

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, June 12, 2013
3:05 p.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT DARRELL L. CLARKE, CHAIR
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR., VICE-CHAIR
COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.
COUNCILMAN DENNIS O'BRIEN
COUNCILMAN BILL GREEN
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM K. GREENLEE
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE L. BLACKWELL
COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS-BROWN
COUNCILWOMAN MARIA D. QUINONES-SANCHEZ
COUNCILMAN DAVID OH
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON
COUNCILMAN BOBBY HENON
COUNCILMAN JAMES KENNEY
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS

BILLS: 120338, 120339, 120341, 120651, 130142
130150, 130163, 130180, 130183, 130254
130447

RESOLUTIONS: 130190

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: We're going to
3 start. We're ready to start.

4 Folks, we're going to start now. Thank you
5 and our apologies for not being on time. But
6 unfortunately in government, particularly at
7 budget time when there has to be significant
8 changes at the last minute and given the nature of
9 this particular year's budget dealing with the
10 traditional challenges with respects to balancing
11 the budget services versus the revenues, this
12 whole issue around AVI which, by the way, is still
13 a moving target although the current conversation
14 is centered around public education as it should
15 be, we still haven't concluded our AVI issue which
16 two months ago was the biggest issue in the City.
17 Now we have School District issues to deal with.
18 So, it requires that we pay a lot of attention to
19 what we do. And we may not be as expeditious as
20 people would like. But at the end of the day, we
21 want to make sure we get it right.

22 Again, I want to thank you for your
23 patience. And we will start our process. Then
24 when we go into our witnesses during the course of

1 the Public Hearing.

2 This is the continuation of the Public
3 Hearing of the Committee of the Whole regarding
4 Bills No. 120338, 120339, 120341, 120651, 130142,
5 130150, 130163, 130180, 130183, 130254 and 130447
6 and resolution 130190. Please note that Bills No.
7 130180, which is the City's Operating Budget -- I
8 want to emphasize, the City's Operating Budget --
9 and Bills No. 120651, which is the tax abatement
10 bills are the Bills that are going to be
11 considered for action today by this body. The
12 remaining Bills are being held at the request of
13 their respective sponsors.

14 I want to make note, because I know a lot
15 of you are here for School District issues, Bill
16 No. 130446 which is the Bill for tobacco has been
17 passed out of committee last week. That Bill is
18 already tee'd up in anticipation of a final vote.
19 The Liquor By The Drink Bill is not being called
20 up because there might be some contingency
21 language added into that.

22 This issue with respect to both of these
23 bills -- and I want to make this clear that both
24 bills which are clearly an opportunity to do

1 something for schools cannot be enacted. I want
2 to say "enacted," meaning that they can be passed
3 and revenue put on the table for schools cannot
4 happen unless the General Assembly, the House of
5 Representatives and the Pennsylvania Senate and
6 then subsequently the Governor sign the Bill to
7 enable the City of Philadelphia to enact these
8 Bills. All right. So -- and I try to emphasize
9 that to the press earlier. It doesn't matter what
10 we do in here, if they don't do what they need to
11 do in Harrisburg, all right, we are not going to
12 be in a position to put money on the tables for
13 schools at the level that we would like.

14 We have tee'd up and will continue to tee
15 up legislation that hopefully will be in the
16 position to put and probably exceed the School
17 District's request for \$60 million from the local
18 level. In our conversations with the General
19 Assembly as it relates to the enabling legislation
20 and other broader funding issues, that
21 conversation up there continues. I know there is
22 a lot of moving parts. And I don't want to even
23 attempt to explain what is going on in Harrisburg
24 because sometimes I don't quite understand or know

1 what's going on myself. So, I will stick to the
2 local level and talk about what we are prepared to
3 do.

4 With that, I will ask Ms. Lewis to read the
5 title of the Bill we are considering today. And
6 before I do that, there is also in addition to
7 those particular bills, smoking and -- I know some
8 of you are here for the first time -- Smoking and
9 Tobacco, there is also an opportunity based on
10 enhanced collections by the City of Philadelphia
11 to put, I believe, approximately \$28 million on
12 the table for schools.

13 So if, say for instance, we were able to
14 get enabling legislation for smoking and the
15 enhanced collections which we control locally,
16 there will be more than \$60 million provided from
17 a local basis for the School District of City of
18 Philadelphia which exceeds the request. Okay.

19 So with that, I would ask Ms. Lewis to
20 please read the titles of the bills we are
21 considering today.

22 THE CLERK: Bill No. 130180, an Ordinance
23 adopting the Operating Budget for Fiscal Year
24 2014.

1 Bill No. 120651, amending Chapter 19-1300
2 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Real Estate
3 Taxes," by reducing the amount of real estate
4 taxes to be exempted for certain improvements to,
5 or construction of, certain residential,
6 commercial, industrial or other business
7 properties; and by reducing the duration of such
8 exemptions; all under certain terms and
9 conditions.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you.

11 What I would like to do, we have some
12 continuing business with respect to our Operating
13 Budget and other matters, so I would quickly like
14 to ask the Managing Director Mr. Negrin to come
15 and give us an update on where we are from
16 municipal marketing, which is a revenue measure
17 that we hope at some point we'll be able to enact
18 to have possibly money for schools or other
19 measures related.

20 And I also want to reiterate there will
21 probably to the Administration some questions
22 about some proposals that were made on AVI. I
23 know Councilman Squilla has a couple questions
24 with respect to one of the earlier provisions.

1 Good afternoon, sir.

2 MR. NEGRIN: Good afternoon. My name is
3 Richard Negrin. I'm Managing Director and Deputy
4 Mayor for Administration and Coordination for the
5 City of Philadelphia. And I'm here at your
6 request to give you a short update on how we are
7 doing with our project around municipal
8 advertising.

9 Over the last two weeks -- and I will back
10 up a little bit, Mary was here. Mary Stitt is
11 sitting to my right, my Chief of Staff, talking
12 about where we were in terms of the
13 Administration's plan to move forward with
14 municipal advertising. I want to make one thing
15 very clear for the record. I know the Mayor and
16 Council President have had very specific
17 conversations.

18 The Administration is wholly supportive and
19 fully behind the effort around municipal
20 advertising. That is why I am sitting here today.
21 That is why Mary has been named on the project
22 manager on this issue. The Mayor is committed to
23 doing municipal advertising. I know the President
24 is, as well. I know that we are doing that in

1 partnership -- I know that we are doing it in
2 partnership together. But I wanted to reiterate
3 that as a starting point and kind of address that
4 issue across the board.

5 The Mayor two weeks ago asked me to serve
6 as the Oversight Project Leader over the effort --
7 the City's response around municipal advertising
8 which, as you know, you have heard some testimony
9 from Shelley Smith and Bridget Collins-Greenwald
10 on what the City's been doing to collect data to
11 prepare ourselves for the analysis that's required
12 here. I am happy to report a great deal of
13 progress over the last several weeks in large part
14 because of the fact that we were being called
15 here, in all candor, and in large part because of
16 the fact that I've been asked to help coordinate
17 and lead some of this effort.

18 Over the last two weeks the following has
19 occurred. We established a multi-disciplinary
20 working group which includes members of the Law
21 Department, Finance, Fleet, Public Property,
22 Council obviously is going to have representation
23 on that working group as well as other departments
24 who need to play a role as needed depending on the

1 subject matter. One of the things that we are
2 also exploring right now is which subcommittees
3 are going to be required. There is going to be a
4 series of subcommittees that we'll require over
5 the next three to six months.

6 Municipal advertising is not as simple as
7 it sounds. Municipal advertising touches issues
8 that you've already heard about. Are bond issues
9 and how we develop first amendment policies around
10 our content policies. There are, in fact -- and I
11 know I heard this body talk about the fact that
12 there are other cities have figured this out. We
13 are confident we're going to figure this out over
14 the next several months.

15 We also know that the City of Phoenix, for
16 example, who is doing this, is embroiled in
17 litigation as a result of their content policy.
18 So, one of the big things that is my concern that
19 I want to make sure we are taking care of going
20 forward, is that it would be a sad irony if we, in
21 an effort to raise quick revenue, cost the City
22 more money in litigation cost as we go through
23 this process. So, it's important for me and for
24 us to follow good project management procedures as

1 we go through this process.

2 That in no way means we are not going to do
3 this in an expedient, quick manner and in a manner
4 that applies really good strong project management
5 processes.

6 In addition to establishing that
7 multi-disciplinary group over the last few weeks,
8 we've named a project lead, which is Mary Stitt
9 who is sitting next to me, my Chief of Staff in
10 the Managing Director's Office to help be the
11 project manager specific to this process. We've
12 also pulled technology into this effort. And Adel
13 Ebeid, specifically our CIO, will sit on that
14 committee with me, a biweekly committee I will
15 attend even though Mary is the project manager,
16 this is going to have senior level sponsorship
17 from Adel Ebeid, myself and Shelley Smith our City
18 Solicitor.

19 One of the important things around
20 technology, which I think has been absent from the
21 conversation so far, is the fact that we are
22 talking about municipal advertising in a little
23 bit of antiquated sense where we are talking a lot
24 about which buildings are right for signs and how

1 do we approach this. And I think one of the
2 conversations that I want to have with this
3 Committee and Council will be an important part of
4 that. And we welcome those ideas because I know
5 that there are a lot of ideas in this room. Is
6 how do we take the advertising component to the
7 next level around utilizing technology in a way
8 that takes it to a different approach.

9 So if we remember when we had the Winter
10 Classic here about two years ago, there was a
11 projection ad that was put up near the clothes pin
12 that utilized an advertisement around the Winter
13 Classic that didn't touch or impair the integrity
14 of the building. We believe that things like
15 that -- projection advertising, other LED
16 efforts -- are things we have to look at.

17 Another example is we're going to explore
18 on the legal side and both on the technology side
19 whether we can actually do digital advertising.
20 More people touch the City website in our presence
21 whether it's through social media and through our
22 websites across the City then actually see any
23 individual City building on a daily basis. So
24 part of the analysis and the conversation that we

1 are having is around how we can do those things.
2 That doesn't mean that we can't do things that are
3 quick and easy and that we can do as soon as
4 possible. We are going to do both. I think
5 that's an important point.

6 In addition to getting OIT and getting the
7 technical assistance engaged in our process and
8 doing what we're doing, I have asked the Center of
9 Excellence to really provide some project
10 management leadership in partnership with Mary to
11 help have a detailed, rigorous project management
12 plan with timelines and deliverables over the
13 course of the next few months. We hope to have
14 that draft project plan done in the next 30 to 60
15 days, and we will make sure we keep to that
16 calendar.

17 We've also in the last two weeks -- this is
18 about making progress -- obtained various
19 preliminary legal opinion. I say preliminary
20 because this is the type of issue that we need to
21 do a case-by-case assessment every single time
22 because of the way we do our bonds here in the
23 City of Philadelphia. The one answer that I am
24 happy to give, and this is something that was

1 discussed a few weeks ago while we were here, is
2 we do have a preliminary legal answer. And I can
3 say that all signs look good as to our ability to
4 do individual buildings and clusters of buildings.
5 So, we have gotten that answer within the last two
6 weeks.

7 Again, we are going to have to look at each
8 example on a case-by-case basis going forward.
9 That is not a blanket opinion that is going to be
10 utilized to answer every question, but it's
11 progress in terms telling us we can and cannot do
12 something. And it's going to keep things moving
13 forward.

14 We also have begun within the Managing
15 Director's Office with help from the Center of
16 Excellence a best practices analysis going across,
17 looking at other cities, deciding which types of
18 technology are utilized, what types of content
19 policies are being utilized and what are the best
20 legal approaches that we can use in order to avoid
21 those types of minefields that are out there that
22 can impact and jeopardize the goal that we all
23 have, which is to raise revenue.

24 So, that has begun. And there will be a

1 subcommittee of the working group that will be
2 specifically dedicated to best practices. We
3 welcome and suggest that Council be an important
4 part of that on the best practices side.

5 On the law side, finally, I talked about it
6 a little bit. We initiated a content policy
7 effort that has already begun to address many of
8 those thorny first amendment issues around what we
9 can and cannot advertise. We expect that to be
10 completed in the next four to six months, which I
11 think is a reasonable timeline and we are working
12 that into our project plan.

13 We also -- and this is going to happen more
14 immediately. We are finalizing -- and this is
15 about immediate action right now and doing what we
16 can quickly while we do the larger review on other
17 buildings and other issues. We are finalizing an
18 RFP around our Fleet opportunity within the next
19 two weeks. We already have a draft. It's on
20 Mary's desk. I have seen it. Within the next two
21 weeks, we will have an RFP out on Fleet that will
22 get the ball rolling and will have actionable real
23 progress in trying to get some -- some municipal
24 advertising around our Fleet.

1 Finally -- and we haven't decided yet.
2 This will be a decision point for us together,
3 quite frankly, as partners is whether we consider
4 putting out an RFI. In advance of, you heard Mary
5 testify last time she was here that an RFP of the
6 kind of scope that we're talking about is likely
7 to take till the end of the year. We understand
8 this is going to be a complex RFP with complex
9 legal issues.

10 What we'd like to do is get an RFI out
11 sooner to better inform us and prepare us and get
12 us ready for an RFP over the course of the next
13 few months so that we can get that process moving
14 forward and making real progress around the RFI.

15 That is my summary. I am more than happy
16 to express overall our commitment to make
17 progress. I hope you see some progress been made
18 over the last two weeks. I am happy to be
19 involved and work in partnership with you on this
20 issue. We're supportive of this issue.

21 We know that there are very important
22 conversations that are going to be had in this
23 room today about raising revenue. We -- we
24 believe and agree that they are critically

1 important to our City. We want to make sure we do
2 it smart, as well.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you.

4 Thank you, Mr. Negrin.

5 Couple things that I was actually -- if you
6 had stopped after your first couple of sentences,
7 I probably wouldn't have asked any questions. But
8 then you went on and on referencing certain other
9 aspects of other locations and issues with respect
10 to bonds. I am glad you did clean the one issue
11 up with respect to Fleet because that was going to
12 be my first question.

13 And sometimes -- and I hear that you have
14 laid out a very interesting process with
15 subcommittees and task force and all the other
16 things. You know, as always, my long tenure at
17 government when -- and I may not even say this
18 today, but I have to say it in this way.

19 That traditionally, when people don't want
20 to do something, they either tell you they're not
21 going to do it or they set up a bunch of
22 committees and task force or they continue to wear
23 you down. And I am hoping that is not what is
24 happening. Because you have laid out a very

1 complicated process and altered it. But sometimes
2 simple is good.

3 MR. NEGRIN: Yup.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Reality is when
5 you -- I am glad again to hear that you are
6 looking at the Fleet. One, I want to make sure
7 that Councilmembers are invited to the
8 announcement.

9 MR. NEGRIN: Yeah.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Because it's
11 something that Councilmembers have been pushing
12 for, for a while. Be an integral part of that
13 process. Councilman Henon from Public Property
14 will have a staff member a part of that task force
15 and I know Will Carter was working with you.

16 MR. NEGRIN: That's correct.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: With respect
18 to -- and this is what is causing me concern. Out
19 of all of the locations that are doing municipal
20 marketing, you go out and find Phoenix which is
21 one that had litigation. But the reality is New
22 York which is probably the largest revenue stream
23 generated by any municipality is probably the
24 location that you need to be looking at, not to

1 find one where there is litigation. This is best
2 practices, hundred million dollars a year. Money
3 can go to a whole lot of different places.

4 With respects to this whole issue of
5 content, I still don't quite understand that. The
6 reality is, if we own property and, again, we are
7 allowing someone to advertise on our property, I
8 don't know how there can be any issue from a legal
9 perspective about content. It's our building. We
10 say this is what you can put on our building or
11 our land -- piece of land and that should be the
12 end of it. I just don't understand the whole
13 issue with respects to content.

