

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, May 5, 2026
10:23 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT KENYATTA JOHNSON
COUNCILWOMAN NINA AHMAD
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DRISCOLL
COUNCILWOMAN JAMIE GAUTHIER
COUNCILWOMAN KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON
COUNCILMAN JIM HARRITY
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILWOMAN RUE LANDAU
COUNCILWOMAN QUETCY M. LOZADA
COUNCILMAN NICOLAS O'ROURKE
COUNCILMAN ANTHONY PHILLIPS
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA
COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS
COUNCILMAN JEFFREY YOUNG, JR.

BILLS: 260199, 260200, 260201, 260202,
260203, 260204, 260205, 260206,
260208, 260209

RESOLUTION: 260227

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: Good morning, everyone.

(Good morning.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: Good morning, everyone.

(Good morning.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: This is the public hearing and public meeting of the Committee of the Whole regarding Bill Nos. 260199, 260200, 260201, 260202, 260203, 260204, 260205, 260206, 260208, 260209, Resolution No. 260227.

Ms. Loughead, will you please call the roll.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Squilla.

(No response.)

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Gauthier.

COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

Present.

1 THE CLERK:

2 Councilmember Jones.

3 (No response.)

4 THE CLERK:

5 Councilmember Young.

6 COUNCILMAN YOUNG:

7 Present.

8 THE CLERK:

9 Councilmember Driscoll.

10 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

11 Present.

12 THE CLERK:

13 Councilmember Lozada.

14 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

15 Present.

16 THE CLERK:

17 Councilmember Bass.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

19 Present.

20 THE CLERK:

21 Councilmember Phillips.

22 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

23 Present.

24 THE CLERK:

1 Councilmember O'Neill.

2 (No response.)

3 THE CLERK:

4 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson.

5 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

6 RICHARDSON: Present.

7 THE CLERK:

8 Councilmember Thomas.

9 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

10 Present.

11 THE CLERK:

12 Councilmember Harrity.

13 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

14 Present.

15 THE CLERK:

16 Councilmember Ahmad.

17 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

18 Present.

19 THE CLERK:

20 Councilmember Landau.

21 (No response.)

22 THE CLERK:

23 Councilmember Brooks.

24 (No response.)

1 THE CLERK:

2 Councilmember O'Rourke.

3 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

4 Present.

5 THE CLERK: Council

6 President Johnson.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: Present. A quorum is
9 present and this City Council
10 meeting is officially called to
11 order.

12 Ms. Loughhead, will you
13 please read the titles of the bills
14 and resolution.

15 THE CLERK: Bill No.
16 260199, an Ordinance adopting the
17 Operating Budget for Fiscal Year
18 2027.

19 Bill No. 260200, an
20 Ordinance to adopt a Fiscal Year
21 2027 Capital Budget.

22 Bill No. 260201, an
23 Ordinance to adopt a Capital
24 Program for the six Fiscal Years,

1 2027-2032 inclusive.

2 Bill No. 260202, an
3 Ordinance amending Chapter 19-2400
4 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
5 "Hotel Room Rental Tax," by
6 providing for an additional excise
7 tax on hotel room rentals, all
8 under certain terms and conditions.

9 Bill No. 260203, an
10 Ordinance amending Subcode "A" (The
11 Philadelphia Administrative Code)
12 of Title 4 of The Philadelphia Code
13 (The Building, Construction and
14 Occupancy Code), by adding and
15 revising Zoning Board of Adjustment
16 fees and provisions regarding
17 hearing scheduling, all under
18 certain terms and conditions.

19 Bill No. 260204, an
20 Ordinance amending Title 3 of The
21 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Air
22 Management Code" to modify the
23 amounts of license and permit fees,
24 under certain terms and conditions.

1 Bill No. 260205, an
2 Ordinance amending Section 19-1806
3 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
4 "Authorization of Realty Use and
5 Occupancy Tax," to clarify the
6 imposition of the tax on the use or
7 occupancy of real estate with
8 respect to cell towers, all under
9 certain terms and conditions.

10 Bill No. 260206, an
11 Ordinance amending Chapter 6-600 of
12 The Philadelphia Code ("Asbestos"),
13 by adding and providing provisions
14 related to various fees, all under
15 certain terms and conditions.

16 Bill No. 260208, an
17 Ordinance amending Chapter 19-1800
18 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
19 "School Tax Authorization," to a
20 add a new Section 19-1808, entitled
21 "Authorization of Rideshare Use
22 Tax," to authorize the Board of the
23 School District of Philadelphia to
24 levy a tax upon the use by a

1 passenger of a transportation
2 network company for a prearranged
3 ride that originates in
4 Philadelphia; all under certain
5 terms and conditions.

6 Bill No. 260209, an
7 Ordinance amending Title 19 of The
8 Philadelphia Code, entitled
9 "Finances, Taxes and Collections,"
10 to add a new Chapter 19-4800,
11 entitled "Retail Delivery Tax," to
12 establish a tax on orders for the
13 delivery in Philadelphia of retail
14 consumer and other tangible goods,
15 all under certain terms and
16 conditions.

17 Resolution No. 260227,
18 Providing for the approval by the
19 Council of the City of Philadelphia
20 a Revised Five Year Financial Plan
21 for the City of Philadelphia,
22 covering Fiscal Years 2027 through
23 2031, and incorporating revisions
24 with respect to Fiscal Year 2026,

1 which is to be submitted by the
2 Mayor to the Pennsylvania
3 Intergovernmental Cooperation
4 Authority pursuant to an
5 Intergovernmental Cooperation
6 Agreement by and between the City
7 and the Authority.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.
10 Today we will hold the public
11 hearing of the Committee of the
12 Whole to consider the bills read by
13 the Clerk that constitute proposed
14 operating and capital spending
15 measures for Fiscal Year 2027, a
16 Capital Program, and a Forward-
17 looking Capital Plan for Fiscal
18 Year 2027 through Fiscal Year 2032.

19 This morning we have
20 scheduled testimony from the
21 Philadelphia Fire Department. We
22 also have several departments here
23 for callback and available for
24 questions, including the following

1 departments: Licenses and
2 Inspections, Department of Human
3 Services, the Managing Director's
4 Office and the Procurement
5 Department. Additionally,
6 Administration officials are
7 present to address questions
8 related to the proposed tax bills.
9 This afternoon we have scheduled
10 testimony from Community College of
11 Philadelphia.

12 Ms. Loughhead, will you
13 please call the first panel to
14 testify.

15 THE CLERK: We have
16 Jeffrey Thompson, Fire
17 Commissioner. Also present, Carl
18 Randolph, First Deputy
19 Commissioner; Gustav Baumann,
20 Deputy Commissioner; Joshua
21 McGuirk, Deputy Commissioner; and
22 Martin McCall, Deputy Commissioner.

23 (Witnesses approached
24 witness table.)

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

2 JOHNSON: For this round, members,
3 so we want to engage lines of
4 questioning to the Fire Department.
5 And then when the round is over,
6 then you can engage members of city
7 departments for callbacks.

8 With that being said, I
9 want to start off by thanking you
10 for being here. I want to thank
11 Commissioner Jeffrey Thompson and
12 your team for all your hard work in
13 keeping our city safe. I want to
14 also thank you and your team for
15 being very helpful to me and my
16 staff during the collapse of the
17 Grays Ferry CHOP garage in South
18 Philadelphia within the 2nd
19 Councilmanic District. So thank
20 you for your leadership and working
21 24 hours a day throughout that
22 period to address the issue as well
23 as being supportive of the
24 community and the families. I also

1 want to acknowledge your Executive
2 Chief Daniel McCarthy as well.
3 He's also done several different
4 community initiatives with us as
5 well.

6 And so, with that being
7 said, just please state your name
8 for the record and begin your
9 testimony.

10 COMMISSIONER THOMPSON:

11 Thank you very much. Good morning,
12 Council President Johnson and
13 members of Council. My name is
14 Jeffrey Thompson and I have the
15 honor and privilege of serving as
16 the Fire Commissioner for the City
17 of Philadelphia. With me today are
18 several members of my team. To my
19 right is First Deputy Carl Randolph
20 and Deputy Commissioner Martin
21 McCall.

22 Philadelphia Fire
23 Department continues to respond
24 daily to approximately 1000 calls

1 for service per day, responding in
2 an all-hazards capacity, while also
3 providing emergency medical
4 services to the entire City of
5 Philadelphia. We have had some
6 pretty good accomplishments in the
7 past fiscal year. And some of
8 those things are that we continue
9 to work collaboratively with other
10 city agencies to support operations
11 such as Operation Code Blue, the
12 Kensington Task Force, among just a
13 few other things.

14 In addition to that, we
15 are currently in the process of
16 installing lactation pods
17 strategically throughout the Fire
18 Department to ensure that our young
19 mothers can express, can manage
20 themselves in a safe and dignified
21 manner. We are also continuing to
22 work feverishly to reduce the
23 incidents of fire within the city
24 of Philadelphia through our robust

1 fire prevention efforts.

2 We are in schools, we
3 are participating in camps
4 everywhere we can. We are trying
5 to propagate our fire prevention
6 message. In addition to that, we
7 are installing smoke alarms
8 throughout the entire city. And I
9 want to thank City Council for
10 continuing to support those
11 efforts.

12 We are also leveraging
13 technology. We are in the process
14 of purchasing drones, which will
15 help us strategically and will make
16 our firefighting operations safer.
17 We are also looking towards the
18 future and ensuring that we have a
19 sustainable workforce. We are
20 working on finalizing a paramedic
21 apprenticeship program, which will
22 allow us to take citizens and train
23 them as paramedics, which is a
24 position that throughout the

1 country is in high demand. And so,
2 we're trying to build a sustainable
3 pipeline.

4 Internally we are also
5 working on an upskilling program
6 where we can take our employees who
7 are currently EMT status and
8 elevate them to higher levels of
9 EMTAs and paramedics. So we are
10 extremely busy in the Fire
11 Department. And with that, we will
12 take any questions that you may
13 have.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: Thank you very much for
16 your testimony. I just want to ask
17 a couple questions. Your M/W/DSBE,
18 which is minority participation
19 contracts, FY25 dropped from 15% to
20 in FY26 down to 11%. And then from
21 FY26, the first quarter of the
22 fiscal year, dropped down to 5%.
23 So just give us an idea regarding
24 those numbers regarding

1 participation.

2 COMMISSIONER THOMPSON:

3 Well, thank you for that question.

4 I'm going to ask my Fiscal Officer
5 Marguerite Morgan to please come up
6 and respond to that question.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: And the key reason also I
9 want to also address is because I
10 know for FY27 we're looking at \$5
11 million in professional services
12 contracts. And so, if we see this
13 trend going down, we want to make
14 sure that if we're about to spend
15 \$5 million in professional services
16 contracts, that they're diverse and
17 inclusive.

18 MS. MORGAN: Marguerite
19 Morgan, Fiscal Officer for the Fire
20 Department. The Fire Department,
21 the nature of our business, we only
22 have a small niche of people to
23 supply services. There's not a lot
24 of vendors who could supply

1 services that we need for EMS and
2 firefighters. Our major contract
3 do have -- Digitech, that helped us
4 build the services for ambulance.
5 And a lot of the minority portion
6 went to that contract.

7 For some reason, that
8 minority partnership decreased for
9 a while, right. So, again it's
10 very hard for the Philadelphia Fire
11 Department to get an increase, a
12 minority business due to the nature
13 of our business.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: Have you worked with our
16 Office of Equal Opportunity and
17 Employment to look at different
18 strategies to help you address
19 those issues?

20 MS. MORGAN: It's the
21 same issue, since it's like a small
22 niche of vendors that deal with,
23 you know, firefighting equipment
24 and services is really hard to do

1 that. But we will continue to
2 reach out to people and try to
3 increase those numbers, sir.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: All right. Thank you
6 very much. I want to get an idea,
7 Commissioner, regarding the 6%
8 increase of incidents that you have
9 to address regarding fires. You
10 responded to 350,000 incidents last
11 year, which is a 6% increase. And
12 so, I just want to get an idea,
13 what do you think is driving that
14 growth? Give us an idea about the
15 level of staffing and equipment
16 that you need to address the
17 increase, and then also give me an
18 idea regarding our strategies in
19 combating this 6% increase in
20 incidents that we have to respond
21 to.

22 COMMISSIONER THOMPSON:

23 Yeah, thank you for that question.
24 Fire, as you know, is a very

1 unpredictable science. And so,
2 while we continue to see more
3 structure fires than we would like,
4 we are seeing an increase in our
5 EMS response. So the need for --
6 we find that people are engaging in
7 medical services through our
8 systems, through the 911 system
9 versus going through traditional
10 health care. So a lot of the
11 increases that we are seeing are
12 EMS-related so we do have
13 strategies to deal with that.

14 One of the things that
15 we want to make sure is that we
16 make sure that we have our
17 ambulances available for those who
18 need them the most for the high
19 acuity calls. So we've done some
20 things such as call stacking, for
21 instance, which will prioritize
22 calls, so we make sure that we have
23 our ambulances available for the
24 most serious of cases.

1 We've added some
2 resources, a Basic Response Unit,
3 which responds solely to extremely
4 low acuity calls, all with the goal
5 of maintaining operational
6 capability to deal with the most
7 serious of issues, so we continue
8 to look at the issues. And most of
9 them, again as I stated, are
10 EMS-related. That's where the
11 biggest increases are.

12 Fires, they continue to
13 plague the City of Philadelphia.
14 It continues to be a problem, and
15 we are trying to really address
16 that with a robust fire prevention
17 program, trying different
18 strategies that we haven't used in
19 the past. We are really using
20 social media quite frequently.

21 I myself recorded a fire
22 prevention piece just the other
23 day. We are engaging with some of
24 our food delivery partners to put

1 fire prevention literature in some
2 of the food delivery so that we can
3 just really spread our message.
4 And the message quite simply is
5 that fire can happen to anyone and
6 we want you to know that, we want
7 you to be prepared.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: All right. Do we have a
10 breakdown of neighborhoods or
11 Council Districts where you can
12 show -- I know we have 37 civilian
13 deaths in FY25. Are we able to
14 break down what neighborhoods or
15 Councilmanic Districts where we're
16 seeing the highest level of fire
17 incidents?

18 COMMISSIONER THOMPSON:
19 Yeah, absolutely. We have a very
20 good records management system. I
21 do not have that before you today,
22 but I most certainly can provide
23 you with that.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 JOHNSON: Absolutely. All right.

2 Thank you.

3 At this time, the Chair
4 recognizes Councilmember Jim
5 Harrity.

6 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

7 Thank you, Council President.

8 Good morning, everyone.

9 Good morning, Chief. Just want to
10 say thank you for all you guys do.
11 It takes a very special person to
12 run into a burning building when
13 everybody else is running out, so
14 we thank you for your service as
15 always. I asked these questions
16 last year for the record so I just
17 want to ask them again. So I'm
18 just going to rattle them off for
19 the sake of time because we're on a
20 timeline and there's a lot to do
21 today.

22 I asked the questions
23 for the record last year, but I
24 wanted to draw attention to it

1 again this year. How many
2 paramedics do you have right now?
3 How many paramedics are you
4 budgeted for? How many paramedics
5 is the department short? And then
6 what are the city's current -- what
7 areas of the city currently have no
8 ALS or Advanced Life Support Medic
9 Units? And why?

10 How many days have you
11 run out of available ALS Medic
12 Units in the past year? And how
13 many units were downgraded from ALS
14 to BLS in the past year?

15 COMMISSIONER THOMPSON:
16 Thank you, Councilmember Harrity,
17 for that question. I'm going to
18 defer to Deputy Commissioner McCall
19 for those answers.

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
21 McCALL: Deputy Commissioner Martin
22 McCall. The number of paramedics
23 that we have?

24 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

1 Yeah.

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

3 McCALL: Okay. The number of
4 paramedics that we currently have
5 is 200.

6 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: How
7 many are you budgeted for? And how
8 many are you short?

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

10 McCALL: The amount, the total EMS,
11 paramedic EMT, EMT Advanced, the
12 number of total positions is 624.

13 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:
14 624. But that's all of them,
15 that's not just paramedics?

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

17 McCALL: Correct.

18 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:
19 What's the number of paramedics is
20 what I'm getting at?

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

22 McCALL: The number of paramedics
23 should be 260 plus 56. I didn't
24 put that together so that's 36 --

1 360 .

2 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

3 360?

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

5 McCALL: Correct.

6 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: And

7 how many are you budgeted for? And

8 how many then are you short?

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

10 McCALL: So the total number that

11 we're budgeted of all persons is

12 624 .

13 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

14 That's for all, though. You don't

15 have --

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

17 McCALL: The number of paramedics

18 that we're budgeted for is about

19 that 360 number .

20 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

21 Okay. So you're short 200 and

22 something, about; is that correct?

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

24 McCALL: Well, the total number of

1 positions we are short is 176. I
2 didn't extrapolate the paramedics
3 versus EMTs, EMT Advanced.

4 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: But
5 it's a big difference between the
6 EMTs and the paramedics.

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
8 McCALL: Correct.

9 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:
10 Especially for somebody in my
11 condition with a heart condition,
12 as it was broken down to me before.
13 EMTs can perform certain numbers of
14 duties, you know, Narcan, stuff
15 like that. But when it comes to
16 other things, they're not allowed
17 to do it. Where somebody like me
18 who has a heart condition or a
19 stroke, you know what I'm saying,
20 it's minutes and we need that shot
21 to get us to the hospital. That's
22 why I'm trying -- and there should
23 be definitely a difference between
24 the two, you know what I'm saying.

1 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

2 McCALL: Yeah. According to my
3 notes here, of that 176, the number
4 of need for paramedics is 60.

5 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: 60?

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

7 McCALL: 6-0.

8 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

9 Yeah, yeah. That's a lot better.
10 I appreciate -- that's why I was
11 asking to discriminate at this
12 against each of them, you know what
13 I'm saying. EMTs, paramedics, I
14 just want to get that number
15 because the paramedics, that's an
16 important one for me. I've been
17 asking for it for a couple years,
18 but you're making progress which is
19 great. So when's the next class?

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

21 McCALL: May 11th.

22 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: May
23 11th, beautiful. And please, if
24 you can get us some flyers and

1 stuff like that, that we can post
2 also to try to help get the word
3 out there. And if you can just
4 answer the questions about the ALS
5 medical questions, which was how
6 many days have you run out of
7 available ALS Medic Units in the
8 past year? And how many units were
9 downgraded from ALS to BLS in the
10 past year?

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

12 McCALL: The number of units
13 downgraded from ALS to BLS, I'd
14 have to get for you. I don't know
15 that we have -- I know we've had a
16 significant decrease in the number
17 of zero medic units in the city,
18 and we had a 70% decrease in that
19 number in first quarter of this
20 year versus the first quarter of
21 last year, that I do know.

22 I do have a list of the
23 number of times in which we -- a
24 number of days that we went zero

1 occurrences and a number of
2 occurrences within those days that
3 we've had -- I don't have that list
4 readily available to me. But as
5 soon as I find it, I'll give you
6 that number.

7 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

8 That's fantastic. And just in your
9 opinion, what's stopping us from
10 getting more of these paramedics?
11 Is it the pay scale?

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

13 McCALL: What's stopping us from
14 getting --

15 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

16 Yeah. I mean, we're losing
17 paramedics. Is it because that --
18 you know, listen, it takes a
19 special person to be a firefighter
20 or a paramedic. We discussed that,
21 right. Is it a matter of pay could
22 just be solved with a raise, is
23 what I'm saying?

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 JOHNSON: We're ready to move on.
2 Go ahead. Could you answer, sir?

3 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

4 McCALL: Yeah. In my opinion, I
5 think that it is a combination of
6 things. One, it is salaries. And
7 Philadelphia has -- we're
8 competitive with salaries, but
9 other jurisdictions are becoming
10 just as competitive as us, right.
11 It is the number of available
12 paramedics out there. Institutions
13 aren't graduating as many
14 paramedics as we were in the past.
15 It's roughly a 40% pass rate for
16 the paramedic program. So the
17 number of paramedics graduating has
18 decreased, just like the number of
19 doctors graduating has decreased as
20 well.

21 And I think that it's
22 also a function of the work in
23 which we do. It is challenging.
24 And it takes, like you said, a

1 special person to do that. And
2 even though someone comes on with a
3 particular mindset to want to do
4 this work, when it gets down to
5 doing it, it sometimes creates a
6 change of mind. So we are trying
7 to work on that part of it by
8 improving the environment, reducing
9 the utilization of our medic units
10 and allowing our medics to have
11 training opportunities, to have
12 rest and moments between completing
13 paperwork and do things just
14 without being on a constant go.
15 That's been a serious issue for us
16 and it deters people from wanting
17 to do the work.

18 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

19 Yeah, I talk about the mental
20 health --

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: Thank you, Member
23 Harrity.

24 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

1 Thank you. Yes, sir.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

4 Dr. Anthony Phillips. Majority

5 Leader Katherine Gilmore Richardson

6 next.

7 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

8 Thank you, Council President.

9 I want to start by

10 saying thank you to Commissioner

11 Thompson for being responsive to

12 neighbors in our district and our

13 concerns. Fire services are one of

14 the most visible examples of

15 government responsiveness.

16 Residents can expect consistent

17 response times or reliable service.

18 And I want to tell you are really

19 reliable when it comes to your

20 service.

21 I just want to hear more

22 about the following: Our office

23 heard from a Philadelphia resident

24 who scored 90 out of 100 on the

1 firefighter exam, was told hiring
2 (inaudible) and the score order is
3 off a merit, less as vacancies
4 arise. However, they waited
5 roughly six months without a clear
6 timeline or update before
7 ultimately being hired by a
8 surrounding county. That's a
9 serious concern that we may be
10 losing people to what Councilman
11 Harrity was talking about.

12 Can you clearly explain
13 how the firefighter and EMT hiring
14 pipeline works, from an exam score
15 to final hire, including how
16 candidates are ranked, how
17 vacancies trigger movement through
18 the list and what determines when
19 you know when someone actually gets
20 called?

21 COMMISSIONER THOMPSON:
22 Thank you for that question.
23 Fortunately, here in Philadelphia
24 we have an abundance of people who

1 are interested in doing this work.
2 So every time we offer an exam,
3 which is every two years, we get
4 thousands of candidates that apply.
5 And in addition to being ranked on
6 the test that is given, there are
7 different points that are given for
8 different things. You get points
9 for being a veteran, for example.

10 There are points that
11 are given for being part of our
12 Fire Explorers program. So there
13 are different ways that you can get
14 additional points outside of a
15 perfect score on the test. The
16 training to become a firefighter is
17 nine months. So typically when we
18 hire off of a list, we may get two
19 classes off that list just because
20 the training is so long.

21 Now, we are going
22 forward because we are trying to
23 increase the number of budgeted
24 positions -- or let me correct

1 that. We're trying to fill the
2 budgeted positions that we have.
3 Beginning in September, we are
4 going to be putting in two classes
5 at a time, which is going to double
6 the amount of candidates that we
7 can get off of each list. So it's
8 extremely competitive and just the
9 multiple ways that you can receive
10 additional points, what may seem
11 like a perfect score may not be.

12 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: So
13 I would just want to talk more
14 about the process, if you can talk
15 about that. It says that
16 candidates take a civil service
17 exam and they may be placed on the
18 eligible list, but it's not clear
19 which parts of the testing and
20 certification process are handled
21 internally versus outside entities.
22 So if you can, for the record, just
23 kind of explain why a candidate may
24 not get information or an update

1 with -- I mean, they waited roughly
2 six months for an answer. Is that
3 typical? Do you tell them the
4 hiring timeline from the beginning?

5 COMMISSIONER THOMPSON:

6 So we work very closely with OHR
7 through the entire process. Some
8 of the processes are outside of the
9 control of the Philadelphia Fire
10 Department and sometimes they are
11 constrained by the amount of people
12 that are available to do that work.
13 But we work diligently as best we
14 can within the Fire Department to
15 go through those lists, to
16 establish those lists, which the
17 list is established by OHR and then
18 we internally hire off of that
19 list. I'm not sure if that answers
20 your question.

21 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

22 Not necessarily, but hopefully we
23 can get more information from you.
24 I heard the buzzer, but just that I

1 needed more information about the
2 steps, right. When someone
3 applies, there should be a sense
4 from HR like, hey, this is how long
5 it's going to take when you get the
6 response, month one, month two,
7 month three. And right now it's
8 deflating for someone to be waiting
9 and not knowing their dream job is
10 going to come to a reality.

11 COMMISSIONER THOMPSON:

12 Understood. And I will make
13 certain that you get that
14 information.

15 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

16 Thank you, Commissioner.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Thank you.

19 Majority Leader

20 Katherine Gilmore Richardson.

21 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

22 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
23 very much, Council President.

24 Thank you all so much

1 for being here today. Thank you to
2 Commissioner Thompson and to First
3 Deputy Commissioner Randolph, also
4 Deputy Commissioners Baumann,
5 McGuoirk and McCall, I hope I got
6 that right. And to the entire
7 team, we were very happy to join
8 you, Councilmember Harrity and I,
9 for the promotion ceremony at the
10 American Red Cross. It was a
11 wonderful day to be there in
12 celebration and support of so many
13 leaders in the Philadelphia Fire
14 Department. And I was especially
15 excited about a young woman who was
16 in the class. There was one young
17 woman. And so, we're really
18 excited about her future in the
19 Fire Department. And Bowmer and so
20 many others, we're just so thankful
21 for the work you all do.

22 I really wanted to just
23 say thank you for the work that you
24 all did in Councilmember Jones'

1 district around the fire on
2 Hazelhurst Street. And just send a
3 special thanks to Engine 54 for all
4 the work that they do and all the
5 engines that responded to the fire
6 on Hazelhurst Street. So I'm just
7 here to say thank you, appreciate
8 the work.

9 I know we work together
10 throughout the year and I usually
11 ask you all questions throughout
12 the year. So I don't have anything
13 today, but just wanted to express
14 our deepest thanks and gratitude.
15 Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER THOMPSON:
17 Thank you.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
19 JOHNSON: That's a first.

20 Member Bass. Then
21 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:
23 Thank you, Mr. President.

24 Good morning. How's

1 everybody doing. Good to see you
2 all. I just had a really quick
3 question. First, I wanted to give
4 a shout-out to my two neighbors who
5 are part of the Philadelphia Fire
6 Department, Larry Carroll and Bruce
7 Canada. So I just wanted to give
8 them a shout-out for the excellent
9 work they do on behalf of the City
10 of Philadelphia and I want to thank
11 really your entire team, because
12 heaven forbid any of us ever need
13 the Philadelphia Fire Department to
14 rush to our homes, to our
15 businesses, wherever, to put out a
16 fire but really save lives, you
17 know, the work that you do is so
18 very important and I really just
19 don't want it to be missed that we
20 really can't function as a city
21 without each and every one of you
22 and the work and dedication that
23 you do. So, thank you, thank you,
24 thank you.

1 I just had a really
2 quick question about CPR and
3 training. Does the Philadelphia
4 Fire Department -- are you the
5 entity that does CPR trainings for
6 the City of Philadelphia?

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

8 McCALL: I'm going to let Deputy
9 Commissioner for EMS, Martin McCall
10 answer that question.

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

12 McCALL: In the city of
13 Philadelphia, there are both
14 private entities that offer CPR
15 programs -- we do offer CPR
16 programs as part of our other
17 programs such as our Explorers
18 program and our Randolph School
19 program. We also train to keep our
20 members certified for our CPR.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: For
22 the general public though, it's not
23 really the Philadelphia Fire
24 Department?

1 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

2 McCALL: No, we do not really have
3 anything posted for the general
4 public for CPR.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

6 Okay. I'd like to follow up and
7 circle back and have a different
8 conversation offline, if we could,
9 about CPR trainings, just I think
10 to increase the number of trainings
11 that are happening here in the
12 city. So if we could, we'll
13 convene at a later date.

14 Thank you very much,
15 Mr. President. That's all.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Okay. Chair recognizes
18 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad.

19 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

20 Thank you, Council President.

21 Good morning. Good to
22 see you all. And I echo my
23 colleagues in our gratitude to you
24 for the work you do. As

1 Councilmember Harrity said, you
2 rush in where we rush out, right,
3 and we're very grateful for that.
4 I also wanted to commend you on all
5 the innovation you're doing in the
6 Fire Department.

