8 mean, New York started getting safer too
9 because a lot more police officers on the
10 street. But I know you've had experience
11 in Chicago and Washington, DC and are
12 probably, as you've already indicated,
13 aware of the New York experience.

14 Is that something you're
15 looking at? Is it something that is
16 exclusive to New York that it would work
17 or does it have potential for a city like
18 Philadelphia?

19 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well, I'm
20 not looking at that. I don't know if
21 it's been looked at in the past here and
22 if anyone has done any studies. I've
23 worked in a couple different systems. In
24 the District, for example, there is a
25 metro transit police and there's a

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 totally separate agency, just like here,
3 and it's well staffed. So there's very
4 little that we, when I was in the
5 District, that we had to do, although
6 there were times, especially after 9/11
7 when we had to provide some support, but
8 they had their own independent
9 department, funding and the like.

10 In Chicago, they tried it two
11 different ways. They had a part of the
12 department that was a transit unit that
13 did patrol the subways and the buses.
14 Then they went with a separate police
15 department. Then they went back to the
16 city handling it as well. So that was
17 due largely, quite frankly, to funding as
18 much as anything else.

19 So I think either model could
20 work. I've not looked at it here. I
21 have no idea what would be the best model
22 here. Right now I think that the
23 cooperation and the collaboration that we
24 currently have working with the Transit
25 Police seems to be working well. I don't

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 know if there's been anything in the past
3 that has been looked at in terms of
4 merging, but --

5 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Well,
6 maybe I could ask this of Mr. Gillison.

7 I know you sort of have the big
8 picture, and it might be something that
9 works. I know one thing, New York subway
10 used to be the dirtiest, most unsafe
11 place on earth, and it's one of the
12 cleanest and safest places now, and it
13 might be something we can learn from
14 their experience, if not replicate.

15 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I'll
16 take a look at it. I know we have
17 meetings upcoming with SEPTA and my
18 counterparts over at SEPTA and we're
19 going to be talking about a lot of
20 different things.

21 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Thank you.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Councilwoman
23 Blackwell.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
25 you.

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 Good afternoon.

3 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Good
4 afternoon.

5 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Good
6 afternoon.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: We
8 have done -- I guess we've been doing
9 reports on violence and school violence
10 and related issues for about 20 years,
11 and we have found that the police know
12 which kids -- like we're Communications
13 Charter School, for example, and between
14 our Police and the SEPTA Police, they
15 know which kids are there, and my opinion
16 is that that wouldn't be a hard thing for
17 us to handle, which kids are there and
18 which kids aren't in school. That's
19 easy. And to rectify that situation. We
20 may want to handle where we take them
21 differently, whether we take them to the
22 closest school, which we've had debates
23 about due to the turf issue, whether we
24 take them to -- where we take them when
25 we get them. But finding out who is in

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 the subways is not a hard issue and not
3 one that we haven't done in the past. So
4 I think that that's not a big issue.

5 We're concerned about the
6 students, the other people already in the
7 subway. As the Deputy Mayor knows, I'm
8 always concerned about homelessness, and
9 we're also concerned about the
10 Philadelphia -- I'll talk to SEPTA when
11 they come forward about other issues. I
12 always have issues about dogs. I always
13 have an issue about that. Our police
14 pretty much doesn't use it. Dogs are
15 good for sniffing out drugs and things
16 like that, but not for people. And I
17 always have an issue of that sort.
18 Having been a victim of that, I always go
19 there. But certainly our Philadelphia
20 Police Department doesn't use dogs
21 unseemingly, and in 2008, I think we have
22 to be careful.

23 But we certainly want to extend
24 our hand in partnership when it comes to
25 the homeless people who are there.

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 That's my passion. That's my mission
3 that God gave me to do. And certainly I
4 will make available previous studies that
5 we've done on the issue. And I think
6 again, Mr. Chairman and certainly Deputy
7 Mayor and Commissioner and Deputy
8 Commissioner, that knowing who is there,
9 what schools are there and which schools
10 use the subway is not very difficult. I
11 mean, SEPTA Police already know, and I
12 think that's something we can handle
13 without a lot to do.

14 But we certainly want to work
15 with you to try to ameliorate the
16 problems we have.

17 Thank you.

18 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Thank
19 you.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.

21 You said for the record that we
22 had 24 stops, was that?

23 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Yes,
24 roughly.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: And you

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 recognized due to crime reported a
3 pattern of times when the subways were at
4 a heightened state of danger. What were
5 those times?

6 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: What
7 were the stops or the times?

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: Times and
9 then stops.

10 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: The
11 times of the matters were -- between 3:00
12 and 6:00 are the times that I believe the
13 Commissioner referenced in his testimony.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: 3:00 and
15 6:00; is that correct?

16 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: It's
17 between 3:00 and 6:00.

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOX:
19 Between 3:00 and 6:00 in most of the
20 areas of the City, and within our Center
21 City areas, including the concourse area,
22 we run until midnight. We have specific
23 Center City details to work with SEPTA
24 until midnight.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: Out of those

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 24 stops, what are the hot spots, if you
3 would, for lack of a better professional
4 term, on crime?

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOX:

6 Northwest Division, which is the Olney,
7 the Wyoming and the Lindley stops.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'm trying
9 to go by stops.

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOX: Olney
11 is one that we check regularly.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Broad and
13 Olney.

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOX:

15 Girard is one that we check regularly.

16 To date, we check Broad and Snyder, but
17 we have not had problems there. Due to a
18 history of problems there, we check Broad
19 and Snyder regularly. Allegheny gets
20 checked regularly. Erie gets checked
21 regularly. Most of the stops above
22 Girard are getting checked on a regular
23 basis. And what we have are juveniles
24 are traversing above and below that
25 Center City demarcation, and we cover

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 Center City heavily, but the stops
3 primarily above Girard are the ones that
4 we check regularly.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Of those hot
6 spots, I need two numbers. One, the
7 total number of crimes committed on the
8 24 referenced stops and particularly the
9 crimes committed on those hot spots just
10 mentioned. Do we have a sense of our
11 major crimes what has occurred on SEPTA
12 property or within a reasonable area of a
13 block? Is there any way of calculating
14 that?

15 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Sir, I've
16 got citywide totals here. I do not have
17 it by stop. We'll have to go back and
18 see if we can break it out that way, but
19 we have it by citywide, and it's current
20 as of April 15th.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: So help me
22 with the citywide. And these are all
23 related to, if I have the right piece of
24 paper here, these are the subway and
25 elevated systems?

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: This
3 would be total SEPTA I'm referring to.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: Can you, for
5 the record, give us a sense of what that
6 is, those numbers?

7 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Yes. A
8 total of 90. And, again, that's as of
9 the -- and that's just Part 1 offenses,
10 which are murder, rape, robbery,
11 aggravated assault, burglary, theft, auto
12 theft, are Part 1 offenses. It doesn't
13 get into narcotics and things of that
14 nature. But looking at that, Part 1
15 offenses, 90 year to date compared to 80
16 previous year.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: So we're up
18 a little bit, although crime statistics
19 are down for the City?

20 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Yes, sir,
21 but mostly in the area, robbery is
22 showing the most significant increase,
23 according to our records, and aggravated
24 assault up by four, but robbery is the
25 one that is showing 31 year to date

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 compared to 17 last year.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Can you
4 target for us where -- you don't have
5 today where the hot spots are as it
6 relates to those robberies, right?

7 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: We'll go
8 back into our crime and break it out for
9 you, yes, sir.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Fair enough.
11 Do you have any sense of the
12 methodology of the robberies? Because
13 there's ten ways to rob a person. Do you
14 have a methodology of patterns of how
15 these crimes are occurring?

16 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: SEPTA is
17 probably able to speak to that, but from
18 the reports I've read, a lot of it is
19 strong arm, a lot of it is kids in packs,
20 you know, four, five of them together and
21 literally attacking an individual and
22 taking property from them. Similar
23 pattern, quite frankly, that I've seen
24 elsewhere, but that seems to be one of
25 the main ways in which it's taking place.

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: And within
3 that "pack" pattern of strong arm
4 robbery, is it consistent with the times
5 that you're talking about and maybe the
6 hot spots on Broad Street?

7 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Yes, and
8 we made some adjustments with Center
9 City, but, yes, that's why we targeted
10 these times to provide the extra support
11 to SEPTA. Obviously if anything occurs,
12 we'll go any time, but that's when we
13 actually put people physically there
14 during those hours to actually put higher
15 visibility.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Could you
17 repeat for me the total number of
18 officers deployed during those hot times?

19 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: We can
20 total it up for you real quick.

21 While we're trying to total
22 here, we have it by division. We can
23 continue to answer questions and we'll
24 get a total for you.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay. Do

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 you, in a general question but a specific
3 answer, have enough personnel, manpower
4 to cover both the hot spots and time in
5 conjunction with SEPTA, the partnership?

6 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Right now
7 we seem to be doing okay. With the
8 summer months, hopefully we won't have --
9 because you don't have school issues and
10 schools letting out and so forth, that
11 perhaps it will not be quite as intense
12 as it is right now. I mean, it could
13 also go the opposite way, with kids out
14 of school, they may have more time to
15 ride the subways and have problems. So
16 we'll have to monitor it very carefully.

17 As of now, I'm comfortable what
18 we currently have deployed. If this
19 continues over long periods of time or we
20 continue to see a spike, then that's a
21 different issue and we may have to have a
22 separate discussion around that.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: So can you
24 answer for me during those spike times
25 how many people, personnel, undercover,

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 uniform that we have in conjunction with
3 whatever task force SEPTA has?

4 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY:

5 Approximately 24.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: Twenty-four
7 during peak hours?

8 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Yes.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: And I'm
10 going to probably defer my question --
11 we're going to put a pin in 24 and then
12 we'll ask the SEPTA Police or Security
13 how they interface and see what the
14 personnel needs are.

15 Councilman Greenlee, you had a
16 question?

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Yes. Two
18 real quick ones, if I could. Thank you.

19 One, on the times again, and
20 you may have said this and I may have
21 missed it. We obviously know that the
22 after-school dismissal time is the big
23 one. Are there any other times that you
24 see any kind of spike? And two times I'm
25 thinking of, later at night when there's

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 a little less people riding and,
3 secondly, on the weekends in any sort of
4 time. Do you see any kind of spike
5 there?

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOX: This
7 year to date the spike that we've seen in
8 addition to the school dismissals would
9 be specifically in the Center City
10 concourse and up to the hours of about 11
11 or 12 o'clock, which is why our detail
12 runs until midnight.

13 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: So in the
14 concourses, though. Bring up my point of
15 Public Property coming up in a minute.

16 One other question of the
17 Commissioners, if I could, though. You
18 mentioned, Commissioner, in your
19 testimony about meeting with the Guardian
20 Angels to discuss possible ways they
21 could assist. How far have you gotten
22 with that? Because it seems like they
23 have a way of being pretty effective, so
24 that's why I throw that out there.

25 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: I think

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 Chief Evans will have a little more
3 information on that, but we had a very
4 good meeting last week with the head of
5 the Guardian Angels here in Philadelphia,
6 as well as their leadership from
7 Baltimore and Washington, DC, and there's
8 a small chapter here, but the point of
9 the discussion was to again coordinate
10 resources in a way that made sense. And
11 I've got a lot of very positive
12 experience in working with the Angels in
13 two different cities. So they can be
14 very, very useful. There are issues that
15 came up around tokens and so forth, but
16 we actually have got a person willing to
17 make a donation to provide that.

18 Now, I know there's been a
19 follow-up conversation between SEPTA and
20 the Angels. I do not know what took
21 place during that conversation, so Chief
22 Evans will have to explain that.

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
24 you. Thank you, Commissioner.

25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.

3 Before we let you go, can you
4 describe for me the communications
5 processes between you and the SEPTA
6 Police? And I mean on 9-1-1 or any other
7 communication systems. Can you describe
8 for us generally how that works?

9 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: We use
10 their radios below ground, and we have a
11 sufficient number, I'm told, of those
12 radios. So there's good interoperability
13 from that sense, but it does require a
14 separate radio that our officers have
15 when they go below ground.

16 Chief Evans and I speak. I
17 mean, we actually met at the scene of the
18 homicide. We've had meetings since then.
19 So there's good communication at the top.
20 And I think at the divisional level with
21 our inspectors, there's been good
22 coordination with SEPTA in terms of
23 trying to coordinate the times, the
24 number of people needed at the various
25 locations and things of that nature. So

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 I think the communication has been good
3 so far.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: So you meet
5 regularly as in?

6 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well, we
7 meet as needed. I mean, since this
8 homicide, we've met at least three times
9 that we have met, but more if needed.
10 But we certainly have exchanged phone
11 numbers and information, if you're
12 talking about me personally.

