

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, April 2, 2025
10:15 a.m.

PRESENT:

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

BILLS: 250195, 250196, 250197, 250198,
250199, 250200, 250201, 250202,
250210, 250211, 250212

RESOLUTION: 250214

1 - - -

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Good morning, everyone.

4 (Good morning.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: This is the public
7 hearing and public meeting of the
8 Committee of the Whole regarding
9 Bill Nos. 250195, 250196, 250197,
10 250198, 250199, 250200, 250201,
11 250202, 250210, 250211, 250212 and
12 Resolution No. 250214.

13 Ms. Loughead, will you
14 please call the roll to take
15 attendance.

16 THE CLERK:
17 Councilmember Squilla.

18 (No response.)

19 THE CLERK:
20 Councilmember Gauthier.

21 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
22 Present.

23 THE CLERK:
24 Councilmember Jones.

1 COUNCILMAN JONES:

2 Present.

3 THE CLERK:

4 Councilmember Young.

5 (No response.)

6 THE CLERK:

7 Councilmember Driscoll.

8 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

9 Present.

10 THE CLERK:

11 Councilmember Lozada.

12 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

13 Present.

14 THE CLERK:

15 Councilmember Bass.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

17 Present.

18 THE CLERK:

19 Councilmember Phillips.

20 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

21 Present.

22 THE CLERK:

23 Councilmember O'Neill.

24 (No response.)

1 THE CLERK:
2 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson.

3 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
4 RICHARDSON: Present.

5 THE CLERK:
6 Councilmember Thomas.

7 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:
8 Present.

9 THE CLERK:
10 Councilmember Harrity.

11 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:
12 Present.

13 THE CLERK:
14 Councilmember Ahmad.

15 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:
16 Present.

17 THE CLERK:
18 Councilmember Landau.

19 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:
20 Present.

21 THE CLERK:
22 Councilmember Brooks.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:
24 Present.

1 THE CLERK:

2 Councilmember O'Rourke.

3 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

4 Present.

5 THE CLERK: Council

6 President Johnson.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: Present. Thank you. A
9 quorum of the Committee is present
10 and this hearing is now called to
11 order.

12 Ms. Loughhead, will you
13 please read the titles of the
14 resolutions.

15 THE CLERK: Bill No.
16 250195, an ordinance amending
17 Chapter 19-1500 of The Philadelphia
18 Code, entitled "Wage and Net
19 Profits Tax," by revising certain
20 tax rates, under certain terms and
21 conditions.

22 Bill No. 250196, an
23 ordinance adopting the Operating
24 Budget for Fiscal Year 2026.

1 Bill No. 250197, an
2 ordinance to adopt a Fiscal 2026
3 Capital Budget.

4 Bill No. 250198, an
5 ordinance to adopt a Capital
6 Program for the six Fiscal Years
7 2026-2031 inclusive.

8 Bill No. 250199, an
9 ordinance amending Chapter 19-2600
10 of The Philadelphia Tax Code,
11 entitled "Business Income and
12 Receipts Taxes," to revise certain
13 tax rates and end certain
14 exclusions from the tax on
15 receipts, all under certain terms
16 and conditions.

17 Bill No. 250200, an
18 ordinance amending Chapter 12-100
19 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
20 "Traffic Code" to revise the fee
21 for the use of parking meters, all
22 under certain terms and conditions.

23 Bill No. 250201, an
24 ordinance amending Chapter 19-1800

1 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
2 "School Tax Authorization," to
3 provide for an increase in the tax
4 of the Board of Education of the
5 School District of Philadelphia is
6 authorized to impose on real
7 estate; and amending Chapter
8 19-1300, entitled "Real Estate
9 Taxes," to establish an equivalent
10 reduction the tax rate for the City
11 real estate tax, all under certain
12 terms and conditions.

13 Bill No. 250202, an
14 ordinance amending Chapter 19-1806
15 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
16 "Authorization of Realty Use and
17 Occupancy Tax," to eliminate
18 certain exemptions, all under
19 certain terms and conditions.

20 Bill No. 250210, an
21 ordinance amending Section 10-1001
22 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
23 "Fees of the Commissioner of
24 Records," to increase the portion

1 of fees for the recording of deeds
2 and mortgages in related documents
3 to be used for Housing Trust Fund
4 purposes, under certain terms and
5 conditions.

6 Bill No. 250211, an
7 ordinance amending Chapter 19-1400
8 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
9 "Realty Transfer Tax" revising the
10 rate of the tax, all under certain
11 terms and conditions.

12 Bill No. 250212, an
13 ordinance to amend Chapter 19-4400
14 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
15 "Development Impact Tax" to end
16 imposition of the tax, under
17 certain terms and conditions.

18 Resolution No. 250214,
19 resolution providing for the
20 approval by the Council of the City
21 of Philadelphia of a Revised Five
22 Year Financial Plan for the City of
23 Philadelphia covering Fiscal Years
24 2026-2030, and incorporating

1 revisions with respect to Fiscal
2 Year 2025, which is to be submitted
3 by the Mayor to the Pennsylvania
4 Intergovernmental Cooperation
5 Authority pursuant to an
6 Intergovernmental Cooperation
7 Agreement by and between the City
8 and the Authority.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.
11 Today we will hold the public
12 hearing of the Committee of the
13 Whole to consider bills read by the
14 Clerk that constitute proposed
15 operating capital spending measures
16 for Fiscal Year 2026, a Capital
17 Program and a Forward-looking
18 Capital Plan for Fiscal Year 2026
19 through Fiscal Year 2031.

20 This morning we have
21 scheduled testimony from the Office
22 of Clean and Green, which includes
23 Sanitation and the Philadelphia
24 Energy Authority. This afternoon

1 we have scheduled testimony from
2 the Department of Streets, Water
3 and Aviation.

4 Ms. Loughead, will you
5 please call the first two witnesses
6 to testify from the Administration.

7 THE CLERK: Yes. We
8 have Director of Office of Clean
9 and Green and the Commissioner for
10 Sanitation.

11 (Witnesses approached
12 Witness table.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: Good morning.

15 MR. WILLIAMS: Good
16 morning.

17 COMMISSIONER JACOBS

18 SHIPMAN: Good morning.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Well, before we get
21 started I want to thank
22 Commissioner Crystal Jacobs. I
23 want to thank Director of Clean and
24 Green Mr. Carlton Williams for

1 always picking up my phone call
2 when I call as it relates to
3 cleaning and greening the city of
4 Philadelphia, for being out in the
5 community on the front line every
6 time we need to address the issues
7 of cleaning and greening our
8 neighborhood.

9 So I just want to state
10 for the record we know y'all have a
11 big job ahead of you that y'all
12 have already started, but just
13 thank you for being here today and
14 just want to commend the two of you
15 as well for your work.

16 Also, want to
17 acknowledge your Deputy Keith
18 Warren. I want to thank him
19 because I call him at all hours of
20 the night asking him for support in
21 terms of addressing different
22 issues throughout the District as
23 well as your liaison and counsel
24 also, Mr. Omar Salaam, I see over

1 there as well. Thank him for his
2 hard work, his dedication as well.
3 And so, I just want to start off
4 and say those things first and
5 foremost. And then you can just
6 state your name.

7 And, Crystal, welcome
8 back. It's always good to see
9 staffers go on to do great things
10 and rise from staff to
11 Commissioner. And both of us have
12 little ones that are the same age.
13 And so, we kind of grew up in this
14 process to govern.

15 So with that being said,
16 I'll turn it over to the two of
17 you. The floor is yours.

18 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank
19 you, Mr. President. And good
20 morning, President Johnson and the
21 members of City Council. I am
22 Carlton Williams, Director of
23 Office of Clean and Green. Joining
24 me today are our Commissioner

1 Crystal Jacobs Shipman, Sanitation
2 Commissioner; Casey Kuklick, Deputy
3 Director of Clean and Green; Mary
4 Stitt, Deputy Director for Clean
5 and Green and Strategic
6 Initiatives; Keith Warren, Deputy
7 Commissioner for Sanitation; and
8 Chris Newman, Deputy Commissioner
9 for Administration.

10 I am pleased to provide
11 testimony on the Office of Clean
12 and Green and Sanitation's Fiscal
13 Year 2026 operating budget. The
14 Honorable Mayor Cherelle L.
15 Parker's vision is to ensure that
16 Philadelphia is the safest,
17 cleanest, greenest big city in the
18 nation with access to economic
19 opportunity for all.

20 On her first 100 days,
21 Mayor Parker released a 100-day
22 action plan to help implement the
23 vision for the City. And I am
24 pleased to report that the Office

1 of Clean and Green has made
2 outstanding progress towards
3 implementing Mayor Parker's vision
4 and action plan objectives.

5 In May of 2024, Mayor
6 Parker signed an Executive Order
7 establishing the Office of Clean
8 and Green and a Clean and Green
9 cabinet charged with providing
10 recommendations to the
11 Administration to address some of
12 the most challenging quality-of-
13 life issues. A report has already
14 been submitted by the Clean and
15 Green cabinet with recommendations
16 that are currently being reviewed
17 by the Administration that will be
18 published following review.

19 The Office of Clean and
20 Green has also successfully
21 implemented multiple and
22 comprehensive key initiatives
23 approved and funded in the passage
24 of the FY25 budget by City Council

1 to address quality-of-life issues
2 throughout the city using the
3 Mayor's goal of developing a
4 proactive intergovernmental
5 strategy that residents can see,
6 touch and feel.

7 In June 2024, the Office
8 of Clean and Green launched the One
9 Philly, United City Citywide
10 Cleanup. Over a 13-week period,
11 more than a dozen government and
12 quasi government agencies worked
13 together to address multiple
14 quality-of-life issues in every
15 neighborhood block-by-block. These
16 agencies included Sanitation,
17 Streets, CLIP, the Community Life
18 Improvement Program, Commerce, PHL
19 TCB, Parks and Recreation, Licenses
20 and Inspections, the Philadelphia
21 Police Department, the Philadelphia
22 Water Department, the Philadelphia
23 Parking Authority, the School
24 District of Philadelphia, the Mural

1 Arts Program, SEPTA and the
2 Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

3 The Cleaning program was
4 a tremendous success and is now
5 standard operating procedure for
6 the city of Philadelphia. The One
7 Philly, United City Citywide
8 Cleanup will now be conducted twice
9 per year in every neighborhood over
10 a 13-week period.

11 The One Philly Cleanup
12 has performed over 110,000 quality-
13 of-life services to date, and we
14 use the work performed during the
15 One Philly Cleanup to establish a
16 new community appearance index that
17 aggregates in ways quality-of-life
18 issues, starting with illegal
19 dumping by zip code. The CAI will
20 ensure that we provide equitable
21 services and know where they are
22 needed the most.

23 The Sanitation
24 Department, under the leadership of

1 Commissioner Shipman, has launched
2 and executed several other
3 initiatives designed to reduce
4 litter and illegal dumping. This
5 includes the establishment and
6 implementation of the City's first
7 ever Council District Residential
8 Cleaning program, which has already
9 cleaned over 35,000 blocks in all
10 10 Council Districts in the city of
11 Philadelphia to improve the quality
12 of life for all citizens.

13 The highly successful
14 piloting of the first ever twice-
15 per-week collections operation in
16 South Philadelphia and Center City
17 that provides additional collection
18 day for residents living in
19 densely-populated communities that
20 continue the expansion of
21 mechanical streetsweeping in our
22 most litter-challenged sections of
23 the city, the ongoing installation
24 on the expansion of a 1500 BigBelly

1 solar-powered trash cans that will
2 be placed along commercial
3 corridors to reduce the amount of
4 litter and trash for pedestrians in
5 commercial districts, and the
6 reintroduction of the Citywide Bulk
7 Collections program that's
8 collected over 5000 items since the
9 program launched in October of
10 2024.

11 All of these new
12 programs have begun to show very
13 promising results. Data from 311
14 shows the number of illegal dumping
15 complaints have dropped nearly 20%
16 across the city this year compared
17 to last year. Notably, the
18 complaints in South Philadelphia
19 and Center City, where twice-a-week
20 collections was introduced in
21 December, has dropped by close to
22 30%, outpacing the citywide
23 decrease.

24 Graffiti complaints,

1 abandoned automobile removals,
2 pothole requests have all decreased
3 significantly as well. CLIP and
4 PHS are great partners in our fight
5 against litter and illegal dumping.
6 CLIP and PHS have cleaned over
7 17,000 lots through just two
8 citywide cleanups.

9 With Mayor Parker's
10 investment, PHS has, for the first
11 time, expanded the LandCare program
12 to clean more than 12,000 lots
13 year-round, creating full-time
14 jobs. The expansion has been
15 extremely successful and helpful in
16 preventing illegal dumping in open
17 spaces.

18 CLIP, under the
19 leadership of Tom Conway, has also
20 been very effective in maintaining
21 vacant lots and removing graffiti.
22 In addition to lot cleaning, CLIP
23 has removed over 185,000 graffiti
24 locations in 2024. 311 complaints

1 for graffiti has decreased
2 dramatically over 35% from the
3 previous year.

4 The TCB, Taking Care of
5 Business, program is a key
6 component of the Administration's
7 clean and green efforts and is
8 certainly a brain child of our
9 mayor, Mayor Cherelle Parker. TCB
10 is managed by the City's Commerce
11 Department and funds community-
12 based nonprofits to sweep sidewalks
13 and remove litter with neighborhood
14 commercial corridors.

15 TCB crews in uniform on
16 a fixed regular schedule and in
17 many cases clean every day of the
18 week. TCB has expanded since
19 January 2024 adding more areas,
20 more hours of coverage and more
21 workers. 39 TCB organizations
22 currently clean 155 commercial
23 corridors in the city and employ
24 more than 324 City cleaning

1 ambassadors.

2 Later this spring the
3 program will expand to serve more
4 than 20 new areas in the city. TCB
5 workers and organizations are
6 making a visible difference in
7 Philadelphia's busiest neighborhood
8 business areas and complement the
9 expanding cleaning work done by
10 City personnel.

11 Enforcement is a
12 critical component to reducing and
13 preventing illegal dumping
14 throughout our city and we are
15 extremely pleased with the
16 partnership we have with our
17 Streets, Law and Police
18 Departments.

19 Our investment in
20 surveillance cameras strategically
21 placed in known illegal dumping hot
22 spots is an effective partnership
23 with the police department using
24 their existing camera, has resulted

1 in increased arrests and decreased
2 dumping across the city.

3 And finally, we're
4 extremely pleased with our Law
5 Department's newly ramped-up
6 efforts to combat illegal dumping.
7 This is the result of the release
8 legislation passed by City Council,
9 which also allows the department to
10 use civil procedures to fine
11 dumpers up to \$5,000 per item per
12 incident.

13 This new procedure has
14 been the cornerstone in our efforts
15 to prevent illegal dumping and to
16 hold violators accountable. The
17 combination of these programs
18 launched in our first year of the
19 Parker Administration is making a
20 significant difference and a
21 positive impact on litter, illegal
22 dumping and other quality-of-life
23 issues across the city.

24 We could have not have

1 made this progress without the
2 support of the honorable members of
3 City Council who passed the budget
4 and legislation to help improve the
5 quality of life for all residents
6 who live, work and visit our city.
7 Together we are making Philadelphia
8 safer, cleaner and greener. Thank
9 you for the opportunity to testify
10 and we will be happy to answer any
11 questions for this testimony
12 hearing.

13 Now, I'd like to ask
14 Sanitation Commissioner Crystal
15 Jacobs Shipman for introductory
16 testimony on behalf of the
17 Sanitation Department.

18 COMMISSIONER JACOBS

19 SHIPMAN: Good morning, President
20 Johnson and members of City
21 Council. I am Crystal Jacobs
22 Shipman, Commissioner for the
23 Department of Sanitation. Joining
24 me today are Keith Warren, Deputy

1 Commissioner for Sanitation;
2 Christopher Newman, Deputy
3 Commissioner for Administration;
4 Omar Salaam, Director for Strategic
5 Initiatives; Scott McGrath,
6 Environmental Planning Director;
7 Kyle Lewis, Recycling Director; and
8 Maria Vamvakidou, Sanitation
9 Program Administrator. Also in the
10 audience and just want to take an
11 opportunity to recognize our Local
12 427 leadership, President Charles
13 Carrington, Vice-president;
14 Business Agent Henry Nieves; and
15 then D.C. 33 Vice-president Antoine
16 Little.

17 I'm here today to
18 provide testimony on the Sanitation
19 Department's Fiscal Year 2026
20 operating budget. The FY26 total
21 General Fund budget request
22 establishes 180 million in funding
23 for the recently-created Sanitation
24 Department.

1 This proposed budget
2 reflects Mayor Cherelle Parker's
3 deep commitment towards making
4 Philadelphia the safest, cleanest
5 and greenest big city in America
6 with economic opportunity for all,
7 and further augments the expansive
8 clean and green investments made by
9 the Mayor and this Council last
10 fiscal year.

11 This budget proposal
12 includes over 8 million in new FY26
13 funding, much of which is dedicated
14 towards continuing to build on the
15 successes of our new and highly
16 ambitious Clean and Green
17 initiatives. I cannot overstate my
18 pride in the success and
19 accomplishments of the men and
20 women of this Sanitation Department
21 during the past year and their
22 clear and highly visible dedication
23 towards keeping Philadelphia clean
24 and green.

1 Our litter management
2 reduction and enforcement efforts
3 have been unprecedented and
4 demonstrate what is possible when a
5 highly-resourced, comprehensive and
6 strategic vision is established and
7 executed. In less than one fiscal
8 year, the Sanitation Department has
9 effectively launched multiple
10 highly, ambitious and consequential
11 new initiatives and significantly
12 expanded several other major
13 programs.

14 While Director Williams
15 referenced these in his opening
16 remarks, I want to take this
17 opportunity to further expound on
18 these accomplishments. Our Council
19 District Residential Cleaning
20 program represents the very first
21 time an assigned sanitation crew
22 presence exclusively dedicated and
23 responsive to the residents and
24 businesses of their assigned

1 District communities. This has not
2 only borne tremendous early
3 results, but ensures each District
4 will have appropriately-resourced
5 sanitation operations, meeting the
6 unique needs in each area of our
7 city at all times.

8 Over 35,000 blocks in
9 all 10 Council Districts have
10 already been cleaned since
11 September. The twice-weekly trash
12 collections pilot initiative in
13 South Philadelphia has been equally
14 impressive. So much so that we are
15 already laying the groundwork for
16 expanding this to North
17 Philadelphia. We have greatly
18 expanded our neighborhood
19 mechanical street cleaning
20 operation, covering the gaps
21 between areas of the city and
22 ensuring continuous coverage where
23 it is needed most.

24 In addition, we now have

1 a comprehensive four-crew bulk
2 collections operation, expanding
3 our illegal dumping crew operations
4 from four to six, significantly
5 increased our sanitation
6 enforcement staffing and have
7 greatly expanded our solar-powered
8 BigBelly trash compactor units to
9 its greatest extent in the history
10 of the department.

11 Simply put, the
12 Sanitation Department has delivered
13 spectacularly on the investments
14 Mayor Parker and this Council
15 provided us this fiscal year. We
16 are very proud of the remarkable
17 strides we've made thus far and are
18 poised and excited to embark on
19 plans moving forward into FY26.

20 This proposed budget
21 allows us to build and continue the
22 Mayor's new and visionary Clean and
23 Green strategy that will
24 institutionalize comprehensive and

1 long-term solutions to remove
2 litter and blight across the city
3 and drastically improve overall
4 quality of life for our residents
5 and communities.

6 We, therefore, are
7 requesting your favorable
8 consideration of the budget request
9 and we thank you for the
10 opportunity to testify before you
11 today. The deputy staff and I are
12 happy to answer any questions you
13 may have.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
15 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.
16 Just a couple brief questions and
17 I'm going to turn it over to my
18 colleagues.

19 So over the Five Year
20 Plan, this is probably our largest
21 investment more than any other area
22 here in the city of Philadelphia,
23 other than us working on
24 potentially an \$800 million

1 borrowing for housing. But other
2 than that, this is our largest
3 investment making sure we improve
4 the quality of our neighborhoods,
5 quality of life in our
6 neighborhoods by cleaning and
7 greening our neighborhoods.

8 So I have a couple just
9 brief questions. Give me an
10 overview of how many participants
11 have participated in the Same Day
12 Work program. Give me an idea what
13 the waiting list looks like in the
14 future of the program.

15 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank
16 you, Council President. I'm going
17 to ask Commerce Director Dennis
18 Murphy to come up to speak about
19 Same Day program, as part of the
20 program is administered through our
21 Commerce Department. And my
22 understanding also is the other
23 part is through MDO, which I may
24 have to follow up with some of

1 those numbers. But Mr. Murphy can
2 address how many members have
3 participated in TCB's program for
4 same day pay.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: And a brief also follow-
7 up, Mr. Dennis, also from my
8 understanding there's going to be
9 reorganizing on the LandCare
10 program, right. What does that
11 look like in terms of the future as
12 well?

13 MR. MURPHY: Good
14 morning, Council President. My
15 name is Dennis Murphy. I'm Deputy
16 Commerce Director and I lead the
17 team that administers the Taking
18 Care of Business program within the
19 Commerce Department.

20 Over the past year, we
21 through Commerce and the Taking
22 Care of Business program have
23 entered into a partnership with
24 PHS, and the biggest part of that

1 is the LandCare component. So what
2 we heard last year from TCB groups,
3 neighborhood groups cleaning
4 commercial corridors, many of them
5 on corridors with a lot of vacant
6 lots talked about how difficult it
7 was to maintain cleanliness on the
8 commercial corridor when they're
9 dealing with the issue of lots.

10 So to support the
11 commercial corridor cleaning, we
12 allocated funding to PHS and that's
13 enabled them to add new lots into
14 the program and also facilitated
15 the year-round cleaning that
16 Director Williams mentioned.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: So the PHS LandCare
19 program -- and I have a couple in
20 the 2nd Councilmanic District where
21 they're cleaning the lots -- so now
22 they will have additional funding
23 to go on a corridor and work in
24 partnership with TCB. So TCB just

1 does the streets. Now, PHS
2 LandCare program will actually be
3 hitting the abandoned lots on the
4 corridors; is that correct?

5 MR. MURPHY: Exactly,
6 yeah. And this year they've
7 done -- they're going to do about
8 385 lots on commercial corridors
9 that's going to support the TCB
10 work. So that's part of our PHS
11 partnership. And then some of the
12 funding that we've provided to PHS
13 also supports Same Day Work and
14 Pay.

15 So they have nine
16 partner community organizations
17 that lead Same Day Work and Pay
18 projects in neighborhoods. Three
19 of those organizations are TCB
20 groups. So those are the groups
21 that I'm most familiar with,
22 Nicetown CDC, Achievability in West
23 Philadelphia and One Day At A Time.

24 So we were pleased to

1 support Same Day Work and Pay
2 because many times it has a tie-in
3 with the TCB work where you have a
4 group cleaning on a commercial
5 corridor and a community group
6 that's doing that, and they're also
7 organizing community projects with
8 the help of PHS. So we support a
9 portion of the Same Day Work and
10 Pay work that PHS does in the city.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you. And the
13 new structure, will the groups that
14 already have currently contracts
15 with the City to do LandCare, do
16 they have to reapply through a new
17 process because it's my
18 understanding everything is being
19 consolidated, so to speak? I just
20 want to get this on the record and
21 some clarity.

22 MR. MURPHY: Yes. So
23 for the PHS LandCare program, they
24 administer an annual or they

1 administer an RFP process. And
2 what I'm most familiar with is what
3 they did in the fall. So when we
4 enhanced their funding, they led an
5 RFP process where they actually
6 they pick Philadelphia-based
7 contractors, so some landscaping
8 companies are involved in the work.

9 And then we were excited
10 that some of the TCB groups that
11 hadn't done LandCare before we're
12 adding that to their work. So
13 that's what I'm familiar with in
14 terms of the LandCare.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: What's our strategy to
17 make sure that the organizations,
18 companies that we're contracting
19 with are equitable? Do we have any
20 participation goals just to make
21 sure? Because we get called all
22 the time from companies saying we
23 want to participate in cleaning and
24 greening the city of Philadelphia.

1 How are we making sure that those
2 opportunities are for everyone or
3 reflects what the city of
4 Philadelphia looks like?

5 MR. MURPHY: I can speak
6 to the TCB side of it, Taking Care
7 of Business. So as we plan for the
8 expansion of corridor cleaning this
9 year, one thing that we planned and
10 executed in the fall is we had an
11 expo event. So we invited
12 neighborhood-based organizations
13 and Philadelphia-based minority-
14 owned cleaning companies to come to
15 the event to learn about expansion
16 of the Taking Care of Business
17 program.

18 We had about 300
19 participants there. It was held at
20 Temple University. And as part of
21 that event, the Horticultural
22 Society was there. So we were
23 talking both about Taking Care of
24 Business corridor cleaning and the

1 LandCare, kind of the expansion
2 work that PHS mentioned -- you
3 know, that I was describing
4 earlier.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you. I'm
7 about to wrap it up. As we prepare
8 for 2026, we know that there's a
9 proposal of roughly \$800,000 to go
10 under the Mural Arts program to
11 help beautify I-95, right.

12 But if that's the Clean
13 and Green initiative and it is not
14 murals, why would it be under the
15 Mural Arts program as a part of
16 their budget when it could be a
17 part of Clean and Green, as opposed
18 to -- because that's going to take
19 away from her budget to actually do
20 murals and graffiti removal when it
21 could be an additional 800,000 or
22 1 million under your budget?

23 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah.

24 When we made the request, Council

1 President, we earmarked that
2 funding to go to Mural Arts because
3 there were one of our
4 intergovernmental partners. We also
5 added more funding for CLIP to do
6 removal and remediation and we're
7 working with PennDOT as well. So I
8 think this was an addition, and it
9 doesn't take away from their
10 existing funding for the murals
11 that they're going to be doing --

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: It does.

14 MR. WILLIAMS: Oh, I
15 wasn't aware.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: It would, yeah.

18 MR. WILLIAMS: So we --

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Because when they come,
21 they'll say we need additional
22 funding. But we'll say, you're
23 already getting an additional
24 million. And that additional

1 million they're getting is kind of
2 earmarked for something else other
3 than what they need an additional
4 million to do the things that they
5 would be normally doing, which is
6 technically not this part of Clean
7 and Green and part of their agenda.
8 That's why I wanted to ask that
9 question as it leads to I-95.

10 MR. WILLIAMS: So we'll
11 certainly clarify that with Budget
12 to make sure that they be able to
13 explain, you know, where the
14 funding is. But specifically, the
15 Mayor wanted to earmark funding to
16 address the eyesore --

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Eyesore, yes.

19 MR. WILLIAMS: -- that
20 exists between I-76, 676 with the
21 amount of graffiti that people get
22 when they get their first
23 impression of our city.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 JOHNSON: There's a new technology.
2 As opposed to doing murals, the
3 Administration wants to do
4 something else that's different.
5 Explain that, something that's like
6 anti-graffiti.

7 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah.
8 Well, CLIP uses an anti-graffiti
9 skid on some of the work that we do
10 around the city of Philadelphia so
11 it doesn't leave stains when they
12 remove it, and it makes it easier
13 for us to when the CLIP is actually
14 doing the work. It looks new and
15 it looks like it's the new surface
16 and not something that has been ran
17 over with leftover remnants from
18 the graffiti spray paint, which can
19 look equally as bad once you clean
20 it.

21 So we're investing in
22 making sure that when we repaint
23 those areas around 676, I-76, all
24 along those corridors, that once we

1 do it if graffiti is then found
2 again, it can be easily removed.
3 CLIP established a graffiti zero-
4 tolerance zone, which means that
5 any time that you cite graffiti --
6 they're doing proactive
7 inspections. Any time graffiti is
8 spotted through these inspections,
9 it's removed within 72 hours.

10 And so again, the
11 premise is that the faster you
12 remove it, the less likely people
13 will be encouraged to continue.
14 That is a known fact about
15 graffiti. You don't want to leave
16 it there to invite others to do it.
17 So that's what that investment will
18 pay for.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
20 JOHNSON: Good. And hopefully,
21 working with Mural Arts recruit
22 some of these graffiti writers --
23 we've done that early on. Recruit
24 these graffiti writers to be a part

1 of Mural Arts and hopefully they'll
2 start beautifying the city as
3 opposed to helping the city become
4 an eyesore based upon their
5 graffiti.

6 The other question I
7 had -- we talked about cleaning.
8 So let's go into greening real
9 brief. How many trees have we
10 planted to date? What does that
11 process look like in terms of
12 addressing our tree canopy here in
13 the city of Philadelphia, and
14 particularly areas based upon them
15 being overheated during the summer
16 time?

17 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah.
18 I'm going to ask Casey Kuklick to
19 come up, our Deputy Director right
20 behind me, who works very closely
21 with Parks and Recreation who
22 administers the TreePhilly program
23 and to establish what we've done so
24 far and what our goals are for the

1 immediate future.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Thank you.

4 MR. KUKLICK: Thanks,
5 Councilman. So as you know, the
6 City released the Philly Tree Plan
7 a couple years ago which we
8 continue to make great progress on
9 with Parks & Rec. Our goal through
10 Parks & Rec is to plant
11 approximately 3200 trees per year.
12 That's on streets and --

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: Per year?

15 MR. KUKLICK: Per year.
16 And I'm proud to say last year we
17 surpassed that goal and planted
18 3700 trees. So we exceeded the goal
19 by about 500. The Mayor's got a
20 goal to plant 15,000 trees in her
21 first term. I think we're going to
22 be able to make that goal because
23 we also need to think about the
24 partners that are included in all

1 this work.

2 PHS plants an additional
3 1000 trees per year in
4 Philadelphia. The Fairmount Park
5 Conservancy plants thousands of
6 trees in natural areas as well. So
7 when we take into account the
8 various partners, both governmental
9 and nongovernmental, I think we're
10 well on our way to meeting the
11 Mayor's goal. And the Philly Tree
12 Plan, the funding that we've
13 received from the federal
14 government will support that in
15 addition to the funding that the
16 City --

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Is that the money that
19 they held up or additional?

20 MR. KUKLICK: They have
21 actually resumed payments.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: Oh, okay. Now, I was in
24 contact with D.C. as of yesterday

1 and I was told the funding wasn't
2 released.

3 MR. KUKLICK: They had
4 paused it, and some of the grant
5 disbursements have resumed at this
6 point.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: Okay. I'm glad to hear.
9 I was on the phone with them as
10 recently as yesterday and I was
11 told, here's the reason why it's
12 being held up. But I will follow
13 up so we're all on the same page.

14 MR. KUKLICK: My
15 understanding is that some of the
16 disbursements have been started.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Okay. That will be good.
19 So I'll do a follow-up with you.
20 So hopefully, if that funding is
21 being released, I think that's
22 great. That's first and foremost.
23 I have different information, but
24 hopefully your facts are correct.

1 And so, the target is

2 3200 -- point of information.

