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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

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COMMITTEE ON RULES

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Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, March 30, 2006
9:45 a.m.

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PRESENT:

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA

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COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL

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COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE

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COUNCILMAN FRANK DiCICCO

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COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.

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COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN

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BILL 060159 - An ordinance to amend the
Institutional Development District Master Plan
of Holy Family University by allowing for the
construction of a new student residence
building.

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good morning, everyone. Can I please have your attention. Thank you very much.

This is a public hearing of the Committee on Rules. To my extreme left, we have Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown, Councilman Goode, Councilman Clarke, and I would ask Councilman DiCicco if he would please give us a quorum.

At this time, I would ask Mr. McPherson to please read the title of the bill.

MR. MCPHERSON: Bill No. 060159, an ordinance to amend the Institutional Development District Master Plan of Holy Family University by allowing for the construction of a new student residence building.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good morning. Please identify yourself for the record and proceed with your testimony.

MR. KRAMER: Good morning,

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2 Madam President and members of the Rules
3 Committee. My name is William Kramer. I
4 am the Senior Zoning Planner in the
5 Development Planning Division of the City
6 Planning Commission. I am here today to
7 testify on Bill 060159, which was
8 introduced by Councilmember Krajewski on
9 March 2, 2006.

10 This bill will permit the
11 amendment of the Institutional
12 Development District Master Plan for Holy
13 Family University. The amendment is for
14 the erection of a three-story 18,900
15 square foot structure to be used as
16 student residence housing for 48 students
17 and for a new surface parking lot with 44
18 spaces.

19 The City Planning Commission at
20 its meeting of February 16, 2006 reviewed
21 and approved the proposed changes to the
22 Master Plan of Holy Family University.
23 Accordingly, the Planning Commission
24 recommends that Bill 060159 be approved.

25 I would be happy to answer any

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2 questions of the Committee.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
4 you very much.

5 Are the parking spaces that you
6 referred to primarily for residential
7 students or are they available to anyone?

8 MR. KRAMER: These particular
9 parking spaces on this amendment are for
10 the residences. They're adjacent to the
11 residential building. The campus does
12 have 861 spaces on campus, some of which
13 certainly are available for public
14 parking.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Well,
16 of the 861, how many are provided for the
17 students?

18 MR. KRAMER: It is primarily
19 for the students, but if you just pulled
20 in off the street and parked there, there
21 would be no way for them to actually stop
22 most of that. Most places in this
23 particular campus, parking is not really
24 an issue. There's quite a lot of
25 available on-street parking, so it

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2 doesn't generally present a problem.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm
4 not familiar with the area, so you'll
5 have to forgive me.

6 MR. KRAMER: I grew up here,
7 Madam President, so I'm somewhat
8 familiar.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: How
10 many students attend Holy Family
11 University and how many live on campus?

12 MR. KRAMER: I do not have that
13 information. Their engineer is here in
14 the room today. He may know that. I do
15 not know that.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: All
17 right. Would you approach the witness
18 table, please, identify yourself and give
19 us some information.

20 MR. TANTALA: Good morning,
21 members of the Committee. My name is
22 Peter Tantala. I'm an engineer for Holy
23 Family University, and I'm here on their
24 behalf to answer any questions you may
25 have.

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2 In reference to your most
3 recent question, the school has
4 approximately several thousand students.
5 Living on campus at this time, there are
6 less than 200 students living on campus.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: In
8 your opinion, there is no shortage of
9 parking at the University?

10 MR. TANTALA: Correct. It's
11 our professional opinion that there is no
12 shortage of parking here. As Mr. Kramer
13 stated, there's in excess of 150 parking
14 spaces on campus. It is widely a
15 commuter school at this time, with very
16 little, very small percentage of
17 matriculants that actually live on
18 campus.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are
20 there plans for future expansion at the
21 University?

22 MR. TANTALA: There are.
23 Within the next year, we'll be seeking
24 approval, applications, from the Planning
25 Commission for yet another dormitory

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2 building, with expansion of parking as
3 well.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Very
5 well.

6 Are there any questions from
7 members of the Committee?

8 The Chair recognizes Councilman
9 Clarke.

10 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
11 Madam President.

12 Mr. Kramer, normally the change
13 or the amendment to Institutional
14 Districts are done with simply
15 affirmatively responding from the
16 Councilperson. Is this a new regulation
17 that Council passed that requires an
18 ordinance?

19 MR. KRAMER: That is correct.
20 This is the first amendment to a Master
21 Plan that has been done since the passage
22 of Bill 050831, which changed Section
23 14-1121, I believe it is, that now
24 requires a bill of Council for an
25 amendment to a Master Plan be approved.

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2 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: I just
3 wanted to make sure. Thank you.

4 Thank you.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
6 you.

7 Any other questions or comments
8 from members of the Committee?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Do we
11 have anyone else to testify on this bill?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I
14 believe there's a request for a
15 suspension of the rules; is there not?

16 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I believe
17 that they would. I have not heard
18 specifically from Councilwoman
19 Krajewski's office, but I believe there
20 would be.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I am
22 told by a member of the Councilwoman's
23 staff that there is a time element
24 involved here, so I think we'd be better
25 off doing the suspension.

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2 MR. KRAMER: We should make
3 such a request. Yes, ma'am.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
5 you.

6 This will conclude our public
7 hearing and public meeting, and the Chair
8 recognizes Councilman Clarke for a motion
9 on Bill No. 060159.

10 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Madam
11 President, I move that Bill 060159 be
12 reported out of Committee with a
13 favorable recommendation and a request
14 for a rules suspension as to allow
15 reading at the next session of Council.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It
18 has been moved and seconded that Bill No.
19 060159 be reported out of Committee with
20 a favorable recommendation. Also, a
21 recommendation that the rules of Council
22 be suspended so as to permit first
23 reading at our next Council session.

24 All in favor will say aye.

25 (Aye.)

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
3 opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
6 ayes have it. The motion carries. And
7 this concludes our public meeting.

8 Thank you very much.

9 MR. TANTALA: Thank you.

10 (Committee on Rules adjourned
11 at 9:50 a.m.)

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foregoing matter on March 30, 2006, and that

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MICHELE L. MURPHY

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RPR-Notary Public

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