

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, June 28, 2011
10:10 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILMAN JAMES KENNEY, CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL
COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM K. GREENLEE
COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN

RESOLUTION 110313 - Resolution authorizing
City Council's Legislative Oversight Committee
to hold public hearings on immigration reform
and the Pennsylvania Compact.

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1
2 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Good
3 morning, ladies and gentlemen. The
4 Committee on Legislative Oversight is now
5 in session. There is no need for the
6 presence of a quorum this morning,
7 because this is an informational hearing
8 on Resolution 110313, resolution
9 authorizing City Council's Legislative
10 Oversight Committee to hold public
11 hearings on immigration reform and the
12 Pennsylvania Compact.

13 Good morning, Mr. Negrin.

14 Before we get started,
15 Councilwoman Blackwell, you had said you
16 wanted to make a few remarks.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Yes.
18 Mr. Chairman, we wanted to thank you for
19 your leadership in this area. So many of
20 the people from the panel that we work
21 with and Chairman Stan Straughter from
22 the Mayor's Commission on African and
23 Caribbean Immigrant Affairs and many
24 people who are here from the Commission.

25 This is such an important

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2 issue, and I commend you and the
3 Committee for your willingness to take up
4 this issue and certainly want to support
5 you and this hearing and those who are
6 testifying in any way we can.

7 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you,
8 Councilwoman. I appreciate that.

9 Good morning, Mr. Managing
10 Director. Please identify yourself for
11 the record.

12 MR. NEGRIN: Good morning. My
13 name is Richard Negrin. I'm Managing
14 Director and Deputy Mayor for
15 Administration and Coordination for the
16 City of Philadelphia.

17 Would you like me to begin my
18 testimony?

19 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Please.
20 Thank you.

21 MR. NEGRIN: Thank you,
22 Councilman Kenney and members of the
23 Committee. I am here to testify on
24 Resolution No. 110313 relating to
25 immigration reform and the adoption of

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2 the Pennsylvania Compact.

3 Philadelphia I believe is the
4 next great international city, a
5 destination city for world travelers,
6 tourists and those looking to make a new
7 life in a great American city.

8 A 2008 Brookings Institute
9 report characterized the Philadelphia
10 metropolitan area as a reemerging
11 immigrant gateway. In fact, since 1990,
12 this region has witnessed a phenomenal
13 increase in the immigrant population. As
14 we all know from the 2010 census data,
15 Philadelphia's population increase was
16 primarily driven by our Latino and Asian
17 communities, with a 42.3 percent increase
18 in the Asian community and a 45.5 percent
19 increase in the Latino community.

20 Overall, language and ethnic
21 minorities in the City represent roughly
22 22 percent of the population. Latinos
23 are the largest language and ethnic
24 minority in the City comprising roughly
25 12 percent of the population, and the

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2 Asian community stands at roughly 6
3 percent of the Philadelphia population.
4 Significantly, well over 20 percent of
5 Philadelphia residents speak a language
6 other than English at home.

7 In 2009, the foreign born were
8 11.6 percent, 179,000 folks of the local
9 population. Approximately 47 percent, or
10 84,000, were naturalized citizens, but
11 slightly more than half are not U.S.
12 citizens. Approximately 71,000 of the
13 foreign born entered the City in 2000 or
14 later. Most recent arrivals over the
15 last decade have come from Asia, 35
16 percent; the Caribbean and Latin America,
17 almost 30 percent; Europe at 21 percent;
18 and then Africa and other developing
19 nations.

20 New immigrants to the City and
21 State are also essential to our economic
22 growth and vitality. According to the
23 U.S. Census Bureau, immigrants comprised
24 6.3 percent of the State's workforce in
25 2008, or roughly 407,000 workers.

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2 Additionally, immigrants accounted for
3 nearly three-quarters of labor-force
4 growth in Philadelphia between 2000 and
5 2006, according to a report by the
6 Brookings Institute, and 10 percent of
7 total economic output in the Philadelphia
8 metropolitan area as of 2007, according
9 to a study about the Fiscal Policy
10 Institute.

11 All this points to one single
12 fact, that the immigrants have only
13 enhanced this great city and state, and
14 they were the reason why Philadelphia
15 bumped Phoenix, Arizona back to No. 6 in
16 terms of population.

17 I don't believe it's a
18 coincidence that we surpassed Phoenix as
19 a result of an increasing immigration
20 population.

21 Philadelphia can no longer be
22 viewed with a traditional black and white
23 construct. The spirit of this city and
24 country was born of immigrants, built on
25 a foundation of hard work, fueled by

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2 optimism and bolstered by an unwavering
3 belief that our lives can be better here
4 in America and specifically here in
5 Philadelphia. That was the case for
6 those who arrived here hundreds of years
7 ago and it remains true today.

8 As the son of Cuban immigrants,
9 I can personally attest to the dream of a
10 better life in America. My parents were
11 hoping to provide me with a better life
12 in this country with freedoms,
13 opportunities, opportunities to become
14 educated. If you've ever had an
15 opportunity to see a naturalization
16 ceremony, the one thing is really clear,
17 when you see the faces of the folks who
18 are sworn in as Americans today, that the
19 promise of America is alive and well.

20 Since the beginning of this
21 Administration, Mayor Nutter has
22 emphasized the important roles that
23 immigrants play in the City. In 2008, he
24 signed Executive Order 9-08 ensuring
25 access to City programs for

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2 limited-English proficient residents. In
3 2009, the Mayor signed Executive Order
4 8-09 ensuring access of immigrants to all
5 City services. In addition to
6 establishing these executive orders, the
7 Mayor also established an Office of
8 Multicultural Affairs under Izzy Colon
9 and reinstated the Commission on Asian
10 American Affairs, a number whose members
11 are here today. He has made it clear
12 that immigrants are vital to the economic
13 and cultural growth of Philadelphia and
14 the region.

15 As Managing Director and Deputy
16 Mayor, our Mayor has asked me to ensure
17 that all City agencies are welcoming and
18 able to respond to our growing ethnic
19 population. To this end, Global
20 Philadelphia, the City's language access
21 program, overseen by Assistant Managing
22 Director next to me, David Torres, is
23 coordinated through my office. Global
24 Philadelphia's primary focus is the
25 building of sustainable infrastructure

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2 within and across departments to ensure
3 meaningful access to City services for
4 all Philadelphians so that
5 English-language proficiency is never a
6 barrier to City services. Through
7 interpretation and translation resources,
8 Philadelphians can interact with any City
9 agency in their preferred language. As I
10 often say, which is one of David's mottos
11 for Global Philadelphia, in Philadelphia
12 we speak your language. Additionally, in
13 the past year, we have begun implementing
14 cultural sensitivity training for
15 front-line City staff. To date, over 150
16 staff members have been trained.

17 That was a priority of mine,
18 because I believe that in order for you
19 to fully understand the importance of the
20 language component and to utilize our
21 language services, you needed to have the
22 cultural sensitivity to understand why
23 they're important.

24 Despite our ongoing efforts, in
25 the recent past immigrants have been the

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2 target of negative stereotypes and
3 attacks across the state. In our own
4 State Legislature, there are some 18
5 bills under consideration that negatively
6 target and impact immigrants and the
7 working poor. HB 738 and HB 798, for
8 example, impose immigration-related
9 requirements on local law enforcement
10 officers. HB 41 and SB 9 would require
11 that access to certain benefits such as
12 access to health centers be contingent on
13 the use of a government-issued
14 identification, which has a
15 disproportionate impact on the working
16 poor. Finally, HB 934 would require
17 voters to present identification to vote,
18 which would negatively impact not only
19 immigrants but key sectors of our
20 citizens, including seniors, the homeless
21 and racial minorities. There is a rich
22 tradition of regions across our country
23 utilizing voter identification laws such
24 as these to try to suppress the votes of
25 the disadvantaged.

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2 Several of these bills mimic a
3 pattern of anti-immigrant sentiment that
4 has dramatically exemplified last year in
5 the State of Arizona Legislature when
6 they passed SB 1070. Since then, 16
7 states have introduced similar bills.
8 While some of these policies are being
9 challenged on constitutional and other
10 legal grounds, the point is that there is
11 now a patchwork of laws throughout the
12 country that is a direct consequence of a
13 broken immigration system.

14 Mayor Nutter has been clear on
15 this issue. The Mayor has and continues
16 to be committed to working with our
17 congressional delegation and national
18 leaders to support the enactment of
19 national immigration reform legislation
20 that is fair and treats working families
21 with dignity.

22 The Mayor encourages proposals
23 that focus immigrant enforcement efforts
24 on genuine security threats and violent
25 criminals; that makes it easier for

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2 children of legal and undocumented
3 residents to become permanent residents
4 and allows those children access to
5 federal student loan and grant programs
6 such as the Dream Act; to reform visa
7 programs so that they keep families
8 together, protecting workers' rights and
9 ensuring that future immigration is
10 regulated and controlled rather than
11 illegal and chaotic; and to increase the
12 number of visas available each year for
13 skilled workers.

14 On behalf of the Mayor, I
15 applaud Councilman Kenney and
16 Councilwoman Blackwell's ongoing efforts
17 toward making Philadelphia an
18 immigrant-friendly city and support an
19 ongoing dialogue on effective immigration
20 reform and the Pennsylvania Compact. The
21 Mayor is also very supportive. In fact,
22 to substantiate his support, the Mayor
23 agreed to sign, enthusiastically agreed
24 to sign, on to the Pennsylvania Compact,
25 and he urges all other Pennsylvania

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2 mayors to do the same.

3 In closing, one thing is clear.

4 If we are to continue our ascent as one
5 of America's great destination cities, we
6 must welcome those coming from a broad
7 cross-section of the world to help
8 comprise our very diverse Philadelphia
9 mosaic. If we want to showcase our great
10 city by hosting a World Cup, an Olympics
11 or other significant national and
12 international event, it is imperative
13 that we present ourselves to the world as
14 a truly great international city.

15 Thank you for the opportunity
16 to testify. I look forward to any
17 questions.

18 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you
19 very much.

20 Mr. Torres, do you have
21 anything to add or you're just here for
22 information purposes?

23 MR. TORRES: I'm just here for
24 information purposes.

25 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Great.

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2 I'm not going to get into this
3 today at length, but on Thursday past,
4 Council passed unanimously a resolution
5 urging the government here in
6 Philadelphia and the District Attorney's
7 Office and the Courts to opt out on
8 August 31st of this so-called Secure
9 Communities arrangement with ICE. I'm
10 not looking for your formal position on
11 this. I'm urging you as the
12 representative of the government here
13 today to continue to press that issue,
14 that it is so un-American and so
15 unconscionable the way our own government
16 treats people, human beings, in the guise
17 of Homeland Security, which is a total
18 disconnect relative to the people they're
19 in many ways rounding up and sending out
20 of the country.

21 So, again, I don't think you're
22 in a position today to make a statement
23 on that, but I would urge you to continue
24 to press the Mayor and whoever else in
25 the government you need to talk to to let

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2 them see that this particular agreement
3 has been a disaster for Philadelphia and
4 for other major cities and states in the
5 country.

6 MR. NEGRIN: Thank you. I
7 understand your concern. I was a part of
8 some of those conversations last year.
9 It's a difficult issue. I know it's
10 something that we continue to look at on
11 a regular basis. I'm happy to do that.

12 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you
13 very much.

14 Any questions for Mr. Negrin?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you
17 very much for your testimony.

18 MR. NEGRIN: Great. Thank you.

19 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Brad
20 Baldia, Anne O'Callaghan and Varsovia
21 Fernandez.

22 (Witnesses approached witness
23 table.)

24 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Is Varsovia
25 here?

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2 MR. BALDIA: No. I think she's
3 en route.

4 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay.
5 Whoever is ready, please identify
6 yourself.

7 MR. BALDIA: Good morning. My
8 name is Brad Baldia. I'm the Executive
9 Director of Pennsylvania Immigration and
10 Citizenship Coalition. PICC is a
11 statewide organization made up of 50
12 organizations that represents, advocates
13 for the needs of migrants, refugees and
14 immigrants in the Commonwealth. I am
15 here today to speak in support of a
16 resolution endorsing the Pennsylvania
17 Compact.

