

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, June 5, 2024
10:10 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILWOMAN KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON, CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS, VICE-CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN NINA AHMAD
COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DRISCOLL
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS

BILLS: 240372, 240373, 240374, 240375,
240377, 240378, 240379, 240416,
240417, 240467, 240470, 240494
RESOLUTION: 240027

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2 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

3 RICHARDSON: Good afternoon or good
4 morning.

5 (Good morning.)

6 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

7 RICHARDSON: I now note that the
8 hour has come.

9 Clerk, will you please call
10 the roll to take attendance.

11 Members that are in attendance will
12 please indicate that you are
13 present when your name is called.

14 THE CLERK: Councilmember
15 Driscoll.

16 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:
17 Present.

18 THE CLERK: Councilmember
19 Ahmad.

20 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:
21 Present.

22 THE CLERK: Vice-chair
23 Bass.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:
25 Present.

1 THE CLERK: Councilmember
2 Jones.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Present.

4 THE CLERK: Chair Gilmore
5 Richardson.

6 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

7 RICHARDSON: I am present. Thank
8 you. A quorum of the Committee is
9 present and this hearing is now
10 called to order. This is the
11 public hearing of the Committee on
12 Finance regarding Resolution No.
13 240027 and Bill Nos. 240372,
14 240373, 240374, 240375, 240377,
15 240378, 240379, 240416, 240417,
16 240467, 240470 and 240494.

17 Clerk, will you please read
18 the titles of the bills and the
19 resolution.

20 THE CLERK: Resolution No.
21 240027, a resolution authorizing
22 the Committee on Finance to
23 investigate the operations and
24 significant overspending of the
25 Office of Homeless Services under

1 the previous administration, as
2 well as quality of services
3 provided in the homeless services
4 system.

5 Bill No. 240372, an
6 ordinance constituting the
7 Twentieth Supplemental Ordinance to
8 the Amended and Restated General
9 Airport Revenue Bond Ordinance;
10 authorizing the Mayor, the City
11 Controller and the City Solicitor,
12 or a majority of them, to issue and
13 sell one or more series or
14 subseries of tax-exempt or taxable
15 airport revenue bonds or notes of
16 the City of Philadelphia; setting
17 forth the use of proceeds;
18 determining the sufficiency of
19 pledged Amounts Available for Debt
20 Service; covenanting for the
21 payment of interest and principal;
22 authorizing the Bond Committee to
23 take certain action with regard to
24 the terms and conditions of the
25 airport revenue bonds or notes and

1 related agreements and the
2 elections under the Amended and
3 Restated General Airport Revenue
4 Bond Ordinance; authorizing the
5 Director of Finance to take certain
6 actions with regard to the sale of
7 such airport revenue bonds or
8 notes, the investment of the
9 proceeds thereof and the City's
10 continuing disclosure obligation
11 and specifying the applicability of
12 sections of the First Class City
13 Revenue Bond Act in the Amended and
14 Restated General Airport Revenue
15 Bond Ordinance.

16 Bill No. 240373, an
17 ordinance constituting the
18 Sixteenth Supplemental Ordinance to
19 the General Gas Works Revenue Bond
20 Ordinance of 1998, (the "1998
21 General Ordinance"); authorizing
22 the City of Philadelphia,
23 Pennsylvania, (the "City") to sell,
24 either at public or private sale,
25 one or more series of Gas Works

1 Revenue Bonds and Gas Works Revenue
2 Bonds to refund such Bonds, (the
3 "Bonds"); to pay the cost of
4 certain capital projects and other
5 Project Costs and the cost of
6 redeeming the City's Gas Works
7 Revenue Capital Project Commercial
8 Paper Notes; authorizing the City
9 to amend, novate or terminate all
10 or any portion of any Qualified
11 Swap Agreement; authorizing the
12 City to obtain credit enhancement
13 for any Series of the Bonds, making
14 certain determinations and
15 covenants relating to Gas Works
16 Revenues and the payment of
17 interest and principal; and
18 authorizing covenants and actions
19 in order that the Bonds shall not
20 be arbitrage bonds; all under
21 certain terms and conditions.

22 Bill No. 240374, an
23 ordinance amending the Seventeenth
24 Supplemental Ordinance to the
25 Amended and Restated General

1 Airport Revenue Bond Ordinance,
2 (Bill No. 190432) of the Council of
3 the City of Philadelphia, approved
4 by the Mayor on June 26, 2019, to
5 authorize an increase in the
6 aggregate principal amount of
7 Airport Revenue bonds or notes to
8 be issued under the Seventeenth
9 Supplemental Ordinance from Three
10 Hundred Million to Five Hundred
11 Million (exclusive of costs of
12 issuance (including underwriters'
13 discount), original issue discount,
14 capitalized interest, funding of
15 deposits to the Sinking Fund
16 Reserve Account, if necessary, and
17 similar items); further amending
18 said Ordinance (Bill No. 190432) to
19 authorize the pledge for the
20 security and payment of some or all
21 of the Obligations a lien and
22 security interest in passenger
23 Facility Charges, to the extent
24 available; and authorizing certain
25 other actions.

1 Bill No. 240375, an
2 ordinance constituting the
3 Nineteenth Supplemental Ordinance
4 the Amended and Restated General
5 Airport Revenue Bond Ordinance,
6 providing for certain amendments
7 the Amended and Restated General
8 Airport Revenue Bond Ordinance,
9 under certain terms and conditions.

10 Bill No. 240377, an
11 ordinance authorizing the City
12 Treasurer, on behalf of the City,
13 to enter into an amendment
14 agreement with Citizens Bank
15 National Association for provision
16 of payroll banking services to the
17 City, under certain terms and
18 conditions.

19 Bill No. 240378, an
20 ordinance approving the amendment
21 of the Fiscal Year 2024 Capital
22 Budget providing for expenditures
23 for the capital purposes of the
24 Philadelphia Gas Works (including
25 the supplying of funds in

1 connection therewith) subject to
2 certain constraints and conditions
3 and acknowledging the receipt of
4 the Revised Forecast of Capital
5 Budgets for Fiscal Years 2025
6 through 2029, as amended.

7 Bill No. 240379, an
8 ordinance amending Title 17 of The
9 Philadelphia Code, entitled
10 "Contracts and Procurement," to
11 modify the requirements for
12 contracts with not-for-profit
13 vendors, all under certain terms
14 and conditions.

15 Bill No. 240416, an
16 ordinance authorizing an increase
17 in the non-electoral indebtedness
18 of the City within the Pennsylvania
19 constitutional limit; authorizing
20 the Bond Committee to sell bonds at
21 public or private negotiated sale,
22 to provide funds toward various
23 capital municipal purposes;
24 providing for appropriations to the
25 Sinking Fund Commission for the

1 payments of such bonds; and
2 authorizing agreements to provide
3 credit or payment or liquidity
4 sources for the bonds in connection
5 with issuance of the bonds, and
6 certain other actions.

7 Bill No. 240417, an
8 ordinance approving the Fiscal Year
9 2025 Capital Budget providing for
10 the expenditures for the capital
11 purposes of the Philadelphia Gas
12 Works, including the supplying of
13 funds in connection therewith, and
14 acknowledging receipt of the
15 Revised Forecast of Capital Budgets
16 for Fiscal Years 2026 through 2030,
17 all under certain terms and
18 conditions.

19 Bill No. 240467, an
20 ordinance amending Chapter 19-3500
21 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
22 "Hospital Assessments," to revise
23 provisions relating to hospital
24 assessments; and authorizing the
25 Department of Public Health to

1 enter into an intergovernmental
2 agreement with the Commonwealth,
3 Department of Human Services,
4 relating to such hospital
5 assessments, all under certain
6 terms and conditions.

7 Bill No. 240470, an
8 ordinance amending Chapter 19-3200
9 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
10 "Keystone Opportunity Zone Economic
11 Development District and Strategic
12 Development Area," to provide for
13 additional extensions of certain
14 benefits, under certain terms and
15 conditions.

16 And Bill No. 240494, an
17 ordinance authorizing the Director
18 of Planning and Development, on
19 behalf of the City, to file
20 applications with the United States
21 Department of Housing and Urban
22 Development for a Community
23 Development Block Grant; to file
24 applications to participate in the
25 HOME Investment Partnership program

1 and the Emergency Solutions Grant
2 program; and to apply for a Housing
3 Opportunities for Persons with AIDS
4 grant; and to file applications
5 with the Commonwealth to obtain
6 grants under the Act of April 12,
7 1956, P.L. 1449, Section 4, as
8 amended, to prevent and eliminate
9 blight; authorizing the Director of
10 Planning and Development and the
11 Director of Commerce to file
12 applications to obtain other grants
13 from the Commonwealth; authorizing
14 the Director of Commerce to use
15 Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program;
16 and authorizing the Director of
17 Planning and Development and the
18 Director of Commerce to enter into
19 all understandings and assurance
20 contained in such applications and
21 take all necessary action to accept
22 the grants, all under certain terms
23 and conditions.

24 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

25 RICHARDSON: Thank you very, very

1 much.

2 Before I call on the Clerk
3 to call the first panel, would any
4 of my colleagues like to make any
5 opening comments?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

8 RICHARDSON: Okay. Seeing none,
9 I'd like to publicly announce, one,
10 to thank the nonprofit providers
11 that I had the opportunity to meet
12 with at a wonderful meeting of
13 about 47 individuals yesterday
14 regarding my Bill 240379.

15 I will be amending that
16 bill. The amendment has been
17 circulated to all colleagues on the
18 Committee and we look forward to
19 receiving testimony regarding that
20 legislation.

21 Clerk, will you please call
22 the first panel we have to testify
23 on Bill No. 240379.

24 THE CLERK: The Honorable
25 Christy Brady.

1 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

2 RICHARDSON: Thank you, Madam
3 Controller, the Honorable Christy
4 Brady. We are so pleased to have
5 you here this morning. If you
6 could state your name for the
7 record along with Bill, and proceed
8 with your testimony.

9 (Witnesses approached
10 Witness table.)

11 CITY CONTROLLER BRADY:
12 Absolutely.

13 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

14 RICHARDSON: And for the record,
15 I'd like to acknowledge the
16 presence of my colleague
17 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas who is
18 here and present for the hearing.

19 CITY CONTROLLER BRADY:
20 Good morning, Chairwoman Gilmore
21 Richardson and distinguished
22 members of the Committee. My name
23 is Christy Brady and I am the City
24 Controller. I am here to testify
25 on Bill 240379.

1 On May 17th of this year,
2 my office notified the Mayor that
3 we will be commencing an audit of
4 the contracting and encumbering
5 processes for the departments
6 listed under Section 17-406 of the
7 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter
8 regarding sole source contracts,
9 emergencies and other exceptions of
10 the Charter.

11 We also included the Office
12 of the Managing Director and the
13 Law Department where we have seen
14 these types of practices being
15 utilized over the past several
16 years. The objective of this audit
17 will be to determine whether
18 contracts exempt from the public
19 bidding process are being awarded
20 properly and fairly as stipulated
21 in the Charter.

22 Additionally, the audit
23 will review the contractual amounts
24 encumbered in the City's accounting
25 system for reasonableness and

1 accuracy. As you may have seen in
2 my Community Expansion Grant audit
3 and in the draft report released by
4 the Office of the Inspector
5 General, I realize this is a much
6 larger issue in the City's
7 contracting processes. Therefore,
8 I have decided that my Audit
9 Division will look at this issue
10 globally to determine whether the
11 City is benefiting from the RFP
12 nonprofit exemptions or if it is a
13 gateway to other issues.

14 I will be reviewing best
15 practices from other cities, states
16 and municipalities to see how they
17 handle their need for expedited
18 services and what we may be able to
19 incorporate here in the city of
20 Philadelphia. I recognize the need
21 in which the contracting process
22 may need to move quicker to ensure
23 the citizens of our city are fully
24 cared for, but as found in the IG
25 draft report having leadership make

1 comments like being disinterested
2 in the minutia of their budget or
3 fiscal management of services
4 contracts is how budgets fail.

5 Leadership was driven by
6 the mission, and fiscal
7 considerations became an
8 afterthought. With taxpayer
9 dollars, we cannot allow for fiscal
10 considerations to be an
11 afterthought. The exemption that
12 cities allow for nonprofits is a
13 problem that needs addressing.

14 As such, my office will be
15 reviewing all contracts that fall
16 under this exemption. Thank you
17 and I am available for your
18 questions.

19 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
20 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
21 so very much, Madam Controller, for
22 being here and for your exhaustive
23 review not only of the Community
24 Expansion Grants, the report that
25 was released in April, but also the

1 work that you are undertaking now
2 to help us better understand what
3 is taking place from a contracting
4 perspective relative to most of the
5 departments that are under the
6 Health and Human Service portfolio
7 as listed in Section 17-1406 of the
8 Code.

9 My first question for you
10 would be if you could just provide
11 any additional information about
12 what the report from April found
13 about the use of the nonprofit
14 exemption for the Community
15 Expansion Grants in particular?

16 CITY CONTROLLER BRADY:
17 Absolutely. First, I want to say I
18 like working with your office, and
19 our staff and your staff working
20 together is a very good
21 collaboration and I'm very
22 appreciative of everything that
23 you're doing in this area.

24 When I was Acting
25 Controller, I had found that we had

1 money budgeted in one department
2 and then I found out that the
3 contract for the CEG oversight was
4 in another department and I
5 didn't -- I wanted to look into
6 why.

7 I had to resign to run.
8 And when I came back into the City,
9 it's exactly what I did, was look
10 into how this contract was
11 conformed in another City
12 department but the funding was in
13 another.

14 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

15 RICHARDSON: Right.

16 CITY CONTROLLER BRADY: And
17 that's why we went into looking
18 into it. That's what we found in
19 that audit.

20 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

21 RICHARDSON: Sure, sure. And so, I
22 just want to be clear for the
23 record that I think it's more
24 difficult from sort of a budgeting
25 and finance perspective to follow

1 the dollars but also follow the
2 City's financial policies and
3 procedures when you have one
4 department conforming a contract, I
5 guess, that another department
6 would amend?

7 CITY CONTROLLER BRADY:

8 Yeah. I mean, it causes confusion
9 because if you're conforming the
10 contract in one department, then
11 that vendor should be dealing with
12 that department. But if the money
13 is funded in another and that's
14 where -- there's a reason why
15 there's a budget. You approve the
16 budget for that specific
17 department. You expect that
18 department to be performing those
19 services.

20 So when the contract's
21 conformed in another City
22 department, you would think that
23 that vendor then has to deal with
24 that department. But in the end,
25 it was shifted back to the

1 department where the money was
2 funded and it causes confusion.

3 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

4 RICHARDSON: Right, which is
5 probably most of the reason why we
6 can't really follow as much as
7 possible some of the contracts that
8 are in question relative to some of
9 the departments in the Health and
10 Human Services portfolio.

11 CITY CONTROLLER BRADY:
12 Correct.

13 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

14 RICHARDSON: Thank you. All right.
15 Thank you so much, Bill, for being
16 here and thank you, Madam
17 Controller, and we appreciate your
18 work and we look forward to the
19 additional report that will be
20 released once you are finished your
21 investigation.

22 Do you have a question?

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: (Nodded
24 affirmatively.)

25 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

1 RICHARDSON: Okay. Councilmember
2 Jones.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
4 you, Madam Chair.

5 And thank you, Controller
6 Brady, for the work that you're
7 doing in this regard. A few
8 questions, and I'm channeling my
9 inner Blondell Reynolds Brown, who
10 was a part of the initiation of
11 including nonprofits in our
12 calculations of minority and
13 participation because at one point
14 they were exempt from the number.
15 So one of the intentions of this
16 legislation was to make sure that
17 the pie, if you would, that was
18 issued in major forms of contracts
19 were included in our overall
20 calculus of participation.

21 If you were to calculate,
22 what do they represent by way of
23 annual procurement and what in
24 particular qualifies someone to be
25 a minority nonprofit versus a

1 majority nonprofit?

2 CITY CONTROLLER BRADY: We
3 can make that part of the report,
4 those percentages of the nonprofits
5 that are minority versus a regular
6 contract. You have to go through a
7 process with Procurement to be
8 considered -- you have to apply to
9 be minority local businesses.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: So I
11 think that would be an
12 interesting -- and I'm thankful to
13 the author of this legislation for
14 some of the amendments that will be
15 issued today which will allow us to
16 ferret out the unintended
17 consequences of what might happen.
18 And in order to correct a thing,
19 sometimes those unintended
20 consequences have a major impact on
21 things we didn't consider. So your
22 report will be critical in
23 evaluating how we surgically apply
24 this legislation.

25 Thank you, Madam Chair.

1 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

2 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
3 so much, Councilmember Jones.

4 Any additional questions
5 from members of the Committee?

6 Councilmember Bass.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
8 you very much. I just wanted to
9 thank you, Madam Controller and
10 also Bill. How are you, Bill?
11 Good to see you. Also, just really
12 wanted to thank you for committing
13 to providing additional oversight
14 to the department and also I'm
15 assuming other departments as well
16 that have this sort of flexibility,
17 I guess you would call it, when it
18 comes to being able to do this kind
19 of contracting?

20 CITY CONTROLLER BRADY:
21 Yes, I'm looking forward to diving
22 in and seeing what we find for
23 sure. I definitely want to
24 determine if it's fair, if it's
25 transparent, what do other cities,

1 municipalities do, you know, does
2 it make sense.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Well,
4 listen, I just wanted to say thank
5 you for that because when we're
6 spending tax dollars and spending
7 without forethought about where is
8 it going, how's it going to be
9 spent, who's it going to, what kind
10 of checks and balances are in
11 place, any suggestions or
12 recommendations that can come from
13 the Controller's Office I think
14 will help us along the way so we
15 can make sure we don't end up here
16 again. We really don't have the
17 money to waste, especially on a
18 very vulnerable population with the
19 Office of Homeless Services.

20 So I just really wanted to
21 say kudos and we look forward to
22 your updates in the future around
23 this spending, so thank you.

24 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

25 RICHARDSON: Thank you.

1 COUNCILMAN JONES: One

2 other question, Madam Chair.

3 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

4 RICHARDSON: Yep. Thank you,

5 Councilmember Bass.

6 The Chair now recognizes

7 Councilmember Jones and then

8 Councilmember Ahmad.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
10 you again, Madam Chair.

11 Real quick for the record,
12 exempting out the Office of
13 Homelessness, exempting them out of
14 this consideration, has your office
15 been made aware of any financial
16 defalcations in the procurement
17 process from these other nonprofits
18 or departments that utilize that
19 sole source provision?

20 CITY CONTROLLER BRADY:
21 Have we found discrepancies?

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes,
23 ma'am.

24 CITY CONTROLLER BRADY: Our
25 audit will -- I'm looking forward

1 to diving in to see if there's any
2 issues that are happening, if there
3 are departments taking advantage of
4 this special exemption. The CEG
5 audit did show that it occur --
6 that one department had the
7 contract but it was funded in
8 another department, but we need to
9 see how prevalent that is. And
10 also, in the IG's draft report it
11 showed that it occurred.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: So
13 again, for the record other than
14 the department in question, there
15 has not been a pattern of
16 malfeasance in this regard that you
17 are aware of?

18 CITY CONTROLLER BRADY: No,
19 I have not -- I'm not aware of.
20 But I hope that this audit will be
21 looking for patterns.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
23 you, Madam Chair.

24 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
25 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you

1 so much, Councilmember Jones. I
2 just wanted to note for the record,
3 Councilmember Jones, that right now
4 the Community Expansion Grants
5 Report was released by the
6 Controller in April of 2024. The
7 investigation relative to OHS has
8 been ongoing. And so, this has not
9 been sort of like an investigation
10 into all the departments in the
11 Health and Human Services
12 portfolio.

13 But we have found during
14 this process that there are other
15 departments that have contracts
16 that are being amended and utilized
17 in this provision even though
18 they're not under the Health and
19 Human Services portfolio, and
20 that's the challenge that we face
21 because it's harder to find the
22 money and/or follow the money.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
24 you.

25 CITY CONTROLLER BRADY:

1 That's exactly right.

2 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

3 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you,
4 Councilmember Jones. Thank you,
5 Madam Controller.

6 The Chair now recognizes
7 Councilmember Ahmad.

8 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Thank
9 you, Madam Chair.

10 Thank you, Madam
11 Controller, for your testimony.
12 There's been an amendment that's
13 been circulated exempting some
14 departments from the Code change
15 that we're looking for. I just
16 wanted to know that while we
17 understand for efficiency purposes
18 that some of these departments have
19 been excluded, I wanted to know
20 what standard ways do we have to do
21 performance audits on everybody,
22 but particularly those who are
23 exempt from this provision?

24 CITY CONTROLLER BRADY:

25 That's what we're doing now. We're

1 conducting a performance audit now.
2 It's not just on OHS. It's on all
3 the departments that have this
4 exemption as well as looking at the
5 overall encumbering process for
6 contracts in the City's accounting
7 system that would allow a
8 department to conform a contract
9 that's up to a certain amount but
10 encumber much less.

11 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: So the
12 reason I ask is much of this is
13 after the fact, right. So how can
14 we take those performance audits
15 that you have and be more proactive
16 even though they're exempt for
17 these departments to make sure they
18 are complying and our constituents
19 are getting the very best services,
20 particularly those who have been
21 underserved and are vulnerable?

22 CITY CONTROLLER BRADY:
23 Auditing is after the fact. But
24 the results of our audits should --
25 my goal of an audit is to have a

1 recommendation that will change a
2 policy or procedure and make sure
3 that the departments are following
4 those policies or procedures. So
5 that's where I would come in.

6 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Well,
7 thank you. We need transparency
8 and accountability and I commend
9 our Majority Leader for really
10 putting this out there. This is a
11 new Administration, a new Council.
12 We have a reset. Let's do it well.
13 Let's make sure our constituents
14 know where their tax dollars are
15 being used. And I really
16 appreciate that we're spending time
17 so people understand why we're
18 doing what we're doing. Thank you.

19 CITY CONTROLLER BRADY: I
20 agree 100 percent.

21 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
22 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
23 Councilmember Ahmad. And thank
24 you, Madam Controller and Bill, for
25 being here. We truly appreciate

1 your testimony and your work and we
2 look forward to receiving your next
3 report. Thank you very much.

4 CITY CONTROLLER BRADY:

5 Thank you very much. We appreciate
6 it.

7 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

8 RICHARDSON: I also wanted to note
9 for the record that we have a
10 letter of support from Lauren
11 Cristella of the Committee of
12 Seventy. And I want to thank them
13 for their support for Bill No.
14 240379.

15 I also wanted to state for
16 the record relative to the
17 amendment that has been circulated,
18 the amendment is at the very bottom
19 of the page. It's under Section 2
20 where you see Chapter 17-1400 under
21 1406, Section 2. This ordinance
22 shall become effective on July 1,
23 2025 removing the immediately.
24 That is the amendment for Bill No.
25 240379.

1 Will the Clerk please call
2 Panel 2 to testify.

3 THE CLERK: Inspector
4 General Alex DeSantis.

5 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

6 RICHARDSON: Thank you so much to
7 our Inspector General for being
8 here today and for his robust
9 report wherein we had
10 Recommendation 4 on Page No. 14.
11 And so, if our Inspector General
12 could please state his name for the
13 record and proceed with your
14 testimony.

15 (Witnesses approached
16 Witness table.)

17 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

18 RICHARDSON: Thank you so much to
19 you and to your team for being here
20 today. You could just state your
21 name for the record and proceed
22 with your testimony.

23 INSPECTOR GENERAL DeSANTIS:
24 Thank you. My name is Alex
25 DeSantis, Inspector General.

1 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

2 RICHARDSON: Please proceed.

3 INSPECTOR GENERAL DeSANTIS:

4 Thank you. My name is Alex

5 DeSantis, Inspector General. Thank

6 you very much for inviting us here

7 today. Firstly, I would like to

8 say that I don't speak for the

9 Administration. I'm here today on

10 behalf of the Office of the

11 Inspector General as an institution

12 and the men and women who work

13 tirelessly to serve an ideal that

14 our government should always be

15 honest above all.

16 Secondly, I would like to

17 thank you, Madam Chair, directly

18 for introducing this particular

19 legislation and for creating a

20 forum for all of the different City

21 stakeholders to collectively

22 discuss the nonprofit exemption

23 but, more broadly, the state of our

24 City's contracting process.

25 We are immensely positive

1 about these hearings because we
2 believe that we are now faced with
3 a valuable opportunity to
4 understand exactly how our
5 departments conduct business and to
6 some fairly significant extent may
7 view the contracting process as an
8 obstacle to progress. This
9 conversation does need to take
10 place.

11 With respect to the
12 nonprofit exemption Code Section
13 17-1406, there undoubtedly has been
14 abuse separate and apart from OHS.
15 And I believe that my colleagues
16 elsewhere in the City will readily
17 and openly admit as much. Today
18 I'm hoping that we can also
19 understand why.

20 Every day, but since the
21 pandemic in particular, our
22 operating departments are regularly
23 faced with pressured act, time
24 pressure, pressure from the
25 conditions in the community,

1 emergency situations, forgive me
2 for saying but also pressure from
3 this body, to get money on the
4 field and to start realizing the
5 results of our investments.
6 Unfortunately, sometimes in the
7 face of this pressure our officials
8 look for a contracting mechanism
9 that's quick and easy with very few
10 transaction costs and without
11 regard to formality or process.

12 Here we introduce a
13 tremendous amount of risk because
14 when we skirt process, our
15 decisions are exposed and many more
16 questions eventually surface, as we
17 see with OHS. It's my sincere hope
18 that the conversation around this
19 legislation will help us address
20 abuse but, more importantly,
21 acknowledge and address the broader
22 need for reform and our collective
23 need to have a tangible impact on
24 the conditions out there in the
25 community. We need to balance

1 process and outcome, and the
2 nonprofit exemption is only one
3 small part of that ecosystem.

4 As you know, the OIG
5 published a Report of Investigation
6 in April outlining the matter in
7 which OHS created and carried
8 roughly \$10 million worth of debt
9 in the form of contractual
10 commitments that exceeded the
11 office's budgetary authority. As
12 presented in our report, we do
13 believe that Philadelphia Code
14 Section 17-1406 enabled this
15 practice to some extent because OHS
16 could more easily conform and renew
17 its catalog of service contracts
18 outside of a competitive process.

19 The recent OHS experience,
20 as well as other cited instances of
21 abuse, suggest that there should be
22 some reasonable limits to the
23 exemption such as a dollar value
24 threshold, a yearly cap or capped
25 renewals, total vendor cap,

1 additional reporting to City
2 Council or other monitors or some
3 restriction on cross-departmental
4 use.

5 We stand by our
6 recommendation of course, but we
7 also recognize the need to balance
8 the interests of the operating
9 departments and our local nonprofit
10 vendors who may not be able to
11 compete with strength in a purely
12 economic bidding environment.
13 There is still an underlying policy
14 behind the original exemption that
15 should not be totally disregarded.
16 As such, we believe that Bill
17 240379 in its current form --
18 sorry, I wasn't able to review the
19 amendments before this testi --

20 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

21 RICHARDSON: I apologize that you
22 did not --

23 INSPECTOR GENERAL DeSANTIS:

24 No, no --

25 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

1 RICHARDSON: -- receive a copy of
2 the amendments. And I also did not
3 receive the Administration's
4 testimony until right before this
5 hearing. Thank you.

6 INSPECTOR GENERAL DeSANTIS:
7 We believe that in its current form
8 the bill is overly broad and
9 unnecessarily penal, especially to
10 departments who have been using the
11 exemption with due care and
12 responsibility. Rather than
13 wholesale removal of the exemption,
14 we sincerely hope that this
15 legislation can frame a deeper
16 discussion through which the
17 Administration and Council may
18 collectively define more precise
19 circumstances when the exemption
20 may or may not be appropriate
21 and/or in the best interests of our
22 city.

23 We also hope that the
24 discussion does not start and end
25 with the nonprofit exemption but

1 also leads to the introduction of
2 some new tools that can address our
3 need to move fairly, swiftly and
4 effectively for the people of this
5 city. Thank you for the
6 opportunity to contribute to this
7 conversation. Happy to answer
8 questions.

9 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

10 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
11 so much to our Inspector General,
12 and thank you very, very much for
13 your work on the preliminary
14 report. I paid particular close
15 attention to your analysis and the
16 recommendations that started on
17 Page 13 and then carried over to
18 Page 14 wherein No. 4 of your
19 recommendations stated that we
20 should look at the scope of the
21 nonprofit exemption in government.

22 And so, that's the one that
23 I paid closest attention to. You
24 see I already have a circle here,
25 Evaluate the scope of the nonprofit

1 exemption --

2 INSPECTOR GENERAL DeSANTIS:

3 Yes, ma'am.

4 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

5 RICHARDSON: -- wherein you talked
6 about how there was a lack of
7 market controls, although it may be
8 difficult to quantify, the
9 department's use of the nonprofit
10 exemption bolstered this activity
11 because they could conform
12 contracts much faster than most
13 other departments and it is an
14 attractive reason for other City
15 departments like MDO to seek cost-
16 sharing arrangements that further
17 complicate the OHS budget.
18 Generally, OHS created and managed
19 a unique market for services that
20 was fairly unregulated and not
21 driven by pricing competition. For
22 one or two contracts, this is less
23 of a problem. But with more than
24 150 nonprofit vendors, the lack of
25 market controls gave OHS a certain

1 freedom to work with their vendors
2 on more of an informal -- and I
3 call it friends and family -- and
4 relationship-driven basis. And so,
5 we also saw here restrict the use
6 of general funds and grant funds on
7 a single contract as another
8 opportunity for improvement within
9 government.

10 And so, I wanted to just
11 note that for the record because I
12 did pay close attention to this
13 preliminary report when it was
14 released on April 22nd, and wanted
15 to ensure that we were able to
16 follow up on the robust research
17 that your department has been
18 undertaking as an opportunity for
19 us to improve how we deliver
20 quality service in the city of
21 Philadelphia.

22 And so, I do appreciate the
23 level of concern that you voiced in
24 your testimony, particularly about
25 the use of the exemption. You've

1 also outlined a number of potential
2 changes we could additionally
3 consider, but I was hoping that you
4 could just state for the record how
5 you think that keeping the
6 exemption in any form will allow
7 for fully transparent and
8 accountable business practices
9 after we've seen it used in
10 multiple departments to evade
11 requirements and mix money between
12 departments? How do we follow
13 those dollars? And so, if you
14 could just respond to that.

15 INSPECTOR GENERAL DeSANTIS:

16 Sure. Well, I don't think that
17 there's a transparency issue in all
18 circumstances, right. And as I
19 understand the policy behind the
20 exemption, I think it does have to
21 do to some extent with helping
22 smaller organizations, local
23 organizations that may not be able
24 to undercut as a matter of price, a
25 very, very large organization that

1 can take advantage of market of
2 scale. So that's why I don't know
3 that a wholesale removal of it is
4 necessary, but certainly some
5 responsible cutbacks seem
6 appropriate, yes.

7 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

8 RICHARDSON: Okay. And in your
9 opinion, how do you think we do
10 that? How does one do that?

11 INSPECTOR GENERAL DeSANTIS:

12 Well, I think you could, number
13 one, consider dollar value of the
14 contract, right. And in a smaller
15 contract the exemption seems to
16 support the policy rationale a
17 little bit more directly. In a
18 larger contract that has the
19 opportunity for much more value, I
20 think price is a much deeper
21 consideration. And so, perhaps
22 there's a threshold value that
23 could be instituted.

24 The other issue that I
25 think is informative from OHS,

1 right, is the impact of deferral.
2 So as is outlined in our report,
3 the department was essentially
4 deferring costs down the line year
5 after year after year and
6 potentially contract after
7 contract. This has the effect of
8 locking the department into having
9 to deal with the same contractor
10 for extended period of time, right,
11 because they're not going to be
12 able to square up with that
13 contractor unless there's an active
14 relationship in place.

15 So perhaps there could be
16 something that is getting at the
17 repeated use of it for a particular
18 opportunity. Perhaps the initial
19 opportunity could be an RFP and
20 renewals could be done using the
21 exemption or vice versa depending
22 on how those discussions shake out.
23 But I do think that limiting the
24 actual use of it as a discrete
25 matter could be helpful.

1 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

2 RICHARDSON: And I thank you for
3 that response. I think that we
4 understand though that there are
5 dollar amount thresholds related to
6 contracting. I think when I first
7 started with the City it was like
8 \$37,000 or something. Now, it's
9 higher. I think it's in the 80s
10 now. But at any rate, we know that
11 that threshold does exist to a
12 degree when we're contracting.

13 However, my concern would
14 be what about those providers that
15 we all say are smaller, right. We
16 want them to be able to gain
17 capacity, be able to vie for larger
18 contracts. What happens to those
19 firms if they are held to that
20 threshold, you know what I mean?

21 INSPECTOR GENERAL DeSANTIS:
22 I do, and I think that that's part
23 of the discussion I'm hoping that
24 my colleagues can inform those of
25 us that are in the operating

1 departments that have much more
2 contact with the contractors, they
3 may be able to inform that balance
4 point.

5 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

6 RICHARDSON: Right. Because that
7 also doesn't necessarily ensure
8 quality, right. And I think that's
9 a part of the challenge, that we
10 want our providers in our network
11 who are providing needed services
12 to citizens across our city, we
13 want them to have some level of
14 continuity. But what's happening
15 here is that they're not bidding
16 for these contracts.

17 And so, as an example as
18 you stated if they bid for it and
19 they get a four-year contract, they
20 know they have some continuity for
21 four years and then maybe
22 possibilities of three one-year
23 renewals, right. And so, then they
24 know what to anticipate, they know
25 what to expect, particularly around

1 planning purposes around their
2 finances.

3 And so, right now they're
4 dependent upon, all right, we get
5 this every year but there's no
6 controls in place. They just know
7 they're going to get it every year,
8 but there is no process to evaluate
9 the quality of service that's being
10 provided because they just know
11 they're going to get it every year.

12 INSPECTOR GENERAL DeSANTIS:
13 There's no question that that's the
14 case. And in particular, one of
15 the other issues that we've pointed
16 out in the report is cost
17 increases, right. The Department
18 of OHS has pointed out over the
19 period of time that we're
20 addressing in the investigation a
21 lot of the spending was driven by
22 market increases, supply chain
23 issues, inflation and so on and so
24 forth, yet it struck us that
25 there's no market check, right.

1 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

2 RICHARDSON: Right.

3 INSPECTOR GENERAL DeSANTIS:

4 So especially when you see that the
5 market forces are driving prices
6 up, to me that might suggest the
7 need to issue an RFP at some point
8 once you see those cost numbers
9 start to move.

10 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

11 RICHARDSON: Right. And I'll give
12 you an example. Even the cost of a
13 bed, we've gone from 17,000 and
14 change to 25,000 and change for a
15 cost per bed --

16 INSPECTOR GENERAL DeSANTIS:

17 Yeah.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

19 RICHARDSON: -- each year. I mean,
20 we've gone up, what, \$8,000 per
21 shelter bed per year. As another
22 example, this Council from a
23 General Fund perspective in FY18
24 allocated \$47 million for OHS, and
25 the last fiscal was 80. So it's

1 not because Council is not funding
2 the department. Something's wrong
3 here and that's what we're seeking
4 to address.

5 INSPECTOR GENERAL DeSANTIS:

6 Well, I hope you count me as a
7 partner in that effort.

8 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

9 RICHARDSON: Thank you.

10 Colleagues on the
11 Committee, do you have any
12 questions for our OIG?

13 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Yes.

14 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

15 RICHARDSON: Okay. Councilmember
16 Bass and then Councilmember Jones.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
18 you. Good morning.

19 INSPECTOR GENERAL DeSANTIS:
20 Morning.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So I
22 had just a couple of questions,
23 probably more like statements. So
24 the legislation that we have in
25 front of us really was crafted --

1 and, Council Majority Leader, you
2 can correct me if I'm incorrect on
3 this -- but it was really intent,
4 you know, developed based on the
5 report that was issued and
6 specifically Item No. 4, To
7 evaluate the scope of the nonprofit
8 exemption. And as you read through
9 it, it seems it's just very, very
10 vague.

11 It calls out that the
12 nonprofit exemption is an issue,
13 but it doesn't give any
14 recommendation. It doesn't lead us
15 down any sort of path to be able to
16 correct what is here. And so, I'm
17 wondering if you're going to give
18 us -- will there be a follow-up
19 report, I guess, putting these
20 items in writing? And not just for
21 No. 4, but for really all of these
22 recommendations, that there's going
23 to be some sort of response that's
24 going to say this is what we are
25 solely and squarely recommending

1 that happens going forward. So
2 that way the Administration can be
3 on the same page, as Council can be
4 on the same page, as OHS can be on
5 the same page. Everybody can be on
6 the same page as to, okay, this is
7 what we're going to do and this is
8 how we're going to do it.

9 INSPECTOR GENERAL DeSANTIS:
10 Certainly. With respect to future
11 reports, that is one of the reasons
12 why we titled that report that
13 you're holding as preliminary,
14 because as you know we do have --
15 the Administration has engaged an
16 accounting firm to conduct a
17 forensic piece. We are working on
18 a number of lines of inquiry
19 separate and apart from that.

20 Of course, as you just
21 heard the Controller is initiating
22 a more broad review. So, yes,
23 there is opportunity for us to
24 produce additional findings. But
25 what we wanted to do is get

1 something out publicly quickly to
2 answer some of the questions that
3 you all were asking about the
4 process and, in particular how this
5 department got out of budget
6 position.

7 Well, the interesting thing
8 to us about this matter is that
9 it's both sort of simultaneously
10 complicated and simple, because
11 yes, it's complicated in the sense
12 that our report is technical. We
13 do discuss encumbrances and some of
14 the other technical processes there
15 quite deeply, but it's also true
16 that at its core if there's an
17 executive who decides to ignore a
18 spending cap, that challenges any
19 internal control.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Sure.

21 INSPECTOR GENERAL DeSANTIS:
22 And so, with our recommendations we
23 were trying to acknowledge that
24 fact to some extent with respect to
25 our dialogue with the

1 Administration and also understand,
2 for example, with encumbrances
3 balance that we do understand and
4 appreciate that many of our
5 departments behind us are under
6 encumbering for perfectly
7 legitimate, sound and good business
8 reasons, right.

9 So I do think that it does
10 require the Administration to sort
11 of take those recommendations, chew
12 on them a little bit and articulate
13 what may be practically possible,
14 and that's why we framed them that
15 way.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.
17 So when can we expect a -- since
18 this is preliminary, the completed
19 and finalized?

20 INSPECTOR GENERAL DeSANTIS:
21 Well, we're working very hard with
22 the contractor so when they're
23 finished -- I don't know that I can
24 commit to a timeline, but when
25 they're finished hopefully some

1 point this summer or the end of the
2 summer we can have a deeper
3 conversation about their work.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So you
5 think it'll be in the coming
6 months? We're not talking about in
7 2025. You think it'll be some
8 time --

9 INSPECTOR GENERAL DeSANTIS:
10 I'm hoping we can get it done in
11 2024, yes, ma'am.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.
13 All right. We'll be looking for
14 it.

15 INSPECTOR GENERAL DeSANTIS:
16 I understand.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
18 you.

19 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
20 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
21 Councilmember Bass.

22 The Chair now recognizes
23 Councilmember Jones.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
25 you again, Madam Chair.

1 Inspector General, do you
2 find some of the issues related to
3 some of the forever contracts,
4 which my colleague talks about the
5 entitlement kind of contract, is
6 that germane only to nonprofits or
7 do we find that true in the general
8 contracting process that -- and I
9 base this based on my experience of
10 being with the Minority Business
11 Enterprise Council responsible for
12 contracting in the City of
13 Philadelphia in another life. But
14 what you get is some contractors
15 that come in and then they find
16 different change orders and then
17 they find that it is necessary to
18 change the amount of the contract
19 based on increased cost supply
20 chain issues and do that in
21 general.

22 So I guess my question is,
23 is this a process of evaluation
24 just for nonprofit or for
25 contracting in general?

1 INSPECTOR GENERAL DeSANTIS:

2 I think that it's for contracting
3 in general, sir. And I think it's
4 exacerbated somewhat in the area of
5 nonprofit because of the use of the
6 exemption, but, yes. And some of
7 my opening comments were hoping to
8 drive that point that you just made
9 as well, sir. So I do believe that
10 there's a general effort to
11 minimize transaction costs.

12 And departments once they
13 have a vendor in place, whether it
14 has been awarded via an RFP or
15 otherwise, I do think there's a
16 general reluctance to switch out a
17 vendor or change because of all the
18 transaction costs that go into
19 getting that vendor up to speed,
20 working with that vendor, getting
21 them acclimated to the department
22 and the scope of work. So I do
23 think that, yes, in general an
24 incumbent contractor to some extent
25 has an advantage, yes.

1 COUNCILMAN JONES: Next
2 question would be what is the
3 difference in your mind between
4 lowest responsible bidder and best
5 value?

6 INSPECTOR GENERAL DeSANTIS:
7 I interpret one to be price-driven,
8 the other to be more broad.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: So more
10 broad in my mind based on the
11 intention of the contracting change
12 was to look at not just the lowest
13 responsible price for ink pens, but
14 is that ink pen company in North
15 Philly, is that ink pen --

16 INSPECTOR GENERAL DeSANTIS:
17 Yes, absolutely.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: --
19 impacting employment in that area,
20 is there a greater value that can
21 be found in that and is that
22 germane maybe to some of these
23 nonprofits?

24 INSPECTOR GENERAL DeSANTIS:
25 Yes, Councilmember, absolutely.

1 And I think that that came through
2 in our investigation as well. The
3 department was very interested in
4 supporting their vendors as a
5 matter of supporting their
6 community as well. And so, yes, I
7 absolutely think there are going to
8 be circumstances when best price is
9 not what's best for the City more
10 broadly, yes.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: And then
12 finally, in your report do you call
13 for the elimination of the
14 nonprofit exemption?

15 INSPECTOR GENERAL DeSANTIS:
16 No, sir. No, we don't.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Why is
18 that?

19 INSPECTOR GENERAL DeSANTIS:
20 Because I do think as you have
21 pointed out, there's value to
22 allowing some flexibility and
23 there's value to allowing
24 departments to evaluate contracts
25 and opportunities beyond price

1 alone.

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
3 you, Madam Chair.

4 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

5 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
6 so much, Councilmember Jones. I
7 think we note that there's much
8 more work needed and necessary
9 around contracting as a whole in
10 the City of Philadelphia. So thank
11 you very, very much for those
12 questions, Councilmember Jones.

13 Are there any other
14 colleagues that have questions for
15 this panel?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

18 RICHARDSON: Seeing none, we will
19 now move to Panel 3.

20 Will the Clerk please call
21 Panel 3.

22 THE CLERK: Administration
23 representatives, I believe it's
24 CAO, CEO, DHS and Health.

25 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

1 RICHARDSON: Thank you so much for
2 being here. If you could please
3 state your name for the record and
4 proceed with your testimony.

5 THE CLERK: If maybe CAO
6 and CEO want to come up first just
7 because I don't know if there's
8 enough chairs for folks.

9 (Witnesses approached
10 Witness table.)

11 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

12 RICHARDSON: Right. And so, what
13 we'll do for this panel for Panel
14 No. 3 since we have a number of
15 witnesses for this particular panel
16 is we will take all of your
17 testimony in its totality and then
18 we will reserve the balance of our
19 questions at the end for the end of
20 the testimony. Okay. So please
21 state your name for the record and
22 proceed with your testimony.

23 MS. DUCHAUSSEE: Good
24 morning. My name is Camille
25 Duchaussee.

1 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

2 RICHARDSON: Okay. Thank you.

3 Please proceed.

4 MS. DUCHAUSSEE: Good

5 morning, Chairperson Gilmore

6 Richardson and the Finance

7 Committee. My name is Camille

8 Duchaussee and I am the Chief

9 Administrative Officer for the City

10 of Philadelphia. Joining me today

11 is Acting Procurement Commissioner

12 LaShawnda Tompkins. I'm providing

13 testimony on Bill No. 240379,

14 amending Title 17 of The

15 Philadelphia Code, entitled

16 "Contracts and Procurement," to

17 modify the requirements for

18 contracts with not-for-profit

19 vendors. This legislation, if

20 passed, would remove the nonprofit

21 exemption for specified City

22 departments and agencies codified

23 within Philadelphia Code 17-1400,

24 Noncompetitively Bid Contracts.

25 The nonprofit exemption

1 detailed within Philadelphia Code
2 Section 17-1406, Item 8, sole
3 source contracts, emergencies and
4 other exemptions has been in place
5 for almost two decades. While the
6 impetus for the exemption was to
7 reduce and/or eliminate the cost of
8 the Request for Purchase or RFP
9 process to nonprofit organizations
10 with which the City contracted on a
11 recurring basis, the exemption also
12 resulted in an expedited and
13 streamlined procurement process.

14 Essentially, the nonprofit
15 exemption allowed and allows
16 specified City departments to
17 timely and quickly secure and
18 provide health, human, public
19 safety and social services to
20 residents during crisis, natural
21 disasters, public health
22 emergencies and unforeseen
23 infrastructure failures.

24 The exemption created a
25 streamlined process to securing

1 services, medical care and
2 resources when the City's
3 humanitarian responsibilities
4 outweigh the value of and need for
5 competitive contracting rules. At
6 its heart, Bill No. 240379 appears
7 to be about ensuring the efficient
8 and effective provision of critical
9 services while ensuring that we
10 have a robust accountability
11 framework in place to prevent
12 mismanagement.

13 As a lifelong public
14 servant whose career included
15 serving as an Auditing Chief within
16 the Department of Justice
17 implementing and assessing internal
18 agency controls, it is with that
19 lens that I view and welcome the
20 opportunity to improve
21 accountability of the
22 administration of the City's
23 processes to include the
24 administration of contracts.

25 Philadelphia Code Chapter

1 17-1400 was not initially
2 conceived, intended or constructed
3 for expedited procurement
4 associated with emergent resident
5 services, and it did not
6 contemplate the agility essential
7 to empathetic and servant-centered
8 municipal management or resilience.
9 While I appreciate the importance
10 of the regulation established by
11 Chapter 17-1400 as the anti-pay to
12 play law, in establishing the
13 controls necessary to protect
14 against threats to fair competition
15 and spending transparency,
16 maintaining an exemption to the
17 contracting process during
18 emergencies and for the swift
19 provision of critical social
20 services is crucial to effectively
21 address the immediate needs and
22 crises that impact the most at-risk
23 residents in all Councilmanic
24 Districts. By their nature,
25 emergencies require swift and

1 decisive action to mitigate harm
2 and ensure safety.