14 MR. NEGRIN: I can talk briefly about that.
15 I'm learning much of this as I go. I was -- I am
16 a recovering lawyer and a lawyer in my former
17 life, but I am not here to practice law today
18 otherwise Shelley would wrap my knuckles.

19 The issues are something like this. When
20 you make a decision to advertise on a building
21 depending on what the building is, let's say it's
22 a rec center, are you comfortable allowing
23 somebody like the adult industry to advertise --

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All right.

1 Before you go any further with that, in our law
2 and in our zoning building we pass, it clearly
3 establishes a process --

4 MR. NEGRIN: Yup.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: That the
6 Administration, right, will determine the content
7 of the municipal advertisement.

8 MR. NEGRIN: That's right. That's right.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And that will be
10 a part of the RFP.

11 MR. NEGRIN: That's exactly right.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: This whole
13 notion that we are going to put --

14 MR. NEGRIN: No. That's the legal issue.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: -- XXX
16 advertising.

17 MR. NEGRIN: That's the legal is -- and I
18 understand that and I share that concern. And I
19 understand that requirement. The concern is does
20 that set us up for a legal lawsuit and what's
21 happened in other jurisdictions when you start to
22 restrict the ability and start to pick advertisers
23 in a way that limits what they believe, not us.
24 We don't agree that it's right. I agree with you.

1 Is infringing upon their first amendment
2 right to advertise just like everybody else. That
3 is the general legal issue. It's more detailed.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Mr. Negrin.

5 MR. NEGRIN: Yes.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: That's the most
7 ridiculous premise I have ever heard of.

8 MR. NEGRIN: I agree. I agree.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: That's
10 ridiculous. What does SEPTA do?

11 MR. NEGRIN: Well, you see, it's different
12 on the SEPTA side for a variety of reasons. And I
13 can have Mary speak to that.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: SEPTA has --
15 they got \$14 million last year.

16 MR. NEGRIN: Well -- but here is the thing.
17 That's the point. We are starting from scratch.
18 We are developing a content policy that we've
19 never had before utilizing other cities to make
20 sure we are doing it right. And other cities have
21 been sued and have gotten into litigation costs
22 that we don't want to incur.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: SEPTA is in the
24 City of Philadelphia, Mr. Negrin. Not other

1 cities, it's right here.

2 MR. NEGRIN: I understand where SEPTA is.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: So the same laws
4 governing SEPTA should govern the City of
5 Philadelphia. I don't understand. It is an
6 agency, state agency.

7 MR. NEGRIN: It is. All agencies are not
8 created equal. How the asset is paid for matters.
9 And all of those things are issues that we are
10 going to look at.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All right.

12 MR. NEGRIN: I agree with you.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You know what, I
14 am prepared to have, like, a 45-minute
15 conversation with you. We have a lot of people
16 here.

17 MR. NEGRIN: But this is exactly why
18 content policy needs to make sense. This is why.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Okay. Thank
20 you.

21 Councilman Green.

22 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
23 Mr. President. I'll be brief.

24 Just do you know what SEPTA's content

1 policy is?

2 MR. NEGRIN: We have it. I have not
3 personally reviewed it. We have it.

4 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Who has it?

5 MR. NEGRIN: The Legal Department.

6 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay. So, you're in
7 charge of it but the Legal Department has it?

8 MR. NEGRIN: Yes. Mary is the Project
9 Manager. I have oversight. I will be looking at
10 all those policies as we start that process. As
11 of today, that process has begun in the Legal
12 Department.

13 COUNCILMAN GREEN: To keep it simple, why
14 wouldn't we just adopt the policy that SEPTA has?

15 MR. NEGRIN: We're going to look at SEPTA's
16 policy. We're going to look at other cities. We
17 are going to do our due diligence, not just do it
18 to adapt a policy that one agency has decided
19 because it may be different depending on the
20 circumstances.

21 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay. I think I made my
22 point there.

23 The other question I have is, why would
24 we poss -- why would we possibly consider an RFI

1 which will take several months for the Legal
2 Department to put together which people will then
3 have days to respond to which will then have a
4 60-day process for a committee to look at
5 responses from an RFI before we do anything with
6 it as opposed to developing the policies and
7 issuing an RFP so that by the fall we can actually
8 potentially implement a program?

9 That seems like a very poor policy. That's
10 not a question. That's a statement.

11 MR. NEGRIN: No, I understand.

12 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
13 Mr. President.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you,
15 Councilman.

16 MR. NEGRIN: Yeah. Exactly the reason is
17 why we haven't decided on an RFI. We are only
18 going to decide whether we proceed with an RFI is
19 if we believe it can expedite and further inform
20 the RFP process, then we would do it. It's very
21 possible that in partnership with City Council we
22 decide not to do an RFI.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All right.

24 Chair recognizes, Councilman Squilla.

1 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,
2 Mr. President.

3 If we just do the issuance of an RFP, we
4 have the guidelines already set in place sort of
5 what SEPTA uses. We are looking for additional
6 revenues. And we were looking for them since we
7 got here. The longer we take to try to find
8 something that is perfect delays the amount of
9 revenue that we could get into the City of
10 Philadelphia.

11 Why couldn't we do a similar RFP like SEPTA
12 that's already been proven and passed by the Legal
13 Department and put that out to see if who would be
14 interested? And in that RFP you dictate what they
15 can and cannot do so you're not going to have any
16 legal ramifications and they would report. If
17 they don't want to respond to the RFP, they don't
18 have to respond to it. If they want to, they will
19 respond to that.

20 What would be the reasoning not to use that
21 type of scenario?

22 MR. NEGRIN: You know, I will say it again.
23 I think we are exactly looking at SEPTA's content
24 policy. I think we are going to do that. We're

1 going to look at other cities. We are not just
2 going to adopt their policy because it's
3 different.

4 How SEPTA utilizes their advertising is
5 different than how we're going to utilize it on
6 buildings, for example. So, SEPTA's policy may
7 work perfectly and be perfectly and instantly
8 adopted on the Fleet side, but the content policy
9 on the rest of municipal advertising, that is what
10 I am here to speak about.

11 I am here to speak about what our plan is
12 and what our efforts are going forward across the
13 entire City government. Fleet and SEPTA, there is
14 a direct correlation. We are going to look at
15 that content policy. We're going to determine
16 whether we're going to adopt it or have to update
17 it or whatever that process is. That may be
18 quick.

19 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: What other
20 municipalities are you looking at right now?

21 MR. NEGRIN: We are looking at New York as
22 the Council President stated. We are looking at
23 Chicago. Those are the two that I'm aware of. I
24 know we have more.

1 MS. STITT: And, of course, we looked at
2 Phoenix. You guys brought up New York a couple of
3 times. New York does not advertise on buildings.
4 They advertise on bus shelters and on vehicles,
5 which of course would be similar to SEPTA.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I didn't say you
7 had to advertise on buildings.

8 MS. STITT: Okay.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Municipal
10 marketing. New York has --

11 MS. STITT: We are going to RFP out for
12 vehicles within two weeks.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I understand. I
14 mean, Mr. Negrin kept referencing buildings.

15 MS. STITT: Okay. I just wanted to clear
16 that up.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You want to get
18 the book again? I know what New York does. New
19 York has a \$100 million concession's contract.
20 That's what New York does.

21 MS. STITT: Based off of vehicles and bus
22 shelters.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: We have all of
24 those here in the City of Philadelphia.

1 MS. STITT: And we'll have an RFP out
2 for --

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All the more
4 reasons we should do this because we actually have
5 buildings.

6 MS. STITT: We do.

7 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: And how long -- how
8 long have you been working on the RFP for this?

9 MS. STITT: The RFP for vehicles is -- the
10 RFP for the vehicles is actually completed. And
11 at our next meeting, which is not the Friday
12 coming but the following Friday, we will be
13 presenting it to the committee and finalizing
14 everything.

15 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: So that would go out
16 this summer.

17 MS. STITT: Go out very quickly within a
18 couple weeks.

19 MR. NEGRIN: Correct.

20 MS. STITT: I would think. Correct.

21 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: We are not doing an
22 RFI for that?

23 MS. STITT: No, not the vehicles.

24 MR. NEGRIN: No.

1 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: And then the other
2 process as far as looking at other municipalities
3 for buildings you said?

4 MS. STITT: Yes. Yes.

5 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: And you are looking at
6 New York even though New York doesn't do it on
7 buildings?

8 MS. STITT: Well, we were looking at other
9 municipalities for advertising as a whole. And
10 then we found out through that research that they
11 do not do buildings, they do vehicles and bus
12 shelters. But we are looking at other
13 municipalities like Phoenix and like Chicago and
14 we are going to expand that. We just need some
15 time to continue to expand to figure out the best
16 practices, what fits for Philadelphia.

17 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: And what is your
18 timeline for that RPF?

19 MS. STITT: For the research or for that
20 RFP?

21 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: No. To issue -- to
22 issue an RFP.

23 MS. STITT: Well, that RFP for buildings,
24 we are conservatively estimating the end of the

1 year. But we are going to push to try to get it
2 done quicker than that. But that is what we are
3 estimating for buildings.

4 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: All right. Because I
5 know, I mean, you will hear today and everywhere
6 else that the revenue is such a major issue here.

7 MS. STITT: Absolutely.

8 MR. NEGRIN: We are aware of that. We
9 share that concern.

10 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you.

11 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you,
12 Councilman. Being no further questions, thank you
13 both very much.

14 MR. NEGRIN: Great.

15 MS. STITT: Thank you.

16 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: To be continued.

17 Okay. We are going to call witnesses up in
18 panels of three. We are going to have a
19 three-minute time limit because we have a
20 tremendous amount of the people that want to
21 speak. So please, we have a clock here which I
22 think is working today. So, we are going to try
23 to keep -- we are going to keep everybody to three
24 minutes. I apologize ahead of time if we have to

1 cut you off, but really want to keep this moving.

2 With that, Ms. Lewis, will you call the
3 first three witnesses, please.

4 THE CLERK: Yes, sir. Rebecca Poyourow,
5 Shelly Yanoff and Alison McDowell.

6 UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can I ask your
7 indulgence? Shelley Yanoff was here --

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay. Have a seat.
9 That's all right. You want to speak?

10 UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER: No. We want a
11 parent and one of our school students to speak in
12 Shelly Yanoff's position if that's all right.

13 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: For the three
14 minutes?

15 UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.

16 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: The two of them
17 together for three minutes, right?

18 UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.

19 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay. Please.
20 Rebecca, please start.

21 MS. POYOURROW: Can I start?

22 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Yes. Identify
23 yourself and proceed, please.

24 MS. POYOURROW: Okay. My name is Rebecca

1 Poyourow. And I'm a parent. I'm here to speak in
2 favor of the tobacco, the liquor-by-the-drink
3 increases as well as the use and occupancy bill,
4 although I know that's for tomorrow.

5 I was going to get on to putting them in
6 more general context, but I believe -- and I would
7 like people to hear me as I'm speaking.

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Ma'am, please, just
9 speak to us. Okay. Speak to us, please.

10 MS. POYUROW: Well, it's important that
11 parents get heard. I don't think this testimony
12 was heard last week. There was a lot of research
13 done in particular on the liquor-by-the-drink
14 increase that it did not, in fact, cost
15 restaurants business or jobs when it was
16 introduced. And the arguments that have been made
17 against it are pretty erroneous. And I can show a
18 brief from the Pennsylvania Budget and Policies
19 Center to anyone who wants to see it.

20 But what I wanted to say more generally was
21 that you guys have been getting a thousand or
22 more -- thousands of phone calls, letters, visits
23 petitions, signatures from parents and kids all
24 over. And we have given you a strong, clear loud

1 message, but we are not sure you have gotten it.
2 We are not sure you're listening. When we show up
3 here with our children, it's not just a civics
4 lesson. It's not good enough to just pat us on
5 the head, good mommy, good daddy, good kids. You
6 know, I mean, it's -- it feels very condescending
7 when we get the photo ops and then it's back to
8 business as usual in the City because we are the
9 business of the City.

10 We have been building our schools and our
11 neighborhoods, and our kids should be front and
12 center on Council's agenda. We have asked you to
13 come up with 60 million for the schools, and some
14 of you are still hemming and hawing. And we
15 appreciate those who have committed, but the
16 intransigence of your colleagues and the punting
17 to Harrisburg is making us outraged.

18 And honestly, especially given the fact
19 that the percentage of property taxes our City
20 gives to the schools has been cut from 60 percent
21 to 55 percent over the last few years means to me
22 we should be asking for more. We should be asking
23 for 90 to a hundred million from you guys. 60
24 million, forget it. Our ask is 97 million. If

1 the Tobacco Tax could raise 45 million, the
2 Liquor-By-The-Drink, 22; and U&O, 30, that would
3 be 97 million.

4 And what would 97 million get us? By my
5 estimates -- and you guys say, well, you know,
6 60 million it's not a lot.

7 (Timer rings)

8 MS. POYOUROW: It would get a lot.
9 16 million would get us our school secretaries
10 back, 25 million would allow our kids to help --
11 to keep their counselors, 12 million would get all
12 the noon time aides across the City to keep our
13 kids safe at lunch. Just 7 million, just 7
14 million would hire the instrumental music teachers
15 back, and that just gets us to 60. And we're
16 now -- we are not asking for 60.

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: All right, ma'am.

18 MS. POYOUROW: We are asking for 97.

19 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I understand. Ma'am,
20 that's it.

21 MS. POYOUROW: For another 22 million you
22 can hire back all the assistant principals. And
23 for 15 million you can get a stab at restoring
24 supply budgets or maybe extra curriculums. So

1 what's it going to be?

2 It's all hands on deck. The cigarette, the
3 liquor-by-the-drink and the use and occupancy
4 bills are all necessary measures. You know, while
5 collecting taxes on delinquent --

6 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Ma'am, come on.

7 Ma'am --

8 MS. POYOUROW: I am almost done. Our kids
9 can't bank on that.

10 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Ma'am, I have to call
11 you on time.

12 MS. POYOUROW: I don't know how you'll be
13 able to sleep at night.

14 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Ma'am, please.

15 Ms. McDowell, please, go. Please identify
16 yourself for the record.

17 ("Save our schools" chanted and
18 applauded from the audience)

19 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: If you would like to
20 go, please identify yourself and proceed, please.
21 And I'm asking everybody, respectfully, please
22 stick to the three minutes. There's many, many
23 people that would like to testify.

24 Please.

1 MS. SMITH: Hi. I'm Khayla. I would act
2 in such a way where I would be proud of myself and
3 others would be proud of me, too. I come to
4 school to learn and I will learn.

5 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I'm sorry. Just
6 identify yourself. We need it for the
7 stenographer.

8 MS. SMITH: Khayla Coleman Smith.

9 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay. Please. Thank
10 you.

11 MS. SMITH: I would act in such a way where
12 I would be proud of myself and others would be
13 proud of me, too. I come to school to learn and I
14 will learn. I will have a good day where there is
15 a will, there is a "A". The four A's are
16 Attendance, a positive Attitude, Achievement and
17 Accomplishment. A Childs school student is on
18 time, on task and on a mission.

19 I am Kayla Coleman Smith. I am 13 years
20 old. I have here with me over 4,000 letters from
21 my fellow students from all over the City of
22 Philadelphia protesting the value you place on our
23 education. I am destined to greatness and my
24 mission is to succeed. But how can I succeed when

1 all the tools that I need to succeed are being
2 stripped away from me? Although I am blessed and
3 highly favored, I cannot afford a private school
4 education. And why should I have to resort to
5 private school when my parents pay their taxes?
6 Shouldn't we be able to decide where our taxes
7 money go?

8 A public school education should be just as
9 good if not better. I have spent the last nine
10 years at G.W. Childs, and I am about to graduate
11 and move on. But I will always be invested in my
12 school and in my neighborhood. We have
13 experienced some obstacles due to budget crisis
14 and decision of adults who already have their
15 education.