18 The Pennsylvania Compact is a
19 statement of principles designed to guide
20 the decisions of lawmakers in
21 Pennsylvania on policy issues relating to
22 immigration. The Compact emphasizes the
23 importance of federal solutions to
24 immigration issues, respect for law
25 enforcement, strong families and a free

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2 economy. Most of all, however, it
3 reminds us that our nation was founded
4 here in Pennsylvania on the principles of
5 liberty, equality and prosperity for all.
6 The Compact urges us to work towards the
7 free and welcoming society that William
8 Penn envisioned for our Commonwealth and
9 to treat newcomers in a way that will
10 reflect favorably on Pennsylvania around
11 the world.

12 I am particularly honored to be
13 here today, because the City of
14 Philadelphia is at the epicenter of
15 Pennsylvania's immigrant community. As I
16 am sure you know, recently released
17 census data showed that Philadelphia's
18 population grew for the first time in 60
19 years. The Philadelphia Inquirer
20 reporters Michael Matza and John
21 Duchneskie pointed out in their March
22 13th article, entitled "Immigrant Surge:
23 Why the Area Grew," that absent Hispanic
24 and Asian newcomers, it would not have
25 grown at all. A 2008 study by the

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2 Brookings Institution found that 75
3 percent of Philadelphia's labor-force
4 growth since 2000 is attributable to
5 immigrants and directly links this
6 crucial influx to policies like Global
7 Philadelphia. Immigrant contributions
8 make Philadelphia the economically and
9 culturally vibrant city it is today, and
10 we must continue to welcome this positive
11 growth.

12 In addition to acknowledging
13 the importance of immigrant workers to
14 Pennsylvania's economy, the Pennsylvania
15 Compact supports the discretion and
16 judgment of local enforcement. Our
17 Department of Police here in Philadelphia
18 has done a tremendous job in keeping our
19 communities safe and must focus their
20 limited resources on fighting crime in
21 our city. The last thing these
22 hard-working men and women in uniform
23 need is an unfunded mandate from
24 Harrisburg that would require them to do
25 the job of the federal government.

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2 Thank you so much to Councilman
3 Kenney and Councilwoman Blackwell for
4 introducing this resolution and
5 organizing this hearing. I am honored to
6 have had this opportunity to have spoken
7 to you today and to have City Council's
8 support for the Pennsylvania Compact.

9 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you
10 for your testimony.

11 Anne, please identify yourself.

12 MS. O'CALLAGHAN: Good morning,
13 and thank you very much for the
14 opportunity to testify in support of this
15 important Compact. My name is Anne
16 O'Callaghan and I am the President and
17 CEO of the Welcoming Center for New
18 Pennsylvanians.

19 The Welcoming Center is a
20 non-profit economic development
21 organization, and each year we place more
22 than 300 work-authorized immigrants in
23 jobs across our region. From lab
24 technicians to electrical engineers to
25 nurses, the men and women we work with

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2 are eager to apply their talents in their
3 new country.

4 And it's not just their
5 talents. Philadelphia also benefits from
6 the sales, property and wage taxes paid
7 by immigrant residents of our city and
8 the revenue generated by those who live
9 outside the City and travel here to work
10 and shop.

11 Let's talk numbers. As we've
12 heard from Brad and the Managing
13 Director, immigrants make up 11 percent
14 of the labor force in the Philadelphia
15 region. Compared to many other American
16 cities, immigrants here are more likely
17 to work in managerial or professional
18 occupations. In fact, they represent
19 nearly one-third of all such workers in
20 our region.

21 These workers command
22 substantial wages with median annual
23 earnings of 60,000 to 80,000 per year,
24 depending on the specific occupation.
25 Those earnings return to our local

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2 economy through sales, property and
3 income taxes, as well as through consumer
4 spending.

5 Immigrants also start
6 businesses. The Welcoming Center has
7 studied commercial corridors across our
8 city, from Baltimore Avenue to 52nd
9 Street to Washington Avenue and many
10 others, and our finding is still the
11 same: More than 50 percent of all the
12 businesses on these corridors are
13 launched by immigrants.

14 In addition to generating sales
15 and property taxes, these businesses
16 create jobs, an average of four employees
17 per store on one typical corridor. Often
18 immigrant merchants are employing
19 American-born workers as well.

20 Beyond mom-and-pop stores,
21 immigrants are responsible for some of
22 the biggest and fastest-growing companies
23 in the United States today. A recent
24 report from the Partnership for a New
25 American Economy, a national alliance of

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2 which Mayor Nutter is a member, found
3 that 18 percent of Fortune 500 companies
4 had an immigrant founder.

5 That means that nearly one in
6 five Fortune 500 companies were launched
7 by a newcomer to our country. The 2010
8 revenue of these companies amount to a
9 staggering \$1.7 trillion, and one of
10 them, Comcast, is headquartered right
11 here in Philadelphia. One of their
12 founders, Dan Aaron, was an immigrant.

13 Our city also benefits from the
14 international talent attracted by our
15 colleges and universities. These men and
16 women are conducting the research that
17 will lead to innovative technologies of
18 tomorrow. A study by Duke University's
19 Vivek Wadhwa quantified their role,
20 finding that in 2006 immigrant inventors
21 were named on 24 percent of all patent
22 applications nationwide.

23 Finally, amidst the sound and
24 fury of the immigration debate, it's
25 important to note that unauthorized

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2 immigrants are also contributing to our
3 region's economic health. The Institute
4 on Taxation and Economic Policy estimated
5 this spring that unauthorized immigrants
6 in Pennsylvania pay 35 million a year in
7 personal income tax, 7 million a year in
8 property taxes and 93 million a year in
9 sales taxes.

10 There are many reasons for
11 Philadelphia to celebrate the immigrant
12 members of our community, and I've just
13 spoken about a few. As an immigrant
14 myself, one thing I don't take for
15 granted is the history of America. The
16 magic of this country is the opportunity
17 that it allows, including the opportunity
18 for a young woman from Ballybay, County
19 Monaghan to build her future here.

20 Where I came from, no one
21 asked, "Do you like your job?" They
22 asked, "Do you have a job?" In
23 Philadelphia, I found that job and a
24 great deal more besides. Like today's
25 immigrants, I married and raised a

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2 family. I started my own business,
3 eventually sold it. So I know a little
4 about this American dream. And I'm
5 mindful of the need to keep the doors of
6 opportunity open for the next generation
7 of dreamers and doers, whether they come
8 from across an ocean or just across the
9 Schuylkill River.

10 Thank you.

11 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you
12 very much for your testimony.

13 Varsovia, please identify
14 yourself for the record.

15 Is Sue Montella here?

16 MS. MONTELLA: Yes.

17 MS. FERNANDEZ: Thank you,
18 Councilman.

19 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Could you
20 come up, please.

21 MS. FERNANDEZ: My name is
22 Varsovia Fernandez and I am President and
23 CEO of the Greater Philadelphia Hispanic
24 Chamber of Commerce, and I acknowledge
25 you all for being here today and

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2 allotting time to express views in
3 support of principles which hopefully
4 will serve to guide us all as a matter of
5 conviction and not just the law in
6 pursuing a reasonable approach to
7 immigration in Philadelphia and
8 eventually the Commonwealth.

9 Those of us familiar with the
10 topic understand that unreasonable issues
11 surrounding immigration in the United
12 States have gone unresolved for too long.
13 We also know that inaction in Congress
14 has left everyone across America at the
15 mercy of local law enforcement, causing
16 confusion, adding grief, costs and burden
17 to government and families.

18 The Pennsylvania Compact
19 provides a foundation to guide anyone
20 addressing immigration in the spirit of
21 what our country stands for - government,
22 law, family, economy and freedom. What
23 makes the United States unique is our
24 ability to march on the streets to defend
25 our beliefs under a government that

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2 protects our right as people to do so.

3 The Pennsylvania Compact asks legislators
4 and officials to respect these freedoms
5 in the best interest of our people.

6 Keeping our families together
7 is vital to the health of our businesses,
8 communities and our progress, especially
9 when newly migrating families choose to
10 live among us because they run from
11 overarching political systems to stay and
12 seek the American dream. It is these
13 families who make it possible for our
14 society to evolve, to flourish, to
15 maintain economic vitality and to lay
16 foundations for American generations.

17 Today we reap the benefits of
18 yesterday's immigrants like Alexander
19 Bell, who founded Bell Company, what is
20 today Verizon, and Amadeo Giannini who
21 gave us the Bank of Italy, which grew
22 into Bank of America. Let's not reject
23 the future of our communities because of
24 critique and let's evaluate them on
25 merit. America opened for business in

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2 Philadelphia, thanks to the sons and
3 daughters of immigrants, and today we
4 have an opportunity to lead again. We
5 are the place where America started, a
6 city of firsts.

7 Pennsylvania Compact allows
8 legislators and officials to respectfully
9 review the contributions immigrants make
10 to our economy by using their wage and
11 business revenues to enhance the budget
12 deficits we have been facing for the past
13 few years. Immigrant businesses are
14 employers and revitalize neighborhoods.
15 They help us create wealth and globalize
16 from within Pennsylvania, helping us
17 increase exports. Immigrants help us
18 create American leadership. They have
19 allowed the Commonwealth to keep seats in
20 Congress, and immigrant markets support
21 the consumer index. These contributions
22 should say that we are open for business
23 and that negative numbers are not
24 welcome.

25 We know that immigration reform

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2 is a federal issue, but it is individuals
3 who move issues forward. I am here today
4 to urge City Council to adopt
5 Pennsylvania Compact and to make
6 Philadelphia a leader in pursuing a
7 positive environment for crucial
8 conversations about policies that make
9 sense in the best interest of the people.

10 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you
11 very much for your testimony.

12 Any questions for this panel?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Seeing
15 none, thank you very much.

16 Ms. Montella, Stan Straughter,
17 Nina Ahmad.

18 (Witnesses approached witness
19 table.)

20 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Please
21 identify yourself for the record.

22 MS. MONTELLA: My name is Susan
23 Montella and I'm the Community Outreach
24 Manager for the Friends of the Library.
25 With the Friends of the Library, I have

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2 the unique opportunity to work with
3 Philadelphians across the City, and it is
4 from this experience that I am sharing my
5 impressions today, with a special focus
6 on our youth.

7 When the Friends at Haddington
8 Library at 65th and Girard formed, they
9 chose two goals. The first was to
10 provide fun cultural enrichment programs
11 for the neighborhood children, which they
12 called Teen Cafe, and a safe environment
13 in the library. The second goal was to
14 improve public safety by building
15 relationships with the local police.

16 After the programming at Teen Cafe was
17 underway, Friends invited local police
18 officers to meet the 40-plus children who
19 regularly attend. The idea was for
20 children and police to get to know each
21 other and to teach the children safety
22 tips.

23 But the first visit from the
24 police was chilling. As the officers
25 entered the room, total chaos broke out.

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2 Children screamed, others tried to bolt
3 for the door, and some actually ducked
4 under tables. Clearly, we saw that the
5 children perceived the police as a
6 threat.

7 Now it's a different scenario
8 at Teen Cafe. The officers stop by each
9 week. They chat with children, and no
10 one tries to hide. The officers have
11 actually told us that they've gotten good
12 information from the children and from
13 this relationship. It's heartwarming to
14 see the transformation.

15 But in neighborhoods across the
16 City, the Friends have discovered that
17 this is a problem throughout. We have a
18 lot of work to do in this area. So my
19 question today for those who would
20 support making police act as immigration
21 agents is, how can we expect children to
22 have a sense of security in their
23 community if they feel threatened by the
24 very people who are there to protect
25 them? And won't the existing problem

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2 that we have be compounded when local
3 police become involved in immigration
4 enforcement? And what are the long-range
5 effects on our children in the City when
6 children are forced to deal with
7 profiling at such an early age?

8 The Friends hold that there are
9 many reasons why police should not act as
10 immigration agents. Diminishing a
11 child's childhood is one of them.

12 Thank you, Councilman Kenney,
13 very much and Councilwoman Blackwell for
14 this wonderful leadership you've provided
15 and for making this resolution a reality.

16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you
17 for your testimony. I understand you
18 have to leave, so you're dismissed.
19 Thank you.

20 MS. MONTELLA: Thank you.

21 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Ms. Bailey,
22 are you here?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Is Dorothy
25 Bailey here?

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2 (No response.)

3 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay.