13 Now, on a provisional level, I
14 don't know how often they're meeting, but
15 I do know they're on top of it, and it
16 seems to be frequent enough to have a
17 good strategy in place and be able to
18 implement that strategy.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: On specific
20 communications, are you on the same radio
21 frequency, for example, when they --

22 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: No.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: All right.

24 So is that a challenge at all?

25 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well, I

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 mean, that's one of many interoperability
3 issues that face cities across the
4 country. Is it ideal to be on the same
5 band? Yeah, it is. The cost to be able
6 to do that is pretty significant, but
7 that's something that probably needs to
8 be discussed. But right now we have
9 access to their radios, so it's not as if
10 we're going down with no radio
11 communication. We do have radio
12 communication by using their radios.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'm a little
14 confused. So how do you receive an
15 assist call from a SEPTA police officer
16 today?

17 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: They
18 would have to do it through 9-1-1.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: So a SEPTA
20 police officer who comes upon a band of
21 robbers has to call 9-1-1 to get the
22 police?

23 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: They
24 would radio through their radio dispatch,
25 and their dispatch would contact our

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 dispatch center.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Oh, okay.
4 It happens --

5 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: So, I
6 mean, he doesn't have to get on a cell
7 phone and call. But he would just simply
8 call for an assist, and then they would
9 in turn notify us, and vice versa, quite
10 frankly. I mean, if we needed assist of
11 SEPTA. But, I mean, it would go through
12 Communications.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: All right.
14 If a commuter is accosted and doesn't
15 know the separation in authorities, a
16 blue uniform to them is just relief from
17 the pressure of being robbed. How do
18 they know which to do, how to call and
19 how to communicate?

20 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I think
21 on the basis of just the history that I
22 think all of us have in the room about
23 when you're riding on the SEPTA subway --
24 as you know, I do, almost as much as
25 everyone else -- the citizen actually

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 will respond to the uniform and will go
3 to the uniform, and I don't think they
4 really care who is going to be
5 responding. They know that that uniform
6 represents the authority that will keep
7 them safe, and it's up to those of us in
8 authority to make sure that the
9 communications are put together, so that
10 if SEPTA needs additional Philadelphia
11 police assistance, we have that, and I
12 think the testimony that you've received
13 thus far is that we do have that
14 connection that allows that communication
15 to go and go very well.

16 When Philadelphia police are
17 above ground and SEPTA is below ground,
18 if they get into a problem, then they
19 notify the 9-1-1 center. Philadelphia
20 police come right down. And right now we
21 have the Philadelphia police officers
22 with SEPTA equipment, so when they get
23 down there, they can talk to one another.

24 So from an administration point
25 of view, I think that we are as tight as

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 we can, given the severe limitations of
3 being on different bandwidths at this
4 point. But we're sharing equipment, and
5 I think that's the best way we can make
6 sure we keep the lines of communication
7 open.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: I agree, and
9 I understand and I truly empathize with
10 cost considerations by way of
11 communication. I know that's a reality,
12 but has anybody ever done a security
13 assessment independent of our subways and
14 this process?

15 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: It
16 depends on what you mean by "independent"
17 of this process. I know that there have
18 been several decisions just through the
19 Office of Emergency Management that we've
20 been going through for homeland security
21 purposes just to see what challenges are
22 before us. I've been made aware of those
23 questions, and that's something that
24 we're continuing to pursue. But as far
25 as an assessment independent of either

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 SEPTA's assessment of what's needed, I
3 know one of the discussions that we've
4 had a lot is we have a large
5 infrastructure here that we're looking at
6 and we have to maintain. As long as
7 we're communicating, that's the first
8 hurdle, and I think we're getting over
9 that hurdle.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: I agree with
11 that assessment. You're absolutely on
12 point, but sometimes we can't see the
13 forest through the trees, and I've heard
14 private sector individuals often bring in
15 outside consultant companies and say --

16 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Oh,
17 absolutely.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: -- by the
19 way, you might not want to have the cash
20 register by the door. You might want to
21 move it back to the rear of the door.

22 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I
23 understand.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: I've seen
25 those kinds of security audits, security

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 assessments be invaluable to pointing out
3 the obvious to us sometimes, and I was
4 wondering if either do you know -- and
5 we'll have an opportunity to hear from
6 SEPTA. Have you ever heard of or -- I
7 mean, when we start looking at the
8 concourse, that's a labyrinth of
9 different access/egress, whether there
10 are enough cameras and/or emergency call
11 phones. I mean, has anybody kind of
12 taken a panoramic view of where we are
13 and what we might want to improve upon?

14 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: I will
15 definitely defer to the Department of
16 Public Property as far as their
17 assessments, since they're part of the
18 issue, and see whether or not there's any
19 assessments that I have not been made
20 aware of. And, of course, SEPTA, I'm
21 sure, has the direct answer to that, so I
22 will defer to them as well.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay. Thank
24 you very much.

25 DEPUTY MAYOR GILLISON: Thank

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 you.

3 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Thank

4 you, sir.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Do we have a

6 representative from Public Property and

7 MOIS? The Mayor's Office of

8 Transportation here as well. Thank you.

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HERZINS:

10 Good afternoon.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good

12 afternoon. State your name for the

13 record, please.

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HERZINS:

15 John Herzins, Deputy Commissioner in the

16 Department of Public Property.

17 As a department, we're

18 responsible for the maintenance of the

19 concourse, as well as the custodial

20 issues relating to the concourse. And

21 currently, one of our goals was to

22 improve the cleanliness of the concourse,

23 and we recently contracted with the

24 Center City District, and there is a

25 considerable amount of improvement, as

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 anyone who has used that system in the
3 last few months has seen. And we are
4 part of a working group being formed by
5 the Deputy Mayor for Transportation to
6 look at the whole broader issues in the
7 concourse, how to enliven the entire
8 concourse, how to improve the retailing
9 down there, how to improve the lighting
10 and that. So I think we mentioned in our
11 testimony to you two weeks ago that we
12 were forming that group right now, and we
13 will keep you abreast as we move along in
14 that process.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Is that your
16 testimony?

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HERZINS:
18 Yes.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: Why don't we
20 take both and then open for questions.

21 State your name for the record,
22 please.

23 MR. ZEARFOSS: I'm Christopher
24 Zearfoss, an assistant to Rina Cutler,
25 who is, of course, the Deputy Mayor for

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 Transportation and Utilities. She's out
3 of town and asked me to deliver her
4 testimony here today.

5 As is the case with most
6 issues, public transportation safety
7 should be viewed in terms of both past
8 progress and problems, as well as
9 unfulfilled potential for additional
10 upgrades.

11 Using 1980 as a baseline,
12 transit system safety was rather poor by
13 today's standards. Neither the Broad or
14 Market-Frankford Lines cars at that time
15 had any provision for riders to
16 communicate with the train drivers, and
17 visibility between the cars in the trains
18 was limited at best. SEPTA's Transit
19 Police force was not yet up and running.
20 And while the subway and El drivers had
21 emergency train phones, bus and trolley
22 drivers at that time had no way to
23 communicate with police from their
24 consoles. And, of course, back then we
25 didn't even have cell phones for private

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 use.

3 About all the bus and trolley
4 riders had to protect them was roof-top
5 emergency flashers on the buses and
6 trolleys as a means of conveying a
7 distress signal, with the hope that a
8 police officer or a concerned citizen
9 would respond. Most subway stations at
10 the time were unmodernized with
11 substandard lighting, poor maintenance
12 and lots of blind corners and hazardous
13 areas.

14 Over the last quarter century
15 we've made much, much progress. We have
16 new cars on both the Market-Frankford and
17 Broad Street Lines that feature
18 communication links between the riders
19 and the motormen and bigger and more end
20 windows so that police or other riders
21 can see what's going on in the adjacent
22 cars and detect the problem.

23 All of SEPTA's trains, buses
24 and trolleys have radio communications
25 capability with the SEPTA Control Center,

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 and GPS systems track most of those
3 vehicles in terms of location.

4 And with few exceptions, all of
5 the subway El stops have been modernized,
6 better lighting, improved lines of sight,
7 getting rid of blind corners where
8 possible.

9 SEPTA will go into, I'm sure,
10 in greater detail. They have a Smart
11 Stations project underway that will
12 provide audiovisual communications and
13 security upgrades at all of the 60-some
14 subway-elevated stations. About a third
15 of them are nearing completion, with the
16 rest to be finished in 2011.

17 SEPTA's Transit Police force is
18 currently budgeted 248 heads.

19 Prompted by recent events and
20 the new state transit funding, a number
21 of additional measures have been or are
22 being implemented, and John Herzins
23 alluded to some of them. In addition,
24 SEPTA has an initiative to improve its
25 overall vehicle and station cleaning and

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 maintenance efforts, and I think the
3 history has shown that there's a
4 correlation between a facility or a
5 tunnel or a station that's in good order
6 and the relevance of crime. The dirt,
7 graffiti breed other types of bad
8 behavior.

9 And then the other initiative
10 again, as John mentioned, is that the
11 City and SEPTA have partnered with the
12 Center City District to consolidate
13 custodial functions in the concourse. So
14 we have one-stop shopping and a more
15 coordinated and consistent effort to
16 maintain the concourse system.

17 There are some other
18 initiatives that our office believes
19 warrants some serious consideration. One
20 would be to try to find a way for SEPTA
21 to accelerate the completion of its Smart
22 Stations project, which right now is two
23 or three years into the future. And,
24 secondly, as John Herzins mentioned, to
25 formulate a comprehensive modernization

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 of our downtown concourse system, which
3 is the gateway to almost a dozen SEPTA
4 and PATCO stations. You have to go
5 through the concourse to get to these
6 stations. And the improvements would
7 include upgraded stairways, lighting,
8 signage, which is, I know, a particular
9 concern of Rina Cutler's. People get
10 down into the system and just become
11 totally disoriented, especially if
12 they're a new rider on the system.

13 Emergency communications,
14 closed-circuit TV surveillance, and
15 perhaps, as John alluded, introducing
16 retail or other endeavors to inject
17 activity into the concourse to make it
18 more lively and less foreboding.

19 In the final analysis, crime on
20 the transit system is rooted in a diverse
21 set of causes which lie beyond the
22 ability of SEPTA, PATCO or the Police to
23 address. That said, our office stands
24 ready to partner with SEPTA, PATCO, law
25 enforcement and other stakeholders to

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 craft implementation of strategies to
3 reduce crime in the transit system and to
4 make the system safer, both in perception
5 and reality, for the almost 1.1 million
6 riders who board transit vehicles in the
7 region every day.

8 All that said, we believe our
9 transit system is basically safe and we
10 encourage people to continue to ride the
11 system.

12 Thank you for your attention,
13 and I'll try to answer any questions you
14 may have.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.
16 Councilman Greenlee.

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
18 you, Mr. Chairman.

19 First, I guess, Mr. Herzins,
20 you heard Deputy Commissioner Fox talk
21 about lighting, and I agree as somebody
22 who also uses the system a lot, you've
23 done tremendous improvements in that.
24 Are there some areas that you still feel
25 need more of the -- with Public Property

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 we're talking about concourse. We're not
3 talking about the actual stations,
4 platforms, right? Am I correct in that?

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HERZINS:
6 Right. Once you get beyond the gated
7 area, it's out of Public Property's
8 jurisdiction.

9 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: That
10 would be SEPTA, right?

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HERZINS:
12 Yes.

13 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: On the
14 concourses, are there some areas you kind
15 of haven't gotten to yet or you still
16 think needs to have more work or are you
17 satisfied with the lighting generally?

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HERZINS:
19 That's part of our working group. We're
20 going to take a relook at the lighting
21 throughout the whole concourse area and
22 see what improvements can be added.

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.
24 And I will agree with your statement or
25 Mr. Zearfoss's statement about the Center

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 City District. I see a noticeable
3 improvement in the whole cleanliness
4 issue. It seems like I guess because
5 they can dedicate more people, time or
6 whatever to it, it seems to have really
7 improved it.

8 If I can ask a question about
9 phones, and that might be Mr. Phillis's
10 thing. How many do we have, emergency
11 phones?

12 You're probably going to have
13 to come up there, sir.

14 (Witness approached witness
15 table.)

16 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Good
17 afternoon.

18 MR. PHILLIS: Good afternoon.
19 Terry Phillis, Chief Information Officer
20 for MOIS.

21 You were asking about the
22 number of emergency --

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: About
24 phones, emergency phones.

25 MR. PHILLIS: Emergency phones,

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 the last count that I have is there are
3 60 of them.

4 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: How many?