3 Since its effectuation, the
4 use of the nonprofit exemption has
5 included procuring services, many
6 of which are life-saving and
7 sustaining, during significant
8 crises. So experientially, the
9 process works. And I respectfully
10 suggest other options to improve or
11 operationalized additional internal
12 controls be considered as the
13 removal of the nonprofit exemption
14 would result in exclusive reliance
15 on the process outlined in 17-1400,
16 which is a procurement process
17 framework that was not designed to
18 be responsive to critical service
19 delivery needs.

20 In its investigation
21 report, the Office of the Inspector
22 General specifically identified a
23 large majority of the 170 contracts
24 administered by OHS qualified for
25 the nonprofit exemption. The

1 report identified that this
2 condition allowed for the quick and
3 easy conformance of contracts with
4 less involvement from outside
5 agencies like the Procurement
6 Department. Furthermore, the OIG
7 report, fittingly cited by Majority
8 Leader Gilmore Richardson,
9 expressed OHS created and managed a
10 unique market for services that was
11 fairly unregulated and not driven
12 by pricing competition, creating a
13 lack of market controls which gave
14 OHS a certain freedom to work with
15 their vendors on more of an
16 informal and relationship-driven
17 basis.

18 This conclusion appears to
19 presuppose that an informal and
20 relationship-driven approach to
21 contracting under emergent
22 circumstances is uncommon and/or
23 antithetical to effective and
24 ethical service delivery. While it
25 may be antithetical to regulations

1 promulgated by Chapter 17-1400,
2 this conclusion does not appear to
3 consider whether the informality
4 was either intentional or necessary
5 to realize more expedited,
6 culturally-informed and responsive
7 procurement practices.

8 However, the report
9 suggests several adjustments to
10 include additional controls and/or
11 oversight of the encumbrance
12 process as well as other agency
13 involvement are worthy of
14 consideration. More specifically,
15 the report recommended, one,
16 strengthening the budget
17 verification process and
18 conformance; two, imposing stricter
19 encumbrance rules; three,
20 collecting and tracking data from
21 the Finance Payment Verification
22 Unit; four, evaluating the scope of
23 the nonprofit exemption; and five
24 restricting the use of general fund
25 and grant funds on a single

1 contract. The report does not
2 include a recommendation of the
3 complete elimination of the
4 nonprofit exemption for the Office
5 of Homeless Services or other
6 defined City agencies for whom the
7 exemption is authorized.

8 We concur the review and
9 potential implementation of these
10 recommendations is warranted and
11 will likely mitigate the
12 unfavorable outcomes identified
13 within the preliminary report. To
14 that end, an additional control
15 that we recommend to be implemented
16 at the outset of the nonprofit
17 exempt contract workflow is
18 requiring the City Solicitor or the
19 Chief Integrity Officer to approve
20 each use of the exemption for new
21 contracts rather than retaining
22 that authority within the duties of
23 the department head.

24 This would insert an
25 independent objective approver in

1 the same fashion as is required
2 with other 17-1406 exemptions
3 before a contract may be awarded or
4 commenced. The City fully supports
5 the review of its processes to
6 determine the cause and extent of
7 breakdowns of internal controls and
8 potential remediation.

9 I truly believe that is one
10 of the main reasons why I am the
11 CAO. The Controller's Office has
12 announced an audit of special
13 exemption contracts, which we will
14 fully cooperate with.

15 Additionally, we have initiated our
16 own review of the use of the
17 nonprofit exemption to identify
18 additional areas in the process
19 that need modification and
20 strengthening. However, in the
21 absence of a full accounting of the
22 use of the special exemption
23 contracting practices, we risk
24 crafting a solution for which we do
25 not have a full accounting or

1 understanding of the root cause and
2 scope and which may create
3 unintended consequences that harm
4 our resident service delivery and
5 our ability to effectively support
6 residents in their most crucial,
7 critical time of need.

8 We appreciate and share
9 Chairperson Gilmore Richardson and
10 Council's commitment to
11 accountability, transparency in
12 centering human beings and
13 compassion in the delivery of City
14 services. We are all committed to
15 providing essential services in a
16 manner that fosters trust, ensures
17 equitable access to resources and
18 does so without compromising on
19 accountability and integrity.

20 We respectfully request
21 that this bill is held in Committee
22 in order to allow the
23 Administration to work with Council
24 to address your concerns regarding
25 the nonprofit exemption

1 specifically. Balancing internal
2 accountability controls with human-
3 centered services in city
4 government is a complex but
5 essential task.

6 The Administration is
7 absolutely committed to
8 collaborating with Majority Leader
9 Gilmore Richardson and Council to
10 improve the administration of the
11 nonprofit exemption in order to
12 ensure that the City serves its
13 residents with both integrity and
14 care. Thank you for this
15 opportunity to provide testimony on
16 Bill No. 240379, and I welcome the
17 Committee's questions.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
19 RICHARDSON: Thank you very, very
20 much, and thank you for your
21 testimony and thank you really
22 truly for your collaboration and
23 your willingness to work together.
24 I do appreciate working with you in
25 particular.

1 And so, many of you I've
2 had the opportunity to work with
3 over the years. I am appreciative
4 and recognize that this would be a
5 seismic shift in the way that you
6 all do business, and I want you to
7 recognize that I understand that
8 and am very appreciative of the
9 work that you all do each and every
10 day.

11 This is not at all seeking
12 to make your lives more burdensome
13 relative to the work that we must
14 do to provide service to our
15 citizens across the City. This is
16 simply an opportunity to ensure
17 that we have a fair, transparent,
18 accountable government that is fair
19 to all who seek to do business with
20 the City of Philadelphia, whether
21 they're a for-profit or a
22 nonprofit.

23 And so, what I am going to
24 ask as the Chair of this Committee,
25 particularly because I just

1 received this information right
2 before the hearing, particularly
3 because it's 23 pages that I was
4 not able to fully review prior to
5 this hearing, that if everyone
6 else, if you could just please
7 state your name, title and
8 department for the record and your
9 position on the legislation and if
10 we could submit the balance of the
11 testimony for the stenographer and
12 for the benefit of the Committee
13 because it is 23 pages long, and we
14 do have a Committee of the Whole
15 hearing later on today as well.

16 Is that okay with the
17 Committee?

18 MS. DUCHAUSSEE: So just
19 for clarification, I believe not
20 all of the testimony that you have
21 in that document, which I apologize
22 that it was received this morning,
23 will be presented in person today.

24 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

25 RICHARDSON: Okay. So we wanted

1 to, if possible, just have everyone
2 else submit their testimony for the
3 record. I do have several
4 questions relative to vendors, that
5 I wanted to just put these two
6 questions on the record but also
7 state that not every day is an
8 emergency, like not every single
9 day is an emergency. We sort of
10 know what to anticipate and/or
11 expect.

12 In addition to that, you
13 know I did my research. This
14 legislation came around in 2004
15 initially. So this was not
16 something we've always done in City
17 government. I think folks are
18 making this seem as if we've been
19 doing this forever, we've been
20 doing this always. That's not the
21 case. This legislation was
22 introduced in 2004. And since that
23 time, things have shifted. That's
24 only been 20 years. Okay.

25 And so, one quick question

1 I did have as a result of sort of
2 going back in Legistar and looking
3 through that process, how much has
4 the City privatized our Health and
5 Human Services portfolio since 2004
6 when the original legislation was
7 passed?

8 MS. DUCHAUSSEE: Excuse me.
9 How much has Health and Human
10 Services --

11 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
12 RICHARDSON: The City sort of
13 privatized the Health and Human
14 Services portfolio?

15 MS. DUCHAUSSEE: I'll ask
16 LaShawnda Tompkins to come up.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
18 RICHARDSON: Okay.

19 MS. DUCHAUSSEE: And also,
20 I'm not sure if Senior Deputy MDO
21 would be able to speak to that as
22 well, Vanessa Garrett Harley.

23 (Witnesses approached
24 Witness table.)

25 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

1 RICHARDSON: Okay. Just please
2 state your name for the record and
3 proceed with your testimony.

4 COMMISSIONER TOMPKINS:
5 Good morning. LaShawnda Tompkins,
6 Acting Procurement Commissioner.
7 How are you?

8 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

9 RICHARDSON: Good. How are you?

10 COMMISSIONER TOMPKINS: Can
11 you restate your question?

12 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

13 RICHARDSON: Sure, sure. Since
14 about 2004, how much has the City
15 I'll say privatized and/or
16 outsourced the work of the Health
17 and Human Services portfolio over
18 the last 20 years?

19 COMMISSIONER TOMPKINS: I
20 can work with our team to get that
21 information for you because I don't
22 have that information with me now
23 so we can definitely work. Thank
24 you.

25 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

1 RICHARDSON: Okay. Thank you. And
2 so, if we could just submit that
3 information and then we'll
4 disseminate it to the Committee and
5 to the members of Council.

6 And my other question was
7 relative to vendors. I had a very
8 robust meeting with about 47
9 vendors yesterday. And I do want
10 to thank the Administration for the
11 vendors that they personally
12 invited. If you could talk about
13 the concerns that the vendors have
14 around having to engage in an RFP
15 process.

16 Each and every year the
17 vendors believe that will be
18 burdensome, even though you all are
19 already dealing with them on a
20 yearly basis. And I'm just going
21 through my notes that I took at the
22 meeting yesterday. Is there a
23 reason why any of the departments,
24 including OHS, could not do multi-
25 year contracts with the nonprofit

1 vendors via RFP, basically
2 providing them with some level of
3 continuity and knowing what to
4 expect relative to the support they
5 will receive from the City?

6 MS. DUCHAUSSEE: So let me
7 start. First, I do think both from
8 a nonprofit exemption-use
9 perspective and from the RFP
10 perspective the goal is to provide
11 continuity of care and service and
12 the nonprofit exemption allows for
13 our departments to be able to do
14 that, to ensure that case managers
15 aren't subject to the lowest bid,
16 right. Once a family becomes
17 accustomed to, has a relationship
18 with and is confident in the
19 services that are being provided,
20 those services aren't abruptly
21 changing based on the competitive
22 process, competitive RFP process.

23 What we are understanding
24 from the perspective of our
25 nonprofit providers is that a lot

1 of our -- or at least a number of
2 our nonprofit providers rely fairly
3 significantly on their contracts
4 with the City and they are small
5 and their margins are small and
6 they have limited back office
7 support, their support and their
8 expertise rests in the service that
9 they are providing rather than in
10 the administrative tasks that are
11 fairly considerable in preparing a
12 Request for Proposal.

13 So I think that is one of
14 the larger concerns that we in so
15 doing and removing this exemption
16 completely, and absolutely agree
17 not every use of it is based on
18 emergency. There are uses that are
19 based on providing services that
20 are critical to our residents even
21 if not a public safety emergency,
22 right.

23 But at the end of the day,
24 their expertise of these nonprofit
25 vendors relies, I think, mostly in

1 the service that they provide
2 rather than in the administrative
3 functions that are associated with
4 a cumbersome procurement process.

5 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

6 RICHARDSON: Sure. But isn't that
7 the case for small businesses?
8 Don't they have to go through an
9 RFP process if they want to do
10 business with the City?

11 MS. DUCHAUSSEE: Yes, but
12 time is less of the essence in that
13 case and in most of those cases.
14 And I would think universally small
15 businesses will struggle, whether
16 it's a not-for-profit vendor or
17 for-profit vendor.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

19 RICHARDSON: But we still do have a
20 provision for small businesses to
21 go through the RFP process,
22 correct?

23 MS. DUCHAUSSEE: We do, but
24 we also have a provision for
25 smaller or lower-costing contracts

1 which implicate small businesses
2 most of the time to not go through
3 the RFP process.

4 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

5 RICHARDSON: And one other thing we
6 heard from some of the nonprofits
7 in the meeting yesterday was that
8 they utilize City funding to
9 leverage other state or federal
10 support. And so, don't you think
11 having some level of continuity
12 would help them to better plan for
13 the additional support they are
14 seeking at other levels?

15 MS. DUCHAUSSEE: Continuity
16 in general, yes, absolutely builds
17 expertise and would allow for
18 leveraging that experience to
19 better apply for and utilize the
20 RFP process, but it is not
21 exclusive to -- continuity is not
22 exclusive to the RFP process.
23 Continuity is essentially one of
24 the main reasons why the nonprofit
25 exemption is so beneficial to our

1 departments.

2 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

3 RICHARDSON: Thank you. And then
4 one other thing, and I'm just going
5 through all my notes because I want
6 to get some of this on the record,
7 particularly for the nonprofit
8 providers, because I felt their
9 consternation on the call
10 yesterday.

11 One other thing that was
12 noted was providers feel as though
13 they are being punished for the
14 actions that are happening above
15 them. And so, to that point if you
16 could speak to sort of the overall
17 environment of how businesses and
18 organizations do business with the
19 City. I think there's a lot here.

20 Another thing I would
21 mention would be paying people on
22 time. That was another issue that
23 continuously comes up, and I think
24 we've even seen that within this
25 process. If you could speak to

1 that as well, that would be helpful
2 because --

3 MS. DUCHAUSSEE:

4 Absolutely.

5 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

6 RICHARDSON: -- I think the vendors
7 are feeling punished because of
8 what's happening that is squarely
9 outside of their control --

10 MS. DUCHAUSSEE: Right.

11 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

12 RICHARDSON: -- but also at the
13 same time they're waiting for
14 payments from the City. It takes a
15 very, very long time to process,
16 and you all know sometimes we have
17 to get involved even to try to push
18 it along to make sure you all have
19 the invoices, the necessary
20 information to process the payments
21 for services that these vendors
22 have already provided for contracts
23 that have already been conformed.

24 And so, I think if you
25 could speak to that part of the

1 process too because I have
2 continued to sort of field
3 complaints about that as well.

4 MS. DUCHAUSSEE: So one of
5 the things that I heard and
6 received from our IG, Inspector
7 General DeSantis, was the concern
8 with the burdensome nature, the
9 labor-intensive and time-intensive
10 nature of contracting processes in
11 general and because of that, there
12 may be some attempt or some leaning
13 toward using processes in a manner
14 in which they were not intended.

15 What I absolutely want to
16 assure this body and all of my
17 departmental colleagues frankly is
18 that we are committed to reviewing
19 all processes within the
20 contracting universe, within that
21 ecosystem. We cannot create and
22 maintain a system that is
23 burdensome, that harms our ability
24 to work with our community
25 partners, harms our ability to

1 provide services to our residents,
2 harms the efficiency and
3 effectiveness of the really
4 hardworking department and
5 departmental staff because we're
6 losing opportunities based on this
7 process.

8 We are doing everything in
9 our power, we've created a number
10 of different work groups, had a
11 number of different innovation
12 conversations and they are
13 happening in collaboration with our
14 Service Design Studio within CAO,
15 with our Strategic Direction and
16 Transformation Group within CAO, we
17 are going to crack this nut, right.
18 We are going to make some
19 significant strides in improving
20 the process.

21 I know we've had
22 conversations even with
23 Councilmember and office staff in
24 regard to taking a holistic look at
25 17-1400 to determine where and if

1 we can make some positive changes
2 to ensure that we are not creating
3 a process that incentivizes
4 manipulation.

5 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

6 RICHARDSON: Right, and I think
7 that's the overarching concern, are
8 the policies and procedures really
9 changing. It's one thing to say it
10 and to put a process in place, but
11 it's another to practice it in your
12 everyday work in how you change the
13 way you do business. And so, I
14 think that is one of the main
15 concerns that we have is that we
16 don't want this to continue because
17 we recognize the good work that you
18 all are seeking to do to change
19 this process and really identify
20 the real problems and the log jams
21 in the system, but how does that in
22 turn trickle down to the
23 departments, right, who are sort of
24 in charge of this work on a day-to-
25 day basis. Because we even heard

1 from one of the vendors, this
2 particular individual, say that
3 there's been no increase in
4 contract in 30 years.

5 I said, well, how could
6 that be. We went even from General
7 Fund in Fiscal Year '18 from 47
8 million now to last Fiscal 80
9 million just from a Council
10 perspective. That's not even
11 including all the grants revenue
12 that's coming in just for the one
13 particular department that is OHS.
14 But one of the vendors said no
15 increase in contract in 30 years.
16 How does that happen when the
17 invoices are stating something
18 different? And you know I
19 personally review the invoices and
20 the invoices have increased year
21 over year, even if we just talk
22 about the bed situation.

23 And so, I think our main
24 concern is really dealing with from
25 a departmental level the policies

1 and procedures and getting into the
2 weeds to ensure that this is not
3 happening, because you all could
4 have a certain belief and goal for
5 what you want this process to look
6 like. But if the departments are
7 not doing that, it won't matter.

8 MS. DUCHAUSSEE: Yeah, I
9 cannot agree with you more, right.
10 So as I stated in my testimony, my
11 career includes being the Chief
12 Examiner within the Program Review
13 Unit of the Department of Justice,
14 the Federal Bureau of Prisons.
15 That unit's sole responsibility was
16 to implement and create internal
17 controls as well as monitor the
18 effectiveness of those controls.
19 That is the experience that I am
20 squarely bringing to the review of
21 our contracting process.

22 We've already had a number
23 of conversations between myself,
24 the Acting Commissioner and the
25 Deputy Commissioners within

1 Procurement. There are things that
2 we're doing right now as a response
3 to the concerns that you have
4 raised and we will continue to do.
5 But even changing processes, that
6 by itself does not do it. There
7 has to be a process by which we are
8 monitoring, providing feedback and
9 requiring accountability for things
10 that we are finding that are
11 inconsistent with the intention and
12 the integrity of the process. That
13 is what we're going to implement.

14 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
15 RICHARDSON: Right, and I think
16 that's what we're seeking to do
17 with this legislation. Because
18 what happens is if you are
19 utilizing the exemption, you don't
20 have to work with Procurement.
21 They don't have to work with your
22 side of the ledger in order to get
23 a contract through, and that's
24 exactly what we're seeking to
25 address. And so, I'll --

1 MS. DUCHAUSSEE: And we
2 appreciate that. We agree that
3 there is a review of that practice
4 that almost demands that the
5 process itself be re-examined. And
6 as I offered earlier, the three
7 inflection points of the nonprofit
8 exemption, use and contracting all
9 rest right now within the
10 department.

11 So the department
12 essentially is judge, jury, right.
13 And so, we want to pluck at least
14 one of those pieces out of the
15 department and place it in a
16 neutral -- whether it's a City
17 Solicitor or the CIO or the CAO --
18 space so that it's being examined
19 each and every time.

20 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
21 RICHARDSON: Okay. And I look
22 forward to continuing to work with
23 you all on the additional
24 suggestions that you have offered
25 today. I did not again have an

1 opportunity to review the 23 pages,
2 but you know I will and then we
3 will circle back.

4 Are there any further
5 questions from this Committee for
6 this panel?

7 Okay. Chair now recognizes
8 Councilmember Ahmad.

9 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Thank
10 you. I have a question about can
11 you give me an example of what
12 would be impeded if this process
13 was instituted?

14 MS. DUCHAUSSEE: Sure.

15 MS. GARRETT HARLEY: So
16 good morning. Vanessa Garrett
17 Harley, Chief Deputy Managing
18 Director for the Office of Children
19 and Families. Good morning, Chair
20 Gilmore Richardson, Councilmember
21 Ahmad and Councilmember Jones. I
22 think a quick example would be
23 under the Office of Children and
24 Family comes the Department of
25 Human Services or DHS, as we call

1 it.

2 An example for them of what
3 would be impeded while I will first
4 start out by saying we certainly
5 respect the use of this exemption
6 and try to be as careful and as
7 prudent as we can when we use it,
8 the majority of DHS contracts are
9 RFP because we do understand the
10 importance of a competitive bidding
11 process.

12 However, there are
13 sometimes emergent situations.
14 Particularly, DHS deals with child
15 welfare as well as juvenile
16 justice, but particularly in that
17 child welfare arena where there are
18 life or death situations almost
19 that are going on.

20 Sometimes to give you an
21 example, we may have a young person
22 who is experiencing some
23 significant behavioral health
24 episode or something, they may be
25 in the hospital. There may not be

1 a provider, be it profit or
2 nonprofit, that we have a contract
3 with that is able to handle the
4 crisis or the emergency that is
5 going on at that time. And so,
6 what we do is look for a nonprofit.
7 Sometimes we can find them in the
8 City. There have been in my past
9 experience in the last 24 years or
10 so that I've been here sometimes
11 they're out of the City. But we
12 have to do something in an
13 emergency because that child is in
14 that level of a crisis. And so, we
15 use the nonprofit exemption to
16 enter into that contract.

17 So we don't take that
18 lightly at all, but there are times
19 when absolutely we have to do that
20 because the contracting process as
21 we all agree is very complicated
22 and it's lengthy, and you just
23 don't have the time to wait to
24 enter into that level of a
25 contract.

1 There's also sometimes as
2 part of you're trying to reunify a
3 young person with a family member
4 that may be in another state, there
5 are state requirements around. We
6 call them, ICPC or interstate
7 compacts. However, we may also be
8 trying to very quickly enter into
9 some level of a case management
10 contract with a contractor that's
11 in that city or state because even
12 though we're sending that young
13 person to live with their relative,
14 we want to still monitor and make
15 sure that they're okay at least for
16 a little while, while they're
17 transitioning back in. So those
18 are some quick examples.

19 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: So
20 both of those examples you gave me
21 tells me there's a breadth of
22 issues that come up in these
23 departments, and we should by this
24 time having been here for so long
25 have an understanding of what is

1 going to be encountered and have
2 provisions as such.

3 So saying that something,
4 especially the example of sending a
5 child to another state, that's not
6 just emergency. That is a thought-
7 out process that has a time frame
8 to it. So for that to be used as
9 an example to say we can't have
10 this process, doesn't seem to make
11 sense to me because this is not an
12 emergency situation. You have
13 a thoughtful process to -- you
14 can't just send a child off.
15 You're doing a lot more things
16 before you're sending them off.

17 Same thing with looking at
18 a criteria for someone in some kind
19 of behavioral health crisis. Those
20 are all delineated in how diagnoses
21 are made. So that's what we deal
22 with in this office or should.

23 MS. GARRETT HARLEY:

24 Respectfully --

25 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

1 RICHARDSON: Can I just say --

2 MS. GARRETT HARLEY: I'm
3 sorry. I just wanted to say
4 respectively, Councilmember, that's
5 not necessarily true. There are
6 situations where it is an absolute
7 emergency. We may take a child in,
8 we do the necessary court hearings
9 and everything and then we find out
10 about that relative or that other
11 parent or whatever that is
12 somewhere else and it does happen
13 as an emergency because you want
14 the child to be in the system the
15 least amount of time as possible
16 because you don't want them to be
17 damaged. And Commissioner Ali has
18 come up and we'll give you an exact
19 example of the one in terms of the
20 behavioral health episode.

21 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

22 RICHARDSON: And I just want to
23 state for the record that we know
24 that there are other provisions in
25 this section of the Code that

1 relate to emergencies. It may not
2 be listed in this exact bill but
3 are already in this section of the
4 Code. And so, I didn't want us to
5 go down this road knowing that we
6 all know that there are other
7 provisions here that will allow
8 that work to continue.

9 Okay. And so, I just
10 wanted to state that for the record
11 so that we have that on the record,
12 okay, because you know that we
13 would never do anything --

14 MS. GARRETT HARLEY: Sure.
15 Understood.

16 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
17 RICHARDSON: -- to impact a child
18 or any resident or individual in
19 our city that would prevent them
20 from receiving emergency service
21 that we have to provide. And so, I
22 think we know that. I think the
23 ledger folks know that. And so, I
24 just wanted to put that on the
25 record.

1 MS. DUCHAUSSEE:

2 Respectfully, I did want to also
3 for the record indicate that while
4 1406 does include some exceptions
5 to the RFP process, it does not
6 cover kind of the day-to-day
7 emergent issues. They may not be
8 emergencies, but they also don't
9 rise to the level of the exceptions
10 that are provided within 1406.

11 And so, the carve-out, the
12 exception for the nonprofit vendors
13 is I think the thoughtful response
14 to don't we know that these things
15 are coming, right. Don't we
16 understand that by nature of the
17 work that is done by DHS, by Office
18 of Homeless Services, there are
19 going to be times when we're going
20 to have to create and quickly
21 respond to it using a vendor. This
22 exception does address that. It
23 does allow -- it may not have been
24 the intention, but it does allow us
25 to do that.

1 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

2 RICHARDSON: But what did we do
3 before? What did we do let's say
4 in 2000? What did we do then?
5 Because I mean, we've all been
6 around. And so, what did we do in
7 2000 because this only has been
8 around for 20 years. I mean, what
9 I'm struggling with is that
10 everyone is saying in so many words
11 the world is going to come to an
12 end. Okay. What did we do 20
13 years ago before we had this
14 provision? What did we do 30 years
15 ago? I mean, I'm really asking
16 what did we do.

17 MS. DUCHAUSSEE: So what I
18 would suggest here is that, first
19 of all, the world has changed quite
20 a bit.

21 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

22 RICHARDSON: Right.

23 MS. DUCHAUSSEE: And the
24 extent to which we are as a
25 governing body, as a municipality,

1 providing more and more supportive
2 social services to our residents,
3 that by itself is a very distinctly
4 different condition. But before
5 2004, there was no restriction,
6 there was no policy. So the manner
7 in which this process and the quick
8 use and standing up of contracted
9 services, it wasn't regulated.

10 I think that this exception
11 very clearly responds, ties the
12 work that we're doing in exigent
13 circumstances to 17-1400. That's a
14 good thing, right. It ties it to
15 some regulation. So prior to this,
16 I would suggest that -- maybe my
17 colleagues might have a little bit
18 more information about that -- but
19 the conditions that we're under
20 right now, as you know, I'm
21 preaching to the choir, are
22 significantly different and we are
23 providing significantly more
24 supportive services.

25 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

1 RICHARDSON: Right. And I just
2 want to say this. I know our Madam
3 Commissioner is here for the
4 record, that I think DHS is one of
5 the best examples in the portfolio,
6 that they quite often undertake a
7 RFP process, even did so for the
8 CRCC Center. So I just want to say
9 for the record I think that in
10 instances this has worked even
11 without this being on the table.

12 COMMISSIONER ALI: Yes.
13 Thank you for that, Madam Chair.
14 I'm Kimberly Ali. I'm Commissioner
15 for Department of Human Services,
16 DHS. And to answer your question,
17 Councilmember Ahmad, in terms of
18 the ability to anticipate, if you
19 will, the needs of young people,
20 the needs of young people have
21 greatly changed.

22 When I think about the
23 Department of Human Services and
24 where we were even 20 years ago and
25 to where we are now, we have taken

1 a real targeted effort to ensure
2 that the young people for which we
3 care for are the young people who
4 are in need of child protective
5 services. And so, the complexity
6 of the young person, the complexity
7 of the family has changed a great
8 deal.

9 And so, to give you another
10 example, I won't call it an
11 emergency but certainly urgent, is
12 really our ability to blend
13 funding, if you will, with our
14 partner Community Behavioral
15 Health. As you know, DHS does not
16 pay for psychiatric treatment of
17 young people.

18 And so, we do have many
19 instances where young people are
20 hospitalized. They are in need of
21 a psychiatric residential treatment
22 facility. CBH, who's the
23 contractor, will pay for the
24 treatment of the young person, will
25 certainly identify the facility and

1 DHS pays for the room in board.
2 And so, I use that exemption in
3 order to enter into a contract with
4 that provider that's identified so
5 the young person can be discharged
6 from the hospital and continue his
7 or her treatment. And so, that's
8 another instance in terms of when I
9 use the exemption.

10 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

11 RICHARDSON: And let me ask you a
12 question there and I'm just really
13 seeking clarity. And I want to be
14 clear for the record again that an
15 amendment has been done, okay, that
16 will allow the Administration a
17 whole year an opportunity to sort
18 of work through all the nuances
19 when you go through the regulation
20 portion. Is there a way to
21 contract with a provider to say,
22 all right, the last five fiscal
23 years we had 5 young people five
24 years ago, 10, after COVID it was
25 28 and then 32, and now that we

1 know the pattern, is there a way to
2 sort of anticipate, you understand
3 what I'm saying?

4 COMMISSIONER ALI:

5 Absolutely. And we do that, so we
6 then enter into a full contract
7 with that provider and we do look
8 at the needs of young people over
9 time in trends. As you know, DHS,
10 we respect the RFP process. We
11 respect the transparent process,
12 but we also do not always get
13 bidders. And so, when you don't
14 get bidders, then you need to
15 identify a provider. Most often
16 the provider is not in the city of
17 Philadelphia. It's really
18 providers that are out of state
19 unfortunately. And so, we
20 repeatedly do RFPs because we want
21 to ensure that our continuum of
22 services meets the individual needs
23 of young people.

24 For example, we currently
25 have an RFP out for a community-

1 based detention services for
2 females because we recognize the
3 need.

4 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

5 RICHARDSON: Yeah, we received that
6 information. I'm sorry.
7 Councilmember Ahmad.

8 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: No,
9 no, that's fine. I think Majority
10 Leader did point it exactly out
11 about being evidence-based, to lay
12 out all your data, to see all the
13 outliers and then to see how to
14 respond to outliers. I appreciate
15 that you are serving people,
16 especially our young people, at
17 their most vulnerable so we
18 understand the need for you to be
19 able to respond.

20 But this is the whole point
21 of going back in this time frame
22 and looking at how do we reduce the
23 emergency nature of these
24 situations, and that can be data-
25 driven. So I would love to see

1 from your department an analysis of
2 what you have considered to be
3 emergencies and what that looks
4 like going back, you know, let's
5 just do a couple of years, four
6 years, and seeing how the data has
7 driven you to make policy that
8 would address the emergent nature
9 of that. I would love to see that
10 data.

11 COMMISSIONER ALI: Yes, we
12 can definitely supply it. And I
13 can give another very concrete
14 example as well. As we look at the
15 number of young people who are
16 being held in our juvenile
17 detention center, so the PJJSC, as
18 you know DHS does not pay for
19 treatment for young people. And
20 so, CBH did identify a provider.
21 We have Hall =Mercer who was
22 co-located in the PJJSC in order to
23 meet the ever-growing needs of
24 young people that are held in
25 detention, okay, because there is

1 an existing regulation that once a
2 young person is in detention for 31
3 days or more, Medicaid no longer
4 pays for that young person's mental
5 health treatment.

6 I needed to enter into a
7 contract with Hall-Mercer to ensure
8 that young people who are being
9 held longer in detention have their
10 mental health needs met. And so, I
11 entered into a contract with Hall-
12 Mercer because they were the
13 existing entity that was providing
14 behavior health supports for the
15 young people.

16 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: And
17 that can be made standard, right --

18 COMMISSIONER ALI: Yes, and
19 it is.

20 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: --
21 because you know this is happening
22 beyond that, so that doesn't mean
23 we can't go through the RFP process
24 because we already know that.

25 COMMISSIONER ALI: When I

1 entered the contract, I did not do
2 an RFP process because of the needs
3 of the young people changing. They
4 were already an existing provider
5 that was providing the services in
6 the PJJSC. And so, I just expanded
7 their contract, if you will, but
8 that was outside of the RFP process
9 to address the needs of the young
10 people.

11 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Thank
12 you.

13 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

14 RICHARDSON: Well, thank you. We
15 are going to move along because we
16 have 12 bills total that need to be
17 addressed in this Committee hearing
18 today. But I do want to thank this
19 panel for your testimony, for your
20 longstanding work with the City of
21 Philadelphia. We appreciate
22 working with each and every one of
23 you.

24 MS. GARRETT HARLEY: Thank
25 you.

1 COMMISSIONER ALI: Thank
2 you.

3 MS. DUCHAUSSEE: Thank you.

4 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

5 RICHARDSON: Will the Clerk please
6 call the witnesses that we have for
7 public comment, and we would ask
8 that each of you summarize your
9 testimony.

10 THE CLERK: Kenneth Bigos,
11 Jill Roberts, Abraham Pardo, Will
12 Gonzalez and Andy Toy.

13 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

14 RICHARDSON: Okay. Please state
15 your name for the record and
16 proceed with your testimony.

17 (Witnesses approached
18 Witness table.)

19 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

20 RICHARDSON: Okay. Please state
21 your name for the record. Proceed
22 with your testimony. I'm asking
23 respectfully if you could please
24 summarize your testimony. We have
25 to move things along a bit and we

1 have 11 more bills and one more
2 resolution that we have to get to
3 within the next hour or so. Okay.

4 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you,
5 Councilwoman.

6 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

7 RICHARDSON: Thank you. State your
8 name for the record and proceed
9 with your testimony.

10 MS. ROBERTS: My name is
11 Jill Roberts. I'm the Director of
12 Advocacy for Clarifi. I will get
13 to the meat of what I have to say
14 versus telling you all about who we
15 are and what we do. But there may
16 be many positives to eliminating
17 this exemption, but we see
18 potential negative outcomes if Bill
19 No. 240379 is passed.

20 It would add cost to the
21 safety net. Social service
22 nonprofits do not have the capacity
23 to create and submit competitive
24 bid proposals. The additional cost
25 of adding this function would have

1 to be covered by increasing prices
2 or reducing services. It might
3 create competition between
4 experienced, place-based nonprofits
5 and untrained nonprofits or worse,
6 predatory for-profits that may
7 deliver subpar services until the
8 oversight function of the agency
9 addresses them. Two years of poor
10 service could easily occur.

11 It may reduce the number of
12 neighborhood-based nonprofits by
13 bankrupting agencies, thus creating
14 a failure to deliver essential
15 social services as the gap between
16 costs and contract reimbursement
17 increases. It may create gaps in
18 the delivery of services as
19 nonprofits submit RFPs and waive
20 through the steps required in the
21 competitive bid process.

22 Services will not be able
23 to start as they do now with the
24 knowledge that the money will be
25 coming and the contract will be

1 conformed. Nonprofits will not be
2 able to leverage critical
3 philanthropic support needed to
4 cover the gap between City
5 department contracts and the actual
6 cost of fulfilling the services
7 required under the City contract if
8 the contract or letter of award are
9 not in place.

10 I will use one example of
11 some of these things that I've just
12 talked about. And really the
13 financial empowerment counseling
14 that we do, which is the core of
15 everything that we do, requires
16 three full-time equivalent
17 counselors. That represents
18 \$450,000 in direct cost to provide
19 the services required to meet the
20 deliverables, but we are reimbursed
21 only \$210,000 for that.

22 The loss of those services
23 to the City, to the low- and
24 moderate-income folks, living in
25 middle neighborhoods, looking for

1 housing counseling, foreclosure
2 prevention, eviction modification,
3 et cetera, the idea of us not being
4 able to do our work because of this
5 frightens me. It is why we come to
6 work every day to help our citizens
7 with their housing and their
8 finances, and we really hope that
9 this won't stop due to the removal
10 of that exemption. Thank you.

11 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

12 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
13 so much for your testimony and for
14 being on the meeting yesterday as
15 well.

16 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you for
17 the meeting.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

19 RICHARDSON: Okay. If you could
20 just state your name for the
21 record, proceed with your
22 summarized testimony. Thank you.

23 MR. BIGOS: Thank you,
24 Chairperson. So my name is Ken
25 Bigos. I'm the Executive Director

1 of the Affordable Housing Centers
2 of Pennsylvania, so I want to begin
3 by expressing my agreement that we
4 need accountability and
5 transparency with the housing
6 counsel -- for nonprofit
7 organizations. But at the same
8 time, the bill puts unreasonable
9 demands on nonprofit organizations
10 by requiring them to submit those
11 RFPs.

12 For example, looking at the
13 housing counseling contracts, the
14 DHCD contracts to 22 housing
15 counseling organizations throughout
16 the city of Philadelphia and almost
17 all of them meet those HUD-approved
18 agency designations. And
19 basically, we'll be re-applying and
20 competing for the same limited
21 funds that we would be accessing
22 each year.

23 Requiring nonprofits to
24 prepare and submit those proposed
25 annually will create those

1 unnecessary administrative costs,
2 smaller nonprofit organizations in
3 particular. That includes the
4 Neighborhood Advisory Centers,
5 energy centers, housing counseling
6 organizations. Majority of their
7 funding comes from the City of
8 Philadelphia. And with their tight
9 budgets and the delays of
10 conforming of their contracts will
11 result in the delays of being able
12 to deliver those services.

13 Some of these services are
14 very labor-intensive niche
15 opportunities, like particularly
16 mortgage foreclosure services,
17 particularly for working with those
18 in the Mortgage Diversion Program
19 or in the now new permanent
20 Eviction Diversion Program to
21 provide positive outcomes.

22 The Division of Housing
23 Community Development already
24 conducts compliance checks to make
25 sure these agencies are fulfilling

1 the contract requirements and
2 maintaining sound policies.
3 Annually we submit our tax returns,
4 our independent financial
5 statements and in terms of housing
6 counseling, also monitor our client
7 management system. So there is
8 always these reviews that are being
9 placed.

10 So while I understand the
11 importance of holding transparency
12 and organizations accountable to
13 higher standards, I think there's
14 definitely more better cost-
15 effective ways to do that. So I
16 want to thank you very much for
17 hearing my testimony and also
18 making yourself available yesterday
19 in the meeting as well. Thank you.

20 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
21 RICHARDSON: Thank you very much
22 for being here today and for being
23 on the meeting yesterday and for
24 the feedback you provided that I
25 tried to share and incorporate in

1 the amendment that we offered
2 today.

3 Okay. Please state your
4 name for the record and proceed
5 with your testimony.

6 MR. REYES PARDO: Hi. Good
7 morning. I'm Abraham Reyes Pardo.
8 I'm the VP of Housing at the Urban
9 League of Philadelphia and a member
10 of the Housing Counseling Action
11 Committee. I believe in City
12 Council's effort to foster a fair
13 and transparent environment, an
14 effort that will be translated and
15 executed by the Administration.

16 As it has been reported
17 throughout the pandemic and
18 recently, the City of Philadelphia
19 has experienced significant
20 shortages in terms of employee
21 recruitment and retention, which
22 has impacted some of the services
23 offered by the City. The housing
24 counseling organizations contracted
25 by the City have experienced some

1 of the same challenges after the
2 final rule that went into effect in
3 2021, which requires all housing
4 counselors to be certified directly
5 by the Department of Housing.

6 At times when we've
7 experienced capacity challenges,
8 the City of Philadelphia has come
9 to our aid, recognizing the
10 imperative need for the array of
11 services we provide, which include
12 some very critical ones like
13 foreclosure and eviction prevention
14 as well as crisis utility
15 assistance through UESF.

16 Without mentioning the
17 needs created by programs coming
18 out of the Neighborhood
19 Preservation Initiative such as
20 Philly First, I must recognize that
21 some of these services have very
22 delicate timelines, like the
23 Eviction Diversion Program
24 requiring completion of the process
25 within 30 days.

1 In reference to the
2 configuration of the housing
3 counseling agencies retained by the
4 Division of Housing and Community
5 Development, we have all been
6 certified by the Department of
7 Housing. To retain our
8 certification, we are consistently
9 evaluated, audited and monitored by
10 the Department of Housing while we
11 adopt and adhere to a series of
12 national industry standards aimed
13 at fostering fairness and
14 transparency. The City of
15 Philadelphia has discretionary
16 access to our case management
17 system where they can track our
18 production and outcomes.

19 We are held to the highest
20 standards as our role is to advance
21 the Fair Housing agenda. Our sole
22 existence is connected to Title 8
23 of the Federal Civil Rights of
24 1968, and we can operate at this
25 level because of the support that

1 is provided by the City. More
2 specifically, the certainty that
3 comes with knowing that the City
4 cares for its residents and seeks
5 to ensure that the continuity of
6 services is not disrupted.

7 We welcome the opportunity
8 to support the need for
9 accountability and hope the
10 immediate needs of our residents
11 are taken into account. Thank you.

12 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

13 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
14 so much for your testimony and for
15 your work.

16 I wanted to also state for
17 the record that we received
18 testimony from Will Gonzalez,
19 Executive Director of Ceiba, and
20 Andy Toy, Executive Director of
21 PACDC, and they did participate
22 also in the meeting yesterday.

23 Are there any questions for
24 this set of witnesses?

25 (No response.)

1 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

2 RICHARDSON: Okay. Seeing none, we
3 thank you for your testimony and we
4 thank you for being here today.

5 Is there anyone else here
6 to testify on Bill No. 240379 whose
7 name has not been called -- oh,
8 okay. I didn't see you there.

9 Okay. Please state your
10 name for the record. Proceed with
11 your summarized testimony. Okay.
12 Thank you.

13 MR. GONZALEZ: Buenas
14 tardes -- buenos dias. Gracias.
15 Will Gonzalez, the Executive
16 Director of Ceiba. Ceiba is the
17 backbone to the Latino Equitable
18 Development Collective. We join
19 the chorus of concern about this
20 bill. Our Philadelphia nonprofit
21 ecosystem is strong, innovative and
22 an overall good partner of City
23 government.

24 We view this bill as a cure
25 that could be worse than the

1 disease. Obviously, it addressed
2 the situation at OHS. We in the
3 Latino community are well very
4 familiar with the challenges at OHS
5 at that time. I point to the
6 Latino homeland paradox and how OHS
7 failed to serve the Latino
8 community with its overall needs.
9 And obviously, they were throwing
10 away fiscal considerations that put
11 them in this spot.

12 Our nonprofits are
13 501(c)(3)s where a lot of public
14 info is available about them, the
15 990s, the tax returns are open to
16 the public. The charitable
17 registration statements that we
18 file with the Commonwealth of
19 Pennsylvania shows our audits, so
20 you can see overall anything having
21 to do financially with the
22 nonprofits. Obviously, the
23 challenge here has to do with City
24 government. But on the nonprofit
25 side, we're an open book and

1 there's a lot of transparency.

2 To me, the biggest
3 highlight of today was a statement
4 made by the folks from the
5 Inspector General's Office where to
6 quote, they say that this bill is
7 overly broad and unnecessary for
8 those departments who have been
9 using the exception with due care
10 and responsibility. I think that
11 speaks volumes from the agency that
12 cast oversight over City
13 government.

14 And in a hopeful note, they
15 say that rather than the wholesale
16 removal of the exemption, that we
17 engage in a dialogue to see how to
18 make it better, stronger. So I
19 encourage you to retain the
20 exception. Yes, look at how to
21 modernize it and improve it, but it
22 is important to the efficiency of
23 City government and our nonprofit
24 ecosystem to retain it.

25 Also want to thank you for

1 your openness and sharing with us,
2 giving us the opportunity to speak
3 today and the opportunity to speak
4 yesterday. Thank you.

5 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

6 RICHARDSON: Thank you and thank
7 you very much for being here.

8 Please state your name for
9 the record and proceed with your
10 summarized version of your
11 testimony.

12 MR. TOY: Thank you. Good
13 afternoon almost, Chairperson
14 Gilmore Richardson and members of
15 City Council Committee on Finance.
16 My name is Andy Toy and I'm not the
17 Executive Director. I'm the Policy
18 Director of Philadelphia
19 Association of Community
20 Development Corporations. Thank
21 you for the thought, though. Thank
22 you for the opportunity to testify
23 today to respectfully request that
24 the Finance Committee hold Bill No.
25 240379, which makes changes to City

1 procurement processes in ways that
2 will impact our membership and
3 other nonprofits.

4 PACDC, as you know, is the
5 leading voice of nonprofit
6 community development organizations
7 in Philadelphia. We represent 60
8 CDC members and over 100 additional
9 associate members, many of whom are
10 also nonprofit organizations
11 engaged in the work of equitable
12 community revitalization and
13 community stabilization.

14 Our members are mainly
15 place-based organizations in
16 neighborhoods across the City,
17 building affordable housing,
18 providing essential services,
19 managing our commercial corridors
20 and improving the quality of our
21 communities as great places to
22 live, work and play for all
23 residents.

24 The City of Philadelphia
25 relies on our network of mission-

1 driven nonprofits to fulfill many
2 basic municipal responsibilities
3 because our members are trusted in
4 their communities and uniquely
5 positioned to deliver services and
6 activities more efficiently and
7 effectively given the diverse
8 community landscapes that make up
9 Philadelphia.

10 We're asking for Bill No.
11 240379 to be held for additional
12 consideration because many are
13 still unsure about the far-reaching
14 impacts it could have on the
15 ability of our members to do their
16 work and therefore the ability of
17 the City to provide services to its
18 residents. We believe there may be
19 some unforeseen, unintended
20 consequences that will make
21 nonprofits' work even more
22 challenging than it already is.

23 We are also aware of a
24 recent New York City "Joint Task
25 Force" to get nonprofits paid on

1 time. That would be useful to
2 inform our efforts before actually
3 taking action. Philadelphia could
4 benefit from a similar analysis.
5 As you know, there are issues with
6 the City's contracting process that
7 need to be addressed given that
8 nonprofits must often move forward
9 for months without a conformed
10 contract or payments, often paying
11 for service delivery from lines of
12 credit and even as we've heard from
13 personal savings before they
14 receive reimbursements from the
15 City.

16 Any additional uncertainty
17 or time added to the process could
18 have dire consequences in the
19 delivery of services by our
20 nonprofits, and even their staffing
21 stability if there is even less
22 continuity. This is not an issue
23 we can afford to mishandle by
24 moving too quickly and without
25 proper consideration of the

1 consequences.

2 PACDC looks forward to
3 continuing this conversation with
4 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson
5 and other City Councilmembers and
6 the Administration to ensure that
7 our efforts to improve our system
8 don't result in unintended harms or
9 fail to address other core issues
10 with the contracting process that
11 will then need to be addressed with
12 additional legislation or fixes.
13 Thank you for the opportunity to
14 testify and we once again
15 respectfully ask for you to hold
16 Bill No. 240379 today.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

18 RICHARDSON: Thank you and thank
19 you so much for your testimony.

20 Please state your name for
21 the record and proceed with the
22 summarized version of your
23 testimony.

24 MR. CHILES: My name is
25 David Chiles. I'm the Executive

1 Director at Lutheran Settlement
2 House. We work with families
3 experiencing homelessness as well
4 as survivors of domestic violence.
5 I'll be short because I'm not used
6 to speaking in nice rooms like this
7 and I know your time is short. But
8 I want to say as I've been
9 listening and learning today, a
10 couple issues were coming up for
11 me.