4 Whoever would like to begin, please
5 identify yourself for the record.

6 MR. STRAUGHTER: Good morning.

7 My name is Stanley Straughter. I'm the
8 Chairman of the Mayor's Commission on
9 African and Caribbean Immigrant Affairs.
10 Councilman Kenney, members of City
11 Council and Councilwoman Jannie L.
12 Blackwell, I want to thank you for
13 convening this important hearing in
14 support of the Pennsylvania Compact, and
15 I want to go on record that the
16 Commission and all of our members
17 actively support this work and want to
18 thank our colleagues, PICC, my colleague
19 here, Dr. Nina Ahmad from the Mayor's
20 Commission, in their support and all of
21 the audience.

22 Let me first point out that
23 Philadelphia has been a model city on
24 this immigration, especially with respect
25 to the African and Caribbean immigrant

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2 community. Almost every place I go
3 around the country, they say, How do you
4 guys do it? And while we may be still
5 trying to figure out how we did it, we
6 know we couldn't have gotten it done
7 without the leadership of Councilwoman
8 Blackwell and support of other members of
9 the Council. So I want to thank you. In
10 that modeling, Trenton, New Jersey;
11 Washington, DC, many of these cities are
12 trying to support that.

13 Also, the positive aspects of
14 what's been going on here, I don't want
15 it to get lost in this issue, but I want
16 to make sure that everyone is clear, that
17 the -- as Dr. Ahmad will probably speak
18 to the Mayor's Commission, I will speak
19 to -- the issues around foreign-born
20 citizens in our city is really
21 phenomenal. They make a significant
22 economic impact on our city. We have
23 had -- for the African immigrant
24 community in particular, we've had
25 consistent meetings with the District

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2 Attorney's Office. Previous Chief of
3 Police Sylvester Johnson has been
4 supportive and set up a Police Advisory
5 Commission, and I'm happy to say that
6 Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey, when
7 he came on, he met with our organization
8 and continued, and we actually have
9 operating within our Commission Deputy
10 Police Commissioner Charlotte Council,
11 who continues to work with us on issues.
12 And just recently, in the last three
13 weeks, we've held several community
14 forums with the District Attorney's
15 Office, the police office out in
16 Southwest Philadelphia to help the
17 community, young African youth, be aware
18 of policing, the importance of policing
19 to safety, public safety in their
20 communities, and both of these forums
21 have been very, very successful.

22 Our community, the African
23 immigrant community, is -- the exact
24 numbers, you heard about the census, but
25 what is, I guess, not well known in the

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2 census is that we have about 60,000

3 African immigrants, African and Caribbean

4 immigrants in the Greater Philadelphia

5 area. They have community organizations

6 that run from Angola to Zimbabwe, and one

7 of the larger coalitions of the

8 organization is AFRICOM, the Coalition of

9 African Organizations. We have African

10 and Caribbean organizations that provide

11 services to their respective communities,

12 ACANA, the African and Cultural

13 Association of North American and

14 Southwest Philadelphia. The African

15 Family Health Organization founded by

16 Ms. Tiguida Kaba, who is on your witness

17 list -- you will hear about it --

18 provides healthcare to African and

19 Caribbean immigrants that can't get

20 access to it. The Haitian Professional

21 Association of Philadelphia, a group of

22 active and very intelligent Haitian

23 professionals, young, who raised over a

24 hundred thousand dollars and sent to

25 Haiti during the most recent disaster

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2 there. Haitian Clergy Association, the
3 Senegalese Women Association, the
4 Liberian Association of Pennsylvania.

5 Pennsylvania has the second
6 largest population of Liberians in the
7 United States. We have about 40,000 in
8 the Commonwealth, and about 20,000 of
9 those live within the Greater
10 Philadelphia area. And as is so
11 recognized that the national leader of
12 the Liberian Association lives and works
13 in Philadelphia. The Union of Liberian
14 Associations of America actually live in
15 Philadelphia, and we work with them
16 consistently.

17 Africa, from my perspective,
18 and the work that they're doing here has
19 made a great economic impact to our
20 community. Let me first say, one of the
21 great aspects of it is that our Mayor,
22 Michael Nutter, and Councilwoman
23 Blackwell several weeks ago visited
24 Southwest Philadelphia, the corridor
25 where we have a lot of African and

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2 Caribbean immigrants, Asian immigrants
3 that are in business out there, and I
4 think we dare say, as Ms. O'Callaghan
5 pointed out, if it were not many of them,
6 quote/unquote, being pioneers in those
7 communities, there would be many
8 communities that would just be lacking
9 for any access to goods and services.
10 But they've gone on and pioneered and
11 worked in those communities.

12 On a larger macro scale, I
13 mean, Africa is definitely linked to our
14 community. We receive into our port from
15 Africa over \$18 billion, billion dollars,
16 worth of goods and services. If those
17 goods went away, we'd probably have an
18 economic recession. One of those
19 important commodities is cocoa beans.
20 Only two places in the world where cocoa
21 beans are grown. Eighty percent of those
22 cocoa beans comes from Ghana and the
23 Ivory Coast, and we have gone on in our
24 port here in Philadelphia to be the
25 second largest stewards for cocoa beans

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2 in the entire United States. And right
3 from where we sit, within two hours we
4 have at least seven Fortune 500
5 manufacturing companies that deal with
6 cocoa beans alone, including Hershey's,
7 which is in Hershey, Pennsylvania, but we
8 have Mars, Blommer Chocolates and on and
9 on and on.

10 Of course, oil. Those oil
11 tanks that we see there near the Airport,
12 that's a sweet crude that comes from
13 Nigeria. Ten billion dollars a year of
14 oil comes through our port here from
15 Nigeria. We have half a billion dollars
16 worth of goods and services from South
17 Africa and on and on and on.

18 The weakness of this is that we
19 just have not -- "we" as a community --
20 have not looked at Africa as a
21 destination for our exports, and one of
22 our strategies going forward might be
23 that we look at how to close this
24 economic gap so we can ship more goods
25 and services back to Africa as opposed to

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2 not doing anything about it at all. So
3 it's a great opportunity for us, and
4 Africa certainly is important to us
5 locally and as we continue to try to
6 improve the quality of life of all the
7 citizens of our city, but particularly
8 the immigrants of our city.

9 So I would like to thank you
10 for convening this meeting. It's
11 important. I don't need to continue to
12 repeat the support that we have for this.
13 I want to thank all of you for bringing
14 this, and hopefully that the Legislature
15 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will
16 understand the importance of these new
17 citizens to our Commonwealth and continue
18 to work with them to expand economic
19 growth and development and to grow our
20 city and state.

21 Thank you.

22 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you
23 very much for your testimony.

24 Please identify yourself.

25 DR. AHMAD: Good morning,

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2 Chairperson Kenney and Committee members.

3 My name is Nina Ahmad and I'm the Chair
4 of Mayor Nutter's Commission on Asian
5 American Affairs, as well as being a
6 small businessowner. I am honored and
7 pleased to be here today to speak in
8 support of a resolution endorsing the
9 Pennsylvania Compact and immigration
10 reform.

11 As has been stated, the
12 Pennsylvania Compact is a statement of
13 principles which urges a federal solution
14 to immigration issues, asks police to
15 focus on serious crime, not civil
16 violations of the federal code, and
17 encourages policies that keep families
18 together, recognizes immigrants' role in
19 the economy and upholds the tenets of a
20 free society. This is not about a
21 particular person or any individual
22 politician or political party. It's
23 about humanity in general. We must not
24 forget that we are talking about real
25 live individuals and families that live

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2 and work in our community.

3 I am here to testify about
4 potential, the potential of our immigrant
5 community to help transform our City of
6 Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection
7 into a truly world-class city. I am an
8 immigrant from Bangladesh and I'm
9 extremely thankful for the opportunities
10 I have been able to avail to be
11 successful and to give back to my city
12 and state. I am thankful to those who
13 saw past my skin color, my foreign name
14 and instead recognized my potential to be
15 a productive citizen. Sure, I have
16 encountered barriers along the way, and
17 still do, but the faith of those who
18 believe in me and my own faith in myself
19 far outweigh these obstacles and helps me
20 persevere in striving for my goals. I am
21 most proud of my children, who are aware
22 that they are lucky to be born and live
23 in a country that affords them the
24 ability to shape their future as they
25 choose. My eldest daughter, a high

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2 school senior, has taken this to heart
3 and was selected as one of the 141
4 presidential scholars, one of the
5 nation's highest honors for high school
6 students. She is one of the two students
7 representing Pennsylvania. Glancing at
8 the bios of the 141 students in the
9 brochure, a large number are children of
10 immigrants. This is the promise and
11 potential I am talking about. Every
12 child should have the opportunity to
13 shine in whatever endeavor they choose,
14 regardless of their immigration status.

15 The conversation about giving a
16 path to citizenship for the undocumented
17 immigrants should include the role that
18 our foreign and trade policies play in
19 creating the influx of such immigrants,
20 how the lack of proper resources of
21 settling refugees has caused the high
22 rate of deportation amongst some
23 communities where crimes committed as
24 juveniles are haunting now productive
25 residents. We need to change the

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2 discussion of immigration from one filled
3 with fear, hate and/or race and reframe
4 it in the context of human rights,
5 workforce needs, aging population and
6 global economy. The Pennsylvania Compact
7 does exactly that, and I urge the
8 esteemed Committee to resolve to adopt
9 the Pennsylvania Compact and support
10 immigration reform. Let Pennsylvania
11 continue to shine the welcome beacon to
12 those seeking a better life and continue
13 to celebrate immigration and its role in
14 shaping America's past, present and
15 future. I am grateful to Councilman
16 Kenney and Councilwoman Blackwell for
17 introducing this resolution and
18 organizing this hearing. I am thankful
19 to the entire Committee for this
20 opportunity to testify today.

21 Thank you.

22 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you
23 very much for your testimony.

24 Any questions for this panel?

25 (No response.)

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2 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Seeing
3 none, we thank you for coming.

4 Let the record reflect that in
5 addition to Councilwoman Blackwell, who
6 was in our audience, and Councilman Goode
7 and Councilman Greenlee, Councilwoman
8 Reynolds Brown is also in attendance as a
9 member of the Committee.

10 Judith Ginsberg, Judy
11 Bernstein-Baker and Hiro Nishikawa.

12 (Witnesses approached witness
13 table.)

14 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Whoever is
15 prepared to begin, please identify
16 yourself for the record.

17 MS. GINSBERG: Good morning and
18 thank you for this opportunity to speak.
19 My name is Judith Ginsberg and I am a
20 member of the Jewish Community Relations
21 Council. I serve on the Immigration Task
22 Force. The JCRC serves the needs of the
23 Jewish community through community
24 relations, government affairs, social
25 action and advocacy. Consistent with

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2 Jewish teachings and ethics, the JCRC is
3 dedicated to improving intergroup
4 understanding and to the enhancement of a
5 just and pluralistic society.

6 I am here today to testify in
7 support of the Pennsylvania Compact.

8 Rather than reiterate what previous
9 witnesses have said pursuant to the
10 Compact, I want to speak on why this
11 issue is so important to the Jewish
12 community.

13 Migration has been a central
14 element of the Jewish experience since
15 biblical times when famine forced the
16 Jewish people to flee Canaan and resettle
17 in Egypt. This experience has been
18 mirrored in American Jewish life with the
19 immigration of Jews to the United States
20 in search of religious freedom and
21 economic opportunity. As a reflection of
22 our history and based upon the biblical
23 imperative to welcome the stranger, the
24 American Jewish community has long
25 advocated for fair and just immigration

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2 and refugee policies.

3 In Leviticus, we are told, "You
4 shall have one law for the stranger and
5 the citizen alike."

6 Along with other Jewish
7 organizations such as HIAS Pennsylvania,
8 the American Jewish Committee, the Jewish
9 Council for Public Affairs and the
10 Religious Action Center of Reform
11 Judaism, we are committed to fair and
12 generous immigration policies which we
13 believe are fundamentally good for the
14 United States and consistent with Jewish
15 values.

16 The need for an immigration
17 policy that keeps families together and
18 creates pathways to citizenship for
19 undocumented immigrants, many of whom are
20 our neighbors, employees and co-workers,
21 is a moral and ethical issue. We are in
22 danger of creating a permanent underclass
23 that is a breeding ground for
24 discrimination. A society free of
25 prejudice and discrimination fosters

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2 conditions in which the American Jewish
3 community and all communities alike are
4 secure and free to flourish. This is why
5 the JCRC supports the Pennsylvania
6 Compact, a document that frames the
7 immigration debate in Pennsylvania and
8 Philadelphia. This frame should be
9 rational, realistic and compassionate.