5 MR. PHILLIS: Sixty, 6-0. We
6 are in the process of beginning a program
7 where we're going to replace every one of
8 those with a tamper-proof model, because
9 it's not unusual for those to get
10 destroyed through vandalism, et cetera.
11 So we're right in the process now. We
12 had the funding available and we've
13 actually started the program so that the
14 ones we're repairing, we're repairing
15 with the tamper-proof models.

16 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Probably
17 a good idea. I guess they're prime
18 targets for vandalism.

19 MR. PHILLIS: I wasn't aware
20 that they weren't tamper-proof until we
21 just started looking at them. So we are
22 replacing each one.

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Now, when
24 they are working, do you find evidence
25 that people use them?

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 MR. PHILLIS: I couldn't answer
3 that. I think that would be a better
4 answer for the Police Department, because
5 they go directly to -- they go directly
6 to 9-1-1.

7 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I see.
8 Well, maybe the SEPTA Police will know.

9 Just one more question, if I
10 could, Mr. Chairman, and I think we were
11 both talking about this.

12 This whole Smart Station thing
13 with the TV surveillance, do you get
14 involved in that? Would that be yours?

15 MR. PHILLIS: I do not get
16 involved with the video surveillance
17 project on the SEPTA property per se, but
18 since we're rerunning the project from MOIS
19 for video surveillance within the City,
20 there are two different things going on.
21 One is the installation, of course, of
22 our own network to support the public
23 safety and the police identification and
24 where those cameras should go.
25 Concurrent to that we're working on an

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 interoperability plan where people are
3 going to start coming together, now that
4 we've got the thing rolling, as to how
5 the police and the other jurisdictions
6 can work together utilizing each other's
7 video, and that includes public housing,
8 SEPTA. We've got requests from everybody
9 under the sun that wants to be part of
10 the video surveillance network, but in
11 reality, we haven't been able to do that
12 yet because we're just trying to get the
13 project on track first.

14 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Got you.
15 Okay. All right. Thank you.

16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Has there
18 been cooperation between the City and
19 SEPTA by way of -- and I recall there
20 being some problems by way of site
21 advantage and particular mountings and
22 jurisdiction about who owned what
23 property and easements to allow people to
24 use other --

25 MR. PHILLIS: It actually was

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 not a problem between the City and SEPTA.
3 It was a, I'll call it, a speed bump
4 between the vendor and SEPTA just on
5 getting on the right page so that SEPTA
6 could approve the engineering diagrams so
7 that the cameras could utilize their
8 assets for several of the locations. For
9 instance, the El locations, obviously
10 there is a great need to have cameras
11 underneath those for public safety
12 purposes, but as of this point, SEPTA and
13 Unisys, who is our vendor, along with
14 MOIS's overview, it's working fine and
15 the diagrams for approval by SEPTA are
16 due, I believe it's, next week.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: We own the
18 public station; is that correct?

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HERZINS:
20 We own the concourse prior to getting
21 beyond the gated part. So until you pay,
22 we are responsible.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Do we own
24 the actual stations? Are they City
25 property? Isn't there a lease between

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 the City of Philadelphia and SEPTA?

3 MR. ZEARFOSS: In terms of
4 ownership, the City owns the Broad,
5 Ridge, 8th, Locust subways, and the
6 Market Street subway is owned by SEPTA.
7 That's a simple way to parse it.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: So the Broad
9 Street Line we own?

10 MR. ZEARFOSS: Yes, sir.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: When are
12 those leases due to expire?

13 MR. ZEARFOSS: We're under a
14 standstill agreement with SEPTA that was
15 executed, I believe, in the fall of '05,
16 and I believe the City Administration and
17 Joe Casey and his new team are preparing
18 to reactivate discussions on renewing
19 that lease.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'll ask
21 this: Has there ever been an independent
22 security audit of our secure facility --
23 take that back.

24 Have we ever done a security
25 audit of our stations?

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 MR. ZEARFOSS: In the late
3 '70s -- I'm dating myself -- the City did
4 an audit or a study, whatever you want to
5 call it, of applying closed-circuit TV
6 surveillance to the whole subway elevated
7 testimony, and that resulted in a pilot
8 project that covered, as I recall, 11
9 stations, and that system was up and
10 running through most of the 1980s. It
11 was shut down in 1989.

12 A decision was made in the
13 early 1980s, I think, by Mayor Green and
14 then SEPTA General Manager David Gund to
15 focus resources on creating and expanding
16 a SEPTA Police Department rather than
17 staffing a CCTV surveillance system,
18 which had labor ramifications in terms of
19 the control room and the staffing that
20 would be required to operate it.

21 The only other security effort
22 that I remember was an outgrowth of 9/11.
23 I believe that the federal government did
24 security audits of almost all the big
25 transit systems, geared more to terrorism

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 rather than day-to-day crime, but, again,
3 perhaps SEPTA can embellish on that.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: As a
5 municipality, City of Philadelphia, are
6 we aware of any -- when was the last
7 security audit of our publicly owned
8 facilities along SEPTA routes?

9 MR. ZEARFOSS: Councilman,
10 other than the efforts I just described,
11 none others come to mind.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Other than
13 9/11, post 9/11 terrorism assessments, we
14 have not kind of looked at access/egress
15 as a whole?

16 MR. ZEARFOSS: The security is
17 a bit off my particular radar screen, but
18 I don't recall of any others. I would
19 again defer to SEPTA or to our Police
20 Commissioner to answer those questions.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'm going to
22 ask one more question and then we're
23 going to bring up the young people,
24 because they get out of school at a
25 certain hour and anything beyond 3

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 o'clock is detention, and we won't do
3 that to them.

4 But have we looked at the -- to
5 what degree are signs -- and I'm talking
6 about digital signs -- a part of a
7 security effort?

8 MR. ZEARFOSS: It would be a
9 means to have SEPTA's Control Center
10 notify riders of some unusual situation.
11 That would be one thing to come to mind.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: So,
13 hypothetically, a pack of robbers heading
14 south on the concourse, people south
15 would be able to know it or field an
16 alert?

17 MR. ZEARFOSS: In theory, that
18 would be -- hardware would permit that,
19 it would seem to me, yes.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: And if a
21 parent inadvertently lost a kid, for
22 example, an AMBER Alert could identify
23 the last whereabouts and general
24 dimensions of a person?

25 MR. ZEARFOSS: Yes.

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: A robbery
3 suspect, rape suspect, those kinds of
4 things?

5 MR. ZEARFOSS: Yes.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: All right.
7 Thank you.

8 Any other questions?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: All right.

11 MR. ZEARFOSS: Thank you.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay. Could
13 I have Ms. Veronica Joyner and the
14 students from her school come up, please.
15 And she is the Chief Administrative
16 Officer and Founder of the Mathematics,
17 Civic and Science Charter School of
18 Philadelphia.

19 (Witnesses approached witness
20 table.)

21 MS. JOYNER: Good afternoon.

22 My name is Veronica Joyner and I'm the
23 President and Founder of Parents United
24 for Better Schools, Inc., a non-profit
25 multi-racial parent advocacy corporation

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 based in Germantown. I'm also the
3 President and Chief Administrative
4 Officer of the Mathematics, Civics and
5 Sciences Charter School of Philadelphia,
6 one of the largest charter schools in
7 Philadelphia with a population of 1,000
8 students. That's actually the largest in
9 the state, one of the largest, and the
10 school is ranked as one of the top ten
11 schools in Philadelphia.

12 Here is a list of documented
13 incidents on Philadelphia subways. For
14 five years I have documented, and here is
15 the information of the incidents that
16 have occurred on the subway.

17 I will also provide you with a
18 list of letters that have been given to
19 former Commissioner Sylvester Johnson
20 calling for more police protection for
21 children on the subway lines. As I said,
22 these documented cases started in 2003.

23 I would like to say that the
24 death of Mr. Conroy at a Philadelphia
25 subway stop has awakened many

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 Philadelphia citizens to a serious public
3 problem, which started many, many years
4 ago. I personally documented through
5 letters, interview with every media
6 outlet, radio, TV, the criminal attacks
7 of school children and youth riding our
8 subway lines daily for years. I spoke
9 repeatedly and passionately about the
10 serious attack of students attending the
11 Mathematics, Civics and Sciences Charter
12 School. I also spoke about attacks
13 throughout the City on helpless,
14 defenseless children and youth. The
15 subway lines in Philadelphia are in no
16 way safe.

17 The following fact sheet that
18 you're given will sort of outline the
19 problem and the number of attacks, as I
20 said, dating back to 2003, September.
21 The list, which you have, and written
22 letters, there were reports from former
23 Commissioner Johnson, who ordered police
24 officers to patrol the subway stops at
25 Broad and Spring Garden after I was told

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 by Captain Korn at the police district
3 that the police officers could not go
4 into the subway because the subway was
5 SEPTA's jurisdiction.

6 I am also accompanied by
7 several students attending the
8 Mathematics, Civics and Sciences Charter
9 School who have been attacked on the
10 subway, one spending a week in the
11 hospital with a concussion as a result of
12 his attack on the subway. The students
13 put the attacks on YouTube and were
14 caught and criminal charges were filed.

15 My plea for help to Councilman
16 Frank Rizzo, who organized a meeting on
17 Tuesday, March 27, 2007 at my school to
18 help resolve the problem, that meeting
19 was attended by Councilman Frank Rizzo,
20 Captain Michael Korn, Philadelphia Police
21 Commissioner, Philadelphia former
22 Superintendent Paul Vallas and the
23 Philadelphia School District, Michael
24 Whelan, who is the Director of Security,
25 and Detective Henderson from the SEPTA

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 Police Department.

3 I will let you hear from this
4 student.

5 Can you introduce yourself so
6 that everyone can hear you?

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: State your
8 name for the record.

9 MR. BARKSDALE: My name is Roy
10 Barksdale.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
12 afternoon.

13 MR. BARKSDALE: Good afternoon.

14 MS. JOYNER: Can you tell him
15 what happened?

16 MR. BARKSDALE: After 3 o'clock
17 I was coming home from school. I got on
18 the local subway going northbound, and
19 when the sub was in motion, a group of
20 six kids came up to me, and one of them,
21 he asked me to empty out my pockets. I
22 said no, so he got mad. He started to
23 touch my pockets, so I forced his hand
24 away. And one of his friends punched me
25 in my face, and then -- they was

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 recording me with a camera, and I was --
3 I fought the main person that was talking
4 to me, but they all jumped on me at the
5 same time, and then I fell on the ground.
6 And then they was stomping me and kicking
7 me in my head when I was on the ground.

8 Then afterwards I got up and
9 they -- as soon as the sub got to the
10 North Philadelphia station, they got off
11 the subway and ran upstairs. And a SEPTA
12 police officer came downstairs and he
13 talked to me, and I talked to him, and he
14 told me just to go home. So I went home.
15 I told my parents, and then they took me
16 to the hospital.

17 MS. JOYNER: How long were you
18 in the hospital?

19 MR. BARKSDALE: A week.

20 MS. JOYNER: With a concussion?

21 MR. BARKSDALE: With a
22 concussion.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'm sorry.
24 May I interrupt? Did he take an incident
25 report?

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 MR. BARKSDALE: No.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Did he call
4 an ambulance?

5 MR. BARKSDALE: No.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: Did he call
7 your parents?

8 MR. BARKSDALE: No.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: Did you get
10 the name of the officer?

11 MR. BARKSDALE: No.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay.

13 MS. JOYNER: And these vicious
14 attacks continue to happen. There is
15 another student -- any of these students
16 can testify to witnessing any attack.

17 Is there anyone that wants to
18 testify? If you've been attacked, please
19 come up. We need to hear from you.

20 (Witness approached witness
21 table.)

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
23 afternoon. Please state your name for
24 the record.

25 MR. JORDAN: How are you doing,

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 sir? My name is James Jordan.

3 An incident happened two weeks
4 ago. I was attacked at Broad and Olney,
5 on the corner of Broad and Olney. I was
6 approached by at least ten guys. We had
7 a couple words. Next thing you know, I
8 got hit in the face, and a couple minutes
9 after the fact, guys ran away, and a
10 police officer approached me, and she
11 tried to ask me what happened, but I was
12 busy finding -- seeing where I was
13 bleeding from and stuff. And after that,
14 we went home and went to my cousin's
15 house and called my parents. But she
16 didn't take a police report or nothing
17 like that at all.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: And this was
19 a SEPTA officer?

20 MR. JORDAN: A police officer.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: A
22 Philadelphia police officer?

23 MR. JORDAN: Yeah.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'd like to
25 make the distinction. And they didn't

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 take a report?

3 MR. JORDAN: No.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay.

5 MS. JOYNER: And his mother did
6 file charges. She filed charges and
7 she's still waiting for someone to come
8 to the school to get the information.