12 One is it seemed like this
13 was being considered in terms of
14 managing and controlling costs, and
15 we're one of the agencies that has
16 gone years without seeing our
17 contracts increase or seeing
18 minimal increases in the contracts.
19 And so, I would definitely welcome
20 anyone to look at our contract. We
21 have to spell out every staff
22 person that we employ and their
23 salaries. And I think it will be
24 very clear that no one's getting
25 fat off of these contracts.

1 The other issue that comes
2 up for me is one of accountability.
3 And I just want to be clear that as
4 a nonprofit that takes money from
5 the City and the trust that we're
6 going to use that money to serve
7 and improve the lives of the people
8 who come through our doors, we are
9 not afraid of accountability. We
10 are very open and we are frequently
11 monitored, we're frequently
12 visited. I invite anyone to come
13 and visit our shelter, visit our
14 programs, learn about what we do.
15 And if we're not doing it well
16 enough, I expect we're either going
17 to improve or our contract's going
18 to be pulled. We're not concerned
19 about that.

20 What we're looking for is
21 predictable revenue as we are
22 holding a lease on the building and
23 we're investing our own money into
24 making that building a better place
25 for our families. We need to know

1 that we're not going to have that
2 contract pulled for reasons other
3 than our ability to serve our
4 clients. Thank you very much.

5 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

6 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
7 very much for being here and for
8 the feedback provided. You know
9 that I was going through my notes
10 from yesterday so I hope you heard
11 that as well, but thank you very,
12 very much for being here and for
13 your testimony. Okay.

14 Is there anyone else here
15 to testify on Bill No. 240379.

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

18 RICHARDSON: Okay. Seeing none, we
19 will now proceed to Bill No.
20 240372.

21 THE CLERK: Jackie Dunn.

22 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

23 RICHARDSON: Okay. We will now
24 proceed with Bill No. 240372. As
25 the Chair of the Committee, I am

1 modifying the agenda that was
2 printed at the onset of this
3 hearing. We will hear all the
4 bills first and then proceed with
5 the resolution.

6 (Witnesses approached
7 Witness table.)

8 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

9 RICHARDSON: Okay. Good afternoon.
10 Thank you so much for being here.
11 Please state your name for the
12 record and proceed with your
13 testimony.

14 CITY TREASURER DUNN: Sure.
15 Jackie Dunn, City Treasurer. And
16 if it pleases the Chair, I can also
17 combine '372 with --

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: Pull the
19 mic a little closer.

20 CITY TREASURER DUNN:
21 Jackie Dunn, City Treasurer. Is
22 that better?

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: (Nodded
24 affirmatively).

25 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

1 RICHARDSON: Yes.

2 CITY TREASURER DUNN:

3 Great. If it pleases the Chair, I
4 can also combine '374 and '375
5 which also pertain to the airport.

6 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

7 RICHARDSON: Right, and you know
8 that I notated that in my notes.
9 And so, what I will do now is prior
10 to us doing that, let me do this
11 for the record. Is there anyone
12 else here to testify on Bill Nos.
13 240372, 240374 and 240375?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

16 RICHARDSON: Again, is there anyone
17 here to testify on Bill Nos.
18 240372, 240374 or 240375?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

21 RICHARDSON: Seeing none, I'll ask
22 that our City Treasurer proceed
23 with her testimony, summarized
24 version of her testimony, for all
25 three of Bills 240372, 240374 and

1 240375.

2 CITY TREASURER DUNN:

3 Great. Thank you, Chair. Good
4 afternoon, Chair Gilmore Richardson
5 and members of the Committee on
6 Finance. I'm Jackie Dunn, City
7 Treasurer. And with me this
8 afternoon are Tracy Borda, the
9 Airport's Chief Financial Officer,
10 and Matthew Bowman, Deputy City
11 Treasurer.

12 I'm here to testify in
13 favor of Bill Nos. 240372, 240374
14 and 240375. You have my longer
15 written testimony submitted for the
16 record. And so, I'll read the
17 highlights.

18 Bill No. 240372,
19 constituting the Twentieth
20 Supplemental Ordinance would
21 provide authorization for the
22 airport to issue General Airport
23 Revenue Bonds or notes in an
24 aggregate principal amount not to
25 exceed 600 million in new money

1 bonds, exclusive of original
2 discount, capital interest funding
3 of deposits to the Sinking Fund
4 Reserve and if necessary, similar
5 items.

6 Additionally, the bill
7 would permit the Airport to refund
8 up to 1.5 billion in bonds
9 previously issued with City Council
10 approval from the Years 2015 to
11 2021. There are no immediate
12 opportunities to pursue traditional
13 refundings of airport bonds for
14 debt service savings and portfolio
15 management, but this ordinance
16 positions the City to respond
17 timely when future market
18 conditions permit.

19 Bill No. 240374,
20 constituting an amendment to the
21 Seventeenth Supplemental General
22 Airport Revenue Bond Ordinance,
23 would provide authorization to
24 expand the Airport's Commercial
25 Paper Program from the current 350

1 million capacity to 500 million.
2 Commercial paper is a flexible
3 financing tool to fund capital
4 projects quickly on an interim
5 basis and the commercial paper is
6 taken out with permanent financing
7 when the work is completed.

8 Due to the success of the
9 Airport's current program at the
10 significant capital plan, the City
11 and Airport seek to increase the
12 size of the program by the
13 referenced 150 million so the
14 Airport can expedite capital
15 projects.

16 And finally Bill 240375,
17 constituting the Nineteenth
18 Supplemental Ordinance would amend
19 the Airport General Revenue Bond
20 Ordinance to reflect the recent
21 administrative change, which
22 enshrined the Department of
23 Aviation as the department of the
24 City rather than as a division of
25 Aviation under the Department of

1 Commerce.

2 All the above payments
3 referenced in the bills would be
4 funded through the Aviation Fund,
5 and the Administration recommends
6 adoption of these bills. We
7 respectfully request that the
8 Committee give these bills
9 favorable recommendation and
10 further that the Committee
11 recommends the rules of Council be
12 suspended so as to permit first
13 reading of the bills at the next
14 session of Council. Thank you for
15 your consideration and we're happy
16 to answer any questions.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
18 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
19 so much to our City Treasurer for
20 your testimony. Thank you for the
21 Airport officials for being here
22 today. We have with us for the
23 benefit of the stenographer Tracy
24 Borda is with us today from the
25 Airport.

1 And I just wanted to thank
2 the Airport team for the robust
3 meetings, plural, that we have had
4 over the last several months. And
5 I had the opportunity to also visit
6 with you all at the grand opening
7 of Sabrina's Café in addition to
8 the additional meetings we have had
9 over the last several months, so I
10 want to thank you for the briefings
11 that we have had here in City
12 Council specific to these three
13 bills so that as Finance Committee
14 Chair and as a Committee, we
15 understand what's happening today
16 and how we can ensure that we are
17 doing the very best for the City of
18 Philadelphia.

19 Are there any questions
20 from members of the Committee for
21 this panel relative to our Airport
22 revenue bonds?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

25 RICHARDSON: Okay. You know I

1 don't have any additional questions
2 other than the ones that I've
3 already offered in our past several
4 hours of meetings. And so, I thank
5 you very much for your testimony
6 today.

7 Again, is there anyone else
8 to testify on Bill Nos. 240372,
9 240374 and 240375?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

12 RICHARDSON: Seeing none, we thank
13 you so much for your testimony.

14 And we will now proceed to
15 Bill No. 24037 -- I'm going to go
16 out of order. I'm going to go to
17 '377 first. Okay. So I'm going to
18 do '377 first and then I'll start
19 with '373 and then on down to '78
20 and '17 so we do all the PGW bills
21 together. Okay.

22 All right. So we will now
23 proceed with Bill No. 240377. And
24 if you could just state your name
25 for the record and proceed with

1 your testimony.

2 CITY TREASURER DUNN: Good
3 afternoon, Chair Gilmore Richardson
4 and members of the Committee on
5 Finance. I'm Jackie Dunn, City
6 Treasurer. And with me is Deputy
7 Shakina Clark of Banking for the
8 Treasurer's Office and also
9 representatives from Citizens Bank.
10 We are here to testify in favor of
11 Bill No. 240377.

12 Bill 240377 would provide
13 authorization for the City of
14 Philadelphia to enter into an
15 amendment agreement with Citizens
16 Bank for provision of payroll
17 depository banking services for
18 City employees for an additional
19 one-year term from July 1, 2024
20 through June 30, 2025, under
21 certain terms and conditions.

22 In June 2006, the City
23 enacted legislation requiring the
24 Treasurer's Office to implement an
25 RFP process seeking proposals from

1 qualified institutions to provide
2 banking services that include
3 payments to employees, payroll
4 deductions and payroll taxes. The
5 legislation also required that no
6 contract amendment with a proposed
7 bank may be executed until it has
8 been approved by City Council
9 through an ordinance.

10 In 2021, the City
11 Treasurer's Office issued a payroll
12 RFP and the Selection Committee
13 determined that Citizens Bank was
14 the most qualified institution
15 based on the quality of service
16 provided, the cost, the extensive
17 branch network in Philadelphia and
18 their commitments to communities
19 across the City.

20 With Council's approval, we
21 are requesting a contract amendment
22 with Citizens Bank for the final
23 year under the current RFP with the
24 amendment through June 30, 2025.
25 We respectfully request that the

1 Committee report the bill with a
2 favorable recommendation and that
3 suspension of the rules apply so as
4 to permit first reading at the next
5 session of Council. Thank you for
6 your consideration and we are here
7 to answer any questions.

8 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

9 RICHARDSON: Thank you very, very
10 much for your testimony and thank
11 you for the responsiveness relative
12 to this bill and the meeting that
13 we had. I'm just going to put this
14 on the record because you all know
15 that I care about this and that
16 I've been reading the reports that
17 we receive as members of Council
18 relative to the banks that provide
19 us with payroll services regarding
20 their work within the community and
21 how they interface with the
22 community, but more importantly the
23 amount of loans that are extended,
24 the amount of the loans and also as
25 it relates to the residential

1 mortgages.

2 And I recognize that in
3 this environment that with the
4 interest rates hovering between 6
5 and 7 percent, that not as many
6 individuals are reaching out to
7 enter into a residential mortgage
8 like they were when the rates were
9 2.75 percent during the COVID
10 period. But I do pay close
11 attention to that report.

12 And I just want to note for
13 the record that particularly around
14 the low-income individuals who are
15 seeking to gain a position as a
16 homeowner, that we need to do as
17 much as we can to encourage
18 low-income individuals to get into
19 homeownership as much as possible.

20 And I say that, when we
21 receive the reports, they're broken
22 down between certain income levels
23 and the individuals that are vying
24 for certain residential mortgages
25 and not only the rates but the

1 amounts. And so, I'd like to see a
2 higher percentage in the lower
3 amounts, okay, as much as we see in
4 the higher amount mortgages. Okay.
5 And I just wanted to put that on
6 the record because I want them to
7 know that I am paying attention to
8 those reports.

9 I usually send back an
10 email in the wee hours of the
11 morning after I read the report.
12 But I want to ensure that if you
13 are doing business with the City,
14 that we are understanding the
15 population that we are dealing with
16 here and doing as much as we can to
17 extend banking services to them.

18 It broke my heart yesterday
19 morning to be on the way to City
20 Hall coming down Fairmount making
21 the right onto Broad Street and
22 before the check cashing place was
23 even open, it was a line of eight
24 people outside of the check cashing
25 place. And that's nobody's fault

1 relative to this particular bill.
2 But I just want to put that on the
3 record that we have to do as much
4 as we can for the communities that
5 we serve when we are dealing with
6 this level of money from the City
7 of Philadelphia and providing us
8 with this payroll service. So I
9 just wanted to put that on the
10 record relative to that report.

11 I appreciate all the events
12 and activities that the bank
13 participates in throughout the
14 year. And I've read that whole
15 list in the description of the
16 events. I even see you all at
17 events, including one event that I
18 attended at a high school last
19 summer. But I want us to do more
20 about actually connecting folks to
21 homeownership opportunities to
22 receive residential mortgages for
23 small businesses to get loans just
24 as much as the larger ones do.
25 Okay. So I just wanted to put that

1 on the record.

2 Any additional questions
3 for this panel relative to our City
4 payroll services?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

7 RICHARDSON: Okay. Seeing none, we
8 thank you very, very much for your
9 testimony and for the meetings that
10 we had regarding this issue. Thank
11 you very, very much.

12 We will now proceed. Is
13 there anyone else here to testify
14 on Bill No. 240377?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

17 RICHARDSON: Seeing none, we will
18 now proceed with Bill No. 240373.

19 THE CLERK: Matt Bowman.

20 (Witnesses approached
21 Witness table.)

22 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

23 RICHARDSON: Okay. Please state
24 your name for the record and
25 proceed with your testimony.

1 MR. BOWMAN: Good
2 afternoon. Matt Bowman, Deputy
3 City Treasurer. Joining me here --

4 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
5 RICHARDSON: Pull your mic up
6 please.

7 MR. SAMS: I'm testifying
8 for Brith Sholom, for Brith Sholom.

9 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
10 RICHARDSON: Yes, I understand,
11 sir. Right now we're on Bill No.
12 240373 and that's a PGW revenue
13 bond bill. So we will let you know
14 when it's time to testify relative
15 to Brith Sholom. Okay. We
16 appreciate you being here.

17 Okay. All right. Please
18 state your name for the record and
19 proceed with your testimony.

20 MR. BOWMAN: Good
21 afternoon. Matt Bowman, Deputy
22 City Treasurer joined by City
23 Treasurer Jackie Dunn. I'm here to
24 testify on behalf of Bill No.
25 240373, which constitutes the

1 Sixteenth Supplemental Ordinance to
2 the General Gas Works Revenue Bond
3 Ordinance --

4 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

5 RICHARDSON: Hold on one moment
6 because I don't know that we can
7 hear you. Is the microphone on?

8 COUNCIL TECH SUPPORT: Yes.

9 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

10 RICHARDSON: Okay. Please try
11 again.

12 MR. BOWMAN: Okay. Matt
13 Bowman, Deputy City Treasurer.

14 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

15 RICHARDSON: Okay. All right.
16 Excellent. Please proceed with
17 your testimony.

18 MR. BOWMAN: I'm joined by
19 City Treasurer Jackie Dunn. I'm
20 here to testify on behalf of Bill
21 No. 240373, constituting the
22 Sixteenth Supplemental Ordinance to
23 the Gas Works General Gas Works
24 Revenue Bond Ordinance. This
25 ordinance will authorize the Gas

1 Works to issue up to 300 million in
2 Gas Works Revenue Bonds for new
3 money purposes for projects that
4 are in the approved capital
5 budgets.

6 We have existing prior
7 authorization to refund any
8 existing bonds for debt service, so
9 that authorization is not needed
10 here. This ordinance will also
11 authorize the termination, partial
12 termination, or amendment to any
13 existing Swap Agreements. You have
14 my further full, written testimony.
15 The Administration recommends
16 adoption of this bill and
17 respectfully requests that the
18 Committee give the bill its
19 favorable recommendation and
20 further that the committee
21 recommends the rules of Council be
22 suspended so as to permit first
23 reading of the bill at the next
24 session of Council.

25 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

1 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
2 very much for your testimony and
3 for all the meetings we held as
4 well prior to this hearing. We had
5 quite a few. And I want to thank
6 the PGW team in advance of their
7 testimony as well -- I see them in
8 the back -- for being a part of the
9 meetings that we held in our
10 office. And I apologize for
11 missing the second one, but we had
12 a little meeting with the President
13 that day. So thank you very, very
14 much for your testimony.

15 Is there anyone else here
16 to testify on Bill No. 240373?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

19 RICHARDSON: Okay. Seeing none, we
20 will -- sir, I just wanted to state
21 for the record that you are here to
22 testify relative to Brith Sholom
23 and it is my understanding that
24 that will be in the Committee on
25 Housing at 2 o'clock. Okay. So

1 that Committee hearing starts or is
2 slated to begin at 2:00 p.m. today.

3 And for all of our -- I see
4 a lot of folks here from Wynnefield
5 and we welcome you here to these
6 chambers again and we thank you for
7 being here. The Committee on
8 Housing will be at 2 o'clock where
9 they will undertake the issues
10 relative to Brith Sholom. Okay.
11 Thank you very, very much.

12 Is there anyone else here
13 to testify on Bill No. 240373?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

16 RICHARDSON: Okay. Seeing none, we
17 will now proceed with Bill No.
18 240378. All right. So we will now
19 hear Bill Nos. 240378 and 240417.

20 And is there anyone else
21 here to testify on Bill Nos. 240378
22 and 240417?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

25 RICHARDSON: Okay. So we will hear

1 from Panel 1 for both 240378 and
2 240417, and then we will proceed
3 with taking public comment. Okay.
4 All right.

5 (Witnesses approached
6 Witness table.)

7 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

8 RICHARDSON: Please state your name
9 for the record and proceed with
10 your testimony.

11 MS. McCOTTRY: Good
12 afternoonn. Good afternoon, Chair.

13 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

14 RICHARDSON: Pull the mic closer.
15 We're having an issue with the
16 mics.

17 MS. McCOTTRY: Is that
18 better now?

19 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

20 RICHARDSON: That's great. Thank
21 you.

22 MS. McCOTTRY: All right.
23 Good afternoon, Chair Gilmore
24 Richardson, Gas Commissioner Jones
25 and Councilmember Thomas. I am

1 Melanie McCottry, Chief of Staff
2 and Senior Vice-president for
3 Communications and External Affairs
4 at PGW. With me today are members
5 of PGW's management team. I'm also
6 joined to my right by Dr. Erica
7 Patterson, PGW Director of Contract
8 Management and Supplier Diversity.
9 I'm here to testify in favor of
10 Bill Nos. 240378 and 240417, and I
11 assume I can do both at the same
12 time.

13 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

14 RICHARDSON: Yes, please.

15 MS. McCOTTRY: Great.

16 PGW's submitted testimony describes
17 each individual request in more
18 detail and I'm prepared now to
19 share a summary overview of items
20 incorporated into each amendment.
21 First, Bill No. 240378. PGW's
22 Fiscal Year 2024 capital budget
23 received initial approval from City
24 Council in an amount totaling
25 \$192,432,000. PGW is seeking City

1 Council's approval to amend the
2 budget, increasing budget
3 authorization by \$65,451,000. This
4 amendment will result in a revised
5 budget totaling \$257,883,000.

6 While this increase is
7 significant, the need for this
8 amendment is necessary to support
9 critical initiatives that PGW deems
10 necessary to ensure PGW can
11 maintain a safe and efficient
12 utility and deliver quality service
13 for our customers.

14 The amendment before you
15 today was consolidated into one
16 bill from two separate actions
17 taken by the Philadelphia Gas
18 Commission in fulfilling their
19 responsibility to reviewing and
20 recommend approval of PGW's
21 amendment requests.

22 Next, Bill No. 240417,
23 which would approve PGW's Fiscal
24 Year 2025 capital budget. The
25 majority of this budget request

1 reflects funding of PGW's Cast Iron
2 Main Replacement Program. Both
3 PGW's historical 180-mile program
4 together with authorization for an
5 accelerated replacement program to
6 be funded entirely through a
7 distribution system improvement
8 charge, which is a surcharge
9 mechanism that is approved by the
10 Pennsylvania Public Utility
11 Commission.

12 This budget also includes
13 proceeds from the U.S. Department
14 of Transportation Pipeline and
15 Hazardous Materials Safety
16 Administration grant established by
17 President Biden's historic
18 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law,
19 which is designed specifically to
20 support municipally or community-
21 owned utilities to repair,
22 rehabilitate or replace natural gas
23 distribution pipelines. This
24 Infrastructure, Safety and
25 Modernization Grant Program

1 funding, provisionally awarded to
2 PGW, will be used towards PGW's
3 main replacement program, which
4 directly supports the delivery of
5 safe, reliable energy and advances
6 PGW's methane reduction program
7 efforts.

8 Replacing aging cast iron
9 pipelines with upgraded material
10 that does not rust or corrode and
11 that eliminates methane escape will
12 help PGW to meet its 2050 goal of
13 reducing methane emissions by 80
14 percent.

15 This most recent \$75
16 million award from the Biden
17 Administration will allow the
18 replacement of 40 miles of cast
19 iron main and last year PGW also
20 received a \$10 million grant from
21 the Biden Administration. Lastly
22 included in PGW's request is
23 funding to provide main and service
24 facilities to support the
25 requirements of new customer load.

1 PGW has a tariff obligation to
2 serve new customers who request
3 service.

4 Additionally, Commonwealth
5 law also requires PGW to serve new
6 customers. This investment is
7 critical to PGW's effort to
8 minimize any request to increase
9 rates in the future. PGW
10 respectfully requests the Committee
11 give these bills its favorable
12 recommendation and further that the
13 Committee recommends that the rules
14 of Council be suspended so as to
15 permit first reading of these bills
16 at the next session of Council. I
17 would like to extend our
18 appreciation to both the Gas
19 Commission and its staff for
20 conducting a comprehensive budget
21 review along with public input.
22 Also, on behalf of PGW I would like
23 to thank City Council for its past
24 support of our efforts to serve the
25 citizens of Philadelphia and look

1 forward to your continued support.
2 Thank you for your time and
3 consideration of this matter. I'm
4 happy to answer any questions you
5 may have at this time.

6 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

7 RICHARDSON: Okay. Thank you.
8 Thank you so much for your
9 testimony and for your work and
10 again to your team for all the
11 meetings and briefings in advance
12 of this hearing.

13 In addition to this, I
14 wanted to correct the record for
15 the folks who are here from Brith
16 Sholom. I extend my humble and
17 sincere apologies to each of you
18 for assuming that you were here to
19 testify in the Housing Committee.
20 You are, in fact, already signed
21 up.

22 So when I saw additional
23 witnesses coming, when we ask for
24 additional witnesses to testify,
25 that means we don't already have

1 you on the agenda. We already have
2 your names on the agenda and you
3 will be called at that appropriate
4 time for the bills that you signed
5 up for so you're not technically
6 additional witnesses. So I wanted
7 to apologize to you for that error.
8 Okay. But you will be recognized
9 and we already have your name, so
10 it wouldn't be any additional need
11 and we'll ask for additional folks
12 at the end.

13 Okay. So we will call you
14 shortly. All right. Thank you
15 very much and my humble and sincere
16 apologies to each of you for that
17 initial incorrect information.
18 Okay.

19 All right. The Chair now
20 recognizes Councilmember Jones for
21 questions for this panel.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
23 you, Madam Chair. I will be brief.

24 Couple of things. We need
25 to thank the Biden Administration

1 for those generous grants, which
2 are allowing us to accelerate our
3 cast iron replacement. I note that
4 we do 18 miles. This grant will
5 allow us to increase that to what?

6 MS. McCOTTRY: So we do 18
7 miles and then we have an
8 additional mileage because of our
9 DISC surcharge. So right now we're
10 roughly between 30 and 35 miles
11 annually. This new grant will
12 allow us to do 40 more miles.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: 41 miles
14 from 18, that's amazing. And I'm
15 so very glad now that City Council
16 did not sell PGW some years ago
17 because you're pulling your weight.
18 Thank you very much.

19 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
20 RICHARDSON: Thank you. And thank
21 you so much, Councilmember Jones.
22 You're still on the Gas Commission,
23 right?

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: (Nodded
25 affirmatively).

1 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

2 RICHARDSON: So thank you. Thank
3 you very, very much for your work
4 there. And we know how important
5 this grant will be to really
6 double, plus the amount of work
7 that we're able to do year-over-
8 year.

9 Are there any other
10 questions for this particular
11 panel?

12 MS. McCLENDON: I actually
13 wanted to provide testimony on
14 behalf of the Gas Commission.

15 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

16 RICHARDSON: Absolutely. So state
17 your name for the record and
18 proceed with your testimony.

19 MS. McCLENDON: My name is
20 Gemela McClendon. I am the
21 Executive Director of the
22 Philadelphia Gas Commission. Good
23 morning, Chairwoman Gilmore
24 Richardson, Councilmember Jones and
25 Councilmember Thomas. The Gas

1 Commission appreciates this
2 opportunity to testify in support
3 of Bill No. 240378, which embodies
4 its recommendations to City Council
5 regarding the amendment of PGW's
6 FY24 capital budget, which was
7 unanimously adopted by the
8 Commission.

9 PGW's testimony and the
10 Commission's written testimony
11 that's been submitted provides the
12 details of the requested amendment
13 as endorsed by the Gas Commission,
14 and this is just simply to
15 supplement PGW's testimony. We
16 respectfully request this Committee
17 to report out this bill with a
18 favorable recommendation together
19 with the suspension of the rules so
20 that it may have its first reading
21 at the next Council session.

22 After completing its
23 standard due diligence review of
24 PGW's request to amend its FY24
25 capital budget, Commission staff

1 found that the request appeared
2 reasonable and made a
3 recommendation to the Gas
4 Commission that the requested
5 amounts be approved by the
6 Commission and a recommendation of
7 approval be transmitted to City
8 Council.

9 During our proceeding,
10 neither PGW nor the Public Advocate
11 objected to these recommendations
12 and the Gas Commission adopted the
13 same. With regards to Bill No.
14 240417, which would approve PGW's
15 FY25 capital budget, I simply
16 wanted to note that the
17 Commission's proceedings undertaken
18 in reviewing PGW proposed FY2025
19 capital budget were completed in
20 full compliance with the Sunshine
21 Act and members of the public were
22 allowed to testify at the
23 Commission's public hearing held on
24 February 27, 2024. A full
25 transcript of that hearing may be

1 found on the Commission's website.

2 Further, one issue that is
3 outstanding is related to the
4 replacement of PGW's mains and new
5 customer connections. Because this
6 issue came out, the Gas Commission
7 did seek advice and counsel from
8 the City Law Department, first
9 through its assigned legal counsel
10 and then through a formal City
11 Solicitor's opinion. And it is the
12 Law Department's advice and
13 recommendation that the Gas
14 Commission not recommend any
15 actions that would hinder PGW's
16 ability to connect new customers,
17 as it could potentially place the
18 City in legal jeopardy with regards
19 to the Commonwealth of
20 Pennsylvania. That concludes my
21 testimony.

22 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

23 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
24 very much for your testimony and
25 for being here.

1 Do you have testimony to
2 provide or are you here for
3 questions?

4 DR. PATTERSON: I'm here
5 for questions.

6 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

7 RICHARDSON: Questions, okay.
8 Excellent. Just state your name
9 for the record so the stenographer
10 has that.

11 DR. PATTERSON: Hi. Yes.
12 Good afternoon, Councilwoman
13 Gilmore Robinson and other
14 Councilmembers. My name is
15 Dr. Erica Patterson. I am the
16 Director of Contracts Management
17 and Supplier Diversity in the
18 Supply Chain Department at
19 Philadelphia Gas Works.

20 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

21 RICHARDSON: Excellent. Excellent.
22 Thank you very, very much for being
23 here.

24 Any additional questions?

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes.

1 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

2 RICHARDSON: Chair recognizes
3 Councilmember Jones.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: I wanted
5 to put on the record a thank you on
6 behalf of the residents of Brith
7 Sholom because they're, you know,
8 because of the rules that are
9 fairly applied in place for medical
10 exemptions, the individuals that
11 live there now are still getting
12 gas because of you.

13 And if you are an entity, a
14 utility without a heart, then you
15 don't do what you can for the
16 public and the consumers that
17 actually pay the bills. So I just
18 want to on the record thank the Gas
19 Commission PGW for their following
20 of the rules with an eye towards
21 humanity. And I want to put that
22 on the record. Thank you so much.

23 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

24 RICHARDSON: Thank you. And thank
25 you so much to Councilmember Jones

1 and Gail who's here from Wynnefield
2 Heights who has been working
3 diligently with our community
4 members in Wynnefield Heights at
5 Brith Sholom.

6 MS. McCOTTRY: And if I can
7 add just that we care deeply about
8 the residents of Brith Sholom and
9 are wanting to work and continue to
10 support on all the ways that we are
11 able to while we work through this
12 process.

13 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
14 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
15 very, very much.

16 Chair now recognizes
17 Councilmember Thomas.

18 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
19 afternoon. Thank you for being
20 here. Appreciate the work that's
21 being done similar to what my
22 colleague said. Clearly, when
23 folks come down to City Council to
24 testify, most of the time they're
25 not coming to tell us the great job

1 that we're doing.

2 I'm hearing that there's
3 going to be significant testimony
4 from residents on a particular
5 issue and I'm asking that if the
6 residents are looking to testify
7 specifically about issues related
8 to your department, that you just
9 give us your word that you'll stay,
10 listen to their testimony and be
11 willing to work with us for
12 whatever issues are about to be
13 communicated as it relates to the
14 concern of the residents.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. McCOTTRY: We will.

17 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
18 you.

19 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
20 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
21 so very much for being here. We
22 have no additional questions or
23 comments from members of the
24 Committee. And so, we thank you
25 for your testimony.

1 MS. McCOTTRY: Thank you.

2 MS. McCLENDON: Thank you.

3 DR. PATTERSON: Thank you.

4 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

5 RICHARDSON: Thank you.

6 The Chair now recognizes
7 public comment on Bill No. 240417,
8 and I will call you in groups of
9 three, John Sams, Jane Harvey and
10 Rabbi Julie Greenberg and also Tara
11 Faik, Cinthia Ibarra, Peter Furcht,
12 Pamela Darville and Jackson Hart,
13 if you could just come up, and
14 Karen Melton.

15 For each of you, I'd ask
16 that you please state your name for
17 the record. Then proceed with your
18 testimony.

19 (Witnesses approached
20 Witness table.)

21 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

22 RICHARDSON: And if you can, please
23 proceed with a summarized version
24 of your testimony because we do
25 have another Housing hearing at

1 2 o'clock.

2 MR. SAMS: My name is

3 John --

4 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

5 RICHARDSON: Hold on one moment,

6 sir. I also ask that if each

7 person could just pull the mic up

8 so that we could hear you.

9 MR. SAMS: Okay.

10 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

11 RICHARDSON: All right. Okay.

12 Please state your name for the

13 record and proceed with your

14 testimony.

15 MR. SAMS: Okay. My name

16 is John Sams. I'm a resident at

17 Brith Sholom. I've lived there for

18 2-and-a-half years. As far as it

19 goes, we do need the help with the

20 gas if it's turned off. Most of us

21 have no way of taking a shower or

22 at any time. Me, I have electric

23 stove. It takes about a half hour

24 just to heat the water up and it's

25 very, very -- how can I say --

1 hard. For anybody else, they would
2 have to take a cold shower. I
3 don't even like taking a cold
4 shower.

5 But we do need somewhere
6 that's going to help us so that we
7 can have a place that's stable.
8 Most of us don't have anywhere. We
9 have to move. If they shut the
10 place down, I don't know what's
11 going to happen. Living on the
12 streets is no joke. I've lived on
13 the streets already. Don't like
14 it.

15 The ones that's there at
16 the Brith Sholom, done lived there
17 a very long time. For the two
18 years that I've lived there --
19 excuse me. They are very nice
20 people, some of them. But I can't
21 say -- most of the people there are
22 very nice. I've taken them as
23 family, I'll say that.

24 But what's going on right
25 now is not fair. It's not fair at

1 all, not at all. If the gas gets
2 cut off, what are the ones that's
3 going to do right now? It's still
4 people there that are paying rent
5 where they shouldn't have to. The
6 court said no. The owners or
7 so-called people that's there right
8 now, they telling them pay, where
9 they can save their money and move,
10 they have nowhere to go.

11 There are people that's
12 90 -- it's a few people there
13 that's in their 90s. What are they
14 going to do? It don't make sense.
15 It's wrong. It's wrong. The
16 people can't even mail, you can't
17 even pick up your mail. Far as the
18 heating -- right now I don't know
19 what else I can say. I'm fed up.

20 The management don't really
21 want to do anything for anybody
22 there. They're heartless. They're
23 heartless, and I'm just here to
24 speak on that. And if some type of
25 budget can be done, willing to

1 work. I've had two letters from
2 PGW asking me to help pay. If I
3 could, I would. I'm on a fixed
4 income. I'm sick myself. I got a
5 defibrillator, pacemaker in my
6 chest. I got COPD, CHF. I done
7 had half my colon taken out. I can
8 barely breathe right now. If I can
9 help, I would, but I can't.

10 I'm taking one day at a
11 time like everybody else. I've
12 joined the American Legion. I do
13 what I can. I love America. I
14 served the country. I still do
15 what I can, but life goes on. So
16 for Brith Sholom, love it. The
17 place is nice. Can sit outside,
18 enjoy the air, the people, nice
19 area, but you can't really do --
20 you really can't enjoy it right now
21 because you go over there right
22 now, it's almost like a desert.

23 The people there, they want
24 you to go. They just -- I don't
25 know what else to say. That's

1 about all. Appreciate your time.

2 Thank you. Please, PGW, help us.

3 We need your help.

4 (Applause.)

5 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

6 RICHARDSON: Well, we thank you for

7 your service and we thank you for

8 being here and for providing

9 testimony.

10 I wanted to recognize our

11 District member Councilmember

12 Jones.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank

14 you, Madam Chair.

15 And thank you again, PGW,

16 for hearing that and understanding

17 the plight of the residents of

18 Brith Sholom. But it raises a

19 greater question, colleagues, that

20 this is not -- we didn't get here

21 out of coincidence or something

22 that the residents did. The owners

23 of Brith Sholom bought that

24 property as investors expecting a

25 rate of return and they took -- and

1 I really -- this is a matter of the
2 court, it's in the courts. There
3 was a hearing. It is at the next
4 hearing.

5 Their fate is being
6 decided. Who wants to live day-to-
7 day with the sort of Damocles
8 hanging over their heads. These
9 are veterans, these are seniors.
10 There are some people with
11 disabilities that don't need this
12 stress.

13 With that said, the City of
14 Philadelphia and I thank the Mayor
15 for taking this bull by the horns
16 to try to figure it out. There are
17 things I cannot say that are being
18 negotiated as we speak. But one of
19 the things, we've offered my
20 members on Friday to take a tour --

21 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

22 RICHARDSON: Right.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: -- to go
24 see how things are and to see what
25 conditions they live in. And I

1 think, and more importantly than
2 just Brith Sholom, that's the tip
3 of the iceberg of many Philadelphia
4 properties that are under water
5 just like this, from Center City
6 all the way to the neighborhoods,
7 where unscrupulous buyers go in --
8 it's right out of the movie
9 Casino -- where they buy it, they
10 get it appraised. They take all
11 the equity out, don't put any
12 improvements back in, almost to
13 kind of raid the value of the
14 property.

15 And what is as bad and
16 creates a conundrum is that when
17 you don't invest in elevators, when
18 you don't invest in HVAC, when you
19 don't upgrade the electrical so
20 that in the summer they don't have
21 power failures in 90 degree heat,
22 they're living in conditions that
23 L&I has to look at. And it puts
24 the City in a catch 22.

25 And we have to take a step

1 as a City to say that we're going
2 to recognize bad actors and we're
3 going to step in and make the
4 repairs for them and we're going to
5 put liens on the property so that
6 if at some point they sell those
7 properties for profit, the City
8 gets its money back.

9 (Applause.)

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: At the
11 end of the day, let's not be
12 fooled. Brith Sholom is right down
13 the street from Fairmount Park,
14 couple blocks from City Avenue. If
15 this property was in New York City,
16 it would be worth 10 times as much
17 as it is. But speculators from all
18 over the world are looking at
19 Philadelphia and its undervalued
20 market to say, hmm, here's an
21 opportunity for us to swoop in at
22 the cost of the residents who have
23 lived there for decades.

24 And I'm going to just say
25 this and I'm going to get off my

1 horse because we got a hearing to
2 run. It is not just the fact that
3 they're facing relocation. You're
4 talking about familiar
5 relationships that they know on
6 Friday who does the fried chicken
7 dinners. They know on Saturday who
8 does the hair. They know their way
9 on public transportation to their
10 doctors' appointments. To uproot
11 them in this manner, some of them
12 in the fourth quarter of their
13 life, is cruel and unusual
14 punishment. And we as a City have
15 to step in.

16 Thank you, Madam Chair.

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

19 RICHARDSON: We thank you,
20 Councilmember Jones.

21 And I will say to all of
22 you here that Councilmember Jones
23 has been sounding the alarm on this
24 issue for a very long time, and
25 it's been important needed advocacy

1 internally to ensure that all
2 members of Council recognize this
3 issue, because what's happening in
4 the 4th is going to happen
5 somewhere else, and it is happening
6 elsewhere.

7 Even in our area, I mean
8 I've even been down to Pavilion
9 when those generators have been
10 out, walking up those steps, up and
11 down the steps all night long
12 helping to get our seniors out of
13 the building and working with OEM
14 to ensure that everyone is safe
15 overnight, and working with
16 Councilmember Jones' office and
17 staff very closely on all of this.

18 And so, we have a lot of
19 work to do. But I want to thank
20 you for your leadership on this
21 issue, Councilmember Jones, and for
22 the work that I know we will
23 continue to do together to solve
24 this issue.

25 If you could please state

1 your name for the record and
2 proceed with your testimony.

3 MR. KOHALNI: Hi. Steve
4 Kohalni. I'm a resident at Brith
5 Sholom, and I'm sure you guys are
6 getting tired of seeing my face,
7 but it's nice to see you all again.
8 Councilwoman Richardson, thank you
9 so much for the opportunity.
10 Councilman Thomas, thank you for
11 your kind words. That's very
12 supportive. And, Councilman Jones,
13 I don't even have words to tell you
14 how much I appreciate you really
15 get us. I don't want to speak for
16 everybody, but I feel like you're
17 really getting us. I mean, that's
18 it.

19 I just want to live the
20 rest of my life, go see my doctors,
21 blah, blah, blah, everything that
22 you said. I echo everything that
23 John said. God bless him. And I
24 got two things, everything that
25 we're talking about here today.

1 One, thank you for PGW not
2 turning my power off, my gas. It's
3 nice to be able to take a warm
4 shower. When you get older, cold
5 showers are just not for you, you
6 know. Being able to wash my dishes
7 is a big deal. So I really do
8 appreciate PGW for continuing to
9 give us the gas and of course for
10 the electric company. I mean, you
11 know, we would be dying. What John
12 said, there's people in that
13 building that really need power
14 just to be able to breathe. So I
15 appreciate them for keeping things
16 on.

17 And my second thing that
18 hasn't been -- well, yeah,
19 Councilmember Richardson, you
20 touched on this. It's clear that
21 they want us out. And even if the
22 City buys the building, my feeling
23 is that we're going to have to move
24 out for some time period anyway.

25 So that's what I would like

1 to see is help in finding a place
2 to live. I've looked. And you may
3 agree that the city of Philadelphia
4 has a housing shortage, so I am not
5 finding apartments in my price
6 range anywhere.

7 Well, pretty please with
8 sugar on top, that would be the
9 other thing, not everybody -- and I
10 don't want to move. You know, I
11 told you guys this the last time I
12 saw you. I'd like to stay where I
13 am. I really like it there. I
14 feel safe. I like the people that
15 I live with. There's some really
16 nice freaking people there.

17 I understand that you're
18 coming to visit us on Friday. God
19 bless you for that. Talk to some
20 of these people. Some of my
21 neighbors are really, you know,
22 these are nurses and professional
23 people. And as you said,
24 Councilman Jones, they're like in
25 the fourth quarter. I'm one of the

1 youngest people there, you know.

2 And I told you the last
3 time I've been through the shelter
4 system in Philadelphia. And God
5 bless you for that. I know I'll
6 survive that if I have to go back
7 into that. But my neighbors, a lot
8 of them aren't going to be able to
9 do that. So they really, really
10 need your help in -- for those that
11 want in finding a place to live
12 because that is just not easy.

13 A lot of folks have family
14 members that have, I don't know,
15 moved them, you know, so they've
16 got other support. But then
17 there's a lot of people that don't
18 have any support. So anyway, all
19 right. Thank you so much for the
20 time. I appreciate it. And thank
21 you so much for your effort and
22 caring. That's the hardest thing
23 is finding somebody that really
24 gives a damn. Thank you so much.
25 I appreciate it.

1 (Applause.)

2 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

3 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
4 again, Steve. Thank you for
5 joining us again in Council.

6 And I just wanted to state
7 for the record because I understand
8 that our Office of Homeless
9 Services has been working with this
10 group. And I want to thank them
11 for working with the individuals at
12 Brith Sholom during this time. And
13 I know that working together with
14 OHS that they'll be able to help as
15 many of you as possible with the
16 issues that you all are facing.
17 Okay. And so, I just wanted to put
18 that on the record to say thank you
19 to OHS who's been working with the
20 residents at Brith Sholom.

21 If you could please state
22 your name for the record and
23 proceed with your testimony.

24 MS. GREENBERG: Julie
25 Greenberg.

1 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

2 RICHARDSON: Okay. Please proceed
3 with your testimony.

4 MS. GREENBERG: Thank you,
5 Councilmembers. I direct the
6 Climate Justice and Jobs work at
7 POWER Interfaith. And I want to
8 start by saying that POWER
9 Interfaith stands with our
10 neighbors at Brith Sholom. PGW
11 should not cut off the energy in
12 their time of need.

13 We've talked with
14 constituents in every district
15 across the City and we work with a
16 couple foundational values that
17 come up from the communities.
18 Everyone deserves to have access to
19 the energy they need at a rate they
20 can afford. And we need a rapid
21 and just transition from fossil
22 fuels to clean renewable energy in
23 order to protect the health and
24 well-being of people here in
25 Philadelphia and around the world.

1 For these reasons, we need
2 City Council to provide much more
3 robust oversight and direction to
4 PGW, our publicly-owned gas
5 utility. We and partners across
6 the City are developing lots of
7 ideas about what specifically is
8 needed over the long-term and today
9 we want to repeat an immediate
10 request for amending the capital
11 budget ordinance that we've shared
12 with Councilmembers in a sign-on
13 letter.

14 We disagree with the
15 opinion that the Gas Commission has
16 relied on. Our attorney has filed
17 a detailed brief about why we
18 strongly disagree. PGW should not
19 be allowed to spend \$19 million on
20 new gas infrastructure without
21 complying with the law to do a
22 cost-benefit analysis.

23 We also want to address a
24 proposal from the Gas Commission to
25 limit the role of the public in

1 shaping future PGW budgets. We
2 need to have a voice in our energy
3 future. PGW is -- the Gas
4 Commission is trying to limit the
5 role of the public in these
6 discussions.

7 This isn't a new
8 conversation. We've been
9 testifying at City Council hearings
10 about PGW for five years already.
11 And with legal representation,
12 we've been intervening in
13 regulatory proceedings before the
14 Philadelphia Gas Commission and the
15 PA Public Utility Commission for
16 three years now.

17 But as utility costs
18 escalate and the climate emergency
19 grows increasingly urgent, the need
20 for City Council to take action is
21 greater than ever. We call on City
22 Council to provide much more
23 oversight and direction for PGW.
24 My colleagues will share a little
25 more. Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

3 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
4 very much for your testimony, I'll
5 say your insightful testimony which
6 is generating much conversation
7 amongst the Committee. But we
8 thank you very, very much for being
9 here and for all the advocacy of
10 POWER, because you all were a part
11 of our Climate Advocacy Committee
12 when I was Chair of Council's
13 Committee on the Environment.

14 And so, I thank you for
15 that work and everything that you
16 all have been doing --

17 MS. GREENBERG: Thank you
18 for all of your work.

19 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

20 RICHARDSON: -- to show up and
21 represent in this space. And thank
22 you for locking arms with the
23 residents at Brith Sholom and
24 following their lead relative to
25 advocacy.

1 Chair now recognizes
2 Councilmember Thomas.

3 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: I just
4 wanted to say thank you for your
5 testimony and also to make sure
6 that you're aware that we did have
7 a hearing as it relates to this
8 particular issue, specifically
9 looking at how do we meet some of
10 our 250 carbon neutrality goals and
11 what we need to do to work with PGW
12 and other partners. That
13 conversation will be continued this
14 fall.

15 So please look out for a
16 date for a hearing specifically
17 looking to address some of the
18 concerns that you communicated and
19 figure out how do we work with our
20 utility partners to make sure that
21 we're doing the best job that we
22 possibly can.

23 MS. GREENBERG: Thank you
24 so much. And if you would contest
25 their position on June 11th, that

1 they don't want the public, they
2 don't want POWER and other
3 community groups involved in these
4 conversations, we would like to be
5 part of shaping our energy future.

6 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Well,
7 I'll tell you this: When we do the
8 hearing, the conversation will be
9 public. You'll be allowed to come
10 participate in public testimony and
11 we'll make sure that the platform
12 exists for you to be able to
13 communicate some of the concerns
14 that you have. And we'll ask that
15 all of our utility partners be open
16 to the conversation and be willing
17 to listen to insight, not just from
18 this legislative branch but from
19 constituents that they serve in
20 general. So thank you for your
21 advocacy.

22 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

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

25 And for the record, we have

1 16 additional witnesses that need
2 to testify for this hearing today,
3 several other bills and
4 resolutions.

5 We have another Committee
6 hearing at 2 o'clock. We have
7 another Committee hearing slated at
8 4 o'clock. I respectfully request
9 that everyone please at this time
10 give us the summarized version of
11 your testimony and that's with all
12 due respect. I do not mean to rush
13 you, but we have a very robust
14 hearing schedule today and we need
15 to get through all of these bills
16 and resolutions in this Committee
17 in order to move our City's budget
18 forward. Okay.

19 And so, please if you could
20 just summarize your testimony and
21 state your name for the record.
22 Thank you.

23 MS. FAYIK: Tara Fayik.
24 I'm here today with POWER
25 Interfaith as an organizer and I'll

1 be reading the first part of a
2 letter that POWER and our allies
3 recently sent to all of City
4 Council.

5 Dear, City Councilmembers,
6 we write to ask for your leadership
7 in achieving safe, affordable
8 energy for all Philadelphians and
9 in protecting a livable climate.
10 This spring City Council will
11 approve a Fiscal Year 2025 capital
12 budget for Philadelphia Gas Works.

13 When you review the
14 proposed budget, we ask you to
15 enforce existing City law by
16 requiring PGW to produce a thorough
17 cost-benefit analysis subject to
18 public scrutiny for all load growth
19 projects before investment in those
20 projects is approved.

21 Such an amendment will
22 protect ratepayers, particularly
23 low-income residents who struggle
24 with unaffordable energy bills. It
25 will also start to bring PGW's

1 budgeting process into alignment
2 with our City's 2050 carbon
3 neutrality goal. In addition, it
4 will uphold City law.

5 As part of its budget
6 proposal, PGW has requested
7 authorization to spend 19 million
8 next year building gas
9 infrastructure to supply new
10 customers referred to as Load
11 Growth Projects in the official
12 budget documents.