7 And I wanted to --
8 particularly, this was maybe a
9 couple of years ago. You did the
10 preferred vendor, you chose 3AM
11 Innovations to do the personal
12 accountability system. That makes
13 you one of the first major cities
14 in the country to use smartphone
15 technology alongside portable
16 radios, so I want our public to
17 know these things that you guys are
18 doing. This sometimes get drowned
19 out by all the negative stuff and I
20 really want our public to see what
21 our tax dollars are doing. This is
22 what you're doing.

23 You talked about the
24 GIS -- I don't know if you spoke

1 about it, but I've been following
2 that. The GIS capability you're
3 trying to do so you can preempt and
4 understand where fire hazards are
5 in what neighborhoods, so that's
6 excellent. One of your employees,
7 one of your members, Kamilah
8 Bayate, she's all over. She's
9 someone I've known since she was 5
10 years old. So I'm so proud to see
11 her doing this education in schools
12 and really connecting to the
13 public. We want to do more of that
14 and support you.

15 My question is, I see
16 from your budget the planning,
17 research and risk reduction is
18 about 12 million. And I just
19 wondered when you compare it to the
20 budget for logistics 52 and for
21 operations 380, is 12 million
22 enough to be as innovative as you
23 are being or would like to be?

24 COMMISSIONER THOMPSON:

1 Thank you for that question. And
2 we most certainly continue to
3 innovate as best we can. This Fire
4 Department I will tell you looks a
5 lot different today than it did
6 when I started many years ago. So
7 working with the budgets that we
8 have, we have to be as efficient as
9 possible. And sometimes as we are
10 exploring new technologies, we
11 don't know exactly what is out
12 there.

13 You mentioned 3AM, for
14 instance, and that's our personal
15 accountability system. And all you
16 have to do is think about the
17 Meridian fire where we lost three
18 firefighters. If we had a system
19 like that in place at the time, we
20 probably could have saved those
21 firefighters. So we continue to
22 leverage technology, and our
23 Planning and Risk Reduction
24 Division is very innovative. I'm

1 very proud of those folks who work
2 there. And to answer your question
3 succinctly, sometimes we don't know
4 what it is that we need, so to
5 actually budget for it can be a
6 challenge.

7 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

8 Okay. I was just doing a layup for
9 you. One final question unrelated
10 is I wanted to see if your
11 department receives any training
12 around identifying and intervening
13 in suspected human trafficking
14 issues. That's an issue I've been
15 very engaged with. The city has a
16 big campaign underway just now for
17 this year.

18 I wanted to see what
19 role the Fire Department could
20 have, does have in that space and
21 how because we're doing training --
22 a part of the money that was
23 allocated is to do training of all
24 types of personnel, particularly

1 frontline personnel. So I just
2 wanted to know where you guys are
3 on that?

4 COMMISSIONER THOMPSON:

5 So one of the things that we try to
6 do is collaborate with all city
7 agencies. We just had a
8 presentation by the Office of
9 Immigrant Affairs recently, talking
10 about language access and other
11 things. So what we do is when we
12 identify issues and problems, we
13 try to proactively reach out to the
14 appropriate agency and train as
15 best we can. That most certainly
16 is something that we should be a
17 part of. We should have awareness
18 and we should most certainly have
19 some training in that. So I think
20 there's more work for us to do in
21 that space.

22 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

23 Definitely, we'll make sure you're
24 looped in.

1 Thank you, Council
2 President. And thank you all.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Thank you.

5 Councilmember Jamie
6 Gauthier isn't here, so I'm going
7 to skip her in the queue and go to
8 Councilmember Jeffrey Jay Young,
9 then Councilmember Quetcy Lozada.

10 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
11 you, Mr. President.

12 I want to thank the Fire
13 Department for always being there
14 for our communities. Your work
15 kind of encouraged me to create
16 this fire safety guide that we have
17 for our district. We give them out
18 everywhere. It has pages from your
19 website that links us to the
20 National Fire Protection
21 Association. So we have
22 information in here that we pass
23 out to our constituents because we
24 know in North Philadelphia there's

1 a high rate of fires, particularly
2 from a lot of our vacant properties
3 that we have in the district.

4 And so, my question is
5 regarding those vacant properties
6 that are in our district, how
7 proactive is the Fire Department
8 with L&I in identifying certain
9 properties that could be of risk of
10 fire?

11 COMMISSIONER THOMPSON:

12 Thank you for that question. We
13 have a robust inspection program,
14 so we are out on the streets and we
15 work collaboratively with L&I. In
16 addition to that, we have our own
17 Fire Code Unit. So when we
18 identify any structure that can be
19 a hazard to the community, we
20 communicate that with L&I so that
21 we can hopefully seal that property
22 so it doesn't become a danger to
23 the property. We have a very good
24 collaborative working relationship

1 with L&I to really address those
2 issues.

3 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
4 you. Our next question is, so the
5 average total EMS run time in FY25
6 was 74 minutes and the target for
7 FY27 just says a decrease from
8 FY26. What's driving the long run
9 time, like hospital turnaround,
10 scene time, dispatch practices,
11 staffing, transport delays? Can
12 you tell us what's driving that and
13 what specific reduction does the
14 department think is realistic?

15 COMMISSIONER THOMPSON:
16 Thank you for that. I'm going to
17 have Deputy Commissioner Martin
18 McCall answer that question.

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
20 McCALL: So currently, our total
21 run time for all calls is about 72
22 minutes. Our total run time for
23 calls that we transport patients
24 for is about 66 minutes. Those

1 particular calls, where we actually
2 have patient contact and we are
3 getting folks to the hospital, we
4 want to look at to get below that
5 60-minute mark. And what the
6 target area for that is hospital
7 wall times at hospital time, in
8 which we have our medic units at
9 the hospital with less than 30
10 minutes. Often times because of
11 the busyness of the particular
12 hospital, that can exceed an hour
13 on those wall times that we have
14 medical units waiting to transfer
15 patients to an available bed at
16 that ED.

17 So we're really focusing
18 in on that space by reaching out to
19 the hospitals. We have set up a
20 hospital liaison program where we
21 have a fire department member
22 actually be the face in connection
23 with them. Our medical directors
24 are actually engaging in that space

1 so there's a doctor talking with a
2 doctor and having that same
3 language and figuring out how we
4 can reduce those wall times. And
5 we have also put some policy in
6 place, such as redirection policy
7 and medic unit availability policy
8 that has helped us reduce that zero
9 medics that the Councilmember was
10 talking about from 736 occurrences
11 to 230-some-odd occurrences. So we
12 see some improvement there, but our
13 goal is to get to less than 60
14 minutes.

15 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
16 you. Mr. President, I have one
17 more question, if you don't mind.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
19 JOHNSON: (Nodded affirmatively).

20 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
21 you. I want to go back to the ALS
22 and BLS conversation. I know when
23 there's a BLS run, there aren't
24 monitors on those vehicles and it

1 seems that, you know, we're asking
2 the medics to do things manually.
3 Do we think that if we have
4 monitors on those vehicles that it
5 could save lives if those medics
6 are able to have those types of
7 monitors to accurately record some
8 of the stuff?

9 Because I'm being
10 realistic, I know people, right.
11 And so, what's being told to me is
12 that sometimes on the BLS runs
13 they're not really checking all the
14 vitals and things like that, right.
15 But if they had the monitors there,
16 it'd be easy for them to do it. So
17 what's the policy behind that?

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

19 McCALL: So our BLS responders are
20 per protocol to have a set of vital
21 signs taken within a certain period
22 of time in which they contact a
23 patient. We look for that to be
24 about five minutes. So we look for

1 blood pressure, pulse rate,
2 respiratory --

3 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: I
4 know what you look for. But the
5 question is, would the monitors
6 help save lives on those BLS runs?

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
8 McCALL: So all BLS runs have an
9 AED on it. And if that person goes
10 into a dysrhythmia, that AED can
11 determine what dysrhythmia that is,
12 and correct that if the person goes
13 into cardiac arrest. We have
14 cardiac monitoring capability on
15 our ALS units, and all ALS units
16 have that monitoring capability to
17 look at a heart rhythm and be
18 proactive about that.

19 So for that to happen,
20 all of our units would have to be
21 ALS all the time and our staffing
22 often times don't allow that. So
23 when we do have that ALS, that
24 capability is available.

1 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Is it
2 just a matter of training to use
3 the monitors? I'm just curious,
4 because I think some of the folks
5 who are EMTs may have the
6 capability and capacity to learn
7 that if this is a matter of
8 training. You don't think so?

9 I'm just curious,
10 because sometimes we're running ALS
11 calls for someone who vomited, but
12 then it's a BLS call for an old
13 lady who fell down, they get their
14 shoes stuck on the ground. So
15 what's the differences in those
16 calls and those policies that we
17 have?

18 COMMISSIONER THOMPSON:
19 So, Councilmember Jones(sic), if I
20 may, I want to make sure we're
21 clear on the vernacular, so when
22 you say monitor, we think about a
23 cardiac monitor, right. And I
24 think you may be speaking about

1 other instruments that can take
2 vital signs, just to be clear.

3 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Yes.

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

5 McCALL: So other instruments that
6 can take vital signs, our equipment
7 we do the best we can to get the
8 modern most equipment out there,
9 from pulse oximetry to cardiac
10 monitoring. What prevents the
11 certain equipment from being used,
12 such as a monitor versus an AED, is
13 the level of training the person
14 has.

15 We have, like the
16 Commissioner mentioned in his
17 opening remarks, implemented
18 programs to upscale people so they
19 can get to that higher level, so
20 they can utilize that equipment.
21 So when we're on that particular
22 call, that equipment's available.
23 So often times when we are
24 responding, the call determinant is

1 based on what the person who made
2 the call says on that call will
3 determine what level of care you
4 often times get, and then we make
5 an assessment upon our arrival.

6 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
7 you, Mr. President.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Thank you.

10 Could we take a moment
11 to acknowledge the children from
12 Sankofa Freedom Academy. What's
13 up, Sankofa.

14 (Applause.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Contrary to popular
17 belief, City Council is for the
18 kids.

19 Chair recognizes
20 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada.

21 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:
22 Thank you, Council President.

23 Good morning and thank
24 you for being with us today.

1 First, I want to say thank you for
2 the work that you all do in the 7th
3 and across the city of Philadelphia
4 for your response in ensuring the
5 safety of all of those who live in
6 my community. Speaking of my
7 community very specifically, can
8 you speak to how you all monitor
9 what neighborhoods have seen an
10 increase or decrease in fire?

11 To me, paying very close
12 attention or closer attention this
13 year than I have in the past as a
14 result of my work with some of your
15 members, I feel like I'm hearing
16 about a fire in the neighborhood
17 consistently. And so, I'm trying
18 to figure out if you all monitor
19 where specific fires are happening?
20 What are the results of that? And
21 how do we work together to be able
22 to change that so that residents
23 know that there's access to
24 resources to prevent fires? And if

1 there is a challenge, how do we
2 work together to address it?

3 COMMISSIONER THOMPSON:

4 Thank you very much for that
5 question. And so, we are fortunate
6 that we have a pretty good records
7 management system. We use a system
8 called ImageTrend, and we track
9 every single run that we make. We
10 have some very talented folks in
11 our GIS Analytics Unit that look at
12 that data.

13 In fact, we have moved
14 to a space where we are trying to
15 use that data to predict where
16 fires may be, so we are responsive
17 to the 311 requests for smoke
18 alarms. But in addition to that,
19 we are trying to predict where
20 fires may be and move in those
21 spaces. In addition to that, we
22 are really trying to focus our fire
23 prevention efforts in places where
24 we see an increase in fire, in

1 places where our GIS information is
2 possibly predicting where there may
3 be fires. So we are using all
4 those tools to try to really
5 address the problem of fire.

6 In addition to that, we
7 are in every Councilmanic District.
8 We are hosting open houses, because
9 we want to engage the community.
10 We want people to know that the
11 fire station is part of the
12 community. We want them to come
13 there and ask questions and get
14 information. So one of the
15 messages that I've been putting out
16 recently is I feel as though people
17 think that fire will not happen to
18 them and I try to let people know,
19 it can happen to anyone at any time
20 so we have to be prepared. So we
21 are just really trying to diversify
22 and increase our messaging --

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Excuse me, Commissioner.

1 Point of information by
2 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips.

3 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

4 Thank you, Council President.

5 On the lines of
6 Councilmember Lozada's question, I
7 just wanted a point of information.
8 Do you have a strategic plan and
9 proactive steps that you're taking
10 to provide reduced fire risk
11 education in neighborhoods?

12 Basically, I know that we did a
13 press conference recently with the
14 smoke alarms and detection which
15 has been really great, but do you
16 have a strategy to get to every
17 single neighborhood in the city of
18 Philadelphia? If so, can that
19 strategy and timeline be shared?
20 That's the point of information I
21 have.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: Commissioner Thompson.

24 COMMISSIONER THOMPSON:

1 Yes, sir. So absolutely. Our
2 strategy is we use a lot of methods
3 to communicate our fire prevention
4 methods, right. So we're out on
5 social media. We are at schools
6 engaging the young folks. We
7 partner with Parks & Rec to do a
8 summer camp every year, so we are
9 looking at different ways to expand
10 our reach so that we can get our
11 message out.

12 We are talking
13 internally about do we do radio
14 spots, can we get on TV, can we do
15 billboards. All of those things
16 cost money. So most certainly, the
17 strategy is to increase our
18 messaging as best we can.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: I want to give a point of
21 information too, if that's okay,
22 Dr. Phillips.

23 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

24 Can I just get 10 seconds. I want

1 to say what I'm really trying to
2 get from you is -- that's great,
3 but I want it to be a little bit
4 more on a weekly, monthly basis
5 what neighborhoods you're going to
6 be at, what blocks you're going to
7 be at, how are you going to get to
8 the goal of getting to all those
9 high-risk -- if we can get a copy
10 of what that looks like as opposed
11 to just being sporadic, you know,
12 we're going to do those type of
13 things.

14 Thanks, CP.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Commissioner, I just
17 wanted to say if part of the goal
18 is to take to the next level of
19 campaign around fire safety, then
20 our body would be supportive of
21 your ask and I would think the
22 Administration would be as well.
23 We have a \$7 billion budget. So
24 when we talk about public safety,

1 we can't put a dollar amount on
2 trying to keep people safe. And
3 so, if your overall strategy is to
4 say, hey, listen, we're going to do
5 a campaign around public safety,
6 fire safety updates to public
7 safety and this is the type of
8 support that we need, then we will
9 sit down with Rob Dubow over there
10 in the Administration as we go
11 through this process to see how we
12 could be supportive. Because
13 surely, I don't think the
14 Administration would say they would
15 not support you having the
16 opportunity to have significant
17 additional resources to keep the
18 residents here in the city of
19 Philadelphia safe when it comes to
20 fire safety. So if that's a need
21 and that's an ask, then please
22 bring them forward so we can have a
23 conversation as we go through this
24 process.

1 The Chair relinquishes
2 his time back to Member Lozada who
3 has the floor.

4 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:
5 Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6 All of what they said
7 was part of what I want to talk
8 about, right. We need to make sure
9 that residents understand the
10 resources that are available to
11 them in a language that they
12 understand. I can't tell you the
13 number of times that I've been in
14 some of our schools, in some of our
15 student town halls and they speak
16 to the fact that there's a
17 disconnect between the Fire
18 Department when they compare it to
19 the police department, right.

20 They feel like they're
21 more approachable and they see
22 firefighters when there's an
23 emergency. And so, I think part of
24 what we are looking to do and what

1 we've been working really hard on
2 with some members of your
3 leadership is to connect folks in
4 those times when there is not an
5 emergency, right, so more presence
6 and more partnerships with our Fire
7 Department so that we establish the
8 relationship that I think needs to
9 be seen in communities like mine
10 where sometimes there's not that
11 level of trust that there needs to
12 be.

13 And then language
14 access, right. We know that the
15 standard language access that we
16 have available in the city doesn't
17 always work. And I know the Fire
18 Department or the Police Department
19 has moved to some type of a
20 translation format with their
21 radios or with their cameras. What
22 are you all doing to ensure that
23 your resources, your communication
24 in the event of a fire, the folks

1 that are present are actually able
2 to communicate with those who are
3 experiencing an emergency?

4 COMMISSIONER THOMPSON:

5 Thank you for those questions. And
6 we most certainly really appreciate
7 what our colleagues in PPD do in
8 terms of regularly-occurring town
9 halls, and that's something that we
10 most certainly are planning to
11 emulate. We want to be in
12 communities on a regular basis and
13 forge those relationships. We also
14 want to be in the neighborhood
15 action centers. We want to be very
16 visible and make those connections.

17 We had a meeting with
18 the Office of Immigrant Affairs
19 just last week, where we were able
20 to really make a connection with
21 them, and we talked about ensuring
22 the fact that we can communicate in
23 the different methods that are
24 available. So that was a great

1 meeting where we really got to
2 understand the capabilities of that
3 office and how we can leverage that
4 to ensure that we are communicating
5 with every citizen in Philadelphia.

6 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

7 Thank you, Council President.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Okay. We will have a
10 brief separate second round and
11 then go into callbacks.

12 Councilmember Cindy Bass and
13 Councilmember Dr. Anthony
14 Phillips -- y'all want to go
15 straight into callbacks?

16 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Yes.

17 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

18 Yes.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Okay. Listen, thank you
21 very much for being here today.

22 Thank you for your testimony and
23 thank you for your hard work and
24 your public service to the City of

1 Philadelphia. Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER THOMPSON:

3 Thank you.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: At this time, we will go
6 into callbacks for the departments
7 of the Administration. The
8 following departments are now
9 available for questioning and you
10 can approach the table: Managing
11 Director's Office, Procurement,
12 Licenses and Inspections,
13 Department of Human Services. Rob
14 Dubow is on standby for any
15 questions regarding the proposed
16 tax bills as well.

17 (Witnesses approached
18 witness table.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Good morning, everyone.

21 (Good morning.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: How's everyone doing
24 today?

1 COMMISSIONER ALI:

2 Pretty good.

3 MR. THIEL: Very well.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: Welcome back. Chair

6 recognizes Councilmember Cindy

7 Bass.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I'm

9 good.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes

12 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad.

13 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

14 Thank you, Council President.

15 Good morning, everyone.

16 Good to see you all here. Because

17 of time, I will just jump right

18 into my question. We were recently

19 made aware of a case where there

20 was a DHS worker's mistake that

21 resulted in a child being placed

22 with the unrelated family, rather

23 than the cousin who was already the

24 adoptive parent of three of the

1 children's half siblings, that
2 child's half siblings. And there's
3 been court proceedings and
4 everything and you admitted that
5 this was a misstep.

6 I wanted to understand
7 what things have been put in place
8 for something like this never to
9 happen? From what I read, it seems
10 the DHS worker called the hospital
11 against department policy to
12 redirect who was going to get that
13 child. And so, this is when I am
14 faced with constituents who say,
15 what is going on here. Legal
16 kidnapping is what they're calling
17 this.

18 So I just want to
19 understand what -- I know you have
20 said that this was a misstep, so I
21 appreciate that you made that
22 acknowledgement. But I would like
23 to know very specifically was this
24 an investigative space where you

1 had a DHS worker, what also happens
2 in the cause in terms of how, if
3 there's placement issues, how did
4 that work? So if you would please
5 address that.

6 COMMISSIONER ALI: Yes.
7 So good morning. I'm Kimberly Ali.
8 I'm Commissioner for the
9 Philadelphia Department of Human
10 Services. And thank you for that
11 question. Although I am bound by
12 confidentiality, I'm unable to talk
13 about the specifics of any case.
14 However, I can talk to you
15 generally about if, in fact, the
16 department had a misstep, what does
17 it look like in terms of engaging
18 families in order for them to
19 determine who's the best placement
20 resource for that young person, and
21 then also the adoption process.

22 And so, let me start by
23 first saying DHS social workers and
24 not Community Umbrella Agency

1 social workers make the decision
2 around the removal of children from
3 his or her home, so that is done by
4 a DHS social worker in concert with
5 their supervisor, but also with the
6 Law Department and the courts in
7 terms of removal. So that's the
8 first step.

9 The family then goes to
10 court within 72 hours for a
11 detention hearing. The parents are
12 given an attorney. The child is
13 also given an attorney called a
14 child advocate, and then the judge
15 listens to testimony in order to
16 make a decision about what's best
17 and the best placement for that
18 young person. It then goes back to
19 court in 10 days and there's an
20 adjudicatory hearing at that
21 particular time. Additional
22 evidence is presented in terms of
23 why that child needs to remain in
24 care.

1 During that process from
2 day 1, in terms of the department
3 asking the court for removal, so
4 for order protective custody, we
5 engage the family, the parents, so
6 both mother and father, who
7 identifies the best place for their
8 young person. Where there is some
9 discretion is at times we should
10 look to, if possible, keeping
11 siblings together. However, when
12 we place in kinship care
13 situations, we do ask the parents,
14 we ask other family members. And
15 if the young person is old enough,
16 we also ask the young person, who
17 do you want to live with, who is in
18 your circle of affection. That is
19 part of our engagement process.

20 Cases go to court every
21 three months. And so, I talked
22 about the 72 hours. Then I talked
23 about the 10 days. And then they
24 go to court every three months

1 thereafter. The parents come to
2 court, their informal supports come
3 to court. Of course, their
4 attorneys, the child, if the child
5 is of age, as well as the child
6 advocate attorney, DHS or the CUA
7 case manager and our city
8 solicitor. And every three months
9 the judge will hear testimony
10 around the best placement for that
11 young person.

12 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

13 Thank you for clarifying the
14 process. But I'm more interested
15 in what measures did you put in
16 place for such missteps not to
17 happen? Because you acknowledged
18 there was a misstep. That was
19 publicly acknowledged by your
20 department there was a misstep, and
21 we identified it was one particular
22 worker who, against your rules,
23 called the hospital, right.

24 So I want to know very

1 specifically, drill down how do you
2 stop that kind of process from
3 happening, and what -- and this was
4 a baby who couldn't speak for
5 themselves, so that's a whole other
6 issue. The person, the mother who
7 was engaged in this, was addicted
8 to drugs and already had three
9 other children in her own
10 kinship -- put in kinship care and
11 that's who was asking for this
12 child.

13 So I want to know
14 exactly what did you change for
15 this to never happen again in terms
16 of how process happened and what
17 was the policy change that you
18 made?

19 COMMISSIONER ALI: And
20 so again, I'll reiterate that I
21 won't talk specifically about this
22 case. But I will certainly say
23 that any time there is an error, if
24 you will, or mistake, if you will,

1 we do look at that case
2 individually. And so, it's not --
3 we have teamings. Those teamings
4 will happen by way of our
5 Operations Director as well as our
6 Deputy Commissioner to determine
7 whether or not there are individual
8 practice issues or systemic
9 practice issues. And as a result
10 of those, we make determinations
11 around do you need additional
12 training, do you need additional
13 transfer of (inaudible) or does a
14 policy need to come out in
15 reference to that.

16 In specific cases in
17 which there is a parent who's
18 making a recommendation in terms of
19 wanting their child to be placed
20 with someone else but the family
21 wants something different, there is
22 attention there because we want to
23 recognize the voice of parents.
24 Although maybe possibly addicted to

1 substances or not or untreated
2 mental health, they still have a
3 voice in the process because they
4 still have parental rights so we
5 still engage them because we have
6 to work with the parent along the
7 way throughout the life of the
8 case.

9 However, in situations
10 in which we say, oh, the best thing
11 is for a child to be with a
12 sibling, I send my Operations
13 Director to court to testify in
14 that regard to let the judge know
15 that we want to change course. And
16 then the judge makes a decision,
17 the child advocate has an
18 opportunity to speak as well as the
19 parent's attorney. And so, we do a
20 higher level of review and also a
21 higher level of court testimony in
22 those situations.

23 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: So
24 I hear you, I hear all of this.

1 But I still don't have an answer to
2 when somebody violated your own
3 practice of not calling the
4 hospital directly and giving
5 another family for where the child
6 should be adopted. What did you do
7 in the process of the social worker
8 making that call?

9 Streamline that for me.
10 Tell me how that process occurs
11 where they were able to violate
12 that principle that you have in
13 your office. And what did we do to
14 say, did you tell your social
15 workers you are not allowed to do
16 that or before you make any call,
17 this is who you need to check with?
18 I just want to know very simply the
19 specifics of the process that
20 allowed this mistake to happen and
21 how did we correct for that?

22 COMMISSIONER ALI: Yeah.
23 So I can't -- I don't know how
24 something like that could happen

1 other than the fact that I
2 indicated that we also listen to
3 the voices of parents and parents
4 have a right to identify who they
5 want their child to be placed with.

6 Where I would have
7 wanted to happen in situations
8 where there are siblings, that we
9 also prioritize placing young
10 people with their siblings. So I
11 can't tell you in terms of the
12 misstep. What I can tell you is
13 that when it came to the attention
14 of leadership, that we responded
15 accordingly and we attended every
16 single court hearing in order to
17 rectify the situation.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

19 RICHARDSON: The Chair recognizes
20 Councilmember Bass for a point of
21 information.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

23 Thank you, Madam Chair.

24 Commissioner, I have a

1 lot of respect for you and the
2 department and the work you do and
3 I know it's not easy, so I hope
4 you'll accept my comments in that
5 sentiment. But I've had so many
6 experiences, and we've talked about
7 them, that are similar to
8 Councilmember Ahmad's questions and
9 concerns where children have been
10 displaced, it doesn't make sense.

11 As we had talked about
12 before, we had a family whose
13 children were taken from school.
14 It really should have been
15 kidnapping. They were taken from
16 school with the DHS social worker's
17 note saying that it was okay when
18 it wasn't okay. The court had
19 ordered them to be here. They're
20 now living in another state and
21 they won't be returning because
22 they've been there for a couple of
23 years. The family, the original
24 related family, legal family could

1 not get these kids back.

2 And so, I hear what
3 you're saying, but I don't see the
4 evidence of any changes to the
5 daily practices that would make
6 sure that these kinds of things
7 don't happen, because they're
8 really just devastating to
9 families. So I just really wanted
10 to say that on the record. I'm not
11 familiar with the case that
12 Councilmember Ahmad is referring
13 to, but I just think we just have
14 to do better in DHS.

15 COMMISSIONER ALI: Yeah.
16 So let me say this, the decisions
17 of social workers, particularly
18 when you're talking about working
19 with families, are extremely
20 complicated.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Yes.
22 Yes, they are.

23 COMMISSIONER ALI: I'm
24 the first person to acknowledge

1 that. I also acknowledge not only
2 all of the growth and the progress
3 that we have, but I don't shy away
4 from when we need to make changes.
5 And so, I will tell you in terms of
6 when I rolled out my goals for
7 2026, it is around mastering, not
8 perfecting, but mastering the
9 basics, making sure when there is
10 tension, if you will, when you have
11 competing requests, if you will, in
12 terms of parents, what the parent
13 wants to do and what the family
14 wants to do that, that you seek a
15 higher level leader to have that
16 conversation with, also that you
17 bring them to the table in terms of
18 our family team conferencing
19 process.

20 And so, I do understand.
21 And when we step in, in terms of
22 executive leadership, if we don't
23 like the direction of a case, but I
24 do hear you.

1 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And
2 I appreciate that, but I also would
3 say to me it's a little late.
4 Because that's something that
5 should have been just really
6 instilled just, you know, a part of
7 the day-to-day workings of a
8 department that's as important as
9 DHS for a long time. This
10 shouldn't be something we're
11 working on now. This should be
12 something that, you know, some of
13 these things never should have
14 happened, I guess, is my point.

15 And I understand what
16 you're saying that maybe not
17 perfecting, but I would say
18 actually because we're dealing with
19 children, maybe we should be trying
20 to perfect it. This is something
21 that there can't be any errors when
22 we're dealing with children,
23 because we're dealing with a young
24 person that once they're broken, we

1 can't fix them back.

2 COMMISSIONER ALI: I
3 agree. And what I will say, our
4 family team conferencing model has
5 been in place since 2015, so that's
6 been in place since then. And then
7 the reason why I used the word
8 mastering instead of perfection is
9 because we know that there is going
10 to be a continuous process in which
11 we have to change and we have to
12 pivot. And so, we will continue to
13 evaluate and assess our practices
14 accordingly.

15 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

16 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
17 Commissioner --

18 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Can
19 I reclaim my time please?