9 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: If I
10 could, sir, if I could ask a more general
11 question. Obviously that was a terrible
12 incident. Generally when you take SEPTA,
13 particularly the subways, do you see
14 SEPTA or Philadelphia police around? Do
15 you see a presence on an average day?

16 MR. JORDAN: Well, now I do.

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: When you
18 say "now," how recently have you seen a
19 change?

20 MR. JORDAN: Throughout the
21 school year, for this school year of '08.
22 But from last year I didn't see as much
23 police officers, SEPTA police in the
24 subway as I do now.

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 Thanks.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Are there
4 any other young people from the school
5 that want to testify?

6 Thank you. Come up and state
7 your name for the record, please.

8 (Witness approached witness
9 table.)

10 MR. BOBB-SIMPLE: Hello. My
11 name is Bevuon Bobb-Simple (ph), and I
12 was with James Jordan the day that he got
13 attacked, and we were just standing there
14 waiting for the bus and then these boys
15 just came over and started attacking him.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Were they
17 from another school?

18 MR. BOBB-SIMPLE: Well, some of
19 them went to my school. One of them used
20 to, but most of them went to different
21 schools.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay. Just
23 as a general question, as you ride
24 SEPTA -- and, again, I'm going to
25 emphasize, this is everyone's problem,

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 not just SEPTA. It's a school problem,
3 it's a police problem, it's a City of
4 Philadelphia problem.

5 But do you ever see other
6 people being robbed or victimized?

7 MR. BOBB-SIMPLE: Yes.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: Generally
9 what happens?

10 MR. BOBB-SIMPLE: It would just
11 be a group of people just trying to mess
12 with people on the train, and they would
13 just attack them and then they would just
14 all run.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Is that
16 usually, gentlemen, how it goes?

17 (All witnesses nodding head in
18 the affirmative.)

19 MS. JOYNER: They use the
20 subway stops to do it because there is
21 not a lot of police. The Philadelphia
22 police officers don't want to go under
23 the subway because of the problems with
24 the radios. So the attackers have a free
25 reign of the subways, and they have

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 terrorized the subway stops for many
3 years, and they've gotten away with it.
4 So it's become a sport for a gang of boys
5 to get together, get on the train, beat
6 up someone, run from train to train and
7 when the doors open, exit totally. And
8 I've often said I feel like Harriet
9 Tubman after school trying to get my
10 children out of the area safely because
11 of the continued attacks of my students
12 on the subways.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Councilman
14 Greenlee.

15 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:
16 Ms. Joyner, if I could just ask you a
17 question. I know maybe some of the other
18 young men want to testify. But you may
19 have heard earlier with Deputy
20 Commissioner Fox we had some
21 discussion -- I don't know if you were
22 here yet or not -- about meeting with the
23 police, meeting with maybe some other
24 schools. I know you talk about the
25 meeting with De La Salle and the changing

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 of or alteration of dismissal times, and
3 that has had some success.

4 Was there any in your
5 meetings -- I didn't have a chance to
6 look through all this. Was there any
7 discussion like that, and if there was,
8 was there any positive results?

9 MS. JOYNER: We had the
10 meeting -- the list I think I gave you we
11 had at my school. There were about 35
12 people in attendance, and that was last
13 year. We talked about what was called
14 the hot spots and that the weather gets
15 warm and there are more fights between
16 different schools, and our school was
17 classified as one of those hot spots from
18 Broad and Spring Garden to Broad and
19 Olney, that there were
20 continued attacks --

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Broad and
22 Olney?

23 MS. JOYNER: Up to Broad and
24 Olney. And we have our security -- I've
25 had to for nine years place our security

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 in the subways to make sure that the
3 children are protected. And I have gone
4 down into the subway. We've had to have
5 our security and our maintenance people
6 to ride the subway to protect our
7 children on the subways.

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I just
9 was wondering, was the issue of the
10 alteration of dismissals, did that come
11 up?

12 MS. JOYNER: Yes.

13 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Was that
14 in any way helpful? Because I think you
15 may have heard, I said that I had noticed
16 that has been a help.

17 MS. JOYNER: Yes. I've had to
18 work because of attacks from Franklin
19 students on our students because they
20 were at ties. I've had to let my
21 children out much earlier. So the times
22 are -- we get out at 2:52. Franklin High
23 School gets out at 3:10. Parkway gets
24 out at 3:30. And then I usher my
25 children out of the area as quickly as

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 possible. It's a violation for them to
3 even remain in the area after school is
4 dismissed.

5 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And I
6 know this isn't a perfect answer, the
7 dismissal, because once they get on the
8 subway, they're dealing with kids from
9 all kind of different schools that get
10 all kind of different times. I
11 understand that. I'm just wondering
12 specifically with that. And where's your
13 school? I'm sorry.

14 MS. JOYNER: We're located at
15 447 North Broad Street, right directly
16 across from the School District. And my
17 concern was that we had identified
18 schools where attacks were coming from,
19 CEP and De La Salle, which are both
20 discipline schools. And to resolve it, I
21 believe they started having buses to pick
22 their children up and taking them to the
23 stop so that they could not ride the
24 subways. But the administration knew of
25 the attacks, and if you look at the

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 two-page list, you'll see I repeatedly
3 had to meet -- in fact, I ended up
4 inviting the boys to my school and having
5 a luncheon so that the boys could get to
6 know each other as a resolution to try to
7 be proactive.

8 I've also attempted to do the
9 same thing with Franklin and Parkway, and
10 I've not gotten a response from the
11 principals of those schools. And I'm a
12 bit shocked, that we're trying to head
13 off a problem and that neither
14 principal -- and I verbally invited them
15 and gave them letters to meet with me so
16 that we can resolve many of the issues,
17 because we all have children attending
18 schools in the same area, but I find that
19 they're not receptive to that issue.

20 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: We might
21 be able to find a way to get them a
22 little more receptive.

23 MS. JOYNER: That would be very
24 helpful.

25 Is there anyone else before I

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 summarize?

3 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And while
4 they're coming up, could I make just more
5 of a statement? And, Ms. Joyner, my
6 guess is you probably have told them this
7 already, but a couple of the incidents
8 that were relayed sounded like it wasn't
9 exactly proper actions by the police
10 officer, whether it's Philly police or
11 SEPTA police, and I know, unfortunately,
12 one young man didn't get names. I think
13 you all know you have to get names,
14 because I would think the Philadelphia
15 police authorities and SEPTA police
16 authorities would not be too happy to
17 hear of that fairly non-response that
18 those officers gave, but obviously if you
19 don't have a name, you can't really tell.
20 And that's not telling on somebody;
21 that's just making a situation better.

22 MS. JOYNER: And I reiterate on
23 that, but it's commonplace. It's such a
24 norm that these fights occur that they're
25 not even going to get involved.

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Well,
3 fights -- I mean, obviously that's a big
4 problem.

5 MS. JOYNER: Between students.

6 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: But I
7 think it was the first young man talked
8 about being hurt quite badly, and to just
9 be told to go home, while he's going home
10 something really -- I mean, I'm not
11 trying to get dramatic, but something
12 really tragic could have happened. So, I
13 mean, that's where I think getting on
14 individual incidents -- the general
15 problem of maybe not enough officers and
16 all, that's related, but it's a little
17 different. But specific incidents like
18 the young man talked about, getting names
19 is really important, because my guess is
20 that officer, whoever he or she may have
21 been, did not act properly according to
22 the guidelines. I'm quite confident.

23 MS. JOYNER: I agree. And
24 Officer Henderson is an officer that
25 works for SEPTA and his job is to go to

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 the various schools when these attacks
3 are reported, and he reported to me that
4 they had numerous attacks during that
5 time, but nothing happened other than
6 documenting the complaints. No proactive
7 to try to stop them.

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Well, you
9 need proactive, but in his case, they
10 didn't even take a report.

11 MS. JOYNER: Right. Like I
12 said, it's the norm. It's commonplace
13 that they allow these thugs to take
14 control of the subway lines, and I've
15 said it repeatedly over the five years.

16 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Well,
17 I've said it at a smaller meeting with
18 SEPTA. I do take SEPTA sometimes and a
19 couple times I have taken it around
20 school dismissal time and -- you know, I
21 grew up in Fairmount. I've seen some
22 things. But it was kind of scary. Some
23 of these kids are really out of control.
24 Obviously not your students, but
25 obviously there are students out of

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 control.

3 I'm sorry. I think he wants
4 to...

5 MR. CARVELLO: Hello. My name
6 is Darnell --

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: State your
8 name.

9 MR. CARVELLO: Darnell
10 Carvello.

11 Most of the attacks that I've
12 seen and actually it was not on the Broad
13 Street Line, but actually on the
14 Market-Frankford Line. And personally, I
15 get on the train at 15th Street and I go
16 westbound, and they wait until about
17 after 30th Street, because most of the
18 cops, they'll get off right there. And
19 one incident I was on the train going
20 home one afternoon not feeling too well
21 or whatnot and the cops were on the train
22 at 15th Street. They got off at 30th and
23 some of them got off at 34th, and after
24 34th Street, a group of boys approached
25 me talking about, Give me all your stuff

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 and whatnot. I said, No, I'm not going
3 for that. And between 40th and 52nd
4 Street, I ended up getting into a fight.
5 No SEPTA cop, no nothing.

6 The cops sitting down at the
7 corner of 52nd and Market, but they're
8 sitting in their cars and then they
9 pulled off. So there's nowhere for me
10 really to say anything.

11 When I went home, I told my mom
12 about it and she took me right to the
13 police station, and they filed a report,
14 but I haven't gotten any response back
15 yet.

16 MS. JOYNER: We're joined, I
17 see, by Councilman Rizzo, who has really
18 worked very hard and organized a meeting
19 to help us.

20 Yes, you've always been
21 helpful. We were talking about the
22 meeting and some of your help with trying
23 to get children protected in the subways.
24 The last meeting we had at our school,
25 there were about 35 attendees at that

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 meeting.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'd like to
4 on the record recognize that Councilman
5 Rizzo has entered the Chambers, and if
6 you want to be recognized, Councilman.

7 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I just want
8 to thank you for bringing this group
9 together, because I think when we work
10 together, we can accomplish a lot. I
11 know when we had some initial incidents,
12 SEPTA was very good, the Police
13 Department was very good. Matter of
14 fact, they provided overtime and did a
15 lot of things.

16 So, again, I'm appealing to the
17 people that can make things happen in
18 this city to do whatever they can to be
19 helpful, because this is important. Lots
20 of nice young men here today, and I just
21 wanted to make sure that I stopped in at
22 least to let you know that I'm listening
23 carefully upstairs.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
25 Councilman.

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thanks.

3 MS. JOYNER: All right. I'll
4 summarize.

5 In summary, I just want to say
6 that there is an urgent need for more
7 police officers and SEPTA officers to
8 patrol the subway stops, particularly
9 after school hours. It is very crucial
10 before there's another death. And I said
11 that five years ago, and I'm very sorry
12 to report that that has occurred, and I'm
13 pleading that something be done before
14 there's another death in the City.

15 Thank you.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.

17 And before you young men leave, I want
18 you to know something, that you put up
19 with a lot of things during the course of
20 a day, during the course of growing up,
21 and one of them should not be a rite of
22 passage, trial through fire on our mass
23 transportation system. You should be
24 worrying being math, science, recreation
25 and, to a lesser extent, your female

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 friends that teenagers should be worried
3 about, not how do I survive this SEPTA
4 trip. And I'm not pointing at SEPTA.
5 I'm talking about in our communities,
6 there is a problem.

7 Mayor Nutter has talked about
8 the fact that we have to take ownership
9 and be responsible in our communities as
10 well, and we're going to do whatever it
11 takes to bring the appropriate parties
12 together and work together to solve this
13 problem. We're not -- this is not about
14 pointing fingers. This is about
15 highlighting the problem. And, again,
16 when I talk about doing a security audit
17 of what's going on, you know more about
18 what's going on on a daily basis than all
19 of the people in this room, because you
20 live it every day, and we're listening to
21 you.

22 MS. JOYNER: Thank you. We
23 appreciate that. Thank you.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
25 very much.

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 Just on the record, in order of
3 presentation, we usurp that process, but
4 City Controller Butkovitz has submitted
5 written testimony and, if he comes back,
6 will be allowed to come in, but we're
7 going to move along for purposes of time
8 and ask SEPTA to come up.

9 (Witnesses approached witness
10 table.)

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.
12 Good afternoon. State your name for the
13 record, please.

14 MR. JORDAN: Good afternoon,
15 Mr. Chairman. My name is James Jordan.
16 I'm the Assistant General Manager for
17 Public and Operational Safety at SEPTA.

18 MR. DiCICCO: Christian
19 DiCicco, City Representative, SEPTA Board
20 member.

21 MR. JORDAN: On behalf of
22 SEPTA, I'd like to express our
23 appreciation for this Committee's
24 invitation to us to appear and address
25 this critically important issue of public

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 safety and safety on our system.