10 Although we strongly feel that
11 immigration reform requires federal, not
12 local solutions, we also recognize the
13 trend to enacting legislation on
14 municipal and state levels and the need
15 to address this issue. The principles
16 enumerated in the Pennsylvania Compact
17 are principles inherent in religious
18 tradition. I thank Councilmembers Kenney
19 and Blackwell for introducing this
20 resolution and for taking the steps to
21 encourage dialogue regarding a sensible
22 and compassionate approach to policies
23 with regard to immigration in
24 Philadelphia.

25 Again, thank you for your time

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2 and attention.

3 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you
4 for your testimony.

5 Please identify yourself for
6 the record.

7 MS. BERNSTEIN-BAKER: My name
8 is Judy Bernstein-Baker, and I too want
9 to thank Councilman Kenney and
10 Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell for your
11 leadership, not only in this hearing but
12 over the years in welcoming immigrants to
13 our region.

14 My organization, HIAS, which
15 stands for the Hebrew Immigrant Aid
16 Society, has assisted over 300,000 Jewish
17 and other immigrants resettle in the
18 region in the past 130 years, providing
19 legal and social services, employment
20 assistance and English language classes,
21 and one of those we assisted was Dan
22 Aaron and his family, who you now know
23 went on to found Comcast.

24 Immigrants today are similar to
25 immigrants of generations ago, and we

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2 know this. We have those records. They
3 seek opportunity, freedom, safety and a
4 better future, and they are economic
5 engines, as many before me have
6 testified. Forty-one percent of all
7 Fortune 500 companies were founded by
8 immigrants or children of immigrants.

9 Yet today there is a package of
10 bills in Pennsylvania that will be moved
11 on in September around misnamed "National
12 Security Begins At Home." These 18 to 19
13 bills call for the local enforcement of
14 immigration laws, enhanced
15 identification, called for using an
16 inaccurate database to check workers'
17 statuses, bills making English the
18 official language in the Commonwealth, as
19 if it wasn't, and bills trying to deny
20 citizenship to children born in the U.S.
21 These bills do not make us more secure.
22 Instead, they create an atmosphere of
23 hate and fear, and they will drive
24 immigrants away from our state,
25 undermining any hope of economic

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2 recovery.

3 HIAS Pennsylvania stands with
4 the more than 50 faith leaders -- and I
5 circulated the letter signed by them --
6 across the state who publicly oppose
7 legislation which only turns neighbor
8 against neighbor. One of the bills
9 requires somebody to inform on their
10 co-worker and forces local district
11 attorneys to investigate if that person
12 is undocumented. That's House Bill 738,
13 the Arizona bill. Worker against worker.

14 It undermines the trust of
15 police in our community by turning them
16 into immigration agents and makes the
17 children of immigrants second-class
18 citizens.

19 The Arizona bill did not begin
20 in Arizona. It began in Hazleton,
21 Pennsylvania. The lawyers who defended
22 the local ordinance in Hazleton that
23 called for people to present their status
24 to rent apartments or work are the same
25 people who wrote the Arizona Bill 1070.

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2 The Pennsylvania bill that is now in our
3 Legislature is almost a carbon copy of
4 that bill.

5 We stand with families like the
6 M family, whose mother is here legally on
7 temporary protected status from El
8 Salvador and has been here since 1990,
9 but due to our broken immigration system,
10 cannot sponsor her son. Her 22-year-old
11 son and a former White Williams excellent
12 scholar and only honors graduate has been
13 here since he was 14 and now faces
14 deportation because Congress didn't pass
15 the Dream Act or immigration reform.

16 We are really at a crossroads
17 in our state. Will Pennsylvania enter
18 the global, diverse world or shrivel up
19 and become a shell of a society, lacking
20 vibrancy and growth? Will we become a
21 police state where everyone who looks
22 foreign born or speaks with an accent
23 will be looked upon with suspicion? Will
24 we become a state that spends money --
25 and I just looked at the state budget on

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2 how much money is being spent on welfare
3 fraud. It's the only thing that's been
4 increased -- while funding for education
5 and poverty programs are cut? Instead of
6 scapegoating immigrants, we need to work
7 together to find solutions that create
8 jobs, healthcare, excellent schools and
9 our place in a global world.

10 The Pennsylvania Compact sets
11 out those principles to change the
12 agenda. We need to support the Compact,
13 but we need to do more than this, because
14 Philadelphia is a city that's friendly to
15 immigrants, thanks to people like
16 Councilman Kenney and Councilwoman
17 Blackwell. And we need to urge our
18 legislators in Harrisburg to understand
19 that immigrants can be part of a
20 solution, they are not the problem. It
21 deflects from the problem.

22 And just incidentally, I did
23 attach a chart of the bills to my
24 testimony where you can see the summary
25 of those bills and also the letters sent

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2 by the 50 faith leaders.

3 We really need to change the
4 conversation in our state. It is not
5 just a matter of human dignity and
6 survival. It's a matter of what we are
7 going to become as a society. Sitting in
8 this room, in this diverse room, this is
9 really what America looks like, and to
10 deny that is to go back in history before
11 the 1800's, and that is exactly what some
12 people are trying to do.

13 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you
14 for your testimony.

15 Please identify yourself. Pull
16 the microphone to you. Thank you.

17 MR. NISHIKAWA: My name is Hiro
18 Nishikawa and I'm a member of the
19 Philadelphia Japanese American Citizens
20 League.

21 My testimony in support of the
22 Pennsylvania Compact will be a little bit
23 personal. My grandparents came from
24 Japan in the 1900's at a time when the
25 United States did not allow

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2 naturalization of immigrants, especially
3 from Asia. My parents were born in
4 California. They were brought back to
5 Japan as youngsters because of economic
6 conditions, but they exercised their
7 birth right and came back to the United
8 States some years later.

9 Then 1941 happened. So 120,000
10 of us, Japanese Americans, were
11 incarcerated in concentration camps. I
12 was one of them, with two other brothers.
13 The United States government broke their
14 own laws, ignored their own constitution
15 in so doing.

16 Fast forward to 1988.
17 President Reagan signs a Civil Liberties
18 Act acknowledging the wrongdoing of the
19 United States government and breaking its
20 own laws and seeks to not only redress
21 but apologize for this error.

22 Here we are in 2011 with a huge
23 broken immigration system. It's long
24 overdue that we address this as well,
25 because the government is not perfect,

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2 laws are not perfect, and clearly they
3 need changing and improving for the sake
4 of humanity and also just to deal with
5 the sense of American fairness, which has
6 been prevailing off and on over the last
7 250 years.

8 Thank you very much.

9 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you
10 for your testimony.

11 Any questions for this panel?

12 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Yes.

13 COUNCILMAN KENNEY:
14 Councilwoman Brown.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Good
16 morning. Good morning. Let me go on
17 record to salute Councilman Kenney, who
18 has been a real leader on this for all
19 the time that I've been here, and
20 Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell for the
21 creation of the Commission.

22 Your point is well taken about
23 how and what we do with regards to
24 helping the state recognize that America
25 does not look like the State of

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2 Pennsylvania, that it really does look
3 more like this room. And so have you
4 given thought to, either individually as
5 organizations or collectively, how we
6 strategically approach members of the
7 State Legislature to help them first
8 recognize this as an important issue and,
9 two, what they can and should do at the
10 state level to change the paradigm?

11 MS. BERNSTEIN-BAKER: Well,
12 that's one of the ideas behind the
13 Compact. What we modeled the Compact
14 after was an exercise in Utah where we
15 tried to bring together stakeholders who
16 ordinarily don't get engaged in this
17 discussion on immigration. So we want to
18 bring together the faith community, the
19 business community, the trades unions,
20 the political leaders and other people to
21 sign on to these principles and use that
22 as a guide when we discuss legislation to
23 shift the agenda.

24 On the other hand, some of the
25 legislation is advancing fairly quickly.

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2 So that's why these hearings are so
3 important, to have people sign on as City
4 Council people, as the Mayor and to
5 encourage colleagues in other cities.
6 For example, some of our colleagues are
7 working in Allentown and Lancaster and
8 Reading and other cities where immigrants
9 play such a vital role.

10 But I understand that sometimes
11 state politicians have not been in
12 discussion locally with populations whom
13 they feel don't play a role in having a
14 voice, and these include immigrants, many
15 of whom are legal but not yet eligible to
16 vote. So another thing that's so
17 important -- and PICC has been playing a
18 leading role and we play a role in
19 that -- is helping people naturalize and
20 vote.

21 But this is a very good
22 question, and I would ask you to help us
23 strategize the answer, because
24 Philadelphia is way ahead of the curve,
25 but we need everybody in the state to

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2 pull together, and we certainly need our
3 Philadelphia delegation to pull together.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: So let me
5 ask a follow-up question. I'm of the
6 belief if it's not in writing, it doesn't
7 exist. So have letters been written as a
8 starting point to members of the
9 Legislature about the need for their
10 involvement in this? Have meetings been
11 set up, either collectively or
12 individually? And, if so, what has been
13 the nature of the followup?

14 MS. BERNSTEIN-BAKER: Actually,
15 our letter that has 50 faith leaders was
16 published in the Harris Patriot-News and
17 we submitted it for publication in other
18 journals, but PICC and the ACLU and HIAS
19 is involved with -- the Bar Association
20 and other groups have had community
21 forums, and at every forum, letters are
22 generated. So the letters are going out,
23 but we could always use more letters, and
24 we certainly will be happy to send you
25 some sample letters that can go out.

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2 Right now many of the bills in
3 Harrisburg are before the State
4 Government Committee, which is chaired by
5 Representative Metcalfe. He's very
6 serious about moving these bills in
7 September. That's why it's important to
8 get on board with the Compact and set out
9 the series of principles while we also
10 try to look at what we can do about
11 stopping some of these very, very
12 negative bills.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Where is
14 Representative Metcalfe from, what part
15 of the state?

16 MS. BERNSTEIN-BAKER: Butler
17 County, outside of Pittsburgh.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay.
19 Thank you very much.

20 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

22 One of the things I would maybe
23 suggest, and it's more subjective than it
24 is anything else, is to try to approach
25 legislators from a perspective of their

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2 own historic ethnicity. I think the
3 thing that I find which is so maddening
4 sometimes with people who express
5 anti-immigration sentiment directly to me
6 is that they've lost touch with their own
7 cultural history. An Irish person,
8 American of Irish descent, who can
9 express those ugly sentiments has no
10 concept of what their people went through
11 when they came here, church burnings and
12 "no Irish need apply," and so on and so
13 on and so on. The Italians in the turn
14 of the century, not as bad as the
15 Japanese, but in many ways were
16 discriminated against during World War II
17 because the Italian nation's
18 participation in the Access Alliance. I
19 mean, people were restricted to their
20 homes. People's fishing boats were
21 taken. I mean, the West Coast after
22 Pearl Harbor was insane.

23 But I don't think that they
24 understand that for every group of people
25 who come here, with the exception of

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2 African Americans -- and that's another
3 whole story, because that's the great sin
4 of this country that will probably never
5 be actually taken into account totally --
6 is that this country progressed over its
7 history for two major issues, slavery,
8 which was forced free labor on the backs
9 of folks who provided wealth and allowed
10 it to be concentrated in the hands of a
11 small number of people through the use of
12 slave labor, and the second came about as
13 a result of onerous and terrible things
14 that happened around the world, religious
15 oppression, starvation, all kinds of
16 things that force people here. But that
17 was a positive thing, because they came
18 here and they flourished and developed.

19 I don't believe that a lot of
20 those folks who sit in Harrisburg who are
21 hyphenated Americans themselves
22 understand their own people's history in
23 this country, and I think that if we had
24 experts in Irish history, Italian history
25 and Jewish history and other type of --

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2 even the Germans' experience here, it
3 would explain to them that the same
4 ugliness that's being spouted by folks in
5 the Legislature was being spouted against
6 their great-grandparents or
7 great-great-grandparents when they got
8 here.