3 Majority Leader Richardson.

4 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

5 RICHARDSON: Thank you, Council

6 President.

7 Just a point of

8 information and clarification. Are

9 you referring to the federal

10 dollars for the tree plan? Is this

11 a drawdown issue, right? Were you

12 able to then draw down and

13 previously you weren't?

14 MR. KUKLICK: I'm

15 referring to the USDA federal grant

16 and the various partners that have

17 received funding through that

18 grant. They have begun to receive

19 payments and disbursements from the

20 primary applicant.

21 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

22 RICHARDSON: Okay. So the drawdown

23 was available probably as of

24 yesterday, but was not available

1 last week which is possible. I
2 mean, that's been happening.

3 MR. KUKLICK: My
4 understanding was even as of last
5 week they had started payments, but
6 we should double check.

7 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

8 RICHARDSON: Okay. Thank you.

9 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah.
10 We'll follow up, Councilmember, and
11 double check to make sure.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: Cool. So the goal is
14 3200 trees, correct?

15 MR. KUKLICK: Planted by
16 Parks & Rec, correct.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: And just give me a real
19 brief update on we did a heat map
20 of the city, but particularly in my
21 District where we want to plant
22 trees. And I'll follow up with
23 you, because we put a proposal
24 together and they said these trees

1 are going to be planted, but I
2 haven't gotten an update on actual
3 trees being planted in Point Breeze
4 and Grays Ferry. So that's a
5 follow-up conversation that I would
6 like to have that I advocated for
7 during the last mid-year transfer
8 process. It hasn't happened yet,
9 but I'll follow up.

10 But the point is give us
11 an update on how we're targeting
12 the hottest areas in the city of
13 Philadelphia and what is their
14 progress?

15 MR. KUKLICK: So
16 basically the Philly Tree Plan has
17 seven priority neighborhoods that
18 it outlined and it looked at
19 multiple factors in terms of what
20 constitutes a priority
21 neighborhood, high heat, lower
22 socioeconomic class, different
23 health outcomes, economic outcomes
24 and all of that factored into where

1 those priority neighborhoods are.
2 And so, all of the funding that's
3 received in the City applies toward
4 the tree plan should be flowing to
5 those priority neighborhoods in
6 particular.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: Okay. All right. Thank
9 you very much.

10 Last question is for
11 Ms. Jacobs, Crystal. Commissioner,
12 in your testimony you mentioned
13 that sanitation employee attendance
14 outages have decreased from 30% in
15 FY21 to 19% in FY24. Just want to
16 get an idea of what are we doing,
17 the steps we're taking to maintain
18 and improve the attendance rates
19 and ensure consistent trash
20 collection.

21 COMMISSIONER JACOBS

22 SHIPMAN: Some of -- we do have
23 committees that we -- we do have
24 committees that we've established

1 internally that allow us to better
2 track attendance, where over the
3 years we saw we had folks that were
4 out at higher rates. And so, we're
5 noticing that by us being able to
6 better track and closer to
7 realtime, we're able to address
8 some of those attendance
9 challenges.

10 I do also think that
11 when you're staffing up, you have
12 higher numbers of staff coming in
13 fresh, you're not seeing as many of
14 the attendance challenges early on.
15 And so, that's been also helpful
16 towards getting us down to a 19%
17 rate.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
19 JOHNSON: And I would think the
20 work that we're doing around
21 programs like Future Track, which
22 is a pipeline into Sanitation,
23 helps toward addressing the
24 attendance rate with new hirees?

1 COMMISSIONER JACOBS

2 SHIPMAN: 100%. So they're coming
3 in, they're more work-ready by the
4 time that we bring them in as a
5 civil servant. And so, they
6 understand better the importance of
7 having that attendance because
8 that's one of the things that we're
9 a stickler on through that program,
10 and then making sure that if they
11 are eligible for a civil service
12 job, presented with the civil
13 service job, they're already coming
14 in with that mindset.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Okay. Awesome. All
17 right. Thank you very much.

18 Going into the first
19 round, the Chair recognizes -- and
20 I'm going off the screen --
21 Councilman Curtis Jones.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
23 you so much, Mr. President.

24 So how do I thank the --

1 let me count the ways. I think the
2 first time I truly appreciated the
3 work you guys do was during the
4 pandemic. When I thought the City
5 was shut down and I watched that
6 sanitation truck come up my block
7 and let me know that the men and
8 women of the City of Philadelphia
9 were still on the job and that we
10 were open. That's number one.

11 I want to thank you,
12 Carlton. I had a shortdumping
13 problem on Marion Avenue, which is
14 notorious for shortdumping. There
15 were over 500 tires dumped right
16 there. And the next day after you
17 cleaned it up, the next day they
18 dumped 500 more tires.

19 So Carlton personally --
20 Commissioner personally went out
21 there and did his detective work,
22 found out who it was. And the guy
23 was like fine me, I don't care,
24 it's not worth it for me to -- I

1 don't know how he did it but he
2 fined him \$50 per tire. That's the
3 last time he dumped on that avenue,
4 so I appreciate that.

5 Most recently I don't
6 know what Mayor Parker is doing to
7 you guys with this clean, green,
8 you know. Do y'all have to say it
9 100 times every day before you go
10 to work because it's starting to
11 kick in and people are saying it
12 without prompting so it's pretty
13 cool.

14 And a person visiting
15 this city, we were taking them
16 through Center City. And they were
17 looking at the skyline, they said,
18 yeah, that's changed, but that's
19 not it. They said, Philadelphia is
20 cleaner. And I was amazed as to
21 the impact that you guys are
22 having. So thank you, thank you,
23 thank you and thank the workforce
24 for what they do every day.

1 My question is
2 shortdumping, similar to what you
3 helped me with on Marion Avenue.
4 How are we dealing with these
5 construction companies that are
6 coming into Philly and dumping?
7 How are we dealing with that as an
8 approach to all of the good work
9 you're doing, it does not matter if
10 people are the fees too low, fines
11 not high enough? What can we do to
12 help shortdumping and stopping it?

13 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank
14 you, Councilmember, and certainly
15 appreciate your compliments early
16 on. It's awesome that people are
17 recognizing that the city is
18 getting cleaner. So I want to
19 thank you for that before I go into
20 it. And then I'll let Commissioner
21 Shipman also follow up for what I'm
22 going to tell you in reference to
23 the new process that's been put in
24 place.

1 And thanks to this
2 Council and then Councilmember
3 Parker for years ago for passing
4 legislation to increase the fines
5 up to \$5,000 per item per incident.
6 It's a big enforcement tool to
7 allow us to actively and
8 aggressively go after illegal
9 dumpers.

10 The Law Department's new
11 process to hold them civilly
12 responsible is making impacts that
13 we've never seen before, and that's
14 why we're seeing decreases in
15 illegal dumping complaints. Last
16 year they've prosecuted or
17 processed over 50 cases netting in
18 judgments over \$3.5 million. That
19 is historic and has never been done
20 before.

21 And ultimately, those
22 tools are making it very difficult
23 for people to come in and want to
24 just dump because they think they

1 can get away with it. And if they
2 do get caught, it's no longer a
3 slap on the wrist. They can say,
4 oh, well, I'm only going to pay the
5 \$300 or \$500 fine and don't have to
6 worry about anymore. When you
7 start talking about thousands of
8 dollars and holding them
9 accountable in that aspect, you're
10 starting to make a difference.

11 We're going to continue
12 to invest in that, and a lot of it
13 has to do with surveillance
14 cameras. And Commissioner will
15 talk about the number and how many
16 and how effective the strategy that
17 we utilize, but we're monitoring
18 those sites. We're making sure
19 that we follow up.

20 Just like graffiti, with
21 the graffiti zero tolerance zone
22 when we see a dumping site, an
23 investigation is immediately
24 launched. And ultimately, the

1 debris is removed quickly so it
2 doesn't accumulate. I think those
3 are some of the strategies that
4 we're doing differently.

5 We're pleased also that
6 we just received a \$1.7 million
7 grant from the William Penn
8 Foundation to continue to educate
9 and invest in illegal dumping
10 strategies, and their partnership
11 programs. And I'm happy to say
12 that with members in your District,
13 Jerome Shabazz, Overbrook
14 Environmental Council is one of the
15 recipients along with SEAMAAC in
16 South Philadelphia to actually do
17 some of these initiatives to green
18 those spaces and vacant lots
19 together so that we can prevent
20 these things from happening.

21 I'm sorry.

22 Commissioner.

23 COMMISSIONER JACOBS

24 SHIPMAN: No, you summed it up very

1 well. And we do have about 400
2 cameras that we utilize
3 specifically for shortdumping of
4 the 2600 or 2700 cameras that are
5 on the police network. So we still
6 have access to those cameras as
7 well, but we put in 400 at specific
8 locations where we knew are hot
9 dumping spots, and we're expanding
10 that as well. We do have lists
11 that we generated from requests
12 from you and other Councilmembers
13 for where we should be looking next
14 to install those cameras.

15 In addition to that, I
16 think what's going to be key in
17 terms of going after people who are
18 dumping is just the partnerships
19 that we've established with police
20 and even our Law Department, and
21 hopefully getting some additional
22 teeth behind the types of tickets
23 that we can write. Right now we
24 write CVNs. And I know we're

1 looking at other ways to be able to
2 additionally strengthen our
3 enforcement side.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: My
5 time is up. You mentioned bulk
6 pickups. Is that -- so I remember
7 when we stopped picking up
8 mattresses and things like that.
9 Tell me what has changed now.

10 MR. WILLIAMS:
11 Commissioner, she can go into the
12 details logistically. We're happy
13 to say that we instituted a program
14 that allows us to expand the amount
15 of materials that we normally
16 collect from those illegal dumping
17 locations that you cited. A lot of
18 the residential dumping that takes
19 place has to do with furniture,
20 those white metals and those old
21 TVs. And Commissioner has the
22 details as to how many we've
23 collected. It's been very
24 successful so far.

1 COMMISSIONER JACOBS

2 SHIPMAN: So we suspended bulk
3 collection at curbside in 2009 and
4 we're slowly relying on our
5 sanitation convenience centers to
6 accept materials. As the Director
7 mentioned, so your refrigerators,
8 your stoves, your hot water
9 heaters. And now, we're able to
10 pick those up curbside through a
11 scheduled arrangement. You can
12 either book online, and it's a very
13 simple form, or you can call 311
14 and they'll put the schedule in for
15 you.

16 You tell us what you
17 have. You tell us what day you
18 want to put it out. You can put it
19 out on any day other than your
20 trash day. And you can put out up
21 to four passenger vehicle tires.
22 Mattresses we never really stopped
23 collecting them. We just put in a
24 provision where you had to cover

1 them because we want to protect our
2 workers from bed bugs. And, you
3 know, not to say everybody has bed
4 bugs, but we want to prevent an
5 epidemic. And so, we still collect
6 that as a part of the normal trash.

7 Larger furniture that
8 would have, say, metal, maybe if
9 you had like a sofa sleeper, that's
10 something you would want to
11 schedule through the bulk
12 collection. But a regular couch,
13 you can put that out on your normal
14 collection day.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
16 you so much.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Thank you.

19 Chair recognizes
20 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

21 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
22 Good morning.

23 MR. WILLIAMS: Good
24 morning.

1 COMMISSIONER JACOBS

2 SHIPMAN: Good morning.

3 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

4 I wanted to start by commending
5 you, the whole team really. You,
6 Director Williams, but also you,
7 Commissioner Jacobs, CLIP, our
8 office really enjoys working with
9 you. You are always responsive and
10 you've done a tremendous job on the
11 new initiatives that you've
12 launched over the past year.

13 But I know that we are
14 seeking excellence and always
15 trying to get better as a city. So
16 I do have some questions.

17 MR. WILLIAMS:

18 Understood.

19 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

20 I wanted to ask about recycling.
21 Philadelphia's recycling rate
22 remains low and much of our waste
23 still goes to landfills or
24 incinerators, both of which have

1 environmental consequences.

2 In FY24, the City
3 collected over 609,000 tons of
4 trash but only 80,756 tons of
5 recycling, roughly a 13% recycling
6 rate. The FY26 budget sets a
7 modest goal to increase the
8 recycling rate to 15%. Can you
9 talk about the concrete steps that
10 the Sanitation Department is --
11 wait, is that -- do I have you all?

12 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah,
13 you're right. The Sanitation
14 Department.

15 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
16 Okay. Can you talk about the
17 concrete steps that the Sanitation
18 Department is taking to boost
19 recycling and waste reduction,
20 especially in neighborhoods like
21 the ones in my District?

22 So, for example, are
23 there new education campaigns,
24 additional recycling drop-off

1 centers and services? What are we
2 doing to be a little more ambitious
3 about this goal?

4 MR. WILLIAMS: So thank
5 you, Councilmember, really
6 appreciate it. Yes, our department
7 is very committed and the City is
8 still committed to recycling. We
9 are in the process of building a
10 new transfer station out in
11 Northwest that would bring in
12 additional materials. We have an
13 ambitious campaign, educational
14 campaign, right now to encourage
15 people and remind people how
16 important recycling is. And the
17 Commissioner's going to talk about
18 that in a moment.

19 I think that if you look
20 at just in general the waste stream
21 over time and since the pandemic
22 and what has changed globally,
23 recycling markets have changed.
24 And so, it makes it very difficult

1 for us to try to continue to
2 achieve what we used to achieve at
3 20%. It fell during the pandemic
4 and also when the China Sword and
5 decided not to take plastics and a
6 lot of material which is a high
7 contamination.

8 But we are now
9 refocusing and trying to address
10 issues and create opportunities and
11 avenues to take even more material
12 and not just look at recycling, but
13 we're also looking at things like
14 organics which also affects the
15 diversion rate.

16 I think through our Zero
17 Waste plan that we are establishing
18 or re-establishing is going to
19 point out step-by-step some of the
20 things we're going to do to help us
21 get to that goal.

22 I'll turn it over
23 Commissioner Shipman to talk about
24 some of the direct initiatives

1 within Sanitation that she's
2 addressing for increased recycling.

3 COMMISSIONER JACOBS

4 SHIPMAN: Director Williams did
5 touch on a campaign that we
6 launched November 15th of last
7 year, which was America Recycles
8 Day. It's the Yes Philadelphia
9 Recycles campaign. What we found
10 was that nationally people are
11 skeptical about whether or not
12 their cities and municipalities are
13 recycling.

14 And so, we thought that
15 the first step is, one, reassuring
16 Philadelphians that, yes, we do
17 actually recycle your material.
18 The time that people take out to
19 set things apart from their trash
20 and keep as much of the good
21 material going into the recycling
22 bins as possible will actually get
23 recycled. So that was the first
24 key.

1 Second thing is just
2 making sure that we're doing
3 audits, because it's helpful for us
4 to know what parts of the city are
5 struggling more with getting the
6 right stuff into the right bins.
7 And so, we do conduct audits by
8 neighborhood to see where we have
9 the most compliance and where other
10 areas may need some additional
11 education. So those are the two
12 key items that we're working on.

13 And as the Director
14 said, what's big for us is making
15 sure that we get as much out of the
16 landfill that can be recycled out.
17 So we're looking at organic
18 materials, your yard waste, your
19 foods that are good to be
20 reutilized or repurposed. Also,
21 looking at textiles, like how do we
22 keep clothing out of the
23 (inaudible), things that can
24 actually be recycled and repurposed

1 are the different ways that
2 different things we're looking at.

3 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

4 Thank you.

5 Council President, is
6 there time to get two more
7 questions on the record?

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: When now? Not at the
10 moment. But we will get a second.
11 That's the reason why we're going
12 to keep moving.

13 Dr. Phillips.

14 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

15 I'm going to get right into it.
16 The creation of a fully operational
17 illegal dumping surveillance task
18 force is a significant step forward
19 and we're appreciative to that.
20 Just yesterday I had residents ask
21 me about the cameras and the usage
22 of AI license-plate recognition,
23 remote monitoring. How will this
24 technology be integrated with

1 existing enforcement mechanisms to
2 ensure swift action against repeat
3 violations?

4 For example, is AI doing
5 a great job with the cameras
6 picking up the dumping? Because I
7 know AI picks up motion, but is it
8 picking up the actual dumping so
9 someone can get there as soon as
10 possible?

11 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah.
12 Thank you, Councilmember. We have
13 not implemented AI within our
14 current camera system yet. We have
15 met with several vendors who state
16 that this technology is available,
17 and we're very interested in doing
18 exactly what you just insinuated
19 with your comments, that it does
20 pick up motion detection, does
21 identify certain actions or
22 movements that a person does that
23 identifies them as a dumper.

24 We want that technology

1 because it allows us to address
2 those issues in realtime. Right
3 now our current system allows you
4 to visually monitor and go back
5 from a recording to determine if a
6 dumping occurred and who did it.
7 But unfortunately, time has elapsed
8 and sometimes it may be too late
9 and not enough evidence or
10 information.

11 So AI allows us in
12 realtime to be able to capture and
13 send the police or a sweep officer
14 or someone of enforcement authority
15 to be able to address people while
16 they're in the act, and that goes
17 much further than having to go back
18 and try to retrace and do an
19 investigation that way.

20 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
21 Got it. And just real quickly, is
22 there access to those -- is it as
23 costly to get something like that
24 done? Are there other

1 municipalities doing it? So just
2 to follow up on that.

3 And also, other
4 municipalities have adopted
5 stricter penalties in terms of
6 publicizing enforcement actions as
7 deterrents against illegal dumping.
8 Is Philadelphia considering the
9 idea of launching a public
10 awareness with photos and so forth,
11 people to discourage illegal
12 dumping?

13 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah,
14 absolutely. We are working with
15 our Law Department. We think that
16 it will be an effective tool to try
17 to deter people to let them know
18 that the City of Philadelphia is
19 very serious about people who come
20 in and dump in our city.

21 Being able to publicize
22 that information is extremely
23 important as it builds confidence
24 and trust amongst our citizens and

1 residents who think that this thing
2 is just commonplace in the city.
3 Well, it's not. And I think we do
4 have the laws and the books, as
5 earlier stated in my testimony
6 thankfully from City Council, but I
7 think now is the time to show the
8 actions and to be able to do this
9 through a public campaign.

10 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

11 Thank you. And also, is there
12 something that we can do with our
13 schools, young people, to help them
14 understand better more things
15 around recycling and sanitation and
16 dumping, so we can prevent the next
17 generation from doing this?

18 And also lastly, just
19 how are we ensuring that these
20 challenges that we're facing in
21 Sanitation -- by the way, you're
22 doing a great job, all of you. But
23 I just want to say how are we
24 ensuring that these challenges that

1 we're facing are not having an
2 adverse impact on our workers?
3 Because they're doing such a
4 phenomenal job, I just want to
5 continue to find a way to celebrate
6 them in a way that you all, you
7 know, just so forth. That's it.

8 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank
9 you, Councilmember. Really
10 quickly, the Commissioner we're
11 launching a program actually this
12 month, and we do it every year,
13 called Green Schools. And she
14 certainly can talk about the
15 details of that, but engaging
16 schools is definitely a priority
17 because we want to teach our young
18 people the importance of
19 environmental sustainability.

20 COMMISSIONER JACOBS
21 SHIPMAN: Thank you, Director. So
22 we do have 30 schools that will be
23 receiving grants specifically for
24 green-related initiatives. A

1 number of them are around recycling
2 specifically. Some are around
3 other green type of initiatives,
4 gardening and composting, utilizing
5 plastics, repurposing plastics and
6 things of that nature, but it
7 allows us an opportunity through
8 those grants to let the students
9 with the help of their teachers to
10 determine a program that they think
11 will resonate with the other
12 students and then implement that
13 into those schools.

14 So it's a really decent
15 program that'll take place April
16 22nd. They've already received
17 their money. They'll be able to
18 tell us what they've done thus far,
19 tell us what they've learned from
20 the experience and then hopefully
21 just really get them engaged and
22 thinking about ways to recycle,
23 reduce, reuse and repurpose.

24 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

1 Thank you so much. Keep the
2 sanitation workers more up.
3 They're doing a great job.

4 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank
5 you.

6 COMMISSIONER JACOBS
7 SHIPMAN: Thank you.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
9 JOHNSON: Thank you.

10 Chair recognizes
11 Councilmember O'Rourke.

12 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:
13 Thank you, Mr. President.

14 It is great to see you
15 all. I want to thank you all for
16 the work that you do for the city
17 of Philadelphia making us more
18 beautiful. It really is helpful.
19 Really I don't have questions for
20 you.

21 I wanted to make sure
22 from Mr. President that PEA was
23 going to be -- are they in this
24 round or we are doing a different

1 round for the Philadelphia Energy
2 Authority?

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Their presentation is
5 separately.

6 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

7 Separately, understood. That
8 haven't been said, I'll pass on my
9 time.

10 Thank you for your work.

11 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank
12 you, sir.

13 COMMISSIONER JACOBS

14 SHIPMAN: Thank you.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: We got them though.

17 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

18 Thank you.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Councilmember Jim
21 Harrity.

22 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

23 Thank you, Council President.

24 Hello, everybody. Thank

1 you for being here today. Again,
2 also a big fan. Love it when
3 people come through the ranks as
4 you two did. Followed you guys
5 through because we were around the
6 same era so glad to see that. Just
7 have to -- and also, want to give a
8 shout-out to my Councilwoman Quetcy
9 Lozada. I call her all the time
10 about dumping, especially in our
11 neighborhood.

12 And you guys -- I sent a
13 picture through text on a Sunday
14 and next thing I knew, an hour
15 later this big truck was pulling up
16 down the street to load these
17 mattresses. Somebody had moved out
18 and left all their old furniture
19 sitting out there. So I thank you
20 for that.

21 Just a couple quick
22 questions. When can we expect
23 twice-a-week trash collection to
24 expand areas besides South Philly

1 and Center City, especially since
2 some of the areas in the city that
3 need it are not included yet? And
4 do you currently have the staffing
5 levels required to meet your target
6 block cleaning goals for 2026?

7 MR. WILLIAMS: Sure.

8 Yes, we are pleased to say that
9 twice-a-week collections is going
10 to expand to North Philadelphia
11 coming this fall, winter area. We
12 are waiting for the trucks, which
13 is the biggest delay, and rolling
14 out the program each year, you
15 know, takes two years for us to
16 order in advance to get those
17 sanitation compactors. So that
18 kind of puts us on a schedule that
19 has us delayed to roll out in other
20 sections of the city. But we do --

21 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

22 Well, I'm hoping that North Philly
23 includes Kensington. Sometimes you
24 lump us in with North Philly.

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, it
2 does include all of our area, 3C
3 and 3F, which includes parts of
4 that location. And we're looking
5 to -- even after that we'll
6 continue to do evaluations to go to
7 other sections of the city that
8 desperately need this service
9 because we do believe it's making a
10 huge difference in those areas.

11 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: It
12 definitely is. It's definitely
13 cleaner in my neighborhood for
14 sure. There's a lot of big
15 differences that if you live there
16 you can see. It's kind of funny
17 because you get rid of one problem
18 and another problem starts.

19 We used to have drug
20 dealers on my corner so we finally
21 got rid of them, they got evicted.
22 But now somebody's illegally
23 dumping at the corner of my block.
24 Yeah, I've called you on numerous

1 occasions, but we got to live with
2 what we got to live with. But I
3 appreciate everything you guys are
4 doing and thank you for your time.

5 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank
6 you, Councilmember.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: Thank you. I'm going to
9 take a personal privilege. Emily,
10 come on up, Schapira.

11 (Witness approached
12 Witness table.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: Can you do your
15 testimony?

16 MS. SCHAPIRA: Sure.
17 And then we'll do questions with
18 everyone?

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: (Gestured affirmatively).

21 MS. SCHAPIRA: Great.
22 Good morning, everybody, council
23 President, members of City Council.
24 My name is Emily Schapira,

1 President and CEO of the
2 Philadelphia Energy Authority. I'm
3 really pleased to be back here in
4 Council chambers to provide
5 testimony on PEA's Fiscal Year 2026
6 budget request.

7 As you all know, PEA is
8 a nimble team now of 22 people
9 building a robust and equitable
10 clean energy economy in
11 Philadelphia. As you've no doubt
12 heard me say before, energy is not
13 the goal, it's the tool. And we
14 found it to be an incredibly
15 effective one in tackling some of
16 Philadelphia's biggest challenges,
17 spurring equitable economic
18 development, creating jobs,
19 alleviating poverty and improving
20 public health.

21 I say incredibly
22 effective because for every city
23 dollar we have received since 2017,
24 we've created \$75 of economic

1 investment. I'll say that again.
2 Each city dollar invested in PEA
3 since 2017 has had a 75x return on
4 investment. I'm so proud to share
5 that as of the end of 2024, the
6 City's nine-year \$13.4 million
7 investment in PEA has resulted in
8 \$1 billion in clean energy
9 projects, creating nearly 8300
10 jobs.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. SCHAPIRA: PEA's
13 work has ranged from capital
14 improvements and air-conditioning
15 at 23 schools to the citywide
16 overhaul of so far over 100,000
17 streetlights in every community.
18 From installing rooftop solar on
19 4000 homes through Solarize Philly
20 and restoring hundreds of
21 low-income homes through Built to
22 Last.

23 We've saved Water and
24 Sewer Service Line Protection

1 Program customers over \$75 million
2 in repairs and provided last-resort
3 emergency repairs to 150 homes,
4 many of whom were living without
5 water service. We're in the
6 procurement process for three large
7 city energy-efficiency renewable
8 and bio gas projects concurrently
9 and in various stages of
10 development for six more totaling
11 over \$800 million in potential
12 investment over the next few years.

13 The uncertainty and
14 change at the federal level has
15 resulted in elimination of over \$16
16 million in anticipated funding for
17 Built to Last and puts roughly \$4
18 million of our existing funding at
19 risk. We've been able to stabilize
20 our revenue by having diverse
21 funding streams, including federal,
22 state, local philanthropy and our
23 own program fees. We are frugal
24 with spending and careful not to

1 commit without budget certainty,
2 but as the federal picture grows
3 ever more challenging, we're asking
4 for some certainty from City
5 funding to be able to continue this
6 work.

7 PEA's work supports the
8 priorities of the Parker
9 Administration to make Philadelphia
10 the safest, cleanest, greenest city
11 with access to economic opportunity
12 for all and also meets the
13 priorities of City Council to use
14 the tax dollars of hardworking
15 Philadelphians in the most
16 thoughtful, impactful ways to the
17 benefit of all. We don't need
18 energy to be at the top of the
19 priority list. We fit easily into
20 the day-to-day and strategic
21 priorities of both branches of
22 government.

23 For FY26, PEA is
24 requesting a total budget

1 allocation of \$10 million. Mayor
2 Parker's budget proposes \$1.3
3 million for PEA compared to our
4 FY25 allocation of \$6.05 million.
5 Funding PEA more appropriately at
6 \$10 million will support our core
7 operating budget, 10 city projects,
8 workforce development connected to
9 all of our initiatives, more than
10 200 additional Built to Last homes
11 and provide the financial support
12 needed to bridge state and federal
13 rebates and tax incentives via our
14 green bank affiliate, the
15 Philadelphia Green Capital Corp.
16 Your support now is more important
17 than it has ever been.

18 Our submitted testimony
19 and supplements will walk through
20 the details of our FY26 work plan
21 and provide staffing demographics
22 and contracting details. I'll
23 reiterate our commitment to
24 diversity, equity and inclusion

1 across all of our team, board
2 projects and programming. We serve
3 the residents of Philadelphia and
4 for any of us to thrive, we must
5 ensure that we all have the
6 opportunity to thrive. That is
7 core to PEA's ethos.

8 Rather than go through
9 all of our accomplishments and
10 successes to date, I'd like to just
11 share a story from our Built to
12 Last program that for me really
13 demonstrates the importance of not
14 only the work we do, but the way we
15 do it. Most of you know Built to
16 Last. Your constituents have asked
17 about it. The state Whole Home
18 Repair program is modeled after it.

19 It's become a national
20 model for ways to leverage multiple
21 different kinds of funding to
22 address home repair holistically
23 and to restore generational wealth.
24 When we talk about it in its

1 wonkiest terms, Built to Last is an
2 administrative backbone to link and
3 collaborate across nearly a dozen
4 different home repair programs in
5 Philadelphia, including Basic
6 Systems Repair, Adaptive
7 Modification, weatherization,
8 utility programs and much more.

9 We started out wanting
10 to address energy efficiency for
11 these homes since Philadelphia is
12 one of the most energy-burdened
13 cities in America, particularly
14 amongst low-income households who
15 pay as much as 18% of their income
16 to utilities. But we quickly
17 realized that even though there
18 were many programs that could
19 address a component of needs in a
20 home, too many people did not
21 receive these services because of
22 denials, budgets, order of
23 operations or lack of ability to
24 collaborate across programs. We

1 could not deliver on reducing
2 energy burden in low-income
3 households without also solving
4 these barriers.

5 So we figured out how to
6 coordinate things like data-
7 sharing, construction management,
8 scope planning and funding
9 stacking, and it works. We've
10 completed 220 homes to date, with
11 an additional 430 homes in various
12 stages of construction. And
13 feedback has been excellent. Our
14 goal is to grow to 1000 homes a
15 year over the next few years and to
16 attract major national funders to
17 Philadelphia.

18 I recently heard a story
19 of one of our homeowners and I
20 couldn't imagine a better
21 illustration of the importance of
22 this program. Mr. Williams and his
23 partner have lived in West Oak Lane
24 on North Smedley Street for 36

1 years in a 1920's row home his
2 grandfather owned. Mr. Williams
3 worked his whole life and planned
4 to make some home improvements when
5 he retired, but just after he got
6 sick and became homebound.

7 The house began to have
8 major issues. A roof leak
9 compounded creating damage to
10 walls, siding and interior
11 ceilings. His heating system broke
12 10 years ago and he purchased space
13 heaters for the upstairs but wasn't
14 able to afford heating both floors
15 of the house. They just avoided
16 using the first floor in the
17 wintertime.

18 His kitchen barely
19 functioned with just one working
20 burner left on the stove. He and
21 his partner considered leaving the
22 house. Mr. Williams applied to
23 Basic Systems Repair two years ago.
24 BSRP is of course designed to

1 address a housing emergency and
2 keep people from abandoning their
3 homes.

4 The roof damage had
5 gotten so bad that PHDC was
6 preparing to deny Mr. Williams'
7 application due to a cost overrun
8 when they reached out to Built to
9 Last. We were able to separate out
10 a scope of work that BSRP could
11 fund and then enrolled Mr. Williams
12 into our program. He's now
13 receiving services from five
14 additional programs. The roof has
15 been replaced and all the water
16 damage over the years has been
17 repaired and the mold remediated.
18 He has a new functioning kitchen, a
19 new high efficiency gas furnace
20 that serves the entire house and
21 drafty parts of the home have been
22 insulated. Lead paint and other
23 hazards have been removed and
24 drywall has been replaced.

1 Mr. Williams is even
2 getting solar on his new roof to
3 ensure he and his family will be
4 able to afford the electric bill
5 for decades to come. He's lived in
6 West Oak Lane his whole life and
7 now plans to stay.