13 The capital program
14 protocols that City Council has
15 enacted as binding law require PGW
16 to substantiate proposed load
17 growth projects with a showing that
18 they will produce an acceptable
19 return on investment. However, PGW
20 has not conducted any analysis
21 demonstrating that the proposed
22 projects will have a positive
23 return on investment. Thank you.

24 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

25 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you

1 very much for your testimony.

2 Please state your name for
3 the record and proceed with your
4 testimony.

5 MS. IBARRA: Cinthia
6 Ibarra. My name is Cinthia Ibarra
7 and I'm here as a member of the
8 Housing Equity Repair and
9 Electrification for Climate Justice
10 Coalition. We're here for Climate
11 Justice for short. To continue
12 with our letter, I'll add that
13 earlier this spring POWER
14 Interfaith intervened in the Gas
15 Commission's capital budget
16 proceeding.

17 POWER recommended that the
18 Commission uphold City law by
19 requiring PGW to file cost-benefit
20 analysis for each project before
21 they could be approved and
22 subjecting these analysis to public
23 review. However, the Commission
24 rejected the expert testimony and
25 legal arguments that POWER and

1 their attorney submitted. Instead
2 the Commission approved
3 expenditures of \$19 million for
4 load growth projects without
5 requiring the cost-benefit analysis
6 that are mandated by law.

7 If City Council upholds the
8 Commission's decision, ratepayers
9 may end up subsidizing fossil fuel
10 infrastructure projects that fail
11 to produce a positive return for
12 the utility. Careful analysis of
13 proposed load growth expenditures
14 is a sound business practice at any
15 time, but it is especially
16 important now during a time of
17 unprecedented climate change and
18 rapid technology shifts that are
19 leading to less, not more, fossil
20 fuel use.

21 City Council Former Mayor
22 Jim Kenney and our new Mayor
23 Cherelle Parker have issued
24 resolutions, executive orders and
25 plans that commit Philadelphia to

1 achieve net zero greenhouse gas
2 emissions by no later than 2050.
3 Reaching this goal would require
4 phasing out the use of fossil
5 fuels, including gas in most
6 buildings across the City over the
7 next 25 years.

8 A shift towards the use of
9 electricity for space heating,
10 water heating and cooking has
11 already begun. That shift will
12 accelerate as residents and
13 businesses take advantage of
14 federal tax credits, grants and
15 rebates made available through the
16 Inflation Reduction Act. Lastly, I
17 also want to briefly uplift the ask
18 that City Council step in to
19 prevent a PGW gas shut-off at Brith
20 Sholom. Thank you.

21 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

22 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
23 very much for your testimony and
24 for being here today.

25 If you could please state

1 your name for the record. Proceed
2 with your summarized testimony.

3 MR. FURCHT: My name is
4 Peter Furcht, also a member of
5 POWER Interfaith. I will read the
6 last part of this letter. We
7 should expect demand for natural
8 gas to decline rapidly in
9 Philadelphia in the coming years.
10 Under those circumstances, there is
11 a significant risk that many
12 investments in new gas
13 infrastructure may not produce a
14 positive return on investment. We
15 need thorough cost-benefit analyses
16 in order to determine whether or
17 not it is sensible for PGW to carry
18 out each load growth project or if
19 it would be necessary to impose
20 additional charges on new customers
21 in order to cover the cost of those
22 projects.

23 PGW's proposed budget is
24 not aligned with the City's 2050
25 carbon neutrality goal. It does

1 not account for the accelerating
2 pace of building electrification
3 and investment in building
4 efficiency upgrades in our city and
5 it ignores the PGW capital program
6 protocols that City Council has
7 enacted.

8 City Council must act to
9 protect ratepayers and ensure that
10 PGW follows City law. We urgently
11 need your leadership. Thank you.
12 And this was signed by POWER
13 Interfaith Citizens Climate Lobby
14 Philly Chapter, Clean Air Council,
15 Green Party of Pennsylvania and
16 Philadelphia, Penn Environment,
17 PennFuture, Philly DSA, Philly
18 Thrive, Physicians for Social
19 Responsible PA and Sierra Club PA.

20 That's the end of the
21 letter. I also stand behind Brith
22 Sholom and want to point out that
23 Brith Sholom is not the only
24 building in Philadelphia that has
25 these issues that you need to be

1 looking at, many more, coming up
2 with a wider policy.

3 (Applause.)

4 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

5 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
6 very much for your testimony.
7 Thank you for representing so many
8 groups.

9 Okay. If you could state
10 your name for the record and
11 proceed with your summarized
12 version of your testimony.

13 MS. DARVILLE: Okay. Sure.
14 Thank you. My name is Pamela
15 Darville and I live in Germantown
16 section of Philadelphia. I'm the
17 Co-chairperson of POWER's Climate
18 Justice and Jobs Act. I just want
19 to say I'm not an environmentalist.
20 Don't ask me how a heat pump works.
21 I don't know.

22 But what I do know is this:
23 I was born and raised in Miami,
24 Florida, the Liberty City section.
25 And I know what it's like to

1 experience being unbearably hot,
2 and I know what it's like to grow
3 up in a neighborhood that has no
4 trees or parks, swimming pools. As
5 a kid I sat in my house during a
6 hurricane praying that the roof
7 didn't fly off the house.

8 Our climate is getting
9 hotter. We need some action. I
10 just read that in Phoenix close to
11 700 people died because of the
12 heat, so this has to be addressed.
13 The fact that PGW is asking for
14 this enormous amount to expand this
15 infrastructure is unacceptable.
16 The fact that they are not
17 transitioning to clean energy and a
18 way in which it makes sense is
19 unacceptable.

20 As I said, I'm not an
21 environmentalist, but I'm somebody
22 that cares. I care about this
23 city. I care about the fact that
24 we have areas in a city where it is
25 so hot that people are dying. This

1 earth is warming. We need to do
2 something about it. And you know
3 what, we have a state Constitution
4 that mandates that the people in
5 this city enjoy clean air and clean
6 water. That's a mandate. And the
7 fact that PGW ignores that is
8 unacceptable.

9 Now, the fact that the Gas
10 Commission is going to probably
11 approve on June 11th the fact that
12 third parties can no longer engage
13 in budget proceedings is
14 unacceptable.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. DARVILLE: City Council
17 should look at that and they should
18 say no. You know why, because it
19 gives PGW a cloak of no
20 transparency at all, no
21 accountability at all. So I'm here
22 to say the people need to know
23 what's going on. They need to be
24 aware of what's happening. The
25 fact that PGW continues this

1 position that they are not
2 accountable to the people even
3 though they are owned by the people
4 is unacceptable.

5 Please just don't rubber-
6 stamp with what PGW puts forth. It
7 is not business as usual today.
8 People are suffering out there and
9 they're going to continue to suffer
10 unless some action is taken.

11 So, City Council, please
12 say no to the Gas Commission
13 excluding people from participating
14 in their budget proceedings. City
15 Council, please support Brith
16 Sholom.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

18 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
19 very much for your testimony.

20 (Applause.)

21 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

22 RICHARDSON: Please state your name
23 for the record. Proceed with your
24 summarized testimony.

25 MR. HART: Okay. Hello.

1 My name is Jackson Hart. I'll keep
2 this quick. I'm here today as
3 representative of Philly DSA, the
4 Democratic Socialist of America.
5 We work in a coalition with POWER
6 Interfaith, Clean Air Council,
7 Sierra Club and many, many other
8 local organizations. I'm also here
9 as an apprentice in the electrical
10 trade.

11 See, two years ago I took a
12 good hard look at the state of the
13 world and I saw the impacts of
14 climate change. I saw power
15 outages, forest fires, flooding,
16 air pollution, poverty and how all
17 this greatly harms Black and Brown
18 communities disproportionately.
19 Everything I was reading said we
20 need to drastically cut fossil fuel
21 use, expand the electrical grid and
22 retrofit our buildings.

23 Electrification is key and
24 we need people to do that work.
25 There's a shortage of trade workers

1 and not enough electrical workers.

2 So I left my desk job and went to
3 trade school.

4 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

5 RICHARDSON: Wow.

6 MR. HART: I want a job in
7 demand and one that gives me
8 purpose. And being an electrician
9 is pretty awesome, honestly. So
10 what I'm seeing in the field of
11 residential wiring is homeowners
12 replacing their gas-powered
13 appliances as much as possible, not
14 just for cost savings -- and we all
15 know about those PGW bills -- but
16 they're also concerned about
17 safety.

18 Natural gas is methane.
19 It's a highly combustible gas. Ask
20 the people of Port Richmond, and
21 it's proven to cause respiratory
22 problems, especially child asthma.
23 Folks who can afford to decarbonize
24 are doing it because it's the right
25 thing to do and the return on

1 investment makes good sense to
2 them.

3 Meanwhile in Massachusetts,
4 the first utility-run thermal
5 network came online yesterday.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. HART: Good for them,
8 right. So when I see that the
9 Finance Committee is entertaining
10 PGW's budget without the legally
11 required cost-benefit analysis, I'm
12 baffled. Is there a concept of an
13 ROI regarding new pipes and
14 hookups? And I don't just mean
15 financially. I'm also talking
16 about the reality of climate change
17 and the health and future of
18 Philadelphians.

19 We can make much better
20 sense and here's how: One, City
21 Council should follow its own
22 rules. Do not spend our money
23 without a cost-benefit analysis
24 from PGW and then have an
25 accountant check the math. Two,

1 listen to us. This coalition has
2 been begging our City leaders to
3 hear our concerns for years. We
4 could be doing other things. We
5 could all take up new hobbies and
6 have shorter Finance hearings if we
7 make No. 3 happen. Act, make good
8 financial, moral and future-
9 thinking decisions because the
10 people of Philadelphia cannot
11 afford the status quo. Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

14 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
15 very, very much for your testimony
16 and thank you for being here.

17 Is there any further
18 witnesses for Bill No. 240417?

19 MR. CHANIN: I'll be real
20 quick.

21 (Witness approached Witness
22 table.)

23 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

24 RICHARDSON: State your name for
25 the record and proceed with your

1 testimony. How are you feeling.

2 MR. CHANIN: Thanks so
3 much. Thanks, Councilmember
4 Gilmore Richardson and other
5 members of Council. My name is
6 Mitch Chanin. I also work with
7 POWER Interfaith as well as DSA.
8 I'm not going to talk about the
9 fossil fuel issues right now. I
10 just wanted to add a note about the
11 Brith Sholom situation.

12 So I am not a tenant there,
13 but I wanted to just share a little
14 more info. So from what I
15 understand, there is a temporary
16 reprieve because of medical
17 certificates that were filed and
18 that is required by state law. So
19 what PGW has done as far as I
20 understand is just comply with the
21 law and give people a month and
22 then there can be another month of
23 a temporary halt on the shut-off
24 when and if medical certificates
25 are renewed.

1 After that time, from what
2 I understand the shut-off notice
3 will be in effect once again. And
4 so, also from what I understand
5 PECO, which is an investor-owned
6 utility, not publicly-owned, has
7 not elected to threaten shut-off
8 and is instead taking action to
9 recover the money that they are
10 owed from the building owner, who
11 is the one who's actually
12 responsible.

13 So it's great that people
14 have a temporary reprieve but what
15 happens after that. In six weeks
16 or so when the medical certificates
17 can no longer delay a shut-off what
18 is going to happen? And so, again
19 I am not a Brith Sholom tenant, but
20 I've been meeting and talking with
21 folks.

22 And I hope Council will
23 take action to put pressure on PGW
24 to ensure that there is not a shut-
25 off once those medical certificates

1 expire. PGW should do the same
2 thing that PECO is doing and try to
3 get payment from the people who
4 actually owe them the money, the
5 building owners. The tenants are
6 not responsible for this. So I'll
7 leave it there and I appreciate
8 your time.

9 (Applause.)

10 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

11 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
12 so much, Mitch.

13 Is there anyone here to
14 testify on Bill No. 240417.

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

17 RICHARDSON: Okay. Seeing none, we
18 will now proceed to Bill No.
19 240416.

20 THE CLERK: Tavare Brown.

21 (Witnesses approached
22 Witness table.)

23 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

24 RICHARDSON: Okay. And if you
25 could just state your name for the

1 record and proceed with your
2 testimony.

3 MR. BROWN: How's everyone
4 doing? I'm Tavaré Brown, Deputy
5 Budget Director and I'm here
6 with --

7 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

8 RICHARDSON: We can't hear you.

9 MR. BROWN: All right. You
10 know, shout out to the vertically
11 challenged people. So I'm Tavaré
12 Brown, Deputy Budget Director, and
13 I'm here with Jackie Dunn, City
14 Treasurer. So good afternoon,
15 Gilmore -- Chair Gilmore Richardson
16 and members of the Finance
17 Committee. I'm trying to do this
18 fast. My name is Tavaré Brown,
19 Deputy Budget Director for Capital,
20 and I'm joined by Jackie Dunn, City
21 Treasurer. We're here today to
22 testify in support of Bill No.
23 240416, which was introduced on May
24 9, 2024.

25 The purpose of the bill is

1 to obtain approval from the City
2 Council to authorize an increase in
3 non-electoral indebtedness in the
4 City within the Pennsylvania
5 constitutional limit. The loan in
6 question requests an increase in
7 indebtedness in the amount not to
8 exceed \$311 million to fund the
9 City's FY2025 Capital Budget. The
10 FY25 loan authorization will be
11 amended to reflect any applicable
12 amendments to the FY25 capital
13 budget. So if things change, then
14 we'll amend this in the future.

15 As of May 31, 2024, the
16 City's legal debt limit is 17.133
17 billion. And the amount of the
18 debt applicable to that debt limit
19 is 2.533 billion. As a result, the
20 City has a debt margin of about
21 14.6 billion. The FY25 capital
22 budget for a New General Obligation
23 or GO bonds is approximately 298.67
24 million.

25 The proposed ordinance

1 includes the New GO loan amount
2 plus an additional 4 percent for a
3 cost of issuance. This brings the
4 loan authorization amount to
5 approximately \$311 million. And
6 the loan authorization, if
7 approved, would finance capital
8 projects in a number of categories,
9 which include transit, streets and
10 sanitation, municipal buildings,
11 parks, recreations and museums,
12 economic and community development
13 for a total of \$311 million. On
14 our written form, we have kind of
15 broken out by the numbers per
16 category.

17 And then I respectfully
18 request that you report Bill No.
19 240416 out of Committee with a
20 favorable recommendation. And I
21 further request that the rules of
22 the Council be suspended so as to
23 permit the first reading at the
24 next session of Council. The FY25
25 loan authorization will be amended

1 to reflect any applicable
2 amendments to the FY25 budget.
3 This concludes my testimony and
4 I'll be happy to answer any
5 questions.

6 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

7 RICHARDSON: Well, thank you.
8 Thank you very much for your
9 testimony. And again, thank you
10 for meeting with my team and I on
11 this bill and others. So I don't
12 have any questions as of right now.

13 Are there any other
14 questions or comments from members
15 of the Committee?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

18 RICHARDSON: And obviously, you
19 know this is depending upon our
20 process, but we thank you all very,
21 very much for being here today and
22 for your testimony. Thank you so
23 much.

24 Okay. We will now proceed.
25 Is there anyone else here to

1 testify on Bill No. 240416?

2 (No response.)

3 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

4 RICHARDSON: Anyone else here to

5 testify on Bill No. 240416?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

8 RICHARDSON: Seeing none, we will

9 now proceed with Bill No. 240467.

10 THE CLERK: Dr. Frank

11 Franklin, Katherine Levins and

12 Robert Brooks.

13 (Witnesses approached

14 Witness table.)

15 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

16 RICHARDSON: Okay. Thank you very,

17 very much. Please state your name

18 for the record and proceed with

19 your testimony.

20 DR. FRANKLIN: Good

21 afternoon. Dr. Frank Franklin for

22 the Department of Public Health.

23 Chair Gilmore Richardson and

24 Councilmembers, I serve as the

25 Interim Health Commissioner, and

1 joining me today is Ryan Taylor,
2 Chief Operating Officer.

3 I'm pleased to say in a few
4 words about my support for Bill
5 240467 related to the Philadelphia
6 Hospital Assessment, which is
7 before you today. First, let me
8 provide a little background. The
9 purpose of this ordinance is to
10 renew an existing assessment that
11 has been in place since 2009. I
12 hope you will join with past
13 Philadelphia City Councils to
14 approve this ordinance with the
15 same strong support as they did.

16 In fact, the ordinance
17 before you expands the program to
18 include additional hospitals,
19 specifically children's hospitals
20 and cancer hospitals. This
21 assessment allows the City and the
22 state to generate federal Medicaid
23 matching funds for a program that
24 brings federal money to
25 Philadelphia. As you know,

1 Medicaid is a program that provides
2 health insurance to people with low
3 or no income. This ordinance
4 mirrors enabling state legislation
5 that is expected to pass in
6 Harrisburg.

7 Next, I want to talk about
8 who benefits from this hospital
9 assessment. First, hospitals
10 benefit. Overall hospitals receive
11 more in federal Medicaid funding
12 each year than they would without
13 this assessment. There are federal
14 dollars that would otherwise not
15 flow into our City. As you know,
16 our hospitals are large employers
17 and provide critical health
18 services for low-income
19 Philadelphians.

20 This assessment has broad
21 support among our City's hospitals
22 and has such support for many
23 years. Through their letters of
24 support and representatives here
25 today, the hospitals have expressed

1 their support this year as well.
2 Second, the City's Health
3 Department also benefits. This
4 assessment provides funding
5 annually to the City Health Centers
6 and other public health program
7 programs in the city of
8 Philadelphia. This helps us to
9 defray the cost of administering
10 the assessment and provides funding
11 that increases our ability to serve
12 the very same patients who benefit
13 from Medicaid, those living in
14 poverty.

15 Third, and most
16 importantly, Philadelphians living
17 in poverty benefit. They benefit
18 by having better access to health
19 care when they need it. This
20 assessment has a strong support and
21 approval from our state legislature
22 as well as federal centers for
23 Medicaid and Medicare services or
24 CMS. I would like to add my strong
25 support also.

1 Lastly, I would like to
2 address the amendment to the
3 ordinance, which has been provided
4 to the Committee. The Philadelphia
5 Hospital Assessment requires
6 several federal approvals, one of
7 which is the approval of the
8 assessment itself. Earlier this
9 month the PA Department of Human
10 Services or DHS submitted
11 information to CMS seeking approval
12 of the assessment structure.

13 Based on the information
14 provided to CMS, a modification to
15 the assessment structure has been
16 deemed to be necessary. In order
17 to structure the assessment in a
18 way that stays as close to the
19 otherwise proposed assessment
20 framework as possible while also
21 adhering to CMS's requirements, DHS
22 is proposing to add a separate
23 assessment rate for high volume
24 Medicaid hospitals without changing
25 the assessment percentages for

1 other hospitals.

2 Accordingly, the assessment
3 rate for high volume Medicaid
4 hospitals as defined in the City
5 ordinance is now proposed to be 2.6
6 percent. The assessment rate for
7 children's hospitals will remain at
8 2 percent as originally proposed.

9 The assessment rate for all other
10 hospitals subject to the assessment
11 will remain at 3.9 percent as
12 originally proposed. Temple
13 University Hospital is the high
14 volume Medicaid hospital that will
15 be impacted by this change.

16 I want to thank the
17 Committee for its consideration of
18 this ordinance, and I respectfully
19 request that the rules of the
20 Council be suspended so that the
21 bill may have its first reading at
22 the next meeting of Council. We
23 are available for any questions
24 that the Committee may have at this
25 time.

1 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
2 you very much, Commissioner, for
3 your testimony today.

4 Any questions from the
5 panel?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: No,
8 okay. Thank you very much.

9 Did you have something that
10 you wanted to add?

11 MR. TAYLOR: No.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.
13 All right. Well, listen, thank you
14 very much for being here today and
15 we appreciate your testimony.

16 Can we have the Clerk call
17 the next panel of witnesses to
18 testify.

19 THE CLERK: Katherine
20 Levins, Robert Brooks.

21 (Witnesses approached
22 Witness table.)

23 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good
24 afternoon. Hi, Kathy. How are
25 you?

1 MS. LEVINS: Doing well,
2 Councilwoman.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So
4 please state your name for the
5 record and proceed with your
6 testimony.

7 MS. LEVINS: Yes. Good
8 afternoon. My name is Katherine
9 Levins. I'm Vice-president of
10 Government Affairs and Public
11 Policy for the Temple University
12 Health System. Thank you for
13 holding this hearing today on a
14 very important topic.

15 On behalf of Temple
16 University Health System, I want to
17 express our firm support for Bill
18 No. 240467. This legislation
19 revises provisions of The
20 Philadelphia Code, establishing a
21 model for the reauthorization of
22 the Philadelphia Hospital
23 Assessment for state Fiscal Years
24 2024-25 through 2028-29 and
25 authorizes the Philadelphia

1 Department of Health to enter into
2 an intergovernmental agreement with
3 the Commonwealth to effectuate this
4 model.

5 To illustrate the
6 significance of this assessment, I
7 want to share some background on
8 Temple Health. Through our
9 physicians, nurses and our
10 employees of Temple Hospital, Fox
11 Chase Cancer Center and Chestnut
12 Hill Hospital, we provide
13 comprehensive services to improve
14 the health and quality of living in
15 the neighborhoods we serve.

16 Our hospitals provide
17 indispensable health services to
18 the residents of Philadelphia,
19 which is the largest city in
20 America that does not have a public
21 hospital. Among Pennsylvania's
22 full service safety net providers,
23 Temple University Hospital serves
24 the greatest volume and the highest
25 percentage of patients covered by

1 Medicaid.

2 In addition to our main
3 campus on North Broad Street,
4 Temple Hospital includes our
5 Episcopal, Northeastern, Jeanes and
6 our future women's campus, all of
7 which provide valuable services to
8 many of Philadelphia's less-
9 advantaged residents.

10 Located in Kensington, our
11 Episcopal campus is known for its
12 recovery-oriented behavioral health
13 treatment programs, offering a
14 welcoming approach for those who
15 are affected by mental illness and
16 co-occurring disorders. Temple
17 serves as a critical access point
18 for public health services. We
19 cared last year for over 150,000
20 patients in our emergency
21 department, about 11,000 in our
22 psychiatric response center, 1,600
23 in our inpatient behavioral health
24 unit and delivered about 2,000
25 infants. About 86 percent of our

1 inpatients are covered by
2 government programs, half of whom
3 are covered under Pennsylvania's
4 Medicaid program.

5 I turn now to the Hospital
6 Assessment and explain why this is
7 so important to Temple Health as
8 well as to the City of
9 Philadelphia's health care delivery
10 infrastructure. The fees that the
11 City of Philadelphia collects
12 through the assessment serve as the
13 state share of expenditures that
14 qualify for federal matching funds
15 under Pennsylvania's Medicaid
16 Program.

17 The Assessment Program
18 enables the Commonwealth to provide
19 more adequate reimbursement to
20 hospitals to the care they provide
21 to patients covered by Medicaid.
22 These reimbursements are necessary
23 to ensure continued access to the
24 broad array of high quality medical
25 services upon which philadelphians

1 rely.

2 The reauthorization model
3 under consideration by this Council
4 updates the assessment revenue base
5 from State Fiscal Year 2016-17 to
6 Fiscal Years 2021 to '22. It also
7 reduces the funding risk to the
8 Medicaid Program by shifting a
9 portion of disproportionate share
10 payments to other payment
11 structures, including indirect
12 medical education payments. This
13 reduces the hospital's reliance on
14 disproportionate share payments,
15 which are a potential risk due to
16 the scheduled reduction in the
17 Commonwealth's allotment for
18 disproportionate share payments
19 that are scheduled to take effect
20 next year.

21 Temple Health appreciates
22 the steps that are taken by the
23 Pennsylvania's Department of Human
24 Services and supported by the City
25 to safeguard the Medicaid payments

1 through this change in methodology.
2 At Temple Health's recommendation
3 during a public stakeholder meeting
4 last November, the reauthorization
5 broadens the scope of the
6 assessments to include cancer
7 hospitals, in addition the
8 children's hospitals which were
9 previously excluded.

10 In compliance with federal
11 regulations, the two historic tiers
12 for general acute care hospitals
13 and for high-volume Medicaid
14 hospitals, this broaden scope
15 allows the Medicaid payment
16 increases to include the children's
17 and cancer hospitals while
18 maintaining the program stability
19 for the others.

20 Sixteen years ago before
21 Philadelphia first implemented its
22 Hospital Assessment program,
23 hospitals were receiving less than
24 80 percent of the cost of caring
25 for those covered by Medicaid.

1 This resulted in severe pressures
2 on hospital operations, leading to
3 hospital closures and reductions in
4 its services.

5 The Philadelphia Assessment
6 helped stem these losses by
7 ensuring that hospitals receive
8 more adequate reimbursement. Thus,
9 it is in the best interest of the
10 City and its residents that the
11 Council support this means to
12 secure additional dollars needed to
13 ensure continued access to high-
14 quality equitable health care.

15 In short, the Philadelphia
16 Hospital Assessment is a critical
17 element of Philadelphia's health
18 care delivery system. Therefore, I
19 respectfully urge your continued
20 support for this bill incorporating
21 the amendments presented today. On
22 behalf of the Temple Health family,
23 I thank you for your unwavering
24 commitment to all Philadelphians,
25 especially those who rely on our

1 hospitals and our affiliated
2 physician practices. I'm happy to
3 answer any questions you might
4 have.

5 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

6 RICHARDSON: Well, thank you.
7 Thank you very much for the
8 testimony and to Dr. Frank
9 Franklin, our Interim Health
10 Commissioner, and to you,
11 Katherine, and also Robert. And
12 I'd also like to recognize Bill
13 Ryan from Einstein who I spoke with
14 about this legislation and he
15 actually testified on this bill the
16 last time we had to deal with this
17 Hospital Assessment bill. And then
18 also, Peter Grollman from CHOP, I
19 wanted to thank him and his team,
20 and of course, the Penn Medicine
21 team, Kevin Mahoney, Steve Cobb and
22 the entire team.

23 I just wanted to say thank
24 you to all those that we had the
25 opportunity to speak with in

1 advance of this hearing today. So
2 I'm very grateful for your
3 attendance and for your testimony
4 and for the information that you
5 provided.

6 State your name for the
7 record.

8 MR. BROOKS: I'm Robert
9 Brooks.

10 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

11 RICHARDSON: Yes. Please proceed
12 with your testimony.

13 MR. BROOKS: Good
14 afternoon, Chair Gilmore Richardson
15 and members of the Finance
16 Committee. My name is Robert
17 Brooks and I'm the President and
18 COO of St Christopher's Hospital
19 for Children. I appreciate the
20 opportunity to share information
21 about our work serving children of
22 this community.

23 For almost 150 years,
24 St. Christopher's has provided
25 exceptional pediatric health care

1 to children in the most
2 economically-challenged
3 neighborhoods in Philadelphia. We
4 serve as a vital safety net for
5 countless children and their
6 families. 85 percent of
7 St. Christopher's patients are
8 insured by Medicaid. This is the
9 highest percentage of any
10 children's hospital in America.

11 Since Medicaid
12 reimbursements only cover a
13 fraction of the full cost of
14 providing care, St. Christopher's
15 must seek other support to close
16 that gap. In addition,
17 St. Christopher's is not
18 compensated for the majority of the
19 vital community outreach that we do
20 to address longstanding social
21 inequities that significantly
22 impact the children and the
23 families that we serve.

24 These services include
25 financial assistance to families,

1 legal services and many other
2 programs that help address economic
3 instability, food insecurity,
4 inequities in education,
5 transportation and many more.
6 Despite the challenges, we are
7 proud to provide these additional
8 services and will continue to do so
9 because the children and the
10 families we serve deserve the best
11 possible care regardless of what
12 zip code they are born into.

13 St. Christopher's is a
14 national leader in education. The
15 pediatric physicians, nurses and
16 other health care professionals of
17 the future are trained at
18 St. Chris. 53 colleges and
19 universities send their students to
20 St. Christopher's for pediatric
21 training, including virtually every
22 medical school in Philadelphia,
23 making St. Christopher's one of the
24 most important pediatric training
25 centers in the nation and a

1 critical educational resource for
2 this City.

3 As we speak today, there
4 are 132 medical residents and
5 fellows, 364 visiting medical
6 residents from other schools and
7 over 525 other students learning at
8 St. Christopher's. These are our
9 future health care providers.
10 Finally, the economic contributions
11 that St. Christopher's makes to our
12 surrounding neighborhoods as well
13 as to the City of Philadelphia as a
14 whole and the Commonwealth of
15 Pennsylvania are substantial.

16 St. Christopher's serves as
17 an economic engine helping to
18 sustain the community employing
19 almost 2,000 individuals, 54
20 percent who live in Philadelphia
21 and 85 percent who live in the
22 counties surrounding Pennsylvania.
23 In tax impact, St. Christopher's
24 has \$155 million in payroll that
25 annually contributes 12.2 million

1 in City wage taxes and 12.6 million
2 in state taxes. In addition,
3 because the property that our
4 building is on is owned by a
5 for-profit company and leased back
6 to us to operate, the hospital pays
7 \$341,000 a year in real estate
8 taxes.

9 In conclusion, please know
10 that Philadelphia Assessment will
11 have a significant impact on
12 St. Christopher's Hospital for
13 Children and the young patients and
14 families that we serve. It will
15 allow us to access the federal
16 resources with City and state
17 approval to continue to operate and
18 provide care for the medically
19 underserved children in North
20 Philadelphia for the foreseeable
21 future. This is truly a lifeline
22 that provides stability and
23 predictability for our future.
24 Thank you for your time today and
25 I'm happy to answer any questions.

1 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

2 RICHARDSON: Well, thank you again.
3 Thank you for your testimony and
4 thank you for being here. We
5 appreciate your testimony today.

6 Are there any questions or
7 comments for witnesses for this
8 panel?

9 The Chair now recognizes
10 Councilmember Jones.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: So I
12 just want to thank you guys for the
13 valuable service you provide to our
14 constituents. In the case of
15 Einstein, one of your favorite
16 patients thanks you, and the way
17 you have treated her, my mother-in-
18 law for the record, making her feel
19 like an extended part of the
20 hospital family not just because
21 she's my mother-in-law but because
22 she's a constituent, taxpayer. And
23 for a hospital and institutions
24 like Temple as well to do these
25 things, you are a good neighbor.

1 You are an employer, taxpayer, all
2 those good things because wage
3 taxes count too.

4 I just want to say in the
5 case of Temple you have served as
6 our mass unit to the uptick in
7 violence --

8 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

9 RICHARDSON: Right.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: -- and
11 everybody knows that the doctors
12 there are trained in emergency
13 response, second to none in the
14 nation. The U.S. military sends
15 their trainee doctors to your
16 hospital to service our servicemen
17 around the world, so it does not
18 fall on deaf ears that we
19 understand the symbiotic
20 relationship that this City has
21 with your institutions. And I
22 wanted to put on the record thank
23 you.

24 MS. LEVINS: And I
25 appreciate your comments. But I

1 have to add to that, that we would
2 not be able to do it without the
3 partnerships that we have with City
4 Council, with the Administration,
5 with the Commonwealth and we're
6 very proud of what we -- I think
7 that we can say that here in
8 Philadelphia it doesn't matter --
9 you mentioned zip codes -- you can
10 get the same care at Temple
11 Hospital and our other institutions
12 no matter what zip code you're from
13 that you're going to get from Bryn
14 Mawr or some other communities. So
15 it's all of us together striving to
16 make sure that it's equitable
17 healthcare.

18 And to your point about
19 working and training in our
20 emergency department, people do
21 come and they want to do their
22 rotations, they want to do their
23 residency so that they can take
24 that out into the world. And
25 again, we couldn't do it without

1 you.

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Well,
3 we're grateful for the partnership.
4 Thank you.

5 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
6 RICHARDSON: Thank you again for
7 your testimony.

8 Is there anyone here to
9 testify on Bill No. 240467 whose
10 name has not been called?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
13 RICHARDSON: Okay. Seeing none, we
14 will now proceed to Bill No.
15 240470. And I will again ask that
16 everyone please abbreviate your
17 testimony. We have 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,
18 6, 7 additional witnesses that we
19 need to hear from today, and we
20 need to conclude this hearing
21 within the next 30 minutes.

22 THE CLERK: Dawn
23 Summerville.
24 (Witnesses approached
25 Witness table.)

1 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

2 RICHARDSON: Okay. Please state
3 your name for the record and
4 proceed with your testimony.

5 MS. SUMMERVILLE: Good
6 afternoon. Dawn Summerville. Good
7 afternoon, Chairperson Gilmore
8 Richardson and members of the
9 Finance Committee. My name is Dawn
10 Summerville. I am the Deputy
11 Commerce Director. I'm here to
12 testify on Bill No. 240470, which
13 would authorize the City of
14 Philadelphia to apply to the
15 Commonwealth for the extension of
16 the Keystone Opportunity Zone
17 benefits for four projects,
18 Schuylkill Yards, Eastwick project,
19 Navy Yard and West Parkside. These
20 sites are managed by Brandywine
21 Realty Trust, the Philadelphia
22 Redevelopment Authority Ensemble
23 and PIDC respectively.

24 KOZ is an economic
25 development program created by the

1 Commonwealth to stimulate
2 investment and employment growth on
3 vacant or underutilized properties.
4 Businesses located in these
5 designated zones are authorized to
6 apply for the state and local tax
7 credit exemptions and tax
8 abatements for a term of up to 10
9 years. The KOZ program allows the
10 City to spur economic development
11 and attract businesses that may not
12 otherwise choose to develop or
13 locate in Philadelphia.

14 This state program has been
15 a critical tool in the region's
16 economic development toolkit,
17 helping to offset the high cost of
18 development in Philadelphia,
19 attracting hundreds of millions of
20 dollars in private investment and
21 generating more than 10,000 local
22 jobs in our city.

23 In fact, much of the
24 development Philadelphia has seen
25 in the past 20 years on vacant

1 industrial sites has been
2 incentivized in part by the K0Z
3 program. In order to keep K0Z
4 benefits in place, the City is
5 required to submit a K0Z extension
6 application to the PA Department of
7 Community and Economic Development
8 at least 90 days prior to
9 expiration or October 1st.

10 The application must
11 include a copy of City Council
12 legislation authorizing the City to
13 submit the application akin to
14 previous rounds of K0Z designations
15 and extensions. The City will
16 require each owner to enter into a
17 payment-in-lieu-of-taxes agreement
18 pilot in the amount of 110 percent
19 of what otherwise would have been
20 the real estate tax liability for
21 the unimproved property for the
22 duration of the K0Z benefit.

23 The 110 percent agreement
24 generates revenue from the
25 redevelopment of K0Z sites. In

1 addition to these agreements, all
2 KOZ beneficiaries are required to
3 submit a career connective learning
4 plan to ensure there are
5 apprenticeship and workforce
6 opportunities for Philadelphia
7 School District students.

8 An economic opportunity
9 plan is also required to show
10 evidence of equitable contract use,
11 which may include financial
12 investment, design construction and
13 operations. The KOZ program
14 provides a unique opportunity to
15 leverage educational and workforce
16 development opportunities for
17 Philadelphians.

18 The City remains committed
19 to working with developers and
20 businesses to ensure that we create
21 meaningful opportunities and access
22 for underserved Philadelphians and
23 their families. As a reminder, the
24 state will not approve a KOZ
25 extension application without

1 Council approval, School District
2 approval and the aforementioned
3 City requirements that are in
4 place. This program continues to
5 play a vital role in Philadelphia's
6 economic development. Thank you
7 for the opportunity to testify.
8 I'm happy to take questions at this
9 time, but also like to acknowledge
10 I'm joined by members of the
11 Commerce Department.

12 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

13 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
14 so much for your testimony and to
15 the members of the Commerce
16 Department who are also here with
17 us this afternoon. Know that I did
18 check in with all of my District
19 colleagues related to the specific
20 projects in their areas to ensure
21 that they did not have any
22 additional questions or concerns,
23 so I thank you for working with
24 them in advance as well and for all
25 the work that you all have done on

1 this particular bill.

2 The Chair now recognizes
3 Councilmember Jones.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
5 you, Madam Chair.

6 Very briefly, I want to
7 thank the Commerce Department for
8 all the wonderful work it does.
9 And I don't mean to give you more
10 work, but I know you can handle it.
11 What I think might be helpful,
12 particularly for our newer members,
13 is a codification of programs based
14 on location, zone or wherever that
15 says if I find a business
16 interested in locating here, here's
17 all of the different things they
18 are eligible for. And as an alumni
19 of the Commerce Department, I don't
20 need that, but it might be helpful
21 for the newer members to be able to
22 be your cheerleader when it comes
23 to recruiting of firms.

24 And again, thank you and
25 your team sincerely. You only have

1 to look at the skyline and not just
2 of downtown, but in neighborhoods.
3 You know, EMSCO in my District is
4 an office building owned and
5 operated by a minority concern that
6 would not be there but for
7 Commerce. So thank you.

8 MS. SUMMERVILLE: Thank
9 you, Councilmember Jones, for those
10 recommendations. We are happy to
11 provide that information to the
12 newer members of Council. I think
13 that's a great idea and we're happy
14 to make sure we get that over.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
16 you so much.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
18 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
19 Councilmember Jones. And thank you
20 very much for your testimony.

21 Is there anyone here to
22 testify on Bill No. 240474 -- or
23 470 whose name has not been called?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

1 RICHARDSON: Anyone else here to
2 testify on Bill No. 240470 whose
3 name has not been called?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

6 RICHARDSON: Seeing none, we thank
7 you very much for being here today.
8 We thank you for the work of
9 Commerce and for your testimony.

10 MS. SUMMERVILLE: Thank
11 you.

12 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

13 RICHARDSON: We will now proceed
14 with our last bill, Bill No.
15 240494.

16 THE CLERK: Mark Dodds.
17 (Witnesses approached
18 Witness table.)

19 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

20 RICHARDSON: Okay. If you could
21 just please state your name for the
22 record and proceed with your
23 testimony.

24 MR. DODDS: Hello. Good
25 afternoon, Councilmember Gilmore

1 Richardson and other members of the
2 Finance Committee and members of
3 City Council. I am Mark Dodds,
4 Interim Deputy Director of the
5 Division of Housing and Community
6 Development. I will present
7 testimony today on behalf of the
8 Administration on Bill No. 240494,
9 which permits the City to apply for
10 federal Community Development Block
11 Grant, HOME Investment Partnership,
12 Emergency Solutions Grant and
13 Housing Opportunities for Persons
14 With AIDS Funds and for state funds
15 from the Department of Community
16 and Economic Development.

17 The bill refers to Exhibit
18 A, which is the proposed Annual
19 Action Plan 2024 to 2025, the
20 required HUD funding application.
21 The Annual Action Plan 2024 to 2025
22 details our plan for spending funds
23 from four primary federal sources
24 as well as from the state's
25 Department of Community and

1 Economic Development, the Housing
2 Trust Fund and the Neighborhood
3 Preservation Initiative.

4 As detailed in the Annual
5 Action Plan 2024 to '25, the City
6 was awarded approximately 44.3
7 million in CDBG, 11.3 million in
8 HOME, 9.6 million in HOPWA and 3.9
9 million in ESG funds for the
10 upcoming fiscal year. The Annual
11 Action Plan's goals are aligned
12 with Philadelphia's high priority
13 housing and community development
14 needs.

15 These goals are to create
16 affordable homeowner and rental
17 housing opportunities, preserve
18 affordable homeowner and rental
19 housing, reduce homelessness and
20 expand special needs housing
21 opportunities, foster open access
22 to all housing and community
23 resources and programs, address
24 economic education and income needs
25 of people in communities,

1 strengthen community assets and
2 manage vacant land, also to promote
3 fair housing and access to
4 opportunities.

5 While our Annual Action
6 Plan makes strategic investments
7 over the course of the upcoming
8 year to address our housing needs,
9 it is comprehensive and sustained
10 commitment to housing as
11 infrastructure that makes the
12 greatest impact. Accordingly, we
13 are especially grateful to City
14 Council for the critical funding
15 provided through NPI and through
16 the City Charter change, mandating
17 that half a percent of the City's
18 General Fund be allocated to the
19 Housing Trust Fund.

20 As detailed in the Annual
21 Action Plan, over half of our total
22 funding will go to put people in
23 homes and keep people in homes.
24 This work includes the production
25 and preservation of rental housing,

1 mortgage foreclosure prevention and
2 eviction prevention programs,
3 rental assistance, home repair
4 programs such as Basic Systems
5 Repair and Heater Hotline.

6 We will also continue
7 programs that prevent homelessness
8 and support people with special
9 needs. These programs include
10 rental assistance through ESG, HOME
11 and HOPWA programs and adaptive
12 modifications. We will continue to
13 invest in organizations and
14 programs that meet our residents
15 where they are, serving them in
16 their own communities.

17 These include our housing
18 counseling agencies, our
19 Neighborhood Advisory Committees
20 and our Neighborhood Energy
21 Centers. We are also seeking to
22 improve the quality of life of
23 neighborhoods and provide job
24 opportunities by funding local
25 organizations to maintain vacant

1 land.

2 Vibrant commercial

3 corridors are important for healthy

4 communities. Accordingly, we

5 invest significant resources in

6 community and economic development.

7 The plan includes funding for

8 business loan programs, commercial-

9 oriented real estate grants,

10 corridor management support and

11 building improvement support.

12 The coming year will

13 continue to be challenging and we

14 are determined to meet that

15 challenge. Please know that we are

16 relying on City Council to approve

17 this plan expeditiously because the

18 City will forfeit its funding from

19 HUD unless the City submits an

20 Annual Action Plan no later than

21 August 15, 2023 to permit

22 expeditious transmittal of the

23 Annual Action Plan to HUD.

24 Suspension of the rules to

25 permit the first reading at the

1 next Council session is requested.
2 I will be happy to answer any
3 questions you or members of Council
4 may have. Thank you for the
5 opportunity to present this
6 testimony.

7 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

8 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
9 very much for your testimony and
10 for the information provided, and
11 also for ensuring that we were able
12 to get this in on time, and you
13 know what I mean.

14 The Chair now recognizes
15 Councilmember Jones.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
17 you, Madam Chair.

18 Were you here for the Brith
19 Sholom comments?

20 MR. DODDS: Yes. So help
21 me to understand how this housing
22 and affordable housing strategy
23 intersects with the problems we're
24 facing with a Brith Sholom, which
25 is not uncommon for other parcels,

1 affordable units and we're losing
2 them to these kinds of
3 circumstances.

4 Tell me specifically in
5 your plan, and maybe you can't do
6 it today because we have to be out
7 of here, but this is something that
8 we are going to hone in on because
9 it's a pervasive problem. It's not
10 a one-and-done with Brith Sholom.
11 If you could briefly articulate how
12 the plan addresses these types of
13 situations.

14 MR. DODDS: Sure. Very
15 briefly, I would say that the plan
16 is very, very heavy in the
17 production and preservation of
18 affordable housing. Much of that
19 funding, very much appreciated like
20 I mentioned in my testimony, is NPI
21 funding and that will help a little
22 bit. We understand the need is
23 very great, but that will help a
24 little bit of what you're talking
25 about.

1 COUNCILMAN JONES: All
2 right. So that was a good answer
3 if I were just listening. But in
4 specifics to Brith Sholom, what
5 arrows would you pull out of your
6 quiver to help solve this problem?

7 MR. DODDS: Yeah. I guess
8 I would say that there are ongoing
9 conversations, some of which with
10 other City agencies, that it's
11 something that's top of mine, we're
12 committed to looking at being
13 creative trying to find a solution
14 there.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Then I
16 see you're in tune. Okay. I'll
17 stop there.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
19 RICHARDSON: Well, thank you,
20 Councilman Jones. But I wanted to
21 add, you mentioned NPI. You mean
22 Neighborhood Preservation
23 Initiative?

24 MR. DODDS: Yes.

25 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

1 RICHARDSON: Okay. And so, then I
2 would then offer the question
3 relative to the bonding for NPI.
4 And I know you may not be able to
5 answer that question, that may be a
6 question for Finance, but if we are
7 going to utilize NPI as a part of
8 the solution relative to some of
9 the overarching concerns we have
10 for Brith Sholom and others, then I
11 think we have to make sure that on
12 the finance side that the bonding
13 is happening for NPI, that we have
14 those dollars available.

15 And so, is it your
16 understanding that that will be the
17 case and that we will be able to
18 leverage the CDBG dollars as well
19 in order to do what we need to do
20 from a housing perspective?

21 MR. DODDS: Yeah. I mean,
22 you bring up a good point. NPI is
23 a critical part of this housing
24 plan. There's no question. We
25 also know that that funding is not

1 set to last forever so we need to
2 be thinking forward about
3 additional funding and
4 opportunities to get money to help
5 serve our residents.

6 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

7 RICHARDSON: Right. And so, I just
8 wanted to put that on the record,
9 particularly around NPI and the
10 bonding, right, because we've
11 already run out of the dollars that
12 we've already bonded for
13 previously. And so, we will need
14 to do another bond reauthorization
15 in order for us to have additional
16 spending capability.

17 And so, I say that and put
18 it on the record that if we are
19 looking to pair with the CDBG
20 dollars as well as the NPI dollars,
21 then we need to take action. And
22 when I say the we, that would be on
23 the Administrative side of
24 government and Finance in order to
25 get that done so that we can

1 together work to get that passed
2 once we receive the information
3 from the Admin. Okay.

4 So I just wanted to put
5 that on the record. Rob Dubow, if
6 you're there and listening, I'm
7 just putting that on the record for
8 NPI. Okay. And then we'll be able
9 to have a further discussion at
10 another time so that we do have
11 that spending flexibility. Okay.
12 Thank you very much.

13 Thank you, Councilmember
14 Jones, for that question.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
16 you, Madam Chair.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
18 RICHARDSON: Okay. Are there any
19 further questions or comments for
20 this witness?

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
23 RICHARDSON: Okay. Seeing none, we
24 thank you. We thank you very, very
25 much for being here today.

1 I understand we have some
2 witnesses that will provide public
3 comment. I'm respectfully
4 requesting that you summarize your
5 testimony as succinct as possible
6 so that we can proceed with moving
7 on to our public meeting.

8 THE CLERK: Marguerite
9 Byrd, Marlene Robinson, Jennifer
10 Schumann and Andy Toy.

11 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
12 RICHARDSON: Okay. If you could
13 state your name for the record and
14 proceed with your testimony.

15 (Witness approached Witness
16 table.)

17 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
18 RICHARDSON: I think you're the
19 last man standing, Andy, for this
20 one.