9 There's an ironic, kind of
10 funny but ironic, saying that anyone who
11 is spouting these anti-immigration
12 sentiments has been against immigration
13 ever since they got here. And it really
14 does fit in many cases.

15 But I think that, again, this
16 is a human issue, and I think that if
17 they understood and had some exposure to
18 their own cultural history in this
19 country, they would maybe think twice
20 before sending these prejudiced bills to
21 the floor for a vote.

22 So that's one of my
23 suggestions, but I don't know if
24 that's --

25 MS. BERNSTEIN-BAKER: Well, I

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2 know you've been a leader. We all know
3 you've been such a leader in this,
4 Councilman Kenney, and that you certainly
5 have a grasp on this, and hopefully when
6 we do community forums and public
7 education and we do it within our own
8 communities and within other communities,
9 we can help people connect the dots.

10 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Even on a
11 religious basis, they are flying -- their
12 sentiments are flying in the face of what
13 they purport their religious beliefs to
14 be. I mean, it's so diametrically
15 opposed to what the Bible teaches, both
16 Old and New Testament, and the Koran and
17 others. It just amazes me that people
18 who purport themselves to be Christians
19 or religious people would even think of
20 doing things like this. But that's the
21 irony of, I guess, our country today.

22 MR. NISHIKAWA: I might add a
23 comment. Your words are well taken.
24 Certainly in the Japanese American
25 community, we are trying to do what

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2 you're saying, because unless you get out
3 your stories and get out your history,
4 people forget, and this is amnesia that
5 is multi-generational sometimes.

6 So your point is very well
7 taken. What we need to do is clone more
8 of you.

9 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: That's a
10 frightening thought.

11 Thank you for --

12 MS. BERNSTEIN-BAKER: Thank you
13 very much to all the Councilpeople who
14 took our testimony.

15 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

16 Susanna Dodgson, Jen Rock and
17 Patience Lehrman.

18 (Witnesses approached witness
19 table.)

20 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Whoever is
21 ready to begin, please identify yourself
22 for the record.

23 DR. DODGSON: Good morning. My
24 name is Dr. Susanna Dodgson. I am the
25 publisher of Medical Journal of

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2 Therapeutics Africa, which I started
3 publishing in Philadelphia about four
4 years ago at University of Sciences in
5 Pennsylvania -- in Philadelphia.

6 I just have a personal story.

7 I am a member of the Mayor's Commission
8 on African and Caribbean Affairs, and I
9 want to tell you what a fabulous job they
10 are doing with immigrants. I also pay
11 close attention to what's happening at
12 the Welcoming Center, which is a jewel.
13 And you want to clone Irish people? Mrs.
14 O'Callaghan is another one.

15 My mother --

16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: They threw
17 that mold away.

18 MS. DODGSON: My mother was
19 Irish. I have been an immigrant myself
20 six times, which sounds absurd, but it's
21 true. I was born in England and I was
22 dragged to Ireland when I was five years
23 old to live with my mother's family.
24 Then I was dragged to New Zealand when I
25 was six, and then I was dragged to

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2 Australia. And I'm telling you dragged.

3 I did not want to go to any of these
4 places.

5 So I grew up in Australia, and
6 after I finished my Ph.D., I was accepted
7 as a post doc at the University of
8 Pennsylvania, and I flew very happily to
9 Philadelphia in 1978, and this is clearly
10 where I belong. I'm still here.

11 However, during my 32 years, I married a
12 German and I moved briefly to Germany as
13 a migrant, where I didn't speak the
14 language, and for the past five years,
15 I've been working in Africa and African
16 communities, which makes me six times a
17 migrant. And I can tell you one thing is
18 common, no one wants you if you're a
19 foreigner, and it doesn't matter what
20 kind of family you come from. My parents
21 were both physicians. I clearly come
22 from a very privileged background, but I
23 have some horrible stories, too. And I
24 just want to tell you that the Mayor's
25 Commission and the Welcoming Center is

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2 just -- they're just doing terrific stuff
3 for immigrants. And I'm hearing horrible
4 stories about African immigrants. For a
5 while in New York, I was living in a room
6 of a man who had been deported, a
7 Nigerian, who was a model citizen for 17
8 years. He was stopped by a policeman
9 because a light on his car was broken,
10 and he was deported. For some reason, he
11 hadn't been able to get his documents
12 together in all that time. But there's
13 one story after another.

14 So I just urge you to keep
15 doing whatever you're doing and support
16 Councilmember Kenney and Councilmember
17 Jannie Blackwell. Thank you so much.

18 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

19 Please identify yourself for
20 the record.

21 MS. ROCK: My name is Jennifer
22 Rock. I'm the Co-Director for the New
23 Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia.
24 We're a multi-faith coalition, including
25 people from Jewish, Catholic, Quaker,

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2 Methodist, Baptist, Mennonite and other
3 faith traditions.

4 I want to first thank you all
5 for giving us the opportunity today to
6 express our support in the PA Compact and
7 our concerns about the things we're
8 seeing happening in the State and the
9 City.

10 The PA Compact has come at a
11 crucial time. When misinformation and
12 venomous language like "anchor babies"
13 and "illegal aliens" are so pervasive,
14 the PA Compact gives us a framework to
15 respond and to talk about alternatives
16 and to talk about just forms of
17 immigration reform.

18 I'd like to focus on the law
19 enforcement component of the Compact and
20 start by thanking Councilman Kenney,
21 Blackwell, Councilwoman Blackwell, and
22 Councilwoman Sanchez for their comments
23 and support for a really remarkable
24 resolution that was passed this past
25 Thursday.

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2 Many families with whom we work
3 live in constant fear of unjust
4 deportation, workplace abuse and
5 predatory legislation such as Arizona
6 copycat bills and other bills that Judy
7 Bernstein-Baker from HIAS referred to.
8 But these families remain here and do the
9 best that they can to live and work and
10 support their families.

11 This fear affects not only the
12 families, but the neighborhoods, the
13 communities and the City as a whole. And
14 we in Philadelphia have an opportunity to
15 change at least some of these conditions,
16 which the resolution referred to on
17 Thursday.

18 The New Sanctuary Movement of
19 Philadelphia will continue to do all that
20 we can to support the City Council and
21 the Mayor to adopt the PA Compact, not
22 only in language but also in action by
23 ending the Secure Communities program
24 here in Philadelphia and ending ICE
25 access to the PARS database.

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2 In fact, the New Sanctuary
3 Movement has collected almost 200
4 personal written letters to the Mayor and
5 the District Attorney urging them to go
6 along with the resolution and to end
7 these harmful programs to the public
8 safety of Philadelphia.

9 Thank you so much for your
10 time.

11 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you
12 for your testimony.

13 Please identify yourself for
14 the record.

15 MS. LEHRMAN: Good morning. My
16 name is Patience Lehrman. I, first of
17 all, want to thank Councilmembers for
18 introducing this resolution in support of
19 the PA Compact. I am the National
20 Director of Project SHINE. Project SHINE
21 is a national immigrant integration
22 initiative at Temple University, which
23 was recently recognized by the White
24 House as a national model for immigrant
25 integration. It mobilizes -- it's found

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2 in 14 states around the country. It
3 mobilizes college students around
4 different universities in service to
5 immigrant communities and helping the
6 students learn skills that prepare them
7 as global citizens.

8 I am from one of the poorest
9 countries in the world, Cameroon, West
10 Africa. Growing up as a little girl in a
11 West African village, one of my most
12 terrifying experiences was watching my
13 neighbor getting beaten up by the police
14 officers and taken away from his family
15 because he opposed the government in
16 power.

17 I came to America because I
18 believe in American democracy. I was
19 introduced to this concept of democracy
20 at the tender age of 12 when I learned
21 about the Liberty Bell. You see, in my
22 mind, the Liberty Bell was a symbol of
23 freedom, which was not just freedom for
24 Americans but freedom for the rest of the
25 world.

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2 When I had the opportunity to
3 come to America, I immediately chose
4 Philadelphia. I wanted to see that Bell.
5 I wanted to see that symbol of freedom,
6 which was underscored by the Quaker
7 ideals of William Penn.

8 A lot of immigrants like myself
9 come to the U.S. fleeing from countries
10 where the police are a part -- they see
11 the police are a part of the state
12 apparatus. They see the police as a
13 group of people who are not out to
14 protect the interest of citizens but to
15 victimize citizens. And when they come
16 to America and they come to Philadelphia
17 in quest for that freedom, they are
18 confronted by laws like Secure
19 Communities and PARS that make them
20 afraid of the police, and they see the
21 police as agents of deportation.

22 I've been working with the 12th
23 Police District in Southwest Philadelphia
24 to change the perception of immigrants
25 towards the police system. And the 12th

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2 Police District holds monthly community
3 meetings to address community concerns,
4 and one of the challenges they face is
5 having representation from the immigrant
6 community in this part of this City, and
7 I've been trying to help change that
8 perception. And one of the things I find
9 out is that immigrants in this community
10 do not trust the police. It is a simple
11 issue. The police are not seen as a
12 group of people who protect the interest
13 of citizens. They are seen as people who
14 deport immigrants.

15 We must work together in
16 support of the PA Compact to change this
17 perception, to make the citizens change
18 the way they perceive and interact with
19 the police force. After all, immigrants
20 are an asset. They are the greatest --
21 they are Philadelphia's greatest asset.

22 We know that the labor force of
23 this City has been expanded tremendously
24 since 2000 due to the immigrant
25 population in this City. Immigrants

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2 revitalize neighborhoods. They increase
3 the tax base of the City. They build
4 storefronts in abandoned neighborhoods,
5 and they are an asset. They are an
6 asset, a benefit to this City and not a
7 burden.

8 I am calling on City officials,
9 I'm calling on legislators to consider
10 this PA Compact in support of the
11 perception or the paradigm shift whereby
12 we will see immigrants as an asset and an
13 opportunity for us to continue to build a
14 stronger regional and national economy.

15 A sound immigration policy or
16 reform is not only good for immigrants,
17 it is also good for American-born
18 citizens. After all, immigrant
19 integration is the rising tide that lifts
20 all boats. If immigrants become
21 integrated and they're able to leverage
22 their assets and their talents and their
23 skills, everybody wins. It's good for
24 our nation. It's good for our
25 prosperity.

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2 I want to thank you for the
3 opportunity to testify on behalf of this
4 resolution and urge the City Council to
5 adopt the Pennsylvania Compact.

6 Thank you.

7 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you
8 for your testimony.

9 Any questions for this panel?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Seeing
12 none, thank you very much for coming in.

13 Numa St. Louis, Tiguida Kaba.

14 (Witnesses approached witness
15 table.)

16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Good
17 morning. Please identify yourself for
18 the record.

19 MR. ST. LOUIS: Good morning.
20 Numa F. St. Louis, Haitian Professionals
21 of Philadelphia.

22 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Please
23 proceed.

24 MR. ST. LOUIS: Thank you for
25 having this hearing. I want to thank

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2 this Committee. I want to thank the
3 members of this Committee for having this
4 hearing, especially Councilman Kenney,
5 your leadership, Councilwoman Blackwell.
6 Your leadership have certainly been a
7 great asset to this.

8 I'm here to support this
9 resolution to have them put forward and
10 the Pennsylvania Compact. As my
11 colleague, Brad Baldia, mentioned, for
12 the first time in 50 years, the City of
13 Philadelphia saw an increase in its
14 population, and, of course, this had the
15 drastic ramification in terms of federal
16 dollars, infrastructure, money that the
17 City gets from the federal government,
18 that the movement afoot in this country
19 to demonize immigrants, to somehow paint
20 immigrants as the ones responsible for
21 all the social woes that this country
22 confronts. And I think Philadelphia can
23 play a unique role and saying no, that is
24 not the case, that immigrants play a
25 vital role in this country's livelihood,

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2 its social economic development and its
3 quality of life, and that is why we are
4 in support of this resolution.

5 We need to send a clear message
6 to the state and to the country that
7 immigrants are an asset, that immigrants
8 play a vital role. As has been said, our
9 labor force has increased, small
10 businesses, increase in population. All
11 these things are part of the holistic
12 approach that we need to demonstrate are
13 a part of the growth of the City and the
14 State of Pennsylvania.