20 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

21 RICHARDSON: That's what I was
22 going to do. Thank you. Thank
23 you, Councilmember Bass.

24 The Chair now recognizes

1 Councilmember Ahmad for one
2 additional minute.

3 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

4 Yes, thank you. Thank you very
5 much. I really appreciate
6 Councilmember Bass for bringing her
7 years of expertise into this space.
8 And I still want to say I heard you
9 say there's a -- so there was an
10 issue between a family member who
11 already had three of that person's
12 children, half siblings of this
13 child in question, versus a
14 completely unknown family that your
15 social worker was saying should go
16 to and got the mother to agree. So
17 the process I heard was there is a
18 conference when some -- when
19 there's a discrepancy between going
20 to kinship care versus going to a
21 stranger, that was the point.
22 There should have been a conference
23 and should have been a conversation
24 about why are we making this

1 decision, how did this happen.

2 And I want to know that
3 if that is happening routinely for
4 every decision, clearly it didn't
5 happen in this one. It did not
6 happen in this case, which is why
7 it proceeded the way it did. And
8 then the court system took so long
9 you could not rectify it. So I
10 just want to be on the record to
11 say, are you having those
12 conferences when the social worker
13 has made a recommendation as
14 opposed to when there's already
15 kinship care available, what
16 happens then? I want to be clear
17 on the record that that didn't
18 happen in that case clearly. And
19 how do we make sure it happens in
20 every case, every child placement
21 case?

22 Thank you, Madam Chair.

23 COMMISSIONER ALI: Thank
24 you for that question. And so,

1 part of DHS's practice, and this
2 practice actually started in 2020,
3 we have what is called the Family
4 Engagement Initiative. That is a
5 partnership with our courts as well
6 as the Administrative Office of
7 Pennsylvania Courts. And what that
8 involves is what we call crisis and
9 rapid response teamings. Those
10 teamings happen within 24 hours or
11 72 hours of a crisis. And so, yes,
12 we have been doing that
13 consistently since 2020 in terms of
14 a crisis rapid response teaming.

15 In addition, we have
16 family team conferencing in which
17 we have family team conferencing
18 meetings every three months. This
19 actually is tracked by our
20 Performance Management Technology
21 Division that tells us if, in fact,
22 the conference occurred, did it
23 occur at one time and if it was
24 missed. If it's a missed

1 conference, then the team will
2 assemble the family as well as
3 their support systems as well as
4 everyone else who touched the case
5 in order to have a family team
6 conference. And so, yes, we
7 continue to do that practice.

8 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

9 Thank you, Madam Chair.

10 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

11 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
12 so much, Dr. Ahmad.

13 The Chair now recognizes
14 Dr. Phillips.

15 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

16 Thank you, Madam Chair.

17 I'm going to get right
18 to it because I have several
19 questions around the tax bills,
20 Licenses & Inspections and the
21 Water Department. So just around
22 the tax bills, I want to talk more
23 about the existing tax impact.
24 Currently can we provide an

1 understanding of revenue that has
2 been generated from the liquor tax,
3 liquor-by-the-drink tax and also
4 the cigarette tax? Where do those
5 taxes go currently in terms of
6 revenue, through what department?

7 And then for the
8 beverage tax, we understand what --
9 I have the numbers of what revenue
10 has been generated from the
11 beverage tax. But I want to know
12 what is the forecasted revenue
13 that's going to be generated from
14 the beverage tax. I just want to
15 get a better understanding and also
16 to what department is that going to
17 go to?

18 MR. DUBOW: Thanks. Rob
19 Dubow, Finance Director. So the
20 liquor tax and the cigarette tax
21 both go to the school district.

22 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
23 Okay. That's good. Is it
24 permanent that that's going to --

1 is it a staple, it can never
2 change? It always has to go to the
3 school district?

4 MR. DUBOW: It will
5 always go to the school district,
6 yes.

7 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
8 Okay. It always go to school
9 district. Awesome. With the
10 beverage tax, currently there's no
11 Rebuild no longer in place. So
12 currently with the beverage tax,
13 what can residents begin to see out
14 of that when it comes to capital
15 projects and where's that money
16 going to?

17 MR. DUBOW: So the
18 Rebuild funding pays the debt
19 service on the borrowing for those
20 projects, so that debt service will
21 continue while the debt's
22 outstanding. So all the
23 improvements you see to those rec
24 centers are possible because we

1 were able to issue bonds that the
2 debt service paid for. In
3 addition, the funding from the
4 beverage tax goes to PreK and to
5 Community Schools.

6 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

7 Okay. So PreK and Community
8 Schools. So no longer towards our
9 rec centers?

10 MR. DUBOW: Yes. Part
11 of it goes to debt service or rec
12 centers, part of it goes to PreK
13 and part of it goes to Community
14 Schools.

15 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

16 When will communities begin to see
17 new projects come out of that debt
18 service to go towards rec centers?

19 MR. DUBOW: It happens
20 all the time.

21 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: We
22 haven't seen any drafted proposals
23 and conversations around that, so
24 that's why I'm asking.

1 MR. DUBOW: I'll ask
2 Aparna to talk about those
3 projects.

4 MS. PALANTINO: Good
5 morning. Aparna Palantino, Deputy
6 Managing Director, Capital Program
7 Office. Dr. Phillips, thank you
8 for your question. So we continue
9 to implement projects at parks, rec
10 centers and libraries that are
11 funded through the Rebuild
12 initiative. That's still ongoing.
13 We're not complete with the program
14 of the 72 sites that was originally
15 included in the Rebuild ordinance.
16 And I'll let Finance Director Rob
17 Dubow speak to that.

18 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
19 Yeah. I just want to know when is
20 it going to be a new request for
21 proposals, because right now we
22 should be pretty much done the 72
23 sites?

24 MS. PALANTINO: There

1 are still a few sites underway

2 so --

3 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Or
4 near done. So it should be a new
5 batch or revenue coming, because
6 that revenue was already there. It
7 was already in existence. It's
8 already forecast to be used. New
9 revenue coming in for FY26 and '27
10 should be utilized for new
11 projects, correct?

12 MR. DUBOW: Yeah. So
13 the capital program itself has new
14 projects. The 72 projects of
15 Rebuild are paid out of the debt
16 service, and we did the most recent
17 borrowing within the last year.
18 But going forward, the projects
19 that we're seeing funded in the
20 capital program are funded out of
21 other General Fund sources.

22 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
23 Okay. I only asked that
24 question -- and I heard the bell.

1 I'll come for the second round.
2 But I just want to say I asked that
3 question because residents are
4 curious consistently about where is
5 the revenue going for the beverage
6 tax. Yes, we're seeing new
7 projects happening, but they're
8 also seeing a lot of other
9 libraries and rec centers not
10 benefiting from the beverage tax.

11 And so, to them it's
12 like, okay, that money should have
13 already been utilized for prior
14 projects, now what is the new money
15 going to. And to me, that's not
16 clear, because Councilmembers have
17 not been engaged with how we can
18 begin to use the beverage tax now
19 for new capital projects. And so,
20 that's concerning for me. And
21 that's why I want to also be sure
22 that the new proposed tax for
23 rideshare, is it permanent, it's
24 always going to be used for the

1 School District of Philadelphia as
2 well, if passed?

3 MR. DUBOW: Yes, those
4 funds go to the school district, so
5 they would always go to the
6 district.

7 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
8 Okay. So what I would recommend is
9 that we begin to engage on new
10 projects because the revenue that
11 is currently allocated is for
12 future projects for the beverage
13 tax, not for the 72 projects; am I
14 correct? Are you still trying to
15 capture --

16 MR. DUBOW: The beverage
17 tax is for the existing 72
18 projects. It's for the debt
19 service on those --

20 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
21 The debt service for them. Okay.
22 I'm very clear now. So we still
23 haven't paid them off basically?

24 MR. DUBOW: That's

1 right, yes.

2 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

3 How many years is it going to take
4 for us to pay those off?

5 MR. DUBOW: So the most
6 recent bond issue was within the
7 last year. It's a 20-year bond
8 issue. So we'll be paying it off
9 probably for another 19 years.

10 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

11 For the next 18 years?

12 MR. DUBOW: Another 19
13 years or so.

14 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: So
15 the city's never going to see
16 anything new from that tax?

17 MR. DUBOW: No. What we
18 see new projects from is from the
19 capital budget and program. So if
20 you look at the capital budget and
21 program, there is a lot of funding
22 for parks, recs, libraries so
23 that's where that funding will come
24 from.

1 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

2 Okay. I would like to see how that
3 works. Thank you so much. I'll
4 reserve my questions for the Water
5 Department and L&I for the next
6 round.

7 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

8 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
9 Dr. Phillips. And so, colleagues,
10 I'm level-setting for this hearing.
11 We are breaking at 12:00. There
12 are eight members in the queue.
13 Each colleague will have three
14 minutes to complete your questions.
15 We are going to respectfully
16 request that all of the departments
17 who are here for callbacks return
18 at 1:00 p.m. when we return from
19 lunch, so that we can ask the
20 additional questions that are in
21 the queue. And then we'll go with
22 CCP hopefully by 2:00 or 2:30.
23 Okay. Thank you very much.

24 And so, I'm next in the

1 queue and wanted to get a question
2 on the record for the Managing
3 Director's Office. My office
4 submitted follow-up questions to
5 your department and one of them was
6 relative to a request for \$1
7 million in warehouse space. When
8 asking for additional information,
9 you all responded that it's for
10 additional warehouse space. I
11 already knew that.

12 So I'm requesting if you
13 could provide the detailed
14 information relative to that
15 request, how much warehouse space
16 does your department currently
17 have? What are you all storing?
18 How much does it cost? And what's
19 the need for this additional space?
20 I could see on the budget docs that
21 it's for warehouse space. It says
22 1 million for warehouse space.

23 I did do the follow-up
24 prior to this hearing. I want to

1 be very clear. And you all
2 responded it's for additional
3 warehouse space. So can just
4 provide additional details?

5 MR. THIEL: Madam Chair,
6 we somehow in the process we didn't
7 get that question, so we will come
8 back and give you more detail on
9 that. There's a lot of different
10 spaces --

11 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
12 RICHARDSON: Rob, are you still
13 available, Rob and Sabrina? Did
14 you all get that question from me
15 or no? Who received the question?

16 MS. MAYNARD: Yes. Good
17 morning. Sabrina Maynard, Budget
18 Director. So this is a line under
19 the Public Property budget.
20 There's some room for potential
21 additional work that could happen.
22 It may be mislabeled, so we'll
23 double-check on the naming. But
24 it's a public property item for

1 potential additional budget.

2 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

3 RICHARDSON: That was under MDO,
4 but it's for Public Property?

5 MS. MAYNARD: I believe
6 it's in the Public Property budget.
7 Let me double check where the line
8 is.

9 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

10 RICHARDSON: And I'm only asking
11 because I did -- I want to be very
12 clear. I did follow up with you
13 all --

14 MS. MAYNARD: Yep.
15 Understood.

16 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

17 RICHARDSON: -- in advance of the
18 hearing or else I wouldn't have
19 asked it today.

20 MR. THIEL: Madam Chair,
21 we can also have that be first up
22 at 1:00 p.m. if you want.

23 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

24 RICHARDSON: That'll be great.

1 I'll move on so that I honor the
2 clock. I'm at 2 minutes and 46
3 seconds. Thank you very much. You
4 can follow up after the break.
5 Okay. I appreciate it. But I do
6 want to be clear for the record I
7 did ask in advance.

8 The Chair now recognizes
9 Councilmember Gauthier.

10 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

11 I have brief questions for Fire
12 Commissioner Thompson and Deputy
13 Managing Director Carroll. Good
14 morning to both of you.

15 For the Fire
16 Commissioner, I heard you talk with
17 the Council President about wanting
18 to prevent fires and the wonderful
19 effort you all have put on in that
20 regard, and I look forward to
21 getting the information about how
22 that breaks down by Council
23 District, but I can probably almost
24 guarantee that West and Southwest

1 is going to be reflected there.

2 I wanted to ask about
3 the program we have where we give
4 out free smoke detectors if people
5 reach out to 311. I think that's a
6 wonderful way to prevent fires, but
7 I also have read in the past that
8 it was pretty backed up. So I
9 wanted to ask, what's the backlog
10 for that program now? If there is
11 a backlog, what are we doing to, to
12 kind of clear it? And would we
13 ever consider going beyond owner-
14 occupied properties, particularly
15 if we're seeing fires in properties
16 that are not owner-occupied?

17 COMMISSIONER THOMPSON:

18 Thank you very much for that
19 question. Smoke alarms are very
20 instrumental in saving lives, so we
21 do all that we can to make sure
22 that we get those out as best we
23 can. So we work with 311 to
24 install smoke alarms. Sometimes

1 there is the reckoning period
2 between when we install them and
3 when they can clear it off the
4 books. Sometimes that skews the
5 numbers.

6 And just as a point of
7 note, in addition to installing via
8 311, we install on our own. So as
9 companies are out in the street, if
10 they run across a person who needs
11 them, they can install them on
12 demand. So some of the things that
13 we are doing to reduce that
14 backlog -- and we do have a backlog
15 currently, I don't have that number
16 in front of me -- but one of the
17 things that we are doing, we are
18 employing technology.

19 We are working with --
20 again, we have some very talented
21 folks in our GIS Analytics
22 Division. They are currently
23 working on an app that is going to
24 allow us to expedite and reduce the

1 time that it takes for information
2 to travel, so we are using
3 technology to reduce that backlog.

4 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

5 Thank you. If you could get back
6 to us with that information. And
7 also, if you have it, what's the
8 amount of fires that happen in
9 owner-occupied properties versus
10 rentals and should we be
11 considering doing something to get
12 smoke detectors in those as well.

13 And then my next
14 question is about the citywide bus
15 depot. Deputy Managing Director
16 Carroll, can you talk about where
17 we are in the process of building a
18 citywide bus terminal for the City
19 of Philadelphia? Not long ago I
20 know that OTIS sent out a survey to
21 constituents to gauge their
22 interest of where they would most
23 like to see a permanent location,
24 including 30th Street Station in my

1 district. And so, can you share
2 the findings and talk about the
3 considerations for final placement
4 of the terminal?

5 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

6 RICHARDSON: Please, please respond
7 very quickly. Thank you.

8 MR. CARROLL: Thank you,
9 Councilmember. We're working with
10 Department of Planning on that. The
11 30th Street Bus Depot did rank the
12 highest in terms of the feedback we
13 got from stakeholders. We've had
14 some conversations with Amtrak
15 about their plans for that area,
16 and we'll continue that work moving
17 forward, maintain the engagement
18 and look for an opportunity to see
19 how we could specifically advance
20 some design concepts, working with
21 all the partners.

22 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

23 Okay. Look forward to continuing
24 to work together. I think you know

1 that I would love to have all the
2 transit in the 3rd District. Thank
3 you.

4 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

5 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
6 very much, Councilmember Gauthier.

7 The Chair now recognizes
8 Councilmember Driscoll. And then
9 Councilmember Lozada will be the
10 last one for this round.

11 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:
12 Thank you, Madam Chair.

13 My question is around
14 the cell tower tax. I'll be brief.
15 Will nonprofits who currently don't
16 pay U&O have to pay the cell phone
17 tower tax? That's one. In the
18 legislation, it says that the new
19 tax is based on the bandwidth of a
20 tower. How will the city be able
21 to tell or know what the bandwidth
22 is for each tower? And then
23 lastly, the \$2.4 million estimate
24 for the tax, is that under the

1 current assessments or would that
2 be tied to some future assessments?

3 COMMISSIONER MCCOLGAN:

4 Good morning. Kathleen McColgan,
5 Revenue Commissioner. Thank you
6 for the question, Councilmember.
7 Nonprofits who are leasing cell
8 towers, they would be responsible
9 for the Use & Occupancy Tax on the
10 cell tower itself. I'm sorry.
11 What was your next question?

12 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

13 The bandwidth.

14 COMMISSIONER MCCOLGAN:

15 Yeah. The bandwidth is actually
16 assessed by OPA, and it's included
17 in the data that is sent to us
18 right now. It's already part of
19 the total assessed value of a
20 property going forward. If this
21 passes, then it will be broken out
22 as a separate line item to make
23 sure that we are calculating Use &
24 Occupancy Tax accurately for the

1 school district based on the
2 bandwidth.

3 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

4 Okay. And then a 2.4 million, is
5 that --

6 COMMISSIONER MCCOLGAN:

7 That is for a full fiscal year. So
8 we intend, if passed, to implement
9 this in January of '27, so for
10 Fiscal Year '27 and it will be the
11 1.2 million. And then each fiscal
12 year thereafter, 2.4.

13 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

14 Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER MCCOLGAN:

16 Thank you.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

18 RICHARDSON: Are you good,
19 Councilmember Driscoll?

20 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

21 Yes.

22 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

23 RICHARDSON: Thank you. The Chair
24 now recognizes Councilmember

1 Lozada.

2 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

3 Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

4 My question, I believe, is for the
5 Fire Commissioner. I forgot to ask
6 him while he was here. It is
7 related to some of the work that we
8 have been doing in the Kensington
9 community as it relates to AR-2 and
10 where we are when we're talking
11 about overdoses, have they
12 increased the work that they're
13 doing? Have we seen a decrease in
14 the need to have them in the
15 footprint as a result of the work
16 that we are doing together? Just
17 trying to figure out where are we
18 now.

19 COMMISSIONER THOMPSON:

20 Thank you for that question. I'm
21 going to have Deputy Commissioner
22 Martin McCall, who's our Deputy
23 Commissioner of EMS, answer that
24 question.

1 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

2 Thank you.

3 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

4 McCALL: Martin McCall, Deputy
5 Commissioner of EMS, Philadelphia
6 Fire Department. If I heard your
7 question correctly, it's about
8 around AR-2 and have we seen a
9 decrease or increase in the amount
10 of overdoses in the Kensington
11 area.

12 We have seen an increase
13 in the percent of impact in which
14 AR-2 has had in that area as far as
15 outreach and getting people into
16 assistance and responding to
17 overdoses, but the call volume has
18 pretty much been steady.

19 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

20 Okay. Last budget cycle we had
21 questions and we also held a
22 hearing around reporting on the
23 number of overdoses, the number of
24 individuals that we have to respond

1 to on an emergency basis multiple
2 times a day, what we call the
3 frequent flyers type of an
4 individual. Because as a community
5 we believe that if we have to
6 overturn an overdose on you
7 multiple times, obviously you're in
8 a crisis situation and we have to
9 respond differently.

10 I believe you testified
11 that that was a number that you are
12 collecting and that was an easy
13 number to receive. We haven't
14 received one report. And so, I'm
15 just trying to figure out, number
16 one, where's the report? And
17 number two, my community knows
18 these people very, very well. And
19 so, as the supply changes, they
20 tend to overdose more often. And
21 so, my community is seeing some of
22 these individuals often. So I'm
23 trying to figure out do we not know
24 what that number is? Are we not

1 collecting that frequent flyer? Do
2 we not know if the number actually
3 went up or down? Where are we?

4 And again, I'm not
5 trying to -- this is not an I got
6 you, right. I want us to be
7 transparent and have an honest
8 conversation. If you don't have
9 the number, you got to get it back
10 to me, I'm great with that. I'm
11 okay with that. But I want us to
12 look at the work that we're doing
13 in the Kensington community,
14 because I believe and my community
15 also believes that there has been
16 an impact in a positive way as it
17 relates to the work as a whole,
18 right. So I'm trying to figure out
19 where are we as it relates to the
20 numbers so that we can use data,
21 because some people are data-
22 driven, so we can use data to speak
23 to what is actually happening.

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

1 McCALL: Right. As far as the
2 number, to get the number is very
3 difficult, one, because people we
4 respond to often times we don't get
5 the information, like to get a name
6 and age and data or whatever the
7 information is from the person,
8 often times it's to treat or they
9 get up and they go away before we
10 can get the information from them
11 because the priority is to treat.
12 So we can't grasp the information
13 to say, okay, have we seen this
14 person this time or did we see this
15 person yesterday or did we see this
16 person the day before. That's
17 where the obstacle is, is getting
18 that information and getting it in.

19 What we do have, we
20 should have been producing and
21 providing. It was my understanding
22 that we were doing what we were
23 able to capture. And I will check
24 to find out where that is.

1 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

2 RICHARDSON: Okay. Please respond
3 with the additional information
4 after the break, if you're able to
5 locate the numbers for
6 Councilmember Lozada.

7 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

8 And then my last question is, I
9 want us to have an off-the-floor
10 conversation about that because I
11 think that there's more to say
12 about that. I'll have a different
13 conversation with you directly.
14 But then I also want to ask about
15 as we approach the summer months
16 and we approach people coming into
17 our city, we know that it gets cold
18 in the city of Philadelphia, we
19 know it gets hot in the city of
20 Philadelphia, are we preparing
21 partners in our city to become
22 cooling centers? Are we ready for
23 that?

24 Do we know where our

1 cooling centers could potentially
2 be? Because every year we struggle
3 with individuals who have, you
4 know, it's hot outside and we need
5 to get them off the street and we
6 need to figure out -- and I know
7 this is not for PFD, it's MDO, but
8 I want us to proactively be
9 prepared for this.

10 MR. THIEL:
11 Councilmember, we appreciate that.
12 And I want --

13 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
14 RICHARDSON: Very quickly. Pardon
15 the interruption. One minute for
16 the response. Thank you.

17 MR. THIEL: Managing
18 Director Adam Thiel. The short
19 answer is yes. And as we've done,
20 you've seen and you were part of
21 the way we have been doing heat
22 emergencies very differently with a
23 lot more resources, a lot more
24 people, a lot more access. We

1 intend to do -- well, you know,
2 extreme cold, that's our Cold Blue.
3 We intend to do the same thing with
4 extreme heat, so we are absolutely
5 going to use that same template,
6 and that's OEM, Public Health,
7 DBHIDS, on and on and on, the Fire
8 Department, PPD, everybody all in
9 to provide that same level of
10 access on really hot days as we've
11 done on very cold days.

12 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

13 And I appreciate that. Yes, I have
14 been very much involved in that,
15 which is why I know that it has
16 been challenging, because all of
17 those entities that you just
18 mentioned are not cooling centers
19 that people would typically go to,
20 right. We say, yes, the police
21 department is a cooling center,
22 yes, the fire department, you can
23 go -- but people are not going to
24 go there. We know that on the

1 ground. We know what the realities
2 are.

3 And so, we have worked
4 really hard to try to identify
5 stakeholders in the community to
6 become cooling centers. And one of
7 the responses that I get from them
8 often is, you can't tell me at the
9 last minute that you need me to be
10 a cooling center or that you want
11 me to be a warming center, right.
12 And so, there's a lot going on this
13 year. I want us to make sure that
14 we're responding to the needs of
15 our city before we're responding to
16 all the parties, right. I want us
17 to make sure that we are ready to
18 go on day 1 of that first heat wave
19 and that people have safe places to
20 come into. And so, can we work on
21 making sure that we identify those
22 stakeholders with enough time so
23 that they are ready for us?

24 MR. THIEL:

1 Councilmember, it's a really heavy
2 lift. It's always going to be a
3 very heavy lift. It's all in
4 addition to everything else that
5 those agencies do. And if you have
6 a list of willing partners, please
7 send it along and we'll make sure
8 that we get that into the work
9 stream.

10 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

11 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
12 very much.

13 This committee will now
14 stand in recess until 1:15. We ask
15 that everyone please return at
16 1:15. Thank you very much.

17 (Lunch recess.)

18 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

19 RICHARDSON: All right. Good
20 afternoon. This hearing will now
21 come to order. We will now resume
22 the Committee of the Whole with
23 departmental callbacks. And then
24 once we've concluded with

1 departmental callbacks, we'll go to
2 Community College of Philadelphia.

3 The Chair now recognizes
4 Councilmember Thomas.

5 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

6 Thank you, Madam Chair.

7 I wanted to start by
8 talking to the Managing Director's
9 Office. Good afternoon. The last
10 time we spoke, I started our
11 conversation by talking about my
12 Keep It Local legislation. Keep It
13 Local was a bill that we passed
14 coming out of COVID. And the
15 purpose of the legislation was to
16 encourage and incentivize people to
17 invest in Philadelphia.

18 Our thought process was
19 it's very difficult to ask others
20 to invest in Philadelphia if
21 Philadelphia isn't invested in
22 Philadelphia. So over the last
23 couple years, we've been able to
24 see a significant increase as it

1 relates to procurement
2 opportunities, specifically for
3 Philadelphia-based businesses.

4 In our previous hearing,
5 we asked MDO to explain why we've
6 seen a significant drop in both
7 contracts for Philadelphia-based
8 businesses as well as Black and
9 Brown-led businesses here in the
10 city and you guys were not able to
11 provide that information. So I'm
12 hoping that we can revisit that
13 conversation today. I would like
14 to see where we are as it relates
15 to the Keep It Local legislation
16 and what is happening as it relates
17 to procurement opportunities for
18 Philadelphia-based businesses?

19 MR. THIEL:
20 Councilmember, appreciate that and
21 we did provide responses to those
22 questions from the last hearing.
23 Bottom line upfront, in FY26 so far
24 we're at about 93% of our contract

1 value went to local business
2 enterprises. And in FY24 -- we've
3 actually improved from '25 to '26.
4 In '25 --

5 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: You
6 said what percentage?

7 MR. THIEL: 93%.

8 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:
9 Wait, time out. 93% of what?

10 MR. THIEL: 93% of total
11 value of contracts in the MDO went
12 to local business enterprises. And
13 then in '25, that number was 88% so
14 we've actually increased. And I
15 will let Ron Hovey, our Procurement
16 Director, talk about some of those
17 things, and then we also have Nadir
18 Jones here to talk about more of
19 what -- to answer the second part
20 of your question of what we're
21 doing.

22 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:
23 Yeah. I want to be clear, and I'm
24 curious to hear about that,

1 Managing Director, and I'll bring
2 my documents to compare. But we're
3 not just asking about just your
4 department. We're saying
5 procurement in general across city
6 government. So the Managing
7 Director's Office is part of that
8 conversation and I'm glad to hear
9 that your numbers are as well as
10 they are. But we're really looking
11 at the entire gamut as it relates
12 to procurement opportunities.

13 COMMISSIONER HOVEY:

14 Sure. Ron Hovey, Procurement
15 Commissioner. And thank you for
16 the question. I don't have the
17 2026 numbers, as we're still
18 processing those. But I do have
19 '22 through '25. Managing
20 Director's numbers were for his
21 department only. Across the city,
22 we have -- our goal was in 2022 46%
23 and then each year was -- this was
24 our target: 46, 46, 47, 56. And

1 our actual awards were 53, 62.
2 Then it went down to 54 in '24 and
3 back up to 64 in '25. And we're on
4 track to exceed the 64 for this
5 year. But I don't have the full
6 number because the year is not in
7 yet.

8 Now, there are two
9 things that drive that. There are
10 two different programs. There is a
11 bid preference, we'll call it a
12 discount, where when you're
13 bidding, you get a credit. So if
14 you're not the lowest, you get a
15 percentage credit knocked off your
16 price, which could move you from a
17 lower ranking to a higher ranking
18 in a bid.

19 The other program is a
20 set-aside program where you bid
21 only to local businesses. And so,
22 through the credit program we've
23 seen that steady uptick. But from
24 the complete set-aside program,

1 we've seen very little usage.
2 We've seen less than just a couple
3 of tens of thousands in total. So
4 we know two things, the credit
5 program, the discount program is
6 working in terms of driving local
7 business usage. But the set-aside
8 program as constructed today is
9 not.

10 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

11 Okay. So I think where we need
12 some clarity, and help me
13 understand, because I know you had
14 a conversation with me about some
15 things as it relates to systems and
16 things of that capacity. Why does
17 it look like through M/W/DSB
18 contracting or why does it appear
19 that there's been significant
20 declines as it relates to local
21 procurement opportunities and local
22 contracts?

23 What is happening with
24 the reporting of information

1 whereas though it looks like
2 there's been about \$150 million
3 less spent between the fiscal years
4 as it relates to supporting these
5 types of businesses?

6 COMMISSIONER HOVEY: So
7 you're talking two different
8 things: local business and M/WBE
9 stratification of the numbers. I'm
10 going to let Nadir Jones address
11 that because it's his department
12 that tracks M/WBE and small
13 businesses. But they're two
14 different things. And I would say
15 that the numbers for LBES don't
16 always capture the full M/WBE
17 number, so in the current state
18 there's probably an underreporting
19 of that. But I'm going to let him
20 finish the answer for me.