3 I would echo and further
4 emphasize what this Committee has heard
5 from Commissioner Ramsey and others, that
6 SEPTA is in a very close and productive
7 and cooperative relationship with the
8 City of Philadelphia police, other City
9 agencies, the School District and the
10 School District security forces and other
11 entities, including Center City District,
12 University of Pennsylvania and Temple.
13 We have found that to be a very
14 productive relationship.

15 We agree with you,
16 Mr. Chairman, that this is a problem that
17 could only be solved if all of us work
18 together to address it.

19 One of the major challenges we
20 face is that while I can submit to you
21 and have submitted to you numbers and can
22 give you more breakdowns and we can see
23 that the number of serious crimes is
24 rather low, that's not even half the
25 battle, because if people do not feel

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 safe on our system, then we have a lot of
3 work to do. And people do not feel safe.

4 The tragic murder that occurred
5 a couple of weeks ago touched such a
6 nerve in this city because people are,
7 quite simply, sick and tired of
8 especially the behavior of a lot of
9 school children after school dismissal.
10 Most of the time that is simply obnoxious
11 or disruptive behavior, but now we see
12 the tragic consequences of that behavior.
13 And, again, we have been working with
14 City of Philadelphia police, with
15 Commissioner Ramsey, and we'll continue
16 to do so.

17 Let me mention one issue that
18 has come up that is actually more of a
19 benefit. The question has been raised.
20 This year we started a program for
21 selling weekly passes to the School
22 District, which distributes them to
23 qualifying school children. We see no
24 evidence whatsoever that would link the
25 use of these passes with the crime we're

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 seeing in the disruptive behavior on the
3 system. That existed years before these
4 passes. We do not see any patterns
5 especially of people using the passes to
6 roam the system.

7 The incidents we've seen,
8 crimes or other incidents, are school
9 children riding the system going from
10 school towards their home and engaging in
11 criminal or disruptive behavior.

12 The good news is that with the
13 institution of the school pass program,
14 attendance at City schools has increased
15 between four and six percent, which we
16 find is a great benefit.

17 Again, because making people
18 feel safe is important to us, we have
19 increased our police presence, as I
20 believe one of the students mentioned.
21 This started last year, but certainly in
22 the last month we have further increased
23 our presence on the system, as has
24 Commissioner Ramsey, and we've seen
25 extraordinarily positive feedback from

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 the public on that issue. That's even in
3 a sense where with the homicide and with
4 another highly publicized incident, SEPTA
5 police were immediately on the scene and
6 did make arrests. So the issue is not
7 just are there not enough police out
8 there. In fact, in the homicidal attack,
9 it happened in view of a police officer.
10 That's how brazen that incident was. I
11 assume the kids didn't see the officer
12 since he was inside the subway station,
13 but he saw them and responded
14 immediately.

15 In addition to our increased
16 staffing, which we will be monitoring
17 closely -- and Mr. DiCicco and the Board
18 will be assessing after the end of the
19 school year as to what direction we want
20 to take to maximize our presence on the
21 systems -- we're also investing over a
22 hundred million dollars in our Smart
23 Stations program. That is more than just
24 cameras. It puts in state-of-the-art
25 communications, including call boxes,

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 intercoms, public address systems and
3 other alarm systems. That is a large
4 project. It's been underway for quite
5 some time. We will see the completion of
6 the first phase of 21 stations early next
7 year and, by 2011, the completion on the
8 remaining stations in our system.

9 I'd be more than happy to
10 either myself or with my colleagues here
11 reply or attempt to address any questions
12 the Committee might have.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Mr. DiCicco,
14 did you want to --

15 MR. DiCICCO: Yes.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: State your
17 name for the record, please.

18 MR. DiCICCO: Again, Christian
19 DiCicco, City Representative, SEPTA Board
20 member.

21 I, too, would like to thank you
22 for the opportunity to offer my remarks
23 with respect to making sure our
24 underground transit system is more
25 secure. I would like to read into the

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 record, if it's okay, a summary of the
3 statement that I had presented at the
4 SEPTA capital budget hearing
5 approximately two weeks ago.

6 Philadelphia subways and
7 underground stations have come a long way
8 in the past few decades. Skyrocketing
9 gas prices have made our public
10 transportation system more important than
11 ever. SEPTA cannot afford to lose the
12 public's confidence, which is why we must
13 act immediately to put an end to recent
14 violent episodes in our system.

15 I have asked SEPTA staff to
16 develop a plan, and it appears from the
17 testimony today and working closely with
18 Mr. Jordan and SEPTA that they are
19 working towards implementing the
20 following security upgrades as soon as
21 possible, while also researching and
22 pursuing other best practices to
23 guarantee a safe and secure public
24 transit system.

25 Specifically, I have asked the

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 staff to increase the police presence on
3 our vehicles and at our subway stations
4 to create a more visible police presence
5 and to discourage any further violent
6 incidents. Increasing police overtime
7 will allow SEPTA to strengthen police
8 patrols in the short term while pursuing
9 long-term solutions.

10 Police overtime should be
11 increased until the end of the school
12 year in June, at which point SEPTA and
13 its Board will assess its effects and
14 consider a more permanent solution.

15 SEPTA currently has a long-term
16 plan to implement security cameras in
17 underground stations, but the timeline
18 for that plan must be accelerated. I
19 urge SEPTA to install cameras in every
20 subway station within the next 18 months,
21 and we should pursue increased federal
22 homeland security funds and call upon our
23 state legislators to help finance this
24 project.

25 It is perfectly logical that

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 any attempt to make Philadelphia more
3 secure from terrorist attacks should
4 start with securing our underground
5 systems, especially in light of the
6 attacks on rail systems in London and
7 Madrid in the past five years.

8 Installing these cameras will serve two
9 purposes and will be an extremely
10 effective use of this funding.

11 We have a force of
12 approximately 250 transit police that
13 does an excellent job in protecting our
14 riders, but we have hundreds of thousands
15 of commuters and we must add more
16 officers to our force. I have asked
17 staff to look to hire 50 new officers
18 over the next two years while constantly
19 reassessing our security needs.

20 Again, I'd like to thank you,
21 and I commend you, the Philadelphia
22 Police Department, this Committee, SEPTA
23 Police and staff on its joint efforts to
24 alleviate our concerned riders problems.

25 Thank you.

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
3 very much.

4 Councilman Greenlee.

5 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.
6 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 Gentlemen, I guess the first
8 question should be with Mr. DiCicco. You
9 talk about the funding. How receptive
10 has the Board been to those kinds of -- I
11 know you've been for a while a very good
12 advocate for the City, but obviously we
13 know how the Board is set up, so I won't
14 get into detail, but we know what I'm
15 talking about.

16 MR. DiCICCO: I must say that I
17 am extremely happy with the staff's
18 response, as well as my fellow
19 colleagues, the Board members,
20 understanding the need for a secure
21 system. This is beyond the Philadelphia
22 problem. This is a regional problem, and
23 they understand it as well.

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Great.
25 Well, that's certainly good to hear.

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 Mr. Jordan, a couple questions.

3 First, on that Smart Station initiative,
4 are you doing the stations according to
5 incidents? Like, in other words, are the
6 ones that have the most problems being
7 done first?

8 MR. JORDAN: Yes, sir. The
9 first phase targeted the highest priority
10 stations from a safety and security
11 standpoint.

12 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And I
13 don't know if you can answer this or
14 somebody else here. We just heard the
15 testimony of the students, and, quite
16 frankly, I have heard those kind of
17 things before. That's not the only
18 thing. And I'm not saying it's typical
19 and all that, but I have heard some
20 concern that sometimes -- and it might
21 be -- that the SEPTA police, they see a
22 lot of incidents and maybe they're --
23 maybe callous isn't the right word, but
24 like the one kid that talked there --
25 desensitized is probably a better word,

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 Mr. Chairman.

3 I mean, clearly, it seemed to
4 me if that young man was telling it
5 truthfully -- and I don't have any doubt
6 that he was -- there should have been
7 more than just told to go home; am I
8 right?

9 MR. JORDAN: I will guarantee
10 you his memory is not accurate. I don't
11 mean to any way impugn his honor. It
12 could not have happened that way. What
13 we do see -- and I will assure you, our
14 officers are very sensitive.

15 Under the laws of the
16 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, if a police
17 officer does not witness a misdemeanor
18 being committed and the witness does not
19 wish to pursue charges, there is nothing
20 that officer can do other than file an
21 incident report with the SEPTA Police,
22 and we see that. And I believe one of
23 the gentlemen who was talking basically
24 said he told the Philadelphia police
25 officer he didn't want to talk about it.

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 Now, that's going to generate an incident
3 report, but there is nothing that the
4 officers can do.

5 We also see a pattern, as I
6 think a couple of the young men
7 mentioned, where the students themselves
8 don't want to prosecute. Very often they
9 know or can find out who did it. They go
10 home and their parents said, You're going
11 with me to the police station, we're
12 going to file a report. Sadly, the
13 "don't snitch" mentality works in the
14 subways as well as above ground, just
15 witness the length of time it took
16 Philadelphia Homicide Division to make
17 the subsequent arrest in the Conroy
18 homicide. Having said that, we are very
19 determined to be more aggressive.

20 Another part of the problem we
21 deal with is, a lot of the objectional
22 behavior is not criminal. The school
23 kids get on the system, they're very
24 loud, they might play fight, they might
25 mouth, make aggressive comments. They

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 might do other things that do not rise to
3 the level of criminal behavior. If, on
4 the other hand, they are violating
5 ordinances, such as by lighting up a
6 cigarette, we will give them citations.
7 We also will escort them out of a
8 building or off a station.

9 But it goes to the heart of the
10 feeling of safety. People do not feel
11 safe when they are on a subway or a bus,
12 and all the sudden a couple of dozen very
13 energetic, rowdy teenagers get on and are
14 talking very loudly and maybe playing
15 music, even if their behavior is
16 completely lawful, and that's a serious
17 problem that -- and that's simply our
18 riders. Our personnel, our bus
19 operators, our subway operators, our
20 crews, SEPTA personnel are subject to the
21 same problems, including a tragic
22 increase in assaults on bus operators on
23 our system, which we are also
24 aggressively trying to address.

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I was

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 going to ask about buses. We talked
3 mostly about subways, which I think are
4 probably where the bulk of the incidents
5 are, but have there been any increase in
6 incidents on buses? And if they are, are
7 they kind of around the same time? Is it
8 often times school related?

9 MR. JORDAN: The complaints we
10 see are of disruptive behavior. Because
11 of the way our schedule works and
12 dovetails with the school schedule, very
13 often the buses are carrying a busload of
14 kids from the same school, at least until
15 they get to the transportation center or
16 subway stop. So we don't have these
17 inter-school or inter-neighborhood
18 rivalries. We don't have as many members
19 of the general public riding those buses
20 in that 2:00 to 3:30 or so window. We do
21 get a lot of customer complaints and a
22 lot of complaints from our operators.

23 Among the other initiatives we
24 have started is a program to put multiple
25 cameras on our buses. The pilot program,

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 I can tell you, is a dramatic success.
3 We caught a young man about 12 completely
4 disrupting the bus, escorted him off.
5 His mother was very upset. We invited
6 her down to look at the film, and suffice
7 it to say, one, I think that young man
8 had some problems when she got home,
9 because she was shocked. Two, the word
10 went out immediately throughout that
11 school that SEPTA now had cameras on
12 their buses, and the next day on the
13 pilot you would have thought you were in
14 Sunday school the way the children sat
15 with their arms together and hands
16 together.

17 But for some reason, we are
18 seeing more criminal behavior in the
19 subway and nearby areas, like the
20 concourse, but also we see more fear.

21 The one other inherent problem
22 we have is, a lot of people do not feel
23 as safe underground. Psychologically you
24 do not feel you have the same options.

25 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: You don't

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 see daylight out there.

3 MR. JORDAN: We and the City
4 most especially emphasize and put a lot
5 of effort into cleaning, lighting,
6 access, but the reality is, people are
7 more fearful, and for reasons I'm not
8 sure -- well, actually, it's probably
9 because you can exit the subway system at
10 any stop. Because, again, as I think
11 this Committee knows, to the extent there
12 is a typical pattern, it is a group of
13 teenagers in an apparently spontaneous
14 act surrounding someone, trying to
15 frighten them, striking them, trying to
16 steal a cell phone or electronic gadget,
17 or sometimes it's been over a bag of
18 French fries or something as small as
19 that. It's over in a matter of seconds
20 and then they can either get off the
21 train or get onto the next train.