15 There's a lot of copycat
16 legislations that are based on the one in
17 Arizona, and that is why I think this
18 body, this Committee, can send a loud
19 message to reject the notion that
20 immigrants are here to deprive America of
21 its holistic being, that immigrants are
22 somehow the ones that are responsible for
23 all the social woes that this country is
24 affront.

25 So I urge this body to show

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2 leadership, as it has, to show a
3 different light in terms of the role that
4 immigrants play in this society.

5 Thank you.

6 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you
7 for your testimony.

8 Please identify yourself for
9 the record.

10 MS. KABA: Hello. Good
11 morning, everybody. My name is Tiguida
12 Kaba. I'm the Founder and the Executive
13 Director of the African Family Health
14 Organization. It's an organization who
15 targets African and Caribbean immigrant.
16 In the past year, we serve more than 700
17 African and Caribbean immigrant in direct
18 service, and we outreach to over 2,000
19 immigrant.

20 So Philadelphia has seen a
21 number of immigrant moving here. When I
22 was coming in America 22 years ago, what
23 the recommendation I got is go to
24 Philadelphia, because Philadelphia is the
25 first capital of America and it's

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2 Brotherly City.

3 So I was in New York and
4 immigrate here 21 years ago, and I have
5 opportunity to meet a great man here, who
6 is a brother to me, Stanley Straughter,
7 and then Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell.
8 She's doing a wonderful job in that
9 community, include all the Council.

10 As an immigrant, I been through
11 a lot here in this country. I was
12 arrested in 2009 just advocating for
13 African woman HIV positive. The next
14 day, two days later, Immigration arrested
15 me in front of my son, who was born here,
16 19 years old, in front of him. As a
17 single mother, I have to go to jail for
18 two months and three weeks, leaving my
19 son behind me, who got shot after all
20 that, because the mother is not there.

21 So immigration should not be --
22 should be very comprehensive to
23 immigrant, because when you are a mother
24 or father, the children, how the children
25 going to be? They going to what happened

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2 to my son, got shot, for honor student,
3 for student of the month, who have been
4 working. As a single mother, I know I
5 did great job, but if I'm not around,
6 nobody will be there to do it for him.

7 So in the organization, I'm
8 learning. Every day when you walk at my
9 door, you see people. You know they need
10 help, because healthcare, if you in the
11 country and they ask you, you said, "For
12 ten years, I never seen a doctor," that
13 is a problem there. And for the City of
14 Philadelphia, we don't want sick people.
15 We want everybody to get healthy.

16 HIV, you see people who have
17 HIV. They can transmit it to other
18 people. So with an organization like our
19 organization, we talk to people, we
20 educate them, make sure they don't
21 transmit the disease to other people.
22 And it's a great organization here, like
23 HIAS. When I was arrested, HIAS, they
24 were behind me, with Councilwoman Jannie
25 Blackwell, Stanley Straughter, with all

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2 of you. I'm sure everybody was involved.

3 So Philadelphia should not be a
4 city where police going to be behind
5 people as ICE. No. Because as
6 Philadelphia, it's known as a city, the
7 best city in America.

8 I really support that
9 resolution and hope this resolution will
10 be passed.

11 Thank you for all your hard
12 work for the African immigrant and all
13 the immigrant.

14 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you
15 for your testimony.

16 MR. ST. LOUIS: Councilman, I
17 thought your pronunciation of my last
18 name was pretty good. Do you speak
19 French?

20 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: No.
21 Actually, I try to pronounce foreign
22 names the appropriate way. I think it's
23 respectful.

24 MR. ST. LOUIS: And I think
25 that captures the essence of why you're

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2 doing this, being culturally sensitive.

3 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

4 MR. ST. LOUIS: I just want to
5 say for the record that I'm the
6 Vice-Chair of the Haitian Professionals
7 of Philadelphia and I'm also a member of
8 the Mayor's Commission on African
9 American Affairs.

10 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

11 Stella Tsai, Tsiwen Law,
12 Mia-lia Kiernan.

13 (Witnesses approached witness
14 table.)

15 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Please
16 identify yourself for the record.

17 MS. TSAI: Good morning. My
18 name is Stella Tsai. I am the President
19 of the Asian Pacific American Bar
20 Association of Pennsylvania, also known
21 as APABA-PA, and a partner at the law
22 firm of Archer & Greiner. We thank you,
23 Councilman Kenney, Councilwoman Blackwell
24 and members of the Committee, for the
25 opportunity to testify in support of City

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2 Resolution 110313 to endorse the
3 Pennsylvania Compact.

4 While the Asian Pacific
5 American Bar Association, APABA-PA, being
6 lawyers would like to make a few tweaks
7 to the language of the Compact, we agree
8 with the fundamental principles that it
9 lays out for the analysis of the
10 Pennsylvania legislation to regulate
11 immigration. I'd like to highlight a few
12 points in our prepared remarks.

13 First, we agree that regulation
14 of immigration is reserved exclusively to
15 the federal government, because only a
16 sovereign power can enforce its borders.
17 This has been the law of the United
18 States since the 19th century when the
19 United States Supreme Court upheld the
20 Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and the
21 U.S. Customs Office's ability to bar
22 reentry of Chinese immigrants to their
23 domiciles in the United States.

24 Second, as you move from that
25 chapter, we agree that the state and

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2 local policies of the -- excuse me;
3 political subdivisions should not be
4 burdened with enforcing federal
5 immigration law. Only the immigration
6 law judge has the power to determine an
7 individual's immigrant status. State and
8 local law enforcement officials should be
9 devoted to prosecution of criminal
10 activity, which depends on the success
11 and willingness of witnesses, immigrants,
12 documented, undocumented, to come
13 forward. They cannot be expected to
14 enforce civil violations of immigration
15 law without undermining community
16 policing.

17 Third, we agree that strong
18 families are the foundation of our
19 communities, and we support immigration
20 laws and policies which keep families
21 together. To this point, in our own
22 community in Philadelphia and beyond,
23 Cambodian families are being torn apart
24 by a record number of deportations
25 predicated on convictions based on,

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2 quote/unquote, aggravated felonies, some
3 of them decades old, without a hearing.
4 We need to raise our voices in support of
5 these communities and these refugees who
6 pose no threat to our society but rather
7 make substantial contributions. We need
8 to advocate for changes to these federal
9 laws which would deny an individual, some
10 here for many, many years, a hearing on
11 their immigration status.

12 My colleague, Tsiwen Law, will
13 address some other points that the Asian
14 Bar would like to make.

15 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Please
16 identify yourself for the record.

17 MR. LAW: Good morning. I'm
18 Tsiwen Law. I am an Executive Committee
19 member of the Asian Pacific American Bar
20 Association and founder of that Bar
21 Association and current Co-Chair of the
22 Policy Committee.

23 I'm here to address the
24 E-verify system, which appears in seven
25 of the bills now pending in Harrisburg,

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2 some of which have been introduced and
3 mentioned by -- introduced by Daryl
4 Metcalfe from Butler County and were
5 referred to by the Managing Director,
6 particularly House Bill 355, House Bill
7 379, House Bill 380, House Bill 439,
8 House Bill 858, Senate Bill 637 and
9 Senate Bill 947.

10 What E-verify does is, it
11 creates an additional layer of
12 requirements on any employer, including
13 you as an employer here in City Council,
14 to use the electronic verification system
15 that's really, really limited right now
16 to federal contractors. But this state
17 legislation will require political
18 subdivisions to also engage in E-verify
19 as mandatory. It would not be voluntary.
20 It would be mandatory.

21 In addition to verifying each
22 employee after they've done the I-9 form
23 that you collect and put in the file for
24 three years, you have to check vendors
25 who come to supply the water bottles,

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2 that supply the paper to City Council.

3 They have to give you a certificate that

4 they have E-verified their employees

5 before they can have a contract to supply

6 whatever they supply to City Council.

7 Then you put those in the file.

8 And so every employer, whether a private

9 employer, you receive government funds,

10 particularly if you receive government

11 funds, has to have this additional layer

12 of recordkeeping, which will cost in the

13 millions of dollars ultimately. If you

14 multiply that by each of the City

15 departments, you can imagine what

16 additional cost the City will incur.

17 And one of the things that we

18 support in the Compact is the lower

19 barrier of entry for immigrants to be

20 able to start their own businesses.

21 Well, this adds an additional layer. If

22 immigrants are required now, whether they

23 receive government funds for their

24 businesses or not, now participate in the

25 E-verify program, because it's a program

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2 by which you become a contractor with the
3 federal government before you can have
4 access, and as a result of that, when an
5 employee comes to you, they fill out I-9,
6 you have to -- it's only for new hires,
7 and they have to be given the job. So
8 they're working, but if they come up with
9 a mismatch from the electronic system,
10 they have three days -- you have to give
11 them written notification. They have
12 three days then to challenge that, say
13 that I want to disagree with this
14 mismatch that came up either on my Social
15 Security number or on my other
16 identification. They then have -- you
17 have to give them ten days to go down to
18 Social Security Administration or to the
19 Department of Homeland Security to clear
20 up their records. And if there's a final
21 decision from either one of those
22 agencies that it is a continued mismatch,
23 then the employer can then terminate
24 them.

25 But you think of how this works

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2 on a construction job where you are under
3 penalties to complete a job by a certain
4 time and you're brought in by the general
5 contractor and you have only so much time
6 and you've got people who have mismatches
7 in their E-verify information. You have
8 this unstable workforce, because you're
9 looking to possibly have to fill another
10 spot if this person continues in a
11 mismatch situation.

12 The Department of Homeland
13 Security has contracted with Westat,
14 W-E-S-T-A-T, a private consulting firm,
15 to examine the effectiveness of the
16 system and whether it in fact
17 discriminated against immigrants, and it
18 turns out, because there are two
19 algorithms to apply to immigrants as
20 opposed to U.S. citizens, there's a
21 failure rate or mismatch rate of 30
22 percent when it comes to immigrants as
23 opposed to non-citizens compared to the
24 3.7 percent in U.S. citizens. The result
25 of that is that some 3,000 jobs during

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2 the year that they actually analyzed the
3 data, 3,000 persons had erroneous
4 mismatches; that is, that they should
5 have been corrected because of whether
6 it's a misspelling of their name,
7 mis-entry of their birth dates or for
8 some other reason, unrelated to the fact
9 that they had authorization to work, that
10 those people did not get jobs or could
11 not keep their jobs because of the
12 E-verify system, and yet they were
13 entitled because it was simply an error
14 in the system that caused them not to
15 have their jobs.

16 So this is an additional system
17 that needs to be exposed as really what
18 it is, which is not intended for
19 widespread use. It's intended really
20 just for federal contractors who receive
21 federal funds from the U.S. government.
22 But under the proposed legislation in
23 Harrisburg, all employers, all political
24 subdivisions, private employers would be
25 required to engage in this system despite

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2 the failure rates. It's based on Social
3 Security data and Immigration data, both
4 of whom have almost double-digit errors
5 in the data because of -- and one of the
6 reasons why is because people don't
7 notify the Social Security Administration
8 when they become naturalized citizens,
9 and so they don't show up as citizens in
10 the database.

11 And employers -- the
12 legislation attempts to assure employers
13 that they're okay if they use the
14 E-verify system by saying that you're
15 immunized from state liability, even
16 though the law gives anybody a right to
17 go challenge somebody else's status. So
18 there's a private right of action that's
19 built into these statutes that says
20 anybody can just file suit and say, Oh, I
21 disagree with the employer's
22 result/decision on whether to hire this
23 employee, and they sue, and, of course,
24 then as an employer, you're engaged in a
25 legal battle now.

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2 But as a part of that, the
3 problem is that -- there is an Office of
4 Special Counsel that's created to
5 prosecute anybody that uses the system
6 wrongly, that abuses the system. For
7 example, you can't use it to pre-screen
8 applicants, and if you do, then you'll be
9 subject to federal prosecution. Well,
10 the state legislation cannot immunize a
11 private employer or even City Council
12 from abusing this system. You'll still
13 be prosecuted by the Office of Special
14 Counsel in the Department of Justice. So
15 the assurances that the state legislation
16 gives you that if you use the E-verify
17 system you're safe is pretty false, and
18 this has to be exposed. And we hope that
19 by adoption of the Compact, the City
20 Council will take action to expose the
21 faults of this system.