16 Our City and State decision makers have
17 butchered the public school system and sent me and
18 my peers the message that our future is not
19 important for we are the future. And in years, I
20 will be able to vote. But you have counted us
21 out. You have taken away many of the resources
22 that are fundamental to us. You have accumulated
23 funds to things that are important but not for
24 greater importance than me and all the other

1 public school students in the City.

2 We should be your priority. Our education
3 is a priority. Instead, the City put millions of
4 dollars and bicycle lanes in the streets and
5 casinos, and now you intend to put millions more
6 into a sports complex. If you built the schools
7 and kept them up, you wouldn't have to build so
8 many prisons. So now, most of my generation is
9 predicted to go to prison. It's called
10 intervention and prevention, but you are counting
11 us out from the door.

12 While my education is important, yet they
13 are closing so many schools, libraries and
14 recreation centers. They have taken away books
15 and extra curricular activities. They want to
16 take away music, while I have some songs to sing.
17 They propose to take away the nurses and
18 counselors. Who will we turn to when we get sick
19 in school? And untrained professional? With all
20 that is going on in this world today, who will we
21 talk to when we need guidance and we are unable to
22 talk to our parents?

23 Today you need an education to obtain a
24 good job. How can we achieve that goal when so

1 little value is placed in our education. They
2 propose to take away our noon time aides and
3 support staff. Most incidents of bullying and
4 injury occurred during recess and lunch. Who will
5 monitor the children? Teachers are already
6 working with very limited resources. They already
7 wear so many hats. You discourage them from
8 wanting to teach.

9 Many of my most favorable memories are
10 because of my teachers. But yes, you already have
11 your education. My education is of no importance
12 to you. And more children in the classrooms when
13 the classrooms are already filled to capacity,
14 that's a joke. If you think it's possible, I
15 challenge all of you to go into a classroom and
16 try to deal with 30 or more students with 30 or
17 more different attitudes when half have behavior
18 issues and are learning -- or learning
19 disabilities or some other obstacles from broken
20 homes with broken smiles. With today's investment
21 in my education, it's a wonder I learn anything at
22 all.

23 So I ask you today to do anything in your
24 power to find funding for my education. Take our

1 concerns to Harrisburg.

2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay. Thank you.

3 Before Ms. McDowell speaks, Ms. Lewis will call
4 the other three -- the next three names, so please
5 be ready to come up right after.

6 THE CLERK: Jennifer Dress, Lynne Roberts
7 and Christine Brisson.

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: If you can just sit
9 up in those chairs right there, those black chairs
10 and be ready to come up.

11 Ms. McDowell, please. And I am going to
12 enforce the three -- I let her go a little longer.
13 Go ahead.

14 MS. MCDOWELL: My name is Alison McDowell.
15 I live in the Fairmount neighborhood. I vote
16 every election, so Councilman Clarke and all At
17 Large please keep that in mind.

18 Last week -- this is my daughter Kate.
19 She's a sixth grader at Masterman School. We are
20 kind of a team. She didn't want to get up here
21 and actually speak, but she is quite the little
22 artist. So, I just wanted to show you her poster.
23 It ties in with my testimony.

24 Last week I asked her along with a lot of

1 students to write a letter to the Governor because
2 obviously, he is part of the situation, too, to
3 describe what her school would be like next year
4 after the budget cuts. And her answer, she said
5 my school would be like a pie. Well, it would
6 like look like a pie, but with all of the tasty
7 filling taken out; art, music, library books,
8 gifted class, choir, anime club. All of that
9 would be gone leaving only an empty shell that
10 looked like a pie but wasn't.

11 Nobody likes to eat just crust. Crust
12 alone does not sustain an active mind or cultivate
13 a lively imagination. Truly, it is the filling
14 that makes pie "pie".

15 Our family has been writing and calling all
16 of our elected representatives. Probably a number
17 of you have communicated with me in the past week
18 including at the state level, everybody. I have
19 written the Mayor, as well. We need everybody's
20 help to refill this pie.

21 Passing the liquor-by-the-drink tax will
22 help. It is part of the solution. Maybe it will
23 restore a counselor to her school. Maybe it will
24 restore some tech support so that the laptop cards

1 that parents invested in can actually be used.
2 Maybe it will help keep the doors of the library
3 of one of the states top schools open.

4 It is the 20 somethings that keep the bars
5 hopping. And guess what, this is one of the first
6 generations in quite some time that actually longs
7 to stay in the City for the long run. These guys
8 want to buy houses and pay their taxes, their wage
9 taxes, their property taxes and grow a 21st
10 Century economy. It's not just for the sake of
11 parents who have current students but for theirs
12 as well that we need to make sure that our public
13 schools are a viable option.

14 When they trade in their nights on the town
15 for home and school meetings, I believe that they
16 will come to recognize they have made a good
17 investment with their buy-the-drink surcharge.
18 The excesses of youth will pay dividends in their
19 middle age. The liquor-by-the-drink tax could be
20 the thing that allows their dreams of urban family
21 life to become a reality.

22 I hope you will vote to pass it. And I
23 will be keeping track. Thank you.

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you. If I

1 could ask the next three, I only see two coming
2 up. Maybe one -- who is the next?

3 THE CLERK: Mark Gleason.

4 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Mark Gleason here?

5 Okay. Next name.

6 THE CLERK: Adam Xu. Adam Xu.

7 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay. If you can
8 come up, too.

9 MS. ROBERTS: Pardon?

10 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I'm not talk --
11 please proceed.

12 MS. ROBERTS: Oh, okay.

13 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Identify yourself,
14 please.

15 MS. ROBERTS: My name is Lynne Roberts.

16 In 1961, when we and a small group of --
17 heartly group moved into the neighborhood where we
18 presently live, it consisted of derelict homes and
19 abandoned gas station and empty warehouses. There
20 were few amenities. And we bused or collectively
21 drove four miles to food shops. But we believed
22 in the City and we persevered.

23 We persevered. And because we did that,
24 the neighborhood grew and prospered and became a

1 real support for the City and for the real estate
2 tax base. We sent our children to public schools.
3 The neighborhood prospered. Our children grew and
4 moved on. And we realized that perhaps our
5 children could never afford to live where they had
6 been raised. And we were worried that as we aged,
7 the area would decline.

8 To our delight and surprise, the
9 neighborhood has maintained its vitality. And
10 there is many children running the streets now as
11 when it was revitalized, many of whom go to public
12 and charter schools. The neighborhood's tax
13 contribution to the City is significant, yet
14 without additional financial support for public
15 education, many of these families would simply
16 leave the City.

17 For want of a few cents per drink, the
18 City's basic revenue of the real estate tax would
19 decline as these families exit for the suburbs
20 leaving not only the real estate tax base, but
21 revenue for restaurants, shopping and support for
22 the City's cultural activities, as well.

23 How shortsighted if you do not support
24 Liquor Bill 130447. Yes, we need -- yes, we need

1 state money. Yes, the school union should
2 probably make some accommodation. But this is
3 your City and these our all of our children. The
4 least you can do is support Liquor Tax Bill
5 130447.

6 I know that there require enabling
7 legislation from the state to enable you to
8 actually implement that Bill. However, if you
9 don't pass it, why should they ever give us
10 enabling legislation.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. DRESS: My name is Jennifer Dress. I
13 have a third grader at Shawmont Elementary. I'm a
14 parent. Today was a sad day for my daughter at
15 school. Today was the day she was told she had to
16 leave her instrument at school due to the budget
17 cuts. She was told she would not have the chance
18 to play her viola next year or any other
19 instrument for that matter.

20 Let me give you a little background on my
21 daughter. She has attended Shawmont Elementary
22 since pre-K. She has wanted to play an instrument
23 since seeing her first music assembly when she was
24 four years old. This year as a third grader she

1 was finally granted that opportunity to play and
2 learn and instrument. Little did we know this
3 would be her first and final year to do so.

4 She was never and will never be able to
5 perform in one of the shows she so badly wanted to
6 be a part of. This isn't something that will just
7 affect her this year. These budget cuts have a
8 trickle effect. Because you cut out music, she
9 will not have the opportunity to learn her
10 instrument any further. Therefore, she will not
11 be able to attend one of the better high schools
12 in the City which is CAPA, Creative and Performing
13 Arts.

14 You took away her dream and future like you
15 have done for so many other children for various
16 reasons and various programs. All the budget cuts
17 are ridiculous, not just the music programs. I
18 fear for my daughter's safety next year and will
19 she learn everything she needs to learn without
20 the proper teachers, teacher assistants,
21 overcrowded classes and lack of supervision. I
22 don't know how many of you have kids or even ever
23 had them that went through the public school
24 system. But I don't know any sane parent that

1 would drop their kid off at a school with 600 some
2 kids with a lack of supervision. I don't think
3 any of you would, so how dare you think of us as
4 public school parents should.

5 This is America where our kids should be
6 getting the best education. Instead, they are
7 getting thrown into such a poor education system,
8 it's unbelievable. I wonder how many of you lose
9 sleep over this at night like so many of us
10 parents do. I bet none of you do.

11 How can we possibly put funds into a
12 \$400 million prison north of Philadelphia? Makes
13 no sense. I guess we are making room for all of
14 these kids when they come out of the public school
15 with a lack of education.

16 How can we afford the funds to build
17 outside of City Hall and the funds to put a new
18 skating park on the Parkway when the education
19 system is failing? It really makes no sense to
20 any of us parents. I don't understand how it can
21 make sense to any of you.

22 We need to pass the cigarette tax bill
23 which will free up 45 million for school year 2014
24 and 87 million for 2015 and 75 to 80 million

1 thereafter.

2 (Timer rings)

3 We also need to pass the Liquor Tax Bill
4 that will fund 22 million annually. These are two
5 items that people will still purchase no matter
6 how high the price is. If people are going out
7 for drinks, they are going to pay whatever the
8 asking price is because they do it now. Just
9 because the price is raised, doesn't mean that
10 people will stop buying liquor and cigarettes.

11 We can not let our children down. They are
12 the innocent ones that didn't ask for this poor
13 education system.

14 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: All right, ma'am.

15 MS. DRESS: The City and State --

16 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Ma'am, I have got
17 to --

18 MS. DRESS: -- have let them down. They
19 are the future of this City.

20 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Ma'am, come on.

21 Ma'am --

22 MS. DRESS: Who will make the --

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Ma'am, that's it.

24 MS. DRESS: I always tell my daughter --

1 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Sir? Sir?

2 Ms. Lewis, will you call the next names. Come on,
3 ma'am, really. Really.

4 Please, go ahead. We are going to call the
5 next three names.

6 THE CLERK: Julia Ramsey, Megan Rosenbach
7 and Helen Gym.

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Please if those
9 people are here, please, come up to the chairs
10 here.

11 THE CLERK: Julia Ramsey, Megan Rosenbach
12 and Helen Gym.

13 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I'm sorry.

14 MR. XU: May I, please?

15 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Sir, please.
16 Identify yourself and proceed.

17 MR. XU: Thank you. Good afternoon, ladies
18 and gentlemen. I am Adam Xu, Chairman of
19 Asian-American Licensed Beverage Association. We
20 are also part of Hospitality United in the City of
21 Philadelphia. All the tavern owners in the City
22 of Philadelphia.

23 Before the 10 percent liquor tax most of my
24 members, over 200 members, hire some employees.

1 And we operate our business 12 to 14 hours every
2 day and we have made a living. After the
3 10 percent liquor tax, we can no longer afford any
4 employees. And we have to run the business
5 ourselves. And extend the hours, business hours,
6 every day 14 to 16 hours in order to survive.

7 Casino business in the City of Philadelphia
8 coming in, and we would expect the City will give
9 us some sort of tax relief, everybody here in the
10 City of Philadelphia; but no. Instead our
11 business got hurt, seriously impacted 15,
12 20 percent across the City.

13 Now, ladies and gentlemen, raising taxes
14 exclusively discriminatively on small business
15 owners like us, tavern owners, is not the answer.
16 It's not answer to the City's problem. We are
17 paying a lot more than anybody -- any other
18 business group in the City of Philadelphia
19 already. We are school friends. We are paying
20 the most taxes. Remember that.

21 And you know what, just for fairness, if we
22 want to solve the problem and 500 million dollars
23 tax liens the City suppose to go to collect. And
24 on top of that, if we still cannot get enough

1 money for the schools to fix the City's problems,
2 let's raise sales tax. Everybody help the City
3 chip in the money to solve the problem.

4 No matter what, unfair taxation. We are
5 strongly opposing it. And we want all City
6 Council, please consider that. Save our small
7 business owners so that we can continue pay U&O
8 tax, business tax, all the taxes. You name it.

9 Thank you so much for listening. Thank
10 you.

11 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you, sir.
12 Okay. All right. Ma'am, please, before you do,
13 it looks like only one person up there. The next
14 two names.

15 THE CLERK: Megan Rosenbach, Helen Gym,
16 John Longacre and Kim Smith.

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: All right. If any of
18 those, if they can just come up to the chair
19 there. Ma'am, please.

20 MS. ROSENBACH: My name is Megan Rosenbach.
21 I currently work with schools across the School
22 District of Philadelphia. I'm a former teacher in
23 the School District. And I lead a group that has
24 helped support my neighborhood, G.W. Childs. I am

1 not yet a parent, but I fully intend to send my
2 children to the public schools. And I am one of
3 those 20-somethings that other people are talking
4 about and all of my friends are, too. I can
5 almost guarantee you that a liquor-by-the-drink
6 tax will not keep us out of the bars and from
7 socializing with our friends.

8 But I'm not here today to talk about
9 myself. I am here today to raise the voices of
10 students. The letters that Kayla brought up
11 earlier were from 4,000 students from across the
12 City. I'm going to read some of their pleas to
13 you because they could not be here today.

14 I'll read several excerpts from letters
15 written by seventh graders at G.W. Childs School
16 at 16th and Wharton in Councilman Johnson's
17 District. Please know that these letters could
18 have come from any student in any of your
19 districts. They know that their funding is being
20 cut and that the investment in their education is
21 being taken away.

22 The first student says this:

23 "I feel like you guys don't care about us
24 anymore or our education. I thought we were

1 everyone's future. I want to graduate educated
2 with skills. I want to learn and achieve my
3 goals. We need our teachers. We care and you
4 guys should care, too, and help us. We need this
5 school. I been in Childs for five years. This is
6 like home to me. My classmates and people from
7 this school are like family. Please help us
8 restore funding for our school. I urge you to act
9 on this matter."

10 The next student says this:

11 "Please let us keep our staff and
12 counselor. We have the best counselor ever and I
13 don't want her to leave. She helps a lot of
14 students like myself. She told me about this
15 school that can help me get back into my correct
16 grade. She is amazing. If you have problems at
17 home, you can talk to her and she will find a way
18 to help you."

19 Another student says this:

20 "If we don't have the right amount of
21 money, the \$60 million, we will lose all the clubs
22 that we have such as art club, dream academy and
23 violin which I am participating in. I played a
24 viola and I do not want to lose these things."

1 The next student makes this comparison.

2 "The rich people schools have flat screen
3 TVs in their lunch room, have big fields and have
4 laptops to take home. I see no reason not to help
5 us. Our education is the most important thing in
6 the world. We could never be anyone without it.
7 Our education is our passport to life."

8 One more.

9 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: All right. Please.

10 MS. ROSENBACH: "We can just sit here and
11 drop out or move somewhere else, but no we won't
12 sit here and let our education go."

13 These students will continue to fight back.
14 Whatever it takes to save their schools, they will
15 do it.

16 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you. Ma'am,
17 before you start, please call next three so we can
18 keep moving here.

19 THE CLERK: Khayla Coleman-Smith. I think
20 she spoke already. Madeline Frazier, Obioma
21 Martin, Carolyn Adams.

22 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: We have a couple
23 coming up. Go ahead, ma'am. I'm sorry. Please
24 identify yourself.

1 MS. SMITH: Good evening. My name is Kim
2 Smith. I'm a parent of a eighth grader at G.W.
3 Childs School. You heard my daughter speak
4 earlier. I stand here before you today -- I sit
5 here before you today to represent all the
6 students and the staff at G.W. Childs as well as
7 all of the other public school students that will
8 be affected by this budget proposal next year.