22 We do believe our cameras will
23 help greatly on that issue, but the one
24 thing we know works is putting more cops
25 in uniform out there, and we have put

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 more out, Commissioner Ramsey has put
3 more out, and we are seeing the dramatic
4 effect on people's feeling of safety, I
5 would say.

6 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I just
7 have one more question.

8 Just one more, if I could.
9 Thank you, Mr. Jordan. We talked a lot
10 here about communication and you talked
11 about communicating and interacting with
12 the School District. Have there been
13 situations where, say, one particular
14 school -- and I know it might not all be
15 public schools -- where you hear that
16 there's a lot of incidents of
17 such-and-such high school that you've
18 gone to that school or you've gone to the
19 School District and said, Look, we got a
20 particular problem here?

21 MR. JORDAN: We've done that
22 quite a lot, and as I said, we do work
23 very closely with the Security Department
24 of the School District. There are some
25 schools that are more of a problem. The

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 School District has been very helpful in
3 their response, for example, in keeping
4 the school kids who are assigned to
5 disciplinary schools off of our system as
6 much as possible. A lot of the problems
7 Ms. Joyner was talking about were related
8 to a disciplinary school, and went away
9 when the School District changed its
10 approach there.

11 Part of the problem is that we
12 have a big system, 22 stations on the
13 Broad Street Line, I think 32 on the
14 Market-Frankford Line, covering a lot of
15 miles of territory, and things can happen
16 anywhere along that line. We want, for
17 example, our officers to patrol both the
18 cars and the stations, and as one of the
19 young men described, these kids will wait
20 until there's not a cop around that they
21 can see or they will wait until there's
22 not a camera around and do this quick
23 30-second strike and then try to leave.
24 It's very hard to police against that,
25 especially because so often there seems

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 to be no motive other than --

3 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Just to
4 mess with somebody.

5 MR. JORDAN: It's a game for
6 some of these kids. And you know how to
7 catch robbers by, as Willie Sutton says,
8 going where the money is, but this type
9 of behavior is very difficult to police,
10 and it's another factor in creating the
11 sense of unease that does exist among our
12 customers and our citizens.

13 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
14 you.

15 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.

17 Thank you for your testimony.

18 Let me ask a few questions.

19 What was SEPTA's operating
20 budget '07?

21 MR. JORDAN: A little under a
22 billion dollars a year. I think it was
23 maybe 990 million, 995 million. It's a
24 lot of money.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: What

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 percentage of that budget is dedicated to
3 security and in specific --

4 MR. JORDAN: Specifically, the
5 police --

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: And in
7 specific, your SEPTA Police?

8 MR. JORDAN: The SEPTA Police
9 Department budget for the last couple of
10 years has been about \$14 million. Now,
11 we obviously spend other money, including
12 capital funds, on security, for example,
13 the hundred million dollar Smart Stations
14 project, but in terms of the annual
15 operating budget, it's roughly \$14
16 million against an overall budget of \$1
17 billion.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: And that's
19 '07?

20 MR. JORDAN: That would be the
21 rough numbers for FY07. Same rough
22 numbers for Fiscal Year '08.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: And your
24 percentage dedicated toward security is?

25 MR. JORDAN: Well, dedicated to

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 the Police Department would be 14 million
3 against 1 billion. I'm not sure what the
4 percentage is.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: How many
6 officers does that represent?

7 MR. JORDAN: Two hundred
8 forty-eight sworn officers.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: And do you
10 have unfilled positions?

11 MR. JORDAN: At any given time,
12 we will, because we have an attrition
13 rate of maybe five to six percent. We
14 adjust for that by increased use of
15 overtime. So that we do not have
16 unfilled deployment.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: So you have
18 not had over the last three years
19 unfilled positions for officers?

20 MR. JORDAN: No; we could.
21 Again, when we have vacancy -- well, let
22 me put it this way: We are tied to the
23 schedule of the Philadelphia Police
24 Academy. Up until recently, they had
25 seen some reduction in the number of

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 classes they were holding. Therefore, we
3 had fewer slots we could put candidates
4 in.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: For
6 everyone's edification, your officers are
7 trained at our facilities and are trained
8 just like regular police officers,
9 correct?

10 MR. JORDAN: Yes, sir. And we
11 meet the same standards for law
12 enforcement and we are accredited by the
13 Pennsylvania Police Chief's Association.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: What is your
15 level in '06-'07 for positions for
16 officers? What was that level, funded
17 level?

18 MR. JORDAN: It's been 248 for
19 quite some time.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: And you're
21 saying to me over those three years, you
22 haven't had vacancies?

23 MR. JORDAN: No. I'm saying --

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: What were
25 the vacancy rate levels of unfilled

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 positions over those three years?

3 MR. JORDAN: I could track
4 that. We've actually had sometimes when
5 we were over that allotment because we
6 were able to create a large class, but I
7 would say just in terms of vacancies, the
8 most I have ever seen, I think, is ten or
9 less.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: I would
11 suggest that that number is off, but I'm
12 going to give you the benefit of your
13 memory.

14 MR. JORDAN: When I say
15 "vacancy," that would be vacancies -- we
16 also have officers who may be out on sick
17 leave, long-term disability. They may be
18 in training. They have vacation
19 schedules. But in terms of unfilled
20 positions, that is driven by a lengthy
21 selection process and by the scheduling
22 at the Police Academy.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'm going to
24 try this one again. What is this year's
25 funded level of positions for officers

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 for SEPTA?

3 MR. JORDAN: The same, 248
4 officers.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: I would like
6 you to go back and check the number of
7 funded positions versus filled positions
8 for the last three years.

9 MR. JORDAN: Sure.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Secondly,
11 what is your turnover ratio by way of
12 loss of officers?

13 MR. JORDAN: Again, I would
14 defer to the Chief, but my sense is about
15 five to six or seven percent a year. It
16 can -- sometimes it's very little;
17 sometimes it can be higher. A lot of it
18 will depend on factors outside of our
19 control, such as whether suburban
20 townships are hiring. They typically pay
21 higher salaries.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: How much
23 higher?

24 MR. JORDAN: It can be
25 significantly higher for a much easier

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 job.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Is it \$6,000
4 difference between City police officers
5 and SEPTA police?

6 MR. JORDAN: I believe that's
7 right, yes, sir, for beginning. That gap
8 narrows a little bit, but it's always
9 less than a comparable Philadelphia
10 police officer.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: What is the
12 number of deployed officers on the 22
13 stations on the Broad Street Line on peak
14 hours that were suggested by the Police
15 Department, which I believe were 3:00 to
16 6:00?

17 MR. JORDAN: We look at it
18 more, I think, as 2:00 to 5:00, but
19 during that period, we are now putting
20 approximately 90 officers out on both the
21 Broad Street and the Market-Frankford
22 Line, supplemented by up to ten
23 plainclothes undercover officers. That
24 is a roughly --

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: As of when?

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 MR. JORDAN: That is as of two
3 weeks ago. Even before then we had
4 increased our staffing during that
5 period.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: So what was
7 that staffing increase and what was the
8 number?

9 MR. JORDAN: The basic staffing
10 plan calls for about 50 officers to be
11 out on the two subway systems during that
12 time, 50 to 60. We've increased that by
13 50 percent.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: As of when?

15 MR. JORDAN: As of
16 approximately two weeks ago.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: That's good
18 news.

19 There was a problem with
20 training of officers based on
21 availability of class timing with the
22 City's Police Department?

23 MR. JORDAN: I wouldn't call it
24 a problem. We cannot send officers to
25 the Academy when the Academy is not

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 holding their six-month training course
3 and --

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: When was
5 your last graduating class?

6 MR. JORDAN: That was about a
7 month ago. We graduated four officers.
8 I'm not sure. I think we are looking to
9 put about 11 or 12 in the next class,
10 which we're hoping the Academy will start
11 this summer.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: And what was
13 the time frame between that last
14 graduating class, the four, and the one
15 before that?

16 MR. JORDAN: Again, I would
17 defer to the Chief.

18 (Witness approached witness
19 table.)

20 MR. JORDAN: This is Richard
21 Evans, Chief of the SEPTA Police
22 Department.

23 MR. EVANS: We put the four
24 into the Academy, the ones that have just
25 graduated, about a week before the

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 previous class graduated from the
3 Academy.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'm
5 confused. You have four that graduated a
6 week ago.

7 MR. EVANS: We have four that
8 graduated at the beginning of April, yes.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: And before
10 that there were?

11 MR. EVANS: Before that, I
12 believe we graduated nine officers from
13 the Police Academy.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: How long
15 ago?

16 MR. EVANS: That was about a
17 week after we put these folks in --

18 MR. JORDAN: To translate,
19 about six months earlier.

20 MR. EVANS: Six, seven months
21 earlier.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: So you
23 regularly have been able to access the
24 training?

25 MR. EVANS: For the most part,

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 yeah. We're not -- the Academy is not
3 always ready when we're ready, but they
4 may be a month later than we'd like to
5 start, but we do get our people in.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: You stated
7 SEPTA's overall operating budget in '07
8 was?

9 MR. JORDAN: Roughly \$1
10 billion.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: And it is
12 now?

13 MR. JORDAN: It's roughly the
14 same.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: And you do
16 not have a deficit, correct?

17 MR. JORDAN: No. That's our
18 operating budget and we are required by
19 state law -- we're forbidden by state law
20 from incurring a deficit.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'm asking
22 these questions for a reason, that as I
23 hear what's going on, there's a couple of
24 things that pop out at me. One, there is
25 a lack of coordination. I heard that we

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 just started meeting with the
3 Philadelphia Police Department -- wait a
4 minute -- and that there was a period of
5 at least one school year that we started
6 working with the School Board to adjust
7 release times for students.

8 I think that current events has
9 called for us to have a regular
10 coordinating meeting, that it shouldn't
11 be happenstance, that it should be a
12 regular part of whether it's your Board's
13 report or your operating staff meeting's
14 agenda that have we coordinated in
15 reference to security for the following
16 hot spots. And I'd like to suggest
17 humbly that that be a part of your
18 operation.

19 When I see you build something,
20 you do it with precision, and some things
21 happen, you get over delays, but pretty
22 much I've watched you do the EI and
23 you've done that with a military
24 preciseness. But when it comes to the
25 coordination of our safety, that's kind

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 of a little bit murky and foggy to me,
3 and what I am challenging you to do is to
4 kind of take some of that on-time train
5 arrival coordination and apply it to the
6 safety factor. I asked the question, has
7 there been an independent security audit.
8 I'm going to ask that question to you
9 now.

10 MR. JORDAN: Not independent,
11 but the SEPTA Police do security audits
12 of all of our stations and all of our
13 facilities. We had police commanders
14 on -- involved in the planning of the
15 Smart Stations project, advising where to
16 mount cameras, where to do things to
17 assure maximum coverage.

18 So not independent, but we do
19 the kinds of evaluations you were talking
20 about internally. Externally the
21 evaluations have been more -- have been
22 in the area of homeland security and
23 terrorism.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: It has been
25 my experience that we tend to overlook

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 the obvious when it comes to ourselves,
3 and we definitely overlook the expenses
4 when it comes to our budget. So what I
5 am suggesting to you, that an independent
6 security audit be conducted that kind of
7 coordinates a number of aspects, whether
8 it's Public Property, because some of the
9 property is owned by the City of
10 Philadelphia, whether it is SEPTA, the
11 operating entity, whether it is of the
12 school system, who actually let's our
13 children out on your system to get from
14 home, school and back. But somebody
15 needs to kind of take a step back, look
16 at the big picture and tell us where our
17 holes, vulnerabilities, dark spots are.
18 And I'm going to ask you that because you
19 don't have a deficit and I'm going to
20 challenge you kind of to apply some of
21 those additional resources that you've
22 gotten from the state and apply them to
23 the safe operation of the system.

24 I'm going to further say that
25 when it comes to Smart Stations -- and

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 you kind of alluded to the fact that
3 you're picking -- what is the timetable
4 for the completion of them and what can
5 the public look for to a smart, safe
6 station and where and when?

7 MR. JORDAN: I said the first
8 phase for 21 stations are scheduled to be
9 completed by early next year. What the
10 public will see are a large number of
11 cameras, over a thousand cameras
12 throughout the system. They will see --
13 they will hear public address systems.
14 They will see more call box systems.
15 They may not see, but there will be
16 intercom systems that the cashiers have.
17 They will have better lighting and better
18 signage. Those are the --

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: Can you stop
20 there? Signage, to what degree does
21 digital signs play in the security role
22 and what is a part of that kind of --

23 MR. JORDAN: It's valuable. We
24 are enhancing our ability and we'll
25 continue to do so to communicate through

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 either the electronic signage or the
3 public address system. We have that
4 capacity to a certain extent on the rail
5 side. We are implementing it on the
6 subway side. We have certain features of
7 it on the bus side, but that is
8 definitely an area we are developing.