21 MR. JONES: Good
22 afternoon. Nadir Jones, Director,
23 the Office of Business Impact and
24 Economic Advancement. How are you

1 doing, Councilmembers. So, yeah,
2 we took a look at the year-over-
3 year trends. What we're going to
4 plan on doing is doing a gap
5 analysis to see what those
6 impediments are, why the M/WBE
7 spend has gone down. It can be an
8 accumulation of several things. It
9 can be the overall city spend has
10 maybe gone down or the lack of
11 M/WBEs in a specific industry where
12 we don't have that availability to
13 lend itself to subcontracting
14 opportunities. So we're going to
15 perform a gap-wide analysis across
16 all city departments to get that
17 information to you asap.

18 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

19 Thank you, sir. I appreciate it.
20 And you can understand why there's
21 some confusion around some of this
22 stuff. And I think it's important
23 that we remain diligent as it
24 relates to our work in local

1 procurement.

2 Madam Chair, I did hear
3 the bell. I just want to for the
4 record, Madam Chair, if it's okay,
5 as the Chair of the Education
6 Committee I'm not going to be able
7 to sit through the entire CCP
8 dialogue. I do want to commend our
9 new President at CCP and thank her
10 for her leadership as well as the
11 entire team there. And I just want
12 to ask CCP to make sure that in the
13 midst of their testimony today that
14 they are addressing some of the
15 concerns that's been communicated
16 as it relates to the union that
17 represents CCP. So just wanted to
18 put that on the record.

19 MDO, thank you. I look
20 forward to continued dialogue and
21 hopefully take you up on the offer
22 to meet to be able to have a deeper
23 dive into this issue so I can
24 better understand where we are,

1 what we're doing.

2 And hopefully, we can
3 work collaboratively to figure out
4 how do we continue to invest in
5 businesses, because I think you all
6 would agree that we have done a
7 good job over the last couple of
8 years as it relates to local
9 procurement and procurement
10 opportunities. I just don't want
11 to see us deviate in a different
12 direction, especially in this
13 climate that we're in right now,
14 with the affordability crisis that
15 we're facing.

16 Thank you, Madam Chair.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

18 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
19 very much, Councilmember Thomas.

20 Colleagues, we are now
21 in departmental callbacks and
22 afterwards we will go into
23 Community College of Philadelphia.
24 For this round, we will have three

1 minutes for callbacks.

2 The Chair now recognizes
3 Councilmember Young.

4 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
5 you, Madam Chair.

6 Questions regarding the
7 tax bill, then to L&I. So first
8 question to L&I just really quick,
9 we have the FIFA Fan Fest coming up
10 around the Lemon Hill area. We
11 know that this is a once-
12 in-a-lifetime opportunity for
13 Philadelphians to participate in
14 this type of global economy. The
15 Fan Fest is only allowing 10
16 vendors per session or something
17 like that to participate within the
18 Fan Fest area, 10 local vendors.

19 What's L&I's position on
20 or how can L&I work with some of
21 our local vendors so they can
22 participate in this once-
23 in-a-lifetime economic opportunity
24 without being overly penalized by

1 L&I, because again people in our
2 community, in our city, want to
3 participate in this as well.

4 COMMISSIONER COLLINS-

5 GREENWALD: Hi. Bridget Collins-
6 Greenwald, L&I Commissioner of
7 Quality Of Life. So we don't
8 determine who can vend in that
9 area. That is actually done by
10 Philly Soccer 2026 --

11 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: I
12 know. That's outside the area,
13 right, or around the area, right.
14 Because they're going to be people
15 who may be at the zoo or people who
16 may be, you know, on the Parkway,
17 right, who are vending and want to
18 participate in again this once-
19 in-a-lifetime opportunity where
20 we're going to have thousands of
21 people in our city, you know.

22 COMMISSIONER COLLINS-

23 GREENWALD: So you're asking if we
24 can educate those folks; is that

1 what you're asking?

2 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: I

3 mean, I'm asking if L&I can -- how
4 can I say this in a different -- in
5 my colloquial language. If L&I
6 cannot be drawn, right? Don't just
7 go out here, like, just heavily
8 enforcing on Philadelphians who are
9 just trying to earn a living during
10 this time?

11 COMMISSIONER COLLINS-

12 GREENWALD: I'm going to have to
13 defer that one because we have --
14 we can only enforce what's in the
15 code, so we really shouldn't turn a
16 blind eye to people that are not
17 legally doing what they're supposed
18 to. However, we do have a very
19 robust education program where we
20 do educate small businesses all
21 throughout the city, and that's
22 what I would recommend, that any of
23 these groups get in touch with. So
24 you could see it on our website,

1 L&I vending, here's how you apply,
2 here's how you do it. I totally
3 suggest that. But they have to go
4 through that process.

5 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
6 you.

7 COMMISSIONER COLLINS-
8 GREENWALD: You're welcome.

9 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: I
10 appreciate that. Next question is
11 for Mr. Dubow regarding tax bills,
12 specifically on the delivery tax.
13 This is something that I asked the
14 Law Department. The legislation
15 specifically states that the issues
16 that are being caused are being
17 caused by the delivery trucks. Why
18 aren't we taxing DHL, FedEx, UPS,
19 of the like to pay for this tax?
20 Why are we putting this tax on the
21 citizens rather than the
22 billionaire companies?

23 MR. DUBOW: The tax is
24 trying to capture kind of the new

1 activity, which is what we see from
2 the delivery services. And that's
3 why we proposed the tax the way we
4 did.

5 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

6 RICHARDSON: One moment. The Chair
7 recognizes Councilmember Young.

8 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
9 you so much. Are we able to tax
10 those companies rather than taxing
11 the people?

12 MR. DUBOW: The delivery
13 tax you're talking about?

14 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Yes.

15 COMMISSIONER MCCOLGAN:
16 So the delivery tax will be levied
17 per delivery to the people who are
18 making purchases and having
19 deliveries made inside
20 Philadelphia. So 25% per
21 delivery -- I'm sorry, \$0.25, not
22 percent.

23 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Yeah,
24 we know that. We know what the

1 proposal is. But the question is,
2 can we tax the delivery companies
3 versus taxing the people?

4 MR. DUBOW: So I think
5 regardless of the way that tax is
6 written, the delivery companies can
7 make a choice about what they do
8 with their pricing.

9 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: This
10 is the same argument with the other
11 tax, regardless of how it's
12 written. If they do it in another
13 way, then they're not following the
14 law, right. Can we write the law
15 in a way where we tax the
16 companies?

17 MR. DUBOW: So that we
18 will have to talk with Law and get
19 back to you on that structure. I'm
20 not a lawyer and I don't want to
21 give a legal answer to your
22 question.

23 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: But
24 you're the Finance Director, as an

1 expert on tax policy, right, I
2 would assume.

3 MR. DUBOW: You're
4 asking a specific legal question
5 and we will get you an answer. But
6 I don't want to answer something
7 today that is not legally correct.

8 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
9 you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

10 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
11 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
12 very much, Councilmember Young.

13 The Chair now recognizes
14 Dr. Ahmad.

15 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:
16 Thank you, Madam Chair.

17 Good afternoon,
18 everyone. Actually, the question
19 is along the first part of my
20 colleague's questioning around
21 small pop-ups, and I have probably
22 a question for L&I. Let me just
23 wait until Bridget gets here. Good
24 afternoon. This weekend I was up

1 in the Northwest at something
2 called Mt. Airy Day. There were
3 like 100 vendors in this space. I
4 spent money. My husband bought me
5 a bag. There's a woman who was
6 making purses with the caps off of
7 the cans, the bottle tops,
8 beautiful, beautifully done. She
9 had many other wares.

10 There were all kinds
11 of -- I bought soap. I did walk
12 around. These were mostly pop-ups,
13 most of these businesses, and I was
14 chatting with -- some were a little
15 bit more established. Their
16 biggest issue was how they can
17 participate in the economy with not
18 so much paperwork and not so many
19 hoops to jump through. So I wanted
20 to ask -- I mean, these can be
21 incubators for bigger businesses,
22 for established businesses so
23 there's a real value in them.

24 So I was wanting to know

1 what your department and
2 potentially Commerce together are
3 thinking about how we create a
4 space with less regulation for
5 these smaller ones and can we,
6 given our uniformity law and all of
7 that, carve out spaces to attend to
8 them in a different kind of way to
9 support them? And what that
10 process looks like now and what
11 could it look like streamlined?

12 COMMISSIONER COLLINS-
13 GREENWALD: Okay. So Bridget
14 Collins-Greenwald, L&I Commissioner
15 of Quality Of Life. So currently,
16 like I mentioned a few minutes ago,
17 we do have a robust program with
18 the Commerce Department. We call
19 it BEE, Business Education
20 Enforcement, very clever. So we do
21 have that.

22 We also have vendor --
23 we gather vendors together and do
24 some education for just them. We

1 haven't done it in a bit. We did
2 it the last time before we had the
3 lottery. We did the Center City
4 lottery and we had vendors come in.
5 We could certainly do that again.
6 We can certainly work with Commerce
7 and tailor it to smaller
8 businesses. I agree with you. I
9 go to those types of things all the
10 time.

11 It's not really that
12 cumbersome to become a vendor,
13 believe it or not. I think people
14 might feel like it's a little
15 cumbersome so they don't get
16 involved in the process. But it's
17 really you get your commercial
18 activity license, which is free and
19 fairly easy to get. And then we
20 can walk you through, like here's
21 step by step.

22 We have all kinds -- you
23 know our Good Housing Partners
24 thing. We have all kinds of

1 documentation like that, that takes
2 you exactly through the process and
3 we can certainly have those types
4 of one-on -- not one-on-one, but
5 like little seminar sessions,
6 whatever you want to call them.

7 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: And
8 so, one of the things that these
9 small pop-ups is people don't
10 necessarily, they come from
11 elsewhere, right, they're not
12 located right where they're selling
13 their wares, so I just wanted to
14 know -- you mentioned doing
15 something in a location. How do we
16 invite them to come and be part of
17 our economy in a way that is
18 welcoming and streamlined, as you
19 just pointed out?

20 COMMISSIONER COLLINS-
21 GREENWALD: Yeah. We don't even
22 have to do a location-based. We
23 can put like a call-out, kind of
24 like call to art, you know what I

1 mean, where you get a call to art.
2 We can do the same exact thing and
3 say, hey, we're going to have these
4 five sessions these certain nights
5 of the week or whenever we're going
6 to have it, different areas of the
7 city, whoever wants to be involved.
8 We can do virtual things.

9 I mean, we are all in
10 about the education because that's
11 the better part of our job. The
12 enforcement's the part, you know, I
13 mean, you'd rather educate and have
14 people wanting to do business in
15 the city and feeling welcomed here,
16 like you just said. So we're all
17 in. We can absolutely do that.

18 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:
19 We'll follow up with you to
20 actually do a pilot project to do
21 all across the city, inform people,
22 amplify, have all my colleagues
23 support us to make this happen and
24 then really do some results. Like,

1 once you give this information, is
2 this still onerous or not and what
3 are people doing. We would like to
4 get some data as to how to improve
5 that process, and most importantly,
6 get that revenue.

7 COMMISSIONER COLLINS-

8 GREENWALD: Absolutely. Yeah, we
9 can totally do a pilot and I'll
10 hook up with Commerce, talk to
11 Cameron and Saleem and that crew.
12 And, yeah, we'll circle back and
13 see what we can come up with.

14 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

15 Thank you for being so cooperative
16 and let's work together.

17 Thank you, Madam Chair.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

19 RICHARDSON: Thank you so much,
20 Dr. Ahmad.

21 The Chair now recognizes
22 Dr. Phillips.

23 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

24 Thank you, Madam Chair.

1 I just want the Water
2 Department and L&I you can stay in
3 place. Thank you so much. Really
4 quickly, as you know we are moving
5 forward on the implementation of
6 the Non-Resident Landlord
7 Accountability bill. The bill was
8 structured to ensure that
9 non-resident property owners
10 provide accurate and verifiable
11 contact information, in addition to
12 designating a local agent.

13 So the questions that I
14 just have for you is I want to
15 thank you for some of the updates
16 you provided and I appreciate that,
17 but we want to know can you please
18 clarify how owner contact
19 information will be captured within
20 eCLIPSE, what steps will be taken
21 to verify the accuracy of the
22 owner's contact information and not
23 just the agents, how that owner
24 information will be utilized during

1 enforcement actions, including
2 notices of violation intent to
3 revoke and other compliance
4 measures?

5 And then I also have to
6 get this out. When a property has
7 multiple unresolved violations --
8 this is different from the
9 Non-Landlord bill. When a property
10 has multiple unresolved violations,
11 at what point does that trigger
12 consideration for more serious
13 enforcement like a sheriff's sale
14 recommendation? Is there a defined
15 threshold, for example, 40, 30, 60,
16 how many violations do you have to
17 take in order to trigger sheriff's
18 sale or is this handled case-by-
19 case? So that's four questions.
20 Hope you all have them.

21 And then for the Water
22 Department I just want to ask, what
23 structural changes would the Water
24 Department be making in the next

1 year to improve customer service
2 communication and resolution
3 timelines? And also, what
4 percentage of disruptions lasting
5 more than 24 hours included
6 proactive updates? And what type
7 of updates were provided. Thank
8 you.

9 COMMISSIONER COLLINS-
10 GREENWALD: Do you want me to go
11 first and jump in?

12 COMMISSIONER MERENDA:
13 We spoke some time ago, Councilman.
14 I got involved --

15 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
16 RICHARDSON: State your name for
17 the record.

18 COMMISSIONER MERENDA:
19 Oh, excuse me. Basil Merenda,
20 Commissioner of L&I, Inspections,
21 Safety, and Compliance. Excuse me.
22 Councilmember, some time ago after
23 we chatted I got involved in this
24 legislation and I can report that,

1 effective June 15th landlords will
2 be required to submit agent
3 information, including the name,
4 address, phone number and email
5 address directly into eCLIPSE as
6 part of the rental license process.
7 If the landlord does not enter that
8 information, a rental license won't
9 be issued.

10 For context, previously
11 that information was provided to
12 L&I as an upload, which would not
13 lend itself to verifiable
14 information. Now, because it's a
15 required field in eCLIPSE, we can
16 verify through OPA and Revenue
17 whether the agent's address is a
18 legitimate Philadelphia address.
19 And if it's not a legitimate
20 Philadelphia address, for example,
21 the license application will not be
22 advanced at all and it will not be
23 issued as part of the application
24 process right off the bat. So

1 that's the front end.

2 Now, the back end is for
3 the other enforcement. I can turn
4 that over to Bridget.

5 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

6 Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER COLLINS-

8 GREENWALD: Sure. So as part of
9 our proactive rental inspection
10 program, this is a big piece of
11 that, that administrative -- I did
12 mention at the last hearing, the
13 administrative piece. To Basil's
14 point, if you're going to put in an
15 application for a rental license or
16 renewal, you're going to get
17 flagged if you do not put in this
18 agency information. We can run
19 reports off of that, and that will
20 be one of the parts of the criteria
21 for this PRIP program. So we'll be
22 checking owner information, we'd be
23 checking agent information if you
24 live outside the city, along with

1 the other things obviously that
2 we'll be inspecting for. So it
3 will be caught in that, you know
4 what I mean -- it'll be caught up
5 in that process.

6 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
7 The Water Department. I did ask
8 another question, but we'll have to
9 get that on --

10 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

11 RICHARDSON: Quickly for Water.

12 COMMISSIONER JEWELL:
13 Thank you. Good afternoon, and
14 thank you for the questions. Ben
15 Jewell, Commissioner for the
16 Philadelphia Water Department. So
17 I believe the first question was
18 structural changes to improve
19 customer service. So we are
20 currently working through some
21 review of our customer call center
22 and staffing as it relates to both
23 our call center, that is a shared
24 responsibility of the Water

1 Department and Water Revenue Bureau
2 as well as our afterhours call
3 center staffing through our
4 emergency support services.

5 I've had a few
6 conversations, Councilmember
7 Gilmore Richardson last year, and
8 her staff brought to my attention
9 some issues with our call center's
10 responsiveness, particularly during
11 the evening hours. Over the
12 winter, we instituted a software
13 tracking program to allow us to
14 collect additional data for the
15 folks that are working in our
16 emergency support services. We're
17 going to be reviewing that data,
18 along with our call center data,
19 and we've already started
20 conversations about expanding
21 hours, adding a second shift and
22 seasonal search staffing, much like
23 we do on the operations side, but
24 on the customer contact, that

1 leading edge, that first touchpoint
2 we get with our customers to be
3 available to take a call which is
4 the most basic form of service, and
5 then able to route those calls
6 efficiently.

7 The second question
8 was --

9 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
10 Disruptions --

11 COMMISSIONER JEWELL: --
12 before I get to the second
13 question, I just want to add one
14 other thing, because, Councilmember
15 Phillips, I think you were part of
16 this process that we initiated with
17 Better Services PHL. So we're also
18 in the process of working with the
19 Better Services group to map out
20 some of our customer touchpoints in
21 the field, both for planned and
22 unplanned disruptions related to
23 your second question. And that
24 will include a review of all

1 communications and an effort to
2 identify places that we can step
3 forward, and we've discussed some
4 of those with your office in our
5 meetings and we're looking forward
6 to continuing those dialogues.

7 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

8 Thank you. I want to thank you for
9 our now new relationship of
10 communication. And I also want to
11 thank Commissioner Basil and also
12 Commissioner, Jesus -- not
13 Commissioner Jesus, Bridget,
14 Bridget Greenwald, Commissioner
15 Bridget Greenwald.

16 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

17 RICHARDSON: We're going to pray
18 for you.

19 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

20 This position has my head all over
21 the place now.

22 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

23 RICHARDSON: We're going to pray
24 for Dr. Phillips. Thank you so

1 much, Dr. Phillips. Commissioner
2 Greenwald received a little
3 upgrade. Thank you. And thank you
4 to our Commissioner, Commissioner
5 Jewell from the Water Department
6 for that process improvement
7 relative to customer service with
8 the Philadelphia Water Department.

9 I did share with you
10 that we were grateful and thankful
11 for Michelle for being out with us
12 last week in South Philadelphia at
13 one of our senior centers, sharing
14 information from the Water
15 Department, and also Ms. Renee as
16 well. But we're thankful for their
17 continued work in partnership and
18 for you always answering the call,
19 but most particularly for that
20 customer service process
21 improvement that has taken place
22 within your department. Thank you
23 very much.

24 The Chair now recognizes

1 Councilmember Landau.

2 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

3 Thank you. Thank you, everybody.

4 I want to announce my topics

5 because you're going to do a little

6 shuffle. I have a BIRT question

7 and a Wellness Court question. I

8 apologize that I couldn't be here

9 this morning. I tried to listen to

10 as much as I possibly could via my

11 phone, so I believe these questions

12 have not been asked yet.

13 I'll start with BIRT.

14 First, to Director Dubow. When we

15 first talked about rescinding the

16 exemption on the BIRT tax that

17 assisted small businesses, I

18 believe I asked you here on the

19 record, and we are looking for this

20 exact question and answer, how much

21 you believed it would affect small

22 businesses and you said, on average

23 you thought it was approximately

24 \$750 per business. We've now heard

1 from the businesses and they are
2 being hit with 1500, 1800, over
3 \$2,000 bills and it's debilitating
4 for them.

5 I know that our
6 colleague Mike Driscoll has
7 introduced legislation that could
8 ultimately help these small
9 businesses and I am fully in
10 support of that and really hope it
11 gets to a hearing soon. But I
12 wanted to know whether the reality
13 of what you're hearing now is
14 worse, harder and different than
15 what you originally thought going
16 in?

17 MR. DUBOW: Yeah. I do
18 want to start by saying, and I know
19 I said this but I feel that each
20 day every time, this is not
21 something we wanted to do. We felt
22 that we had no choice. I think the
23 reality is there are a variety of
24 impacts depending on companies'

1 receipts and on their income. And
2 so, what they'll pay wind up
3 depending on kind of number of
4 factors.

5 We knew that there were
6 going to be impacts, which is why
7 we set up programs to try to help
8 companies, both grant programs, new
9 ones and expanding old ones and
10 giving tax preparation help, and
11 also treating businesses that
12 hadn't paid for a few years like
13 they're new businesses so that they
14 could stage their payments, but we
15 knew there would be impacts. We
16 didn't want to do it. We tried to
17 do as much as we could to
18 ameliorate that.

19 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:
20 Are the impacts that were being
21 reported to the city worse than
22 what was anticipated?

23 MR. DUBOW: So I think
24 for some companies they're less

1 than we anticipated. Some
2 companies they're worse.

3 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

4 Again, just so you know, hearing
5 from small businesses, some of whom
6 say they don't want to do it, but
7 they might have to leave the city
8 of Philadelphia. And I don't know
9 if we calculated that cost into the
10 cost of just taking a chance and
11 seeing what the courts would
12 ultimately say. I look forward to
13 moving forward on Colleague
14 Driscoll's bill and seeing if we
15 can find a fix.

16 MR. DUBOW: And in the
17 worst case, that cost could have
18 been hundreds of millions of
19 dollars, so we really did not think
20 that was a risk worth taking. But
21 I understand your question.

22 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

23 Thank you. Then for Managing
24 Director Thiel, I have a couple of

1 quickies for the Wellness Court.
2 If you didn't review them already
3 this morning or even if you did,
4 sorry, looking for somebody with
5 some more specific outcomes from
6 the Wellness Court, whether or not
7 people have found permanent
8 housing, if they've been placed,
9 whether they've gotten full-time
10 employment and also some of the
11 negative outcomes that have
12 happened from stories that we've
13 heard on the inside? Have there
14 been overdoses on the inside and
15 have there been any deaths?

16 MR. THIEL:
17 Councilmember, Adam Thiel, Managing
18 Director. Appreciate the
19 questions. The Wellness Court is
20 within the Office of Public Safety,
21 which is not within the MDO. Have
22 texted Director Geer and I think we
23 got all those questions. Our
24 colleagues from Finance got all

1 those questions and we can have
2 them respond to those in writing.

3 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

4 You can't answer the question if
5 there's been any overdoses or even
6 sadly, tragically any --

7 MR. THIEL: No, ma'am.

8 OPS is a separate entity and is not
9 managed in the MDO, so I don't have
10 visibility on that or have the
11 data. However, we've alerted the
12 Office of Public Safety and
13 Director Geer, and I know they'll
14 be able to respond to those
15 questions.

16 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

17 Okay. Thank you.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

19 RICHARDSON: Pardon me, one moment.

20 If possible, will we be able to
21 receive that answer during this
22 hearing? This is our last callback
23 which is why we're requesting it.

24 MR. THIEL: Madam Chair,

1 I have done what I can do. My
2 expectation is probably that
3 they're watching and hopefully we
4 can do that. It's not within my
5 purview.

6 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

7 RICHARDSON: Sure. It's the last
8 callback. And so, if we're able to
9 receive a response from the Office
10 of Public Safety. Is someone here
11 from the Mayor's Office who can
12 contact the Office of Public
13 Safety?

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
15 Yes.

16 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

17 RICHARDSON: Okay. Great. Thank
18 you. Thank you very, very much.
19 It is our last callback so I think
20 we need to get it all in today.
21 Thanks a lot. It's greatly
22 appreciated.

23 The Chair now recognizes
24 Councilmember Harrity.

1 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

2 Thank you, Leader. My questions
3 are for -- well, in regards to the
4 taxes, regarding the retail tax,
5 retail delivery tax. DoorDash
6 cites Colorado experience with a
7 similar delivery tax, 12.2 million
8 in lost small business sales, 17.1
9 million in total economic loss and
10 367 jobs eliminated. Has the
11 Administration modeled similar
12 impacts for Philadelphia before
13 projecting revenue from this tax?

14 And according to
15 DoorDash, in 2025 approximately 70%
16 of deliveries DoorDash facilitated
17 in Philadelphia were to customers
18 residing in low-income communities,
19 as defined by the American
20 Community Survey. What do you say
21 to these customers who will
22 disproportionately be affected by
23 this tax?

24 MR. DUBOW: So to answer

1 your second question first, because
2 that's the one I remember, when we
3 look at the national survey data,
4 what we see is the number of orders
5 goes up with income, so that it
6 would not -- the tax would not
7 disproportionately affect lower-
8 income payers, but higher-income
9 payers who order many more, many
10 more packages and we can get that
11 information to you.

12 We also have exempted a
13 number of items to try to make sure
14 that things like baby products,
15 medicine, food are not subject to
16 the tax, to make sure that those
17 items don't have an extra cost.

18 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: So
19 you're saying that while everyone
20 else is saying that Philadelphia is
21 an outlier. And just like the Uber
22 and Lyft, 58% of that comes to and
23 from low-income neighborhoods. And
24 now, you're saying for DoorDash

1 even though the numbers say that
2 70% of the orders or the deliveries
3 are coming to low-income areas,
4 they're not going to low-income
5 areas?

6 MR. DUBOW: That is
7 not -- like I said, we'll share the
8 survey data we have with you. But
9 the survey data that we have shows
10 that as income goes up, orders go
11 up. And we can definitely get you
12 that.

13 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:
14 Where did your data come from?

15 MR. DUBOW: National
16 Household Survey.

17 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:
18 National Household Survey. Okay.
19 And so, how about the first part of
20 the question with the loss of sales
21 and the economic losses, especially
22 the 367 jobs that Colorado
23 experienced?

24 MR. DUBOW: Yeah. We'd

1 like to see that analysis. We
2 haven't seen that analysis. When
3 we had meetings with delivery
4 companies, we asked them for any
5 data. So if they have that, it
6 would be great to see.

7 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: So
8 they didn't send it to you?

9 MR. DUBOW: They have
10 not.

11 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:
12 They sent it to all of us so
13 that's, you know. All right. I
14 guess I'm good. I heard the bell.
15 I'll stay with that.

16 All right. Thank you,
17 Leader.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
19 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
20 very much, Member Harrity.

21 The Chair now recognizes
22 Councilmember Gauthier.

23 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
24 Thank you, Madam Chair.

1 Good afternoon to all of
2 you. My questions are for L&I.

3 MR. DUBOW: I'm not
4 hurt.

5 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

6 In the course of our day-to-day
7 work, my office has stepped in many
8 times to walk small prospective
9 developers and landlords through
10 the eCLIPSE process, because they
11 usually report being dismissed when
12 they try to show up in person for
13 help at MSB and because the system
14 itself is not very accessible for
15 someone entering development for
16 the very first time.

17 Your FY27 budget
18 includes funding for enhanced
19 eCLIPSE reporting, and ISC's goals
20 in particular mention a residential
21 permitting modernization project.
22 But neither of these addresses the
23 frontline customer service problem
24 for people kind of just getting

1 into development and their
2 interactions with eCLIPSE.

3 And so, will the
4 department commit to retraining
5 staff specifically on how to assist
6 first-time users through eCLIPSE in
7 person? And will you commit to
8 hosting a usability session or a
9 focus group with small developers,
10 first-time landlords and residents
11 before the modernization project is
12 finalized? We would love to
13 participate in something like this
14 because we see a great need for it.

15 COMMISSIONER MERENDA:

16 Sure. We -- I almost forgot again.
17 Basil Merenda, Commissioner of L&I,
18 Inspections, Safety and Compliance.
19 Absolutely, Councilmember. We can
20 certainly work with you to set
21 those educational processes up.
22 It's all part of Mayor Parker's
23 making city government you could
24 see, touch and feel. So that is

1 exactly what we were more willing
2 to do.

3 In the meantime, we have
4 this chat feature that could help
5 new landlords or landlords that are
6 not computer savvy to work through
7 that and get direct information.
8 Also, we have Lisa Adams who's our
9 City Council liaison, who is very
10 accessible --

11 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
12 She's amazing.

13 COMMISSIONER MERENDA: --
14 and then if all else fails, you can
15 contact me.

16 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
17 Okay. Thank you for your
18 willingness. And so, do you have
19 the resources in your budget to do
20 more inperson assistance and to set
21 up these types of trainings as more
22 than a one-time thing as kind of an
23 offering for folks who are trying
24 to interface with this system on a

1 regular basis?

2 COMMISSIONER MERENDA: I
3 would just ask that you could give
4 us a little time to do a little
5 digging to see exactly what we have
6 and what we can do. I'd appreciate
7 that.

8 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
9 Okay. We would love to follow up
10 with you about this and to
11 participate.

