

1
2 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
3 COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC PROPERTY AND
4 PUBLIC WORKS
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7 Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
8 Tuesday, March 8, 2011
11:15 a.m.

9
10 PRESENT:

11 COUNCILMAN DARRELL CLARKE, CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL
12 COUNCILMAN FRANK DiCICCO
COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER
13 COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO, JR.
14

BILL 110059 - An Ordinance authorizing the
15 Commissioner of Public Property, on behalf of
the City of Philadelphia, to enter into a
16 sublease agreement with the Philadelphia
Authority for Industrial Development, for use
17 of a premises by the City located at 1221
Bainbridge Street...

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2 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Good
3 morning. This is the Committee on Public
4 Property and Public Works. We have
5 established a quorum: Councilman Frank
6 Rizzo, Councilman Frank DiCicco,
7 Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller. We have
8 also in attendance Councilwoman Jannie
9 Blackwell.

10 Mr. Carter, will you please
11 read the title of the bill.

12 THE CLERK: Bill No. 110059, an
13 Ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of
14 Public Property, on behalf of the City of
15 Philadelphia, to enter into a sublease
16 agreement with the Philadelphia Authority
17 for Industrial Development, for use of a
18 premises by the City located at 1221
19 Bainbridge Street, Philadelphia,
20 Pennsylvania, all under certain terms and
21 conditions.

22 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you
23 very much.

24 Our first witness, Ms. Mintz.

25 (Witness approached witness

1 3/8/11 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 110059

2 table.)

3 MS. MINTZ: Good morning,
4 Chairman Clarke and the members of the
5 Committee on Public Property and Public
6 Works. My name is Dainette Mintz and I
7 am the Director of the Office of
8 Supportive Housing. The mission of OSH
9 is to assist individuals and families in
10 moving toward independent living and
11 self-sufficiency. We plan and coordinate
12 Philadelphia's response to homelessness.

13 I am here today to testify in
14 support of the proposed lease between the
15 City and the Philadelphia Authority for
16 Industrial Development for property
17 located at 1221 Bainbridge Street in
18 Philadelphia. The Office of Supportive
19 Housing seeks to relocate an existing
20 residential training program from 1211
21 Bainbridge Street to 1221 Bainbridge
22 Street. The new space is in better
23 condition and provides more space for the
24 existing program. The surrounding
25 community has supported the program since

1 3/8/11 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 110059

2 its inception and continues to do so.

3 OSH has contracted with the Doe
4 Fund to operate the Ready, Willing and
5 Able program at 1211 Bainbridge Street
6 since 2001. The program provides job
7 training, support for recovery from
8 substance abuse, paid work experience and
9 job opportunities for up to 70 single
10 homeless men at a time. Employment
11 outcomes are highly competitive for the
12 industry and the population. Half of
13 those who are served by the program leave
14 with employment.

15 The "Men in Blue," as
16 participants are called, are a proud
17 feature of Philadelphia life. You have
18 probably seen them cleaning and gardening
19 in Center City, the Benjamin Franklin
20 Parkway, Kelly Drive or other parts of
21 Philadelphia, where they hold their heads
22 high as they go about their work.

23 We respectfully request your
24 approval of a long-term lease between the
25 City and PAID, which will further

1 3/8/11 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 110059

2 strengthen this model program.

3 Thank you.

4 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
5 Ms. Mintz.

6 Councilman DiCicco.

7 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Yeah.

8 Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
9 apologize for being late, but for some
10 reason it wasn't on my schedule and it's
11 a bill that I introduced.

12 I'm not sure if my colleagues
13 are familiar with Ready, Willing and
14 Able. It is a fantastic institution, and
15 normally when we get requests for these
16 types of facilities to be located in a
17 neighborhood, you normally get people who
18 come out and oppose it, because for
19 obvious reasons they think that this is
20 not going to be a benefit or an asset to
21 their community. In this case, a few
22 years ago when Ready, Willing and Able --
23 I think you were expanding or something;
24 I can't remember exactly what it was. It
25 was the first time in my 15 years or so

1 3/8/11 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 110059
2 that the residents came out and said we
3 want these guys to stay here. They are
4 such an asset to the community. So for
5 me, this is a no-brainer.