9 A lot of that communication is
10 schedule information, service
11 reliability, service disruption, but it
12 would also give us the capacity -- I
13 mean, to give you, again, one example,
14 during our test program on Smart
15 Stations, we had a test group who was
16 monitoring the station, monitoring the
17 cameras, saw a young man running up a
18 descending escalator. We flipped the
19 switch for the PA system and from 1234
20 Market told him to stop horsing around on
21 the escalator. You would have thought he
22 had a heart attack. All the sudden this
23 voice is coming out of the sky.

24 So that kind of capacity is
25 what riders won't see and is part of the

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 complexity and cost, is the video can be
3 fed back to our Control Center and our
4 Police Control Center at 1234 Market so
5 we can aggressively actively monitor
6 situations, follow up, radio information
7 to police approaching the scene. So
8 there will be pieces that the public
9 won't see, but they will see a lot.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Let me just
11 again for the record, because I'm a
12 little dense. By the end of next year,
13 we will have Broad and Olney, Broad and
14 Girard completed as a Smart Station and
15 also I'd like to say a safe station; is
16 that correct?

17 (Witness approached witness
18 table.)

19 MR. KNUEPPEL: I'm Jeff
20 Knueppel, Chief Engineer for SEPTA.

21 At the end of this calendar
22 year, we'll be wrapping up the
23 construction on the first 21 stations,
24 and what we'll be doing even today is,
25 we're starting to put the cameras and

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 wire them into the digital recorders in
3 the communications rooms in the stations,
4 so that while we have to wait until the
5 end of this calendar year for all the
6 construction to be done, we're putting
7 what we can in service as soon as we can.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: So the
9 stations that have been mentioned will be
10 completed by the end of this calendar
11 year?

12 MR. KNUEPPEL: Right, but we
13 might even have cameras in service
14 earlier. As the cameras are mounted by
15 the contractors, we will place them in
16 service.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: May I press
18 you to ask one other question? How are
19 you safeguarding SEPTA bus operators and
20 the riders there?

21 MR. JORDAN: We think the
22 cameras on the buses will be the single
23 most valuable thing to protect our
24 operators and our riders. We have over
25 1,100 buses that cover a five-county

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 area. That presents an obvious challenge
3 in policing, especially because -- the
4 SEPTA Police Department is staffed and
5 designed to patrol the two subway
6 systems.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: Have you
8 ever had an instance where your operators
9 were victims of crime?

10 MR. JORDAN: Yes.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: How often
12 does that happen?

13 MR. JORDAN: Again, I can get
14 you statistics. It has been with
15 disturbing frequency over the last two or
16 three years. I am aware of at least a
17 half a dozen fairly potentially serious
18 assaults a year against operators.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: Have there
20 been ever hijackings of bus drivers?

21 MR. JORDAN: Not to my
22 knowledge anywhere in the country. It
23 may have happened, but --

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: So you
25 wouldn't know of a situation where a bus

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 driver was kidnapped, robbed at gunpoint
3 and his life was threatened?

4 MR. JORDAN: I am aware of
5 situations where bus operators were
6 robbed at gunpoint. I would defer to the
7 police or the department -- I don't
8 remember the kidnapping piece, but we do
9 have gunpoint robberies that have
10 happened also on our rail system.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: I would
12 suggest to you that it has happened, and
13 I won't bring the guy forward. You lost
14 a great operator due to it. I'm hoping
15 that these cameras come on board so that
16 you don't lose any more. And one of the
17 things that stuck in my mind when I ran
18 for this office was, when I went to TWU
19 and this former TWU worker -- because he
20 couldn't come back to work. It was
21 traumatic. He talked about a tale of
22 being kidnapped and taken off of a route,
23 robbed and then his life was threatened.
24 And other than the fact that God was with
25 him that moment, he was going to leave

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 here.

3 So these cameras on these buses
4 are an essential safety, not only for the
5 riders, but for your own operators, and I
6 would just leave it at that. All right?

7 MR. JORDAN: All right. I can,
8 unfortunately, assure you it is
9 inherently dangerous out there. We had
10 another operator shot just as he was
11 driving his bus, apparently drove it into
12 a free fire zone. He was seriously
13 wounded. Fortunately, he is back at
14 work. But there is no question that
15 there are dangers out there, which is why
16 we are -- we are also encouraging the
17 State Legislature to increase the
18 criminal penalties for any assault on a
19 transit employee, making that an
20 aggravated assault offense. And we're
21 working closely with --

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: We would
23 support that.

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:
25 Absolutely.

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Absolutely
3 support that.

4 MR. JORDAN: -- with the
5 unions, including TWU 234, on that as
6 well.

7 So we agree there is a problem.
8 We are very concerned about it and we are
9 doing what we can.

10 I would also say we work
11 closely with Philadelphia Police in
12 responding to any threat on our bus
13 system. As a general rule, they're going
14 to be closer than we are if the incident
15 happens in Philadelphia. So they
16 typically would be the responding law
17 enforcement agency on the bus side.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'm going to
19 turn it over to Councilman Greenlee, but
20 I have one last question. Your officers
21 do not have the ability to investigate
22 other than -- what are their limits?

23 MR. JORDAN: They have full --
24 our officers have full law enforcement
25 powers on the transit system or in areas

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 where there's a relationship to transit.
3 So that if it happens on the system, if
4 it happens on the system and somebody is
5 running away from it, we have all of the
6 powers of a Philadelphia police officer.
7 That jurisdiction covers all of the five
8 counties we operate in, so that we can
9 make the same arrest if we happen to be
10 in Delaware County at the 69th Street
11 Station, but we -- and to address an
12 issue that I believe actually
13 Commissioner Timoney looked at briefly
14 when he was Commissioner about
15 consolidating the departments. We are
16 created under a different state law. We
17 have five-county jurisdiction. We don't
18 see a need -- and I don't think
19 Commissioner Ramsey does either -- to
20 merge the two departments.

21 What is needed -- and, again, I
22 want to correct any misimpression that's
23 been there. We need to continue working
24 closely with Philadelphia Police, with
25 the School Board. We do meet regularly.

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 This isn't something that just started.

3 This has been going on for years. But I

4 do like your suggestion that we create a

5 standing group to have a conversation

6 on -- I think there are informally that

7 sort of thing, but I agree with you that

8 that's a good next step.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: Well, as

10 Chairman of the Transportation

11 Committee -- and I'm going to deputize my

12 Vice-Chair -- that we would be willing,

13 more than willing, to participate in any

14 task force and make sure that we do our

15 share to encourage a little tougher laws.

16 If we have to advocate to the state

17 level, we'll do it.

18 We have a mutual issue here and

19 that mutual concern about the ridership

20 and citizens of Philadelphia, and we want

21 to work with you.

22 Councilman Greenlee.

23 MR. JORDAN: I'm sorry,

24 Mr. Chairman. If I could just address

25 one other point before I forget, because

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 Mr. Butkovitz had to leave. He is
3 conducting an independent audit of SEPTA
4 Police. In fact, we are scheduled to
5 meet either today or tomorrow with an
6 outside consulting group that he has
7 retained to assist him in the audit.
8 That may -- and it may be that he can
9 shape that audit to include the issues
10 we've heard today about school-related
11 violence, school-related problems, the
12 role of the Philadelphia Police
13 Department, the role of the School
14 District. I'll certainly raise that with
15 him, but that at least a part of what you
16 are recommending is underway as we speak
17 and we are cooperating to the best of our
18 ability with the Controller on that.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: Very good.

20 MR. JORDAN: Thank you.

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
22 you. Just one quick question,
23 Mr. Chairman.

24 Thank you, Mr. Jordan. First
25 of all, I do recognize -- I think we both

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 do -- that SEPTA is trying to address
3 this problem. We're not in any way
4 trying to say you're not. But obviously
5 there's always more that could be done.

6 On the camera issue -- and I
7 don't think you addressed this. I
8 apologize if this was already asked.
9 Will these cameras be prominent? Is it
10 clear they're going to be whether it's on
11 the buses or whatever? They're not
12 hidden cameras, if you will?

13 MR. JORDAN: No. They are
14 overt cameras. And I believe this came
15 up in another meeting that you and I and
16 the Chairman were at. We will look to
17 see if we need to make them even more
18 overt, but from our pilot, these school
19 kids don't have any trouble spotting them
20 and trying to deface them. But we are
21 not using covert cameras.

22 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: But I'm
23 thinking even on the buses too, because
24 that makes the passengers -- the majority
25 of passengers that don't want a problem

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 and even the possible perpetrator of a
3 problem, if they know they're there,
4 obviously they're going to be less
5 likely, we hope.

6 MR. JORDAN: We will also be
7 putting up signs saying, You're on TV.

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Can't do
9 much more than that. Okay. Thank you.

10 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
12 very much.

13 MR. JORDAN: Thank you, sir. I
14 appreciate it.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Are there
16 any other witnesses that are here?
17 School District, please come up.

18 (Witnesses approached witness
19 table.)

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
21 afternoon. Please state your name for
22 the record.

23 MR. PATTON: Good afternoon.
24 I'm Greg Patton with the School District
25 of Philadelphia.

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 MR. WHALEN: My name is Michael
3 Whalen. I'm a commander affiliated with
4 the Office of School Climate and Safety,
5 the Philadelphia School District.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay.
7 Please submit your testimony. Do you
8 have written testimony?

9 MR. PATTON: Yes.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.

11 MR. PATTON: Good afternoon,
12 Chairman Jones and members of the
13 Committee on Transportation and Public
14 Utilities. My name is Greg Patton and
15 I'm with the School District of
16 Philadelphia and I am the Family Support
17 Coordinator. I am here today to give
18 testimony on Resolution 080396 and to
19 tell you how the School District of
20 Philadelphia partners with SEPTA to
21 ensure the well-being of school children
22 as well as increase safety to all SEPTA
23 riders.

24 Each day approximately 50,000
25 students ride SEPTA for the purpose of

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 traveling to or from school. The primary
3 safety while students or any rider are on
4 SEPTA is provided by SEPTA Police. The
5 Philadelphia School District and SEPTA,
6 however, have a shared interest in
7 keeping the children of Philadelphia and
8 all SEPTA riders safe.

9 There are two main programs run
10 by the School District of Philadelphia
11 that operate with substantial support
12 from SEPTA. The first is the truancy
13 bus. In an effort to keep kids in
14 schools and off the streets during the
15 school day, SEPTA provides the District
16 with the use of a bus and additional
17 manpower to transport kids who are picked
18 up during the truancy sweeps. Once on
19 the bus, all of the students are taken to
20 a truancy center and their parent or
21 guardian is notified. The truancy bus is
22 used as part of an overall strategy to
23 combat truancy and accounts for 4,000
24 students picked up annually.

25 Another initiative that the

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 District runs with the support of SEPTA
3 is known as Safe Corridors. This effort,
4 which also includes partners in the
5 business community, the neighborhoods and
6 the Philadelphia Police Department, is
7 designed to provide additional support at
8 designated locations as students travel
9 to and from school. The program has
10 increased -- provides increased police
11 support along the corridors, as well as
12 safe havens along those frequently
13 traveled routes. Additionally, Safe
14 Corridors allows for information exchange
15 between the School District and its
16 partners, including SEPTA. For example,
17 if the District learns that there could
18 be an altercation after school, we alert
19 SEPTA school officials and our other
20 partners so that appropriate support can
21 be provided and that the situation can be
22 properly handled.

23 SEPTA is an important partner
24 in the School District's effort to keep
25 kids safe not only while they are in

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 school, but also as they travel to and
3 from school.

4 Thank you for allowing me to
5 testify here today, and I would be happy
6 to answer any questions from the
7 Committee at this time.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.
9 We'll hear your testimony before we
10 answer questions.

11 MR. WHALEN: That represented
12 both of us.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay. Is
14 there anyone else?

15 Are you part of --

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I am.
17 I'm just their escort now.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay. All
19 right. You used to work here?

20 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Another
21 City Council employee make good.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
23 Mr. Whalen is here to help with support
24 questions.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 for your testimony. In general, what do
3 you see by way -- I'll ask it
4 differently. How do you interact with
5 SEPTA, the City's Police Department
6 currently?

7 MR. PATTON: Currently, I
8 coordinate with ten law enforcement
9 agencies to work on the safe travel to
10 school during the truancy hours, which is
11 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We start the
12 year with an annual meeting with all ten
13 law enforcement agencies together to plan
14 how we're going to approach known hot
15 spots, how we'll respond to new hot
16 spots, because our kids are very good.
17 Once they see that uniform presence, they
18 move it. So we actually have a process
19 where we can always keep up with the
20 students.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: To what
22 degree do you regularly meet with SEPTA
23 and the Philadelphia Police?