21 THE CLERK: Marguerite
22 Byrd, Marlene Robinson, Jennifer
23 Schumann.

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

1 RICHARDSON: Okay. I don't believe
2 they are still here. And so, if
3 you can state your name for the
4 record and proceed with a
5 summarized version of your
6 testimony.

7 MR. TOY: Sure. I guess
8 everybody's tired now. You're
9 tired I'm sure. And good afternoon
10 again, Chairperson Gilmore
11 Richardson and City Councilmembers.
12 My name is Andy Toy and I am still
13 the Policy Director for the
14 Philadelphia Association Community
15 Development Corporations. If you
16 were here before, you would
17 understand.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

19 RICHARDSON: Right.

20 MR. TOY: And thank you for
21 the opportunity to testify on Bill
22 No. 240494 to approve the adoption
23 of the City's Annual Action Plan
24 submission to the U.S. Department
25 of Housing and Urban Development.

1 We'd also like to thank the City
2 staff at DHCD and the Commerce
3 Department and beyond who worked so
4 hard to finalize the plan.

5 I'll skip through some of
6 my other things. We have just four
7 points that we want to raise around
8 the plan. We are in support of it.
9 We know that the City has developed
10 a true appreciation for the
11 important work that the housing
12 counselors undertake, and we want
13 to thank the City for increasing
14 the budget over the last two years.

15 Housing counselors play a
16 critical role in eviction
17 diversion, foreclosure prevention,
18 first-time homebuying support as
19 well as other issues. Now, that
20 CDBG CARES funding previously
21 allocated has come to an end, we
22 need to make sure that we continue
23 to support and sustain the housing
24 counseling ecosystem we've built in
25 Philadelphia.

1 Number two, the plan
2 represents significant new
3 resources to support homeownership
4 as well as rental housing
5 production and preservation, which
6 is critical to having a balanced
7 approach. We also urge the City to
8 expand support for shallow rent
9 subsidies aimed at low-income
10 households living in subsidized
11 units to both add to the stability
12 of our affordable housing supply
13 while assisting low-income
14 households to make ends meet.

15 And then three, while the
16 Administration has said its
17 Kensington strategy would include
18 traditional and/or permanent
19 supportive housing resources for
20 the unhoused suffering from opioid
21 use disorder, it's unclear how
22 those investments are reflected in
23 this plan.

24 The line items for homeless
25 and special needs housing programs

1 are largely flat with the exception
2 of development financing for
3 homelessness and special needs
4 housing, which has been eliminated.
5 Similarly, we do not see increased
6 home repair funding that would be
7 needed to help longtime homeowners
8 in Kensington remain in their homes
9 reflected in the plan. It would be
10 helpful to better understand how
11 the Administration tends to
12 allocate these resources to
13 accomplish its goals in Kensington.

14 And fourth, commercial
15 corridors are the economic
16 lifelines of our neighborhoods.
17 Yet many are still struggling with
18 the new normal of the post-
19 pandemic. We need to increase the
20 fund the Targeted Corridor
21 Management program funding to give
22 our corridors a fighting chance.

23 Similarly, we need to
24 increase funding for the CDC
25 Neighborhood Economic Development

1 Support Program to better support
2 organizations doing a range of
3 economic development work. And
4 lastly, as mentioned in previous
5 testimony, we look forward to
6 working with the City Council and
7 the Administration to provide much-
8 needed resources for CDC general
9 operating support as well as to
10 support a rapid property
11 acquisition fund over the coming
12 months. We would love to see that
13 somewhere in the budget.

14 Again, we thank the
15 Administration for their dedication
16 to housing and economic development
17 for all Philadelphians and thank
18 City Council and the Finance
19 Committee for the opportunity to
20 testify this afternoon.

21 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

22 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
23 so much, Andy, for your testimony
24 and for staying with us today. We
25 thank you for your work as Policy

1 Director and we will not give you
2 that promotion Executive Director
3 just yet.

4 MR. TOY: Still.

5 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

6 RICHARDSON: Okay. All right.
7 Thank you very, very much. Have a
8 good day, Andy. Thanks a lot.

9 All right. We will now
10 proceed with Resolution No. 240027.

11 THE CLERK: Crystal Yates-
12 Gale.

13 (Witnesses approached
14 witness table.)

15 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

16 RICHARDSON: Okay. Please state
17 your name for the record and you
18 can proceed with your testimony.

19 MS. YATES-GALE: Good
20 afternoon, Chairmember Gilmore
21 Richardson and members of the
22 Committee on Finance. I am Crystal
23 Yates-Gale, the Deputy Managing
24 Director of Health and Human
25 Services. And with me today is

1 David Holloman, the Interim
2 Executive Director of the Office of
3 Homeless Services. Today I'm here
4 to testify on Resolution No.
5 240027.

6 The mission of the Office
7 of Homeless Services is to lead,
8 coordinate, plan and mobilize
9 resources to make homelessness
10 rare, brief and non-recurring in
11 the City in pursuit of Mayor
12 Parker's vision to improve quality
13 of life and effectively deliver
14 impactful services for all
15 Philadelphians.

16 Philadelphia's Homeless
17 Services system consist of more
18 than 75 homeless housing and
19 service providers working together
20 with local, state and federal
21 government entities. In 2020, the
22 world experienced a shock to our
23 system when the COVID pandemic
24 arrived in our country.

25 The Office of Homeless

1 Services responded to the need for
2 more housing with social
3 distancing, additional cleaning,
4 sanitizing and increased security.
5 An encampment resolution on the
6 Benjamin Franklin Parkway in 2020
7 created an additional strain to the
8 housing system. And just in the
9 past few weeks, the office has
10 responded to the displacement of
11 residents as a result of the
12 closure of an apartment complex
13 where most of the residents are
14 seniors. A fire occurred at
15 another large apartment complex
16 where the Office of Homeless
17 Services assisted.

18 According to the U.S.
19 Department of Housing and Urban
20 Development between 2022 and 2023,
21 the number of people experiencing
22 homelessness increased by 12
23 percent. Since 2021, the number of
24 people experiencing sheltered
25 homelessness, which in layman's

1 terms are the number of people in
2 emergency shelters, transitional
3 housing or safe haven programs has
4 increased each year.

5 Homelessness in the United
6 States is an urgent public health
7 issue and a humanitarian crisis.
8 Philadelphia as the poorest large
9 city is not immune to the impact of
10 homelessness. Housing is a social
11 determinant of health, and the lack
12 of a place to call home has a
13 negative effect on the health of
14 the people who are experiencing
15 being unhoused.

16 I would also like to
17 publicly thank the employees at the
18 Office of Homeless Services for
19 answering the call to work toward
20 ending homelessness in
21 Philadelphia. We acknowledge this
22 is a difficult time for the agency.
23 Currently, there are two
24 investigations related to the
25 overspending at the agency. One is

1 being conducted by the Office of
2 the Inspector General. We would be
3 happy -- well, you already have,
4 I'm sorry, the preliminary report.

5 The second, a forensic
6 financial investigation, is being
7 conducted by a reputable accounting
8 firm. The Office of Homeless
9 Services also recognizes the need
10 to evaluate all providers to ensure
11 quality services are being offered.
12 The boots-to-the-ground program is
13 in its first year and will enhance
14 the regularly scheduled and
15 unscheduled assessments of
16 shelters, and we are happy to
17 answer your questions.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
19 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Well,
20 thank you very much for your
21 testimony and thank you very much
22 for your patience and for being
23 here. I also wanted to thank our
24 Executive Director David Holloman
25 for being here and also Finance

1 Director Rob Dubow for being
2 available.

3 And all the team members of
4 OHS who are here, I thank you all
5 very much for your presence. And I
6 want to give a special thank you to
7 the team members who have come over
8 to the office during the number of
9 hearings that we've held to help
10 the individuals who need housing
11 placement. So I want to give you
12 all a special shout-out. You've
13 really been helping us connect
14 people to services and get them
15 into the shelter system,
16 particularly families.

17 I know we had another case,
18 because now what's happening is
19 everyone calls my office or shows
20 up to my office who needs to be
21 placed, particularly sometimes they
22 leave from Apple Tree and walk
23 across the street. And so, we
24 thank you for helping us service
25 unhoused individuals, particularly

1 the families that have young
2 children. We just had another case
3 of a pregnant mother with four
4 children and you all helped us with
5 that. So I just wanted to say
6 thank you for that.

7 I'm going to reserve the
8 balance of all of my questions
9 except one. It's one question that
10 I do need to get on the record
11 that'll be helpful for what we need
12 to do today, the remainder of this
13 week and next week.

14 If you could just state for
15 the record -- and I'm also doing
16 this because of the time as well.
17 We have five minutes. Can you
18 please state for the record that
19 the Office of Homeless Services'
20 budget as proposed is sufficient to
21 cover all expenses and maintain
22 service levels for all of Fiscal
23 Year '25?

24 MS. YATES-GALE: Madam,
25 answering that question, in all

1 honesty the current budget as
2 proposed if we're considering the
3 \$15.9 million, it is. And I am
4 committed as a taxpayer also to
5 make sure that we do that. I also
6 want to say and put on the record
7 that we don't know what other
8 emergencies will come up, but for
9 the current system for the current
10 services it provides for the
11 office's administration, yes.

12 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

13 RICHARDSON: Okay. And I just want
14 to put on the record so I can be
15 clear that we are seeking to work
16 together with you all relative to
17 the 15.9, which was the 16.1, which
18 we now know is down to the 15.9
19 that we don't see reflected in the
20 detail even if we take into
21 consideration the City of
22 Philadelphia Budget Office FY25
23 operating budget under the Office
24 of Homeless Services Departmental
25 summary increases and decreases of

1 all funds. And because we just
2 received the response back from the
3 20-page memo and we just had our
4 meeting yesterday, we haven't had a
5 chance to go through the 51 or 52
6 pages that we've received. But we
7 know that we have some concern
8 relative to even the first three
9 that we were able to go through
10 relative to the contract amounts
11 relative to some providers that
12 have subservice under different
13 names or two or three different
14 locations and the amounts are still
15 not matching up.

16 And so, I just want to put
17 that on the record too that we are
18 seeking to work together with you
19 all to figure this out, but that it
20 is our understanding as of this
21 moment even after reviewing the
22 departmental summary for the
23 increases and decreases for all
24 funds for your department that the
25 15.9 is still not reflected in the

1 original FY25 proposed budget
2 detail that you all sent to us.

3 And so, even though in the
4 budget and brief it states the
5 amount, we are not seeing that
6 amount reflected and the only thing
7 we can do is vote on what we have.
8 And we're trying to go through with
9 you all what we need to do to gain
10 clarity on the remainder of the
11 contracts that are in question
12 where sometimes the numbers don't
13 match and things of that nature. I
14 just want to put that on the
15 record.

16 MS. YATES-GALE:
17 Affirmative. Understood. We'll
18 speak to Rob Dubow and his team to
19 make sure that you get the document
20 that you requested.

21 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

22 RICHARDSON: Okay.

23 MS. YATES-GALE: And we
24 really appreciate your willingness
25 to meet with us to collaborate.

1 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

2 RICHARDSON: Right. And so, we
3 appreciate that and we look forward
4 to working with you.

5 And so, are there any other
6 questions or comments for this
7 witness?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

10 RICHARDSON: Okay. Seeing none, we
11 thank you very, very much for being
12 here.

13 MS. YATES-GALE: Thank you.

14 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

15 RICHARDSON: Thank you so much.

16 All right. Is there anyone
17 else here to testify on any of the
18 bills or resolution whose names
19 have not been called?

20 (No response.)

21 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

22 RICHARDSON: Okay. Seeing none, we
23 will now move into our public
24 meeting. We will now recess the
25 public hearing on Resolution No.

1 240027 and Bill Nos. 240372,
2 240373, 240374, 240375, 240377,
3 240378, 240379, 240416, 240417,
4 240467, 240470 and 240494 to go
5 into a public meeting to consider
6 the action to be taken on these
7 bills.

8 Clerk, will you please call
9 the roll to take attendance.

10 Members that are in attendance will
11 please indicate that you are
12 present when your name is called.

13 THE CLERK: Councilmember
14 Driscoll.

15 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:
16 Present.

17 THE CLERK: Councilmember
18 Ahmad.

19 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:
20 Present.

21 THE CLERK: Councilmember
22 Bass.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:
24 Present.

25 THE CLERK: Councilmember

1 Thomas.

2 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

3 Present.

4 THE CLERK: Councilmember

5 Jones.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: Present.

7 THE CLERK: Chair Gilmore

8 Richardson.

9 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

10 RICHARDSON: Present. Thank you.

11 A quorum of the Committee is

12 present.

13 The Chair now recognizes

14 Councilmember Bass for a motion on

15 the amendment to Bill No. 240379.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank

17 you, Madam Chair.

18 I offer an amendment to

19 Bill No. 240379. A copy of the

20 amendment has been circulated to

21 all members of the Committee and I

22 move that the amendment to Bill No.

23 24737 -- 240379 be approved.

24 (Duly seconded.)

25 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

1 RICHARDSON: The Chair notes for
2 the record that Councilmember
3 Thomas seconds the motion. It has
4 been moved and properly seconded
5 that the amendment to Bill No.
6 240379 be approved.

7 All those in favor of the
8 motion will signify by stating aye.

9 (Aye.)

10 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

11 RICHARDSON: Those opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

14 RICHARDSON: The ayes have it and
15 the motion carries.

16 The Chair now recognizes
17 Councilmember Bass for a motion on
18 Bill No. 240379 as amended.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
20 you, Madam Chair.

21 I move that Bill No. 240379
22 as amended be reported from this
23 Committee with a favorable
24 recommendation and further move
25 that the rules of Council be

1 suspended to permit first reading
2 of this bill at the next session of
3 Council.

4 (Duly seconded.)

5 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

6 RICHARDSON: The Chair notes for
7 the record that the bill has been
8 seconded by Councilmember Thomas.
9 It has been moved and properly
10 seconded that Bill No. 240379 as
11 amended be reported from this
12 Committee with a favorable
13 recommendation and further move
14 that the rules of Council be
15 suspended as to permit first
16 reading of this bill at the next
17 session of Council.

18 All those in favor of the
19 motion will signify by stating aye.

20 (Aye.)

21 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

22 RICHARDSON: Those opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

25 RICHARDSON: The ayes have it and

1 the motion carries.

2 The Chair now recognizes
3 Councilmember Bass for a motion on
4 the amendment to Bill No. 240467.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
6 you, Madam Chair.

7 I offer an amendment to
8 Bill No. 240469 -- 467. A copy of
9 the amendment has been circulated
10 to all members of the Committee.
11 And I move that the amendment to
12 Bill No. 240467 be approved.

13 (Duly seconded.)

14 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
15 RICHARDSON: The Chair notes for
16 the record that Councilmember
17 Thomas seconds the motion. It has
18 been moved and properly seconded
19 that the amendment to Bill No.
20 240467 be approved.

21 All those in favor of the
22 motion will signify by stating aye.

23 (Aye.)

24 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

25 RICHARDSON: Those opposed?

1 (No response.)

2 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

3 RICHARDSON: The ayes have it and
4 the motion carries.

5 The Chair now recognizes
6 Councilmember Bass for a motion on
7 Bill No. 240467.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
9 you, Madam Chair.

10 I move that Bill No. 240467
11 as amended be reported from this
12 Committee with a favorable
13 recommendation and move further
14 that the rules of Council be
15 suspended to permit first reading
16 of this bill at the next session of
17 Council.

18 (Duly seconded.)

19 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

20 RICHARDSON: It has been moved and
21 properly seconded that Bill No.
22 240467 as amended be reported from
23 this Committee with a favorable
24 recommendation and further move
25 that the rules of Council be

1 suspended as to permit first
2 reading of this bill at the next
3 session of Council.

4 All those in favor of the
5 motion will signify by stating aye.

6 (Aye.)

7 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

8 RICHARDSON: Those opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

11 RICHARDSON: The ayes have it and
12 the motion carries.

13 The Chair now recognizes
14 Councilmember Bass for a motion on
15 the amendment to Bill No. 240470.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
17 you, Madam Chair.

18 I offer an amendment to
19 Bill No. 240470. A copy of the
20 amendment has been circulated to
21 all members of the Committee, and I
22 move that the amendment to Bill No.
23 240470 be approved.

24 (Duly seconded.)

25 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

1 RICHARDSON: The Chair notes for
2 the record that Councilmember
3 Thomas seconds the motion. It has
4 been moved and properly seconded
5 that the amendment to Bill No.
6 240470 be approved.

7 All those in favor of the
8 motion will signify by stating aye.

9 (Aye.)

10 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

11 RICHARDSON: Those opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

14 RICHARDSON: The ayes have it and
15 the motion carries.

16 The Chair now recognizes
17 Councilmember Bass for a motion on
18 Bill No. 240470 as amended.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
20 you, Madam Chair. I move that Bill
21 No. 240470 as amended be reported
22 from this Committee with a
23 favorable recommendation and
24 further move that the rules of
25 Council be suspended to permit

1 first reading of this bill at the
2 next session of Council.

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

5 RICHARDSON: It has been moved and
6 properly seconded that Bill No.
7 240470 as amended be reported from
8 this Committee with a favorable
9 recommendation and further move
10 that the rules of Council be
11 suspended as to permit first
12 reading of this bill at the next
13 session of Council.

14 All those in favor of the
15 motion will signify by stating aye.

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

18 RICHARDSON: Those opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

21 RICHARDSON: The ayes have it and
22 the motion carries.

23 The Chair now recognizes
24 Councilmember Bass for a motion on
25 Bill No. 240372.

1 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
2 you, Madam Chair.

3 I move that Bill No. 240372
4 be reported from this Committee
5 with a favorable recommendation and
6 further move that the rules of
7 Council be suspended to permit
8 first reading of this bill at the
9 next session of Council.

10 (Duly seconded.)

11 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
12 RICHARDSON: The Chair notes for
13 the record that Councilmember
14 Thomas seconds the motion. It has
15 been moved and properly seconded
16 that Bill No. 240372 be reported
17 from this Committee with a
18 favorable recommendation and
19 further move that the rules of
20 Council be suspended as to permit
21 first reading of this bill at the
22 next session of Council.

23 All those in favor of the
24 motion will signify by stating aye.

25 (Aye.)

1 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

2 RICHARDSON: Those opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

5 RICHARDSON: The ayes have it and
6 the motion carries.

7 The Chair now recognizes
8 Councilmember Bass for a motion on
9 Bill No. 240373.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
11 you, Madam Chair.

12 I move that Bill No. 240373
13 be reported from this Committee
14 with a favorable recommendation and
15 further move that the rules of
16 Council be suspended to permit
17 first reading of this bill at the
18 next session of Council.

19 (Duly seconded.)

20 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

21 RICHARDSON: The Chair notes for
22 the record that Councilmember
23 Thomas seconds the motion.

24 It has been moved and
25 properly seconded that Bill No.

1 240373 be reported from this
2 Committee with a favorable
3 recommendation and further move
4 that the rules of Council be
5 suspended as to permit first
6 reading of this bill at the next
7 session of Council.

8 All those in favor of the
9 motion will signify by stating aye.

10 (Aye.)

11 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

12 RICHARDSON: Those opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

15 RICHARDSON: The ayes have it and
16 the motion carries.

17 The Chair now recognizes
18 Councilmember Bass for a motion on
19 Bill No. 240374.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
21 you, Madam Chair.

22 I move that Bill No. 240374
23 be reported from this Committee
24 with a favorable recommendation and
25 further move that the rules of

1 Council be suspended to permit
2 first reading of this bill at the
3 next session of Council.

4 (Duly seconded.)

5 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

6 RICHARDSON: The Chair notes for
7 the record that Councilmember
8 Thomas seconds the motion. It has
9 been moved and properly seconded
10 that Bill No. 240374 be reported
11 from this Committee with a
12 favorable recommendation and
13 further move that the rules of
14 Council be suspended as to permit
15 first reading of this bill at the
16 next session of Council.

17 All those in favor of the
18 motion will signify by stating aye.

19 (Aye.)

20 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

21 RICHARDSON: Those opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

24 RICHARDSON: The ayes have it and
25 the motion carries.

1 The Chair now recognizes
2 Councilmember Bass for a motion on
3 Bill No. 240375.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
5 you, Madam Chair.

6 I move that Bill No. 240375
7 be reported from this Committee
8 with a favorable recommendation and
9 further move that the rules of
10 Council be suspended to permit
11 first reading of this bill at the
12 next session of Council.

13 (Duly seconded.)

14 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
15 RICHARDSON: The Chair notes for
16 the record that Councilmember Jones
17 seconds the motion. It has been
18 moved and properly seconded that
19 Bill No. 240375 be reported from
20 this Committee with a favorable
21 recommendation and further move
22 that the rules of Council be
23 suspended as to permit first
24 reading of this bill at the next
25 session of Council.

1 All those in favor of the
2 motion will signify by stating aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

5 RICHARDSON: Those opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

8 RICHARDSON: The ayes have it and
9 the motion carries.

10 The Chair now recognizes
11 Councilmember Bass for a motion on
12 Bill No. 240377.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
14 you, Madam Chair.

15 I move that Bill No. 240377
16 be reported from this Committee
17 with a favorable recommendation and
18 further move that the rules of
19 Council be suspended to permit
20 first reading of this bill at the
21 next session of Council.

22 (Duly seconded.)

23 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

24 RICHARDSON: The Chair notes for
25 the record that Councilmember

1 Thomas seconds the motion. It has
2 been moved and properly seconded
3 that Bill No. 240377 be reported
4 from this Committee with a
5 favorable recommendation and
6 further move that the rules of
7 Council be suspended as to permit
8 first reading of this bill at the
9 next session of Council.

10 All those in favor of the
11 motion will signify by stating aye.

12 (Aye.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

14 RICHARDSON: Those opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

17 RICHARDSON: The ayes have it and
18 the motion carries.

19 The Chair recognizes
20 Councilmember Bass for a motion on
21 Bill No. 240378.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
23 you, Madam Chair.

24 I move that Bill No. 240378
25 be reported from this Committee

1 with a favorable recommendation and
2 further move that the rules of
3 Council be suspended to permit
4 first reading of this bill at the
5 next session of Council.

6 (Duly seconded.)

7 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

8 RICHARDSON: The Chair notes for
9 the record that Councilmember Jones
10 seconds the motion. It has been
11 moved and properly seconded that
12 Bill No. 240378 be reported from
13 this Committee with a favorable
14 recommendation and further move
15 that the rules of Council be
16 suspended as to permit first
17 reading of this bill at the next
18 session of Council.

19 All those in favor of the
20 motion will signify by stating aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

23 RICHARDSON: Those opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

1 RICHARDSON: The ayes have it and
2 the motion carries.

3 The Chair now recognizes
4 Councilmember Bass for a motion on
5 Bill No. 240416.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
7 you, Madam Chair.

8 I move that Bill No. 240416
9 be reported from this Committee
10 with a favorable recommendation and
11 further move that the rules of
12 Council be suspended to permit
13 first reading of this bill at the
14 next session of Council.

15 (Duly seconded.)

16 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

17 RICHARDSON: The Chair notes for
18 the record that Councilmember
19 Thomas seconds the motion. It has
20 been moved and properly seconded
21 that Bill No. 240416 be reported
22 from this Committee with a
23 favorable recommendation and
24 further move that the rules of
25 Council be suspended as to permit

1 first reading of this bill at the
2 next session of Council.

3 All those in favor of the
4 motion will signify by stating aye.

5 (Aye.)

6 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

7 RICHARDSON: Those opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

10 RICHARDSON: The ayes have it and
11 the motion carries.

12 The Chair now recognizes
13 Councilmember Bass for a motion on
14 Bill No. 240417.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
16 you, Madam Chair.

17 I move that Bill No. 240417
18 be reported from this Committee
19 with a favorable recommendation and
20 further move that the rules of
21 Council be suspended to permit
22 first reading of this bill at the
23 next session of Council.

24 (Duly seconded.)

25 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

1 RICHARDSON: The Chair notes for
2 the record that Councilmember
3 Thomas seconds the motion. It has
4 been moved and properly seconded
5 that Bill No. 240417 be reported
6 from this Committee with a
7 favorable recommendation and
8 further move that the rules of
9 Council be suspended as to permit
10 first reading of this bill at the
11 next session of Council.

12 All those in favor of the
13 motion will signify by stating aye.

14 (Aye.)

15 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

16 RICHARDSON: Those opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

19 RICHARDSON: The ayes have it and
20 the motion carries.

21 The Chair now recognizes
22 Councilmember Bass for a motion on
23 Bill No. 240494.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
25 you, Madam Chair.

1 I move that Bill No. 240494
2 be reported from this Committee
3 with a favorable recommendation and
4 further move that the rules of
5 Council be suspended to permit
6 first reading of this bill at the
7 next session of Council.

8 (Duly seconded.)

9 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

10 RICHARDSON: The Chair notes for
11 the record that Councilmember
12 Thomas seconds the motion. It has
13 been moved and properly seconded
14 that Bill No. 240494 be reported
15 from this Committee with a
16 favorable recommendation and
17 further move that the rules of
18 Council be suspended as to permit
19 first reading of this bill at the
20 next session of Council.

21 All those in favor of the
22 motion will signify by stating aye.

23 (Aye.)

24 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

25 RICHARDSON: Those opposed?

1 (No response.)

2 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

3 RICHARDSON: The ayes have it and
4 the motion carries.

5 There being no further
6 questions from members of the
7 Committee and no other witnesses to
8 testify, this concludes the
9 business before the Committee on
10 Finance today.

11 Thank you all. Thank you,
12 colleagues, so very much for your
13 indulgence. Thank you,
14 stenographer. Thank you to our
15 Tech Team. Thank you to our
16 Sergeant-at-Arms and our entire
17 staff who makes this possible.
18 Thank you, Eliza. Have a great
19 day.

20 (Committee on Finance
21 concluded at 2:15 p.m.)

22

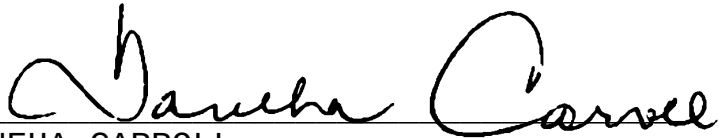
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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Taneha Carroll". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Taneha" and the last name "Carroll" clearly distinguishable.

TANEHA CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

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\$	1	13	101:13	2-and-a-half
\$10	1	40:17	17-1406	171:18
37:8	32:22	132	18:7 35:13	2.533
157:20	141:19	233:4	37:14 63:2	212:19
\$15.9	153:1	14	70:2	2.6
271:3	238:17	33:10	17-406	220:5
\$155	1,600	40:18	15:6	2.75
233:24	224:22	14.6	17.133	144:9
\$19	1.5	212:21	212:16	20
187:19	136:8	1406	170	75:24
196:3	10	32:21	66:23	77:18
\$192,432,000	104:24	99:4,10	17th	100:8,12
154:25	178:16	15	15:1	102:24
\$210,000	240:8	251:21	18	240:25
113:21	10,000	15.9	88:7	20-page
\$257,883,000	240:21	271:17,18	161:4,6,14	272:3
155:5	100	272:25	180-mile	2000
\$311	31:20	150	156:3	100:4,7
212:8	126:8	41:24	19	2004
213:5,13	11	137:13	194:7	75:14,22
\$341,000	111:1	230:23	1968	76:5 77:14
234:7	11,000	150,000	120:24	101:5
\$37,000	224:21	224:19	1st	2006
46:8	11.3	16	241:9	141:22
\$450,000	248:7	16.1	2	2009
113:18	110	271:17	2	216:11
\$47	241:18,23	17	32:19,21	2015
49:24	11th	62:14	33:2	136:10
\$65,451,000	190:25	140:20	151:25	2016-17
155:3	202:11	17,000	152:8	226:5
\$75	12	49:13	171:1	2020
157:15	109:16	17-1400	192:6	265:21
\$8,000	266:22	32:20	220:8	266:6
49:20	12.2	62:23	238:17	2021
	233:25	65:1,11	2,000	119:3
	12.6	66:15 68:1	224:24	136:11
	234:1	86:25	233:19	142:10

226:6	74:3, 13	275:2	292:5, 8, 21	294:23
266:23	92:1	288:3, 6, 19	240417	295:1, 14
2022	24	240377	152:19, 22	24737
266:20	94:9	140:23	153:2	276:23
2023	240027	141:11, 12	154:10	25
251:21	264:10	147:14	155:22	197:7
266:20	265:5	275:2	164:14	248:5
2024	275:1	289:12, 15	170:7	270:23
28:6 55:11	24037	290:3	207:18	25, 000
141:19	140:15	240378	210:14	49:14
154:22	240372	152:18, 19,	275:3	250
164:24	132:20, 24	21 153:1	293:14, 17	190:10
211:24	134:13, 18,	154:10, 21	294:5	27
212:15	25 135:13,	163:3	240467	164:24
247:19, 21	18 140:8	275:3	215:9	28
248:5	275:1	290:21, 24	216:5	104:25
2024-25	283:25	291:12	222:18	298.67
222:24	284:3, 16	240379	238:9	212:23
2025	240373	13:14, 23	275:4	2:00
32:23 55:7	147:18	14:25	279:4, 12,	152:2
141:20	148:12, 25	32:14, 25	20 280:7,	2:15
142:24	149:21	38:17	10, 22	296:21
155:24	151:16	62:13 64:6	240469	
193:11	152:13	72:16	279:8	
247:19, 21	275:2	111:19	240470	3
2028-29	285:9, 12	122:6	238:15	3
222:24	286:1	125:25	239:12	60:19, 21
2050	240374	127:11	246:2	61:14
157:12	134:13, 18,	129:16	275:4	207:7
194:2	25 135:13	132:15	281:15, 19,	238:17
197:2	136:19	275:3	23 282:6,	3.9
198:24	140:9	276:15, 19,	18, 21	220:11
22	275:2	23 277:6,	283:7	248:8
115:14	286:19, 22	18, 21	240474	30
177:24	287:10	278:10	245:22	88:4, 15
226:6	240375	240416	240494	100:14
22nd	134:13, 18	210:19	246:15	119:25
42:14	135:1, 14	211:23	247:8	141:20
23	137:16	213:19	259:22	142:24
	140:9	215:1, 5	275:4	
		275:3		

161:10	41	60	90	85:15
238:21	161:13	126:7	173:12	94:19
300	44.3	600	177:21	105:5
150:1	248:6	135:25	241:8	162:16
31	467		90s	abuse
108:2	279:8	7	173:13	35:14
212:15	47	7	990s	36:20
32	13:13 78:8	144:5	123:15	37:21
104:25	88:7	238:18		accelerate
35	470	700	A	161:2
161:10	245:23	201:11	abatements	197:12
350	4th	75	240:8	accelerated
136:25	180:4	265:18	abbreviate	156:5
364		78	238:16	acceleratin
233:5	5	140:19	ability	g
372	5		71:5	199:1
133:17	104:23	8	85:23, 25	acceptable
373	238:17	8	102:18	194:18
140:19	500	63:2	103:12	access
374	137:1	120:22	127:15, 16	71:17
134:4	501(c)(3)s	80	132:3	120:16
375	123:13	49:25 88:8	165:16	186:18
134:4	51	157:13	218:11	218:18
377	272:5	227:24	Abraham	224:17
140:17, 18	52	80s	110:11	225:23
	272:5	46:9	118:7	228:13
4	525	85	abruptly	234:15
4	233:7	231:6	79:20	242:21
33:10	53	233:21	absence	248:21
40:18	232:18	86	70:21	249:3
51:6, 21	54	224:25	absolute	accessing
192:8	233:19		97:6	115:21
213:2		9	absolutely	acclimated
238:17	6	9	14:12	57:21
40	6	211:24	18:17	accomplish
157:18	144:4	9.6	58:17, 25	262:13
161:12	238:18	248:8	59:7 72:7	account
			80:16	121:11
			82:16 84:4	199:1

accountability	164:21	acute	111:24	190:17
31:8	197:16	227:12	126:8	219:2
64:10, 21	199:8	adaptive	127:11	231:20
71:11, 19	200:18	250:11	128:16	232:2
72:2 90:9	207:7	add	129:12	248:23
115:4	Acting	111:20	139:8	249:8
121:9	18:24	168:7	140:1	addressed
131:2, 9	62:11 77:6	195:12	141:18	109:17
202:21	89:24	208:10	147:2	123:1
accountable	action	218:24	159:22, 24	128:7
43:8 73:18	66:1	219:22	160:6, 10, 11 161:8	129:11
117:12	118:10	221:10	166:24	201:12
203:2	128:3	237:1	169:22	addresses
accountant	188:20	254:21	192:1	112:9
206:25	201:9	261:11	198:20	253:12
accounting	203:10	added	213:2	addressing
15:24 30:6	209:8, 23	128:17	216:18	17:13
52:16	247:19, 21	adding	228:12	48:20
70:21, 25	248:5, 11	111:25	232:7	adequate
268:7	249:5, 21	addition	238:18	225:19
accuracy	251:20, 23	75:12	243:22	228:8
16:1	256:21	139:7	256:3, 15	adhere
accustomed	259:23	159:13	266:3, 7	120:11
79:17	275:6	194:3	additionall	adhering
achieve	actions	224:2	y	219:21
197:1	83:14	227:7	15:22 43:2	adjustments
achieving	155:16	231:16	70:15	68:9
193:7	165:15	234:2	136:6	Admin
acknowledge	active	242:1	158:4	257:3
14:15	45:13	additional	address	administere
36:21	activities	18:11	36:19, 21	d
53:23	127:6	21:19	40:2 50:4	66:24
243:9	146:12	24:4, 13	65:21	administeri
267:21	activity	38:1 52:24	71:24	ng
acquisition	41:10	66:11	90:25	218:9
263:11	actors	68:10	99:22	administrat
act	178:2	69:14	107:8	ion
35:23	actual	70:18	109:9	31:11 34:9
	45:24	82:13	129:9	39:17
	113:5	91:23	187:23	

52:2, 15	259:22	21:24	264:20	141:15
54:1, 10	advance	133:24	afternoon	223:2
60:22	120:20	161:25	153:12	241:17, 23
64:22, 24	151:6	afford	afterthought	agreements
71:23	159:11	128:23	t	150:13
72:6, 10	230:1	186:20	17:8, 11	242:1
78:10	243:24	205:23	agencies	Ahmad
104:16	advances	207:11	62:22 67:5	26:8 29:7,
118:15	157:5	affordable	69:6	8 30:11
129:6	advantage	115:1	112:13	31:6, 23
138:5	27:3 44:1	126:17	116:25	92:8, 9, 21
150:15	57:25	193:7	120:3	95:19
156:16	197:13	248:16, 18	130:15	102:17
157:17, 21	advantaged	252:22	250:18	106:7, 8
160:25	224:9	253:1, 18	254:10	108:16, 20
237:4	advice	261:12	agency	109:11
247:8	165:7, 12	aforementioned	64:18	275:18, 19
261:16	Advisory	243:2	68:12	aid
262:11	116:4	afraid	112:8	119:9
263:7, 15	250:19	131:9	115:18	AIDS
271:11	advocacy	afternoon	124:11	247:14
Administration's	111:12	125:13	267:22, 25	aimed
39:3	179:25	133:9	agenda	120:12
administrative	189:9, 11,	135:4, 8	120:21	261:9
62:9 80:10	25 191:21	141:3	133:1	air
81:2 116:1	Advocate	148:2, 21	160:1, 2	174:18
137:21	164:10	153:12, 23	aggregate	199:14
256:23	Affairs	166:12	135:24	202:5
admit	154:3	168:19	agility	204:6, 16
35:17	222:10	211:14	65:6	airport
adopt	affected	215:21	aging	134:5
120:11	224:15	221:24	157:8	135:22
adopted	affiliated	222:8	agree	136:7, 13,
163:7	229:1	230:14	31:20	22 137:11,
164:12	Affirmative	239:6, 7	80:16 89:9	14, 19
adoption	273:17	243:17	91:2 94:21	138:21, 25
138:6	affirmative	246:25	183:3	139:2, 21
150:16	ly	259:9	agreement	Airport's
		263:20	115:3	135:9
				136:24

137:9	alumni	20, 22	198:15	117:3
akin	244:18	277:5	analysis	161:11
241:13	amazing	279:4, 7, 9,	40:15	218:5
alarm	161:14	11, 19	107:1	233:25
179:23	amend	281:15, 18,	128:4	answering
Alex	20:6	20, 22	187:22	267:19
33:4, 24	137:18	282:5	193:17	270:25
34:4	155:1	amendments	194:20	anti-pay
Ali	163:24	23:14	195:20, 22	65:11
97:17	212:14	38:19 39:2	196:5, 12	anticipate
102:12, 14	amended	212:12	206:11, 23	47:24
105:4	28:16	214:2	and/or	75:10
107:11	212:11	228:21	28:22	102:18
108:18, 25	213:25	America	39:21 63:7	105:2
110:1	277:18, 22	174:13	67:22	antithetical
aligned	278:11	204:4	68:10	l
198:24	280:11, 22	223:20	75:10	67:23, 25
248:11	282:18, 21	231:10	77:15	apartment
alignment	283:7	American	261:18	266:12, 15
194:1	amending	174:12	Andy	apartments
allies	13:15	amount	110:12	183:5
193:2	62:14	30:9 36:13	121:20	apologies
allocate	187:10	46:5 56:18	125:16	159:17
262:12	amendment	97:15	258:10, 19	160:16
allocated	13:16	135:24	259:12	apologize
49:24	29:12	143:23, 24	263:23	38:21
249:18	32:17, 18,	145:4	264:8	74:21
260:21	24 104:15	154:24	announce	151:10
allotment	118:1	162:6	13:9	160:7
226:17	136:20	201:14	announced	appeared
allowed	141:15	212:7, 17	70:12	164:1
63:15 67:2	142:6, 21,	213:1, 4	annual	appears
164:22	24 150:12	241:18	22:23	64:6 67:18
187:19	154:20	273:5, 6	247:18, 21	Applause
191:9	155:4, 8,	amounts	248:4, 10	169:15
allowing	14, 21	15:23	249:5, 20	175:4
59:22, 23	163:5, 12	145:1, 3	251:20, 23	178:9
161:2	193:21	164:5	259:23	179:17
	219:2	272:10, 14	annually	185:1
	276:15, 18,	analyses	115:25	

189:1	158:18	234:17	area	6, 9, 10
200:3	260:10	243:1, 2	18:23 57:4	222:23
202:15	appreciative	approvals	58:19	223:6
203:20		219:6	174:19	225:6, 12,
206:6	18:22	approve	180:7	17 226:4
207:12	73:3, 8	20:15	areas	227:22
210:9	apprentice	69:19	70:18	228:5, 16
Apple	204:9	155:23	201:24	229:17
269:22	apprenticeship	164:14	243:20	234:10
appliances	242:5	193:11	arena	assessments
205:13	approach	202:11	93:17	227:6
applicable	67:20	216:14	arguments	268:15
212:11, 18	224:14	242:24	195:25	assets
214:1	261:7	251:16	arms	249:1
application	approached	259:22	189:22	assigned
241:6, 10,	14:9 33:15	approved	arrangement	165:9
13 242:25	61:9 76:23	142:8	s	assistance
247:20	110:17	150:4	41:16	119:15
applied	133:6	156:9	array	231:25
167:9	147:20	164:5	119:10	250:3, 10
apply	153:5	193:20	225:24	assisted
23:8, 23	170:19	195:21	arrived	266:17
82:19	207:21	196:2	265:24	assisting
143:3	210:21	213:7	arrows	261:13
239:14	215:13	276:23	254:5	associate
240:6	221:21	277:6	articulate	126:9
247:9	238:24	279:12, 20	54:12	Association
appointment	246:17	281:23	253:11	125:19
s	258:15	282:6	assessing	259:14
179:10	264:13	approver	64:17	assume
appraised	approval	69:25	assessment	154:11
177:10	136:10	approximate	216:6, 10,	assuming
appreciated	142:20	ly	21 217:9,	24:15
253:19	154:23	212:23	13, 20	159:18
appreciates	155:1, 20	213:5	218:4, 10,	assure
163:1	164:7	248:6	20 219:5,	85:16
226:21	212:1	April	8, 12, 15,	asthma
appreciation	218:21	17:25	17, 19, 23,	205:22
	219:7, 11	18:12 28:6	25 220:2,	
		37:6 42:14		

at-risk	123:19	awarded	292:1	Balancing
65:22	August	15:19	293:10	72:1
attempt	251:21	57:14 70:3	294:19	bank
85:12	author	157:1	296:3	141:9, 16
attendance	23:13	248:6		142:7, 13,
230:3	authority	aware	B	22 146:12
275:9, 10	37:11	26:15	back	banking
attended	69:22	27:17, 19	19:8 20:25	141:7, 17
146:18	239:22	127:23	76:2 80:6	142:2
attention	authorizati	190:6	92:3 95:17	145:17
40:15, 23	on	202:24	106:21	bankrupting
42:12	135:21	awesome	107:4	112:13
144:11	136:23	205:9	145:9	banks
145:7	141:13	aye	151:8	143:18
attorney	150:7, 9	277:8, 9	177:12	barely
187:16	155:3	278:19, 20	178:8	174:8
196:1	156:4	279:22, 23	184:6	base
attract	194:7	281:5, 6	234:5	56:9 226:4
240:11	212:10	282:8, 9	272:2	based
attracting	213:4, 6, 25	283:15, 16	backbone	51:4 56:9,
240:19	authorize	284:24, 25	122:17	19 58:10
attractive	149:25	286:9, 10	background	79:21
41:14	150:11	287:18, 19	216:8	80:17, 19
audit	212:2	289:2, 3	223:7	86:6 106:1
15:3, 16, 22	239:13	290:11, 12	bad	142:15
16:2, 8	authorized	291:20, 21	177:15	219:13
19:19	69:7 240:5	293:4, 5	178:2	244:13
26:25	authorizes	294:13, 14	baffled	basic
27:5, 20	222:25	295:22, 23	206:12	127:2
30:1, 25	authorizing	ayes	balance	250:4
70:12	241:12	277:14	36:25 38:7	basically
audited	Avenue	278:25	47:3 54:3	79:1
120:9	178:14	280:3	61:18	115:19
Auditing	Aviation	281:11	74:10	basis
30:23	137:23, 25	282:14	270:8	42:4 63:11
64:15	138:4	283:21	balanced	67:17
audits	award	285:5	261:6	78:20
29:21	113:8	286:15	balances	87:25
30:14, 24	157:16	287:24	25:10	137:5
		289:8		
		290:17		

Bass	34:10	241:4	71:21	14 239:12
24:6, 7	148:24	Benjamin	72:16 98:2	244:1
25:3 26:5	149:20	266:6	111:18	245:22
50:13, 16,	158:22	bid	115:8	246:2, 14
17, 21	162:14	47:18	122:6, 20,	247:8, 17
53:20	167:6	62:24	24 124:6	259:21
54:16	222:15	79:15	125:24	275:1
55:4, 12,	228:22	111:24	127:10	276:15, 19,
17, 21	247:7	112:21	129:16	22 277:5,
221:1, 7,	behavior	bidder	132:15, 19,	18, 21
12, 23	108:14	58:4	24 134:12,	278:2, 7,
222:3	behavioral	bidders	17 135:13,	10, 16
275:22, 23	93:23	105:13, 14	18 136:6,	279:4, 8,
276:14, 16	96:19	bidding	19 137:16	12, 19
277:17, 19	97:20	15:19	140:8, 15,	280:7, 10,
279:3, 5	103:14	38:12	23 141:11,	16, 21
280:6, 8	224:12, 23	47:15	12 143:1,	281:2, 15,
281:14, 16	beings	93:10	12 146:1	19, 22
282:17, 19	71:12	Biden	147:14, 18	282:5, 18,
283:24	belief	157:16, 21	148:11, 13,	20 283:1,
284:1	89:4	160:25	24 149:20	6, 12, 25
285:8, 10	beneficial	Biden's	150:16, 18,	284:3, 8,
286:18, 20	82:25	156:17	23 151:16	16, 21
288:2, 4	beneficiari	big	152:13, 17,	285:9, 12,
289:11, 13	es	182:7	19, 21	17, 25
290:20, 22	242:2	biggest	154:10, 21	286:6, 19,
292:4, 6	benefit	124:2	155:16, 22	22 287:2,
293:13, 15	74:12	Bigos	163:3, 17	10, 15
294:22, 24	128:4	110:10	164:13	288:3, 6,
bed	138:23	114:23, 25	170:7	11, 19, 24
49:13, 15,	217:10	bill	207:18	289:12, 15,
21 88:22	218:12, 17	13:14, 16,	210:14, 18	20 290:3,
begging	241:22	23 14:7, 25	211:22, 25	8, 21, 24
207:2	benefiting	21:15	213:18	291:4, 12,
begin	16:11	24:10	214:11	17 292:5,
115:2	benefits	31:24	215:1, 5, 9	8, 13, 21
152:2	217:8	32:13, 24	216:4	293:1, 14,
begun	218:3	38:16 39:8	220:21	17, 22
197:11	239:17	62:13 64:6	222:17	294:5, 10,
behalf			228:20	23 295:1,
			229:12, 15,	6, 14, 19
			17 238:9,	

billion	184:5	138:24	174:8	253:10
136:8	Block	born	182:14	254:4
212:17, 19, 21	247:10	200:23	briefings	255:10
bills	blocks	232:12	139:10	broad
109:16	178:14	bottom	159:11	39:8 52:22
111:1	Blondell	32:18	briefly	58:8, 10
133:4	22:9	bought	197:17	124:7
134:25	board	175:23	244:6	145:21
138:3, 6, 8, 13	104:1	Bowman	253:11, 15	217:20
139:13	body	135:10	bring	224:3
140:20	36:3 85:16	147:19	193:25	225:24
158:11, 15	100:25	148:1, 2, 20, 21	255:22	broaden
160:4	bolstered	149:12, 13, 18	bringing	227:14
167:17	41:10	Brady	89:20	broadens
192:3, 15	bond	13:25	brings	227:5
193:24	136:22	14:4, 11, 19, 23	213:3	broader
205:15	137:19	18:16	216:24	36:21
274:18	148:13	19:16 20:7	Brith	broadly
275:7	149:2, 24	21:11 22:6	148:8, 15	34:23
binding	256:14	23:2 24:20	151:22	59:10
194:15	bonded	26:20, 24	152:10	broke
Bipartisan	256:12	27:18	159:15	145:18
156:18	bonding	28:25	167:6	broken
bit	255:3, 12	29:24	168:5, 8	144:21
44:17	256:10	30:22	171:17	213:15
54:12	bonds	31:19 32:4	172:16	Brooks
100:20	135:23	branch	174:16	215:12
101:17	136:1, 8, 13	142:17	175:18, 23	221:20
110:25	139:22	191:18	177:2	230:8, 9, 13, 17
253:22, 24	150:2, 8	Brandywine	178:12	Brown
Black	212:23	239:20	181:4	22:9
204:17	book	breadth	185:12, 20	204:17
blah	123:25	95:21	186:10	210:20
181:21	boots-to-the-ground	breakdowns	189:23	211:3, 4, 9, 12, 18
blend	268:12	70:7	197:19	Bryn
103:12	Borda	breathe	199:21, 23	237:13
bless	135:8		203:15	
181:23			208:11	
183:19			209:19	
			252:18, 24	

budget	17:4 116:9	81:10	42:3 59:12	capacity
17:2	150:5	83:18	60:20 83:9	46:17
20:15, 16	188:1	87:13	92:25 95:6	111:22
41:17 53:5	Buenas	145:13	103:10	119:7
68:16	122:13	196:14	110:6	137:1
154:22	buenos	203:7	160:13	capital
155:2, 5,	122:14	244:15	170:8	136:2
24, 25	building	251:8	188:21	137:3, 10,
158:20	126:17	296:9	221:16	14 150:4
163:6, 25	131:22, 24	businesses	267:12, 19	154:22
164:15, 19	180:13	23:9 81:7,	275:8	155:24
173:25	182:13, 22	15, 20 82:1	called	163:6, 25
187:11	194:8	83:17	122:7	164:15, 19
192:17	199:2, 3, 24	146:23	160:3	187:10
193:12, 14	209:10	197:13	238:10	193:11
194:5, 12	210:5	240:4, 11	245:23	194:13
195:15	234:4	242:20	246:3	195:15
198:23	245:4	buy	274:19	199:5
202:13	251:11	177:9	275:12	211:19
203:14	buildings	buyers	calls	212:9, 12,
206:10	197:6	177:7	51:11	21 213:7
211:5, 12,	204:22	buys	269:19	capped
19 212:9,	213:10	182:22	Camille	37:24
13, 22	builds	Byrd	61:24 62:7	carbon
214:2	82:16	258:9, 22	campus	190:10
260:14	built		224:3, 6, 11	194:2
263:13	260:24	c	cancer	198:25
270:20	bull	Café	216:20	care
271:1, 22,	176:15	139:7	223:11	39:11 64:1
23 273:1, 4	burdensome	calculate	227:6, 17	72:14
budget also	73:12	22:21	CAO	79:11
156:12	78:18	calculation	60:24 61:5	103:3
budgetary	85:8, 23	s	70:11	124:9
37:11	Bureau	22:12	86:14, 16	143:15
budgeted	89:14	calculus	91:17	168:7
19:1	business	22:20	cap	201:22, 23
budgeting	35:5 43:8	call	37:24, 25	218:19
19:24	54:7 56:10	13:2, 3, 21	53:18	225:9, 20
194:1	73:6, 19	24:17 33:1	capability	227:12
budgets			256:16	228:14, 18
				230:25