8 This is what we mean
9 when we talk about Built to Last as
10 preserving existing affordable
11 housing, helping to keep people in
12 their homes, restoring generational
13 wealth, taking homes from a
14 liability to an asset. You can see
15 in my written testimony the
16 breakdown of the six programs
17 utilized to restore Mr. Williams'
18 family home totaling over \$70,000
19 in assistance.

20 I can't leave this
21 hearing without spending just a
22 minute on our ongoing Streetlight
23 Improvement Program. This project
24 was more than a decade in the

1 making in close collaboration with
2 the Office of Sustainability, the
3 Streets Department and many, many
4 others. I think this project
5 demonstrates in the clearest
6 possible terms how PEA helps the
7 city get projects done.

8 In August of '23 along
9 with the Streets Department, the
10 Office of Sustainability and many
11 others, we kicked off the overhaul
12 of 130,000 streetlights citywide
13 with high-efficient long-lasting
14 LEDs connected to a remote
15 management system.

16 The Philly Streetlight
17 Improvement Project or PSIP uses
18 energy and operations savings to
19 pay for the \$91 million project,
20 transforming inefficient and
21 expensive to operate municipal
22 assets into cost-efficient,
23 innovative infrastructure. Prior
24 to this project, Streets replaced

1 22,000 fixtures over a 10-year
2 period using their own capital
3 dollars. And in about 18 months,
4 we've completed over 100,000
5 fixtures demonstrating the speed
6 and scale that PEA-led guaranteed
7 energy savings projects can enable.

8 The immediate impacts of
9 PCIP span well beyond just the
10 energy and cost savings. In a
11 study published by the University
12 of Pennsylvania's Crime and Justice
13 Policy Lab earlier this year, the
14 authors found a 21% reduction in
15 gun crimes above and beyond the
16 City's already declining crime rate
17 in locations where lighting has
18 been upgraded to clearer, crisper,
19 brighter lighting.

20 Resident surveys
21 conducted under the same study
22 showed improved perceptions of
23 safety and neighborhood vitality
24 thanks to the installation of new

1 streetlights. This project drives
2 investment in local residents and
3 businesses.

4 For example, American
5 Power Electrical Supply Company, a
6 minority business enterprise in
7 West Philadelphia, hired a local
8 team of six people to assemble
9 40,000 fixtures for use on the
10 project right here in Philadelphia
11 in partnership with YEAHPhilly.
12 The six young people who themselves
13 have been impacted by gun violence
14 are actively contributing to gun
15 violence solutions by making the
16 fixtures that light up the city,
17 developing the skills and
18 experience to kickstart their own
19 careers.

20 Over 200 Future Track
21 employees were hired by the Streets
22 Department to clear debris from
23 alleyways associated with this
24 project. PEA's core project model

1 creates a pipeline to bridge the
2 gap between what the industry often
3 describes as a labor shortage and
4 the high unemployment rate among
5 marginalized populations in
6 Philadelphia.

7 This project also has a
8 very high rate of participation
9 from diverse businesses, including
10 54% minority-owned businesses, 27%
11 women-owned businesses to date, 80%
12 of whom are local area businesses.
13 We are grateful beyond measure for
14 the trust and faith City Council
15 has put in us over the last decade,
16 and we're excited to continue to
17 show results for all
18 Philadelphians.

19 We will need your help
20 again now more than ever. We've
21 been able to weather major budget
22 cuts before, in FY21 during COVID,
23 in FY25 when our operating budget
24 was cut by 50%. The real

1 additional funding was provided for
2 Built to Last from the City for the
3 very first time that year as well
4 through the leadership of City
5 Council.

6 With the loss of federal
7 opportunities and uncertainty of
8 existing federal funding, we ask
9 for Council's help to keep this
10 work going. We've come way too far
11 to turn back now. We're requesting
12 a total of \$10 million in funding
13 for FY26 and this ask supports
14 really four things: \$3 million for
15 PEA's operations which are critical
16 to programs like Built to Last,
17 which requires the coordination of
18 program partners to the smooth
19 execution of 10 citywide energy
20 efficiency projects. It includes
21 secondly \$5 million for Built to
22 Last, which will allow PEA to take
23 on an additional 200 homes from off
24 of our waitlist, which is currently

1 over 2600 homes.

2 It funds \$500,000 for
3 operating funds to create Bridge
4 Loans for low-income energy rebates
5 and tax credits through the
6 Philadelphia Green Capital Corp.
7 And I'll just note we formed
8 Philly's green bank a few years
9 ago. We are the only part of the
10 state that has a green bank. The
11 state's been trying to put that
12 together and it hasn't taken yet.
13 And so, that's a real asset that we
14 have here in Philadelphia and
15 something we've not ever funded
16 with public dollars before.

17 And finally, \$1.5
18 million in workforce development
19 support to train and connect
20 Philadelphians historically left
21 out of these industries to clean
22 energy careers. And I'll just
23 mention the federal funding for the
24 Good Jobs Challenge is active. We

1 have not had an issue drawing that
2 down. That runs through the
3 Economic Development Administration
4 in partnership with Philadelphia
5 works.

6 One thing it doesn't
7 fund is stipends to participants.
8 And often for folks who have been
9 unemployed or are currently
10 unemployed, you have to provide a
11 stipend in order to get them into
12 training programs. And so, it
13 leaves a pretty broad gap in
14 funding that's available for
15 workforce.

16 We've worked hard over
17 the last nine years since I joined
18 PEA staff to build a reputation of
19 being an effective, strategic
20 organization that does what we say
21 we're going to do. I hope that
22 strong track record of success and
23 the overwhelming support of
24 partners, stakeholders and

1 community members lends credibility
2 to our request. And I hope we can
3 count on your support this year.

4 Thanks.

5 (Applause.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: Thank you.

8 So you will be included
9 in Round 1. Councilmember Jeffrey
10 Jay Young.

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

13 So my questions are for
14 the Office of Clean and Green.
15 First, I just want to say thank you
16 for the work that you're doing. We
17 had a cleanup on the Cecil B.
18 Corridor a couple days ago, and
19 people in that neighborhood said
20 they've never ever seen those types
21 of trucks before. So thank you for
22 the work that you're doing.

23 But I have a question
24 regarding our recycling program. I

1 remember some years ago back when I
2 was a staffer recycling actually
3 made the City money, but now it's
4 costing the City money. So can you
5 just talk to us about what that
6 program looks like and why was
7 there a shift in that?

8 MR. WILLIAMS: Sure.

9 Thank you, Councilmember. First,
10 thank you for the compliment.
11 Really appreciate your support and
12 all the Councilmembers here in our
13 effort to continue to address our
14 neighborhood issues.

15 Our recycling rate
16 actually when we were making
17 funding, recycling rates were
18 favorable. We had overseas markets
19 that was accepting material and
20 paying a premium for material that
21 we would ship overseas.
22 Unfortunately, about 2017 '18,
23 there was a thing called the China
24 Sword that came out where they

1 raised the contamination rates for
2 the material so high that we could
3 not meet those standards. So those
4 things that were actually making us
5 money, now it's costing us money to
6 now store.

7 We were making upwards
8 somewhere around \$20 a ton and we
9 pulled in like \$6 million each
10 year. Now, unfortunately we're
11 paying somewhere around \$80 to \$90
12 a ton, and that's due to the lack
13 of markets that are here
14 domestically to actually utilize
15 the material. The value for things
16 like aluminum and cardboard is
17 still very high. However, things
18 like mixed paper, single-use
19 plastics and all of those other
20 items are no longer accepted. We
21 have to discard or process them and
22 that cost us a fee now to store.
23 So that's where you see the shift
24 and change.

1 We're hoping to invest
2 in more markets here. We're hoping
3 the economy would invest in more
4 markets to accept material that we
5 generate right here in our country
6 so that we can now see favorable
7 wage. It is starting to improve,
8 but it's not going back to the days
9 where we were actually making money
10 off of it. So we still have a long
11 ways to go until we get to that
12 point.

13 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:
14 Thank you. My second question is
15 regarding the enforcement of the
16 sanitation laws. My office gets
17 calls pretty often about having
18 just folks come out to just give
19 out the civil violations, give out
20 the tickets for folks who are
21 storing their trash either too
22 early or improperly.

23 So can you talk to us
24 about I guess the investments that

1 you've made in the enforcement for
2 those sanitation enforcement
3 officers and talk about what's
4 their routes in the community?
5 Because our community members said,
6 oh, we called them, they came out
7 one time. And then basically the
8 guy told him, yeah, I'm not coming
9 back out there for a few months,
10 right. So can you talk to us about
11 what that looks like and how
12 they're out in the communities?

13 MR. WILLIAMS: Sure.
14 I'm going to ask Commissioner
15 Shipman to join me back at the mic
16 so that she can talk about the
17 logistics and how sweep offices are
18 deployed. We have them designated
19 by Districts in each part of the
20 city of Philadelphia.

21 Each year they write
22 thousands of CVNs for multiple
23 quality-of-life issues and they're
24 on usually a schedule in different

1 locations in which they service.
2 I'm going to ask Commissioner to
3 give you kind of the logistical
4 details on how they were deployed
5 and what they've done now so far in
6 2024.

7 COMMISSIONER JACOBS

8 SHIPMAN: As Director Williams
9 explained, they are assigned to
10 each of our areas. We base them
11 out of six areas across the city.
12 And now that we've actually staffed
13 that unit up, we are about 60
14 strong at this point.

15 They do have an ability
16 to be back on a more consistent
17 basis in the neighborhoods. And
18 so, the first thing that we did was
19 go through and do a full round of
20 education in every area of the city
21 and they were out in full force
22 together walking each street to
23 identify and address different
24 challenges that those blocks were

1 having.

2 They are assigned to
3 address the business corridors on a
4 more frequent basis but then also
5 are able to go back into the
6 neighborhoods to address more
7 routine trash complaints. A lot of
8 what we do is still based on those
9 calls that we get that come in
10 through 311 regarding early
11 set-outs, excessive material at a
12 location, those types of things.
13 But again, having the additional
14 staff we can actually go back to
15 following those routes that we once
16 established. And those are also
17 synced up with the trash route. So
18 if it's a Monday trash route, two
19 or three of those officers should
20 be assigned to walk that beat along
21 with that trash route.

22 MR. WILLIAMS: Some of
23 the tickets that we issued last
24 year, they issued over 66,000,

1 close to 67,000 tickets. And the
2 majority of those tickets were
3 written for sidewalk, not litter-
4 free 18,000; premises not litter-
5 free 12,000; high weeds and bushes
6 4000; unauthorized collection fee
7 3900. Dumpster violations is a big
8 one for us as well. We always get
9 those complaints at 3300, and
10 dumpster areas not cleaned at 2800.
11 So those are the top complaints
12 that we issued through our Sweep
13 Division.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: All right. Thank you.

16 Councilmember Rue
17 Landau. Then Councilmember
18 O'Rourke. Then Councilmember Nina
19 Ahmad. Then Quetcy Lozada.

20 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

21 Thank you so much. Appreciate you.
22 I'm going to start with this team
23 up here. Appreciate all of your
24 work. Then get PEA next.

1 So the first question I
2 had was the community appearance
3 index. Sanitation uses the
4 community appearance index and the
5 litter index to guide their work,
6 but there seems to be no public-
7 facing way to look at the data, at
8 least it's not easy to find. So I
9 commend you for using this and for
10 using data-driven approach to
11 equity and litter reduction.

12 What data points is the
13 department using to ensure equity
14 in its litter reduction strategies?
15 And can that data in a litter index
16 and CAI be made publicly available
17 in a dashboard?

18 MR. WILLIAMS:

19 Absolutely. Thank you,
20 Councilmember. The community
21 appearance index is a modified,
22 enhanced version of the litter
23 index that takes in consideration
24 multiple quality-of-life issues in

1 a given area. So not only are we
2 looking at litter or illegal
3 dumping, but we're looking at
4 abandoned autos, we're looking at
5 graffiti. We're looking at the
6 conditions of nuisance properties
7 and nuisance businesses that's
8 managed currently by CLIP, because
9 we believe that all of these kind
10 of make up what people are
11 concerned about and making sure
12 that the quality of life and the
13 standards are high in their
14 community.

15 So we do have that data
16 and information, and our plans is
17 to make the community appearance
18 index public. The litter index was
19 made public for a number of years
20 until we made this conversion.
21 Mike Mattel, who oversees our data
22 and information systems is here,
23 does an excellent job making these
24 available. I think they're

1 available in StreetSmartPHL, is
2 that correct, right.

3 So StreetSmartPHL is one
4 location in which you can look at
5 the latest version of the litter
6 index, but that will be upgraded to
7 a community appearance index when
8 we're ready to release it some time
9 shortly this year.

10 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

11 Excellent. Thank you. And I
12 appreciate very much the time that
13 you've spent with my office talking
14 about BigBellies. It's definitely
15 a focus of ours. So I wanted to
16 move over to BigBellies.

17 Some recent social media
18 reports and articles on Fox 29 have
19 still cited overflowing cans, a
20 lack of return on investment of our
21 program. I wanted to ask a few
22 follow-up questions from our
23 meeting we actually had. The
24 initial cost of the bins are around

1 \$6,000 with a lifespan of about 10
2 years, including staffing and
3 maintenance. Can you provide an
4 estimated cost per year per bin?
5 And would you be able to provide a
6 comparative estimate of cost for a
7 wire bin? And finally, would you
8 commit to working with my office
9 and Council on doing a more
10 thorough cost-benefit analysis and
11 working with us to see if there are
12 any tweaks that could increase
13 value and also user experience?

14 MR. WILLIAMS:

15 Absolutely. We can get you that
16 information. We haven't done an
17 evaluation or analysis on the cost
18 per year. We do have the overall
19 cost, but we can get that
20 information so that we can break
21 down and your office can do a
22 comparative analysis between what
23 it takes for us to maintain a
24 BigBelly versus the investment of a

1 litter basket.

2 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

3 Great. Thank you and thank you for
4 all of the work that you guys are
5 doing here. You've taken a heavy
6 lift of transforming your
7 department, so I appreciate it.

8 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank
9 you, Councilmember.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: Thank you.

12 Councilmember O'Rourke,
13 Dr. Nina Ahmad, Quetcy Lozada.
14 Then Majority Leader Richardson.
15 Then we go into our second round.
16 We have plenty of time.

17 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

18 Thank you, Mr. President. Thank
19 you very, very kindly.

20 I want to thank you,
21 President Schapira for -- or I
22 should say, Commissioner, please
23 forgive me, for taking the time to
24 be here today providing your

1 testimony and answering our
2 questions. In your testimony, the
3 streetlighting actually stood out
4 to me, came out of the mouths of a
5 number of the residents of
6 Southwest Philadelphia last night
7 on Council President and
8 Councilwoman Gauthier's our City
9 Budget Town Hall. A number of
10 residents mentioned the importance
11 of that and the desire to see more
12 of it in their corridors,
13 specifically for the safety that
14 you mentioned.

15 But I want to start with
16 an issue that's been heavy on my
17 mind recently. The role of repairs
18 in our city's fight for more
19 affordable housing. There's this
20 theory going around that we can
21 simply build our way out of the
22 affordable housing crisis. I get
23 it. I thought that once myself,
24 but it doesn't actually make sense

1 to me anymore. Thank God for
2 growth. Because we've all seen the
3 news showing how there's a glut of
4 luxury housing right now and ain't
5 nobody renting it.

6 If we're meant to simply
7 build our way out, evidently it's
8 not working. Here's what I do
9 know: Philadelphia had a
10 population of 1.9 million people in
11 1970 and today it has less than 1.6
12 million people.

13 92% of our housing stock
14 was built before 1978. Let me
15 repeat that. 92% of our housing
16 stock currently standing was built
17 pre 1978. What this tells me is
18 that although building housing is
19 important, our primary concern
20 should be repairing and rehabbing
21 the plentiful housing stock that
22 currently already exists in the
23 city of Philadelphia.

24 Repair is both cheaper

1 and less likely to displace long-
2 term residents who have
3 consistently told us that they are
4 concerned about being displaced.
5 This is why I'm so excited about
6 the Council --

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

9 This is particularly why I'm
10 excited about the Council and the
11 Mayor's focus on home repair for
12 homeowners and for renters. But
13 based on the Mayor's budget
14 proposal, as you have lifted up,
15 PEA's Built to Last program, the
16 Philadelphia Energy Authority's
17 Built to Last program that focuses
18 on repairs is seemingly left out of
19 that vision with a funding cut this
20 year of 6.5 million down to 1.3.

21 The Mayor's team sets
22 their funding back to the measure
23 baseline I think about 1.5 million
24 every year, I believe is the case.

1 Can you explain to us how the Built
2 to Last program if funded with the
3 \$10 million that your team has
4 requested advances our collective
5 goal of preserving tens of
6 thousands of affordable homes,
7 especially in light of potential
8 federal funding cuts?

9 MS. SCHAPIRA: Yes.

10 Thank you so much, Councilman.
11 I'll start with the federal funding
12 cuts. Last year the City
13 contributed \$5 million to Build to
14 Last which helped us get about 400
15 additional homes into the program,
16 just under 400.

17 Part of the reason for
18 that was because there were all
19 sorts of other funding streams that
20 we could leverage to help get those
21 homes done, so things like LIHEAP
22 which is currently under fire in
23 the federal government, things like
24 weatherization, a lot of the

1 utility programs that are
2 available.

3 This year that same \$5
4 million will only get us something
5 like 200 homes. We have yet to see
6 what the Trump administration will
7 do with some of these funding
8 streams, but it goes less far now
9 than it did before. That said,
10 each one of those homes you don't
11 have to come back to.

12 So we see a lot of other
13 programs that get sort of repeat
14 customers because they're just
15 solving sort of one facet of an
16 issue in a home. Often they don't
17 address the health issues that have
18 resulted from major home repair
19 issues and Built to Last can come
20 in on the back-end and coordinate
21 all the other programs to do that.
22 So I appreciate all of your support
23 and enthusiasm for this program.

24 We found across

1 communities that this is a program
2 that people told us they wanted.
3 And so, that's why we've developed
4 it. You can't do energy efficiency
5 in any of these homes if you don't
6 address the home holistically. And
7 so, that's really where we came out
8 of it.

9 I think Mr. Williams'
10 home is a great example. Basic
11 Systems Repair was able to put in
12 about \$20,000 to that program. We
13 want Basic Systems Repair to get as
14 much funding as they possibly can.
15 It's deeply needed across the city.
16 And then we were able to come in
17 and put in an additional about
18 \$25,000 into that and leverage
19 another \$20,000-plus, almost
20 \$30,000 from other programs. So
21 that's really the goal, is to make
22 government work.

23 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: I
24 know I heard the bell so I'm going

1 to say this and get off his mic. I
2 want to pivot to your workforce
3 development programs. We're
4 familiar with how important
5 workforce development opportunities
6 are for working-class careers as
7 well as long-term wealth building
8 in Philadelphia, something that we
9 desperately need.

10 Two things: Can you
11 speak more about how public
12 investments in PEA create
13 opportunities for Philadelphians to
14 build skills that will take them
15 into well-paying careers. And do
16 you have any data that you can
17 share on how PEA has prepared
18 Philadelphians for family
19 sustaining careers?

20 MS. SCHAPIRA: Sure, and
21 I'll be happy to follow up with a
22 full workforce report. We've
23 trained about 150 people over the
24 last few years in our own programs

1 and we paired those with our
2 existing home repair programs, with
3 Solarized Philly. We saw a real
4 shift in Philadelphia in the solar
5 market when people started seeing
6 their own members of their own
7 communities doing solar
8 installations. It really changed
9 how individual families think about
10 putting solar on their own homes in
11 all sorts of neighborhoods that we
12 would have thought would not have
13 been popular neighborhoods for
14 solar.

15 So it's really shifted
16 from this notion of like a nice to
17 have to important tool for long-
18 term affordability installed by
19 your family, installed by your
20 neighbors and folks that you know.
21 So we've really seen a big shift
22 here, but I'll send you a full
23 workforce report so you can see the
24 details of the programs we've run

1 over the last eight years.

2 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

3 Thank you very, very much.

4 MS. SCHAPIRA: Thank
5 you.

6 (Applause.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: I have a question just
9 for a point of information and just
10 for some clarity too. So we
11 championed your program last year,
12 that I do remember. But I want to
13 follow up. Now, I know in my
14 neighborhood -- and I see you got
15 Philly Thrive here, which do great
16 work around this particular issue.

17 How is your request and
18 the work that you're doing
19 different from what Habitat
20 Humanity is doing in Grays Ferry?
21 Are y'all partners? Are there two
22 separate initiatives? And then
23 also, I guess based upon what we
24 see in the budget, you aren't a

1 part of any working group regarding
2 the preservation of 30,000 or --
3 either the preservation or building
4 of 30,000 units in the city of
5 Philadelphia? Just want to get
6 clarity on that.

7 MS. SCHAPIRA: Yeah, we
8 are part of the Mayor's Home
9 Advisory Group. That hasn't
10 released any indication of what
11 will be funded from that \$800
12 million set of bonds. And so,
13 that's why we've really come here
14 for more budget certainty around
15 this program.

16 But to answer your first
17 question, we are partnered with
18 Habitat across the board. Part of
19 the reason we created this wonky
20 administrative platform is to help
21 organizations like Habitat, like
22 ECA, sort of take away some of that
23 administrative burden to do that
24 work. So the federal grant that

1 ECA -- I'm sorry, that ECA Philly
2 Thrive and Habitat collaborated on
3 for Grays Ferry unfortunately has
4 been paused or terminated, unclear
5 how they're going to do that. That
6 was I think a \$20 million federal
7 grant --

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: This is recently?

10 MS. SCHAPIRA: Fairly
11 recently.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: Under the new
14 Administration?

15 MS. SCHAPIRA: Yes. And
16 that had \$4 million of funding in
17 it for Built to Last, specifically
18 with Habitat doing the actual
19 construction work.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: All right. I just wanted
22 to see. And obviously on our end,
23 most members of Council we're just
24 ecstatic also regarding Basic

1 Systems Repair. And so, I know
2 y'all two work together, correct?

3 MS. SCHAPIRA: Correct.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: So you do the
6 weatherization part and BSR do the
7 traditional things that needs to be
8 done?

9 MS. SCHAPIRA: Yeah.

10 And sometimes we even see that BSR
11 can't support a client because it's
12 over budget. And so, they'll come
13 in and do sort of the basic roof
14 repair. We'll come in and do
15 either additional repairs, we'll do
16 the mold remediation. We'll repair
17 interior ceilings. So not
18 everything that we do ends up being
19 an actual energy measure, but it's
20 something that you can't do energy
21 without doing.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: Okay. All right. We'll
24 follow up because we just think

1 this synergy is already there. So
2 while we're going to focus on the
3 30,000 units, and all the 30,000
4 years aren't based on building new
5 units, it's the preservation of a
6 significant amount of units that
7 will be a part of that equation.
8 It seems like it makes sense,
9 common sense.

10 Dr. Nina Ahmad,
11 Councilwoman Quetcy Lozada. Then
12 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore
13 Richardson.

14 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

15 Thank you, Council President.

16 First, I want to echo
17 all the accolades my colleagues
18 have been giving to you, Carlton,
19 Director Williams, and your
20 department and the work you've been
21 doing. As I told you a little bit
22 earlier, I have had constituents
23 come up and tell me they see a
24 visible difference in how they --

1 and the narrative change that's
2 happening, feeling proud about your
3 city. That goes a long way in
4 terms of hopefully getting more
5 investments in our city and getting
6 people to move here.

7 So yesterday we were at
8 a community meeting that Council
9 President and Councilmember
10 Gauthier had in her District, and a
11 question came up from a constituent
12 about management of trees, right.

13 So they were asking --
14 this person was asking about trees
15 being upkeep, falling down,
16 occluding their vision of their
17 camera. And so, while we are, you
18 know, we understand the need for
19 greening and the impact it has on
20 our heat index and all of that, she
21 was like, I need to be able to
22 function when you're having all
23 this.

24 So I just wondered if in

1 your program you have a piece that
2 is dedicated about not just
3 planting but upkeep and informing
4 and educating our communities about
5 the fact that many of these new
6 trees are going to have shallow
7 root systems, won't interfere with
8 their plumbing or the foundation of
9 their home. They're not aware of
10 these things, so they're a little
11 bit loathe to think, oh my god, I
12 have to do so much more about it,
13 even though they understand the
14 heat index impact and the health
15 impacts?

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
17 JOHNSON: And a point of
18 information also just to follow up
19 and support my colleague's line of
20 questioning, it was also more
21 directly said that the foliage,
22 right, in the neighborhood,
23 particularly in that part of West
24 Philadelphia we were at, creates

1 issues of public safety, right,
2 it's dark coming down the street.
3 So what is our maintenance plan to
4 also address those trees?

5 And what I brought up is
6 I know for a fact in the Girard
7 Estate area of my District we've
8 seen it done, and the young lady
9 yesterday was saying she had a hard
10 time getting it done in that part
11 of West Philadelphia. So what is
12 the process where we're addressing
13 the foliage, the maintenance of the
14 trees?

15 And then also, some
16 people don't want the trees because
17 depending on how the trees grow
18 will break up their foundation as
19 time goes along. And so, those are
20 two things. Is that correct, Dr.
21 Ahmad?

22 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:
23 Yeah, that's exactly right.

24 MR. WILLIAMS: Well,

1 thank you Councilmember. Thank
2 you, Council President. Yes, so
3 those are some very real issues
4 that we have to -- some of them are
5 myths that we have to dispel with
6 residents with their concerns,
7 because a lot of the people don't
8 want trees on their block for those
9 very reasons that you talked about.
10 And I think we have to do a better
11 job of educating people about the
12 importance of it.

13 But the maintenance
14 usually is under the jurisdiction
15 of our Parks and Recreation
16 Department. They do a great job to
17 ensure that any trees that are in
18 disrepair or are dead or are in
19 danger of falling, they get out and
20 they manage the tree contractor to
21 be able to address. And so, we'll
22 work with our partners in Parks and
23 Recreation to make sure that the
24 maintenance issues come up.

1 They also work closely
2 with our own Sanitation Division
3 through leaf collection. So when
4 the foliage does fall, our Leaf
5 Collection program has expanded
6 tremendously throughout the city in
7 which we're doing more blocks this
8 year under the programs. So we'll
9 work between Parks and Recreation.
10 PECO also does some tree
11 maintenance as well, especially
12 with power lines and the foliage
13 actually blocking those areas.
14 Between those three agencies, we
15 will work to try to address those
16 issues from the public.

17 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

18 Well, thank you for that because
19 that'll just enhance everything
20 you're doing. And I wanted to now
21 pivot to PEA to talk about the
22 streetlighting. This is all
23 connected, right. So to Council
24 President's point about you being a

1 part of the ambitious plan for the
2 30,000 homes, and particularly
3 about the preservation piece, as
4 you said, you haven't seen yourself
5 in that budget yet.

6 Could this mean that the
7 reduction in what you have asked is
8 going to be covered in some sort of
9 a partnership? And if you could
10 explain your quasi government
11 status and how that actually works
12 in terms of being a part of a City
13 budget?

14 MS. SCHAPIRA: Sure.
15 Thank you so much, Councilmember,
16 for that question. So I'll do the
17 second part first. We are an
18 independent municipal authority.
19 We are established in 2010 by City
20 Council and the Mayor.

21 And so, there are a
22 couple of other entities that are
23 like us in the City budget.
24 Philadelphia Municipal Authority is

1 the other authority that is just
2 like us. And we were created for a
3 very specific purpose focused on
4 energy and market development. So
5 that is sort of how it's set up.

6 I think over the prior
7 sort of Council, we had a lot of
8 support from Council President
9 Clarke. And so, that really led
10 the Mayor's team to sort of leave
11 us out of the Administration's
12 budget and sort of seek for Council
13 to make the allocation rather than
14 the Mayor. So that had been the
15 previous setup for around eight
16 years.

17 And so, we're sort of
18 still I think growing into the new
19 Council and into the new Mayor,
20 even though it's not so new
21 anymore. So we're not in the
22 Mayor's Five Year Plan. We fall
23 under the Managing Director's
24 Office as far as where our budget

1 goes. And I think, you know, we
2 submit with the Mayor's
3 information.

4 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: It
5 would be probably very useful to
6 quantitate the impact you're
7 having, the job creation, the
8 impact on our public health because
9 of the remedial work that you're
10 doing. That could go a long way.
11 And I would be deeply supportive of
12 putting that out there.

13 I wanted to quickly
14 pivot to electric vehicles. You
15 know that's my jam. So I know
16 there's a lot of change in the
17 federal government. And I just
18 wanted to know how we can locally
19 strengthen our efforts to continue
20 in that and bring in partners, our
21 private and philanthropic partners,
22 to fill gaps that we might see what
23 the infrastructure deal was doing
24 for us and how we can continue to

1 democratize EVs? That's the real
2 goal that I'm after.

3 MS. SCHAPIRA: Great
4 question. We typically don't
5 engage in the city's EV planning
6 because they don't need us to. So
7 we typically engage on City
8 projects when the contract
9 requirement is more than four
10 years. Typically for leasing EV
11 chargers, it's a shorter term
12 contract so they don't need an
13 authority to help them execute it.

14 So I'll refer that
15 question to the Office of
16 Sustainability and the Fleet
17 Department, both of which are
18 working on the City's EV strategy.
19 I will say we've supported the
20 School District as they've tried to
21 figure out how to convert their bus
22 fleet from diesel, which causes all
23 sorts of health problems for
24 children that ride that bus, to

1 electric buses, and they have a few
2 and they're building that
3 infrastructure out. But that's
4 something we seek to help them with
5 as well.

6 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

7 Thank you.

8 Thank you, Council
9 President.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: Thank you.

12 Councilwoman Quetcy
13 Lozada. Then Majority Leader
14 Gilmore Richardson. Then we have
15 the (inaudible) of Councilmember
16 Driscoll before we go to the second
17 round.

18 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

19 Most of my questions were asked by
20 most of my colleagues because I was
21 left for last but -- I'm kidding.
22 I'm just kidding. I'm just messing
23 with you. I'm messing. I'm
24 messing with Council President

1 because we were complaining about
2 queues yesterday.

3 But want to take the
4 opportunity to just say thank you
5 on the record for all of the help
6 that I get in the 7th Council
7 District from the Streets and
8 Sanitation Department. Grateful
9 for your partnership and for your
10 quick response, right.

11 Councilmember Harrity
12 mentioned that it doesn't matter
13 when we send photos, it could be
14 late in the evening, it could be a
15 Saturday or Sunday afternoon and
16 your department is extremely
17 responsive. And so, I want to just
18 say thank you very specifically to
19 Keith Warren because he never says
20 no, responds at any time of the
21 day. So I just want to make sure
22 that we shout him out and publicly
23 thank him. Thank you, thank you,
24 thank you for all the work that you

1 do in the District.

2 (Applause.)

3 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: My

4 one question is how are we

5 working -- how is the department

6 working in collaboration with our

7 corridor managers? Our corridor

8 managers work really hard to make

9 sure that those corridors are kept

10 clean. But often times there are

11 BigBellies on different corners and

12 that trash overflows.