12 COMMISSIONER MERENDA:
13 Sure.

14 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
15 My next questions are about
16 inspections and violation tracking.
17 When a violation is issued, the
18 property owner gets 30 days to
19 correct it. After that, my office
20 and constituents really have no way
21 of knowing whether a follow-up
22 inspection has occurred, whether
23 fines have escalated or where the
24 case stands, unless we call.

1 So the question is, is
2 there a way to add an update to the
3 initial violation notice showing
4 the most recent inspection date,
5 the current compliance status and
6 any updated deadlines or fine
7 amounts? And what would it take to
8 build that into Atlas? And is that
9 something that the department would
10 commit to exploring? So this is
11 just about helping us to be more
12 up-to-date about violations as
13 we're trying to help our residents
14 with quality-of-life concerns.

15 COMMISSIONER MERENDA:

16 Is that in the context of a
17 property maintenance issue
18 whereabouts a violations issue
19 because the property is not being
20 maintained as opposed to
21 construction? Then it's --

22 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

23 I mean maybe -- I think we're
24 mostly talking about the former but

1 maybe globally.

2 COMMISSIONER COLLINS-

3 GREENWALD: You want to know
4 violations, how people can see
5 updates, right --

6 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

7 Yes.

8 COMMISSIONER COLLINS-

9 GREENWALD: -- where it stands? So
10 in our Atlas system, as you said,
11 when you go out on an initial
12 inspection, it'll show up in the
13 system and then you can pull the
14 actual violations up. Now, you're
15 probably familiar with that, right.
16 The actual violations come up now,
17 so the updated violations come up
18 now as well. So you do have to go
19 into Atlas to see it, but it is
20 seeable.

21 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

22 I have to profess that I am not the
23 one generally checking Atlas, so
24 this comes from my staff. I would

1 love to follow up with you just
2 about what they're seeing on their
3 side and getting and making sure
4 that we have the most up-to-date
5 information in a way that will help
6 us to better inform our
7 constituents.

8 COMMISSIONER COLLINS-

9 GREENWALD: Sure. Atlas is a great
10 tool. It really is. It has
11 excellent information, very up-to-
12 date. It's processed right there,
13 so you definitely will see the
14 latest violations, what they are
15 and that actually you can see the
16 violation notices itself with all
17 the dates on them.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

19 Okay. Look forward to talking
20 more. Thank you so much.

21 Thank you, Madam Chair.

22 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

23 RICHARDSON: Thank you very much,
24 Councilmember Gaudier.

1 And I wanted to concur
2 relative to Lisa Adams. She has
3 been stellar, has gone above and
4 beyond the call of duty, including
5 calling constituents while she has
6 been on vacation, on the weekends,
7 which I do not recommend. She has
8 been awesome and amazing. So thank
9 you, Lisa Adams, for working with
10 Beth on my team on the variety of
11 constituent cases that we receive
12 in our office.

13 And I wanted to mention
14 relative to Atlas I was just on
15 Atlas this morning around 6
16 o'clock. And what I do like the
17 new feature wherein you could see
18 some of the 311 complaints that
19 have come in, in that area, so it's
20 not just particular violations on
21 that home, but also some of the 311
22 calls that we receive in that local
23 community. I do like that new
24 feature on Atlas. So please follow

1 up with Councilmember Gauthier's
2 office and her team.

3 I wanted to quickly go
4 back to the Managing Director's
5 Office relative to the question
6 around the warehouse. And I did
7 receive this question when I was
8 out in the community relative to
9 the tax bills. Will nonprofits --
10 and I'll use a church as an
11 example -- that lease out roof
12 space to cell phone or cell
13 providers now have to collect and
14 remit U&O tax? And then if you all
15 could just explain how the cell
16 towers will be assessed?

17 MR. THIEL: Madam Chair,
18 Adam Thiel, Managing Director.
19 I'll take the first question. And
20 again, just to reiterate we
21 apologize. We missed that in our
22 tracking. You did ask that well
23 before this hearing, so thank you
24 for that. And this is around the

1 million dollar cost, that
2 essentially is a contingency for
3 2026 operations, especially the
4 peak period.

5 We could potentially
6 have need for additional space
7 that's not available. For
8 instance, if we did -- and I'll
9 knock wood here, if we did have
10 something happen, if we were to
11 have to stand up a joint operations
12 center or joint information center
13 with a host of partners, those end
14 up being huge operations as well as
15 for the -- so it's characterized as
16 warehousing space. It's
17 essentially space where we can set
18 up whatever we need and it is a
19 contingency or if we do have to
20 bring in commodities on short
21 notice because we overperform our
22 already high expectations for the
23 company that's coming during that
24 period of time, so it's a

1 contingency. What we will
2 absolutely commit to is if we don't
3 need it and we don't use it, then
4 we will let you know that.

5 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

6 RICHARDSON: Okay. I appreciate
7 that response. I think we'll need
8 to follow up on that because I was
9 trying to look through the detail,
10 the budget detail, to track the 1
11 million. And I'm not sure whether
12 it's related to DPP, other
13 contracting that's already shown in
14 the detail under DPP that's around
15 almost 800,000 or so. With that
16 said, it was relative to Riverview.
17 So I'm not sure if this is just an
18 extra contract or in addition to
19 that or does that mirror or match
20 in some kind of way?

21 MR. THIEL: It's
22 contingency space. It could be for
23 a lot of different things. The
24 main reason is potentially around

1 2026.

2 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

3 RICHARDSON: Okay. I'll make
4 sure --

5 MR. THIEL: Readiness
6 for 2026.

7 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

8 RICHARDSON: -- I follow up with
9 the detail that I'm specifically
10 referring to so that we can ensure
11 we're on the same page. And then
12 the question relative to U&O.

13 COMMISSIONER MCCOLGAN:
14 Good afternoon. Kathleen McColgan,
15 Revenue Commissioner. I appreciate
16 the question. Councilmember
17 Phillips asked -- I'm sorry.
18 Councilmember Driscoll asked a
19 similar question earlier and
20 there's something that I wanted to
21 clarify in my response. So what I
22 said was that nonprofits would be
23 responsible, but actually the owner
24 of a property is responsible for

1 making sure that the use and
2 occupancy from the tenant is
3 collected and remitted.

4 So, for example, there's
5 a telecommunication agency that's
6 renting or leasing the space with
7 the cell tower. They are actually
8 the one that's charged for --

9 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

10 RICHARDSON: Okay.

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

12 McCALL: -- use and occupancy, so
13 it's the property owner's
14 responsibility, whether it's a
15 nonprofit or not, to make sure that
16 they're remitting either on the
17 tenant's behalf or that they set up
18 an account on behalf of the tenant
19 so that we can hold the tenant
20 responsible.

21 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

22 RICHARDSON: So as an example, if
23 I'm said church, we lease space to
24 this communication agency, we would

1 then have to set up a separate
2 account for them to remit the tax
3 in order for it to be collected?

4 COMMISSIONER McCOLGAN:

5 Yes. So the typical model would be
6 that the church would have a Use &
7 Occupancy Tax account in which they
8 remit the tax on behalf of the
9 tenant, but alternatively they can
10 have a tenant account set up for
11 the telecommunications company.

12 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

13 RICHARDSON: Okay.

14 COMMISSIONER McCOLGAN:

15 And then we would hold the
16 telecommunication company
17 responsible.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

19 RICHARDSON: Received. So they can
20 also set up a tenant account
21 wherein they have to do it directly
22 with the city?

23 COMMISSIONER McCOLGAN:

24 That's right, yes.

1 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

2 RICHARDSON: And then how will they
3 be assessed?

4 COMMISSIONER McCOLGAN:

5 So right now when we receive the
6 assessed value of a cell tower
7 right now in the complete property
8 assessed value from OPA, but we
9 would work with OPA to ensure that
10 we get the value of the cell tower
11 broken out as a separate line item
12 so that we can tax that based on
13 the actual assessed value of that
14 cell tower, rather than square
15 footage of the entire property.

16 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

17 RICHARDSON: Received, because it
18 could be a larger location as an
19 example. All right. I will submit
20 the balance of my questions in
21 writing. So thank you. Thank you
22 very much. I do want to get this
23 one on the record. We were in
24 South Philadelphia, I mentioned,

1 relative to the Water Department
2 and I had a constituent come up to
3 me, a senior from South Philly, who
4 stated that she is receiving her
5 monthly payment coupons for
6 property tax three days prior to
7 the bill being due. So she's on a
8 monthly payment plan for her
9 property taxes.

10 She received the coupon
11 three days before each month. So
12 at the point that she remits the
13 payment, it's always late and there
14 was a lien placed on her property
15 as a result. She pays every month.
16 She said it was \$220. She pays
17 every month. But because of the
18 timing of when she receives the
19 coupon, she's not able to remit
20 until that time. And so, now she
21 has accumulated late fees and she
22 said at one point a lien. So I
23 wanted to put that on the record,
24 not for response because I did send

1 her case directly to your team who
2 was already on site, but it's an
3 issue that my Constituent Services
4 Director has said has come up
5 multiple times throughout this
6 particular year. So I don't know
7 if it's been a change in vendor or
8 if the process has changed with the
9 monthly coupons being mailed out or
10 if it's just a mail issue, but I
11 think that's something that we need
12 to look into because she was a
13 senior. She said, I can't come
14 downtown but I really need help
15 with this issue.

16 COMMISSIONER MCCOLGAN:

17 Yeah, I appreciate you bringing
18 that to our attention. We are
19 investigating that. There hasn't
20 been a change in vendor, but that
21 was the first that I had heard that
22 complaint. And of course, we want
23 to make sure that we get those
24 coupons out timely. So we're in

1 the middle of investigating that.

2 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

3 RICHARDSON: Okay. That'll be
4 great. Thank you. Thank you very
5 much.

6 Are there any additional
7 questions for these witnesses or
8 for the departmental callbacks?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

11 RICHARDSON: Okay. And then is our
12 Public Safety Director, Director
13 Geer, able to join us?

14 MR. THIEL: Madam Chair,
15 he's here.

16 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

17 RICHARDSON: Excellent.

18 MR. THIEL: We can get
19 him in. He's out in the hallway.

20 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

21 RICHARDSON: Okay. He'll be our
22 last witness for the departmental
23 callbacks. And then, colleagues,
24 you all can get into the queue for

1 Community College of Philadelphia.

2 I'll recognize

3 Councilmember Landau first for

4 questions for Director Geer, and

5 then you all can get into the queue

6 for CCP. Thank you. And as a

7 reminder, we do have a town hall

8 this evening.

9 (Witnesses approached
10 witness table.)

11 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

12 RICHARDSON: Thank you so much,

13 Director Geer. We certainly

14 appreciate your availability for

15 this departmental callback hearing.

16 Councilmember Landau had

17 a question for your team. And so,

18 again we thank you for your

19 availability and for coming over

20 today. We certainly appreciate you

21 very much.

22 Chair now recognizes

23 Councilmember Landau.

24 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

1 Yes. Thank you, Director Geer. I
2 know you didn't expect to be here.
3 Appreciate you so very much. I had
4 asked Managing Director Thiel a
5 little bit more about the Riverview
6 Wellness Village and I wanted to
7 know more about the outcomes of the
8 residents there, whether or not we
9 can quantify how many people have
10 been moved into permanent housing,
11 how many people have received full-
12 time employment and also, some of
13 the negative outcomes like
14 unfortunately, how many overdoses
15 have occurred inside the Village
16 and also whether or not there's
17 been, very sadly, any deaths there?

18 MR. GEER: Thank you,
19 Councilmember Majority Leader.
20 Good afternoon. Good afternoon,
21 esteemed Councilmembers. I was
22 able to bring the numbers that we
23 have. Some of this we have shared
24 before and I'm hoping that this

1 will suffice for today. If not, we
2 will certainly circle back with
3 those numbers.

4 MR. THIEL: Madam Chair,
5 Councilmember Adam Thiel, Managing
6 Director. Councilmember, I
7 apologize. When we heard your
8 question the first time, it was
9 around the Wellness Court and that
10 is Office of Public Safety. Now
11 that you've asked the questions, it
12 was about Riverview. Riverview and
13 the Wellness Court are not the
14 same. And so, I want to --

15 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:
16 Apologize if I misspoke.

17 MR. THIEL: -- apologize
18 to you and colleagues for that.
19 The good news is we have all the
20 right people here to answer any
21 questions you might have about that
22 continuum of care. And I'm going
23 to give up my seat for Deputy
24 Managing Director Crystal Yates-

1 Gale and let Director Geer --

2 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

3 Managing Director Thiel, I
4 appreciate that. I've been working
5 a lot with other things with the
6 courts and I may have accidentally
7 said court instead of village.
8 Apologies.

9 MR. GEER: May I step
10 back momentarily and I'll be on
11 standby?

12 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

13 RICHARDSON: Sure.

14 MR. GEER: Thank you.

15 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

16 RICHARDSON: Thank you very much.

17 MS. YATES-GALE: Good
18 afternoon, Councilmember. Crystal
19 Yates-Gale, Deputy Managing
20 Director of Health and Human
21 Services. So the good news is
22 nobody has died of an overdose at
23 Riverview Wellness Village.
24 Unfortunately, we did have a death,

1 not overdose-related. You know
2 from doing work in the population
3 that it's a fragile population. So
4 we did have a death. It was
5 cardiac-related from a previous
6 cardiac history.

7 As far as the number of
8 overdoses, the number of overdoses
9 that have been reported to me are,
10 you know, I'm always trying to be
11 mindful of people's privacy, but
12 they are less than 11 in the time
13 that we've been open there and
14 they've all been successfully
15 reversed.

16 The number of people
17 with employment, we don't track
18 some of the employment that people
19 get on their own, but proud and
20 happy to report -- I hope Director
21 Isabel McDevitt is watching -- the
22 food service provider onsite has
23 hired 10 people full-time. Some of
24 those people have started to be

1 connected to permanent housing and
2 will maintain their employment when
3 they move.

4 We've also connected
5 people to other employment and then
6 some of the residents have gotten
7 employment on their own. I forgot
8 the last question.

9 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:
10 Housing.

11 MS. YATES-GALE:
12 Permanent housing. I don't have
13 the exact number, but we have used
14 a significant number of our
15 wellness vouchers, not as many as
16 we'd like to. I don't want to
17 guess, but we have been issuing
18 wellness vouchers to residents
19 there, so there has been people
20 that have gone through the whole
21 continuum.

22 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:
23 Great. Can you get us some more
24 concrete numbers? I appreciate so

1 much the work that you've done --

2 MS. YATES-GALE: Sure.

3 It would be easier to give
4 privately and we'll send it in an
5 email to Council President's
6 office.

7 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

8 Thank you. And thank you, Director
9 Geer.

10 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

11 RICHARDSON: Thank you. So do we
12 need Director Geer, Councilmember
13 Landau?

14 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

15 I'm good. Thank you.

16 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

17 RICHARDSON: Are you good?

18 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

19 Yes. Thank you.

20 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

21 RICHARDSON: Okay. Well, thank
22 you, Director Geer. Thank you so
23 much. Appreciate that.

24 Are there any additional

1 questions for this departmental
2 callback?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

5 RICHARDSON: Okay. Seeing none, we
6 will now proceed with our
7 presentation from the Community
8 College of Philadelphia. We'd like
9 to welcome Dr. Alycia Marshall, our
10 President, and also Jacob Eapin,
11 Vice President for Business and
12 Finance. And as they are
13 approaching the witness table, we'd
14 like to thank again Dr. Alycia
15 Marshall, Danielle Watkins, your
16 Chief of Staff; Erica Harrison,
17 thank you, Erica Harrison from
18 Community Relations for all of your
19 help in coordinating all of our
20 events. And then also to Malika
21 Rahman, CCP Criminal Justice
22 Department, for coordinating
23 interns specifically in my office.

24 And I wanted to mention

1 Rainah Chambliss, who works at CCP.
2 She shared with us this week in a
3 very special moment from the CCP
4 graduation, and also all of the
5 union members who are here from
6 Community College of Philadelphia.
7 I see Marissa and others. We thank
8 you and we appreciate you all for
9 being here as well.

10 So please state your
11 name for the record and proceed
12 with your testimony.

13 DR. MARSHALL: Good
14 afternoon, everyone. My name is
15 Dr. Alycia Marshall. I am the
16 President at the Community College
17 of Philadelphia. I'm joined here
18 today by our Associate Vice-
19 President for Budgets and Business
20 Services, Derrick Sawyer. First of
21 all, I want to say thank you to the
22 entire City Council for your
23 support, your investment in the
24 city's college, and many of you

1 have been to our locations and have
2 supported our events and express
3 support for us and our students and
4 our programming. So I want to
5 start off by saying sincerely,
6 thank you to all of you.

7 What I'm about to share
8 are some of the highlights and
9 success stories of what's been
10 happening in realtime at the city's
11 college. And I want to underscore
12 that all of those successes, most
13 of them are a testament to your
14 support and your investment in our
15 college. The first picture here I
16 want to point out is Donvale
17 Wilson. He is a valedictorian and
18 the graduate of our inaugural naval
19 welding program at our Career and
20 Advanced Technology Center in West
21 Philadelphia.

22 And I want to sincerely
23 thank Councilmember Katherine
24 Gilmore Richardson for being there

1 and speaking at that event. It was
2 a wonderful event, but this is an
3 example of success. Donvale was a
4 career changer, he was a barber,
5 and in four and a half months he
6 graduated from our naval welding
7 program and is actually working at
8 Hanwha now.

9 So we want to talk about
10 how the Community College of
11 Philadelphia is really an economic
12 engine of mobility and creates
13 pathways for success and upward
14 mobility in the city.

15 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
16 RICHARDSON: And his speech was
17 fantastic, by the way.

18 DR. MARSHALL: Yes.
19 Just to give you a glance at our
20 institution, particularly at this
21 moment in time as we celebrate 60
22 years this year at the Community
23 College of Philadelphia, 60 years
24 of transforming lives of almost

1 800,000 students, I want to
2 quantify that for you. We are the
3 highest-enrolled community college
4 in the Commonwealth, out of all 15
5 community colleges.

6 We service 21,000
7 students, credit and noncredit.
8 About 18,000 of those students are
9 in our credit programs. We have
10 almost 4000 students in our
11 noncredit programs and we really
12 are representing the entire city.
13 We are a minority-serving
14 institutions. 67% of our students
15 identify as being a student of
16 color or minority student. And we
17 also have 1700 students, closer to
18 2000 depending on the year,
19 partaking in dual enrollment
20 opportunities, so about 10% of our
21 credit population.

22 And our dual enrollment
23 students, those are students who
24 are in high school and at the same

1 time taking college courses with
2 us. I want to underscore since
3 we're coming off of graduation,
4 last Saturday we were pleased to
5 graduate 1968 students at our
6 graduation.

7 (Applause.)

8 DR. MARSHALL: And 122
9 of those students actually were
10 also in high school, so they are
11 receiving their Associate's Degree
12 before they get their high school
13 diploma. So, yes, that speaks to
14 impact and really exposing students
15 to college early on.

16 I have to share and brag
17 on my institution and my faculty
18 and staff. This year we were
19 pleased to be nationally recognized
20 in many ways and I'll mention a few
21 of those. In February, we became
22 the only community college in
23 Pennsylvania to receive the 2026
24 Community Engagement Classification

1 from the American Council on
2 Education and the Carnegie
3 Foundation for the Advancement of
4 Teaching. This prestigious
5 classification recognizes colleges
6 and universities that demonstrate
7 institutionalized, reciprocal and
8 measurable community engagement,
9 which is the standard that CCP has
10 met through decades of intentional
11 partnership-driven work.

12 We also received the
13 '25-'26 Military Friendly School
14 Silver designation from Victory,
15 celebrating our holistic support of
16 our veteran students through our
17 Veterans Resource Center. And last
18 May, we celebrated not one, but two
19 Jack Kent Cooke scholars from our
20 graduating class. The Jack Kent
21 Cooke Scholarship is a very
22 prestigious scholarship awarded for
23 students that are high-achieving,
24 and it allows them the opportunity

1 to receive \$55,000 annually for up
2 to three years towards pursuit of
3 their Bachelor's Degree. This year
4 we have five semifinalists. We're
5 still waiting to hear, but we hope
6 that we will have a scholar for
7 this year as well, maybe two.

8 Lastly, I want to
9 highlight our civic engagement work
10 as well. We did receive a voter-
11 friendly campus designation through
12 a partnership between Fair Election
13 Center's Campus Vote Project and
14 NASA's Lead Initiative. And in
15 2026, All In Action Plan seal from
16 the All In Campus Democracy
17 Challenge for developing a
18 nonpartisan democratic engagement
19 action plan under our #CCPVotes
20 programming.

21 Before I move on to the
22 next slide, I just want to thank
23 the entire faculty and staff
24 because without them, all of these

1 awards and recognition is really
2 part of their efforts. I want to
3 thank them for that. I want to
4 talk a little bit about CCP as an
5 engine of economic mobility.

6 A few months ago, we
7 worked with eConsult to create an
8 economic impact report. As a
9 result of that report, we found
10 that the Community College of
11 Philadelphia is generating
12 \$1 billion worth of annual economic
13 activity in the city, not just in
14 the city, but in the Commonwealth.
15 \$882 million of that are actually
16 in the City of Philadelphia and
17 Philadelphia's economy.

18 This includes \$30
19 million of local and state tax
20 revenues. I also want to
21 underscore something that you all
22 probably know. 98% of our students
23 who graduate from the Community
24 College of Philadelphia remain here

1 in the city of Philadelphia. So in
2 addition to our economic activity
3 that we're generating just by being
4 here, just by operating. We also
5 have graduates that are spending
6 and staying here and that
7 contributes to the city's economy
8 as well.

9 I want to underscore our
10 footprint. We hire and we support
11 1600 employees. We have 327 full-
12 time faculty and 708 part-time,
13 along with 300 administrators and a
14 range of classified and support
15 staff.

16 Next slide. Economic
17 impact goes beyond just a spend,
18 just a footprint. I want to talk
19 about individual impact. For every
20 dollar that a student invests in
21 the Community College of
22 Philadelphia, they receive \$5.90
23 towards lifelong earnings, \$1 to
24 \$5.90 If you think about

1 taxpayers' input, they are
2 doubling. For every \$1 that a
3 taxpayer pays, they are receiving
4 \$2 on their investment when we talk
5 a little bit about return on
6 investment for the city's college.

7 Next slide. I think
8 that some of the efforts that we
9 move towards and that we're trying
10 to build on, expand, are our
11 transfer partnerships and pathways.
12 We have students that are working
13 towards Bachelor's Degree
14 attainment. And if you think about
15 economic mobility, I want to
16 underscore savings for starting
17 with the Community College of
18 Philadelphia.

19 So in addition to
20 increasing your earning potential,
21 as we know a Bachelor's Degree
22 recipient is going to make \$30,000
23 more annually than a high school
24 diploma. I'm looking here and

1 sharing with you what is the
2 benefit in terms of savings and how
3 much they're going to pay for that
4 Bachelor's Degree.

5 If a student starts with
6 us, for example, at Temple
7 University, which is one of our top
8 transfer institutions, they are
9 saving \$50,000 over the course of
10 earning that Bachelor's Degree.
11 Our second top transfer institution
12 is Drexel University, and we are
13 looking at a savings of \$142,000
14 over the journey towards that
15 Bachelor's Degree attainment.

16 Community College of
17 Philadelphia has transfer and
18 articulation agreements with all
19 these institutions that are listed
20 here. We are building and
21 expanding that and we're also
22 launching our Cheyney at CCP
23 program this fall. It is an
24 opportunity to bring access to

1 Bachelor's Degree attainment right
2 on CCP campus. We know that many
3 of our students have transportation
4 issues, so being able to actually
5 bring the classes towards the
6 Bachelor's Degree from Cheyney
7 University to the city of
8 Philadelphia is really going to be
9 a great opportunity for our
10 students, and we are launching that
11 pathway in the fall with business
12 and education as the two areas of
13 degree pathway.

14 Next slide. I mentioned
15 that CCP is the highest enrolled
16 community college in the
17 Commonwealth. So I wanted to
18 underscore that for you and show
19 you those bars are CCP in terms of
20 our credit enrollment. But you can
21 see there that we are surpassing
22 our sister colleges within the
23 Commonwealth. That is the orange
24 line underneath that. And then the

1 top line represents enrollment
2 nationally at community colleges.
3 So we are also inching towards
4 getting to that national average
5 for our enrollment as well.

6 This underscores the
7 fact that CCP is the first choice
8 for many in the city of
9 Philadelphia. So we're excited
10 about our growth and we are
11 anticipating continued growth.
12 Right now we are 5% up year-over-
13 year for our enrollment, and we
14 anticipate that growth to continue.
15 It's not just about bringing
16 students into the college. We are
17 increasing enrollment, but I want
18 to underscore that we are also
19 producing graduates, and our
20 graduation rate has gone up by 8%
21 since 2022 when I joined the
22 college. And part of this is based
23 on the support and the high-quality
24 teaching, innovative teaching and

1 the support services that we wrap
2 around our students that contribute
3 to increased graduation rates.

4 So it's not just about
5 bringing more students and giving
6 them access to education. It's
7 providing opportunities for
8 success, and that's indicated here.
9 We anticipate our graduation rates
10 to continue to climb. I want to
11 talk a little bit about our Career
12 and Advanced Technology Center.
13 Many of you have been there. It's
14 located in West Philadelphia. I
15 know Councilmember Gauthier has
16 been there. We thank you for your
17 support there.

18 This is really a state-
19 of-the-art building. If you
20 haven't seen it, 2022 was when we
21 opened that building. But this is
22 where we do a lot of our short-term
23 training programs, as I mentioned
24 the Naval Welding Program. But we

1 also have a very strong automotive
2 technology program. I want to
3 highlight the Toyota T-Ten program,
4 because that's an opportunity for
5 students to earn and learn, so
6 they're actually working in the
7 dealerships while they're earning
8 their Associate's Degree, and we
9 consider that an opportunity for
10 experiential learning and work-
11 based learning, which we're trying
12 to expand through our programs. We
13 want to prepare students for
14 careers, so that is what we're
15 trying to do.

16 I want to mention, as we
17 go to the next slide, the maritime
18 industry and how CCP is really
19 becoming a player in that space.
20 As I mentioned before, we were
21 fortunate to receive a \$2.7 million
22 investment from the U.S. Navy to
23 build out and start up two new
24 programs, naval welding and

1 nondestructive testing. We
2 graduated our first cohort, and you
3 saw the picture of Donvale on my
4 first slide, of 22 students in
5 March. We were pleased to have
6 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson
7 there as well as Mayor Parker.

8 And we cut the ribbon on
9 our new Naval Welding Lab that
10 really trains students to work on
11 ship building, right, specific to
12 Navy specification. That is at our
13 Career and Advanced Technology
14 Center. We're excited about that
15 opportunity. And I want to
16 underscore that we are continuing
17 to build and expand programs that
18 align with high-priority
19 occupations, such as naval welding.
20 We are also building on our
21 Industrial Maintenance Program, CNC
22 programs, NDT. All of this is
23 going to be part of preparing
24 students for not just jobs but

1 careers.

2 And I want to highlight
3 one piece, the nondestructive
4 testing program. Four and a half
5 months of training at this location
6 students graduate and they can
7 start earning \$77,000 a year. This
8 is truly lifechanging, not just
9 individuals, but families and the
10 community and City of Philadelphia.
11 So we're pleased to continue to
12 provide this type of high-quality
13 training.

14 I want to thank
15 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad for
16 being with us for the ribbon-
17 cutting ceremony for our Healthcare
18 Simulation Lab in February. This
19 is a state-of-the-art facility at
20 our main campus location, where we
21 were able to provide high-quality
22 facilities imitating the hospital
23 setting. We have state-of-the-art
24 real-life mannequins who have

1 bodily fluids, they are real-life
2 mannequins, but they allow the
3 opportunity for our students to
4 practice and learn in a simulated
5 setting, and they can do this on
6 almost humans, not real humans,
7 which I would prefer and I think
8 you do too. Great opportunity for
9 our students.

10 It was a result of a
11 Perkins grant, so we did receive
12 funding to build this out, a
13 federal-funded grant through the
14 state. And we are offering support
15 for our nursing program through
16 this, but we're also moving towards
17 interdisciplinary support
18 throughout our health care
19 programs.

20 I want to take a minute
21 to basically celebrate our 122
22 nursing graduates that graduated
23 with us this week as well.

24 (Applause.)