231:14	carry	CDBG	certificati	244:2,5
232:11,16	198:17	248:7	on	252:14,17
233:9	carve-out	255:18	120:8	257:16
234:18	99:11	256:19	certified	276:7,13,
237:10	case	260:20	119:4	17 277:1,
cared	48:14	CDC	120:6	16,20
16:24	75:21	126:8	cetera	278:6
224:19	79:14	262:24	114:3	279:2,6,15
career	81:7,13	263:8	chain	280:5,9
64:14	95:9	CEG	48:22	281:13,17
89:11	120:16	19:3 27:4	56:20	282:1,16,
242:3	235:14	Ceiba	166:18	20 283:23
careful	236:5	121:19	Chair	284:2,12
93:6	255:17	122:16	22:4 23:25	285:7,11,
196:12	269:17	center	26:2,6,10	21 286:17,
cares	270:2	102:8	27:23	21 287:6
121:4	cases	107:17	29:6,9	288:1,5,15
201:22	81:13	177:5	34:17	289:10,14,
260:20	cashing	223:11	55:22,25	24 290:19,
caring	145:22,24	224:22	60:3 73:24	23 291:8
184:22	Casino	centered	92:7,19	292:3,7,17
227:24	177:9	72:3	102:13	293:12,16
carried	cast	centering	132:25	294:1,21,
37:7 40:17	124:12	71:12	133:16	25 295:10
carries	156:1	centers	134:3	Chairmember
277:15	157:8,18	115:1	135:3,4	264:20
279:1	161:3	116:4,5	139:14	Chairperson
280:4	catalog	218:5,22	141:3	62:5 71:9
281:12	37:17	232:25	153:12,23	114:24
282:15	catch	250:21	160:19,23	125:13
283:22	177:24	CEO	167:2	239:7
285:6	categories	60:24 61:6	168:16	259:10
286:16	213:8	certainty	170:6	chairs
287:25	category	121:2	175:14	61:8
289:9	213:16	certificate	179:16	Chairwoman
290:18	CBH	s	189:12	14:20
292:2	103:22	208:17,24	190:1	162:23
293:11	107:20	209:16,25	211:15	challenge
294:20			215:23	28:20 47:9
296:4			230:14	123:23
			235:9	

251:15	Chanin	chew	240:12	198:10
challenged	207:19	54:11	CHOP	253:3
211:11	208:2, 6	CHF	229:18	cited
challenges	channeling	174:6	chorus	37:20 67:7
53:18	22:8	chicken	122:19	cities
119:1, 7	Chapter	179:6	Chris	16:15
123:4	32:20	Chief	232:18	17:12
232:6	64:25	62:8 64:15	Christopher	24:25
challenging	65:11 68:1	69:19	's	citizens
127:22	199:14	89:11	230:18, 24	16:23
251:13	charge	92:17	231:7, 14,	47:12
chambers	87:24	135:9	17 232:13,	73:15
152:6	156:8	154:1	20, 23	114:6
chance	charges	216:2	233:8, 11,	141:9, 15
262:22	198:20	child	16, 23	142:13, 22
272:5	charitable	93:14, 17	234:12	158:25
change	123:16	94:13	Christy	199:13
29:14 31:1	Charter	96:5, 14	13:25	city
49:14	15:7, 10, 21	97:7, 14	14:3, 23	14:11, 19,
56:16, 18	249:16	98:17	Cinthia	23 16:11,
57:17	Chase	103:4	170:11	19, 23
58:11	223:11	205:22	195:5, 6	18:16
87:12, 18	check	children	CIO	19:8, 11, 16
137:21	48:25	92:18, 23	91:17	20:7, 21
196:17	145:22, 24	230:19, 21	circle	21:11 23:2
204:14	206:25	231:1, 5, 22	40:24 92:3	24:20
206:16	243:18	232:9	circulated	26:20, 24
212:13	checks	234:13, 19	13:17	27:18
220:15	25:10	270:2, 4	29:13	28:25
227:1	116:24	children's	32:17	29:24
249:16	cheerleader	216:19	276:20	30:22
changed	244:22	220:7	279:9	31:19 32:4
100:19	Cherelle	227:8, 16	281:20	34:20
102:21	196:23	231:10	circumstanc	35:16 38:1
103:7	chest	Chiles	es	39:22 40:5
changing	174:6	129:24, 25	39:19	41:14
79:21 87:9	Chestnut	choir	43:18 59:8	42:20 46:7
90:5 109:3	223:11	101:21	67:22	47:12
219:24		choose	101:13	56:12 59:9
				60:10
				62:9, 21

63:10, 16	141:2, 5,	218:5, 7	259:23	238:22
69:6, 18	13, 18, 22	220:4	Civil	246:16
70:4 71:13	142:8, 10,	223:19	120:23	258:8, 21
72:3, 12	19 145:13,	225:8, 11	Clarifi	264:11
73:15, 20	19 146:6	226:24	111:12	275:8, 13,
75:16	147:3	228:10	clarificati	17, 21, 25
76:4, 12	148:3, 22	233:2, 13	on	276:4, 7
77:14 79:5	149:13, 19	234:1, 16	74:19	client
80:4 81:10	154:23, 25	236:20	clarity	117:6
82:8 83:19	158:23	237:3	104:13	clients
84:14	161:15	239:13	273:10	132:4
91:16	163:4	240:10, 22	Clark	climate
94:8, 11	164:7	241:4, 11,	141:7	186:6
95:11	165:8, 10,	12, 15	clean	188:18
98:19	18 168:23	242:18	186:22	189:11
105:16	176:13	243:3	199:14	193:9
109:20	177:5, 24	247:3, 9	201:17	195:9, 10
113:4, 7, 23	178:1, 7,	248:5	202:5	196:17
115:16	14, 15	249:13, 16	204:6	199:13
116:7	179:14	251:16, 18,	cleaning	200:17
118:11, 18,	182:22	19 254:10	266:3	201:8
23, 25	183:3	259:11	clear	204:14
119:8	186:15	260:1, 9, 13	19:22	206:16
120:14	187:2, 6	261:7	104:14	cloak
121:1, 3	188:9, 20,	263:6, 18	130:24	202:19
122:22	21 193:3,	265:11	131:3	close
123:23	5, 10, 15	267:9	182:20	40:14
124:12, 23	194:4, 14	271:21	271:15	42:12
125:15, 25	195:18	City's	Clerk	144:10
126:16, 24	196:7, 21	15:24 16:6	13:2, 21, 24	201:10
127:17, 24	197:6, 18	20:2 30:6	33:1, 3	219:18
128:15	199:4, 6, 8,	34:24	60:20, 22	231:15
129:5	10 200:24	64:2, 22	61:5	closely
131:5	201:23, 24	128:6	110:5, 10	180:17
133:14, 15,	202:5, 16	192:17	132:21	closer
20, 21	203:11, 14	194:2	147:19	133:19
134:2, 22	206:20	198:24	210:20	153:14
135:2, 6, 10	207:2	212:9, 16	215:10	closest
136:9, 16	211:13, 20	217:21	221:16, 19	40:23
137:10, 24	212:1, 4, 20	218:2		
138:19	216:13, 21	249:17		
139:11, 17	217:15			

closure 266:12	codificatio n 244:13	122:18	239:11	62:11
closures 228:3	codified 62:22	collectivel y 34:21	243:11, 15	77:4, 6, 10,
Club 199:19	coincidence 175:21	39:18	244:7, 19	19 89:24
204:7	cold 172:2, 3	collects 225:11	245:7	97:17
CMS 218:24	182:4	colleges 232:18	246:9	102:3, 12,
219:11, 14	collaborate 273:25	colon 174:7	260:2	14 105:4
CMS's 219:21	collaborati ng 72:8	combine 133:17	commercial 126:19	107:11
Co- chairperson 200:17	collaborati on 18:21	134:4	136:24	108:18, 25
co-located 107:22	72:22	combustible 205:19	137:2, 5	110:1
co- occurring 224:16	86:13	commenced 70:4	251:2	153:24
coalition 195:10	colleague 14:16 56:4	commencing 15:3	262:14	215:25
204:5	168:22	commend 31:8	commercial- 251:8	221:2
207:1	colleagues 13:4, 17	comment 110:7	Commission 155:18	229:10
Cobb 229:21	35:15	153:3	156:11	Commissione rs 89:25
code 18:8 29:14	46:24	170:7	158:19	commit 54:24
35:12	50:10	258:3	161:22	196:25
37:13	60:14	comments 13:5 17:1	162:14, 22	commitment 71:10
62:15, 23	85:17	57:7	163:1, 8,	228:24
63:1 64:25	101:17	169:23	13, 25	249:10
97:25 98:4	175:19	214:14	164:4, 6, 12	commitments 37:10
222:20	188:24	235:7	165:6, 14	142:18
232:12	243:19	236:25	167:19	committed 71:14 72:7
237:12	296:12	252:19	187:15, 24	85:18
codes 237:9	collecting 68:20	257:19	188:4, 14,	242:18
	collective 36:22	274:6	15 195:18,	254:12
		Commerce 138:1	23 196:2	271:4
			202:10	committee 13:18
			203:12	14:22 24:5
			Commission' s 163:10	32:11
			164:17, 23	50:11 62:7
			165:1	71:21
			195:15	73:24
			196:8	74:12, 14,
			Commissione r	

17 78:4	286:2, 23	communities	compacts	119:24
92:5	287:11	126:21	95:7	complex
109:17	288:7, 20	127:4	company	72:4
118:11	289:16	142:18	58:14	266:12, 15
125:15, 24	290:4, 25	146:4	182:10	complexity
132:25	291:13	186:17	234:5	103:5, 6
135:5	292:9, 22	204:18	compassion	compliance
138:8, 10	293:18	237:14	71:13	116:24
139:13, 14,	294:6	248:25	compensated	164:20
20 141:4	295:2, 15	250:16	231:18	227:10
142:12	296:7, 9, 20	251:4	compete	complicate
143:1	Committee's	community	38:11	41:17
150:18, 20	72:17	16:2 17:23	competing	complicated
151:24	Committees	18:14 28:4	115:20	53:10, 11
152:1, 7	250:19	35:25	competition	94:21
158:10, 13	committing	36:25 59:6	41:21	comply
159:19	24:12	85:24	65:14	208:20
163:16	Commonwealt	103:14	67:12	complying
169:24	h	116:23	112:3	30:18
189:7, 11,	123:18	120:4	competitive	187:21
13 192:5,	158:4	123:3, 8	37:18 64:5	comprehensi
7, 16 206:9	165:19	125:19	79:21, 22	ve
211:17	223:3	126:6, 12,	93:10	158:20
213:19	225:18	13 127:8	111:23	223:13
214:15	233:14	143:20, 22	112:21	249:9
219:4	237:5	168:3	complaints	compromisin
220:17, 24	239:15	191:3	85:3	g
230:16	240:1	213:12	complete	71:18
239:9	Commonwealt	230:22	69:3	conceived
247:2	h's	231:19	completed	65:2
263:19	226:17	233:18	54:18	concept
264:22	communicate	241:7	137:7	206:12
276:11, 21	191:13	247:5, 10,	164:19	concern
277:23	communicate	15, 25	completely	42:23
278:12	d	248:13, 22	80:16	46:13 85:7
279:10	169:13	249:1	completing	87:7 88:24
280:12, 23	190:18	251:6	163:22	122:19
281:21	Communicati	259:14	completion	169:14
282:22	ons	community-		245:5
283:8	154:3	105:25		
284:4, 17		156:20		
285:13				

272:7	conduct	connections	consolidate	contemplate
concerned	35:5 52:16	165:5	d	65:6
131:18	conducted	connective	155:15	contest
205:16	194:20	242:3	consternati	190:24
concerns	268:1,7	consequence	on	continue
71:24	conducting	s	83:9	87:16 90:4
78:13	30:1	23:17,20	constituent	98:8 104:6
80:14	158:20	71:3	235:22	168:9
87:15 90:3	conducts	127:20	constituent	180:23
190:18	116:24	128:18	s	195:11
191:13	confident	129:1	30:18	203:9
207:3	79:18	considerabl	31:13	232:8
243:22	configurati	e	186:14	234:17
255:9	on	80:11	191:19	250:6,12
conclude	120:2	considerati	235:14	251:13
238:20	conform	on	constitutes	260:22
concluded	30:8 37:16	26:14	148:25	continued
296:21	41:11	44:21	constitutin	85:2 159:1
concludes	conformance	68:14	g	190:13
165:20	67:3 68:18	127:12	135:19	225:23
214:3	conformed	128:25	136:20	228:13,19
296:8	19:11	138:15	137:17	continues
conclusion	20:21	143:6	149:21	202:25
67:18 68:2	84:23	159:3	Constitutio	243:4
234:9	113:1	220:17	n	continuing
concrete	128:9	226:3	202:3	91:22
107:13	conforming	271:21	constitutio	129:3
concur	20:4,9	considerati	nal	182:8
69:8	116:10	ons	212:5	continuity
condition	confusion	17:7,10	constructed	47:14,20
67:2 101:4	20:8 21:2	123:10	65:2	79:3,11
conditions	connect	considered	constructio	82:11,15,
35:25	165:16	23:8 66:12	n	21,23
36:24	269:13	107:2	242:12	121:5
101:19	connected	130:13	consumers	128:22
136:18	120:22	consist	167:16	continuousl
141:21	connecting	265:17	contact	y
176:25	146:20	consistentl	47:2	83:23
177:22		y		continuum
		120:8		105:21

contract	12 56:8,	130:17, 18,	48:6 64:18	281:19
19:3, 10	12, 25 57:2	25 166:16	65:13	core
20:4, 10	58:11 60:9	273:11	66:12	53:16
23:6 27:7	64:5 65:17	contractual	67:13	113:14
30:8 42:7	67:21	15:23 37:9	68:10 70:7	129:9
44:14, 15,	70:23	contribute	72:2	Corporation
18 45:6, 7	85:10, 20	40:6	89:17, 18	s
47:19	89:21 91:8	contributes	conundrum	125:20
56:5, 18	94:20	233:25	177:16	259:15
69:1, 17	128:6	contribution	conversatio	correct
70:3 88:4,	129:10	ns	n	21:12
15 90:23	contractor	233:10	35:9 36:18	23:18
94:2, 16, 25	45:9, 13	control	40:7 55:3	51:2, 16
95:10	54:22	53:19	129:3	81:22
104:3, 21	57:24	69:14 84:9	188:8	159:14
105:6	95:10	Controller	189:6	corridor
108:7, 11	103:23	14:3, 11,	190:13	251:10
109:1, 7	contractors	19, 24	191:8, 16	262:20
112:16, 25	47:2 56:14	17:21	conversatio	corridors
113:7, 8	contracts	18:16, 25	ns	126:19
117:1	15:8, 18	19:16 20:7	86:12, 22	251:3
128:10	17:4, 15	21:11, 17	89:23	262:15, 22
130:20	21:7 22:18	22:5 23:2	191:4	corrode
132:2	28:15 30:6	24:9, 20	254:9	157:10
142:6, 21	37:17	26:20, 24	COO	cost
154:7	41:12, 22	27:18	230:18	48:16
242:10	46:18	28:6, 25	cooking	49:8, 12, 15
272:10	47:16 56:3	29:5, 11, 24	197:10	56:19 63:7
contract's	59:24	30:22	cooperate	111:20, 24
20:20	62:16, 18,	31:19, 24	70:14	113:6, 18
131:17	24 63:3	32:4 52:21	coordinate	142:16
contracted	64:24	Controller'	265:8	178:22
63:10	66:23 67:3	s	COPD	198:21
101:8	69:21	25:13	174:6	205:14
118:24	70:13	70:11	copy	213:3
contracting	78:25 80:3	controlling	39:1	218:9
15:4 16:7,	81:25	130:14	241:11	227:24
21 18:3	84:22 93:8	controls	276:19	231:13
24:19	113:5	41:7, 25	279:8	240:17
34:24 35:7	115:13, 14			
36:8 46:6,	116:10			

cost-	185:5	22, 25	235:11	190:2
41:15	187:2	289:19, 21	236:10	191:24
117:14	188:9, 20,	290:7, 9	238:2	208:3
cost-	22 193:4,	291:3, 5,	244:4	235:10
benefit	10 194:14	15, 18	245:15	244:3
187:22	196:7, 21	292:12, 14,	252:16	245:9, 19
193:17	197:18	25 293:2,	254:1, 15,	246:25
195:19	199:6, 8, 14	21, 23	20 257:15	252:15
196:5	202:16	294:9, 11	275:15	257:13
198:15	203:11, 15	295:5, 7,	276:2, 6	275:13, 17,
206:11, 23	204:6	18, 20	Councilmani	21, 25
costs	206:21	Council's	c	276:4, 14
36:10 45:4	208:5	71:10	65:23	277:2, 17
57:11, 18	209:22	118:12	Councilmemb	278:8
112:16	212:2	142:20	er	279:3, 16
116:1	213:22, 24	155:1	14:17 22:1	280:6
130:14	220:20, 22	189:12	24:3, 6	281:14
188:17	226:3	Councilman	26:5, 7, 8	282:2, 17
Council	228:11	21:23 22:3	28:1, 3	283:24
31:11 38:2	237:4	23:10	29:4, 7	284:13
39:17	241:11	26:1, 9, 22	31:23	285:8, 22
49:22 50:1	243:1	27:12, 22	50:15, 16	286:18
51:1 52:3	245:12	28:23	55:21, 23	287:7
56:11	247:3	55:24	58:25	288:2, 16
71:23 72:9	249:14	58:1, 9, 18	60:6, 12	289:11, 25
78:5 88:9	251:16	59:11, 17	86:23	290:20
125:15	252:1, 3	60:2	92:8, 20, 21	291:9
136:9	263:6, 18	133:18, 23	97:4	292:4, 18
138:11, 14	277:25	160:22	102:17	293:13
139:12	278:3, 14,	161:13, 24	106:7	294:2, 22
142:8	17 280:14,	166:25	129:4	295:11
143:5, 17	17, 25	167:4	153:25	Councilmemb
149:8	281:3	168:18	160:20	ers
150:21, 24	282:25	169:17	161:21	129:5
154:24	283:2, 10,	175:13	162:24, 25	166:14
158:14, 16,	13 284:7,	176:23	167:3, 25	186:5
23 161:15	9, 20, 22	178:10	168:17	187:12
163:4, 21	285:16, 18	181:10, 12	175:11	193:5
164:8	286:4, 7	183:24	179:20, 22	215:24
168:23	287:1, 3,	190:3	180:16, 21	259:11
180:2	14, 16	191:6	182:19	Councils
	288:10, 12,			

216:13	98:16	176:21	275:19, 23	120:3
Councilwoman	100:1, 21	179:18	276:9, 16,	250:18
13:7 14:1,	101:25	181:8	25 277:10,	260:24
13 17:19	104:10	185:2	13, 19	counselors
19:14, 20	106:4, 8	186:1	278:5, 21,	113:17
21:3, 13, 25	108:16, 20	189:2, 19	24 279:5,	119:4
24:1, 7	109:11, 13	191:22	14, 24	260:12, 15
25:3, 24	110:4, 13,	194:24	280:2, 8, 19	count
26:3 27:24	19 111:5, 6	197:21	281:7, 10,	50:6 236:3
29:2, 8	114:11, 18	200:4	16, 25	counties
30:11	117:20	203:17, 21	282:10, 13,	233:22
31:6, 21	121:12	205:4	19 283:4,	countless
32:7 33:5,	122:1	207:13, 23	17, 20	231:5
17 34:1	125:5	210:10, 16,	284:1, 11	country
38:20, 25	129:17	23 211:7	285:1, 4,	174:14
40:9 41:4	132:5, 17,	214:6, 17	10, 20	265:24
44:7 46:1	22 133:8,	215:3, 7, 15	286:11, 14,	couple
47:5 49:1,	25 134:6,	221:1, 7,	20 287:5,	50:22
10, 18	15, 20	12, 23	20, 23	107:5
50:8, 13,	138:17	222:2, 3	288:4, 14	130:10
14, 17, 21	139:24	229:5	289:4, 7,	160:24
53:20	140:11	230:10	13, 23	178:14
54:16	143:8	235:1	290:13, 16,	186:16
55:4, 12,	147:6, 16,	236:8	22 291:7,	court
17, 19	22 148:4, 9	238:5, 12	22, 25	97:8 173:6
60:4, 17, 25	149:4, 9, 14	239:1	292:6, 16	176:2
61:11 62:1	150:25	243:12	293:6, 9,	courts
72:18	151:18	245:17, 25	15, 25	176:2
74:24	152:15, 24	246:5, 12,	294:15, 18,	cover
76:11, 17,	153:7, 13,	19 252:7	24 295:9,	99:6 113:4
25 77:8,	19 154:13	254:18, 25	24 296:2	198:21
12, 25	159:6	256:6	counsel	231:12
81:5, 18	161:19	257:17, 22	115:6	270:21
82:4 83:2	162:1, 15	258:11, 17,	165:7, 9	covered
84:5, 11	165:22	25 259:18	counseling	112:1
87:5 90:14	166:6, 12,	263:21	113:13	223:25
91:20 92:9	20 167:1,	264:5, 15	114:1	225:1, 3, 21
95:19	23 168:13	268:18	115:13, 15	227:25
96:25	169:19	271:12	116:5	
97:21	170:4, 21	273:21	117:6	
	171:4, 10	274:1, 9,	118:10, 24	
	175:5	14, 21		

COVID 104:24 144:9 265:23	credits 197:14	Crystal 264:11, 22	Darville 170:12 200:13, 15 202:16	119:25 241:8
crack 86:17	crises 65:22 66:8	culturally-informed 68:6	data 68:20 106:12 107:6, 10	deaf 236:18
crafted 50:25	crisis 63:20 94:4, 14 96:19 119:14 267:7	cumbersome 81:4	data- 106:24	deal 20:23 45:9 96:21 103:8 182:7 229:16
crafting 70:24	Cristella 32:11	cure 122:24	date 190:16	dealing 20:11 78:19 88:24 145:15 146:5
CRCC 102:8	criteria 96:18	current 38:17 39:7 136:25 137:9 142:23 271:1, 9	David 129:25 265:1 268:24	deals 93:14
create 71:2 85:21 89:16 99:20 111:23 112:3, 17 115:25 242:20 248:15	critical 23:22 64:8 65:19 66:18 71:7 80:20 113:2 119:12 155:9 158:7 217:17 224:17 228:16 233:1 240:15 249:14 255:23 260:16 261:6	customer 157:25 165:5	Dawn 238:22 239:6, 9	Dear 193:5
created 37:7 41:18 63:24 67:9 86:9 119:17 239:25 266:7	cross-departmental 38:3	customers 155:13 158:2, 6 165:16 194:10 198:20	day 35:20 73:10 75:7, 9 80:23 87:25 114:6 151:13 174:10 176:7 178:11 264:8 296:19	death 93:18
creates 177:16	crucial 65:20 71:6	cut 173:2 186:11 204:20	day-to- 87:24 176:6	debt 37:8 136:14 150:8 212:16, 18, 20
creating 34:19 67:12 87:2 112:13	cruel 179:13	cutbacks 44:5	day-to-day 99:6	decades 63:5 178:23
creative 254:13		D	days 108:3	decarbonize 205:23
credit 128:12 240:7		damaged 97:17		decided 16:8 176:6
		damn 184:24		decides 53:17
		Damocles 176:7		decision 196:8

decisions 36:15 207:9	defray 218:9	Democratic 204:4	241:6 243:11, 16 244:7, 19 247:15, 25 259:24 260:3 266:19 272:24	dependent 48:4
decisive 66:1	degree 46:12 177:21	demonstrati ng 194:21		depending 45:21 214:19
decline 198:8	delay 209:17	department 15:13 19:1, 4, 12 20:4, 5, 10, 12, 17, 18, 22, 24 21:1 24:14 27:6, 8, 14 30:8 42:17 45:3, 8 48:17 50:2 53:5 57:21 59:3 64:16 67:6 69:23 74:8 86:4 88:13 89:13 91:10, 11, 15 92:24 102:15, 23 107:1 113:5 119:5 120:6, 10 137:22, 23, 25 156:13 165:8 166:18 169:8 215:22 218:3 219:9 223:1 224:21 226:23 237:20		depository 141:17
decreases 271:25 272:23	delays 116:9, 11		department 's 41:9 165:12	deposits 136:3
dedication 263:15	delicate 119:22		departmenta l 85:17 86:5 88:25 271:24 272:22	Deputy 76:20 89:25 92:17 135:10 141:6 148:2, 21 149:13 211:4, 12, 19 239:10 247:4 264:23
deductions 142:4	delineated 96:20		departments 15:5 18:5 21:9 24:15 26:18 27:3 28:10, 15 29:14, 18 30:3, 17 31:3 35:5, 22 38:9 39:10 41:13, 15 43:10, 12 47:1 54:5 57:12 59:24 62:22 63:16 78:23 79:13 83:1 87:23 89:6 95:23 124:8	
deemed 219:16	deliver 42:19 112:7, 14 116:12 127:5 155:12 265:13			
deems 155:9	deliverable s 113:20			Desantis 33:4, 23, 25 34:3, 5 38:23 39:6 41:2 43:15 44:11 46:21 48:12 49:3, 16 50:5, 19 52:9 53:21 54:20 55:9, 15 57:1 58:6, 16, 24 59:15, 19 85:7
deeper 39:15 44:20 55:2	delivered 224:24			
deeply 53:15 168:7	delivery 66:19 67:24 71:4, 13 112:18 128:11, 19 157:4 225:9 228:18			
defalcation s 26:16				
deferral 45:1				
deferring 45:4				
defibrillat or 174:5	demand 198:7 205:7			
define 39:18	demands 91:4 115:9			describes 154:16
defined 69:6 220:4				

description 146:15	determinant 267:11	DHCD 115:14	direction 86:15	discount 136:2
desert 174:22	determine 15:17	260:2	187:3	discrepanci es
deserve 232:10	16:10	DHS 60:24	188:23	26:21
deserves 186:18	24:24 70:6	92:25	directly 34:17	discrete 45:24
design 86:14	86:25	93:8, 14	44:17	discretionary 120:15
242:12	198:16	99:17	119:4	discuss 34:22
designated 240:5	determined 142:13	102:4, 16	157:4	53:13
designation s	251:14	103:15	Director 15:12	discussion 39:16, 24
115:18	develop 240:12	104:1	92:18	46:23
241:14	developed 51:4 260:9	105:9	111:11	257:9
designed 66:17	developers 242:19	107:18	114:25	discussions 45:22
156:19	developing 187:6	219:10, 21	121:19, 20	188:6
desk 205:2	development 116:23	diagnoses 96:20	122:16	disease 123:1
detail 154:18	120:5	dialogue 53:25	125:17, 18	dishes 182:6
271:20	122:18	124:17	130:1	disinterest ed
273:2	125:20	dias 122:14	154:7	17:1
detailed 63:1	126:6	died 201:11	162:21	disorder 261:21
187:17	213:12	difference 58:3	166:16	disorders 224:16
248:4	239:25	difficult 19:24 41:8	211:5, 12, 19 239:11	displacemen t
249:20	240:10, 16, 18, 24	267:22	247:4	266:10
details 163:12	241:7	diligence 163:23	259:13	disproporti onate
247:22	242:16	diligently 168:3	264:1, 2, 24	226:9, 14, 18
detention 106:1	243:6	dinners 179:7	265:2	
107:17, 25	247:6, 10, 16 248:1, 13 251:6	dire 128:18	268:24	
108:2, 9	259:15, 25	direct 113:18	269:1	
	262:2, 25	186:5	disabilitie s	
	263:3, 16		176:11	
	266:20		disagree 187:14, 18	
			disasters 63:21	
			DISC 161:9	
			discharged 104:5	

disproportionately 204:18	division 16:9 116:22	double 162:6	85:4 89:8 91:1 92:14 99:1	duties 69:22
disregarded 38:15	120:4 137:24 247:5	downtown 245:2	100:17, 23 110:3	dying 182:11 201:25
disrupted 121:6	doctors 181:20 236:11, 15	draft 16:3, 25 27:10	due 39:11 114:9 124:9 137:8 163:23 192:12 226:15	E
disseminate 78:4	doctors' 179:10	drastically 204:20	174:9	earlier 91:6 195:13 219:8
distancing 266:3	document 74:21 273:19	Driscoll 275:14, 15	192:12 226:15	ears 236:18
distinctly 101:3	documents 194:12	drive 57:8	duly 276:24 278:4 279:13 280:18 281:24 283:3 284:10 285:19 287:4 288:13 289:22 291:6 292:15 293:24 295:8	earth 202:1
distinguish ed 14:21	Dodds 246:16, 24 247:3 252:20 253:14 254:7, 24 255:21	driven 17:5 41:21 48:21 67:11 106:25 107:7 127:1	285:19 287:4 288:13 289:22 291:6 292:15 293:24 295:8	easily 37:16 112:10
distribution 156:7, 23	dollar 37:23 44:13 46:5	driving 49:5	285:19 287:4 288:13 289:22 291:6 292:15 293:24 295:8	Eastwick 239:18
district 175:11 186:14 242:7 243:1, 18 245:3	dollars 17:9 20:1 25:6 31:14 43:13 217:14 228:12 240:20 255:14, 18 256:11, 20	DSA 199:17 204:3 208:7	285:19 287:4 288:13 289:22 291:6 292:15 293:24 295:8	easy 36:9 67:3 184:12
Districts 65:24	domestic 130:4	Dubow 257:5 269:1 273:18	285:19 287:4 288:13 289:22 291:6 292:15 293:24 295:8	echo 181:22
diverse 127:7	doors 131:8	Duchaussee 61:23, 25 62:4, 8 74:18 76:8, 15, 19 79:6 81:11, 23 82:15 84:3, 10	285:19 287:4 288:13 289:22 291:6 292:15 293:24 295:8	economic 38:12 213:12 232:2 233:10, 17 239:24 240:10, 16 241:7 242:8 243:6 247:16 248:1, 24 251:6 262:15, 25
diversion 116:18, 20 119:23 260:17			Dunn 132:21 133:14, 15, 20, 21 134:2 135:2, 6 141:2, 5 148:23 149:19 211:13, 20	
Diversity 154:8 166:17			duration 241:22	
diving 24:21 27:1				

263:3,16	efficiency	199:2	106:23	enabled
economically-	29:17 86:2	204:23	188:18	37:14
challenged	124:22	element	224:20	enables
231:2	199:4	228:17	236:12	225:18
ecosystem	efficient	elevators	237:20	enabling
37:3 85:21	64:7	177:17	247:12	217:4
122:21	155:11	eligible	267:2	enacted
124:24	efficiently	244:18	emergent	141:23
260:24	127:6	eliminate	65:4 67:21	194:15
education	effort	63:7	93:13 99:7	199:7
226:12	50:7 57:10	eliminated	107:8	encampment
232:4,14	103:1	262:4	emissions	266:5
248:24	118:12,14	eliminates	157:13	encountered
educational	158:7	157:11	197:2	96:1
233:1	184:21	eliminating	empathetic	encourage
242:15	efforts	111:16	65:7	124:19
effect	128:2	elimination	employ	144:17
45:7 119:2	129:7	59:13 69:3	130:22	encumber
209:3	157:7	Eliza	employee	30:10
226:19	158:24	296:18	118:20	encumbered
267:13	Einstein	email	employees	15:24
effective	229:13	145:10	141:18	encumbering
32:22 64:8	235:15	embodies	142:3	15:4 30:5
67:23	elected	163:3	223:10	54:6
117:15	209:7	emergencies	267:17	encumbrance
effectively	electric	15:9 63:3,	employer	68:11,19
40:4 65:20	171:22	22 65:18,	236:1	encumbrance
71:5 127:7	182:10	25 98:1	employers	s
265:13	electrical	99:8 107:3	217:16	53:13 54:2
effectiveness	177:19	271:8	employing	end
86:3 89:18	204:9,21	emergency	233:18	20:24
effectuate	205:1	36:1 75:8,	employment	25:15
223:3	electrician	9 80:18,21	58:19	39:24 55:1
effectuation	205:8	94:4,13	240:2	61:19
66:3	electricity	96:6,12	empowerment	69:14
	197:9	97:7,13	113:13	80:23
	electrification	98:20	EMSCO	100:12
	195:9	103:11	245:3	160:12
				178:11

196:9	enshrined	108:11	228:14	estate
199:20	137:22	109:1	237:16	234:7
260:21	ensure	Enterprise	242:10	241:20
ending	16:22	56:11	equity	251:9
267:20	42:15 47:7	entertainin	177:11	ethical
endorsed	66:2 72:12	g	195:8	67:24
163:13	73:16	206:9	equivalent	evade
ends	79:14 87:2	entire	113:16	43:10
261:14	89:2 103:1	229:22	Erica	evaluate
energy	105:21	296:16	154:6	40:25 48:8
116:5	108:7	entities	166:15	51:7 59:24
157:5	121:5	265:21	error	268:10
186:11, 19,	129:6	entitled	160:7	evaluated
22 188:2	139:16	62:15	escalate	120:9
191:5	145:12	entitlement	188:18	evaluating
193:8, 24	155:10	56:5	escape	23:23
201:17	180:1, 14	entity	157:11	68:22
250:20	199:9	108:13	ESG	evaluation
enforce	209:24	167:13	248:9	56:23
193:15	225:23	environment	250:10	event
engage	228:13	38:12	essence	146:17
78:14	242:4, 20	83:17	81:12	events
124:17	243:20	118:13	essential	146:11, 16,
202:12	268:10	144:3	65:6 71:15	17
engaged	ensures	189:13	72:5	eventually
52:15	71:16	199:16	112:14	36:16
126:11	ensuring	environment	126:18	ever-
engine	64:7, 9	alist	essentially	growing
233:17	228:7	200:19	45:3 63:14	107:23
enhance	252:11	201:21	82:23	everybody's
268:13	enter	Episcopal	91:12	259:8
enjoy	94:16, 24	224:5, 11	established	everyday
174:18, 20	95:8 104:3	episode	65:10	87:12
202:5	105:6	93:24	156:16	eviction
enormous	108:6	97:20	establishin	114:2
201:14	141:14	equitable	g	116:20
Ensemble	144:7	71:17	65:12	119:13, 23
239:22	223:1	122:17	222:20	250:2
	241:16	126:11		
	entered			

260:16 evidence 242:10 evidence-based 106:11 exacerbated 57:4 exact 97:18 98:2 examined 91:18 Examiner 89:12 examples 95:18, 20 102:5 exceed 135:25 212:8 exceeded 37:10 Excellent 149:16 166:8, 21 exception 99:12, 22 101:10 124:9, 20 262:1 exceptional 230:25 exceptions 15:9 99:4, 9 excluded 29:19 227:9	excluding 203:13 exclusive 66:14 82:21, 22 136:1 excuse 76:8 172:19 executed 118:15 142:7 executive 53:17 114:25 121:19, 20 122:15 125:17 129:25 162:21 196:24 264:2 265:2 268:24 exempt 15:18 22:14 29:23 30:16 69:17 exempting 26:12, 13 29:13 exemption 17:11, 16 18:14 27:4 30:4 34:22 35:12 37:2, 23 38:14	39:11, 13, 19, 25 40:21 41:1, 10 42:25 43:6, 20 44:15 45:21 51:8, 12 57:6 59:14 62:21, 25 63:6, 11, 15, 24 65:16 66:4, 13, 25 68:23 69:4, 7, 20 70:13, 17, 22 71:25 72:11 79:12 80:15 82:25 90:19 91:8 93:5 94:15 104:2, 9 111:17 114:10 124:16 exemption-use 79:8 exemptions 16:12 63:4 70:2 167:10 240:7 exhaustive 17:22 Exhibit 247:17	exigent 101:12 exist 46:11 existence 120:22 existing 108:1, 13 109:4 150:6, 8, 13 193:15 216:10 exists 191:12 expand 136:24 201:14 204:21 248:20 261:8 expanded 109:6 expands 216:17 Expansion 16:2 17:24 18:15 28:4 expect 20:17 47:25 54:17 75:11 79:4 131:16 198:7 expected 217:5 expecting 175:24	expedite 137:14 expedited 16:17 63:12 65:3 68:5 expeditious 251:22 expeditiously 251:17 expenditure s 196:3, 13 225:13 expenses 270:21 experience 37:19 56:9 82:18 89:19 94:9 201:1 experienced 112:4 118:19, 25 119:7 265:22 experiencing 93:22 130:3 266:21, 24 267:14 experientially 66:8 expert 195:24
---	--	---	--	--

expertise	57:24 70:6	failure	270:1	291:19
80:8, 24	100:24	112:14	family	293:3
82:17	External	failures	42:3 79:16	294:12
expiration	154:3	63:23	92:24 95:3	295:21
241:9	eye	177:21	103:7	favorable
expire	167:20	fair	172:23	138:9
210:1		24:24	184:13	143:2
explain	F	65:14	228:22	150:19
225:6	face	73:17, 18	235:20	158:11
exposed	28:20 36:7	118:12	far-	163:18
36:15	181:6	120:21	reaching	213:20
express	faced	172:25	127:13	277:23
222:17	35:2, 23	249:3	fashion	278:12
expressed	facilities	fairly	70:1	280:12, 23
67:9	157:24	15:20 35:6	fast	282:23
217:25	facility	40:3 41:20	211:18	283:8
expressing	103:22, 25	67:11	faster	284:5, 18
115:3	facing	80:2, 11	41:12	285:14
extend	179:3	167:9	fat	286:2, 24
145:17	185:16	Fairmount	130:25	287:12
158:17	252:24	145:20	fate	288:8, 20
159:16	fact	178:13	176:5	289:17
extended	30:13, 23	fairness	fault	290:5
45:10	53:24	120:13	145:25	291:1, 13
143:23	159:20	fall	favor	292:10, 23
235:19	179:2	17:15	135:13	293:19
extension	201:13, 16,	190:14	141:10	294:7
239:15	23 202:7,	236:18	154:9	295:3, 16
241:5	9, 11, 25	familiar	277:7	favorite
242:25	216:16	123:4	278:18	235:15
extensions	240:23	179:4	279:21	Fayik
241:15	Faik	families	281:4	192:23
extensive	170:11	92:19	282:7	February
142:16	fail	130:2	283:14	164:24
extent	17:4 129:9	131:25	284:23	fed
35:6 37:15	196:10	231:6, 23,	286:8	173:19
43:21	failed	25 232:10	287:17	federal
53:24	123:7	234:14	289:1	82:9 89:14
		242:23	290:10	120:23
		269:16		197:14

216:22, 24	190:19	finances	204:15	flooding
217:11, 13	272:19	48:2 114:8	firm	204:15
218:22	file	financial	52:16	Florida
219:6	123:18	20:2 26:15	222:17	200:24
225:14	195:19	113:13	268:8	flow
227:10	filed	117:4	firms	217:15
234:15	187:16	135:9	46:19	fly
247:10, 23	208:17	207:8	244:23	201:7
265:20	final	231:25	first-time	folks
feedback	119:2	242:11	260:18	61:8 75:17
90:8	142:22	268:6	Firstly	98:23
117:24	finalize	financially	34:7	113:24
132:8	260:4	123:21	fiscal	124:4
feel	finalized	206:15	17:3, 6, 9	146:20
83:12	54:19	financing	49:25	152:4
181:16	finally	137:3, 6	88:7, 8	159:15
183:14	59:12	262:2	104:22	160:11
235:18	137:16	find	123:10	168:23
feeling	233:10	24:22	154:22	184:13
84:7	finance	28:21	155:23	205:23
182:22	19:25 62:6	56:2, 7, 15,	193:11	209:21
208:1	68:21	17 94:7	222:23	follow
fees	125:15, 24	97:9	226:5, 6	19:25 20:1
225:10	135:6	244:15	248:10	21:6 28:22
fellows	139:13	254:13	270:22	42:16
233:5	141:5	finding	fittingly	43:12
felt	206:9	90:10	67:7	206:21
83:8	207:6	183:1, 5	fixed	follow-up
females	211:16	184:11, 23	174:3	51:18
106:2	213:7	findings	fixes	food
ferret	230:15	52:24	129:12	232:3
23:16	239:9	fine	flat	fooled
field	247:2	106:9	262:1	178:12
36:4 85:2	255:6, 12	finished	flexibility	for-profit
205:10	256:24	21:20	24:16	73:21
fighting	263:18	54:23, 25	59:22	81:17
262:22	264:22	fire	257:11	234:5
figure	268:25	266:14	flexible	for-profits
176:16	296:10, 20	fires	137:2	112:6

Force 127:25	forward 13:18	four-year 47:19	fried 179:6	fund 49:23
forces 49:5	21:18	fourth 179:12	friends 42:3	68:24 88:7
foreclosure 114:1	24:21	183:25	frightens 114:5	136:3
116:16	25:21	262:14	front 50:25	137:3
119:13	26:25 32:2	Fox 223:10	fuel 196:9, 20	138:4
250:1	52:1 91:22	fraction 231:13	204:20	212:8
260:17	128:8	frame 39:15 96:7	208:9	248:2
forensic 52:17	129:2	106:21	fuels 186:22	249:18, 19
268:5	159:1	framed 54:14	197:5	262:20
foreseeable 234:20	192:18	framework 64:11	fulfill 127:1	263:11
forest 204:15	256:2	66:17	fulfilling 113:6	funded 20:13 21:2
forethought 25:7	263:5	219:20	116:25	27:7 138:4
forever 56:3 75:19	274:3	Frank 215:10, 21	155:18	156:6
256:1	fossil 186:21	229:8	full 70:21, 25	funding 19:12 50:1
forfeit 251:18	196:9, 19	Franklin 215:11, 20,	105:6	82:8
forgive 36:1	197:4	21 229:9	150:14	103:13
form 37:9 38:17	204:20	266:6	164:20, 24	116:7
39:7 43:6	208:9	frankly 85:17	223:22	136:2
213:14	foster 118:12	freeing 183:16	231:13	156:1
formal 165:10	248:21	freedom 42:1 67:14	full-time 113:16	157:1, 23
formality 36:11	fostering 120:13	frequently 131:10, 11	fully 16:23 43:7	217:11
forms 22:18	fosters 71:16	Friday 176:20	70:4, 14	218:4, 10
forum 34:20	found 16:24	179:6	74:4	226:7
	18:12, 25	183:18	function 111:25	247:20
	19:2, 18		112:8	249:14, 22
	26:21		functions 81:3	250:24
	28:13			251:7, 18
	58:21			253:19, 21
	164:1			255:25
	165:1			256:3
	foundational 1			260:20
	186:16			262:6, 21,
				24
				funds 42:6 68:25
				115:21
				216:23
				225:14