13 And I remember when I

14 was a corridor manager for

15 Esperanza, the guys would often --

16 although I would make them clean up

17 whatever it was on the exterior of

18 that BigBelly, the guys would often

19 complain that, hey, that's Streets

20 and Sanitation's responsibility,

21 that's not ours.

22 But how do you better

23 work with those teams to ensure

24 that that corridor looks clean and

1 that it continues to be welcoming?

2 What can we do to better partner
3 with those folks?

4 MR. WILLIAMS: So I am
5 pleased to announce the Mayor's
6 Community Action Centers or Mayor's
7 Town Halls, as she calls them, that
8 we're now collaborating with those
9 agencies to be able to address
10 those issues directly in the
11 community and neighborhood. So
12 when the corridor managers attend
13 those council hearings or council
14 meetings, town meetings directly in
15 the neighborhood, we're connecting
16 them with different agencies.

17 So just like when you
18 call us directly to address those
19 issues, they will know who the
20 manager is from any department
21 that's having an issue right within
22 that community who is there daily
23 doing the work. We believe that
24 this proactive strategy is a way to

1 build stronger relationships and to
2 proactively address those issues
3 before our residents have to
4 complain about them.

5 So then instead of
6 having to call your office all the
7 time, and I'm not trying to put our
8 Councilmembers out of business, but
9 what we want to do is they'll be
10 able to establish relationships
11 with people in the community where
12 they know who's getting the work
13 done each day.

14 So someone from TCB, the
15 corridor manager from TCB will be
16 there. The District Manager for
17 Sanitation will also be a part of
18 that. The District Manager for
19 CLIP will be available as well.
20 Knowing and getting to know who
21 those people are through the
22 Mayor's town halls is important
23 because they're able to address
24 those issues head-on and then come

1 up with preventative solutions to
2 stop them from happening, not just
3 cleaning them up, but we may be
4 able to identify the source, we may
5 be able to figure out where the
6 location is and then to come up
7 with a strategy to prevent it from
8 happening in the first place. So
9 that is the purpose for us wanting
10 to do those type of things.

11 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: I
12 appreciate that. And we know,
13 right, we know who the commercial
14 corridor cleaners are. We know who
15 the managers are. So if we could
16 proactively work with them before
17 the community complains about them,
18 I think it would be best for all of
19 us.

20 MR. WILLIAMS:
21 Absolutely.

22 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:
23 And then we know that Hunting Park
24 has the highest heat index. And

1 while I'm grateful that there are
2 3200 trees planted every year, I
3 also hear from residents, like our
4 Councilmembers have mentioned, who
5 are cutting down trees because they
6 just can't take the maintenance and
7 how much it costs.

8 And so, what are we
9 doing to continue to work with
10 residents like in the Hunting Park
11 community to continue to educate
12 them around mitigating heat and why
13 it is so important? And are we
14 partnering with the Office of
15 Sustainability and places like
16 Drexel University who focus a lot
17 on heat mitigation?

18 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, we
19 are definitely focusing on working
20 with our Parks and Recreation
21 Department for maintenance and
22 increased education so that we can
23 give people assurances that
24 maintenance is a big part of the

1 investment of planting trees in the
2 neighborhoods. So our Parks and
3 Recreation Department through the
4 TreePhilly program is working to
5 educate residents on how to make
6 sure that those issues are
7 maintained. But if there are other
8 issues, we're also investing in
9 Parks and Recreation to be able to
10 address those issues if they're
11 causing those type of problems.

12 If we prevent those
13 things from happening in the first
14 place, where we plant them, how we
15 plant them and locations, I think
16 we can mitigate a lot of the issues
17 that happen 5 to 10 years down the
18 line when those trees become full
19 grown.

20 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

21 Thank you.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: Okay. Just on the mini

24 halls, the town halls with the

1 collaboration with the groups, I
2 always just say it's always great
3 to work in partnership with the
4 District Council Office, District
5 Councilmembers, so as y'all
6 alleviate some of that pressure off
7 of us, but so the residents know
8 that we are working together.

9 MR. WILLIAMS:

10 Absolutely.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: One City, City United.

13 MR. WILLIAMS: One
14 Philly, a United City. Absolutely,
15 Councilmember -- Council President.
16 I hear you loud and clear.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: I don't want my sister
19 calling me like, what you mean,
20 Yaht.

21 Majority Leader Gilmore
22 Richardson, Councilwoman Jamie
23 Gauthier, Councilmember Thomas --
24 oh no, Driscoll, then Thomas. And

1 then we'll officially be in the
2 second round.

3 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

4 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you,
5 Council President.

6 And thank you so much to
7 Director Williams and Commissioner
8 Jacobs. I wanted to quickly go
9 through the list of thank yous that
10 I had my team put together for your
11 department because we work really,
12 really closely with you all. And
13 then I'll quickly get into just a
14 couple questions that I have.

15 So again, Director
16 Williams, Commissioner Jacobs,
17 Deputy Commissioner Keith Warren,
18 our CLIP Director, forever CLIP
19 Director Tom Conway. I just went
20 past a vacant lot that we had a
21 fence put up 15 years ago and it
22 still looks good, and now the tree
23 is growing and it looks wonderful.

24 I saw Omar Salaam,

1 Noelle Marconi, our former Council
2 colleague, I saw Mr. Carrington
3 from Local 427 and Mr. Little.
4 Also wanted to shout out Emily from
5 PEA, Katie Bartolotta, who helps us
6 on all of our legislative matters.
7 Alon, who's been extremely helpful
8 with the Water Line Protection
9 program, AWR. And I'll do Streets
10 this afternoon. And if I forgot
11 anyone, charge it to our heads and
12 not our hearts. But thank you
13 very, very much for the work that
14 you all do to help our office and
15 help us help constituents each and
16 every day.

17 I know we have received
18 one question regarding the cleaning
19 program. And I will tell you I was
20 so impressed when I came home one
21 day the workers were actually on my
22 block cleaning as I was pulling up
23 to my house. But one question we
24 had was can we sort of coincide

1 this with trash day?

2 So as an example if
3 trash day is on Monday, can the
4 cleaning day be Tuesday and not the
5 other way around? And so, as an
6 example if the cleaning happens on
7 Monday and then trash day is
8 Tuesday, you know what happens.
9 The trash is all over the place.

10 So is there any way to
11 sort of coincide those activities
12 so that when a block receives
13 cleaning, that it happens after
14 their trash day?

15 MR. WILLIAMS:
16 Councilmember, thank you first of
17 all, appreciate the compliments and
18 acknowledgements. And I will say,
19 just wanted to say really quickly
20 that Tom Conway could not be here
21 today. He was out ill, but his
22 team is here, John Tucci and
23 Michelle Hander's here representing
24 CLIP. So I just wanted to make

1 sure that they get acknowledged for
2 the great work that they do as
3 well.

4 We did look at the
5 cleaning schedule to correlate with
6 going behind trash collection day
7 and we are trying to mirror that.
8 It's more challenging than we can
9 because of the speed and the amount
10 of trucks that we have out on an
11 area on any given time. So it's
12 very difficult for our cleaning
13 crews to try to stay behind all 12
14 trucks that's deployed in one
15 specific area at a time. But we do
16 try to coordinate so that it
17 doesn't happen the day before trash
18 day and that we can do it as close
19 to or behind trash day as possible
20 because we know that that's when
21 common litter areas persist.

22 We'll continue fine-
23 tuning that. They do work on a
24 schedule basis, so we're trying to

1 correlate that schedule with trash
2 collection to ensure the efficiency
3 of the program.

4 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

5 RICHARDSON: Okay. That'll be
6 great because we thought that would
7 be helpful, particularly for the
8 complaints that we receive around
9 the community saying, after trash
10 day, things look a mess. So I just
11 wanted to mention that.

12 And I heard you mention
13 zero waste. I think in Delaware
14 County they had put out an RFP a
15 couple years ago to hire a zero
16 waste consultant. So are we
17 planning to do that in
18 Philadelphia? How is that work
19 going? And I'll come back on the
20 second round for PEA.

21 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, we
22 do have MSW consultants that we
23 work with to help us. I think
24 Commissioner talked about earlier

1 as doing waste audits to determine
2 the -- Councilmember Gauthier
3 talked about recycling and how can
4 we increase those rates to see
5 what's actually in the stream.

6 That's the data that we
7 get from those consultant firms and
8 tell us if those initiatives are
9 possible and what strategies that
10 we should employ to be able to
11 maximize the diversion area. So
12 we'll continue to work with those
13 type of consultant firms to advise
14 us in those areas. And we'll
15 provide that data to help us make
16 those concentrated decisions,
17 calculated decisions.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

19 RICHARDSON: That'll be great.
20 I'll come back on the second round,
21 Mr. Chair, to ask my questions for
22 PEA. Thank you.

23 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

24 Thank you, Madam Leader.

1 Chair recognizes

2 Councilmember Driscoll.

3 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5 Emily, I just want to
6 compliment you. It's not every
7 agency we give money to that brings
8 more return for our dollars. And I
9 know how hard you work. And I'm
10 nervous like you are about the
11 federal cuts. Hopefully they won't
12 be. So I just wanted to publicly
13 acknowledge you.

14 And, Commissioner, I
15 want to thank you for introducing
16 me to the team, the 6th
17 Councilmanic team. It was
18 important for me to get to know
19 them. I'll tell my colleagues I
20 asked, maybe inappropriately in
21 front of the Commissioner, for her
22 employees to tell me as if the
23 Commissioner wasn't there what's
24 really on your mind. And they did

1 without hesitation.

2 And we won't get into
3 those issues. But I will tell you,
4 Mr. Chairman, the Commissioner
5 solved the problems within days.
6 So I just want to acknowledge you
7 on that.

8 Director Williams, you
9 know I'm a big fan. You know what
10 you did at that public golf course
11 in our neighborhood is a
12 gamechanger. And for those of you
13 who don't know, the Community Life
14 Improvement Program was originated
15 in the 6th Councilmanic District
16 under former Councilwoman the late
17 Joan Krajewski. So it's near and
18 dear to my heart, and Tommy Conway
19 does a good job.

20 Last year in this very
21 Committee in anticipation of 2026
22 while I love everything that we're
23 doing in the neighborhoods cleaning
24 up, the first impression a lot of

1 our visitors and our party planners
2 and our convention planners see is
3 our highways, our major arteries,
4 and I was complaining about the
5 uptick in the graffiti. So under
6 your leadership, I now am noticing
7 on I-95 that we are tackling that.

8 And I guess my ask today
9 is that we continue that because I
10 agree with your analysis, Director.
11 The quicker we respond, the less
12 frequent it's going to happen or
13 the expansion of that. So my plea
14 today is along with CLIP or under
15 your jurisdiction, I'm not quite
16 sure who, I do know that Tommy
17 Conway's sensitive to it, can we
18 please do that in anticipation of
19 our big celebration next year?

20 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

21 Thank you, Councilmember.
22 Absolutely. That was one of the
23 Mayor's biggest priorities because
24 she noticed the amount of graffiti

1 along our corridors, especially on
2 the Amtrak bridges, South Street
3 Bridge along 76, it was just out of
4 control. And Tom and them did a
5 great job starting that. It really
6 exasperated after the pandemic and
7 CLIP did a great job. Him and his
8 team came out and made sure that
9 they established this new graffiti
10 zero tolerance zone, which has them
11 proactively doing inspections. So
12 they have technology and cameras on
13 vehicles which they go out and
14 actually look for it. And if they
15 find it, they remove it
16 immediately. And that's done
17 proactively and that will continue
18 on.

19 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

20 Thank you.

21 MR. WILLIAMS: You're
22 welcome.

23 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

24 Thank you, Councilman.

1 And in that same energy
2 as we close out the first round and
3 before we go to the second round, I
4 did just want to take a moment of
5 personal privilege -- well, not
6 really because I was in the queue
7 next -- to say thank you in the
8 same energy, Commissioner Williams,
9 very much appreciate all of the
10 work that you do, late texts and
11 calls early morning. And similar
12 to what Councilmember Driscoll
13 said, you and your team at least
14 with our office, you're batting
15 100%.

16 So every time we send a
17 request, even if it can't be met,
18 you get back to us. So I just want
19 to say thank you to Keith Warren
20 and Mary Stitt as well, to both
21 people who my office reach out to
22 on a consistent basis and always
23 deliver quality services. So thank
24 you and always on behalf of the

1 constituents of the city of
2 Philadelphia.

3 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank
4 you.

5 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: With
6 that being said, we are due to
7 start this second round. I have a
8 couple questions, but I want to
9 wait until the Council President
10 comes back before I ask my
11 questions.

12 So I'll start the second
13 round by passing it to
14 Councilmember Gauthier.

15 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17 Director Williams, I
18 think the Clean and Green
19 initiatives that we've seen come
20 out of the Administration are
21 probably some of my favorite
22 initiatives of the new
23 Administration. And as we've heard
24 this morning, I think there's a lot

1 of agreement among Council around
2 that.

3 However, as the Chair of
4 Council's Environment Committee, I
5 also strongly believe that every
6 other community deserves to be
7 clean and green, particularly
8 communities that have experienced
9 past environmental injustices like
10 Chester.

11 And so, I wanted to
12 ask --

13 (Applause.)

14 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
15 Given that, I wanted to ask some
16 questions about our contract with
17 Reworld/Covanta. I noted on the
18 vendor chart on Page 18 of the
19 Sanitation Department's budget
20 testimony that it lists Reworld as
21 merely a recycling service
22 provider.

23 So first, can you help
24 us to understand what recycling

1 services Reworld provides for our
2 city? And also, can you talk about
3 the services that Reworld provides
4 for us through its incinerator in
5 Chester?

6 And then additionally,
7 our environmental partners report
8 higher instances of health issues
9 like asthma and other health
10 concerns in Chester in contrast
11 with other communities that do not
12 have incinerators in their
13 backyard. And I know, because I've
14 talked to you, that incineration is
15 considered generally to be more of
16 an environmentally sound practice
17 over sending trash to a landfill.
18 But I also wanted to know whether
19 the Administration considers
20 cumulative impacts of a place like
21 Chester that not only has an
22 incentive and incinerator on its
23 waterfront, but a refinery, a rail
24 yard and many other dirty uses?

1 So I want to hear you
2 speak to those questions and also
3 what we intend to do about that as
4 a city that believes in clean and
5 green and equity.

6 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank
7 you, Councilmember. I certainly
8 can appreciate your comments in
9 reference to that. And we're
10 looking forward to working with
11 your office as you're hosting
12 several internal meetings regarding
13 this issue. We are looking at
14 different ways to reduce the amount
15 of waste that goes to waste
16 streams, not only to Chester but to
17 all of our facilities through our
18 Zero Waste Plan, as you indicated
19 earlier.

20 Regarding the contract,
21 it is up for renewal in 2026. This
22 is currently a four-year plus three
23 one-year renewal contract, just to
24 answer your question on that. And

1 Reworld provides basically our
2 waste disposal services mainly in
3 areas of the city like Southwest,
4 West and Northwest Philadelphia
5 where we do a direct haul. They're
6 located in that part of the city
7 and that is the service that they
8 currently provide in terms of waste
9 disposal.

10 As it comes to
11 recycling, I'm going to ask the
12 Commissioner or Scott McGrath, our
13 Environmental Services Director, to
14 come forward to talk about other
15 services. I do not believe they're
16 handling our current recycling
17 commodities. That is going
18 currently to waste management under
19 that contract, and that is fully at
20 a processing facility they just
21 invested in up in the Northeast.

22 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

23 And then before -- I know you're
24 bringing someone else up. But

1 before my time ends, I also would
2 love to hear you speak about what
3 proactively will we be doing
4 between now and our next scheduled
5 or expected contract renewal in
6 2026 to create a different dynamic
7 that helps us with our waste, but
8 also helps a struggling community
9 like Chester deal with some of the
10 environmental injustices that have
11 been heaped upon them?

12 MR. WILLIAMS: So one of
13 the things that came out of our
14 conversation and that productive
15 meeting that we had was to look at
16 the environmental impacts of these
17 waste companies that have on the
18 region and the entire area. So I
19 think when we are doing our
20 evaluation and award, that that is
21 going to be a mitigating factor as
22 to who gets our tonnage when it
23 comes down to our contracting.

24 We also want to invite

1 others to the table. Competition
2 definitely is something that is
3 good for the City. So we're
4 looking to attract other haulers
5 that offer different technologies.
6 I know the Office of Sustainability
7 is going to do an RFI to look at
8 what the potentials are. And we
9 need to continue talking about
10 organics on the long haul. If we
11 really want to get to zero waste,
12 we have to start including organics
13 as that represents about 30% of our
14 entire waste stream in addition to
15 the 30% of recycling materials that
16 is out there.

17 So if we can start to
18 focus and get companies to invest
19 there, I think we can honestly say
20 that we want to move away from
21 places like Chester for wasted
22 energy. So we need to make those
23 type of investments here in the
24 city of Philadelphia.

1 (Applause.)

2 MR. McGRATH: Scott

3 McGrath, Environmental Planning

4 Director for Sanitation. As far as

5 the recycling component of their

6 contract, that's actually for

7 e-waste and it's actually a

8 completely separate operation

9 within the company. They have

10 built out a -- they're actually one

11 of the largest e-waste contractors

12 in the state. And they take all

13 the e-waste we accept at the drop-

14 off centers and the events that we

15 service, many that we do often with

16 Council Districts as well as some

17 with some of our State

18 Representatives.

19 As the Director said, We

20 are also developing a more robust

21 analysis or process of analyzing

22 environmental impacts, looking at

23 admissions and other types of

24 impacts that both landfills and

1 resource recovery facilities have
2 on the communities where they live
3 in.

4 We also have a
5 contractor that works with us that
6 has access to the EPA WARM model,
7 which can also take this data and
8 translate it into greenhouse gas
9 impact assessments. So we're going
10 to work a lot more on this kind of
11 aspect during the evaluation
12 process going forward.

13 MR. WILLIAMS: And we
14 look forward to working with your
15 office as we continue that process,
16 yes.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
18 Thank you. I appreciate you
19 talking about this with me on
20 record. I think we have a good
21 amount of time between 2026 to
22 figure out something that works for
23 our city and the cities on our
24 border. So thank you so much.

1 MR. WILLIAMS: You're
2 welcome. Thank you.

3 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:
4 Thank you, colleague.

5 Chair recognizes
6 Councilmember Phillips.

7 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
8 Thank you, Chair.

9 Couple questions. I'm
10 looking at the line items. There
11 is a proposed budget for D.C. 47,
12 one time \$1400 member bonus. And
13 there's also D.C. 33 salary
14 increase. I wanted to know in the
15 D.C. 33 bonus, what is that
16 increase average for I guess our
17 sanitation workers in terms of what
18 is their minimal salary now?

19 MR. WILLIAMS: I
20 apologize, Councilmember. I will
21 have to refer to our Budget Office
22 so I can find that out for you.

23 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
24 Okay. All right. Cool. Next

1 question I just want to ask in
2 terms of community gardens. How
3 are community gardens decided upon?
4 And in particular, in terms of what
5 Districts how do we make that
6 possible for Districts across the
7 city?

8 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah,
9 thank you. Community gardens are
10 extremely important as they become
11 active locations for residents and
12 businesses to actually enjoy some
13 kind of activity and also to
14 beautify our communities and
15 neighborhoods. It is a tool that
16 we use against illegal dumping and
17 we think it's going to be effective
18 because the landscape, beautified
19 location is less likely for someone
20 to come in and dump trash. It's
21 usually well-manicured, well-
22 maintained and in some cases well-
23 lit.

24 So our lighting is

1 definitely a big help. Because
2 that's what dumpers actually look
3 for, dark, desolate locations where
4 they can get away with dropping off
5 material and then leaving very
6 quickly without being spotted. So
7 I think community gardens is going
8 to be an effective tool for us to
9 be able to continue the work that
10 we're doing and making sure it's
11 cleaner and greener.

12 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
13 The question was how do you make a
14 decision on who gets a -- what
15 communities get a community garden?
16 Is it discussed through the
17 Councilmembers or community, like
18 how do you all make those
19 decisions?

20 MR. WILLIAMS: So we
21 will certainly work with the
22 Councilmember's office and also the
23 community. We also look for those
24 residential communities where

1 people are going to take ownership.
2 That's a big role because the City
3 alone can't maintain these. As
4 much as CLIP does a tremendous job
5 in PHS, we certainly need the
6 community to take ownership. So
7 that's where we make the
8 determination of which
9 neighborhoods and which community
10 gets community gardens.

11 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

12 And I'll follow up with you with
13 that. Just a quick question for
14 PEA. If the Build to Last program
15 is supplementing PHDC's work, I'm
16 just trying to figure out why can't
17 it all be together, right, in more
18 ways than one.

19 And so, it's not --
20 because when I think of what you're
21 doing, I immediately think about
22 calling PHDC as opposed to calling
23 you. And I think that this just
24 creates a friction of resources.

1 MS. SCHAPIRA: Yeah.
2 Thank you so much for this
3 question. Perfect question to
4 explain this. So we're part of the
5 city's One Front Door program,
6 which is going to be launched soon,
7 where it's a single portal that
8 folks can go in to get all sorts of
9 resources. So when someone submits
10 a request and they just need one
11 thing, like they've got a hole in
12 their roof or they've got sparking
13 electrical or specific plumbing
14 issue, that goes straight to Basic
15 Systems Repair. That's something
16 they can tackle.

17 They have constraints
18 based on the type of funding they
19 receive. So CDBG funding from the
20 federal government restricts their
21 contribution to folks to \$25,000
22 per home. And so, that sort of
23 limits their ability to do
24 additional types of work.

1 Also, Basic Systems

2 Repair is designed to be sort of a
3 homelessness prevention program
4 almost where they're addressing an
5 emergency need specifically. So
6 they're not going in and doing
7 those health measures or those
8 efficiency measures or anything
9 like that.

10 That said, we work
11 really closely with PHDC on
12 purpose. We hope that someday
13 there's further integration. But
14 at the moment the way everything is
15 set up and designed, there's sort
16 of a mission outside of the Basic
17 Systems Repair Program that is sort
18 of needed to be addressed that PHDC
19 isn't able to address at the
20 moment. But we work really
21 collaboratively for that reason.

22 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

23 Yeah. Thank you, Chair.

24 I just think the goal is

1 for us to get as many people off
2 the waitlist as possible. And I
3 would love for that to be outlined
4 of what it's going to take for
5 us -- I mean I see it mentioned,
6 but it's not really specific to how
7 to get people off the waitlist for
8 to Build the Last program.

9 Thank you, Chair.

10 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

11 Thank you, Councilman.

12 I'm going to take a step
13 back because a couple folks didn't
14 get to go in the first round, so I
15 take a step back and recognize
16 Councilmember Mark Squilla.

17 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

18 Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19 First of all, I want to
20 thank you for all the work and
21 efforts that you do coordinating
22 and communicating with our offices.
23 We can be a pain. Sometimes we
24 email all hours of the night and

1 morning, and it's great to always
2 have the responses that we get.
3 And then it's really not the
4 challenges that come to us but how
5 we handle the challenges that is
6 key for the City to be successful.
7 Things are always going to happen.
8 And to me, that's the most
9 important part, to be able to get a
10 response. And we always have that
11 from Clean and Green, from
12 Sanitation and Revenue and
13 everybody who's involved in this.

14 Two quick things: One
15 is we're moving forward with the
16 Clean and Green Initiative of the
17 Mayor's office. One of the
18 things -- and we work with CLIP who
19 does it. I didn't mention them but
20 they do tremendous job. And I
21 think they're under Clean and Green
22 now too, right?

23 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

24 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: But

1 the budget I think is under
2 Managing Director's Office; is that
3 correct?

4 MR. WILLIAMS: I believe
5 so, yes.

6 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:
7 Okay. It's a little confusing, but
8 we will figure that out during this
9 process. But you mentioned
10 graffiti and we were talking about
11 graffiti has really -- an uptick in
12 graffiti and CLIP has been on it,
13 but on the highways and PennDOT
14 there was a coordination with
15 PennDOT.

16 And I think was
17 mentioned during the Mayor's
18 announcement that through MAP they
19 were going to work with so many
20 young people and the graffiti
21 writers in a program to come in and
22 start cleaning up some of that
23 areas. How is that going to work
24 and is that going to be a new

1 program?

2 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah,
3 it's actually already started.
4 CLIP jumped on it early last year
5 because of the amount of graffiti
6 that we were witnessing along I-95
7 and 676 and I-76. And so, we have
8 some very challenging locations,
9 the Amtrak or CSX Rail Bridge
10 across from Boathouse Row, South
11 Street Bridge. I don't know how
12 they got under South Street Bridge
13 to tag it, but we have to come up
14 with ways that we can start to
15 address that.

16 But we are working, as
17 you stated, with a three-phased
18 approach. Graffiti Zero Tolerance
19 Zone through CLIP, they've invested
20 in cameras to be on vehicles to
21 spot graffiti the moment it occurs.
22 So they're out there almost weekly
23 to go up and down and do an
24 estimate and investigation on where

1 it was. Not only are they doing
2 that, they're turning those photos
3 and information over to the police
4 department, so they're involved to
5 get those who are constant graffiti
6 vandals and those who are not
7 willing to work with Mural Arts to
8 be productive, we have to start
9 enforcement.

10 And finally, as you
11 mentioned the Mural Arts Program,
12 we do want to set up a program
13 where we bring in those graffiti
14 artists to put them into productive
15 use for the talents that they have
16 and not have a derogatory use that
17 they're currently doing by defacing
18 public property and along our
19 interstates and highways. So that
20 is our approach and that's what
21 this investment this budget's
22 handling.

23 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

24 That's perfect because I think it's

1 really important to work with those
2 writers too to see other
3 opportunities instead of tagging
4 things that can be part of
5 beautifying things, right. And --

6 MR. WILLIAMS: That is
7 the goal, yep.

8 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: --
9 instead of part of the problem,
10 they become part of the solution.

11 So thank you, Mr. Chair.
12 Thank you for that. And appreciate
13 all the hard work that's going into
14 this.

15 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank
16 you, Councilmember.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
18 JOHNSON: Thank you, Member
19 Squilla.

20 Chair recognizes
21 Councilmember Thomas.

22 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:
23 Thank you, Council President.

24 Real quick, prior to the

1 seat that I have I was the Chair of
2 the Streets Committee. And during
3 my time as the Chair of the Streets
4 Committee, one of the biggest
5 things we used to always discuss
6 was that 80% of the car accidents
7 was produced on 10% of the roads.
8 We talked significantly about
9 capital investment in these
10 intersections to be able to address
11 this issue.

12 Where are we with that?
13 Do 80% of the car accidents still
14 happen on 10% of the roads or have
15 we seen some type of significant
16 improvement to a lot of our major
17 intersections that were
18 significantly unsafe for drivers,
19 pedestrians as well as cyclists?

20 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah,
21 that's more of a question for OTIS
22 and I'm sure that they're going to
23 address it. But I can speak to
24 part of it. That's the High Injury

1 Network in which 80% of the
2 accidents and the most deadly
3 crashes -- they don't use the word
4 accidents, they say crashes because
5 they're preventable -- but they
6 happen on just 13% of the roadways
7 in the city of Philadelphia. And
8 they are making huge investments in
9 the city of Philadelphia from
10 additional speed cushions to speed
11 cameras which --

12 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: And
13 speed cushions, you have data that
14 say that the speed cushions and
15 speed cameras work?

16 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.
17 40% -- in fact, on Roosevelt
18 Boulevard they've seen a 40%
19 decrease in the amount of crashes
20 on The Boulevard since they put
21 those cameras in play. And I'm
22 happy to hear that they're
23 expanding to other locations around
24 the city, especially along the High

1 Injury Network to prevent those
2 tragedies from happening.

3 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Last
4 question: You testified that 90%
5 of potholes get refilled in three
6 days. I drive around Philadelphia.
7 I don't know if as a resident I
8 necessarily believe that. Help us
9 understand as Philadelphians who
10 drive around the city -- I live in
11 Councilman Phillips' District.
12 I'll go ahead and throw Cheltenham
13 Avenue, right, that's my least
14 favorite street to drive on in the
15 9th District. Help us understand
16 why it doesn't feel that way.

17 MR. WILLIAMS: So on
18 average they complete it in three
19 days, but there may be underlining
20 circumstances that a pothole or a
21 ditch or a cave-in occurs. So
22 potholes are small, less than
23 12-inch diameter, less than an inch
24 deep. But when you start to get

1 into things that you see that have
2 wider spaces, it could be an
3 underlining issue. Like it could
4 be a water main that's starting to
5 default --

6 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: So
7 those things don't come under the
8 three-day category?

9 MR. WILLIAMS: No, they
10 don't come under the three-day
11 category.

12 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:
13 Thank you, Council President.

14 MR. WILLIAMS: You're
15 welcome.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
17 JOHNSON: Member Harrity.

18 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:
19 Yes, exactly what you're saying. I
20 always preach I was a highway
21 worker. The definition of a
22 pothole -- there is an actual
23 definition. That's why my bill
24 that just passed is important, that

1 now we are able to go after these
2 bad actors because what's getting
3 labeled potholes are actually
4 construction holes that most of the
5 time are laterals to somebody's
6 house that were done illegally.

7 We know it was done
8 illegally without a permit because
9 if they got a permit, the Streets
10 Department comes out and fills the
11 hole in because they want it done
12 right.

13 MR. WILLIAMS: That's
14 correct.

15 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:
16 That's just a point of information.
17 We do now have an avenue where we
18 are able to fine them and they are
19 not allowed to bid or anything like
20 that with their license until they
21 rectify the situation once they're
22 caught.

23 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank
24 you, Councilmember. Appreciate it.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

2 JOHNSON: Thank you.

3 It's actually

4 Councilmember Young, then Rue

5 Landau, then Driscoll.

6 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank

7 you, Mr. President.

8 I just have one question

9 about the budget. Last year's

10 budget is about \$3.4 million for

11 some front-end loaders and

12 tri-axial dump. I'm just trying to

13 figure out where we are with that.

14 Can you talk to us about how long

15 it takes the department to get the

16 equipment that's necessary?

17 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I

18 think those were used for our

19 illegal dumping crew; is that

20 correct, Commissioner? Can the

21 Commissioner speak -- yeah, I'll

22 have the Commissioner come up --

23 and Deputy Commissioner Warren.

24 Deputy Commissioner Warren, I'm

1 going to ask him to come up and
2 talk about the use of that
3 equipment and how long it usually
4 takes.

5 We have to -- just like
6 compactors, as specialized
7 equipment that does take time to
8 order in advance. And I believe
9 our illegal dumping crew, the one
10 that we're adding which will have
11 that type of equipment will be
12 actually in place this spring. So
13 some time later this spring we'll
14 have another dumping crew that
15 comes up. But I'll let Deputy
16 Commissioner Warren kind of explain
17 the equipment as he works with it
18 every day.