9 Over the last three years, G.W. Childs has
10 underwent drastic changes including moving to a
11 new building and two new principals. Now we look
12 forward to another drastic change come September.
13 With the new school year, we look forward to
14 welcoming 192 new students from Smith School that
15 is slated to close. That is 192 unfamiliar
16 children with our school, unfamiliar with our
17 students coming to an unfamiliar neighborhood with
18 unfamiliar attitudes and unfamiliar behaviors.

19 Our school advisory council sat down
20 numerous times trying to figure out how we can
21 accommodate these new students and help them
22 transition to our family while at the same time
23 addressing the issue of our current students. It
24 will be a task, but we were aiming to make it

1 work. Now instead of giving us the much needed
2 resources and support that is definitely needed,
3 we must face this current budget crisis.

4 How do you propose a principal deal with
5 these issues on a proposed budget?

6 A principal has to address her children
7 while answering the telephones because there is no
8 secretary to man the front line. Mind you, they
9 will have to nurse the sick and injured because
10 there is no nurse, provide counseling to the many
11 students that need counseling, deal with
12 discipline issues, man the halls because there is
13 no support staff or noon time aides, help with the
14 lunch program and recess, monitor the halls and
15 all of this while maintaining an effective
16 educational program and agenda. Wow.

17 As a parent, I am constantly promoting the
18 importance of education, but society is sending my
19 children mixed messages. You don't value their
20 education enough. You're telling my children that
21 their education doesn't matter. And how can I
22 combat this? How can my children and my daughter
23 learn with more children in her already crowded
24 classroom? Would you send your children there?

1 Philadelphia and Pennsylvania seems to
2 place more value in other venues. While our City
3 looks forward to putting millions of dollars into
4 a football stadium in hopes of hosting a
5 Superbowl, I say host my children's education.
6 Put the millions of dollars into the schools and
7 libraries.

8 If you made our school system more
9 appealing as sports venues, we would have a lower
10 dropout rate. If you gave our teachers more
11 incentive instead of layoff notices, the public
12 school would be thriving instead of closing. It
13 really sucks to be a teacher. You are
14 discouraging the many people who work hard day to
15 day who want to become educators.

16 I say do anything in your power to help our
17 school system. Whatever bill, tax necessary, if
18 you have to dance on the steps of Harrisburg, I
19 will dance with you. Thank you.

20 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Whoever would like to
21 go next, please identify yourself and proceed.

22 MS. MARTIN: Good afternoon. My name is
23 Obioma Martin. I am a parent and also a board
24 member of Childspace Cooperative Development.

1 And I just want to ask you, how inhumane
2 would it be if you did not have the education that
3 afforded you the opportunity to sit in the
4 position that you are now to make the decisions
5 that you have to make now? How inhumane would it
6 be?

7 I am asking that the same education you
8 received, whether it been public or private, that
9 you allow our children the same opportunities.
10 Because if you did not have the opportunity to sit
11 here in a position in a job that you now hold, you
12 would not be able to make the decisions or enjoy
13 the salary and the car and the house that you live
14 in.

15 I am a citizen. I am also a voter. And I
16 am asking you, I am asking everyone in here to
17 give of themselves selflessly, put the children
18 first. The children who have no voice, who have
19 no voice but they matter. Their education matter.
20 Your education matter to you.

21 I am asking you to reflect on what it would
22 have been like if you did not have the education
23 that you had in elementary, in middle and in high
24 school. I am asking you to think about what you

1 enjoy and what you did enjoy and think about our
2 children.

3 The future of education is now. And
4 cutting funding from education is a domino effect.
5 It's a bigger picture. And at the end of the day,
6 I understand that it's about money. It's always
7 about money. But what I'm asking you to do is to
8 value our future, your future, because you all
9 will retire one day. Do you want to retire to a
10 city of criminals, or do you want to retire to a
11 city of educators?

12 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you. Ma'am,
13 before you start, the next three names, please.
14 Just hold on one second.

15 THE CLERK: Carolyn Adams, Debra Kimmelman,
16 Angela Sim-Laramée and Joel Steiker.

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay. Please
18 proceed.

19 ATTORNEY3: Thank you for the opportunity
20 to speak. I am here today to speak as a --

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Please identify
22 yourself.

23 MS. ADAMS: Oh, I'm sorry. My name is
24 Carolyn Adams.

1 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you.

2 MS. ADAMS: I'm a resident of the
3 Germantown section of the City for 35 years. And
4 President -- past President of Public Citizens for
5 Children and Youth for three years. I appreciate
6 the chance to speak today.

7 At PCCY, we recognize this Council wrestles
8 with dozens even hundreds of public issues on
9 behalf of the citizens of this City, but there is
10 no more important issue than this one. There is
11 no greater responsibility we have as adults than
12 to equip the next generation with the knowledge,
13 the skills, the habits of mind, the discipline and
14 the confidence they need to make their way in the
15 world.

16 Does anyone in this room doubt that a
17 quality education is an absolute requirement for
18 all children to make their way in what we now call
19 the information society?

20 My day job when I'm not working with PCCY
21 is teaching undergraduate students at Temple
22 University. I have watched with dismay as the
23 share of Philadelphia high school graduates
24 attending my classes and participating in my

1 classes and getting their education at Temple
2 University declines year after year after year.

3 Do you know why? You might think it's
4 because college education costs as much as it does
5 and price is an issue. But most of the
6 Philadelphia high school graduates who apply to
7 Temple University don't even get to the stage of
8 considering financial aid because they can't meet
9 the basic admission criteria. It is unacceptable
10 that Philadelphia high school graduates cannot
11 meet the basic admission criteria to a publicly
12 supported institution which sits proudly in North
13 Philadelphia.

14 The college opportunities for our
15 community's young people will drop even further if
16 the cuts that are built into the School District's
17 bare bones budget are allowed to proceed.
18 Students will return to barren schools in
19 September. Class sizes will balloon. Guidance
20 counselors won't be there to help them nor will
21 librarians, secretaries, art or music teachers.

22 We call on the City Council to do whatever
23 it needs to do to raise the \$60 million without
24 which we will surely not persuade the state to do

1 its job. PCCY stands ready to help you in way we
2 can to support your investment of the requested
3 60 million. In fact, a number of my PCCY
4 colleagues are missing here today because we are
5 helping organize a group of parents visiting
6 Harrisburg to get the attention of our state
7 legislatures. But we know the legislature will
8 not act as it must if you are not willing to take
9 the lead.

10 Please lead us.

11 MS. SIM-LARAMEE: Good afternoon. My name
12 is Angela Sim-Laramée. And I appreciate the
13 Council people who are still in the chambers. I
14 am a resident of West Philadelphia, and I am a
15 mother of two children who attend public schools
16 in Philadelphia and also the wife of an art
17 teacher who just received a layoff notice.

18 I came to the City in 1995 to be a teaching
19 intern in Southwest Philadelphia. My goal was to
20 figure out if I should become a teacher. That
21 year I realized that the students were grappling
22 with family and neighborhood issues that they were
23 bringing into the classroom, and this was
24 preventing the children from being able to focus

1 on learning and making it difficult for teachers
2 to teach. That was the year I decided to become a
3 social worker versus a teacher. I wanted to be
4 involved with the children outside of the
5 classroom hopefully reducing obstacles for
6 teachers inside of the classroom.

7 Teachers cannot effectively teach while
8 also having to counsel and act as nurses and
9 secretaries. This budget that is currently in
10 place is asking teachers to do just that and more.
11 This bare bones budget is stating that arts and
12 music teachers, nurses, counselors, secretaries
13 and other support staff are non-essential
14 personnel when in fact each are indispensable for
15 the safety, well being and well rounded
16 development of our children. They are
17 instrumental to running a school.

18 The most influential mentors in my life
19 were teachers of electives, after school programs
20 and coaches. I am betting as you think back on
21 your own life you can say the same thing. My
22 son's school GAMP is losing 6.4 staff positions
23 and all five itinerant music teachers. There will
24 be no string teacher for 140 students who play

1 string instruments. My other son's school Powell
2 Elementary will be losing an intervention teacher,
3 a secretary, four noon-time aide, two supportive
4 service assistants and our counselor. There will
5 be no money for books, supplies or afterschool
6 clubs as many schools in the district are facing.

7 I am sitting before you, however, to
8 advocate for all of the children in Philadelphia.
9 Particularly, for those whose families depend upon
10 the sanctuary of neighborhood schools to educate
11 and elevate their children above the crime and
12 poverty that riddles our City. Many middle class
13 parents who have the choice will probably choose
14 to leave the City for better schools. However,
15 what about the families who don't have that
16 choice?

17 As Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, the
18 test of our progress is not whether we add more to
19 the abundance of those who have much; it is
20 whether we provide enough for those who have
21 little.

22 We the community -- I am almost done. We
23 the community of parents and Philadelphia
24 residents are asking City Council to pass a

1 proposed tax bills to raise the 60 million needed
2 for our schools next year. We are asking you to
3 provide enough. Our students education and our
4 communities depend on it.

5 Thank you.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good afternoon.

7 MS. KIMMELMAN: My name is Debra Kimmelman.
8 I live in West Philadelphia. I am not only the
9 parent of a public school child, but I also have
10 been a volunteer and a tutor in another school in
11 my neighborhood at Lee Elementary School.

12 I want to remind you that music teachers
13 and guidance counselors and librarians are not
14 just people on paper. They actually save people's
15 lives. And I am walking proof that that is true.
16 There were years of my adolescence when the only
17 thing -- the only reason that I could think of to
18 get out of bed in the morning and go to school was
19 because we had orchestra first thing in the
20 morning. When I was being bullied, it was the
21 guidance counselors who noticed and intervened.
22 It was the guidance counselors who noticed that I
23 was a gifted child and not working to my full
24 potential and they found support for me.

1 I am the daughter of a parent who dropped
2 out of high school. And it was the support of my
3 special ed teachers, my music teachers, my
4 guidance counselors who made it possible for me to
5 apply to and attend Bryn Mawr College. How many
6 students in Philadelphia have the same talent and
7 potential that I do and need someone to notice
8 them and to give them the support that they need?

9 I want to speak -- I have heard too many
10 people say terrible things about the Philadelphia
11 public schools. I have heard the schools referred
12 to as a cesspool. I have a sampling of some of
13 the 4,000 letters that have been written to all of
14 you elected officials. And I just want to read a
15 few of them to you to show you exactly who it is
16 that this proposed budget is shortchanging.

17 "Dear state leaders, we need to have our
18 librarians, counselors, secretary, art and music
19 because they are very important in our school.
20 Reading is essential. And most books from our
21 school come from the school library. And who runs
22 the school library? A librarian.

23 "We need our counselor to help children
24 work out tough problems. We need our secretary

1 because they are really handy. They help us out a
2 lot and they help organize things for us. We need
3 art and music because they are among our favorite
4 subjects. They help us express ourselves and they
5 are just pure beauty. You can choose the future
6 of our school, let our children learn and have
7 good opportunities, so why not."

8 This is signed PAS, third grade student,
9 Max Chen. Please give Max --

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you.

11 MS. KIMMELMAN: -- and every other child in
12 Philadelphia the future that they deserve.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you.

14 Ma'am, if you would like for us -- we can
15 make copies of the letters so we can have them for
16 the record.

17 MS. KIMMELMAN: Great.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All right.

19 Thank you.

20 MS. KIMMELMAN: Thank you.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good afternoon,
22 sir.

23 MR. STEIKER: Good afternoon. My name is
24 Joel Steiker. I live at 4013 Beaumont Avenue in

1 West Philadelphia. I have lived there for 25
2 years. Both of my children have gone to Powell
3 Elementary School and Masterman Middle School and
4 High School.

5 And at Powell, specifically, they received
6 an outstanding education. When I was working
7 there as a parent volunteer from '94 to 2004, we
8 struggled every year trying to deal with budget
9 cuts. And all I can say is God help folks. This
10 year the budget cuts are nothing like what we
11 faced in the past. They are very severe.

12 I fear that many parents will just simply
13 walk away from our system. I think in general our
14 City is at a turning point, and there are huge
15 numbers of young people in our City. In my
16 neighborhood, there is a famous place called Dock
17 Street Brewery where -- it opened about four years
18 ago. I was sure it would fail. It has not
19 failed. It has not because there are thousands of
20 young people who come to Dock Street and they buy
21 alcohol there. And that place on a Tuesday or
22 Wednesday or Thursday night is full of young
23 people.

24 And the question I think that this chamber

1 has to face is, where will those people choose to
2 raise their families when they want to have them.
3 I think they will pay the tax at Dock Street in
4 order to have the community and the schools that
5 they want.

6 The other issue I would like to raise is
7 think about this, I am a business person by
8 profession. We spend a lot of time on return on
9 investment. And when you think that the school
10 system is a \$2.7 billion budget and we're looking
11 at the last 2 or 300 million dollars to save our
12 schools, if you are looking at return on
13 investment about what motivates children, what
14 keeps them in school, the woman who spoke before
15 me was very wise. You look at sports and music
16 and arts. Those are often the only reasons why
17 kids wake up in the morning to go to school.
18 Without that, they wouldn't be there.

19 Here we are cutting things that are the
20 dearest. If you let the children vote, they would
21 vote out the English teachers, the math teachers
22 and the science teachers and they would vote for
23 the sports, the music teachers and the arts
24 because that's what motivates them. We are making

1 the teachers job much, much harder because we are
2 taking the highly motivational things out.

3 (Timer rings)

4 Have two more short points. My father was
5 a music teacher for 30 years in the New York City
6 public schools. And he said, I am the guy that
7 takes the music away when the kids misbehave. The
8 teachers love me because I control what goes on a
9 lot. And he did that.

10 The last point I want to make is about
11 guidance counselors. the teachers need to be
12 effective in the classroom. We all know that
13 guidance counselors are keys to them being able to
14 be effective teachers. They take the kids that
15 have troubles and help them out and get them
16 services. And that is what allows the other kids
17 to learn.

18 Here we are cutting all these things that
19 are -- everyone is saying they are the only places
20 we can cut. You can't cut the teachers. You
21 can't cut the buildings. You can't cut the
22 infrastructure, so we are cutting what is left.
23 But at a certain point you just say you know what,
24 you can't cut what is left because you are going

1 to ruin the whole system. I think we are well on
2 our way to doing that.

3 Thank you very much.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you, sir.

5 THE CLERK: Deedee Risher, Susan Nordlof,
6 Catherine Collins.

7 UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER: I know Deedee had
8 to go to a meeting.

9 THE CLERK: Then Karen Scholnick.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Afternoon.

11 MS. COLLINS: My name is Catherine Collins
12 I'm a homeowner, a taxpayer, a voter, the parent
13 of two public school students at the C.W. Henry
14 School in Mt. Airy. I'm a proud resident of
15 Germantown.

16 I don't have a whole lot to say. It's been
17 said by several people already that have done a
18 better job than I probably would. But I did just
19 want to ask you all to do the right thing and
20 support the proposed increase in the
21 liquor-by-the-drink tax as well as all the
22 proposals that are out there right now. Raising
23 taxes is not a popular decision and we realize
24 that. It's not going to fix the bigger problems

1 that this district faces, but it will ensure that
2 this City provides the most basic services to our
3 children next year, to all of our children.

4 And I want to be very clear about
5 something. If you want to keep middle class
6 families like mine here in Philadelphia, families
7 who own homes, who pay their taxes and who chose
8 to live here in this City, well, you are going to
9 have to take action now to fund our public
10 schools.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. NORDLOF: Greetings and thank you for
13 the opportunity to speak. My name is Susan
14 Nordlof. I am a public school parent, taxpayer,
15 homeowner, registered voter and healthcare
16 professional all in the Eighth District
17 represented by Councilwoman Cindy Bass.