22 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: It would
23 seem to me that this would be a naturally
24 opposed piece of legislation by the state
25 Chambers of Commerce throughout the

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2 Commonwealth. I mean, talking about a
3 level of responsibility and cost that we
4 mandate upon a private company would seem
5 to be something that they would normally
6 be in here complaining about or being in
7 the State Legislature complaining about.

8 Have you noticed any Chamber
9 activity in regards to the opposition of
10 these bills?

11 MR. LAW: Not the Chamber
12 itself, but the Pennsylvania Housing --
13 the Building Contractors Association has
14 gone on record against it and a number of
15 business organizations have been starting
16 to weigh in on it, as they learn more
17 about the problems with this system and
18 how it creates more burdens and more
19 regulatory problems for them.

20 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay.

21 Please identify yourself for
22 the record.

23 MS. KIERNAN: Good morning. My
24 name is Mia-lia Kiernan and I'm an
25 organizer with a group called One Love

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2 Movement. Thank you to the Committee and
3 all of you for providing this space to
4 hear the concerns and experiences of the
5 community with regards to immigration
6 policy.

7 One Love Movement has been
8 advocating for the release of friends and
9 family in the Cambodian community who
10 were detained by Immigration and Customs
11 Enforcement, ICE, on September 21st,
12 2010.

13 Sorry. I wrote that wrong.
14 It's a typo.

15 They were subsequently held at
16 York County Prison for over eight months,
17 until they were removed to Cambodia about
18 a month ago. This process of prolonged
19 detention and unjust deportation has been
20 detrimental to the families and to the
21 community as a whole. These individuals
22 were detained and deported on the basis
23 of crimes committed as youth or young
24 adults. One in particular was deported
25 for his role in a youth street fight in

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2 Olney when he was 15, and he was charged
3 as an adult by our District Attorney's
4 Office, which made him subject to
5 permanent deportation. He is now a
6 reformed 30-year-old man, a contributing
7 community member and has been separated
8 from his four young children.

9 Upon release from serving their
10 sentences years ago, these men were given
11 orders of deportation based on those
12 prior convictions in their adolescence.
13 However, because Cambodia was unable to
14 accept them back at that time, they were
15 placed on supervised release, and this
16 meant that they had been living freely in
17 the community for many years, building
18 lives as reformed individuals, all under
19 the parameters of ICE supervision.

20 On September 20th of last year,
21 this group of people received calls from
22 ICE to check in at 16th and Callowhill,
23 and on less than 24 hours notice, they
24 did check in, and they were detained.
25 Children were waiting outside of the

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2 building for them, but they never came
3 out. And all of the following visits
4 over the next eight months would be
5 through glass at York County Prison.

6 The lack of notice was jarring
7 to everybody. These people were given no
8 time to prepare, no time to settle
9 financial affairs or assets that they had
10 been building over the past two decades
11 of life here in Philadelphia, no time to
12 emotionally or mentally prepare their
13 families for being broken apart.

14 As the long months went on, the
15 inhumanity of indefinite incarceration
16 wore on everyone, and they were only
17 subject to three 30-minute visits a week
18 through glass and a telephone receiver,
19 really high-rate phone calls to loved
20 ones that cut off after 20 minutes, and
21 no access to income -- or to provide
22 income for their families. One family
23 was forced to foreclose on their home due
24 to the loss of their main income
25 provider, which all of these people were.

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2 Some of the children are suffering from
3 behavioral health issues, tantrums,
4 isolated behavior and severe depression.

5 ICE tries to maintain that
6 their holding facilities are family
7 friendly, but they're not. On a
8 children's visit day, a child suffered an
9 injury falling off a stool in the
10 visitors' room and there wasn't a nurse
11 available to cater to the injury even
12 though there were dozens of children at
13 the facility at the time.

14 These are Philadelphia's
15 children, children that go to our public
16 schools, children that we are supposed to
17 support and protect from harm. However,
18 they have been subjected to inhumane
19 treatment by ICE and forced separation
20 from their parents.

21 When it came time for these
22 individuals to be deported just a month
23 ago, little notice was given yet again.
24 One individual was deported without even
25 the opportunity to have his family drop

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2 off luggage for him at the prison. He
3 arrived in Cambodia with nothing but the
4 clothes he was wearing the day he was
5 detained eight months before.

6 Another man was moved from York
7 County Prison. His wife found out, not
8 by ICE but found out from his cellmate
9 who called, and finally a week later,
10 after not hearing from him, he was able
11 to call when he was on board the plane in
12 LAX en route to Cambodia.

13 We can't be part of allowing
14 children and families to go through this
15 terrible process in our city. It is
16 angering and demoralizing to everyone
17 involved, and that isn't just the
18 families, it's everyone in the community
19 who sees it happening, and that's
20 neighbors, teachers, co-workers, friends.

21 We urge City Council to
22 consider the implications of deporting
23 people who came here as child refugees
24 and all the trauma that comes with that
25 experience and to consider the

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2 implications of deporting individuals for
3 mistakes made as juveniles in our city
4 and in our neighborhoods.

5 And please consider deeply the
6 effects of unjust detention and
7 deportation in regards to the egregious
8 practices of ICE in our city.

9 Thank you.

10 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

11 I just think the irony here is is that I
12 would suspect that much of our Cambodian
13 immigration and Laotian immigration was a
14 direct result of our stupid policies of
15 Southeast Asia, which created the deaths
16 of 58,000 Americans and drove people out
17 of that country here. And now we round
18 them up again, similar to what they had
19 experienced in their history, and do
20 these things.

21 I mean, we had 32 shootings
22 over this weekend. Thirty-two people
23 were shot in the City. If ICE wants to
24 ensure secure communities, they can come
25 and help us with our policing of our

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2 native-born Americans and do something
3 positive for a change.

4 It's galling to listen to this.
5 It's just so un-American, and just it
6 flies in the face of what we're supposed
7 to stand for. I just think that
8 hopefully hearings like this will
9 continue to bring this information to the
10 fore. Whether it makes ICE any different
11 or not, I sadly doubt it, but this kind
12 of action is just unconscionable. So
13 keep on trying.

14 MS. KIERNAN: I appreciate your
15 comments.

16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Any
17 questions for these witnesses?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

20 MR. LAW: Council, if I might
21 just move my testimony into the record.

22 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Yes,
23 please.

24 MR. LAW: Thank you.

25 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I love

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2 lawyers. Thank you.

3 Blanca Pacheco, Pastor Aldo

4 Siahaan, Fernanda Marroguin.

5 MS. ROCK: Pastor Aldo won't be
6 speaking, so if you can skip to the next
7 person on the list.

8 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay.

9 Thank you.

10 (Witness approached witness
11 table.)

12 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Just one?

13 MS. ROCK: Fernanda will be
14 speaking, but Pastor Aldo will not.

15 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay.

16 Come forward, please.

17 (Witness approached witness
18 table.)

19 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Please
20 identify yourself for the record and pull
21 that microphone close to you.

22 MS. PACHECO: Hello. Good
23 morning.

24 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Good
25 morning.

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2 MS. PACHECO: My name is Blanca
3 and I am part of the New Sanctuary
4 Movement and I also work in a law firm,
5 which law firm we call Crimmigration,
6 because we deal with criminal and
7 immigration issues. I am also
8 representing thousands of people who are
9 outside of this building and would like
10 to raise their voice, but they are just
11 afraid to do it.

12 Most of our clients are
13 Latinos, Jamaicans and a couple Indians
14 and Russians. Most of our clients have
15 what ICE call "criminal records." The
16 crimes these people committed is driving
17 without a license, traffic violations,
18 DUI, domestic violence or just that they
19 look Mexican. For the 30 people who call
20 in a week, maybe one or two of them have
21 a kind of criminal record, simple assault
22 or drugs.

23 When a US citizen is stopped on
24 the street by the police, what they are
25 thinking, what is that they have in their

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2 mind, Oh, my God, I will get a ticket, or
3 I can't go out for dinner anymore because
4 I will have to pay the ticket and spend
5 the money on that.

6 For an illegal alien, it's
7 really different and very difficult
8 today, because what is in their head is
9 like, What's going to happen with me; who
10 do I need to call; what's going to happen
11 with my family, with my kids; who I will
12 borrow money from because I will need to
13 be paying bond in an immigration hearing
14 or in a criminal jail; how long will I be
15 in jail. All this crisis because they
16 run a stop sign and the police decided
17 that they going to call Immigration and
18 put a detainer on them.

19 Now I would like to share a
20 typical day in my workplace. There is a
21 woman who called crying and said, My
22 husband was detained.

23 Okay. Well, tell me what
24 happened.

25 He was going to work 6:00 in

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2 the morning and the police stopped him
3 because they were paying a toll, and six
4 of them were pulled over and ICE took all
5 them.

6 I tell her, Well, just come for
7 a consultation to the office, and she
8 said, Well, I will see what I can do,
9 because I just gave birth to my daughter
10 five days ago and I will see what I can
11 do.

12 Another story, there is a woman
13 calling to the office crying and saying,
14 I don't know what to do. My kids are
15 really scared. The police show up to my
16 house, point us with a gun and took my
17 husband. My husband is not here anymore.
18 I have no idea where he is, and my kids
19 are really scared and I'm really
20 confused. I don't know what's going on.

21 She is a US citizen and her
22 five kids are US citizen and her husband
23 is a green card holder. He was put in
24 jail just because there was a mistake and
25 he had a criminal record, who he paid for

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2 in the past. He sits two months in jail
3 and come out after two months.

4 I can say couple of stories,
5 but I just think that would take so long.
6 But something is wrong with the
7 immigration law when a person goes to
8 16th and Callowhill and deliver a pizza
9 and get detained by ICE; when a woman
10 call asking for help and saying, I'm
11 suffering domestic violence, and they get
12 detained by ICE.

13 People can't get help from the
14 police, can't get protection, because
15 they're afraid. So I am sure that these
16 five kids who the father was detained by
17 Immigration, they're really afraid of the
18 police now. They were ten years was the
19 older one and I think two years is the
20 minor.

21 For each people who get
22 detained, 80 of them will be deported,
23 because they live in the country less
24 than five years, and the family will be
25 taken apart.

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2 Well, how people work here when
3 they get here from another country?

4 People can get an IRS number where they
5 can use to pay taxes or sometimes this is
6 good to open a bank account. They can
7 pay taxes, but they don't get any benefit
8 of it. They can't get a driver license.
9 They can do nothing. So they can help
10 the country grow, but they getting
11 nothing back.

12 The immigration policies are
13 wrong, and I would like to urge this
14 Committee to help pass law and to -- for
15 people who is in power to push for an
16 immigration reform. This is why we need
17 the Pennsylvania Compact and the
18 immigration reform.

19 Thank you very much for giving
20 me the opportunity to talk.

21 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I have a
22 question about the situation with the
23 five kids where the green card holder was
24 taken. Was he taken by Philadelphia
25 Police or by ICE?

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2 MS. PACHECO: By Philadelphia
3 Police.

4 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: What was
5 the reason that the Philadelphia Police
6 came to the house?

7 MS. PACHECO: They were looking
8 for someone else.

9 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Do you have
10 the paperwork, the arrest paperwork from
11 the Philadelphia Police?

12 MS. PACHECO: Yeah. The
13 attorney will have it. He had a criminal
14 background in another state, which he
15 paid for and everything was fixed.

16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I would
17 like to see who in the Philadelphia
18 Police Department directed or conducted
19 that operation at that home.

20 MS. PACHECO: Okay.

21 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Because
22 part of what the problem here is, in many
23 ways, is the attitude of the Police
24 Department in this activity, and I will
25 harken back to Commissioner Timoney, who

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2 was an immigrant himself from New York,
3 was just astounded that we had a
4 regulation requiring the Philadelphia
5 Police to turn over information on people
6 who were victims of a crime, witnesses to
7 a crime, in a car accident. I mean, he
8 was beside himself with the notion that
9 the Philadelphia Police Department would
10 participate in providing information to a
11 federal agency about folks like this.