19 MR. WARREN: Good
20 afternoon. Keith Warren. I'm
21 Deputy Commissioner of Sanitation.
22 I'm sorry. But I'm going to ask
23 you to repeat the question.

24 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: The

1 question was about there's a line
2 item in last year's budget for 3.4
3 for front-end loaders and dumps. I
4 just wanted you to talk to us about
5 has that equipment been ordered and
6 what's the timeline it takes to get
7 that equipment?

8 MR. WARREN: Yes, the
9 equipment has been ordered. It's
10 about a 24-month turnaround in
11 perfect condition from order to
12 arrival, receiving. There have
13 been several challenges affecting
14 the supply chain. As you know,
15 weird things, ship hitting the
16 bridge and now of course some
17 things with tariffs -- not tariffs,
18 but we have received 75% of the
19 equipment and it is used mostly for
20 large construction-type dumps that
21 occur on underused land or land
22 where it's not residential areas.
23 There's some big places in
24 Southwest. Councilman Jones talked

1 about Marion Avenue earlier.

2 I'm sure you all have
3 seen that story about the tires in
4 the park. Jobs like that require
5 equipment, so that's what we use
6 the dump trucks and the front-end
7 loaders for.

8 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
9 you. And I just want to say thank
10 you. We had a town hall meeting in
11 Fairmount last night. You
12 represented very well, you and Mike
13 as well. So thank you for coming
14 to that meeting. Those residents
15 were very pleased with the answers
16 that you provided to the community.
17 They even mentioned a facility in
18 that neighborhood that needed
19 cleaning. And Mr. Warren called and
20 had someone even just survey the
21 area to see exactly what they were
22 talking about. It was already
23 cleaned. But I just want to let
24 you know you guys are on top of

1 your job in that particular

2 community and others in the city,

3 so thank you.

4 MR. WARREN: Thank you,

5 Councilman. And it had nothing to

6 do with that I live in your

7 District.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: You're welcome.

10 Next person is

11 Councilmember Rue Landau.

12 Good to see you too,

13 Keith.

14 Councilmember Rue

15 Landau.

16 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

17 Thank you. Thank you, Council

18 President --

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Thank you for your hard

21 work. Did you hear me earlier?

22 MR. WARREN: I did.

23 Thank you. I was in the corner the

24 whole time.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

2 JOHNSON: Sorry, Rue.

3 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

4 There's a lot of love and thanks
5 going on today.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: No, because listen, we
8 passed these --

9 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: I
10 like this.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: We passed bills and the
13 bills are acute, right. But people
14 also really want us fighting the
15 bread-and-butter issues, Basic
16 Systems Repair, Built to Last,
17 getting trees out the alleyways,
18 making sure that the potholes are
19 filled. Those are the things that
20 are near and dear to individuals
21 and constituent services that will
22 keep you coming back to this
23 illustrious hall in terms of the
24 work that we're doing.

1 And so, we thank you
2 because you're on the front line.
3 And so, Commissioner, your
4 leadership, thank you very much for
5 stepping up and making sure that
6 the Mayor's vision of a clean and
7 green, safer city is on the
8 forefront of what we're doing and
9 the members of Council, for always
10 been supportive.

11 Councilmember Rue
12 Landau, Esquire.

13 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:
14 Thank you very much. First of all,
15 personal aside, not taking off any
16 time on my the clock here.

17 I know you're looking
18 for all the graffiti taggers out
19 there. There's one called Rew,
20 R-e-w, and I would love to meet
21 that person. So as soon as you
22 figure out who it is, make it
23 connect. I hope it's a good one
24 and not a bad one, one that you're

1 going to bring into Mural Arts, but
2 I love Rew. Thank you.

3 Second one, just one
4 more follow-up for you and I can't
5 wait to get to PEA. But last May,
6 Mayor Parker signed an Executive
7 Order establishing the Clean and
8 Green cabinet, and the cabinet was
9 tasked with providing
10 recommendations to Mayor Parker
11 that will help make Philadelphia a
12 cleaner and greener city.

13 Have those
14 recommendations been made? Will
15 they be made available to City
16 Council and the public? And how
17 are those recommendations reflected
18 in Mayor Parker's budget proposal
19 for FY26?

20 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.
21 Thank you, Councilmember. So the
22 definitely, the Clean and Green
23 cabinet did a great job. The
24 report was submitted in December of

1 2024. The report is currently
2 under review by the Administration
3 and our cabinet to look at the
4 recommendations. Many of them or
5 some of them are already
6 highlighted in the budget and
7 referenced to the enforcement
8 strategies, the greening strategies
9 that you heard here today.

10 So while they're still
11 reviewing the total report, a lot
12 of the work is still being done and
13 implemented in the budget. And
14 we'll be happy to share that with
15 you once the full review is
16 complete. And we'll also make that
17 public.

18 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:
19 Wonderful. Thank you. Can I ask
20 questions to PEA now? Is Emily
21 still -- yes. Thank you, Emily,
22 PEA. If we could clone you guys,
23 we would. We just need to get to
24 some more budget money.

1 I know you touched on
2 solar already a little bit, but I
3 want to follow up with the support
4 from PEA, the City's Adams Solar
5 Power Purchase Agreement came
6 online in early 2024 providing
7 municipal buildings with renewable
8 electricity. What is the projected
9 impact of the Adams Solar Power
10 Purchase Agreement on municipal
11 energy costs and carbon emissions?
12 How many buildings have been set up
13 with this and how many are still to
14 go?

15 MS. SCHAPIRA: Thank you
16 so much for that question. So
17 Adams Solar provides about 25% of
18 the City's electricity. It's not
19 on a sort of building-by-building
20 basis. It's a aggregate number,
21 and that's delivered directly to us
22 through PECO.

23 We are in the midst of
24 another procurement for the next

1 chunk. The City's goal is to be at
2 100% renewable electricity by 2030.

3 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

4 Nice.

5 MS. SCHAPIRA: We are
6 close. We've seen a significant
7 reduction in energy usage. So we
8 sort of say though, our old adage
9 is use less energy wherever you
10 can. And when you have to use it,
11 make it as clean and healthy as
12 possible. And so, that's kind of
13 the model.

14 We're excited that the
15 carbon reduction numbers are coming
16 out soon for I think it's the 2022
17 report that the Office of
18 Sustainability is putting out now,
19 and that will show some further
20 reduction. So, yeah, there's a
21 little bit of a lag on the data for
22 them, but they'll release that
23 shortly.

24 And then we're working

1 with them now to procure additional
2 renewable purchases writ large.
3 We're also collaborating now
4 between the City and the School
5 District. Hopefully soon we will
6 see the City taking on some of the
7 procurement for the School
8 District's energy usage, because
9 the City procures in a more
10 sophisticated and more affordable
11 manner. And so, as that is working
12 its way through the contracting
13 process, we expect to be able to
14 support the School District's
15 purchase of renewable electricity
16 as well.

17 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:
18 That is very exciting. Thank
19 you -- yay. Clapping doesn't take
20 off the time.

21 (Applause.)

22 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:
23 President Biden's 2022 Climate law
24 expanded the tax credits which

1 cover the costs of heat pumps,
2 air-conditioners, home insulation
3 and solar panels. What is the
4 possible fallout for PEA or
5 Philadelphia if these tax credits
6 are cut?

7 MS. SCHAPIRA: Sure,
8 they're certainly under fire. We
9 are expecting that the rebates that
10 go through the state are likely to
11 move forward. So there's almost
12 \$300 million in funds that were
13 allocated to Pennsylvania for home
14 energy rebates, both for multi-
15 family and for single family. The
16 state is moving forward with those.

17 We will be able to
18 leverage those with Built to Last
19 through our green bank not to
20 connect too many dots there, but
21 we're expecting those to go
22 through. The investment tax credit
23 for renewable energy is certainly
24 under fire and I don't have any

1 predictions on what Congress or
2 this President will do for any of
3 that. It's a 30% tax credit. So
4 30% of the total value of the
5 project is returned in your taxes.
6 So it would have a huge impact on
7 the market.

8 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

9 One last one.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: We have a hard stop at
12 1:00 so I have to get to the rest
13 of the members who are here.

14 The Chair recognizes
15 Councilwoman Katherine Gilmore
16 Richardson.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

18 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you,
19 Mr. President.

20 I was actually reviewing
21 my emails sitting here, and I just
22 wanted to put on the record for one
23 project that we've been working on
24 with Councilmember Jones' office

1 for the speed cushions at Overbrook
2 High School for spring of 2025 so
3 we're getting there now. The
4 weather's starting to turn. So I
5 just wanted to put that on the
6 record.

7 And then really quickly
8 for PEA I wanted to talk about the
9 commitments that you all have
10 secured from your vendor on the
11 Quadplex and the Guaranteed Energy
12 Savings Project to meet all of the
13 minority business participation
14 goals. I know my team went to the
15 briefing that was held.

16 I know we've spoken
17 ad nauseam about this issue,
18 seeking to ensure that there is
19 real actual, not a passthrough or
20 any other thing going on, minority
21 participation on this project. So
22 could you speak to just for the
23 record and for the public what a
24 real overview of what the project

1 is, and then the actual minority
2 participation in any changes that
3 you have made to address the
4 concerns that we have brought to
5 your attention over the last couple
6 of months? And I know this is
7 important to Council President as
8 well.

9 MS. SCHAPIRA:

10 Absolutely. Thank you so much for
11 that question, Councilmember.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: And also the Black
14 Women's Leadership Council. I
15 think that's who you met with on my
16 behalf, Joann Bell and her team,
17 and thank you for making that time.

18 MS. SCHAPIRA: Of
19 course. And I think we're getting
20 ready to meet with our Black
21 Business Group as well and any
22 other organization that has any
23 interest in talking about these
24 issues more. This is absolutely

1 core to the work that PEA does. We
2 take this incredibly seriously.

3 I think you'll see on
4 all of our projects that our
5 participation numbers far exceed
6 our EOP commitment. I'll give just
7 streetlighting as the example of
8 that. We're at 81% participation
9 at the moment. The commitment on
10 that project was 54%. So we take
11 it incredibly seriously both with
12 the sort of large supplier
13 diversity percentages and
14 contractor diversity percentages
15 but also in creating workforce
16 opportunities, whether those are
17 big or small, to make sure that
18 people have a chance to get into
19 this industry.

20 Specific to the
21 Quadplex, this is a project that is
22 going to come before Council very
23 soon for your approval --

24 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

1 RICHARDSON: I apologize for the
2 interruption because I heard the
3 bell. Could you just break down
4 the participation numbers?

5 MS. SCHAPIRA: Oh, sure.

6 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

7 RICHARDSON: African American,
8 Hispanic, Asian, female, if you
9 could just provide an actual
10 breakdown. And then I apologize.
11 I wanted to get that in.

12 MS. SCHAPIRA: Not at
13 all. So on this project, it's a
14 60.38% commitment. And I will get
15 you the more specific breakdown on
16 this of the percentage of MBEs
17 versus WBEs in that 60%. At the
18 moment I know that it's skewing
19 more towards WBEs, but there is
20 some significant MBE percentages as
21 well. I'll follow up with everyone
22 and share the details on that as
23 well as the contractors that are
24 planned.

1 One thing I'll just note
2 on energy projects is there's a
3 period different from our normal
4 procurement of construction.
5 There's a period of investment
6 grade audit where we're actually
7 refining the scope. So this will
8 be subject to change above the 60%,
9 not below it. But just to note,
10 these are the contractors at the
11 moment with the proposed scope.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: Majority Leader?

14 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

15 RICHARDSON: Yes, I'll wait for the
16 additional information. I know
17 we're slated to have additional
18 conversation. I think we're
19 meeting tomorrow as an example, but
20 I just wanted to get that on the
21 record because, yes, I did hear
22 from Black Women's Leadership
23 Council but I also heard from other
24 individuals regarding this specific

1 project. It wasn't just one
2 person.

3 And so, that was sort of
4 an alarm bell for me to really look
5 into this more deeply ensuring that
6 we have minority participation and
7 real minority participation on this
8 project, particularly based on what
9 we're dealing with in D.C. at this
10 point. We have to be the stopgap
11 in the City of Philadelphia to
12 ensure that the dollars we are
13 expending really go to the
14 communities that reflect the
15 demographics of the city of
16 Philadelphia. Okay. Thank you.

17 Thank you,
18 Mr. President,

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Thank you.

21 Councilmember Brooks,
22 O'Rourke, Lozada. We are wrapping
23 up at 1:00 p.m. for our break.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

1 All right. Thank you so much,
2 Council President.

3 So my question is for
4 PEA, and I have other questions
5 I'll just submit for the record. I
6 mean, I'll just submit and I can
7 get the answers in writing.

8 So in the past, PEA has
9 been excellent at leveraging
10 additional private and federal
11 funding to supplement City funds.
12 In the face of federal rollbacks,
13 what are your current plans or
14 approach and expectations?

15 My second question is
16 we've heard that PEA hasn't yet
17 spent all of its Built to Last
18 funding from last year and also
19 that the ability to do long-term
20 planning is especially important
21 for Built to Last given the amount
22 of coordination and braiding of
23 different programs that it all
24 includes. Can you speak to the

1 importance of stable City funding
2 in your long-term planning and what
3 would happen to the program if you
4 didn't receive City funding this
5 year?

6 And can you also speak
7 to any specific success stories or
8 neighborhood impacts regarding
9 Built to Last? And my last
10 question is, what role do you see
11 for community-based organizations
12 and how they can advance or help
13 with the outreach to ensure
14 residents can take advantage of
15 Built to Last? Did you get all of
16 that?

17 MS. SCHAPIRA: I think I
18 did. Thank you so much for these
19 questions. I know we're short on
20 time so I'll like give you some
21 broad answers, and then I will
22 follow up with very specific
23 details.

24 So I'll talk to the CBO

1 question first. We actually have a
2 pilot running right now that is
3 going fantastically. It's funded
4 by Fannie Mae in Kensington in
5 partnership with New Kensington
6 CDC, and we adjusted the model a
7 little bit. So right now we sort
8 of serve the entire city no matter
9 where you live. Doesn't have to be
10 a certain census tract or a certain
11 neighborhood. But we decided,
12 let's see what it looks like if we
13 had a CBO really leading that
14 outreach and that relationship with
15 the community and it's been
16 wonderful.

17 We have 60 homes that
18 will get full Built to Last
19 treatment with all of the other
20 programs involved. NKCDC does the
21 intake and does the communication
22 with the homeowners to make sure
23 it's really a trusted partnership.
24 So that's going really well. We'll

1 continue to fundraise around that
2 model with other CBOs as well and
3 NKCDC. And we'll have a full
4 report from that Fannie Mae pilot
5 hopefully in the next few months.

6 The second thing I just
7 want to address is sort of that
8 stable City funding and what
9 happens if all of the things that
10 the Trump administration is kind of
11 promising come true. So I'll just
12 say we had raised what we expected
13 to be about \$20 million in funding
14 for Built to Last from federal
15 grants for next year. Those are
16 terminated. So there were \$4
17 million as part of that Habitat and
18 Philly Thrive collaboration in
19 Southwest and then another project
20 that might still have a very slim
21 chance of getting approved later if
22 things at the EPA calm down, but
23 we're not expecting it anymore.
24 And that was about \$12 to \$16

1 million for Built to Last.

2 And so, we had really
3 put a lot of resources over the
4 last few years into applying for
5 federal grants through the
6 Inflation Reduction Act and BIL.
7 And so, a lot of that is not
8 available anymore. We are not
9 slowing down though at all.

10 We're approaching
11 Medicare and Medicaid to find ways
12 for them to supplement the cost of
13 interventions for home repairs
14 because of the health impacts. We
15 are working with a variety of
16 philanthropic organizations.
17 Typically, that's not going to
18 replace big federal funding, but
19 we'll do as much as we can there.

20 We've made asks of the
21 state. We are making an ask here.
22 And I'll just say too that all of
23 the funding that was allocated to
24 Built to Last from last year's

1 budget and from Whole Home Repair
2 is encumbered, so it's committed to
3 specific homes. So that 650-ish
4 home number, that includes all of
5 that funding. So we know each
6 individual home that that's going
7 to go to as of right now. It just
8 takes a few months for that
9 construction to get done because
10 you're coordinating across multiple
11 programs. So while it's not
12 actually physically spent, it's
13 accounted for.

14 And then we're asking
15 for additional funding in this
16 budget this year to be able to take
17 more homes off the waitlist. We
18 don't take them off the waitlist
19 until we know we can fund their
20 repairs, because we don't want to
21 make expectations of folks that we
22 can't fulfill. And then that \$5
23 million incredibly important, but
24 remember this is a billion dollar

1 problem that we have here in
2 Philadelphia.

3 And so, if we're able to
4 get additional funding from the
5 Mayor's H.O.M.E. Initiative, we
6 hope that we will and we could
7 easily utilize 10 million a year
8 for the next four years additional
9 to this program. So it's really
10 just a question of funding for us.
11 If there's enough money out there,
12 we can take more people off the
13 waitlist.

14 This isn't an easy
15 program. It takes time. It takes
16 coordination to do it with dignity
17 and respect for the folks in
18 Philly. It takes effort. And so,
19 we're okay with the fact that it
20 takes six or seven months to
21 complete a project at a home
22 because then people have a stable
23 home to live in. So that's really
24 our goal, and we hope that this is

1 sort of demonstrating to the
2 Administration and to everybody
3 that this is really what
4 neighborhood stabilization looks
5 like, and it's the number one thing
6 we hear from communities is home
7 repair, home repair, home repair.

8 And while Basic Systems
9 Repair is wonderful and we are
10 thrilled to have their
11 collaboration and partnership. It
12 sort of takes one slice of the pie
13 and doesn't sort of get to that
14 full stabilization of the home.

15 (Applause.)

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

17 Thank you.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: Thank you.

20 The Chair recognizes
21 Councilmember -- okay. All right.
22 Councilmember Dr. Phillips. And
23 then we're wrapping up with
24 Councilmember Landau. It's a wrap.

1 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

2 Just really quickly, I just noticed
3 the PHDC program Basic Systems Home
4 Repair and Built to Last, my only
5 concern is that I can see that if
6 you all are not strongly in unison,
7 there being programs falling under
8 the -- housing repairs, excuse me,
9 housing repairs falling under the
10 cracks, and I really think that
11 needs to be fixed now.

12 I know you're doing this
13 one system, but it still involves
14 intense communication. And that
15 actually might be one of the
16 reasons why we're not getting
17 repairs done efficiently and
18 effectively. And to me, that has
19 to be solved first before we
20 continue to solve or fund a program
21 that's not working as strongly as
22 it should.

23 MS. SCHAPIRA: We
24 totally agree. And we'll follow up

1 with you on what that collaboration
2 looks like. We've grown a lot with
3 PHDC over the last two years with
4 Whole Home Repair. So I'm excited
5 to share more detail on that.

6 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

7 Thank you.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: You're welcome. Thank
10 you.

11 And wrapping us up will
12 be Councilmember Rue Landau.

13 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

14 Thank you. I didn't know I was
15 getting a third one. I appreciate
16 this. Two quick questions for PEA.
17 One is that --

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: Council will be at ease.
20 Excuse me?

21 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

22 (Inaudible).

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: His button isn't pushed,

1 Harrity.

2 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

3 (Inaudible).

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: It's on now, sir. We'll
6 make sure you get --

7 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: I
8 can wait. I'm just --

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes --
11 excuse me. Chair recognizes
12 Councilmember Rue Landau.

13 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: We
14 know that State Rep Fiedler has
15 done this great project with Solar
16 for Schools. And you know that I'm
17 very interested in expanding solar
18 to municipal buildings. We've
19 already seen great results from
20 Solar for Schools. Is there an
21 opportunity to identify more
22 municipally-controlled assets to
23 replicate and expand this program
24 so we can have more important

1 renewable energy sources and
2 decrease our carbon footprint? And
3 also has the City explored
4 including renewable energy in its
5 plans for lease properties as well?

6 And I want to add my
7 last one so I don't have to ask
8 again. I just want you to
9 concisely as possible outline the
10 things PEA won't be able to do if
11 you do not receive your full
12 funding? Thank you very much.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: You're welcome.

15 MS. SCHAPIRA: I'll be
16 quick on this. So rooftop solar
17 for city buildings is on the
18 agenda. It's one of 10 city
19 projects that we're working on
20 procurement for. We know that
21 there are roof quality issues with
22 certain city buildings as well as
23 electrical system upgrades that
24 will need to happen. So it's got

1 to happen really in collaboration
2 with the Department of Public
3 Property and each different
4 department.

5 As part of the Quadplex
6 project, we've got the four main
7 city office buildings in Center
8 City but also eight health centers
9 and three homeless services
10 buildings. And this was really an
11 attempt to work across departments
12 to do exactly these type of things.

13 So for each health
14 center, we'll be evaluating solar
15 and storage for resilience so that
16 if there is a power outage or some
17 sort of other emergency, that those
18 health centers are still able to
19 remain active.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. SCHAPIRA: So I'll
22 stop there on rooftop solar and
23 happy to follow up there. We only
24 have one lease that involves solar,

1 which is 5th and Spring Garden
2 where the city's archives is. We
3 have solar on the roof there. And
4 that's something we can definitely
5 continue to look at. It's not
6 currently in the leasing plan.

7 I really do want to
8 address what PEA won't be able to
9 do if we don't have this budget.
10 We've been able to weather some
11 budget cuts over the years without
12 doing any layoffs and still
13 continue to grow programs where
14 there is funding to grow them, and
15 that's gone well and we've been
16 pretty conservative. And because
17 we have this sort of broad, diverse
18 mix of funding streams, that's let
19 us cover things that we haven't
20 been expecting.

21 Now, with some of these
22 federal cuts it puts about \$1
23 million of personnel costs at risk
24 and an additional \$3 million of

1 program funding at risk. That's
2 just existing funding. So far
3 they're reimbursing us still and
4 the system's still open and we're
5 allegedly hearing that it's okay,
6 but of course that put some strain
7 on the system.

8 So all of that just to
9 say we would have to stop or slow
10 down programming and that's really
11 how we've designed the
12 organization, is to not get out
13 ahead of our (inaudible) and make
14 sure that we are funded to do the
15 things that we're doing. So Built
16 to Last if it has its own
17 designated funding, we will have to
18 use more of that funding to cover
19 soft costs, to cover staff costs.

20 We are currently in a
21 holding pattern with Solar for All
22 which is \$150 million of federal
23 funding that has been allocated to
24 Pennsylvania. 70 million of it

1 would come to Southeastern
2 Pennsylvania through our green
3 bank. The state legislature has
4 been holding up our ability to
5 spend that money even though the
6 Trump administration has authorized
7 it. And that's all for low-income
8 rooftop solar of all the things.

9 So there are things like
10 that where we've just continued to
11 kind of fight for every possible
12 opportunity out there. We've been
13 in Harrisburg an awful lot this
14 year trying to get that moving.
15 It's not looking particularly
16 promising right now, but we'll see
17 what happens in the budget process.

18 So we're turning over
19 every rock and shaking out the
20 couch cushions to try to find any
21 funding we can for this.
22 Operational funding is the hardest
23 part. We added a compliance team
24 this year and a full finance team,

1 so that has really been necessary
2 to be able to hold this kind of
3 large federal funding. But there
4 are really not grants for those
5 sorts of things. So these are the
6 types of things that become at
7 risk.

8 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

9 Thank you so much.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

12 And last but not least,
13 Mr. Harrity.

14 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

15 Thank you, Council President. I'm
16 sorry it was a confusion. My
17 button keeps blinking on and off
18 over here.

19 Just real quick because
20 you just hit on it with the funding
21 gaps, the 5 million request for the
22 Built to Last home improvement
23 program proposed to take 200 homes
24 off the two-year waitlist, with the

1 additional funding how soon can
2 these homeowners expect to be moved
3 off the waitlist? And will this
4 reduce the current overall two-year
5 time frame?

6 MS. SCHAPIRA:

7 Absolutely. So we are finishing
8 intake now for a few of the homes
9 that are already funded, but if we
10 had certainty of funding, we would
11 work immediately to start intake on
12 those additional 200 homes. It
13 would also allow us to do a little
14 bit of triage to the waitlist. So
15 folks who are already getting a
16 BSRP service, we can tie that more
17 closely to Councilman Phillips'
18 point and sort of do the work as
19 close together as humanly possible.

20 But, yeah, it would
21 start as soon as the budget is done
22 and we would get those people
23 through the intake process. We
24 would share that data across all of

1 the programs and then begin the
2 process to scope the sort of Whole
3 Home set of repairs.

4 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

5 Okay. Thank you.

6 Thank you, Council
7 President.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Thank you very much. We
10 want to thank all of you for your
11 testimony and continue to keep up
12 the good work.

13 At this time, we will
14 stand in recess until 2:00 p.m.

15 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank
16 you, Council President.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: You're welcome.

19 (Lunch recess.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Good afternoon, everyone.
22 This is the continuance of our
23 budget hearing.

24 Ms. Loughhead, will you

1 please call the next individuals to
2 testify.

3 THE CLERK: We have
4 Kristin Del Rossi, Streets
5 Commissioner; Randy Hayman, Water
6 Commissioner. And finally we have
7 Atif Saeed, Chief Executive Officer
8 of Philadelphia International and
9 Philadelphia Northeast Airports.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
11 JOHNSON: We're going to ask for
12 all three of you to come on up and
13 give your testimony. And then we
14 will open up for members of City
15 Council to ask questions of all
16 three of you for Round 1 and Round
17 2.

18 (Witnesses approached
19 Witness table.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
21 JOHNSON: Commissioner Del Rossi,
22 if it's all right, could you please
23 state your name for the record and
24 begin your testimony. And next we

1 will have testimony from
2 Philadelphia International Airport
3 and the Water Department, in that
4 order.

5 COMMISSIONER DEL ROSSI:

6 Good afternoon, Council President
7 and members of City Council. I am
8 Kristin Del Rossi, Streets
9 Commissioner. Joining me today are
10 Richard Montanez, First Deputy
11 Commissioner for Transportation;
12 Christopher Newman, Deputy
13 Commissioner for Administration;
14 Michelle Brisbon, Chief of Staff.
15 I am pleased to provide testimony
16 on the Department of Streets Fiscal
17 Year 2026, operating budget.

18 I'd like to start by
19 recognizing our staff. It has been
20 a busy year full of triumphs and
21 incredibly hard work. I am so
22 proud of the work the employees of
23 the department have performed and
24 their accomplishments and would

1 like to use this opportunity to
2 expand on their work and
3 achievements as part of this
4 testimony.

5 My department's vision
6 is to make roadways across
7 Philadelphia safe for everyone no
8 matter how they choose to travel.
9 Traffic safety is at the core of
10 every service and project we
11 deliver. To achieve this, we plan,
12 design, build, maintain, repair and
13 manage the operation of our City's
14 transportation network.

15 The FY26 Budget
16 Transportation Fund request for the
17 Streets Department is 79.6 million
18 as reflected in the budget
19 ordinance for my department. This
20 budget focuses on the internal
21 resources used to make our
22 transportation network safe,
23 equitable and provide economic
24 opportunity for all.

1 Our request includes the
2 addition of a second line striping
3 crew to be incorporated as part of
4 our overall staffing, including 832
5 full-time and 846 part-time
6 budgeted positions. Roadway repair
7 and maintenance plays a pivotal
8 role in our transportation network,
9 providing safe and efficient egress
10 for all modes of travel. The new
11 line striping crew creates
12 additional capacity to address
13 these maintenance and safety needs
14 across the city.

15 Our part-time employees
16 consist of our incredible school
17 crossing guards, each of which we
18 strive to recruit from within one
19 mile of their assigned
20 intersections. Ensuring the safety
21 of our children walking to and from
22 school is an essential function and
23 our guards have performed this work
24 with dedication and commitment.

1 Thanks to this
2 commitment and my staff's hard work
3 and dedication, we have assigned
4 over 800 guards this year, by far
5 the largest number since Streets
6 assumed responsibility for this
7 program. Our full-time positions
8 cover a wide range of titles and
9 functions. The volume, scope and
10 variety of work performed by our
11 staff is too expansive to share
12 during this brief testimony, but
13 the work speaks for itself.

14 We repair potholes, over
15 50,000 just this past year alone.
16 Every pothole reported to 311 gets
17 addressed in an average of three
18 days. We clear snow, treat icy
19 roadways. This past year we
20 coordinated with our partners to
21 mobilize hundreds of staff and
22 vehicles for five winter weather
23 events, each a monumental
24 undertaking, working around the

1 clock and driving thousands of
2 miles.

3 I am also proud to
4 report Streets has resurfaced more
5 than 50 miles to date this fiscal
6 year and we expect to reach over
7 100 miles by the end of June. If
8 accomplished, this will represent
9 the first time the City has
10 resurfaced 100 miles since 2004, a
11 more than 20-year timespan. This
12 expected achievement is the result
13 of critical program investment made
14 by the Parker Administration, this
15 City Council and the incredible
16 work of our roadway resurfacing
17 crews.

18 Our traffic calming
19 program is another great example.
20 Streets staff from across the
21 department have worked together to
22 address speeding on 738 blocks, 100
23 miles of roadway around schools and
24 in communities across Philadelphia.

1 These requests are reviewed and
2 designed by city engineers, managed
3 or installed by city paving crews,
4 with pavement markings by city line
5 striping crews and signs fabricated
6 and installed by our traffic sign
7 shop.

8 Another team with an
9 essential role in improving the
10 quality of life for all
11 neighborhoods throughout the city
12 is our streetlighting division.
13 Over the past year and a half, they
14 have been diligently working along
15 with the Philadelphia Energy
16 Authority on the Philly Streetlight
17 Improvement Project. This is a
18 transformational upgrade to 130,000
19 streetlight fixtures.

20 The new network LED
21 lights use 50% less electricity and
22 cut the City's emissions by 10%,
23 all while illuminating roadways and
24 improving safety whether you walk,

1 bike, drive or take transit.
2 Behind all of this and every
3 freshly-paved street, newly-
4 rehabbed bridge, trail extension,
5 bike lane, every transportation
6 capital project are teams of
7 Streets employees making them
8 happen.

9 We all care deeply for
10 this city, and our role in
11 providing access to safe roadway
12 infrastructure leads to endless
13 opportunities for all
14 Philadelphians. We therefore
15 request your favorable
16 consideration of this budget
17 request and we thank you for the
18 opportunity to testify before you
19 today. The deputy staff and I are
20 happy to answer any questions.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
22 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

23 Mr. Atif Saeed.

24 MR. SAEED:, Good

1 afternoon, Council President and
2 members of City Council. I am Atif
3 Saeed, Chief Executive Officer of
4 Philadelphia International and
5 Northeast Philadelphia Airports.
6 It's an honor to be here today to
7 present testimony on the Department
8 of Aviation's Fiscal Year 2026
9 operating budget.

10 Joining me today are
11 Tracy Borda, Chief Financial
12 Officer and Delicsha Wilds, Chief
13 Administrative Officer, as well as
14 many other members of the
15 Department of Aviation team. The
16 City of Philadelphia's Department
17 of Aviation, which owns and
18 operates Philadelphia International
19 Airport and Northeast Philadelphia
20 Airport, is an enterprise fund
21 operating efficiently with no local
22 tax dollars independent of the
23 City's General Fund. Both airports
24 are self-sustaining, earning

1 revenues through operations on
2 site.