1 DR. MARSHALL: Last week
2 we had our pinning ceremony for
3 them. And I want to highlight that
4 our nursing program is identified
5 as a Center of Excellence by the
6 National League for Nursing. They
7 also have 100% pass rate on the
8 NCLEX exam, so we are very proud of
9 our nursing program. I want to
10 make sure that I share that nursing
11 is not the only health care program
12 we have.

13 We also have respiratory
14 care technology. It's similarly
15 best in class like our nursing
16 program. We have health service
17 management, public health,
18 diagnostic medical imaging,
19 behavioral health and human
20 services in addition to our
21 shorter-term noncredit pathways,
22 such as clinical medical assisting,
23 pharmacy technician and nurse aid.

24 What we are doing is

1 building noncredit to credit
2 pathways through a lot of this
3 programming so students can start
4 in one program. They can get work
5 and then they can transition to
6 another as well. I want to
7 underscore our partnership with the
8 city and providing programming to
9 support careers and to really
10 connect city residents with
11 increased living wages.

12 The City College for
13 Municipal Employment has had over
14 400 participants in that program to
15 date through our partnership with
16 the city. 80 have completed, those
17 that are in the traditional and
18 upskilling programs. We also have
19 a total of 200 completions with the
20 partnership through the City
21 College for Municipal Employment.
22 That includes our high school as
23 well as our civic entrepreneurship
24 programs.

1 We are pleased to
2 continue to build up programming in
3 response to city needs and regional
4 needs, and we are looking forward
5 to expanding and growing through
6 the City College for Municipal
7 Employment.

8 I mentioned our 122 dual
9 enrollment graduates this past
10 Saturday. 10% of our CCP student
11 population are dually-enrolled.
12 Part of our efforts moving forward
13 is to expand that. What we
14 recognize and acknowledge is that
15 we're not in all areas of the city
16 as we could be, and that there are
17 opportunities that we want to
18 connect young people to in terms of
19 early college and we want to be
20 strategic and do that in a way that
21 touches all areas of the city.

22 So working with the
23 School District of Philadelphia, we
24 are pleased to expand our dual

1 enrollment starting this summer.

2 We are expanding our ACE program.

3 Our ACE program allows students as

4 early as 9th grade to take

5 advantage of college classes on our

6 campus and be in a class all by

7 themselves, so we work with the

8 school district to identify which

9 schools will benefit from this on

10 the first pass and we're excited to

11 launch this, this summer.

12 I also need to mention

13 the Octavius Catto Scholarship

14 Program. Many of you are familiar

15 with that. Thank you for the

16 city's investment for the Catto

17 Scholars Program, last (inaudible)

18 scholarship. To date, the Catto

19 Scholarship Program has serviced

20 over 4000 low-income residents of

21 the city of Philadelphia.

22 We service 2000 students

23 annually through the Catto

24 Scholarship Program. And as you

1 may know, because of the additional
2 wraparound student support
3 services, our Catto students are
4 graduating at almost double the
5 rate of our traditional student
6 population. So that is thankful to
7 your investment from the city for
8 the Catto Scholarship Program,
9 which we want to continue to
10 emphasize and support.

11 All right. So the
12 Community College of Philadelphia
13 is also part of the solution. We
14 want to work to being part of the
15 solution to addressing the teacher
16 shortage. So I want to highlight a
17 few of our programs that are geared
18 towards this. With support and
19 working directly with the Mayor's
20 Office of Education, we are working
21 on the fellow Catto Teacher
22 Scholars program. That allows
23 Catto graduates to transfer
24 seamlessly through those

1 institutions that you see listed
2 there, Holy Family, LaSalle, Temple
3 and Arcadia, as long as they're
4 interested in pursuing a career in
5 education, so we want to create
6 that pathway.

7 As I mentioned, our
8 Catto graduates are always high-
9 achieving students, so this is a
10 wonderful pathway for them as well
11 as a way to get them interested in
12 education and teaching. I
13 mentioned the Cheyney at CCP.
14 We're looking to launch that with
15 30 participants in the fall. That
16 will also be an education pathway.
17 We are launching two pathways in
18 the fall, education and business,
19 but the education pathway will
20 obviously help prepare students.
21 They will go seamlessly to Cheyney
22 University and earn their
23 Bachelor's Degree and pursue
24 education and teaching as a career.

1 And then lastly, I'll
2 mention the para pathway. That is
3 a collaboration with the School
4 District of Philadelphia.
5 Paraprofessionals, we're training
6 them. They are completing their
7 Associate's Degree with us so they
8 can go on and possibly become a
9 teacher. We see this as a critical
10 need for the city as well as the
11 region, and we want to continue to
12 support teacher education.

13 So we're almost at the
14 end. So I just want to underscore
15 some of the points that I made.
16 The Community College of
17 Philadelphia is really an economic
18 engine of mobility for the city,
19 and we can't do that without your
20 support so we appreciate that. Also
21 wanted to just underscore the
22 importance and the impact that we
23 are making in realtime as we are
24 increasing our number of graduates,

1 our graduation rate as well as
2 expanding our programming to align
3 with regional and city workforce
4 needs.

5 And I want to just end
6 on how CCP has been impacting over
7 750,000 lives for over 60 years as
8 we come into our 60th year. We
9 want to do this into the future.
10 We are growing and we are creating
11 opportunities for upward mobility.
12 And I want to have an end point. I
13 have a student here that I think is
14 the best representation. I can
15 tell you how great Community
16 College of Philadelphia is, but the
17 best representation of that is one
18 of our recent graduates.

19 So I have Daniel Emden,
20 who is here with us today. He
21 graduated on Saturday --

22 (Applause.)

23 DR. MARSHALL: He
24 graduated on Saturday. Daniel is

1 also our Student Government
2 Association President. He is also
3 our student board member. He was
4 with me yesterday in Harrisburg
5 representing Community College of
6 Philadelphia and helping us
7 advocate for more money on the
8 state level. And I want to let him
9 have the opportunity to talk about
10 his experience at CCP.

11 MR. EMDEN: All right.
12 Thank you for the introduction,
13 Dr. Marshall. Good afternoon,
14 Council President Johnson, esteemed
15 Councilmembers, CCP family and
16 honored guests. My name is Daniel
17 Emden. I am a proud CCP graduate,
18 Class of 2026 as of past Saturday
19 and I also had the honor of serving
20 as the Student Body President for
21 the 2025-2026 academic school year.

22 Now, not too long ago I
23 didn't believe higher education was
24 for me. Like many students in the

1 city of Philadelphia, I saw college
2 as something that was out of reach,
3 too expensive, too uncertain and
4 simply not built for people like
5 me. That changed when my older
6 brother learned about the Octavius
7 Catto Scholarship and encouraged us
8 to apply. That opportunity didn't
9 only make college affordable. It
10 made it possible for my family.

11 CCP was more than a
12 school. It was home. My brother
13 attended first. He graduated debt-
14 free and is now finishing up his
15 Bachelor's at Holy Family
16 University on the verge of applying
17 to medical school to become a
18 doctor. I then attended and
19 graduated recently. And today my
20 mother is also continuing that
21 journey as a Catto Scholar.

22 When I arrived at CCP, I
23 originally intended to become a
24 scientist, but through the

1 mentorship opportunities and
2 support that I found there at CCP,
3 my vision expanded. I began to see
4 a path as a physician policymaker,
5 where I hope to continue to be of
6 service to my community, being able
7 to serve individual patients as
8 well as shape systems for
9 marginalized communities.

10 Serving as Student Body
11 President was a defining part of
12 that journey. It gave me the
13 responsibility to advocate for my
14 peers and to understand the real
15 challenges students face every
16 single day, from affordability to
17 access to opportunity. In fact,
18 yesterday I had the opportunity to
19 be in Harrisburg, where I spent the
20 entire day speaking with state
21 representatives, senators and
22 legislative leaders, simply sharing
23 my experience as a CCP student.

24 I was especially

1 grateful for the time and support
2 shown by Representative Jordan
3 Harris, Senator Vincent Hughes and
4 Speaker Joanna McClinton. Their
5 willingness to listen reinforced
6 something powerful, that student
7 voices matter and that leadership
8 at every level is invested in our
9 success here in the city.

10 CCP paved the way with
11 more than access. It gave me a
12 direction and a platform. Because
13 of that foundation, I was one of
14 the five semi-finalists for the
15 Jack Kent Cook Undergraduate
16 Transfer Scholarship, which as you
17 all know is one of the most
18 competitive scholarships in the
19 nation, and that allows me to
20 attend any four-year institution
21 debt-free.

22 I was also accepted into
23 several top universities, including
24 Rice University, which also offered

1 me a full Rice scholarship to
2 continue my education at the four-
3 year level.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. EMDEN: None of that
6 started at an elite institution.
7 It started right here at the
8 Community College of Philadelphia.
9 That is the impact of CCP. It
10 takes students who may not yet see
11 a future for themselves and equips
12 them with the tools, confidence and
13 support to succeed at the highest
14 levels. I stand here not just for
15 myself, but for the thousands of
16 students I had the privilege to
17 represent, students with the same
18 potential who simply need the same
19 opportunity. Your support makes
20 that possible. It is not simply
21 funding an institution. It is
22 investing in people and families
23 like mine and in the future of
24 Philadelphia.

1 I am a direct result of
2 that investment and I hope you will
3 continue to support CCP so that
4 many more students can follow this
5 path. Thank you for your time and
6 your commitment.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Great job, young man.
10 Continue to keep up the good work,
11 Mr. President.

12 At this time, we're
13 going to get ready to prepare for
14 questions from members of the
15 committee. I just want to take a
16 moment to thank Dr. Marshall for
17 laying out your vision. It's great
18 seeing you go from interim to
19 actually now being the person who
20 is charting the Community College
21 into the next level. And so, great
22 presentation.

23 And I'm going to also
24 thank Derrick Sawyer, who most of

1 us worked with his dad, former Fire
2 Commissioner Derrick Sawyer, and so
3 always good to see you doing the
4 good work as well. He's also part
5 of that D9 fraternities, you know,
6 sororities and all that good stuff,
7 supporting our young people.

8 Just a couple questions,
9 Dr. Marshall. I know last year
10 that the Board raised tuition by
11 9.4%, which will be implemented in
12 the fall of 2026. And so, give us
13 an idea of -- actually as we deal
14 with the issue of affordability,
15 right, the rent's too high, we're
16 addressing issues around childcare,
17 transportation, right. We want to
18 also encourage and invest in our
19 young people to get a quality
20 education. So give us an idea
21 regarding the strategies and
22 analysis of the impact that you
23 thought the tuition may have on the
24 student body, but also the

1 strategies to kind of mitigate it
2 as much as possible?

3 And then also I would
4 like to get an idea of the amount
5 of funding that comes from the
6 state and also the amount of
7 funding that comes from private
8 donors and philanthropy?

9 DR. MARSHALL: So the
10 most impact that we expect to have
11 is on students that really aren't
12 taking advantage of financial aid
13 and scholarships and those things.
14 So majority of our students, 75% of
15 our students, have some type of
16 financial-need situation in terms
17 of homelessness, housing insecurity
18 or food insecurity. And so, we're
19 hoping that it's not going to
20 really impact them as much.

21 This is the first time
22 the college has raised tuition in
23 nine years. We are the highest-
24 enrolled community college in the

1 Commonwealth. And even though we
2 are the highest-enrolled community
3 college in the Commonwealth, we do
4 not get the highest allocation from
5 the state for our budget. If you
6 add on top of that, what is our
7 student demographic, and as I
8 mentioned 75% of our students have
9 some type of need, right.

10 We also have to service
11 that need. So our demographic is
12 more vulnerable, and that requires
13 us to provide more wraparound
14 support services, particularly if
15 you look at other institutions that
16 we're being supported through the
17 Consortium, the Community College,
18 all of the other are peer
19 institutions in the Commonwealth.
20 So I feel like we're in a unique
21 position.

22 We did not want to raise
23 tuition obviously. But at the same
24 time, as expenses are going up, as

1 enrollment is going up, we had to
2 do something. We're drawing down
3 our reserves. So this was what we
4 decided on. It is a \$15 per
5 credit-hour increase. We're also
6 working with our fundraising and
7 our foundation to increase that.
8 The private donors, the
9 scholarships are a significant
10 aspect of that, and a lot of that
11 comes through our private funding.
12 So we're hoping to mitigate some of
13 that as we support them in other
14 ways. But I'll ask Derrick to talk
15 a little bit of specifics about the
16 numbers in the state. We were in
17 Harrisburg yesterday, so we are
18 working on the state piece of it
19 because that is a big part.

20 MR. SAWYER: Thank you,
21 Council President, Dr. Marshall.
22 So from the state, we are currently
23 receiving around \$36 million from
24 the state --

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

2 JOHNSON: Do you know how much
3 Montgomery County Community College
4 receives?

5 MR. SAWYER: Yes, I do.
6 Montgomery County Community College
7 receives 22.7 million from the
8 state for operating.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: And from the City of
11 Philadelphia, right, you're getting
12 55.9 million for FY27; is that
13 correct?

14 MR. SAWYER: Correct.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: And you said Montgomery
17 County receives how much?

18 MR. SAWYER: They're
19 receiving \$22.7 million from the
20 state.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: 22.7. How much are we
23 receiving for Philadelphia?

24 MR. SAWYER: We received

1 36 million.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Is there a point of
4 information? Councilmember
5 Dr. Nina Ahmad.

6 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: I
7 was just going to say if those
8 numbers can be given per
9 population, then we'd have a fairer
10 assessment of that investment made
11 by state in Montgomery.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: Could you provide that
14 information to the Chair?

15 MR. SAWYER: Population
16 for each county?

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
19 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad. Just
20 clarify your line of questioning
21 please for a point of information.

22 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: So
23 the question was clarification on
24 the numbers the Council President

1 asked about how much the state
2 gives to CCP versus Mont Co. I
3 just wanted it divided by your
4 student body.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: I understand, yes.

7 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

8 Just to see the level of
9 investment.

10 MR. SAWYER: We'll
11 follow up on that particular one.
12 We don't have the data for each
13 community college on that level,
14 but we do have the allocations for
15 state.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Are there any other
18 universities as well that we're
19 comparing ourselves to in terms of
20 level of investment?

21 MR. SAWYER: We compare
22 ourselves to the 15 community
23 colleges, our peer institutions.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 JOHNSON: Could you provide that
2 information to me as well just to
3 provide to the members?

4 MR. SAWYER: Yes.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Just from a supportive
7 standpoint, this also allows us
8 when we advocate with you in terms
9 of our partners that we work with
10 on the state level. It allows us
11 to also kind of crystallize the
12 need. And so, I understand now the
13 investment per population. Because
14 obviously, the population of
15 Montgomery County is much, much
16 smaller than the population in the
17 City of Philadelphia. And so, I
18 clearly understand the line of
19 questioning now.

20 MR. SAWYER: Correct.

21 And the state also funds the PASSHE
22 schools, which is like the West
23 Chester --

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 JOHNSON: I'm a graduate of
2 Mansfield University. Proud
3 Mansfield alumni, yes.

4 MR. SAWYER: And the
5 state-relateds, Temple, Lincoln --

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: All four of them, state-
8 related, Temple, Penn State,
9 Cheyney and it's one more. But,
10 yes.

11 DR. MARSHALL: This is
12 the second year in a row that we
13 were flat-funded by the state as
14 part of the community colleges,
15 so it's --

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: See, that's good
18 information to know.

19 DR. MARSHALL: We're
20 struggling. And what I tried to
21 communicate in Harrisburg yesterday
22 is that as the largest enrolled
23 community college when we're flat-
24 funded, I mean flat-funded is not

1 great when you have inflation and
2 all that anyway. But in addition
3 to that, we're really
4 struggling when --

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Here's what I'd like to
7 do before I turn it over to my
8 members, Mr. President, young man,
9 come on up to table again. He said
10 he had a good time with three
11 individuals I have a very strong
12 working relationship with that can
13 really have an impact on this flat-
14 footed funding that has been taking
15 place.

16 You said you had a good
17 time with a young man named Jordan
18 Harris, the Appropriations
19 Chairman. I am a former State
20 Representative in the General
21 Assembly of Pennsylvania. He's the
22 individual who succeeded me. I
23 call him my little brother, but he
24 is the Chairman of Appropriations

1 which appropriates the funds. And
2 so, I want you to tell him that you
3 came to City Council today
4 advocating seeking additional
5 support for CCP, you're a recent
6 graduate. And the fact that
7 they're flat-footing funding for
8 CCP is unacceptable. And it'd be
9 great if they could work toward
10 this budget cycle to increase what
11 is an iconic institution, but most
12 importantly an institution that can
13 invest heavily in our young people
14 here in the city of Philadelphia.

15 And then also I want you
16 to follow up and talk to Speaker
17 Joanna McClinton, who's also the
18 Speaker of the House and a young
19 lady I've worked with as well, and
20 also reiterate that you came to
21 City Council and also had a
22 conversation with us about the need
23 to invest in CCP as a former
24 student and now you're an alumni,

1 but as your last charge as Class
2 President is to push the needle as
3 it relates to investing in high-
4 quality education, secondary
5 education, which starts at CCP.

6 So continue to keep up
7 the good work, but also I'm very
8 serious when I ask for you to
9 follow up and do your due diligence
10 and say, hey, I just understood
11 that from City Council hearing and
12 we've been flat-footed, and it
13 would be great that we can increase
14 the level of funding beyond what's
15 been allotted thus far. Keep up
16 the good work.

17 MR. EMDEN: For sure.
18 Thank you for that. I'll get it
19 done by end of this --

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: I want you to report back
22 to me. This is my Chief of Staff,
23 John Christmas. And so, get his
24 business card. He will give you my

1 card and get back to me and let me
2 know how those conversations go.

3 MR. EMDEN: Thank you.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

6 Dr. Marshall and
7 Mr. Derrick Sawyer, I'm going to
8 turn the microphone over to my
9 members. But in all seriousness,
10 we recognize that in order for us
11 to really continue to drive down
12 the gun violence that we're seeing
13 here in the city of Philadelphia,
14 we had a historical 60-year low
15 when it comes to homicides and
16 shootings. That comes from
17 investing in our young people,
18 right, giving them opportunities to
19 get involved in things that are
20 positive as opposed to things that
21 are negative.

22 I enjoy being City
23 Council President but most
24 importantly, I represent the 2nd

1 Councilmanic District, so I'm very,
2 very aware of the partnership with
3 Hanwha, which is located in the
4 Philadelphia Navy Yard, Rhoads
5 Industries, which is also located
6 in the Philadelphia Navy Yard which
7 resides in my district, and we need
8 to continue those types of
9 partnerships to provide
10 individuals, particularly young
11 people an opportunity to get
12 involved in things that are
13 positive, but also a way to build
14 generational wealth and drive down
15 poverty, right. And it starts with
16 investments.

17 And so, I honestly think
18 for CCP to be flat-footed, right,
19 it's totally unacceptable. Now, I
20 work with my colleagues in the
21 State House, but nevertheless we
22 have too much power up there from
23 the City of Philadelphia where
24 we're flat-footing CCP. And so, I

1 will also work with my team to also
2 do some advocacy as well to see if
3 they will be willing to be
4 supported. We're doing our part
5 with 55 million. And so, surely
6 they can do more.

7 Chair recognizes
8 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

9 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
10 Thank you, Council President.

11 Dr. Marshall. Thank you
12 so much for being here and thanks
13 for the presentation and all of the
14 great work that you're doing at
15 CCP. So I walked in on the
16 conversation around flat-funding,
17 but I wanted to go -- well, flat-
18 funding by the state, but I wanted
19 to go a little bit deeper.

20 I have heard that CCP
21 has had to raise its tuition by
22 9.5% this year. Can you talk about
23 what that means for the population
24 of students that you're serving?

1 And do you know in the past when
2 we've had to have that kind of
3 increase, how has that impacted
4 enrollment? Did you already talk
5 about this? If so, then I can move
6 on and grab it later.

7 DR. MARSHALL: So, yeah.
8 I'll just say that it's the first
9 time we've had to raise tuition in
10 nine years. Our enrollment is
11 booming right now. Again, we're
12 hoping that we can mitigate the
13 difference by supporting our
14 students with scholarships and
15 additional basic needs support.
16 We've been fortunate to have donors
17 who invest in that and we're trying
18 to leverage that and make sure that
19 we communicate to those folks that
20 really can help us, so that we can
21 continue to support our students in
22 other ways so they won't feel that
23 a lot of our students also
24 participate and take advantage of

1 financial aid. So we're hoping
2 that they won't necessarily feel
3 this as much as the typical student
4 that's actually writing the check,
5 but we hated to do this. But this
6 was something that we had to do
7 based on inflation and costs
8 rising.

9 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

10 And I know you're newer to the
11 institution, but do you have any
12 information on have we had even
13 similar increases in the past? And
14 what impact has that had on the
15 population?

16 DR. MARSHALL: I believe
17 it was '14, '15 when we did the
18 last increase. But it wasn't \$15.
19 It was less than that.

20 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

21 And what was that impact?

22 MR. SAWYER: On
23 enrollment?

24 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

1 Did you see enrollment go down?

2 What were the results of that
3 increase?

4 MR. SAWYER: So our
5 enrollment was still steadily
6 increasing over the years. Our
7 enrollment didn't really decline
8 until the COVID year.

9 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
10 Okay.

11 MR. SAWYER: That's when
12 it dropped.

13 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
14 Okay. Thank you. I wanted to ask
15 about the CATC, which I'm so proud
16 to have in my district. I feel
17 like it's a wonderful model of
18 workforce development that is
19 actually connected to jobs at the
20 backend. Can you talk about the
21 current enrollment at the CATC and
22 your plan to increase enrollment?

23 DR. MARSHALL: Yeah.
24 Thank you for sharing that

1 question. We have about 350
2 students enrolled there right now.
3 That's double our enrollment this
4 time last year. Still --

5 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
6 That's great.

7 DR. MARSHALL: Yeah,
8 it's great. Still a small number.
9 We know that there's a lot of
10 capacity there so we are building
11 and expanding our program. We
12 believe that the Navy project and
13 additional support and expansion of
14 our footprint there with that
15 program and those programs,
16 nondestructive testing, will also
17 contribute to the increased
18 enrollment.

19 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
20 And what are your goals for further
21 expansion?

22 DR. MARSHALL: We're
23 really leaning in on the advanced
24 manufacturing space and

1 collaboration with the Navy. We're
2 hopeful we'll get some additional
3 funding support for that. A lot of
4 these programs are high-cost
5 programs and it's really difficult
6 for us to expand without some type
7 of partnership. We're also working
8 with Hanwha.

9 We were there maybe
10 about two, three weeks ago visiting
11 with the CEO at Hanwha working on
12 how do we develop pathways and what
13 kind of support we can get from the
14 employers to develop out different
15 curriculum and programming. They
16 are supporting us with that in that
17 regard. So as we respond to the
18 needs and the requests, we're
19 hoping that we'll also get
20 partnership investment. Part of
21 that is deepening our partnership
22 to be able to deliver those
23 programs.

24 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

1 Great. Last super quick question:
2 I saw you put up all of your
3 partnerships and I know that you
4 have a lot of students that
5 transfer to Temple, and I was
6 pleased to see Drexel, but I didn't
7 see Penn. Can you talk about how
8 many students transfer from CCP to
9 the University of Pennsylvania each
10 year? And have you talked with
11 Penn about building a partnership
12 and increasing that number?

13 DR. MARSHALL: So we
14 might have to get back to you with
15 the exact number, but I do know
16 when I was serving as Provost, we
17 were always looking to expand that
18 pipeline. We have had multiple
19 conversations with Penn recently.
20 As recently as last week, we had a
21 meeting with them. They definitely
22 see the value in deepening the
23 partnership and creating pathways
24 for our students. We're starting

1 with honor students. There have
2 been conversations around a pathway
3 for our honor students there and
4 expanding and building on that.
5 But there's definitely opportunity,
6 and we've had conversations with
7 their Provost and their leadership
8 over there most recently.

9 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

10 I would love to further that
11 conversation. We all know that
12 there are so many things they're
13 allowed to say or not say. This is
14 an easy way for them to live out
15 their values and their mission. So
16 would love to talk about expanding
17 that partnership further.

18 DR. MARSHALL: Of
19 course.

20 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

21 Thank you.

22 DR. MARSHALL: Thank
23 you.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

2 Chair recognizes
3 Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke.

4 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:
5 Thank you, Mr. President.

6 And good afternoon,
7 President Marshall and all the
8 cabinet that is here. Thank you
9 for all that you do to make higher
10 education accessible for the
11 residents of Philadelphia. Last
12 year CCP reached a contract
13 agreement with the faculty and
14 staff union AFT Local 2026.

15 The agreement was widely
16 reported on by the media and it
17 came in the final hours before a
18 potential faculty and staff strike.
19 I remember someone was there until
20 about 4:00 in the morning in
21 discussions, and I remember hearing
22 the good news the strike was
23 averted. I am concerned, however,
24 that CCP has not honored its

1 agreement with the faculty and
2 staff union to provide SEPTA passes
3 for all CCP students.

4 In your testimony, you
5 shared that you signed a
6 non-contractual MOU with AFT that
7 you would negotiate with SEPTA for
8 a free transit benefit. AFT
9 members understood this to be a
10 vital part of their contract
11 negotiation. Can you help us
12 understand, explain the difference
13 in the understanding here?

14 DR. MARSHALL: Yeah. So
15 we signed a non-contractual
16 memorandum of understanding. And
17 the language with that said the
18 parties agree that during the term
19 of this agreement the college will
20 negotiate with SEPTA for a free
21 public transportation benefit. In
22 keeping with this, we've continued
23 negotiations with SEPTA, which
24 actually began in January of 2024

1 The college also launched a free
2 pilot program at our Career
3 Advanced Technology Center located
4 in West Philadelphia.

5 And let me just start by
6 saying this: As we've been
7 negotiating with SEPTA, the dollar
8 amount that they have quoted for us
9 in order to provide free SEPTA
10 passes for all of our students is a
11 little over \$2 million --

12 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:
13 How much, 2 million?

14 DR. MARSHALL: 2.1 --

15 MR. SAWYER: 2.1
16 million.

17 DR. MARSHALL: We simply
18 don't have that, right. However,
19 we understand that we want to
20 provide services to our students so
21 we have been working on how do we
22 do that at least in incremental
23 ways. So we started a pilot at our
24 Career Advanced Technology Center,

1 particularly around supporting the
2 students that were there, having an
3 opportunity to perhaps increase
4 enrollment there at the same time,
5 but then give a sense to us about
6 how it's going to be in terms of
7 cost to administer the program.

8 As we've done that,
9 we've also worked with our Student
10 Government Association, Daniel,
11 we've worked with him to survey the
12 student population to really
13 identify what percentage of our
14 students would actually want and
15 take advantage of this because we
16 want to go into this in a
17 thoughtful and a strategic way, as
18 we decide to offer SEPTA passes for
19 our student population. We are
20 signing up for this into
21 perpetuity, which means every
22 budgetary cycle we will be looking
23 for a certain dollar amount.

24 I know it seems like a

1 quick decision. But as I look at
2 it if we start offering SEPTA
3 passes, which I think would be
4 great, we are signing up to 2.1 or
5 more as our enrollment increases,
6 and every year we will need to
7 figure out how to fund that. And
8 so, I will say we started the
9 pilot. We're assessing that.
10 We're gathering the data from the
11 students through Student Government
12 Association. About 50% of our
13 students actually use public
14 transit. And so, there is a large
15 portion of our students that drive
16 and so forth. And then we're also
17 looking at how can we potentially
18 identify a certain population of
19 students that are really our
20 neediest students and maybe support
21 them as we start to figure out how
22 do we finance this over the long
23 haul.

24 The last thing I'll say

1 is that we have shared this request
2 with the state in Harrisburg
3 yesterday. We talked about these
4 numbers. There is some general
5 support. And so, we're making it
6 very clear that this is something
7 we'd like to provide, but we're
8 just not in a financial position to
9 do it right now and into the future
10 with that dollar amount for all of
11 our students.

12 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: If
13 I may, President Marshall -- and I
14 heard the bell, Mr. President, so I
15 want to be mindful of the clock --
16 with all respect, please hear me if
17 I seem a bit direct, the strike
18 last year was averted on the
19 premise that this had been agreed
20 to and was going to be worked out.
21 And so, it seems this is
22 challenging for me to hear and I'm
23 sure others as well, that it sounds
24 like we're figuring out whether or

1 not we can or will do it.