247:14, 22	gain	195:14	88:6	32:7 33:5,
248:9	46:16	197:1, 5, 19	135:22	17 34:1
272:1, 24	144:15	198:8, 12	136:21	38:20, 25
Furcht	273:9	202:9	137:19	40:9 41:4
170:11	Gale	203:12	149:2, 23	44:7 46:1
198:3, 4	264:12	205:18, 19	191:20	47:5 49:1,
future	gap	gas-powered	212:22	10, 18
25:22	112:15	205:12	227:12	50:8, 14
52:10	113:4	gateway	249:18	55:19
136:17	231:16	16:13	263:8	60:4, 17, 25
158:9	gaps	gave	268:2	61:11
188:1, 3	112:17	41:25	General's	62:1, 5
191:5	Garrett	67:13	124:5	67:8 71:9
206:17	76:22	95:20	Generally	72:9, 18
212:14	92:15, 16	Gemela	41:18	74:24
224:6	96:23 97:2	162:20	generate	76:11, 17,
232:17	98:14	general	216:22	25 77:8,
233:9	109:24	16:5 33:4,	generates	12, 25
234:21, 23	gas	7, 11, 23, 25	241:24	81:5, 18
future-	149:2, 23,	34:3, 5, 11	generating	82:4 83:2
207:8	25 150:2	38:23 39:6	189:6	84:5, 11
FY18	153:24	40:11 41:2	240:21	87:5 90:14
49:23	155:17	42:6 43:15	generators	91:20
FY2025	156:22	44:11	180:9	92:20
164:18	158:18	46:21	generous	96:25
212:9	161:22	48:12	161:1	97:21
FY24	162:14, 22,	49:3, 16, 23	germane	98:16
163:6, 24	25 163:13	50:5, 19	56:6 58:22	100:1, 21
FY25	164:3, 12	52:9 53:21	Germantown	101:25
164:15	165:6, 13	54:20	200:15	104:10
212:10, 12,	166:19	55:9, 15	Gilmore	106:4
21 213:24	167:12, 18	56:1, 7, 21,	13:7 14:1,	109:13
214:2	171:20	25 57:1, 3,	13, 20	110:4, 13,
271:22	173:1	10, 16, 23	17:19	19 111:6
273:1	182:2, 9	58:6, 16, 24	19:14, 20	114:11, 18
	187:4, 15,	59:15, 19	21:3, 13, 25	117:20
	20, 24	66:22	24:1 25:24	121:12
G	188:3, 14	68:24	26:3 27:24	122:1
Gail	193:12	82:16	29:2 31:21	125:5, 14
168:1	194:8	85:7, 11		129:4, 17
				132:5, 17,
				22 133:8,

25 134:6, 15, 20 135:4 138:17 139:24 140:11 141:3 143:8 147:6, 16, 22 148:4, 9 149:4, 9, 14 150:25 151:18 152:15, 24 153:7, 13, 19, 23 154:13 159:6 161:19 162:1, 15, 23 165:22 166:6, 13, 20 167:1, 23 168:13 169:19 170:4, 21 171:4, 10 175:5 176:21 179:18 185:2 186:1 189:2, 19 191:22 194:24 197:21 200:4 203:17, 21 205:4 207:13, 23 208:4 210:10, 16,	23 211:7, 15 214:6, 17 215:3, 7, 15, 23 229:5 230:10, 14 235:1 236:8 238:5, 12 239:1, 7 243:12 245:17, 25 246:5, 12, 19, 25 252:7 254:18, 25 256:6 257:17, 22 258:11, 17, 25 259:10, 18 263:21 264:5, 15, 20 268:18 271:12 273:21 274:1, 9, 14, 21 276:7, 9, 25 277:10, 13 278:5, 21, 24 279:14, 24 280:2, 19 281:7, 10, 25 282:10, 13 283:4, 17, 20 284:11 285:1, 4, 20 286:11, 14 287:5, 20, 23 288:14 289:4, 7, 23	290:13, 16 291:7, 22, 25 292:16 293:6, 9, 25 294:15, 18 295:9, 24 296:2 give 49:11 51:13, 17 92:11 93:20 97:18 103:9 107:13 138:8 150:18 158:11 169:9 182:9 192:10 208:21 244:9 262:21 264:1 269:6, 11 giving 125:2 glad 161:15 globally 16:10 goal 30:25 79:10 89:4 157:12 194:3 197:3 198:25 goals	190:10 248:11, 15 262:13 God 181:23 183:18 184:4 Gonzalez 110:12 121:18 122:13, 15 good 14:20 18:20 24:11 50:18 54:7 61:23 62:4 77:5, 9 87:17 92:16, 19 101:14 118:6 122:22 125:12 133:9 135:3 141:2 148:1, 20 153:11, 12, 23 162:22 166:12 168:18 204:12 206:1, 7 207:7 211:14 215:20 221:23 222:7 230:13 235:25	236:2 239:5, 6 246:24 254:2 255:22 259:9 264:8, 19 governing 100:25 government 34:14 40:21 42:9 72:4 73:18 75:17 122:23 123:24 124:13, 23 222:10 225:2 256:24 265:21 Gracias 122:14 grand 139:6 grant 16:2 42:6 68:25 156:16, 25 157:20 161:4, 11 162:5 247:11, 12 grants 17:24 18:15 28:4 88:11 161:1 197:14 251:9
---	--	---	--	--

grateful	229:18	Hall	245:10, 13	Hazardous
230:2	group	107:21	252:2	156:15
238:3	86:16	145:20	268:3, 16	head
249:13	185:10	Hall-	hard	69:23
great	groups	108:11	54:21	heads
103:7	86:10	Hall-merc	172:1	176:8
126:21	170:8	108:7	204:12	health
134:3	191:3	halt	260:4	18:6 21:9
135:3	200:8	208:23	harder	28:11, 18
153:20	grow	handle	28:21	60:24
154:15	201:2	16:17 94:3	hardest	63:18, 21
168:25	grows	244:10	184:22	76:4, 9, 13
209:13	188:19	hanging	hardworking	77:16
245:13	growth	176:8	86:4	93:23
253:23	193:18	happen	Harley	96:19
296:18	194:11, 17	23:17	76:22	97:20
greater	196:4, 13	88:16	92:15, 17	103:15
58:20	198:18	97:12	96:23 97:2	108:5, 10,
175:19	240:2	172:11	98:14	14 186:23
188:21	guess	180:4	109:24	206:17
greatest	20:5 24:17	207:7	harm	215:22, 25
223:24	51:19	209:18	66:1 71:3	217:2, 17
249:12	56:22	happening	harms	218:2, 5, 6,
greatly	254:7	27:2 47:14	85:23, 25	18 222:12,
102:21	259:7	83:14 84:8	86:2 129:8	16 223:1,
204:17	guys	86:13 89:3	204:17	8, 14, 17
Green	181:5	108:21	Harrisburg	224:12, 18,
199:15	183:11	139:15	217:6	23 225:7, 9
Greenberg	235:12	180:3, 5	Hart	226:21
170:10	H	202:24	170:12	228:14, 17,
185:24, 25	hair	255:13	203:25	22 229:9
186:4	179:8	269:18	204:1	230:25
189:17	half	happy	205:6	232:16
190:23	171:23	40:7	206:7	233:9
greenhouse	174:7	138:15	Harvey	264:24
197:1	225:2	159:4	170:9	267:6, 11,
grid	249:17, 21	214:4	haven	13
204:21		229:2	267:3	Health's
Grollman		234:25		227:2
		243:8		healthcare

237:17	188:9	262:10	historic	261:24
healthy	207:6	270:11	156:17	265:3, 7,
251:3	269:9	helping	227:11	16, 18, 25
hear	heart	43:21	historical	266:16
133:3	64:6	180:12	156:3	267:18
149:7	145:18	233:17	hmm	268:8
152:19, 25	167:14	240:17	178:20	270:19
171:8	heartless	269:13, 24	hobbies	271:24
207:3	173:22, 23	helps	207:5	homelessnes
211:8	heat	218:8	hold	s
238:19	171:24	high	125:24	26:13
heard	177:21	146:18	129:15	130:3
52:21 82:6	200:20	219:23	149:5	248:19
85:5 87:25	201:12	220:3, 13	171:5	250:7
128:12	Heater	225:24	holding	262:3
132:10	250:5	240:17	52:13	265:9
hearing	heating	248:12	117:11	266:22, 25
14:18 39:5	173:18	high-	131:22	267:5, 10,
74:2, 5, 15	197:9, 10	228:13	222:13	20
109:17	heavy	high-volume	holistic	homeowner
117:17	253:16	227:13	86:24	144:16
133:3	Heights	higher	Holloman	248:16, 18
151:4	168:2, 4	46:9	265:1	homeowners
152:1	held	117:13	268:24	205:11
159:12	46:19	145:2, 4	home	262:7
164:23, 25	71:21	highest	15:7	homeownersh
169:2	107:16, 24	120:19	247:11	ip
170:25	108:9	223:24	248:8	144:19
175:16	120:19	231:9	250:3, 10	146:21
176:3, 4	127:11	highlight	262:6	261:3
179:1	151:3, 9	124:3	267:12	homes
190:7, 16	164:23	highlights	homebuying	249:23
191:8	269:9	135:17	260:18	262:8
192:2, 6, 7,	helped	highly	homeland	hone
14 222:13	228:6	205:19	123:6	253:8
230:1	270:4	Hill	homeless	honest
238:20	helpful	223:12	25:19 69:5	34:15
274:25	45:25 84:1	hinder	99:18	honestly
hearings	244:11, 20	165:15	185:8	205:9
35:1 97:8				

honesty 271:1	225:5 227:22	house 130:2 201:5, 7	hovering 144:4	I
Honorable 13:24 14:3	228:2, 3, 16 229:17	households 261:10, 14	how's 25:8 211:3	Ibarra 170:11 195:5, 6
hookups 206:14	230:18 231:10	housing 114:1, 7 115:1, 5, 13, 14 116:5, 22 117:5 118:8, 10, 23 119:3, 5 120:2, 4, 7, 10, 21 126:17 151:25 152:8 159:19 170:25 183:4 195:8 247:5, 13 248:1, 13, 17, 19, 20, 22 249:3, 8, 10, 19, 25 250:17 252:21, 22 253:18 255:20, 23 259:25 260:11, 15, 23 261:4, 12, 19, 25 262:4 263:16 265:18 266:2, 8, 19 267:3, 10 269:10	HUD 247:20 251:19, 23 HUD- APPROVED 115:17 human 18:6 21:10 28:11, 19 63:18 71:12 76:5, 9, 13 77:17 92:25 102:15, 23 219:9 226:23 264:24 human- 72:2 humanitaria n 64:3 267:7 humanity 167:21 humble 159:16 160:15 hundreds 240:19 hurricane 201:6 HVAC 177:18	iceberg 177:3 ICPC 95:6 idea 114:3 245:13 ideal 34:13 ideas 187:7 identified 66:22 67:1 69:12 104:4 identify 70:17 87:19 103:25 105:15 107:20 IG 16:24 85:6 IG's 27:10 ignore 53:17 ignores 199:5 202:7 illness 224:15 illustrate
hope 27:20 36:17 39:14, 23 50:6 114:8 121:9 132:10 209:22 216:12	234:6, 12 235:20, 23 236:16 237:11 hospital's 226:13 hospitalize d 103:20 hospitals 216:18, 19, 20 217:9, 10, 16, 21, 25 219:24 220:1, 4, 7, 10 223:16 225:20 227:7, 8, 12, 14, 17, 23 228:7 229:1			
hopeful 124:14				
hoping 35:18 43:3 46:23 55:10 57:7				
HOPWA 248:8 250:11				
horns 176:15				
horse 179:1	hot 201:1, 25			
hospital 93:25 104:6 216:6 217:8 219:5 220:13, 14 222:22 223:10, 12, 21, 23 224:4	Hotline 250:5 hotter 201:9 hour 111:3 171:23 hours 140:4 145:10			

223:5	implementat	129:7	includes	155:6
immediately	ion	131:7, 17	89:11	158:8
32:23	69:9	223:13	116:3	161:5
immensely	implemented	250:22	156:12	212:2, 6
34:25	69:15	265:12	213:1	262:19, 24
immune	227:21	improvement	224:4	increased
267:9	implementin	42:8 156:7	249:24	56:19
impact	g	251:11	251:7	88:20
23:20	64:17	improvement	including	262:5
36:23 45:1	implicate	s	22:11	266:4, 22
65:22	82:1	177:12	78:24	267:4
98:17	importance	improving	88:11	increases
126:2	65:9 93:10	86:19	146:17	48:17, 22
231:22	117:11	126:20	197:5	112:17
233:23	important	incentivize	226:11	130:18
234:11	124:22	d	232:21	218:11
249:12	162:4	241:2	income	227:16
267:9	179:25	incentivize	144:22	271:25
impacted	196:16	s	174:4	272:23
118:22	222:14	87:3	217:3	increasing
220:15	225:7	include	248:24	112:1
impactful	232:24	64:23	inconsisten	155:2
265:14	251:3	68:10 69:2	t	260:13
impacting	260:11	99:4	90:11	increasingl
58:19	importantly	119:11	incorporate	y
impacts	36:20	142:2	16:19	188:19
127:14	143:22	213:9	117:25	incumbent
204:13	177:1	216:18	incorporate	57:24
impeded	218:16	227:6, 16	d	indebtednes
92:12 93:3	impose	231:24	154:20	s
imperative	198:19	241:11	incorporati	212:3, 7
119:10	imposing	242:11	ng	independent
impetus	68:18	250:9, 17	228:20	69:25
63:6	improve	261:17	incorrect	117:4
implement	42:19	included	51:2	indirect
89:16	64:20	15:11	160:17	226:11
90:13	66:10	22:19	increase	indispensab
141:24	72:10	64:14 66:5	88:3, 15	le
	124:21	157:22	130:17	223:17
			137:11	

individual 88:2 98:18 105:22 154:17	information 18:11 74:1 77:21, 22 78:3 84:20 101:18 106:6 160:17 219:11, 13 230:4, 20 245:11 252:10 257:2	254:23 initiatives 155:9 ink 58:13, 14, 15 innovation 86:11 innovative 122:21 inpatient 224:23 inpatients 225:1 input 158:21 inquiry 52:18 insecurity 232:3 insert 69:24 insight 191:17 insightful 189:5 Inspector 16:4 33:3, 7, 11, 23, 25 34:3, 5, 11 38:23 39:6 40:11 41:2 43:15 44:11 46:21 48:12 49:3, 16 50:5, 19	52:9 53:21 54:20 55:9, 15 56:1 57:1 58:6, 16, 24 59:15, 19 66:21 85:6 124:5 268:2 instability 232:3 instance 104:8 instances 37:20 102:10 103:19 instituted 44:23 92:13 institution 34:11 142:14 institution s 142:1 235:23 236:21 237:11 insurance 217:2 insured 231:8 integrity 69:19 71:19 72:13 90:12 intended	65:2 85:14 intent 51:3 intention 58:11 90:11 99:24 intentional 68:4 intentions 22:15 interest 136:2 144:4 228:9 interested 59:3 244:16 interesting 23:12 53:7 interests 38:8 39:21 interface 143:21 Interfaith 186:7, 9 192:25 195:14 198:5 199:13 204:6 208:7 intergovern mental 223:2 interim 137:4 215:25 229:9
individuals 13:13 144:6, 14, 18, 23 167:10 185:11 233:19 269:10, 25	informative 44:25 infrastruct ure 63:23 156:18, 24 187:20 194:9 196:10 198:13 201:15 225:10 249:11 initial 45:18 154:23 160:17 initially 65:1 75:15 initiated 70:15 initiating 52:21 initiation 22:10 Initiative 119:19 248:3			
indulgence 296:13				
industrial 241:1				
industry 120:12				
inequities 231:21 232:4				
infants 224:25				
inflation 48:23 197:16				
inflection 91:7				
info 123:14 208:14				
inform 46:24 47:3 128:2				
informal 42:2 67:16, 19				
informality 68:3				

247:4	59:2 66:20	191:3	128:5	Jill
265:1	268:6	involvement	129:9	110:11
internal	investigati	67:4 68:13	130:10	111:11
53:19	ons	iron	152:9	Jim
64:17	267:24	156:1	169:7, 12	196:22
66:11 70:7	investing	157:8, 19	185:16	job
72:1 89:16	131:23	161:3	199:25	168:25
internally	investment	Isaiah	208:9	190:21
180:1	158:6	14:17	260:19	205:2, 6
interpret	193:19	issuance	Item	250:23
58:7	194:19, 23	213:3	51:6 63:2	jobs
intersects	198:14	issue	items	186:6
252:23	199:3	16:6, 9	51:20	200:18
interstate	206:1	43:17	136:5	240:22
95:6	240:2, 20	44:24 49:7	154:19	John
intervened	242:12	51:12	261:24	170:9
195:14	247:11	83:22		171:3, 16
intervening	investments	128:22	J	181:23
188:12	36:5	131:1	Jackie	182:11
introduce	198:12	135:22	132:21	join
36:12	249:6	147:10	133:15, 21	122:18
introduced	261:22	150:1	135:6	216:12
75:22	investor-	153:15	141:5	joined
211:23	owned	165:2, 6	148:23	148:22
introducing	209:5	169:5	149:19	149:18
34:18	investors	179:24	211:13, 20	154:6
introductio	175:24	180:3, 21,	Jackson	174:12
n	invite	24 190:8	170:12	211:20
40:1	131:12	267:7	204:1	243:10
invest	invited	issued	jams	joining
177:17, 18	78:12	22:18	87:20	62:10
250:13	inviting	23:15 51:5	Jane	148:3
251:5	34:6	136:9	170:9	185:5
investigati	invoices	142:11	Jeanes	216:1
on	84:19	196:23	224:5	Joint
21:21	88:17, 19,	issues	Jennifer	127:24
28:7, 9	20	16:13 27:2	258:9, 22	joke
37:5 48:20	involved	48:15, 23	jeopardy	172:12
	84:17	56:2, 20	165:18	Jones
		95:22 99:7		

21:23	judge	Ken	240:9	Lashawnda
22:2, 3	91:12	114:24	241:2, 3, 5,	62:12
23:10 24:3	Julie	Kenneth	14, 22, 25	76:16 77:5
26:1, 7, 9,	170:10	110:10	242:2, 13,	lastly
22 27:12,	185:24	Kenney	24	157:21
22 28:1, 3,	July	196:22	kudos	197:16
23 29:4	32:22	Kensington	25:21	219:1
50:16	141:19	224:10		263:4
55:23, 24	June	261:17	L	Latino
58:1, 9, 18	141:20, 22	262:8, 13	L&i	122:17
59:11, 17	142:24	Kevin	177:23	123:3, 6, 7
60:2, 6, 12	190:25	229:21	labor-	Lauren
92:21	202:11	key	intensive	32:10
133:18, 23	jury	204:23	85:9	law
153:24	91:12	Keystone	116:14	15:13
160:20, 22	justice	239:16	lack	65:12
161:13, 21,	64:16	kid	41:6, 24	156:18
24 162:24	89:13	201:5	67:13	158:5
166:25	93:16	Kimberly	267:11	165:8, 12
167:3, 4, 25	186:6	102:14	land	187:21
175:12, 13	195:9, 11	kind	249:2	193:15
176:23	200:18	24:18 25:9	251:1	194:4, 15
178:10	juvenile	56:5 96:18	landscapes	195:18
179:20, 22	93:15	99:6	127:8	196:6
180:21	107:16	177:13	large	199:10
181:12		181:11	43:25	208:18, 21
183:24	K	213:14	66:23	235:18
235:10, 11	Karen	kinds	217:16	lay
236:10	170:14	253:2	266:15	106:11
238:2	Katherine	knowing	267:8	layman's
244:3, 4	215:11	79:3 98:5	largely	266:25
245:9, 15,	221:19	121:3	262:1	lead
19 252:15,	222:8	knowledge	larger	51:14
16 254:1,	229:11	112:24	16:6 44:18	189:24
15, 20	Kathy	Kohalni	46:17	265:7
257:14, 15	221:24	181:3, 4	80:14	leader
276:5, 6	keeping	KOZ	146:24	31:9 51:1
288:16	43:5	239:24	largest	67:8 72:8
291:9	182:15		223:19	106:10
Jones'				232:14
180:16				

leaders	195:25	letter	liens	15:6 18:7
207:2	212:16	32:10	178:5	98:2
leadership	232:1	113:8	life	listen
16:25 17:5	legally	187:13	56:13	25:4
180:20	206:10	193:2	93:18	169:10
193:6	Legion	195:12	174:15	191:17
199:11	174:12	198:6	179:13	207:1
leading	legislation	199:21	181:20	221:13
126:5	13:20	letters	250:22	listening
196:19	22:16	174:1	265:13	130:9
228:2	23:13, 24	217:23	life-saving	254:3
leads	34:19	level	66:6	257:6
40:1	36:19	42:23	lifeline	livable
League	39:15	47:13 79:2	234:21	193:9
118:9	50:24	82:11	lifelines	live
leaning	62:19 74:9	88:25	262:16	95:13
85:12	75:14, 21	94:14, 24	lifelong	126:22
learn	76:6 90:17	95:9 99:9	64:13	167:11
131:14	129:12	120:25	lightly	176:6, 25
learning	141:23	146:6	94:18	181:19
130:9	142:5	levels	limit	183:2, 15
233:7	217:4	82:14	187:25	184:11
242:3	222:18	144:22	188:4	200:15
lease	229:14	270:22	212:5, 16,	233:20, 21
131:22	241:12	leverage	18	lived
leased	legislative	82:9 113:2	limited	171:17
234:5	191:18	242:15	80:6	172:12, 16,
leave	legislature	255:18	115:20	18 178:23
210:7	218:21	leveraging	limiting	lives
269:22	Legistar	82:18	45:23	73:12
ledger	76:2	Levins	limits	131:7
90:22	legitimate	215:11	37:22	living
98:23	54:7	221:20	lines	113:24
left	lengthy	222:1, 7, 9	52:18	172:11
205:2	94:22	236:24	128:11	177:22
legal	lens	liability	list	218:13, 16
165:9, 18	64:19	241:20	146:15	223:14
188:11	less-	Liberty	listed	261:10
	224:8	200:24		load
				157:25

193:18	95:24	love	179:16	165:4
194:10, 16	172:17	106:25	244:5	maintain
196:4, 13	179:24	107:9	252:17	85:22
198:18	180:11	174:13, 16	257:16	155:11
loan	long-term	263:12	270:24	250:25
212:5, 10	187:8	low	276:17	270:21
213:1, 4, 6,	longer	217:2	277:20	maintaining
25 251:8	108:3, 9	low-	279:6	65:16
loans	135:14	113:23	280:9	117:2
143:23, 24	202:12	low-income	281:17	227:18
146:23	209:17	144:14, 18	282:20	major
Lobby	longstandin	193:23	284:2	22:18
199:13	g	217:18	285:11	23:20
local	109:20	261:9, 13	286:21	majority
23:9 38:9	231:20	lower	288:5	23:1 31:9
43:22	longtime	145:2	289:14	51:1 66:23
204:8	262:7	lower-	290:23	67:7 72:8
240:6, 21	looked	costing	292:7	93:8 106:9
250:24	183:2	81:25	293:16	116:6
265:20	losing	lowest	294:25	155:25
locate	86:6 253:1	58:4, 12	made	231:18
240:13	loss	79:15	26:15 57:8	make
located	113:22	Lutheran	96:21	13:4 16:25
224:10	losses	130:1	108:17	22:16 23:3
240:4	228:6		124:4	25:2, 15
locating	lot	M	164:2	30:17
244:16	48:21	Madam	197:15	31:2, 13
location	79:25	14:2 17:21	Mahoney	73:12
244:14	83:19	21:16 22:4	229:21	84:18
locations	96:15	23:25 24:9	mail	86:18 87:1
272:14	123:13	26:2, 10	173:16, 17	95:14
locking	124:1	27:23	main	96:10
45:8	152:4	29:5, 9, 10	70:10	107:7
189:22	180:18	31:24	82:24	116:24
log	184:7, 13,	34:17	87:14	124:18
87:20	17 264:8	55:25 60:3	88:23	127:8, 20
long	lots	102:2, 13	156:2	173:14
74:13	187:6	160:23	157:3, 19,	178:3
84:15		175:14	23 224:2	190:5, 20
			mains	191:11

206:19	173:20	44:1	Mawr	25 227:13,
207:7	251:10	48:22, 25	237:14	15, 25
237:16	262:21	49:5	Mayor	231:8, 11
245:14	managers	67:10, 13	15:2	medical
255:11	79:14	136:17	176:14	64:1 167:9
260:22	managing	178:20	196:21, 22	208:16, 24
261:14	15:12	Marlene	265:11	209:16, 25
265:9	92:17	258:9, 22	Mcclendon	225:24
271:5	126:19	mass	162:12, 19,	226:12
273:19	130:14	236:6	20 170:2	232:22
makes	264:23	Massachuset	Mccottry	233:4, 5
125:25	mandate	ts	153:11, 17,	medically
201:18	202:6	206:3	22 154:1,	234:18
206:1	mandated	match	15 161:6	Medicare
233:11	196:6	273:13	168:6	218:23
249:6, 11	mandates	matching	169:16	Medicine
296:17	202:4	216:23	170:1	229:20
making	mandating	225:14	MDO	meet
75:18	249:16	272:15	41:15	13:11
117:18	manipulation	material	76:20	107:23
131:24	87:4	157:9	meaningful	113:19
145:20	manner	Materials	242:21	115:17
232:23	71:16	156:15	means	157:12
235:18	85:13	math	159:25	190:9
malfeasance	101:6	206:25	228:11	250:14
27:16	179:11	Matt	meat	251:14
man	margin	147:19	111:13	261:14
258:19	212:20	148:2, 21	mechanism	273:25
manage	margins	149:12	36:8 156:9	meeting
249:2	80:5	matter	Medicaid	13:12
managed	Marguerite	37:6 43:24	108:3	78:8, 22
41:18 67:9	258:8, 21	45:25 53:8	216:22	82:7
239:20	Mark	59:5 89:7	217:1, 11	114:14, 17
management	246:16	159:3	218:13, 23	117:19, 23
17:3 65:8	247:3	176:1	219:24	121:22
95:9 117:7	market	237:8, 12	220:3, 14	143:12
120:16	41:7, 19, 25	Matthew	224:1	151:12
136:15		135:10	225:4, 15,	209:20
154:5, 8			21 226:8,	214:10
166:16				220:22

227:3	211:16	methane	234:1	Mitch
258:7	214:14	157:6, 11,	248:7, 8, 9	208:6
272:4	230:15	13 205:18	271:3	210:12
274:24	239:8	methodology	millions	mitigate
275:5	243:10, 15	227:1	240:19	66:1 69:11
meetings	244:12, 21	Miami	mind	mix
139:3, 8	245:12	200:23	58:3, 10	43:11
140:4	247:1, 2	mic	mine	mobilize
147:9	252:3	133:19	254:11	265:8
151:3, 9	264:21	148:5	minimal	model
159:11	269:3, 7	153:14	130:18	222:21
meets	275:10	171:7	minimize	223:4
105:22	276:21	microphone	57:11	226:2
Melanie	279:10	149:7	158:8	moderate-
154:1	281:21	mics	minority	income
Melton	296:6	153:16	22:12, 25	113:24
170:14	membership	middle	23:5, 9	Modernizati
member	126:2	113:25	56:10	on
95:3 118:9	memo	mileage	245:5	156:25
175:11	272:3	161:8	minutes	modernize
195:7	men	miles	238:21	124:21
198:4	34:12	157:18	270:17	modificatio
members	mental	161:4, 7,	minutia	n
14:22 24:5	108:4, 10	10, 12, 13	17:2	70:19
78:5	224:15	military	mirrors	114:2
125:14	mention	236:14	217:4	219:14
126:8, 9, 14	83:21	million	mishandle	modificatio
127:3, 15	mentioned	37:8 49:24	128:23	ns
135:5	237:9	88:8, 9	mismanageme	250:12
139:20	253:20	135:25	nt	modify
141:4	254:21	137:1, 13	64:12	62:17
143:17	263:4	150:1	missing	modifying
154:4	mentioning	157:16, 20	151:11	133:1
164:21	119:16	187:19	mission	moment
168:4	Mercer	194:7	17:6 265:6	149:5
169:23	107:21	196:3	mission-	171:5
176:20	108:12	212:8, 24	126:25	272:21
180:2	met	213:5, 13		money
184:14	108:10	233:24, 25		
208:5				

19:1 20:12	74:22 77:5	290:1, 11,	moved	museums
21:1 25:17	92:16, 19	18, 20	184:15	213:11
28:22 36:3	118:7	291:10, 20	277:4	
43:11	145:11, 19	292:2, 4, 19	278:9	N
112:24	162:23	293:4, 11,	279:18	names
131:4, 6, 23	mortgage	13 294:3,	280:20	160:2
135:25	116:16, 18	13, 20, 22	282:4	272:13
146:6	144:7	295:12, 22	283:5	274:18
150:3	250:1	296:4	284:15	nation
173:9	mortgages	move	285:24	232:25
178:8	144:1, 24	16:22 40:3	287:9	236:14
206:22	145:4	49:9 60:19	288:18	national
209:9	146:22	109:15	290:2	120:12
210:4	mother	110:25	291:11	232:14
216:24	270:3	128:8	292:20	natural
256:4	mother-in-	172:9	294:4	63:20
monitor	235:17	173:9	295:13	156:22
89:17	mother-in-	182:23	movie	198:7
95:14	law	183:10	177:8	205:18
117:6	235:21	192:17	moving	nature
monitored	motion	274:23	128:24	65:24
120:9	276:14	276:22	258:6	85:8, 10
131:11	277:3, 8,	277:21, 24	much-	99:16
monitoring	15, 17	278:13	263:7	106:23
90:8	278:19	279:11	multi-	107:8
monitors	279:1, 3,	280:10, 13,	78:24	273:13
38:2	17, 22	24 281:22	multiple	Navy
month	280:4, 6	282:20, 24	43:10	239:19
208:21, 22	281:5, 12,	283:9	municipal	necessarily
219:9	14 282:3,	284:3, 6, 19	65:8 127:2	47:7 97:5
months	8, 15, 17	285:12, 15	213:10	needed
55:6 128:9	283:15, 22,	286:3, 22,	municipalit	47:11 60:8
139:4, 9	24 284:14,	25 287:13	ies	108:6
263:12	24 285:6,	288:6, 9, 21	16:16 25:1	113:3
moral	8, 23	289:15, 18	municipalit	150:9
207:8	286:9, 16,	290:6, 24	y	179:25
morning	18 287:8,	291:2, 14	100:25	187:8
14:5, 20	18, 25	292:8, 11,	municipally	228:12
50:18, 20	288:2, 17	24 293:17,	156:20	262:7
61:24 62:5	289:2, 9, 11	20 294:8		
		295:1, 4, 17		

263:8	network	Noncompetit	26:17 56:6	161:3
negative	47:10	ively	58:23 82:6	164:16
111:18	126:25	62:24	111:22	208:10
267:13	142:17	nonprofit	112:4,5,	noted
negotiated	206:5	13:10	12,19	83:12
176:18	neutral	16:12	113:1	notes
neighbor	91:16	18:13	115:23	78:21 83:5
235:25	neutrality	22:25 23:1	123:12,22	132:9
neighborhood	190:10	34:22	126:3	134:8
d	194:3	35:12 37:2	127:1,25	135:23
116:4	198:25	38:9 39:25	128:8,20	277:1
119:18	newer	40:21,25	nonprofits'	278:6
201:3	244:12,21	41:9,24	127:21	279:15
248:2	245:12	51:7,12	normal	282:1
250:19,20	nice	56:24 57:5	262:18	284:12
254:22	130:6	59:14	North	285:21
262:25	172:19,22	62:20,25	58:14	287:6
neighborhood	174:17,18	63:9,14	224:3	288:15
d-based	181:7	66:4,13,25	234:19	289:24
112:12	182:3	68:23	Northeaster	291:8
neighborhood	183:16	69:4,16	n	292:17
ds	niche	70:17	224:5	294:1
113:25	116:14	71:25	Nos	295:10
126:16	night	72:11	134:12,17	notice
177:6	180:11	73:22	135:13	209:2
223:15	Nineteenth	78:25	140:8	notified
231:3	137:17	79:8,12,25	152:19,21	15:2
233:12	nobody's	80:2,24	154:10	November
245:2	145:25	82:24 83:7	275:1	227:4
250:23	nodded	91:7 94:2,	not-for-	NPI
262:16	21:23	6,15 99:12	profit	249:15
neighbors	133:23	115:6,9	62:18	253:20
183:21	161:24	116:2	81:16	254:21
184:7	non-	122:20	notated	255:3,7,
186:10	electoral	123:24	134:8	13,22
net	212:3	124:23	note	256:9,20
111:21	non-	126:5,10	28:2 32:8	257:8
197:1	recurring	131:4	42:11 60:7	nuances
223:22	265:10	nonprofits	124:14	104:18
231:4		17:12	144:12	
		22:11 23:4		

number	27:5	185:8	OIG	35:22 38:8
22:14 43:1	112:10	245:4	37:4 50:12	46:25
44:12	occurred	265:2, 6, 25	67:6	216:2
52:18	27:11	266:9, 16	older	263:9
61:14 80:1	266:14	267:18	182:4	271:23
86:9, 11	October	268:1, 8	one's	operational
89:22	241:9	269:8, 19,	130:24	ized
107:15	OEM	20 270:19	one-and-	66:11
112:11	180:13	271:22, 23	done	operations
213:8	offer	office's	253:10	228:2
261:1	255:2	37:11	one-year	242:13
266:21, 23	276:18	271:11	47:22	opinion
267:1	279:7	Officer	141:19	44:9
269:8	281:18	62:9 69:19	ongoing	165:11
numbers	offered	135:9	28:8 254:8	187:15
49:8	91:6, 24	216:2	online	opioid
213:15	118:1, 23	official	206:5	261:20
273:12	140:3	194:11	onset	opportuniti
nurses	176:19	officials	133:2	es
183:22	268:11	36:7	open	59:25 86:6
223:9	offering	138:21	123:15, 25	116:15
232:15	224:13	offset	131:10	136:12
nut	office	240:17	145:23	146:21
86:17	15:2, 11	OHS	191:15	242:6, 16,
0	16:4 17:14	28:7 30:2	248:21	21 247:13
objected	18:18	35:14	opening	248:17, 21
164:11	25:13, 19	36:17	13:5 57:7	249:4
objective	26:12, 14	37:7, 15, 19	139:6	250:24
15:16	34:10	41:17, 18,	openly	256:4
69:25	66:21 69:4	25 44:25	35:17	opportunity
obligation	70:11 80:6	48:18	openness	13:11 35:3
158:1	86:23	49:24 52:4	125:1	40:6 42:8,
212:22	92:18, 23	66:24	operate	18 44:19
obstacle	96:22	67:9, 14	120:24	45:18, 19
35:8	99:17	78:24	234:6, 17	52:23
obtain	124:5	88:13	operated	64:20
212:1	141:8, 24	123:2, 4, 6	245:5	72:15
occur	142:11	185:14, 19	operating	73:2, 16
	151:10	269:4		92:1
	180:16			104:17

121:7	186:23	organizer	overly	199:19
125:2, 3, 22	192:17	192:25	39:8 124:7	219:9
129:13	198:16, 21	oriented	overnight	241:6
139:5	219:16	251:9	180:15	PACDC
163:2	241:3	original	oversight	121:21
178:21	255:19	38:14 76:6	19:3 24:13	126:4
181:9	256:15, 24	136:1	68:11	129:2
229:25	orders	273:1	112:8	pace
230:20	56:16	originally	124:12	199:2
239:16	196:24	220:8, 12	187:3	pacemaker
242:8, 14	ordinance	outages	188:23	174:5
243:7	32:21	204:15	overspendin	pages
252:5	135:20	outcome	g	74:3, 13
259:21	136:15, 22	37:1	267:25	92:1 272:6
263:19	137:18, 20	outcomes	overview	paid
opposed	142:9	69:12	154:19	40:14, 23
277:11	149:1, 3,	111:18	owe	127:25
278:22	22, 24, 25	116:21	210:4	pair
279:25	150:10	120:18	owed	256:19
281:8	187:11	outliers	209:10	Pamela
282:11	212:25	106:13, 14	owned	170:12
283:18	216:9, 14,	outlined	156:21	200:14
285:2	16 217:3	43:1 45:2	203:3	pandemic
286:12	219:3	66:15	234:4	35:21
287:21	220:5, 18	outlining	245:4	118:17
289:5	organizatio	37:6	owner	262:19
290:14	n	outreach	209:10	265:23
291:23	43:25	231:19	241:16	panel
293:7	organizatio	outset	owners	13:3, 22
294:16	ns	69:16	173:6	33:2
295:25	43:22, 23	outsourced	175:22	60:15, 19,
options	63:9 83:18	77:16	210:5	21 61:13,
66:10	115:7, 9, 15	outstanding		15 92:6
order	116:2, 6	165:3	P	109:19
23:18	117:12	outweigh	p.m.	139:21
71:22	118:24	64:4	152:2	147:3
72:11	126:6, 10,	overarching	296:21	153:1
90:22	15 204:8	87:7 255:9	PA	160:21
104:3	250:13, 25		188:15	162:11
107:22	263:2			
140:16				

221:5, 17 235:8 paper 136:25 137:2, 5 paradox 123:6 parcels 252:25 Pardo 110:11 118:6, 7 parent 97:11 Park 178:13 Parker 196:23 Parker's 265:12 parks 201:4 213:11 Parkside 239:19 Parkway 266:6 part 22:10 23:3 37:3 46:22 47:9 84:25 95:2 151:8 189:10 191:5 193:1 194:5 198:6 235:19 241:2	255:7, 23 partial 150:11 participate 121:21 191:10 participate s 146:13 participati ng 203:13 participati on 22:13, 20 parties 202:12 partner 50:7 103:14 122:22 partners 85:25 187:5 190:12, 20 191:15 partnership 238:3 247:11 partnership s 237:3 Party 199:15 pass 217:5 passed 62:20 76:7	111:19 257:1 past 15:15 94:8 140:3 158:23 216:12 240:25 266:9 path 51:15 patience 268:22 patients 218:12 223:25 224:20 225:21 231:7 234:13 235:16 pattern 27:15 105:1 patterns 27:21 Patterson 154:7 166:4, 11, 15 170:3 Pavilion 180:8 pay 42:12 103:16, 23 107:18 144:10 167:17 173:8	174:2 paying 83:21 128:10 145:7 173:4 payment 68:21 210:3 226:10 227:15 payment-in- lieu-of- taxes 241:17 payments 84:14, 20 128:10 138:2 142:3 226:10, 12, 14, 18, 25 payroll 141:16 142:3, 4, 11 143:19 146:8 147:4 233:24 pays 104:1 108:4 234:6 PECO 209:5 210:2 pediatric 230:25 232:15, 20, 24	pen 58:14, 15 penal 39:9 Penn 199:16 229:20 Pennfuture 199:17 Pennsylvani a 115:2 123:19 156:10 165:20 199:15 212:4 233:15, 22 Pennsylvani a's 223:21 225:3, 15 226:23 pens 58:13 people 31:17 40:4 83:21 102:19, 20 103:2, 3, 17, 19 104:23 105:8, 23 106:15, 16 107:15, 19, 24 108:8, 15 109:3, 10 131:7 145:24 172:20, 21
---	--	--	---	---

173:4, 7, 11, 12, 16 174:18, 23 176:10 182:12 183:14, 16, 20, 23 184:1, 17 186:24 201:11, 25 202:4, 22 203:2, 3, 8, 13 204:24 205:20 207:10 208:21 209:13 210:3 211:11 217:2 237:20 248:25 249:22, 23 250:8 266:21, 24 267:1, 14 269:14 percent 31:20 144:5, 9 157:14 213:2 220:6, 8, 11 224:25 227:24 231:6 233:20, 21 241:18, 23 249:17 266:23 percentage	145:2 223:25 231:9 percentages 23:4 219:25 perfectly 54:6 performance 29:21 30:1, 14 performing 20:18 period 45:10 48:19 144:10 182:24 permanent 116:19 137:6 261:18 permit 136:7, 18 138:12 143:4 150:22 158:15 213:23 251:21, 25 278:1, 15 280:15 281:1 282:25 283:11 284:7, 20 285:16 286:5 287:1, 14 288:10, 23	289:19 290:7 291:3, 16 292:12, 25 293:21 294:9 295:5, 18 permits 247:9 person 74:23 93:21 95:3, 13 103:6, 24 104:5 108:2 130:22 171:7 person's 108:4 personal 128:13 personally 78:11 88:19 Persons 247:13 perspective 18:4 19:25 49:23 79:9, 10, 24 88:10 255:20 pertain 134:5 pervasive 253:9 Peter 170:11	198:4 229:18 PGW 140:20 148:12 151:6 154:4, 7, 25 155:9, 10 157:2, 12, 19 158:1, 5, 9, 22 161:16 164:10, 18 167:19 174:2 175:2, 15 182:1, 8 186:10 187:4, 18 188:1, 3, 10, 23 190:11 193:16 194:6, 15, 19 195:19 197:19 198:17 199:5, 10 201:13 202:7, 19, 25 203:6 205:15 206:24 208:19 209:23 210:1 PGW's 154:5, 16, 21 155:20, 23 156:1, 3 157:2, 6, 22	158:7 163:5, 9, 15, 24 164:14 165:4, 15 193:25 198:23 206:10 phasing 197:4 Philadelphi a 15:7 16:20 37:13 42:21 56:13 60:10 62:10, 15, 23 63:1 64:25 73:20 105:17 109:21 115:16 116:8 118:9, 18 119:8 120:15 122:20 125:18 126:7, 24 127:9 128:3 139:18 141:14 142:17 146:7 155:17 158:25 162:22 166:19
---	---	--	--	--

176:14	philadelphi	Pipeline	137:10	point
177:3	ans	156:14	242:4, 9	22:13 47:4
178:19	193:8	pipelines	247:19, 21,	49:7 55:1
183:3	206:18	156:23	22 248:5	57:8 83:15
184:4	217:19	157:9	249:6, 21	106:10, 20
186:25	218:16	pipes	251:7, 17,	123:5
188:14	225:25	206:13	20, 23	178:6
193:12	228:24	PJJSC	253:5, 12,	199:22
196:25	242:17, 22	107:17, 22	15 255:24	224:17
198:9	263:17	109:6	259:23	237:18
199:16, 24	265:15	place	260:4, 8	255:22
200:16	philanthrop	18:3 25:11	261:1, 23	pointed
207:10	ic	35:10	262:9	48:15, 18
216:5, 13,	113:3	45:14 48:6	265:8	59:21
25 218:8	Philly	57:13 63:4	Plan's	points
219:4	58:15	64:11	248:11	91:7 260:7
222:20, 22,	119:20	87:10	planning	policies
25 223:18	199:14, 17	91:15	48:1	20:2 31:4
225:11	204:3	113:9	plans	87:8 88:25
227:21	Phoenix	131:24	196:25	117:2
228:5, 15	201:10	145:22, 25	platform	policy
231:3	physician	165:17	191:11	31:2 38:13
232:22	229:2	167:9	play	43:19
233:13, 20	physicians	172:7, 10	65:12	44:16
234:10, 20	199:18	174:17	126:22	101:6
237:8	223:9	183:1	243:5	107:7
239:14, 21	232:15	184:11	260:15	125:17
240:13, 18,	pick	216:11	pleased	200:2
24 242:6	173:17	241:4	14:4 216:3	222:11
259:14	PIDC	243:4	pleases	259:13
260:25	239:23	267:12	133:16	263:25
267:8, 21	pie	place-based	134:3	pollution
271:22	22:17	112:4	plight	204:16
Philadelphia's	piece	126:15	175:17	pools
224:8	52:17	placement	pluck	201:4
225:9	pieces	269:11	91:13	poor
228:17	91:14	places	plural	112:9
243:5	pilot	126:21	139:3	poorest
248:12	241:18	plan		267:8
265:16		82:12		

population 25:18 145:15	potential 43:1 69:9 70:8	preaching 101:21	74:23 228:21	250:1, 2 260:17
Port 205:20	111:18 226:15	precise 39:18	preservatio n 119:19	previous 241:14 263:4
portfolio 18:6 21:10 28:12, 19 76:5, 14 77:17 102:5 136:14	potentially 45:6 165:17	predatory 112:6	248:3 249:25 253:17 254:22 261:5	previously 136:9 227:9 256:13 260:20
poverty 204:16 218:14, 17	power 86:9 177:21 182:2, 13 186:7, 8 189:10 191:2 192:24 193:2 195:13, 17, 25 198:5 199:12 204:5, 14 208:7	predictabil ity 234:23	predictable 131:21	price 43:24 44:20 58:13 59:8, 25 183:5
portion 104:20 226:9	pregnant 270:3	preliminary 40:13 42:13 52:13 54:18 69:13 268:4	preserve 248:17	price- driven 58:7
position 53:6 74:9 144:15 190:25 203:1	POWER's 200:17	prepare 115:24	President 151:12 156:17 230:17	prices 49:5 112:1
positioned 127:5	practically 54:13	prepared 154:18	pressure 35:24 36:2, 7 209:23	pricing 41:21 67:12
positions 136:16	practice 37:15 87:11 91:3 196:14	preparing 80:11	pressured 35:23	primary 247:23
positive 34:25 87:1 116:21 194:22 196:11 198:14	practices 15:14 16:15 43:8 68:7 70:23 229:2	presence 14:16 269:5	presuppose 67:19	principal 135:24
positives 111:16		present 14:18 247:6 252:5 275:12, 16, 20, 24 276:3, 6, 10, 12	pretty 183:7 205:9	printed 133:2
possibiliti es 47:22		presented 37:12	prevalent 27:9	prior 74:4 101:15 134:9 150:6 151:4 241:8
possibly 190:22	praying 201:6		prevent 64:11 98:19 197:19 250:7	priority 248:12
post- 262:18			prevention 114:2 119:13	