3 As many of you were in
4 attendance to witness at our first
5 State of the Airport event last
6 fall, this past year we released an
7 updated combined economic impact of
8 our airport system. Our airports
9 are incredible economic drivers to
10 the regional economy. The new
11 study from 2023 estimated that our
12 airports generated approximately
13 18.7 billion annually for the
14 economy, support more than 102,000
15 regional jobs and contribute 119
16 million annually in tax revenues to
17 the City's General Fund.

18 This past year we saw
19 service commence to three new
20 European destinations, courtesy of
21 American Airlines, to Nice, Naples
22 and Copenhagen. This upcoming year
23 we anticipate additional European
24 service to Milan and Edinburgh.

1 While PHL remains a TransAtlantic
2 gateway, we also saw new growth in
3 Caribbean and Central American
4 markets with new service this year
5 to Costa Rica, Barbados and Mexico
6 City while continuing to work to
7 connect Philadelphia to key markets
8 in South America, Africa and Asia.

9 Looking ahead, our team
10 is busy preparing for 2026. Our
11 capital development team is in the
12 middle of completing 500 million in
13 physical infrastructure investment
14 spread over 50 different projects
15 to enhance the overall customer
16 experience at our airports.

17 One of those key
18 investments is the restroom
19 renovation program. We opened
20 three new restroom sets last month
21 and we'll open five more through
22 July. We're also focused on
23 creating vibrant local experiences
24 within our airport. We continue to

1 emphasize local participation in
2 PHL food and shops program and
3 bring the best of Philadelphia
4 food, culture and retail experience
5 to travelers.

6 We now have 19 local
7 favorites and two more are opening
8 this year, Federal Donuts and
9 Oyster House. In addition to
10 physical infrastructure
11 investments, PHL is investing in
12 our people. Last year we launched
13 PHL Works, which is an airport-wide
14 initiative designed to elevate
15 customer service and improve guest
16 experience through employee
17 training and other tools.

18 The goal of this program
19 is to establish an airport-wide
20 universal customer service culture
21 that provides our guests an
22 exceptional experience at every
23 touchpoint from curb to cloud. We
24 are also working hard to attract

1 new employees and upskill our
2 talent within the department
3 through PHL Bridge Program. This
4 workforce development program has
5 initiatives aimed at increasing
6 talent and retention.

7 To support this
8 important work, our Fiscal Year '26
9 budget requests \$564,062,025, an
10 increase of approximately
11 \$1,879,000 or point .03% over
12 Fiscal Year '25 estimated
13 obligation levels. The budget
14 reflects our commitment as we focus
15 on the celebrations planned for
16 2026 with an emphasis on
17 beautifying terminals, updating our
18 facilities and enhancing our guest
19 experience along with furthering
20 our air service development
21 efforts, sustainability initiatives
22 and continued effort to develop a
23 premier workforce that reflects the
24 unique nature of our city.

1 Thank you for the
2 opportunity to give our testimony
3 here today. We are happy to take
4 any questions that you may have at
5 this time. Thank you.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: Thank you.

8 How are you doing today?

9 COMMISSIONER HAYMAN:

10 Doing well. Thank you.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Just state your name for
13 the record and please begin your
14 testimony, sir.

15 MR. HAYMAN: Randy
16 Hayman, Water Commissioner. Good
17 afternoon, President Johnson and
18 members of the City Council.
19 Again, I'm Randy Hayman, Water
20 Commissioner. Joining me today are
21 Lawrence Yangalay, Deputy Water
22 Commissioner of Finance; and
23 Benjamin Jewell, First Deputy Water
24 Commissioner as well as other

1 members of PWD leadership team.

2 I am pleased to provide

3 testimony on Philadelphia Water's

4 Fiscal Year 2026 operating budget.

5 As the Commissioner, I have the

6 honor of working beside 2000 of the

7 best water professionals in the

8 nation who protect the health and

9 safety of our community. They do

10 this by ensuring that they deliver

11 safe and high quality and reliable

12 drinking water and the treatment of

13 wastewater and stormwater to

14 protect our rivers and streams.

15 As you are aware, the

16 Water Fund is an enterprise fund of

17 the city. It is comprised of

18 revenues generated through charges

19 to our customers. The Water

20 Department's operating budget is a

21 component of the Water Fund, and

22 it's this operating budget for

23 which this testimony is being

24 provided.

1 The proposed Fiscal Year
2 2026 Water Fund budget totals
3 \$607.5 million, an increase of \$71
4 million or 13% over Fiscal Year
5 2025 estimated obligation levels.
6 This increase is primarily due to a
7 class 100 increase personnel to
8 provide for, among others, labor
9 rate increase, movement of staff
10 from capital to operating and
11 hiring critical positions for
12 regulatory compliance. Class 200,
13 purchase of services, for permit
14 compliance efforts to meet new
15 federal-led employment requirements
16 and critical maintenance. Class
17 400, to replace out-of-date
18 vehicles flagged for removal from
19 service.

20 The Water Department's
21 operating budget supports our three
22 core services: Treatment and
23 delivery of top-quality drinking
24 water, collection and treatment of

1 wastewater for the health and
2 safety of our population and the
3 environment, and management of
4 stormwater to reduce pollution.

5 Proper maintenance of
6 our massive system of
7 infrastructure is critical. Our
8 system includes three drinking
9 water treatment plants, three water
10 pollution control plants, dozens of
11 pumping stations, over 3200 miles
12 of water mains, about 3700 miles of
13 sewers and over 25,000 fire
14 hydrants.

15 The Water Department
16 must comply with existing laws and
17 regulations set by state and
18 federal government, and we
19 anticipate additional regulations.
20 Furthermore, future challenges such
21 as climate change and sea level
22 rise complicate our planning.

23 The department embraces
24 integrated planning as a means of

1 prioritizing limited funds for the
2 most beneficial and cost-effective
3 projects. This allows reasonable
4 and affordable schedules for making
5 progress towards long-term goals
6 consistent with the department's
7 mission and vision.

8 To help keep debt
9 service manageable, the department
10 has been actively pursuing
11 available state and federal
12 infrastructure, low interest loan
13 funding. And I'm glad to report
14 that the department has applied for
15 \$951 million in state and federal
16 funding, and thus far has been
17 approved for \$941 million in low
18 interest loans and \$4.8 million in
19 forgivable loans.

20 The department has also
21 applied for \$223 million in grant
22 applications and has been awarded
23 \$107 million thus far.
24 Furthermore, the department is

1 preparing to submit additional
2 applications for state and federal
3 funding in the next few months.

4 The department remains firmly
5 committed to water affordability
6 and access.

7 The City has been
8 successful in increasing enrollment
9 in the Tiered Assistance Program,
10 TAP, with roughly 64,000 customers
11 now enrolled in TAP. In addition,
12 more than 16,000 customers are
13 enrolled in the Senior Citizen
14 Discount. In 2022, new policies
15 were introduced that greatly reduce
16 the number of customers eligible
17 for payment-related water shut-
18 offs. And we are continuing to
19 work collaboratively with the
20 Revenue Department and the Managing
21 Director's Office to fine-tune
22 those policies and increase
23 outreach to customers facing shut-
24 off or who have growing debt.

1 In closing, I'd like to
2 thank Philadelphia Water's
3 workforce whose efforts 24 hours a
4 day seven days a week keep the
5 water running, the sewers clear and
6 our wastewater clean. Our
7 workforce is dedicated to improving
8 quality of life for everyone in
9 Philadelphia region. PWD is
10 consistently working hard to
11 operate in a manner that is cost-
12 efficient, operationally effective
13 and thoughtful environmental and
14 economic impacts in the present and
15 future.

16 This budget will allow
17 us to continue to meet our
18 essential charge of providing the
19 water, wastewater and stormwater
20 services that are the cornerstone
21 of public health in Philadelphia.
22 This concludes my testimony. Thank
23 you again for your time today. I'm
24 happy to answer any questions.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

2 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

3 Just a couple brief questions

4 before I turn it over to my

5 colleagues.

6 So, Mr. Atif, just in

7 regards to our preparation for 2026

8 I want to start off by just

9 thanking you and your team and give

10 a shout-out to Shane. I saw Shane

11 over there, just always being

12 responsive any time that we reach

13 out to your office. Any time I'm a

14 civilian going through the airport,

15 because I travel on a regular

16 basis, so my experience has always

17 been great. And I'll pick up the

18 phone and call y'all and talk about

19 my great experience. And thank you

20 for having vegan options in the

21 Philadelphia International Airport.

22 It means a lot.

23 As we prepare for the

24 events of 2026, the Administration

1 has noted a \$500 million
2 investment. Could you break down
3 what those investments are?

4 MR. SAEED: Yeah,
5 absolutely. I'll start and I'm
6 actually going to request that Api
7 Apullingam, our Chief Development
8 Officer, comes for a little bit
9 more detail to this. So as you
10 know, Council President, we have an
11 Enterprise Fund, and our funding
12 primarily comes from the airlines
13 in terms of rates and charges. So
14 we entered into an agreement with
15 the airlines a couple of years ago.
16 And part of that agreement expanded
17 their capital commitment to the
18 airport with a collective amount of
19 \$1.8 billion.

20 When I came into the
21 office two and a half years ago,
22 our team looked through the
23 projects that we had and focused
24 certain amount of effort into

1 projects that were going to be
2 customer-facing as part of that
3 investment portfolio and prioritize
4 them to ensure that 2026 is going
5 to be a good year as people come
6 and travel through the airport.
7 These are inclusive of airfield,
8 terminal and land site projects,
9 from landscaping and signage to
10 in-terminal enhancements of digital
11 displays and other facility
12 improvements, including gate-hold
13 areas as well as taxiways leading
14 up to the airport gates that
15 airlines use.

16 So it's a subset of the
17 overall capital program with a
18 clear focus on delivering these
19 projects by the end of this year.
20 Some of them might trickle into
21 early part of next year, but we are
22 certainly aiming to have them all
23 concluded before we see the traffic
24 coming through. With that, I'll

1 ask Api to kind of provide a little
2 bit more detail into these projects
3 and where they're at.

4 (Witness approached
5 Witness table.)

6 MS. APPULINGAM: Good
7 afternoon. My name is Api
8 Appulingam. I'm the Chief
9 Development Officer for the
10 Department of Aviation. And as
11 Atif said, we're excited to have
12 embarked on this \$500 million
13 capital program to prepare us for
14 2026 and we have projects focused
15 on land-side terminals and
16 airfields.

17 On the terminal side,
18 something we talk about and Atif
19 mentioned in his opening remarks,
20 we have our restroom renovation
21 program. We have about \$20 million
22 dedicated to renovating about eight
23 restrooms. That also includes a
24 custodial operation center that we

1 opened last fall to make sure that
2 the staff that is cleaning and
3 maintaining our restrooms have a
4 facility as well.

5 We modernized the
6 platforms for SEPTA, the airport
7 line, last fall. We completed that
8 project. That was about a \$15
9 million investment. So we
10 completed that. Right now we are
11 doing something called a terminal
12 refresh where we're going through
13 our seven terminals and making sure
14 the painting, the lighting, the
15 seating, the carpeting, the floors,
16 walls, anything and everything a
17 passenger sees and touches has been
18 upgraded or modernized.

19 So right now there's a
20 lot of construction activity
21 happening in the terminals. You'll
22 see a lot of construction
23 barricades and also a lot of work
24 happening overnight hours when

1 there's less flights and less
2 people in our terminals.

3 On the airfield, we're
4 rehabbing our main runway, Runway 9
5 Right to 7 Left. So that's also a
6 nighttime construction that should
7 be completed this summer. And
8 there's about 50 projects as Atif
9 mentioned. I'm happy to get into
10 the details. But just generally,
11 we're addressing as much as
12 possible for 2026.

13 And one other thing I
14 will mention as well with the
15 restrooms that we are not
16 reconstructing prior to 2026, we
17 are refreshing those restrooms. So
18 that means going in there replacing
19 broken fixtures, painting, creating
20 lighting. So those will be all
21 done by this fall as well.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: Okay. And --

24 MR. SAEED: And,

1 Mr. President, I'm sorry. If I
2 may, just want to -- you might
3 already be aware that on the 14th
4 there is actually a hearing
5 specifically on 2026 preparation I
6 have been asked to participate in
7 and we will have an extensive
8 conversation and briefing on all
9 aspects, including capital program
10 for 2026.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
12 JOHNSON: Good. So I'll save my
13 questions for that hearing. Just
14 part of it, we'd like to get an
15 update on how we're making sure
16 that the 500 million is also equity
17 invested for businesses, small
18 businesses, to participate and the
19 projects are taking place as we
20 prepare for 2026? So you don't
21 have to answer that now. But at
22 that hearing, we'll have an
23 opportunity to do a deeper dive.

24 MR. SAEED: We will get

1 you that detail.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Okay. I want to wrap up
4 for my members. But also, I see
5 Michael Carroll over there. I know
6 you work very closely with the
7 Streets Department as well. Just
8 want to thank you and your team for
9 responding to Council's advocacy
10 around the restoration of the \$5
11 million for Vision Zero.

12 Also, that goes
13 toward -- we see the funding and
14 then the new staff that's requested
15 will go toward making sure we're
16 more pedestrian- and bicycle-
17 friendly city. So I just want to
18 acknowledge that.

19 I want to also follow up
20 on Councilmember Dr. Anthony
21 Phillips, he introduced legislation
22 to have speed cushions around
23 schools in the city of
24 Philadelphia. Can we get an update

1 on how much progress have been made
2 since he introduced that piece of
3 legislation?

4 COMMISSIONER DEL ROSSI:
5 We have approximately 108 installed
6 around schools and we have 185 that
7 are in the queue right now for
8 design of the speed cushions around
9 those schools.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: Okay. All right. Thank
12 you very much.

13 And then just last,
14 Mr. Randy Hayman, Commissioner,
15 just give us a brief idea. We know
16 that every winter when it gets cold
17 there's always a water main break
18 somewhere in some Councilmanic
19 District that we have to address.
20 Once we had a water main break, it
21 has significant impact on the
22 residents that live in that area as
23 well as the businesses that live in
24 that area.

1 Just give us a real
2 brief overview of what your team is
3 doing to be on the front end of
4 replacing the pipes so we don't
5 have water main breaks during the
6 winter months.

7 COMMISSIONER HAYMAN: I
8 appreciate the question. To combat
9 the consequences of an aging
10 system, and it must be understood
11 we have a very old system here, the
12 average pipe is probably about 75
13 close to 80 years old. But we have
14 a plan and we're proactive. And to
15 combat the consequence of aging
16 buried infrastructure, we
17 substantially increased the number
18 of water mains and sewers targeted
19 for replacement or renewal each
20 year.

21 Water main replacement
22 over the last 29 years has averaged
23 19 miles per year. We are ramping
24 that number up with the goal of

1 replacing 32 miles per year, 1.5%
2 of the distribution system per year
3 in Fiscal Year 2025 and beyond at a
4 cost of \$5.25 million per mile.

5 On the sewer side, we're
6 having sewer replacement over the
7 nine years has averaged 7.8 miles
8 per year. PWG is ramping it up in
9 sewer replacement rate to 14 miles
10 of sewer reconstruction in Fiscal
11 Year 2025 and increasing that
12 number by 1 mile per year until it
13 reaches 20 miles per year at a cost
14 of \$9 million per mile.

15 And so, we're doing the
16 best we can to, one, analyze where
17 the problems may exist. Then
18 number two, to be proactive in
19 having a set gate at which we're
20 doing repairs and replacement.
21 It's an ongoing process and is one
22 that is very costly, as I
23 mentioned, per dollars per mile.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 JOHNSON: All right. I also want
2 to acknowledge Steven Lorenz for
3 his work and the things that he's
4 doing in terms of the Streets
5 Department as well.

6 (Applause.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: And I got one more. I
9 want to give y'all, y'all props
10 while you're here.

11 At this time, I am going
12 to take a moment and acknowledge
13 Councilmember -- oh, and this is
14 right on time too. Jim Harrity,
15 who's the Chair of Labor, who's
16 also a member Local 57 says there's
17 a definition as to what is a
18 pothole.

19 And so, I'm going to let
20 him lead off this round because
21 there's a question regarding is the
22 Water Department talking to the
23 Streets Department when developers
24 are digging up our streets and

1 leaving these official potholes.

2 And I'm going to let Member Harrity
3 lead this discussion.

4 And then next we will
5 have Dr. Phillips, Jamie Gauthier
6 and Majority Leader Katherine
7 Gilmore Richardson.

8 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: So
9 I thank you, Council President.

10 Thank you all for being
11 here today. I know your jobs are
12 not easy. It takes a lot of effort
13 and a lot of work and a lot of
14 different people to make things
15 with these numbers come to
16 fruition. So with that, I'm going
17 to ask some questions and I'm going
18 to ask them all. That way you guys
19 can give them to me just for a sake
20 of time.

21 So for Water, some of
22 the contractors have complained
23 that their work has been delayed
24 because of backlogs in water

1 sampling testing that is required
2 to complete projects. Are there
3 any plans to streamline this
4 process? And is there a staffing
5 issue or a procedural issue?

6 And then for Aviation,
7 you referred in your testimony to
8 the economic impact study which
9 stated PHL and PNE combined to
10 generate 18.7 billion in regional
11 economic impact. Are you able to
12 provide a little more context on
13 those numbers and can you share the
14 amount of tax revenue the City
15 receives as a result of the
16 operations?

17 COMMISSIONER HAYMAN: I
18 appreciate the question. Thank
19 you. As far as delays, we have
20 many different parts of the puzzle
21 that have to come together. One,
22 there is the testing. Number two,
23 there is the actual review of
24 what's happening at the site that

1 has to take place. And then number
2 three, there is the procedures that
3 are properly followed. And so, we
4 are working with the contractors to
5 evaluate how we can improve and
6 we're looking at what improvements
7 that we can do in the testing
8 protocol. And we've announced that
9 to them, some things we can do to
10 streamline it and we're more than
11 happy to do that.

12 We're also looking at
13 the possibility of going out to the
14 field and doing a field test to see
15 what are some of the problems that
16 that may exist. And we're also
17 working with them to develop not
18 only new protocols possibly for us
19 within the organization, but to
20 work with them as far as making
21 sure following proper protocols at
22 the site as far as testing
23 protocols are going. And so, we're
24 making progress I believe, but it

1 is a three-piece puzzle that is
2 going to take time for us to bring
3 it all together.

4 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

5 Okay. Thank you.

6 MR. SAEED:

7 Councilmember, thank you for that
8 question. It frequently is asked
9 at the airport as to how it
10 contributes to the local economy.
11 And the reality of the matter is
12 that we facilitate commerce within
13 our four walls that makes
14 businesses successful, then
15 contribute to local economies. So
16 we don't as an enterprise fund have
17 a direct contribution financial to
18 the city, but through the
19 activities that we perform we do
20 have businesses that the City
21 collects --

22 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

23 That's what I'm getting at. Do you
24 have a number of how much those

1 businesses inside the airport

2 generate in tax dollars? I know

3 you guys are --

4 MR. SAEED: I'm going to

5 ask Tracy Borda to come up here.

6 This work gets done under our shop.

7 But to start with, there's about

8 \$400 million of economic impact

9 overall to the region. Very

10 specifically with Philadelphia, it

11 is about \$119 million. And I'm

12 going to ask Tracy to come and

13 speak to you, the breakdown. And

14 she'll also talk to you about a

15 little bit about how the impact

16 study is done with different parts

17 of the study covering different

18 aspects of the impact.

19 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

20 Thank you. And I appreciate the

21 fact that you guys have so many

22 small businesses in there

23 operating, mom-and-pop shops, that

24 make up our Philadelphia, what it

1 is, something special because of
2 these hard-working people. So
3 thank you.

4 (Witness approached
5 Witness table.)

6 MS. BORDA: Good
7 afternoon. Tracy Borda. I'm the
8 Airport's Chief Financial Officer
9 for the Department of Aviation.
10 Thank you for -- I'll bring this a
11 little closer. Thank you for your
12 question. Yes, we had just
13 conducted -- we waited until kind
14 of the harder times have passed and
15 did an update to our economic
16 impact last year. And it's great.

17 I mean, when you have an
18 international airport in your city
19 there's just tremendous amount of
20 impacts and those impacts have
21 tiers. So as Atif explained, the
22 total result was \$18.7 billion
23 economic impact. The tiers of
24 impacts that happen, and I'll

1 specifically end up answering your
2 question. But you first look and
3 we worked with the Econsult who
4 conducted the study.

5 First, you have the
6 impact that takes place right on
7 airport, right. You have the
8 airport itself, all the hiring that
9 we do, the money we spend on
10 protective services, material,
11 supplies, equipment. You have all
12 the airlines, all the other
13 businesses, all of the concessions,
14 all of those right there on our
15 campus and the impact that that
16 makes.

17 And then from there once
18 you have an international airport,
19 you end up having -- your spur
20 businesses develop around you
21 right, everybody who's there to
22 support us, whether it's
23 maintenance facilities, suppliers
24 for airlines, parking facilities,

1 all those things that end up
2 popping up around an airport. So
3 if you look at us on a map, you see
4 all those businesses that have come
5 to be and then further out you
6 start to look at the regional
7 impact and that deals with things
8 like tourism, right, and all the
9 folks that come here to visit us
10 and see our beautiful city.

11 So with that said, we
12 absolutely have a direct impact on
13 the city. And so, ultimately the
14 airport it's about \$120 million
15 impact in taxes that are paid to
16 the City through the wage tax, the
17 sales and use tax and business tax.
18 And we have a breakdown of those
19 if. You need them, we're happy to
20 supply your office with that.

21 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:
22 That's great. I thank you and
23 always a pleasure dealing and
24 talking with you at the airport.

1 You guys are very accommodating.
2 And we're working on some stuff
3 together right now and get some
4 more employees. Somebody who grew
5 up in Southwest Philly, that was
6 like a lifeblood to our
7 neighborhood between the airport
8 and when UPS came in and made their
9 hub up there. I mean, you know how
10 it is when you live in a
11 neighborhood. One person gets a
12 job and the next thing you know,
13 the whole neighborhood's working
14 over there. So I'd like to see
15 some more of that, some more
16 outreach that we're working on now
17 in the neighborhoods to try to get
18 some of the people in the airport.
19 So thank you.

20 MS. BORDA: Thank you.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: Thank you, Member
23 Harrity, for your expertise.

24 Dr. Phillips.

1 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

2 Thank you, Council President.

3 I just want to thank the
4 Streets Department for all the work
5 that they do in our city, but we
6 still have a lot of work to do of
7 course. There is a backlog of
8 speed cushion requests that remain
9 a concern of many neighborhoods
10 throughout the city.

11 What level of investment
12 is going to be needed to reduce
13 wait times and address community
14 safety concerns more promptly?
15 Financial investment will be needed
16 for us to reduce the wait times and
17 address the community concerns
18 about safety and putting speed
19 calming measures down.

20 COMMISSIONER DEL ROSSI:

21 Thank you, Councilmember, for your
22 question. And we can get back with
23 the actual figure of what it's
24 going to cost to definitely

1 eliminate the backlog.

2 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

3 Gotcha. In addition to that, have
4 you considered -- is there someone
5 in your department that's solely
6 responsible for working on speed
7 calming measures only? Is there
8 anyone in the department?

9 COMMISSIONER DEL ROSSI:

10 We have a traffic engineering unit
11 that works alongside with the
12 Office of Multimodal Planning and
13 we have the Vision Zero Task Force.
14 So there's a combination of things
15 that are working alongside each
16 other.

17 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: I
18 ask that question because I think
19 that there's such a significant
20 amount of community input and value
21 around us. Maybe it'd be really
22 beneficial to have a person who's
23 responsible for community relations
24 around speed calming measures,

1 people that will help. And I see
2 the job as not only talking to the
3 public about the process but, two,
4 tracking a system of helping people
5 understand where they fall in line
6 in the pipeline for getting the
7 speed cushion.

8 And if they're not
9 eligible for speed calming measures
10 such as a speed cushion, what else
11 can they be eligible for and
12 helping the public understand that
13 that can be beneficial because the
14 traffic engineers, you're focused
15 more so on the implementation? We
16 need someone that's going to help
17 with the innovation as much as
18 possible.

19 And then lastly, I just
20 want to mention that we have in the
21 city of Philadelphia -- are we
22 experiencing with our speed calming
23 measures, are there any other
24 innovative ideas that the

1 department is exploring because
2 we're not going to be able to get
3 to every block with speed cushions
4 at this point? So what are some
5 other innovative ideas that are
6 coming up and discussions about how
7 can we slow down traffic that's
8 happening in our city?

9 COMMISSIONER DEL ROSSI:

10 They posted a Vision Zero annual
11 report. And in the report there
12 are different types of measures in
13 which they will be implemented
14 looking at the High Injury Network.
15 Every project that we -- capital
16 project in the city that we do we
17 look at traffic calming measures.
18 Our signal projects, our paving
19 projects, we add in the speed
20 cushions. We look at it in every
21 project that we have that comes
22 into the city of Philadelphia.

23 We don't necessarily
24 have a unit that just specifically

1 does that type of work, but each
2 unit collaboratively comes together
3 with ideas and suggestions around
4 that.

5 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

6 Just real quick, Council President.

7 Commissioner, I do
8 appreciate your background and your
9 work that you do, but to me the
10 mere fact that you couldn't provide
11 a clear-cut summary on this tells
12 me that this is not a focus of your
13 energy and expertise, and that
14 bothers me and a lot of neighbors
15 in the city of Philadelphia. So I
16 just want to talk about why people
17 are not getting what they need when
18 it comes to speed conditions. All
19 right. Mike's going to take the
20 answer. Well, Mike's been around
21 for a little while.

22 MR. CARROLL: I'll try
23 to just add a little context. So
24 Mike Carroll, Deputy Director for

1 the Office of Transportation and
2 Infrastructure Systems. So I just
3 want to maybe follow up on what the
4 Commissioner was saying to your
5 question about having someone
6 designated. And you did elaborate
7 that what you're thinking about is
8 the engagement with the community.
9 So we can certainly consider that
10 between OTIS and Streets.

11 The key though I think
12 that the Commissioner was getting
13 at was that there's a few
14 disciplines that are involved. So
15 generally speaking, the traffic
16 engineers are going to be the point
17 of contact for the neighborhood.
18 They do also have the expertise to
19 evaluate whether or not a speed
20 cushion should be implemented based
21 on the criteria that they have and
22 what they see when they do their
23 studies. And then we're going to
24 bring in the highways division in

1 order to implement the speed
2 cushion. And then there's some
3 decision-making about whether we
4 put in multiple sets or whether
5 they're asphalt or whether they're
6 rubber that are kind of in the
7 weeds, and that's generally going
8 to be a dialogue between the
9 traffic engineering group and the
10 highways division.

11 So the traffic engineers
12 I think are the closest to that
13 role that you're talking about.
14 They have control over the whole
15 suite of options, whether we're
16 looking at stop signs or kind of
17 limiting the space for cars to
18 speed or putting speed cushions in
19 or looking at piloting one-way
20 direction or something like that.
21 They have that expertise to make
22 those decisions.

23 But what I'm hearing
24 from you today, and I think you've

1 been real clear about in our
2 conversations before, is that you'd
3 like to see more transparency from
4 the residents' standpoint, so that
5 if the traffic engineers are
6 speaking in a technical way that
7 maybe is going over residents'
8 heads, somebody can translate that.

9 As a result of our
10 conversations, I think we're
11 putting online the mapping tool
12 that we had discussed so that'll be
13 available for people to check on
14 their own to see what the status of
15 traffic calming is in their
16 neighborhood throughout the city.
17 So we appreciate that conversation
18 we've had with you. And OTIS has
19 some infrastructure in place to
20 support community engagement in
21 general, so we can take that idea
22 back and think whether we've got a
23 solution. It gets a little bit
24 closer to what I think you're

1 saying, you know, translating for
2 neighbors in a layperson's terms
3 what's going on. I think there's
4 some tools in place. I think we're
5 making some progress.

6 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

7 Thank you so much. I guess I'll
8 reserve my other follow-up
9 questions for the next round.
10 Thank you so much. Appreciate you,
11 Michael.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.
14 Members, I need to make one small
15 adjustment.

16 Member Thomas.

17 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

18 Thank you, Council President.
19 Appreciate the grace.

20 I'm going to be very
21 quick. I'm not even going to take
22 my whole time. I just specifically
23 want to talk about aviation. The
24 rest of my questions I'll submit in

1 writing. But we've had some recent
2 incidents, not just in Philadelphia
3 but across the country looking at
4 issues surrounded by aviation. And
5 we know technology is taking place
6 in the very near future, some
7 places even right now that a lot of
8 us are not necessarily ready for.

9 So when I'm looking at
10 this global issue of emerging
11 technology in new markets, right,
12 right now in Philadelphia there's
13 no place where we have a hub
14 outside of the Northeast Airport,
15 and of course our bigger airport
16 for some of the other innovative
17 things as far as carrying cargo,
18 carrying people, and other places
19 are preparing for those things. So
20 what are we specifically doing as
21 it relates to aviation and commerce
22 to attract these new segments of
23 traveling both for people and for
24 goods that's coming down the

1 horizon so Philadelphia is prepared
2 to stay competitive with other
3 large cities?

4 MR. SAEED: Thank you
5 for that question, Councilmember.
6 It is an emerging technology and
7 there are definitely certain parts
8 of the country that seem to be
9 getting a little bit more traction
10 than others.

11 For example, Orlando and
12 Florida in general because of the
13 weather conditions and the
14 population density. There are
15 other airports that are also
16 starting a little bit more research
17 trying to understand how the
18 economy around these new
19 technologies would work.

20 We certainly are keeping
21 it front and center as part of our
22 long-term planning. I'm going to
23 ask Api Appulingam to come up, if
24 you don't mind, because her team

1 oversees some of this planning
2 work. I would tell you that we
3 talk about these emerging
4 technologies frequently in the
5 industry conferences. And the
6 momentum is not quite at a place
7 where large-scale implementation
8 seems realistic. It is in part
9 based upon limitations a lot around
10 electrical infrastructure but also
11 regulations.

12 We certainly are not
13 sitting idly. We are watching what
14 is going on in the community and
15 we're making sure that as those
16 opportunities emerge we have a plan
17 of action. I'll let Api speak to
18 long-term planning and how we're
19 viewing that, also talk a little
20 bit about electric infrastructure.

21 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:
22 Yeah, specifically talk about the
23 electric vertical takeoff and
24 landing craft initiative.

1 And, Council President,
2 that's literally my only question.
3 The rest I'll submit in writing for
4 Water as well as for Mr. Carroll
5 for Vision Zero stuff. Thank you,
6 Council President.