2 And so, I really want to
3 press on this, the only reason why
4 we're in a good position right now
5 to even be having this discussion
6 is because we were able to avert it
7 upon an agreement. And there's
8 understanding that AFT has that I
9 think that you all do not have with
10 them. The questions I want to ask
11 that following this is when can we
12 actually expect CCP to provide
13 SEPTA passes for all CCP students
14 based off of that agreement? And
15 what the plan was for negotiating
16 with SEPTA moving forward on that
17 front?

18 I was going to ask, has
19 CCP requested additional funding
20 this year from the city or pursued
21 philanthropy grants or other
22 sources to support the transit
23 benefit? I'm assuming -- maybe I
24 should ask that question. Has

1 there been an ask within your
2 budget proposal to fund the passes?
3 Is that included in your
4 calculations, in your tally?

5 DR. MARSHALL: We have
6 asked state for that. And so, that
7 was part of our conversations
8 yesterday at state.

9 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: So
10 the budget proposal to the state
11 has been to include those
12 particular passes?

13 DR. MARSHALL: As we've
14 been discussing, the city has been
15 a great partner with us, but the
16 state is lagging behind. So from
17 my standpoint, I know how
18 challenged the city budget is. It
19 makes sense for me to talk about
20 how can we get state support.
21 We're not the only institution
22 particularly that might benefit
23 from something like this at their
24 institution as well. So we are

1 continuing to have those
2 conversations with state as
3 recently as yesterday.

4 And I will say the
5 agreement was not to provide free
6 SEPTA passes for students. It was
7 to negotiate with SEPTA, to try to
8 get there, and that's what we
9 agreed to. And so, I understand
10 the interpretation of that and I
11 understand how people took that
12 away as we will provide. But I
13 will say, had we said that, that
14 probably would have been premature.
15 I'm new in this role trying to
16 assess what our financial situation
17 and picture would be and need to
18 really understand what we will be
19 signing up for and how the college
20 will be able to support this in the
21 long term.

22 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:
23 And again, no shade on you or
24 anything like that, but I am going

1 to advocate for AFT. And that I
2 think it undermines confidence in
3 conversations that as you come back
4 to the table, eventually you have
5 to, it's going to be hard for
6 anyone to believe that when you
7 have that sort of agreement, and I
8 understand there are different
9 interpretations on it, but when you
10 have a sort of agreement that they
11 can trust that they're going to
12 come through, if we come back a
13 year later, ask about the update on
14 these things, that they are clear
15 in their minds, they're clear
16 they're supposed to be expecting or
17 getting or figuring out what the
18 plan is, something more concrete,
19 and the response is, well, we don't
20 have the money, you know, we're not
21 really sure. So this is a major
22 concern, I think, for them,
23 certainly for myself.

24 I'll leave the balance

1 of the questions I had on that
2 because I'm clear what your
3 response is. One question and I'll
4 get off the mic, I've heard from
5 AFT members that there are
6 challenges with HVAC systems at all
7 three campuses. Some staff are
8 working from home indefinitely
9 because conditions of offices are
10 unbearable and there are no other
11 spaces for them to work. How did
12 this happen? What is the college's
13 plan to address this particular
14 situation?

15 DR. MARSHALL: Yeah. So
16 I appreciate that question. We
17 have old buildings. We've had HVAC
18 issues historically. We were
19 pleased to receive funding from the
20 state to address some of these
21 issues, and we are prioritizing the
22 buildings where the highest need is
23 and the impact is on students. So
24 as I've been sending out

1 communications as recently I think
2 as last week, we sent a facilities
3 update where we indicated one of
4 our buildings, which really has
5 high traffic of students coming in
6 classes, CBI, that's our CBI
7 building, that I have prioritized
8 that and we are allocating some of
9 that money towards addressing that
10 in the near future.

11 The building is actually
12 offline so that we can get in there
13 and address it this summer, and
14 we'll be ready to go for the fall.
15 It has been a long time, five plus
16 years where this hasn't been
17 addressed, but I'm prioritizing it
18 under my administration and we're
19 moving forward with addressing
20 that.

21 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

22 Okay. Thank you. I'm done. I
23 just want to reiterate again I do
24 think it's essential that we figure

1 out -- I even said this amongst my
2 colleagues. Certainly when budgets
3 are not -- when other states, the
4 country, they're not helping to
5 provide necessary funding that you
6 may be relying on, it requires
7 municipalities or other separate
8 entities to think differently about
9 how you're going to meet your
10 particular budgets, how you're
11 going to stand on your own two
12 feet.

13 I don't know what
14 decisions you have to make. You're
15 in a tough position as president,
16 but I do think that there has to be
17 some figuring out in when you're
18 talking to unions. If they're
19 walking away with the understanding
20 that averts a strike that was
21 certainly going to happen and then
22 a year later they're not getting a
23 real solid response or answer on
24 actually delivering on the thing

1 that they were standing ten toes
2 down on, we got to figure out how
3 to move differently. And so, I
4 just want to encourage us to think
5 about that.

6 I don't mean no harm,
7 but I do think this matters to
8 them. I'm a big proponent of
9 transit. I'm not the only one
10 who's advocating for this. It is
11 essential that they get this. So
12 please, please find out a way to
13 address that matter.

14 Thank you for the time,
15 Mr. President.

16 (Applause.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: I do have a question
19 though. Was there anything in
20 writing?

21 DR. MARSHALL: I'm
22 sorry?

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Was anything in writing?

1 DR. MARSHALL: So the
2 union negotiates on behalf of the
3 faculty, not students --

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: I remember last year.

6 DR. MARSHALL: But there
7 was no agreement --

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Nothing in writing?

10 DR. MARSHALL: Nothing
11 in writing. The memorandum of
12 understanding was that we would
13 agree to look into trying to do
14 that. Again, I understand that
15 people walk away and say, yay,
16 that's what we're going to do. But
17 I have to be a good steward of the
18 financial resources that the
19 college has. I have to prioritize,
20 along with my team, what is highest
21 priority. And then, what can we
22 maintain into the future.

23 Like I said, I could not
24 be the president tomorrow, but

1 whoever came and sat in this seat
2 will have to find at least \$2
3 million every single year or
4 they're going to have to abruptly
5 stop providing SEPTA passes for
6 students, and that's not a good
7 look either. So I'm trying to
8 think more broadly about how do we
9 work with other entities. Perhaps
10 the state can pick this up and they
11 will help us with that. Maybe
12 they're listening.

13 But I don't want to sign
14 us up for something that's going to
15 cause a problem every single year
16 and I definitely would not want to
17 provide SEPTA passes to students in
18 one year and the next year say we
19 don't have the money to do it. So
20 that's where we are, but we are on
21 the same page. We want to do it.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: So I would think -- and
24 I'm just objectively looking at all

1 of this and obviously, I want to
2 advocate and be supportive of the
3 students, right. So they could
4 potentially strike this year,
5 right, if things don't go the way
6 they would think they would. I
7 mean, I would think if somebody
8 agreed to do something or I'm going
9 to have the interpretation that
10 they agreed they did something,
11 then they say, well, next year,
12 that's not what we interpreted it,
13 I probably would get my team
14 together and be like, well, you
15 know what --

16 DR. MARSHALL: That --

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Just asking, trying to
19 get clarity.

20 DR. MARSHALL: That
21 would be very unfortunate because I
22 think we're all here for the
23 students and success of the
24 students when we try to disrupt

1 their educational experience, but I
2 think somebody wants to say
3 something who's on my team.

4 MS. FLYNN: Hi. Carolyn
5 Flynn. I'm general counsel.
6 You're asking --

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: You brought the lawyer
9 up.

10 MS. FLYNN: Yes, I'll
11 keep it brief though. They -- the
12 Federation, this is not a term
13 that's in the collective bargaining
14 agreement and we have a collective
15 bargaining agreement with the
16 Federation with the terms that
17 would -- an agreement not to strike
18 during the period of the term of
19 the CBA, which goes through August
20 31st of 20 --

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: 28?

23 MS. FLYNN: Yes.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 JOHNSON: Okay.

2 MS. FLYNN: And as the
3 term that we're discussing relates
4 not to a term or condition of their
5 employment, but to a student
6 benefit arguably, and I think the
7 college's position would be that
8 they are not able to strike based
9 upon a term and condition that does
10 not affect their employment.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Gotcha. Okay. All
13 right. I just want to get
14 additional information. I just
15 want to go on the record and say,
16 any way that we can support the
17 students there, I know this is an
18 added benefit and understand about
19 thinking about who may be president
20 in the future and taking on
21 additional costs, even in the
22 strategy of working with the state
23 and the city as well, and the city
24 as well, to try to figure out how

1 we would make something like this
2 work, because we have the
3 resources. It's just what we
4 prioritize.

5 On the city level, we
6 have a \$7 billion budget --

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: -- on the state, they
10 have a tremendous surplus. And I
11 understand you saying, I'm not
12 going to put it all on the city.
13 And so, I want the state to
14 participate, and I do know Chair of
15 the Philadelphia Delegation is on
16 your Board as well, Morgan Cephas,
17 I know she does a lot of hard work
18 as well. But it should be a
19 convening and meeting of the minds
20 to try to figure out how we can be
21 supportive of our young people,
22 especially with the issue of
23 affordability that's going on right
24 now.

1 And so, I'm trying to
2 get a balanced approach so I hear
3 you exactly as well in terms of
4 wanting to be responsible in terms
5 of how you go about it and also our
6 role is to try to break down as
7 many barriers as possible for young
8 people to take advantage of their
9 great high-quality education that
10 CCP has to offer. And so, just
11 wanted to say that.

12 Chair recognizes
13 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips.

14 DR. MARSHALL: Thank
15 you.

16 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
17 Thank you. I just want to say
18 first thank you, Dr. Marshall, for
19 your leadership and for actually
20 doing your best to listen to your
21 students and your faculty. I do
22 cosign with Councilmember O'Rourke
23 and Councilmember Johnson about the
24 importance of trying to get to that

1 request.

2 I just want to know how
3 much would it cost to get to that
4 request over a five-year period?

5 DR. MARSHALL: So that's
6 part of what we're trying to
7 assess. When I talk about being
8 thoughtful, the \$2.1 million is
9 actually just the cost of the
10 passes based on our current
11 enrollment annually. What we're
12 doing with our pilot is trying to
13 assess human resources piece,
14 because there is an implementation
15 piece, there's work that has to be
16 done. Right now someone is picking
17 up that work, but there's
18 potentially a position that we
19 might have to hire if we were going
20 to really do this broad scale and
21 if we're going to continue to do
22 it.

23 So part of this period
24 of time around the pilot is to also

1 get real numbers around the student
2 interest and who would take
3 advantage to figure out what that
4 looks like in terms of our human
5 resources. Because again, we would
6 have to hire somebody and we will
7 need to sustain their salary wages
8 into perpetuity if we were going to
9 really offer this as part of what
10 we do. So the 2.1 is really just
11 what the SEPTA passes cost, but it
12 doesn't take into consideration,
13 which is what we're trying to
14 assess now, human resources and
15 infrastructure that we would need
16 to set that up.

17 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
18 Okay. Great. So continue to
19 assess all the information. I know
20 it's a difficult decision because
21 you have a lot of priorities for
22 the Community College of
23 Philadelphia that you probably want
24 to -- what do you want to advocate

1 first as the number one priority
2 compared to all of them, because
3 that 2 million can go to some other
4 big priority. But I do want to
5 congratulate you on the fact that
6 you have this Cubhouse, which is
7 really nice. A lot of families
8 need that.

9 I do want to ask you
10 another question. The Catto
11 Scholarship, it's a full
12 scholarship for students in a
13 certain income bracket, correct?
14 It's a full tuition scholarship,
15 correct?

16 DR. MARSHALL: Last
17 dollar, yes.

18 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: So
19 with that in mind, have you seen --
20 what is the graduation rate for
21 students with the Catto
22 Scholarship?

23 DR. MARSHALL: It's
24 about 36%.

1 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

2 46%?

3 DR. MARSHALL: 36%.

4 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

5 36%.

6 DR. MARSHALL: 36%,
7 where our current population is
8 24%.

9 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: So
10 there are advocates that are saying
11 we need to increase the number of
12 Catto recipients, which I truly
13 understand, right, but at the same
14 time we only have a 36% graduation
15 rate for those who are getting
16 fully invested in to go to the
17 Community College of Philadelphia.

18 What do you think is
19 contributing to that? I'm not
20 going to say relatively low, but
21 low graduation rate where even
22 people who are getting fully paid
23 for are not finishing?

24 DR. MARSHALL: I'm going

1 to have Dr. Seth Jacobson speak to
2 that. He oversees the Catto
3 Scholarship Program.

4 DR. JACOBSON: Good
5 afternoon. I think it's a great
6 question. It's something that we
7 grapple with and we think about a
8 lot. In fact, when I first started
9 at the college, one of the things I
10 took a very vested interest in is
11 looking at survey exits for all of
12 our students that end up leaving
13 the college to really look into,
14 display all the supports that are
15 being provided, what is it that is
16 moving them to leave the college
17 and the scholarship. And the
18 reasons end up being on par with
19 what we're seeing at the college at
20 large and at community colleges
21 across the country, right.

22 We have a higher
23 representation of our lowest
24 socioeconomic bracket students and

1 residents of the city. And so,
2 they're also in addition to the
3 supports that they're being
4 provided or despite the supports
5 they're being provided, they're
6 still grappling with poverty,
7 housing insecurity. And while we
8 do work really closely to try to
9 ameliorate that through the Last
10 Dollar tuition, through course
11 material coverage and even a
12 monthly basic needs allowance to
13 provide that to offset support for
14 it, what the students say is 275 is
15 just not going to cut it in terms
16 of some of the realities that
17 they're facing in their homes and
18 in their families.

19 So when it comes to
20 what, where and why we're still
21 seeing a lower rate or not a higher
22 rate rather, it's a lot of the same
23 reasons that we're seeing low
24 graduation rates at community

1 colleges across the country.

2 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Do
3 you transfer -- if someone doesn't
4 finish, do you transfer those funds
5 over to another student who was
6 waitlisted for the Catto
7 Scholarship?

8 DR. JACOBSON: Yes.
9 When students are unable to
10 complete the program, we're able to
11 open up more seats for any students
12 that have not been able to get into
13 the scholarship.

14 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
15 Okay. That's very important to me.
16 Because I understand, housing,
17 wages, you know, economic things,
18 costs for people not to finish, but
19 it's also relatively not
20 necessarily in the best interest of
21 the college or the student if you
22 start and you don't finish, and
23 then that funding that someone else
24 could have utilized to finish your

1 education is not necessarily
2 utilized. So I don't know if we
3 have to begin to have an agreement
4 that says at some point if you
5 receive this funding, you have to
6 finish or you're owed 5%,
7 something, I don't know what it may
8 be, but I just think people have to
9 finish if they're given a grant of
10 that nature.

11 DR. JACOBSON: Yeah.
12 And I just want to reiterate what
13 Dr. Marshall mentioned. While the
14 rate is low or it does appear to be
15 low, 36% compared to the general
16 population is still significantly
17 higher than the general population.
18 And then when you look at Catto
19 scholars' counterpart, so students
20 when you're comparing apples to
21 apples when it comes to other
22 students who would have qualified
23 for Catto but were not able to get
24 in because they're waitlisted, the

1 difference in terms of the
2 graduation rate is doubled.

3 So we know that when the
4 students get those wraparound
5 supports, we know that they lead to
6 much higher graduation rates. It
7 certainly doesn't solve the entire
8 problem. The other thing I'll just
9 mention as well is Catto is modeled
10 after a proven national model out
11 in New York City, the CUNY ASAP
12 program. And our results are on
13 par with what they've seen over the
14 past 20 years as they've been
15 looking to boost their graduation
16 rates. So students that
17 participate in a comparable program
18 in New York are seeing double the
19 graduation rates, but generally
20 speaking across the country,
21 community college graduation rates
22 are just not that high. And so,
23 while Catto and those wraparound
24 supports we know are working, they

1 just unfortunately don't solve all
2 of the challenges that some of our
3 students are facing.

4 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

5 Gotcha. And I heard there were
6 some concerns about student safety
7 as well. How is the college
8 addressing increased concerns
9 around student safety, student and
10 faculty safety I gather?

11 MR. SAWYER: Thank you,
12 Councilman. So around safety, we
13 do have a public safety department
14 and we actually are an open campus
15 because we're in the city.

16 However, we are required to have
17 individuals swipe with ID. So we
18 have security guards at every
19 entrance and pretty much our
20 security guards monitor safety and
21 we have a safety team that kind of
22 monitors our campus 24/7.

23 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

24 Okay. I'll follow up later with

1 more data around the safety issues
2 that I'm concerned about. Thank
3 you so much, Dr. Marshall and team.
4 And also, I want to give a shout-
5 out to Kenisha. She's been doing a
6 great job with engaging all of us
7 in City Council. She is an
8 incredible force for you all. So
9 thank you, Kenisha, for your
10 service to the Community College of
11 Philadelphia.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: Thank you.

14 Chair recognizes
15 Councilmember Jim Harrity,
16 Councilmember Rue Landau and
17 Councilmember Jay Young.

18 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

19 Good afternoon, everyone. My
20 questions are also around the --
21 I'm the Labor Chair on Council so
22 I'm very concerned about promises
23 made, promises being kept. This
24 was a good-faith agreement between

1 the college and the -- one of the
2 reasons they actually went back was
3 because you guys said you would
4 work on getting the school passes
5 for the kids and the facility
6 leaders.

7 I understand that cost
8 plays a big thing. But in some of
9 your own testimony today you've
10 said that some of the things that
11 help and will help with the
12 graduation rate is those services,
13 the wraparound services. I would
14 argue that this is a wraparound
15 service that the students in
16 community college would need.
17 They're at community college for a
18 reason. Most of the time it's
19 because the institutional schools
20 were too expensive and they needed
21 to go a less expensive way. Not
22 saying that the education is any
23 different.

24 Community College, we

1 all know is a great school. My
2 wife is enrolled at Community
3 College in the paralegal studies
4 thing, but our concerns and my
5 concerns, just like the Council
6 President and Nick O'Rourke is that
7 this is going to bite us back at
8 some point. Because as a union
9 guy, I know if somebody makes a
10 promise to me and then they don't
11 come or live up to that promise,
12 then the next time I'm going, I'm
13 not going to take their word for
14 anything and it's going to end up
15 causing other issues.

16 And while I know the
17 finances, but as the Council
18 President, something this important
19 we should be able to find a way.
20 So could you elaborate more on the
21 whole...

22 DR. MARSHALL: So I
23 appreciate that perspective and the
24 advocacy. I think we are all

1 aligned in terms of the desire and
2 the need for this service. I will
3 say that -- I will say that for our
4 pilot we just have some numbers
5 here. Out of the 300 students that
6 were eligible for the pilot at our
7 Career Advanced Technology Center,
8 only 80 of our students are
9 actually taking advantage of it.

10 So part of my
11 deliberation and thinking about
12 this is trying to assess what the
13 actual need is and then trying to
14 work with SEPTA so that we are not
15 on the hook for people that aren't
16 going to need the service, right.
17 And so, that's part of the
18 exploratory phase. The promise was
19 made to look into trying to do this
20 and to work with SEPTA to get to a
21 place where we could provide it.

22 We have kept the
23 promise. I will say that the
24 promise was or the memorandum of

1 understanding was made under a
2 different administration. This is
3 a new administration --

4 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Oh,
5 okay. Oh, I got it. I got it now.
6 There's a new sheriff in town.

7 DR. MARSHALL: No, this
8 is just facts. I'm saying that at
9 the time I was part of the
10 negotiations in full transparency,
11 but my role was a Provost and Vice-
12 President of Academics and Student
13 Success. I did not have
14 information or authority over
15 budget at the time. The decision
16 was made by those in authority to
17 make the decision. I agree that if
18 we could provide this, this would
19 be great. But I have now
20 information about budget and trying
21 to figure out how to do that. And
22 so --

23 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: I'd
24 like to know how you're actually

1 getting it out there. Because if
2 you're saying 300 students were
3 eligible for the pilot and you only
4 had 80 sign up, that doesn't make
5 sense to me. I live in Kensington.
6 If you're giving us something,
7 we're taking it and we're going to
8 use it.

9 So I know a lot of those
10 students are from my neighborhood,
11 just like they're from Jeffrey's
12 neighborhood and Jamie's
13 neighborhood and everybody else's
14 neighborhood here. The public
15 transportation thing, I would say
16 then even if that is true, then
17 that means you have 220 slots
18 available that we can give to
19 somebody else, right?

20 DR. MARSHALL: Right.
21 So this is a conversation to help
22 us with negotiating with SEPTA.
23 They have ways by which they are
24 approaching this with us that is

1 somewhat rigid, which is why we are
2 negotiating. I don't want to get
3 into that, into too much detail,
4 but they have presented it to us in
5 a certain way that says this is how
6 we would price it for you. This is
7 based on who we think is going to
8 use it and we're working with them
9 to figure out a way we can get to a
10 place where we're comfortable with
11 our budget and we're addressing the
12 needs of our students. But that is
13 what happened at our Career
14 Advanced Technology Center. We're
15 also doing a student survey and
16 gathering information from that.
17 So we want to put together an
18 informed proposal of how we might
19 do this moving forward. Dr. Rooney
20 can speak a little bit to the
21 survey and the information that
22 we've been gathering to date.

23 DR. ROONEY: Sure. Good
24 afternoon. I'm Shannon Rooney.

1 I'm the Vice-President for
2 Enrollment Management and Strategic
3 Communication. I think you posed a
4 really good question and it's one
5 that has been animating our entire
6 leadership group. Just to give you
7 a little bit of a sense of how we
8 got that information out to
9 students, we also expected much
10 closer to 100% adoption from
11 students.

12 We hosted SEPTA onsite
13 twice. We also had folks who
14 worked at the CATC in person,
15 handing out cards. We sent out
16 emails weekly to students who were
17 eligible and we also text messaged
18 students who were eligible. Part
19 of the text messaging campaign, we
20 asked students to let us know why
21 they had not adopted or signed up
22 for the program for which they were
23 eligible. We got very little
24 feedback on that, to all of our

1 kind of shock.

2 Anecdotally, what we did
3 hear from the students who did
4 respond to those surveys, they were
5 telling us that they were either
6 driving or they were taking
7 alternative methods or they already
8 were getting SEPTA benefits
9 elsewhere. So that's the kind of
10 scant information we have right
11 now. To Dr. Marshall's point, we
12 are in the process of taking a look
13 at a much larger survey that we
14 developed in collaboration with our
15 Student Government Association,
16 because we really do want to kind
17 of understand what our students are
18 telling us they need and want.

19 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:
20 Yeah, because that's a little hard
21 to take. Okay. I'm going to let
22 it go because of time. But just
23 know I will be standing out there
24 with the union when we go to

1 negotiate again. And being new is
2 not going to be an excuse the next
3 time. Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Thank you.

7 Chair recognizes

8 Councilmember Rue Landau and Jay
9 Young, and Dr. Nina Ahmad will wrap
10 us up for the day.

11 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

12 Thank you. Thank you so much for
13 being here, Doc. We are very, very
14 happy that you're here. You're
15 making some very significant
16 changes to CCP. Love seeing the
17 gains that you're doing. And as
18 we're seeing a rollback on even
19 availability and eligibility of
20 student loans for parents and
21 students going forward, CCP is more
22 important than ever to make sure
23 that people can afford going to
24 college and figuring themselves out

1 and whatnot, and you're making it
2 very, very easy for them. So thank
3 you.

4 I'm going to try not to
5 double-, triple-down on the SEPTA
6 student passes. I too was really
7 excited to hear or to think that we
8 were finally at a point where we
9 are going to provide passes to
10 everybody. We just had a budget
11 town hall in South Philadelphia
12 last week and somebody stood up to
13 the microphone and said, I'm a CCP
14 student and I cannot afford to get
15 there, I can't afford to get my
16 classes.

17 I would suggest as we
18 try to figure this out, and we will
19 try to help with as much funding as
20 we can, that maybe it is part of
21 the terms and conditions of
22 employment for your faculty when
23 the students can't get to class.
24 So we need the students that come

1 to class, we need the faculty to
2 get everything they need to teach
3 it. All we're trying to do is
4 trying to make it easier.

5 I know you want this too
6 so we're all on the same page. We
7 can all work collectively to make
8 this happen. But this would be the
9 success story for the region, maybe
10 even the country, who knows, that
11 we all got together and made this
12 happen.

13 I'm going to get to --
14 we touched on a couple of other
15 things already, including the Catto
16 Scholarship. I want to get to
17 something kind of touchy that I've
18 heard about. I'm the Chair of the
19 Tech Committee. And I know that
20 the Board has approved \$1 million
21 purchase of the Evolv weapons
22 detection systems from Allied
23 Universal Technologies.

24 It's a detection system

1 that has had questionable
2 reliability. There's been serious
3 concerns. Even the FTC in 2024
4 basically called it false
5 advertising, marketing, that they
6 can detect the weapons they say
7 they can. And my understanding is
8 that you did this through your
9 foundation and I wanted to hear
10 more about it and whether or not
11 you should have or could have
12 collaborated with the faculty and
13 students and others on this
14 purchase?

15 DR. MARSHALL: I'll jump
16 in. So this is a result of a local
17 share grant, so it's not college
18 money operating. However, the
19 decision to approve, to use this
20 money in this way was made by the
21 Board. No money has been spent as
22 of to date. And again, this was a
23 follow-up from a previous decision.
24 So I am assessing whether or not

1 we're needing to move forward with
2 this in realtime. We've just had
3 an official session with the Board
4 that says you can do this, but it
5 has not been done yet so we're
6 looking at that.

7 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

8 Point of information; is that
9 right, Councilmember O'Rourke? Are
10 you -- point of information.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: I got to acknowledge him
13 first. Chair recognizes
14 Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke.

15 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

16 Thank you. I just wanted to circle
17 back. You had someone who
18 mentioned that there were other
19 SEPTA benefits that were being
20 utilized by some of the students.
21 Can you just clarify what those are
22 if you know, whoever it? Was it
23 Zero Fare? What are the benefits
24 that have been used by students?

1 DR. MARSHALL: So I can
2 speak to the fact that through our
3 Catto Scholarship Program, there is
4 a transportation stipend so
5 sometimes people use that for SEPTA
6 passes. We also have single-stop
7 services where we provide support
8 for students in transportation who
9 have high need. And if they come
10 to us with the need, we sometimes
11 offer them SEPTA passes through
12 those avenues.

13 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:
14 Single stop. Thank you very much.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
16 JOHNSON: The floor is yours,
17 Councilmember Rue Landau.

18 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:
19 Thank you. Dr. Marshall, I'd like
20 to get back to, you said it was a
21 local shared grant. Is the grant
22 only for security for the campus?

23 DR. MARSHALL: Yes.
24 Previously there was an

1 application. It was approved and
2 we were awarded that. We have not
3 drawn that down. We have not made
4 a --

5 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

6 Okay. Would it be possible to look
7 at other possibilities and to spend
8 the money elsewhere? If there's \$1
9 million, I'm sure people want
10 higher security. But is there a
11 possibility of allocating that
12 money in a different way and not
13 going with above?

14 MR. SAWYER: So as it
15 relates to grant funding, it's
16 restricted. So it's restricted for
17 the purpose that we applied for,
18 which was the metal detectives. So
19 we cannot reallocate that money for
20 other purposes at the time.

21 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

22 For metal detectors?

23 MR. SAWYER: For metal
24 detectors. And just a point of

1 clarification, the contract has not
2 been signed yet.

3 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

4 Gotcha. Is there a way to use a
5 different company with different
6 metal detectors with this money?

7 MR. SAWYER: So we
8 typically do what we call an RFP
9 process. So we did an RFP process
10 and we looked at that particular
11 technology. We outsourced our
12 contract security with Allied, so
13 we currently have a relationship
14 with Allied. So we thought it
15 would be best to use a software
16 that Allied is familiar with. And
17 this software is used throughout
18 the city. You know, Xfinity
19 Center, when you go to basketball
20 games, you go through this software
21 so it is a popular software. But
22 once again, we have not implemented
23 it yet. The contract has not been
24 signed. We have simply received

1 approval from our Board and we are
2 exploring, so we can continue to
3 work on this.

4 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

5 Thank you very much for that
6 information. Thank you.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: You're cool, Rue?

9 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:
10 (Inaudible).

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Just was making sure
13 you're all right.

14 Chair recognizing
15 Councilmember Jeffrey Jay Young.
16 Then Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad,
17 and then Rue Landau will take us
18 home.