18 I'm here with specific support for the U&O
19 Tax Bill and the Liquor-By-The-Drink Tax Bill and
20 above all with the general and urgent concern that
21 the City bring its support to funding that will
22 address the unspeakable shortcomings in the School
23 District budget for this year.

24 First, I'm the parent of two children who

1 count on Philadelphia public schools; a ninth
2 grader at JR Masterman and a second grader at
3 Wissahickon Charter School. I'm a bit sensitive
4 to the way charter families get painted as having
5 voted with our feet against support for
6 traditional schools, so let me take just a few
7 seconds to tell you that in kindergarten and first
8 grade he attended Henry H. Houston our
9 neighborhood school.

10 Most of what made me feel that school might
11 not be sustainable that caused us to enter
12 Wissahickon lottery and then accept our spot, that
13 Houston was so under-resourced as to become
14 unstable and that we saw the potential for that
15 kind of instability increasing. And in that
16 assessment, I feel completely vindicated one year
17 later.

18 Second, I live and work in beautiful
19 downtown Mt. Airy. Many of the issues before
20 Council intersects with my daily life. At the
21 moment, most of my weekends revolves around
22 Mt. Airy baseball. I want to shout out to
23 Councilman Kenney because I noticed his name on a
24 banner there and thank him for being a supporter.

1 This is a community institution that
2 includes many public schools, children, parents
3 and employees as players, supported families and
4 coaches. It wouldn't be the community highlight
5 that helps bond neighbors together as it is if
6 middle class and working class families left the
7 City in the numbers they would should the schools
8 be abandoned in the way the current budget allows.

9 Also, with friends and families we enjoy
10 spending time at one of our neighborhoods bars and
11 restaurants often. I am wearing my McMenamin's
12 t-shirt. And I want you to know for sure that
13 what would keep us out of McMenamin's and the
14 Trolley Car Diner, all those places we go in our
15 neighborhood with our neighbors would not be the
16 slight increase in the by-the-drinks-tax before
17 you today, but if they were no longer our
18 neighborhood institutions because we no longer
19 could keep our families in the neighborhood.

20 But third and most important, I want to
21 speak to you from the perspective of a pediatric
22 nurse practitioner at a small private practice at
23 the corner of Germantown and Mt. Pleasant, the
24 corner of the 23 and H buses that brings together

1 segments of my neighborhoods in ways nothing else
2 does and where I am truly most alarmed by the
3 prospects I see if leaders fail to take action.

4 I am charged as a professional to assess
5 and promote the health and safety of children,
6 immunizations and prescribed antibiotics.

7 (Timer rings)

8 But I'm also mandated to ask, teach and
9 advocate around children's safety, cognitive and
10 emotional development, management of chronic
11 health problems, and healthy growth. And for
12 children age 5 to 18, the school environment is
13 key to childrens' success in those areas.

14 I won't pretend that it's ever been fair or
15 easy in my years of practice. Mt. Airy likes to
16 celebrate its diversity, but I am keenly aware
17 that the evil twin of that word is inequity. But
18 the pending budget represents something new and
19 uniquely bad. I realize on a daily basis that if
20 something doesn't change, our children will soon
21 be attending schools where the environment doesn't
22 struggle -- just struggles to support what is best
23 and necessary for healthy, safe childhood it
24 actively opposes it. I sent in writing through

1 Councilman Clarke's office four specific examples
2 that perhaps I don't have time to read right now,
3 but they were each examples where the absence of a
4 nurse, the absence of the opportunities for an
5 individualized education plan assessment and
6 gifted education, the absence of counselors all
7 represented significant and specific health and
8 safety problems to kids that it is my job to care
9 for and my job to reach out and say this is how
10 you need to partner with your school to address
11 these issues. Oh, never mind the sports and the
12 kids who are overweight and said I would like to
13 take up some exercise, will you sign my sports
14 form. I say, heck, yes. I hope your sport is
15 there. The list goes on.

16 This morning with the nurse practitioner
17 students at Penn where I teach, the talk was on
18 significance of school connectedness as a measure
19 for the at-risk status of older children and
20 adolescents and the necessity of our attention to
21 that. That is great. But a school system that
22 doesn't address that by staffing adequately makes
23 a mockery of our concept and of our efforts. I
24 know it's not all in your control. I know you

1 will hear from people who speak against each of
2 the remedies before you. Last week I heard
3 testimony that suggested Philadelphia doesn't need
4 communities like the one I described. That the
5 buying power of tourists and the wage property
6 taxes of the wealthy who don't want or need public
7 school are all the City needs.

8 As a City resident with some degree of
9 pride, I am chilled and disturbed to think such a
10 vision of the City might carry weight in these
11 chambers. But today as a primary care provider
12 concerned with the basic health and safety of the
13 City's children, I ask you this. Are you ready,
14 maybe not out of malice but through inaction, to
15 be a City leader with such disregard for its
16 younger generation that it will allow a school
17 system to go forward in such active opposition to
18 its safe and healthy growth?

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you. I
20 will understand if you are out of breath. You got
21 that in pretty quickly. Thank you.

22 Yes, ma'am.

23 MS. SCHOLNICK: I'm Karen Scholnick. I
24 don't think I can talk as fast as you did. I will

1 have to be shorter.

2 I lived my adult life in Philly. And for
3 the last 39 years, I have also lived in Mt. Airy.
4 I'm a retired principal of Philadelphia school of
5 the James Rhoads Elementary School at 50th and
6 Parrish. I was there for eleven years and retired
7 in 2004. And I am here to support the liquor by
8 the -- liquor-by-the-glass tax by any means
9 necessary.

10 We absolutely have to have the funding for
11 public schools. We were -- I was principal at
12 James Rhoads during a period when we were able to
13 raise standardized test scores on a regular basis
14 every year. Financial resources do make a
15 difference in the achievement of our young people.

16 During my tenure, we were able to get the
17 class size from K to 3 down as low as almost to 20
18 students in a class. The difference between 20
19 students in a class in K to 3 and 30 students in a
20 class is phenomenal. We were able to do
21 wonderful, wonderful things with kids with lower
22 class size. We had teachers to work with students
23 who needed the extra help. Those students who
24 didn't come to school well prepared, those

1 students for whom the gap, the gap between them
2 and students who come to school well prepared,
3 gets larger and larger as you go through.

4 Our fifth graders all were reading. The
5 fifth grade was our highest grade at that point.
6 We were able to have a balance of new and
7 experienced teachers. You have to have in a
8 school a balance of new and experienced teachers
9 so that they influence each other. We were able
10 to do that. If you don't have the funding, you
11 lose both the beginning and the middle -- the
12 lower and the new teachers, the middle range
13 teachers and the experienced teachers.

14 Counselors and nurses were critical. You
15 know the work of Geoffrey Canada in Harlem in
16 terms of the necessity of social and health
17 support for students. No question about that.

18 Arts and library, we were able -- we really
19 had to set priorities in terms of bringing arts
20 into the school and involving students and
21 teachers. The librarian, we had a state of the
22 art library. Those are value added programs that
23 bring extra resources into the schools. We were
24 able to bring 20 to 30,000 dollars of extra

1 resources into the school because we had the basic
2 programs.

3 What are the consequences of not funding?
4 It's been said over and over again. You drive
5 young families out. You abandon those who remain,
6 and you end up spending the money that you should
7 be spending on schools on police and prisons.

8 We are all affected by another tax and the
9 state must step up. But the current status of the
10 Philadelphia school's budget is absolutely
11 unconscionable.

12 THE CLERK: Susan DeJarnatt, Mel Kornbluth
13 and Bryan Lathrop. Is Kate Atkins here?

14 MS. DEJARNATT: Thank you. My name is
15 Susan DeJarnatt. I'm a law professor at Temple
16 who studies public education. But my role here
17 today is really a parent of kids in the public
18 schools where I have had kids since 1989 and will
19 until next Wednesday's graduation.

20 In the course of my time both studying
21 education and dealing with the Philadelphia public
22 schools as a parent, I feel like I spent all of
23 this time fighting for things not to get worse.
24 Today they are about as bad as ever. The school

1 budget passed by the School Reform Commission is a
2 travesty. You heard it from everybody else. I
3 just want to reiterate that what is being offered
4 to our kids is not education. It's warehousing.

5 I beg Corbett and the State Legislature for
6 increased school funding. I think this is
7 primarily their problem, but they are not going to
8 help. We have got to stand up for ourselves. As
9 long as the SRC is in the control of the state, we
10 are just going to have to come up with the money
11 on our own. I am asking you to raise my taxes.
12 We have to pay for the education of our kids.

13 Raise the liquor tax. Raise the use and
14 occupancy tax. I am happy to pay more real estate
15 taxes. I'm happy to pay the gentleman sales tax.
16 I am deeply offended when the state government
17 refers to Philadelphia as a cesspool. I hope you
18 all are. Not one of our schools and not one of
19 our kids deserves to be tainted in that way. But
20 we are going to lose not only the kids at the
21 bottom, we are going to lose the kids at the top.

22 My kids have had the benefit of going to
23 C.W. Henry, which is very good neighborhood public
24 school and to Masterman and Central. They are

1 going to be decimated, too. So, we are going to
2 reduce even, you know, the best school in the
3 state where every kid goes to college. How are
4 they going to go to college? They are not going
5 to have guidance counselors next year.

6 As I have studied education reform and
7 experienced it as a parent, I feel like we've been
8 operating like a pinball machine since 2001. They
9 just keep whacking us with new reform every year.
10 And the kids and the parents are like the things
11 that ding when the ball hits them. This budget
12 doesn't even have the pretense of a silver bullet.
13 It's not education. It's warehousing.

14 Please do whatever you can to keep this
15 disaster from coming to life.

16 MS. CHASE: Hello. My name is Patricia
17 Chase. Mel Kornbluth, unfortunately, was unable
18 to attend the meeting unfortunately. He did
19 submit a statement that has been already entered
20 as written testimony. Should I read it? Or if
21 it's already written --

22 UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes, read it.

23 MS. CHASE: Okay.

24 "My name is Mel Kornbluth, owner of

1 Vineland Syrup, Incorporated which has been in
2 business for 50 years. I do not support the
3 proposed increase on the beverage tax. This is a
4 sin tax and affects all people who frequent bars,
5 restaurants, stadiums, casinos and tourism in
6 general. It makes them noncompetitive with state
7 owned liquor stores.

8 "We have all suffered in this economy to
9 stay in business. And now at the end of a
10 recession, the City is only now taking a look at
11 how to raise revenue. It is unfair to tax one
12 segment of the industry. I would like to see
13 Philadelphia make bigger cuts in the City budget
14 and trim waste. Do not depend on businesses who
15 pay high fees already for a license and location
16 and now make them suffer because spending is out
17 of control by City leaders.

18 "Cut more employees or hold them
19 responsible to be more productive and stop City
20 waste. Go after property tax evaders and other
21 people who have not contributed. They are
22 standing on the sidelines relieved that the City
23 has again made liquor outlets a scapegoat and
24 takes the easy way out instead of doing their job.

1 "I say in closing, it will affect my sales
2 of beverages which are already on the decline. It
3 is counterproductive and unfair.

4 "Sincerely, Mel Kornbluth, President of
5 Vineland Syrup."

6 MR. LATHROP: Good afternoon. Thank you
7 for the opportunity to speak. My name is Bryan
8 Lathrop. I've lived in Philadelphia for 33 years.
9 I'm a self-employed photographer. I am a
10 taxpayer. I am a voter. I live with my wife and
11 kids in the strong and vital community of Spruce
12 Hill and University City where our nine-year-old
13 daughter is a third grader at Penn Alexander
14 School. We hope to send our four-year-old son
15 there, as well.

16 Governor Corbett's slashing of funds for
17 public education combined with a budget approved
18 by the SRC is nothing short of a gutting of public
19 education. These cuts which would enrage me even
20 if I wasn't a parent are not mere abstractions.
21 They have impacted my family on two fronts.

22 My wife, a guidance counselor at Central
23 High got her layoff notice last Saturday after 13
24 years of service. Her layoff represents a threat

1 to our ability to stay in the city we love. The
2 elimination of support staff district wide means
3 our daughter could return to a grossly
4 understaffed Penn Alexander School. This is the
5 initial impact for just one family. 3,700 other
6 school staff families will feel these affects,
7 too. But the reach of those ripples is nearly
8 immeasurable when you consider that thousands of
9 children cut off from those staffers.

10 As a spouse of a guidance counselor, I
11 witnessed the profound changes one person can make
12 in the lives of their students and their families.
13 I seen the thank you notes and the phone calls she
14 receives from students who are first in their
15 family to attend college or who receive
16 scholarships thank to her efforts. She is just
17 one counselor at one schools. Five other
18 counselors have been laid off at her school.

19 The average case loads are 400 students
20 each and this is just the counselors. What about
21 the art teachers? The music teachers? Have we
22 forgotten as adults that there are more ways of
23 learning than reading, writing and arithmetic?
24 It's humbling to consider the critical ways that

1 school staffers and programs help our children. I
2 am nauseated to think that my legislators would
3 risk the futures of our children and the educators
4 who serve them.

5 I come to you today as many of us are to
6 ask you to work with us to find a way to help
7 bridge the deficit gap. And the per drink liquor
8 tax seems a viable means of doing so. We have a
9 problem. We have a solution. We're asking you as
10 our elected officials to make it happen for our
11 educational system. Make it happen for our
12 children.

13 I love Philadelphia. My wife and kids love
14 Philadelphia, too. In the years I've lived here,
15 it's evolved into a world class city. But it
16 seems to me that an inherent part of being a world
17 class city is to educate and invest in our
18 children. A world class city doesn't think twice
19 about making education a priority. A world class
20 city is smart enough to know that cutting off
21 opportunities for its children is tantamount to
22 shooting itself and the entire region in the foot.

23 Surely, our residents along with the scores
24 of tourists and conventioners who visit us can

1 handle 50 cents more per drink, alcoholic drink,
2 to help fund our education. I drink at our local
3 taverns and would happily pay that tax. I know I
4 am not alone in the statement and the sentiments.
5 There are scores of us, all voters, all taxpayers
6 for whom educating our children is priority.

7 We all reap the benefits of their
8 education. And we all suffer the consequences of
9 their abandonment.

10 THE CLERK: Kate Atkins, Greg Rand, Bryan
11 Armstead, Carl Dranoff, Anne Falon, Orlando
12 Acosta.

13 MR. RAND: Good afternoon. Good to see
14 you, Council President, once again.

15 Councilmen and Councilwomen, I'd first like
16 to point out -- my name is Greg Rand. I've been
17 in the restaurant tavern and bar industry since
18 1986 in Philadelphia.

19 I'd first like to point out from last week
20 the Councilman that is sitting over to my right
21 which is currently up front, this is not about the
22 businesses against the schools because, obviously,
23 the kids would always win. This is about what's
24 fair and what's unfair. Currently, we for 19

1 years have been paying the 10 percent to do the
2 school funding. I have to remind you if we pass
3 this, are we going to be here two to three years
4 from now saying let's do a 20 percent tax. Let's
5 do a 25 percent tax. It's just unfair.

6 Everybody keeps saying this money, that
7 money. We do have the money. It's in delinquent
8 taxes, \$500 million in delinquent taxes. I know
9 everybody gets tired of hearing this. Go get that
10 money. Guess what, we all wouldn't be here right
11 now. We would be out enjoying our summers down
12 the shore or in Philadelphia doing something
13 besides coming here and testifying which we
14 shouldn't have to.

15 I am not against schools getting the
16 funding. What I am against is what is fair and
17 what is unfair. Thank you very much.

18 MR. ARMSTEAD: Good afternoon, Members of
19 Council. My name is Bryan Armstead. I'm the
20 Director of Policy and Partnerships for the
21 Philadelphia Education Fund. It was difficult to
22 write this testimony today because of the
23 profoundly sad and negative feelings that
24 people all across the City are expressing because

1 of their fears and concerns about the District's
2 doomsday budget scenario.