7 MS. APPULINGAM: Good
8 afternoon again. Api Appulingam,
9 Chief Development Officer. Great
10 question. This was something that
11 we have been looking at for a while
12 from a long-term planning
13 perspective and where we could
14 locate something like an eVTOL at
15 PHL. And we have recognized that
16 roofs of large facilities are what
17 we could locate it on. So in
18 future planning efforts, we have
19 identified large square footages on
20 roofs to possibly locate something
21 like an eVTOL structure.

22 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:
23 (Inaudible).

24 MR. APPULINGAM: When it

1 comes to PHL, we are confined in
2 terms of where we could build on
3 the ground and giving priority to
4 infrastructure like taxiways and
5 runways at this time. And for
6 eVTOL and with the standards that
7 exist today, we know that it can't
8 interrupt aircraft operations, that
9 it has to operate independently
10 from aircraft. So that's why we
11 recognize that roofs of our
12 buildings, our future buildings,
13 could be potential locations.

14 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

15 Thank you. We'll follow up with
16 more questions. I'm sure Dr. Ahmad
17 will also have similar advocacy
18 this year. She's been leading the
19 charge around these type of
20 vehicles on the ground and I'm sure
21 she'll have an interest in the air.

22 And as I close out, the
23 one thing I'll ask and please don't
24 do it right now, but in the course

1 of answering other members'
2 questions throughout our time this
3 afternoon, because you and I have
4 already spoke about this, I'm not
5 asking them right now, but please
6 make sure that you're taking the
7 time to talk to members as well as
8 the general public about what the
9 airport has done to prepare for
10 2026 with all of the guests that's
11 coming and how we expect the
12 airport to look very different than
13 what it does right now. And how
14 you all are prepared, because
15 that's what you said, for the
16 thousands of tourists that's going
17 to be coming next year?

18 So I ask you not to
19 answer that now so the Council
20 President can move on. But in the
21 midst of answering other questions
22 this afternoon, please include some
23 of that in your responses.

24 Thank you, Council

1 President.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Thank you.

4 The Chair recognizes
5 Councilwoman Jamie Gauthier. The
6 next, Majority Leader Gilmore
7 Richardson. The next,
8 Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke.

9 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

10 Thank you, Council President.

11 My questions are for
12 Commissioner Del Rossi. Good
13 afternoon. First, I've appreciated
14 working with you over this past
15 year and I congratulate you on the
16 accomplishments that you listed in
17 your testimony. My questions are
18 around street repaving. I want you
19 to explain how the department is
20 prioritizing which street repaving
21 projects happen first. Have there
22 been any adjustments to those
23 criteria compared to previous
24 years?

1 And I'm asking this
2 because we have streets in my
3 District that very much need
4 repaving and some of this predates
5 you, but we've been waiting for
6 these street repavings for four
7 years now with no action.

8 I have a few other
9 questions I want to get on record
10 before you answer. By our
11 calculations, the Paving and
12 Roadway Maintenance Programs budget
13 is decreasing by about \$9.4 million
14 in FY26, from \$61.9 million in FY25
15 to \$52.5 million in the proposed
16 FY26 budget.

17 My questions are why is
18 such a reduction being proposed
19 despite the backlog of street
20 maintenance requests and needs?
21 How will this cut affect the
22 department's ability to pave roads,
23 fix potholes and install safety
24 improvements? And please explain

1 what efficiencies or alternative
2 funding sources will ensure that
3 service levels in our neighborhoods
4 are not compromised and how the
5 department will be held accountable
6 for delivering results with a
7 smaller budget.

8 COMMISSIONER DEL ROSSI:

9 Thank you, Councilmember, for your
10 questions and thank you for the
11 kudos for our department. Our
12 paving list will be coming out
13 right after these budget hearings.
14 We are continuing paving from last
15 year. We do have a list of streets
16 that needed to be paved in the
17 previous fiscal year, so they are
18 starting that this week. They will
19 be paving those streets.

20 We do currently have a
21 list that will be put out today.
22 But as far as the efficiencies, I'm
23 going to ask Deputy Managing
24 Director Carroll to come up to talk

1 about our budget and how we're
2 going to approach the paving with
3 that scenario.

4 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

5 Sure. And also -- I don't know if
6 Mike can speak to this, what
7 criteria do you use to determine
8 where you're going to go first and
9 where you're going to go next as it
10 relates to which streets get paved
11 in which order?

12 COMMISSIONER DEL ROSSI:

13 We have a list of the last time
14 streets were paved, so we do do
15 different type of inspections. We
16 have our highway yards go out and
17 look at the conditions of the
18 streets and we have lists of when
19 the street was paved in the past,
20 and we try to get it into a cycle
21 because you have a life expectancy
22 of a street, so then we pave based
23 on the life expectancy. But I will
24 turn the rest of your question over

1 to Deputy Managing Director
2 Carroll.

3 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

4 Thank you so much.

5 MR. CARROLL: Just to
6 pick up on the point the
7 Commissioner was making, there's a
8 few different ways to prioritizing
9 conventionally what we would start
10 with. Most jurisdictions would
11 start with was something like a
12 condition index, which factors in
13 what we see in terms of the
14 condition of the street, the age of
15 the street, how much traffic is on
16 the street, how much it's been
17 subjected to utility work, that
18 kind of thing.

19 But in the past, I think
20 for the Philadelphia Streets
21 Department we found that there's
22 not been a good substitute for
23 inspection, like eyes on the street
24 to really get a better feel for

1 what's going on that particular
2 block on that particular street.
3 So we've relied pretty heavily on
4 the inspection to kind of figure
5 out how we would reprioritize
6 somewhat away from what the
7 computer puts out, for lack of a
8 better way of putting it, in terms
9 of payment condition index.

10 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

11 I --

12 MR. CARROLL: There are
13 new tools that we're trying to
14 explore. So we did a pilot a
15 couple years back where we worked
16 with a startup company which
17 attached some video equipment to a
18 vehicle, did kind of a drive around
19 parts of the city and then fed that
20 into a computer which has kind of a
21 machine-learning computer vision
22 algorithm which can pinpoint
23 defects in the street. And really
24 interesting, promise or had the

1 potential to pinpoint defects
2 before they even happen just based
3 on what it's seeing on the street.

4 We're not quite ready
5 for prime time with that. I think
6 we're interested in exploring
7 developing that kind of tool a
8 little bit further, but that
9 generally would be something that
10 would provide a way to scale up
11 that eyes-on-the-street benefit we
12 get from having inspectors who have
13 experience maintaining streets to
14 substitute.

15 Generally speaking, this
16 city has a lot of aging
17 infrastructure. It doesn't
18 surprise me that you're finding
19 there's neighborhoods that have
20 been seeking service for an
21 extended period of time in the
22 queue. We were very grateful in
23 FY25 that we were able to
24 dramatically scale up the amount of

1 paving.

2 There is carryover from
3 that year's budget into this year's
4 budget so we're not paying interest
5 on debt and not being productive.
6 We want to spend that carry-forward
7 down before we're taking on more
8 debt. So if you look at the carry-
9 forward and the budget that we've
10 gotten the FY26 proposal, we're
11 sustaining the dollar value of
12 investment that we're looking at.

13 The question in terms of
14 efficiency, I think one of the key
15 things we have to understand is
16 that there's a certain amount of
17 capacity for us to deliver on a
18 paving project and we're pretty
19 close to the max there. And it's
20 not just what happens on the city
21 side. It's the whole community of
22 contractors, of folks who are
23 involved in paving, who pay for us
24 but also pay for all the

1 surrounding communities who pay for
2 PennDOT.

3 And when we, collective
4 with all of our partners in the
5 region, push beyond that, what
6 happens is you're inflating all the
7 prices. And so, you don't
8 necessarily get the bang for your
9 buck once you absorb that capacity.

10 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

11 Tiny follow-up. It's so small.

12 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

13 RICHARDSON: (Gestured
14 affirmatively).

15 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

16 Okay. I think I'm not so much
17 asking you how you determine
18 whether a road needs fixing. I'm
19 asking you how you determine what
20 you fix first, in what order you go
21 in. If you could address that.
22 And also, is that something you
23 would ever make public? I know the
24 Administration has taken to sharing

1 a lot of data about how we offer
2 our services.

3 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. So
4 we follow up with more information.
5 Generally speaking, it's I would
6 call a risk management approach.
7 And we're also looking for
8 opportunities to get efficiencies.
9 So if we know the Water Department
10 is going to be doing work or one of
11 the utilities is going to be doing
12 work, we may resequence a street so
13 that we don't pave it. And then as
14 we've had problems in the past, it
15 gets dug up by somebody else for a
16 separate reason. So a street that
17 could really need paving really bad
18 might get delayed, reprioritized so
19 it's no longer first if we know
20 there's another project coming that
21 would impact that street. So we
22 can provide a little bit more
23 information.

24 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

1 Thank you, Madam Chair.

2 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

3 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
4 so much, Councilmember Gauthier.

5 I also wanted to state
6 for the record Councilmember
7 Gauthier stated at the beginning of
8 her questioning that there was one
9 street in her District where they
10 were waiting for four years. If
11 you all could just follow up with
12 Councilmember Gauthier on that,
13 that would be most appreciated.
14 Thank you very much.

15 Colleagues, as an FYI we
16 have nine of us in the queue so
17 I'll ask that you keep your
18 questioning to three minutes.
19 Okay. I'm going to be very strict
20 about that three minutes. When the
21 bell rings, we are going to move on
22 to the next colleague. And now,
23 it's my turn which is great.

24 So I wanted to start

1 with a list of thank yous and I'll
2 start with Aviation and the
3 Airport. Of course, Atif and the
4 entire team, Shane, you know we
5 love Shane, everybody in Council
6 loves Shane, Tracy -- I don't want
7 to start naming names and getting
8 myself in trouble. But we
9 appreciate the entire team at the
10 Philadelphia International Airport
11 and PNE of course. And have to
12 give a shout-out to Lakshman at
13 American Airlines.

14 Also for our Water
15 Department, Commissioner Hayman,
16 Sandra Scott for Intergovernmental
17 Affairs, she's always very
18 knowledgeable and helpful with all
19 of our constituent cases, Laura
20 Copeland and Benjamin Jewell.

21 And then finally for
22 Streets Department, Amber Porter,
23 who's the administrative assistant,
24 Patrice Nouvel with streetlighting

1 assistance, Kasim Ali, a chief
2 traffic engineer who assists us
3 with speed studies and traffic
4 signs and lights. And last, but
5 certainly not least, and I'm doing
6 him last on purpose because he has
7 gone above and beyond the call of
8 duty, true meaning of a public
9 servant, and I am going to take a
10 personal privilege to ask him to
11 stand Steven Lorenz, chief
12 engineer.

13 (Applause.)

14 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

15 RICHARDSON: We know that it's been
16 a difficult year for you and your
17 family and you still rise to the
18 occasion and always, always go out
19 of your way to inspect locations
20 himself after work and meet with
21 our constituents and have assisted
22 with so many cases and one case in
23 particular. So we just want to say
24 thank you. Beth on my team thanks

1 you. I thank you and we appreciate
2 you so much.

3 So I just wanted to put
4 a couple questions on the record.
5 I want to put on my Finance
6 Committee hat for the Airport and
7 also for the Water Department. If
8 you all could just detail the
9 minority participation numbers for
10 your last five bond deals. And
11 once you do that, if you could say
12 if there are any unspent proceeds
13 from any of the prior bond deals?
14 And if so, how much?

15 COMMISSIONER HAYMAN: I
16 will have Lawrence Yangalay, Deputy
17 Commissioner of Finance, join me.
18 But I do want to make it clear that
19 when it comes to minority
20 participation, our goal is 33%.
21 This year we have reached 36%. And
22 so, we've been able to do a very,
23 very good and consistent job. And
24 we take it very, very personally to

1 make sure that we make ourselves
2 available.

3 We have a program where
4 the minority contractors come and
5 we speak with them, and I make the
6 time to make sure I'm there to
7 encourage them to participate.
8 It's personal to me. My godfather
9 was the first Black pharmacist in
10 St. Louis, and I worked from the
11 ages of 10 to 18 so I know the
12 importance of that dollar going to
13 a minority, a woman or
14 disadvantaged business for that
15 family and for that community.

16 I will -- give me just
17 one second please.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

19 RICHARDSON: Sure. And I want to
20 say thank you for the programs that
21 you all have in bringing in small
22 business owners to help them learn
23 about the opportunities. We
24 attended a fantastic forum down in

1 South Philly with the airport and I
2 thought it was wonderful. Before
3 this line of questioning, I'm
4 particularly focusing on the bond
5 deals.

6 COMMISSIONER HAYMAN:
7 Okay. I will hand it over to
8 Lawrence Yangalay to take it from
9 there.

10 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
11 RICHARDSON: Excellent.

12 MR. YANGALAY: Thank
13 You. Lawrence Yangalay, Deputy
14 Commissioner of Finance, Water
15 Department. As of the background,
16 if you can just please repeat your
17 question, I will appreciate it.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
19 RICHARDSON: Absolutely and good to
20 see you. If you could just detail
21 the minority participation numbers
22 for the last five bond deals.

23 MR. YANGALAY: The only
24 detail set if we can provide you

1 with those details, the only detail
2 we have is what our target
3 participation was and how much we
4 achieve. Most of this minority
5 participation is within the capital
6 budget and some of them are
7 subcontractors.

8 We gave the contractor,
9 main contractor and we insist that
10 certain percentage of majority
11 participation is achieved.

12 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

13 RICHARDSON: Is this for the bond
14 deals?

15 MR. YANGALAY: The bond
16 is what funds our capital project.
17 So most of our capital project up
18 to this point are funded by
19 Bondi(ph). Very, very small
20 percentage at this point is funded
21 by any other grant, probably less
22 than 1%. So all of our capital
23 projects are funded by Bondi, and
24 most of them are for capital

1 program.

2 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

3 RICHARDSON: I knew the bell was
4 coming, so I'm going to put this
5 question on the record. You may
6 not be able to respond today. I
7 would ask for Water and for
8 Airport, if you could just respond
9 in writing to the Council President
10 for dissemination to the members,
11 if you could just again detail the
12 minority participation numbers for
13 the last five bond deals, and not
14 specifically for the contractors
15 after the deal is approved and then
16 you select the contractors for the
17 various projects.

18 I mean for the actual
19 financing of the deal. I'm putting
20 on my Finance Committee Chair hat
21 right now. Okay. And if there are
22 any unspent proceeds from any of
23 those prior bond deals. And if so,
24 how much? Have you encumbered

1 them? And when is your next time
2 coming to the market? Okay. Thank
3 you very much. And that's for
4 Airport and for Water. And if you
5 could just submit it in writing
6 within 10 days, if that's possible,
7 that would be helpful. Okay.
8 Thank you very, very much.

9 The Chair now recognizes
10 Councilmember O'Rourke.

11 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

12 Thank you, Madam Chair.

13 Good afternoon to
14 Commissioners Del Rossi, Hayman and
15 Saeed. Thank you for being with us
16 today and entertaining our litany
17 of questions. I want to focus my
18 questions on an issue that's
19 sweeping across the entire
20 Commonwealth, the privatization of
21 municipal water systems.

22 So, Commissioner Hayman,
23 I want to chat with you for just a
24 second. In 2016 the Pennsylvania

1 legislature passed Act 12, which
2 made it easier and more financially
3 attractive for private companies to
4 acquire public water systems.

5 Since then nearly two dozen water
6 and sewer systems in Pennsylvania
7 have been privatized.

8 These are corporate
9 takeovers of the people's services.
10 These corporate takeovers have led
11 to staggering rate inevitably of
12 rate increases, some as high as
13 167%. For example, in Exeter
14 Township average monthly water
15 bills jumped from \$43 to \$114. The
16 Pennsylvania Office of Consumer
17 Advocate estimates that because of
18 Act 12, Pennsylvanians are now
19 paying an additional \$85 million
20 annually for water and waste
21 services.

22 At a time when Trump is
23 openly signaling his intent to
24 privatize public goods like UPS,

1 like Amtrak, I'm deeply concerned
2 about protecting Philadelphia's
3 municipal services. Specifically
4 for Philadelphia, the Law
5 Department has advised my team that
6 the City's Charter explicitly
7 allows for the privatization of the
8 Water Department.

9 So I have three
10 questions for the Water Department.
11 Just to confirm, do you share that
12 particular interpretation of the
13 Charter? Does the City, in fact,
14 have the authority to sell off or
15 contract our water and sewer
16 services?

17 The second question is
18 what legal or procedural
19 protections exist to prevent
20 private companies from acquiring
21 Philadelphia's water system and
22 driving up rates for residents?
23 And thirdly, have there been any
24 discussions, internally, externally

1 or otherwise, about privatizing any
2 part of Philadelphia's water
3 services?

4 COMMISSIONER HAYMAN:

5 Okay. Out of respect to the legal
6 department, I will leave Question 1
7 and 2 to be addressed by the legal
8 department. The third question
9 though that you asked as far as
10 have been in any discussions, I
11 have not been involved in any
12 discussions on privatizing
13 Philadelphia water.

14 I will say this, I do
15 come to the table having worked at
16 two other utilities, St. Louis and
17 D.C. Water and now here my third,
18 privatization is something that has
19 been going on probably since 1995
20 as far as being an issue growing
21 different momentum at different
22 times in different cities.

23 The bottom line is that
24 in Philadelphia the 2000 employees

1 that work on water live here. So
2 that brings a sense of ownership
3 and what the problem is and
4 addressing the problem. Number
5 two, we are not a for-profit
6 service so even though we have at
7 different times rate increases and
8 other actions, we are a cost-of-
9 service utility. So we price out
10 and determine what the cost is
11 going to entail to build the new
12 plant. We don't put in a buffer
13 for how much our profit will be
14 from it and we're not driven by
15 profits.

16 So there's a feeling
17 across the country amongst
18 municipal utilities that we do a
19 better job because we're homegrown
20 and we are concerned and live with
21 the answers that we present to the
22 problems that are placed on our
23 table.

24 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: I

1 appreciate that. I heard the bell.
2 And I'll honor Madam Chair's
3 request. It is a concern for me to
4 see the movement. I hear you saying
5 since '95. I didn't even realize
6 it was that long, but to see that
7 movement in light of the current
8 context, making sure that we shore
9 up anything that could possibly
10 remove from the people's hands
11 their services they need I think is
12 of a concern. That's why I raised
13 the question. I hear you saying
14 that I should perhaps, we should
15 perhaps ask the legal department,
16 Law Department about that. But
17 thank you for your responses.

18 Madam Chair.

19 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

20 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
21 very much, Councilmember O'Rourke.

22 And just for
23 clarification, would you like
24 Councilmember O'Rourke to make that

1 request of the Law Department or is
2 that something that you all will
3 provide during your follow-up on
4 the hearing?

5 COMMISSIONER HAYMAN: I
6 would ask the Councilmember to make
7 the request.

8 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

9 RICHARDSON: Okay. All right.
10 Thank you very much, Commissioner.

11 The Chair now recognizes
12 Councilmember Lozada.

13 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

14 Thank you, Madam Chair.

15 Thank you for being with
16 us today. In November of 2023, I
17 passed legislation to prioritize
18 traffic calming measures for
19 schools, recreation centers and
20 senior centers. And so, I'd like
21 to know where we are. How many
22 schools, recreation centers and
23 senior centers have received those
24 calming measures? Are we

1 backlogged? How far back are we?
2 And is it possible to get a report
3 by District of the results of that?

4 COMMISSIONER DEL ROSSI:

5 Thank you, Councilmember, for your
6 question. We can definitely get
7 you a report. We have a breakdown
8 of the traffic calming measures
9 citywide. We have 108 schools
10 completed. The rec centers and the
11 senior centers, I can get those
12 numbers for you. And we also -- I
13 can get you the breakdown of the
14 numbers per District as well. I
15 have them here, but I can get them
16 to you.

17 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

18 Okay. And is there a backlog of --

19 COMMISSIONER DEL ROSSI:

20 There is a backlog. And based on
21 Councilman Phillips' request last
22 year when we were sitting here and
23 then throughout the year we've been
24 having conversations, there's

1 actually a traffic calming map.
2 It's on phila.gov/traffic-calming,
3 and there's a map and you can see
4 exactly where the treatments are
5 currently, who is approved. Just
6 put in addresses. If you have a
7 specific location, you can share
8 this map out and they can see where
9 they are in the process.

10 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

11 Thank you. Families are always
12 talking to us about safety and
13 making sure that their kids and
14 that seniors and that folk can
15 cross streets safely. In addition
16 to calming measures, I'm always
17 asked about crossing guards.

18 Can you tell me how many
19 crossing guards you currently
20 employ? How much do crossing
21 guards get paid? What is the
22 retention strategy for crossing
23 guards? And I'd also like a list
24 of crossing guards. At least for

1 my District, I'd like to know where
2 they are and where are the
3 requests. How many requests have
4 we've gotten that we've not been
5 able to fill and the why?

6 COMMISSIONER DEL ROSSI:

7 Thank you for your question. By
8 June, the end of June we will have
9 over 800 school crossing guards.
10 We currently have Future Track
11 which comes in, and we essentially
12 use the Future Track to fill some
13 of our other positions. But for
14 school crossing guards, we
15 particularly try to flyer in
16 neighborhoods because you have to
17 be within a mile of your location
18 because we don't want to have
19 someone determine -- depend on
20 vehicle or transit to get to their
21 location. So we try to recruit
22 within one mile of the location.

23 At the town halls, we'll
24 have a table trying to recruit

1 school crossing guards. We post on
2 our social media trying to gain
3 people to want to apply for our
4 crossing guards. It's a lot of
5 word of mouth in that capacity. So
6 we try to take every angle we have
7 to bring on school crossing guards.

8 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

9 What have been the challenges that
10 you all are experiencing in order
11 to recruit crossing guards?

12 Because I travel through different
13 neighborhoods and on some corners,
14 there's one crossing guard on each
15 corner. And in others, there's
16 absolutely none.

17 And there are
18 neighborhoods like mine, right, who
19 folks are saying I've applied and
20 I've not heard or I applied, I got
21 a first callback and then I never
22 heard again. What are the
23 challenges that you all are
24 experiencing and why is this

1 position so difficult to fill?

2 COMMISSIONER DEL ROSSI:

3 I'm going to turn that question
4 over to Deputy Commissioner Newman.

5 (Witness approached
6 Witness table.)

7 MR. NEWMAN: Good
8 afternoon, Councilmember. My name
9 is Chris Newman. I'm the Deputy
10 Commissioner for Administration for
11 Streets. We actually have a lot of
12 good news with school crossing
13 guards this year. We've hired
14 about 241 of them so far this year.
15 And just as a comparison, last year
16 around this time it was about 148.

17 We're doing a lot of
18 different things in terms of
19 recruitment. One of the things
20 that we implemented last year that
21 we had a lot of success with is we
22 have preorientation before they're
23 hired. So as candidates get on the
24 list for school crossing guard from

1 the OHR Department, we get that
2 list and we bring people in and we
3 give them a preview of the job. We
4 tell them exactly what they're
5 getting involved in, how much
6 they're going to make, how we
7 assign people different crossing
8 guard places and we actually have
9 them go through the clearance
10 background process at that point in
11 time.

12 Our retention rate has
13 gone from 15% turnover to 9%
14 turnover in that time. So from
15 last year to this year we went from
16 15% turnover to 9% turnover. We
17 think in large part because of that
18 process, the salary for them is
19 about \$17.89 an hour.

20 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

21 How much is it?

22 MR. NEWMAN: \$17.89 an
23 hour.

24 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

1 RICHARDSON: Okay. Are you good?

2 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

3 One more question really quickly.

4 I have several bridges
5 in my District that are closed at
6 the same time causing major
7 backups, causing a lot of
8 frustration and stress. Can you
9 all tell me what is the plan to
10 improve the City's aging
11 infrastructure, specifically in
12 Districts like mine where the
13 bridges have to be closed
14 emergency, right, last minute
15 without notification to communities
16 causing everybody to kind of -- it
17 throws everybody's day off. I need
18 to know when is the Wyoming Bridge
19 going to open? What is the plan
20 for Hunting Park Bridge to open?

21 They are in a very close
22 distance from each other. And
23 basically what we're creating there
24 during morning and afternoon rush

1 hour, we're creating a gridlock.

2 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

3 RICHARDSON: And I'll ask that you

4 keep the response brief. Okay.

5 Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER DEL ROSSI:

7 I can get back to you with that

8 information.

9 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

10 RICHARDSON: Do you have anything

11 that you'd like to place on the

12 record though?

13 COMMISSIONER DEL ROSSI:

14 We're working on the Wyoming Bridge

15 internally and --

16 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

17 What does that mean?

18 COMMISSIONER DEL ROSSI:

19 -- we can get back to you with the

20 opening dates.

21 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

22 What does that mean we're working

23 on it? I know we're working on it

24 because I know we see people over

1 there. But I need to know what is
2 the plan? We closed it without
3 notice, right, without community
4 notice.

5 I need to know what to
6 say to residents. What's the plan?
7 How long are both of these bridges
8 going to be closed? And how do we
9 prevent this from occurring in the
10 future? I mean, I'm sure that
11 we're doing inspections often so we
12 should know. We're leading up to a
13 point where we can no longer hold
14 this work off. How do we prevent
15 that from happening in the future?

16 MR. CARROLL: So Wyoming
17 Bridge was not a planned closure
18 just to be clear. There was
19 element of the bridge which
20 deteriorated beyond repair which
21 led to water getting into the
22 bridge. And so, that was an
23 unforeseen situation which forced
24 our hand in terms of closing the

1 bridge.

2 So we are working on a
3 project to get traffic across the
4 bridge. It won't be a full
5 reopening of the bridge. That
6 project has to go through some
7 design and we're starting from a
8 standing stop. We've got to get
9 that process going.

10 I don't want to give you
11 a time frame because it's pretty
12 likely that any time frame I give
13 you would change once we learn more
14 about the bridge's condition, once
15 we learn about our ability to get
16 contractors on board.

17 In terms of the
18 inspection, this is something we're
19 working on because we don't want
20 that to ever happen again. And
21 what I can tell you is that we're
22 in a conversation with PennDOT so
23 that we can work together, we can
24 partner with PennDOT. We have a

1 lot of bridges for a city. PennDOT
2 has a lot of bridges across the
3 Commonwealth. And so, we're going
4 to share capacity in order to make
5 sure that the inspection is upped a
6 little bit, the frequency is upped
7 a little bit so that we can avoid
8 that situation in the future. But
9 what we will get you a little bit
10 more detail on both Hunting Park
11 and Wyoming so that you have some
12 information that you can share.

13 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: I
14 would appreciate that.

15 Madam Chair, I'm going
16 to ask that we work towards a
17 proactive plan. We do have a lot
18 of roads and bridges, right, and
19 these bridges are inspected. I
20 don't know if they're quarterly. I
21 don't know if it's annually. I
22 don't know if it's monthly. But
23 there has to be a better process in
24 place for us to be able to respond

1 to some of this aging
2 infrastructure so that we're
3 working with communities and not
4 creating gridlocks the way that we
5 have in that part of the District.
6 I know it's frustrating to my
7 residents. And I can't imagine
8 having two bridges in such close
9 proximity to each other in other
10 neighborhoods creating the same
11 thing.

12 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

13 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you,
14 Councilmember Lozada. And I know
15 that you all verbally responded to
16 the question. I ask that you also
17 follow up in writing. Thank you
18 very much.

19 The Chair now recognizes
20 Councilmember Young.

21 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
22 you, Madam Chair.

23 A couple questions for
24 Streets and Water. First, I just

1 want to point out in the Five Year
2 Plan for the Streets Department,
3 Under Class 500 it looks like for
4 FY25, '26, '27 it's an estimate of
5 \$15 million. And then in the
6 operating budget, I don't see it
7 anywhere listed in here. So I
8 don't know if that was a misprint.

9 I do see where there are
10 the FY24 actual obligations in
11 Class 500. This is particularly
12 under transportation. But there is
13 no reference to this \$15 million
14 that is mentioned in the Five Year
15 Plan in the actual operating
16 budget. So I just want to see if
17 you guys can take a look at that to
18 see what that is, to see if that is
19 an omission or an error. But \$15
20 million is a lot of money. So just
21 please take a look at that for me.

22 Also, on the same line
23 the questioning of Councilmember
24 Lozada, I have a bridge in my

1 District between Glenwood and
2 Sedgley, the Margie Street Bridge
3 that's been closed for forever. It
4 seems like -- so can we get an
5 update? The community will love an
6 update, folks in the 16th Ward on
7 what is the status of that
8 particular bridge.

9 And I have a question
10 about crosswalks and striping.
11 There seems to be a lot of
12 crosswalks being put in place that
13 are nowhere near I guess the
14 intersections or corners where stop
15 signs are in my District,
16 particularly on 19th Street. So
17 can you all talk to us about the
18 placement of crosswalks and street
19 restriping in the city? Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER DEL ROSSI:
21 Thank you for your question. I'm
22 going to turn your FY budget
23 questions over to Deputy
24 Commissioner Newman. And then I'll

1 answer your other questions that
2 follow.

3 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
4 you.

5 MR. NEWMAN: Good
6 afternoon, Councilmember. \$15
7 million does look like a lot. It's
8 actually indemnities which are
9 claims against the City for roadway
10 and traffic work. That will pop up
11 each year as indemnities at the end
12 of the fiscal year. You'll see it
13 blanked out at the beginning of
14 another fiscal year, and it'll come
15 back again at the end of this
16 fiscal year coming up now. So it
17 doesn't show up in our budget
18 initially. It comes in towards the
19 end of the fiscal year once those
20 indemnities are assigned to the
21 department.

22 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
23 you.

24 COMMISSIONER DEL ROSSI:

1 The bridges in question are PennDOT
2 bridges so we can reach out to
3 PennDOT, get you information on
4 those specific bridges and get back
5 to you with that information. And
6 the crosswalks are placed within
7 the ramp locations. The stop bars
8 depending on volume are set back
9 from the radius of the curb. So
10 depending on the volumes in the
11 areas and the locations for your
12 ADA accessible crossings, that's
13 where your crosswalks are marked.

14 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: I
15 heard the bell, so thank you. I'm
16 just -- so when you are locating a
17 crosswalk or even a restriping in
18 general, I have a question about
19 the restriping and repainting. How
20 often do you go out to repaint or
21 restripe the crosswalks in certain
22 intersections?

23 COMMISSIONER DEL ROSSI:
24 This additional line striping crew

1 that is in this budget will
2 actually help us with that. We
3 mark our streets after we pave and
4 then we usually refresh along --
5 during the seasons where we're
6 paving, we usually refresh the
7 marking. So we try to get on a
8 regular basis with it. But if
9 there's anything in particular that
10 sticks out, just shoot us an email
11 and we can look into it.

12 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: I can
13 send you 50 intersections
14 literally.

15 COMMISSIONER DEL ROSSI:
16 Okay.

17 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: So
18 thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER DEL ROSSI:
20 Thank you.

21 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: And
22 I'll submit my questions to Water
23 and the rest of my questions for
24 Streets in writing.

1 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

2 RICHARDSON: And if we have time,
3 we can do a second round but I
4 don't know that we'll be able to
5 achieve that today.