12 I think, and sadly -- I mean,
13 again, I have a lot of respect for
14 Commissioner Ramsey, but I sense that
15 that whole model has changed and that
16 it's somehow a regular activity that the
17 police cooperate with ICE, even when a
18 person hasn't done anything. And that's
19 what's upsetting to me and that's the
20 reason for the resolution on Thursday, is
21 that I don't think our police should be
22 assisting in any way ICE, unless the
23 person is being accused of a serious
24 crime or is a terrorist. And I think
25 that's where -- we're continually told

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2 the police don't have time to do certain
3 activities, but they certainly seem to
4 have time to do this. And I would like
5 to use that information to get to the
6 bottom of how that all unfolded, from a
7 9-1-1 call right through the system and
8 who directed who and was there a
9 supervisor on the scene or sergeant or
10 lieutenant who said, yes, take that
11 person. I would like to get all that
12 information as almost like a test case
13 and how we get into this situation.

14 MS. PACHECO: Okay.

15 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: So you can
16 provide the Chair with that information
17 or have an attorney contact me who is
18 involved. I would like to track it
19 through as a case study.

20 MS. PACHECO: Okay. This type
21 of case is like -- Secure Communities is
22 destroying families every day, and this
23 is just two of the stories of many.

24 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: But it's
25 bad enough when ICE does it. It's

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2 unconscionable when our police are
3 participating in it. I mean, ICE is what
4 they are. Our folks are supposed to be
5 our folks, not their folks.

6 So I would appreciate that
7 information.

8 MS. PACHECO: Thank you.

9 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Please
10 identify yourself.

11 MS. MARROGUIN: Good morning.
12 My name is Fernanda Marroguin, and I am
13 undocumented. I'm a member of
14 DreamActivist Pennsylvania, an
15 undocumented youth-led organization that
16 is committed to defending the rights of
17 immigrant youth. So as undocumented
18 youth, we will stand up for ourselves,
19 our families and our communities.

20 My parents brought me to the
21 United States 11 years ago after their
22 business fell apart due to the economic
23 crisis of Peru, my home country. We came
24 here on a tourist visa, which expired six
25 months after our arrival. They made the

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2 tough decision of leaving everything
3 behind to give my siblings and me a
4 better future and a better education.

5 They enrolled me in elementary
6 school, and I quickly adapted to the
7 American lifestyle and learned the
8 country's history. I began identifying
9 myself as an American and as a
10 Pennsylvanian.

11 I did not know what being
12 undocumented meant, until my last year of
13 high school when I attempted to apply for
14 college. My friends, anticipating their
15 own future adventures, would ask me which
16 university I was planning on attending,
17 and I would always respond with an
18 uncertain, "I don't know."

19 I felt ashamed and I was
20 afraid. I was ashamed that I could not
21 make my parents proud, ashamed that I had
22 to stay behind while all my friends
23 fulfill their dreams, and I was afraid
24 that my family would be broken apart by
25 deportation.

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2 No human being should have to
3 feel like that, and no human being should
4 be forced to live in the shadows.

5 But today I can truly say that
6 I am undocumented and I am unafraid, and
7 I've decided to take a stand on this
8 personal issue, because I cannot watch my
9 community suffer without stepping up and
10 doing something about it.

11 I'm a current student in
12 Montgomery County Community College, but
13 I can only afford to take two to three
14 classes per semester because I have to
15 pay as an international student. As an
16 international student, I pay three times
17 the amount my friends pay, all out of my
18 pocket, even though my parents pay
19 Pennsylvania state taxes.

20 There is a bill that was
21 introduced by Representative Tony Payton
22 on Monday, June 20th called the
23 Pennsylvania Dream Act, House Bill 1695.
24 The Pennsylvania Dream Act is a
25 tuition-equity legislation that would

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2 allow undocumented youth in Pennsylvania
3 to pay in-state tuition rates of public
4 institutions of higher education,
5 provided we meet certain requirements.

6 Some of those requirements include having
7 attended a public or non-public secondary
8 school in the Commonwealth for at least
9 three years, graduating from a
10 Pennsylvania high school, and the student
11 or parent must have paid income taxes for
12 the past three years in the State of
13 Pennsylvania.

14 The bill will provide
15 much-needed relief to undocumented youth
16 like me residing in the State of
17 Pennsylvania, who only wish to contribute
18 to the state's economic well-being. We
19 are attending and graduated from the
20 state schools and deserve an opportunity
21 to achieve our dreams and goals of higher
22 education.

23 And this is also why the
24 Pennsylvania Compact is important. It
25 would provide undocumented immigrants

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2 like me, who only wish to contribute back
3 to Pennsylvania's economic well-being,
4 much-needed relief.

5 I'd like to thank the Council
6 for allowing me to share my story to show
7 how the Pennsylvania Compact would
8 benefit not only immigrants living in the
9 state but all residents living in this
10 great state.

11 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you
12 very much for your testimony.

13 Are there any questions for
14 these two witnesses?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Seeing
17 none, we thank you for coming in.

18 Eva Serrano, Edgar Ramirez,
19 Carlos Rojas.

20 (Witnesses approached witness
21 table.)

22 THE INTERPRETER: I'm going to
23 be translating for all of them.

24 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Fine.

25 Whoever is ready to start,

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2 please identify yourself for the record.

3 MS. SERRANO (through
4 interpreter): Good morning to the Board.
5 My name is Eva Serrano and I am part of
6 JUNTOS and the New Sanctuary Movement.

7 I arrived in America in 1996.
8 I arrived with my three children escaping
9 domestic violence. I arrived here
10 seeking refuge and to make a new life.

11 My son was 16 years old and he
12 was arrested in 2007. He was attending a
13 party and he was with a friend who had
14 drank too much and he had tried to drive
15 him home. On the way home on Dickinson
16 Street, my son's friend was slashing
17 tires and my son was trying to stop him.
18 On the way back, neighbors arrested my
19 son and his friend because of what had
20 happened, even though they had told him
21 that he was innocent.

22 When I went to the police
23 station to pick up my son, an ICE agent
24 appeared and they demanded an
25 identification. When I arrived there,

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2 the ICE agent told me that anyone that
3 arrived at a police station had to go
4 through ICE.

5 In my son's case, he was found
6 innocent because there were witnesses.
7 Even though my son went to court and he
8 was found innocent, ICE still wants to
9 deport him. With what has happened, we
10 are now afraid to report any crimes to
11 police because of fear of being deported.

12 I believe that the City of
13 Philadelphia Police has to cut ties with
14 ICE. The police should not have a right
15 to share such information with ICE. The
16 police is basing their decisions on the
17 appearance of people and their skin
18 color, and I do not feel safe.

19 I hope that the City approves
20 laws that are more pro-immigrant. We are
21 hard-working people and we support the
22 growth of our city. We deserve the same
23 rights as everyone else. And I ask that
24 you analyze all of these testimonies.

25 Thank you.

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2 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: De nada.

3 Please identify yourself for
4 the record.

5 MR. RAMIREZ: Buenos dias.

6 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Buenos
7 dias.

8 MR. RAMIREZ (through
9 interpreter): Thank you for the chance
10 to share my testimony. My name is Edgar
11 Ramirez and I am an immigrant from Mexico
12 that has been living in Philadelphia for
13 the past five years.

14 Since I've arrived in
15 Philadelphia, I have been working very
16 hard. I'm a member of three community
17 organizations that work for immigrant
18 rights. Our main goal is to work with
19 people to be respectful citizens and to
20 be part of all of the opportunities that
21 are in this City.

22 We have helped with the
23 creation of more than 30 businesses in
24 the City of Philadelphia. However, to
25 continue this, we need the City of

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2 Philadelphia to pass laws that continue
3 allowing the growth of businesses.

4 For the past days, our
5 community has been very scared about all
6 of the laws that have been passed, and we
7 believe that it is very necessary to pass
8 laws that foster a sense of peace rather
9 than continue its fear.

10 I am very excited to be here,
11 because I know that from this gathering,
12 a resolution will arise, because the
13 entire country sees Philadelphia as a
14 place where new ideas and new
15 opportunities will arise.

16 Gracias.

17 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: De nada.

18 Please identify yourself for
19 the record.

20 MR. SANCHEZ (through
21 interpreter): Thank you for the
22 opportunity of giving my testimony. My
23 name is Carlos Pascual Sanchez and I am
24 an immigrant. I am a worker here in
25 Philadelphia and I work around 60 to 65

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2 hours a week. In my spare time, I am a
3 volunteer at JUNTOS in South
4 Philadelphia.

5 By being a worker in
6 Philadelphia, I have had the chance to
7 meet other immigrants who work just as
8 long or even longer hours than I do. Our
9 reason for immigrating to Philadelphia
10 has been in search of a new opportunity
11 and a new place, and all we are looking
12 for is a place where we can work and
13 raise our families.

14 In the past, the community of
15 South Philadelphia had come to an
16 agreement with the police there that
17 corridors of safety were going to be
18 created. Ties of trust had been formed
19 between the community of South
20 Philadelphia and the police regarding the
21 security, but as a result of Secure
22 Communities, these ties have been broken.
23 Now, as a result, the Latino community in
24 South Philadelphia is very distrustful of
25 the police and it is very rare that

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2 anyone will come forward and testify.

3 The children of a friend of
4 mine used to see police officers as their
5 heroes, as a form of a Superman, but now
6 when they see them, they break out in
7 tears.

8 Thank you for the chance to
9 speak.

10 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

11 Any questions for these
12 witnesses?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Let me make
15 one comment relative to language, and I
16 think it's important in South
17 Philadelphia that we recognize this.

18 There was a controversy -- and
19 I won't go into the whole controversy
20 about the speak English issue, but
21 there's a church in South Philadelphia
22 that every Sunday morning has their 8
23 o'clock mass in Italian. And the
24 Italians have been here over a hundred
25 years and there's still people in South

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2 Philadelphia who want to worship in their
3 native language, even though they've been
4 here a long time.

5 So I think learning English is
6 a wonderful thing, but holding on to your
7 culture is also important.

8 MR. SANCHEZ: We are working
9 and learning the language. It's hard. I
10 told you I'm working about 60, 65 hours
11 by week. In my free time, I working with
12 JUNTOS organization. So I don't have too
13 much time. I would like to take English
14 classes to learn and improve my English,
15 but for now it's a little difficult.

16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: First of
17 all, your English is better than my
18 Spanish.

19 MR. SANCHEZ: Thanks.

20 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: And my
21 point of my story was that even after
22 over a hundred years of Italian
23 immigration in South Philadelphia, there
24 are still locations where people prefer
25 to worship and to speak Italian, and

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2 that's a wonderful thing. Your English
3 is coming along wonderfully, but it's
4 important that we understand that we can
5 speak English and also hold on to our
6 culture and our other languages, as the
7 Italians have done.

8 The sad part about the Irish is
9 that the English beat Gaelic out of us a
10 long time ago, many hundreds of years
11 ago, or we would still be able to hold on
12 to our language and culture, but it was
13 forbidden in Ireland when it was under
14 control of the English to teach the
15 Gaelic language, so it very much faded
16 away.

17 I don't want to see Spanish
18 fading away. I'd like to see people
19 speak English and learn English, but
20 don't ever lose -- hold on to your own
21 culture. It's very important.

22 So gracias.

23 MR. SANCHEZ: Thanks.

24 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: That is the
25 end of our witness list. I want to thank

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2 everybody, Councilman Goode for staying
3 the entire hearing, Councilwoman Brown
4 for a long period of time, Councilmember
5 Greenlee and Councilmember Blackwell.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: May I
7 likewise. We have Vernon Price here, who
8 has been here --

9 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Mr. Price,
10 I'm sorry. How are you? Good to see
11 you. For the District Attorney's
12 Office --

13 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Yes.
14 He's been here our whole hearing.

15 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: -- who was
16 here the entire time. Thank you. And
17 hopefully he will take back the messages
18 that he heard here to his boss.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: He's
20 invaluable to us in our struggles.

21 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Yes.
22 Absolutely.

23 But I want you to understand
24 that we're not going to stop with this
25 hearing. We're going to continue on

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2 bringing these issues to the forefront.

3 Hopefully -- the press, I know, is here.

4 We had some electronic press here.

5 Pennsylvania is a very
6 difficult state. Daryl Metcalfe is not
7 an open-minded individual, and some of
8 those folks up there forgot where they
9 came from also, but we'll continue to
10 push this story and to push this issue,
11 and we thank you all for your attendance
12 today. So good luck.

13 (Applause.)

14 (Committee on Legislative
15 Oversight concluded at 12:10 p.m.)

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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 June 28, 2011, and that
8 this is a true and correct transcript of same.

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13 -----
14 MICHELE L. MURPHY
15 RPR-Notary Public
16
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