6 I just want to thank you and
7 thank all the folks from Ready, Willing
8 and Able as well.

9 Thank you.

10 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
11 Councilman.

12 MS. MINTZ: Thank you.

13 COUNCILMAN CLARKE:
14 Councilwoman Blackwell.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
16 you. I am happy to support the District
17 Councilperson and certainly Dainette
18 Mintz and my friend Rob Hess and his team
19 and the City. I'm glad -- we don't
20 always -- we're not always on the same
21 page. It's wonderful when we are, and
22 it's a wonderful program, as we all know,
23 and certainly we're happy to support it
24 as well.

25 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,

1 3/8/11 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 110059

2 Councilwoman. I concur.

3 Councilwoman Miller.

4 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Yes. I
5 also just want to support this bill.
6 Ready, Willing and Able, I see them all
7 the time, everywhere, particularly on my
8 way to work. They're at -- right up from
9 the Art Museum doing work there, and I've
10 seen them in the park on 33rd Street. I
11 think it's a wonderful organization and
12 it's something that we need more of here
13 in Philadelphia.

14 Thank you.

15 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Councilman
16 Rizzo.

17 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Again, boy,
18 I'll tell you, this is a party around
19 here, but this is such a good
20 opportunity, and thank you.

21 Want us to go around again?

22 But, again, congratulations.
23 I'm sure this is going to be a great
24 asset.

25 MS. MINTZ: Thank you. Thank

1 3/8/11 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 110059

2 you so much.

3 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: They're
4 only trying to be kind to me because I'm
5 retiring.

6 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Well, I
7 guess I might as well chime in. I don't
8 want to be left out.

9 I concur with all my colleagues
10 on the wonderful asset that Ready,
11 Willing and Able has been in this city
12 and had the occasion years ago to visit
13 them in New York when there was the first
14 discussion about coming to Philadelphia,
15 and I'm happy that they came. I'm not
16 happy that they didn't locate in my
17 district, which was the original deal,
18 but I'm glad that you all are here, and
19 it's been a great asset and a great
20 program, and we hope to throughout our
21 city, wherever we had the need for some
22 sort of transitional housing or shelter
23 services, that we come up with a model
24 that fits this particular model. So I
25 think this is a good deal for us.

1 3/8/11 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 110059

2 MS. MINTZ: Thank you.

3 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: And,
4 Councilman DiCicco, good work on giving
5 them additional opportunities and
6 additional space in your Council
7 district.

8 MS. MINTZ: Thank you very
9 much.

10 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Any other
11 questions for this witness?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: There being
14 none, thank you very much.

15 Anyone else to testify on this
16 bill?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: There being
19 none, this concludes the public hearing
20 on the Committee of Public Property and
21 Public Works. We now move into the
22 public meeting.

23 Councilman DiCicco, can you
24 please give me a motion on Bill No.
25 110059.

1 3/8/11 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 110059

2 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Thank you,
3 Mr. Chairman. I move that Bill No.
4 110059 be reported out of this Committee
5 with a favorable recommendation and that
6 the rules of Council be suspended so as
7 to permit first reading at our next
8 session of City Council.

9 (Duly seconded.)

10 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: It's been
11 moved and seconded.

12 All in favor?

13 (Aye.)

14 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Those
15 opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: The ayes
18 have it. Bill No. 110059 is reported out
19 of Committee with a favorable
20 recommendation with rules suspension as
21 to allow reading at the next session of
22 Council.

23 Thank you all very much.

24 (Committee on Public Property
25 and Public Works concluded at 11:20 a.m.)

1
2 CERTIFICATE

3 I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
4 proceedings, evidence and objections are
5 contained fully and accurately in the
6 stenographic notes taken by me upon the
7 foregoing matter on March 8, 2011, and
8 that this is a true and correct
9 transcript of same.

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15 MICHELE L. MURPHY
16 RPR-Notary Public
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21 transcript does not apply to any reproduction
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