3 You know, I ran into a friend and colleague
4 yesterday who made the remarkable commitment to
5 switch careers and become a teacher this year.
6 He's a great guy who usually has a tremendous
7 attitude and spirit about him. I can honestly say
8 that I would be honored to have my son sit in his
9 class one day. But he is facing a layoff and you
10 can see the emotional toll this is taking on him.
11 It's visible. I hope he gets brought back on
12 board. I hope he sticks it out. I hope my son
13 one day has the opportunity to be in his class.
14 My friend is not the only one facing the prospects
15 of unemployment and emotional distress.

16 Another colleague is a new -- that's what
17 they call it, right? He and his family moved to
18 the City for lifestyle. They have the resources
19 to live anywhere. They are committed to the
20 neighborhood school. In fact, that's a big draw
21 for them. A decent education in a neighborhood
22 where everyone knows each other, where the school
23 staff and the residents are finding ways to work
24 together for the good of all. But these cuts are

1 making them feel like powers that be are not
2 committed to them. They are seriously talking
3 about moving out of the City. The strain and the
4 uncertainty are too great. They are not the only
5 ones thinking about moving out.

6 I recently spoke with a middle school
7 student that is fearful she won't get the things
8 she needs to be successful in life. Like so many
9 kids in the City, she is smart and she's tough.
10 She knows she's behind the eight ball in a lot of
11 ways, but she is determined to succeed. When you
12 look into her eyes and you see the seeds of doubt
13 that no compassionate or clear thinking adult
14 should be able to deny. And these seeds are
15 growing, they're festering in thousands of our
16 children across the City because of this budget
17 uncertainty.

18 So, you have before you a few pieces of
19 legislation that can help alleviate some of those
20 fears and can help provide some stability for the
21 district and more importantly our schools and
22 children. While I understand the opposition to
23 measures like use and occupancy and the cigarette
24 and liquor taxes, I can honestly say I am

1 perplexed on how shortsighted they've been.

2 Take liquor, for example. Sharon Ward from
3 the PA Budget and Policy Center has laid out
4 compelling research and statistics that has
5 conclusively shown that the additional liquor tax
6 would have no negative effect on drinking or
7 business. I would add, when you hear business
8 people talking about the affects on them from this
9 tax, people often think things that are not true.
10 At one point, we all thought the world was flat.
11 At one point, we all thought the Phillies would
12 never win a World Series. Some things change.

13 We have to be real and really talk about
14 what the effect would be. And so I understand
15 that automatic reflex, but we have to think of the
16 bigger picture. You know, I would think the
17 business owners would be more scared by the
18 prospect of several thousand unemployed people
19 that won't be going out to restaurants and bars
20 because they won't be able to afford it. I think
21 they would be more concerned about the hundreds if
22 not thousands of families that are seriously
23 considering moving out. It can't be good for the
24 neighborhood bar if no one is living in the

1 neighborhood. I think they would be more
2 concerned about potentially crushing the life
3 chances of children instead of the unjustified
4 fear that charging people a few more cents for
5 beer or wine will slow them up from drinking on a
6 Friday night.

7 Look, I know there is anger in this room
8 about how the state has boxed us into this corner.
9 I think everybody here agrees with that. But, you
10 know, all the people I have just talked about,
11 they are less concerned about who makes the first
12 move, the City or the State. They just want the
13 job to get done.

14 I used to do marriage and family therapy
15 and counseling with people. And often when there
16 is conflict between family members, between the
17 adults, one of them has to make the first move.
18 That is really what it's about. We used to ask
19 them all the time, you know, is the relationship
20 important to you? And they say yes. Is it
21 important enough for you to take the first step?

22 My question to you, because I know all of
23 you say the schools are important, is it important
24 enough to take the first step and actually when

1 you are confronted by business owners who give you
2 this false reasoning to tell them to stop and
3 relax a second. Is it important enough for you to
4 not worry about whether the State acts first but
5 to actually do what you can first?

6 On top of that, I will just add from my
7 understanding as far as whether the City should
8 act first or the State, even though the State, I
9 believe, is totally at fault with this. Let's be
10 clear. But who else should be -- take the first
11 move? From what I understand, Senator Kitchen has
12 sent something to you guys that basically said,
13 look, we need you guys to take the first step so
14 that we'll be able to fight to get the first
15 legislation passed.

16 With that in mind, you have to take the
17 first step if it's truly important enough for you.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. ACOSTA: Hello. My name is Orlando
20 Acosta, a parent and community activist. I'm here
21 to say it's really a complex situation of really
22 understanding the fact of even if -- even if the
23 schools get this money, okay, fundamentally, the
24 problem is this. What are they going to do with

1 it? Where is the accountability after they get
2 it? Whether it comes from the aspect of the
3 business owners, the taxpayer or whatever the case
4 may be, whoever gives this money, okay, wherever
5 the money comes from, it still goes back to the
6 fundamental aspect of the accountability of the
7 district has gotten money after money after money
8 and they have wasted it.

9 So we don't want to come back here two or
10 three years from now still talking about what did
11 they do with the money. Okay. \$40 million was
12 already given to them before they even came and
13 asked for this 60. Fundamentally, what happened
14 to that? We still haven't found out what -- where
15 has the money went?

16 It needs to be a fundamental aspect of
17 accountability before the district even gets this
18 money. Because every time they get it, it never
19 goes to where it needs to be, and that's the
20 children. And I am all for, you know -- if you
21 are going to put the weight on the business owner
22 or the taxpayer, it needs to fundamentally come
23 down to, well, accountability for the district on
24 how they spend their money because they need to

1 get their -- they need to get their budget
2 situation together and they need to know how to
3 account for money when they received it. Because
4 they act like they don't know how to fundamentally
5 control money that they received.

6 Okay. So, I don't want to be back here two
7 or three years from now still talking over the
8 same situation. It's people before me that came
9 back, what, their 60 years old now. They still
10 talking about the same thing they said when I was
11 a child. That's a problem.

12 So whether you talking about the City
13 taking the lead or the State taking the lead or
14 fundamentally working together, where is the
15 accountability on how the district spends the
16 money and where the money goes?

17 So, that's all I have to say. Thank you.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you for your
19 testimony. Appreciate it.

20 MR. ACOSTA: One more thing. On Friday the
21 14th, I invite everyone to come out to -- we are
22 going to have the community speak and we invite
23 everyone in the City Council chambers to come.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Where? Where would that

1 be?

2 MR. ACOSTA: 440 North Broad Street,
3 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you so much.

5 Thank you for your patience, and please
6 state your name and begin your testimony.

7 MS. CAPOZZI: My name is Barbara Capozzi.
8 I am here for Bill 102651. So many people had to
9 leave today. I am here for -- representing the
10 Greater Philadelphia Association of Realtors and
11 also the Building Industry Association to talk
12 about the all important tax abatement.

13 Yesterday we had a wonderful meeting with
14 Councilman Goode and Council President Darrell
15 Clarke, probably an hour and a half with some of
16 the biggest most important real estate people in
17 the City. We thought we had a -- the framework of
18 an understanding, although everything was pressed
19 for time and everybody is rushed. There seems to
20 have been some misunderstanding by all of us.

21 My plea is that the tax abatement has been
22 so important to the City of Philadelphia in terms
23 of the millions of dollars of new real estate
24 that's been developed that would have never been

1 developed, the thousands of jobs that were
2 created. It's just too important an issue to
3 sandwich us in between AVI and school kids with no
4 books.

5 There is so many other issues to be
6 addressed that we feel that the tax abatement is
7 being made a scapegoat for more serious issues.
8 There is no doubt that it has brought millions of
9 dollars to the City that would not have been here
10 otherwise. AVI is the first step for tax
11 reform -- for a broader tax reform. We all agree
12 that the best tax reform would be to start taxing
13 things that can't move because, first of all, they
14 are easier to collect taxes on; and to lessen the
15 taxes on things that can move. I think everyone
16 is uniformly in agreement with that.

17 What we are saying is that you have to
18 broaden the base of what can't move. You have to
19 broaden it because clearly the base that we have
20 isn't enough to fill all the needs that we need to
21 fill. The streets. The streets are decaying.
22 The schools are -- it's so sad to sit and listen
23 to these children beautiful kids that need
24 resources that we don't have to give. We need

1 more City inspectors clearly. We need better
2 people to collect taxes.

3 So, we feel that the ten-year tax abatement
4 has driven the economy. And one of the reasons
5 that the City survived this last depression that
6 we had -- don't let anybody tell you it was a
7 recession. It was a depression to the outside
8 world. It was horrible and it's still not fixed.
9 The ten-year tax abatement is actually what saved
10 Philadelphia. Where other cities really -- the
11 real estate plummeted even more because there was
12 hundreds of millions of dollars of real estate
13 that was created that now is being taxed and will
14 be taxed even further.

15 So, what we want is just some more time to
16 discuss this over the summer. We have several
17 other solutions to suggest. But the Bill that is
18 here today this morning that we just saw is far
19 different than what we talked about yesterday.
20 There is just so much going on, it's
21 understandable that there is these
22 misunderstandings. But it's too important to just
23 rush it through.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you for your

1 testimony.

2 Chair recognizes Councilman Goode.

3 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 Ms. Capozzi, it was actually a good meeting
5 yesterday. Where the misunderstanding lies is the
6 purpose for the meeting. The purpose of the
7 meeting was to have a public policy discussion.
8 The purpose of the meeting was not to allow those
9 big powerful developers to decide how this Bill
10 would be amended. It was a public policy
11 discussion. It was not meant to be a backroom
12 deal.

13 MS. CAPOZZI: No. I didn't mean to
14 insinuate it was.

15 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Nothing was meant to be
16 decided at that meeting yesterday except an
17 exchange of ideas and see what understanding we
18 can or cannot come to. That understanding is
19 never final.

20 Whether the Bill is approved in Committee
21 today, amended or not amended, whether it becomes
22 law, whether it doesn't become law, our job as
23 legislators means that we can always amend and
24 perfect our product.

1 I continue to be open for discussion.
2 Nothing will be changed by our taking action today
3 in any way of whether we can reach even some
4 consensus. The most important part about what we
5 will take action on in terms of amendments is we
6 will push back the effective date. And pushing
7 back --

8 MS. CAPOZZI: I'm sorry. I couldn't hear
9 you.

10 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Pushing back the
11 effective date. When we push back the effective
12 date, it absolutely creates more room for more
13 discussion. So particularly for those of us who
14 have been around for a while, we understand the
15 fundamental issue is whether we have a product
16 that we can consider and vote on that may or may
17 not be further amended next week, next fall, next
18 year.

19 So, the issue of whether we come to an
20 agreement or not should not be based upon whether
21 there was a meeting yesterday. There have been
22 several hearings. And I have had several other
23 meetings, several other discussions about this
24 issue. To believe that the matter would be

1 resolved in one meeting yesterday is where your
2 misunderstanding might lie.

3 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you, Councilman.

5 MR. DRANOFF: Good afternoon, everyone. My
6 name is Carl Dranoff. I'm the owner and founder
7 of Dranoff Properties.

8 I guess, Councilman, I am one of those guys
9 who have been around for a while. I was born and
10 raised in Philadelphia, went to Fels Northeast,
11 Drexel University and spent 38 years developing in
12 the City. And I think I have developed at least
13 five or six of the District Councils here. Most
14 of you know of my work.

15 The Bill that's been presented, Bill 102651
16 as is currently written is a flawed Bill. It
17 would be a destructive and job killing bill and
18 not good for homeownership at all. One of the
19 biggest flaws in the Bill is that it has a cap
20 beyond which you would not be able to enjoy tax
21 abatement. That cap is \$500,000.

22 And the problem is that high cost Center
23 City construction projects, which are on the order
24 of \$500 a square foot or more, you couldn't build

1 a project really for \$500,000 a unit. A small
2 unit would be a 1,000 square feet and would cost
3 more than \$500,000.

4 Effectively, the tax abatement cap would be
5 placing projects that I build which are highrise
6 buildings. They are very expensive. They would
7 not be able to enjoy tax abatement. And we would
8 not be able to get buyers, and we would not be
9 able to secure financing. So therefore, the
10 projects would not get built.

11 If that happens, it means that we would be
12 losing -- we, the City of Philadelphia, enormous
13 tax revenues. We would be stemming population
14 growth. And worst of all, we would be preventing
15 future revenues from the abated buildings when the
16 abatement ends.

17 Under this Bill, there is an exemption for
18 commercial properties. That means I could build
19 an apartment building and the same tax abatement.
20 Yet if I build a building that is For Sale
21 Building, I would not get tax abatement. I would
22 really not be able to build the building. And
23 yet, if I shifted gears and built an apartment
24 building, I would be able to. That's not helping

1 homeownership. That's not helping people who want
2 to buy in the City.

3 In sum, I think we would be leaving a lot
4 of revenues on the table. A person who buys a one
5 million dollar condominium pays transfer taxes the
6 first year of \$30,000. That's three times the
7 amount of first year tax revenues at full taxes
8 that the City would get. They would be losing
9 business privilege taxes. They would be losing
10 wage taxes for the people who are moving in from
11 outside the City, which are pretty enormous. And
12 they would be losing future revenues from unabated
13 taxes after ten years.

14 All in all, as an example, Symphony House
15 has paid \$15 million in combined taxes over the
16 past five years. That's over \$3 million a year
17 far in excess of what the abated taxes would have
18 been. Given that the City is not going to get one
19 extra penny from capping real estate abatement, I
20 don't see the purpose of it.

21 I understand why you would want a graduated
22 program to produce more tax revenues for the City
23 in the later years where people would still be
24 enticed to buy but they would be paying more in

1 later years. But I cannot see why you would want
2 to cap it and drive projects that I and others
3 could build right off the map and to the point
4 where they don't get built and we lose jobs and we
5 don't get one single cent. It makes no sense to
6 me.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.

8 Chair now recognizes Councilman Goode.

9 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10 Good afternoon, Mr. Dranoff. Thank you for
11 your testimony. I enjoyed our discussion
12 yesterday, earlier today, the one we're about to
13 have right now and that we will continue to have.

14 Let me start off by asking a few simple
15 questions for the record. The first is, do you
16 support any changes to the tax abatement program?

17 MR. DRANOFF: I don't think that the
18 changes -- I will give you the answer if you give
19 me -- a two-part answer.

20 One is I think the present program has been
21 a fantastic program and a fantastic --

22 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Mr. Dranoff.

23 MR. DRANOFF: I am getting there.

24 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Mr. Dranoff?

1 MR. DRANOFF: Yes.

2 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Let me change my
3 question.

4 MR. DRANOFF: Okay.

5 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Do you think the tax
6 abatement program should be changed at all?

7 MR. DRANOFF: I do not think it should be
8 changed because it's risky. But I would agree
9 that there is probably changes that could be made
10 that would not kill the goose that's laying the
11 golden eggs.

12 COUNCILMAN GOODE: So, you do not believe
13 that the abatement program should be changed.

14 Do you believe that the abatement program
15 should be capped?

16 MR. DRANOFF: No. I do not believe it
17 should be capped as stated previously.

18 COUNCILMAN GOODE: So if we have an
19 \$11 million property, it should receive an
20 \$11 million abatement?

21 MR. DRANOFF: What's the question? I'm
22 sorry.

23 COUNCILMAN GOODE: If we have an
24 \$11 million property, it should receive an

1 \$11 million abatement?

2 MR. DRANOFF: No. The abatement would only
3 be for the improvements, not for the land. So
4 presumably, there would always be some taxes that
5 are paid whether it's an apartment or condominium.

6 COUNCILMAN GOODE: So if we have an \$11
7 million property that actually exists and it is
8 currently being taxed only on a few hundred
9 thousand dollars, is that fair?

10 MR. DRANOFF: Yes, it is fair. And I will
11 give you the reason why. And I use a high-rise
12 condominium as an example.

13 If somebody buys an expensive condominium,
14 they are basically paying three years worth of
15 real estate, full real estate taxes, in the first
16 due to the transfer tax. Plus, a person moving
17 from out of town is paying a very high wage tax.
18 Plus, the developer is paying a business privilege
19 tax.