Prisons	25 147:12,	16:21 23:7	processes	119:23
89:14	18,25	26:17	15:5 16:7	136:25
private	148:19	28:14 30:5	53:14	137:9,12
240:20	149:16	34:24 35:7	64:23 70:5	156:2,3,5,
privatized	152:17	36:11,14	85:10,13,	25 157:3,6
76:4,13	153:2,9	37:1,18	19 90:5	194:13
77:15	162:18	48:8 53:4	126:1	199:5
proactive	170:17,23	56:8,23	procurement	216:17,23
30:15	171:13	63:9,13,25	22:23 23:7	217:1
problem	181:2	65:17	26:16	218:6
17:13	185:23	66:9,15,16	62:11,16	225:4,16,
41:23	186:2	68:12,17	63:13 65:3	17 226:8
253:9	195:3	70:18 76:3	66:16 67:5	227:18,22
254:6	198:1	78:15	68:7 77:6	239:25
problems	200:11	79:22	81:4 90:1,	240:9,14
87:20	203:23	81:4,9,21	20 126:1	241:3
205:22	207:25	82:3,20,22	procuring	242:13
252:23	210:18	83:25	66:5	243:4
procedure	211:1	84:15,20	produce	262:21
31:2	214:24	85:1 86:7,	52:24	263:1
procedures	215:9,18	20 87:3,	193:16	268:12
20:3 31:4	222:5	10,19	194:18	programs
87:8 89:1	230:11	89:5,21	196:11	119:17
proceed	238:14	90:7,12	198:13	131:14
14:7	239:4	91:5 92:12	production	218:7
33:13,21	246:13,22	93:11	120:18	224:13
34:2 61:4,	258:6,14	94:20	249:24	225:2
22 62:3	259:4	96:7,10,13	253:17	232:2
77:3	264:10,18	99:5 101:7	261:5	244:13
110:16,21	proceeding	102:7	professiona	248:23
111:8	164:9	105:10,11	l	250:2,4,7,
114:21	195:16	108:23	183:22	9,11,14
118:4	proceedings	109:2,8	professiona	251:8
122:10	164:17	112:21	ls	261:25
125:9	188:13	119:24	232:16	267:3
129:21	202:13	128:6,17	profit	progress
132:19,24	203:14	129:10	94:1 178:7	35:8
133:4,12	proceeds	141:25	program	project
134:22	156:13	168:12	89:12	195:20
140:14,23,	process	194:1	116:18,20	198:18
	15:19	214:20		239:18

projects	property	protocols	provided	126:18
137:4, 15	175:24	194:14	48:10	146:7
150:3	177:14	199:6	79:19	175:8
193:19, 20	178:5, 15	proud	84:22	231:14
194:11, 17,	234:3	232:7	99:10	provision
22 196:4,	241:21	237:6	117:24	26:19
10 198:22	263:10	proven	121:1	28:17
213:8	proposal	205:21	132:8	29:23 64:8
239:17	80:12	provide	142:16	65:19
243:20	187:24	18:10	219:3, 14	81:20, 24
promote	194:6	63:18	230:5, 24	100:14
249:2	proposals	72:15	249:15	141:16
promotion	111:24	73:14	252:10	provisional
264:2	141:25	79:10 81:1	provider	ly
promulgated	proposed	86:1 98:21	94:1	157:1
68:1	115:24	113:18	104:4, 21	provisions
proper	142:6	116:21	105:7, 15,	96:2 97:24
128:25	164:18	119:11	16 107:20	98:7
properly	193:14	127:17	109:4	222:19
15:20	194:16, 21	135:21	providers	prudent
277:4	196:13	136:23	13:10	93:7
278:9	198:23	141:12	46:14	psychiatric
279:18	212:25	142:1	47:10	103:16, 21
280:21	219:19	143:18	79:25 80:2	224:22
282:4	220:5, 8, 12	157:23	83:8, 12	public
283:6	247:18	162:13	105:18	15:18
284:15	270:20	166:2	223:22	63:18, 21
285:25	271:2	187:2	233:9	64:13
287:9	273:1	188:22	265:19	80:21
288:18	proposing	216:8	268:10	110:7
290:2	219:22	217:17	272:11	123:13, 16
291:11	protect	223:12, 16	providing	153:3
292:20	65:13	224:7	24:13	156:10
294:4	186:23	225:18, 20	47:11	158:21
295:13	193:22	232:7	62:12	164:10, 21,
properties	199:9	234:18	71:15 79:2	23 167:16
177:4	protecting	235:13	80:9, 19	170:7
178:7	193:9	245:11	90:8	179:9
240:3	protective	250:23	101:1, 23	187:25
	103:4	258:2	108:13	188:5, 15
		263:7	109:5	

191:1, 9, 10	Purchase	putting	104:12	296:6
193:18	63:8	31:10	175:19	quick
195:22	purely	51:19	212:6	26:11 36:9
215:22	38:11	257:7	255:2, 5, 6,	67:2 75:25
218:6	purpose		24 257:14	92:22
222:10	205:8	Q	270:9, 25	95:18
223:20	211:25	qualified	273:11	101:7
224:18	216:9	66:24	questions	204:2
227:3	purposes	142:1, 14	17:18 22:8	207:20
258:2, 7	29:17 48:1	qualifies	24:4 36:16	quicker
267:6	150:3	22:24	40:8	16:22
274:23, 25	pursue	qualify	50:12, 22	quickly
275:5	136:12	225:14	53:2	53:1 63:17
publicly	pursuit	quality	60:12, 14	95:8 99:20
13:9 53:1	265:11	42:20 47:8	61:19	128:24
267:17	push	48:9	72:17	137:4
publicly-	84:17	126:20	75:4, 6	quiver
owned	put	142:15	92:5	254:6
187:4	75:5 87:10	155:12	121:23	quo
209:6	98:24	223:14	138:16	207:11
published	123:10	225:24	139:19	quorum
37:5	143:13	228:14	140:1	276:11
pull	145:5	250:22	143:7	quote
133:18	146:2, 9, 25	265:12	147:2	124:6
148:5	167:5, 21	268:11	159:4	
153:14	177:11	quantify	160:21	
171:7	178:5	41:8	162:10	R
254:5	185:17	quarter	166:3, 5, 7,	Rabbi
pulled	209:23	179:12	24 169:22	170:10
131:18	236:22	183:25	214:5, 12,	raid
132:2	249:22	question	14 220:23	177:13
pulling	256:8, 17	18:9 21:8,	221:4	raise
161:17	257:4	22 26:2	229:3	260:7
pump	271:6, 14	27:14	234:25	raised
200:20	272:16	48:13	235:6	90:4
punished	273:14	56:22 58:2	243:8, 22	200:23
83:13 84:7	puts	75:25	252:3	raises
punishment	115:8	77:11 78:6	257:19	175:18
179:14	177:23	92:10	268:17	range
	203:6	102:16	270:8	
			274:6	

183:6	readily	realizing	received	170:6
263:2	35:16	36:4	74:1, 22	190:1
rapid	reading	Realty	85:6 106:5	235:9
186:20	138:13	239:21	121:17	244:2
196:18	143:4, 16	reason	154:23	252:14
263:10	150:23	20:14 21:5	157:20	268:9
rapidly	158:15	30:12	272:2, 6	276:13
198:8	163:20	41:14	receiving	277:16
rare	193:1	78:23	13:19 32:2	279:2
265:10	204:19	reasonable	98:20	280:5
rate	213:23	37:22	227:23	281:13
46:10	220:21	164:2	recent	282:16
175:25	251:25	reasonablen	37:19	283:23
186:19	278:1, 16	ess	127:24	285:7
219:23	280:15	15:25	137:20	286:17
220:3, 6, 9	281:2	reasons	157:15	288:1
ratepayers	283:1, 12	52:11 54:8	recently	289:10
193:22	284:8, 21	70:10	118:18	290:19
196:8	285:17	82:24	193:3	292:3
199:9	286:6	132:2	recess	293:12
rates	287:2, 15	187:1	274:24	294:21
144:4, 8, 25	288:11, 24	reauthoriza	recognize	recognizing
158:9	289:20	tion	16:20 38:7	119:9
rationale	290:8	222:21	73:4, 7	recommend
44:16	291:4, 17	226:2	87:17	69:15
re-applying	292:13	227:4	106:2	155:20
115:19	293:1, 22	256:14	119:20	165:14
re-examined	294:10	rebates	144:2	recommenda
91:5	295:6, 19	197:15	175:10	tion
reaching	real	receive	178:2	31:1 33:10
144:6	26:11	39:1, 3	180:2	38:6 51:14
197:3	87:20	79:5	229:12	69:2 138:9
read	103:1	128:14	recognized	143:2
51:8	207:19	143:17	160:8	150:19
135:16	234:7	144:21	recognizes	158:12
145:11	241:20	146:22	26:6 29:6	163:18
146:14	251:9	217:10	55:22 92:7	164:3, 6
198:5	reality	228:7	160:20	165:13
201:10	206:16	257:2	167:2	213:20
	realize		168:16	227:2
	16:5 68:5			277:24

278:13	26:11	192:21	recreations	137:20
280:13, 24	27:13 28:2	195:3	213:11	212:11
282:23	32:9, 16	198:1	recruiting	214:1
283:9	33:13, 21	200:10	244:23	reflected
284:5, 18	42:11 43:4	203:23	recruitment	261:22
285:14	61:3, 21	207:25	118:21	262:9
286:3, 24	74:8 75:3,	211:1	recurring	271:19
287:12	6 77:2	215:18	63:11	272:25
288:8, 21	83:6 97:23	222:5	redevelopme	273:6
289:17	98:10, 11,	230:7	nt	reflects
290:5	25 99:3	235:18	239:22	156:1
291:1, 14	102:4, 9	236:22	241:25	reform
292:10, 23	104:14	239:3	reduce	36:22
293:19	110:15, 21	246:22	63:7	refund
294:7	111:8	256:8, 18	106:22	136:7
295:3, 16	114:21	257:5, 7	112:11	150:7
recommendat	118:4	258:13	248:19	refundings
ions	121:17	259:4	reduces	136:13
25:12	122:10	264:17	226:7, 13	regard
40:16, 19	125:9	270:10, 15,	reducing	22:7 27:16
51:22	129:21	18 271:6,	112:2	36:11
53:22	133:12	14 272:17	157:13	86:24
54:11	134:11	273:15	reduction	region's
69:10	135:16	277:2	157:6	240:15
163:4	140:25	278:7	197:16	registratio
164:11	143:14	279:16	226:16	n
245:10	144:13	282:2	reductions	123:17
recommended	145:6	284:13	228:3	regular
68:15	146:3, 10	285:22	reference	23:5
195:17	147:1, 24	287:7	120:1	regularly
recommending	148:18	288:16	referenced	35:22
51:25	151:21	289:25	137:13	268:14
recommends	153:9	291:9	138:3	regulated
138:5, 11	159:14	292:18	referred	101:9
150:15, 21	162:17	294:2	194:10	regulation
158:13	166:9	295:11	refers	65:10
record	167:5, 18,	recover	247:17	101:15
14:7, 14	22 170:17	209:9	reflect	104:19
19:23	171:13	recovery-		108:1
	181:1	oriented		
	185:7, 18,	224:12		
	22 191:25			

regulations 67:25 227:11	236:20	126:25	renewals 37:25 45:20 47:23	17:24 18:12 21:19
regulatory 188:13	relationship-driven 42:4 67:16, 20	relocation 179:3	renewed 208:25	23:3, 22 27:10 28:5 32:3 33:9
rehabilitate 156:22	relationships 179:5	rely 80:2 226:1 228:25	rent 173:4 261:8	37:5, 12 40:14 42:13 45:2 48:16
reimbursed 113:20	relative 18:4 21:8 28:7 32:16	relying 251:16	rental 248:16, 18 249:25 250:3, 10 261:4	51:5, 19 52:12 53:12 59:12 66:21
reimbursement 112:16 225:19 228:8	73:13 75:4 78:7 79:4 95:13 97:10 139:21 143:11, 18 146:1, 10 147:3 148:14 151:22 152:10 189:24 255:3, 8 271:16 272:8, 10, 11	remain 220:7, 11 262:8	repair 156:21 195:8 250:3, 5 262:6	67:1, 7 68:8, 15 69:1, 13 143:1 144:11 145:11 146:10 163:17 213:18 268:4
reimbursements 128:14 225:22 231:12		remainder 270:12 273:10	repairs 178:4	
rejected 195:24		remains 242:18	repeat 187:9	
relate 98:1		remediation 70:8	repeated 45:17	reported 118:16 277:22 278:11 280:11, 22 282:21 283:7 284:4, 16 285:13 286:1, 23 287:10 288:7, 19 289:16 290:3, 25 291:12 292:9, 21
related 46:5 56:2 165:3 169:7 216:5 243:19 267:24	released 16:3 17:25 21:20 28:5 42:14	reminder 242:23	repeatedly 105:20	
relates 143:25 169:13 190:7	reliable 157:5	removal 39:13 44:3 66:13 114:9 124:16	replace 156:22	
relationships 45:14 79:17	reliance 66:14 226:13	remove 62:20	replacement 156:2, 5 157:3, 18 161:3 165:4	
	relied 187:16	removing 32:23 80:15	replacing 157:8 205:12	
	relies 80:25	renew 37:16 216:10	report 16:3, 25	
		renewable 186:22		

293:18	125:23	241:5	residential	274:18, 25
294:5	138:7	242:2, 9	103:21	resolutions
295:2, 14	142:25	247:20	143:25	192:4, 16
reporting	154:17	requirement	144:7, 24	196:24
38:1	155:25	s	146:22	resource
reports	157:22	43:11	205:11	233:1
52:11	158:2, 8	62:17 95:5	residents	resources
143:16	163:16, 24	117:1	63:20	64:2 71:17
144:21	164:1	157:25	65:23 71:6	234:16
145:8	187:10	219:21	72:13	248:23
represent	192:8	243:3	80:20 86:1	251:5
22:22	213:18, 21	requires	101:2	261:3, 19
126:7	220:19	113:15	121:4, 10	262:12
189:21	requested	119:3	126:23	263:8
representat	163:12	158:5	127:18	265:9
ion	164:4	219:5	167:6	respect
188:11	194:6	requiring	168:8	35:11
representat	252:1	69:18 90:9	169:4, 6, 14	52:10
ive	273:20	115:10, 23	175:17, 22	53:24 93:5
204:3	requesting	119:24	178:22	105:10, 11
representat	142:21	141:23	185:20	192:12
ives	258:4	193:16	189:23	respectfull
60:23	requests	195:19	193:23	y
141:9	150:17	196:5	197:12	66:9 71:20
217:24	155:21	research	223:18	96:24 99:2
representin	158:10	42:16	224:9	110:23
g	212:6	75:13	228:10	125:23
200:7	require	reserve	233:4, 6	129:15
represents	54:10	61:18	250:14	138:7
113:17	65:25	136:4	256:5	142:25
261:2	194:15	270:7	266:11, 13	150:17
reprieve	197:3	reset	resign	158:10
208:16	241:16	31:12	19:7	163:16
209:14	required	residency	resilience	192:8
reputable	70:1	237:23	65:8	213:17
268:7	112:20	resident	resolution	220:18
request	113:7, 19	65:4 71:4	111:2	228:19
63:8 71:20	142:5	98:18	133:5	258:3
80:12	206:11	171:16	264:10	respiratory
	208:18	181:4	265:4	205:21
			266:5	

respond	285:3	38:3 101:5	88:11	Reyes
43:14	286:13	rests	131:21	118:6, 7
99:21	287:22	80:8	135:23	Reynolds
106:14, 19	289:6	result	136:22	22:9
136:16	290:15	66:14 76:1	137:19	RFP
responded	291:24	116:11	139:22	16:11
266:1, 10	293:8	129:8	148:12	45:19 49:7
responds	294:17	155:4	149:2, 24	57:14 63:8
101:11	296:1	212:19	150:2	78:14
response	responsibil	266:11	226:4	79:1, 9, 22
13:6 46:3	ities	resulted	241:24	81:9, 21
51:23	64:3 127:2	63:12	review	82:3, 20, 22
60:16 90:2	responsibil	228:1	15:23	93:9 99:5
99:13	ity	results	17:23	102:7
121:25	39:12	30:24 36:5	38:18	105:10, 25
132:16	89:15	retain	52:22 69:8	108:23
134:14, 19	124:10	120:7	70:5, 16	109:2, 8
139:23	155:19	124:19, 24	74:4 88:19	141:25
140:10	responsible	retained	89:12, 20	142:12, 23
147:5, 15	44:5 56:11	120:3	91:3 92:1	RFPS
151:17	58:4, 13	retaining	158:21	105:20
152:14, 23	199:19	69:21	163:23	112:19
210:15	209:12	retention	193:13	115:11
214:16	210:6	118:21	195:23	Richardson
215:2, 6	responsive	retrofit	reviewing	13:8 14:2,
221:6	66:18 68:6	204:22	16:14	14, 21
224:22	responsiven	return	17:15	17:20
236:13	ess	175:25	85:18	19:15, 21
238:11	143:11	194:19, 23	155:19	21:4, 14
245:24	rest	196:11	164:18	22:1 24:2
246:4	91:9	198:14	272:21	25:25 26:4
257:21	181:20	205:25	reviews	27:25 29:3
258:24	restate	returns	117:8	31:22 32:8
272:2	77:11	117:3	revised	33:6, 18
274:8, 20	restrict	123:15	155:4	34:2 38:21
277:12	42:5	reunify	revises	39:1 40:10
278:23	restricting	95:2	222:19	41:5 44:8
280:1	68:24	revenue	revitalizat	46:2 47:6
281:9	restriction		ion	49:2, 11, 19
282:12			126:12	50:9, 15
283:19				55:20

60:5,18	10 149:5,	238:6,13	19 295:10,	role
61:1,12	10,15	239:2,8	25 296:3	120:20
62:2,6	151:1,19	243:13	Richmond	187:25
67:8 71:9	152:16,25	245:18	205:20	188:5
72:9,19	153:8,14,	246:1,6,	Rights	243:5
74:25	20,24	13,20	120:23	260:16
76:12,18	154:14	247:1	rise	roll
77:1,9,13	159:7	252:8	99:9	275:9
78:1 81:6,	161:20	254:19	risk	roof
19 82:5	162:2,16,	255:1	36:13	201:6
83:3 84:6,	24 165:23	256:7	70:23	room
12 87:6	166:7,21	257:18,23	198:11	104:1
90:15	167:2,24	258:12,18	226:7,15	rooms
91:21	168:14	259:1,11,	road	130:6
92:20	169:20	19 263:22	98:5	root
97:1,22	170:5,22	264:6,16,	Rob	71:1
98:17	171:5,11	21 268:19	257:5	rotations
100:2,22	175:6	271:13	269:1	237:22
102:1	176:22	273:22	273:18	roughly
104:11	179:19	274:2,10,	Robert	37:8
106:5	181:8	15,22	215:12	161:10
109:14	182:19	276:8,10	221:20	rounds
110:5,14,	185:3	277:1,11,	229:11	241:14
20 111:7	186:2	14 278:6,	230:8,16	rubber-
114:12,19	189:3,20	22,25	Roberts	203:5
117:21	191:23	279:15,25	110:11	rule
121:13	194:25	280:3,20	111:4,10,	15:7 119:2
122:2	197:22	281:8,11	11 114:16	rules
125:6,14	200:5	282:1,11,	Robinson	64:5 68:19
129:4,18	203:18,22	14 283:5,	166:13	138:11
132:6,18,	205:5	18,21	258:9,22	143:3
23 133:9	207:14,24	284:12	robust	150:21
134:1,7,	208:4	285:2,5,21	33:8 42:16	158:13
16,21	210:11,17,	286:12,15	64:10 78:8	163:19
135:4	24 211:8,	287:6,21,	139:2	167:8,20
138:18	15 214:7,	24 288:15	187:3	206:22
139:25	18 215:4,	289:5,8,24	192:13	213:21
140:12	8,16,23	290:14,17	ROI	220:19
141:3	229:6	291:8,23	206:13	251:24
143:9	230:11,14	292:1,17		
147:7,17,	235:2	293:7,10		
23 148:5,	236:9	294:1,16,		

277:25	safety	232:22	284:14	271:15
278:14	63:19 66:2	242:7	285:23	272:18
280:14, 25	80:21	243:1	287:8	seeks
282:24	111:21	schools	288:17	121:4
283:10	156:15, 24	233:6	290:1	seismic
284:6, 19	205:17	Schumann	291:10	73:5
285:15	223:22	258:10, 23	292:19	Selection
286:4, 25	231:4	Schuylkill	294:3	142:12
287:13	salaries	239:18	295:12	sell
288:9, 22	130:23	scope	section	161:16
289:18	Sams	40:20, 25	15:6 18:7	178:6
290:6	148:7	51:7 57:22	32:19, 21	send
291:2, 15	170:9	68:22 71:2	35:12	96:14
292:11, 24	171:2, 9,	227:5, 14	37:14 63:2	145:9
293:20	15, 16	scrutiny	97:25 98:3	232:19
294:8	sanitation	193:18	200:16, 24	sending
295:4, 17	213:10	seconded	secure	95:12
run	sanitizing	276:24	63:17	96:4, 16
19:7 179:2	266:4	277:4	228:12	sends
256:11	sat	278:4, 8, 10	securing	236:14
rush	201:5	279:13, 18	63:25	Senior
192:12	Saturday	280:18, 21	security	76:20
rust	179:7	281:24	266:4	154:2
157:10	save	282:4	seek	seniors
Ryan	173:9	283:3, 6	41:15	176:9
216:1	savings	284:10, 15	73:19	180:12
229:13	128:13	285:19, 25	137:11	266:14
	136:14	287:4, 9	165:7	sense
S	205:14	288:13, 18	231:15	25:2 53:11
Sabrina's	scale	289:22	seeking	96:11
139:7	44:2	290:2	50:3 73:11	173:14
safe	schedule	291:6, 11	82:14	201:18
155:11	192:14	292:15, 20	87:18	206:1, 20
157:5	scheduled	293:24	90:16, 24	separate
180:14	226:16, 19	294:4	104:13	35:14
183:14	268:14	295:8, 13	141:25	52:19
193:7	school	seconds	144:15	155:16
267:3	146:18	277:3	154:25	219:22
safeguard	205:3	279:17	219:11	
226:25		282:3	250:21	

Sergeant -	79:11 80:8	80:19	268:9, 11	136:21
at-arms	81:1 86:14	84:21 86:1	269:14	Seventy
296:16	98:20	92:25	271:10, 24	32:12
series	111:21	99:18	Services'	severe
120:11	112:10	101:2, 9, 24	270:19	228:1
servant	128:11	102:15, 23	serving	shake
64:14	136:14	103:5	64:15	45:22
servant -	142:15	105:22	106:15	Shakina
centered	146:8	106:1	230:21	141:7
65:7	150:8	109:5	250:15	shallow
serve	155:12	112:2, 7,	session	261:8
34:13	157:23	15, 18, 22	138:14	shaping
123:7	158:3	113:6, 19,	143:5	188:1
131:6	175:7	22 116:12,	150:24	191:5
132:3	223:22	13, 16	158:16	share
146:5	235:13	118:22	163:21	71:8
158:2, 5, 24	236:16	119:11, 21	213:24	117:25
191:19	265:19	121:6	252:1	154:19
215:24	269:24	126:18	278:2, 17	188:24
218:11	270:22	127:5, 17	280:16	208:13
223:15	servicemen	128:19	281:3	223:7
225:12	236:16	141:17	283:2, 13	225:13
231:4, 23	services	142:2	284:9, 22	226:9, 14,
232:10	16:18 17:3	143:19	285:18	18 230:20
234:14	20:19	145:17	286:7	shared
256:5	21:10	147:4	287:3, 16	187:11
served	25:19	185:9	288:12, 25	sharing
174:14	28:11, 19	217:18	289:21	41:16
236:5	30:19	218:23	290:9	125:1
serves	41:19	219:10	291:5, 18	shelter
72:12	47:11	223:13, 17	292:14	49:21
223:23	63:19	224:7, 18	293:2, 23	131:13
224:17	64:1, 9	225:25	294:11	184:3
233:16	65:5, 20	226:24	295:7, 20	269:15
service	66:5 67:10	228:4	set	sheltered
18:6 37:17	69:5	231:24	121:24	266:24
42:20 48:9	71:14, 15	232:1, 8	256:1	shelters
66:18	72:3 76:5,	264:25	Settlement	267:2
67:24 71:4	10, 14	265:3, 7,	130:1	268:16
73:14	77:17	14, 17	Seventeenth	
	79:19, 20	266:1, 17		
		267:18		

shift	195:11	208:23	277:8	Sinking
73:5	228:15	209:2, 7, 17	278:19	136:3
197:8, 11	shortage	sick	279:22	sir
shifted	183:4	174:4	281:5	57:3, 9
20:25	204:25	side	282:8	59:16
75:23	shortages	90:22	283:15	148:11
shifting	118:20	123:25	284:24	151:20
226:8	shorter	255:12	286:9	171:6
shifts	207:6	256:23	287:18	sit
196:18	shortly	Sierra	289:2	174:17
shock	160:14	199:19	290:11	sites
265:22	shout	204:7	291:20	239:20
Sholom	211:10	sign-on	293:4	241:1, 25
148:8, 15	shout-out	187:12	294:13	situation
151:22	269:12	signed	295:22	88:22
152:10	show	159:20	similar	96:12
159:16	27:5	160:4	128:4	123:2
167:7	189:20	199:12	136:4	208:11
168:5, 8	242:9	significanc	168:21	situations
171:17	showed	e	Similarly	36:1
172:16	27:11	223:6	262:5, 23	93:13, 18
174:16	shower	significant	simple	97:6
175:18, 23	171:21	35:6 66:7	53:10	106:24
177:2	172:2, 4	86:19	simply	253:13
178:12	182:4	93:23	73:16	Sixteen
181:5	showers	118:19	163:14	227:20
185:12, 20	182:5	137:10	164:15	Sixteenth
186:10	showing	155:7	simultaneou	149:1, 22
189:23	194:17	169:3	sly	size
197:20	shows	198:11	53:9	137:12
199:22, 23	123:19	234:11	sincere	skip
203:16	269:19	251:5	36:17	260:5
208:11	shut	261:2	159:17	skirt
209:19	172:9	significant	160:15	36:14
252:19, 24	shut-	ly	sincerely	skyline
253:10	209:24	80:3	39:14	245:1
254:4	shut-off	101:22, 23	244:25	slated
255:10	197:19	231:21	single	152:2
short		signify	42:7 68:25	192:7
130:5, 7			75:8	

small	255:8	176:18	130:21	stability
37:3 80:4,	Solutions	181:15	spend	128:21
5 81:7, 14,	247:12	229:25	187:19	227:18
20 82:1	solve	233:3	194:7	234:22
146:23	180:23	273:18	206:22	261:11
smaller	254:6	speaking	spending	stabilizati
43:22	Something's	130:6	25:6, 23	on
44:14	50:2	speaks	31:16	126:13
46:15	sort	124:11	48:21	stable
81:25	19:24	special	53:18	172:7
116:2	24:16 28:9	27:4	65:15	staff
so-called	51:15, 23	70:12, 22	247:22	18:19
173:7	53:9 54:10	248:20	256:16	86:5, 23
social	75:9 76:1,	250:8	257:11	130:21
63:19	12 83:16	261:25	spent	154:1
65:19	85:2 87:23	262:3	25:9	158:19
101:2	104:17	269:6, 12	spoke	163:25
111:21	105:2	specific	229:13	180:17
112:15	176:7	20:16	spot	260:2
199:18	sound	139:12	123:11	296:17
231:20	54:7 117:2	243:19	spring	staffing
266:2	196:14	specificall	193:10	128:20
267:10	sounding	y	195:13	stakeholder
Socialist	179:23	51:6 66:22	spur	227:3
204:4	source	68:14 72:1	240:10	stakeholder
sole	15:8 26:19	121:2	square	s
15:8 26:19	63:3	156:19	45:12	34:21
63:2 89:15	sources	169:7	squarely	stamp
120:21	247:23	187:7	51:25 84:8	203:6
solely	space	190:8, 16	89:20	stand
51:25	91:18	216:19	St	38:5
Solicitor	189:21	253:4	230:18, 24	199:21
69:18	197:9	specifics	231:7, 14,	standard
91:17	speak	254:4	17 232:13,	29:20
Solicitor's	34:8 76:21	speculators	18, 20, 23	108:17
165:11	83:16, 25	178:17	233:8, 11,	163:23
solution	84:25	speed	16, 23	standards
70:24	125:2, 3	57:19	234:12	117:13
254:13	173:24	spell		120:12, 20

standing	151:20	47:18	228:6	street
101:8	153:8	89:10	stenographe	145:21
258:19	162:16	statement	r	178:13
stands	166:8	124:3	74:11	224:3
186:9	170:16	statements	138:23	269:23
start	171:12	50:23	166:9	streets
36:4 39:24	180:25	117:5	296:14	172:12,13
49:9 79:7	185:6,21	123:17	step	213:9
93:4	192:21	states	177:25	strength
112:23	195:2	16:15	178:3	38:11
140:18	197:25	267:6	179:15	strengthen
186:8	200:9	273:4	197:18	249:1
193:25	202:3	stating	steps	strengtheni
started	203:22	88:17	112:20	ng
40:16 46:7	204:12	277:8	180:10,11	68:16
starts	207:24	278:19	226:22	70:20
152:1	208:18	279:22	Steve	stress
state	210:25	281:5	181:3	176:12
14:6 32:15	215:17	282:8	185:4	stricter
33:12,20	216:22	283:15	229:21	68:18
34:23 43:4	217:4	284:24	stimulate	strides
61:3,21	218:21	286:9	240:1	86:19
74:7 75:7	222:4,23	287:18	stipulated	striving
77:2 82:9	225:13	289:2	15:20	237:15
95:4,5,11	226:5	290:11	stop	strong
96:5 97:23	230:6	291:20	114:9	122:21
98:10	234:2,16	293:4	254:17	216:15
105:18	239:2	294:13	stove	218:20,24
110:14,20	240:6,14	295:22	171:23	stronger
111:7	242:24	status	strain	124:18
114:20	246:21	207:11	266:7	strongly
118:3	247:14	stay	strategic	187:18
121:16	258:13	169:9	86:15	struck
122:9	259:3	183:12	249:6	48:24
125:8	264:16	staying	strategy	structure
129:20	265:20	263:24	252:22	219:12,15,
133:11	270:14,18	stays	261:17	17
140:24	state's	219:18	streamlined	structures
147:23	247:24	stem	63:13,25	
148:18	stated			
	40:19			

226:11	subpar	summarize	Supplier	supported
struggle	112:7	110:8, 24	154:8	226:24
81:15	subservice	192:20	166:17	supporting
193:23	272:12	258:4	supply	59:4, 5
struggling	subsidies	summarized	48:22	supportive
100:9	261:9	114:22	56:19	101:1, 24
262:17	subsidized	122:11	107:12	181:12
students	261:10	125:10	166:18	261:19
232:19	subsidizing	129:22	194:9	supports
233:7	196:9	134:23	261:12	70:4
242:7	substantial	170:23	support	108:14
Studio	233:15	192:10	32:10, 13	157:4
86:14	substantiat	198:2	44:16 71:5	surcharge
subject	e	200:11	79:4 80:7	156:8
79:15	194:16	203:24	82:10, 13	161:9
193:17	success	259:5	113:3	surface
220:10	137:8	summary	120:25	36:16
subjecting	succinct	154:19	121:8	surgically
195:22	258:5	271:25	149:8	23:23
submission	suffer	272:22	155:8	surrounding
259:24	203:9	summer	156:20	233:12, 22
submit	suffering	55:1, 2	157:24	survive
74:10 75:2	203:8	146:19	158:24	184:6
78:2	261:20	177:20	159:1	survivors
111:23	sufficient	Summerville	163:2	130:4
112:19	270:20	238:23	168:10	suspended
115:10, 24	sugar	239:5, 6, 10	184:16, 18	138:12
117:3	183:8	245:8	203:15	150:22
241:5, 13	suggest	246:10	211:22	158:14
242:3	37:21 49:6	Sunshine	216:4, 15	213:22
submits	66:10	164:20	217:21, 22,	220:20
251:19	100:18	supplement	24 218:1,	278:1, 15
submitted	101:16	163:15	20, 25	280:15
135:15	suggestions	Supplementa	222:17	281:1
154:16	25:11	1	228:11, 20	282:25
163:11	91:24	135:20	231:15	283:11
196:1	suggests	136:21	250:8	284:7, 20
219:10	68:9	137:18	251:10, 11	285:16
		149:1, 22	260:8, 18,	286:5
			23 261:3, 8	
			263:1, 9, 10	

287:1, 14	117:7	86:24	72:5	296:15
288:10, 23	120:17	128:3	127:24	Tech
289:19	129:7	153:3	tasks	149:8
290:7	156:7	171:21	80:10	296:15
291:3, 16	184:4	172:3	Tavare	technical
292:12, 25	222:12, 16	174:10	210:20	53:12, 14
293:21	228:18	176:15	211:4, 11,	technically
294:9	265:17, 23	209:8	18	160:5
295:5, 18	266:8	talk	tax	technology
suspension	269:15	78:12	25:6 31:14	196:18
143:3	271:9	88:21	117:3	telling
163:19	Systems	183:19	123:15	111:14
251:24	250:4	208:8	197:14	173:8
sustain		217:7	233:23	tells
233:18	T	talked	240:6, 7	95:21
260:23	table	41:5	241:20	Temple
sustained	14:10	113:12	taxes	220:12
249:9	33:16	186:13	142:4	222:11, 15
sustaining	61:10	talking	234:1, 2, 8	223:8, 10,
66:7	76:24	55:6 179:4	236:3	23 224:4,
Swap	102:11	181:25	taxpayer	16 225:7
150:13	110:18	206:15	17:8	226:21
swift	133:7	209:20	235:22	227:2
65:18, 25	147:21	253:24	236:1	228:22
swiftly	153:6	talks	271:4	235:24
40:3	170:20	56:4	Taylor	236:5
swimming	207:22	tangible	216:1	237:10
201:4	210:22	36:23	221:11	temporary
switch	215:14	Tara	team	208:15, 23
57:16	221:22	170:10	33:19	209:14
swoop	238:25	192:23	77:20	tenant
178:21	246:18	tardes	139:2	208:12
sybiotic	258:16	122:14	151:6	209:19
236:19	264:14	targeted	154:5	tenants
system	takes	103:1	159:10	210:5
15:25 30:7	84:14	262:20	214:10	term
85:22	131:4	tariff	229:19, 21,	141:19
87:21	171:23	158:1	22 244:25	240:8
97:14	taking	task	269:3, 7	
	18:3 27:3		273:18	

termination	221:18	138:20	238:7, 17	176:17, 19,
150:11, 12	238:9	140:5, 13	239:4	24 181:24
terms	239:12	141:1	243:14	182:15
97:19	243:7	143:10	245:20	207:4
102:17	245:22	147:9, 25	246:9, 23	212:13
104:8	246:2	148:19	247:7	235:25
117:5	259:21	149:17	252:6, 9	236:2
118:20	263:20	150:14	253:20	244:17
130:13	265:4	151:2, 7, 14	258:5, 14	260:6
141:21	274:17	153:10	259:6	273:13
267:1	296:8	154:16	263:5, 23	thinking
testi	testifying	159:9	264:18	207:9
38:19	148:7	162:13, 18	268:21	256:2
testified	188:9	163:9, 10,	thankful	Thomas
229:15	testimony	15 165:21,	23:12	14:17
testify	13:19 14:8	24 166:1	that'll	153:25
13:22	29:11 32:1	169:3, 10,	270:11	162:25
14:24 33:2	33:14, 22	25 170:18,	thermal	168:17, 18
122:6	39:4 42:24	24 171:14	206:4	169:17
125:22	61:4, 17,	175:9	thing	181:10
129:14	20, 22	181:2	23:18 53:7	190:2, 3
132:15	62:13	185:23	82:5 83:4,	191:6, 24
134:12, 17	72:15, 21	186:3	11, 20 87:9	276:1, 2
135:12	74:11, 20	189:4, 5	96:17	277:3
140:8	75:2 77:3	190:5	101:14	278:8
141:10	89:10	191:10	182:17	279:17
147:13	109:19	192:11, 20	183:9	282:3
148:14, 24	110:9, 16,	195:1, 4, 24	184:22	284:14
149:20	22, 24	197:23	205:25	285:23
151:16, 22	111:9	198:2	210:2	287:8
152:13, 21	114:13, 22	200:6, 12	273:6	290:1
154:9	117:17	203:19, 24	things	292:19
159:19, 24	118:5	207:15	23:21	294:3
163:2	121:14, 18	208:1	75:23 85:5	295:12
164:22	122:3, 11	211:2	90:1, 9	thought
168:24	125:11	214:3, 9, 22	96:15	125:21
169:6	129:19, 23	215:19	99:14	thought -
192:2	132:13	221:3, 15	110:25	96:6
210:14	133:13	222:6	113:11	thoughtful
211:22	134:23, 24	229:8	160:24	96:13
215:1, 5	135:15	230:3, 12		
		235:3, 5		

99:13	130:7	99:19	24 197:24	183:8
threaten	148:14	119:6	203:7	254:11
209:7	154:12	178:16	204:2	topic
threats	159:2, 5	tip	211:21	222:14
65:14	160:4	177:2	214:21	total
threshold	168:24	tired	216:1, 7	37:25
37:24	171:22	181:6	217:25	109:16
44:22	172:17	259:8, 9	221:3, 14	213:13
46:11, 20	174:11	tirelessly	222:13	249:21
thresholds	175:1	34:13	228:21	totaling
46:5	179:24	title	230:1	154:24
Thrive	182:24	62:14 74:7	233:3	155:5
199:18	183:11	120:22	234:24	totality
throwing	184:3, 20	titled	235:5	61:17
123:9	185:12	52:12	238:19	totally
tiers	186:12	today	246:7	38:15
227:11	192:9	23:15	247:7	touched
ties	196:15, 16	33:8, 20	253:6	182:20
101:11, 14	209:1	34:7, 9	257:25	tour
tight	210:8	35:17	263:24	176:20
116:8	220:25	62:10	264:25	Toy
time	229:16	74:15, 23	265:3	110:12
31:16	234:24	91:25	270:12	121:20
35:23	243:9	109:18	296:10	125:12, 16
45:10	252:12	117:22	told	258:10
48:19 55:8	257:10	118:2	183:11	259:7, 12,
71:7 75:23	267:22	122:4	184:2	20 264:4
81:12 82:2	270:16	124:3	Tompkins	track
83:22	time-	125:3, 23	62:12	120:17
84:13, 15	intensive	129:16	76:16	tracking
91:19	85:9	130:9	77:4, 5, 10,	68:20
94:5, 23	timeline	138:22, 24	19	Tracy
95:24 96:7	54:24	139:15	tool	135:8
97:15	timelines	140:6	137:3	138:23
105:9	119:22	152:2	240:15	trade
106:21	timely	154:4	toolkit	204:10, 25
115:8	63:17	155:15	240:16	205:3
123:5	136:17	181:25	tools	traditional
128:1, 17	times	187:8	40:2	
	94:18	192:2, 14,	top	

136:12	65:15	Tree		35:4, 19
261:18	71:11	269:22	U	43:19 46:4
trained	115:5	trees	U.S.	54:1, 3
232:17	117:11	201:4	156:13	55:16 73:7
236:12	120:14	tremendous	236:14	93:9 99:16
trainee	124:1	36:13	259:24	105:2
236:15	202:20	trends	266:18	106:18
training	transparent	105:9	UESF	117:10
232:21, 24	24:25 43:7	trickle	119:15	139:15
237:19	73:17	87:22	unacceptabl	148:10
transaction	105:11	true	e	183:17
36:10	118:13	53:15 56:7	201:15, 19	185:7
57:11, 18	transportat	97:5	202:8, 14	208:15, 20
transcript	ion	260:10	203:4	209:2, 4
164:25	156:14	trust	unaffordabl	236:19
Transformat	179:9	71:16	e	252:21
ion	232:5	131:5	193:24	253:22
86:16	Treasurer	239:21	unanimously	258:1
transit	133:14, 15,	248:2	163:7	259:17
213:9	20, 21	249:19	unbearably	262:10
transition	134:2, 22	trusted	201:1	understandi
186:21	135:2, 7, 11	127:3	uncertainty	ng
transitiona	138:19	tune	128:16	71:1 79:23
l	141:2, 6	254:16	unclear	95:25
267:2	148:3, 22,	turn	261:21	145:14
transitioni	23 149:13,	87:22	uncommon	151:23
ng	19 211:14,	225:5	67:22	175:16
95:17	21	turned	252:25	255:16
201:17	Treasurer's	171:20	undercut	272:20
translated	141:8, 24	turning	43:24	Understood
118:14	142:11	182:2	underlying	98:15
transmittal	treated	Twentieth	38:13	273:17
251:22	235:17	135:19	underserved	undertake
transmitted	treatment	type	30:21	102:6
164:7	103:16, 21,	173:24	234:19	152:9
transparenc	24 104:7	types	understand	260:12
y	107:19	15:14	18:2 29:17	undertaken
31:7 43:17	108:5	253:12	31:17	164:17
	224:13			undertaking
				18:1 42:18

underutilized 240:3	United 267:5	untrained 112:5	188:19 267:6	valuable 35:3 224:7 235:13
undervalued 178:19	units 253:1 261:11	unusual 179:13	urgently 199:10	values 186:16
undeserved 242:22	universally 81:14	unwavering 228:23	usual 203:7	Vanessa 76:22 92:16
undoubtedly 35:13	universe 85:20	upcoming 248:10 249:7	utilities 156:21	vendor 20:11, 23 37:25 57:13, 17, 19, 20 81:16, 17 99:21
unfavorable 69:12	universities 232:19	updates 25:22 226:4	utility 119:14 155:12 156:10 167:14 187:5 188:15, 17 190:20 191:15 196:12 209:6	vendors 38:10 41:24 42:1 59:4 62:19 67:15 75:4 78:7, 9, 11, 13, 17 79:1 80:25 84:6, 21 88:1, 14 99:12
unforeseen 63:22 127:19	University 220:13 222:11, 16 223:23	upgrade 177:19	utility-run 206:4	verification 68:17, 21
unhoused 261:20 267:15 269:25	unnecessarily 39:9	upgraded 157:9	utilize 26:18 82:8, 19 255:7	versa 45:21
unimproved 241:21	unnecessary 116:1 124:7	upgrades 199:4	utilized 15:15 28:16	version 125:10 129:22 134:24 170:23 192:10 200:12 259:5
unintended 23:16, 19 71:3 127:19 129:8	unprecedented 196:17	uphold 194:4 195:18	utilizing 90:19	
unique 41:19 67:10 242:14	unreasonable 115:8	upholds 196:7		
uniquely 127:4	unregulated 41:20 67:11	uplift 197:17	v	
unit 68:22 89:13 224:24 236:6	unscheduled 268:15	uproot 179:10	vacant 240:3, 25 249:2 250:25	
unit's 89:15	unscrupulous 177:7	uptick 236:6	vague 51:10	
	unsure 127:13	Urban 118:8 259:25 266:19		
		urge 228:19 261:7		
		urgent 103:11		

versus 22:25 23:5 111:14	voice 126:5 188:2	12 25:4, 20 28:2 29:16, 19	182:6 waste 25:17	wider 200:2
vertically 211:10	voiced 42:23	32:8, 15 42:10, 14 52:25	water 171:24 177:4	willingness 72:23 273:24
veterans 176:9	volume 219:23 220:3, 14	74:25 75:5 97:3 98:10, 24	197:10 202:6	wiring 205:11
Vibrant 251:2	223:24	121:16	ways 29:20 117:15	witnesses 14:9 33:15 61:9, 15
vice 45:21	volumes 124:11	139:1 145:5	126:1 168:10	76:23 110:6, 17
Vice- president 154:2 222:9	vote 273:7	146:9, 25 151:20 159:14	website 165:1	121:24 133:6 147:20
vie 46:17	VP 118:8	160:6 162:13 164:16	wee 145:10	153:5 159:23, 24 160:6
view 35:7 64:19 122:24	vulnerable 25:18 30:21 106:17	167:4 175:10 185:6, 17	weeds 89:2	170:19 192:1 207:18
violence 130:4 236:7	vying 144:23	190:4 208:10, 13 221:10	week 270:13	210:21 215:13 221:17, 21
virtually 232:21	W	229:19, 23 236:22 254:20	weeks 209:15 266:9	235:7 238:18, 24 246:17
vision 265:12	wage 234:1 236:2	256:8 257:4 268:23	weight 161:17	258:2 264:13 296:7
visit 131:13 139:5 183:18	wait 94:23	270:5	welcoming 224:14	
visited 131:12	waiting 84:13	wanting 168:9	welfare 93:15, 17	women 34:12
visiting 233:5	waive 112:19	warm 182:3	well-being 186:24	women's 224:6
vital 231:4, 19 243:5	walk 269:22	warming 202:1	West 239:19	wonderful 13:12 244:8
	walking 180:10	warranted 69:10	wholesale 39:13 44:3 124:15	wondering 51:17
	wanted 19:5 24:8,	wash		

word	190:11, 19	265:19	Wynnefield	251:12
169:9	204:5, 24	274:4	152:4	267:4
words	208:6	works	168:1, 4	268:13
100:10	230:21	66:9		270:23
181:11, 13	243:25	149:2, 23	Y	year-over-
216:4	244:8, 10	150:1, 2		162:7
work	246:8	166:19	Yard	yearly
18:1 21:18	249:24	193:12	239:19	37:24
22:6 32:1	257:1	200:20	Yards	78:20
34:12	260:11		239:18	
40:13 42:1	263:3, 25	world	Yates-	years
55:3 57:22	267:19	100:11, 19	264:11	15:16
60:8 67:14	271:15	178:18	Yates-gale	47:21 73:3
71:23	272:18	186:25	264:19, 23	75:24
72:23	worked	204:13	270:24	77:18
73:2, 9, 13	102:10	236:17	273:16, 23	88:4, 15
77:16, 20,	260:3	237:24	274:13	94:9
23 85:24	workers	265:22	year	100:8, 13,
86:10	204:25	worse	15:1 45:4,	14 102:24
87:12, 17,	205:1	112:5	5 48:5, 7,	104:23, 24
24 90:20,	workflow	122:25	11 49:19,	107:5, 6
21 91:22	69:17	worth	21 78:16,	112:9
98:8 99:17	workforce	37:8	25 88:7,	130:16
101:12	242:5, 15	178:16	20, 21	136:10
104:18	working	worthy	104:17	161:16
109:20	18:18, 19	68:13	115:22	171:18
114:4, 6	52:17	Wow	142:23	172:18
121:15	54:21	205:5	146:14	188:10, 16
126:11, 22	57:20	write	154:22	197:7
127:16, 21	72:24	193:6	155:24	198:9
130:2	109:22	writing	157:19	204:11
137:7	116:17	51:20	162:8	207:3
143:20	168:2	written	193:11	217:23
159:9	180:13, 15	135:15	194:8	222:23
162:3, 6	185:9, 11,	150:14	217:12	226:6
168:9, 11,	13, 19	163:10	218:1	227:20
20 169:11	237:19	213:14	224:19	230:23
174:1	242:19	wrong	226:5, 20	240:9, 25
180:19, 22	243:23	50:2	234:7	260:14
186:6, 15	263:6	173:15	248:10	yesterday
189:15, 18			249:8	13:13
				78:9, 22

82:7 83:10
114:14
117:18, 23
121:22
125:4
132:10
145:18
206:5
272:4

York

127:24
178:15

young

93:21
95:3, 12
102:19, 20
103:2, 3, 6,
17, 19, 24
104:5, 23
105:8, 23
106:16
107:15, 19,
24 108:2,
4, 8, 15
109:3, 9
234:13
270:1

youngest

184:1

Z

zip

232:12
237:9, 12

zone

239:16
244:14

zones

240:5