24 MR. WHALEN: Your Philadelphia
25 Police divisional inspectors are

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 required, in accordance with Deputy
3 Commissioner Fox, to have monthly
4 meetings with their principals, and as
5 part of those meetings are ourselves,
6 Philadelphia School District, SEPTA, and
7 if there's any local universities within
8 the close area to the schools, they
9 participate as well. In addition, the
10 regional superintendents of schools has
11 monthly meetings that all parties
12 participate in as well.

13 Now, also we have daily
14 communications with the proper commanders
15 on the Frankford-Market Line as well as
16 the Broad Street Line. We also have our
17 relationship with the individual
18 captains. If we get intelligence or vice
19 versa, we communicate on a daily basis
20 and we work together. I mean, obviously
21 the Philadelphia School District could
22 not do this alone without the support
23 obviously of Philadelphia Police and
24 SEPTA. It wouldn't be accomplished in
25 the high regard that it is.

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Generally,
3 without naming schools, how many hot spot
4 schools along SEPTA's Broad Street Line
5 and/or elevated line are we talking
6 about?

7 MR. PATTON: On the Broad
8 Street Line, we're talking approximately
9 a half dozen, and it fluctuates back and
10 forth up the line. On the El, we have
11 four majors and, again, it's a transit
12 system and the trouble transits up and
13 down the system.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: To what
15 degree do you coordinate dismissal times?

16 MR. WHALEN: That would be
17 something that's worked out between the
18 individual captain, ourselves and the
19 principal. For instance, if we have a
20 situation where today there's certain
21 locations we think there's going to be
22 problems, we might go to, say, your
23 school if you were the principal and ask
24 you to do dismiss 15 to 20 minutes
25 earlier. Like Ms. Joyner stated earlier

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 with De La Salle, they do on a daily
3 basis change the schedule of the
4 different schools to alleviate certain
5 problems, but usually we do it on a daily
6 basis. Most schools dismiss between,
7 say, quarter to 3:00 and quarter after
8 3:00 on a daily basis, unless there's an
9 early dismissal day, such as tomorrow,
10 where most of the students will get out
11 at 12 o'clock.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: In your
13 opinion, are these groups of young people
14 organized gangs or just kids that are
15 misguided?

16 MR. WHALEN: I think some of
17 these kids like to think they are gangs,
18 but they're really not. What we find
19 normally is that the community issues
20 become the school issues. If there's an
21 issue in the community -- it could be
22 over a girlfriend -- they bring it into
23 the school, or vice versa, if the school
24 has a problem, they take it back into the
25 community. But I don't find it to be as

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 much organized as people would give it
3 credence to be.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: To what
5 degree is the motivation robbery versus
6 juvenile delinquency per se?

7 MR. PATTON: I believe that
8 delinquency is probably 60 percent, but
9 there is a criminal element out there.
10 There's a crime of opportunity. The
11 doors are closed, the train is going to
12 be underground, and 30 seconds that door
13 is going to open, and there are six doors
14 on each train. So we grab it, we run.

15 So I believe 60 percent is just
16 roughhousing and delinquency, but 40 I
17 believe is robbery.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: What are
19 your recommendations for us as a
20 municipality and any coordinating body
21 that we might have? If you had three
22 pointers, what would they be?

23 MR. PATTON: I haven't talked
24 to my superiors, so I'm going to give you
25 basically what I think is most important.

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 The schools need more support. We need
3 more social services coming into, working
4 with the community that those children
5 come from. We have them for a good part
6 of the day, but they wreak havoc in our
7 buildings as well. So the social
8 supports and the parents would be
9 wonderful.

10 Baltimore had a daytime curfew
11 and it worked wonders.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: I don't mean
13 to interrupt you. To what degree is
14 curfew an issue in this and what degree
15 is truancy an issue in this?

16 MR. PATTON: Truancy is
17 probably one of the biggest issues.
18 Unfortunately, we have some laws on the
19 books that haven't been enforced. We
20 have some that need to be strengthened.

21 Our retail merchandise people
22 are under the understanding you don't
23 serve children during the day. People
24 build stores in front of a school for the
25 purpose of getting rich. In my career

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 we've always asked our corner stores to
3 stop serving our children when the school
4 bell rings, and they have cooperated.
5 The big franchises, your Dunkin Donuts,
6 McDonald's, Burger King, they're not
7 hearing us.

8 So if you go out in any
9 neighborhood and you see a child on the
10 way to school late, you can almost bet a
11 week's salary they're carrying a little
12 black bag of chips, potato chips, a
13 Dunkin Donut or McDonald's bag. So
14 they're already late for school and they
15 make another half hour stop to be later.

16 The daytime curfew would give
17 the truancy initiative more teeth. Right
18 now we are working on the compulsory
19 attendance law in Philadelphia. There is
20 no law against truancy, but because of
21 the state law compulsory attendance, we
22 can stop a pedestrian that looks of
23 school age and take them in for truancy.
24 So I think we need a truancy ordinance or
25 a daytime curfew or some variation of

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 both.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'm a little
4 confused, but I'm sure the Administration
5 will give me clarity on that some day.
6 I'm going to put a pin in that one as a
7 possible suggestion to reinforcement what
8 laws are on the books.

9 But I want to thank you, and I
10 recognize the hard work that you do. For
11 the record, all of the crimes that are
12 committed on SEPTA are not done by our
13 young people.

14 MR. PATTON: Absolutely not.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: I want to
16 say that again. All of the crimes that
17 are on mass transportation are not done
18 by young people, but obviously they've
19 taken center stage by way of some of the
20 theatrical performances with the videos
21 and things like that. We're going to pay
22 attention to that.

23 And I want to thank you, and if
24 there's no other comments -- you have a
25 question. I'm sorry.

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Just a
3 couple.

4 MR. PATTON: Let me just make
5 one comment also. Over 90 percent of our
6 students are wonderful young people who
7 are trying to get an education, but we do
8 have a percentage of students that are
9 troubled, and we're doing the best we
10 can.

11 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: No. I
12 understand. It's a difficult job. I
13 wouldn't want it, sir. Trust me.

14 Just a couple of quick
15 questions. First, on your statement,
16 Mr. Patton, about there are no laws on
17 truancy, you threw me off there. I
18 didn't realize there wasn't anything.
19 Now, if a kid doesn't show up to
20 school -- because I know Judge Summers is
21 well known for bringing these kids in and
22 scaring them three-quarters to death.
23 There must be something.

24 MR. PATTON: The compulsory
25 education law from ages 8 to 17 requires

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 every Pennsylvania (unintelligible) to be
3 in an educational program. We use that
4 that if you're 12, 15, 16 out of school,
5 we can stop you for truancy.

6 Now, in the Family Courts,
7 again, they are using the compulsory
8 attendance law, and they've done some
9 fantastic things, anything from community
10 service, fines, whatever. But in
11 Philadelphia County, we don't have what
12 Upper Darby has. We don't even have what
13 Cheltenham has.

14 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I think
15 we'll want to talk to you about what
16 those other counties have and what we can
17 do, because obviously anything we can
18 add, we'd certainly be more than willing
19 to do that. And I certainly agree with
20 the Chairman when he says that obviously
21 not all the perpetrators by far are
22 school students and certainly public
23 school students. But I was wondering, do
24 you keep any kind of record in your
25 communication with SEPTA and the police

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 both perpetrators and victims that are
3 students? Do you have anything like
4 that?

5 MR. PATTON: Yes, we do.

6 MR. WHALEN: We'd have to get
7 you that information. We have a
8 statistical unit. I'd have to go through
9 my Chief, and obviously we would be more
10 than glad to get you that information.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: I think that
12 might give us a lot of insight as to a
13 little more detail about what's going on,
14 who is committing the crime and who the
15 victims often are.

16 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Because
17 the perception obviously is -- I don't
18 have to tell you guys this -- that public
19 schools get blamed for a lot of things.
20 You know that better than I do. And I'd
21 like to know. And also the victim thing,
22 because I would think a lot of the
23 victims are public school students also.
24 Obviously we saw a few today, but...

25 MR. PATTON: That's correct.

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: One, I
3 guess, last question. You talked about
4 with the Chairman the problem schools,
5 the half dozen, I think you said, at one
6 time it could be. What kind of action is
7 taken when some of these schools are
8 identified? What communication is there
9 with the principal? If you know, what
10 does the principal then do?

11 MR. WHALEN: Well, obviously
12 we'd reach out to the principal, and if
13 we know who some of the students are
14 involved, the principal will bring them
15 in, talk to them. If we feel it's deeper
16 than -- it's a more serious issue, we'll
17 bring in PAAN and Twist obviously, and we
18 would notify Philadelphia Police
19 Intelligence Unit too as well to see, as
20 you spoke earlier about organized issues,
21 to see if it would be on that level.

22 But what we try to do is get
23 these students not only the students from
24 that particular school, but any students
25 from any other schools, we'll notify

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 those schools as well, and then we'll
3 monitor it from there. But we try to get
4 them in, get the intelligence
5 information, and obviously we communicate
6 that with Philadelphia Police and SEPTA
7 as well.

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And
9 obviously when Ms. Joyner was here, she
10 talked about trying to communicate with a
11 couple schools. And, again, I didn't
12 hear that conversation between those
13 schools, so I'm just going by what she
14 said. Obviously the School District
15 encourages those kind of conversations.
16 So in this case, Franklin -- I forget the
17 other school -- Parkway maybe, you want
18 that communication obviously, right?

19 MR. WHALEN: Well, Ms. Joyner
20 made a great point. What we do is, if
21 there's going to be a problem or expected
22 problem, we'll have administrators from
23 both schools come to that location,
24 because now the students better -- we
25 better identify with the students if the

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 administrators from the schools are at
3 that location, and hopefully that
4 prevents an incident. I mean, obviously
5 what we try to do is be proactive. We
6 don't want to be reactive.

7 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Sure.
8 And I have -- I think I gave the example
9 earlier. I have seen that happen. This
10 happened to be between a private school
11 and a public school. But when that
12 communication happened, again, it was
13 just -- we talked about the changing of
14 dismissal times, but that helped.

15 MR. WHALEN: I think you hit a
16 great point. I think one of the greatest
17 accomplishments the School District has
18 made, in addition as well as Philadelphia
19 Police and SEPTA, is the communication
20 level. We do work together. And that's
21 just not from a law enforcement
22 perspective; that's from an
23 administrative perspective as well.

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.
25 Thank you.

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 MR. PATTON: And I believe
3 Ms. Joyner forgot, but there's a monthly
4 meeting held by the captain of the 6th
5 and the 9th District for that whole
6 corridor, which includes Ben Franklin,
7 Parkway, Mathematics and Civics, with
8 SEPTA School Police and the Philadelphia
9 Police attend.

10 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: That's a
11 very good point, because I live in the
12 9th District and I remember -- it's now
13 Captain Wilson, but it was Captain Cullen
14 at the time -- talked about that, and he
15 thought that was very helpful to have
16 those constant discussions and
17 communications.

18 Great. Thank you.

19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Before you
21 go, I just want to say thank you for your
22 testimony and say this, a couple of
23 things that have come out of this. One,
24 the origin of this problem didn't come
25 from one thing, whether it was SEPTA,

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396
2 whether it's communities, whether it's
3 schools, but the solution for these
4 problems won't come from one thing. It
5 will be all of us kind of pitching in
6 where we can to correct and right the
7 ship and correct the problem.

8 It is important that our young
9 people be able to go to and from school
10 in a safe manner. The challenges out
11 here are immense. The competition is
12 global, and the last thing they need to
13 be worried about is how do I survive the
14 SEPTA ride. So we got to work together
15 on that.

16 I'd like to thank all of the
17 members of the Committee that came out,
18 and thank you for your testimony.

19 Are there any other parties
20 that wish to testify?

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Any other
23 parties?

24 (No response.)

25 MR. WHALEN: Thank you, sir.

1 4/17/08 - TRANSPORTATION - RES. 080396

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.

3 Hearing none, we're going to
4 recess this Committee. There may well be
5 a report that comes out of this Committee
6 based on some of the observations, and I
7 want to thank everybody for their
8 participation. Thank you.

9 (Committee on Transportation
10 and Public Utilities adjourned at 3:30
11 p.m.)

12 - - -

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1

2

CERTIFICATE

3

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the

4

proceedings, evidence and objections are

5

contained fully and accurately in the

6

stenographic notes taken by me upon the

7

foregoing matter on April 17, 2008, and that

8

this is a true and correct transcript of same.

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

MICHELE L. MURPHY

16

RPR-Notary Public

17

18

19

(The foregoing certification of this

20

transcript does not apply to any reproduction

21

of the same by any means, unless under the

22

direct control and/or supervision of the

23

certifying reporter.)

24

25