20 When you add all those taxes together, they
21 far, far surpass the abated taxes that the City in
22 theory would not get but really it's a myth
23 because the building would never be built and the
24 City would get no taxes.

1 COUNCILMAN GOODE: So, it is your testimony
2 and your response that a property that is worth
3 \$11 million should only pay taxes on a few hundred
4 thousand dollars and you see nothing wrong with
5 that.

6 My question is this --

7 MR. DRANOFF: I didn't answer that
8 question.

9 COUNCILMAN GOODE: My question is this.

10 If we look at the existing abatements, what
11 percentage do you believe are more than \$500,000?

12 MR. DRANOFF: I do not believe that there
13 should be a cap on --

14 COUNCILMAN GOODE: That's not my question.

15 My question is, if we look at the existing
16 abatements, what percentage do you believe are
17 over \$500,000?

18 MR. DRANOFF: I do not know the answer to
19 that question.

20 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Do you think I know the
21 answer to that question?

22 MR. DRANOFF: I do not know the answer.

23 COUNCILMAN GOODE: The answer to that
24 question is, 84 percent of the abated properties

1 are under \$500,000. You are talking about
2 actually only 16 percent of the current abatements
3 are over \$500,000. This is not going to have a
4 tremendous affect on the overwhelming majority of
5 abatements. That should be stated for the record.

6 It will have an affect only on high-scale
7 development -- some high-scale development in
8 Center City. And to suggest that that should not
9 be capped at all at some point in the future and
10 it should not even be discussed is strange to me.

11 But my --

12 MR. DRANOFF: Let me say this.

13 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I'm not finished.

14 MR. DRANOFF: Okay.

15 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I guess my greater
16 question is, why aren't you involved in affordable
17 housing development?

18 MR. DRANOFF: Sir, I am not an affordable
19 housing developer. There are very many --

20 COUNCILMAN GOODE: My question is --

21 MR. DRANOFF: Excuse me.

22 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Why are you not involved
23 in affordable housing development?

24 MR. DRANOFF: Why aren't I a brain surgeon?

1 My business has been to develop market rate
2 housing. That's the business I am in. There are
3 other people that are in the affordable housing
4 business. That's not my business.

5 COUNCILMAN GOODE: There are a number of
6 people involved in market rate housing that will
7 tremendously benefit from a half a million dollar
8 cap. It's only those people who choose to develop
9 properties that are worth over half a million
10 dollars and sell them for over a million dollars,
11 so their buyers don't have to pay on a
12 seven-figure amount of value that we are talking
13 about.

14 MR. DRANOFF: Is that a question?

15 COUNCILMAN GOODE: It's not a question yet.

16 The end of the day is, you are not involved
17 in affordable housing development. You are not
18 really involved in market rate development. In
19 fact, the truth of the matter is, you are trying
20 to create a market for the affluent. You are
21 trying to attract people to Philadelphia who do
22 not live here right now.

23 MS. CAPOZZI: That's not a crime.

24 MR. DRANOFF: What's wrong with that?

1 COUNCILMAN GOODE: There is nothing wrong
2 with that. I am not against that.

3 The question is, how much should we invest
4 in it?

5 MS. CAPOZZI: Right.

6 MR. DRANOFF: Well, you are investing in it
7 because you are getting people to move into the
8 City that don't have to move into the City that
9 are paying enormously high wage taxes and big
10 transfer taxes far in excess of the abated taxes.
11 Those are the people who are helping to support
12 the City and strengthen our tax base.

13 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Mr. Dranoff --

14 MR. DRANOFF: And why would you not want to
15 do that.

16 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Mr. Dranoff, what is the
17 median sales price in Philadelphia right now?

18 MR. DRANOFF: Sir, you would know that
19 better than I.

20 COUNCILMAN GOODE: It's \$112,500.

21 MS. CAPOZZI: That's not new construction.

22 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Based on --

23 MR. DRANOFF: That doesn't include new
24 construction.

1 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Excuse me. No. I said
2 the sales price. I didn't say construction but
3 price.

4 MR. DRANOFF: Okay.

5 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Based on the first
6 quarter of 2013 in a study done by your consultant
7 Kevin Gillen, the median sales price in
8 Philadelphia is \$112,500.

9 MR. DRANOFF: And we wish it were higher,
10 but my projects are not those --

11 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Excuse me.

12 MR. DRANOFF: Okay.

13 COUNCILMAN GOODE: And we're asking for
14 those people to subsidize the affluent to move
15 into Philadelphia.

16 MR. DRANOFF: You are not subsidizing.
17 They are not subsidizing. We are creating more of
18 a tax base. How is it a subsidy when people are
19 getting abatement but they're paying more in other
20 types of taxes? Tell me how that is a subsidy?

21 MS. CAPOZZI: Clearly, the \$112,000
22 homeowner that is the average in the City, is not
23 enough to support all the needs that we have.
24 This is looking at it from the other point of

1 view.

2 COUNCILMAN GOODE: But those people are the
3 ones paying right now.

4 MR. DRANOFF: I don't know how you can
5 compare --

6 MS. CAPOZZI: No. No. No. The people
7 with tax abatements are also paying.

8 MR. DRANOFF: Barbara -- Barbara -- I don't
9 see how you can compare resale value of homes
10 which, you know, for the whole City versus what
11 brand new construction cost in Center City,
12 Philadelphia. I don't know how you can compare
13 them.

14 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I will end it with this.
15 I am absolutely open for discussion.

16 MR. DRANOFF: Okay.

17 MS. CAPOZZI: Thank you.

18 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Continued discussion.

19 MR. DRANOFF: Okay.

20 COUNCILMAN GOODE: It's very clear a few
21 things are true and not debatable. The median
22 sale price in Philadelphia right now is \$112,000.
23 The \$500,000 cap that is being suggested and can
24 be further discussed actually would cover

1 84 percent of the abatements that are on the books
2 now. It's clear that you're not involved in
3 affordable housing business. You are not really
4 involved in the market rate housing business. You
5 are involved in the upscale housing business.

6 I did not create this Bill to target you in
7 a negative way, but this Bill is not focused on
8 your business. It's focused on a tax policy. And
9 I believe that this tax policy is, while not
10 perfect, can be further discussed, the fundamental
11 question is should we change the tax abatement
12 program. Your answer is no. My answer is yes.

13 The question is whether we should cap the
14 tax abatement program? Your answer is no. My
15 answer is yes.

16 The question is, who will pay for those
17 taxes to help fund the schools, to help fund the
18 government as we move rich people here. I say we
19 need to make a decision today. Not a final
20 decision but a decision today that things have to
21 change.

22 I thank you for your testimony and I look
23 forward to further conversations. Thank you,
24 Mr. Chairman.

1 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you for your
2 testimony.

3 Chair now recognizes Councilman Green.

4 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5 Mr. Dranoff, do you have any sense of how
6 much of the new development or construction in the
7 City or put -- let me put it another way.

8 If 16 percent of the total tax abatement,
9 I'm not sure whether this is the percentage we
10 take advantage of or what the total tax dollars
11 are. Maybe the Councilman knows. But it seems to
12 me based on the facts that he presented, that a,
13 you know, a relatively small percentage of total
14 tax abatement -- people would take advantage of
15 the tax abatement or developers would take
16 advantage of the tax abatement are for housing
17 above \$500,000.

18 It seems to me that the benefit of that
19 Citywide in terms of the buildings that I can
20 think of where apartments are selling or condos
21 are selling for over a million dollars exceeds the
22 cost of that percentage to the City. And I think
23 that's the point you were making.

24 In other words, the aggregate tax dollars

1 that we collect because in terms of the wage taxes
2 of people building those buildings, in terms of
3 the wage taxes of people who live in those
4 buildings, the liquor-by-the-drink tax that they
5 go out and spend, the aggregate benefit to the
6 City is in excess of the cost to the City. And I
7 think Kevin Gillen and Econsult did a study which
8 looked at the ten-year tax abatement and so
9 concluded.

10 MR. DRANOFF: Yes.

11 COUNCILMAN GREEN: So, if you can just
12 comment on that.

13 MR. DRANOFF: I would like to comment on
14 that. And I said that the overall benefit of
15 having uncapped tax abatement would be to
16 strengthen the tax base. And the reason is
17 because you are getting affluent people to move
18 from the suburbs or other states into the City to
19 pay very large taxes whether they be transfer,
20 whether they be wage. And the aggregate is very
21 large from that group of people.

22 There is an anecdote that I'd like to
23 state. It happens to be about New York City.
24 Some people have said this is widely known that if

1 the top thousand wealthiest people in New York
2 City moved out, there would be a 40 percent budget
3 gap. That is because of the preponderance of
4 taxes that the affluent do pay in urban areas.

5 2006 was the first time that the City
6 gained population in 55 years. And I think we all
7 know that population gains mean more of a tax
8 base. Means more people spending money in the
9 City. And I think we can wildly acknowledge that
10 the tax abatement program has drawn new people to
11 the City and reversed the population decline.

12 So, why would we want to cap that growth?
13 And why would we want to cap the revenues that
14 come from that growth?

15 COUNCILMAN GREEN: I think also
16 importantly, though, the abatement program
17 according to this study -- and I think it was also
18 studied by PEW or somebody else, I can't recall --
19 basically, has provided more tax revenues than it
20 cost the City on an annual basis both in terms of
21 the benefits from the construction and from the
22 residents spending there. Is that --

23 MR. DRANOFF: Yes. I don't know what the
24 exact number is. But I do know buildings coming

1 off of tax abatement will generate \$70 million
2 from the City. It will go up from there. So, I
3 call the abatement an investment or annuity for
4 the City because the City gets more people and
5 more of a tax base as the abatement burns off.

6 I can give you specific examples of that,
7 if you would like. Locust on the Park, which we
8 developed in 1998, came off tax abatement in 2008.
9 And it pays ten times more taxes than we
10 originally paid. There is an enormous tax
11 increase for buildings that are coming off
12 abatement. Every year more buildings are coming
13 off of abatement.

14 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Can you discuss the
15 uncertainty, what happens with respect to
16 financing of new projects when there is a
17 significant change in the law and banks and other
18 financial backers are uncertain about what the --
19 what the tax benefits are going to be available as
20 developers try to sell those properties and how it
21 can have a chilling effect on --

22 MR. DRANOFF: Yes, sir.

23 COUNCILMAN GREEN: -- development itself.

24 MR. DRANOFF: Actually, these projects have

1 three-year period before they -- before they
2 actually begin. When we buy a parcel of land and
3 go through approvals and entitlement and financing
4 and preconstruction and design, it takes about
5 three years before a project actually gets off the
6 ground.

7 That is one of the reasons why in our
8 discussions with Councilman Goode we felt that
9 there needed to be a -- whatever changes were
10 made, there needed to be a grandfather period of a
11 minimum of two and a half years. Because it
12 wouldn't be fair for people who are planning
13 projects based on the current legislation that's
14 in place to be penalized by changes. And we have
15 financiers that are looking at our projects now
16 that won't get built for another year, two or
17 three.

18 It's very important if there are changes --
19 and I am not in favor of changes. But if there
20 are changes, that there be a very significant
21 grandfather period of at least two and a half to
22 three years.

23 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you. I have no
24 further questions.

1 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you, Councilman.

2 Chair recognizes Councilman David Oh.

3 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
4 have a simple minded question because this is not
5 my field at all.

6 But does it at all make sense that if you
7 build a lower cost house as opposed to a more
8 expensive residence like you are in upper end,
9 that the caps might be on a different scale
10 depending on what your investment is and your
11 goals?

12 MR. DRANOFF: If you were able to -- I
13 think what's the problem is, is uniformity. If
14 we -- if we could distinguish between -- housing
15 is not a one size fits all product. You have
16 stick build housing in neighborhoods. You have
17 midrise buildings. You have high-rise buildings.
18 You have conversions and the type of product that
19 I build and I am known for is a very high quality,
20 expensive product. Mine happens to be the product
21 that attracts people from outside the City and
22 outside the State to come into Philadelphia.

23 And with wages as they are in Philadelphia,
24 with union construction, we're 100 percent union

1 in our projects and the land costs are very high,
2 it's very difficult to build and develop a product
3 for under \$500 a square foot.

4 Can buildings be built for \$100 a square
5 foot? Absolutely. You can have manufactured
6 housing. You can have prepackaged components.
7 You can be building in neighborhoods where the
8 land costs are lower. Hopefully, that type of
9 housing will also be promoted by real estate tax
10 abatement.

11 COUNCILMAN OH: So, I am taking it that you
12 are saying that, yes, if your type of higher end
13 building could have no cap, for example, but
14 someone who is investing less amount of money
15 could have a cap appropriate to their level of
16 investment, that would be okay with you?

17 MR. DRANOFF: Yes. I think Councilman
18 Goode stated that, you know, 84 percent of the
19 people would still be able to get abated, you
20 know, for sale housing. But on the other hand,
21 people like me might as well as apply for our AARP
22 card early and retire because we would not be able
23 to continue to do what we are doing. It's not a
24 one size fits all. It's not an across-the-board

1 impact based on the way the current legislation is
2 written.

3 COUNCILMAN OH: Anyway, I understand that
4 Councilman Goode is open ears and willing to
5 discuss, as he has said, in every one of the
6 sessions I have had. And so I take him as he
7 always is very sincere about what he is saying.

8 MR. DRANOFF: Yes. And we are willing to
9 negotiate and, you know, make changes that are
10 not, you know, so detrimental that they would
11 knock projects off the radar screen entirely.

12 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very much,
13 Mr. Chairman.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you, Councilman.
15 Chair now recognizes Councilman Goode.

16 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
17 I didn't realize that my button was pushed. I
18 will make some final remarks on this.

19 Aside from the fact that I continue to be
20 open for discussion, as I mentioned yesterday and
21 I've mentioned consistently and the point I tried
22 to make today, is simply that discussion cannot be
23 about their being no changes. Discussion cannot
24 be about there being no cap. Discussion has to be

1 about what we do in terms of what is best for all
2 of Philadelphia.

3 This City is not going to succeed or fail
4 based upon Center City development. It's not
5 going to succeed or fail based upon attracting
6 maybe 10, 20, 30,000 more wealthy people. This
7 City is going to succeed or fail based upon issues
8 like schools, issues like tax structure. Very
9 hard issues to deal with.

10 We are not going to prolong this issue. We
11 are also not going to make final decisions about
12 this issue today. But this is a attempt to derail
13 changes that you would be successful or you would
14 fail today because there would be an up or down
15 vote today and we will move forward or we won't
16 move forward.

17 But playing games about whether the program
18 should be changed or whether it should be capped
19 is actually a game that ends today. Because
20 either my colleagues believe that the program
21 should be changed and should be capped or they
22 don't. They are entitled to their opinions. But
23 if you're not really for any change to the
24 program, don't criticize a proposal in terms of

1 how it's constructed. Criticize it simply because
2 you don't want it to change because of how it
3 affects your ability to build a market for housing
4 for affluent people.

5 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you, Councilman.
7 Thank you for your testimony.

8 MR. DRANOFF: I do want to say that I don't
9 think that I am playing games here. I think that
10 I am trying to give -- you asked -- we are giving
11 honest testimony as it affects our industry. It's
12 the way we see it.

13 I do think that we've indicated that we
14 want to talk to you and talk to others about
15 changes that are not detrimental to strengthening
16 our tax base. And I think at the end of day, we
17 can come up with something that meets the needs
18 and is positive. But the way the Bill is written
19 right now, I think is flawed as I stated in the
20 beginning.

21 But I think there is probably a way to get
22 to a point where we can still encourage all kinds
23 of development whether it be affordable housing
24 or, as you call, it housing for wealthy people. I

1 think all of it helps to strengthen the
2 Philadelphia tax base and I thank you.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Councilman Green.

4 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 I just note for the record that there is only two
6 ways in the history of mankind according to every
7 economist in the world to increase the gross
8 domestic product of any kind of economy including
9 the economy of a city, state, nation, et cetera.
10 But we're talking about Philadelphia. It's very
11 simple. You increase population or you increase
12 productivity.