6 The Chair now recognizes
7 Councilmember Ahmad.

8 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

9 Madam Chair, I'm going to put all
10 my questions in for all three
11 departments. First, I'll start
12 with Streets. If I could get an
13 update on the Chinatown Stitch
14 project with respect to which
15 merchants are going to be disturbed
16 during this time, when the project
17 will start, and what should we be
18 expecting in terms of length? So
19 that's Streets.

20 And the second part for
21 Streets is -- thank you to my
22 colleague Councilmember Quetcy
23 Lozada for asking so many questions
24 about the crossing guards. That's

1 a special interest to us. I wanted
2 to know in terms of placement of
3 crossing guards. I know you hire
4 them. Are you working with the
5 school and police for actual
6 placement for the safety plan or is
7 it something just you do? That's
8 Streets.

9 For Aviation, a question
10 about carbon footprint. And I
11 believe you're installing some
12 geothermal technology and I would
13 like a little update on that.
14 That's in the Northeast
15 Philadelphia Airport. I'd like to
16 get an update on that. And the
17 second part for you is hosting the
18 World Cup and the 250th anniversary
19 of a country's founding, in
20 addition to many events and
21 festivals are attracting a lot of
22 visitors.

23 One of my priorities in
24 the lead-up to the festivities is

1 to ensure City departments and law
2 enforcement are ready for the
3 influx of travelers. A component
4 of this is ensuring our workforce
5 is prepared for more undesirable
6 aspects of large events like human
7 trafficking. I would like to have
8 you give us an overview of some
9 work that the Airport might be
10 involved in this aspect.

11 And who do I have left,
12 Water. Just one question for
13 Water, about fluoride in drinking
14 water and having a Health Secretary
15 who doesn't believe in it. Is it
16 impacting us locally?

17 And those are all my
18 questions, Madam Chair. And we can
19 start with Streets. I'll remind
20 you if you forgot what they were.
21 Chinatown's Stitch was the first
22 question.

23 COMMISSIONER DEL ROSSI:

24 I'm going to turn the Chinatown

1 Stitch over to Deputy Managing
2 Director Carroll. I'll correct
3 that. Chris Puchalsky.

4 (Witness approached
5 Witness table.)

6 MR. PUCHALSKY: Hi.
7 Good afternoon, Councilmember. I
8 think I got the second part of your
9 question about the Stitch, when it
10 is currently scheduled to start.
11 We're in the design process now.
12 The federal funds need to be
13 obligated by September of 2026.
14 We're looking to start construction
15 in early 2027 -- or late 2027.
16 That could slip to 2028. To be
17 clear, this is a joint City,
18 PennDOT project. So although we're
19 leading the current design phase,
20 it will be bid by PennDOT. And I
21 missed the first part of your
22 question about Stitch.

23 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:
24 Small businesses and merchants who

1 are going to be disrupted by that.

2 Do we have a plan to make sure they
3 don't suffer economically?

4 MR. PUCHALSKY: No, but
5 it is on our radar. We're
6 currently working on putting out a
7 contract to maximize participation.
8 But in terms of construction
9 disruption, we will be putting that
10 together as part of our
11 constructability review with
12 PennDOT.

13 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:
14 Madam Chair, I would like to make
15 sure there's an actual plan of
16 knowing who are the people who are
17 going to be disrupted and what
18 multi-agencies, perhaps who will
19 make them whole. So while this
20 place is disrupted, their business
21 doesn't -- they don't go out of
22 business because these are small
23 businesses.

24 MR. PUCHALSKY: Yeah.

1 We are happy to get that to you
2 just to set expectations about the
3 timeline of that. We don't have a
4 construction plan yet so we don't
5 even yet know what are the
6 locations, what streets will we
7 have to shut down. So it will
8 probably be some time later this
9 year, early next calendar year
10 before we can get that to you.

11 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

12 That's fine. Thank you.

13 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

14 RICHARDSON: And to Councilmember
15 Ahmad's point, if you could also
16 give her the information regarding
17 the coordination with Commerce
18 regarding the impacted businesses,
19 correct, Councilmember Ahmad?

20 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

21 Yes. Merchants fund would probably
22 be involved in this and maybe other
23 agencies. And maybe this needs to
24 be a multi-agency contribution to

1 something that can be put out to
2 the merchants in the area.

3 MR. PUCHALSKY: Yeah, we
4 will be happy to when we get to
5 that point in the delivery process.
6 We don't even exactly know what
7 businesses will be there by the
8 time we get into construction, but
9 we will be happy to work on that
10 with Commerce.

11 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:
12 Thank you. And my other question
13 was about the street crossing
14 guards.

15 COMMISSIONER DEL ROSSI:
16 We do work with the schools and the
17 police department, and we do try to
18 go into the communities to get
19 people to sign up to become a
20 school crossing guard.

21 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:
22 Yeah, that was a great answer you
23 gave so I got that. And the last
24 one is for -- not last one. The

1 second one is for Water, the
2 fluoride. It should be a short
3 answer.

4 COMMISSIONER HAYMAN: On
5 fluoride we are following the
6 national attention that is there.
7 We're working with the Health
8 Department. We do use fluoride in
9 our system. I attended an award
10 program that was at I believe it
11 was U of Penn and they talked about
12 how the use of fluoride was
13 discovered at U of Penn and the
14 importance of it going back
15 hundreds of years. And so --

16 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: So
17 no immediate plans to disrupt that?

18 COMMISSIONER HAYMAN:
19 No, not at this time. But at the
20 same time, we will work hand and
21 glove with the Health Department.

22 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Our
23 Health Department?

24 COMMISSIONER HAYMAN:

1 Our Health Department.

2 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

3 Philadelphia's --

4 COMMISSIONER HAYMAN:

5 Our Health Department.

6 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: I'm

7 just worried about the federal

8 health department that potentially

9 could disrupt this plan. I'm just

10 going on the record that we are

11 still doing what we're supposed to

12 do. So thank you for that.

13 Atif, if you could

14 quickly answer --

15 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

16 RICHARDSON: Yeah, because we're

17 way over time. Okay. I gave you

18 an extra minute as well.

19 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

20 Well, can he put it in -- give me

21 one second and then put it in

22 writing. I only want to hear about

23 the human trafficking.

24 MR. SAEED: We'll give

1 you extensive answers for both of
2 them, but let me touch on the human
3 trafficking. It's really important
4 issue for our enterprise as well.
5 As an airport, we are a gateway and
6 as good things come through, a lot
7 of evil happens through those same
8 paths. We do have a program in
9 place. We brought in Cassie
10 Schmidt as our Chief Strategy
11 Officer, who has experience rolling
12 out similar programs for large
13 scale events, specifically Super
14 Bowl in Minneapolis. She's going
15 to be spearheading that effort with
16 us. She's looking forward to
17 working with you and your office as
18 well, but there's a plan of action
19 that is in place. We'll put that
20 in writing and get you a little bit
21 more detail. And we'll do the same
22 thing for PNE and the
23 sustainability efforts.

24 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: All

1 right. Thank you. Thank you so
2 much for allowing me those
3 questions.

4 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

5 RICHARDSON: Yes. Thank you so
6 much, Councilmember Ahmad, Chair of
7 our Public Health Committee.

8 The Chair now recognizes
9 Councilmember Landau.

10 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

11 Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you,
12 thank you, Madam Chair.

13 Two Streets questions
14 and two Water questions. First for
15 the Streets Department. The City
16 of Philadelphia recently settled a
17 lawsuit, as you indicated in your
18 testimony, over curb ramps. And
19 the City under that settlement
20 agreement will have to install or
21 remediate 10,000 of these curb
22 ramps. Is the City itself now
23 doing the work on the curb ramps or
24 is it contracted out?

1 COMMISSIONER DEL ROSSI:

2 Thank you for your question. I'm
3 going to turn that question over to
4 Deputy Managing Director Michael
5 Carroll.

6 MR. CARROLL: So we have
7 not stood up the ADA construction
8 crew. We're still working on that
9 process, but that is not going to
10 be a major factor this year in
11 terms of us increasing
12 significantly the number of ramps
13 that we're putting out on the
14 street.

15 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:
16 Let me be clear. Are you saying
17 that the City will at some point do
18 these curb ramps, curb cuts
19 themselves but we're not yet doing
20 that? We're still contracting out?

21 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, and
22 I want to be clear. There's
23 probably no point in time where
24 we're doing all of the curb ramps,

1 but we can take on ramps as part of
2 a package of building the capacity
3 there.

4 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

5 Okay. I want to double down on
6 what I've always said. I think we
7 should be doing these ourselves. I
8 actually think it's a great pilot
9 program, a great program for
10 training and workforce development.
11 The City could do it well and not
12 wrong and take responsibility for
13 that and not have the liability in
14 the future. So anything you need
15 from me I'm all about us getting
16 this off the ground. Let's do it
17 ourselves.

18 MR. CARROLL: Thank you.

19 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

20 The second question following up on
21 some of my colleague Councilmember
22 O'Rourke's questions was about the
23 Zero Fare pilot program which is
24 being cut and this is the SEPTA

1 Zero Fare pilot program. Why was
2 the funding for this pilot cut from
3 the Mayor's proposed budget?

4 MR. CARROLL: So as the
5 Mayor set priorities for the
6 budget, the decision was made that
7 that pilot should reach its
8 conclusion. We're very confident
9 that our investment in SEPTA
10 represented in both the operating
11 subsidy and the capital subsidies,
12 is us putting our foot forward and
13 doing more for SEPTA than any other
14 jurisdiction and at this point in
15 time including the state.

16 In terms of what SEPTA
17 does with that funding, I have
18 green light to kind of tell you
19 guys we're going to have a
20 conversation with SEPTA to see if
21 there's ways for us to extend the
22 Zero Fare program. Very early in
23 that conversation, but we're
24 hopeful we can accomplish something

1 with that goal in mind.

2 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

3 Appreciate you. I think it's
4 pretty unanimous here in this body
5 that we all want that program back.
6 Thank you so much.

7 Water Department, two
8 quick ones. The City closed two
9 Pennsylvania infrastructure
10 investment Authority PENNVEST's
11 federally subsidized low-cost loans
12 totaling approximately \$109.8
13 million for water and wastewater
14 system improvements in 2024. The
15 loans will be used to fund water
16 main replacements and sewer
17 replacements throughout the city.
18 How will the almost \$110 million in
19 PENNVEST loans for water main and
20 sewer replacements be allocated
21 across the City's infrastructure
22 projects? And are there any
23 specific neighborhoods or districts
24 that will see prioritized

1 improvements?

2 And just one more after
3 that.

4 COMMISSIONER HAYMAN: In
5 prioritizing the projects, we look
6 at an analog of the age of the
7 pipes, when the pipes were last
8 treated and make a decision on
9 that. It's not by a specific
10 neighborhood. It's not by looking
11 at a blank piece of paper and then
12 tallying how often we've been in
13 that neighborhood or touched that
14 neighborhood. It looks at the
15 needs of the infrastructure itself.
16 And so, we will analyze across
17 where we need to do it.

18 Now, there were two
19 projects that dealt with lead
20 replacement with PENNVEST and we
21 did receive \$9.9 million there
22 where we will be able to in the
23 pilot program remove -- and this is
24 basically in the Kensington area.

1 We'll be able to remove the lead
2 laterals, that's one issue. Lead
3 laterals under the law regarding
4 lead replacement they have to be
5 removed. The laterals is owned by
6 the homeowner. And so, in this
7 situation in those projects the
8 first one we received 9.9. We will
9 be able to go in and remove the
10 lateral. And then we applied for a
11 second one for 9.9. And so,
12 hopefully we'll receive a second
13 grant and be able to do that.

14 But your question as far
15 as environmental justice and making
16 sure that we're going into every
17 neighborhood, we are focused on
18 that, we care about that. We look
19 at the age of the pipes and then we
20 go in with a certain analog and
21 make a determination of which area
22 we have to address. But we're
23 doing everything we can and we make
24 sure that we don't leave any

1 neighborhood out that requires our
2 assistance at that given time.

3 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

4 Thank you for that. One last
5 question just about -- one last
6 question about the City's OPAL
7 System. So you know that the
8 city -- I'm the head of the
9 Technology Committee. We've got
10 Project OPAL, which is tasked with
11 replacing the City's aging
12 financial contracting and
13 purchasing systems with a modern,
14 integrated system which is going to
15 simplify things and hopefully
16 streamline all of our projects.

17 The proposal mentions
18 modernization efforts like the OPAL
19 Project to replace legacy financial
20 procurement systems. How will
21 these technological upgrades
22 improve operational efficiency and
23 transparency in the long run for
24 the Water Department?

1 COMMISSIONER HAYMAN:

2 Philadelphia isn't different from a
3 lot of other cities that have had
4 possibly an older IT system or has
5 through the years used a patchwork
6 to repair. And the bottom line
7 is -- and now, this is a lawyer
8 speaking and not an IT
9 specialist -- the bottom line is
10 that the system will allow us to be
11 more efficient in getting
12 information and allow us to make I
13 believe reports easier than we have
14 in the past and allow us to
15 communicate easier information to
16 the public in general. So it's a
17 large project. I will allow
18 Lawrence Yangalay, my Deputy
19 Commissioner for Finance, to speak
20 on it just a little bit.

21 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

22 RICHARDSON: Okay. So this is what
23 we're going to do. If he can give
24 a 30-second response, that will be

1 great. After this, I'm going to
2 recognize Councilmember Driscoll
3 and then recognize Councilmember
4 Brooks.

5 And for the remainder of
6 the colleagues who are in the
7 queue, I'm going to apologize in
8 advance. We are not having a
9 second round. You can submit the
10 remainder of your questions in
11 writing. Okay. So we'll take the
12 Deputy for 30 seconds. Then
13 Councilmember Driscoll and then
14 Councilmember Brooks. We'll end
15 with Councilmember Brooks. And
16 then everyone else in the queue
17 will submit your answers in
18 writing. Okay. Thank you for
19 understanding.

20 MR. YANGALAY: Lawrence
21 Yangalay, Deputy Commissioner of
22 Finance of Philadelphia Water
23 Department. What OPAL is doing and
24 we are actively involved with Opal,

1 for instance, if we were here
2 today, the question the
3 Councilwoman asked, I will press
4 the button on my laptop, it will
5 give me financial information.
6 When we go to prepare budget, for
7 instance, we have to manually in
8 Excel type historical information.
9 Of course, you know what that means
10 for accuracy. But Opal is going to
11 streamline that kind of process
12 that will be able to utilize the
13 software to be more efficient in
14 our reporting. And of course, the
15 procurement process we have about
16 17-step procurement process and
17 that brings several delay in our
18 procurement process.

19 We hope that it will be
20 one step advanced to another
21 question. With all the supporting
22 documentation, you will be able to
23 approve it online and vendors can
24 go in the system to monitor the

1 flow of some of this information.
2 So it's a new software. We are
3 very much eager about it and we
4 hope it will perform as we have
5 been promised by the consultants.
6 I think it's a good thing for the
7 city and we are happy to be part of
8 it.

9 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

10 RICHARDSON: Thank you.

11 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

12 Thank you very much.

13 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

14 RICHARDSON: Thank you very much,
15 Councilmember Landau.

16 The Chair now recognizes
17 Councilmember Driscoll.

18 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

19 Thank you, Madam Chair. I'll be
20 quick.

21 So I'll start with
22 Commissioner Hayman. Commissioner,
23 in my role as the Chairman of
24 Public Utilities, you, Glen, Ben,

1 your entire leadership team has
2 been great working with us and I
3 appreciate that. I think when
4 people -- whether it's a pothole or
5 whatever it is in the street, our
6 constituents are either blaming me
7 or it's the Water Department or the
8 Streets Department. And a lot of
9 times it's third-party contractors.

10 So you don't necessarily
11 have to answer this, but it's
12 something that I would like you to
13 look into, and that's the vetting
14 of the third-party contractors.
15 Whether it's a bonding delay
16 sometimes or a work order delay or
17 some shoddy work, I think we're all
18 getting blamed for that. And I
19 think if we can get a little bit
20 better vetting upfront and we get
21 better contractors, that might go a
22 long way to solving the problem.

23 COMMISSIONER HAYMAN:

24 Yes, sir. Thank you for the

1 direction and we will look into
2 that.

3 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

4 Thank you. And, Atif, I wanted to
5 thank you. It was only less than
6 nine weeks ago where a plane came
7 down to my District and your
8 department was there as well as all
9 my colleagues immediately on the
10 phone asking what we needed. And I
11 want to thank you for that. I'm
12 not going to bring up the bathrooms
13 because I think you got to deal
14 with Mayor Parker about the
15 bathrooms down there. I think
16 she's doing a good job on that.

17 But I would like you to
18 comment real briefly about the
19 valet program. I know the valet
20 program. If you can just comment
21 on that real quickly.

22 MR. SAEED: Sure,
23 certainly. Thank you. First of
24 all, thank you for your kind words.

1 You know, what we're trying to do
2 at the airport is trying to figure
3 out ways to be able to make it
4 incrementally more comfortable for
5 people to be able to transact at
6 the airport. The Valet Program is
7 a program that deals with clientele
8 that are willing to pay a premium
9 for a certain level of access to
10 the airport that is a little bit
11 more expedited.

12 Integrated with that is
13 an online platform where they
14 actually can do the booking rather
15 than having to come in and transact
16 at the airport. I highly recommend
17 trying out this service. It takes
18 away a lot of friction from travel.
19 And I understand that it's not for
20 everybody, but we want to be able
21 to provide options to everybody and
22 I think it provides a very
23 important premium service for
24 customers, and it's very well-

1 recognized and appreciated by our
2 customers.

3 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: So
4 we'll advertise that to get the
5 word out?

6 MR. SAEED: We've been
7 advertising it, yes. And we'll
8 continue to scale that up. And
9 hopefully, people listening to this
10 testimony today will take an
11 opportunity and be out there using
12 the service.

13 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:
14 Perfect. Thank you. And lastly, I
15 just want to comment, Streets
16 Commissioner, same thing with the
17 plane crash, your department was
18 great with me Rich Montanez, I had
19 him on speed dial and he's always
20 been there on the big issues with
21 us and I can't thank you enough for
22 that.

23 I do want to double down
24 though on Councilmember Phillips'

1 traffic calming measures and it's
2 really been a big issue. I think
3 post-COVID people drive crazy and
4 we're making changes here in the
5 city. I remember in my old
6 neighborhood, if you went fast or
7 you blew a stop sign, there was
8 always a police officer who was
9 going to pull you over. That
10 doesn't seem to be the way we
11 remedy these things anymore.

12 But if we could somehow
13 in your engineering department,
14 maybe when you have this repaving
15 every four or five years, whatever
16 your schedule is, maybe the
17 immediate ones get done quickly
18 around the schools and the rec
19 centers. But then when you do your
20 regular repaving, maybe you do the
21 repaving and the -- I don't even
22 know if that makes sense. But I'm
23 just trying to put the
24 non-essential ones in the long

1 queue and the real essential ones
2 in a short queue. And that's just
3 a comment. You don't have to
4 respond. Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER DEL ROSSI:

6 I just want to thank you for
7 acknowledging the staff. We do
8 have a great crew and they were out
9 there hands-on. So kudos to them
10 and thank you for acknowledging
11 that.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: Thank you. Last
14 individual we're calling is
15 Councilmember Kendra Brooks.

16 But I also want to take
17 a moment to also acknowledge Rich
18 Montanez. He gets them late night
19 text messages saying I need help
20 the same way I text Steve Lorenz,
21 like on a Sunday -- it was a Sunday
22 night one time. I was like I know
23 he's going to have some words for
24 me, but we're on the ground, we're

1 on the front line and my members
2 are on the front line trying to
3 help people. So we do appreciate
4 y'all stepping up and being
5 responsive, all of you in this
6 context.

7 Councilmember Brooks.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

9 Thank you, Council President.

10 I want to give my kudos
11 and shout-outs to folks too when I
12 call, rapid response similar to
13 what Council President said. We're
14 boots on the ground so a little
15 thing -- I remember when someone
16 stepped in a pothole or something
17 on my block and I was able to find
18 a number and someone came out right
19 away to assist. So thank you,
20 Streets and Water, because everyone
21 had to be involved because I didn't
22 know who the thing belonged to. I
23 appreciate you guys being servants,
24 community servants, and helping us

1 do our jobs better.

2 I'll just run down
3 everything so I have it on record,
4 and this is all for Water. At the
5 end of 2024, the Water Department
6 began auto-enrolling customers in
7 TAP who were participating in the
8 federal low-income household water
9 assistance program. How is that
10 process going and what steps did
11 the City have to take to automate
12 the enrollment?

13 The Water Department is
14 proposing a rate increase for the
15 fourth consecutive year. The
16 average annual water bill payment
17 is up more than \$200 since the
18 first increase. Your testimony
19 says that the rate increase is to
20 replenish critically-low liquidity
21 funds and you have two such funds.
22 At what level would you consider
23 the funds to be stable?

24 My next question: I'm

1 glad that Philadelphia has a
2 moratorium on water shut-offs for
3 nonpayment in the winter. However,
4 water shut-offs in the summer can
5 be extremely challenging and
6 dangerous for families and the
7 elderly, particularly when the
8 temperatures continue to rise, and
9 the violence swells in the warmer
10 months. Many cities, including
11 Chicago, have no water shut-offs
12 for nonpayment. Has Philadelphia
13 considered a moratorium on water
14 shut-offs in the summer?

15 And lastly,
16 participation in the TAP program is
17 roughly 30% of eligible customers
18 or less despite specific
19 investments in trying to reach more
20 people. What will the average
21 monthly bill look like for folks
22 who are enrolled in TAP?

23 COMMISSIONER HAYMAN:
24 I'll address the third question

1 first, if I numbered them correctly
2 where you talked about water shut-
3 off and have we considered a
4 moratorium on shut-off.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

6 Yes.

7 COMMISSIONER HAYMAN:

8 First, I want to say -- and this is
9 known across the country because
10 I'm on different boards with Water,
11 utilities and all. And one thing
12 across the country, they always ask
13 what are they doing in Philadelphia
14 and they always speak with respect
15 for the safety net that we have for
16 those.

17 The problem we have with
18 a year-round water shut-off
19 situation is the need for revenue.
20 Okay. If we don't receive the
21 revenue and we are a cost-for-
22 service utility, then we will not
23 be able to always provide the water
24 services that we need to the

1 public. What I always tell people
2 is that when it comes to water and
3 help protecting the health and
4 safety of the community, we have to
5 do 100%. So we can't get to a
6 point where we don't have the
7 funds. And I can say we only
8 protect health and safety 30%.
9 It's 100%, that's the obligation.
10 And so, it takes a certain amount
11 of funds to keep us operating.

12 And so, I'll allow Susan
13 Crosby from Revenue to talk more
14 about the questions you asked on
15 TAP.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

17 Thank you.

18 (Witness approached
19 Witness table.)

20 MS. CROSBY: Good
21 afternoon. Susan Crosby, Deputy
22 Revenue Commissioner for Water.
23 Thank you, Councilmember, for your
24 question. First, to follow up on

1 the shut-offs, we do have a robust
2 set of protections for customers
3 who are facing shut-off. First, we
4 use administrative data to
5 automatically protect families with
6 children, families with seniors in
7 the home and our customers who are
8 receiving income-based assistance,
9 those flags protect over 260,000
10 customers, households last year and
11 are on track to protect those
12 households again this year.

13 We also have -- and
14 those customers will never receive
15 a shut-off notice. So they don't
16 even know that they're receiving
17 the benefit. They're just not
18 going to get that shut-off notice.
19 If they do receive a shut-off
20 notice and they belong into one of
21 those protective groups or they're
22 a tenant whose landlord is
23 responsible for paying the water
24 bill but is not or there's a person

1 living in the household with a
2 disability, those customers can
3 contact us and we call it our Raise
4 Your Hand program, and they can
5 receive protection from shut-off as
6 well.

7 So we understand that
8 shut-offs is a very traumatic
9 process for our customers to go
10 through. And so, we try to do
11 everything possible to prevent
12 using that tool, including adding
13 all of those protections.

14 For your questions about
15 auto-enrollment, we started auto-
16 enrolling customers through a pilot
17 program in late 2023 with the
18 federal LIHWAP recipients. We were
19 able to enroll over 3200 of those
20 recipients into TAP. We then
21 partnered with the Office of
22 Integrated Data for Evidence and
23 Action in the Managing Director's
24 Office to use administrative data

1 to auto-enroll customers who were
2 identified as low-income
3 participating in other means-tested
4 programs.

5 And as a result of that,
6 we have enrolled an additional
7 37,500. So we've almost tripled
8 the participation in our TAP
9 program over Fiscal '24 and we
10 continue to do auto-enrollment in
11 incremental files each month.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:
13 Thank you for that information.

14 COMMISSIONER HAYMAN:
15 And you had a question on rate
16 stabilization. I think you asked
17 how much --

18 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:
19 Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER HAYMAN:
21 I'll let you repeat the question.
22 I'll have Lawrence Yangalay come
23 up, Director of Finance.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

1 The question was, at what level
2 would you consider the funds to be
3 stable around the low liquidity
4 funds?

5 MR. YANGALAY: The
6 question is?

7 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: It
8 says the Water Department is
9 proposing the rate increase for the
10 fourth consecutive year. The
11 average annual water bill payment
12 is up more than \$200 since the
13 first increase. Your testimony
14 says that the rate increase is to
15 replenish critically low liquidity
16 funds and you have two such funds.
17 And at what level do you consider
18 the funds to be stable?

19 MR. YANGALAY: Lawrence
20 Yangalay, Deputy Commissioner of
21 Finance PWD. The Restabilization
22 Fund was established as (inaudible)
23 where when our revenue was short,
24 we could draw down on the fund.

1 From 2017 when it was above 200
2 million, we are now at 125 million.
3 We have asked for rate increase.
4 If that rate increase is not
5 granted, that fund will go to near
6 0.

7 And the very good effort
8 that the City is applying to help
9 customer like the TAP program,
10 which grew from 14,000 to around
11 60,000-something is costing the
12 Water Department revenue losses,
13 and these losses have to be paid by
14 other customers. So these are some
15 of the reasons that we have to be
16 drawing on the Restabilization Fund
17 and some of the reason why the cost
18 to the customer keeps increasing.

19 Also of course, we have
20 other cost impact, for instance
21 payroll. Salaries have been
22 increasing. Each time you increase
23 pay, that has to be paid by the
24 rates.

1 MR. CARROLL: So there's
2 typically industry guidance for
3 water utility in terms of what they
4 should have in some form of
5 reserve. And the Water Department
6 uses a firm that's been working
7 with us for a very long time to
8 establish that guidance. And so,
9 perhaps we can focus the response
10 on what that guidance is, what that
11 industry guidance is for a rate
12 stabilization fund or a reserve
13 fund for water utility.

14 MR. YANGALAY: The
15 industry rate guidance that was
16 established by the Rate
17 Stabilization Fund is that PWD
18 should maintain at least 135
19 million in the Rate Stabilization
20 Fund. So that was the target that
21 was set by the Wastewater and Sewer
22 Rate Board. We have maintained
23 that target for a little while, but
24 we are now below that target.

1 The industry target that
2 is set is set at how much cash you
3 should have in your account. That
4 target is set at one year. The
5 target is about 363 days. PWD
6 maintains 154 days of cash on hand.
7 That means if anything were to go
8 wrong and you don't have any money
9 coming in, how long can you
10 survive. PWD is below that target.
11 And it's not even below the target
12 that was set by the Rate Board for
13 the PWD operations.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

15 Thank you.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: You're welcome.

18 Member Phillips.

19 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

20 Just real quickly I just want to
21 comment that one of the things I
22 was hoping to see in the budget was
23 the following: Funding for things
24 that maybe cost -- it cost a lot of

1 money for speed calming measures
2 such as speed cushions. So I don't
3 see anything here that says
4 anything about funding for giving
5 residents signs that can -- like
6 slow down signs as well as maybe
7 other signs that they can use to
8 help with speed calming measures as
9 well as I will also be interested
10 in you all doing a campaign that's
11 public and social media, also
12 visually on a television or
13 whatever it might be just talking
14 about why it's important to slow
15 down in these streets.

16 So literally not every
17 street is going to get speed
18 calming measures and we need to be
19 honest with the city about that.
20 It's also not the right thing to
21 do. So we need to start giving
22 people other alternatives to show
23 that we're serious about this. So
24 would just like to see that in the

1 budget. I'm not sure if it's
2 there. Thank you.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: And so, as we wrap up
5 just one comment. And shout-out to
6 Chris Puchalsky over there too,
7 Director of Strategic and Policy
8 Initiatives around Vision Zero, so
9 thank you, Chris. We see you.

10 What Member Phillips
11 talked about, Dr. Phillips, and
12 it's part of the reason why I did
13 Get Out the Bike Lane legislation,
14 right, but when we talk about
15 pedestrian as Councilwoman Jamie
16 Gauthier told me, is it pedestrian
17 violence?

18 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
19 Traffic violence.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Traffic violence, right.
22 And our leader in this body,
23 Councilmember Thomas, have been
24 leading this issue to get people to

1 slow down, right, and making sure
2 we're preventing deaths from
3 happening. But I think it also
4 comes down to education.

5 You're on your cell
6 phone while you're driving. You're
7 on your cell phone while you're
8 walking. Got the ear plugs in not
9 paying attention. You walk dead in
10 the middle of traffic, right, on
11 the phone. And so, yeah, some
12 level of education and awareness,
13 right.

14 Remember this is your
15 brain on drugs when we were kids,
16 right. We still remember it now.
17 So maybe some level of elevating
18 the conversation around educating
19 the public around just slowing down
20 and being mindful of your
21 surroundings and so forth, I think
22 that would be helpful.

23 And my last comment
24 before we wrap up, I'll follow up

1 with you all offline. But with
2 that being said, this is our last
3 round. It's 4 o'clock.

4 Thank you for all being
5 here. We appreciate your hard work
6 and your dedication. And with that
7 being said, any other questions
8 from the public, members of the
9 City Council?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.
13 Appreciate you.

14 The Chair recognizes
15 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson
16 for a motion that the public
17 hearing and meeting on the bills
18 and resolutions before the
19 Committee today stand in recess
20 until Tuesday, April 8th at
21 10:00 a.m.

22 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

23 RICHARDSON: So moved,
24 Mr. Chairman.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

2 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
3 properly seconded that the public
4 hearing and meeting on the bills
5 and resolution before the Committee
6 today stand in recess until April
7 8, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

8 All those in favor will
9 signify by saying aye.

10 (Aye.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
16 motion carries.

17 (Committee of the Whole
18 concluded at 4:10 p.m.)

19

20

21

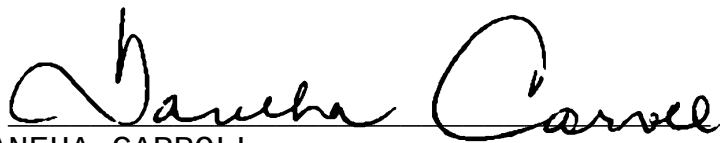
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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

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

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

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