19 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
20 you, Mr. President.

21 First, I just want to
22 acknowledge CCP for the hard work
23 that you do. This past Saturday I
24 personally know multiple graduates,

1 including the son of my Chief of
2 Staff and my Political Director,
3 who were two of the high school
4 students from Boys' Latin, who got
5 their Associate's Degree.

6 (Applause.)

7 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: And I
8 want to give a special shout-out to
9 my intern, who's leaving our office
10 this week, Selena. She was our
11 legislator for the day from CCP.
12 She interned in our office and she
13 also just graduated this past
14 Saturday as well.

15 (Applause.)

16 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: And
17 she's done a great job for us in
18 our office. I know the pathway.
19 CCP creates a lot of opportunities
20 for people who kind of just don't
21 know what they want to do, right,
22 and you're playing a much more
23 larger role when it comes to the
24 city's workforce development

1 ecosystem. I mean, you're involved
2 with the CCME, you have the dual
3 enrollment, teacher pathways and
4 industrial training. But how do
5 you decide what industries get
6 scaled, what industry, what
7 programs get subsidy and how
8 employee demand is validated before
9 students are recruited into those
10 different pathways?

11 DR. MARSHALL: That's a
12 great question. So majority of our
13 programs have an industry advisory
14 board, which they meet with the
15 program leadership, the faculty.
16 They meet with the advisory boards
17 who provide input in terms of
18 making sure that our curriculum is
19 relevant and what are the standards
20 for the industry as well as what do
21 they need to be successful in the
22 workplace if they're pursuing a
23 career in that way. So we do have
24 extensive engagement with industry.

1 A great example is our
2 collaboration with Hanwha. We've
3 been talking with them. We want to
4 make sure we're developing
5 curriculum that's going to supply.
6 I think the most important piece of
7 this is that we're prioritizing
8 high-priority occupations. One of
9 those occupations is welding, and
10 that's going to be thousands and
11 thousands of workers that are
12 needed. So we're looking at and
13 identifying where the need is,
14 where there are guaranteed job
15 opportunities, but also where
16 there's opportunities for students
17 to graduate or complete the program
18 and make a living wage that they
19 can take care of their families.

20 As part of our strategic
21 planning process, I'm working with
22 my team to actually take a look at
23 academic programs, our inventory,
24 to understand and make sure that

1 our programs are relevant. And if
2 there are programs that are no
3 longer relevant, we need to think
4 about that because we need to make
5 sure that our programs are
6 preparing students for success and
7 that they can make a living wage.

8 So those pieces are
9 taken into consideration.

10 Obviously, what we've been talking
11 about here is funding. So some
12 programs may start more quickly
13 than others. If we have an
14 investment from an industry partner
15 or something like that, it may be
16 easier for us to stand that up, so
17 we take that into consideration as
18 well. But we're definitely looking
19 at high-priority occupations, where
20 the career interest is for our
21 students, but where the workforce
22 need is and that's where we need to
23 prioritize our programming.

24 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Okay.

1 Thank you. So it seems like from
2 the numbers there were 400 folks
3 who enrolled in the CCME program,
4 80 completed, more coming. How
5 many of those completed the program
6 actually entered city employment?

7 DR. JACOBSON: Hello
8 again. Seth Jacobson, Interim
9 Vice-President for Strategic
10 Initiatives and Community
11 Engagement. So just as a point of
12 clarification, because there has
13 been a lot of evolution in the CCME
14 program, even in the 19 months that
15 it's been in existence, so at the
16 college level there's four
17 different programs that we're
18 running through CCME, and those
19 programs are what we call the
20 traditional CCME program, which is
21 those pathways that you were
22 referring to that lead residents
23 into jobs or are designed to lead
24 residents into jobs with city

1 government.

2 There's the upskilling
3 program, which is supporting
4 current city employees to get
5 upskilling in their subject areas.
6 We have a high school program,
7 which is we're working with the
8 city as well as the school district
9 to expose more high school students
10 to careers in city government and
11 just thriving industries in
12 general. And we have a civic
13 entrepreneurs program as well,
14 which is a new sort of internship
15 program for CCP students to get who
16 are pursuing Associate's Degree, to
17 get exposed to city government jobs
18 as well.

19 So across those, all
20 those different programs, when it
21 comes to the traditional program or
22 rather across all those programs,
23 over about about 56% of those in
24 completers have now moved into what

1 we are considering desirable next
2 steps, so that either are jobs with
3 city government or it is continuing
4 education with Community College of
5 Philadelphia --

6 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: So I
7 get that. So that kind of inflates
8 what I'm looking for. So for the
9 first program then, right, the
10 first program is just students
11 enrolling to a direct path to a
12 city job. Program number one you
13 mentioned, how many of those
14 completers got a city job? Not --
15 because that's the goal of this
16 program is to get folks into a job
17 with the City of Philadelphia. So
18 out of that --

19 DR. JACOBSON: The
20 traditional program?

21 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: The
22 traditional program, how many of
23 those people --

24 DR. JACOBSON: So our

1 numbers indicate that there are 14
2 that are currently in city jobs.
3 And those go across the Streets
4 Department, Water Department,
5 Police Department, Procurement, and
6 Office of Innovation and
7 Technology.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: A point of information.
10 We went over this in the past. I
11 think the level of investment I
12 think it was 14 million, correct?
13 Because I think it was a million
14 per individual who actually got a
15 summer job; is that correct?

16 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Just
17 to hear that again, you know,
18 because I mean --

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: I guess just clarifying,
21 it was 14 million that was invested
22 in the initiative and there's
23 actually only 14 individuals who
24 received city jobs, and that's 1

1 million per individual.

2 DR. JACOBSON: So --

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: If you can clarify that
5 for us for the record.

6 DR. JACOBSON: In --

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: And I'll relinquish the
9 time back to Member Young. Go
10 ahead, sir. You can respond.

11 DR. JACOBSON: So we're
12 aware of it, a \$10 million
13 investment total. But to your
14 point, Councilmember President --
15 Council President, again kind of
16 going back to sort of the evolution
17 of CCME, over the past 19 months,
18 it was originally focused on moving
19 folks into jobs in city government,
20 but has since evolved into a number
21 of other programs that are not just
22 moving folks into city jobs but
23 also other thriving industries
24 across the region as well, so

1 there's an evolution of that.

2 The other thing I would
3 mention is that these are students
4 who have been moving into the
5 program and some are still in the
6 program and the programs range
7 anywhere from 8 months to 18
8 months. And so, some students are
9 still completing, other students
10 are still in the pipeline. They
11 are on civil service lists, they're
12 waiting for interviews. And so,
13 we're working with our partners in
14 the city, with the city to make
15 sure that we're doing everything we
16 can to reduce any potential
17 barriers for those graduates to
18 move into city government jobs.

19 We're also continuing to
20 work with those remaining students
21 who have completed the program to
22 ensure that they are again still on
23 track to being able to get
24 employment with the city or that

1 we're helping them to move into
2 another desirable pathway desirable
3 for them, whether that is continued
4 education at CCP for free if we can
5 get them into the Catto Scholarship
6 to continue to sort of stack upon
7 the existing education that they
8 receive through CCME or looking at
9 alternative employment, where the
10 skills that they learn through CCME
11 are applicable in another area.

12 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: I
13 understand that the program has
14 evolved over the past 18, 19
15 months. But the goal is that we
16 have so many vacancies in the City
17 of Philadelphia right now. Every
18 department comes to us -- I mean,
19 the Fire Department had hundreds of
20 vacancies, right. So every
21 department has these vacancies.
22 And for us to only have 14 jobs, I
23 mean with that level of investment,
24 we mind as well just give the

1 people the money directly then,
2 right. I mean, we'll save some
3 money.

4 Even with the 56% rate,
5 right, I mean that's still not
6 enough for the investment that
7 we're putting into this to fill the
8 vacancies that we have in the city.
9 So if the goal is to ensure that we
10 have a city workforce that's ready,
11 able and willing to do the job,
12 then I think we have to really look
13 at that program a little bit more
14 to see what other ways can we get
15 our residents ready for city
16 employment for that level of
17 investment.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: Excuse me, Member Young.
20 Member Gauthier has a point of
21 information.

22 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

23 I just wanted to correct the record
24 that the 14 is sort of an uptick

1 from what we heard from the
2 hearing. At the hearing, we heard
3 that 9 people were employed from a
4 \$10 million investment, which was
5 roughly \$1 million a person.

6 And to Councilmember
7 Young's point, I worked in the
8 funding world before I came to City
9 Council, we would never fund a
10 workforce development program with
11 those numbers. But also, most
12 workforce development programs
13 don't control the training side and
14 the employment side, like we are
15 both sides. So if there are
16 changes we need to make on the
17 employment side to take in the
18 people that we are training,
19 arguably we have the power to do
20 that. So this should not be a
21 workforce development program that
22 that is seeing those kinds of
23 numbers, because we have the power
24 to change things if we wish to.

1 Thank you.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Thank you. The Chair
4 recognizes Councilmember Young.

5 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
6 you. One last question. Of
7 course, we all know the recent
8 labor unrest at CCP creates, I'll
9 say, different experiences between
10 the workforce quality and the
11 student experiences. And the
12 faculty and staff union secured a
13 fact-finder to authorize that
14 strike before they reached the
15 tentative agreement.

16 And I know you weren't
17 the president of the college then,
18 but you were in leadership. So
19 what did you learn from that
20 breakdown and what has actually
21 changed in the labor management
22 relations since then?

23 DR. MARSHALL: So we're
24 talking about the SEPTA passes,

1 correct, and the agreement to look
2 into providing SEPTA passes as part
3 of --

4 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: So
5 that's one part of it. But just
6 overall as the management style,
7 what have you learned since that
8 process of negotiating with the
9 union? And how can we create a
10 better atmosphere for that
11 relationship?

12 DR. MARSHALL: So I
13 appreciate that question. I think
14 it's pertinent. One of the things
15 that I instituted, and it's a great
16 example to share today in light of
17 the conversation we've been having,
18 I've started a listening tour. So
19 what I'm doing is going around to
20 various departments and divisions
21 at the college and just sitting
22 down and listening. What's going
23 great? What can we improve? What
24 are the challenges?

1 Two listening tours that
2 I had last week specifically,
3 independently came up with
4 challenges and problems with one
5 particular building at our
6 institution, the CBI building.
7 This happened last week -- two
8 weeks ago, within the past couple
9 weeks. Immediately that day I had
10 cabinet members come in. We looked
11 at what were our priorities for
12 maintenance and issues that dealt
13 with HVAC and we moved up this
14 building because it was impacting
15 negatively the student experience,
16 and I'm hearing it from multiple
17 pieces, multiple departments. So
18 let's figure out, how do we fix
19 this and how do we fix this now.

20 And so, I think this
21 open communication in addition to
22 monthly meeting with Federation
23 leadership -- myself and my
24 cabinet, we meet once a month with

1 the Federation leadership and we
2 have an open agenda where they
3 bring any concerns that they have,
4 they can discuss that with us. If
5 we have information we want to
6 share, we do that. And I think
7 it's keeping the lines of
8 communication open.

9 I also think that we
10 have to have more transparency and
11 communications, which I've tried to
12 institute. I had an open meeting,
13 a gathering a couple of weeks ago
14 where I shared what was going on
15 with the finances, where we are as
16 an institution. And so, I think
17 it's communication and opening
18 those channels. I think we want
19 the same thing, what's best for
20 students, so I'm happy to continue
21 that.

22 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
23 you. Thank you for your leadership
24 with the college. I think we want

1 to see improvements with your
2 leadership. So thank you.

3 DR. MARSHALL: Thank
4 you.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.
7 Last, but definitely not least,
8 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad. It's
9 Dr. Nina Ahmad, right?

10 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

11 That is correct.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: And Member Gauthier has a
14 Master's from Penn, right, in
15 planning. And Jeffrey Young has a
16 --

17 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: I
18 have a juris doctorate --

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: From Temple, right.
21 And --

22 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: We
23 got some eggheads here.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 JOHNSON: -- Dr. Anthony Phillips
2 from Morehouse. I haven't seen
3 this level of education in the
4 history of City Council, but I'm
5 going to leave that there right
6 now.

7 Chair recognizes
8 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad.

9 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:
10 Well, thank you so much, Council
11 President, and I have to pitch
12 myself awake. Thank you again for
13 being here. I am so excited by all
14 the changes that are going on at
15 CCP. They're all forward-looking,
16 getting our children ready for the
17 millennium we are in. There's a
18 lot of catch-up to do and you're
19 doing it, so thank you.

20 But -- there's always a
21 but, right -- there's three
22 questions I have very quickly. One
23 is, this is my role as Chair of
24 Public Health and Human Services, I

1 am always concerned about our
2 children in foster youth who are
3 enrolled at CCP and those aging
4 out. And what is the enrollment
5 pipeline and program specifically
6 for that population and how we need
7 to really support them as they
8 enter adulthood? So that's one
9 question.

10 Two is, you note that
11 25% of the students are parents,
12 right. And what specific supports
13 are in place to ensure that student
14 parents can persist and graduate?
15 And I believe that there was a
16 child care center that was closed.
17 And what would it take to open it
18 and to provide affordable child
19 care? And connected to that, what
20 are the outcomes in retention rates
21 for graduation of parents compared
22 to nonparents in CCP?

23 And last question is
24 about faculty, because that's the

1 other side of the coin. I wanted
2 to know how many hours do you think
3 faculty leaders are working? Do
4 you believe faculty leaders have
5 sustainable workloads? And what
6 are you doing to ensure we're able
7 to recruit and retain talented
8 faculty that students need and
9 deserve? And obviously, we've
10 heard issues around overloaded
11 faculty members who are leaving
12 because of these overloads and
13 uncomfortable situations at work.
14 So sorry, I had to pack it all in
15 because I'm the last person asking
16 questions.

17 DR. MARSHALL: Okay.
18 I'm going to try to remember all of
19 the questions and thank you for
20 this question. One thing I wrote
21 down was about student parents and
22 what are we doing in that regard.
23 So I'll start by saying it was
24 mentioned earlier we recently

1 opened Roary's Cubhouse, which is a
2 specific dedicated area on our
3 campus where students can come with
4 their children. There's a play
5 area there and there's a study area
6 there, and they don't have to
7 decide whether or not they're going
8 to study and work as they're trying
9 to get an education and trying to
10 raise children at the same time.
11 So we were pleased to be able to
12 have support from the Jevs
13 Foundation for this, and we were
14 able to open that and that was a
15 great opportunity to support our
16 student parents.

17 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:
18 Just a point of information. So
19 it's not a day care where you can
20 leave your children where sometimes
21 you need the time to do whatever
22 you have to do without your
23 children?

24 DR. MARSHALL: Correct.

1 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: So
2 I just wanted to make sure that was
3 not a replacement, just an added
4 facility?

5 DR. MARSHALL: It's an
6 added facility to support student
7 parents in their experience with us
8 when they come to the college. We
9 did close down our child care
10 center, particularly because of
11 expenses and running it, so that is
12 something that we are looking into
13 to determine how we can afford to
14 stand that up again and what that
15 would look like. So we are
16 exploring that because we
17 understand that that's a need that
18 if we could provide that, that
19 would be great. We are in the
20 process of doing that right now.
21 The other piece --

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
23 JOHNSON: Excuse me one second,
24 Madam President. Member Jeffrey

1 Jay Young, point of information.

2 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
3 you. So you said you were having
4 issues with funding the child care.
5 I mean, I used to represent day
6 care owners, right, in my previous
7 life. And I know that it could be
8 a lucrative business. Have you
9 guys applied for the CCIS or we
10 have our Philly PreK? What made it
11 difficult to have that type of
12 service, because I know for a fact
13 there are a lot of students with
14 kids who go there and that could be
15 a barrier for them that can
16 increase your graduation rate from
17 24% to something a little bit
18 higher than that? So what's the
19 barriers to at least having a child
20 care where we have all these other
21 types of subsidies that could help
22 with that?

23 DR. MARSHALL: Yes, I
24 appreciate that. The biggest piece

1 of it was that it was used by our
2 students or the need for our
3 students was on a drop-in, right.
4 Students are coming in, they're
5 bringing their child so that they
6 can take a class on Mondays and
7 Wednesdays from 2:00 to 3:00.
8 Unfortunately, that volume when you
9 don't have people actually using
10 the facility from 9:00 to 5:00
11 hours a week, that was not
12 sustainable in terms of the cost
13 for providing the care and what
14 Kinder Care was getting to run that
15 program. We just didn't have
16 enough usage of it quite frankly.

17 And I think it goes back
18 to what we've been talking about in
19 terms of actual usage, what that
20 would look like and that's
21 something that we're trying to
22 assess right now. So that was one
23 issue. Derrick can speak to the
24 specific finances of doing that.

1 But it really decreased in usage of
2 our students, so it just became
3 counterproductive for us to
4 continue to operate it.

5 It was several years
6 ago. We're in a different day.
7 We're in a different time,
8 different student population. It
9 might be more viable to do it now
10 so we are looking at that.

11 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Was
12 it available from 9:00 to 5:00 to
13 the students? Did they know that,
14 that they don't just have to just
15 drop their kid off while they're in
16 class versus, you know?

17 DR. MARSHALL: Yes. But
18 we find that -- so I'm speaking --
19 I wasn't here at the institution,
20 so this is my understanding. We
21 found that students more likely
22 wanted to drop their kids off at a
23 day care center that was closer to
24 their home as opposed to bringing

1 them to the school and then
2 dropping them off, so that was kind
3 of impacting the frequency or the
4 need for the usage at the time.

5 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
6 you.

7 Thank you,
8 Mr. President. Thank you,
9 Dr. Ahmad.

10 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Oh,
11 you're welcome.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
13 JOHNSON: Dr. Ahmad.

14 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:
15 Thank you, Council President.

16 Please proceed with the
17 remaining questions.

18 DR. MARSHALL: Okay.
19 The other piece I wanted to mention
20 is that we are applying for CCAMPIS
21 grants, so that's an opportunity to
22 provide support for our students.
23 If we were to get that, they would
24 provide support and funding for our

1 students to be able to pay for or
2 offset the pay for child care if
3 they wanted that. So we are trying
4 to address it in multiple ways in
5 addition to looking into the child
6 care center.

7 I'm going to ask
8 Dr. Jacobson to speak to the foster
9 care initiatives.

10 DR. JACOBSON: Sure.
11 And just to dovetail off of what
12 Dr. Marshall was saying, on top of
13 that with the visit to Harrisburg
14 yesterday, we know that there is
15 some state funding available to
16 support student parents through
17 what's called the PA Parent
18 Pathways Program. And so, we are
19 actively seeking that funding as
20 well. And part of our trip up
21 there yesterday and talking to our
22 representatives was to be sure that
23 they are advocating on our behalf,
24 given the need you identified.

1 In terms of our students
2 that have experience in the foster
3 system, we have a foster and care
4 and connections program at the
5 college, which is really just our
6 way of trying to be very
7 intentional about supporting that
8 population. So that program is in
9 partnership with the Field Center
10 as well as the Achieving
11 Independence Center. The Achieving
12 Independence Center is where we're
13 able to get referrals from former
14 foster youth to ensure that we're
15 connecting them to a single point
16 of contact on campus, so that
17 they're getting support with
18 navigating, you know, whether it's
19 just the college sort of
20 bureaucracy, what happens when you
21 go into a college, but also helping
22 them to access any benefits that
23 they might qualify for, both on
24 campus as well as off campus.

1 That program also
2 provides training across campus to
3 faculty and staff to ensure that
4 they know the best ways to work
5 with former foster youth as well,
6 so ensuring a sensitivity and sort
7 of cultural competency in those
8 areas.

9 The other piece as well
10 is our PHA shared housing
11 partnership that specifically
12 targets those students as well to
13 make sure that they have stable
14 housing. And if they don't, that
15 we're able to move them into stable
16 housing through our partnership
17 with PHA.

18 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:
19 Sounds like you have a lot of
20 wraparounds. I would love to --
21 and we don't have to do it now
22 because we're at the end of our
23 time -- get outcomes of all of the
24 programming and successful

1 graduation of this cohort and maybe
2 any feedback you've had from them
3 to see how successful are they.

4 One of the big things
5 when you're especially aging out,
6 we've found from research that
7 having a single point of contact
8 that you mentioned, having a
9 trusted adult in their life that
10 they have built trust over time is
11 critical in place of just giving
12 training, how to access this, two
13 entirely different things and I
14 want to really have a trauma-
15 informed approach to that, so we'll
16 follow up on that. And I had a
17 last question about our faculty.

18 DR. MARSHALL: I'll
19 address that. So we have multiple
20 loads for faculty. Most
21 institutions have faculty loaded
22 for 30 hours. Our faculty has an
23 option. They can be loaded for
24 less, 27, and we have some

1 grandfather faculty that are even
2 at a 24 load, which means the
3 number of hours that they're
4 teaching is much less than at most
5 institutions, community college
6 institutions.

7 But I will say that if
8 faculty are participating in
9 leadership, they receive release
10 time, which is equivalent to one or
11 more classes that they don't have
12 to teach, so they're supposed to be
13 utilizing that time to participate
14 in the leadership administrative
15 duties that they are working on and
16 assigned to. In addition to that,
17 they could possibly also be
18 receiving extended time, which is
19 overage compensation.

20 All that said, we are
21 looking at faculty leadership
22 because I think it's more not
23 necessarily about our process, but
24 more about what is the number of

1 hours that should be allocated or
2 compensated for certain leadership
3 duties as programs change in size,
4 as accreditation needs change. The
5 administrative duties possibly have
6 been changing and they may not have
7 had a compensation or release time
8 has been looked at for several
9 years to make sure that it's
10 current with what is actually
11 happening right now.

12 And so, we have a
13 faculty leadership committee that's
14 being put together by
15 administration and faculty to look
16 at that, the compensation, the
17 leadership, the duties and try to
18 get to a place where it makes
19 sense.

20 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: So
21 basically, you're looking at the
22 issue of overload. I'll have us
23 follow up with you after this,
24 after I've spoken with faculty

1 because I've had some examples
2 cited of how things have not
3 worked, so I don't want to belabor
4 the point. But clearly, you know
5 this is an issue and we need to
6 make sure our faculty are well
7 taken care of.

8 Thank you, Council
9 President.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: Thank you. And last, but
12 definitely not least, Councilmember
13 Cindy Bass.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:
15 Thank you, Mr. President.

16 I just really wanted to
17 say thank you so much to CCP for
18 having me as the keynote speaker at
19 the Catto graduation program. It
20 was a phenomenal ceremony, just
21 really outstanding. And a lot of
22 the graduates were the first to
23 graduate from college in their
24 families like myself, and it was

1 really special. It was really
2 very, very special. So I thank you
3 for putting so much into it or
4 investing in it. I certainly hope
5 this is a program that's going to
6 be around for a very long time and
7 that you can expand it. And I'm a
8 big supporter and fan. So I just
9 wanted to say thank you to CCP and
10 all your staff, your entire team
11 who helped make it work. So thank
12 you.

13 DR. MARSHALL: Thank
14 you.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:
16 Thank you, Mr. President.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
18 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

19 Well, listen, thank you
20 very much for your testimony today.
21 And as always, we look forward to
22 continue working in partnership
23 with CCP as we invest in our young
24 people. Thank you very much.

1 DR. MARSHALL: Thank
2 you. Thank you all.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Any other questions or
5 comments from members of the
6 committee?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Hearing none, the Chair
10 recognizes Councilmember Katherine
11 Gilmore Richardson for a motion
12 that the public hearing and meeting
13 on the bills and resolution before
14 the committee today stand in recess
15 until Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at
16 10:00 a.m.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

18 RICHARDSON: So moved, Mr. Chair.

19 (Duly seconded.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
22 properly seconded that the public
23 hearing and meeting on the bills
24 and resolution before the committee

1 today stand in recess until
2 Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at
3 10:00 a.m. in Room 400.

4 All those in favor of
5 the motion will signify by saying
6 aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
13 motion carries. This committee
14 stands in recess until Wednesday,
15 May 6th at 10:00 a.m. Thank you
16 very much, everyone.

17 (Committee of the Whole
18 concluded at 4:00 p.m.)

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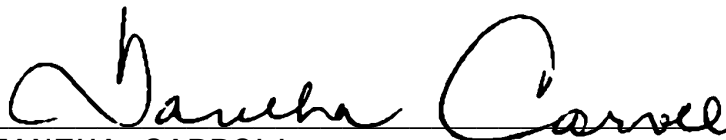
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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

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


TANEHA CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

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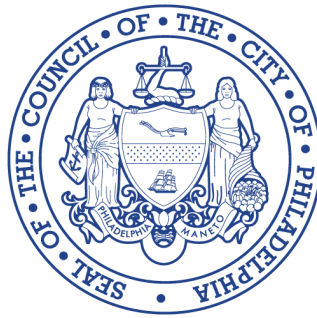
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City of Philadelphia

*City Council
Chief Clerk's Office
402 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107*



Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

10:00 AM

Room 400, City Hall

Committee of the Whole

- [260199](#) An Ordinance Adopting the Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2027.
Attachments: [Bill No. 26019900](#)
- [260200](#) An Ordinance To adopt a Fiscal Year 2027 Capital Budget.
Attachments: [Bill No. 26020000](#)
- [260201](#) An Ordinance To adopt a Capital Program for the six Fiscal Years 2027-2032 inclusive.
Attachments: [Bill No. 26020100, As Introduced](#)
[L260201, Exhibit A, As Introduced](#)
- [260202](#) An Ordinance Amending Chapter 19-2400 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Hotel Room Rental Tax,” by providing for an additional excise tax on hotel room rentals, all under certain terms and conditions.
Attachments: [Bill No. 26020200](#)
- [260203](#) An Ordinance Amending Subcode “A” (The Philadelphia Administrative Code) of Title 4 of The Philadelphia Code (The Building, Construction and Occupancy Code), by adding and revising Zoning Board of Adjustment fees and provisions regarding hearing scheduling, all under certain terms and conditions.
Attachments: [Bill No. 26020300](#)
- [260204](#) An Ordinance Amending Title 3 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Air Management Code,” to modify the amounts of license and permit fees, under certain terms and conditions.
Attachments: [Bill No. 26020400](#)
- [260205](#) An Ordinance Amending Section 19-1806 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Authorization of Realty Use and Occupancy Tax,” to clarify the imposition of the tax on the use or occupancy of real estate with respect to cell towers; all under certain terms and conditions.
Attachments: [Bill No. 26020500](#)
- [260206](#) An Ordinance Amending Chapter 6-600 of The Philadelphia Code (“Asbestos”), by adding and revising provisions related to various fees, all under certain terms and conditions.
Attachments: [Bill No. 26020600](#)

260208

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 19-1800 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “School Tax Authorization,” to add a new Section 19-1808, entitled “Authorization of Rideshare Use Tax,” to authorize the Board of the School District of Philadelphia to levy a tax upon the use by a passenger of a transportation network company for a prearranged ride that originates in Philadelphia; all under certain terms and conditions.

Attachments: [Bill No. 26020800](#)

260209

An Ordinance Amending Title 19 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Finance, Taxes and Collections,” to add a new Chapter 19-4800, entitled “Retail Delivery Tax,” to establish a tax on orders for the delivery in Philadelphia of retail consumer and other tangible goods, all under certain terms and conditions.

Attachments: [Bill No. 26020900](#)

260227

Resolution Providing for the approval by the Council of the City of Philadelphia of a Revised Five Year Financial Plan for the City of Philadelphia covering Fiscal Years 2027 through 2031, and incorporating revisions with respect to Fiscal Year 2026, which is to be submitted by the Mayor to the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority pursuant to an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement by and between the City and the Authority.

Attachments: [Resolution No. 26022700](#)

Budget hearings will be held in person at Philadelphia City Council Chambers, Room 400 (Fourth Floor), City Hall. Speakers interested in making public testimony should call 215-686-3407 or email Budget.Hearings@phila.gov by 3 p.m. on the day prior to the public testimony session at which they wish to speak and submit the following information:

Date you will be testifying

Full name

Callback telephone number where you can be reached

Street Address

Identify the bill number or resolution number or numbers that will be addressed and whether you support or oppose them.

Speakers must sign up individually, not on behalf of others or groups.

Dates for Public Testimony:

Tuesday, April 21st, 1:00 PM, Tax Bills

Wednesday, April 22nd, 1:00 PM, School District

Wednesday, May 6th, 10:00 AM- 4:00 PM