13 We don't do anything to control
14 productivity outside of what City Government does.
15 And we don't do a very good job of increasing
16 productivity. And we will never increase it
17 enough to increase our gross domestic product.
18 Because when we increase productivity, we spend
19 less which means less dollars available to
20 increase the gross domestic product or to increase
21 the economy.

22 The only way we can increase our economy is
23 to increase population. And whether it's 30,000
24 wealthy people, 30,000 people in need, et cetera,

1 increasing population increases the gross domestic
2 product in a local economy. There are lots of
3 other things we need to do in addition to
4 abatements to do that like have great schools. We
5 will increase population when we have great
6 schools, et cetera.

7 But to say -- I don't think we should
8 ignore the fact that increasing the population
9 will and does increase the size of the pie that's
10 available to us from a revenue perspective from
11 helping the City perspective, from helping
12 everybody in the City perspective, from helping
13 our schools, et cetera. It's necessary and the
14 abatement has proven that it does that.

15 Thank you.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: You know, this debate is
17 good while we're figuring out what we're going to
18 do with the rest of the day.

19 Councilman Goode.

20 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 Councilman Green may have missed my
22 comments at the last hearing where I asked the
23 witness whether they had done any analysis of
24 population growth nationwide in their capacity as

1 a real estate developer. And it was the witness
2 from Toll Brothers who said he had not. While
3 some people credit the growth in population in
4 Philadelphia -- credit tax abatement with that
5 growth, it simply is not true.

6 There was growth in any number of different
7 major cities, urban areas because of urbanism.
8 People are moving to urban areas in cities because
9 they like the amenities there, because they want
10 to be in large cities, because they want to be in
11 the downtowns of large cities. Anyone who does
12 the real research in terms of population trends
13 that go out 20, 30, 40, 50 years, you will see a
14 majority of the population of the United States of
15 America moved in urban areas with or without a tax
16 abatement. People are coming and we should
17 prepare for them.

18 The question today is whether we are
19 preparing for them in a way which is fair to the
20 current taxpayers. The question today is whether
21 people will come if we don't have more money
22 invested in our schools. The question today is
23 whether people will come if we don't have money to
24 invest in City services. The question today is

1 what is the fair share.

2 So if we know people are coming anyway and
3 we decide we are going to invest in housing for
4 them and we know that based upon the abatements
5 that are in existence today that 84 percent of
6 them are under half a million dollars, then we can
7 continue the discussion over how we change this
8 program. But I'm not really entering into a
9 debate about whether we should change this
10 program.

11 I decided we should change it. I decided
12 we should cap it. I am open to discussion about
13 how we do that. Anyone who doesn't want to vote
14 for it, that's fine with me.

15 Thank you.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Chair now again
17 recognizes Councilman Green.

18 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you. And I do
19 think this is an important debate and we are
20 having a respectful conversation about this, and I
21 appreciate that.

22 I want to associate myself with the
23 Councilman's comments. It is true that urbanism
24 is a national trend. It is absolutely true that

1 abatements are not the single factor that has
2 increased population in the City of Philadelphia.
3 And I wasn't claiming abatements are the single
4 factor. I don't believe in single factors
5 resulting in anything. That's the fallacy of the
6 single factor.

7 And so -- but however, I do believe they
8 have been an important component of increasing
9 population. The fact of the matter is that our
10 population has increased by -- I can't remember --
11 8,000 people in the City, and we had 60,000 people
12 go into poverty. So what that means is that while
13 we got 8,000 more people in the last decade, we
14 had 60,000 more people who were in need. That is
15 offset by the people to a great extent moving into
16 Center City office base who are providing an
17 increased tax base to provide for the people who
18 are in need.

19 I don't think the Councilman and I have
20 separate goals. We just may view the ways to get
21 there separately. And, you know, I look forward
22 to a continued discussion about changing or
23 revising this in a way that promotes growth.

24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you, Councilman.

2 THE CLERK: Nicky Adelly and Christy Balka.

3 MS. BALKA: Good afternoon. My name is
4 Christy Balka. And I speak here as private
5 citizen today. I did not expect to address you,
6 so I hope you will forgive me if I don't have
7 complete citations for you. And I would be happy
8 to supply them after I finish.

9 I am a lifelong Philadelphian. I am a
10 proud product of the C.W. Henry school mentioned
11 earlier today. I am 28 year homeowner. I have
12 read two studies on the economic impact of tax
13 abatements in Philadelphia. They were both
14 conducted by the same firm, Econsult. They were
15 conducted for two different clients.

16 The first one says there is no conclusive
17 evidence of a strong economic impact for the tax
18 abatement. And I am talking about aggregate
19 impact. The second Econsult study which was
20 commissioned by the building industry does
21 conclude that there is an overall positive
22 economic return.

23 My conclusion from this is that we really
24 don't know. My conclusion is that the City really

1 doesn't know what the aggregate economic impact of
2 the tax abatement has been. What we do know is
3 what the return on investment in human capital
4 looks like.

5 Nobel Economist James Heckman who teaches
6 at the University of Chicago not known for its
7 liberalism in the Economics Department, Professor
8 Heckman has studied Pennsylvania and estimates
9 there is a 10 percent return on investment in high
10 quality prekindergarten. Other economists have
11 looked at the impact of removing students from
12 dropout status to graduation. One estimate is
13 that there is a \$200,000 savings per student when
14 we remove someone from dropout status to high
15 school graduate status.

16 It's very unlikely -- although, parents are
17 in Harrisburg today and City officials have been
18 in Harrisburg. School District leadership has
19 been there. It's very unlikely that the State
20 legislature will grant the entire requests, the
21 \$120 million that we need to close the District's
22 budget gap. My plea to you is knowing that there
23 is a clear return on investment in human capital
24 from K -- pre-K through 12, you grant more than

1 \$60 million. Find a way to do it. We don't care
2 how you do it. But find a way to do it that
3 invests in our City's human capital.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you.

5 MS. ADELLI: Good afternoon. My name is
6 Nicky Adelli. I'm a student at the Science
7 Leadership Academy. Today I chose to start my
8 testimony a bit differently than I usually would.

9 I am sure many of you know how sports are
10 important and counselors are important, especially
11 teachers are important, though, I won't exactly
12 touch base on that today.

13 In the past months, you have heard many
14 times how much a quality education is important to
15 me and my fellow peers. Hopefully, throughout all
16 of your lives and professional careers, you will
17 all understand that education is a fundamental
18 base of everything. Your jobs, the businesses you
19 may support and are fighting for today. It all
20 began with an education.

21 That is why it seems to puzzle me that many
22 of the Councilmembers choose to be in favor of the
23 businesses today and not help fund public
24 education. Yes, I understand that taxes are

1 something no one in this room wants. I am not a
2 taxpayer myself, so I wouldn't know. But when you
3 all choose to vote in favor of the businesses you
4 are only helping the present. The future is what
5 makes a difference.

6 You will then be placing this burden on
7 future leaders. However, there won't be future
8 leaders or future businesses if we don't help fund
9 education today. This City will become very
10 unstable because there won't be any proper
11 leadership due to the fact that many of you chose
12 to vote in favor of the businesses of today.

13 Adults constantly push for students to be
14 ready for 21st Century jobs like your own. At
15 this rate, there won't be any preparation. Just
16 yesterday seven of my peers and I had the
17 opportunity to go to the White House to meet with
18 current and former chiefs of staff, how they have
19 taken on challenges of their job with ease. How
20 would they do so? Because of schools and teachers
21 in their lives. The quality of their education
22 was a key component to their success. And school
23 has taught these students the skills necessary to
24 lead their community.

1 This is exactly why my parents and all
2 parents you have seen today across Philadelphia
3 send their children to school every single day.
4 The parents that campaign for you, vote for you
5 and elect you. They are the citizens who control
6 the votes of the City and control the votes you
7 must receive. These are the parents of education
8 and of the future.

9 If today many of you don't decide to vote
10 in favor of me, in favor of your voters and in
11 favor of a better future, then who will? It
12 begins with you all, our City leaders. The lack
13 of funding provided for education in Philadelphia
14 puts my job at risk. My job as a student, my job
15 as a leader and my job, most importantly, as an
16 active citizen in the City of Philadelphia. Our
17 economy will not succeed unless my fellow peers
18 and I have the skills to succeed in school and in
19 society.

20 I leave you today with one question in
21 mind. I'm sure many of you in all of your lives
22 you have either been told or have told someone to
23 go above and beyond. But what if the bare minimum
24 is offered?

1 Thank you.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you so
3 much.

4 THE CLERK: There are no more speakers,
5 Council President.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you so you
7 very much.

8 (Brief recess taken.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: This concludes
10 the Public Hearing. We will now go into the
11 Public Meeting.

12 - - -

13 (At this time, Committee of the Whole
14 moves from the Public Hearing to the Public
15 Meeting.)

16 - - -

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Chair recognizes
18 Councilman Goode for a motion on the amendment to
19 Bill No. 120651.

20 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 I introduced this Bill in September 2012.
22 We have amended it already. I offered amendment
23 today based upon several discussions with
24 stakeholders, which I will continue to have

1 discussions with. This particular amendment
2 pushes back the effective date to deal with the
3 issue of projects in the pipeline. This
4 particular amendments actually doubles the cap
5 that was set under the previous amendment. It
6 also requires compliance with construction
7 standards offered in legislation by Councilman
8 Henon.

9 I have circulated the amendment to all
10 Members of Council. And I move that the amendment
11 to Bill No. 120651 be adopted.

12 COUNCILMEMBER: Second.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's been moved
14 and properly second.

15 All in favor of the Amendment to 120651,
16 please say so by saying aye.

17 - - -

18 (Chorus of Ayes)

19 - - -

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Those opposed?

21 - - -

22 (Chorus of Noes.)

23 - - -

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: One, two, three.

1 Okay. The ayes have it. I think my count is
2 right.

3 All right. The Chair again recognizes
4 Councilman Goode --

5 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: -- for motion on
7 120651 as amended.

8 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9 I move that Bill No. 120651 as amended be
10 reported out of this Committee with a favorable
11 recommendation, and Rules of Council be suspended
12 to permit first reading at our next Council
13 session.

14 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Second.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Been moved and
16 properly seconded.

17 All those in favor?

18 - - -

19 (Chorus of Ayes)

20 - - -

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Those opposed?

22 - - -

23 (Chorus of Noes)

24 - - -

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: One, two, three
2 four, five -- could you guys hold up -- it's been
3 a long day -- four, five six. Okay. Role call.

4 Ms. Lewis, please call the role.

5 Nevermind, Ms. Lewis, I'll do it. I'll do it.

6 Chair recognizes Councilman -- I'm sorry,
7 not recognizes.

8 Councilman Kenney, call role call.

9 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: No.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Councilwoman
11 Blackwell? That is as amended and voted out of
12 Committee.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: (Nods head.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Councilwoman
15 Blackwell, just say aye.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Aye.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Councilman
18 Greenlee?

19 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Aye.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Councilman
21 Henon?

22 COUNCILMAN HENON: Aye.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Councilman
24 Johnson?

1 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: No.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Councilwoman
3 Sanchez?

4 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Aye.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Councilman
6 Green?

7 COUNCILMAN GREEN: No.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Councilman
9 O'Brien?

10 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: No.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I'm sorry,
12 Councilman?

13 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: No.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Councilman
15 Goode?

16 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Aye, aye.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Count Councilman
18 Goode twice. Senior and Junior, sir?

19 Councilwoman Brown?

20 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Aye.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Councilman
22 Jones?

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Councilman

1 O'Neill.

2 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: No.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Councilman
4 Squilla?

5 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: No.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Councilwoman
7 Bass?

8 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Aye.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And Councilman
10 Oh?

11 COUNCILMAN OH: No.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: That's one, two,
13 three, four, five, six, seven. And one, two,
14 three, four, five, six, seven[sic]. And
15 Councilman Clarke is aye, so that is eight to
16 seven.

17 The Bill is reported out of Committee with
18 a favorable recommendations with rule suspension
19 at the next session of Council. Okay.

20 The next -- at this time, I would like for
21 a motion to amend Bill No. 130180. This is the
22 Operating Budget.

23 Chair recognizes -- Councilman Green, you
24 still -- you have your light on? Is that a

1 mistake? Okay. Thank you, sir.

2 Chair recognizes Councilman Jones for a
3 motion on the amendments to Bill No. 130180.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5 I move that the amended -- thank you,
6 Mr. Chairman. I move that the amendment to Bill
7 No. 130180 be adopted.

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Second.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's been moved
10 and properly seconded.

11 All those in favor?

12 - - -

13 (Chorus of Ayes)

14 - - -

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Those opposed?

16 Ayes have it.

17 Councilman Jones, again, I recognize you
18 for a motion on the Amended Bill 130180.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 I move that the Bill No. 130180 as amended
21 be reported from this Committee with a favorable
22 recommendation, and further move that the Rules of
23 Council be suspended to permit first reading of
24 this Bill at our next session of Council.

1 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Second.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Been moved and
3 properly seconded.

4 All those in favor?

5 - - -

6 (Chorus of Ayes)

7 - - -

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Those opposed?

9 Ayes have it.

10 Bill No. 130180 is reported out of
11 Committee with Rule suspension to allow reading at
12 the next session of Council. That it? Thank you.

13 That concludes our Public Meeting. Council
14 shall stand in recess, Committee of the Whole,
15 until Wednesday June 19 at 2:00 p.m. in Room
16 400 -- hold on.

17 Councilman Oh, I concluded the Public
18 Meeting but we will now go back into the Public
19 Meeting. We'll ask for a Rule suspension. I want
20 to make sure I'm doing this right. A rules
21 suspension to allow us to go back into the Public
22 Meeting.

23 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: So moved.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All in favor?

1 - - -

2 (Chorus of Ayes)

3 - - -

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Those opposed?

5 Ayes have it.

6 We are now back into the Public Meeting.

7 Chair recognizes Councilman Oh.

8 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very much,

9 Mr. President and to all my colleagues. I just
10 make a brief statement that I did circulate a
11 proposed amendment looking back at the heavy lift
12 that this body did from a 1.8 millage rate. We
13 struggled with the idea of getting under 1.5 and
14 finally being at 1.34. I think that has been a
15 lot of work well founded.

16 I presented an amendment in an effort to
17 see if we can go a little further in that process,
18 and I have circulated that. Certainly, I would
19 like to thank the Chairman and would like to offer
20 an Amendment to Bill No. 130180. A copy of the
21 amendment has been circulated to all members of
22 the Committee.

23 And I move for adoption of the Amendment to
24 Bill No. 130180.

1 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Second.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Been moved and
3 properly seconded.

4 All those in favor to the amendment to
5 130180 please so say by saying aye.

6 - - -

7 (Chorus of Ayes)

8 - - -

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Opposed?

10 - - -

11 (Chorus of Noes)

12 - - -

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: That was louder.
14 All right. Let's do that one more time. Those in
15 favor of the amendment please say aye.

16 - - -

17 (Chorus of Ayes)

18 - - -

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I see a couple.
20 Kind of weak.

21 Those opposed?

22 - - -

23 (Chorus of Noes)

24 - - -

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All right. The
2 noes have it. The amendment is defeated to Bill
3 NO. 130180. Thank you very much.

4 We again now conclude our Public Meeting.
5 Council will -- the Committee of the Whole will
6 stand in recess until June 19, 2 p.m. Room 400 of
7 City Hall. Thank you. Thank you all very much.

8 - - -

9 (At this time, the Public Meeting of the
10 Committee of the Whole concluded at 5:43 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, hereby certify that the
proceedings and evidence noted are
contained fully and accurately in the
stenographic notes taken by me in the
foregoing matter, and that this is a
correct transcript of the same.

Court Reporter - Notary Public

(The foregoing certification of
this transcript does not apply to any
reproduction of the same by any means,
unless under the direct control and/or
supervision of the certifying reporter.)

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